

# **Training, Implementing, and Evaluating Evidence-based Practice for Community Supervision**

James Bonta, Guy Bourgon, and Bill Small  
5<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Probation and Parole  
September 30, 2022



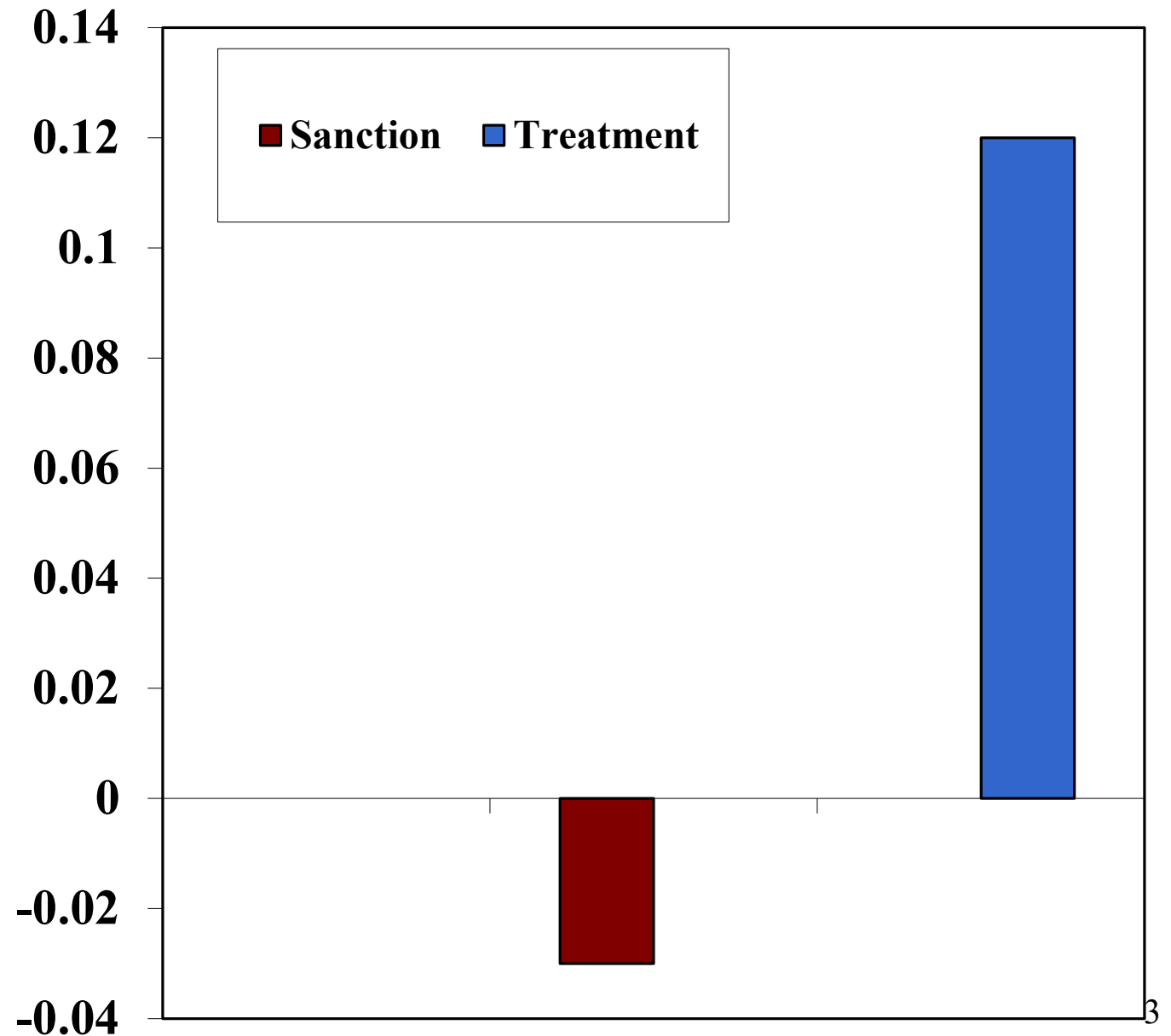
# Outline

- The RNR Model
- Testing a Staff Training Model (STICS)  
Community Supervision
- Large Scale Implementation

# Not All Interventions are Equal

Sanction:  
 $r = -.03$   
( $k = 101$ )

Treatment:  
 $r = +.12$   
( $k = 273$ )





# **The Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model of Rehabilitation**

**Why are some treatments more effective?**

# Risk Principle

## Treatment

Study	Risk	Minimal	Intensive
Bonta et al. (2000)	Low	15%	32%
	High	51%	32%

### Match treatment services to risk level

- minimal services to low risk
- as risk increases so does the need for more services

# Need Principle

Criminogenic

Noncriminogenic

Procriminal attitudes

Self-esteem

Criminal associates

Vague feelings of discomfort

Family affect/discipline

Physical training (boot camp)

Antisocial personality

Neighborhood improvements

Academic skills

Group cohesion

Work training *with job*

Increase ambition

**Recidivism** ↓

**No or Minimal Impact**

➤ **Target criminogenic needs**

# Responsivity Principle: Use Cognitive-Behavioural Treatment (CBT)

CBT

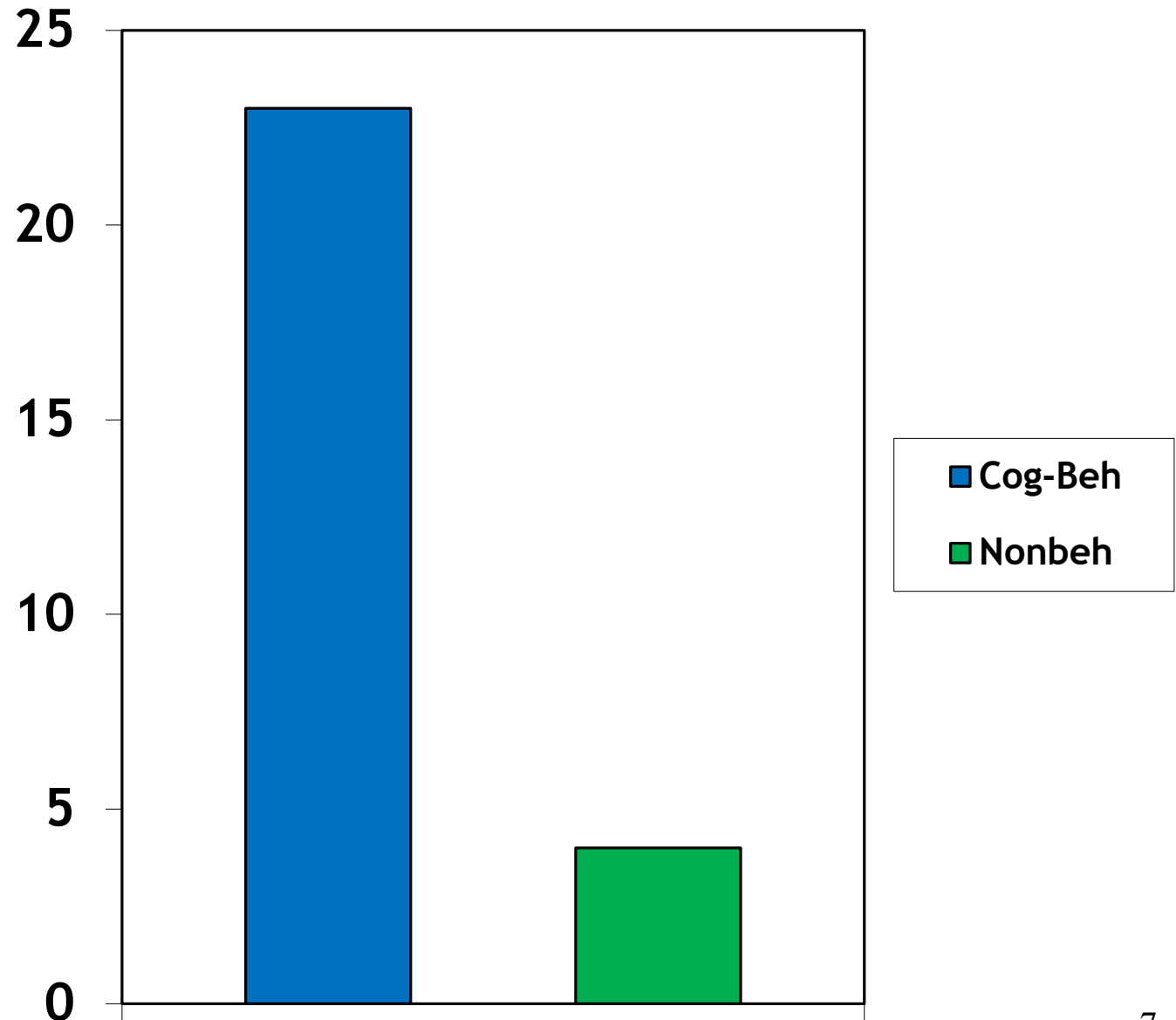
$$r = .23$$

( $k = 77$ )

Non-CBT

$$r = .04$$

( $k = 297$ )





# Summary of the RNR Model

## **Risk Principle (Who to treat)**

- the higher risk

## **Need Principle (What to treat)**

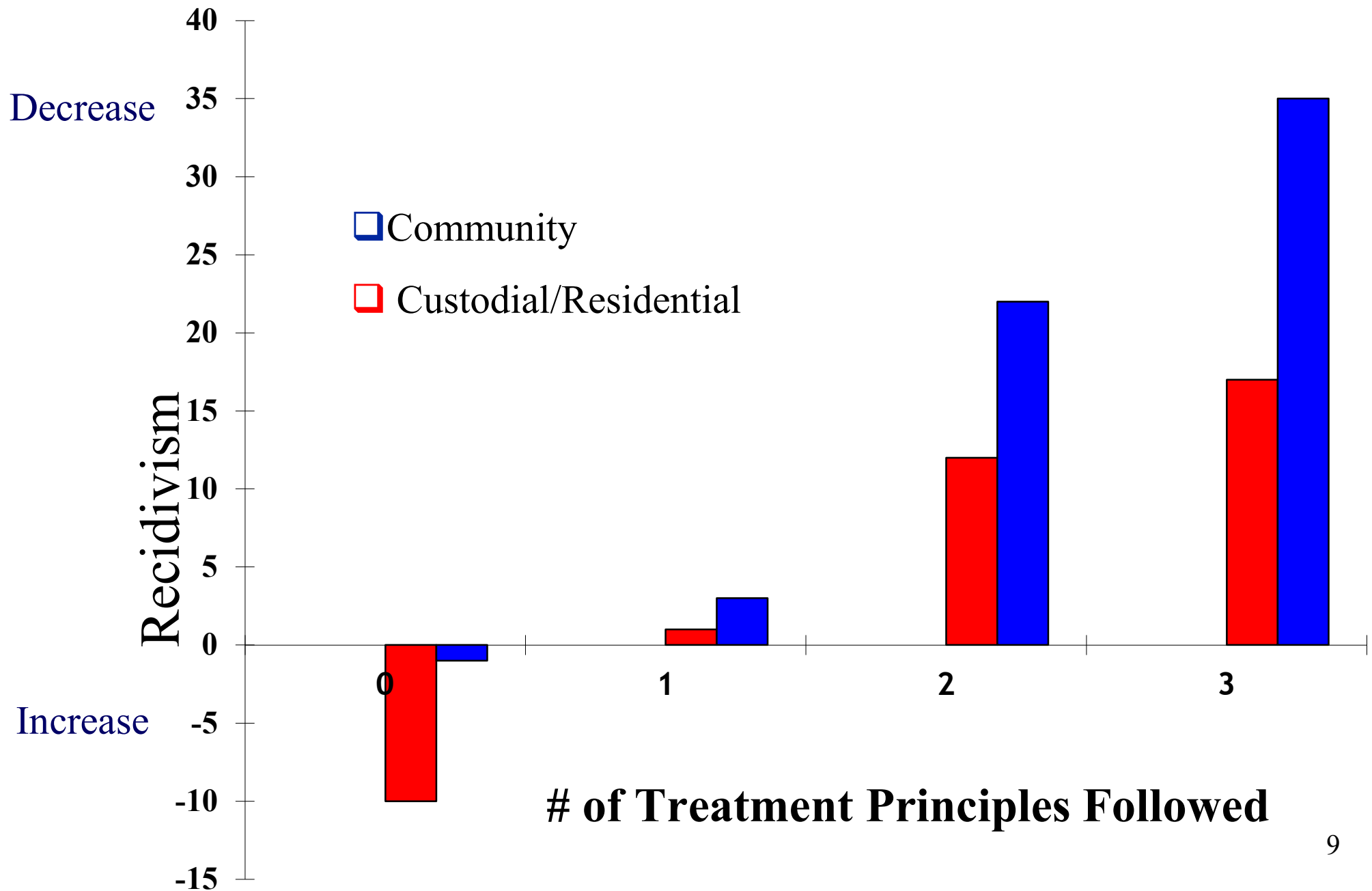
- target criminogenic needs

## **Responsivity Principle (How to treat)**

- use cognitive-behavioral interventions

(Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990)

# Evidence for RNR



# Treatment can Work – What about Community Supervision?

Outcome	$k$	$N$	$r$
General Recidivism	26	53,930	.02
Violent Recidivism	8	28,523	.00

$k$  = number of effect sizes

Bonta et al. (2008)

⇒ Community supervision appears to have a minimal impact on recidivism: **Why?**



# The Black Box of Community Supervision

## Do Probation Officers follow RNR?

a) Is level of intervention proportional to risk?

Modest adherence to risk principle

b) Does supervision target criminogenic needs?

Criminogenic needs not discussed in most cases

c) Are probation officers using cognitive-behavioral techniques?

Cognitive-behavioral techniques non-existent

---

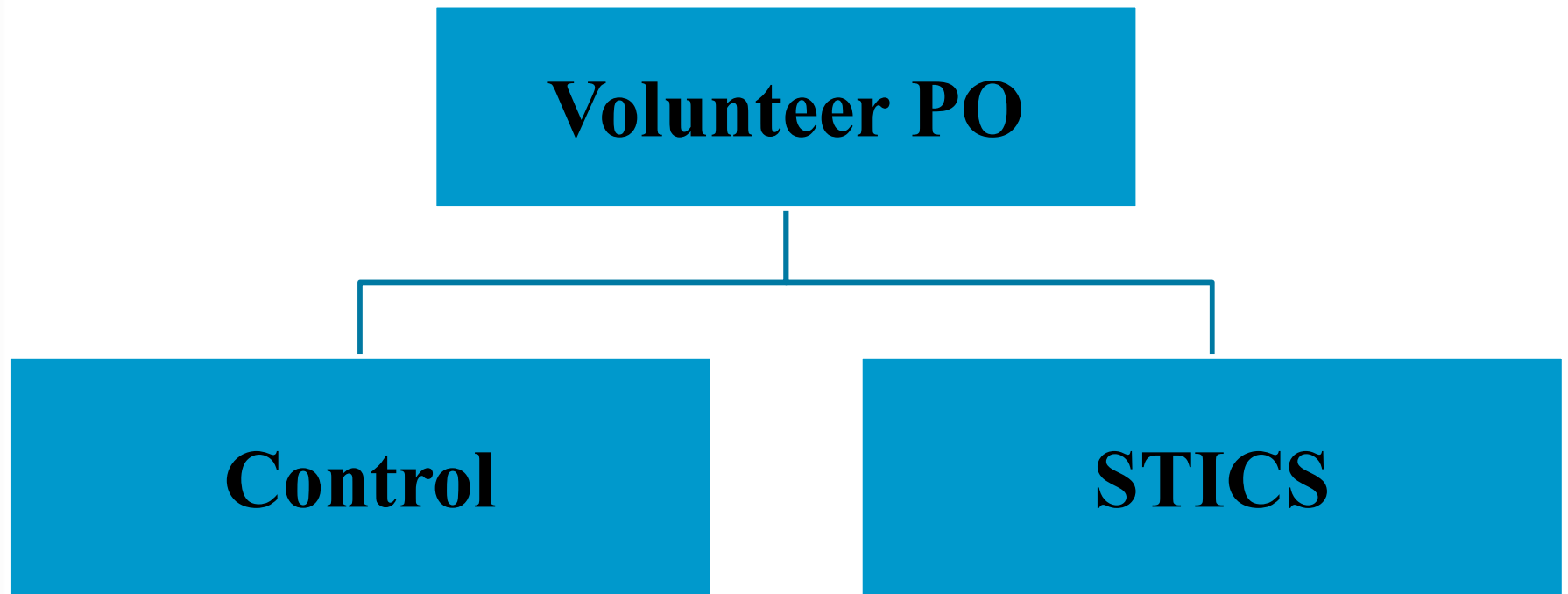
(Bonta et al., 2004, 2008)



# The Strategic Training Initiative in Community Supervision (STICS)

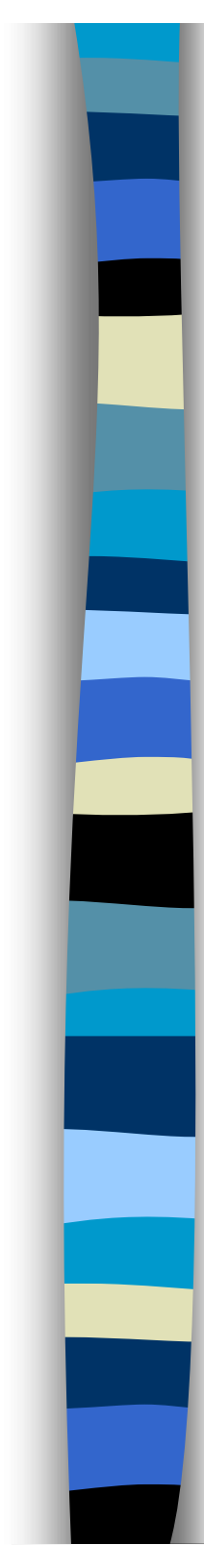
- Can we train adherence to RNR in one-on-one community supervision?
- Two Components:
  - 1. Three-four day training**
  - 2. Clinical Support**

# **STICS Evaluation: Randomized Control Trial**



# Results

## Discussion Content



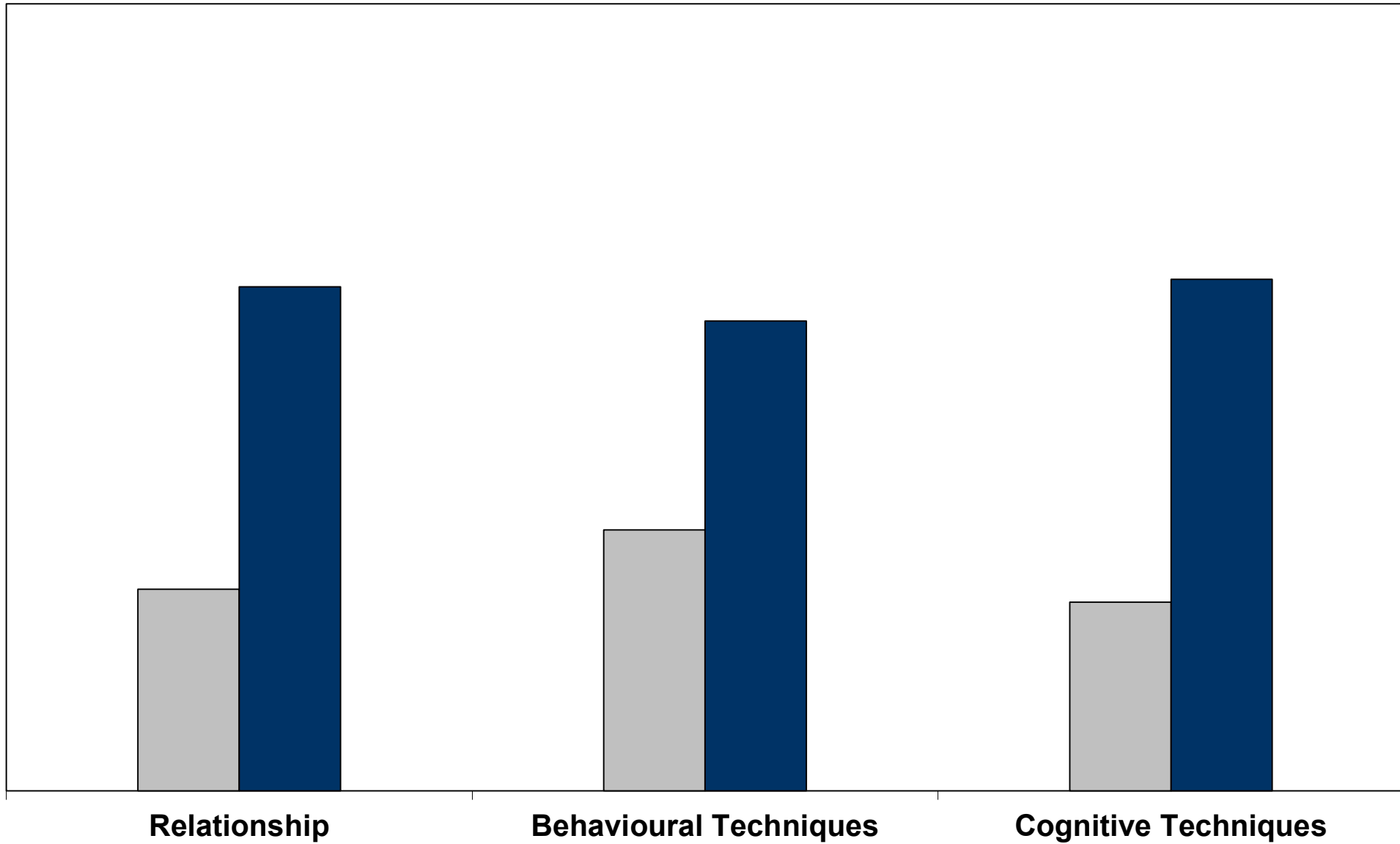
Variable	STICS ( <i>N</i> = 100)	Control ( <i>N</i> = 43)
Attitudes	45.2%	17.9%
Proportion of session on:		
Criminogenic needs	61.8%	45.1%
Noncriminogenic needs	39.0%	51.6%

# Results

## Officer Skills

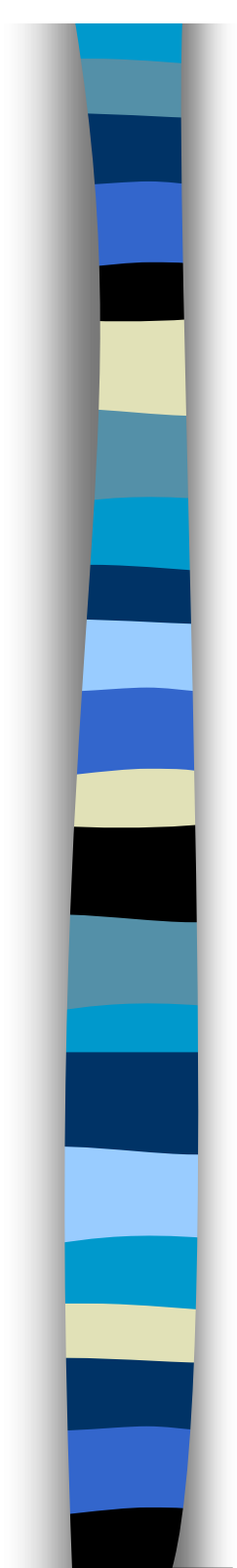
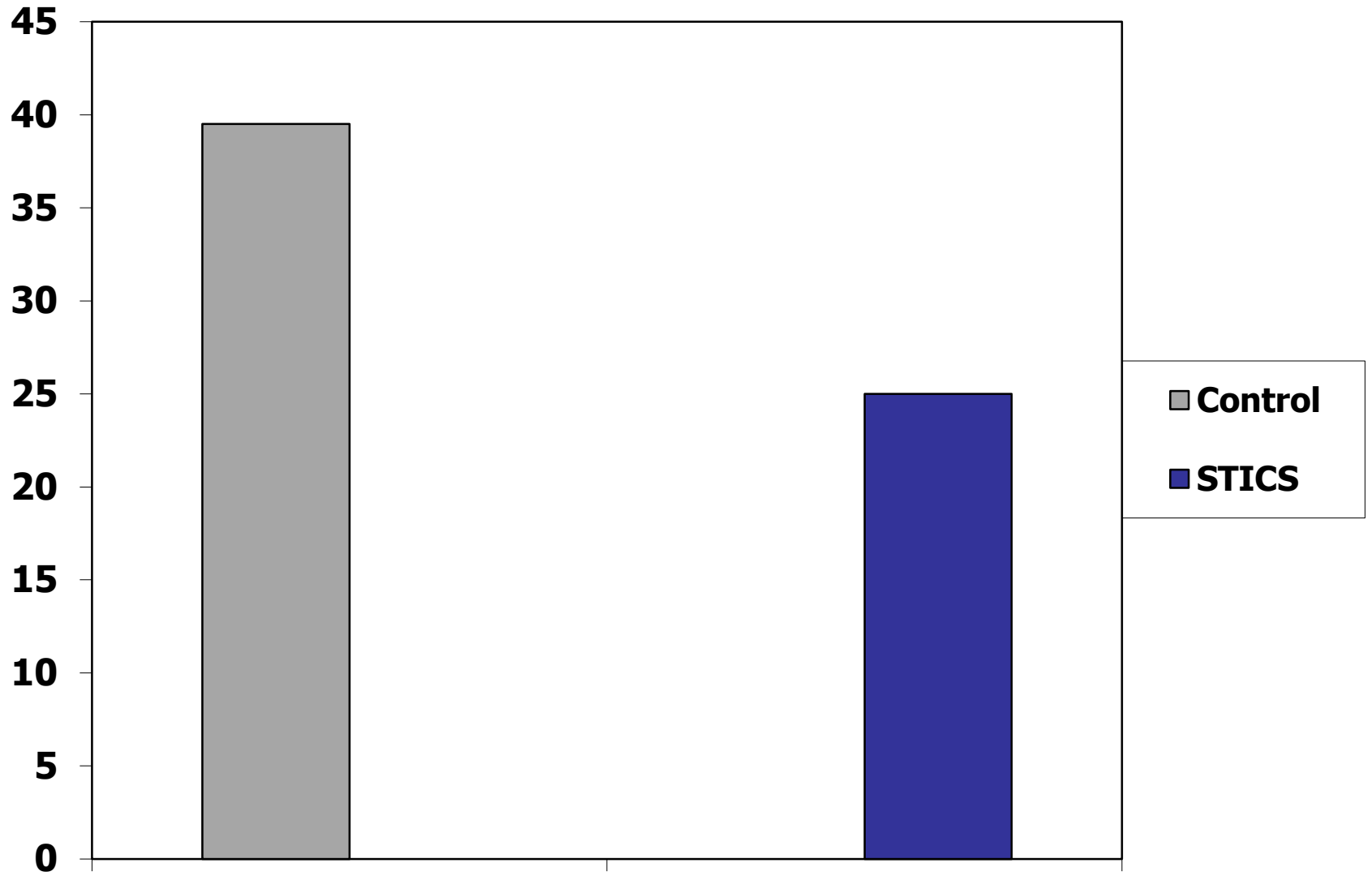
■ Control

■ STICS



# Results

## % Reconvicted



# Implementation in British Columbia (BC)

## Sept. 2011 to Feb. 2015



944,735 km<sup>2</sup>

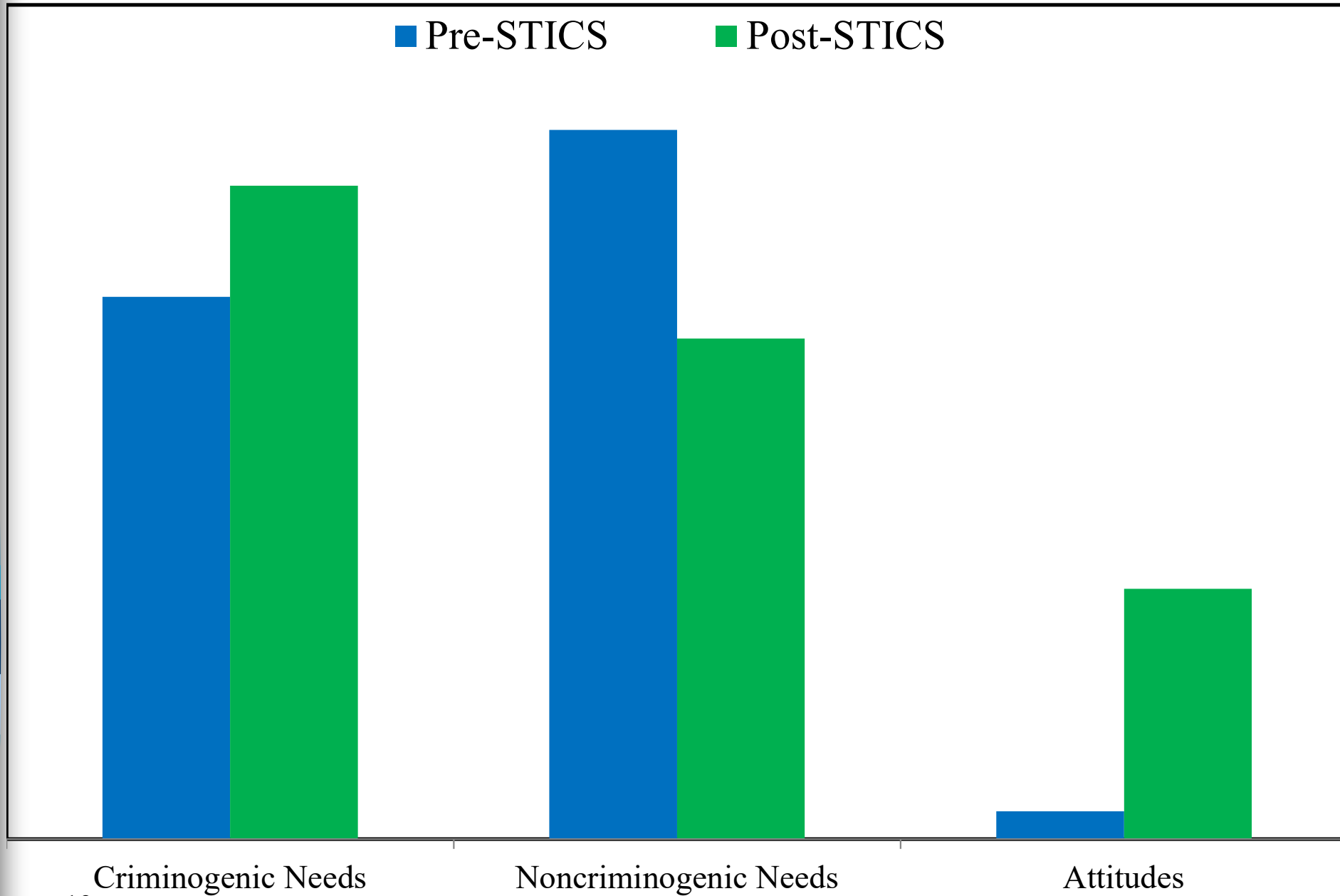
5.1 million

# How is Large Scale Implementation Different from Demonstration Projects?

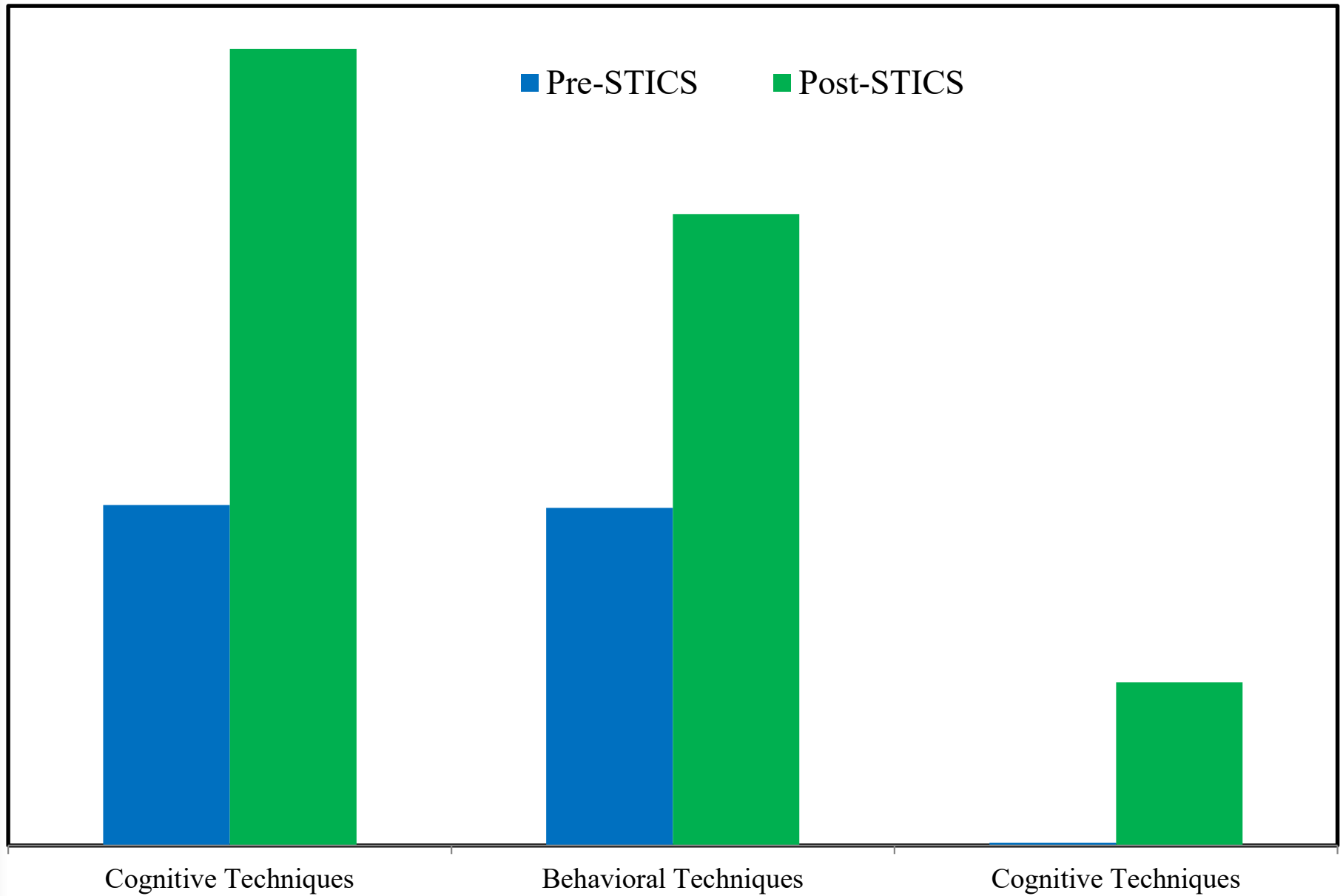


- Balancing operational needs with research goals; need to compromise
- Unwilling participants (non-volunteers)
- Demonstration  $N < 100$ ; easier to manage

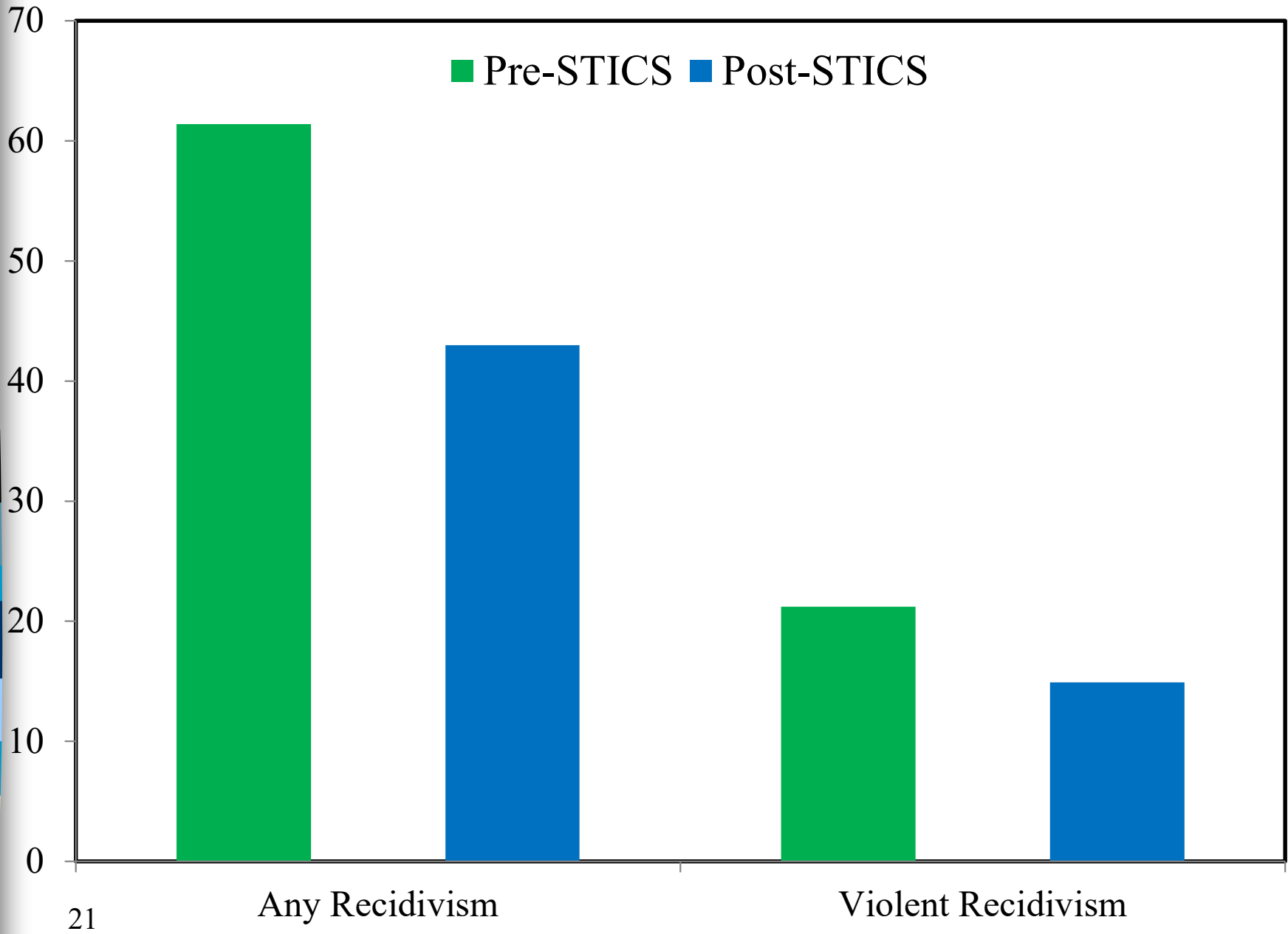
# Pre and Post STICS: Discussion Content



# Pre and Post STICS: Intervention Skills



# Recidivism (2-year)





# Summary

- Effectiveness is enhanced by following the RNR principles
- Training in RNR leads to reduced client recidivism
- This can be accomplished on a large scale
- Over to Guy...