



Justice Data Lab – Re-offending Analysis NOMS CFO (Round 1) – 2010

Background

NOMS Co-Financing Organisation is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) to undertake an employability programme across prisons and probation areas in England. NOMS CFO utilises ESF funding to contract with prime providers to engage with offenders considered to be hard to help in employability related activities. The contract package areas are split regionally, with a prime provider and their supply chain taking responsibility for the delivering the NOMS CFO programme in prisons and probation areas in that geographical region.

The Justice Data Lab received data from NOMS CFO taken from CATS (Case Assessment and Tracking System) for all participants who started on the first phase of ESF contracts in 2010. Reports have been produced for each region split by whether the participant started in custody or the community.

Method

The data sent by NOMS CFO was separated by geographical region and split by custody and community provision (where the provision started). The participants per cohort were matched to a control group based on offenders with similar characteristics. Only participants matched to the control group were part of the study and none of the control group were NOMS CFO participants from any other region in 2010. The regional split, contracted providers and the number of matched participants per region split by custody and community can be seen in the table below:

Region	Provider	NOMS CFO Offenders Matched to Control Group	
		Community	Custody
East Midlands	Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Trust	371	220
East of England	Serco	310	121
London	London Probation Trust	475	95
North East	Pertemps People Development Group	277	235
North West (exc. Merseyside)	Merseyside Probation Trust	413	351 ¹
North West - Merseyside	Merseyside Probation Trust	298	-
South East	Serco	234	95
South West (inc. Cornwall & Isles of Scilly)	A4E	227	355
West Midlands	The Manchester College	319	164
Yorkshire and the Humber (inc. S. Yorks)	SOVA	700	401

The one year proven re-offending rate for the NOMS CFO participants was calculated and compared with the matched control group of similar offenders. Additionally, the frequency of one year proven re-offending rate for the NOMS CFO participants was compared with the matched control group. Statistical significance testing was conducted to see if there is a real difference in the re-offending rates.

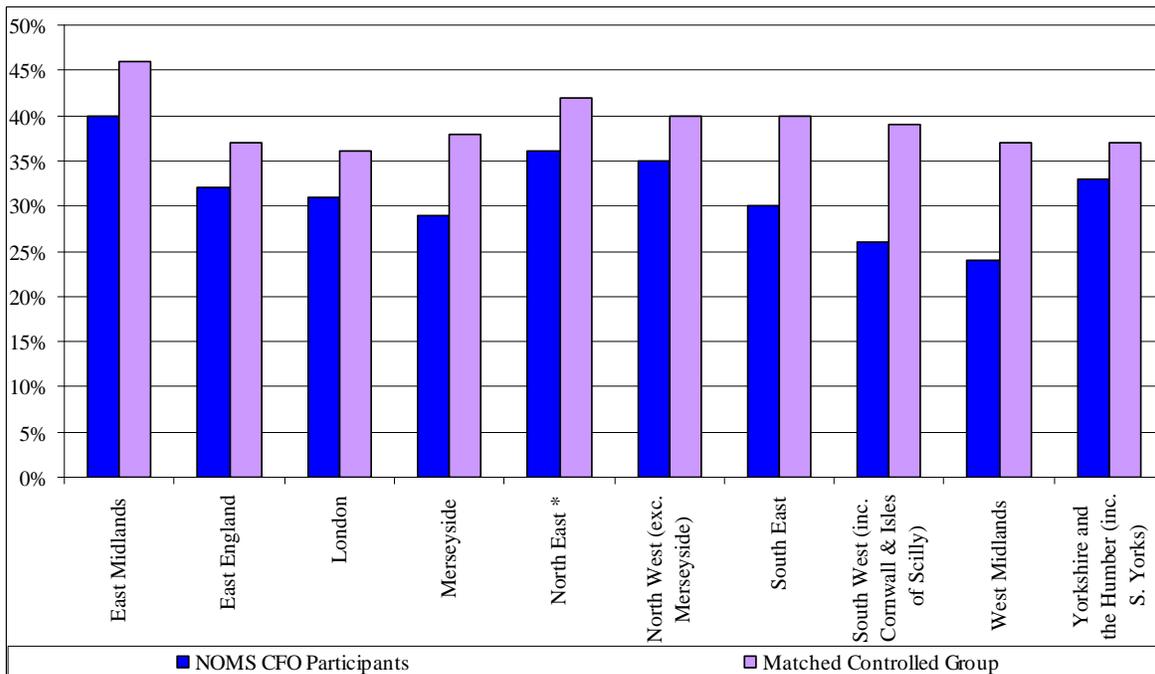
¹ The North West figures for Custody include the Merseyside region. There were enough individuals in the Merseyside cohort for a separate analysis in the community.



Results ó Community

The one year proven re-offending rate for NOMS CFO participants in all regions, except the North East, were significantly lower compared with the one year proven re-offending rate for the respective matched control group of similar offenders. The difference in the re-offending rate between the NOMS CFO participants and the matched control group in the North East is not significant. This suggests that at this stage there is insufficient evidence to draw a conclusion about the impact of participating on the NOMS CFO programme in the North East. 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. The best estimates for the one year proven re-offending rate for community offenders can be seen in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: The best estimates for the one year proven re-offending rate for community offenders on the NOMS CFO per region programme and a matched control group.



* No statistical significant difference in the one year proven re-offending rate in the North East.

This analysis indicates that individuals who participated in the NOMS CFO programme run by NOMS CFO providers whilst on community sentences, experienced a reduction in re-offending in all geographical areas except the North East.

This analysis also indicates that individuals who participated in the NOMS CFO programme whilst on community sentences, experienced a reduction in the *frequency* of re-offending in all geographical areas.



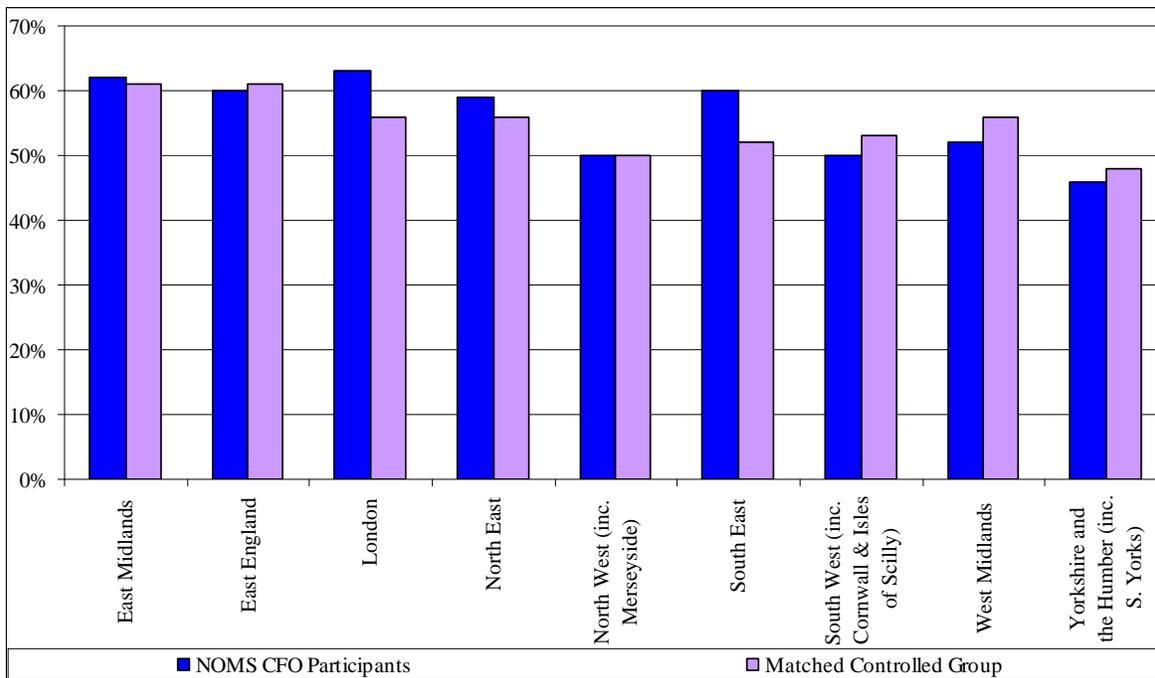
Results ó Custody

There is no evidence to suggest that the one year proven re-offending rate for NOMS CFO participants in any region were statistically significantly different to the one year proven re-offending rate for the respective matched control group of similar offenders.

This would suggest that at this stage there is insufficient evidence to draw a conclusion about the impact of participating on the NOMS CFO programme at this stage. However, the results of the analysis do not mean that the programme failed to impact on re-offending.

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. The best estimates for the one year proven re-offending rate for community offenders can be seen in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: The best estimates for the one year proven re-offending rate for custody offenders on the NOMS CFO per region programme and a matched control group.



The precision of this estimate could be improved if the size of the NOMS CFO custody programme group used in the analysis was increased. It is recommended that the analysis is repeated on a larger sample, utilising re-offending data that will become available in the future and data from previous years.



Caveats and Limitations

This study compares NOMS CFO participants to matched control groups based on a range of characteristics such as an offender's criminal history, gender, age and ethnicity. However other underlying characteristics or factors, such as gaining employment outcomes, that may assist in explaining the results have not been included. NOMS CFO providers look to target specific offenders who must volunteer to take part in the programme so this may suggest a selection bias (in either direction) when compared to the control group as this is not part of the criterion for matching. This means that all results should be interpreted with care, as selection bias cannot be accounted for in the analyses.

Furthermore, not all offenders on the NOMS CFO programme were in the final treatment group (between 14% and 53% region dependant). In many analyses, the creation of the matched control group meant that some individuals who have a particular characteristic (for example, ethnicity), have been removed to ensure the model will work.

The final treatment group may not be representative of all offenders who have been on this programme. 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 so including those assessing the impact of other interventions.

Further Information

This report is based on and referencing (with excerpts directly taken from) the reports written by The Justice Data Lab Team. All of the full reports can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/justice-data-lab-statistics-november-2013>

Details about the methodology used can be found at:

www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/justice-data-lab/justice-data-lab-methodology.pdf.

Information about NOMS CFO can be found at:

http://co-financing.org/about_main.php