




...because I'm more than a number

Dr Suzanne O'Rourke and PC Graeme Buchan

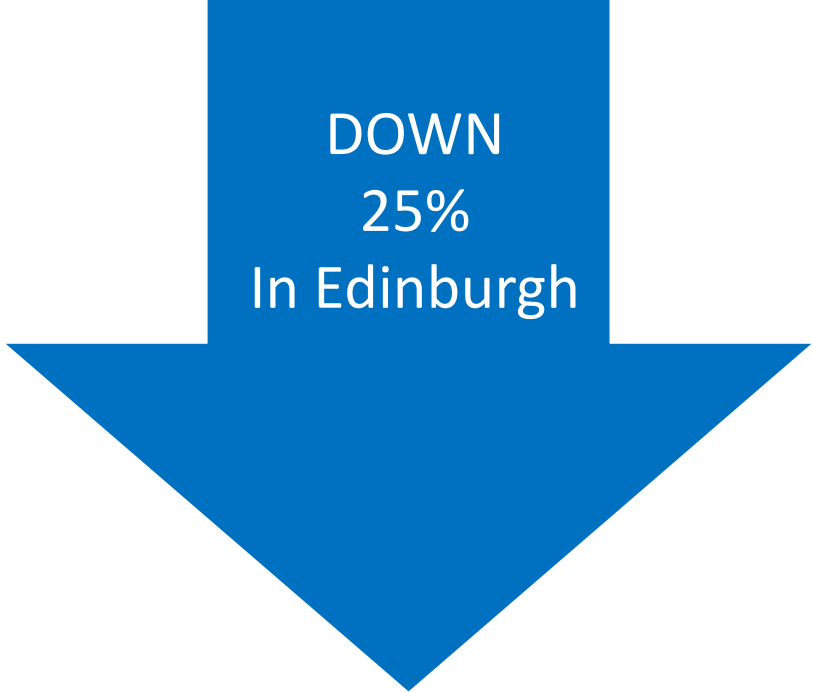
Edinburgh's VOW Project with Aid & Abet



Recorded Crime 2008-9 to 2017-18

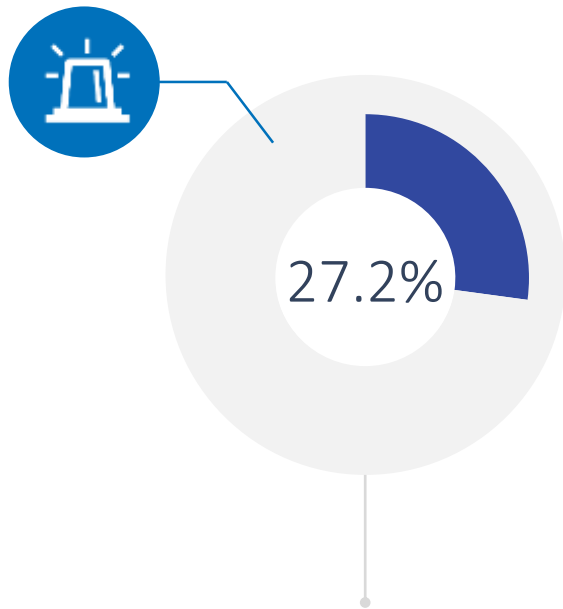


DOWN
35%
In Scotland

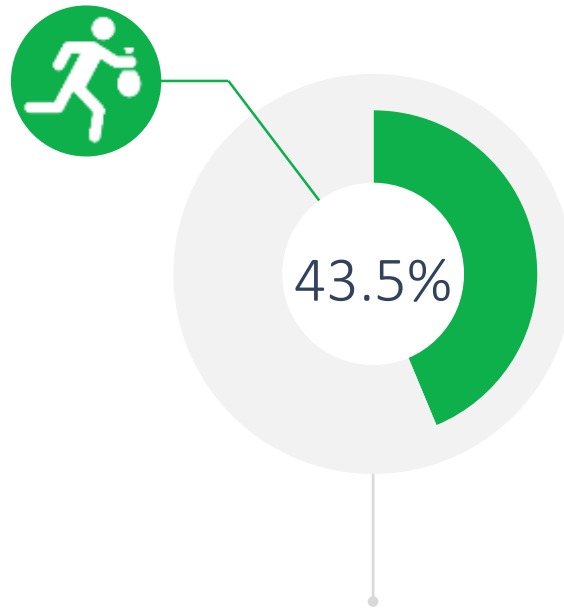


DOWN
25%
In Edinburgh

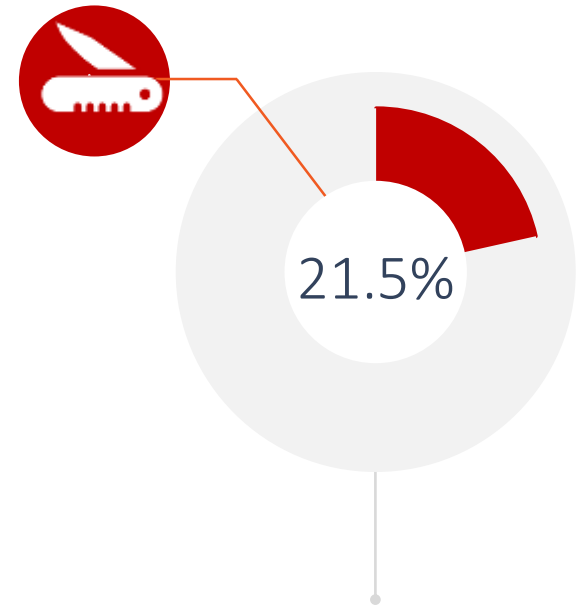
Reconviction Rates 2016-17



Any Crime
Edinburgh & Scotland



Offences of Dishonesty
Scotland



Violent Offences
Scotland

The VOW Project

Aims:

- Reduce reoffending rates.
- Promoting community safety and well-being.
- Encourage offenders to become involved in partnership training and work initiatives.

Criteria:

- Be aged 16 or over and reside within Edinburgh.
- Have committed 3 or more violent or housebreaking offences within the last 12 months.
- Have committed no sexual offences.
- Be willing to reduce their offending.
- Engagement is defined as continued contact for a minimum period of three months.

VOW TIMELINE

VOW ESTABLISHED

2 Plain clothes Police
Scotland Officers



Sept
2013

April 2014



Remit widens to include
non-violent offenders

Team increases to 4 plain
clothes Police Officers

MENTORS INTRODUCED

Two mentors from charity
Aid & Abet join the team

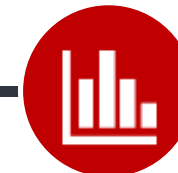


Jan
2016



...because I'm more than a number

Jan
2019



DATA EXTRACTION



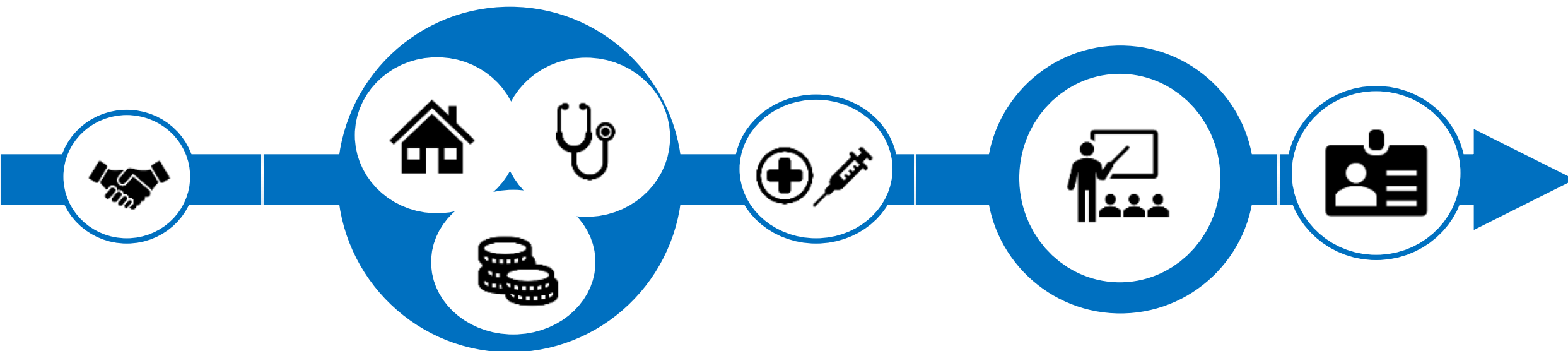
Approach
& Engage

Address
Basic Needs

Treatment for
Addictions

Training for
Employment

Employment



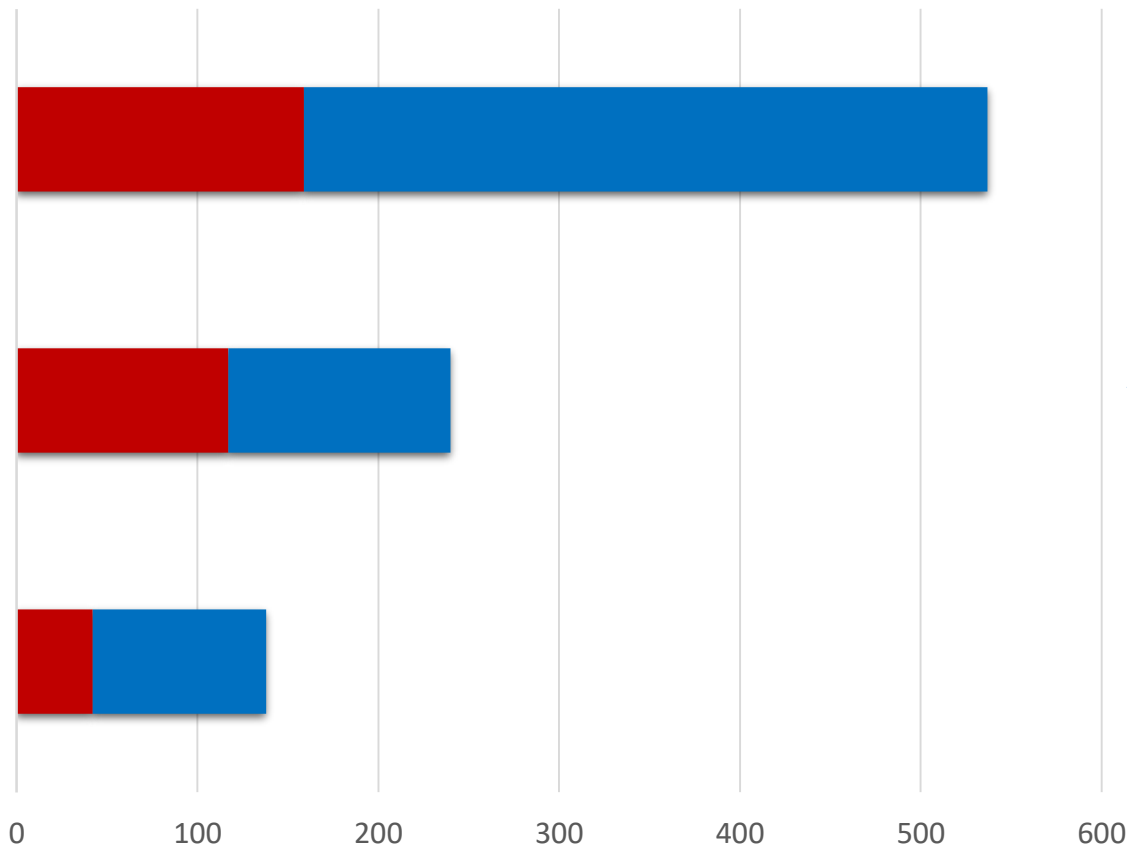
The VOW Route out of Offending

A Typical Journey



Engagement Mentors: Our Secret Weapon

In Total



Police & Mentors

Police Team

■ Signed up ■ Declined

+62.4%

Effect of
Mentors on
engagement

Conversion
rate = 48.7%

Evaluation

- Measuring Successful Desistance
- Assessing the Cost Benefit Ratio



Non-Participants



70% (n=180)
of those approached declined
or disengaged

93% Male

≥25 years 30%

Less than 25 years 70%

Mean Age =22
(SD=6; Range 15-55 yrs)

Vow Participants



30% (n=81)
of those approached engaged
for a minimum of 3 months

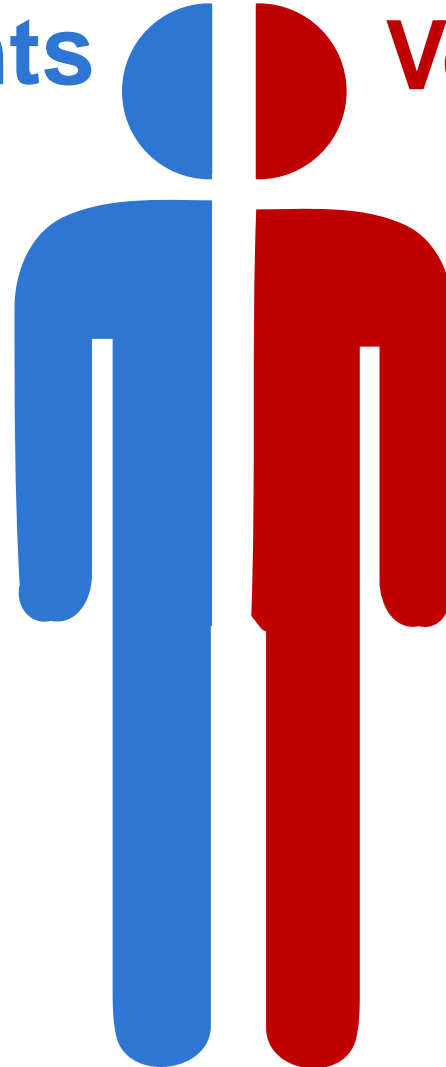
91% Male

17% ≥25 years

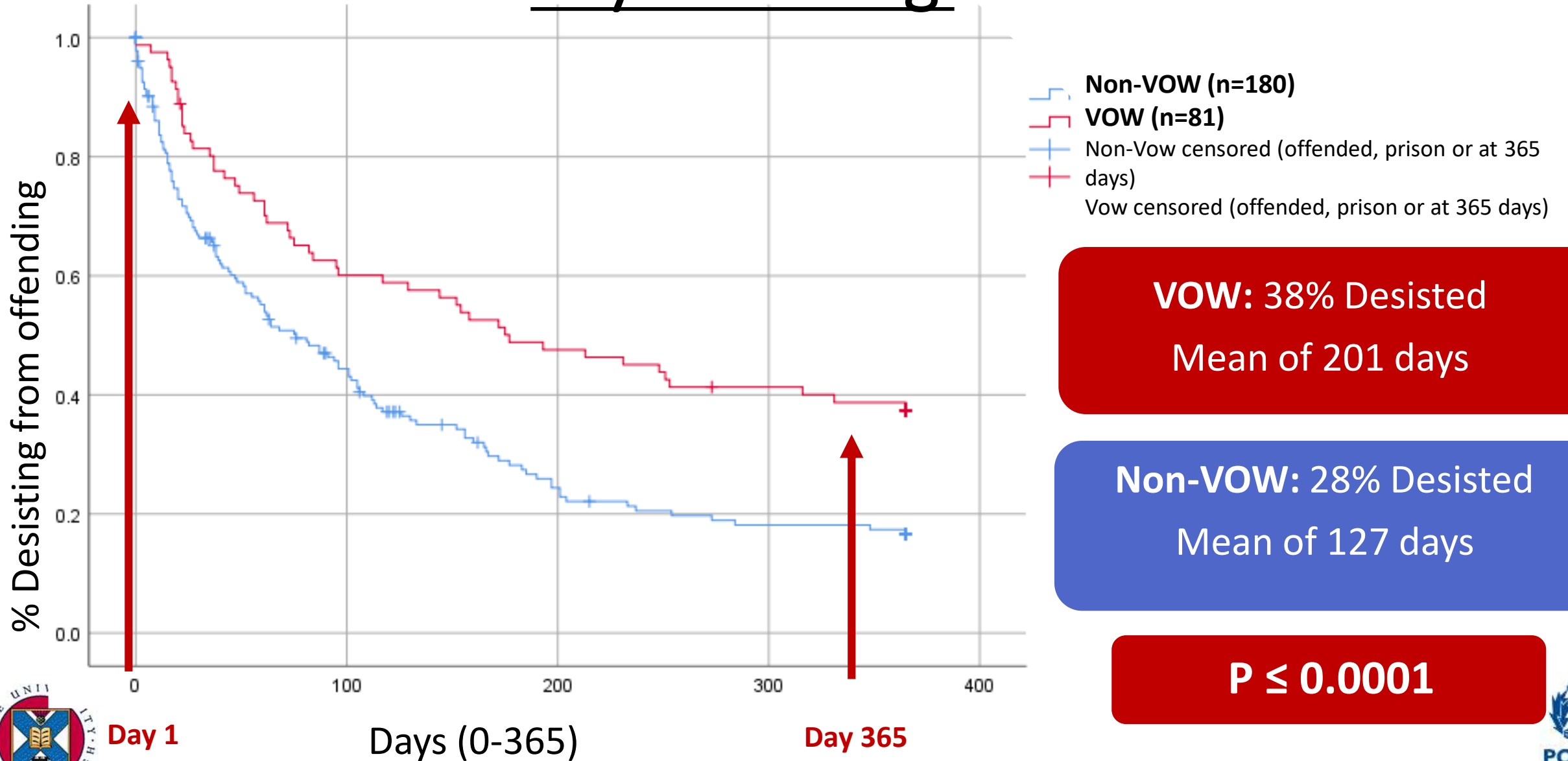
83%

Less than 25 years

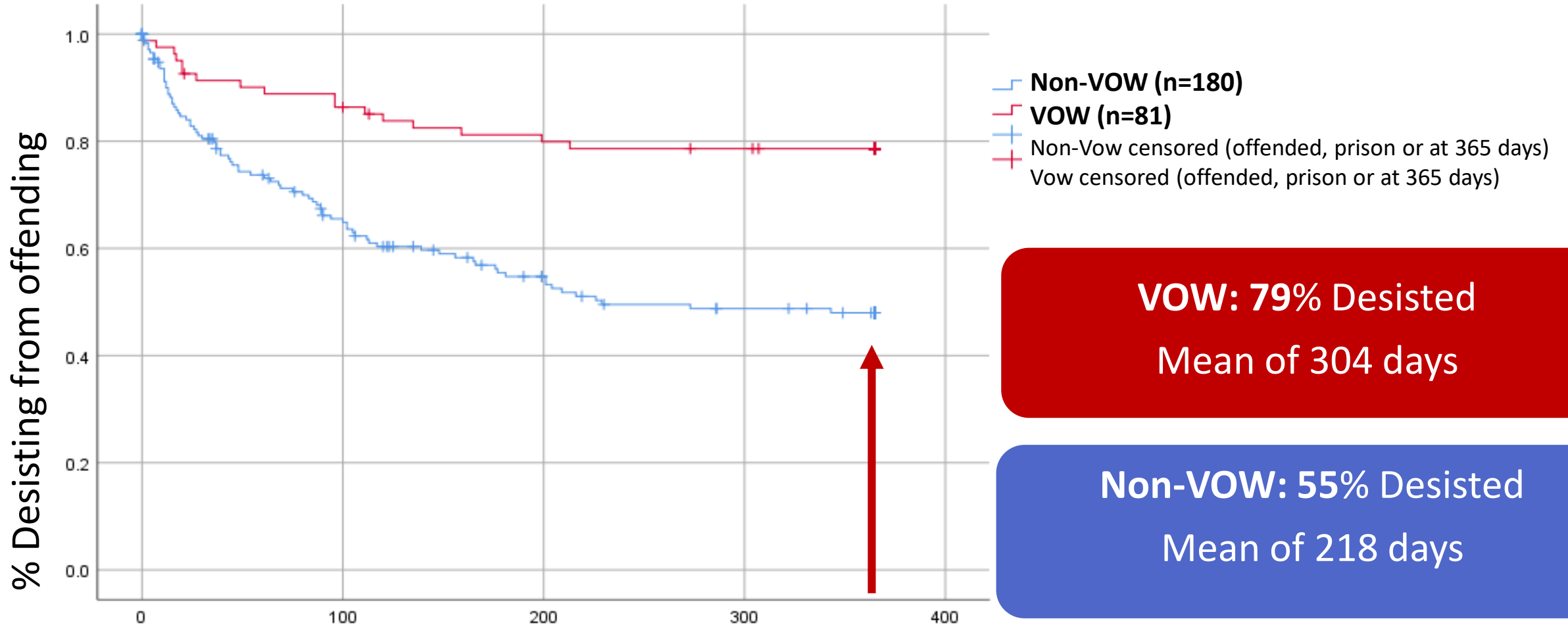
Mean Age =21
(SD=5; Range 16-43yrs)



Desistence from any offending at 12 months



Desistance from crimes of Dishonesty at 12 months

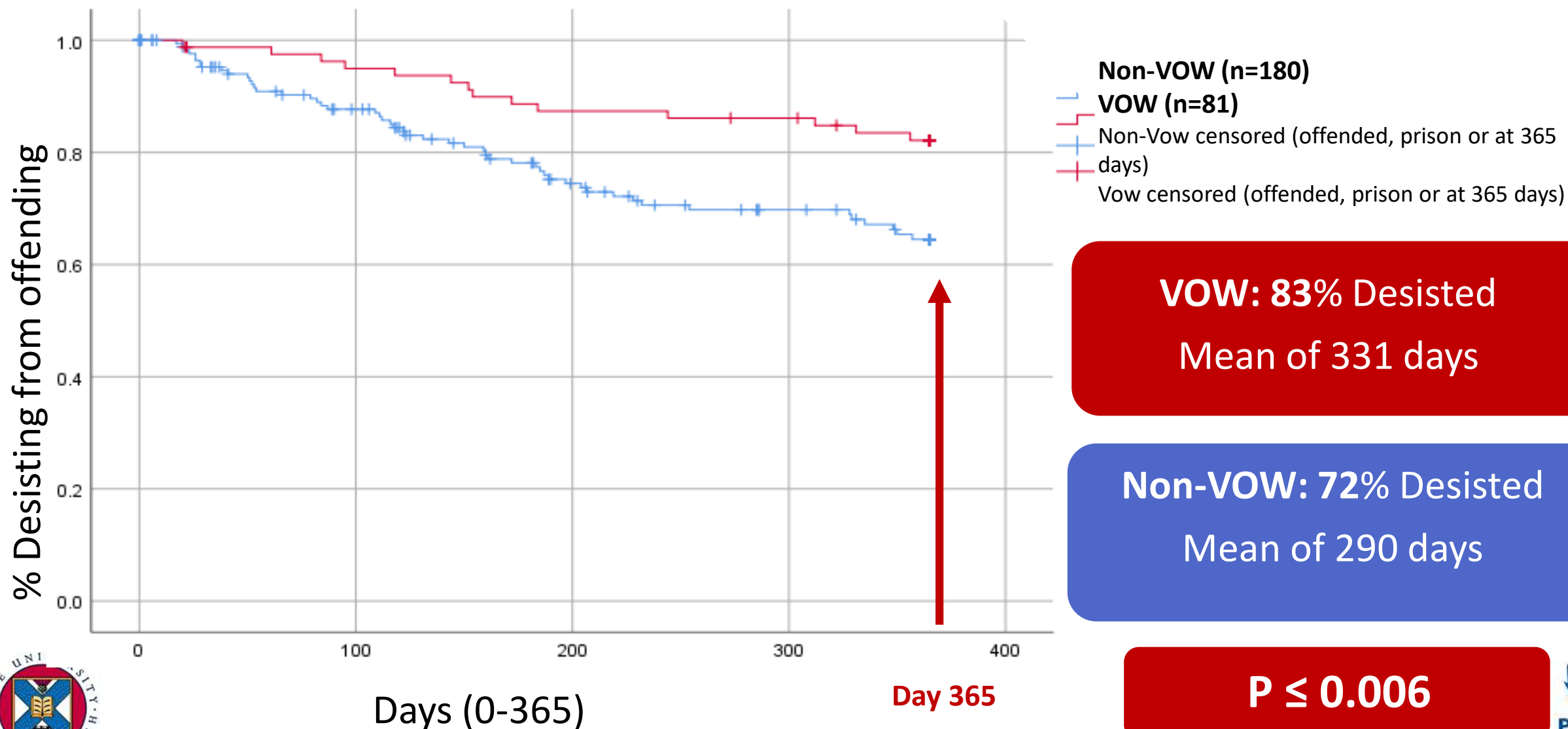


VOW: 79% Desisted
Mean of 304 days

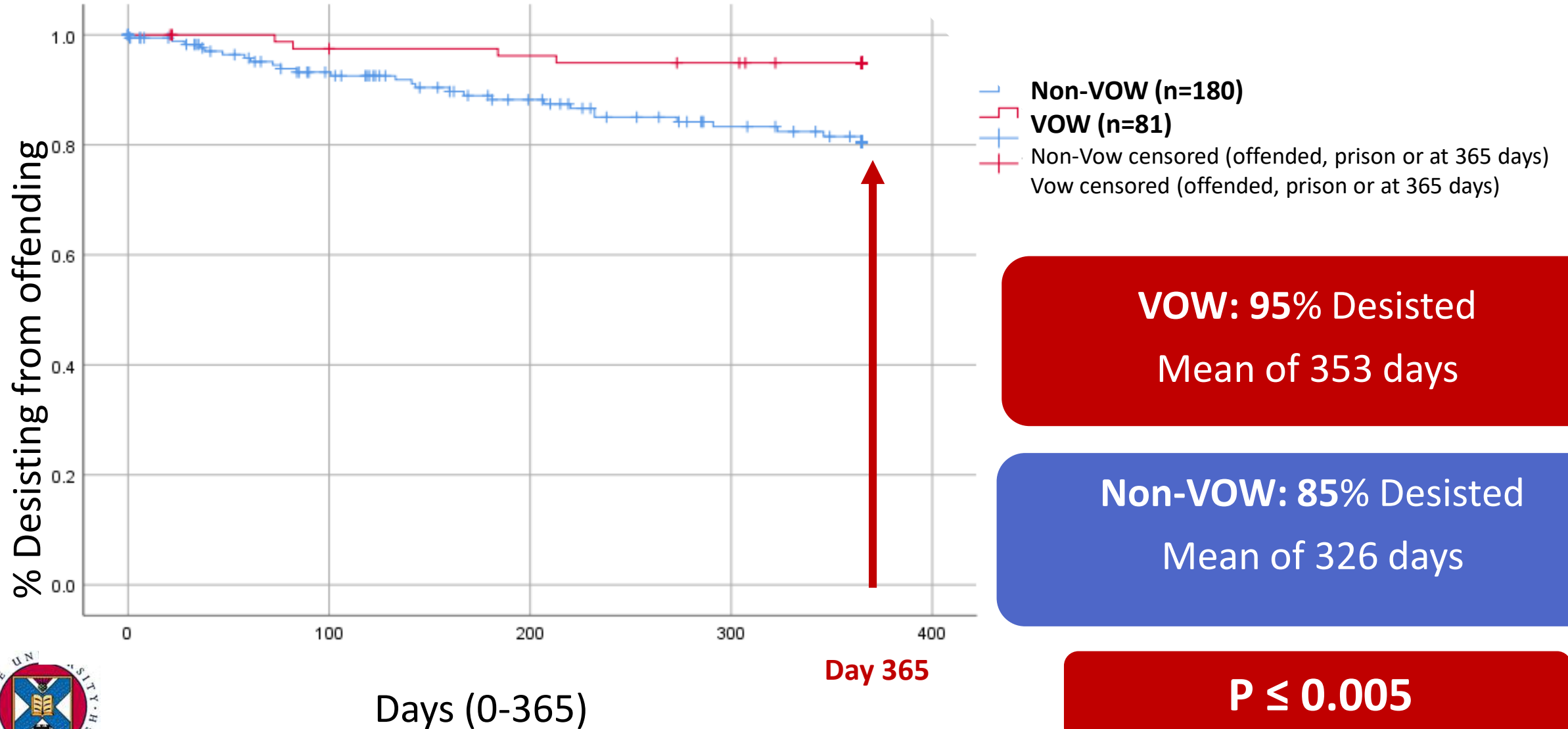
Non-VOW: 55% Desisted
Mean of 218 days

$P \leq 0.001$

Desistence from Violent offending at 12 months



Desistance from Malicious Mischief at 12 months



Crime category	Group	No. of rearrests	% rearrested	Est. M days to rearrest	Confidence Interval		Significance
Violent	Non-VOW	51	32.0	289.5	270.8	308.3	$\chi^2 (1, N = 261) = 7.65,$ p = .006**
	VOW	14	17.3	331.1	312.6	349.6	
Sexual	Non-VOW	2	1.1	363.0	359.2	366.7	$\chi^2 (1, N = 261) = .02,$ p = .88
	VOW	1	1.2	363.3	340.0	366.6	
Dishonest	Non-VOW	82	45.5	217.7	194.2	241.3	$\chi^2 (1, N = 261) = 18.70,$ p = <.001***
	VOW	17	20.9	304.1	277.7	330.6	
Malicious Mischief	Non-VOW	27	15	326.1	311.2	341.0	$\chi^2 (1, N = 261) = 7.95,$ p = .005**
	VOW	4	4.9	353.5	342.0	365.0	
Other	Non-VOW	89	49.4	213.3	190.1	236.6	$\chi^2 (1, N = 261) = 11.96,$ p = .001**
	VOW	27	33.3	279.4	251.1	308.0	
Miscellaneous	Non-VOW	57	31.6	271.5	251.0	291.9	$\chi^2 (1, N = 261) = 2.25,$ p = .13
	VOW	23	28.3	299.6	274.3	324.8	
Driving	Non-VOW	32	17.7	312.1	295.0	329.2	$\chi^2 (1, N = 261) = 2.75,$ p = .097
	VOW	10	12.3	336.0	317.3	355.0	

Is VOW
cost
effective?

27 months before VOW...

3 x Assault & Robbery	£25,209.00
5 x Theft by Housebreaking	£17,705.00
1 x Theft by Shoplifting	£127.00
5 x Theft (other)	£3,655.00
1 x Section 38 SG(S)A	£2,072.00
4 x other crimes	£8,288.00
Legal Aid	£16,825.00
Probation	£1,613.00
Police Custody (overnight)	£2,310.00
10 days on remand (HMP)	£908.30

Total: £175,372.30

27 months with VOW...

1 x Theft by shoplifting	£127.00
5 X Court Appearances	£10,740.00
Legal Aid	£1,284.00
Police Custody (Overnight)	£385.00
30 days on remand (HMP)	£1,925.00

Total: £17,332.90

Total Saving:
£158,039.40

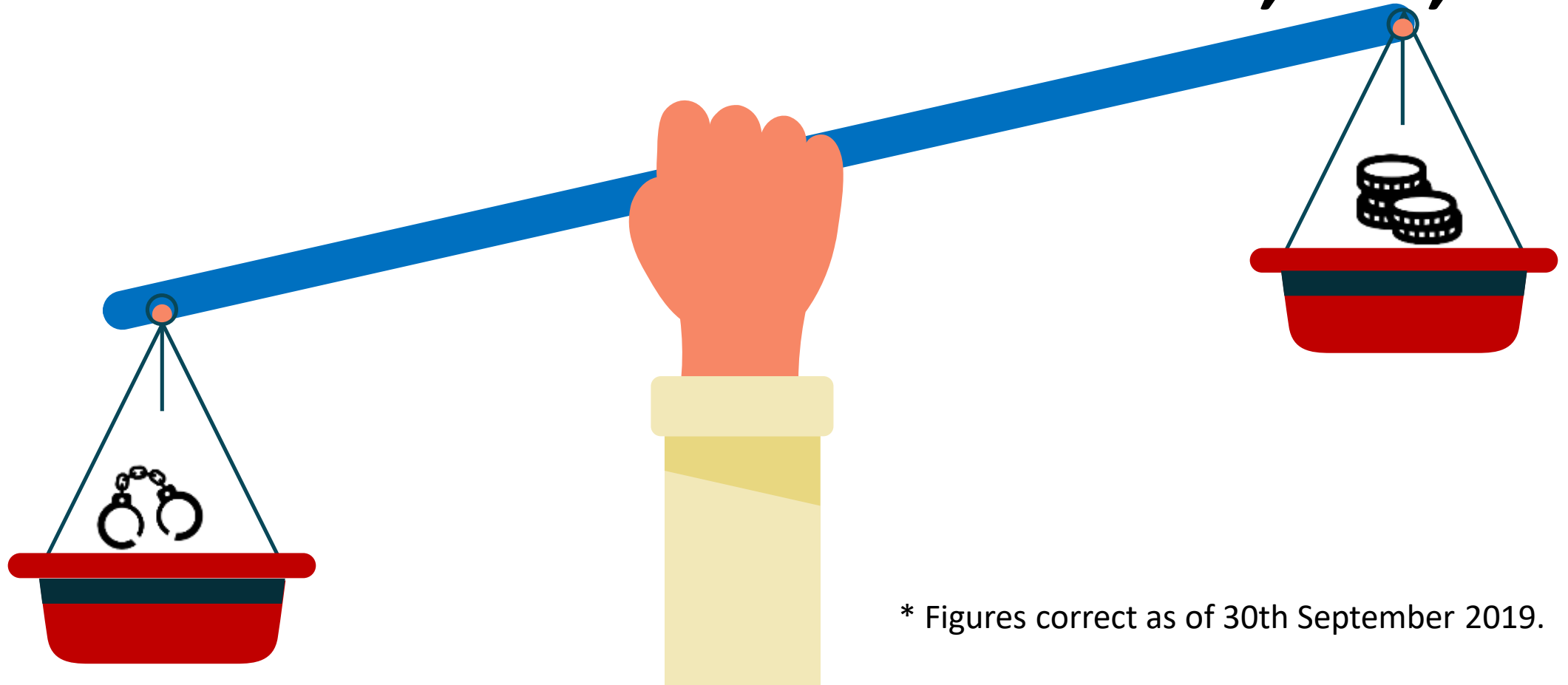
The Bottom Line

Average Reduction in Offending

78%

Saving

£8,215,000.



* Figures correct as of 30th September 2019.

With thanks to:

- Matt Richards, Stuart Killick, Jamie Ellis, Kevin Miller, Stevie Neill, Lyndsay Barr, Graham MacGillivray, Stevie Sutherland, Carlyn Simpson, Mhairi Creanor, Claire Masterton, Janie Harman and Kenny MacDonald & Sean Scott.
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Do feel free to get in touch!

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