

Àmbit social i criminològic

## RESEARCH

In-house production, 2014

# Prison recidivism rate 2014

(EXECUTIVE REPORT)

Authors

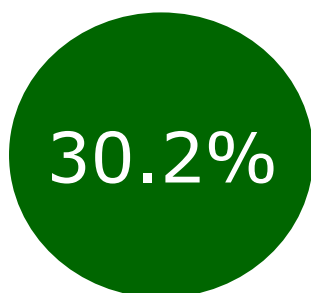
Area of Research and Social and Criminological Formation

**2015**

## Prison recidivism rate 2014

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### General recidivism rate

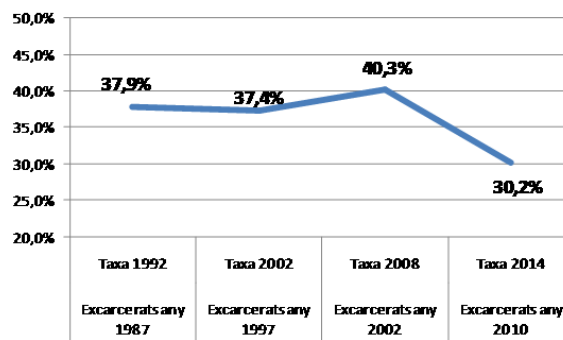


**7 out of 10** people released from prison 2010 **do not reoffend**

This is the **fourth investigation** of a series, started in 1987, about prison recidivism of re-released inmates.

The results obtained outline a fairly precise and unique radiograph of the characteristics found in the Catalan prison population. The maintenance of the series also provides an added value to the investigation because it enables us to record the changes that with time have occurred in them. It also enables a hypothesis to be established that allows for the design of interventions aimed at reducing recidivism and promoting crime desistance.

### Graph 1. Evolution of the rate of prison recidivism



The drop in the rate regarding the previous study is of **10 points**.

Recidivism depends on a multiplicity of relationships and variables. A positive or negative change cannot be attributed to a sole factor, and nor can the prison system be evaluated only from the result of this rate.

What factors can explain this drop? Below, after the technical file of the investigation, we describe some changes that have occurred in recent years and which we pose as explanatory hypotheses.

### TECHNICAL FILE OF THE INVESTIGATION

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Territorial scope        | Catalonia  |
| Target public            | Released prison inmates in 2010 (N = 3,414 subjects).  |
| Concept of recidivism    | Penitentiary. Monitoring until 31/12/2013, with 3.5 years average. A corrective measure has been established (5.9%) in order to compare with previous studies, the monitoring period of which was 5.5 years. |
| Source of the data       | SIPC (Penitentiary Information System of Catalonia) and RisCanvi variables (of 659 subjects, 19.2% of the total). 118 personal, family, social, penal and penitentiary variables have been studied.          |
| Statistical exploitation | Statistical pack IBM SPSS Statistics 17.0  |

### Macro-social changes and criminal policy

**1)** Since 2008 there has been a generalised **drop** in **criminality** in Spain (the number of offences committed per 1,000 inhabitants has dropped from 51.9 to 46.1 in 2013).

**2)** The studies consulted refer to a generalised **drop** in the **recidivism rates of the main countries** that are systematically studied. One of the reasons that justify it would be the increase in the prevention systems of minor offences, which are usually associated with greater recidivism.

**3)** In terms of the foreign population, despite the fact that there are migratory movements, it does not appear that these flows affect the recidivism rate.

**4)** The different penal reforms relating to offences of gender violence and road safety have created **new types of offenders** who did not enter prison before. The impact of this new profile, **with a lower rate of recidivism** than the general average, would explain the drop in part.

### Changes in the characteristics of the inmates regarding the previous study of prison recidivism

**5)** **The age of offenders has increased**, both in their first prison sentence (31.7 years old, compared to 26.9 in the previous study) and in the moment they leave prison (37.3 years old, when it was 34.4 before). All studies associate being younger with greater recidivism.

**6)** The presence of some variables associated to greater recidivism has been reduced:

a) **Crimes against property** (from 58.8% of all offences in the previous study it has gone down to 41.3%).

b) The percentage of **multi-recidivism** (before it was 18.4% of all recidivism, compared to the current 10.5%). This group is responsible for 81.1% of recidivism.

c) The percentage of people who complete **prison sentences being liable to the secondary penalty** (LSP) (before, 28.9% of the total, now, 20.1%).

**7)** There is a large increase in **first offenders**, who go to prison for the first time (before,

39.6%; now, 64.5%). The increase has been very significant, of 25 points.

### Related to infrastructural, economic and human resources

**8)** After completing the previous study **three new prison centres** were opened –CP Brians 2 (2007), CP Lledoners and CP de Joves (2008)– which represented new projects, new alternatives and different forms of intervention.

**9)** In 2008 five external dependent units were created to **treat drug addiction** that provided new possibilities of specific treatments in settings not exclusively penitentiary (in 2006 there were 1,996 inmates in drug addiction programmes, whereas in 2010 the intervention reached 3,451).

**10)** In the period between 2006-2010 there were greater **economic resources** for supporting **collaborative** social entities (subsidies and agreements), so that their presence in prisons and reception and release processes increased. It was also easier to provide economic aid to inmates and their families in very precarious situations.

**11)** Regarding productive work in prison, the average number of **people employed** each month in one or more working day and in one or more productive activity went from 2,162 people in 2006 to 3,902 people in 2010.

### Related to instruments of intervention

**12)** In the period between 2006-2010, the number of **rehabilitation programmes** undertaken increased.

**13)** The **RisCanvi** instrument was implemented, with everything that that involved in the change in the assessment and evaluation model of the individuals that form the prison population. It involved all the training of the treatment personnel in this work model and the way of intervening was redirected.

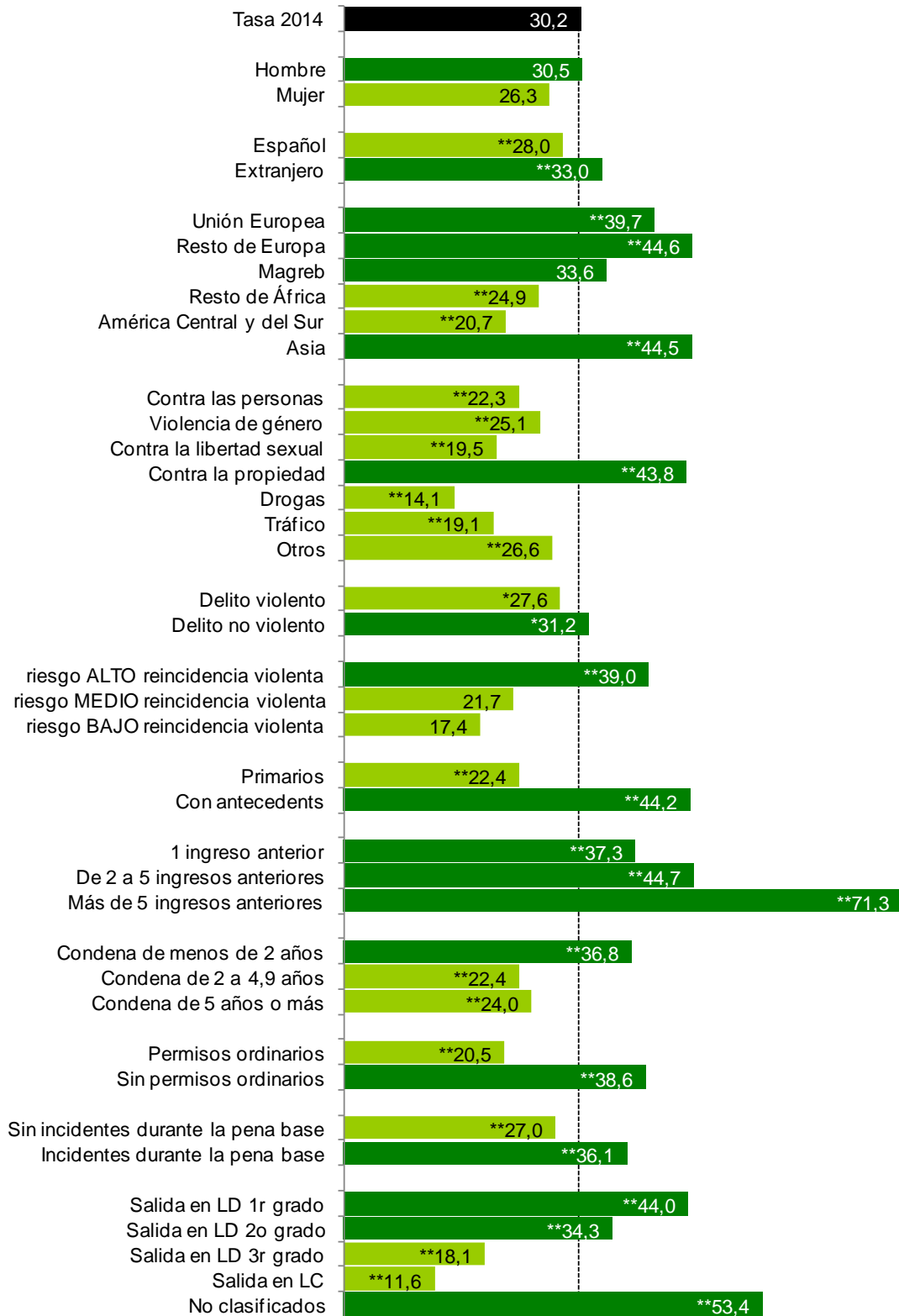
**14)** Important protocols of coordination were set into motion with other institutions: **protocol of high risk ex-prisoners** (coordinated with Public Prosecutor) and **protocol of coordination regarding victims**. It is believed that there may have been a preventive effect regarding recidivism.

**Hypothesis regarding drop in rate**

## 2. Specific recidivism rates

The general recidivism rate may vary according to the distinct personal and social, penal and penitentiary variables of the subjects. We show the most significant rates according to different variables.

**Graph 2. Specific recidivism rates**



\* Values with different meanings statistically regarding the general rate;  $p \leq 0,05$ .

\*\* Values with different meanings statistically regarding the general rate;  $p \leq 0,01$ .

### Highest recidivism rates

More than 5 previous prison terms  
 Crimes *against property*  
 From non-payment of fines  
 Foreigners from Asia or rest of Europe  
 They do not have ordinary permits

### Lowest rates

Release on probation  
 Release on parole  
 They have ordinary permits  
 First offenders  
 Crimes in:  
     *Drugs*  
     *Against sexual freedom*  
     *Against people*  
     *Gender violence*

The group of people with prison records shows a higher rate of recidivism, and the longer the record, the higher the rate of recidivism. In those that have had more than five prison sentences, recidivism is 71.3%.

Regarding the type of offence, those that have committed offences *against property* are those that reoffend more and, in contrast, those involved in *drug* offences, the least.

There are no differences in the recidivism rate among those who have committed a crime *against people* related to *gender violence* (22.7%) and the group of released inmates who have committed a crime *against people* (22.3%).

More than half of the unclassified (53.4%) reoffend. They are people who, mainly, enter prison due to a PSR (personal secondary responsibility due to non-payment of fine), which points to the lack of efficiency in the use of a prison sentence for this purpose.

Those who throughout their sentence have enjoyed ordinary permits also have a lower rate of recidivism than those who have not had permits (20.5% compared to 38.6%). Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that people with better prognostic and fewer risk factors obtain permits.

The degree of classification that people leaving prison have becomes a clear indicator of the possibility of later recidivism. Those that have left directly from the first degree reoffend at a rate of 10 points more than those who leave in second degree. Additionally, these duplicate the recidivism rate of those who leave in third degree. The level of classification also responds to the more or less conflictive or pro-social characteristics of the subject.

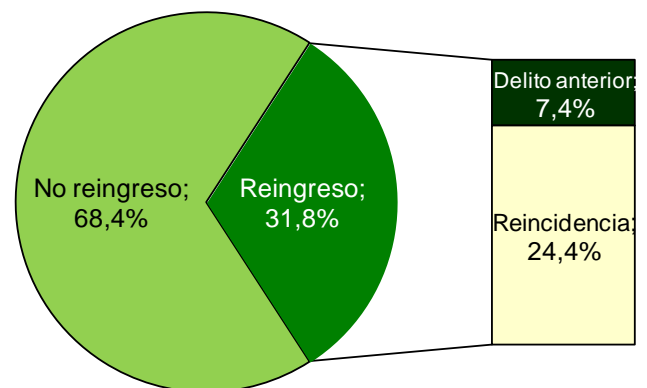
## 3. Characteristics of recidivism

Of all the people who in 2010 left prison (N=3,414), 1,079 (31.8%) returned again, but not all of them because they committed another crime.

Almost a quarter of them returned to finish a sentence for a previous offence; the rest did so for a crime committed after leaving, for a new reason (that is, what we correctly call recidivism).

**Graph 3. Proportion of inmates who return to prison**

**Reason for return to prison**



Of the total number of reoffenders (828), three out of five (501) have **returned** to prison **just once**, and two out of five (327) have returned more than once and belong to a category we call **multi-reoffenders** (10.5% in this study). The average number of later returns to prison is 2.2.

65% of recidivism takes place within the first year. 87% reoffend before two years.

**Average time that reoffenders take in committing a new crime**

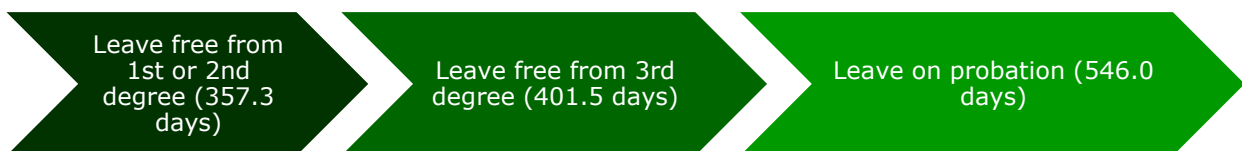
**336.14 days**

They take an average of 50 days less than in the previous study (385.8 days). That is, less people reoffend, but those that do, do so earlier.

The time they take before recidivism is also distributed differently according to the variables studied:

The people who **leave** on probation reoffend much less (1 in 10) and take longer in doing so. The same occurs with people who leave in the third degree (2 in 10 reoffend).

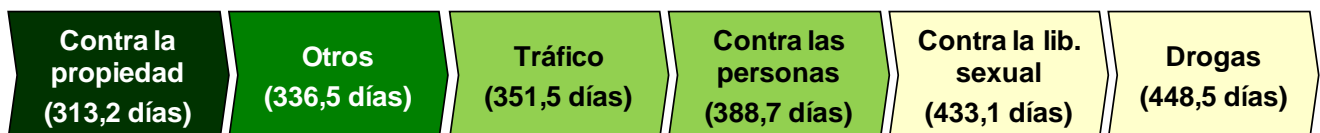
#### Graph 4. Time they take to reoffend according to the type of prison release



Note: the change in tone of the colours mark values with statistically significant differences;  $p \leq 0.05$ .

The type of **offence committed in the base sentence** is also in relation to different rates of recidivism and different times.

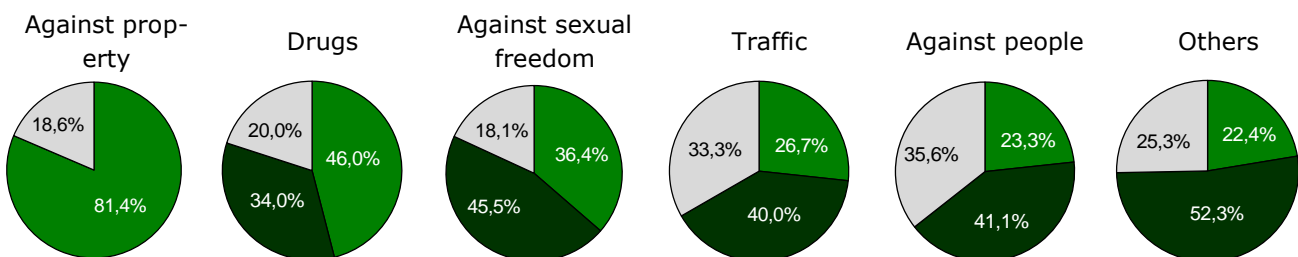
#### Graph 5. Time they take to reoffend according to the type of offence committed in the base sentence



Note: the change in tone of the colours mark values with statistically significant differences;  $p \leq 0.05$ .

The type of **offence committed in recidivism** is closely related to the offence committed in the base sentence. Normally there is a factor of "specialisation" in the sense of repeating the offence. The alternative points to a tendency to commit offences *against property*.

#### Graph 6. Type of offence of recidivism according to the offence committed in the base sentence

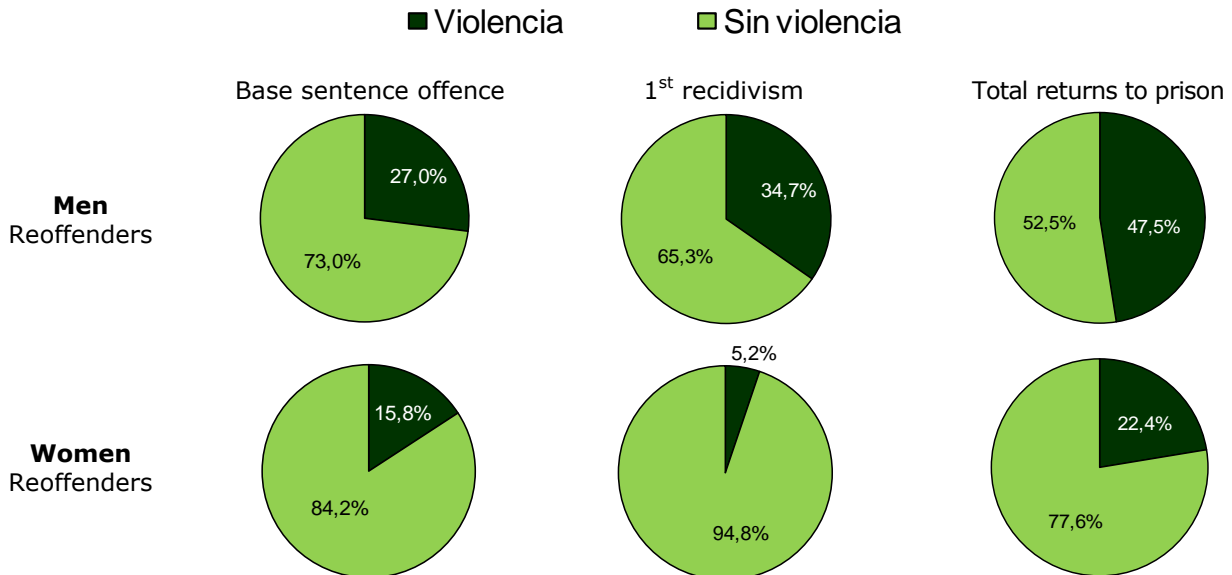


- Misma tipología que en el delito de la pena base
- Delito contra la propiedad
- Resto de delitos

The most common main offence committed in the first recidivism is *against property* (60.2%).

As we have seen, in the repetition of later offending behaviour, the percentage of violent offences committed increases. These percentage increases are rather more significant among men than among women, although this does occur among women.

**Graph 7. Increase in violence of crimes committed by recidivism men and women**



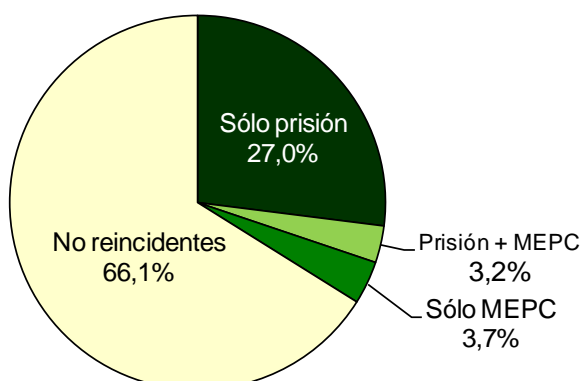
Note: we should remember that in the *violent crimes* category are included all criminal acts grouped in the categories: *against people, against sexual liberty* and, within the crimes *against property, robbery with violence* and *robbery with intimidation and/or violence*.

#### 4. Characteristics of the reoffender

Among reoffenders there is an **overrepresentation** of people:

- who have prison records;
- who have committed a non-violent offence *against property*;
- who complete short sentences of less than two years;
- who within the prison have had incidents and regressions;
- who have not enjoyed exit permits;
- who are foreigners, above all Europeans and Asians;
- who have less educational qualifications;
- who are younger both in committing the first offence as when entering to complete the base sentence and on leaving the prison;
- who have left prison directly from the first or second degree.

**Graph 8. Type of measure that is imposed on reoffenders**



The prison recidivism rate is 30.2%.

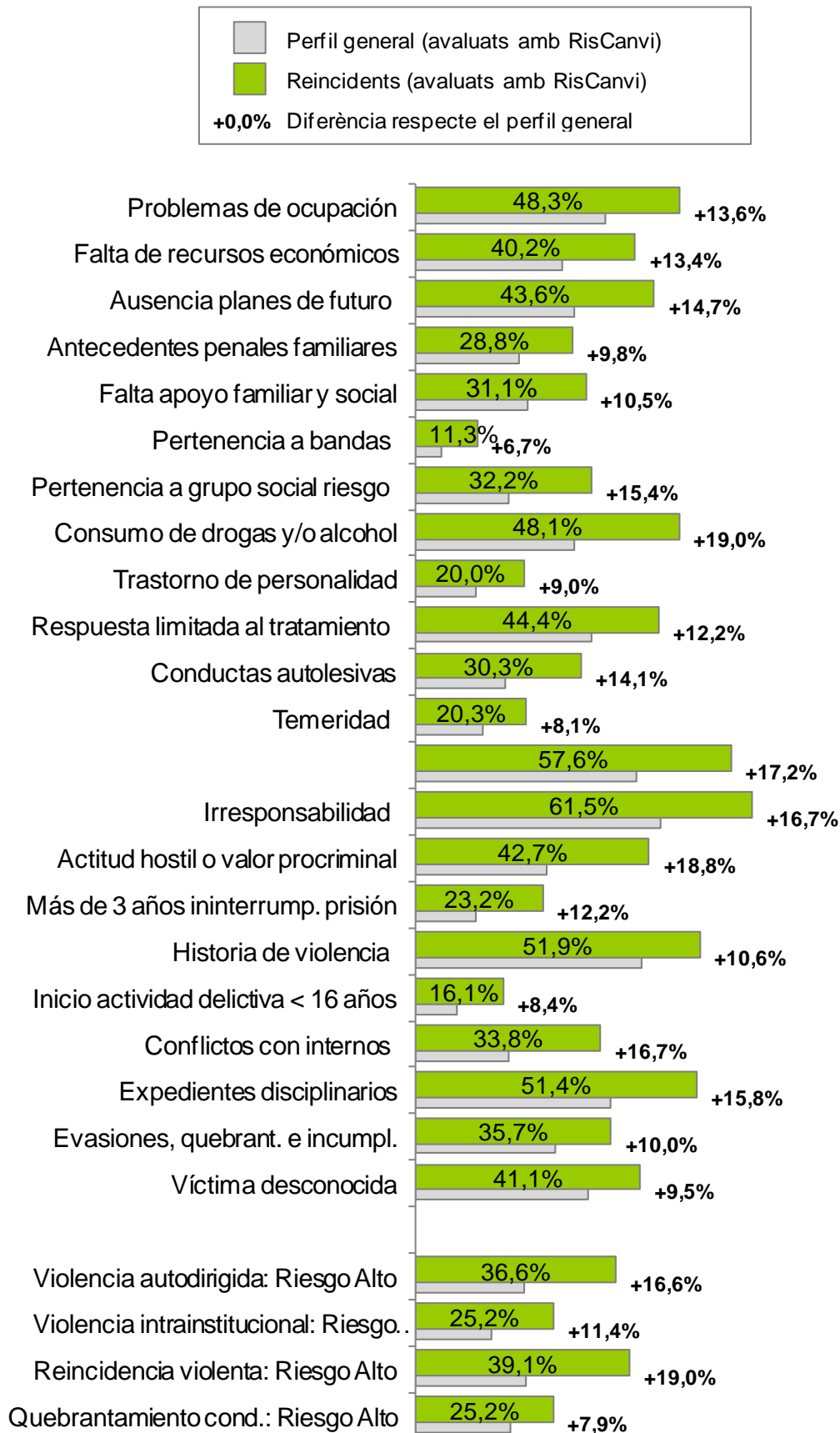
If to this we add those that have reoffended and have been sentenced to a penal sentence in the community (MPSC), the recidivism rate in the whole sphere of penal sentencing is 33.9%.

The main offence of reoffenders that receive an MPSC is a *traffic offence* (34.3%), followed by an offence *against people* (27.9%) and an offence *against property* (25.8%).

The most-applied MPSC are the *work in the community jobs* (75.8%).

Regarding the **risk factors detected through RisCanvi**, in those subjects of which an evaluation has been made (19.2% of the total), many of the risk factors are found overrepresented in the reoffenders and infra-represented in the non-reoffenders.

**Graph 9. Significant differences of reoffenders regarding the general population evaluated with RisCanvi**





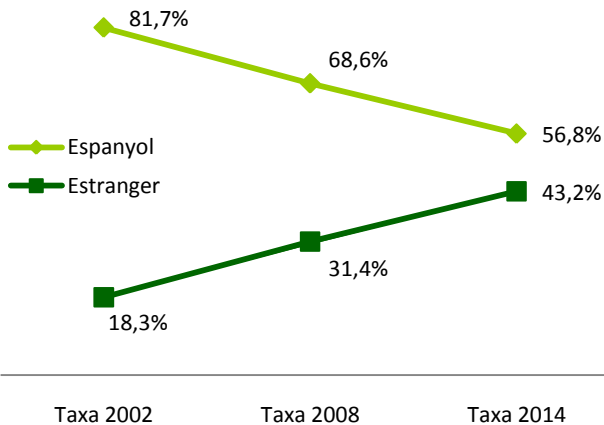
## 5. Change of profile of ex-inmate from this study compared to previous ones

The most relevant aspects that differentiate the released population in 2010 and those from 2002 (previous study) are the following:

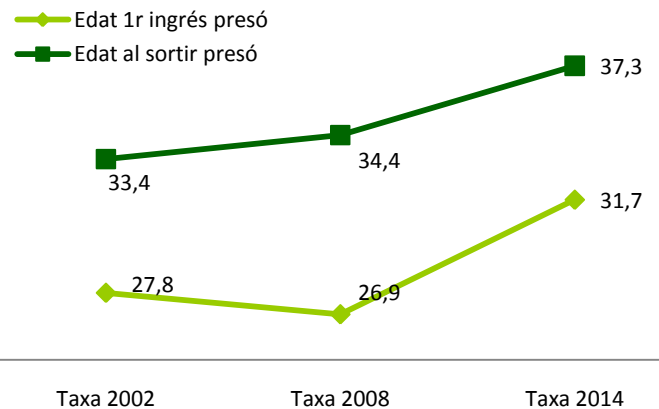
- + foreigners.
- + education and training, and they understand the official languages better.
- age higher.
- + primary people (they have increased highly significantly): in 2010 64.5% did not have previous record, compared to 39.6% in 2002.
- + violent crimes.
- = average time of sentence in days, but ↑ longer sentences, of five or more years (from 15.7% in 2002 to 20.1% in 2010).
- ↓ ordinary permits by more than 11 points (53.3% of ex-inmates in 2010 did not leave with permits) and ↓ people leaving on parole by almost 5 points (21.1% in 2010).

**Graph 10. Most outstanding changes in the profile of the ex-inmates between the different studies**

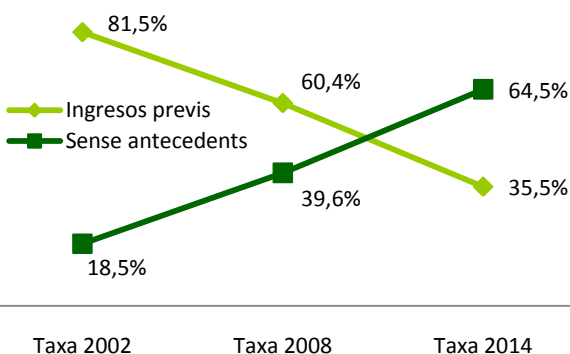
**10a) Increase in percentage of foreign population**



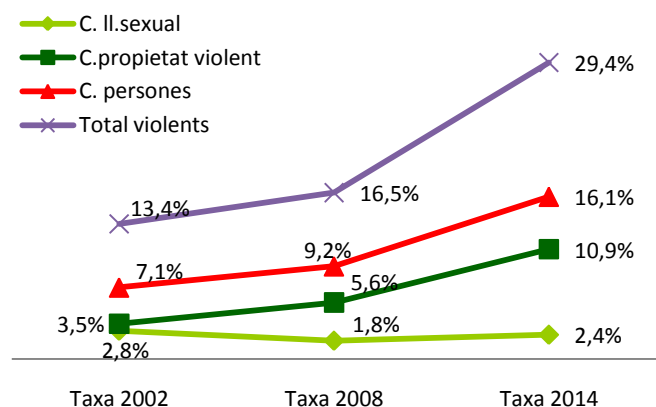
**10b) Increase in age**



**10c) Increase in percentage of population without prior prison**



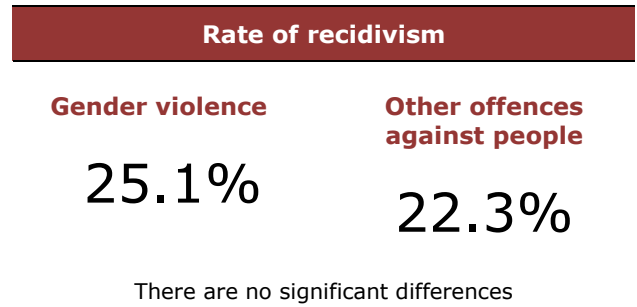
**10d) Increase in percentage of committing of violent crimes**



## 6. Characteristics of the offender for violent gender crimes

This is the first study that specifically includes this type of offender. This group includes those who have committed a breach of sentence or of a restraining order for gender violence. It is also the first time its recidivism rate has been compiled.

On comparing the profile of the offenders, we have thought it appropriate to do so regarding the characteristics of those who commit other offences *against people*.



### Time of sentence imposed

Gender violence

289.64 days

Other offences against people

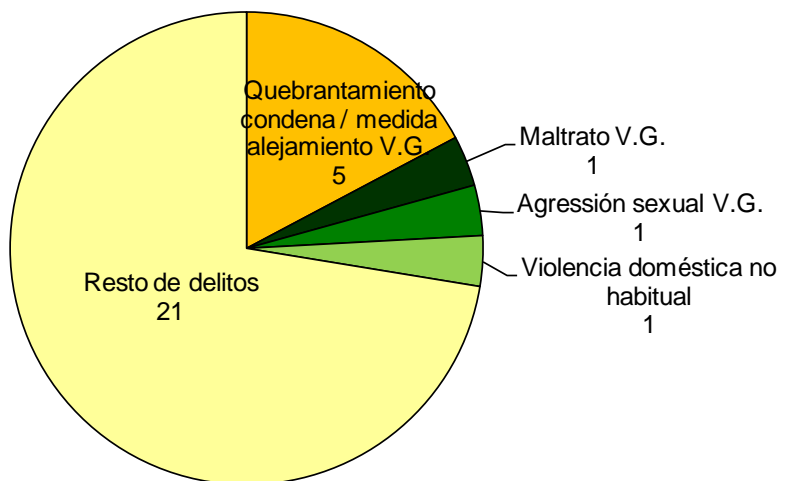
1,350.73 days

- The overwhelming majority are men with children.
- They are given short sentences. Regarding the series of sentences for offences *against people*, they show a low level of prison tension, which could be influenced by the length, relatively short, of their stay in prison. They have also had less previous prison.
- There are few who enjoy ordinary permits and the vast majority leave in full freedom at the end of the sentence.
- There are few who have family backgrounds of criminal activity. Moreover, among them there is a reduced level of personality and behavioural disorder and self-harming behaviour.
- In contrast, drug and/or alcohol consumption affects nearly 40%.
- They show little tension inside prison; however, 73.8% have broken a penal rule.

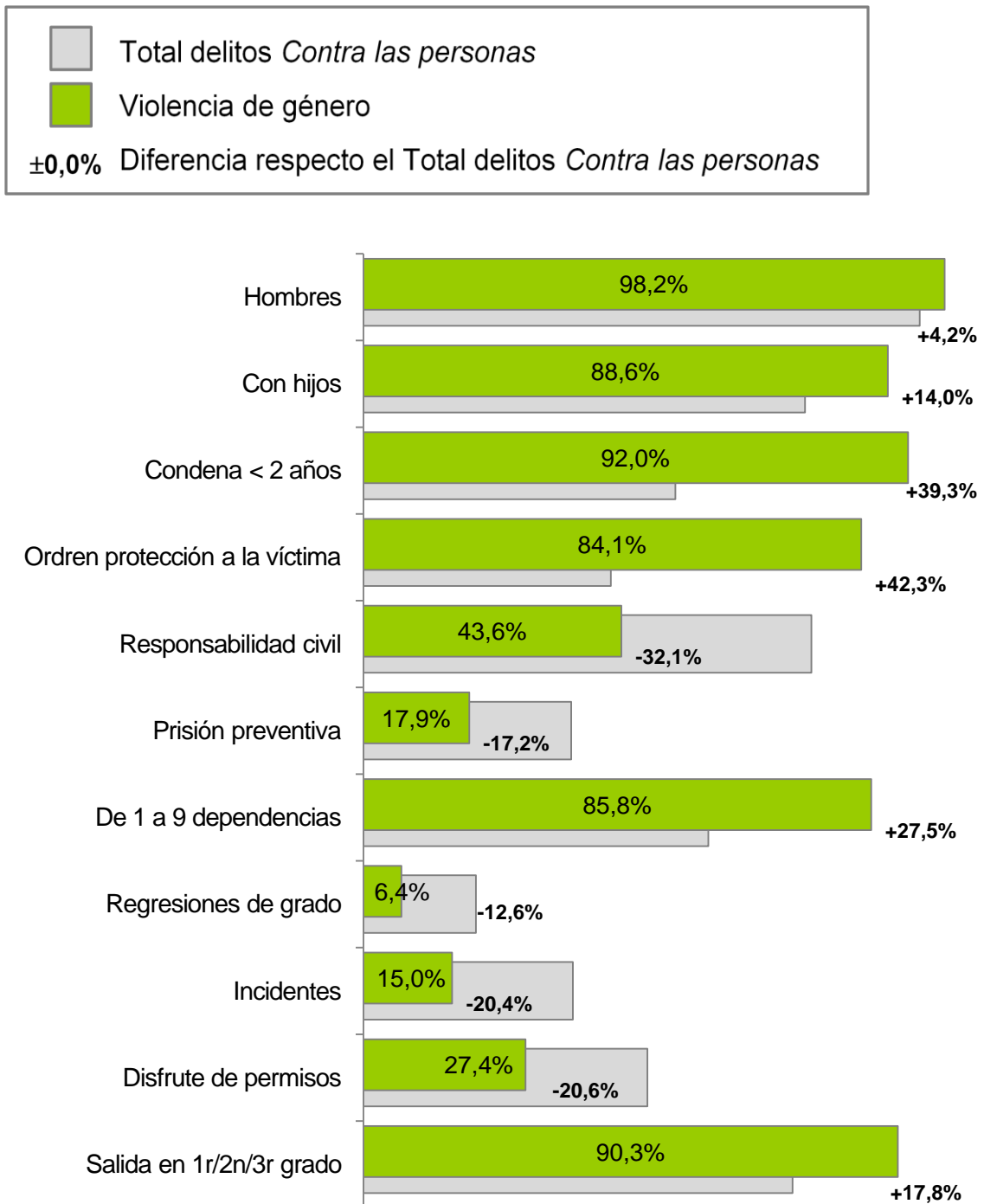
8 people have **reoffended in the same offence**: 5 of them have breached the *restraining order for gender violence* and 3 have reoffended in crimes *against people in gender violence*.

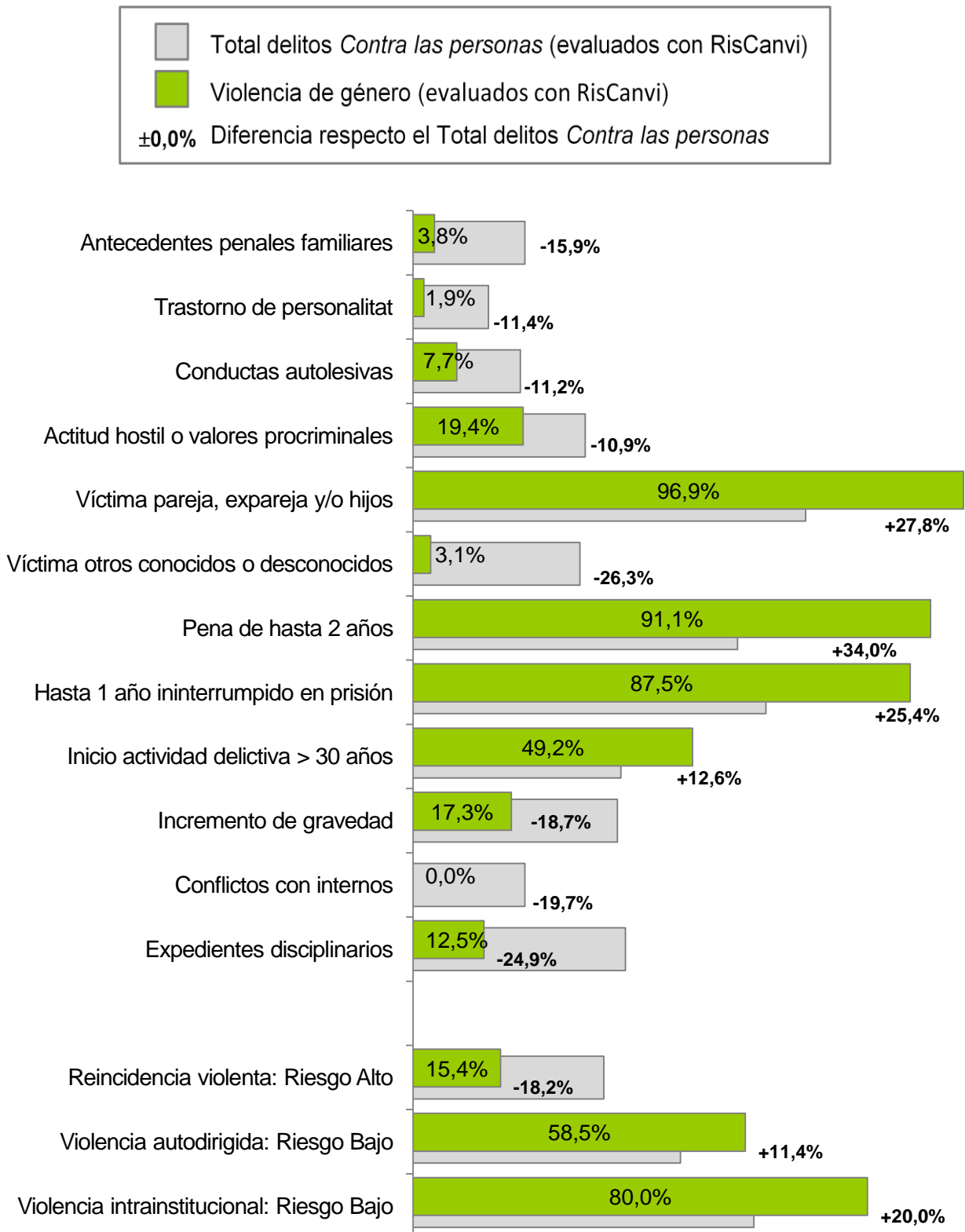
While the percentage of sentences for other offences *against people* that **reoffend during the first year** after being released from prison is 53.5%, the case of the sentences for offences of *gender violence* reaches **70%**, although there are no significant statistical differences between both groups. They are those that have a greater percentage of recidivism during the first year after finishing the sentence.

Graph 11. Offence committed in recidivism



Graph 12. Differences in the variables compiled in the SIPC



**Graph 13. Differences in the variables compiled in RisCanvi**

## 7. Characteristics of offender for PSR (personal secondary responsibility)

Imprisonment for non-payment of fines (PSR) is a quantitatively important phenomenon in the ex-inmate population as a whole:

Of the total people released in 2010, 684 subjects (20.1%) had been imprisoned for this reason.

The first important difference is that the majority of those entering prison for PSR end the sentence without being classified: 88.2% of the cases, that is, 603 subjects.

### Personal secondary responsibility

Proportion regarding  
total population re-  
leased  
(2010)

20.1%

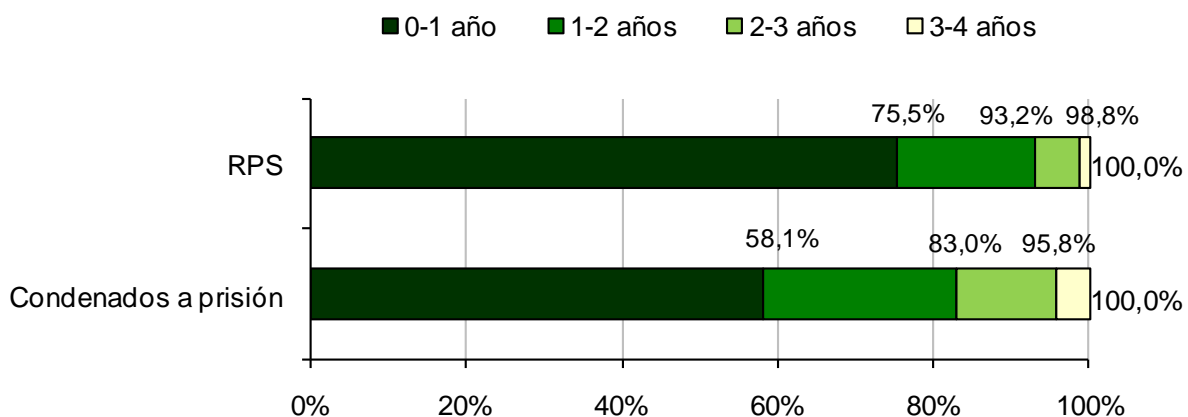
Recidivism rate

53.4%

The inmates who complete the sentence for PSR have the following characteristics:

- Two thirds are foreigners, half of them Europeans. These latter are overrepresented compared to the other groups.
- They have no fixed abode or reside outside Catalonia.
- Most of them have basic education.
- 44.9% have prison records.
- All most two-thirds have committed a crime *against property*, a percentage that greatly surpasses the prison population as a whole (40.4%).
- They are multi-reoffenders (with many prison records).
- They are younger, both in their first prison sentence and when they are released from prison in 2010.
- Their stay in prison is very brief: 39.59 days on average (the most frequent prison sentence is of 15 days), and with some previous prison stays and some later ones for the same amount of time.

**Graph 14. Accumulated distribution of people according to the time they take to reoffend**



### Differences in the characteristics of recidivism regarding the other people imprisoned

|               | Number of later im-<br>prisonments<br>(Average) | Age of recidivism<br>(Average) | Time taken to reoffend<br>(days)<br>(Average) |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Prison</b> | 1.44**  | 36.98 years**                  | 385.73**                                      |
| <b>PSR</b>    | 3.37**  | 33.45 years**                  | 258.22**                                      |

\*\* Values with statistically significant differences;  $p \leq 0.01$ .

## 8. Women and prison

| Differences regarding the previous study                 | Previous study<br>(2008 rate) | Current study<br>(2014 rate) |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| + foreigners<br>Above all from Central and South America | 17.0%                         | 38.2%**                      |
| + primary prison sentences                               | 42.3%                         | 70.3%**                      |
| ↑ age in their first imprisonment                        | 26.98 years                   | 32.21 years**                |
| The type of offence has changed:                         |                               |                              |
| ↓ offences <i>against property</i>                       | 61.6%                         | 42.9%**                      |
| ↑ offences for <i>drugs</i>                              | 18.8%                         | 30.1%*                       |
| ↑ offences <i>against people</i>                         | 6.3%                          | 11.7%                        |
| ↑ violent crimes (more than double)                      | 8.9%                          | 20.3%**                      |

\* Values with statistically significant differences;  $p \leq 0.05$ .

\*\* Values with statistically significant differences;  $p \leq 0.01$ .

| Comparison regarding gender |  |                     |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Women                       |  | Men                 |
| 29.6%*                      | The percentage of women with prison records is lower   | 36.0%               |
| 30.1%**                     | They commit <i>drug</i> offences in a proportion double to that of men   | 16,8%               |
| 34.2%**                     | They are released on probation more (almost double)  | 19.9%               |
|                             | There are no major differences in the level of education   |                     |
| 1,002 days                  | There are no differences in the average duration of the base sentence  | 1,091 days          |
|                             | There are no differences in the level of conflict within the prison (similar proportions of serious and very serious incidents and of regressions of degree) |                     |
| Recidivism                  |  |                     |
| 26.3%                       | They are equal in recidivism rates   | 30.5%               |
| 362.2 days                  | They are equal in the time they take to reoffend   | 334.2 days          |
| 2.7 reimprisonments         | They are equal in the number of reimprisonments  | 2.2 reimprisonments |
| 41.4%                       | A higher percentage of women are re-imprisoned than men to complete a sentence for PSR   | 28.9%               |

\* Values with statistically significant differences;  $p \leq 0.05$ .

\*\* Values with statistically significant differences;  $p \leq 0.01$ .

## 9. Foreigners and prison

### Regarding the previous study, we find that:

- Their percentage increases in the prison population (now it is 43.2%).
- This increase is more pronounced in the case of foreign women.
- The Maghreb, the European Union and Central and South America are the geographical areas with greater percentages in prisons; and the latter two are those that have increased more since the last study. The others have dropped.

### Regarding recidivism, we find that:

- Foreigners reoffend more (33.0% compared to 28.0% of nationals). It should be pointed out that conditions of life influence this result.
- Foreigners commit more offences *against property* (68.5% compared to 53.0% of nationals) and related to *drugs* (9.1% compared to 5.6% of nationals).
- They are re-imprisoned more (42.7% have 2 or more reimprisonments, compared to 24.9% of nationals) and take less time to reoffend (283.8 days compared to 384.8 of nationals).
- In four of the six geographical areas the recidivism rate surpasses the average.

### Distribution by geographical area of origin

| Area                      | Percentage | Regarding previous study |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Maghreb                   | 34.8%      | ↓                        |
| European Unión            | 22.3%      | ↑                        |
| Central and South America | 22.1%      | ↑                        |
| Rest of Europe            | 8.1%       | ↓                        |
| Rest of Africa            | 7.1%       | ↓                        |
| Asia                      | 5.6%       | ↓                        |

### Recidivism rate by geographical area of origin

| Area                      | Percentage | Regarding previous study |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Rest of Europe            | 44.6%      | ↑                        |
| Asia                      | 44.5%      | ↑                        |
| European Union            | 39.7%      | ↑                        |
| Maghreb                   | 33.6%      | ↑                        |
| Average rate 2014:        | 30.2%      |                          |
| Rest of Africa            | 24.9%      | ↓                        |
| Central and South America | 20.7%      | ↓                        |

### Most overrepresented variables in the geographical areas of origin

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><i>European Union</i></p> <p>Offences <i>against property</i></p> <p>Short sentences (average of 435.10 days)</p> <p>Non-classified (PSR)</p>   | <p><i>Asia</i></p> <p>Men</p> <p>We have not found any other overrepresented variable in this group</p>   |
| <p><i>Rest of Europe</i></p> <p>Women</p> <p>Offences <i>against property</i></p> <p>Short sentences, with lower sentence averages (373.51 days)</p> <p>Multiple previous imprisonments</p> <p>Non-classified (PSR)</p>  | <p><i>Central and South America</i></p> <p>Women</p> <p>They are the group with the largest sentence (1,209.18 days)</p> <p>Offences <i>against people, traffic and drugs</i></p> <p>Violent crimes</p> <p>Release in 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and probation</p> |
| <p><i>Maghreb</i></p> <p>Men</p> <p>Sentences of medium length, 2 to 5 years</p> <p>Violent crimes</p> <p>Regressions of prison degree</p> <p>Use of ordinary permits</p> <p>They are the youngest in committing a crime of the base sentence and the first imprisonment</p> | <p><i>Rest of Africa</i></p> <p>Men</p> <p>They are the second group with longer sentences (1,137.73 days)</p> <p>Offences for <i>drugs</i></p> <p>Use of ordinary permits</p> <p>Released in 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and probation</p>                         |

## 10. Groupings of profiles for criminogenic needs and recidivism

Within the whole group of people imprisoned four different groups have been identified regarding their characteristics. Each group has specific criminogenic needs and the subjects that make it up require differentiated interventions. Of these four groups four are below the average of recidivism and two clearly above; these latter groups form the main risk groups.

The four groups arising from the analysis can be distributed over an axis of coordinates according to the differences between them. In the vertical axis, the groups are placed according to the criminogenic needs that arise (for example, consumption of toxic substances, lack of social support or behavioural problems in prison); the lower the group is placed, less needs it has. In the horizontal axis, the groups are distributed according to recidivism; the more to the left the group, the lower the recidivism rate.

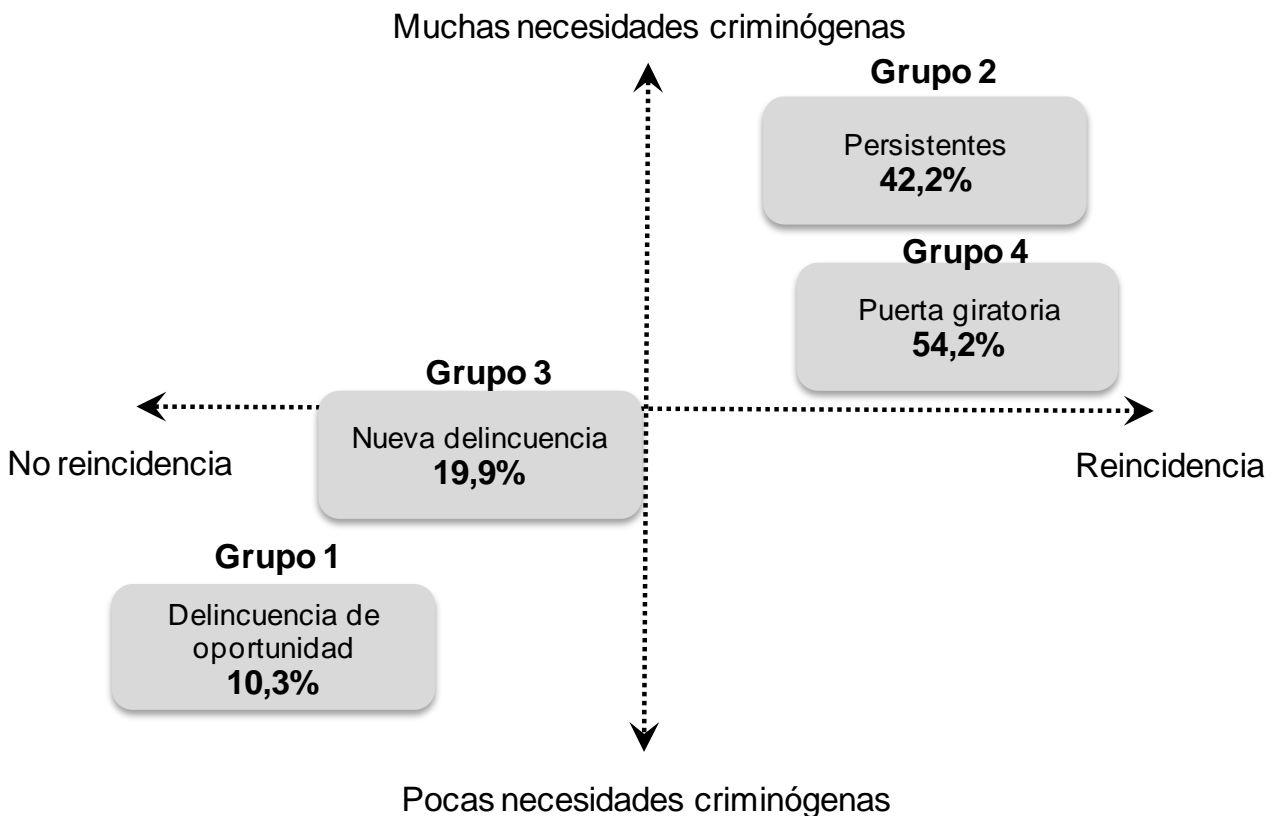
**Group 1:** Delinquency of opportunity (25.6% of the total)

**Group 2:** Persistent (27.1% of the total)

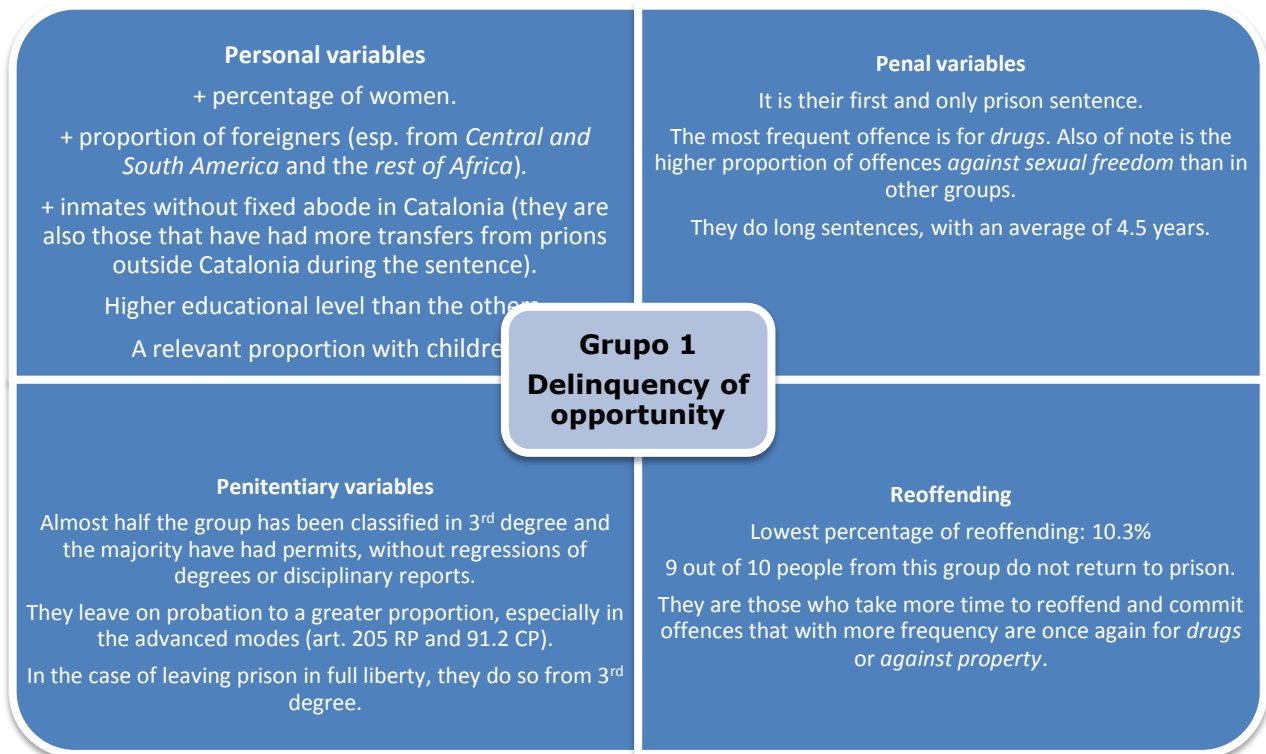
**Group 3:** New delinquency (24.4% of the total)

**Group 4:** Rotating door (22.0% of the total)

**Graph 15. Distribution of the groups according to the criminogenic needs and the percentage of recidivism of each group**

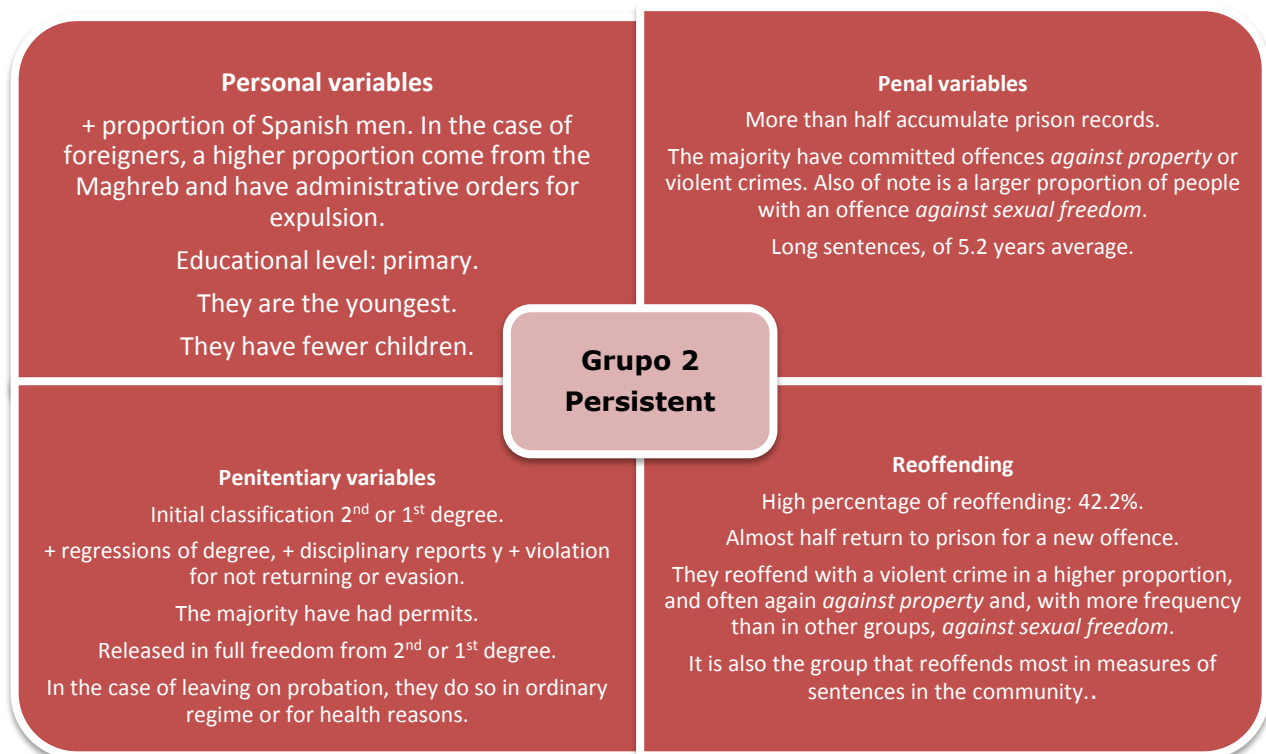






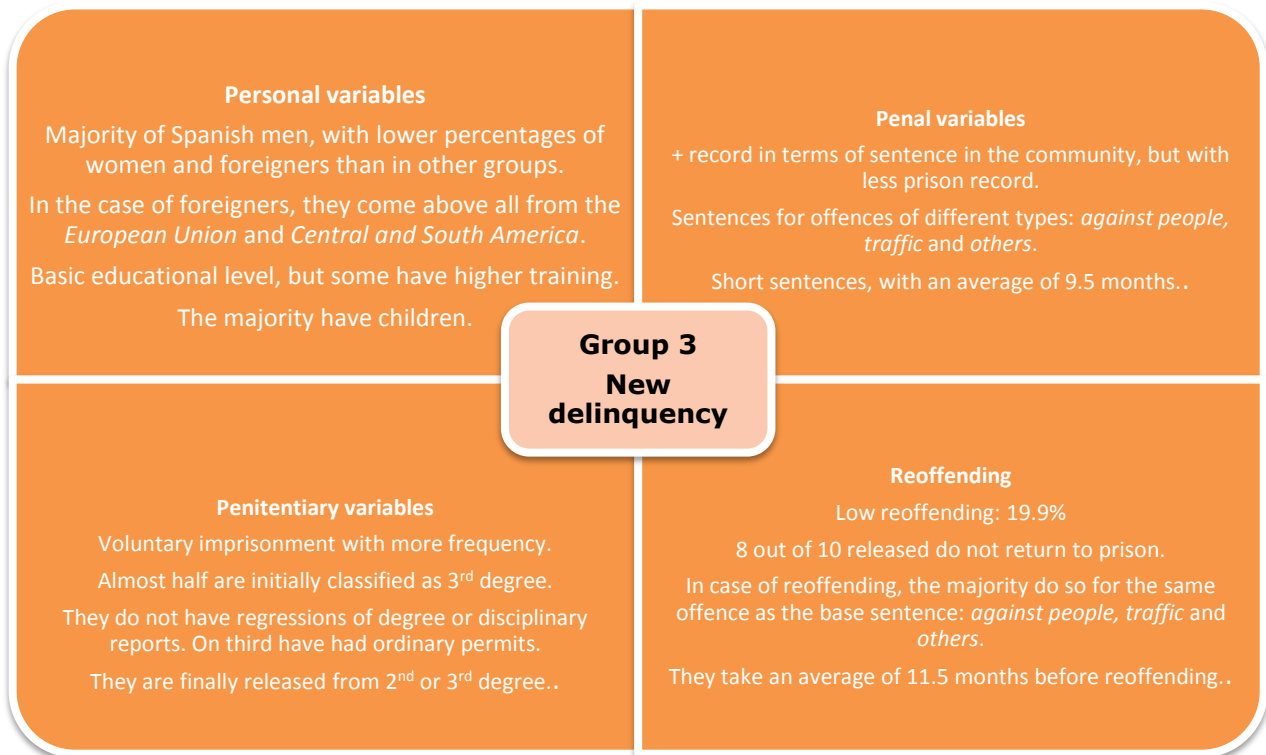
### Group 1: NEEDS TO BE COVERED

- They do not have specific criminogenic needs. The work plans and tutorial monitoring must promote and consolidate changes towards desisting from offending by the subjects. This can be done from the application of measures of semi-freedom, as has been done, but extending it to other subjects who respond to these characteristics, increasing their duration in a more decisive and generalised way, and establishing at all times the mechanisms of control considered necessary for their monitoring.



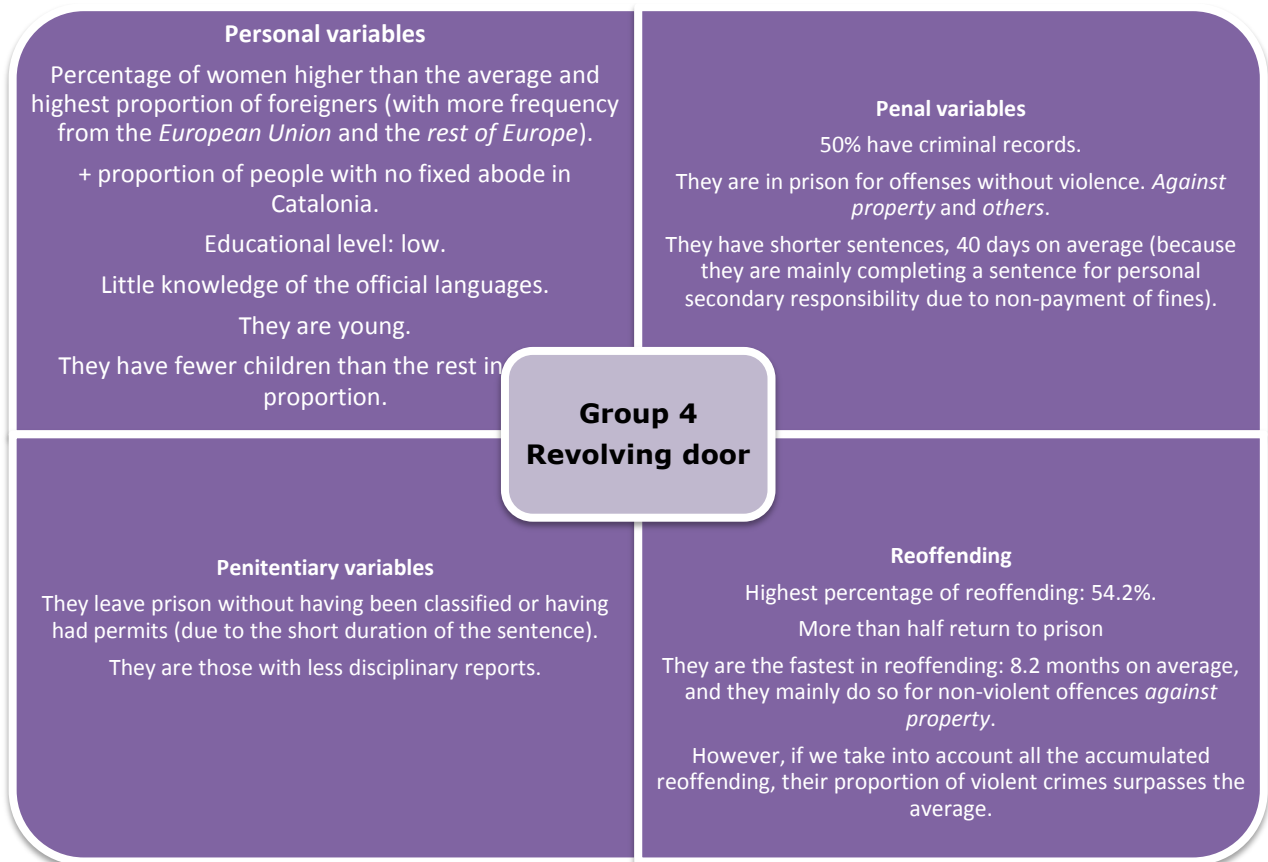
### Group 2: NEEDS TO BE COVERED

- They have many criminogenic needs, especially in terms of personality as well as the clinical sphere, which, once in prison, enlarge and also become chronic with problems of prison behaviour and criminal record. It is the group with most needs of intervention and the less prepared to achieve the objective of a personal change to desist from reoffending. Different specific objectives should be worked on previously to achieve a stabilisation of behaviour, monitoring of responsibility and preparation for social reintegration with decrease of the risk of having new violent behaviour patterns.



### Group 3: NEEDS TO BE COVERED

- There is a prevalence of *traffic* offences in this group as well as *gender violence* that has involved prison measures since the last penal reforms of the Penal Code in 1995. The criminogenic needs are very specific, related to the consumption of alcohol and/or drugs, with the fact of keeping to the treatment and also maintaining their personal and affective relationships. The short length of the sentence, in this group, also makes it recommendable to avoid as much as possible the loss of resources that may be available outside of prison.



#### Group 4: NEEDS TO BE COVERED

- They have many criminogenic needs, especially in terms of suitable social support and resources. Their pasts and characteristics show that the offenders from this group are ill-prepared for change and desisting from offending, in which penal intervention has obtained very discrete results in terms of efficiency, above all in the cases of PSR. The penal and penitentiary intervention that must be undertaken in these cases should be reformulated in an interdisciplinary way and review if the sentence really complies with general and specific preventive principles, and the aim of social reinsertion, something that the data shows places in question.

## 11. Proposals for improvement

### Regarding penitentiary intervention and penitentiary benefits

1. The level of conflict in the prisons, translated into disciplinary reports and incidents, has dropped over the last few years. It makes no sense that the percentage of ordinary permits, of third degree prison sentences and probationary sentences awarded decreases. We need to return to promoting and awarding those benefits that apply with greater discretion to the low-risk subjects. This, as our data and the international investigations show, contributes to increasing the possibilities of desisting recidivism, decreasing the economic costs of the penitentiary system.
2. Moreover, the recidivism rate of people who leave in the third degree or on probation has once again shown that it is significantly lower than the general rate. Apart from the influence of the characteristics of the inmates, they are shown as the best alternatives for ending the sentence, with a progressive and supervised approach to life in liberty. Therefore its application must be boosted.
3. Parallel to this, attention must be paid to the characteristics of the subjects who in the cluster analysis (chapter 7) have shown a recidivism rate lower than the average, and especially in the group called *delinquency of opportunity*. These profiles may also contribute to the decision-making of the professionals regarding the beginning of the permit chain and the proposal of other penitentiary benefits that could become extended to all the inmates of these characteristics.

**Giving more permissions, 3rd degrees and probation**

### Regarding the application of instruments of structured evaluation of the inmates

4. We must persist in the application of the RisCanvi and its continuity in the ITP (individual treatment programme), since it is a model of structured evaluation that obliges individualised planning of the intervention and directed at the specific needs of each inmate, and that benefits positively in a decrease in the recidivism rate. This affirmation, corroborated by international literature, would require models of implementation in forms and routines of work of the professionals in the penitentiary centres.
5. We must also work to adapt the RisCanvi as a scale of prediction of general recidivism and extend its use (in full version) to the maximum number of inmates to make possible the individualised intervention in the sense mentioned in the above paragraph.
6. We also propose an adjustment to the values of the factors of the RisCanvi screening in order to improve the prediction of general recidivism, so that passing the simple scale (10 items) one can especially guide the decision-making of the professionals in cases of short sentences when the risk of recidivism is low.
7. We recommend that the treatment professionals in the penitentiary centres pass on the RisCanvi screening instrument systematically (adapted to the prediction of general recidivism) to the groups identified in the cluster analysis as *persistent* (group 2, general recidivism rate higher than the average, of 42.2%) and as *revolving door* (group 4, general recidivism rate of 54.2%). In both cases, it will help define the key factors about the best way of intervening in order to change continuous offending careers, although regarding the revolving door group we should also consider what we state in section 12 of these proposals.

RISCANVI

### Regarding the importance of the investigation linked to recidivism and related to the improvement of the penitentiary system



8. The exhaustive compilation of relevant data about imprisoned people, which enables structured instruments La of evaluation, is also very important for the evaluation of the of the interventions and other questions linked to the investigation for improving the system. In this sense, it is important to carefully and systematically record the data and improve the SIPC in order to have available a more updated tool that is ready, not only for penitentiary management, but also for the use of data from the investigation. In both senses (penitentiary management and investigation), the new tool should be compatible with the databases in the whole sphere of penal management.
9. On the other hand, it would be useful to complement the studies into recidivism with more qualitative investigations focused on the process of desisting recidivism and in the recidivism cycle which enables us to evaluate other factors linked to the fact of continuing to commit offences or to stop committing them.
10. We also propose promoting investigations that complement and help contextualise our data. This proposal is twofold in its aims: firstly, in the study of police and judicial recidivism rates in Catalonia, and secondly, to make international contacts that enables us to have available the studies of other countries to compare with ours, conceptually and methodologically.
11. Additionally, we want the reader to place their attention on the relevant decrease in the percentage of inmates who committed an offence *against property* and who left prison in 2010, in comparison with those who were released in 2002. This fact represents one of the most powerful hypotheses that explain the reduction of the recidivism rate, and it would be good to compare it and study it specifically through other investigations.
12. Finally, we propose undertaking an in-depth study regarding the group completing a sentence for PSR and adjust a design of more efficient and effective legal proposals and responses than those in force at present within the penal system as a whole. With regard to these cases, we should examine whether the sentence really complies with the principles of general and special prevention, and the aim of social reinsertion, questions that the data presented put into doubt.

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