GGD Amsterdam

Determinants of post-detention recidivism: a recurrent event analysis

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Background

- Yearly, 3,000 prisoners return from prison back to Amsterdam
- Prisoners at high risk of recidivism after release
- 2014: renewed detention aftercare program to prevent recidivism

- Recidivism literature is fragmented (and enriched) by different:
  – definitions of recidivism
  – target populations
  – operationalizations of recidivism related outcomes

- Few studies model recurrent offending over a longer period of time in combination with dynamic factors

Focus of this study

- Trends in recurrent reoffending and dynamic risk factors

- Public mental health care (PMHC) indicators: medical and social problems → targets for PMHC based interventions

- Which prisoners are most in need of care/support over the long term?

- Results are informative for detention aftercare programs and focused deterrence programs

Research questions

- What is the overall recidivism rate among male prisoners from general prison wards in Amsterdam?

- How can their recidivism be described according to trends in reoffending over time and types of offenses committed?

- What is the prevalence of PMHC indicators?

- Which of these indicators are important risk factors for recurrent offending over time?

Method

- Participants interviewed during detention
  – Male inmates
  – Sampled from general prison wards
  – Prison sentence < 6 months
  – Discharged from prison in 2010

- Data
  – Semi-structured interviews during detention
  – Re-arrest data covering 2010 – 2015
  – Reimprisonment data covering 2010 – 2015

- Analyses
  – Repeat event analyses
  – Risk factor analysis (survival analysis)

Results

- 194 prisoners included

Sociodemograhics		Median (IQR)
Age		32 (24 - 43)
Ethnicity	Non ethnic Dutch	84%
Marital status	Single	94%
Living situation	Alone	40%
Highest education	Primary school	48%
Prior detentions		82%

Results

PMHC indicators		
Mental health problem	Positive BJMHS	49%
Substance use disorder	Alcohol	30%
	Cannabis	22%
	Cocaïne	10%
	Opiates	16%
Personality disorders	Antisocial	63%
	Narcissistic	45%
	Borderline	37%
Social problems	Homelessness	24%
	No work/education	43%
	Financial problems	62%

Results

Recidivism		Range*	median (IQR)
Any reoffense	90%	1 – 45	6 (3-13)
Misdemeanor	63%	1 – 25	3 (1-5)
Crime	71%	1 – 36	4 (1-7)
Violent crime	62%	1 – 11	2 (1-3)
Re-imprisonment	47%	1 – 6	1 (1 – 2,5)
			* Of those with an event

Results : trends in reoffending
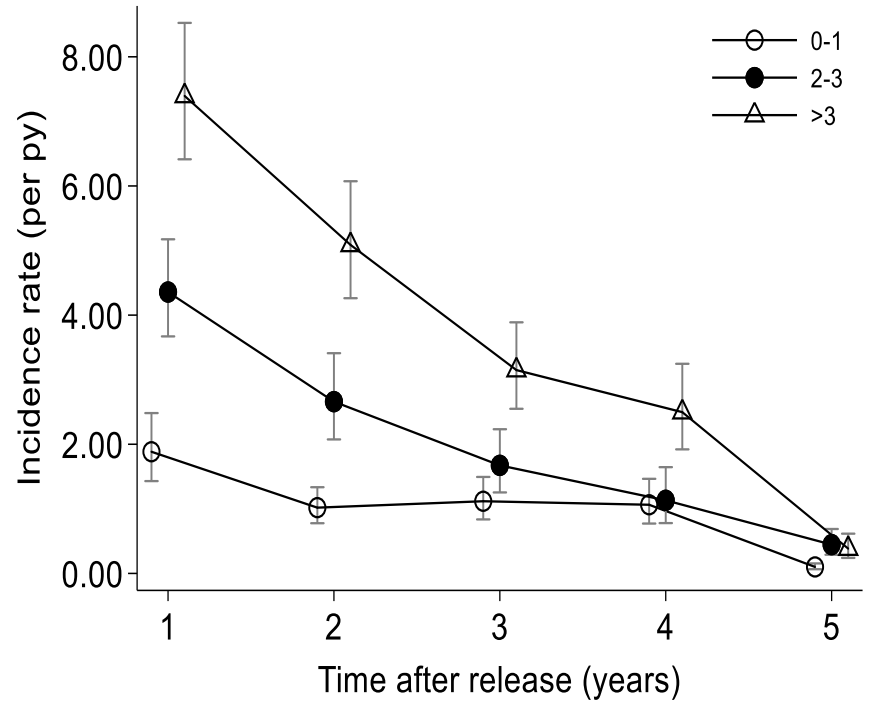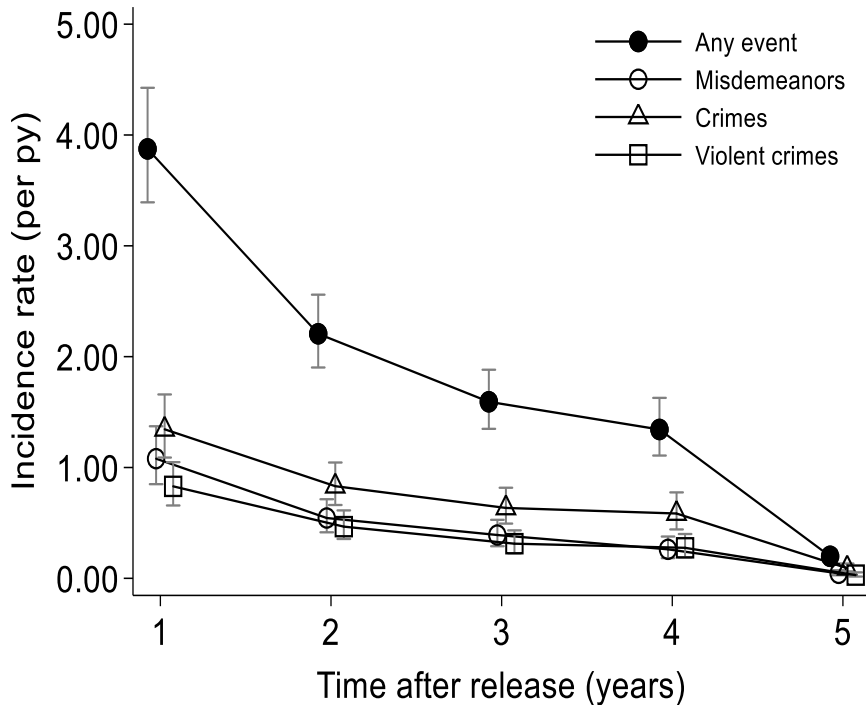
Three groups, based on their offending frequency in the first 12-months after release

PMHC indicators of recurrent offending

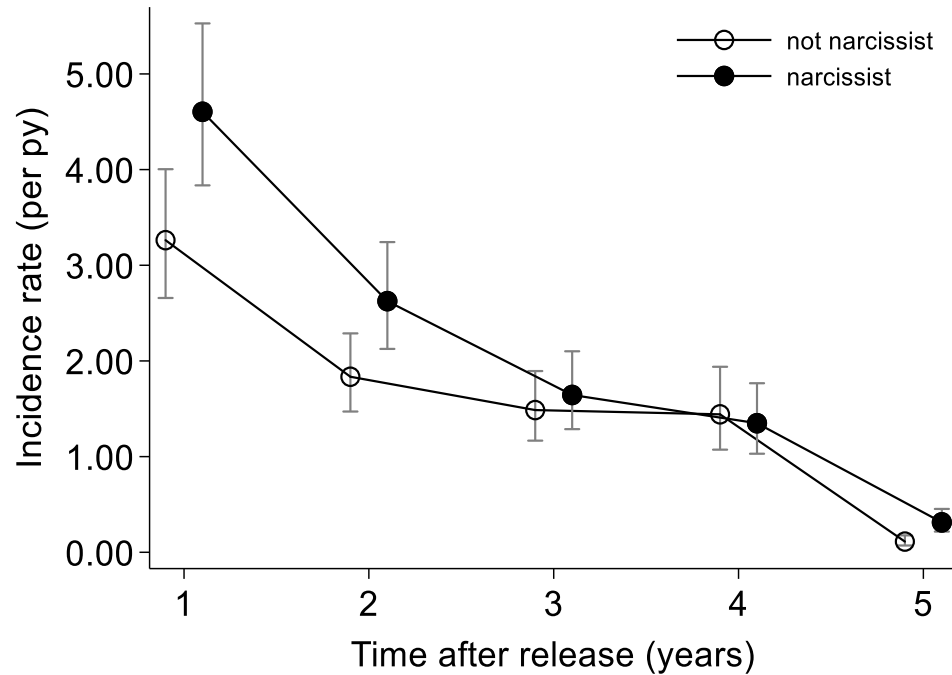| Determinants		HR
Age	<23	1*
	23-28	0,55
	28+	0,49
Marital status	Single	3,08
Education	Not qualified for labor	1,42
Medical problems	Substance dependency	1,86
	Narcissistic PD	1,41
		* Reference group

Influence substance dependency and narcissism on reoffending
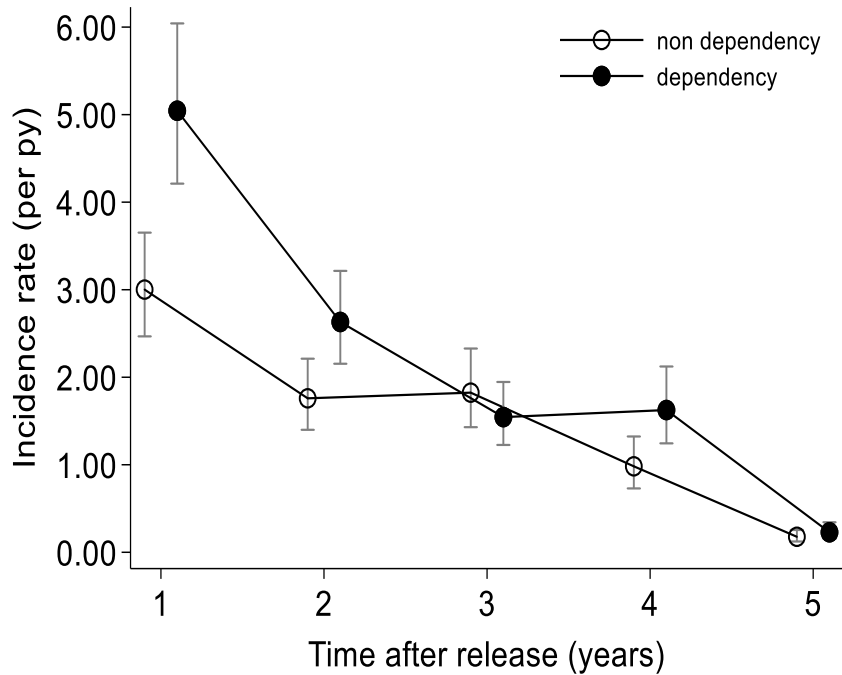
Misdemeanors

Crimes

Conclusion

- High recidivism among ex-prisoners (reoffenses and reimprisonments)

- Frequency of reoffending highest in year 1 after release
- First year frequent offenders remain the most criminally active over time

- Narcissistic personality disorder is associated with committing more crimes
- Substance dependency is associated with more misdemeanors

- Social problems highly prevalent but not predictive of recurrent reoffending

Implications

- Detention after care programs should have an integral focus

- All prisoners must be screened upon entry

- Provide opportunities for care/support to all prisoners, not only those who ask for it

Thanks for listening

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