

Community Sentences and their Outcomes in Jersey: the third report.

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The report summarises the results of an analysis of data collected by the Jersey Probation and Aftercare Service over a three and a half year period. The aims of the report were to assess three key areas:

- A comparative study of the risk of re-offending of adults and youths determined by the assessment tool LSI-R and the actual reconviction rates at 12 and 24 months.
- An analysis of the changes in risk levels of offenders subject to Probation Orders.
- An analysis of the impact on levels of risk for offenders who completed a specific intervention programme (Alcohol Study Group (ASG), Offending Is Not The Only Choice (OINTOC), Self Management And Rational Thinking (SMART)) during the Probation Order.

Key Findings

Risk and Needs Assessment

- The LSI-R assessment tool continues to show itself to be a reliable predictor of reconviction risk in Jersey for youths and adult offenders.

Effectiveness of sentences and Reconviction

- For adult offenders, Binding Over Orders seem to work well whereas for youths they produce a high reconviction rate
- Community Service as a sentence produces some encouraging results across all risk groups.
- Probation Orders perform much better for high-risk offenders than for offenders assessed at low or medium risk.
- Custodial sentences produce higher levels of re-offending across all age groups.
- Reconviction rates are generally lower than in England and Wales. This reflects the way that Jersey has managed to retain many features of a low-crime rural society in spite of rapid economic growth
- Reconviction rates of custodial penalties are generally higher than in England and Wales
- Earlier findings that women's reconviction rates were substantially lower than those of men are no longer supported by the new data.
- Analysis of the seriousness of reconvictions at the 12 month point shows that Community Service, Binding Over Orders and Fines have low proportions of serious reconvictions but custodial sentences tend to produce a high proportion of serious reconvictions, particularly in offenders sentenced to youth custody.

Programme Intervention

- The provision of programme intervention in Jersey has resulted in statistically significant reductions in risk of re-offending. SMART and ASG perform particularly well.
- The maintenance of positive change between the end of programme and end of order is very encouraging.

Conclusion

Overall, the results give a positive view of probation service activities in Jersey and demonstrate the beneficial impact that probation orders have across several areas of criminogenic need. The evidence is clear that offenders who are targeted appropriately to the correct intervention programme and more importantly, who go on to complete that programme, significantly reduce their risk of re-conviction and their level of criminogenic need in relevant areas.

This study is the largest of its kind outside of North America; data from earlier interim report is quoted widely in the international literature (Raynor and Miles 2001, Miles and Raynor 2004). Publication of these latest findings from this broad study will be of great interest to researchers in the field of effective practice.

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References

Raynor, P. and Miles H. (2001) *Risk, Needs and Re-offending: Evaluating the Impact of Community Sentences in Jersey*, University of Wales, Swansea, Cognitive Centre Foundation and Jersey Probation and Aftercare Service.

Miles, H. and Raynor, P. (2004) *Community Sentences in Jersey: risks, needs and rehabilitation*. St. Helier: Jersey Probation and After-Care Service.