

## History of SOTAP

Although SOTAP has existed at DOC for several decades, the therapy and treatment modality has evolved. A significant change occurred in October 2018 when SOTAP implemented its most advanced evidence-based program to date.

The current treatment program is supported by a growing body of rigorous research studies and has already resulted in better client outcomes in Washington.

The current SOTAP model uses Risk, Needs, & Responsivity (RNR) principles which focus on who should be treated (those who are assessed as a higher risk to offend, what to focus on in treatment, and how to individually tailor treatment, signifying that treatment is adaptive and flexible.

The current model expects there to be differences and variability among individuals, especially regarding risks and needs. By using RNR principles, SOTAP clinicians can customize the delivery of treatment for a more focused and effective treatment program.

SOTAP consists of one year of treatment while incarcerated followed by one year of treatment while on community supervision. To successfully complete the program, clients must be successful in both prison and community treatment.



*“Yes, [SOTAP] made my life better and my therapist helped me a lot. It made me a better person ... SOTAP is a good thing.”*  
- SOTAP Client

We Want to Hear From You.  
Send Questions or Comments:  
Via KITE (for incarcerated individuals)  
Contact Your Field Office



## Sex Offense Treatment and Assessment Programs (SOTAP)



## Collaborating with Clients for Safer Communities & Positively Changing Lives

SOTAP is offered at the Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC), Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) and the Twin Rivers and Sky River Units at the Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC). Community-based SOTAP is offered in 17 field offices across the state.

<https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/programs/sex-offense-treatment.htm>

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# Benefits of SOTAP

Among all the people with felony conviction(s) for any crime who are released from DOC custody, nearly one in every four people (22.2%) will return to prison within three years (Source: <https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/reports/100-RE004.pdf>). People convicted of sex offenses have a lower likelihood of returning to prison: about 10% will return within three years of release. Clients who complete SOTAP's treatment program can further reduce their likelihood of returning to prison. SOTAP's program reduces the risk of committing any type of future crime and returning to prison.

Table of Three-Year Return Rates FY2018-2020 for any new offenses committed by people originally convicted of sexual-related offenses.

Fiscal Year of Release	Completed SOTAP	No SOTAP Treatment
FY2018	4.3%	11.0%
FY2019	3.2%	10.0%
FY2020	5.7%	8.2%



# SOTAP Completion

Each year, about 260 people transition from the treatment program in prison and complete treatment in the community.

In 2023, researchers finished an evaluation of SOTAP's treatment program at DOC by comparing the outcomes of people who completed the current program to people who completed the original program (before 2018). The report found evidence of better outcomes among the clients of the current program compared to clients who successfully completed the previous program using several metrics.

The SOTAP evaluation found that clients who completed the current program reduced their chances of returning to prison for a new crime. SOTAP clients in the current program had just one-fourth the odds of returning to prison for a new crime as those who completed the original program. Of the 191 people who successfully completed the current program, only two people returned to prison for committing a new sex offense within three years.

The most consistent finding of the report was that completing SOTAP in the community significantly reduced all types of reoffending. People who completed SOTAP in the community were less likely to be readmitted to prison, and if readmitted to prison, take much longer time to do so. Overall, SOTAP provides clients with the necessary skills to successfully reside in the community.

To access the full SOTAP evaluation report, go to: <https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/reports/500-RE003.pdf>

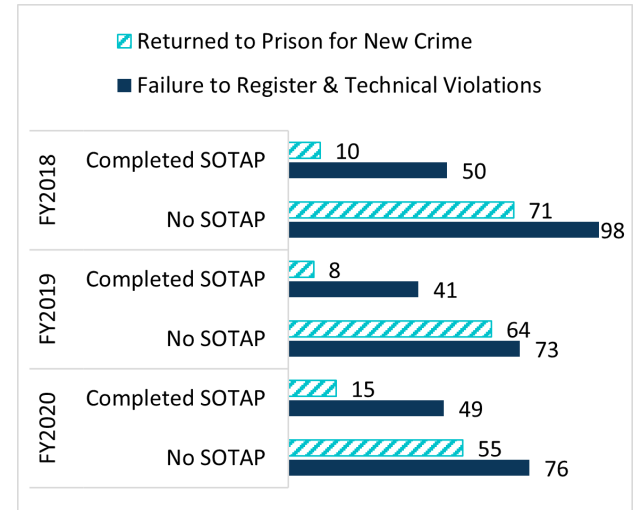
SOTAP clients are less likely than non-SOTAP individuals to return to prison for:

- Violating conditions of release.
- Failing to meet registration requirements.
- Committing new general offenses.

# Comparison of SOTAP vs. Non-SOTAP Individual Outcomes at 3-Year & 5-Year Intervals

The following charts show the number of people who returned to prison for a new crime and the number of people who violated release conditions, comparing those who completed SOTAP with those who did not.

Number of People with Sex Offense Conviction(s) Returned to Prison within **3 Years** of Release



Number of People with Sex Offense Conviction(s) Returned to Prison within **5 Years** of Release

