

# *DOES COMMUNITY RESOLUTION REDUCE REOFFENDING?*

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# *What does Community Resolution (CR) Mean?*



- As stated in the Guidelines on the use of Community Resolutions (CR) Incorporating Restorative Justice (RJ) “A Community Resolution is the nationally recognised term for the resolution of a less serious offence or anti-social behaviour incident, where an offender has been identified, through informal agreement between the parties involved as opposed to progression through the traditional criminal justice process”
- CR allows the police to make decisions about how to deal more proportionately with lower level crimes and it is focused at first time offenders who showed genuine remorse, and where the victim (if there is one) has agreed that the police do not take more formal action.

# *How does CR work?*

- The form in which CR could take place would include a simple apology, an offer of compensation for the damage caused or a promise to clear up criminal damage. It offers victims an informal and flexible response to the crime they have reported and it allows victims to have a say in how it is dealt with. This is in line with the understanding that some victims want a simple outcome to the matter they reported which does not involve formal criminal justice processing.



# *How does CR work?*

- At the same time Community Resolutions allow offenders to correct their mistakes without suffering the consequences of a criminal record which could strongly affect future life chances. It provides an opportunity to evaluate the impact they have caused on victims, make amends and learn from the experience on just how close they were to facing a full judicial process.



*What are the potential benefits of CR to the public, offenders and police?*

- The potential benefits of this approach are both **short-term** in nature such as short investigation and lower police costs which would free up police time to solve more serious crimes
- as well as more **long-term** - as listed in the Guidelines on the use of Community Resolutions (CR) Incorporating Restorative Justice (RJ) one of the other benefits of CR is the reduction of the likelihood of reoffending by encouraging offenders to face up to the impact of their actions and to take responsibility for making good the harm caused




# *Research Question*

- *Does CR reduce reoffending rates and time to reoffend when compared to other forms of police outcomes such as cautions, being charged or issued with a warning or penalty notice?*



# *Our Analysis*

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- We used individual level data collected by Norfolk and Suffolk Police on case disposals from 2010 to 2014
  - We analysed the effect of CR on overall reoffending rates and on time to reoffending (for 4 different time intervals)
  - We compare reoffending rates of the offenders for whom CR is the outcome recorded by the police to other outcomes for 'similar' offences and offenders
  - The methodology we employed is a well-known quasi-experimental design called Propensity Score Matching which is widely used in the criminology literature
  - We then further analyse the impact of CR on recidivism by employing a survival analysis method. It controls for the amount of at-risk time each offender had while in community as we are using the actual date of when recidivism took place as the outcome variable
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# *Data*

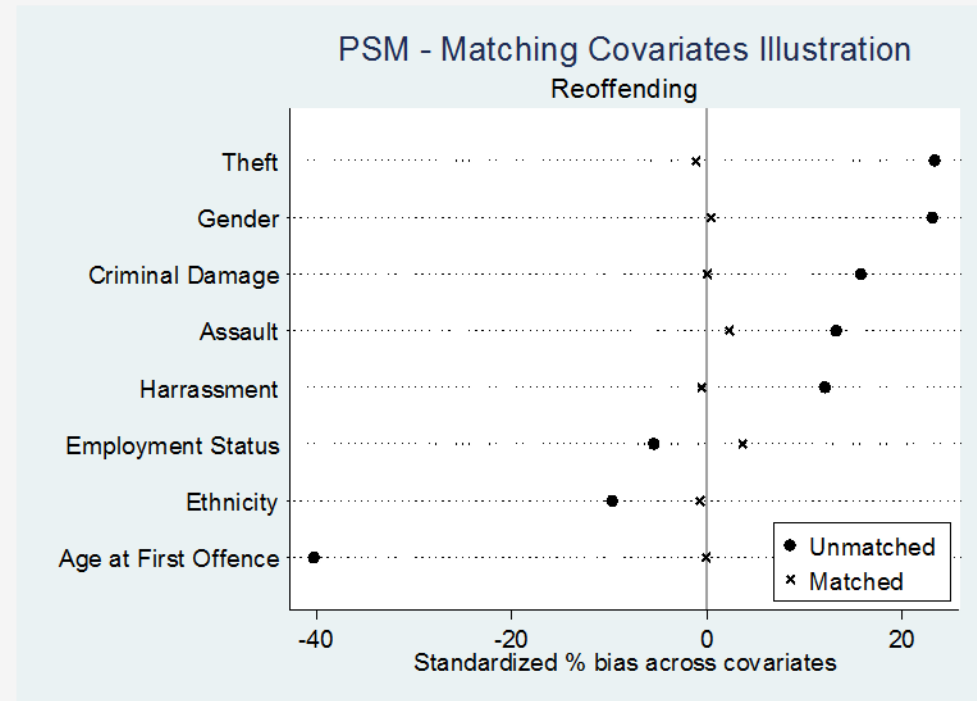
- Individual-level dataset compiled by Norfolk and Suffolk police during the years 2010 to 2014. There are 18767 offences recorded with all offences listed separately with each offender being given a unique code
  - It includes information on offender characteristics such as **gender, age at first offence, ethnicity, employment status and nationality**
  - It also includes details about the crime they have committed, what was the police outcome and, if they reoffended, when it happened
  - We recategorised data to be listed by each offender and not the offence. Therefore, our new dataset consists of 7679 observations (of offenders), 631 of whom received community resolution as the police outcome
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# *Data*

- Reoffending:
    - Reoffending overall
    - Reoffending within 30/90/180/365 days
  - Treatment – Community Resolution
  - Covariates:
    - Gender (F/M)
    - Age (Age at the first offence)
    - Ethnicity (White/Non-White)
    - Employment Status (Employed/Unemployed)
    - Current crime (Assault/Theft/Criminal Damage or Harassment)
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# *Propensity Score Matching*



Before matching covariates were much less balanced between the treatment and control groups – balance refers to the similarity of the covariate distribution. To quantify this balance we use standardized bias which is similar to effect size.

# Results

**Table 1: Average Treatment Effect: Propensity Score Matching (Main Results)**

Variable	Sample	Treated	Control	Difference	S.E.	T-stats
Reoffending	Before Matching	0.42	0.49	-0.077	0.02	-3.6
	After Matching	0.42	0.52	-0.108	0.03	-3.83

Significant results if t-stats is >1.96

The difference between groups after matching

**Table 2 Average Treatment Effect: Propensity Score Matching (Main Results by Reoffending Days)**

Variable	Sample	Treated	Control	Difference	S.E.	T-stats
Reoffence within 30 days						
	Before Matching	0.003	0.026	-0.023	0.006	-3.55
	After Matching	0.003	0.031	-0.023	0.007	-3.34
Reoffence within 90 days						
	Before Matching	0.04	0.07	-0.027	0.01	-2.56
	After Matching	0.04	0.07	-0.029	0.01	-2.22
Reoffence within 180 days						
	Before Matching	0.11	0.16	-0.052	0.02	-3.4
	After Matching	0.11	0.18	-0.069	0.02	-3.51
Reoffence within 12 months						
	Before Matching	0.35	0.43	-0.082	0.02	-3.9
	After Matching	0.35	0.45	-0.105	0.03	-3.79

# Results (subsamples)

**Table 3: Average Treatment Effect: Propensity Score Matching (Male Only Sample Results)**

Variable	Sample	Treated	Control	Difference	S.E.	T-stats
Reoffending	Before Matching	0.4	0.49	-0.09	0.02	-3.67
	After Matching	0.4	0.53	-0.126	0.03	-3.89

**Table 4: Average Treatment Effect: Propensity Score Matching (Employed Only Sample Results)**

Variable	Sample	Treated	Control	Difference	S.E.	T-stats
Reoffending	Before Matching	0.36	0.43	-0.073	0.03	-2.68
	After Matching	0.36	0.44	-0.076	0.04	-2.12

**Table 5: Average Treatment Effect: Propensity Score Matching (Unemployed Only Sample Results)**

Variable	Sample	Treated	Control	Difference	S.E.	T-stats
Reoffending	Before Matching	0.5	0.59	-0.092	0.03	-2.78
	After Matching	0.5	0.63	-0.134	0.04	-3.07

Propensity Score Matching

Results were robust for subsamples of male offenders only, employed offenders only and unemployed offenders only.

# Results (Subsamples)

**Table 6: Average Treatment Effect: Propensity Score Matching (Juvenile Only Sample Results)**

Variable	Sample	Treated	Control	Difference	S.E.	T-stats
Reoffending	Before Matching	0.43	0.51	-0.083	0.04	-2.27
	After Matching	0.43	0.48	-0.049	0.04	-1.13

**Table 7: Average Treatment Effect: Propensity Score Matching (Adult Only Sample Results)**

Variable	Sample	Treated	Control	Difference	S.E.	T-stats
Reoffending	Before Matching	0.41	0.49	-0.084	0.03	-3.05
	After Matching	0.41	0.59	-0.187	0.04	-5.05

**Table 8: Average Treatment Effect: Propensity Score Matching (Assault Only Results)**

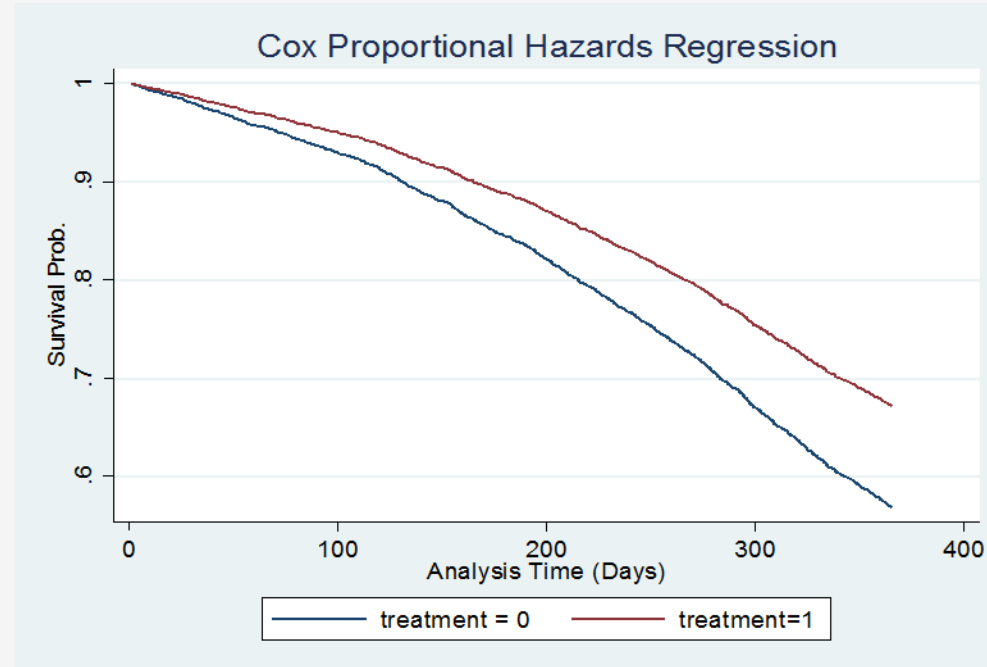
Variable	Sample	Treated	Control	Difference	S.E.	T-stats
Reoffending	Before Matching	0.37	0.44	-0.075	0.04	-1.78
	After Matching	0.37	0.43	-0.062	0.05	-1.14

**Table 9: Average Treatment Effects: Propensity Score Matching (Theft Only Results)**

Variable	Sample	Treated	Control	Difference	S.E.	T-stats
Reoffending	Before Matching	0.48	0.6	-0.127	0.04	-3.14
	After Matching	0.48	0.63	-0.156	0.05	-3.00

Propensity Score Matching

# Results



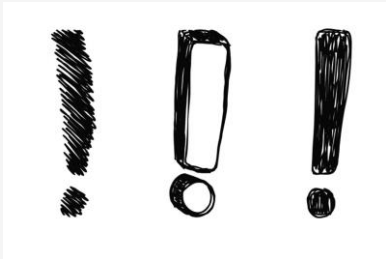
The matched sample is used for a Cox regression - model includes a treatment variable, indicating whether or not an offender received CR as a police outcome and all other covariates used in the PSM analysis. We first tested whether the data satisfy the proportional hazards assumption and found that the model was suitable and covariates do not have different effects at different points in time. Our findings are consistent with our earlier analysis and show that receiving CR decreased the risk of reoffending within 12 months from the first offence by nearly 30% while holding other covariates constant. For those who have not reoffended after 12 months of their first offence, their survival rate is about 68% for those who received CR and 57% for those who did not

Survival Analysis


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# Results

- For all offenders reoffending rate was by 10% lower for those who received CR as a police outcome when compared to those who didn't receive it
- The result is consistent and robust when tested on various subsamples
  - When comparing employed and unemployed samples, we find that offenders who were employed and received CR reoffended at 36% whilst those who were unemployed and received CR reoffended at 50%. However, the average treatment effect for unemployed sample was over 13% while for employed sample it was just below 8%
  - Furthermore, we find that the average treatment effect for juvenile offenders was smaller at just over 4% (when compared to the main results) and statistically insignificant while for adult offenders it was almost 19% and statistically significant
  - This finding suggest that CR works better on adult offenders and is in line with what rational theory posits, where an individual would choose activities in the illegal sector if their reward is higher than in the legal sector. On average young people earn less than their older counterparts which would explain their higher reoffending



# *Summary*

- In summary, we find that Community Resolution can effectively reduce reoffending rates. Both modelling approaches used in this analysis show consistently positive results i.e. CR reduces both reoffending rates and time to reoffend
  - Thus, our results suggest that when an offender received CR as a police outcome compared to a normal criminal justice procedure, he or she would be significantly less likely to reoffend at the later stage
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Thank you

