Justice Data Lab analysis: Reoffending behaviour after support from Clean Break

Ministry of Justice

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This analysis looked at the reoffending behaviour of 32 females who took part in the Clean Break theatre-based education and training programme. The overall results show that more people would need to have completed the programme and be available for analysis, in order to determine the way in which the programme affects a person's reoffending behaviour. This should not be taken to mean that the programme fails to affect reoffending behaviour.

Clean Break provides regular theatre-based education courses to female offenders, that help participants to develop personal, social, professional, and creative skills.

The headline analysis in this report measured proven reoffences in a one-year period for a 'treatment group' of 32 offenders who received support some time between 2011 and 2016, and for a much larger 'comparison group' of similar offenders who did not receive it. The analysis estimates the impact of the support from Clean Break on the reoffending behaviour of people who are similar to those in the treatment group.

The support may have had a different impact on 148 other participants whose details were submitted but who did not meet the minimum criteria for analysis.

Overall measurements of the treatment and comparison groups

For **100** typical women in the **treatment** group, the equivalent of:

28 of the 100 women committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 28%), **1 woman more** than in the comparison group.

66 proven reoffences were committed by these 100 women during the year (a frequency of 0.7 offences per person), **29 offences fewer** than in the comparison group.

Time to first reoffence has not been included as a headline result due to low numbers of reoffenders, which could give misleading results.

For **100** typical women in the **comparison** group, the equivalent of:

27 of the 100 women committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 27%).

95 proven reoffences were committed by these 100 women during the year (a frequency of 0.9 offences per person).

Overall estimates of the impact of the intervention

For **100** typical women who receive support, compared with **100** similar women who do not receive it:

The number of women who commit a proven reoffence within one year after release could be **lower by as many as 16 women, or higher by as many as 17 women.** More women would need to be available for analysis in order to determine the direction of this difference.

The number of proven reoffences committed during the year could be **lower by as many as 76 offences, or higher by as many as 17 offences.** More women would need to be available for analysis in order to determine the direction of this difference.

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 reoffending rate:**
"This analysis provides evidence that, for every 100 offenders, support from Clean Break may decrease the number of proven reoffenders during a one-year period by up to 16 people, or may increase it by up to 17 people."

❌ **What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending rate:**
"This analysis shows that Clean Break increases/decreases/has no effect on the reoffending rate of its participants."

✔️ **What you can say about the one-year reoffending frequency:**
"This analysis provides evidence that, for every 100 offenders, support from Clean Break may decrease the number of proven reoffences during a one-year period by up to 76 offences, or may increase it by up to 17 offences."
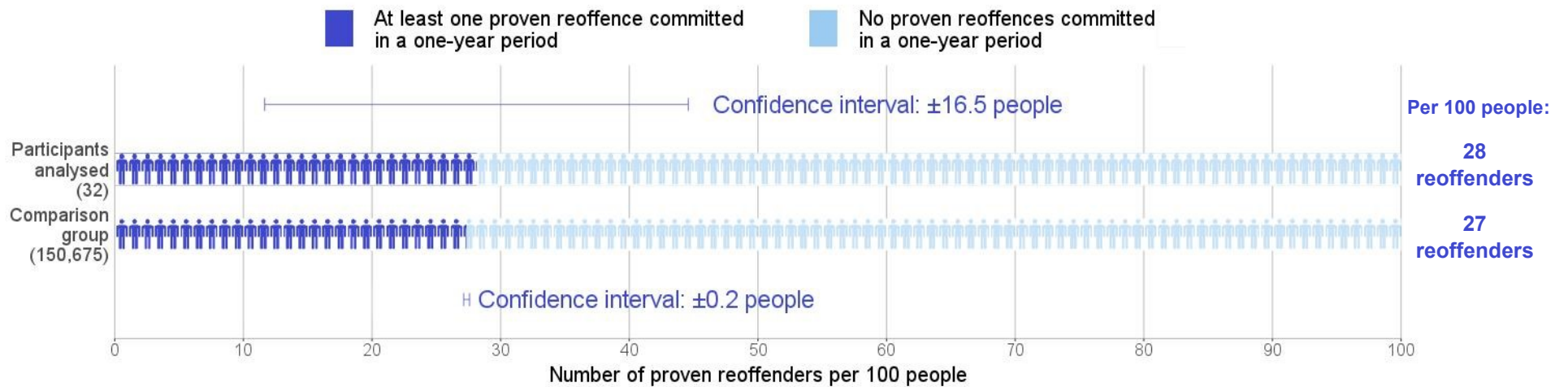
❌ **What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending frequency:**
"This analysis shows that Clean Break increases/decreases/has no effect on the number of reoffences committed by its participants."
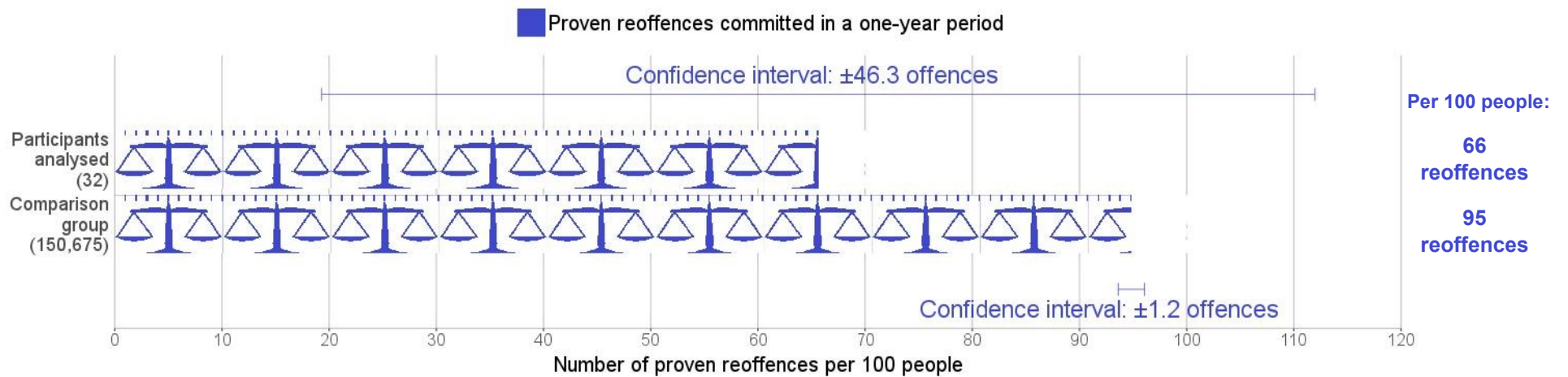
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One-year proven reoffending rate after support from Clean Break

■ At least one proven reoffence committed in a one-year period

■ No proven reoffences committed in a one-year period

Confidence interval: ±16.5 people

Per 100 people:

Participants analysed (32)

28 reoffenders

Comparison group (150,675)

27 reoffenders

Confidence interval: ±0.2 people

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Number of proven reoffenders per 100 people

Non-significant difference between groups

One-year proven reoffending frequency after support from Clean Break

■ Proven reoffences committed in a one-year period

Confidence interval: ±46.3 offences

Per 100 people:

Participants analysed (32)

66 reoffences

Comparison group (150,675)

95 reoffences

Confidence interval: ±1.2 offences

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120

Number of proven reoffences per 100 people

Non-significant difference between groups

Clean Break in their own words

" Clean Break ran its Education Programme for women in contact with the criminal justice system and women at risk of offending for over twenty years, until end of December 2017. This programme was replaced in April 2018 with a Members Programme, focusing on pathways to participation in the artistic life of the Company with accompanying holistic support.

At the time of submission of data to the Data Lab the Education Programme ran in the following way: Following a referral from a partner organisation or self referral, women undertook an initial assessment and if offered a place would select a number of courses they wished to start dependent on interest and goals, from a range of 27 courses which run across each academic year, September - July. Courses ranged between 8 weeks (2 hours per week) to 12 weeks (2 days per week) and were non accredited or with qualifications (Entry Level 3, Level 1 and 2), focused on theatre skills, personal development, literacy and employment/progression pathways. Women studied between half a day and four days a week, over two - three years. The main focus of the programme was education and health and well-being, with the support packaged around it to ensure that other needs were addressed. Partners included Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London College of Fashion, Rose Bruford College, Comedy School, The Place, City and Islington College and Camden Adult and Community Learning. In addition to the courses and support, women were invited to participate in theatre trips, one off workshops and were introduced to other theatre companies and opportunities in and around London. Women could return for 'top up' support or further study at any point. Many women were likely to be also receiving other interventions whilst they were students here - often for drug and alcohol addictions, mental health distress and resettlement needs. Many women progressed on to further and Higher Education, volunteering and employment. "

Response from Clean Break to the Justice Data lab analysis

" We'd like to thank the Justice Data Lab for conducting a thorough analysis of the reoffending rates for the cohort of women we submitted who had studied at Clean Break between 2011 and 2016. It is unfortunate that the data we had for 180 women did not all meet the minimum criteria for a variety of reasons, including that 80 women's offence history did not correspond sufficiently with their time at Clean Break. This is symptomatic of the fact that our Programme is for women at any point in their journey in and around the criminal justice system and women enrol with us voluntarily when they are ready which often exceeds a six months period following criminal justice contact. The consequence was that we ended up with a small sample of 32 eligible women, and the study was in the main unable to give a statistically significant result including not providing time to first reoffence data as it was considered misleading with such low numbers. However the regional results were encouraging, showing a statistically significant decrease in the one year reoffending frequency against the regional comparison group. The analysis helps us understand our impact, the challenges of evidencing our intervention and the complexity of the lives of the women we are working with. We are pleased to be able to submit further data in Autumn 2019 to be included in the study and further extend our learning. "

Results in detail

Two analyses were conducted in total, controlling for offender demographics and criminal history and the following risks and needs: employment, education, drug use, alcohol use, mental health, thinking skills and attitudes.

Analyses
1. **National analysis:** treament group matched to offenders across England and Wales using demographics, criminal history and individual risks and needs.
2. **Regional analysis:** treament group matched to offenders in London using demographics, criminal history and individual risks and needs.

The headline results in this report refer to the <u>National analysis</u>.

The sizes of the treatment and comparison groups for reoffending rate and frequency analyses are provided below.

Analyses	Controlled for Region	Treatment Group Size	Comparison Group Size	Reoffenders in treatment group	Reoffenders in comparison group
National		32	150,675	9	32,875
Regional	X	32	20,153	9	4,243

In each analysis, **two headline measures** of one-year reoffending were analysed (see results in Tables 1-2):

1. Rate of reoffending

2. Frequency of reoffending

Tables 1-2 show the overall measures of reoffending. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies expressed per person.

Table 1: Proportion of women who committed a proven reoffence in a one-year period after support from Clean Break, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending rate				
			Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
National	32	150,675	28	27	-16 to 17	No	0.92
Regional	32	20,153	28	30	-19 to 14	No	0.78

Table 2: Number of proven reoffences committed in a one year period by women who received support from Clean Break, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending frequency (offences per person)				
			Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
National	32	150,675	0.66	0.95	-0.76 to 0.17	No	0.21
Regional	32	20,153	0.66	1.18	-0.99 to -0.06	Yes	0.03

Profile of the treatment group

Clean Break works with female offenders across prisons in England, and in their women-only building in London. No previous experience in the performing arts is required for individuals to participate. Referrals are taken from prisons, probation, police, courts, along side many other elements of the criminal justice system, and community ventures.

Participants included in analysis
(32 offenders in National analysis)

- Female 100%
- White 47%, Black 44%, Asian and other ethnicity 9%
- UK nationality 97%, Foreign nationality 3%

- Aged 20 to 55 years at the beginning of their one-year period (average age 37)

- Sentence type:
    - Community Order   38%
    - Suspended Sentence Order   16%
    - Out-of-court Disposal   6%
    - Conditional Discharge   16%
    - Fine   3%
    - Prison sentence less than 6 months   3%
    - Prison sentence 6 to 12 months   3%
    - Prison sentence 1 to 4 years   12%
    - Prison sentence 4 to 10 years   3%

Participants not included in analysis
(106 offenders with available data)

- Female 100%
- White 60%, Black 34%, Asian 2%, Other 1%, Unknown ethnicity 2%
- UK nationality 82%, Foreign nationality 12%, Unknown nationality 6%

Information on index offences is not available for this group, as they could not be linked to a suitable sentence.

For **42 people** without any records in the reoffending database, no personal information is available.

Information on individual risks and needs was available for 22 people in the overall treatment group (69%), recorded near to the time of their original conviction.

- 86% had some or substantial issues with problem-solving skills
- 73% had misused drugs
- 55% had psychological issues

Matching the treatment and comparison groups

The analyses matched a comparison group to the treatment group. A summary of the matching quality is as follows:

- All variables were well matched for the national analysis.
- For the regional analysis, there was poor matching for the ethnicity of the members of each group. There was moderate matching for the criminal history between groups.

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.

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.

Numbers of people in the treatment and comparison groups

180 women were submitted for analysis by Clean Break

180

42 women (23%) were excluded from the analyses because they could not be identified on the Police National Computer (PNC)

138

24 women (13%) were excluded from the analyses because their course registration date was too recent for reoffending data to be available

114

80 women (44%) were excluded because they did not have a record in the reoffending database that corresponded to their period of participation with Clean Break

34

2 women (1%) were excluded because they had reoffended before the intervention with Clean Break began

32

National treatment group: 18% of the participants submitted were analysed
(Comparison group: 150,675 records)

32

Regional treatment group
(Comparison group:
20,153 records)