



**This analysis looked at the re-offending behaviour of 8,513 individuals who registered for a City & Guilds course while serving a prison sentence. The overall results show that those who took part in the programme were less likely to re-offend, had a lower frequency of re-offences and took longer to re-offend than those who did not.**

City & Guilds work with over 120 prisons across England and Wales to provide offenders with the knowledge and skills they need to secure employment and realise their potential. Intervention primarily took place within the prison environment and to a lesser extent in the community. This analysis focused on interventions delivered in prison only.

This analysis of City & Guilds measured proven re-offences in a one-year period for a 'treatment group' of 8,513 offenders who took part in the programme and for a much larger 'comparison group' of similar offenders who did not take part. These measurements were used to estimate the impact that the programme would be expected to have on the re-offending behaviour of any people who are similar to those in the analysis.

The 8,513 people who were eligible to be included in the main analysis were from a group of approximately 76,500 records submitted to the Justice Data Lab. The effects of the programme on those who were not analysed may be different to the effects on those who were.

### Overall measurements of the treatment and comparison groups

For any **100** typical people in the **treatment** group:

**↑ 40** people committed a proven re-offence  
**↓** within a one-year period (a rate of 40%),  
**3 people fewer** than in the comparison group.

**⚖️ 159** proven re-offences were committed by  
**↓** these 100 people during the year  
(a frequency of 1.6 offences per person),  
**15 fewer than** the comparison group.

**📅 129** days was the average time before a re-offender committed their first proven re-offence,  
**↑ 7 days later** than in the comparison group.

For any **100** typical people in the **comparison** group:




**42** people committed a proven re-offence within a one-year period (a rate of 42%).

**174** proven re-offences were committed by these 100 people during the year (a frequency of 1.7 offences per person).

**122** days was the average time before a re-offender committed their first proven re-offence.

## Overall estimates of the impact of the intervention

For any **100** typical people who would receive the intervention, compared with any **100** similar people who would not receive it:

-  The number of people who would commit a proven re-offence during one year after release could be **lower by between 2 and 4 people**. This is a **statistically significant result**.
-  The number of proven re-offences committed during the year could be **lower by between 8 and 22 offences**. This is a **statistically significant result**.
-  On average, the time before a re-offender committed their first proven re-offence could be **longer by between 4 and 11 days**. This is a **statistically significant result**.

*Please note totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts due to rounding.*

### **What you can say about the one-year re-offending rate:**

- ✓ "This analysis provides additional evidence that, for every 100 participants, registering for a City & Guilds programme may decrease the number of proven re-offenders during a one-year period by between 2 and 4 people."

### **What you cannot say about the one-year re-offending rate:**

- ✗ "This analysis shows that registering for a City & Guilds reduces re-offending by 7%"

### **What you can say about the one-year re-offending frequency:**

- ✓ "This analysis provides additional evidence that, for every 100 participants, registering for a City & Guilds course may decrease the number of proven re-offences during a one-year period by between 8 and 22 offences."

### **What you cannot say about the one-year re-offending frequency:**

- ✗ "This analysis shows that the registering for a City & Guilds course reduces the frequency of re-offending by 9%."

### **What you can say about the time to first re-offence:**

- ✓ "This analysis provides additional evidence that, for participants who re-offend during a one-year period, registering for a City & Guilds course may lengthen the average time to first proven re-offence by between 4 and 11 days."

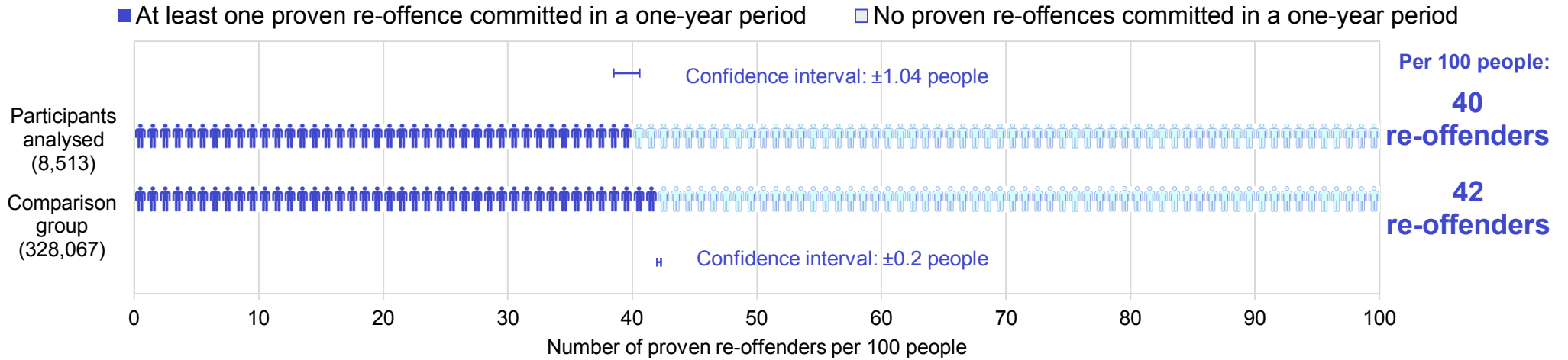
### **What you cannot say about the time to first re-offence:**

- ✗ "This analysis shows that registering for a City & Guilds course increases the time to re-offend by 6%."

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# One-year proven re-offending rate after participation in City & Guilds



Significant difference between groups

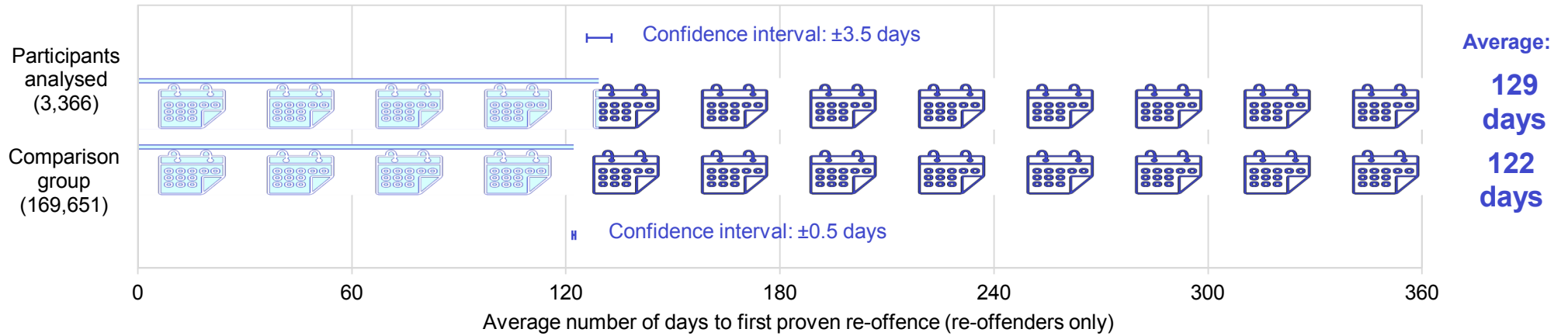
# One-year proven re-offending frequency after participation in City & Guilds



Significant difference between groups

# Average time to first proven re-offence after participation in City & Guilds

□ Time before first proven re-offence committed in a one-year period   ■ Time after first proven re-offence committed in a one-year period



Significant difference between groups

## **City & Guilds programme: in their own words**

“City & Guilds believes in a world where people have the confidence and capabilities to prosper. The right skills have the ability to transform lives and this is never more true than among the offender population where a significant number of learners hold very few qualifications. A City & Guilds qualification provides offender learners with skills for life and we have developed a range of tools to support learning and skills providers working with offenders. Supporting offender learners to develop the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in life is a core part of our purpose to help people into a job, develop on in the job and move onto the next one.

City & Guilds works with over 120 prisons across the UK and supports around 50,000 learners a year to gain the knowledge and skills they need to secure employment and realise their potential.

City & Guilds works directly with Her Majesty’s Prisons as well as the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) through contracts held by Novus, Milton Keynes College, Weston College and PeoplePlus. We also work with the private prisons network, either directly or again through education contractors. We also extend our reach beyond the gate with probation officers to help give prisoners a pathway through to further education and training.

Our qualifications span 26 industries including construction, automotive, creative, cleaning, ICT, hospitality, maths & english and retail. These are all supported by clear progression routes for learners with qualifications from Entry Level right through to Level 7 (e.g. master’s degree level). The largest uptake of our qualifications in a prison environment are in English and Maths, equating to about 30 per cent.

Most prisoners will get an Individual Learning Plan which lists courses and training options, and are encouraged to engage in education. Entry and eligibility criteria will vary by course level and type.”

## **City & Guilds' response to the Justice Data Lab analysis**

“We are incredibly grateful to the team at Justice Data lab for enabling us to analyse such a large volume of data and helping to demonstrate the real value of qualifications. At City & Guilds we have always believed in the power of skills to transform lives and the results in this report show a clear pattern of improvement among offenders who have taken our qualifications versus those who have not.

While the individual figures may seem small, the impact of reduced re-offending rates and the longer gaps before reoffending seen by those people who had taken our qualifications have a real and lasting positive impact on society. We also know that the offenders themselves are benefitting hugely from taking our qualifications and getting the chance to focus on their futures outside of prison. There are a huge number of people currently in prison across the UK and numbers have been rising steadily over the past few decades. This costs the tax payer large sums of money and removes potentially productive people from society.

We've always believed in equipping prisoners with skills to help them become employable upon their release as an important step towards reducing the prison population and crime rates in this country – this report provides us with the data to be able to back up our beliefs.”

## The results in detail

Four analyses were conducted in total. Each analysis controlled for offender demographics and criminal history. In addition, the complex analyses controlled for the following risks and needs: accommodation status, employment history, relationships, education, thinking and behaviour and emotional wellbeing.

### Overall analyses

The overall analysis is for all people that are known to have registered for a City & Guilds course while serving a prison sentence. This includes those known to have received certification for the first course they registered for, as well as those for whom it is not known whether or not they received certification for the course.

1. **Complex analysis:** treatment group matched to offenders across England and Wales, matched on offender demographics, criminal history and individual risks and needs.
2. **Standard analysis:** treatment group compared with a comparison group from England and Wales, matched on offender demographics and criminal history only.

### Certified only analyses

Separate analyses were conducted for only those who are known to have received certification for the first course they registered for.

3. **Complex analysis:** treatment group matched to offenders across England and Wales, matched on offender demographics, criminal history and individual risks and needs.
4. **Standard analysis:** treatment group matched to offenders across England and Wales, matched on offender demographics and criminal history only.

The headline results in this report refer to the **overall complex analysis**

Size of treatment and comparison groups for re-offending rate and frequency analyses provided below (the 'time to first re-offence' analyses focus on those who re-offend only):

Analyses		Controlled for risks and needs	Treatment Group Size	Comparison Group Size
Overall	Complex	X	8,513	328,067
	Standard		8,513	328,662
Certified only	Complex	X	5,506	320,144
	Standard		5,506	332,564



In each analysis, the **three headline measures** of one-year re-offending were analysed, as well as five additional measures (see results in Tables 1-8):

1. One-year re-offending rate
2. Frequency of re-offences
3. Time to first re-offence.
4. Proportion of first re-offences by tier of severity.
5. Frequency of re-offences by tier of severity.
6. Difference in the severity of the first re-offence compared to the original offence.
7. Measures of rate of re-offending resulting in custody.
8. Measure of frequency of re-offending resulting in custody.

## Significant results

**Three measures show a significant result in the overall analyses and the certified only analysis. A further two measures show a significant result in the overall analyses only.**

The estimates for measures in the overall complex and certified only complex analysis show the following results:

- Both the overall and certified only analyses provide significant evidence that the intervention **decreases the number of people who reoffend** (Table 1).
- Both the overall and certified only analyses provide significant evidence that the intervention **decreases the number of re-offences committed** (Table 2).
- The overall analysis provides significant evidence that the intervention **increases the time taken to re-offend** (Table 3). The certified only analysis shows an increase but this difference is not significant.
- Both the overall and certified only analyses provide significant evidence that the intervention **increases the likelihood of the first re-offence being a tier 2 offence, and decreases the likelihood that the first re-offence will be a tier 3 offence** (Table 4).
- The overall analysis provides significant evidence that the intervention **decreases the frequency of tier 1 re-offences** (Table 5). The certified only analysis shows a decrease but this difference is not significant.
- **Please note figures in table 1-8 are rounded to 1 or 2 decimal places so small differences between treatment and comparison group rates may not always be visible.**

Tables 1-3 show the overall measures of re-offending. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies expressed per person. The average time to first re-offence includes reoffenders only.

*Table 1: Number of people who registered for a City & Guilds course while in prison who committed a proven re-offence in a one-year period, compared with comparison groups*

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven re-offending rate				
			Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
<b>Overall</b>							
Complex	8,513	328,067	39.5	42.1	-3.6 to -1.5	Yes	0.00
Standard	8,513	328,662	39.5	42.3	-3.8 to -1.7	Yes	0.00
<b>Certified only</b>							
Complex	5,506	320,144	38.1	40.8	-4.0 to -1.4	Yes	0.00
Standard	5,506	332,564	38.1	41.0	-4.2 to -1.6	Yes	0.00

*Table 2: Number of proven re-offences committed in a one-year period by people who registered for a City & Guilds course while in prison, compared with comparison groups*

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven re-offending frequency (offences per person)				
			Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
<b>Overall</b>							
Complex	8,513	328,067	1.6	1.7	-0.2 to -0.1	Yes	0.00
Standard	8,513	328,662	1.6	1.7	-0.2 to -0.1	Yes	0.00
<b>Certified only</b>							
Complex	5,506	320,144	1.5	1.6	-0.3 to -0.1	Yes	0.00
Standard	5,506	332,564	1.5	1.6	-0.3 to -0.1	Yes	0.00

*Table 3: Average time to first proven re-offence in a one-year period for people who registered for a City & Guilds Course in prison who committed a proven re-offence, compared with comparison groups*

Area	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	Average time to first proven re-offence within a one-year period, for re-offenders only (days)				
			Treatment group time	Comparison group time	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
<b>Overall</b>							
Complex	3,366	169,651	129.3	122.2	+3.6 to +10.6	Yes	0.00
Standard	3,366	167,716	129.3	122.0	+3.8 to +10.8	Yes	0.00
<b>Certified only</b>							
Complex	2,100	163,858	129.0	124.9	-0.3 to +8.5	No	0.07
Standard	2,100	170,500	129.0	124.6	+0.0 to +8.8	Yes	0.05

Tables 4-6 show measures of the severity of re-offending, for re-offenders only, with Table 6 comparing the severity of the first re-offence to that of the original (index) offence. Tier 1 offences are the most severe and tier 3 offences are the least severe.

*Table 4: Severity of first re-offence for people who registered for a City & Guilds course while in prison, compared with comparison groups (re-offenders only)*

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven re-offending rate by severity tier of first re-offence, for re-offenders only					
			Severity tier	Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
<b>Overall</b>								
Complex	3,347	166,362	1	1.3	1.5	-0.5 to +0.3	No	0.51
			2	12.2	10.6	+0.5 to +2.7	Yes	0.01
			3	86.5	87.9	-2.6 to -0.3	Yes	0.02
Standard	3,347	164,535	1	1.3	1.5	-0.5 to +0.3	No	0.53
			2	12.2	10.7	+0.4 to +2.6	Yes	0.01
			3	86.5	87.8	-2.5 to -0.2	Yes	0.02
<b>Certified only</b>								
Complex	2,090	160,751	1	1.6	1.4	-0.4 to +0.7	No	0.51
			2	12.6	11.1	+0.1 to +2.9	Yes	0.04
			3	85.7	87.4	-3.2 to -0.2	Yes	0.03
Standard	2,090	167,259	1	1.6	1.4	-0.4 to +0.7	No	0.52
			2	12.6	11.1	+0.1 to +2.9	Yes	0.04
			3	85.7	87.4	-3.2 to -0.2	Yes	0.03

Table 5: Number of proven re-offences committed in a one-year period by people who registered for a City and Guilds course in prison by severity of re-offence, compared with comparison groups (re-offenders only)

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven re-offending frequency by severity tier, for re-offenders only (offences per person)					
			Severity tier	Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
<b>Overall</b>								
Complex	3,347	166,362	1	0.02	0.03	-0.01 to -0.00	Yes	0.00
			2	0.3	0.3	-0.0 to +0.0	No	0.97
			3	3.7	3.8	-0.2 to +0.1	No	0.22
Standard	3,347	164,535	1	0.02	0.03	-0.01 to -0.00	Yes	0.00
			2	0.3	0.3	-0.0 to +0.0	No	0.77
			3	3.7	3.8	-0.2 to +0.1	No	0.22
<b>Certified only</b>								
Complex	2,090	160,751	1	0.02	0.03	-0.01 to +0.00	No	0.26
			2	0.3	0.3	-0.0 to +0.0	No	0.75
			3	3.5	3.6	-0.3 to +0.0	No	0.08
Standard	2,090	167,259	1	0.02	0.03	-0.01 to +0.00	No	0.20
			2	0.3	0.3	-0.0 to +0.0	No	0.65
			3	3.5	3.7	-0.3 to +0.0	No	0.06

Table 6: One-year proven re-offending rate by severity tier of first re-offence relative to index offence, for people who registered for a City & Guilds course while in prison compared with comparison groups (re-offenders only)

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven re-offending rate by severity tier of first re-offence relative to index offence, for re-offenders only					
			Relative severity	Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
<b>Overall</b>								
Complex	3,347	166,362	Less	26.5	26.5	-1.5 to +1.5	No	0.99
			Same	67.5	67.9	-2.0 to +1.2	No	0.62
			More	6.0	5.6	-0.4 to +1.2	No	0.31
Standard	3,347	164,535	Less	26.5	26.8	-1.8 to +1.2	No	0.72
			Same	67.5	67.7	-1.8 to +1.5	No	0.85
			More	6.0	5.5	-0.4 to +1.2	No	0.30
<b>Certified only</b>								
Complex	2,090	160,751	Less	28.3	28.1	-1.8 to +2.1	No	0.85
			Same	65.5	66.4	-3.0 to +1.1	No	0.36
			More	6.3	5.5	-0.3 to +1.8	No	0.15
Standard	2,090	167,259	Less	28.3	28.2	-1.8 to +2.1	No	0.90
			Same	65.5	66.4	-3.0 to +1.2	No	0.39
			More	6.3	5.5	-0.3 to +1.8	No	0.14

Tables 7-8 show measures of rates and frequency of re-offences resulting in custodial sentencing.

*Table 7: One-year rate of custodial sentencing for first proven re-offence for people who registered for a City & Guilds course while in prison compared with comparison groups (re-offenders only)*

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year rate of custodial sentencing for first proven re-offence, for re-offenders only				
			Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
<b>Overall</b>							
Complex	3,347	166,362	46.8	46.9	-1.8 to +1.6	No	0.94
Standard	3,347	164,535	46.8	47.1	-2.0 to +1.4	No	0.73
<b>Certified only</b>							
Complex	2,090	160,751	47.9	47.1	-1.3 to +3.0	No	0.44
Standard	2,090	167,259	47.9	47.2	-1.5 to +2.9	No	0.52

*Table 8: One- year frequency of custodial sentencing for people who registered for a City & Guilds course while in prison compared with comparison groups (re-offenders only)*

Area	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year frequency of custodial sentencing, for re-offenders only (sentences per person)				
			Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
<b>Overall</b>							
Complex	3,347	166,362	2.1	2.2	-0.2 to +0.0	No	0.18
Standard	3,347	164,535	2.1	2.2	-0.2 to +0.0	No	0.15
<b>Certified only</b>							
Complex	2,090	160,751	2.0	2.1	-0.2 to +0.0	No	0.16
Standard	2,090	167,259	2.0	2.1	-0.2 to +0.0	No	0.13

## Profile of the treatment group

City & Guilds work with over 120 prisons across England and Wales to provide the knowledge and skills they need to secure employment and realise their potential. City & Guilds supports Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) contracts held by Novus, Milton Keynes College, Weston College and PeoplePlus and 94% of those included in the final overall treatment group registered for a course run by one of these providers.

The 8,513 people in the overall treatment group were aged between 15 and 72 years old at the beginning of their one-year re-offending period, with an average age of 30 years. 89% were male and 11% were female, at least 78% were white, at least 13% were black and at least 7% were non-UK nationals. 58% of the treatment group had a custodial sentence of between 1 and 4 years, 14% had sentence of greater than 4 years and 28% had a sentence of less than 1 year.

By comparison, 23,602 people who could not be included in the analysis (for whom sufficient information was available) were 93% male, at least 73% white, at least 18% black and at least 6% non-UK nationals.

Information on individual risks and needs was available for 6,731 people in the overall treatment group (79%), recorded near to the time of their original conviction. Among these people, it is estimated that:

- 86% had some or significant problems with problem solving skills
- 62% were unemployed at the time of conviction or will be unemployed upon release
- 50% had some or significant problems with work skills

## **Matching the treatment and comparison groups**

Each of the four analyses matched a comparison group to the relevant treatment group. All variables were well matched across the four models

Further details of group characteristics and matching quality, including risks and needs recorded by the Offender Assessment System (OASys), can be found in the Excel annex accompanying this report (link below).

This report is also supplemented by a general annex, which answers frequently asked questions about Justice Data Lab analyses and explains the caveats associated with them.

[www.gov.uk/government/statistics/justice-data-lab-february-2017](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/justice-data-lab-february-2017)



## Numbers of people in the treatment and comparison groups

147,229 records were submitted for analysis by City & Guilds equating to approximately 76,500 people. Cases with a registration start date later than the availability of reoffending data were removed and 45,822 people were submitted to matching on the PNC

**45,822**

7,633 people (17%) were excluded from the overall treatment group as they could not be identified on the Police National Computer (PNC)

**38,189**

28,879 people (63%) were excluded because they did not have a record in the re-offending database that corresponded to their time period of participation with City & Guilds. It is estimated that around 14,100 of these were still in prison or serving life sentences during the period that re-offending is measured

**9,310**

797 people (2%) were removed due to current or previous sexual offences

**8,513**

3,007 people (7%) who did not have a course certification date were removed from the certified only group but remain in the overall group.

Overall complex treatment group	Overall standard treatment group	Certified only complex treatment group	Certified only standard treatment group
(Comparison group: 328,067 records)	(Comparison group: 328,662 records)	(Comparison group: 320,144 records)	(Comparison group: 332,564 records)

**8,513**

**8,513**

**5,506**

**5,506**

A breakdown of the number of people removed at each stage in the certified only group is available on request.

## Contact points

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General information about the official statistics system of the United Kingdom is available from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

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