

Improving the Effectiveness of Community Correctional Programs Through Research

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Prior Research Has Indicated....

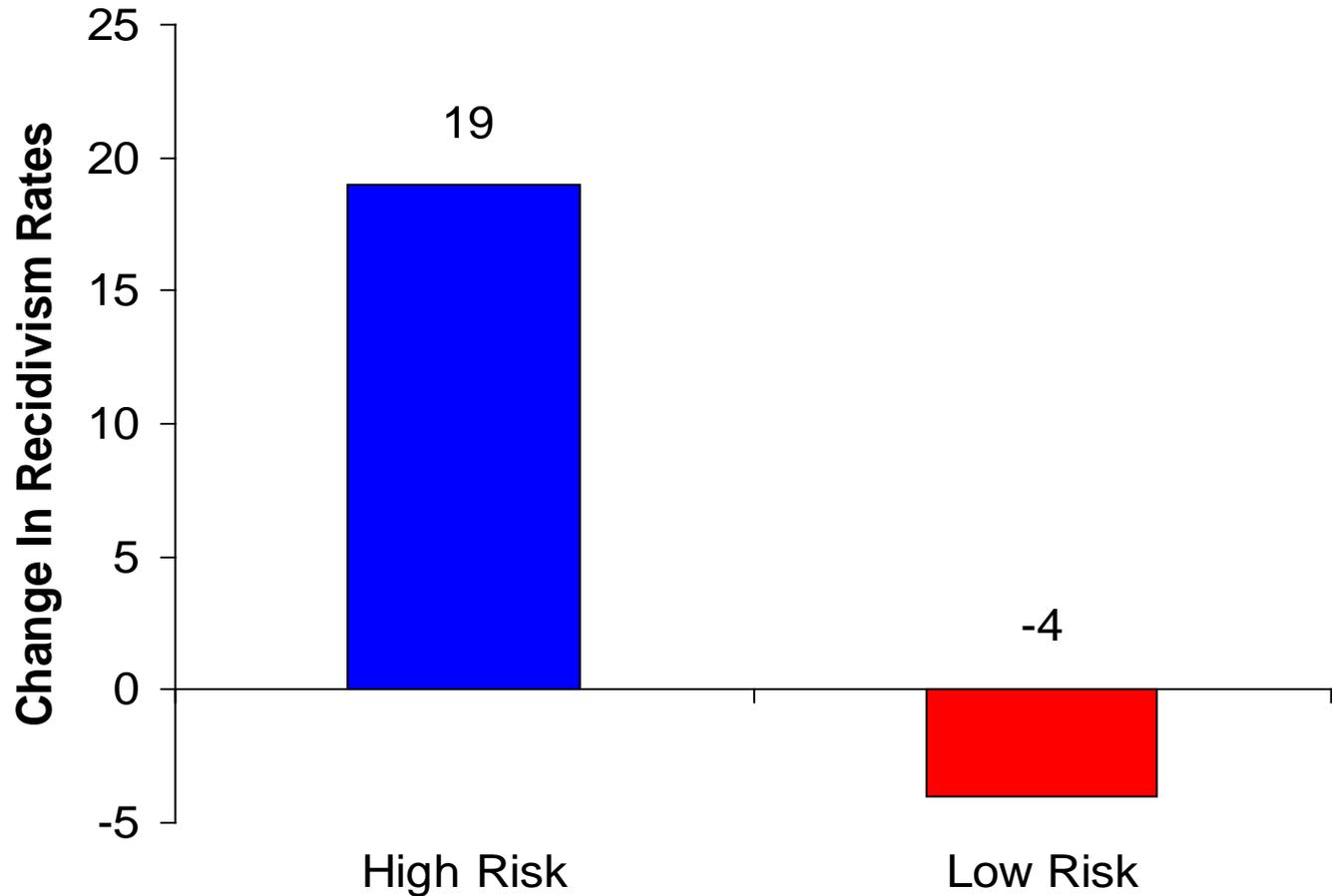
....that correctional services and interventions can be effective in reducing recidivism for offenders, however, not all programs are equally effective

- The most effective programs are based on some principles of effective interventions
 - Risk (Who)
 - Need (What)
 - Treatment (How)
 - Program Integrity (How Well)

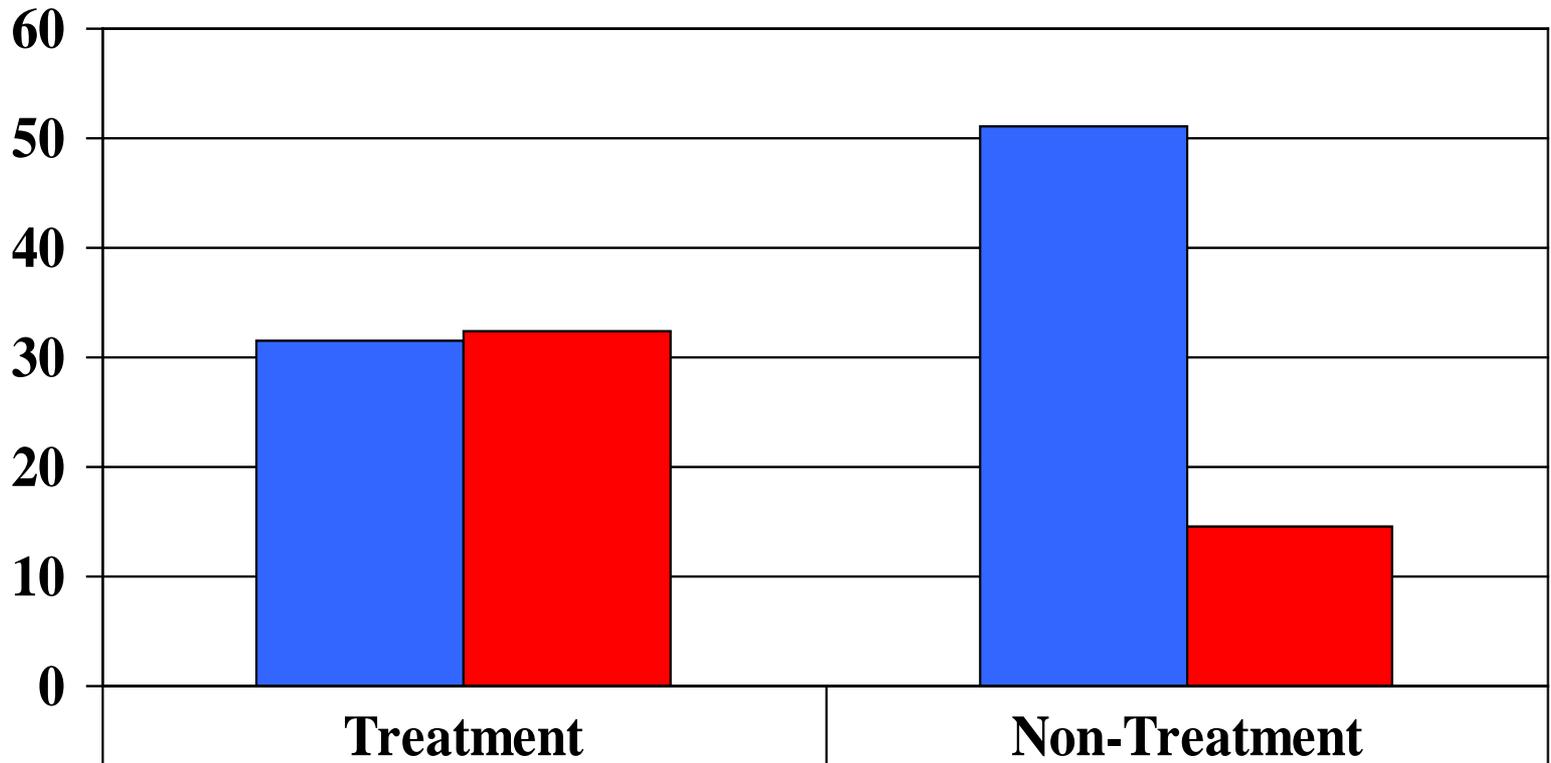
Risk Principle

- Target those offender with higher probability of recidivism
- Provide more intense services to higher-risk offenders
- Targeting lower risk offenders can lead to increases in recidivism rates

The Risk Principle & Correctional Intervention Results from Meta Analysis



Recent Study of Intensive Rehabilitation Supervision in Canada



High Risk	31.6	51.1
Low Risk	32.3	14.5

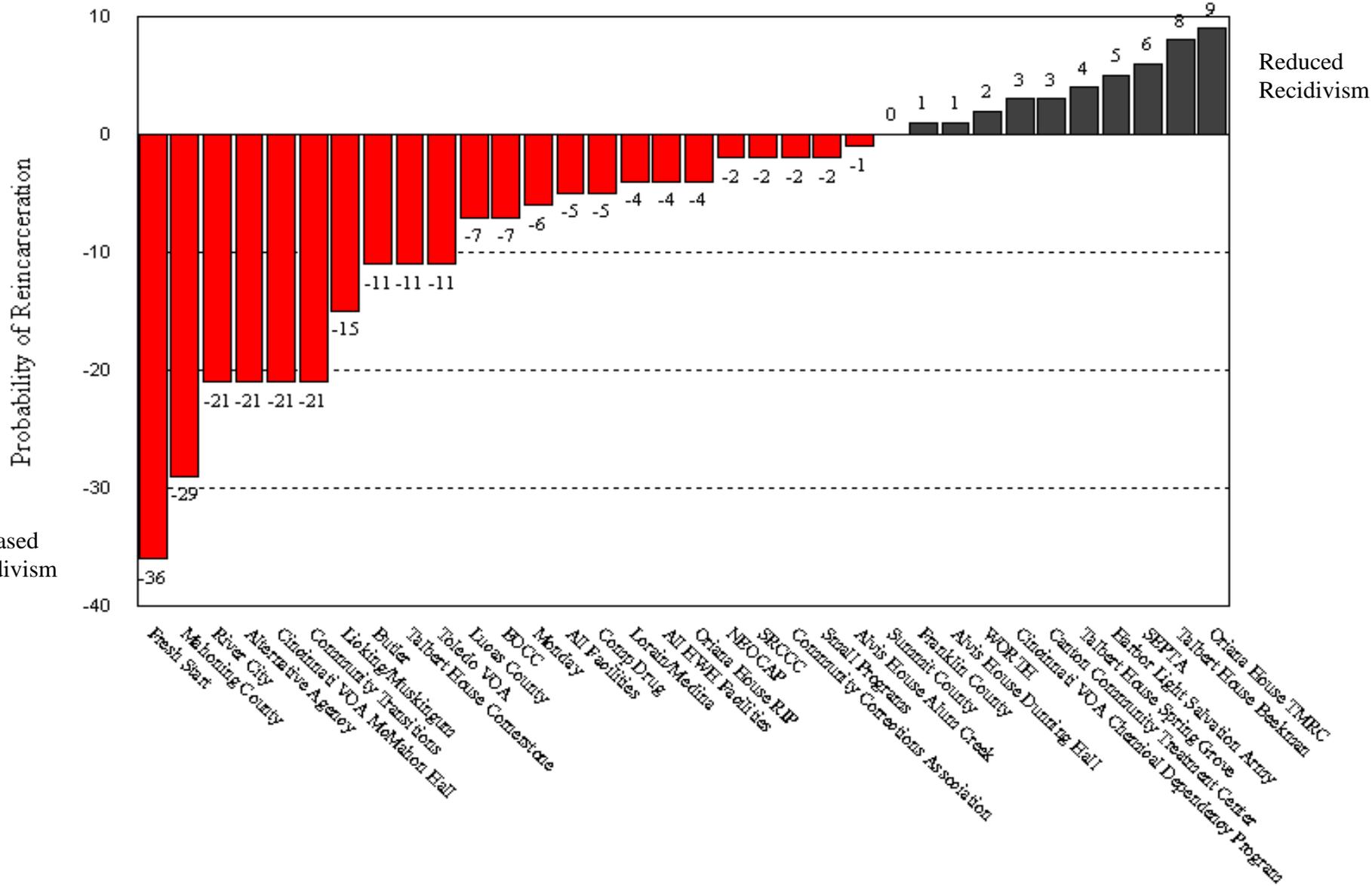
RECENT STUDY OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS IN OHIO

- **Largest study of community based correctional treatment facilities ever done**
- **Total of 13,221 offenders – 37 Halfway Houses and 15 Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs) were included in the study.**
- **Two-year follow-up conducted on all offenders**
- **Recidivism measures included new arrests & incarceration in a state penal institution**
- **We also examined program characteristics**

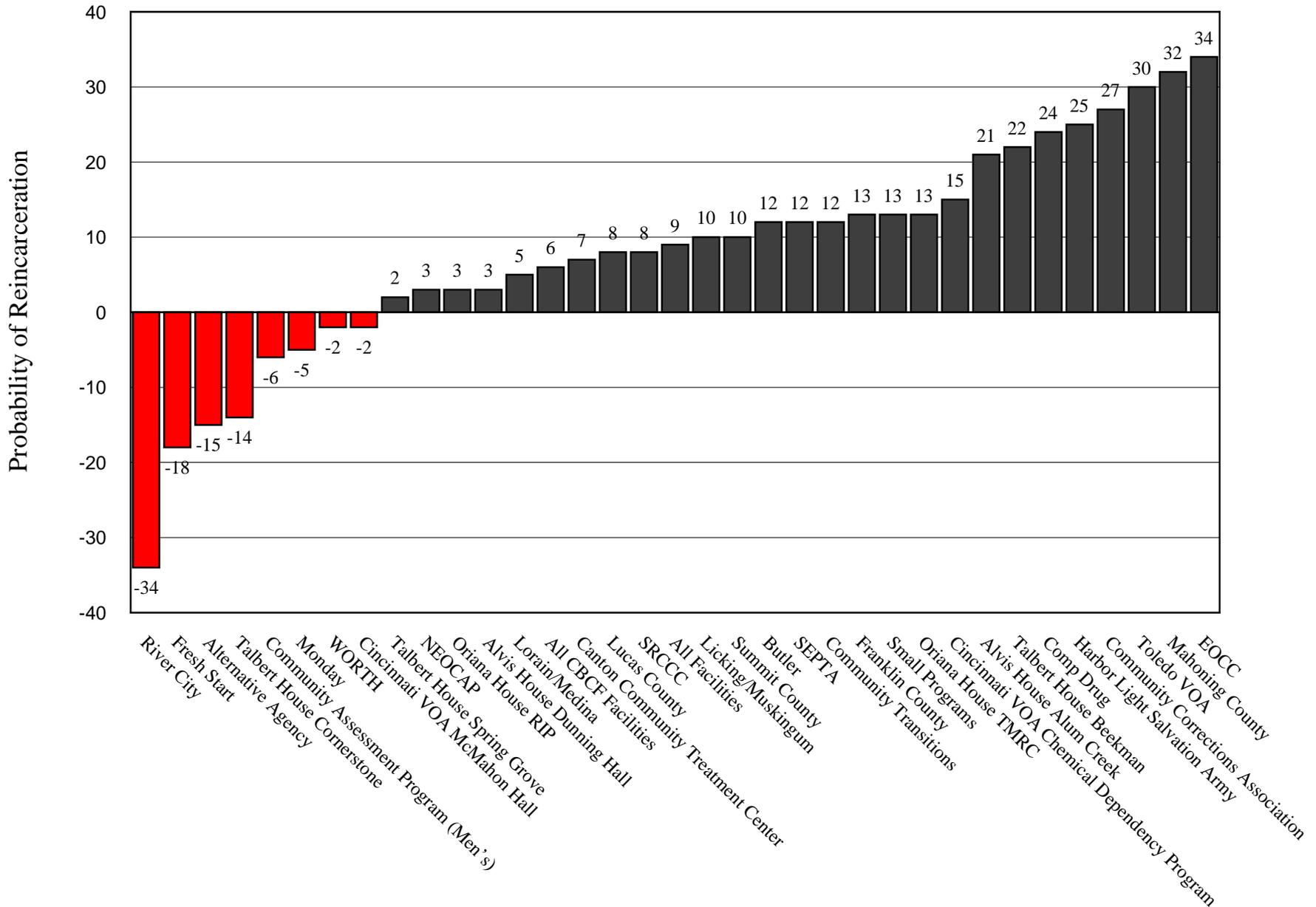
Determination of Risk

- Each offender was given a risk score based on 14 items that predicted outcome.
- This allowed us to compare low risk offenders who were placed in a program to low risk offenders that were not, high risk to high risk, and so forth.

Treatment Effects for Low Risk Offenders



Treatment Effects For High Risk Offenders



Need Principle

- Target crime producing needs and risk factors

Major Risk and/or Need Factor and Promising Intermediate Targets for Reduced Recidivism

Factor	Risk	Dynamic Need
History of Antisocial Behavior	Early & continued involvement in a number antisocial acts	Build noncriminal alternative behaviors in risky situations
Antisocial personality	Adventurous, pleasure seeking, weak self control, restlessly aggressive	Build problem-solving, self-management, anger mgt & coping skills
Antisocial cognition	Attitudes, values, beliefs & rationalizations supportive of crime, cognitive emotional states of anger, resentment, & defiance	Reduce antisocial cognition, recognize risky thinking & feelings, build up alternative less risky thinking & feelings Adopt a reform and/or anticriminal identity
Antisocial associates	Close association with criminals & relative isolation from prosocial people	Reduce association w/ criminals, enhance association w/ prosocial people

Major Risk and/or Need Factor and Promising Intermediate Targets for Reduced Recidivism

Factor	Risk	Dynamic Need
Family and/or marital	Two key elements are nurturance and/or caring better monitoring and/or supervision	Reduce conflict, build positive relationships, communication, enhance monitoring & supervision
School and/or work	Low levels of performance & satisfaction	Enhance performance, rewards, & satisfaction
Leisure and/or recreation	Low levels of involvement & satisfaction in anti-criminal leisure activities	Enhancement involvement & satisfaction in prosocial activities
Substance Abuse	Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs	Reduce SA, reduce the personal & interpersonal supports for SA behavior, enhance alternatives to SA

Need Principle

By assessing and targeting criminogenic needs for change, agencies can reduce the probability of recidivism

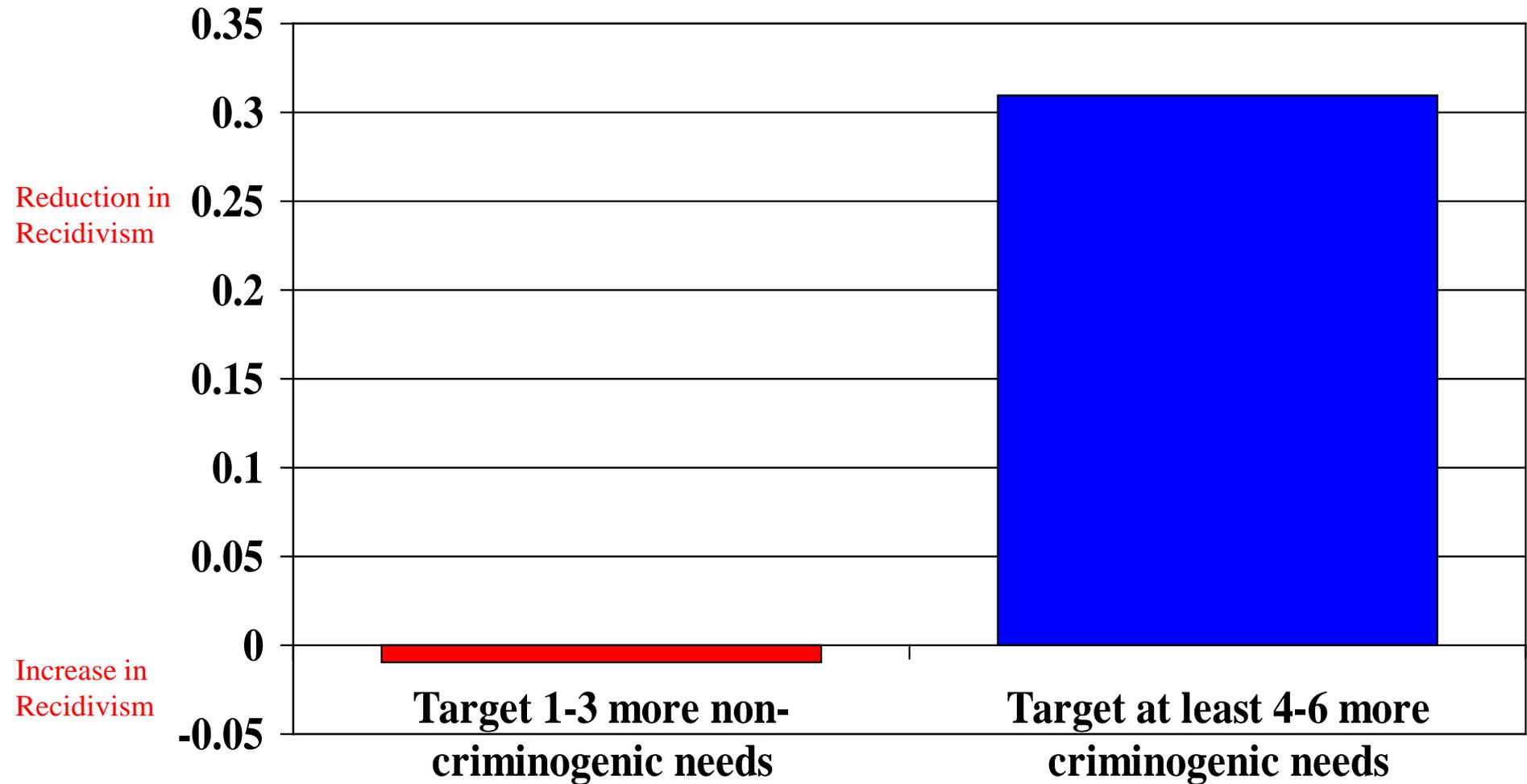
Criminogenic

- Anti social attitudes
- Anti social friends
- Substance abuse
- Lack of empathy
- Impulsive behavior

Non-Criminogenic

- Anxiety
- Low self esteem
- Creative abilities
- Medical needs
- Physical conditioning

Targeting Criminogenic Need: Results from Meta-Analyses



Reentry and the Need Principle

- Conventional wisdom suggests that primary challenges are structural focusing on issues such as jobs, housing, and other resources needed by offenders.
- Empirical Evidence suggests otherwise

Results from some recent studies:

- Virginia study of PV's found securing a job was not a major problem for parolees, and unemployment was not a major factor in failure (O'Reilly, et al, 2001).
- Urban Institute studies:
 - Results from Baltimore found none of the offenders in the sample spent the night on the street following release; most stayed with family (Visher, et al, 2004)
 - Results from Cleveland found only 10% reported difficulty finding housing (Visher & Courtney, 2007).
 - Study in NY found 6.3% of MI prisoners and 3.6% of non MI prisoners reported being homeless after release (Metraux and Culhane, 2004).

Other Findings

- The Baltimore study found recidivism rates the same for employed and unemployed offenders
- Hawaii study found willingness to accept responsibility for changing one's behavior and measures of conventional lifestyle were among strongest predictors of parole outcomes (Kassenbaum, 1999, Kassenbaum and Davidson-Corondo, 2001).

Recent study of parole violators in Pennsylvania found a number of criminogenic factors related to failure*

*Conducted by Pennsylvania Dept. of Corrections

Pennsylvania Parole Study
Social Network and Living Arrangements
Violators Were:

- More likely to hang around with individuals with criminal backgrounds
- Less likely to live with a spouse
- Less likely to be in a stable supportive relationship
- Less likely to identify someone in their life who served in a mentoring capacity

Pennsylvania Parole Study
Employment & Financial Situation
Violators were:

- Slightly more likely to report having difficulty getting a job
- Less likely to have job stability
- Less likely to be satisfied with employment
- Less likely to take low end jobs and work up
- More likely to have negative attitudes toward employment & unrealistic job expectations
- Less likely to have a bank account
- More likely to report that they were “barely making it” (yet success group reported over double median debt)

Pennsylvania Parole Study
Alcohol or Drug Use
Violators were:

- More likely to report use of alcohol or drugs while on parole (but no difference in prior assessment of dependency problem)
- Poor management of stress was a primary contributing factor to relapse

Pennsylvania Parole Study

Life on Parole

Violators were:

- Had unrealistic expectations about what life would be like outside of prison
- Had poor problem solving or coping skills
 - Did not anticipate long term consequences of behavior
- Failed to utilize resources to help them
 - Acted impulsively to immediate situations
 - Felt they were not in control
- More likely to maintain anti-social attitudes
 - Viewed violations as an acceptable option to situation
 - Maintained general lack of empathy
 - Shifted blame or denied responsibility

Pennsylvania Parole Violator Study:

- Successes and failures did not differ in difficulty in finding a place to live after release
- Successes & failures equally likely to report eventually obtaining a job

Some Lessons from PA

- Programs that deliver a one-size-fits all collection of services (e.g. job preparation) may miss important variations in need
- Corrections agencies should examine the reentry context within their own jurisdictions before planning costly new reentry initiatives that attempt to address problems that may not exist
- Attention to core criminogenic needs are critical to the reentry process

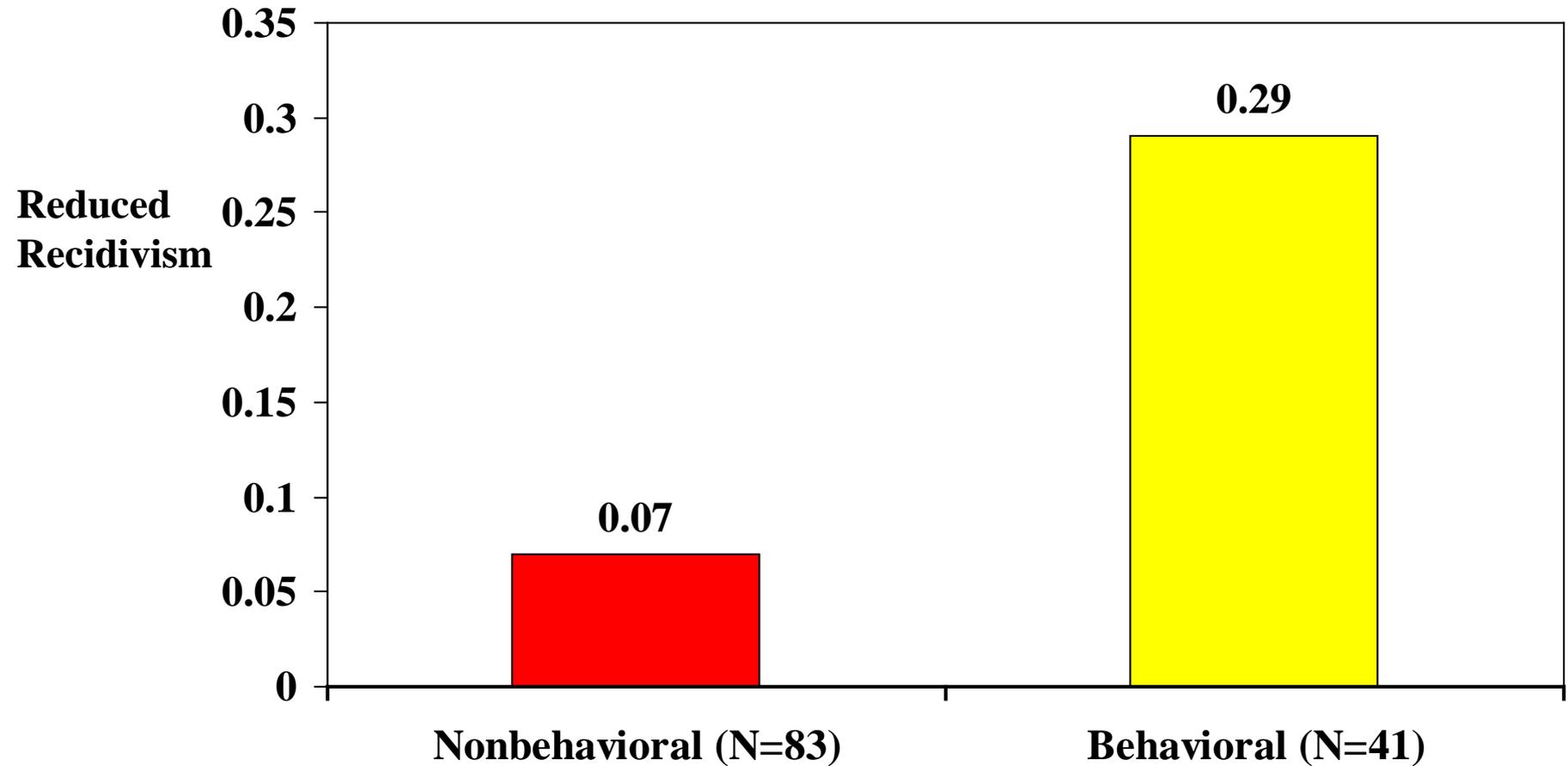
Most researchers who study correctional interventions have concluded:

- Without some form of human intervention or services there is unlikely to be much effect on recidivism from surveillance or supervision alone
- The evidence also indicates that while treatment is more effective in reducing recidivism than punishment – Not all treatment programs are equally effective

The Treatment Principle: Provide Behavioral Treatment

- Focus on current risk/need factors
- Action oriented

Behavioral vs. NonBehavioral – Results from Meta Analysis



Some Examples from Research on Community Corrections

Evaluation of Thinking for a Change

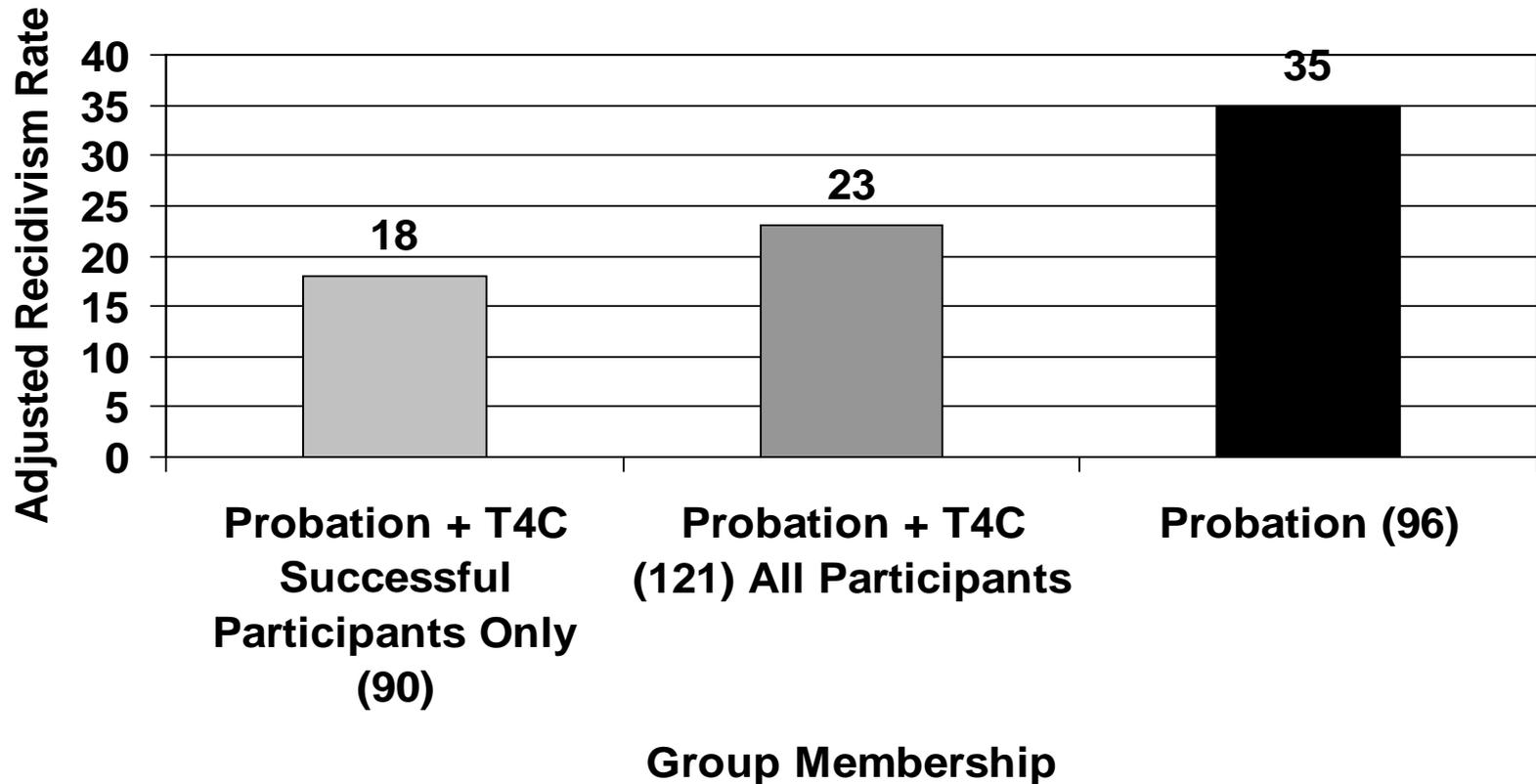
Lowenkamp and Latessa (2006)

- Tippecanoe County Indiana
- Probation +T4C vs. Probation
- 136 Treatment cases
- 97 Comparison cases
- Variable follow up (range 6 to 64 months; average 26)
- Outcome—arrest for new criminal behavior

Multivariate Model

- Controlled for
 - Risk (prior arrests, prior prison, prior community supervision violations, history of drug use, history of alcohol problems, highest grade completed, employment status at arrest)
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Race
 - Time at risk or length of follow up time

Adjusted Recidivism Rates Comparing T4C Participants to Comparison Group



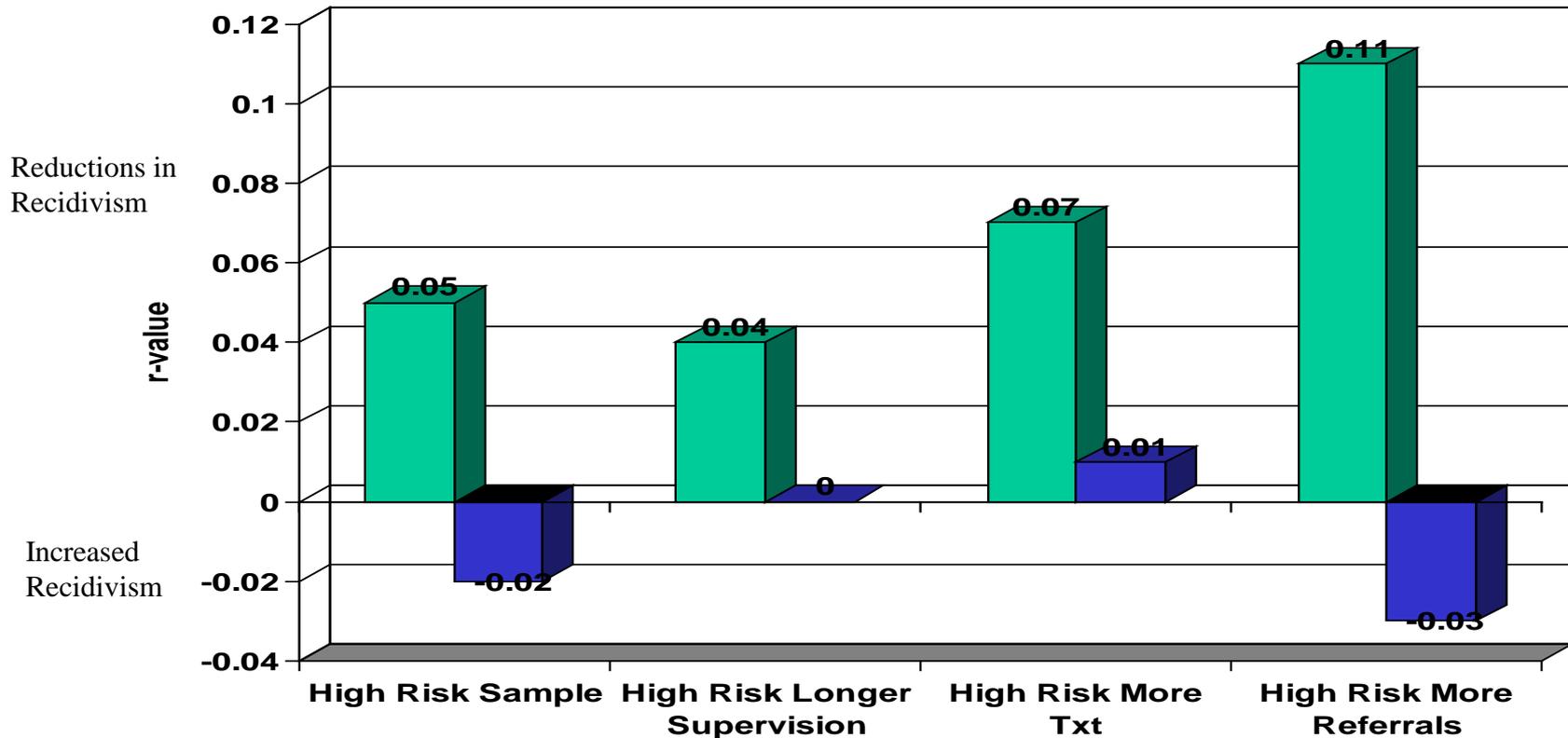
Recent Study of Non-Residential Community Correctional Programs in Ohio involving over 13,000 Offenders

- Included both misdemeanants and felons under community supervision
- Programs included day reporting centers, work release, ISP, and electronic monitoring programs

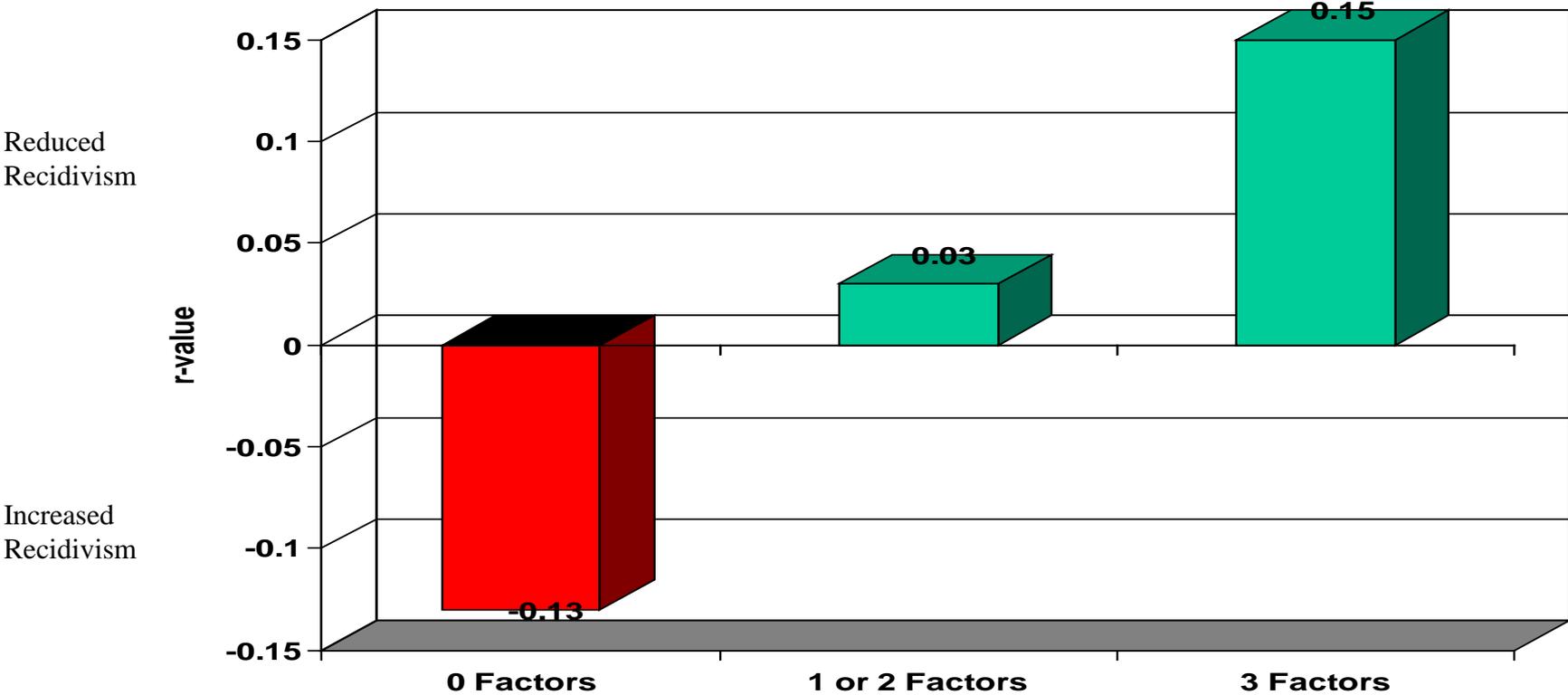
FOUR FACTORS WERE SIGNIFICANTLY RELATED TO OUTCOME

- Proportion of higher risk offenders in program (at least 75% of offenders in programs were moderate or high risk)
- Level of supervision for higher risk offenders (high risk offenders averaged longer periods of supervision than low risk)
- More treatment for higher risk offenders (at least 50% more time spent in treatment)
- More referrals for services for higher risk offenders (at least 3 referrals for every 1 received by low risk)

Changes in Recidivism by Program Factors for Probation Programs



Change in Recidivism by 4 Point Factor Score for Probation Programs



Recently we looked at Program
Characteristics and Program Philosophy

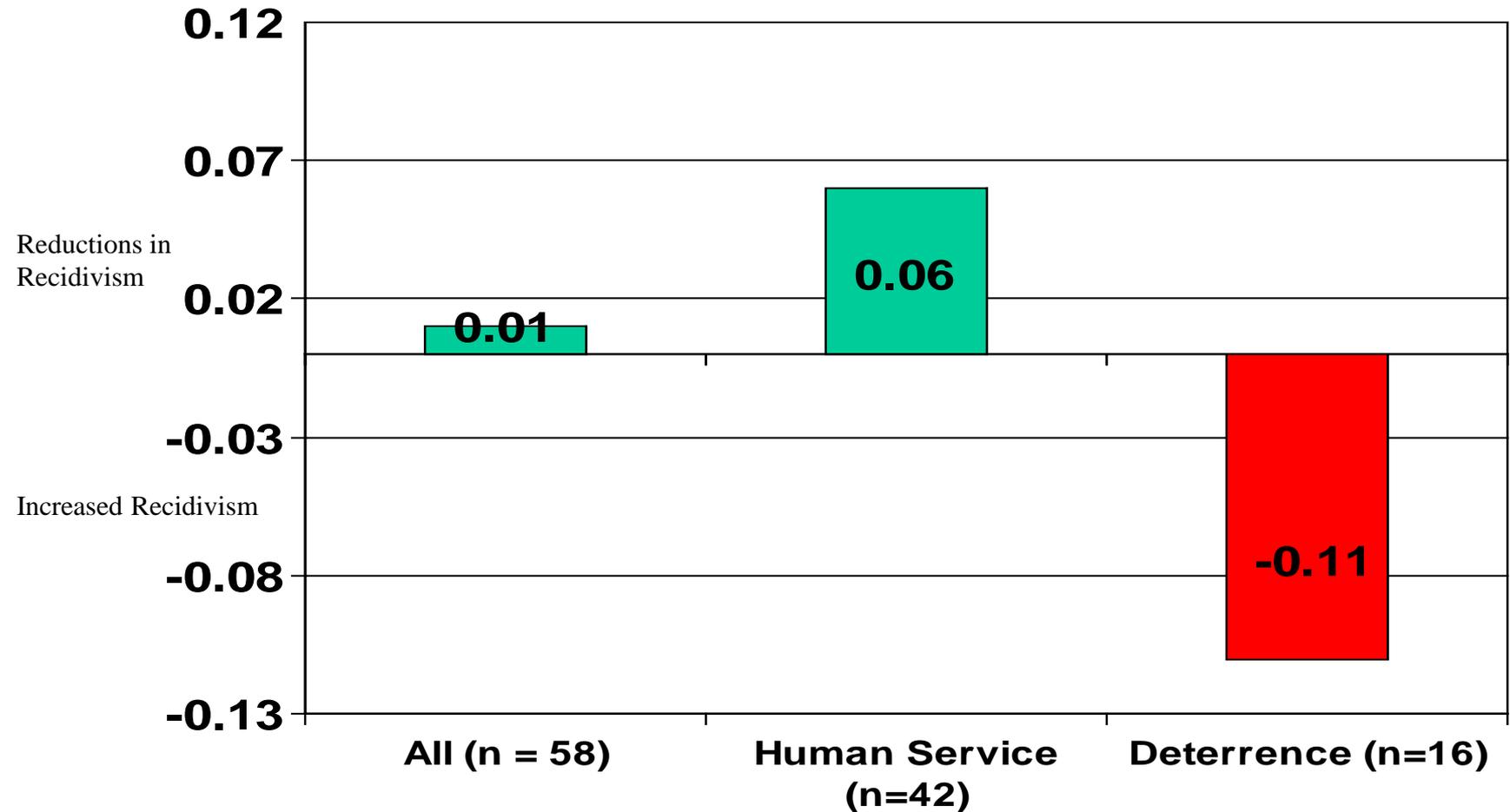
Program Measures

1. Risk principle supervision—longer supervision for higher risk
2. Risk principle treatment—more TX referrals for higher risk
3. Higher-risk sample—75% of offender higher risk
4. Treatment referrals—75% of referrals targeted criminogenic needs
5. At least 5 services available targeting criminogenic needs
6. Separate groups by risk
7. 20 hours or more of treatment per week
8. Program ranged 3 to 9 months
9. Provided quality aftercare
10. Had a manual
11. Adhered to manual
12. Staff hired for skills and values
13. Pre/post testing of offenders
14. Exclusionary criteria in place
15. Exclusionary criteria followed

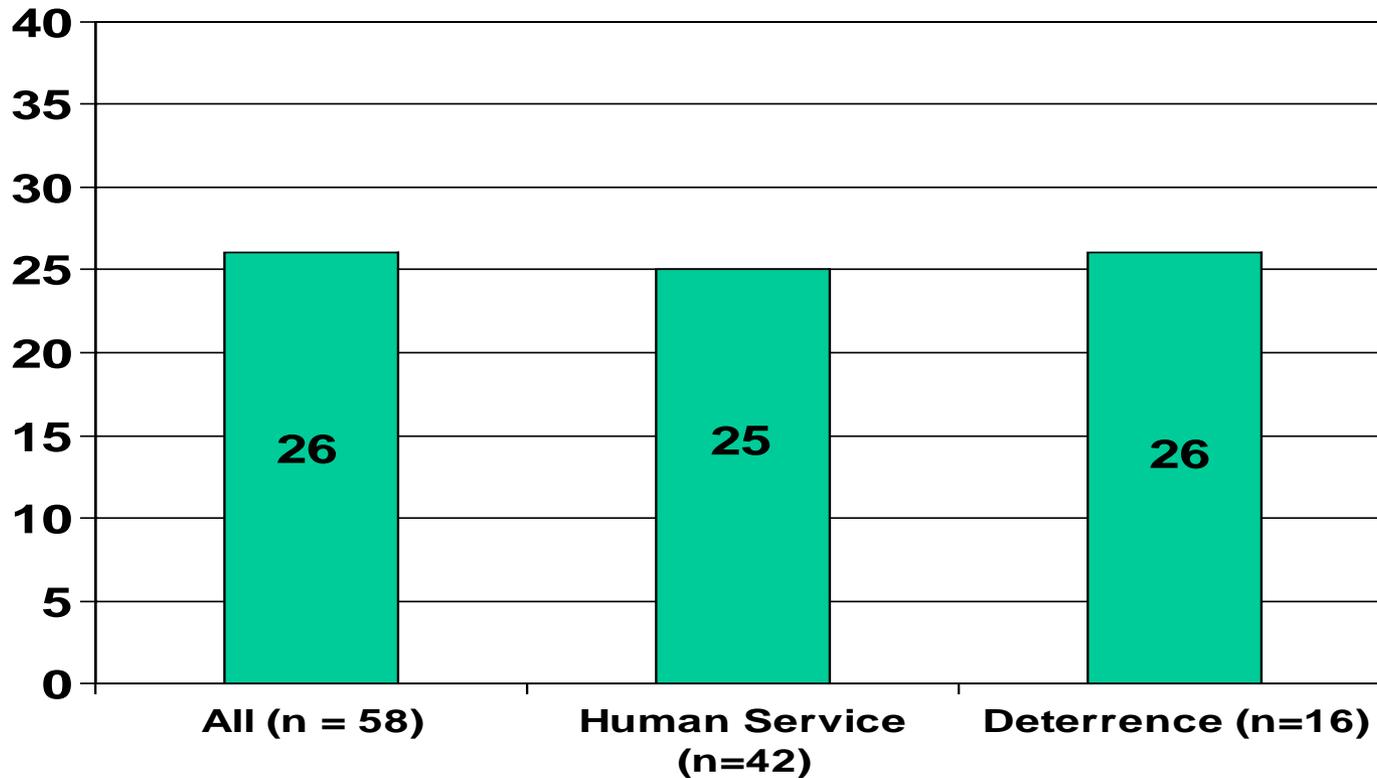
Program Measures

1. Created Risk-Need adherence scale which was percentage of 15 factors present in program. Scored as 1 or 0.
2. Also asked program staff to identify program philosophy.
3. Assigned philosophy based on dominant response—human service or deterrence

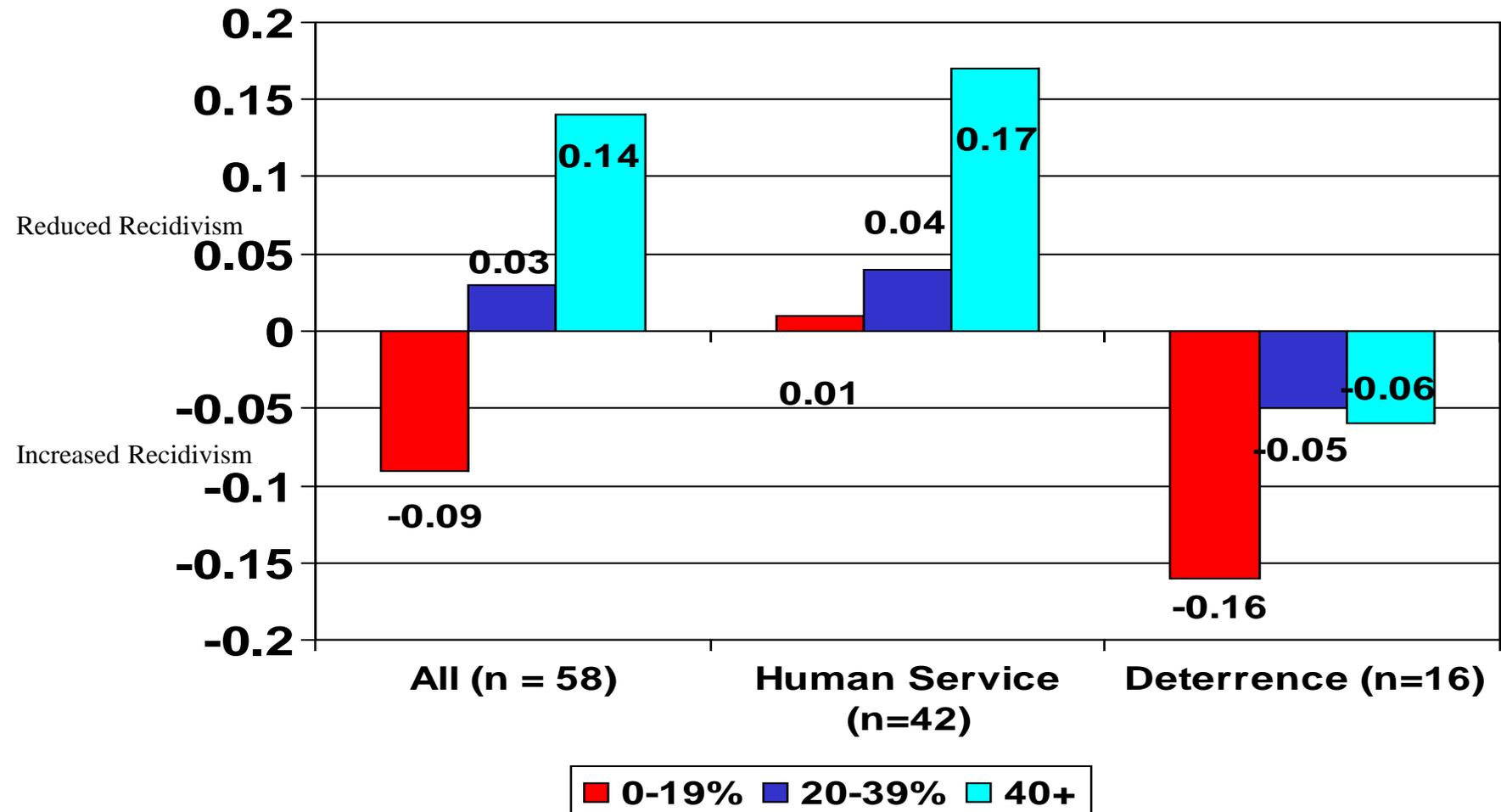
Average Effect Size Overall & By Program Philosophy



Average Score on RN Scale



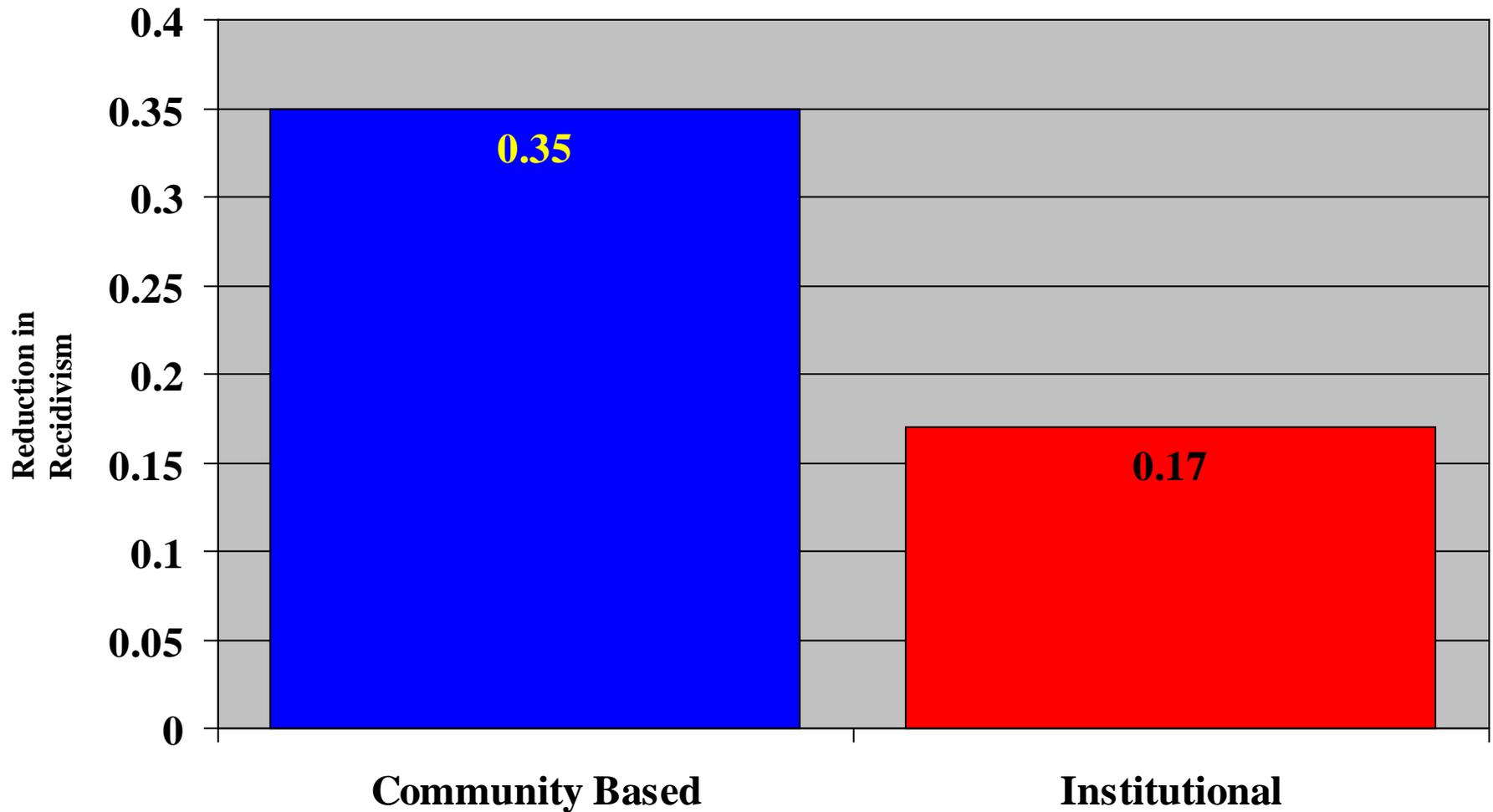
Average Effect Size By Program Philosophy and RN Scale



Conclusions

1. Philosophy of community supervision program was important: those that self-identified as Human Service oriented were more effective than those with Deterrence orientation.
2. Deterrence oriented programs had increased failure rates.
3. Adhering to the Principles of Risk, Need, Treatment increased effectiveness. Even Deterrence oriented program had better results if principles were met.

Community Based versus Institutional Programs: Results from Meta-Analyses of Programs Based on Principles of Effective Treatment



Source: Gendreau, P., French, S.A., and A. Taylor (2002). What Works (What Doesn't Work) Revised 2002. Invited Submission to the International Community Corrections Association Monograph Series Project.

Adherence to Risk, Need Treatment by Setting: Community Based versus Residential Programs

