

# Complexities in the management of sex offenders in the communities

- Chair and Introduction
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# **Dangerous Sex Offenders: Recidivism and Risk Factors Associated with Serious Sexual Offending**

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# Recidivism – Sex Offending

## International Research

- Overall low rates (5-15%) with follow-up rates less than 15 years (Freeman, 2007; Nicholaichuk et al., 2014; Olver et al., 2012).
- Increasing length of period increases proportion of reoffending (15-61%) (Hill et al., 2008; Langevin et al., 2014; Prentky et al., 1997; Proulx et al., 1997).
- Reconvictions have lower rates (Hanson and Morton-Bourgon, 2005; 2009; Hood et al., 2002) compared to rearrests (Heil et al., 2009; Langevin et al., 2004).
- Rates also vary by category of sex offender (Baltieri & Andrade, 2008; Becker et al., 1986; Hood et al., 2002; Kingston et al., 2008; Lussier et al., 2007; Nicholaichuk et al., 2014; Prentky et al., 1997; Seto & Eke, 2005).

# Rowland et al., Queensland Study

## Results - Demographics

**Table 4.5.** Demographics of DPSOA Offender Sample

Characteristic	DPSOA Offenders (n=104)	
	n	%
Male	104	100
Indigenous	33	31.7
Index offence		
Rape (of adult)	44	42.3
Sexual Assault	3	2.88
Intrafamilial CSO	6	5.77
Extrafamilial CSO	51	49.0
Child Pornography	1	0.96
Prior offending		
Diverse (sexual & non-sexual)	50	48.1
Age of onset of offending		
Juvenile	45	43.3
Adult	41	39.4
Victimology		
Mixed (adult & prepubescent/pubescent)	6	5.77
Multiple victims	51	49.0
Risk Level (non-actuarial)		
Low	2	1.92
Low-Moderate	11	10.6
Moderate	14	13.5
Moderate-High	46	44.2
High	31	29.8

# Results – Mental Health Profile

**Table 4.6.** Mental Health Characteristics

Characteristic	DPSOA Offenders (n=104)	
	n	%
Mental Health Diagnosis	98	94.2
Undiagnosed	4	3.85
Primary Disorder		
Mood Disorder	2	1.92
Paedophilia	39	37.5
Paraphilia	4	3.85
Antisocial Personality Disorder	35	33.6
Personality Disorder - other	7	6.73
Schizophrenia	6	5.77
Substance Abuse Disorder	2	1.92
Intellectual Deficit	3	2.88
Multiple Diagnoses	67	64.4

# Results - Demographics

**Table 4.7.** Substance Misuse (Recidivism)

Substance	DPSOA Offenders (n=104)	
	n	%
Substance misuse during follow-up period	13	12.5
Substances		
Alcohol	5	4.81
Cannabis	18	17.3
Heroin	2	1.92
Amphetamines	1	0.96
EPS	2	1.92
Polysubstance Use	6	5.77
Alcohol & cannabis	2	1.92
Heroin & cannabis	1	0.96
Alcohol & EPS	1	0.96
Polysubstance (unspecified)	2	1.92

# Results - Recidivism

**Table 4.8.** Recidivism counts

Category	DPSOA Offenders (n=104)	
	n	%
Recidivism – R <sub>a</sub> ( <i>first arrest</i> ) <sup>1</sup>	44	42.3
Recidivism – <i>total</i> arrests	52	N/A
First New Offence	14	26.9 <sup>2</sup>
First New Contravention	38	86.4 <sup>2</sup>
Recidivism by risk category		
<i>Low-Moderate</i>	5	38.5 <sup>3</sup>
<i>Moderate</i>	3	21.4 <sup>3</sup>
<i>Moderate-High</i>	15	32.6 <sup>3</sup>
<i>High</i>	21	67.7 <sup>3</sup>

# Results – Recidivism (All)

Figure 4.7. Survival Curve - First Arrest - All Contraventions

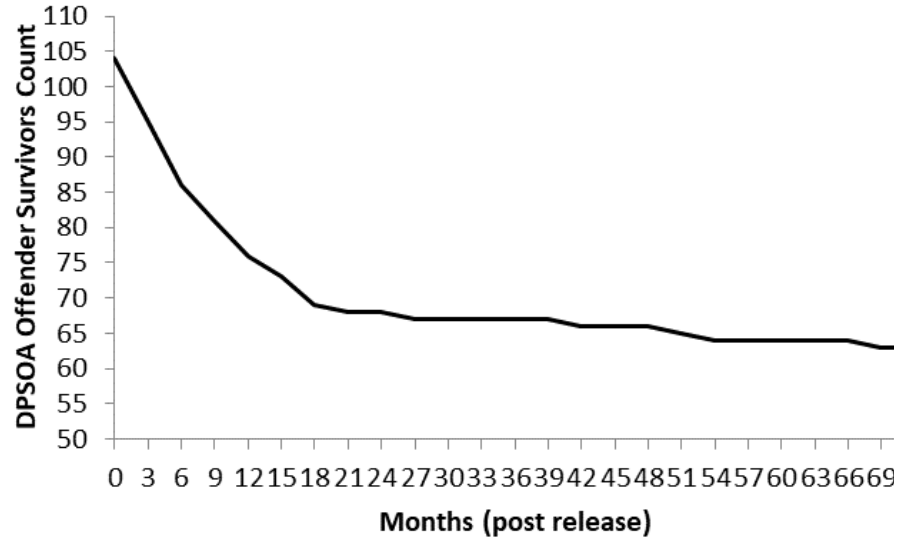
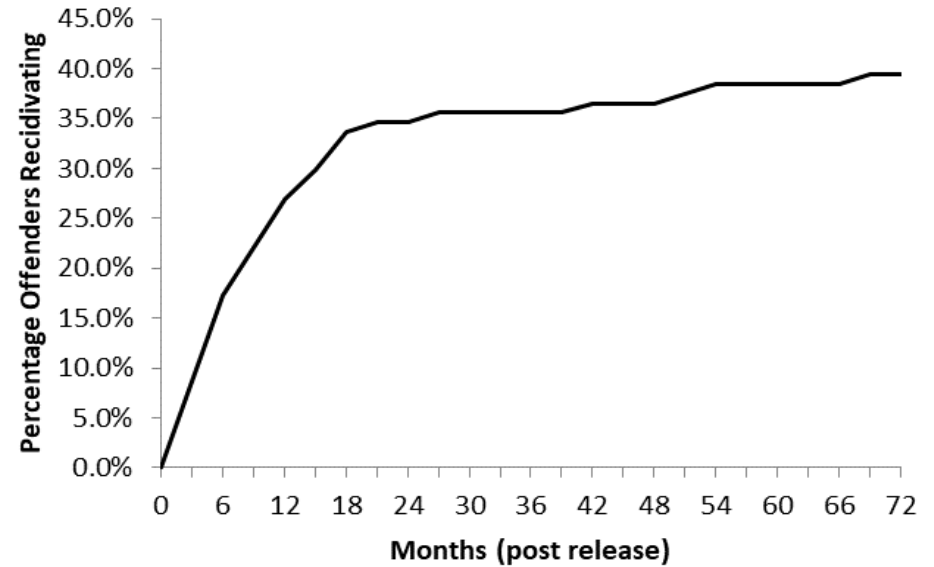
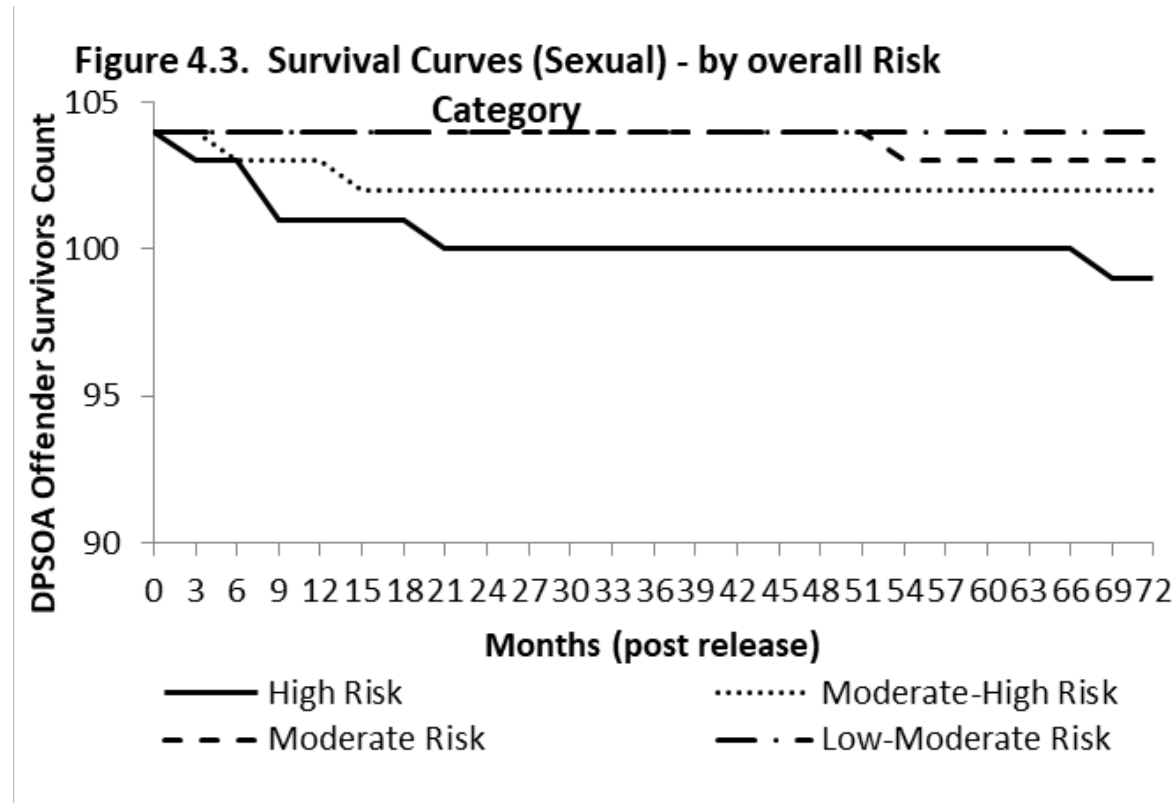


Figure 4.8. Proportion Offenders Recidivating



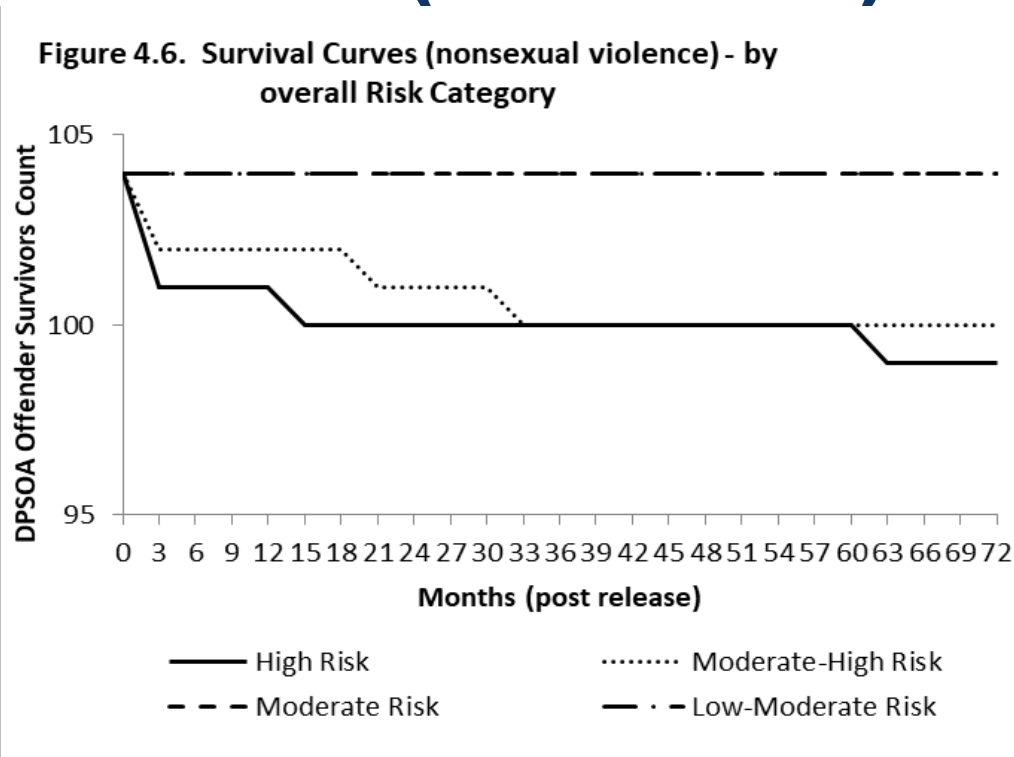


# Results – Sexual Recidivism



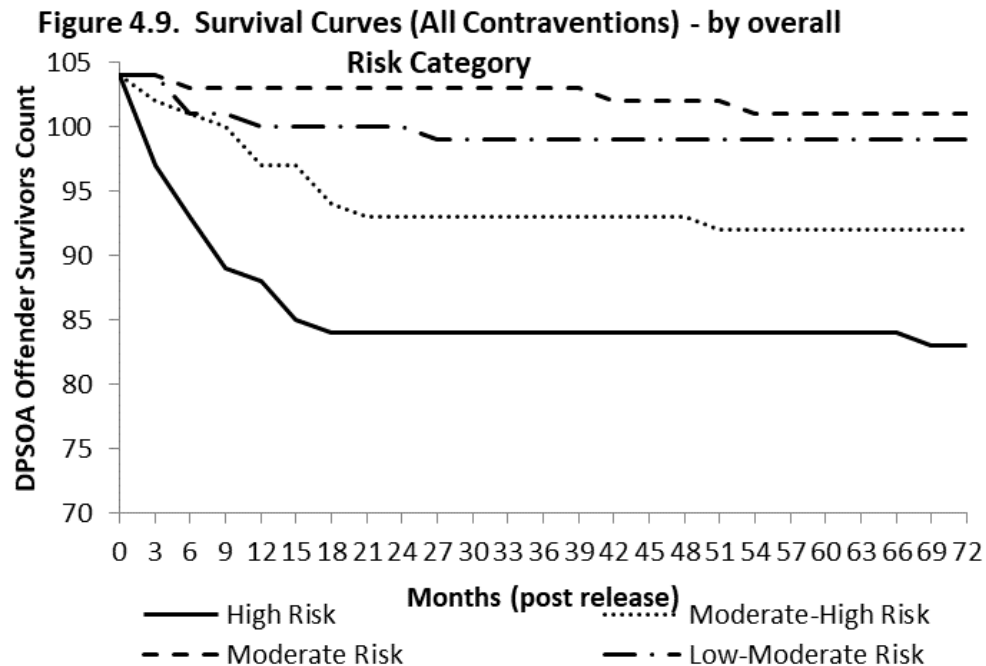
- A Log Rank (Mantel-Cox) test did not find a significant difference of survival times for the risk categories,  $\chi^2 (3, N= 104) = 4.94, p = 0.18$ .

# Results – Violent (nonsexual) Recidivism



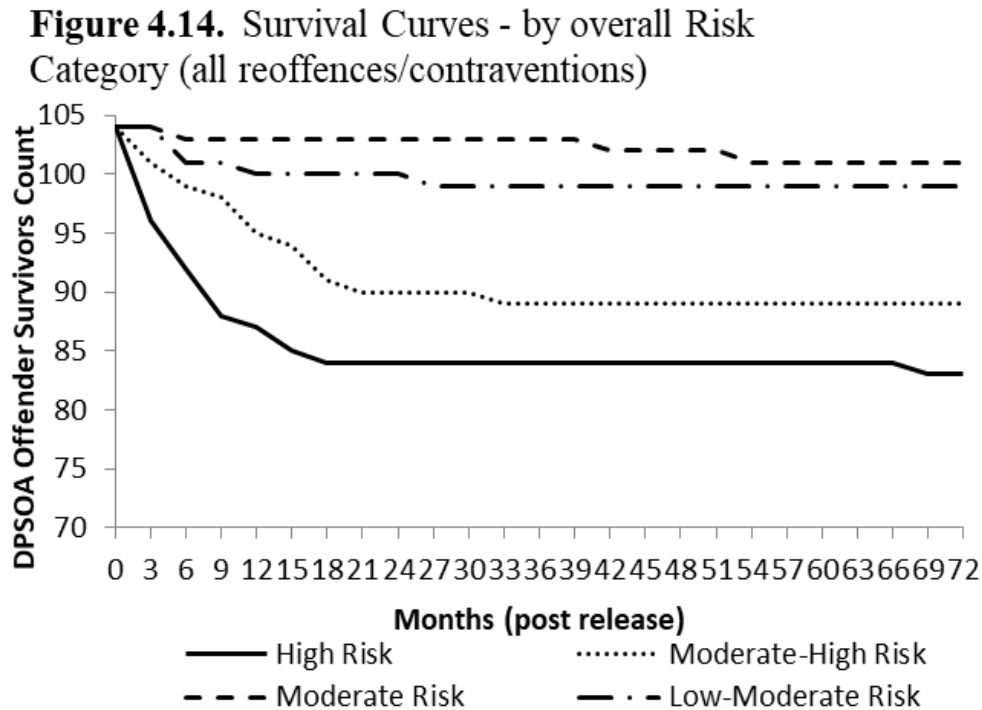
- A Log Rank (Mantel-Cox) test did not find a significant difference in the survival times for the risk categories,  $\chi^2 (3, N= 104) = 5.41, p = 0.14$ .

# Results – Contraventions



- A Log Rank (Mantel-Cox) test found a significant difference between the risk categories for survival time,  $\chi^2 (3, N= 104) = 20.67, p < .0001$ .

# Results – General Recidivism



- A Log Rank (Mantel-Cox) test found a significant difference of survival times for the risk categories,  $\chi^2 (3, N= 104) = 16.54, p < .001$ .

# Conclusion - Recidivism

- The sample is considered *antisocially* problematic (*utilitarian* risk?), but not dangerous as per the Act.
- That the lower risk categories did not recidivate at a high rate (and much lower than found in the literature) suggests an elevated *rate* of Type 1 errors.
- DPSOA offenders sexually recidivating is very low (7.5%).
- High rate of general offending & technical violations - 41.9%
- violently recidivating is very low (8.65%).
  - Ethical considerations: False positives; Double punishment

# Questions?

