Final Report/Project Summary

Evaluating the Impact of Probation and Parole Home Visits

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1 PROJECT PURPOSE

In 2014, Abt Associates began work on a grant from the National Institute of Justice to evaluate the effectiveness of home and field contacts in community supervision[1]. The study was designed to describe the varying practices of home and other field contacts in community supervision, to document their use nationwide, and to evaluate their effectiveness in maintaining public safety and promoting compliance with supervision requirements. Abt's research is designed to address the gap in our understanding of home and field contacts as part of community supervision.

Community supervision agencies are tasked with maintaining public safety while intervening with offenders to address significant cognitive, substance use, and social needs—all with ever diminishing resources. Field work, long a cornerstone of corrective intervention in probation and parole (Lindner & Bonn, 1996; Ohlin, 1956), uses many of those limited resources, yet the effectiveness of field contacts in achieving community supervision's primary public safety mission is unknown. This may be because field contacts are difficult to study effectively. The interactions between offenders and officers are likely the most important factor in determining the corrective or controlling value of a home visit, and such interactions are challenging to observe and evaluate. Furthermore, field contacts do not occur in a vacuum. They are part of a constellation of supervision practices that are applied according to offender risk of recidivism and need for intervention. Studying a single component of this package of practices is difficult to do with rigor. The gap in research on field contact effectiveness means policymakers face great uncertainty when they try to weigh the benefits against costs such as officer stress, safety, and staffing resources.

[1] This project was supported by National Institute of Justice grant number 2013-IJ-CX-0103. Findings, interpretations, and conclusions are those of the authors and do not represent those of the NIJ or Abt Associates. Errors occurring in this report are the responsibility of the Abt Associates project team and report authors. We wish to thank the NIJ Project Officer for this study, Eric Martin, for thoughtful guidance throughout the study. We would also like to thank, in Ohio: Steve VanDyne, Katrina Ransom, Brian Martin, and the rest of the Ohio APA staff; and in Minnesota: Ron Solheid, Al Godfrey, Deb Kerschner, Amy Chavez, Randy Tenge, Dylan Warkentin, Corey Kohan, Corey Hazelton, Leah Bower, Deb Anderson, Paula Thielen, Sherry Hill and the rest of the staff from Minnesota DOC, Chisago County Probation, Anoka County Community Corrections, and Ramsey County Community Corrections, for their participation in and assistance with this study.

Field work in probation and parole was part of the institutions' original conception as a rehabilitative tool in the mid-19th century (Petersilia, 2003; Peterson, 1973). Although the ideal model of community supervision has oscillated between correction and control over the years (Patten, La Rue, Caudill, Thomas & Messer, 2016; Ahlin, Antunes & Tubman-Carbone, 2013; Skeem & Manchak, 2008), field work has remained constant, perhaps because of its practical purposes: to check on living situations, ensure compliance with supervision conditions, verify employment, make contact with family members or other social supports (Alarid, 2015).

The lack of research on home and field visits as a component of community supervision is not unique: the efficacy of all types of supervision contacts, whether in the office or the field, is not well understood. Some behavioral interventions also called core correctional practices (CCPS) often delivered during supervision contacts have been demonstrated to be effective (Dowden & Andrews, 2004) when appropriately targeted based on their risk of reoffending (Lowenkamp, 2006). Home visits in particular present opportunities to intervene with offenders using cognitive behavioral supervision techniques that are shown to be effective in correctional settings (MacKenzie, 2013) but it is unclear whether many officers take advantage of these intervention opportunities. Correctional programming in the risk-need-responsivity (RNR) framework calls for effective interventions targeted at risk factors such as substance abuse, mental health, housing needs, lack of employment (based on skills, education or motivation). The research is clear that behavioral interventions (for example, positive role modeling, problem solving, and identifying criminogenic behaviors) are effective (Gaes, Flanagan, Motiuk, & Stewart, 1999; MacKenzie, 2013), but research has not demonstrated whether delivery setting influences effectiveness.

Consequently, practitioners have little evidence of whether or how many field contacts or home visits improve outcomes—let alone whether evidence-based supervision strategies can improve outcomes when delivered in conjunction with these visits. Despite this lack of research, many risk-needs assessment and case management guidelines recommend frequent home visits for the highest-risk offenders under community supervision. This is in part because field contacts do not have a standard definition as a stand-alone practice. Demonstrating the effectiveness of home and field contacts is impossible without a

discrete definition of what constitutes such contacts. Furthermore, the way community supervision operates in a jurisdiction is likely to influence how a home visit is conducted. For example, the extent of officers' ability to respond to observed supervision violations or criminogenic conditions on a home visit varies according to state laws or district-level policy. A probation officer might be an armed, sworn officer of the peace, an unarmed sworn peace officer, or an unarmed officer with no arrest powers. Line officers may perform home visits with a police escort, or conduct visits independently or in teams. Home visits might include an assessment of the conditions of a probationer's living situation and circumstances, a discussion about the probationer's supervision plan, or even the chance to initiate pro-social contacts with a probationer's support network. Visits might be scheduled or unscheduled, and might require multiple attempts before a successful visit is made.

1.1 Research Questions

Given what is known as well as the gaps in the extant literature, the primary research questions for this study are:

- What are the varying practices of home and other field visits in community supervision?
- What is their effectiveness in maintaining public safety and promoting compliance with supervision requirements?

To answer these primary questions, additional research questions were explored using a variety of methods, described in the following sections:

1. What is the effect of one or more field contacts on recidivism for all offenders?
2. How does the effect of one or more field contacts vary by initial risk level?
3. What is the effect of two or more field contacts per year on recidivism for all offenders?
4. How does the effect of two or more field contacts vary by initial risk level?
5. What is the effect of one or more field contacts on number of violations?
6. Does the effect of field contacts on recidivism and number of violations vary by supervision type?
7. Who receives field contacts and how often do they receive them?

8. Where do field contacts occur?
9. What occurs during a field contact?
10. What are the goals or purpose of field contacts?
11. What is the perceived effectiveness of field contacts?
12. Do different forms of contact impact recidivism?
13. Does the specific type of collateral contact affect recidivism?
14. Do the actions conducted during a client contact affect recidivism?
15. For both collateral and client contacts, are actions by officers linked to recidivism across all their clients?

2 RESEARCH DESIGN, METHODS, AND ANALYSIS

To accomplish the research objectives, Abt partnered with the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) to conduct a nationwide survey of community supervision agencies at the federal, state, and local levels to better understand common practices in the execution of home visits. Abt also partnered with two sites—the Adult Parole Authority (APA) of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) and four counties representing the three types of community supervision service delivery agencies in Minnesota (Department of Corrections (DOC); Community Corrections Act (CCA); and County Probation Officer (CPO)—to implement three study components designed to understand and document home and field contact policies and practices:

1. A quantitative historical analysis of how supervision outcomes (e.g., successful completion of supervision; returns to prison) vary according to home and field contact practices within each agency (research questions 1-6);
2. A brief checklist officers completed after conducting a home/field contact to document the circumstances surrounding a contact and the activities conducted during that contact (research questions 7-15); and
3. A qualitative examination of how agency staff use home and field visits in the course of supervision, including interviews with agency directors and focus groups with officers (research questions 7-11).

2.1 Nationwide Survey

Towards documenting the varying practices of home visits nationwide, Abt – in partnership with the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) – developed and implemented an on-line survey of all 50 state departments of community correction, parole authorities, or parallel probation agencies. Abt's Client Technology Center implemented the survey in consultation with our subcontractor APPA, to collect information on probation and parole field work policies and practices including: states' supervision contact standards policies, firearms policy and practices, peace officer status of community

supervision officers, and whether community supervision officers conduct field visits with escorts from other law enforcement agencies.

2.2 Quantitative Historical Analysis of Administrative Data

The quantitative historical analysis of administrative data was designed to answer research questions 1-6:

1. What is the effect of one or more field contacts on recidivism for all offenders?
2. How does the effect of one or more field contacts vary by initial risk level?
3. What is the effect of two or more field contacts per year on recidivism for all offenders?
4. How does the effect of two or more field contacts vary by initial risk level?
5. What is the effect of one or more field contacts on number of violations?
6. Does the effect of field contacts on recidivism and number of violations vary by supervision type?

To answer these questions, the study team used regression modeling and matching methods to control for observable differences between regions/counties and individuals to ensure we are comparing outcomes among similar individuals from similar locations. Specifically, coarsened exact matching was used in both sites. While the specific matching variables that were used varied by site, individuals were matched on demographic characteristics (e.g., gender, race, age), criminal history variables (e.g., most recent offense type, prior sentences), the year supervision started, and the county in which supervision occurred. This matching exercise resulted in notable reductions to multivariate and univariate measures of imbalance across all variables. Numerous sensitivity analyses were conducted, including the use of different matching variables (e.g., matching on agent in MN); different specifications for variables (e.g., including agents as fixed as opposed to random effects in MN); different regression models (e.g., including fully parametric survival models); and different matching strategies (CEM with k-to-k matching OH and inverse-probability weighted regression adjustment in MN).

Two forms of recidivism were examined in Ohio: 1) sentences for new crimes and 2) all recidivism (new crimes plus technical violations). In Minnesota, the form of recidivism varied across the four

agencies within our study, but generally captured some form of a new incarceration. In some Minnesota counties we were also able to measure the number of supervision violations that occur within a supervision term as an additional outcome. To assess recidivism in both sites, we used two modeling techniques: 1) logistic regression models and 2) cox proportional hazards regression models. In Minnesota, we also used count-based regression models in order to assess the impact of field visits on the number of violations recorded during a supervision term.

2.2.1 Ohio

In Ohio, the data were provided by the Ohio Adult Parole Authority (APA), the agency responsible for the supervision of individuals on post-release community supervision following their release from an Ohio prison. Post-release community supervision in Ohio involves supervising either parolees or individuals on post release control (PRC), a byproduct of truth in sentencing legislation (indeterminate and determinate sentencing, respectively). The analysis is limited adults on parole or PRC who were released from prison in 2011, 2012, 2013, or 2014, for an initial sample of 25,924 supervisees. We follow each individual for a period of two years following their release.

2.2.2 Minnesota

In Minnesota (MN), offenders are assigned to a supervision agency based on geographic location, rather than risk level, and supervision practices vary within and between supervision delivery systems across the state. Data for these analyses were provided by four counties representing each of the service delivery systems: Ramsey County Community Corrections (a CCA county); Benton County Department of Correction (a DOC county); Anoka County Community Corrections (a CCA county); Chisago CPO/DOC (a hybrid CPO/DOC county). While the supervision population varies by agency, we investigate both probation and supervised release cases in each agency because individuals within MN may be and often are simultaneously being supervised for both probation and supervised release cases. We limit our sample to only those supervision types eligible for field contacts, and eliminate all cases transferred in from other locations (states or counties) as we are unable to account for supervision standards in the previous location. We also eliminate all cases on a few types of more intensive

supervision programs, specifically, Intensive Supervised Release (ISR), Intensive Supervision Program (ISP), Conditional Release Program (CRP), and Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP). These individuals are supervised under highly strict circumstances, receive a much higher rate of agent contacts than other populations, and are qualitatively distinct from other populations (either significantly riskier, or significantly less risky), making it difficult to isolate the effect of field contacts within these populations. Finally, while we received misdemeanant data for Chisago County, this data did not include information of other contact types (e.g., office, phone, collateral). As this is crucial to our identification strategy, we did not use Chisago misdemeanant data in our analyses. As a sensitivity analyses, we included Chisago misdemeanant data, and found that it did not substantively change the findings.

2.3 Home and Field Contact Checklists

In each site (i.e., Ohio and Minnesota), officers completed a one-page checklist after each actual or attempted home or field contact with offenders that they supervise over a two month period. The checklist was designed to address research questions 7-11:

7. Who receives field contacts and how often do they receive them?
8. Where do field contacts occur?
9. What occurs during a field contact?
10. What are the goals or purpose of field contacts?
11. What is the perceived effectiveness of field contacts?

The categories and language on the checklist were adapted to each participating site. In Ohio, hard copies of the completed checklists were mailed to Abt for data entry. In Minnesota, completed checklists were scanned and securely transferred to Abt for data entry.

2.4 Agency Director Interviews and Officer Focus Groups

Also to address research questions 7-11, the study team conducted interviews with agency directors and focus groups with officers/supervisors in each of the sites.

2.4.1 Officer/Supervisor Focus Groups

Focus groups were used to understand what officers believe to be the goal of home and field contacts, and what activities they do during home and field contacts to achieve those goals. The focus group guide included discussion items about the goals of home and field contacts, components/activities of home and field contacts, locations of home and field contacts, interactions that take place during home and field contacts, and how officers think the community perceives them during home and field contacts. In Ohio, focus groups were conducted in four of the six APA regions for a total of 20 officer/supervisor focus groups. In Minnesota, focus groups were conducted in each county, and 10 officer focus groups were conducted in total. In both Ohio and Minnesota, the number of focus groups per county depended on the number of officers in each office and ranged from one focus group to three per county. The focus groups lasted approximately one hour, on average. Notes taken during the focus groups served as the data for this component of the study.

2.4.2 Agency Director Interviews

In Ohio, we conducted one semi-structured interview with each regional director of four of the six APA regions, and in Minnesota, we interviewed the agency director from each participating county. These interviews were intended to complement the officer/supervisor focus groups and focused on the goal of home and field contacts from an agency/policy perspective. The interviews lasted approximately 30 minutes, on average. Notes taken during the interviews served as the data for this component of the study.

3 KEY FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

Despite long being a cornerstone of surveillance and corrective intervention in probation and parole (Lindner & Bonn, 1996; Ohlin, 1956), field work remains an understudied aspect of community corrections. Yet, field work accounts for a significant proportion of community corrections resources, and has been shown to be a primary source of stress for line officers (Finn & Kuck, 2003). While conducting probation and parole contacts in the field can be a way for officers to extend community supervision beyond the walls of government buildings and interact with the community they serve, such work is also resource-intensive and can expose officers to harm. Moreover, the application of home and field contacts varies across agencies, and the catch-all term includes widely divergent policies and practices that reflect differing goals and expected outcomes for field work (Campbell, Swan, and Jalbert, 2017). This variation in what constitutes field work has, in part, resulted in very few rigorous studies of the impact of field contacts on criminal justice outcomes. The gap in research on field contact effectiveness means policymakers face great uncertainty when they try to weigh the potential benefits of field work against costs such as officer stress and, safety, and the impact on staffing resources. The findings from this study will inform policymakers on the risks and benefits of field work, and inform avenues for future research.

3.1 Nationwide Survey

The team received 301 responses from 181 local level and 120 state level agencies. All fifty states are represented in the sample. Agencies that supervise offenders are organized differently in each state. In some states, policies may vary by region or district, where others are centralized at the state level. To get a complete picture of the variation in each state and regions within the state, responses from state-level agencies as well as regional or district executives are included. Efforts have been made to present data that represents the breadth of policies within each jurisdiction rather than restrict responses to only the highest level respondent. Sub-sections 3.1.1 through 3.1.6 present some of the key findings from the survey.

3.1.1 Supervision Standards

- 70% of agencies have contact standards that determine whether a supervisee receives a home visit
- For 81% of agencies, risk level is the most important factor in determining whether to conduct a home visit

3.1.2 Where Field Visits Occur

- Most agencies conduct field visits at: the offender's home (95%), place of employment (89%), jail or prison (82%), and shelters/group residences (81%)

3.1.3 Officer Training Background

- 90% of agencies train officers in awareness of surroundings and exit alternatives
- 59% of agencies train officers in crisis management techniques

3.1.4 3.1.4 Use of Law Enforcement Escorts

- 38% of agencies reported *usually* conducting field visits in pairs or teams
- Most agencies (79%) reported that officers *sometimes* conduct field visits with a law enforcement escort

3.1.5 Firearms and Weaponry

- About half of agencies report that officers never carry firearms or sidearms to field visits
- 91% of agencies report that officers always, usually, or sometimes carry non-lethal weaponry to field visits

3.1.6 Equipment

- 34% of agencies report that officers never wear body armor, 31% report that officers always wear body armor
- Nearly all (93%) of agencies reported that officers sometimes, usually, or always use personal vehicles for conducting field visits

3.2 Historical Analyses

Distinct historical analyses were conducted in both Ohio and Minnesota to account for the uniqueness of each site. Results from the analysis of Ohio's data are presented first, followed by the results from analyses of Minnesota's data.

3.2.1 Ohio

Table 1 presents results of our analysis to assess the impact of field contacts on all forms of recidivism and criminal recidivism (RQ1), and how these effects vary by risk level (RQ3):

- Having at least one successful field contact is associated with reductions in recidivism.
- Individuals receiving at least one field contact had a 47% reduction in the odds of any recidivism over a two-year period, and were 54% less likely to recidivate at any point in time (Table 1, columns 1 and 5).
- For criminal recidivism specifically, the reductions in the odds and relative hazard of recidivism are similar (Table 1, columns 3 and 7).
- The effect of receiving a successful field contact on any recidivism (Table 1, columns 2 and 6) is far less substantial for low risk individuals than for very high/high risk individuals.
- Differences between moderate risk offenders and high/very high risk offenders are only significant in the case of hazard for criminal recidivism (Table 1, column 8).

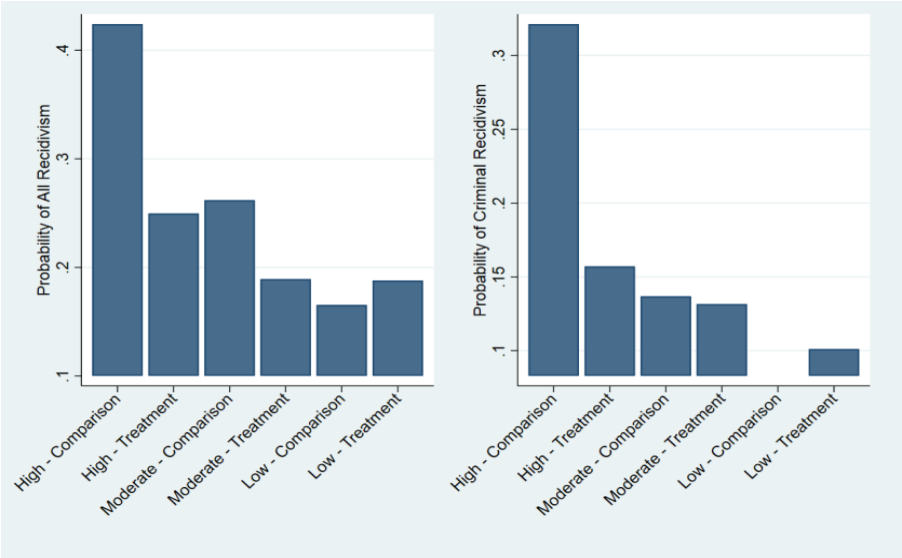
Table 1. Effect of Any Fields Contacts on Recidivism

	Logit Models Odds Ratio (SE)				Cox Proportional Hazard Models Relative Hazard (SE)			
(n=2,573)	Any Recidivism		Criminal Recidivism		Any Recidivism		Criminal Recidivism	
Field Contacts	0.53 (0.08)***	0.41 (0.08)***	0.56 (0.09)***	0.37 (0.10)***	0.46 (0.04)***	0.38 (0.04)***	0.44 (0.05)***	0.31 (0.04)***
Risk Level1								
Moderate Risk	0.55 (0.08)***	0.44 (0.07)***	0.50 (0.10)**	0.32 (0.09)***	0.65 (0.07)***	0.56 (0.07)***	0.55 (0.07)***	0.36 (0.06)***
Low Risk	0.39 (0.12)**	0.23 (0.08)***	0.31 (0.11)**	0.18 (0.07)***	0.48 (0.08)***	0.30 (0.07)***	0.36 (0.08)***	0.19 (0.06)***
Field Contacts x Risk Level1								
Field Contacts x Moderate Risk		1.52 (0.34)+		2.56 (0.97)+		1.41 (0.25)		2.41 (0.55)***
Field Contacts x Low Risk		2.87 (0.84)***		3.36 (1.31)**		2.79 (0.84)**		4.21 (1.65)***

	Logit Models Odds Ratio (SE)				Cox Proportional Hazard Models Relative Hazard (SE)			
(n=2,573)	Any Recidivism		Criminal Recidivism		Any Recidivism		Criminal Recidivism	
Race/Ethnicity2								
Hispanic, Asian, or Native American	0.65 (0.20)	0.63 (0.20)	0.73 (0.33)	0.68 (0.34)	0.73 (0.22)	0.72 (0.22)	0.73 (0.28)	0.71 (0.27)
White	1.00 (0.14)	0.99 (0.14)	0.92 (0.15)	0.91 (0.16)	1.00 (0.11)	0.99 (0.11)	0.96 (0.14)	0.95 (0.13)
Married	0.92 (0.51)	0.91 (0.50)	0.71 (0.29)	0.72 (0.30)	0.30 (0.15)+	0.30 (0.15)+	0.24 (0.15)+	0.24 (0.15)+
High School/GED Graduate	0.73 (0.07)***	0.73 (0.07)***	0.80 (0.09)	0.80 (0.09)	0.73 (0.06)***	0.73 (0.06)***	0.74 (0.08)**	0.75 (0.08)**
Age at Release	0.94 (0.01)***	0.94 (0.01)***	0.94 (0.01)***	0.94 (0.01)***	0.95 (0.01)***	0.95 (0.01)***	0.94 (0.01)***	0.94 (0.01)***
Offense Type3								
Property Crime	0.94 (0.13)	0.94 (0.13)	1.27 (0.15)+	1.28 (0.15)+	1.14 (0.13)	1.14 (0.13)	1.37 (0.19)+	1.39 (0.20)+
Drug Crime	0.48 (0.09)***	0.48 (0.09)***	0.58 (0.14)+	0.57 (0.14)+	0.73 (0.11)+	0.72 (0.11)+	0.79 (0.14)	0.77 (0.14)
Public Order Crime	0.44 (0.07)***	0.44 (0.07)***	0.54 (0.14)*	0.54 (0.14)+	0.70 (0.16)	0.70 (0.16)	0.66 (0.19)	0.68 (0.19)
Fewer than 4 Years in Prison	1.19 (0.33)	1.18 (0.33)	0.86 (0.23)	0.86 (0.23)	1.12 (0.20)	1.12 (0.20)	0.88 (0.18)	0.88 (0.18)
Total Sentence	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)
Prior Imprisonments4								
One Prior	1.49 (0.28)+	1.49 (0.28)+	1.12 (0.26)	1.12 (0.27)	1.23 (0.18)	1.21 (0.18)	1.05 (0.21)	1.03 (0.20)
Two or More Priors	2.47 (0.62)***	2.50 (0.62)***	2.95 (0.67)***	3.04 (0.68)***	2.32 (0.38)***	2.33 (0.38)***	2.89 (0.57)***	2.93 (0.57)***
Release Year5								
2012	0.85 (0.13)	0.86 (0.13)	0.74 (0.15)	0.74 (0.15)	1.00 (0.21)	1.04 (0.22)	0.89 (0.22)	0.96 (0.24)
2013	1.02 (0.16)	1.02 (0.16)	0.77 (0.18)	0.78 (0.18)	1.16 (0.24)	1.20 (0.25)	0.95 (0.23)	1.01 (0.25)
2014	1.56 (0.23)**	1.58 (0.22)**	0.95 (0.22)	0.96 (0.21)	1.44 (0.30)	1.50 (0.32)	1.08 (0.26)	1.15 (0.29)
Office Contacts per Year	0.97 (0.01)**	0.97 (0.01)**	0.96 (0.02)+	0.96 (0.12)+	1.02 (0.01)	1.01 (0.01)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.01)
Collateral Contacts per Year	1.07 (0.01)***	1.07 (0.01)***	1.02 (0.01)	1.02 (0.01)	1.06 (0.00)***	1.06 (0.00)***	1.05 (0.01)***	1.05 (0.01)***
Phone Contacts per Year	1.00 (0.01)	1.00 (0.65)	0.99 (0.01)	0.99 (0.01)	1.01 (0.01)	1.00 (0.01)	1.00 (0.01)	1.00 (0.01)
No Contact Field Visits per Year	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.01 (0.00)*	1.01 (0.00)**	0.99 (0.00)**	0.99 (0.00)**	0.99 (0.00)	0.99 (0.00)

+p<.05; * p<.0125; ** p<.01;*** p<.001
Reference categories are: 1very/high risk; 2 black; 3 violent crime; 4 no prior imprisonments; 52011

Figure 1. Probability of Recidivism for Any Contacts



- There is a notable drop in the probability of any recidivism for high-risk individuals who receive a home or field contact (Figure 1).
- For moderate risk individuals, there is a less substantial drop the probability of recidivism (Figure 1).
- For low risk individuals, there actually appears to be a slight increase in the probability of recidivism associated with receipt of any successful field contact (Figure 1).

Figure 2. Survival Curves or All Recidivism, Treatment= Any Contacts

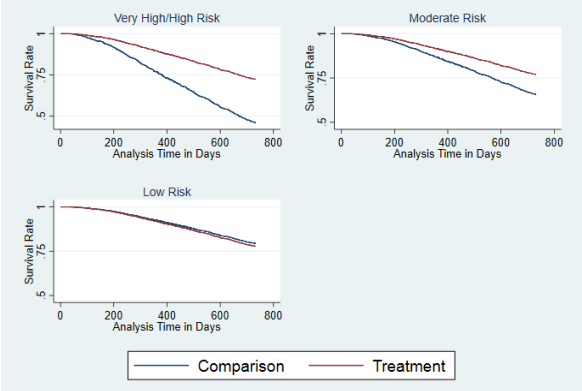
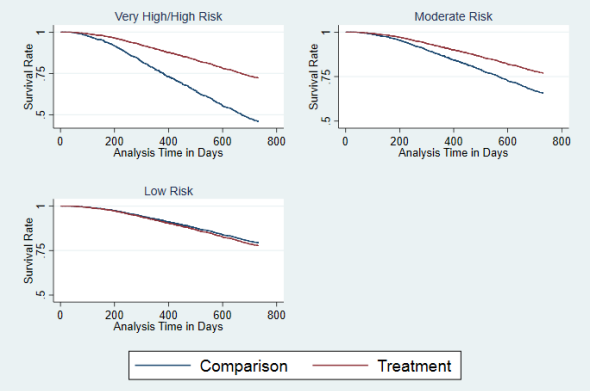


Figure 3. Survival Curves or Criminal Recidivism, Treatment= Any Contacts



- For very high/high risk individuals, there is a substantial difference in survival rates over time and across supervision levels, with individuals who receive field contacts possessing a consistently longer time until recidivism (Figures 2 and 3).
- For moderate risk clients, there is a smaller but still noticeable distinction (Figures 2 and 3).
- For low risk clients there appears to be no discernable difference in survival rate between individuals who receive a successful field contact and those who do not (Figures 2 and 3).

The next set of analyses, the results of which are presented in Table 2, examines the effect of multiple field contacts per year on recidivism (RQs 2 and 4).

- Two or more successful field contacts per year is, on average, associated with reductions in any recidivism when compared to receiving fewer than two successful field contacts per year (Table 2, columns 1, 3, 5, and 7).
- Receipt of multiple successful field contacts is less effective for low risk individuals than for very high/high risk individuals (Table 2, columns 2, 4, 6, and 8).
- There is not a statistically significant difference in the relationship between multiple field contacts and recidivism for moderate and very high/high risk individuals (Table 2, columns 2, 4, 6, and 8).

Table 2. Effect of Multiple Annual Fields Contacts on Recidivism

	Logit Models Odds Ratio (SE)				Cox Proportional Hazard Models Relative Hazard (SE)			
(n=2,517)	Any Recidivism		Criminal Recidivism		Any Recidivism		Criminal Recidivism	
Field Contacts	0.64 (0.08)***	0.55 (0.09)***	0.65 (0.08)***	0.57 (0.08)***	0.73 (0.07)**	0.65 (0.07)***	0.62 (0.07)***	0.53 (0.08)***
Risk Level[1]								
Moderate Risk	0.57 (0.09)***	0.51 (0.08)***	0.60 (0.13)+	0.54 (0.10)**	0.71 (0.08)**	0.66 (0.09)**	0.65 (0.09)**	0.60 (0.10)**
Low Risk	0.56 (0.17)	0.31 (0.11)**	0.55 (0.21)	0.30 (0.13)**	0.72 (0.16)	0.40 (0.13)**	0.64 (0.17)	0.32 (0.13)**
Field Contacts x Risk Level[1]								
Field Contacts x Moderate Risk		1.31 (0.28)		1.28 (0.29)		1.15 (0.22)		1.25 (0.30)
Field Contacts x Low Risk		3.43 (1.42)**		3.64 (2.06)+		3.46 (1.36)**		4.47 (2.22)**
Race/Ethnicity[2]								

	Logit Models Odds Ratio (SE)				Cox Proportional Hazard Models Relative Hazard (SE)			
(n=2,517)	Any Recidivism		Criminal Recidivism		Any Recidivism		Criminal Recidivism	
Hispanic, Asian, or Native American	0.48 (0.17)+	0.46 (0.17)+	0.62 (0.25)	0.60 (0.0.24)	0.70 (0.26)	0.69 (0.26)	0.65 (0.33)	0.63 (0.32)
White	0.89 (0.11)	0.89 (0.11)	1.04 (0.17)	1.04 (0.17)	0.95 (0.10)	0.95 (0.10)	1.05 (0.14)	1.05 (0.14)
Married	1.08 (0.46)	1.07 (0.46)	0.85 (0.30)	0.85 (0.30)	0.62 (0.21)	0.62 (0.21)	0.60 (0.26)	0.60 (0.26)
High School/GED Graduate	0.87 (0.11)	087 (0.11)	0.84 (0.10)	0.85 (0.10)	0.82 (0.07)+	0.82 (0.08)+	0.79 (0.09)+	0.79 (0.09)+
Age at Release	0.94 (0.01)***	0.94 (0.01)***	0.93 (0.01)***	0.93 (0.01)***	0.95 (0.01)***	0.95 (0.01)***	0.95 (0.01)***	0.95 (0.01)***
Offense Type[3]								
Property Crime	1.13 (0.10)	1.13 (0.10)	1.45 (0.12)***	1.45 (0.13)***	1.36 (0.15)**	1.36 (0.15)**	1.59 (0.21)**	1.59 (0.21)***
Drug Crime	0.44 (0.06)***	0.44 (0.06)***	0.41 (0.09)***	0.41 (0.09)***	0.66 (0.11)**	0.66 (0.11)**	0.55 (0.12)**	0.54 (0.12)**
Public Order Crime	0.70 (0.14)	0.69 (0.14)	0.71 (0.22)	0.70 (0.22)	0.90 (0.20)	0.89 (0.19)	0.93 (0.26)	0.91 (0.26)
Fewer than 4 Years in Prison	0.85 (0.25)	0.84 (0.25)	0.71 (0.19)	0.70 (0.19)	0.90 (0.17)	0.89 (0.17)	0.78 (0.18)	0.78 (0.18)
Total Sentence	1.00 (0.00)+	1.00 (0.00)+	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)
Prior Imprisonments[4]								
One Prior	1.44 (0.22)+	1.42 (0.21)+	1.51 (0.34)	1.49 (0.33)	1.17 (0.17)	1.15 (0.17)	1.21 (0.22)	1.17 (0.21)
Two or More Priors	2.48 (0.44)***	2.48 (0.43)***	2.99 (0.85)***	2.99 (0.84)***	2.12 (0.32)***	2.10 (0.32)***	2.51 (0.47)***	2.48 (0.46)***
Release Year[5]								
2012	1.20 (0.24)	1.25 (0.24)	1.14 (0.31)	1.18 (0.31)	1.30 (0.31)	1.35 (0.32)	1.28 (0.37)	1.32 (0.38)
2013	1.50 (0.31)	1.55 (0.31)+	1.07 (0.32)	1.10 (0.33)	1.47 (0.34)	1.53 (0.0.36)	1.23 (0.35)	1.27 (0.37)
2014	1.85 (0.37)**	1.94 (0.37)**	1.17 (0.34)	1.21 (0.34)	1.61 (0.38)+	1.67 (0.40)+	1.27 (0.37)	1.30 (0.38)
Office Contacts per Year	0.96 (0.01)**	0.96 (0.01)**	0.95 (0.02)+	0.95 (0.02)+	1.01 (0.01)	1.01 (0.01)	0.99 (0.01)	0.98 (0.01)
Collateral Contacts per Year	1.07 (0.01)***	1.07 (0.01)***	1.01 (0.01)	1.01 (0.01)	1.05 (0.00)***	1.04 (0.00)***	1.03 (0.01)***	1.03 (0.01)***
Phone Contacts per Year	1.01 (0.01)	1.00 (0.01)	1.00 (0.01)	1.01 (0.01)	1.02 (0.01)**	1.02 (0.01)**	1.02 (0.01)**	1.02 (0.01)+
No Contact Field Visits per Year	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.01 (0.00)+	1.01 (0.00)*	0.99 (0.00)***	0.99 (0.00)***	0.99 (0.00)**	0.99 (0.00)**

* p<.0125, ** p<.01, *** p<.001
Reference categories are: 1very/high risk; 2 black; 3 violent crime; 4 no prior imprisonments; 52011

3.2.2 Minnesota

Table 3 presents the findings on the effect of any field contacts on recidivism (RQ6), and whether that effect varies by supervision type (RQ6).

- Aligning with findings from Ohio, receipt of any field contact is associated with reductions in the odds of recidivism among all supervisees (column 1) and reductions in the relative hazard of recidivism (column 3).
- Neither the odds nor hazard of recidivism are affected by the type of supervision. Individuals on both supervised release and probation experienced reductions in recidivism, and the contrast between those reductions is not statically significant (columns 2 and 4).

Table 3. Effect of Any Fields Contacts on Recidivism

	Random Intercept Logistic Regression Models Clustered by Initial Supervision Agent Odds Ratio (SE)		Cox Proportional Hazard Models Stratified by Initial Supervision Agent Relative Hazard (SE)	
(n=4,473)	**All Supervisees**	**By Supervision Type**	**All Supervisees**	**By Supervision Type**
Field Contacts	0.36 (0.04)***	0.32 (0.05)***	0.44 (0.03)***	0.42 (0.04)***
Post-Prison Supervision[1]	4.79 (2.39)**	4.19 (2.17)**	4.98 (1.03)***	4.79 (1.05)***
Field Contacts x Post-Prison Supervision[1]		1.27 (0.26)		1.07 (0.14)
Supervision Level - High Risk[2]	3.21 (1.09)**	3.20 (1.09)**	1.40 (0.21)	1.39 (0.21)
Sex Offense(s)[3]	0.37 (0.25)	0.38 (0.24)	0.77 (0.29)	0.77 (0.29)
Violent Offense(s)[3]	0.97 (0.17)	0.98 (0.17)	1.13 (0.11)	1.13 (0.11)
Property Offense(s)[3]	1.29 (0.31)	1.29 (0.31)	1.41 (0.15)**	1.41 (0.15)**
Drug Offense(s)[3]	0.72 (0.20)	0.72 (0.19)	1.02 (0.13)	1.02 (0.13)
Felony Offense(s)[3]	0.52 (0.10)**	0.51 (0.10)**	0.53 (0.06)***	0.53 (0.06)***
Gross Misdemeanor Offense(s)[3]	0.45 (0.09)***	0.45 (0.09)***	0.52 (0.07)***	0.52 (0.07)***
Race/Ethnicity[4]				
White	0.95 (0.15)	0.96 (0.15)	1.06 (0.08)	1.06 (0.08)
Other (Hispanic, Asiain, Native American, Multiracial)	1.13 (0.19)	1.14 (0.19)	1.13 (0.09)	1.13 (0.09)
Male[5]	1.87 (0.48)*	1.88 (0.48)*	1.38 (0.20)	1.38 (0.20)
Age at Start of Supervision	0.98 (0.01)**	0.98 (0.01)**	0.99 (0.00)**	0.99 (0.00)**
Number of Prior Supervision Terms	2.46 (0.36)***	2.46 (0.37)***	1.80 (0.18)***	1.81 (0.18)***
Release Year[6]				
2015	0.90 (0.14)	0.90 (0.14)	0.94 (0.07)	0.94 (0.07)
2016	0.62 (0.10)**	0.62 (0.10)**	0.73 (0.07)**	0.73 (0.07)**
2017	0.32 (0.07)***	0.31 (0.07)***	0.54 (0.08)***	0.54 (0.08)***
2018	0.10 (0.08)**	0.10 (0.08)**	0.39 (0.42)	0.39 (0.42)
Office Contacts per Year	0.94 (0.01)***	0.94 (0.01)***	0.96 (0.01)***	0.96 (0.01)***
Phone Contacts per Year	1.04 (0.01)***	1.04 (0.01)***	1.03 (0.00)***	1.03 (0.00)***

Other Contacts per Year	1.06 (0.01)***	1.06 (0.01)***	1.05 (0.00)***	1.05 (0.01)***
Exposure(Time on Supervision in Days)				

* p<.0125, ** p<.01, *** p<.001
Reference categories are: 1probation; 2moderate risk; 3Not mutually exclusive; 4black; 5female or other; 62014.

- Individuals on probation have lower probabilities of recidivism (figure 4) and longer times to recidivism (figures 5), but their change in both the probability and time to recidivism as a result of receiving a field visit is proportionately similar.

Figure 4. Probability of Recidivism by Treatment and Supervision Type

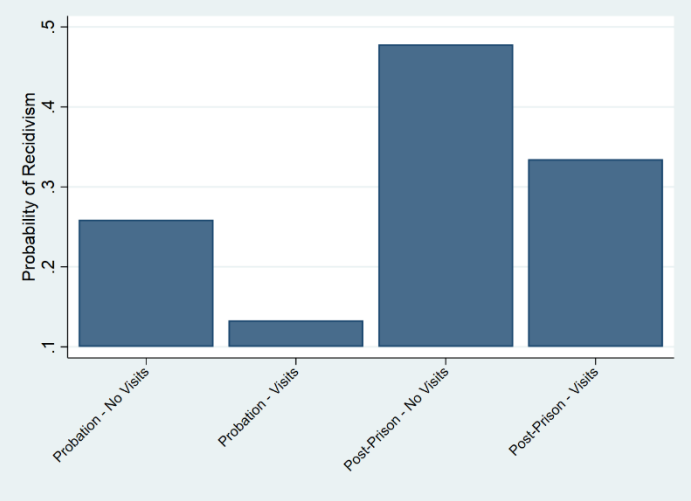


Figure 5. Survival Curves for Recidivism by Treatment and Supervision Type

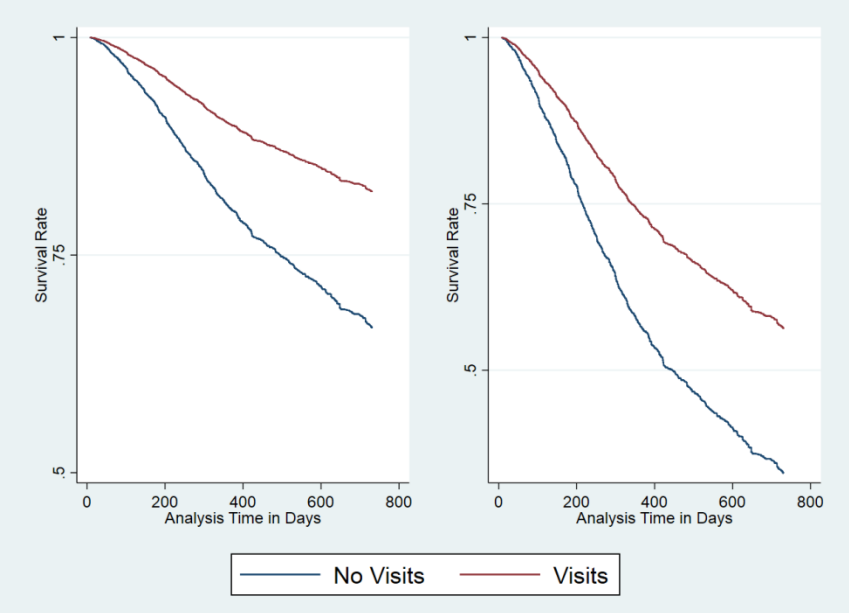


Table 2 presents the results for the effects of any field contacts on the number of violations (RQ5 and RQ6).

- Receipt of any field contacts is associated with reductions in the number of violations a supervisees receives (column 1).
- The reduction in violations associated the receipt of any field contacts are not altered by the supervision type. The contrast in the effect of field contacts on number of violations is not significant (column 2 and figure 6)

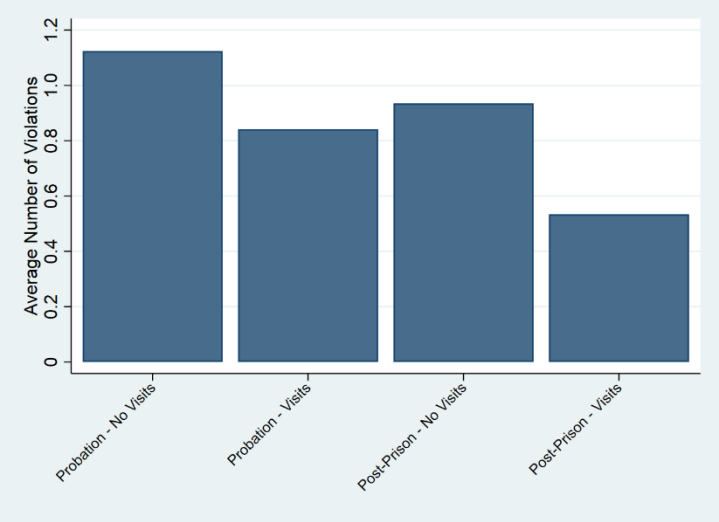
Table 4. Effect of Any Fields Contacts on Number of Violations

	Random Intercept Negative Binomial Regression Models Clustered by Initial Supervision Agent IRR (SE)	
(n=4,105)	**All Supervisees**	**By Supervision Type**
Field Contacts	0.71 (0.04)***	0.75 (0.05)***
Post-Prison Supervision[1]	0.72 (0.15)	0.83 (0.22)
Field Contacts x Post-Prison Supervision[1]		0.76 (0.12)
Supervision Level - High Risk[2]	1.33 (0.12)***	1.34 (0.12)
Sex Offense(s)[3]	0.29 (0.18)	0.29 (0.18)
Violent Offense(s)[3]	1.42 (0.13)***	1.42 (0.13)***
Property Offense(s)[3]	1.45 (0.14)***	1.45 (0.14)***
Drug Offense(s)[3]	1.33 (0.15)*	1.32 (0.15)*
Felony Offense(s)[3]	1.25 (0.11)**	1.25 (0.10)**
Gross Misdemeanor Offense(s)[3]	1.14 (0.09)	1.14 (0.09)
Race/Ethnicity[4]		
White	0.88 (0.06)	0.88 (0.06)
Other (Hispanic, Asiain, Native American, Multiracial)	1.06 (0.07)	1.05 (0.07)
Male[5]	1.46 (0.17)**	1.46 (0.17)**
Age at Start of Supervision	0.98 (0.00)***	0.98 (0.00)***
Number of Prior Supervision Terms	1.89 (0.27)***	1.88 (0.27)***
Release Year[6]		
2015	1.10 (0.11)	1.10 (0.11)
2016	1.24 (0.13)	1.25 (0.13)
2017	1.09 (0.15)	1.09 (0.15)
2018	0.92 (0.34)	0.92 (0.34)

Office Contacts per Year	0.93 (0.01)***	0.93 (0.01)***
Phone Contacts per Year	1.04 (0.00)***	1.04 (0.00)***
Other Contacts per Year	1.05 (0.01)***	1.05 (0.01)***
Exposure(Time on Supervision in Days)		

* p<.0125, ** p<.01, *** p<.001
Reference categories are: 1probation; 2moderate risk; 3Not mutually exclusive; 4black; 5female or other; 62014.

Figure 6. Predicted Number of Violations by Treatment and Supervision Type



3.3 Key Findings from Checklists, Focus Groups, and Interviews

The brief checklist was designed for officers to complete after conducting a home/field contact to document the circumstances surrounding a contact and the activities conducted during that contact, and the focus groups and interviews were designed to complement the checklist data by providing a more detailed account of how agency staff use home and field visits in the course of supervision. The following sections synthesize findings from both modes of data collection and are organized along the dimensions of the checklists.

3.3.1 Frequency of Contacts

In Ohio:

- 71% of clients had one contact, and 29% had two or more contacts
- Over 100 officers conducted at least 30 field contacts within the two month window

In Minnesota:

- A total of 1,235 clients were contacted, with variation largely reflective of variation in county population size:
  - Ramsey: 775 (63.7%)
  - Anoka: 316 (25.6%)
  - Benton: 57 (4.6%)
  - Chisago CPO: 44 (3.6%)
  - Chisago DOC: 43 (3.5%)
- The number of visits received depended on whether the client was in ISR or on some other form of supervision:
  - ISR: 26.5% received one visit, 22.1% received two; 51.5% received three or more
  - Other supervision types: 80.6% received one visit; 13.4% received two visits; 6.0% received more than visits.

Relevant focus group findings:

- Officers have trouble making all their field contacts
- Most did not believe the solution should be fewer contacts, but instead fewer tasks in the office
  - Several felt that more officer discretion for how often a client needed to be contacted, or more mixed case-loads (as opposed to risk-based), could help with the workload balance

3.3.2 Frequency of Contacts by Type of Contact

In Ohio:

- 54% of attempts resulted in positive offender contact
- 15% of attempts resulted in collateral contact only

In Minnesota:

- Client contact varies depending on whether client is on ISR or not:
  - ISR: 97.2% of attempts result in client contact.

- Other supervision types: 64.8%

- Client contact varies notably across agencies for supervised release and probation

Relevant Focus Group Findings:

- Officers believed collateral contacts build rapport with family and neighbors, which in turn provides officers with a fuller picture of how their clients are doing

3.3.3 Contact Location

In Ohio:

- 85% of attempted field contacts were at a residence
- 5% were at places of employment, 4% were at treatment centers, and 4% were at public places

In Minnesota:

- For ISR and other supervision types:
  - Most visits are at the client's residence: 79.6% for ISR, 85.3% for other supervision types
  - Fewer are at:
    - Places of employment: 9.2% for ISR, 6.5% for other supervision types
    - Public places: 5.1% for ISR, 1.9% for other supervision types
    - Treatment centers: 4.1% for ISR, 4.6% for other supervision types
- Location varies by county:
    - Ramsey County is more likely to make attempts at places of employment and treatment centers
    - All Benton County visits occur at the client's residence

Relevant Focus Group Findings:

- Officers prefer to do field contacts at the client's home so that they can understand the environment in which their clients are living

- Officers indicated they conduct contacts in places of employment for compliance purposes, but also because they wanted clients to be able to maintain employment (e.g., not miss work for an office visit; provide positive reinforcement to clients on the job)

3.3.4 Scheduled and Unscheduled Contacts

In Ohio:

- 72% of contacts were unscheduled
- 51% of unscheduled and 87% of scheduled contacts resulted in successful contact with a client

In Minnesota:

- Overall, 68.1% of attempted field contacts are unscheduled
- Scheduling varies notably across agencies for supervised release and probation but there is only minimal variation for clients under intensive supervision
- ISR clients are far more likely to have unscheduled visits (95.9%) than are other supervision types (51.4%)
- For all non-ISR supervision types, scheduled attempts are slightly more likely to involve client contact
  - 45.6% of unscheduled attempts result in client contact
  - 87.6% of scheduled attempts result in client contact

Relevant focus group findings:

- Most officers and supervisors preferred unscheduled contacts
- With unscheduled, you are able to get the "true story" – belief that clients would change environment and behavior if scheduled
- Officer safety was also a concern related to scheduled contacts
- Scheduled contacts were usually done in order to meet contact standards; higher chance of not making contact with an unscheduled visit

3.3.5 Field Contact Activities

In Ohio:

- Most contacts (72%) involved visual confirmation of the location
- Nearly one-third (31%) involved some element of case planning
- 15% also involved other EBPs (e.g., Carey guides, positive reinforcement and MI, CBT)

In Minnesota:

- Activities are also dependent on supervision type, with variation between ISR and other supervision types
- Confirmation of location is the most common activity both groups, but it is far more common for those on ISR
    - 76.9% for ISR, for other supervision types, 48.2% for other supervision types
- Case planning is much less common for those on ISR
    - 8.9% of ISR attempts with client contact include case planning, 22.0% for other supervision types
- Neighbor and family contact are both less common for those on ISR
    - 2.2% of ISR attempts result in contact with a neighbor or community member, 5.8% for other supervision types
    - 1.9% of ISR attempts result in contact with a family member, 14.4% for other supervision types
- Drug tests are less common for those on ISR
    - Drug tests occur on 2.9% of ISR attempts with client contact, 10.3% for other supervision types
- EBPs are about equally common across both groups
    - 15.2% of ISR attempts with client contact include EBPs, 17.1% for other supervision types

- Searches (1.3% for ISR, 2.3% for other supervision types), arrests (1.0% for ISR, 0.4% for other supervision types), and assessments or reassessments (2.3% for ISR, 1.6% for other supervision types) are rare for both groups
- Case planning is more common on scheduled attempts; drug tests are more common on unscheduled attempts
- Activities vary by location
  - Visual confirmation more common at client's residence and place of employment
  - Neighbor/community contact more common at place of employment
  - Case planning is most common at treatment centers

Relevant focus group findings:

- There is no typical field contact and no set of activities that are always conducted
- Some things officers commonly pay attention to:
  - Layout of house (for current safety and later searches or arrests)
  - Indications of a lack of compliance with supervision (e.g., drugs, children's toys).
  - An understanding of the conditions in which client lives (e.g., cleanliness, others in the home)
- Officers said they usually preferred to do case planning and EBPs in the office

3.3.6 Additional Staff/Law Enforcement Escorts

In Ohio:

- Officers report having additional APA staff on 34% of contacts
- 83% of these contacts are with one additional APA staff member, 15% were with two additional staff members
- Increasingly more likely as level of supervision rises (30% for low, 34% for moderate, and 37% for very high/high)

In Minnesota:

- Only 1% of attempts involved a law enforcement escort

  - Uncommon in all agencies, but never occurred in DOC agencies
  - More common on unscheduled attempts
  - Common when contact involves a search (20.5%) or an arrest (88.9%)
  - Slightly more common for ISR clients:
    - 1.9% of ISR visits, 0.8% for other supervision types
- 50.6% of attempts involve additional agency personnel
  - Uncommon for ISR (21.9%) or CIP/CRP (11.2%)
  - Occurs in more than 50% of attempts for all on supervised released and probation
  - More common on scheduled attempts
  - Very common when the contact is for a missed office visit (90.8%), positive drug test (82.8%), law enforcement call (89.5%), or community call (85.7%)
  - Common when contact involves an arrest (77.8%)

Relevant focus group findings:

- Having more than one officer on a contact allowed for a better visit – one officer could focus on safety, and the second officer could focus on the client or family
- Conducting field contacts with a partner requires resources and rapport/trust between the partners

3.3.7 Purpose and Effectiveness of Home and Field Contacts

- Field contacts are an essential part of the job
  - "Probation/parole, it started in the field, it didn't start in an office."
  - Field contacts are the community aspect of community supervision
- Unlike office contacts, field contacts allow officers to see the "true state" of a client
  - "Anybody can put on a face and go to an office."
  - Essential for assessing compliance with conditions and deterring recidivism
- Universally agree field contacts are effective, but effectiveness may come in many forms:
  - Compliance due to deterrence

- Rehabilitation due to referral to services
- Catching a lack of compliance that endangers the community

3.4 Checklists and Outcomes

The study's final four research questions delve into correlations between aspects of home and field contacts captured on the checklist and recidivism:

12. Do different forms of contact impact recidivism?
13. Does the specific type of collateral contact affect recidivism?
14. Do the actions conducted during a client contact affect recidivism?
15. For both collateral and client contacts, are actions by officers linked to recidivism across all their clients?

To answer these questions, data from the checklists were merged with administrative data, using each client's unique identifier included on the checklist. Administrative data for these analyses were again provided by the APA and each of the participating Minnesota agencies and included clients under supervision for whom there was a checklist completed, and had been under supervision for three years or less at the start of the checklist period. The outcome variables of interest were recidivism that results in a prison sentence, and recidivism that results in a new supervision sentence or a new prison sentence in Ohio, and in Minnesota we had one outcome: recidivism that results in a new incarceration (jail or prison). The treatment variables included, 1) among all contacts: contact with client only, collateral contact only, both client and collateral contact; 2) among all client contacts: use of EBPs, use of case planning, unscheduled contacts, multiple officers, officer-level equivalents; and 3) among all collateral contacts: contact with family member, contact with neighbor, officer-level equivalents. At the client level, these were dichotomous measures indicating any such contact; at the officer/agent level, they were dichotomous measures indicating that such contact occurred on at least 50% of contacts.

For Ohio, we used Cox proportional hazard models with a shared frailty to account for clustering by officer, models with client and officer-level data, and models for all visits testing contact type, for client contacts testing actions, and for collateral contacts testing type of collateral contact. For Minnesota, we

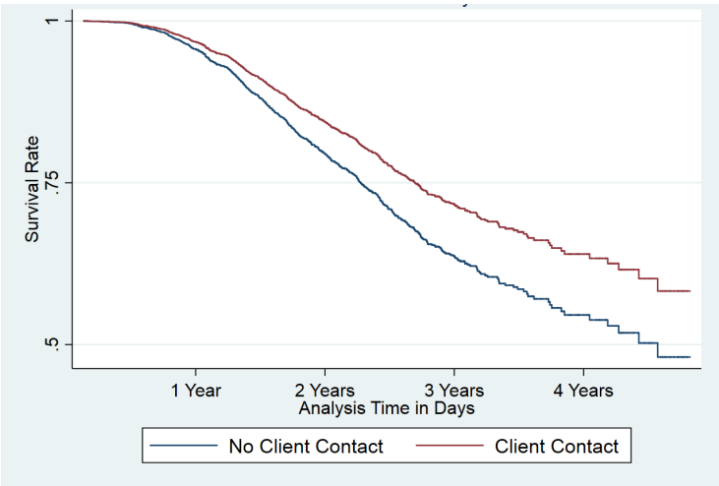
used a similar except we used parametric survival model as this better fit the data in Minnesota due to the low rate or failures because of the short follow up time. Akaike information criterion (AIC) revealed that a lognormal distribution was the parametric model with the best fit. Control variables include, 1) demographics: gender; race and ethnicity; age, 2) criminal history: offense type; sex offender status (in Ohio); number of prior imprisonments or supervision sentences; sentence length; and 3) supervision information: supervision level during checklist period (OH) or at the start of supervision (MN); yearly rate of collateral contacts (in OH), office contacts, phone contacts, no contact visits (in OH), and other contacts (in MN).

The findings are not identical across the two states, but this is not unexpected. The meaning and use of these practices is likely to vary by state. For example, EBPs may signify different things in each state. Further, they are being practiced at different rates in each state, and so there may be more noticeable contrasts for certain measures in each state. Finally, the measure of recidivism and practices around revocation vary across states, and thus the outcomes do not necessarily represent the same concept in each state.

3.4.1 Ohio

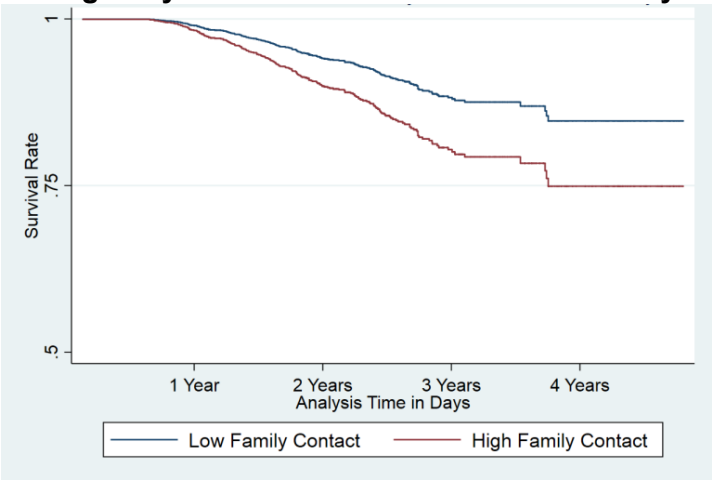
- Receiving a field contact is related to a reduction in the rate of recidivism

Figure 7. Survival Rate for All Recidivism by Client Contact



- Regular contact with the family member of offenders by an agent seems to increase recidivism.

Figure 8. Survival Rate for Prison Returns by Whether an Agent Regularly has Contact with Offenders' Family



- Using evidence-based practices during home and field contacts are important for reducing recidivism.
- Other activities conducted during visits do not seem to influence recidivism. Case planning does not have a consistent effect on recidivism, unscheduled visits appear to be no more effective than scheduled visits, and having additional officers does not appear to change the hazard of recidivism.

Figure 9. Survival Rate for All Recidivism by Receipt of EBPs

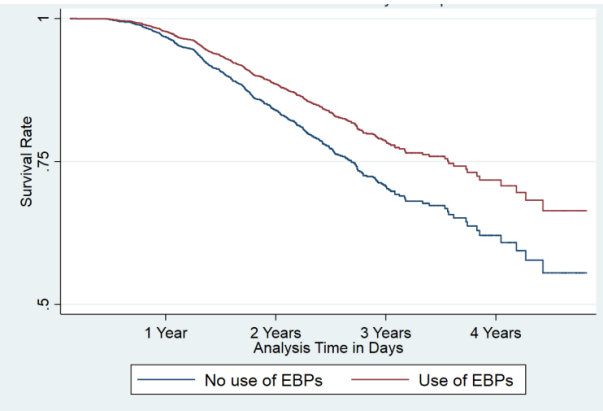
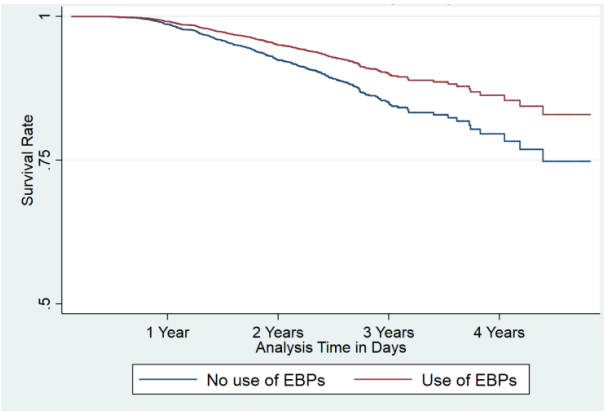


Figure 10. Survival Rate for Prison Returns by Receipt of EBPs



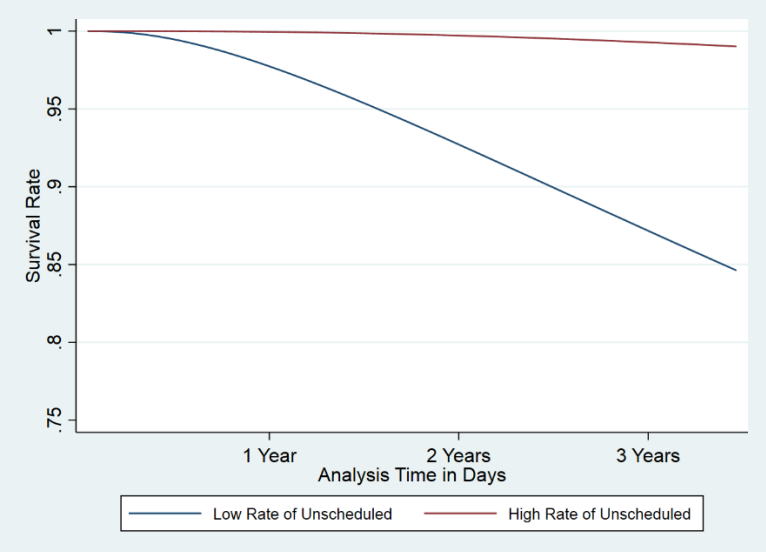
3.4.2 Minnesota

- Receiving a field visit that involves client contact is related to significant reductions in the time to recidivism.

Figure 11. Survival Rate for Jail or Prison Returns by Client Contact

- Clients who were supervised by agents who regularly conduct unscheduled field contacts experienced significant reductions in the time to recidivism.

Figure 12. Survival Rate for Jail or Prison Returns by Whether Agent Regularly Conducts Unscheduled Contacts



- Other activities conducted during visits do not seem to influence recidivism: case planning does not impact recidivism, contacts with family and neighbors, and having additional officers present for a contact, do not have a consistent effect on recidivism. Contrary to Ohio, EBPs do not affect recidivism in the MN analyses.

3.5 Conclusions and Limitations

Our study shows that whether by serving as an additional deterrent to recidivism, by enabling officers to better understand the stressors affecting their supervisees and build rapport, or both, field contacts result in noticeable reductions in recidivism. It appears that this core community supervision practice provides a clear public safety benefit that policymakers may weigh against the many costs associated with field work. However, findings also suggest that the benefit of field contacts on recidivism is not consistent across supervisees, varying notably by risk level, and consistent with the risk principle of community supervision: what works for higher risk individuals often does not work, or work as well, and may even be worse for low risk individuals (Lowenkamp and Latessa, 2004). Given the demand of field work on officers and agency resources and the level of stress and concerns for safety associated with field work, community supervision agencies may be able to reduce the amount of field work required for low risk populations without great risk to those individuals' supervision success or public safety.

Field contacts do not occur in a vacuum; they are part of a constellation of supervision practices that are applied according to each individual's risk of recidivism and need for intervention. Studying a single component of this package of practices is difficult to do with rigor. Agencies are often reluctant to vary practices for experimental tests of effectiveness. In addition, the interactions of various supervision interlinked supervision practices may be what matters most in community supervision, and such interactions are challenging to observe and evaluate in concert with a quasi-experimental study. This study, though, provides promising evidence that field contacts contribute to positive supervision and recidivism outcomes, and that with data of sufficient quality, quasi-experimental designs can measure the effect of specific core supervision practices. This study should encourage agencies and funding organizations to invest in more rigorous tests of field contacts and the mechanisms that contribute to their effectiveness, as well as other core supervision practices, such as required office visits.

While these findings are robust to multiple operationalizations of recidivism, field contact treatment, and analytic approaches, this study has a few limitations that should be addressed by future research:

- As is the case with all methods that rely on matching or probability weighting, we are unable to address selection on unobservable characteristics that are not in the data. This limitation has been partially addressed through the use of sensitivity analyses involving different covariates and matching procedures, but this weakness can never be fully eliminated.
- Second, the available measures of recidivism for this study are a limitation. In addition, our qualitative findings suggest that the goal of field contacts (or of community supervision in general) is not always to reduce recidivism. Future research should address the effect of field contacts on other goals of community supervision, such as broader community safety and increases in positive client outcomes.
- Third, we are limited in our ability to address the issue of dosage. Since agencies often increase the number of contacts alongside risk level, it would be useful for future research to examine whether the benefit of field contacts is positively associated with their frequency of use, and whether there is a point at which the returns on investment are diminished.
- Fourth, our study comprises two diverse states; however, criminal justice practices can vary widely across states, and thus these results may not hold in areas with different approaches to field contacts or supervision in general. Future research should investigate whether these finding generalize to other jurisdictions.

4 Dissemination of Study Findings

The study has gathered and analyzed data supporting the production of multiple publications and presentations.

4.1 Publications

1. State of the Field Survey Data Visualizations: http://www.appa-net.org/Home-Visit-Study/
2. "Key Findings from a National Survey on Home and Field Visits Policies and Practices" policy brief: http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/docs/APPA/pubs/HV_Brief.pdf
3. "The Current State of Research about Home and Field Contacts" policy brief; disseminated at the 2018 APPA Summer Training Institute.
4. "Key Findings from an Evaluation of the Impact of Probation and Parole Home Visits" policy brief; to be disseminated at the 2019 APPA Winter Training Institute.
5. Campbell, W.L., Swan, H., and Jalbert, S.K. "National Variations in Fieldwork Goals, Training, and Activities", *Federal Probation*, December 2017.
6. Campbell, W.L., Swan, H., and Jalbert, S.K. "Quasi-Experimental Analysis of the Impact of Field Contacts on Recidivism" – manuscript under peer review at JPAM.
7. Several additional publications are planned to report the historical analysis findings from Minnesota, as well as findings from the checklists, focus groups, and interviews.

4.2 Presentations

1. "Home and Field Contact Policies in Probation and Parole", presented by Sarah Jalbert and Thomas Maloney at the 2016 APPA Winter Training Institute.
2. "Evaluating the Impact of Probation and Parole Home Visits", presented by Sarah Jalbert, Holly Swan, and Walter Campbell at the 2017 APPA Summer Training Institute.
3. "A Mixed Methods Evaluation of Home and Field Visits in Probation and Parole Agencies", presented by Walter Campbell, Holly Swan, and Sarah Jalbert at the 2018 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) meeting.

4. "A Mixed Methods Evaluation of Home and Field Contacts in Probation/Parole", presented by Holly Swan, Walter Campbell, and Sarah Jalbert at the 2018 APPA Summer Training Institute.
5. "Results from a Mixed Methods Evaluation of Home and Field Contacts in Probation/Parole", to be presented by Walter Campbell, Holly Swan, and Sarah Jalbert at the 2019 APPA Winter Training Institute
6. "The Role of Field Work in Community Supervision", a Special Session at the 2019 APPA Winter Training Institute

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