

# Community interventions with serious offenders

## Framework and outcomes of intervention in open regime

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*Community supervision and treatment can achieve reductions in recidivism of up to 50% (Andrews & Bonta, 2003)*

**But**

Probation services not always fulfil what is known about effective intervention

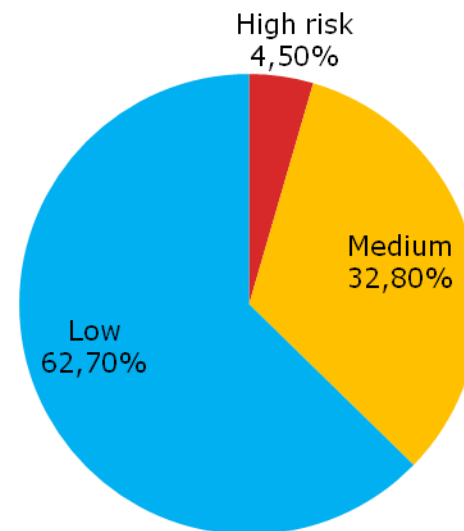
- ***Exploring the Black Box of Community Supervision:*** Bonta et cols. (2004, 2008):
  - **Probation officers didn't spend enough time on the service delivery role of supervision**
  - **Major criminogenic needs were largely ignored**
  - **Probation officers evidenced few of the skills that could influence behavioural changes in their clients**
  - **Intervention plans were not driven by risk assessment**

***How can we move from a  
traditional approach towards a  
new one addressed to change?***

## How high is the risk managed at the Open Prison of Barcelona? (CPO1B)

- 44% of inmates obtain the open regime
- All kind of offences
- Specific profiles:
  - Psychiatric: 16.1%
  - Sex offenders: 15.5 %
- Length of sentences:
  - Average of 3.9 years
  - 33 % have 4 or more years
- Average time in open regime:  
1.3 years

### Risk of violent reoffence



# Key elements of intervention at the Open Prison

- Individual intervention plan
- Specialized treatment and support
- A system of risk assessment and management
- Gradual system of incentives and sanctions (SAM)
- Monitoring and assessment
- Links with social support networks

# The risk assessment and management system of the CPO1B

**2006: Sexual recidivism case → team crisis →**

## Questions:

- What is the risk level we are managing?
- When should we decide a regression to ordinary regime?
- How can we detect when an inmate is about to reoffend?
- What are the risk variables?
- Who are the high risk individuals?
- How can we reduce the risk?

# The risk assessment and management system of the CPO1B

**2006: Sexual recidivism case → team crisis →**

## Answers:

- Retrospective analysis of sex offenders at CPO1B: recidivism rate, risk variables
- Selection of risk factors: static and dynamics (from retrospective analysis, bibliography and SVR-20 scale)
- Training sessions on risk assessment tools
- A new risk assessment and management system

# The risk assessment and management system of the CPO1B

## Regular meetings Fieldwork

### Risk assessment

- Static
- Dynamic



### Immediate precursors of recidivism

- Acute risk factors



### Follow up

- Joining and updating information



### Planning

- Needs / Goals / Activities
- Community resources
- Control measures
- Team actions





# Work in progress: RISCANVI

## Limitations of the CPO1B risk tool

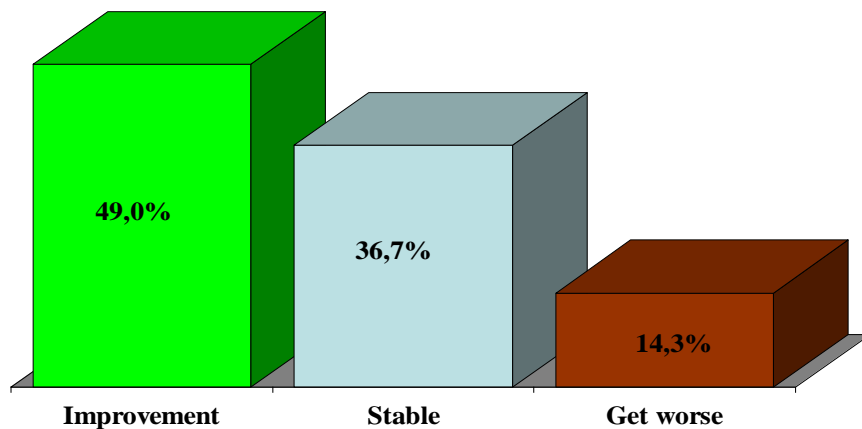
- Only for sex offenders
- Not shared with the overall penal system
- Limited validity

## RISCANVI:

- Screening / full / specialized scales
- Universal tool assessing:
  - violent recidivism
  - breach of the sentence
  - institutional conflict
  - suicide

## Outcomes

- Behaviour improvement



- **12%** of open regime failure at 2009
- Conditional release is the **52 %** of all the discharges
- Low recidivism: Recidivism rate of **5.2 %** for all inmates released in 2005 and 2006

# Team development

- Management staff: commitment and strategic approach
- Shared goals
- Training
- Monitoring
- Ongoing design