

The impact of the Practice Guide for Intervention (PGI) on recidivism

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SUMMARY

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BACKGROUND

The Practice Guide for Intervention (PGI) was introduced in June 2016 as part of a package of reforms to reduce recidivism. In practice, PGI provides Community Corrections Officers with a series of structured written exercises to undertake with offenders. These are intended to assist in developing supervision plans that are consistent with Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) principles and address criminogenic needs.

We study whether PGI had an impact on recidivism by comparing changes in re-offending rates among supervised offenders before and after the implementation of PGI, compared with changes among unsupervised offenders who were not subject to PGI. Specifically:

- In CJB228, we compare parolees at high-risk of re-offending with offenders released from prison unconditionally.
- In CJB229, we compare offenders serving supervised community-based orders (specifically, a supervised good behaviour bond or a supervised suspended sentence) with offenders serving unsupervised orders.

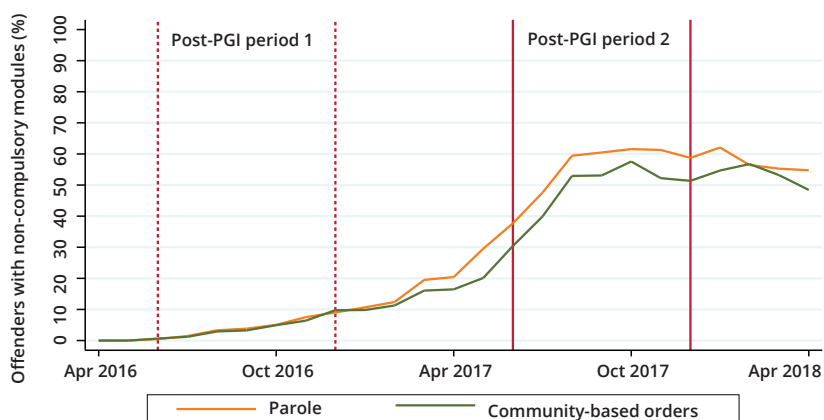
In both studies, we examine two post-PGI periods that include offenders who begin community supervision between June and December 2016 (post-PGI period 1) and June and December 2017 (post-PGI period 2).

KEYWORDS

PGI CBT DiD parole
 recidivism community supervision

KEY FINDINGS

The monthly percentage of offenders who completed non-compulsory PGI modules



Note. The PGI non-compulsory modules are: 2) Achieving goals, 3) Dealing with setbacks, 4) Managing stress and anger, 5) Managing impulsivity, 6) Managing environment, 7) Managing cravings, 8) Interpersonal relationships, 9) Communication, 10) Conflict resolution, 11) Self-awareness, 12) Prosocial lifestyle, and 13) General skills. The compulsory PGI module is 1) Assessment and planning.

The figure displays the monthly percentage of parolees (orange line) and offenders serving supervised community-based orders (green line) who completed non-compulsory PGI modules. These are designed to address criminogenic needs. There is a clear rise in the percentage of offenders who complete the non-compulsory modules, over time, particular in post-PGI period 2. The key findings are, in post-PGI period 2, we find:

- among parolees (CJB228), a 2 to 3 percentage point reduction in recidivism within 12 months of release from prison, however, the reduction is not statistically significant.
- for offenders serving a community-based order (CJB229), a small 1 to 2 percentage point increase in recidivism within 12 months of finalisation, but the difference is not statistically significant.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of PGI did not lead to a significant reduction in recidivism among high-risk parolees or supervised offenders serving a community-based order.