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Presentation title: Recidivism after release from open prison

The aim of the correctional system is to enable the prisoners to lead a socially responsible life without further criminal offenses and to protect the general public. Open correctional system – in contrast to closed prison – is more adapted to life outside prison through a greater degree of freedom and offers prisoners increased opportunities to maintain social ties or pursue work. So far, there are only very few empirical studies that have investigated the recidivism rates of those released from open prisons. These results show that people released from open prisons recidivate to a lesser extent compared to prisoners from closed prisons. However, previous studies compared very different groups of inmates, since only those prisoners who meet the special requirements of open correctional facilities could be analysed. Because of this selection effect, the observed effects cannot necessarily be attributed to the type of prison. Rather, it can be assumed that the better legal probation is at least partly caused by the selection of prisoners with a particularly positive prognosis or a low risk. The purpose of this study is to close the research gap and to examine the effect on the legal probation. To this end, comparable samples of juvenile and adult offenders from open and closed prison facilities (N=1,221) were compared by analyzing their files. Unlike previous studies, we controlled for characteristics of the individual prisoners (criminal history, type of offense, substance use, privileges of short leave) using propensity score matching, allowing us to gauge the actual effect of the prison type on recidivism. Using data from the German Federal Central Criminal Register enabled us to compare the recidivism rate, offense frequency, and offense severity of the different groups of prisoners after their release. Preliminary results are presented, as the study will not be completed until September 2022.