

Increasing Public Safety and Reducing Recidivism by Enhancing Offender Success – Evidence Based Practices in Offender Management

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June 29, 2006

9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

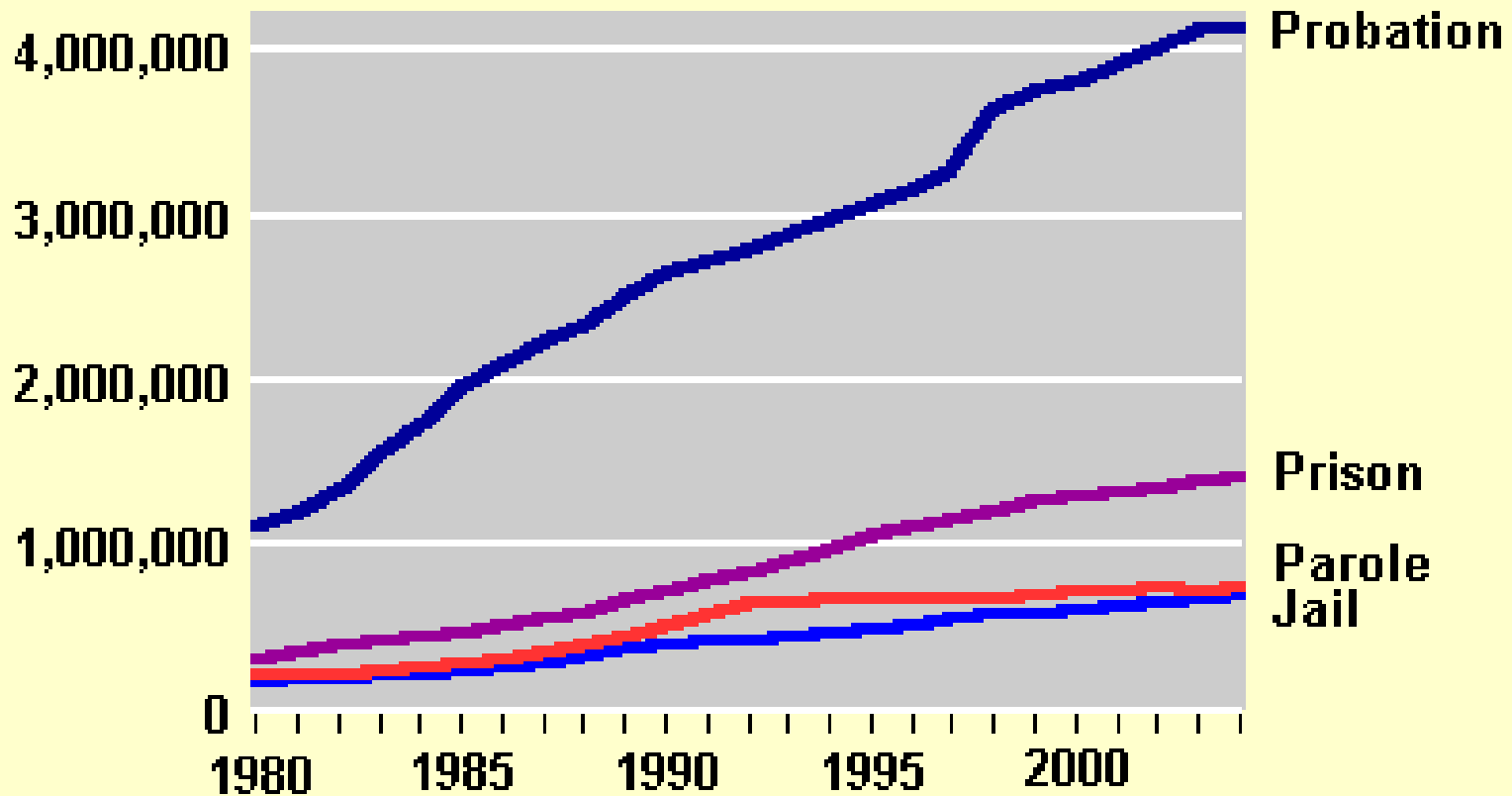
**(presentation attributed to Dr. Kurt Bumby,
Center for Effective Public Policy)**

Public Safety is the Goal

One of the primary objectives of criminal justice organizations is to enhance public safety. But how do we best accomplish this objective?

**More than 7 million adults are under some form of correctional supervision in the U.S.
(BJS, 2004)**

Adult correctional populations, 1980-2004



What else do we know?

- Nationally, we now spend \$60 BILLION on corrections
- In Tennessee: \$600 million on corrections; @ \$60 million on probation and parole

What else do we know?

- **A significant number of adult offenders – over 600,000 – will be released from state prisons to their communities this year; 7 million offenders will be released from jails. Many of them will fail in the community and be returned to institutions.**
- **In Tennessee, 13,164 offenders were released to the community in FY 03-04; 1 in 3 prison admissions was a returning probation or parole violator.**

What else do we know?

- **A recent national survey by Zogby International (NCCD, 2006):**
 - 3 out of 4 expressed fear or concern about the number of offenders leaving prison
 - 87% are in favor of treatment (vs. punishment)
 - 70% favor treatment in institutions and in the community after release
 - 82% feel the lack of job training and opportunities were significant barriers to offenders who want to avoid crime
 - 78% are in support of spending federal funds (like the Second Chance Act) to support offender success

Some National Efforts that Seek to Address this increasing problem

- **Prisoner Transition and Reentry –**
 - TPC
 - NGA
 - SVORI
- **Evidence-based Practices**
- **Collaboration among criminal justice and non-criminal justice partners**

Why is there so much failure?

- **Offenders returning to communities...**
 - **Have high levels of untreated substance abuse difficulties** – over 70% of offenders have substance abuse problems, and many of those with mental health issues have co-occurring substance abuse problems
 - **Have a high prevalence of undiagnosed and untreated mental health issues** – 1/3rd of adult offenders and up to 70% of juveniles have various mental health conditions
 - **May have low levels of educational attainment**—40% have no GED or high school diploma

Why is there so much failure?

- **Are often disconnected from prosocial peers and families** – 55% of adult inmates have children under 18; more than 1 million children in the U.S. have a parent in prison
- **May continue to hold antisocial values and attitudes**
- **Tend to experience employment difficulties** – only 1/3rd receive vocational training during incarceration

Managing Offenders: A Different Approach

- We know that if offenders behaved lawfully and properly in their communities, and while incarcerated, that everyone would benefit. Fewer crimes means fewer victims. Fewer community failures means safer communities.
- If we could impact the behaviors of offenders in ways that encourage them to act more lawfully and properly then we would help decrease their risk of failure and promote greater public safety.

Imagine This

- Imagine offenders who have been released from custody working at meaningful jobs, going to school, paying taxes, supporting dependents, not breaking the law or victimizing citizens.
- Imagine offenders becoming assets to their communities, mentors to other offenders, and positive influences on their children and the children of others.
- Is it possible for us to impact the behavior of offenders so that they are more likely to succeed?

“You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.” - *Mark Twain*

What Works?

- Studies over the past several years have begun to indicate the types of initiatives that have an impact on offender behavior and recidivism. These studies suggest that, contrary to the work of Martinson and others in the 1970s, some approaches can truly impact the success of an offender.

What has Been Found to Reduce Recidivism?

- “The evidence is persuasive. If we are to enhance community safety, offender rehabilitation programs that follow the principles of effective treatment are most likely to meet with success.”

(James Bonta, Ph.D. *Offender Rehabilitation: From research to Practice*, 1997)

A Critical Part of the
Solution:

*Evidence-Based
Practices*

What is Evidence-Based Practice?

- The objective, balanced, and responsible use of current research and the best available data to guide practice decisions, such that outcomes for consumers are improved
 - In our case, consumers include offenders, victims, communities, and other key stakeholders

Put Simply:

Evidence from relevant literature should support policy and practice decisions.

Why Evidence-Based Practice in General?

- Challenges the blind adoption of practices, counters naïve adherence to the status quo
 - Especially when we can't explain the rationale for our practices

Why Evidence-Based Practice in General? (cont.)

- Helps provide clarification about why we do what we do (or why we should be doing something *different!*)
 - Evidence (or lack thereof) on which our practices are based
 - Soundness of that evidence
 - Strength of inferences or conclusions that can be drawn from this evidence

Why Evidence-Based Practice in General? (cont.)

- Enhances our ability to have better results
- Promotes accountability
- Creates a system of informed policymakers, practitioners, and consumers

Why Evidence-Based Practice in Corrections?

- To end the risky “trial and error” approaches with offenders
 - Builds on the lessons learned from our predecessors
 - Promotes consistency
 - Fosters responsible practices
 - Eliminates “pop” psychology

Why Evidence-Based Practice in Corrections? (cont.)

- To invest limited resources wisely
 - Getting the most “bang for our buck”
- To ensure that internal and external stakeholders understand and support our practices and decisions
 - Increases accountability

Why Evidence-Based Practice in Corrections? (cont.)

- To better our chances of reducing crime
 - Creating safer facilities
 - Creating safer communities
- To maximize the likelihood of offender success
 - Equipping them with skills/competencies needed to reintegrate
 - Moving beyond “get out and stay out” (i.e., just don’t get caught)

Defining "Evidence"

- Something(s) helpful in forming a conclusion or judgment
- An outward sign
- Something clearly indicative, or that furnishes proof

Evidence or Proof of WHAT?

That what we are doing relative
to offender management is
leading to the desired
outcomes!

The Best Evidence Comes From...

- Large sample sizes
- Random assignment
- Control over confounding variables
- Consistency of findings
- Cross-site replication

Beware:

There is almost always
some research to
support either side of an
argument!

The Key:

An objective, balanced,
and responsible review
and use of the professional
literature to find good
evidence.

Meta-Analysis: A Promising Method of Evaluating Evidence

- Moves beyond the traditional critical literature review
- Statistically synthesizes the results of multiple studies into a “single” average intervention effect size

“Evidence-Based” Does Not Mean

- All research findings pertaining to a specific intervention or strategy must reach the same conclusion for *all* samples and across *all* settings
- Additional findings cannot provide refuting evidence down the road (i.e., once evidence-based, always evidence-based)

“Evidence-Based” Does Not Mean (cont.)

- That we are getting “soft” on crime or offenders... quite the contrary!
 - Evidence-based practice provides more assurance that we use the “right” strategies and approaches, which translates into
 - Reduced institutional misconduct and enhanced institutional safety
 - Reduced community misconduct and enhanced community safety

“Evidence-Based” Does Not Mean (cont.)

- Any specific evidence-based intervention or strategy is guaranteed, failsafe, or a “magic bullet”
- Nothing else will ever “match” or “surpass” the impact of a current evidence-based intervention or strategy

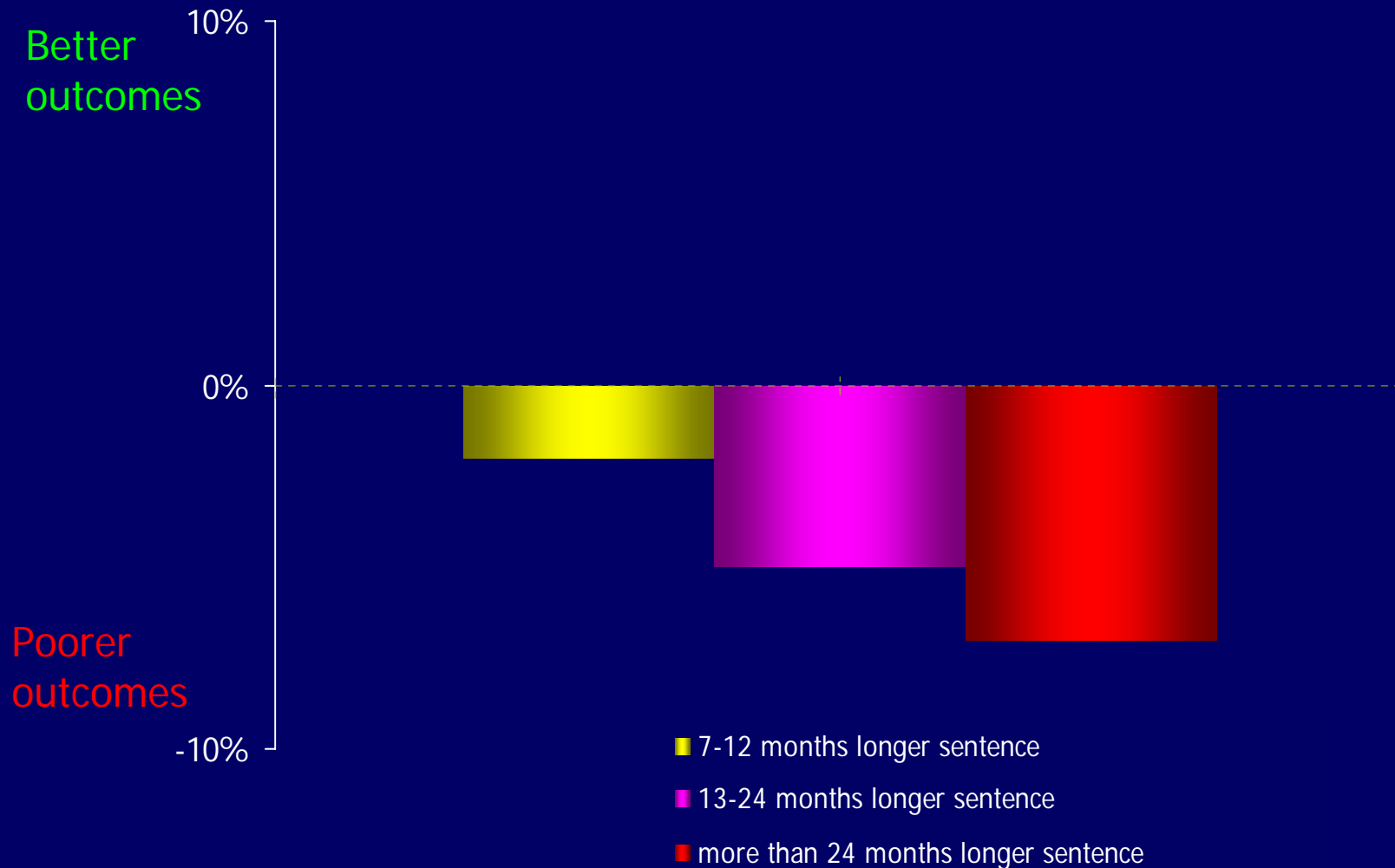
Because we are using
current research and
best available data, we
should expect to adjust
our practices over time!

Currently...

- There is a growing evidence base that suggests
 - Some interventions and strategies do not lead to the desired outcomes
 - Some interventions and strategies do!

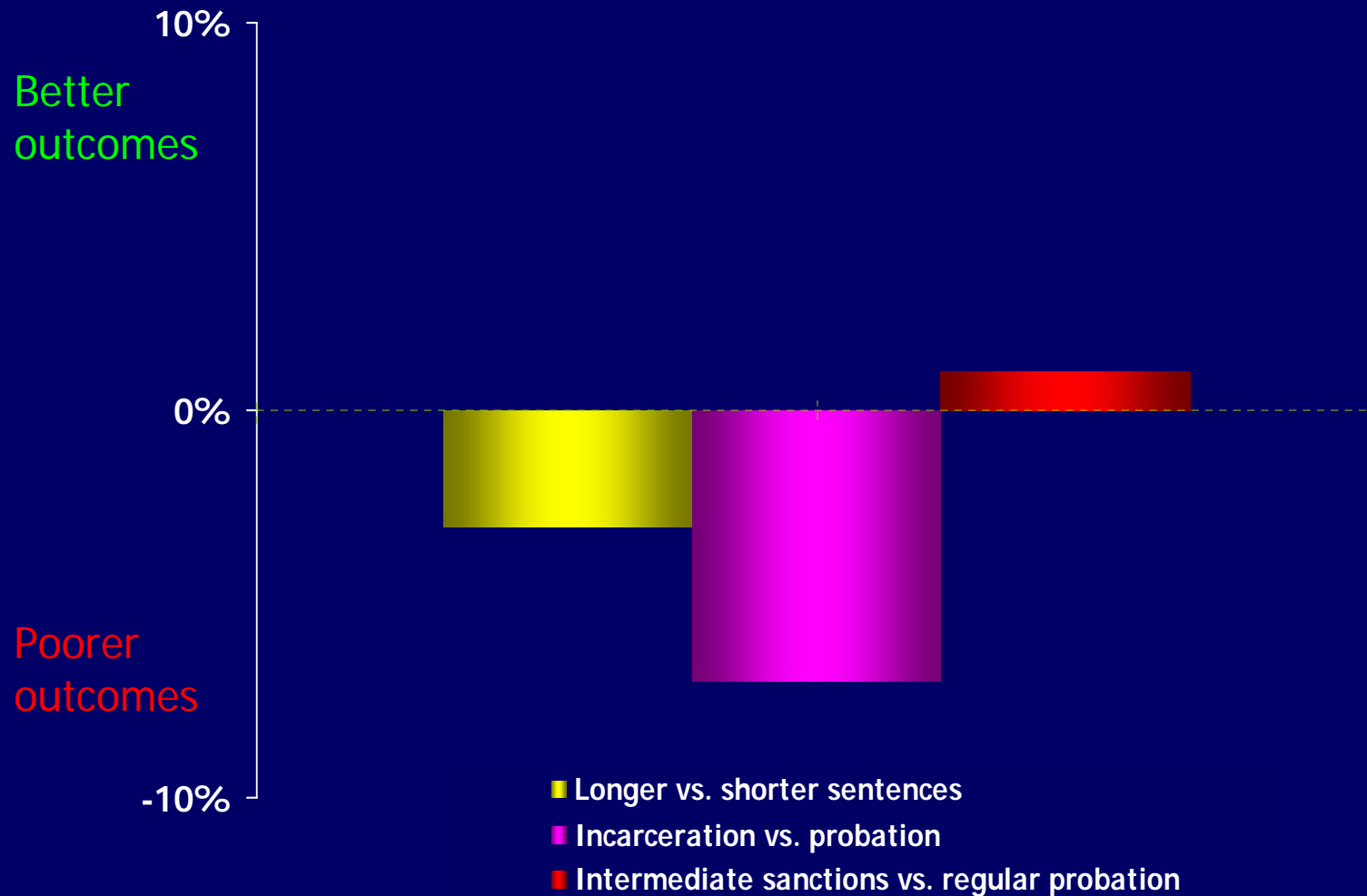
For which interventions
and strategies is the
evidence less than
favorable?

Impact of Sentence Length on Recidivism



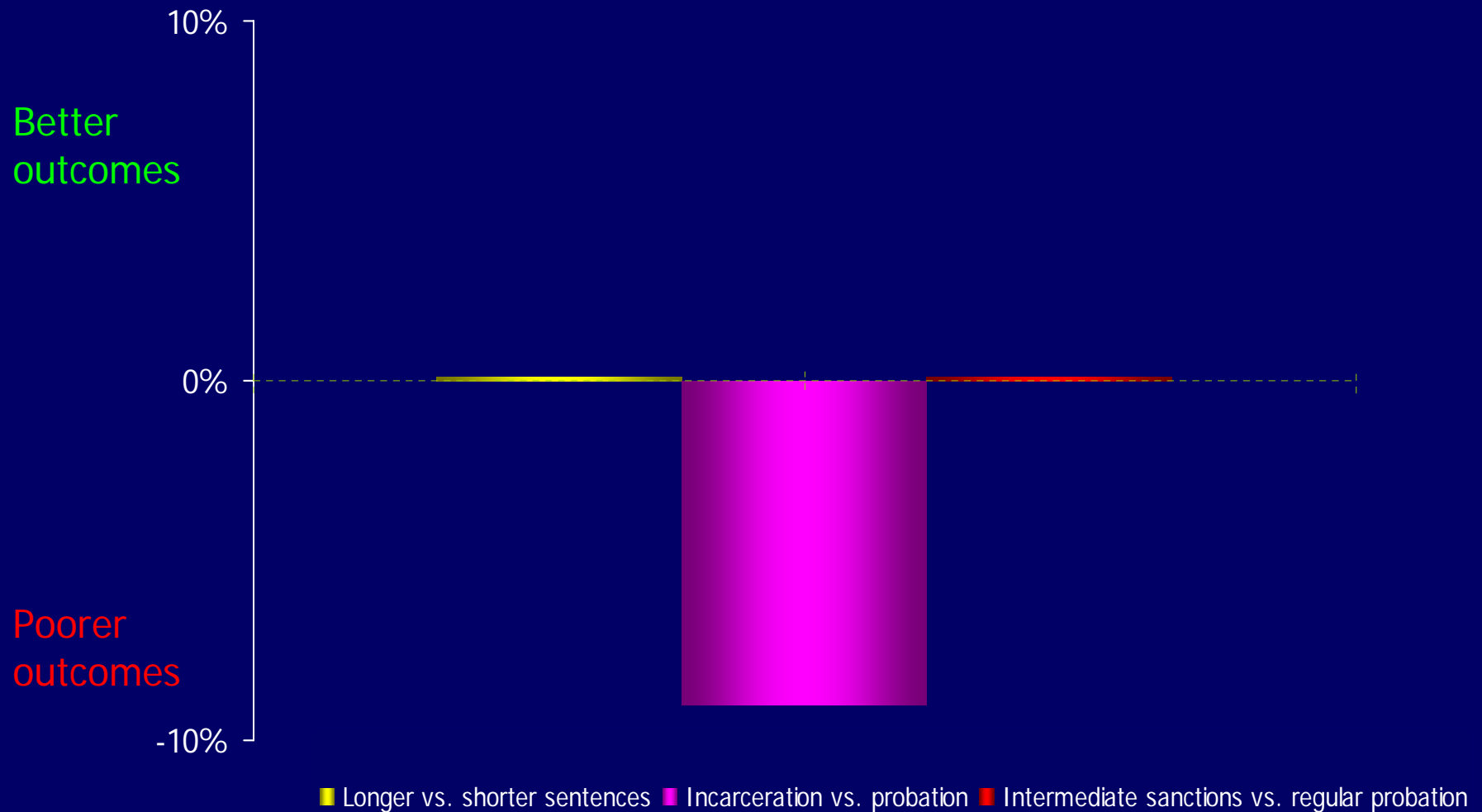
(Smith, Goggin, & Gendreau, 2002)

Impact of Punishment-Driven Strategies on Recidivism: Adults



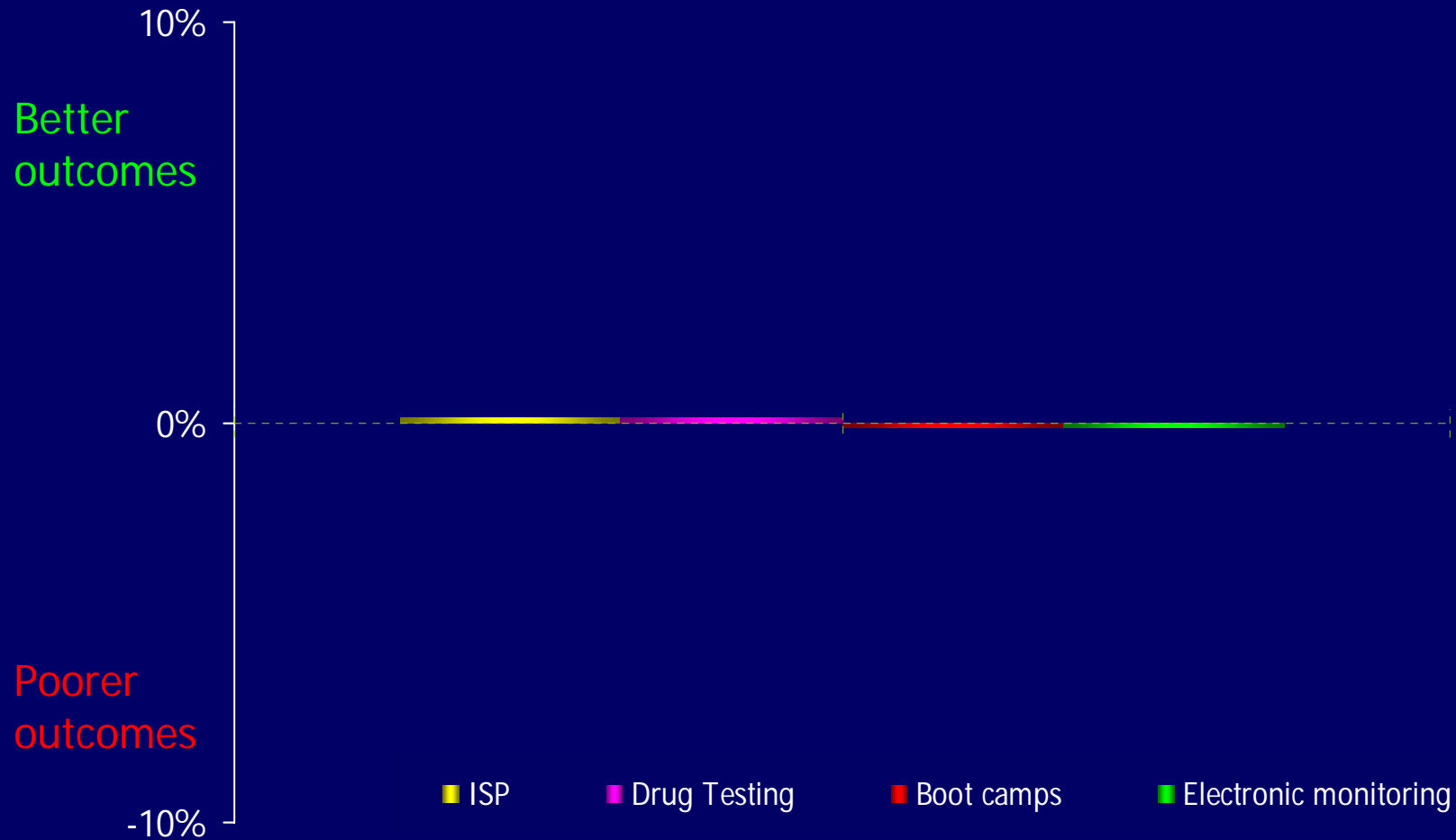
(Smith, Goggin, & Gendreau, 2002)

Impact of Punishment-Driven Strategies on Recidivism: Juveniles



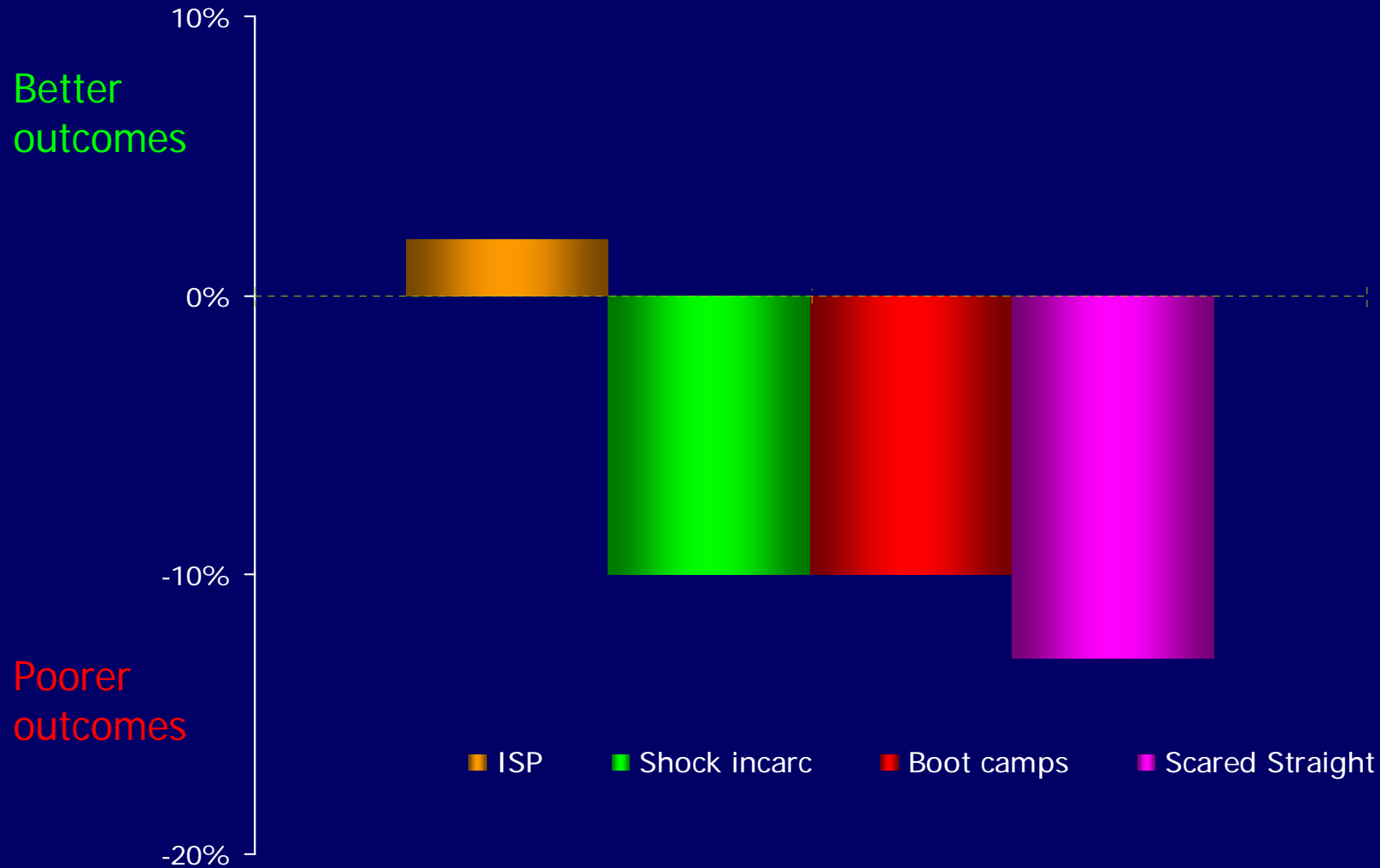
(Smith, Goggin, & Gendreau, 2002)

Impact of Intermediate Sanctions on Recidivism: Adults



(Aos et al., 2001, 2006; Gendreau et al., 2000)

Impact of Intermediate Sanctions on Recidivism: Juveniles



(Aos et al., 2001; Lipsey & Wilson, 1998)

Pairing Rehabilitative Interventions with Supervision/Sanctions

- Research reveals that punishment and deterrence-driven approaches used in isolation have
 - Negligible impact;
 - No impact; or
 - Negative impact

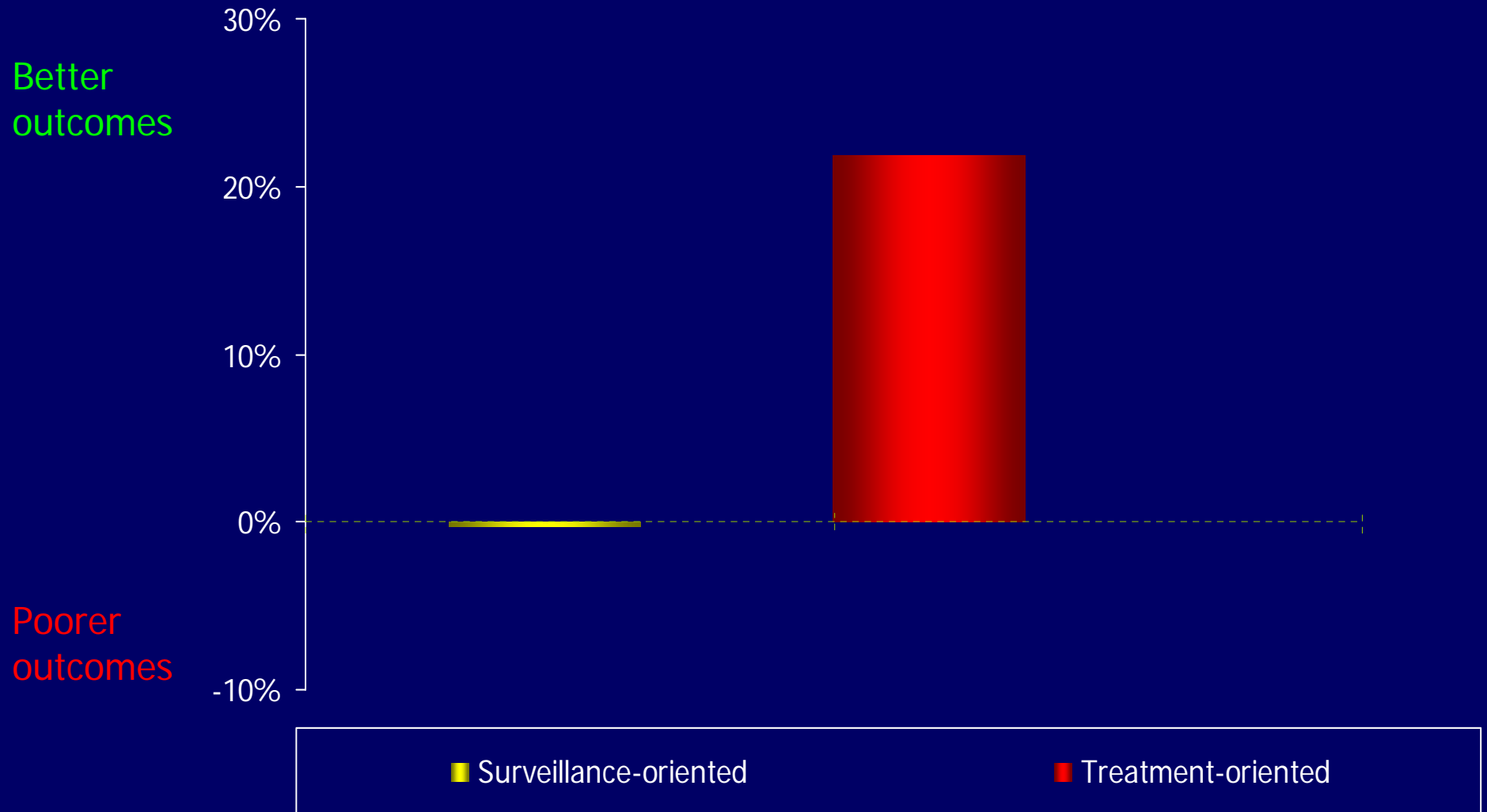
(see Aos, 2006; Cullen & Gendreau, 2000; MacKenzie, 1998; Petersilia & Turner, 1993)

Pairing Rehabilitative Interventions with Supervision/Sanctions (cont.)

- When paired with prosocial or rehabilitation-oriented interventions (e.g., treatment, education, community service)
 - Recidivism rates are reduced significantly
 - Re-arrests are as much as 20 percent lower

(see Aos, 2006; Cullen & Gendreau, 2000; MacKenzie, 1998; Petersilia & Turner, 1993)

Intervention Effects by Supervision Approach



(Aos et al., 2006)

Which interventions
and strategies have
evidence to support
the desired outcomes?

What seems to work?

- Several interventions for adult and juvenile offenders have been found to
 - Increase skills, competencies, adjustment, stability, and other positive outcomes
 - Reduce recidivism significantly

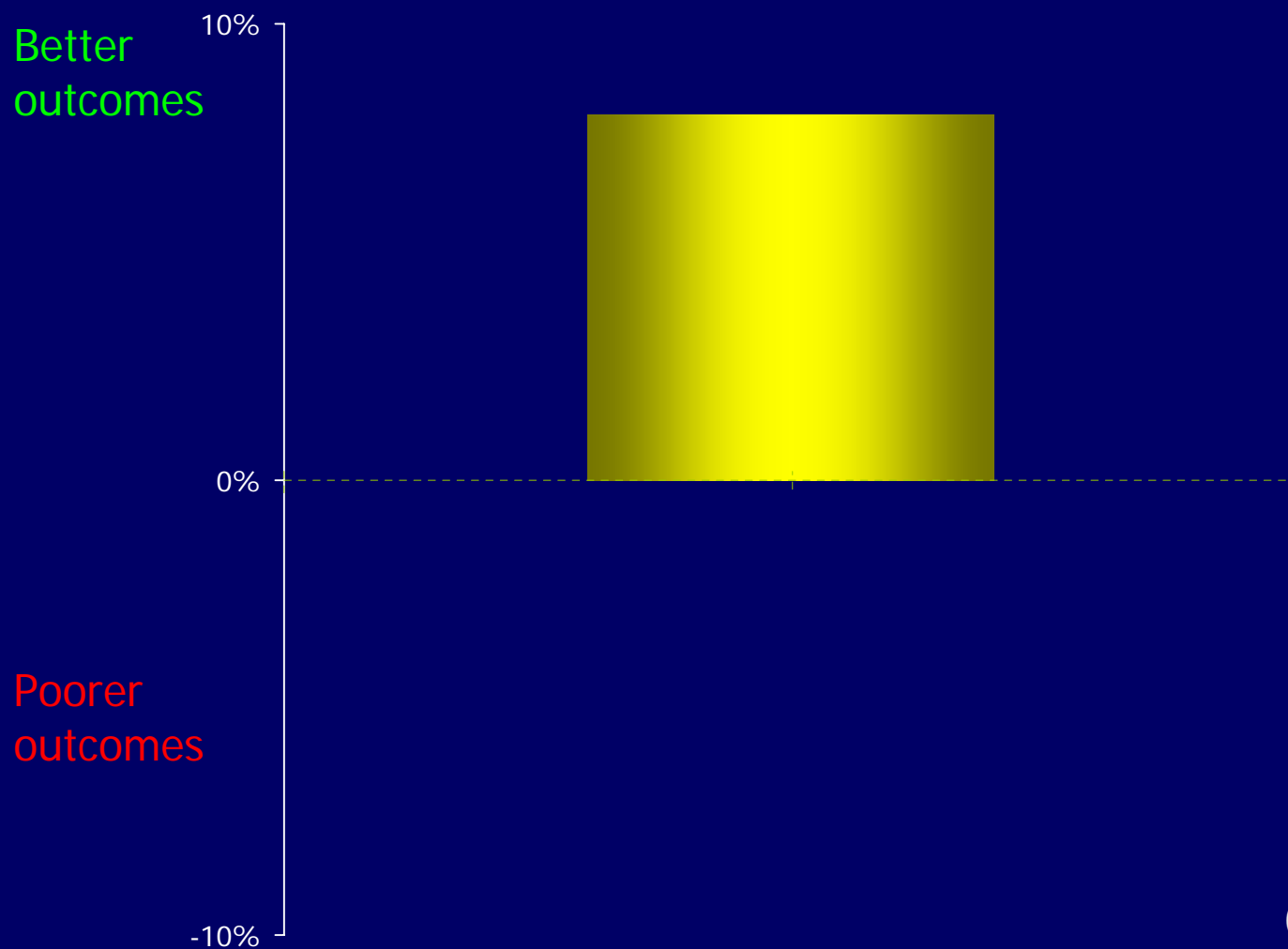
(see, e.g., Aos, 2001; Gendreau et al., 1996; Lipsey & Wilson, 1998)

Impact of Effective Interventions: Adults

Well-designed and well-delivered programs can reduce recidivism by as much as 30% for adult offenders

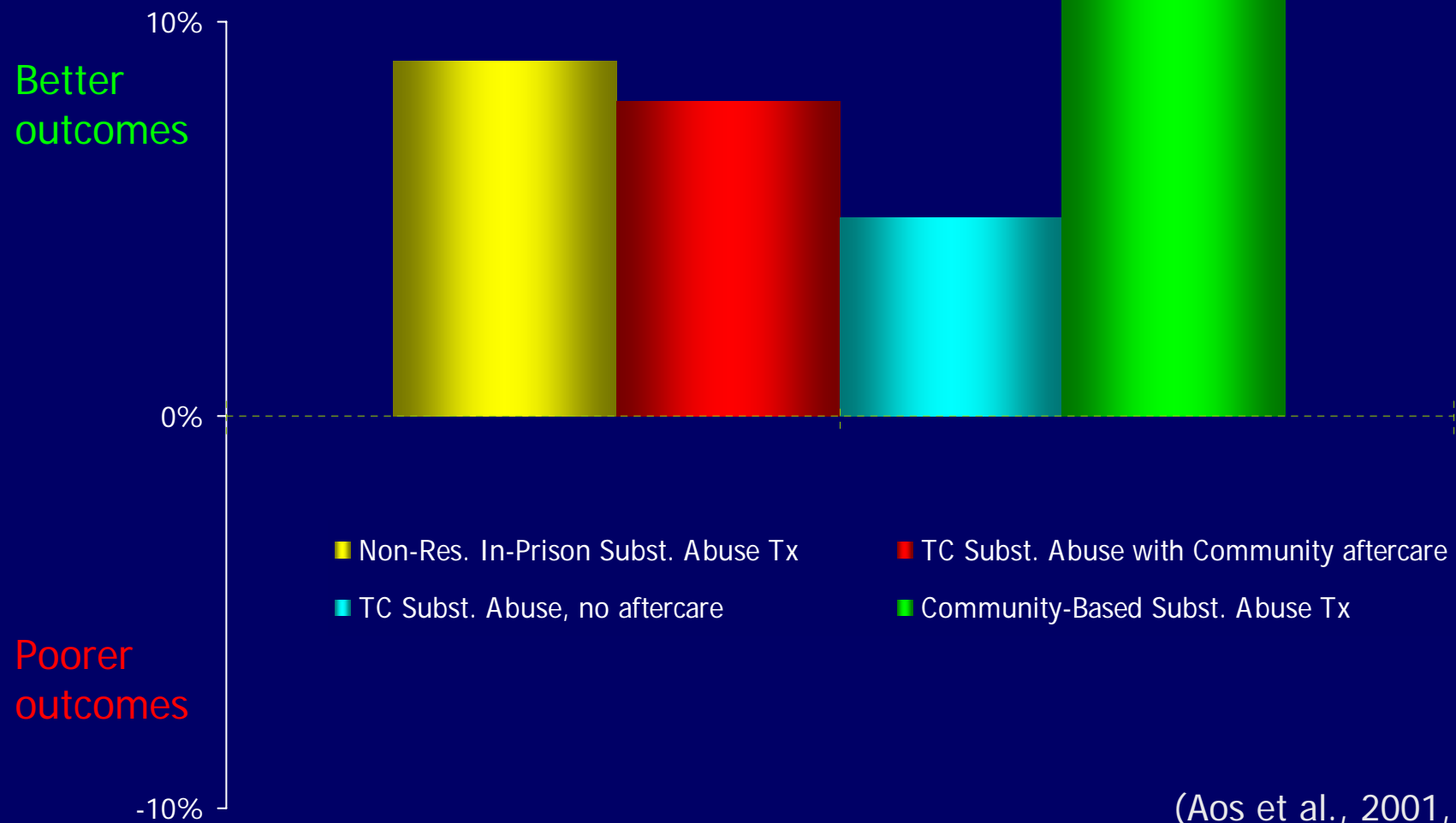
(see, e.g., Andrews et al., 1990, 1999; Cullen & Gendreau, 2000; Gendreau, Smith, & Goggin, 2001)

Intervention Effects for Adult Offenders: Cognitive Skills/Cognitive-Behavioral Programs



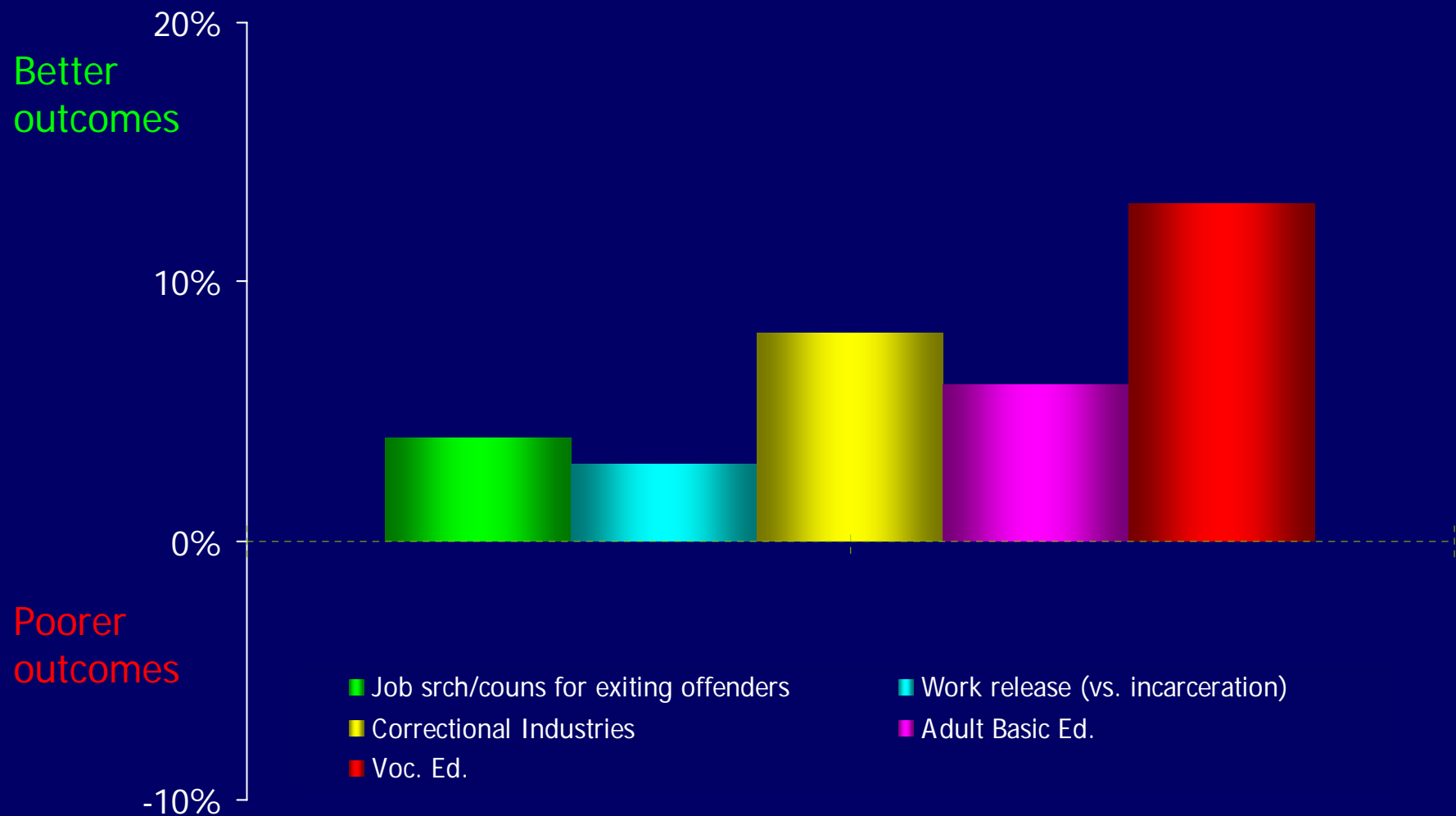
(Aos et al., 2001, 2006)

Intervention Effects for Adult Offenders: Substance Abuse Treatment



(Aos et al., 2001, 2006)

Intervention Effects for Adult Offenders: Education/Vocational Programs and Services



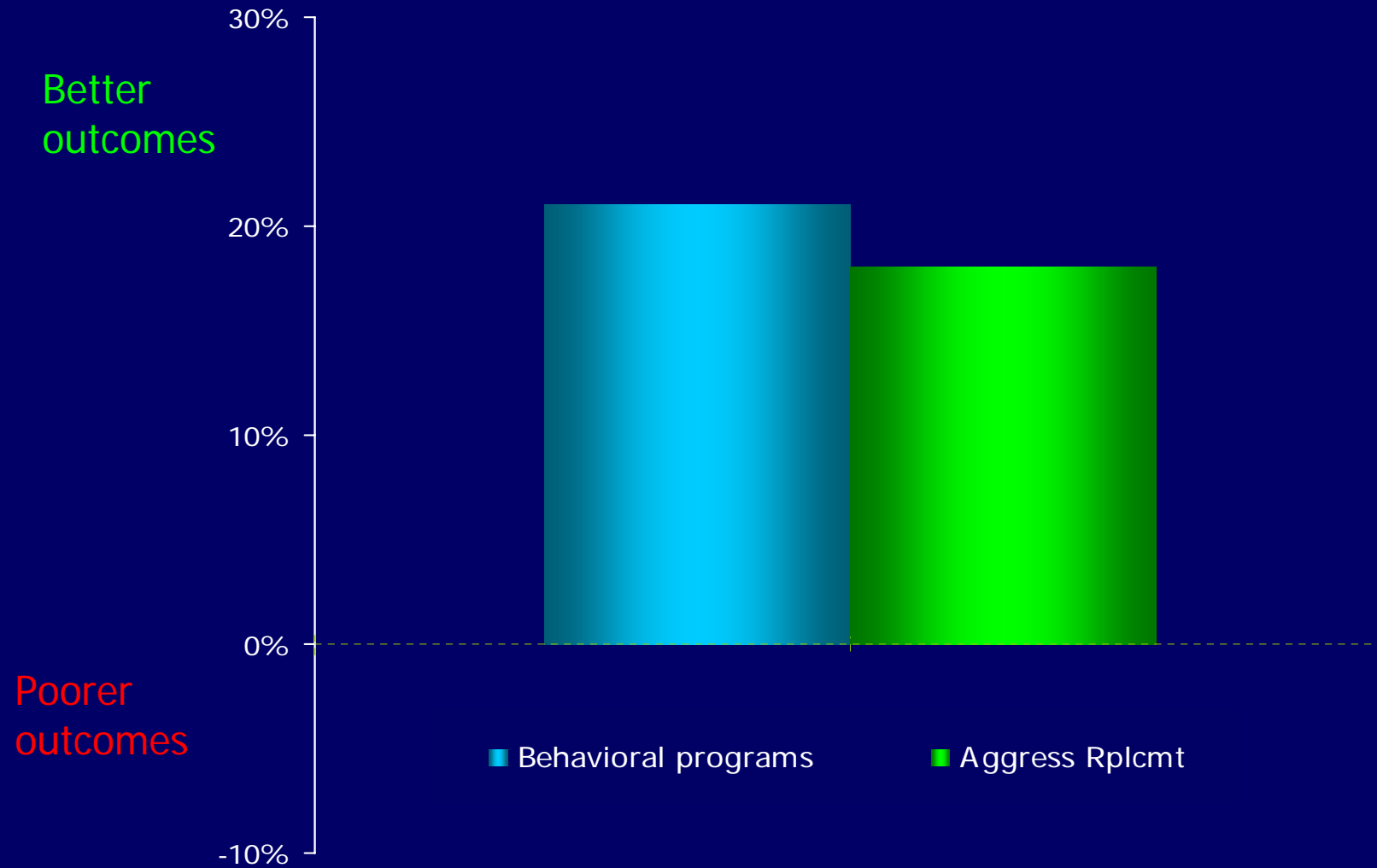
(Aos et al., 2001, 2006)

Impact of Effective Interventions: Juveniles

Estimates across meta-analyses suggest that interventions overall can result in up to 30% reductions in problem behaviors and recidivism for juveniles

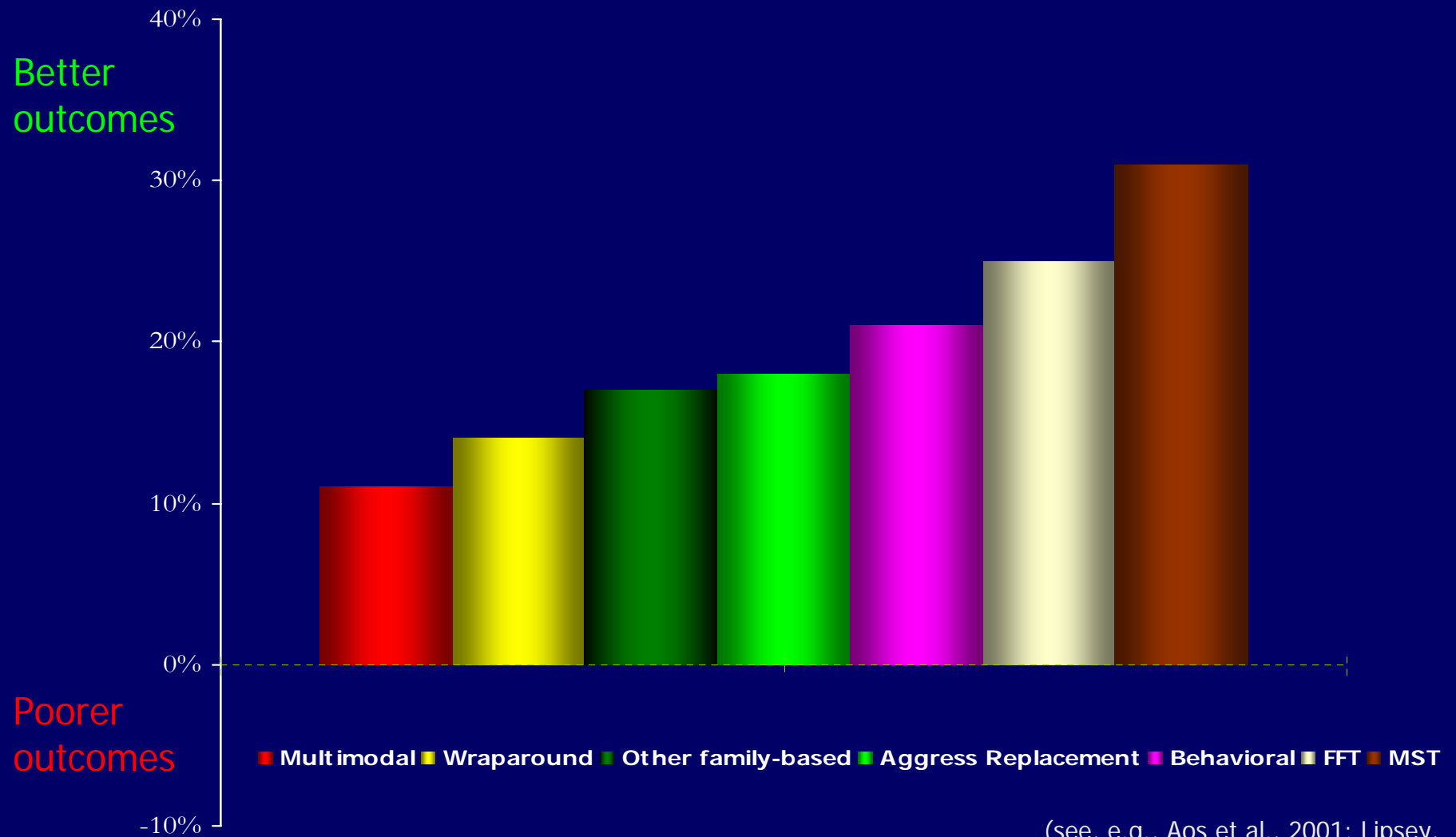
(see, e.g., Lipsey, 1992; Lipsey & Wilson, 1993, 1998; Losel, 1995; MacKenzie, 1998)

Intervention Effects for Juvenile Offenders: Cognitive-Behavioral



(Aos et al., 2001; Lipsey & Wilson, 1998)

Intervention Effects for Juvenile Offenders



(see, e.g., Aos et al., 2001; Lipsey, 1992, 1993; Lipsey & Wilson, 1998)

So if your offender management system includes...

- Substance abuse treatment
- Mental health services
- Educational and vocational programs
- Cognitive-behavioral programs
- Family interventions
- Special needs services
- Balanced supervision strategies

...then you're good to go, right?

Not necessarily!

- Not all interventions and strategies are created equal
- Many factors can have a significant impact on the ultimate outcomes of these interventions

What separates the
effective from the
ineffective interventions?

The Principles of Effective
Correctional Intervention

(see, e.g., Andrews, 1994, Andrews & Bonta, 1998, 2003; Bogue et al., 2004; Clawson et al., 2005; Cullen & Gendreau, 2000; Gendreau, 1996)

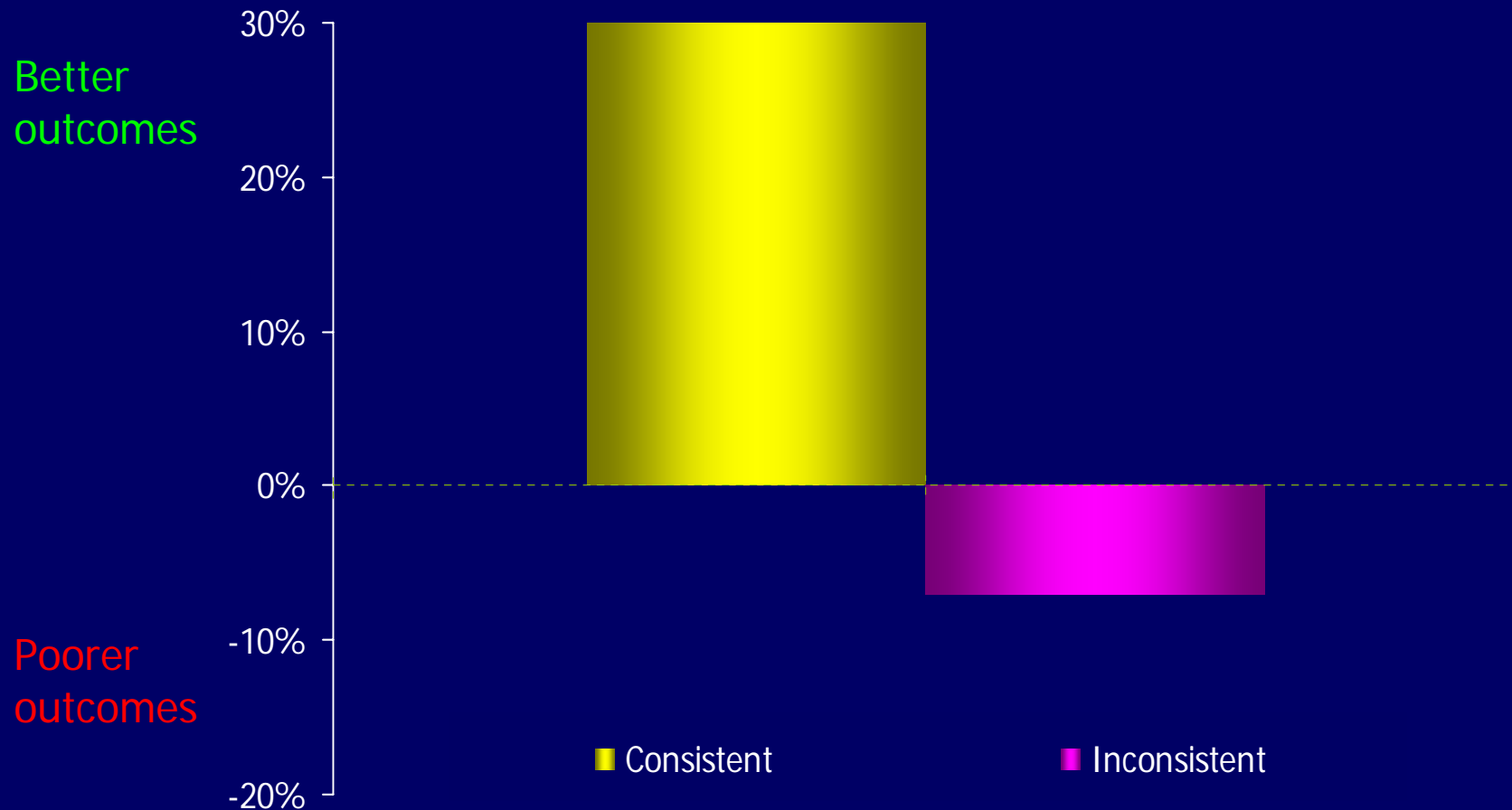
Core Principles

- Risk
- Need
- Responsivity

(see, e.g., Andrews, 1994, Andrews & Bonta, 1998)

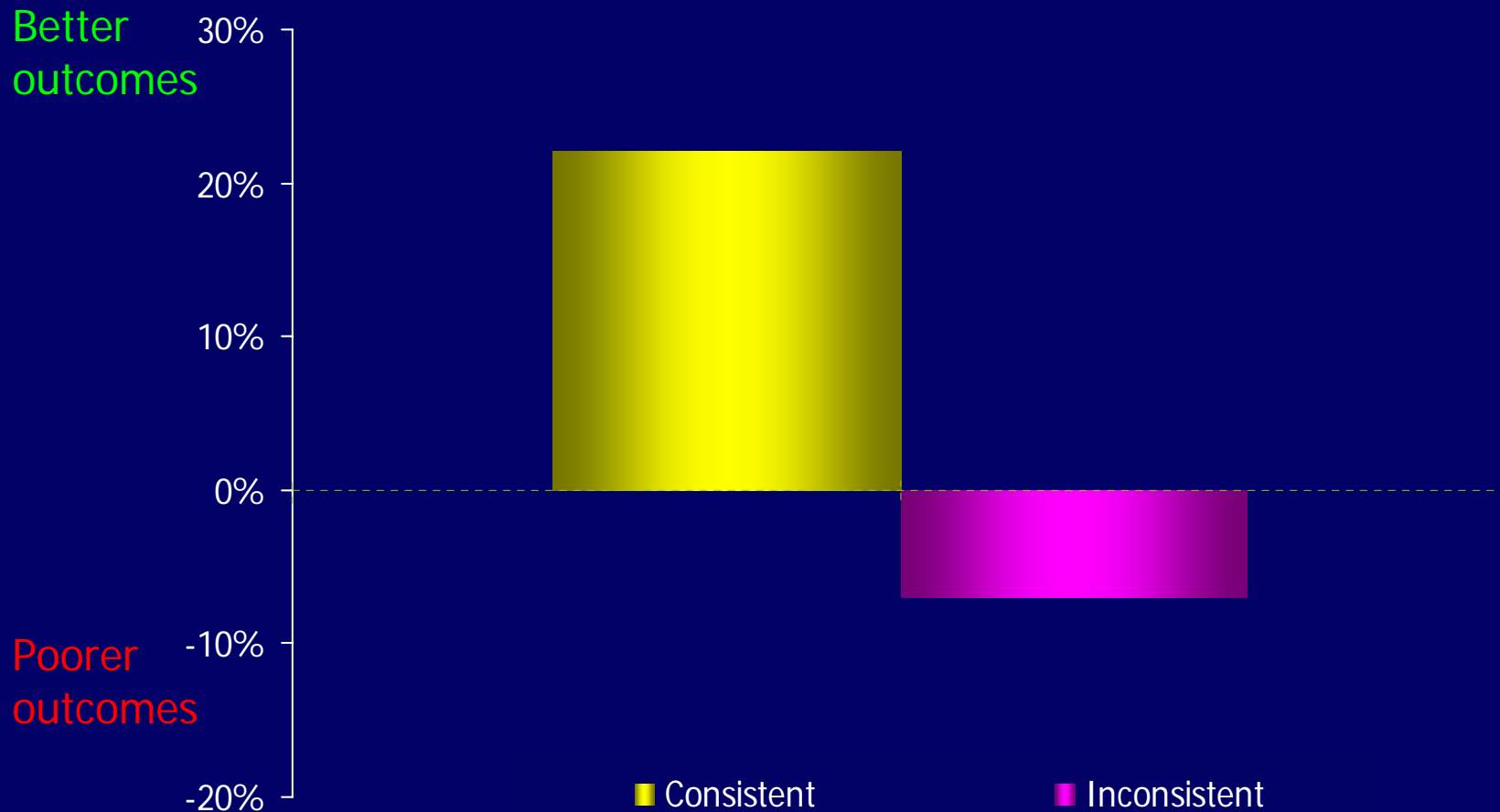
How do the core
principles
measure up?

Testing the Core Principles of Effective Intervention: Risk, Needs, and Responsivity*



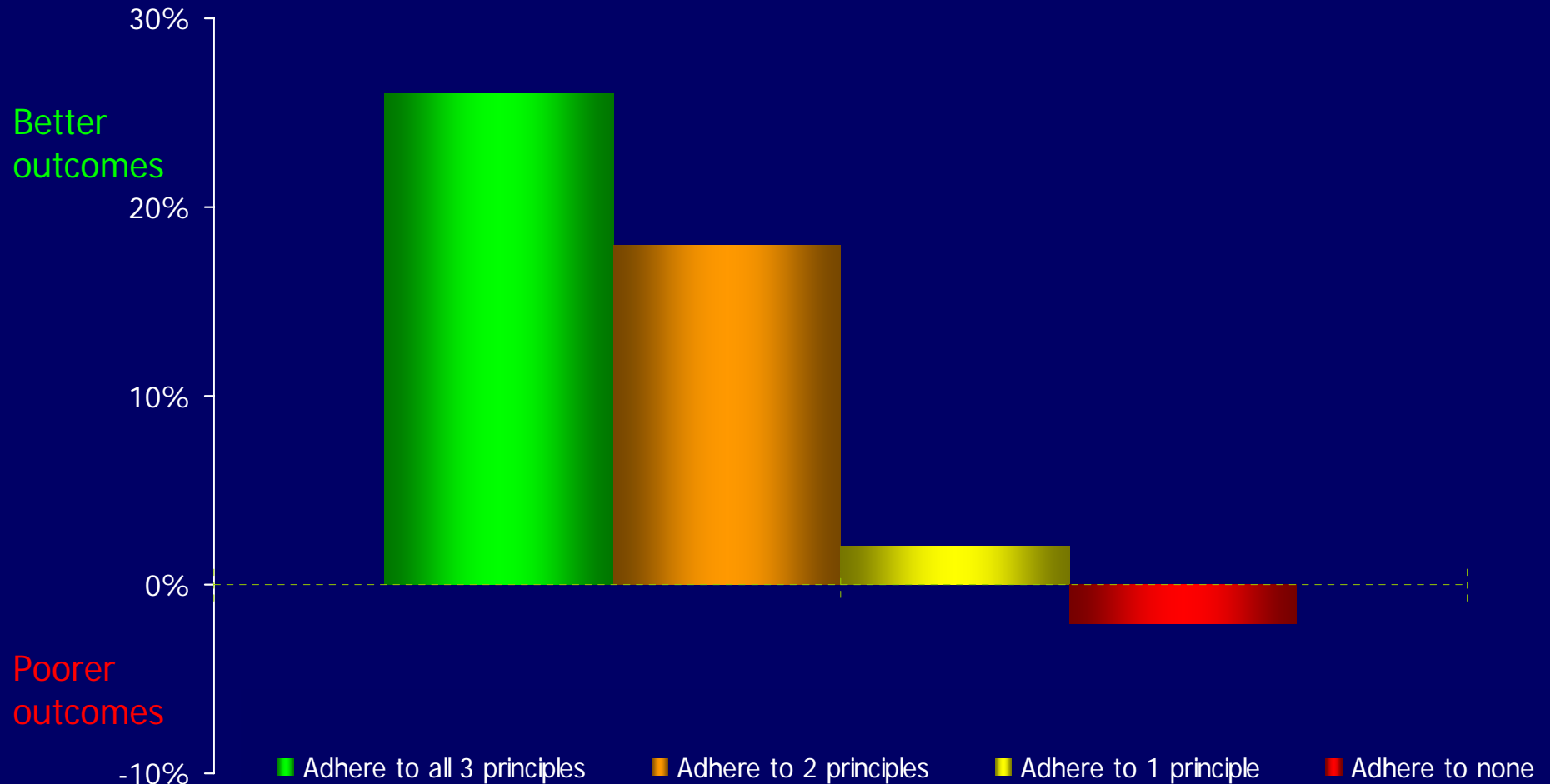
*meta-analysis of 80 studies
(Andrews et al., 1990)

Re-Testing the Core Principles of Effective Intervention: Risk, Needs, and Responsivity*



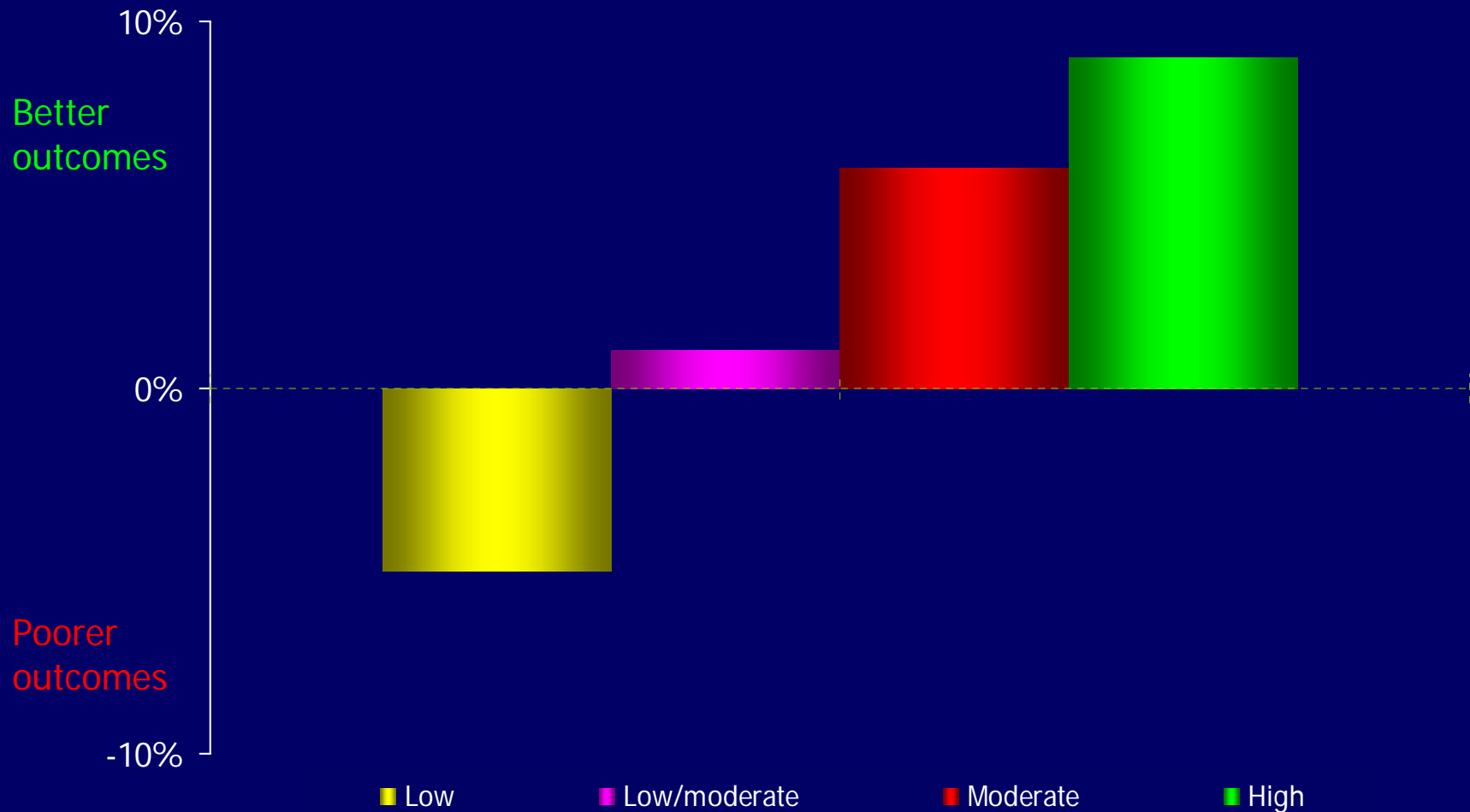
*meta-analysis of over 500 studies
(Pearson et al., 1996)

Impact of Adhering to the Core Principles of Effective Intervention: Risk, Needs, and Responsivity*



* meta-analysis of 230 studies
(Andrews et al., 1999)

Halfway Houses to Promote Reentry: Efficacy as a Function of Offender Risk*



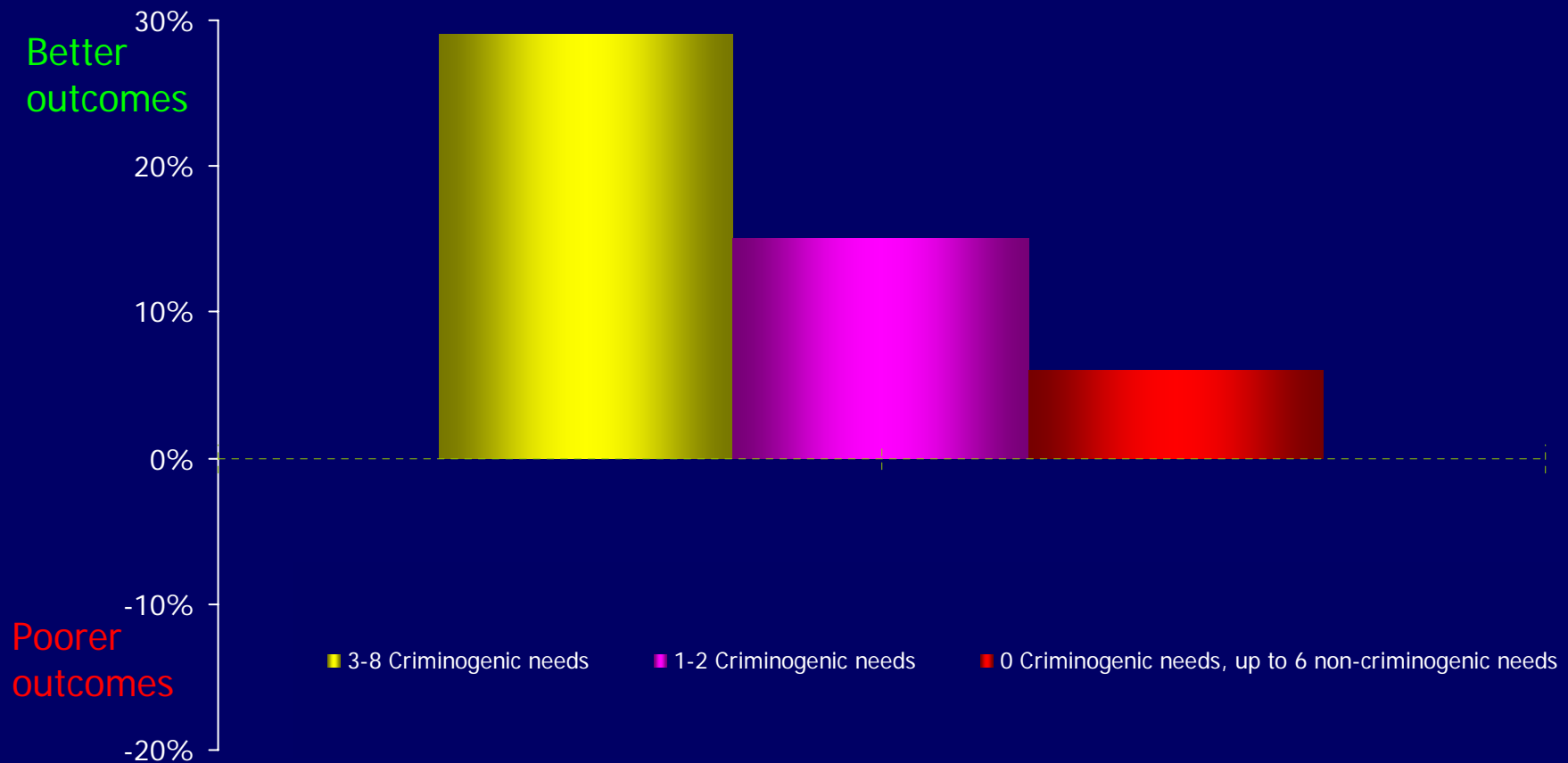
* Approx. 3,500 offenders placed in halfway houses, compared to 3,500 not placed in a halfway house

(Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005b)

Targeting Criminogenic and Non-Criminogenic Needs

Is More Better?

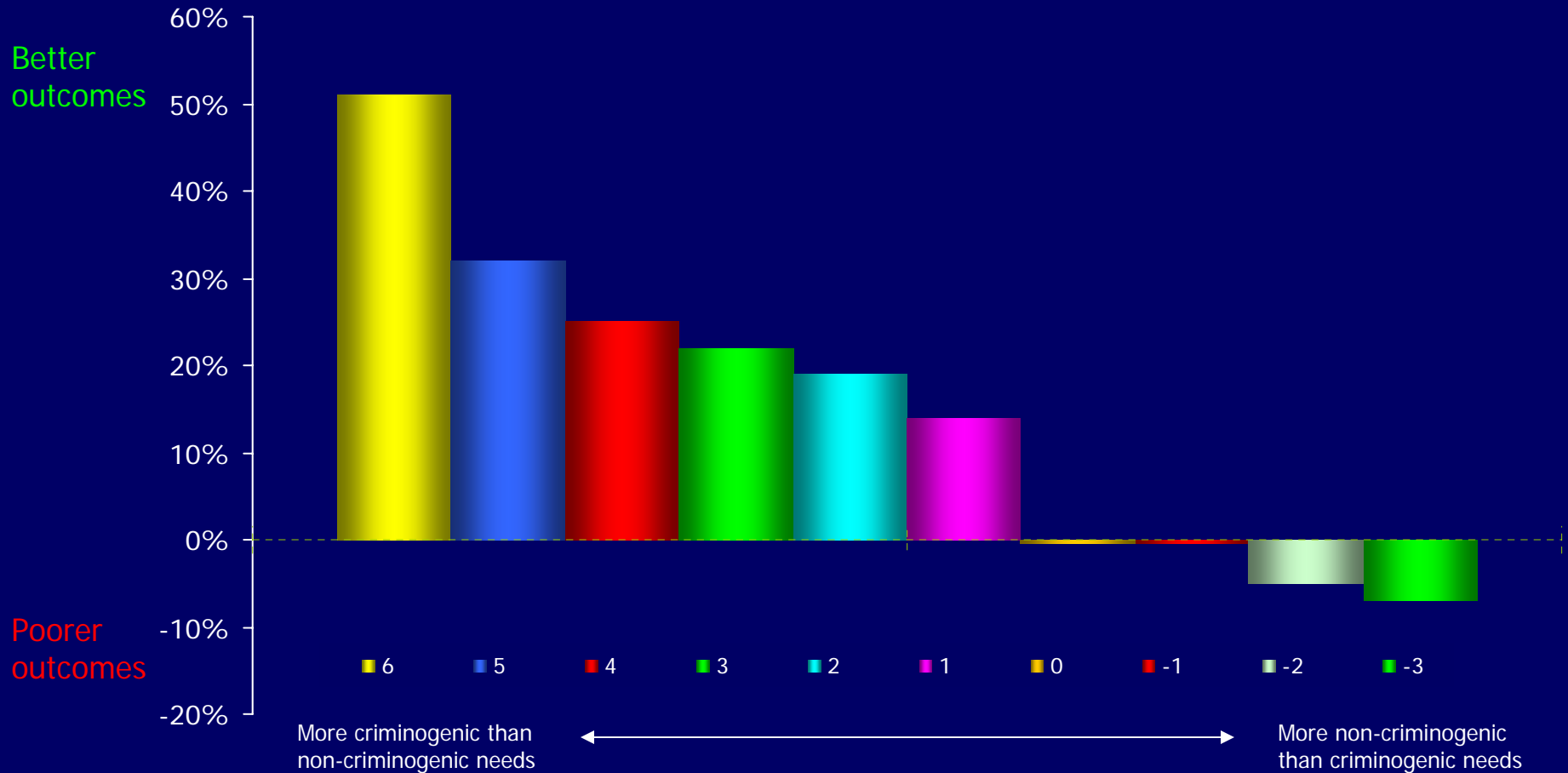
Prison Misconduct Reductions as a Function of Targeting Multiple Criminogenic Needs*



* Meta-analyses including over 13,000 offenders

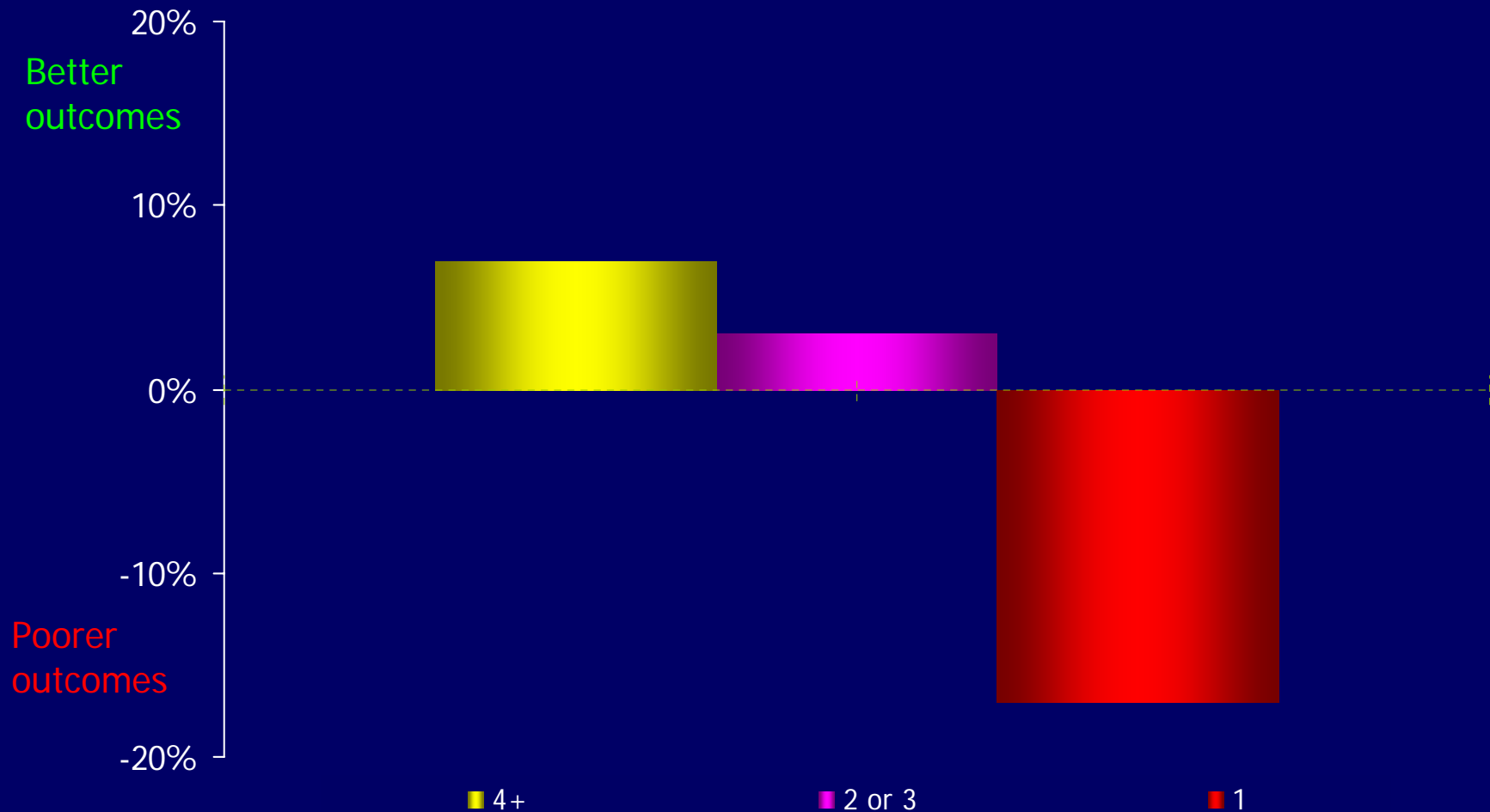
(French & Gendreau, 2003)

Recidivism Reductions as a Function of Targeting Multiple Criminogenic vs. Non-Criminogenic Needs*



(Andrews, Dowden, & Gendreau, 1999; Dowden, 1998)

Halfway Houses to Promote Reentry: Efficacy as a Function of Number of Services Targeting Criminogenic Needs*



* Approx. 3,500 offenders placed in halfway houses, compared to 3,500 not placed in a halfway house

(Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005b)

Additional Principles

- Link institutional programs and services to community-based interventions
 - Continuity of care
- Engage prosocial community influences to support interventions
 - Foster positive ties in the community

(see, e.g., Andrews, 1994, Andrews & Bonta, 1998, 2003; Bogue et al., 2004; Clawson et al., 2005; Cullen & Gendreau, 2000; Gendreau, 1996)

Additional Principles (cont.)

- Ensure program integrity
 - Solid program theory
 - Fidelity of implementation
 - Program climate
 - Well-trained staff

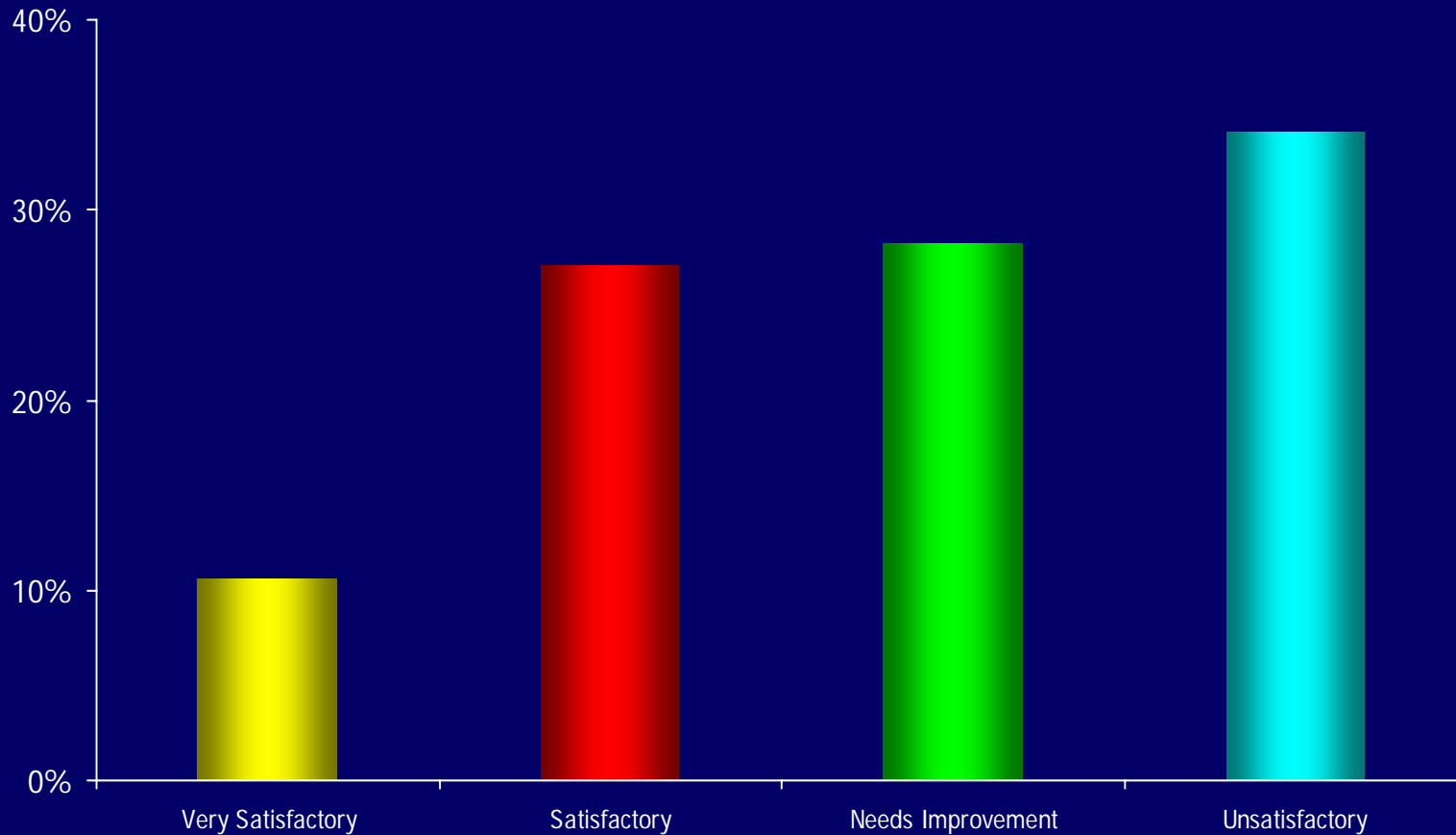
(see, e.g., Andrews, 1994, Andrews & Bonta, 1998, 2003; Bogue et al., 2004; Clawson et al., 2005; Cullen & Gendreau, 2000; Gendreau, 1996)

Additional Principles (cont.)

- Monitor and evaluate
 - Staff performance (provide feedback and reinforcement)
 - Within-treatment changes
 - Outcome evaluations

(see, e.g., Andrews, 1994, Andrews & Bonta, 1998, 2003; Bogue et al., 2004; Clawson et al., 2005; Cullen & Gendreau, 2000; Gendreau, 1996)

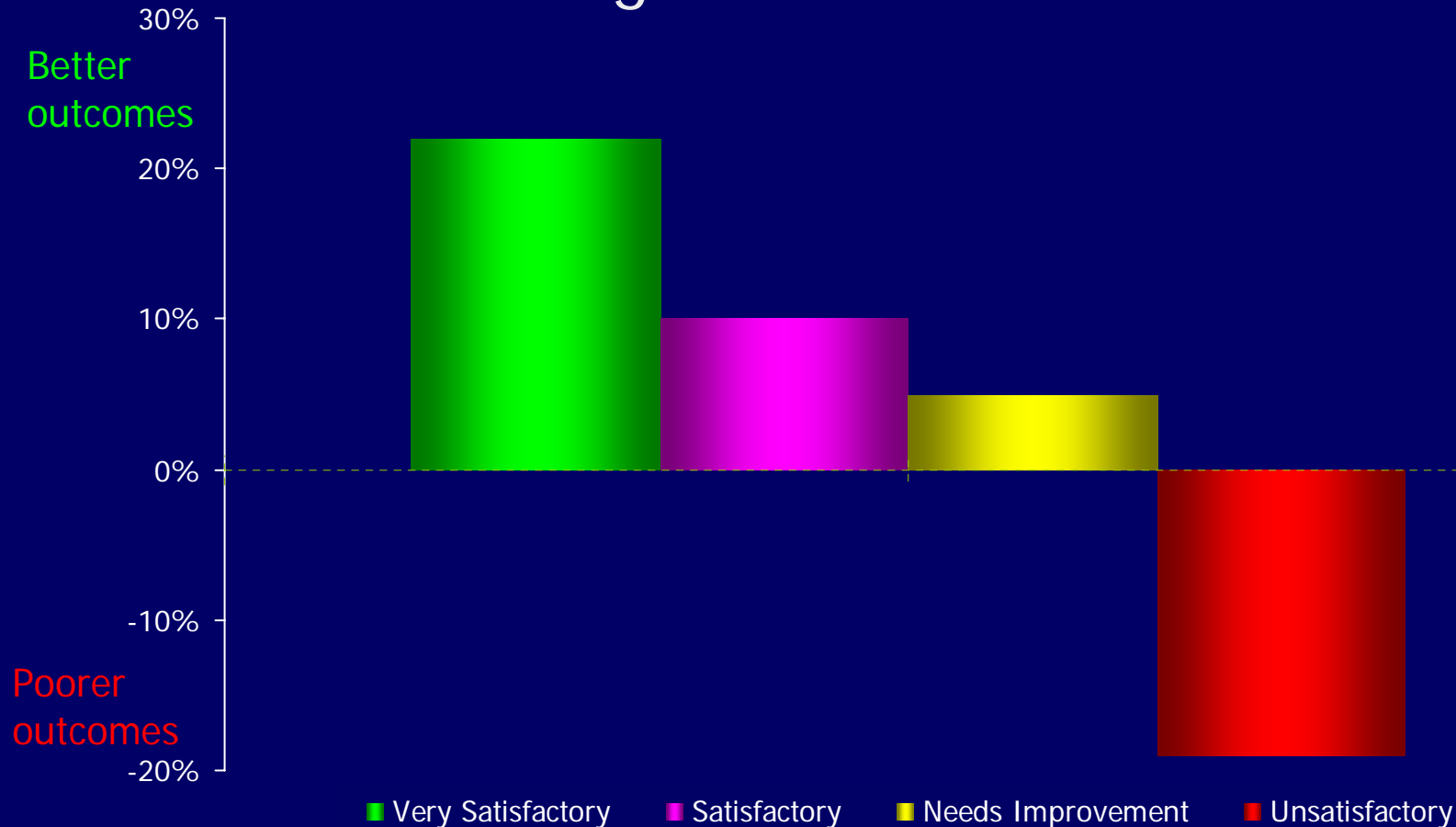
Correctional Programs' Adherence to the Principles of Effective Intervention*: Percentage Classified by Overall CPAI Rating



*N=86

(Matthews, Jones-Hubbard, & Latessa, 2001)

Efficacy of Halfway Houses as a Function of Adherence to the Principles of Effective Intervention: Overall CPAI Rating*



* Approx. 7,300 offenders placed in halfway houses, compared to 5,800 not placed in a halfway house

(Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005a)

The Challenges of Implementing Evidence-Based Practices

- Requires a dedicated commitment to change at all levels, within and across organizations
- Often requires an increased emphasis on accountability for our work – individual and collective
- Requires us to reconsider current practices and let go of the “that’s always how we’ve done it” philosophy
- May result in resistance as it may force some to step out of their comfort zone

Toward Implementing Evidence-Based Practices: Key Steps

- Clearly identify the problem and desired outcomes
- Search for the research (i.e., evidence) that may help address the problem
- Critically evaluate the evidence
- Assess the extent to which your current practices are consistent with identified evidence-based practices
- Develop an implementation strategy
- Evaluate the impact of new practices on the desired outcomes