

## DESISTANCE: SUCCESS INDICATORS



### How do we define change and success beyond recidivism?

Desistance refers to the stopping of offending behaviours. Desistance research tells us that desistance is a process that often involves many ups and downs, and many individuals reoffend before they fully desist. This suggests the need to consider other information to understand an offender's journey of desistance besides recidivism.

### Why is Recidivism Not Enough?



#### RECIDIVISM FOCUSES ON OUTCOME

Recidivism is a **black-and-white measure**: either a person commits a new crime, or he does not.

Yes

No

Recidivism alone does not tell us...

What led that individual to reoffend?

Is that individual's behaviour improving or worsening?

In what ways are programmes helpful?

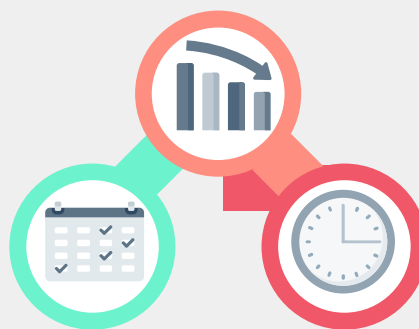


DESISTANCE FOCUSES ON THE PROCESS OF CHANGE AND GROWTH  
How can we better understand this?

### Desistance: Indicators of Progress

Reduced severity of reoffending

Reduced frequency of reoffending over time



Longer time spent in the community before re-offending



These indicators tell us that the individual did better even if he/she reoffended

### What Can YOU Do?

**Interact** with inmates and **Identify** their indicators of progress

**Acknowledge** where they have done better in

**Encourage** them to further strengthen what they have done well in

#### Source of Information

Klinge, C. (2019). Measuring Change: From Rates of Recidivism to Markers of Desistance. *J. Crim. L. & Criminology*, 109, 769.

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