




Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA): Vermont Data



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Vermont CoSA Program

- Vermont CoSAs since 2005
 - Over 200 completed
 - Both sex offenders and other serious offenders
- 2010-2013: Contracted qualitative evaluation (DOC)
- 2014-present: Quantitative outcome study
 - with Dr. Robin Wilson & Megan Kurmin
 - Data/analysis = preliminary & ongoing



Model description

- ▶ Core member = released high-risk offender
- ▶ Circle = Community volunteers (3 or 4), reentry coordinator
- ▶ Periphery = professionals

- ▶ One year commitment
- ▶ 1 X per week
- ▶ Plus other outings
- ▶ Emphasis = balance between
 - ▶ Social supports/needs addressed
 - ▶ Social accountability



Qualitative evaluation

- ❖ Interviewed:
 - ❖ 20 core members (offenders with a circle)
 - ❖ 59 volunteers
 - ❖ 9 reentry coordinators
- ❖ Key findings:
 - ❖ Deeper volunteer investment=better
 - ❖ Helps with deinstitutionalization
 - ❖ Team approach key
 - ❖ Long on support
 - ❖ Accountability comes with trust



Quantitative analysis



- ▶ Analyzed 139 core members
 - ▶ 1-to-1 matched sample for all 139 core members
- ▶ Identical LSI score (average=30)
- ▶ Similar crime type
 - ▶ Sexual=any sex crimes
 - ▶ Violent=any violent crime (no sex offenses)
 - ▶ General=no violent or sexual crimes
- ▶ Similar age = 30 *
- ▶ Similar release date

* average difference in age between matched subjects was 2.14 years



Demographics


Variable	CoSA N=139	Comparison N=139
Male/Female	118/21	118/21
Age (SD) Δ (SD) = 2.14 (3.94)	30.46 (8.91)	30.06 (8.48)
Education (SD)	11.68 (2.03) N=135	11.38 (2.42) N=134
LSI-R (SD)	30.16 (7.32)	30.12 (7.35)
Static-99R (SD)	3.21 (2.0) N=34	3.09 (1.71) N=32
Offense Type	Sex = 34 Violent = 48 General = 107	Sex = 34 Violent = 48 General = 107

N=278 (139 each group)	CoSA	No CoSA
% Reconvicted**	.27	.44
% Misdemeanors‡ (.107)	.23	.32
% Felonies***	.09	.27
Mean # (SD) of reconvictions**	.65 (1.59)	1.46 (2.64)
Mean # (SD) of felony reconvictions**	.14 (.55)	.45 (1.04)

N=278

Includes CoSA and matched sample

Type of Original Crime	% of those reconvicted	% of those reconvicted for felonies
Sexual N=68	.25	.12
Violent N=96	.35	.13
General N=114	.41	.26



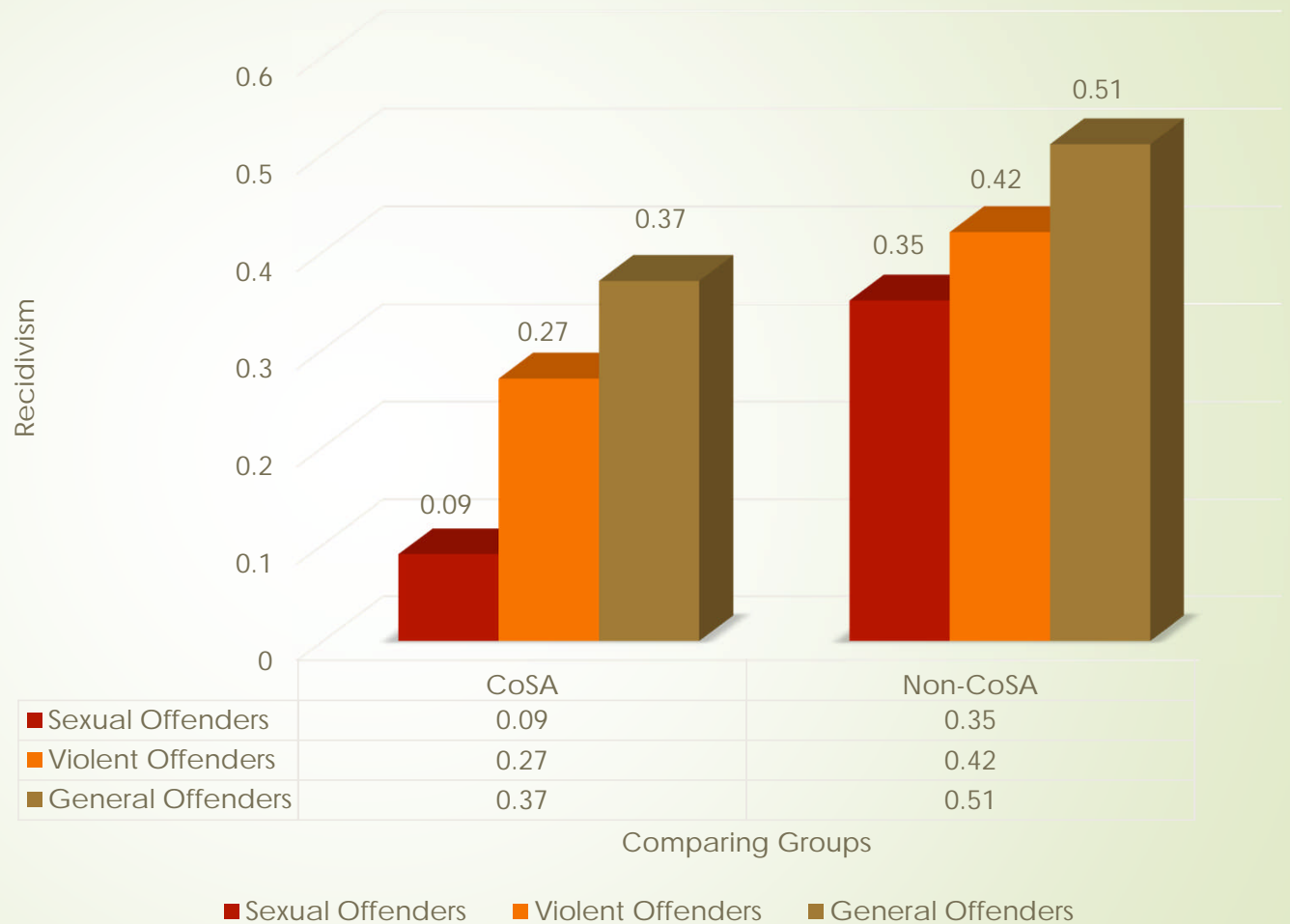
CoSA
N=139

Type of Original Crime	% of those reconvicted	% of those reconvicted for felonies
Sexual N=34	.09	.03
Violent N=48	.27	.04
General N=57	.37	.16

Comparison

		CoSA Group	Control Group	Reduction
Reconvictions	Sexual Offenders	.09	.35	74%
	Violent Offenders	.27	.42	36%
	General Offenders	.37	.51	27%
Felony Reconvictions	Sexual Offenders	.03	.22	86%
	Violent Offenders	.04	.21	81%
	General Offenders	.16	.37	57%

Comparing CoSA vs. Control





Conclusions

- ▶ CoSA has statistically significant effect on recidivism
 - ▶ Does not impact the incidence of misdemeanors
- ▶ Works best for sex offenders
 - ▶ more socially isolated

Special about Vermont?

Largest data set in the US

Determined by NIJ study to have highest program fidelity

Only place that uses CoSA for all types of offenses



More information

- ▶ Almost all of the findings are statistically significant (one trend at about $p < .10$)
- ▶ For more information, contact Kathy Fox (kfox@uvm.edu)

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