



cejfe

Scope of Criminal Execution

Juvenile recidivism rate 2020

Executive report

Own research

Authors

Research and Training in Criminal Execution Area

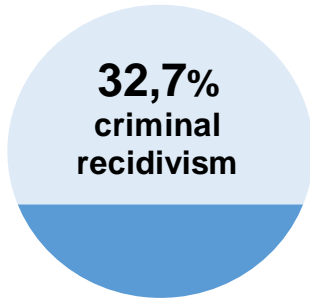
Year 2023



Generalitat de Catalunya
**Centre d'Estudis Jurídics
i Formació Especialitzada**

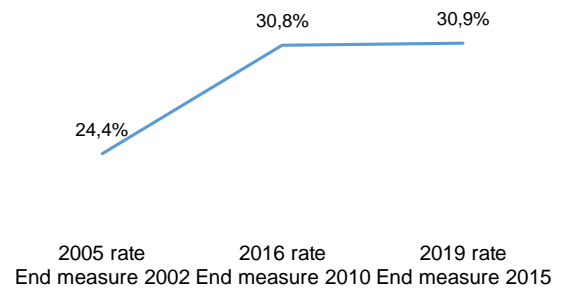
1. Juvenile recidivism rate

Figure 1. Juvenile recidivism rate



This recidivism rate remains the same as in the last study.

Graph 1. Evolution of the recidivism rate in criminal execution



In other words, **seven out of ten** young people who **completed a programme or measure** in the Catalan juvenile justice system in **2015 have not been attended to again by the juvenile justice services nor have they entered the adult criminal execution system for a new crime**, during the follow-up period of **4.5 years on average** (from 2015 to 31 December 2019). Follow-up has been increased by 1 year.

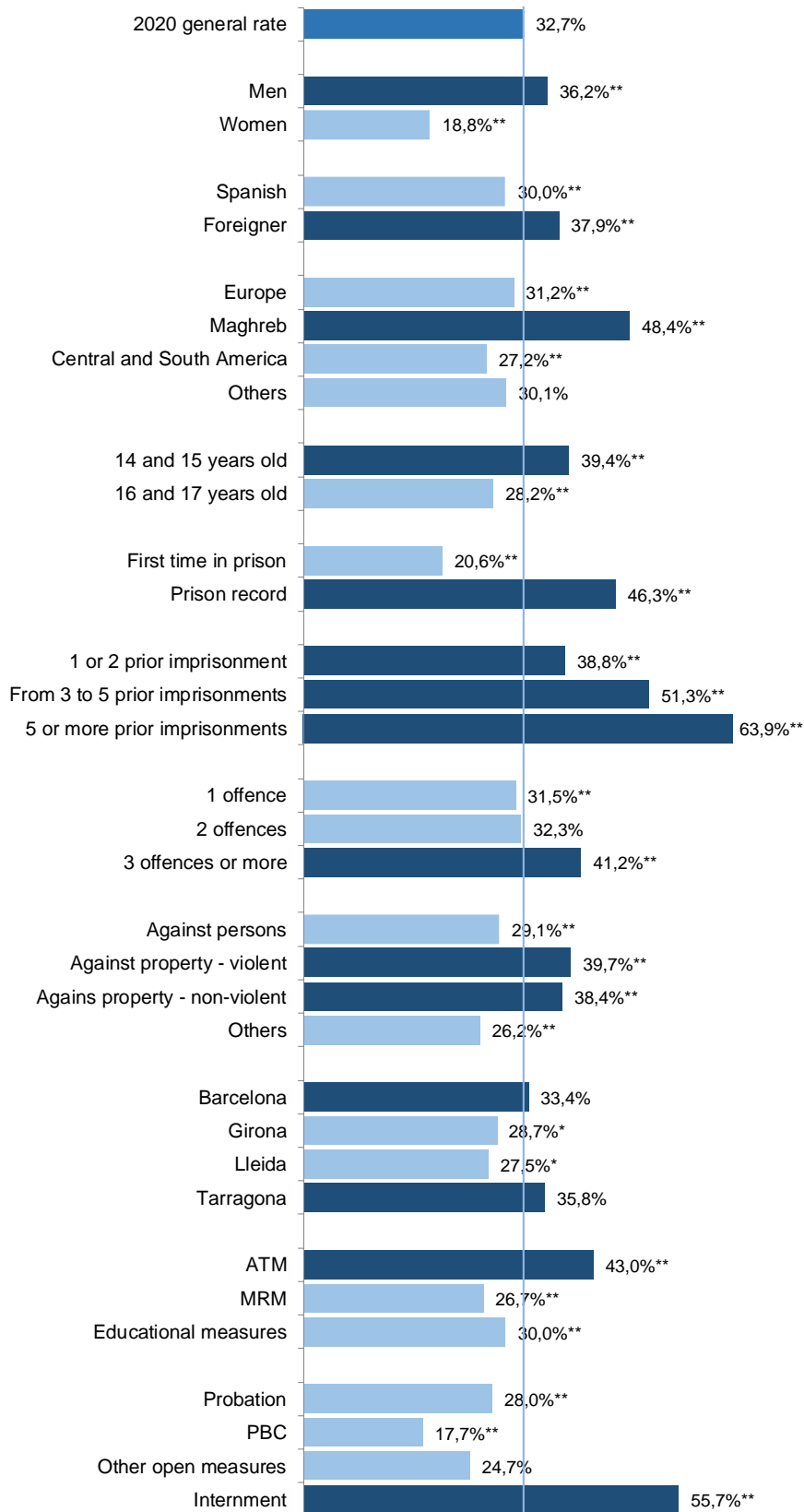
It has remained stable with respect to the previous measure if one considers the **follow-up period** from previous studies (3.5 years on average).



Technical sheet of the investigation	
Territorial scope	Catalonia
Study population	Young people between the ages of 14 and 23 who completed a juvenile court programme or measure in 2015 (N=3,634). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical advice (ATM) → N=1,045 (28.8%) • Mediation and Redress (MRM) → N=1,112 (30.6%) • Educational measures → N=1,477 (40,6%)
Follow-up	Until 31/12/2019 → 4.5 years on average, with a minimum of 4 years and a maximum of 5 years
Data source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIPC (Prison Information System of Catalonia) • SIJJ (Juvenile Justice Information System) • TEMIS (criminal judicial database) Usage variables: 110
Statistical exploitation	IBM SPSS Statistics 28.0 and R Studio statistical package

Characteristics of recidivism

Graph 2. General characteristics of the 2020 juvenile recidivism rate



* Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.05$.

** Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.01$.

Time to recidivism

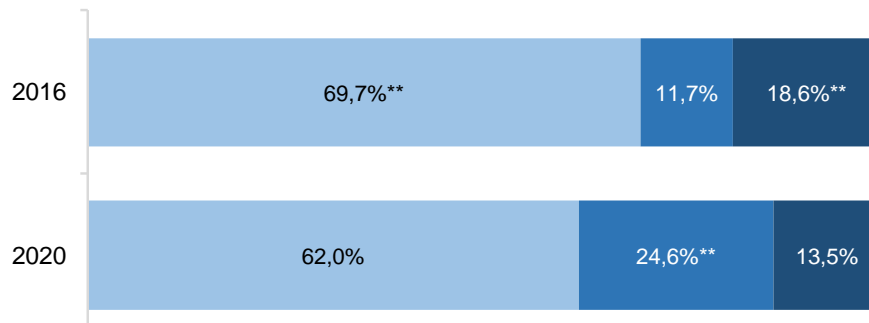
Table 1. Time to recidivism for juvenile offenders (% accumulated)

	Rate 2016	Rate 2020
Less than 6 months	45.6%	40.9%
From 6 months to 1 year	68.2%	60.0%
From 1 to 2 years	89.1%	81.1%
From 2 to 3 years	98.4%	91.2%
From 3 to 4 years	100.0%	97.3%
From 4 to 5 years	-	100.0%

397.3 days
Average time to recidivism in the 2020 rate study

Where does the first recidivism apply?

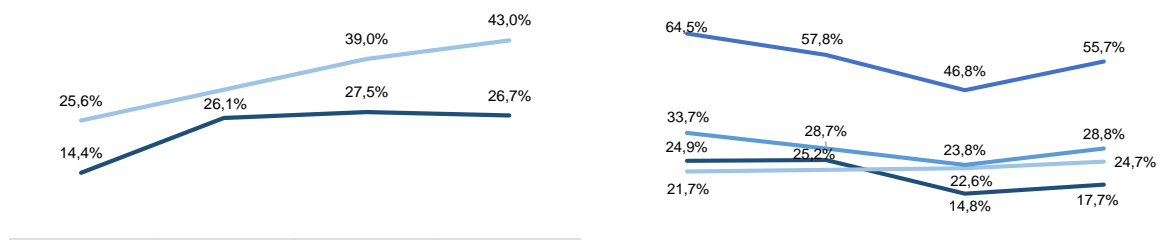
Graph 3. Scope of the first recidivism



** Values with statistically significant differences from the general rate: $p \leq 0.01$.

Evolution of specific recidivism rates

Graph 4. Evolution of the specific recidivism rates of young people who complete a measure



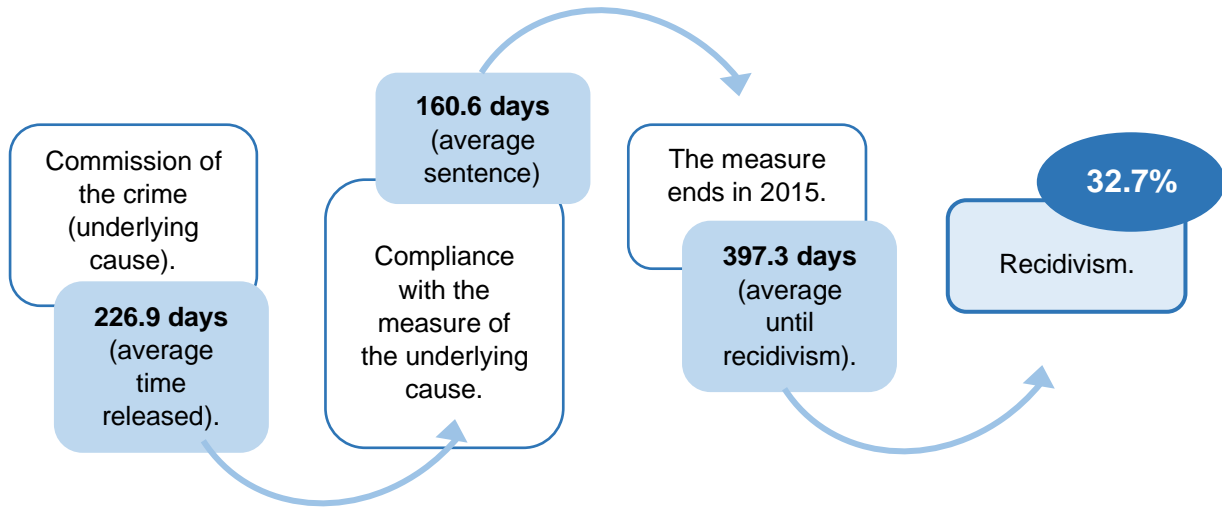
The **recidivism** rate of young people who only have **technical assistance (ATM)** with intervention in the underlying cause has **increased** considerably (almost 17%).

On the other hand, rates of **recidivism** of young people who complete a process of **mediation (MRM)** or with few oscillations, **community service (PBC)** and **probation** have remained **stable**.

The recidivism rate of the **internment** measure was **decreasing until 2016** and now it is increasing again.

Monitoring juvenile justice recidivists

Figure 2. Monitoring compliance



2. Juvenile recidivism rate by data source

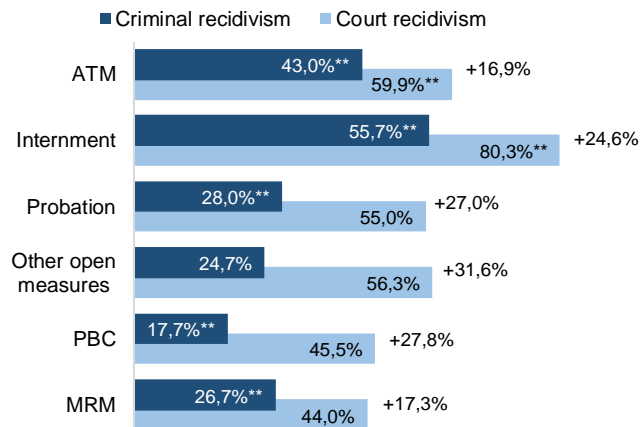
Table 2. Comparison of criminal and judicial execution recidivism rates in 2020

Recidivism in criminal execution	Judicial recidivism
32.7%	54.0%

For the first time, we can establish that the difference between the criminal execution fee and the court fee is 21 points. We can, therefore, conclude that, **five out of ten young people** who completed a measure in 2015 **reconnected with the judicial system** during the follow-up period (2015-2019).

Regarding the differences according to the measure or programme introduced:

Graph 5. Comparison of the 2020 criminal and judicial execution recidivism rates according to the programme or measure introduced in the underlying cause.



* Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.05$.

** Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.01$.

The measure associated with a **higher recidivism rate is hospitalisation** (six out of ten recidivists; or eight out of ten if judicial recidivism is taken into account). And the programmes whose rate of **recidivism is more varied depending on the source** to be studied are, in this order: **other open measures** (31.6% difference), **PBC** (community service) (27.8%) **and probation** (27.0%).

3. Characteristics of recidivism according to the measure

Personal characteristics of juvenile recidivists

Table 3. Personal characteristics of recidivism in 2020 according to the measure or programme

	MRM %	PBC %	Other OM %	LV %	IC %	ATM %
Gender						
Men	30.0**	19.9	28.6*	30.8**	57.2	47.4**
Women	16.4**	7.9	12.8*	14.0**	37.5	26.6**
Nationality						
Spanish	26.4	13.9*	25.8	25.6*	53.1	39.1**
Foreigner	27.7	26.2*	23.2	32.1*	58.1	49.2**
Geographic origin						
Europe	12.7*	7.1*	11.1	27.3	41.7	50.0
Maghreb	37.4*	38.9*	30.8	38.3	66.1	61.9**
Central and South America	27.5	7.7	16.7	25.4	55.2	25.3**
Other	23.5	50.0	0.0	36.4	25.0	35.7
Age when committing the major crime						
14 - 15 years old	33.9**	33.9**	27.3	35.0**	60.9	51.6**
16 - 17 years old	20.4**	20.4**	23.5	23.9**	51.3	37.9**

* Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.05$.

** Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.01$.

Criminal characteristics of juvenile recidivists

Table 4. Criminal characteristics of recidivism in 2020 according to the measure or programme

	MRM %	PBC %	Others %	LV %	IC %	ATM %
Major category of crime						
Against persons	27.7	12.0	20.9	24.9	52.4	34.1**
Against property - violent	38.7**	11.8	23.5	26.3	61.6	61.2**
Against property - non-violent	29.3	27.4	31.0	33.3	52.8	53.7**
Other	19.7**	17.0	25.0	33.0	50.0	34.5**
Violence of the major crime						
Violent	29.2	12.0*	21.4	25.5*	56.8	39.9*
Non-violent	24.8	22.9*	28.4	33.2*	52.1	46.5*

	MRM %	PBC %	Others %	LV %	IC %	ATM %
Priors						
No priors	21.4**	6.3**	10.5**	18.7**	25.9**	24.5**
With priors	47.2**	30.6**	32.7**	33.4**	60.2**	60.9**
Priors						
1 or 2 priors	46.6	12.5**	34.1	26.9**	50.0	51.2**
From 3 to 5 priors	50.0	50.0**	25.0	37.9	64.6	67.3**
Over 5 priors	100.0	61.1**	42.9	51.2**	63.8	80.0**
Type of major crime						
Crime	25.9	14.5	23.4	27.6	55.9	44.7
Misdemeanour or minor offence	27.9	21.2	26.6	30.1	50.0	39.7
Number of recidivisms						
1 recidivism	52.9	45.9	48.7	54.3	34.5	35.6
2 or 3 recidivisms	30.6	40.5	28.2	26.8	26.5	33.4
Over 3 recidivisms	16.5	13.5	23.1	18.9	38.9	31.0
Accumulated violent recidivism						
Violent	31.6	43.2	51.3	39.8	27.4	33.6
Non-violent	68.4	56.8	48.7	60.2	72.6	66.4

* Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.05$.

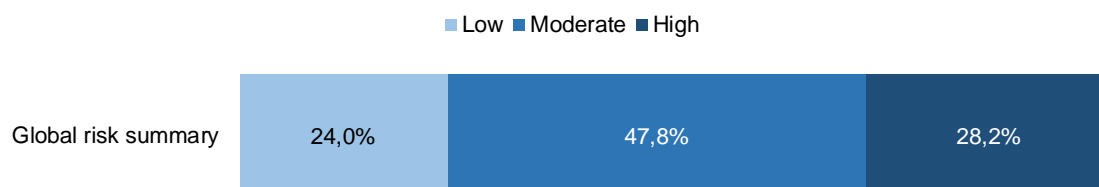
** Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.01$.

4. Management of the risk of recidivism according to the SAVRY

Risk assessment

In the last risk assessment before the end of the measure in 2015, at a general level, 24% of young people from this study obtained an assessment of **low risk**; almost half of **moderate risk**; and 28.2% of **high risk**.

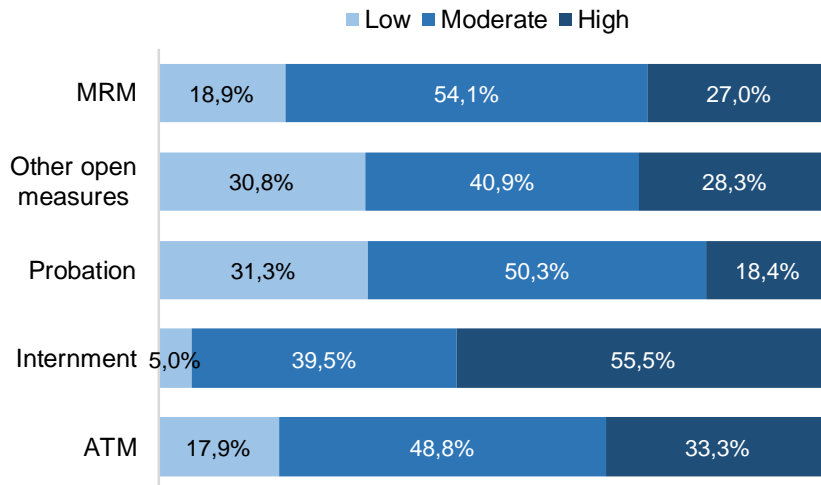
Graph 6. Assessment of the global risk summary in the young people evaluated with SAVRY (last assessment)



Note: it must be considered when drawing conclusions that, of the 3,634 young people that make up the sample, 1,639 (45.1%) have at least 1 **risk assessment** throughout their time in juvenile justice, and 30.7% of these could have an assessment inconsistent with the criteria of the risk assessment guide.

Regarding the risk assessment according to the measure introduced:

Graph 7. Assessment of the global risk summary in the young people evaluated with SAVRY according to their programme or measure



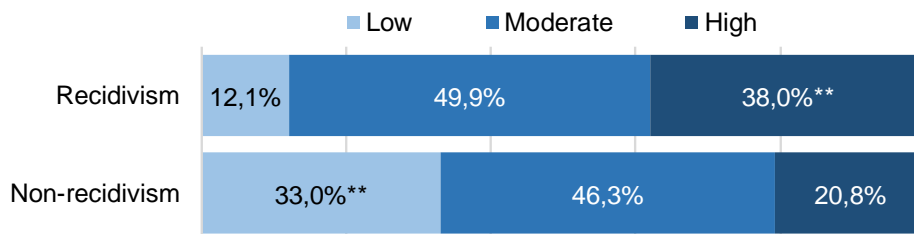
Those that present a **higher risk assessment** are young people who have completed an **internment** measure.

It is unlikely that those that complete a **probation** measure are the ones with a **lower proportion of high risk**.

Recidivism and SAVRY

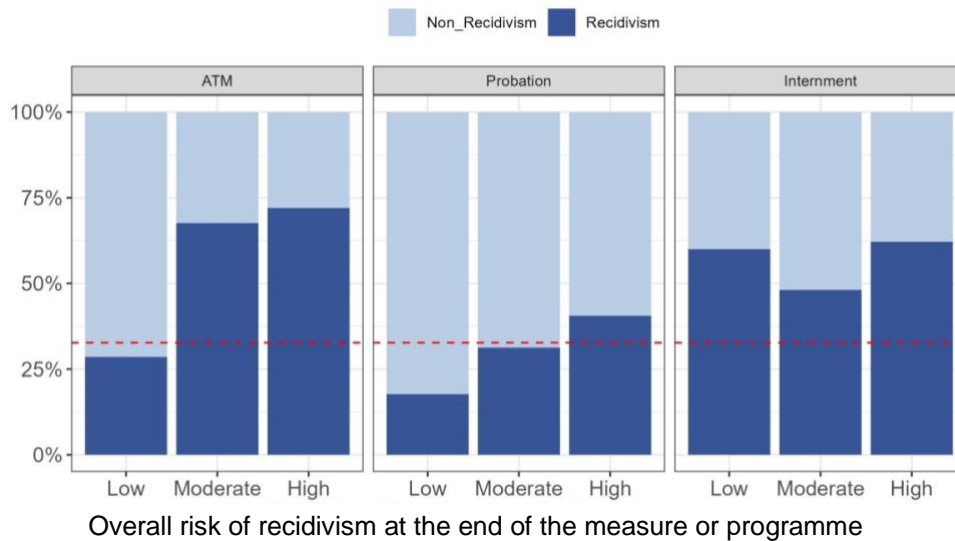
When comparing the evaluations with the subsequent recidivism, the distribution of the **risk assessment** between the three levels of global risk is considerably **lower in non-recidivists**. While the young people who were **assessed as high or moderate risk have relapsed more frequently**.

Graph 8. Global risk assessment and subsequent recidivism (n= 1.639)



At a general level, the **association** between the last **SAVRY risk assessment and recidivism is moderate and statistically significant**. However, in the case of young people who completed an **internment or probation**, this **association drops slightly** (but is still statistically significant) and, in the case of young people who completed only one **technical assistance** programme, the association between risk and recidivism turns out to be even **more intense**. It should be remembered that the specific recidivism rates for these measures are: 43.0%, technical assistance; 28.0%, probation and 55.7%, internment.

However, it can be said that the fact of making a **risk assessment** of the young person, as well as the result of this, **depends** greatly on the type **of the measure imposed**. Thus, 98.5% of the young people who completed a measure of **internment** (IC) had a risk assessment, which in 55.5% of the cases indicated a high risk of recidivism. Of the young people who completed a programme of **probation** (LV), 85.6% had a risk assessment that was mostly moderate (50.3%) or low (31.3%) risk. Instead, young people from **technical assistance** (ATM) only had a risk assessment in 41.2% of the cases, but with a significantly higher level of risk than young people on probation.

Graph 9. Overall risk of recidivism according to the programme or measure introduced

Note: the dashed red line indicates overall recidivism, which is 32.7%

Regarding the protection factors, the relationship between all the factors and recidivism is also verified, although in the opposite direction, that is: **juvenile recidivists tend to have fewer protective factors** present in the risk assessment.

Table 5. SAVRY risk and protective factors in relation to recidivism (*n* = young people with a moderate or high-risk assessment)

	Recidivist	Non-recidivist	Cramer's V
Historical risk factors			
1. Previous violence	59.8%	48.8%	0.138***
2. History of non-violent crimes	64.9%	45.3%	0.213***
3. Early onset of violence	40.2%	27.9%	0.153***
4. Failure of previous interventions	38.1%	23.5%	0.158***
5. Previous self-harm or suicide attempts	14.7%	12.4%	0.035
6. Exposure to domestic violence	37.8%	33.0%	0.055
7. History of child abuse	45.2%	37.1%	0.089**
8. Delinquency of parents or caregivers	28.7%	21.5%	0.089**
9. Early separation from parents or caregivers	42.5%	35.3%	0.097***
10. Poor performance in school	91.7%	86.6%	0.105***
11. Delinquency in the peer group	86.6%	63.9%	0.265***
12. Peer group rejection	27.7%	22.9%	0.059
13. Stress and inability to cope	73.2%	62.5%	0.115***
14. Poor parenting ability	85.3%	70.3%	0.180***
15. Lack of support from other adults	64.0%	48.6%	0.152***
16. Marginal environment	61.5%	48.5%	0.133***
17. Negative attitudes	74.6%	56.3%	0.196***
18. Risk taking/Impulsiveness	80.7%	62.9%	0.206***
19. Substance abuse problems	60.7%	50.3%	0.128***
20. Anger management issues	75.1%	63.0%	0.138***
21. Low level of empathy/remorse	71.6%	60.2%	0.124***
22. Concentration problems/hyperactivity	50.2%	38.3%	0.118***
23. Low collaboration in interventions	54.3%	42.9%	0.113***
24. Low interest/commitment to school or work	75.2%	60.4%	0.173***

	Recidivist	Non-recidivist	Cramer's V
Protection factors present			
P1 Prosocial implication	29.1%	43.9%	0.152***
P2 Strong social support	54.3%	65.4%	0.112***
P3 Strong ties with a prosocial adult	51.2%	64.3%	0.131***
P4 Positive attitude towards interventions and authority	60.9%	75.2%	0.153***
P5 Strong commitment to school or work	32.3%	49.4%	0.172***
P6 Perseverance as a personality trait	21.8%	37.9%	0.172***

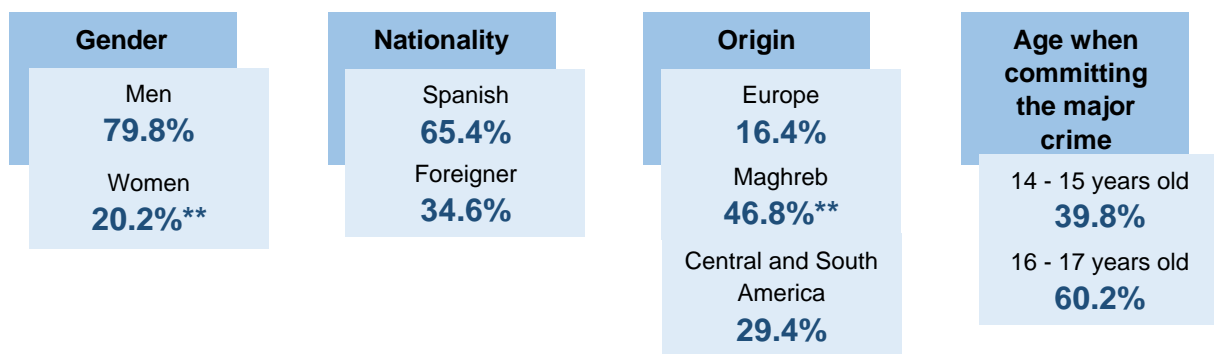
*** = $p < 0.001$; ** = $p < 0.01$

Note: Cramer's V has been calculated using the original categories of the factors (low, moderate, high).

All the SAVRY factors are **statistically significant in relation to the variable recidivism** (and for young people who have been assessed as moderate or high risk), **except** risk factors 5, 6 and 12, that is: **self-harm attempts** or previous suicide, exposure to **domestic violence** and **peer group rejection**.

5. Characteristics of young people according to the measure applied

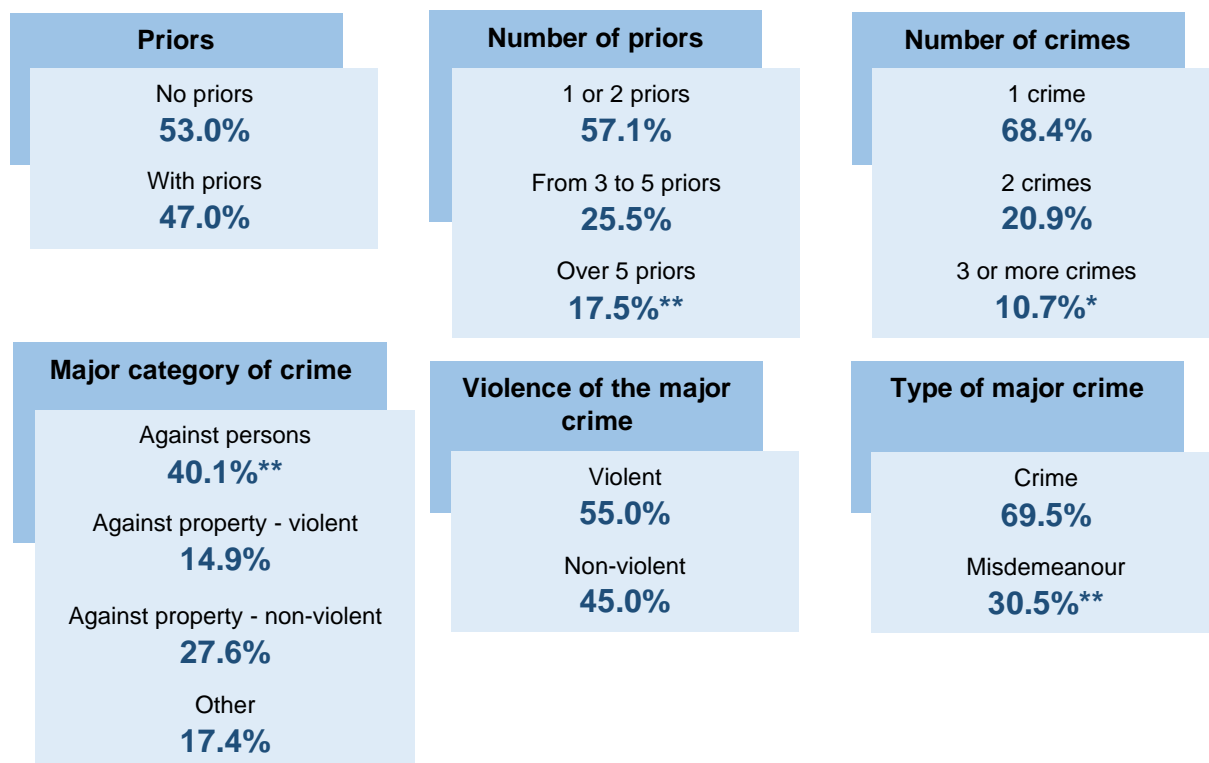
Figure 3. Characteristics of young people who completed a programme or measure in 2015



* Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.05$.

** Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.01$.

Figure 4. Criminal characteristics of young people who completed a programme or a measure in 2015



* Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.05$.

** Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.01$.

Table 6. Personal characteristics of young people according to the measure or programme applied

	MRM %	PBC %	LV %	IC %	ATM %
Gender					
Men	75.9	81.8	83.5	92.1	76.4
Women	24.1	18.2	16.5	7.9	23.6
Nationality					
Spanish	74.0	68.9	63.6	48.3	69.1
Foreign	26.0	31.1	36.4	51.7	30.9
Geographic origin					
Europe	19.2**	21.5	10.0	11.5	5.9
Maghreb	37.3**	55.4*	45.2**	56.7	47.1
Central and South America	31.7	20.0	38.2	27.9	47.1
Other	11.8**	3.1	6.7	3.8	0.0
Age when committing the major crime					
14 - 15 years old	46.6*	32.0	36.7	43.5	24.1
16 - 17 years old	53.4	68.0	63.3	56.5	75.9

* Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.05$.

** Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.01$.

Table 7. Criminal characteristics of young people according to the measure or programme applied

	MRM %	PBC %	LV %	IC %	ATM %
Priors					
No priors	79.4**	53.1	36.6	13.3	74.5
With priors	20.6	46.9	63.4	86.7	25.5
Number of priors					
1 or 2 priors	89.1	57.1	58.8	27.3	57.1
From 3 to 5 priors	10.5	24.5	26.6	27.3	35.7
Over 5 priors	0.4	18.4*	14.6	45.5*	7.1
Number of crimes					
1 crime	81.3	70.8	52.0	37.4	90.9**
2 crimes	15.1	22.5	26.4	31.0	9.1
3 or more crimes	3.6	6.7	21.5**	31.5	0.0
Major category of crime					
Against persons	37.3	39.7	40.3**	40.4	36.4
Against property - violent	5.6	8.1	27.7	36.0	5.5
Against property - non-violent	31.0*	29.7	21.9	17.7	18.2
Other	26.1	22.5	10.1	5.9	40.0*
Violence of the major crime					
Violent	42.8	47.8	68.1**	76.4	41.8
Non-violent	57.2	52.2	31.9	23.6	58.2*
Type of major crime					
Crime	60.7	52.6	85.3	96.1	56.4
Misdemeanour	39.3**	47.4*	14.7	3.9	43.6

* Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.05$.

** Values with statistically significant differences compared to the general rate: $p \leq 0.01$.

The measure associated with a greater proportion of **young people with priors** is **internment** (almost nine out of ten), followed by **probation** (six out of ten) and **community service (PBC)** (five out of ten). Similar proportions are maintained in terms of the number of priors and crimes.

Along the same lines, the **most violent crimes** are committed by young people who complete an **internment** measure (almost eight out of ten), followed by those who complete a **probation** measure (seven out of ten).

The **crime most often committed** by young people who complete an **internment** measure is **against persons and against property - violent** (four out of ten, in both cases), as in the case of **probation**.

Average time it takes to start the measures and their duration

Graph 10. Average time it takes to start the MRM and its duration according to the year of completion



** Values statistically higher than the expected values with significance $p \leq 0.01$

Graph 11. Average time it takes to start the community service measure and its duration according to the year of completion



** Values statistically higher than the expected values with significance $p \leq 0.01$

Graph 12. Average time it takes to start probation and its duration according to the year of completion



** Values statistically higher than the expected values with significance $p \leq 0.01$

Graph 13. Average time it takes to start internment and its duration according to the year of completion



* Values statistically higher than the expected values with significance $p \leq 0.05$

6. Migration process

Then, we continue with the study of the migration process of young people, based on the following classification: (1) born abroad and not accompanied by their parents, (2) born abroad and arriving in Spain over seven years of age, (3) born abroad arriving under seven years of age, (4) born in Spain to foreign parents, (5) born in Spain with only one foreign parent and (6) born in Spain to Spanish parents.

Table 8. Summary of the cases classified according to their migration process

Born	Taxonomy	N	% valid	Categories 1-5	Recidivism
Foreign	Group 1: unaccompanied	116	3.4%	9.1%	**61.2%
Foreign	Group 2: over seven years of age	526	15.6%	41.4%	39.9%
Foreign	Group 3: under seven years of age	364	10.8%	28.7%	**43.4%
Spain	Group 4: foreign parents	190	5.6%	15.0%	50.0%
Spain	Group 5: one foreign parent	74	2.2%	5.8%	40.5%
Spain	Group 6: Spanish parents	2101	62.3%	-	**27.6%
	Could not be classified	263			
Total		3,634			

** Values statistically higher than the expected values with significance $p \leq 0.01$

Levels of **significantly higher recidivism are found in young people** who are alone without any adult support, or who have arrived as children with their two foreign parents (let us suppose that there is a significant conflict between both cultures). On the contrary, a consolidated migration process does not give any type of differentiated response with respect to a national young person.

Factors such as a lack of family and social support, an unfavourable socioeconomic situation, limited access to the labour market or less social capital, constitute more favourable factors for recidivism than the category of *foreigner*. It is, therefore, necessary to put the emphasis not on the fact of being foreign young people, but on the **culture shock that the migration process has meant for them (**risk factor**) or also lack of prosocial support.**

7. Improvement proposals



Regarding the evaluation of results and data management

1. In the **next evaluations** of recidivism rates, the use of data should be **automated on an annual basis**. The Department of Justice, Rights and Memory must do everything in its power to make this possible.
2. At the diagnostic level, the data that has been collected with the **SAVRY** risk management tool prove to be a useful tool for working on the criminal desistance of young people. But they are not yet **widespread and systematic** tools for use by the entire group of juvenile offenders. It would be necessary to reconsider when and to which young people it is applicable and when it should be continuous. If there are no new evaluations of the case, it is impossible to know if the educational intervention has had any kind of positive impact.
3. It would be necessary to specify the continuity of the proposals included in the study that are to be prioritised from now on, to implement **mechanisms for transparency and public policy evaluation**.



Regarding training and innovation in juvenile justice

4. The fact that 30% of the risk assessments carried out with SAVRY may be inconsistent with the tool's assessment criteria justifies the need to **update it and propose training in its use**.
5. It is necessary to incorporate contents related to the **RNR** (Risk-Need-Responsivity) **principle** as relevant elements of the intervention with young offenders.
6. In cases of **specific violence**, it is necessary to consider **complementary tests** with SAVRY, which is a general tool.
7. It is necessary to review all structured assessment tools and intervention programmes without delay so that they adopt the **gender perspective** in all spheres of action of juvenile justice.
8. It would be necessary to deepen the study of young people who, themselves or their families, have been involved in **transnational migration processes** and are in a **situation of greater vulnerability**. The data included in this study are not sufficient to satisfactorily explain the reasons for their recidivism rate.

Authors and research collaborators

Marta Blanch Serentill and Roger Mancho Fora (principal researchers), Manel Capdevila Capdevila (coordinator), Marian Martínez García, Berta Framis Ferrer, Sandra Màrquez Postigo, Aroa Arrufat Pijuan, Paula Ribas Plano and Laura Ruiz Sarrión (CEJFE).

Legal notice



This work is subject to a license from [Reconeixement-NoComercial-SenseObraDerivada 4.0 Not adapted from Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.en), the full text of which is available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.en>

Thus, the reproduction, distribution and public communication of the material is permitted, provided that the authorship of the material and the Centre for Legal Studies and Specialised Training (Department of Justice) are cited, and no commercial use is made of it nor is it transformed to produce a derivative work.