



## Summary

This analysis assessed the impact on re-offending of attending the Family Man programme run by the organisation Safe Ground. The one year proven re-offending rate<sup>1</sup> for 151<sup>2</sup> offenders attending the Family Man Programme was 32%, compared with 39% for a matched control group of similar offenders. Statistical significance testing has shown that this difference is not statistically significant<sup>3</sup>; suggesting that at this stage there is insufficient evidence to draw a conclusion about the impact of Family Man Programme on the rate of re-offending. However, the results of the analysis do not mean that the Family Man Programme provided by Safe Ground failed to impact on the rate of proven re-offending.

Statistical significance testing did show that individuals attending the Family Man programme run by Safe Ground experienced a real reduction in the frequency of re-offending of 0.31 offences per individual. Please refer to the “Additional proven re-offending measures” section of this report for more information.

This is the fourth analysis through the Justice Data Lab of the Family Man programme run by Safe Ground. Each of the three previous requests has found a similar impact of the programme on one year re-offending measures. Each analysis has included and expanded on the cohort reviewed in the previous analysis. This report recommends that future Justice Data Lab analyses continue to expand the size of the Family Man cohort on which analysis is carried out, and looks into the feasibility of including contextual information on family relationships in the matching process.

**What you can say:** There is insufficient evidence at this stage to draw a conclusion about the impact of Family Man Programme run by Safe Ground on the one year proven re-offending rate. However this analysis has shown that participants of the Family Man programme do experience a reduction in frequency of re-offending by 0.31 offences per individual<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The **one year proven re-offending rate** is defined as the proportion of offenders in a cohort who commit an offence in a one year follow-up period which was proven through receipt of a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning during the one year follow-up or in a further six month waiting period. The one year follow-up period begins when offenders leave custody, start their court sentence, or from receipt of their caution.

<sup>2</sup> 151 individuals were matched from a cohort of 552 individuals, whose details were sent to the Justice Data Lab, as described on page 2 of this report.

<sup>3</sup> The difference was non-significant,  $p = 0.09$ . Statistical significance testing is described on page 8 of this report.

**What you cannot say:** This analysis shows that attending the Family Man Programme run by Safe Ground decreased the one year proven re-offending rate by 7 percentage points, or by any other amount.

## **Introduction**

Safe Ground is a charity working with offenders on a range of projects both in prison and in the community with the aim of reducing re-offending by developing relationship skills. In 1999, Safe Ground was commissioned by the Home Office to develop a programme for male prisoners. Family Man is a family relationships programme, delivered 4 days per week over 7 weeks, which uses group work, drama and role play in combination with written work to engage learners who tend to struggle in a more traditional classroom environment. The programme focuses on relationship skills and trying to improve the relationships that these individuals have with their families. The programme also incorporates working with an adult family supporter (nominated by each student - usually a partner or relative but occasionally a friend, volunteer or offender manager), who will work with the student towards a bespoke action plan with targeted, achievable goals.

The programme's participative methodology is also designed to challenge prevailing attitudes, thinking and behaviours, whilst also developing essential employment skills such as communication, teamwork, eye contact and the ability to give and receive constructive criticism. The programme includes a 'What Next' day (a resettlement event bringing together internal and external support services) and a family presentation day. The programme is taught by two full-time tutors (usually prison education staff or officers) and a part-time family support worker. Classes vary between 10-20 men with a completion rate of roughly 75%. All offenders are eligible to participate in the Family Man programme with exception of offenders convicted of sex offences or offences where the victim was a child.

In enhancing participants' ability to think and communicate critically, the programme aspires to increase participation in education, training and employment, whilst contributing to the process of desistance from crime. This may help these individuals to recognise the effect that their behaviour and their participation in criminal acts have on their families, which may cause them to think about their past actions and future decisions.

This analysis relates to male offenders who completed the Family Man programme between 2005 and 2012 in HMP Belmarsh, HMP Birmingham, HMP Bristol, HMP Highpoint, HMP Kingston, HMP Leeds, HMP Parc and HMP Wandsworth. This analysis includes individuals from the three previous Safe Ground requests published in October 2013, November 2013 and March 2014.

## Processing the Data

552

Safe Ground sent data to the Justice Data Lab for 552 offenders who had completed the Family Man programme whilst in HMP Belmarsh, HMP Birmingham, HMP Bristol, HMP Highpoint, HMP Kingston, HMP Leeds, HMP Parc or HMP Wandsworth between 2005 and 2012. This analysis includes 91 new individuals whose information was provided by Safe Ground for this fourth analysis and 461 individuals who were matched to the Police National Computer in the previous Safe Ground requests published in October 2013, November 2013 and March 2014. These records were kept in agreement with Safe Ground for subsequent analysis when further years of data became available as recommended in previous reports.

543

543 of the 552 offenders were matched to the Police National Computer, a match rate of 98%. This includes 82 of the 91 new individuals which were provided by Safe Ground.

155

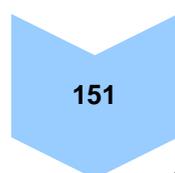
155 of the 543 offenders had an identifiable custodial sentence where they were released from custody before October 2012.

388 of the 543 offenders were not matched. Analysis of the 388 unmatched individuals revealed the following:

- There were 20 individuals that were removed as they were duplicate entries from the previous Safe Ground reports.
- There were 46 individuals that started attending the Family Man programme after October 2012. These offenders would have been released from prison in October 2012 or after, where re-offending data is not currently available.
- There were 3 individuals that could not be included in the analysis as they had previous sex offences.
- There were 319 individuals who do not appear yet to have been released from custody (i.e. these individuals may be serving long custodial sentences), or the relevant sentence could not be found on the administrative datasets used.

In this analysis over 90% of the matched control group had custodial sentences which were 12 months or more. This may explain why so many of the individuals sent in the data by Safe Ground have not been found on the administrative datasets, this is because many of them are still in prison or were released after October 2012.

## Creating a Matched Control Group



151 of the 155 offender records for which re-offending data was available could be matched to offenders with similar characteristics, but who did not attend the Family Man Programme run by Safe Ground. In total the matched control group consisted of 224,210 offender records.

There were 3 individuals that were excluded for modelling purposes. Two of these individuals could not be included in the analysis as the length of their custodial sentences was significantly longer than the remainder of the group that Safe Ground worked with. In order to allow for the statistical modelling to work, and achieve reasonable matching quality it was necessary to remove these 2 individuals at this stage. However it does mean the results of this analysis should be interpreted with particular care, as the effect on re-offending detailed within this analysis may not be expected for those individuals who have had particularly long custodial sentences. A further person was not matched because individuals with equivalent characteristics could not be found.

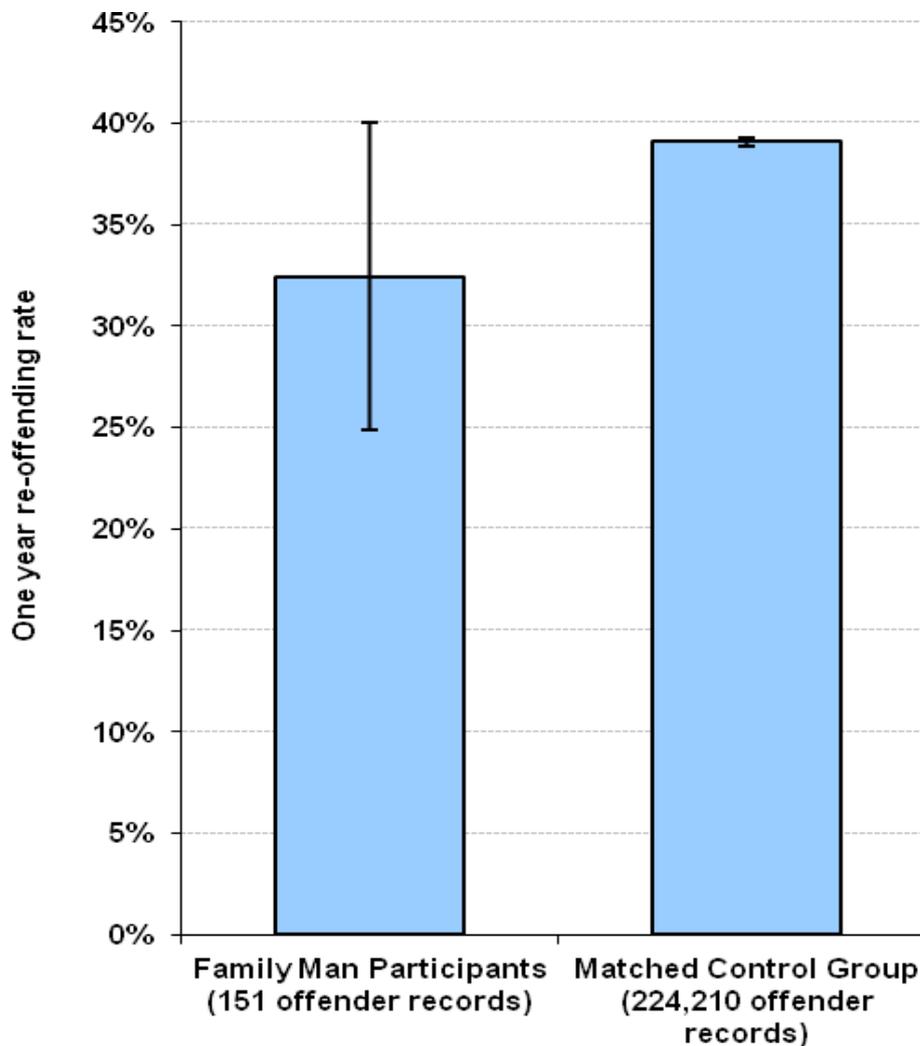
The Annex provides information on the similarity between the treatment and control groups. Further data on the matching process is available upon request.

## Results

The one year proven re-offending rate<sup>1</sup> for 151<sup>2</sup> offenders on the Family Man Programme run by Safe Ground was 32%. This compares to 39% for a matched control group of similar offenders. This information is displayed in Figure 1 on the next page.

Figure 1 on the next page presents the 95 per cent confidence intervals for the re-offending rates of both groups, i.e. the range in which we can be 95 per cent sure that the true re-offending rate for the groups lie. For this analysis we can be confident that the true difference in re-offending between the two groups is between a 14 percentage point reduction, and a 1 percentage point increase. However, because this difference crosses 0, we cannot be sure either way that attending the Family Man Programme run by Safe Ground led to a reduction or an increase in re-offending and thus cannot draw a firm conclusion about its impact. It is important to show confidence intervals because both the treatment and matched control groups are samples of larger populations; the re-offending rate is therefore an estimate for each population based on a sample, rather than the actual rate.

Figure 1: The best estimates for the one year proven re-offending rate for offenders attending the Family Man Programme provided by Safe Ground, and a matched control group



In this case the confidence intervals are particularly wide; this is to be expected when the size of the treatment group (in this case, the individuals attending the Family Man programme provided by Safe Ground) is small. The precision of this estimate could be improved if the size of the Family Man Programme group used in the analysis was increased. It is recommended that the analysis is repeated on a larger sample<sup>4</sup>, including previous years of information, and when additional years of data become available. Additionally, any future analyses should look into the feasibility of including contextual information on family relationships in the matching process.

<sup>4</sup> For the difference of the one year proven re-offending rates to be statistically significant for this report, a minimum size of 657 individuals participating in the Family Man programme run by Safe Ground would need to be in the matched treatment group.

## **Additional proven re-offending measures**

### **Frequency of re-offending**

The frequency of one year proven re-offending<sup>5</sup> for 151<sup>2</sup> offenders attending the Family Man Programme run by Safe Ground was 0.95 offences per individual, compared with 1.26 per individual in the matched control group. Statistical significance testing has shown that this difference in the re-offending rates is statistically significant<sup>6</sup>.

This result is in the same direction with the findings around the indicator of one year proven re-offending; the subject of this report. The same caveats and limitations apply to these findings, which are described below.

### **Time to re-offending**

The average time to the first offence within a year for the 49 individuals that were matched, and re-offended, after attending the Family Man Programme run by Safe Ground was 136 days. This compares to 144 days for the 104,023 individuals who re-offended from the matched control group. Statistical significance testing has shown that this difference in the time to first re-offence within a year is not statistically significant<sup>7</sup>.

This result is in a different direction (i.e. there are fewer days to re-offending) compared to the other proven re-offending measures included in this report. The same caveats and limitations apply to these findings, which are described below.

## **Caveats and Limitations**

The statistical methods used in this analysis are based on data collected for administrative purposes. It should be noted that it has only been possible to control for a limited amount of information about the offenders who are included within this analysis. While these include details of each offender's previous criminal history alongside more basic offender characteristics such as age, gender and ethnicity, it is possible that other important contextual information that may help explain the results has not been accounted for. In particular, we have been unable to statistically control for family relationships in this analysis. This is important as one of the main aims of the Family Man programme is to improve family relationships. The control group against which re-offending rates for those participating in the Family Man programme have been compared will therefore include offenders both with and without the specific relationship needs that Safe Ground are seeking to address.

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<sup>5</sup> The **frequency of one year proven re-offending** is defined as the number of re-offences committed in a one year follow-up period which were proven through receipt of a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning during the one year follow-up or in a further six month waiting period. The one year follow-up period begins when offenders leave custody, start their court sentence, or from receipt of their caution.

<sup>6</sup> The p-value for this significance test was 0.04. Statistical significance testing is described on page 8 of this report.

<sup>7</sup> The p-value for this significance was 0.62. Statistical significance testing is described on page 8 of this report.

Many organisations that work with offenders will look to target specific needs of individuals; for example improving housing, or employability. However, how the organisations select those individuals to work with could lead to selection bias, which can impact on the direction of the results. For example; individuals may self select into a service, because they are highly motivated to address one or more of their needs. This would result in a positive selection bias, meaning that for these persons we would generally expect a better re-offending outcome as they are more motivated. Alternatively, some organisations might specifically target persons who are known to have more complex needs and whose attitudes to addressing their needs are more challenging. This would result in a negative selection bias, meaning that for these persons we would generally expect a poorer re-offending outcome as they are not motivated. However, factors which would lead to selection bias in either direction are not represented in our underlying data, and cannot be reflected in our modelling. This means that all results should be interpreted with care, as selection bias cannot be accounted for in analyses.

Furthermore, only 151 of the 552 offenders shared with the Justice Data Lab were in the final treatment group. The section “Processing the Data” outlines key steps taken to obtain the final group used in the analysis. In many analyses, the creation of a matched control group will mean that some individuals, who will usually have particular characteristics – for example a particular ethnicity, or have committed a certain type of offence, will need to be removed to ensure that the modelling will work. Steps will always be taken at this stage to preserve as many individuals as possible, but due to the intricacies of statistical modelling some attrition at this stage will often result. As such, the final treatment group may not be representative of all offenders who attended the Family Man programme run by Safe Ground. Furthermore, offenders with long sentences, over 10 years and life sentences, have also been excluded and so this analysis will not reflect the effectiveness of the Family Man programme on offenders with long sentences. In all analyses from the Justice Data Lab, persons who have ever been convicted of sex offences will be removed, as these individuals are known to have very different patterns of re-offending.

The re-offending rates included in this analysis **should not** be compared to the national average, nor any other reports or publications which include re-offending rates – including those assessing the impact of other interventions. The re-offending rates included in this report are specific to the characteristics of those persons who attended the Family Man programme run by Safe Ground, and could be matched. Any other comparison would not be comparing like for like.

For a full description of the methodology, including the matching process, see [www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/justice-data-lab/justice-data-lab-methodology.pdf](http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/justice-data-lab/justice-data-lab-methodology.pdf).

## **Assessing Statistical Significance**

This analysis uses statistical testing to assess whether any differences in the observed re-offending rates are due to chance, or if the intervention is likely to have led to a real change in behaviour. The outcome of the statistical testing is a value between 0 and 1, called a 'p-value', indicating the certainty that a real difference in re-offending between the two groups has been observed. A value closer to 0 indicates that the difference in the observed re-offending rates is not merely due to chance. For example, a p-value of 0.01 suggests there is only a 1 per cent likelihood that any observed difference in re-offending has been caused by chance.

For the purposes of the analysis presented in this report, we have taken a p-value of up to 0.05 as indicative of a real difference in re-offending rates between the treatment and control groups.

The confidence intervals in the figure are helpful in judging whether something is significant at the 0.05 level. If the confidence intervals for the two groups do not overlap, this indicates that there is a real difference between the re-offending rates.

## Annex

**Table 1: Characteristics of offenders in the treatment and control groups**

	Treatment Group	Matched Control Group	Standardised Difference
<b>Number in group</b>	151	224,210	
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
White	56%	56%	0
Black	34%	34%	1
Asian and Other	10%	10%	-1
<b>Nationality</b>			
UK Citizen	94%	94%	0
Foreign National	6%	6%	0
<b>Gender</b>			
Proportion that were male	100%	100%	0
<b>Age</b>			
Mean age at Index Offence	31	31	1
Mean age at first contact with CJS	17	17	-1
<b>Index Offence<sup>1</sup></b>			
Violent offences including robbery	38%	38%	1
Burglary	20%	20%	0
Theft and Handling	8%	8%	0
Motoring offences including theft of and from Vehicles	9%	9%	0
Drugs related <sup>2</sup>	22%	22%	-1
Other <sup>3</sup>	3%	3%	1
<b>Length of Custodial Sentence</b>			
12 months or less	9%	9%	1
12 months to 4 years	56%	56%	-1
4 years to 10 years	33%	33%	0
IPP	2%	2%	2
<b>Criminal History<sup>4</sup></b>			
Mean Copas Rate	-0.85	-0.86	1
Mean total previous offences	32	32	2
Mean previous criminal convictions	12	12	2
Mean previous custodial sentences	4	4	1
Mean previous court orders	3	3	2
<b>Employment and Benefit History</b>			
In P45 employment (year prior to conviction)	21%	21%	0
In P45 employment (month prior to conviction)	15%	15%	-1
Claiming Out of Work Benefits (year prior to conviction) <sup>5</sup>	56%	56%	1
Claiming Job Seekers Allowance (year prior to conviction)	36%	36%	0
Claiming Incapacity Benefit and/or Income Support (year prior to conviction)	26%	26%	1
<b>Notes:</b>			
<p>1 Index Offence is based on OGRS categories. Further details on make-up of categories available upon request.                  2 Drug related offences including importation, exportation, possession, and supply of drugs.                  3 Other Offences include Fraud and Forgery, Absconding or Bail offences, Criminal or malicious damage.                  4 All excluding Penalty Notices for Disorder. All prior to Index Offence.</p>			

5 Out of Work Benefits include people on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefits (IB) and Income Support (IS) but it does not count people whose primary benefit is Carer's Allowance (CA).
All figures (except mean copas rate) are rounded to the nearest whole number, this may mean that percentages do not sum to 100%.
<b>Standardised Difference Key</b>
<b>Green - the two groups were well matched on this variable (-5% to 5%)</b>
<b>Amber - the two groups were reasonably matched on this variable (6% to 10% or -6% to -10%)</b>
<b>Red - the two groups were poorly matched on this variable (greater than 10% or less than -10%)</b>

We assess whether the treatment group and the matched control group are balanced and well matched through a comparison of the standardised differences generated for every variable included in the matching process. Table 1 shows that the two groups were well matched on all variables found to have associations with receiving treatment and/or re-offending. All of the standardised mean differences are highlighted green because they were between -5% and 5%, indicating close matches on these characteristics.

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