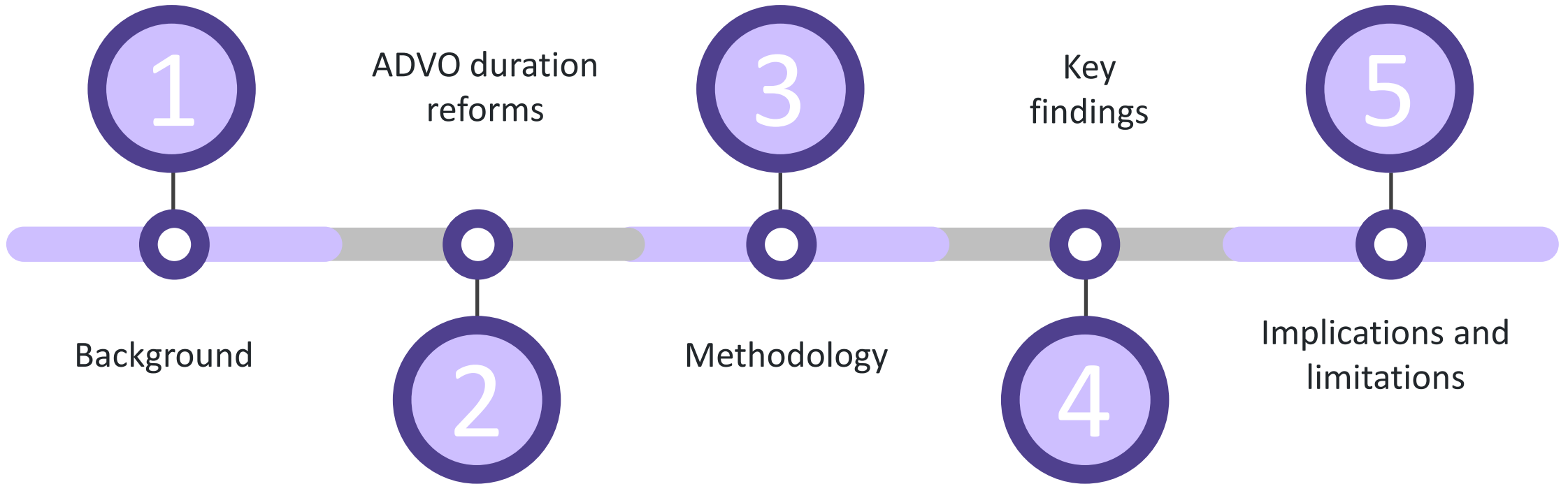


The long and short of it: The impact of ADVO duration on offending and breaches

Adam Teperski & Stewart Boiteux
01 July 2024





1

Background



26% of women have experienced violence from an intimate partner since age 16.¹



\$21.7b in annual economic cost of violence against women and their children.²

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2023). Personal Safety, Australia, 2021-2022.

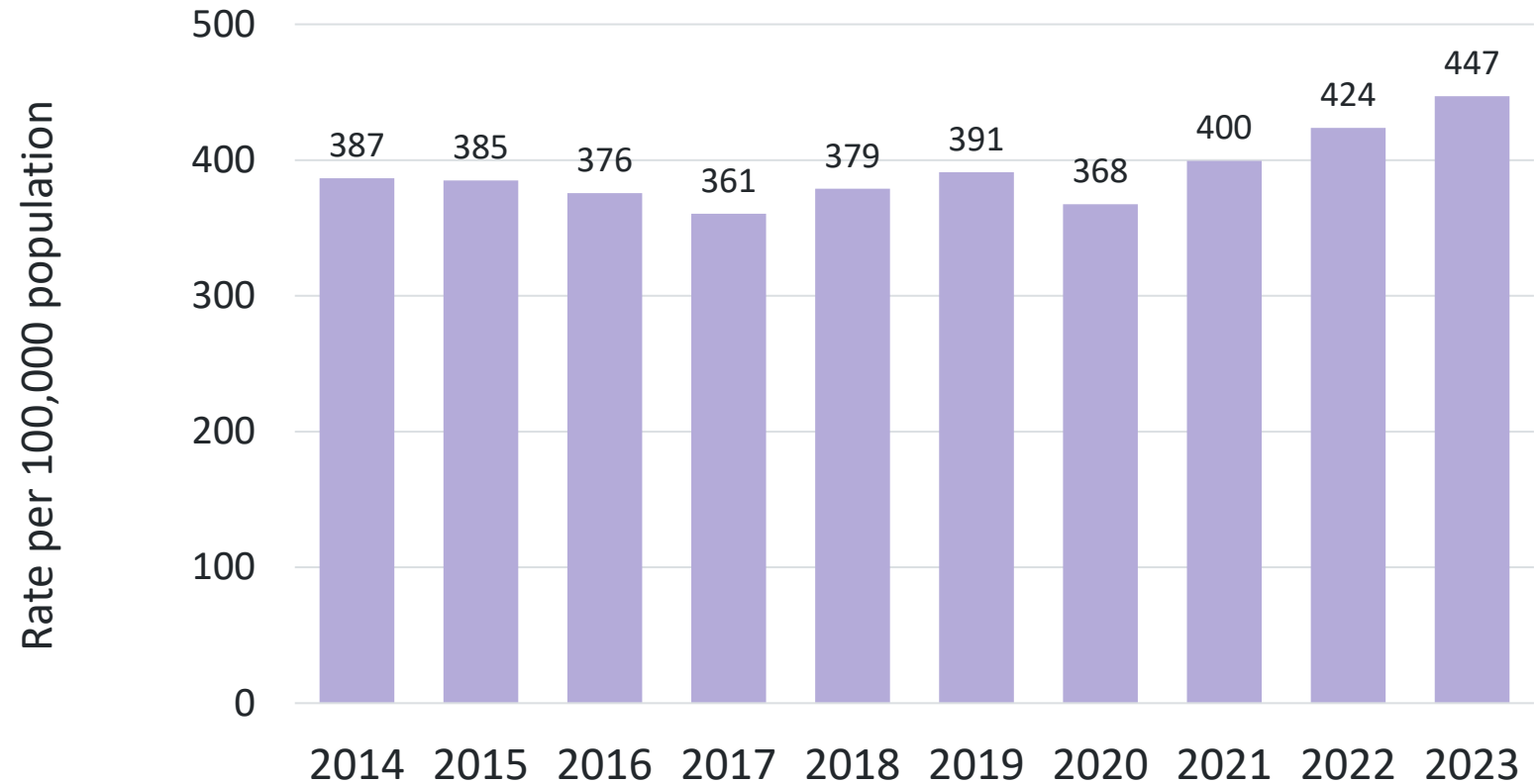
2 PricewaterhouseCoopers (2015). A high price to pay: The economic case for preventing violence against women.

3 Freeman, K. (2022). Has the rate of domestic and family violence changed in NSW?: Victim survey results from July 2008 to June 2020.

Despite significant domestic violence (DV) policy and program development, DV remains persistent in NSW.



Domestic and family violence related assault incidents, NSW, rate per 100,000 population³



Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs) are civil orders issued by the NSW Local Court which aim to protect a person from violence

They do this by:

- **Restricting defendant behaviour** including if and how they can contact the person in need of protection (PINOP)
- **Mandating a set of tailored conditions** which are designed to protect the person
- **Criminalising breaches of these conditions**, with the possibility for **severe penalties**, including custody



Although ADVOs offer several benefits, they are not without criticism or cost



The Sydney Morning Herald

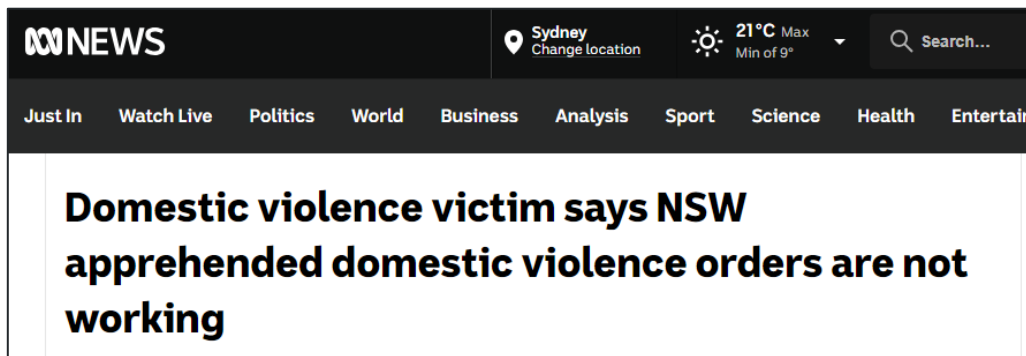
Exclusive National NSW Domestic violence

'I'm not going to stop until she's dead': Rising number of men ignore domestic violence orders

Clare Sibthorpe and Nigel Gladstone

May 28, 2024 – 5:00am

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Domestic violence victim says NSW apprehended domestic violence orders are not working

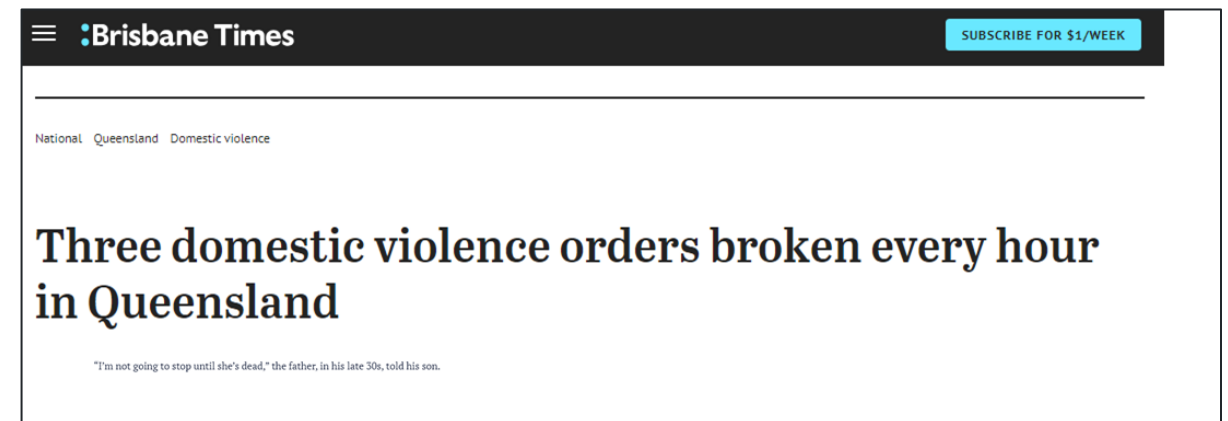


The Daily Telegraph

Call for war on domestic violence as half of all AVOs fail

POLICY advocates have called for a war on domestic violence as figures revealed breaches on nearly half of all apprehended violence orders issued in NSW.

EXCLUSIVE Taylor Auerbach



Brisbane Times

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1/WEEK

National Queensland Domestic violence

Three domestic violence orders broken every hour in Queensland

"I'm not going to stop until she's dead," the father, in his late 30s, told his son.

Although ADVOs offer several benefits, they are not without criticism or cost



Focus on **discrete incidents** and visible forms of violence

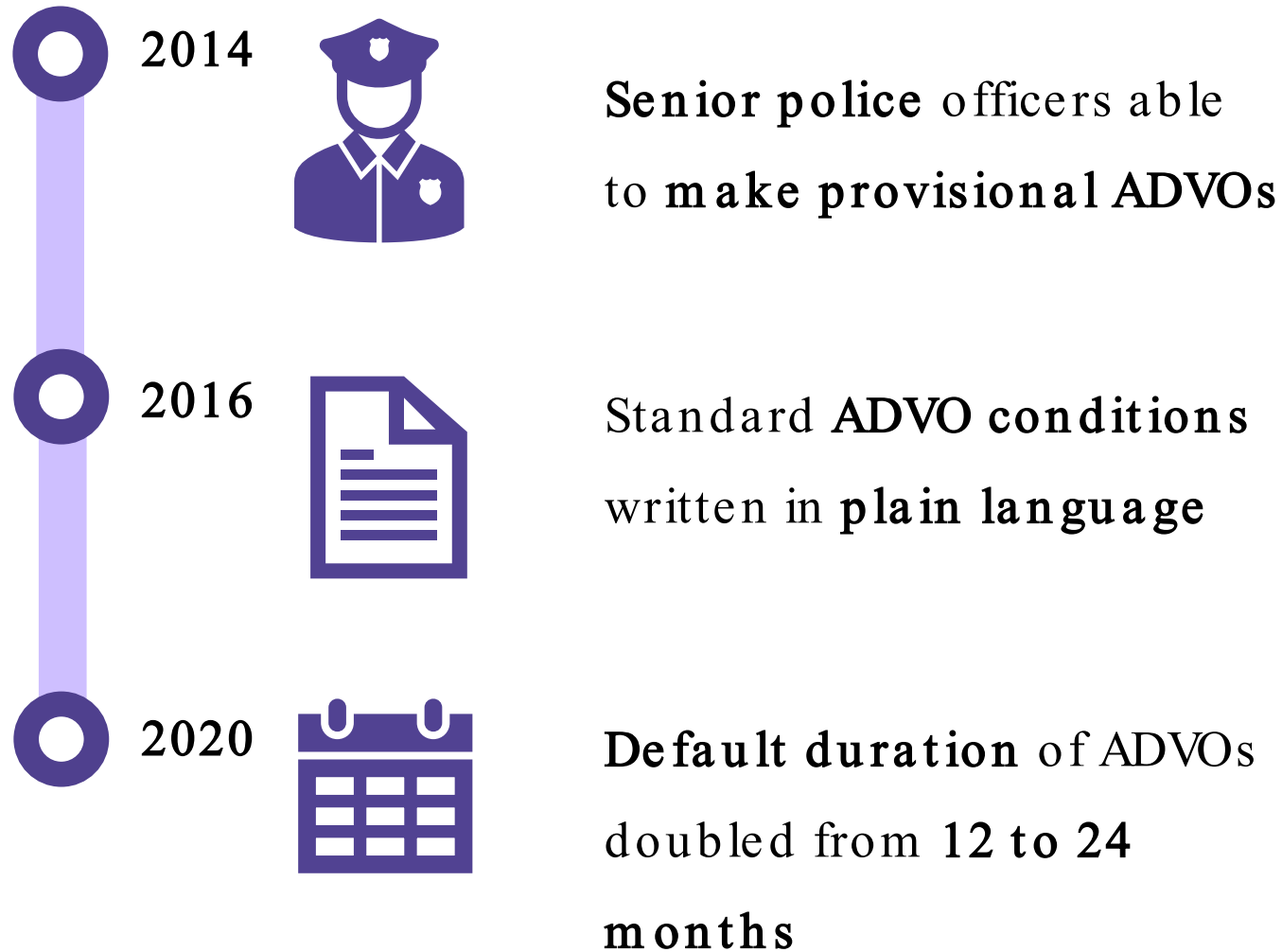


Effectiveness depends on **willingness of victims to report DV** and **police response**



May lead to unintended **“net-widening”** due to **technical breaching**

There have been several changes to ADVO laws in recent years



Aims of the current study



Investigate the extent to which longer ADVOs increase breach rates

Investigate whether longer ADVOs reduce DV reoffending

2

ADVO duration reforms

There has been significant policy discussion and development to increase the default length of ADVOs from 12 to 24 months

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October 2017



NSW DV death review
recommends longer
ADVOs

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October 2017



NSW DV death review recommends longer ADVOs

July 2018



Recommendation supported by the Law Society of NSW

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October 2017



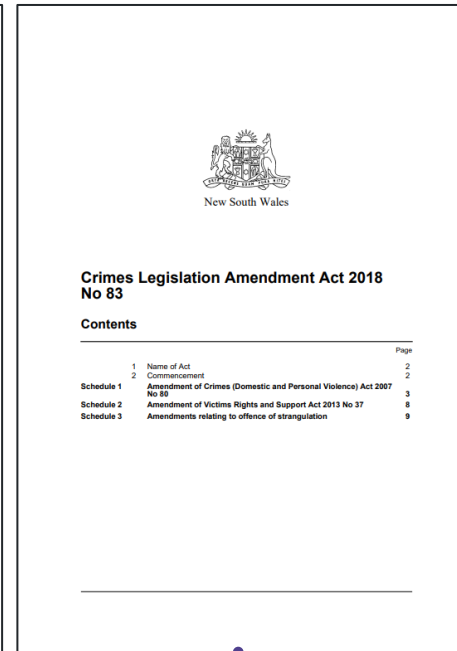
NSW DV death review recommends longer ADVOs

July 2018



Recommendation supported by the Law Society of NSW

November 2018



Policy change legislated

There has been significant policy discussion and development to increase the default length of ADVOs from 12 to 24 months

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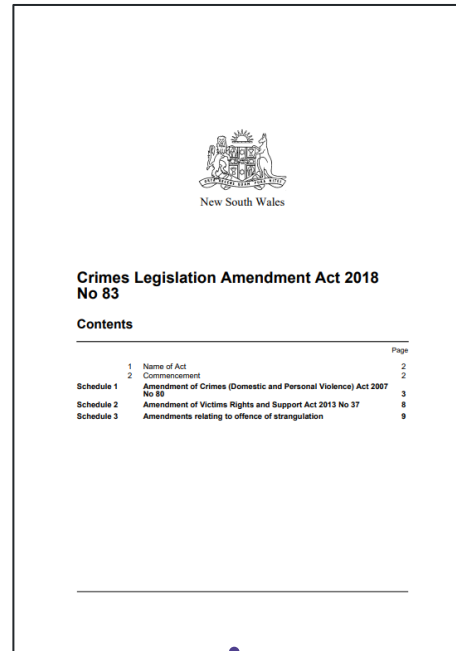
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July 2018



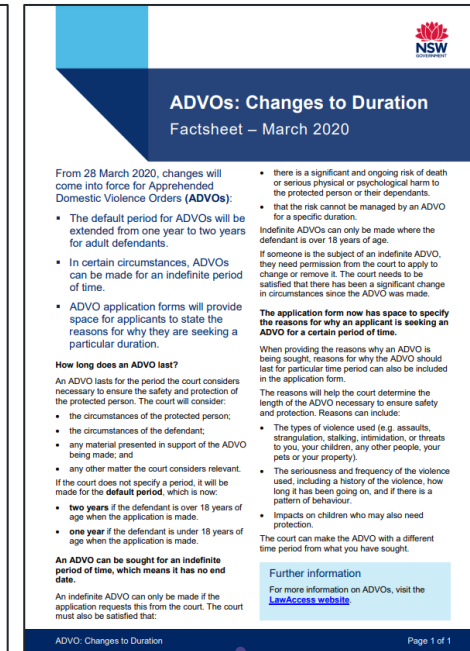
Recommendation supported by the Law Society of NSW

November 2018



Policy change legislated

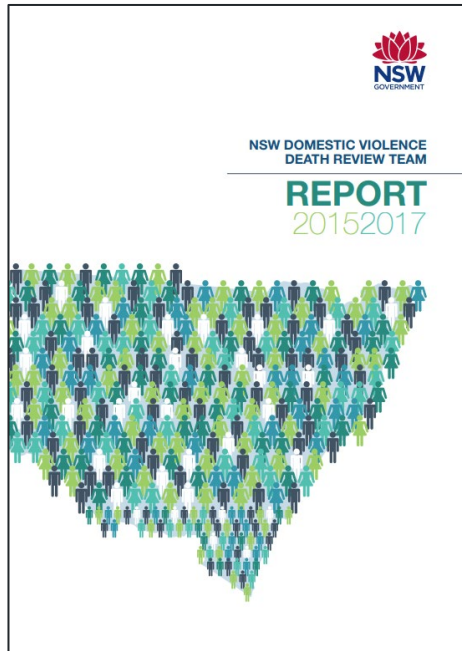
March 2020



Changes to come into effect

There has been significant policy discussion and development to increase the default length of ADVOs from 12 to 24 months

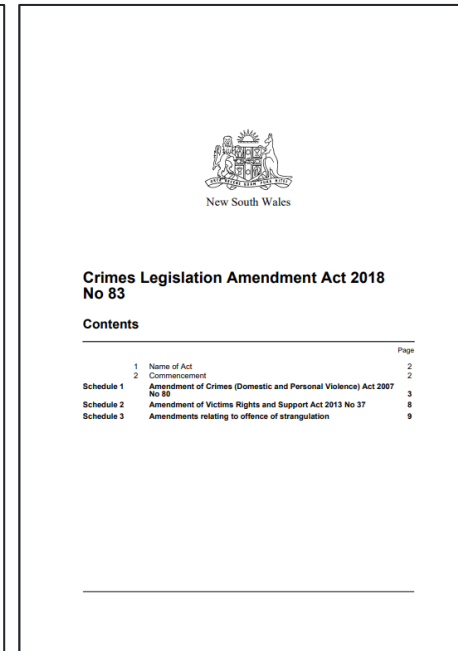
October 2017



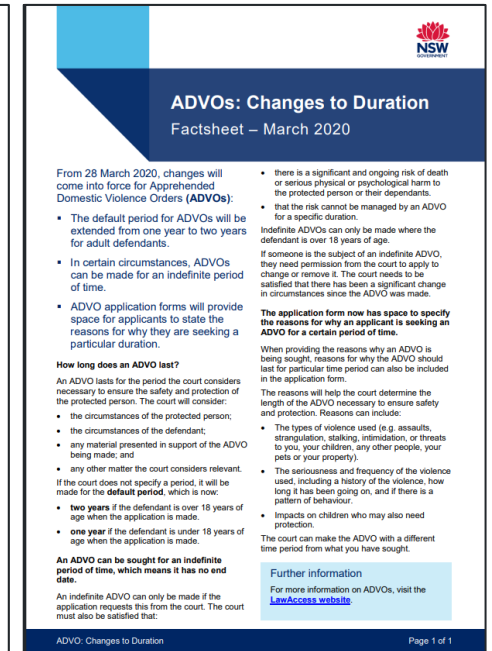
July 2018



November 2018



March 2020

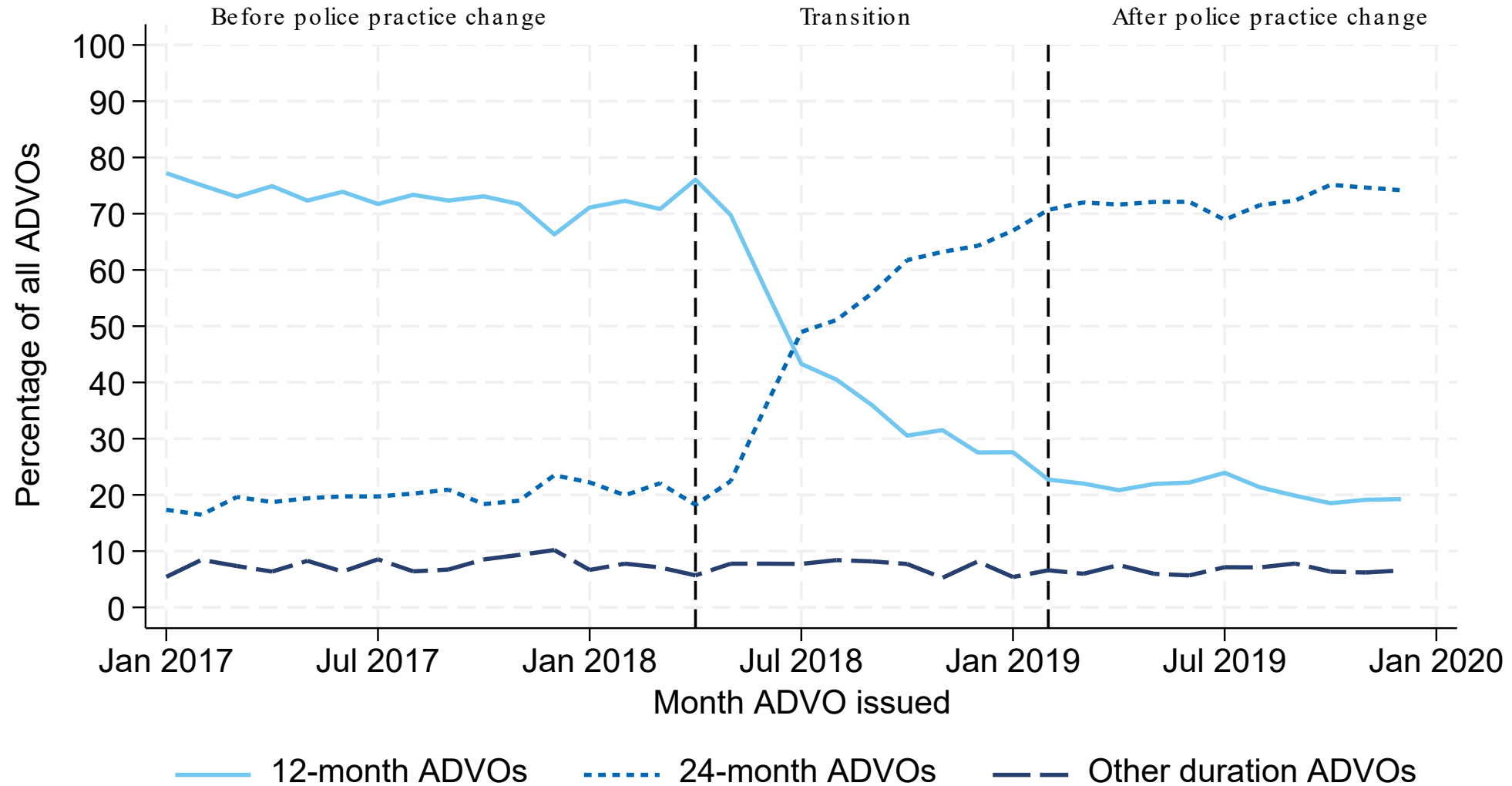


April 2018

NSW Police Force database change to increase the default duration requested in ADVO applications

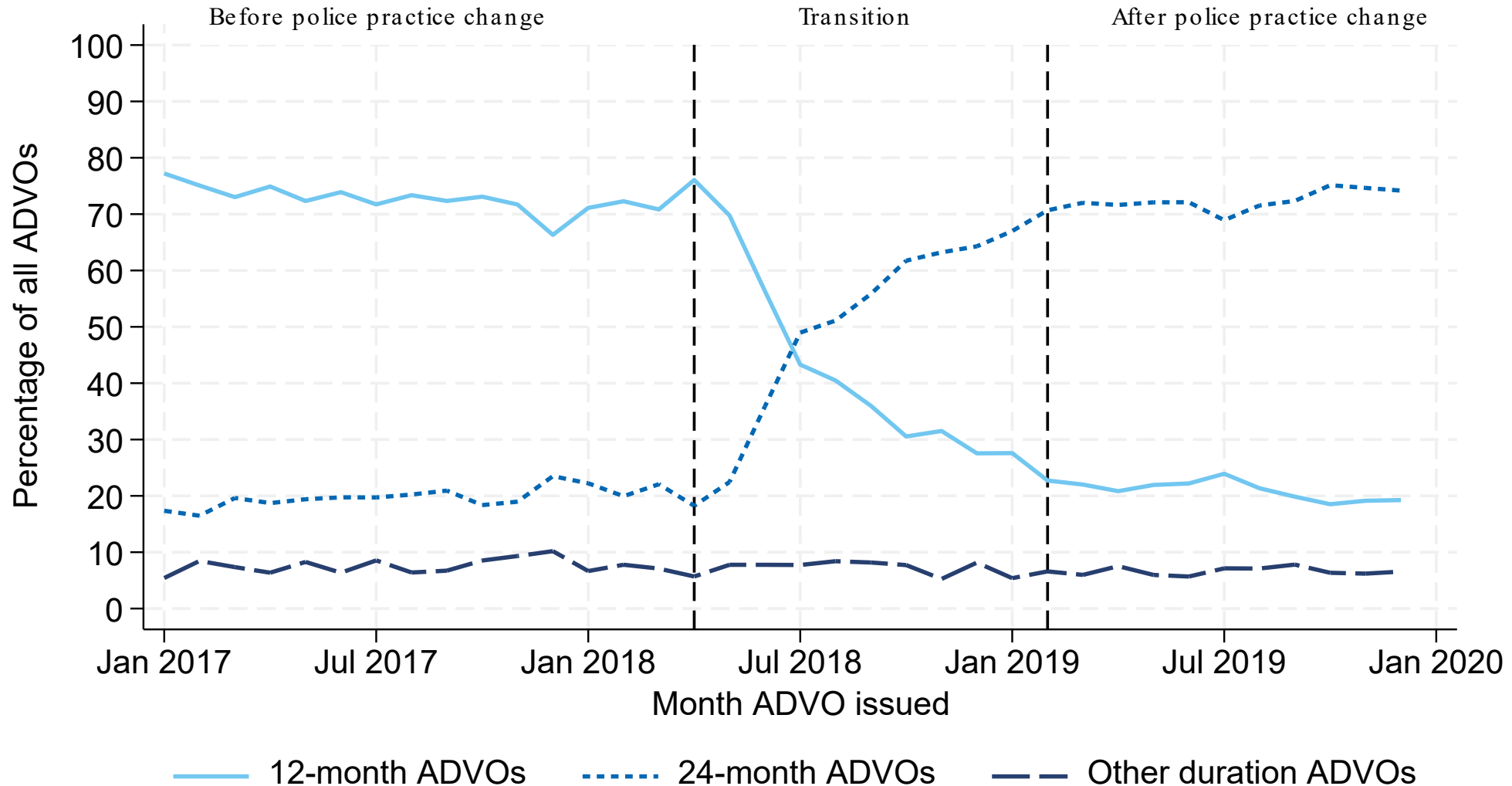
The default duration of ADVOs changed from 12 to 24 months in 2018

Proportion of 12 and 24-month ADVOs around change in police practice for issuing ADVOs



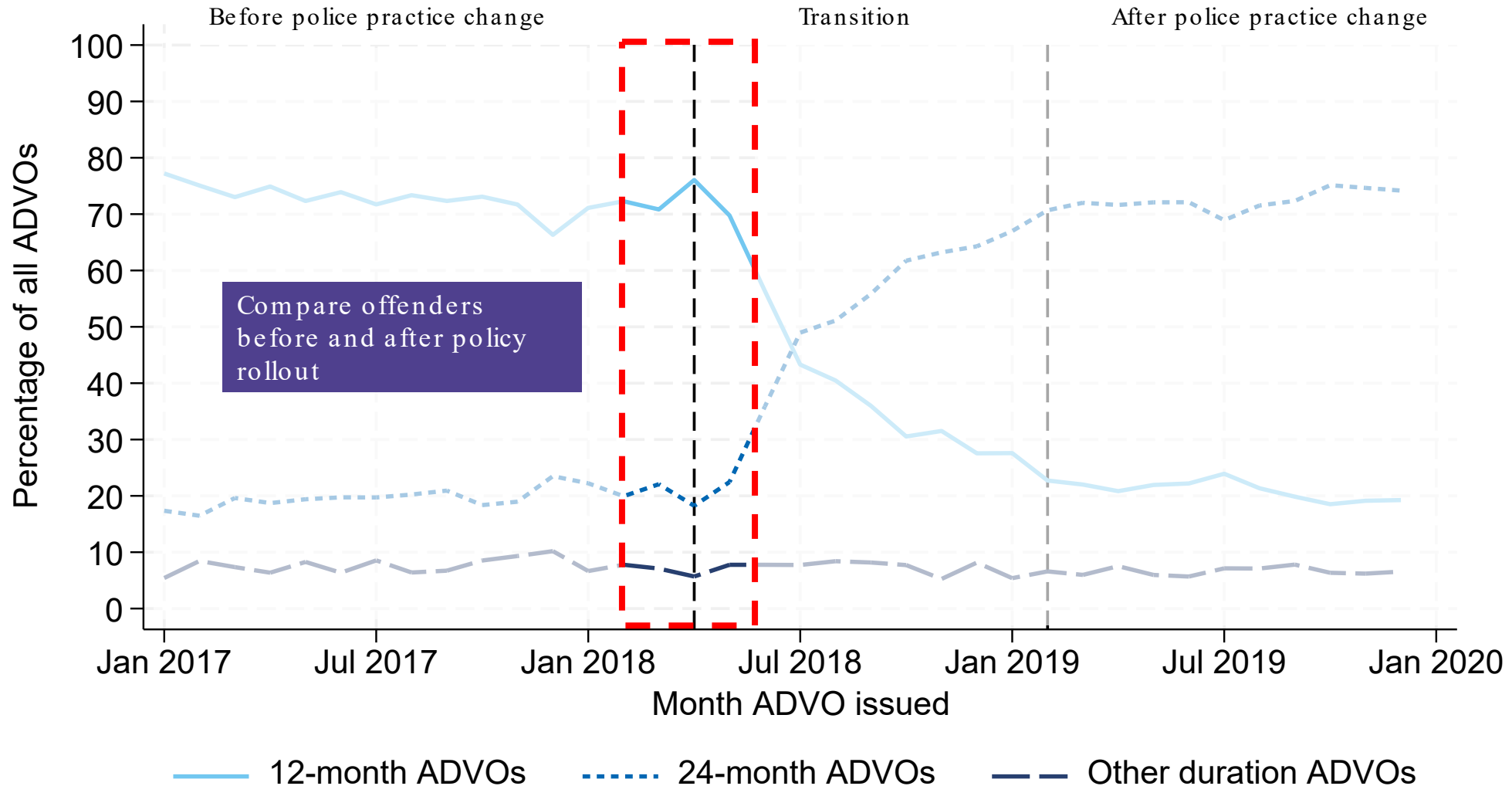
It was a challenge to evaluate the change in police practice directly

Proportion of 12 and 24-month ADVOs around change in police practice for issuing ADVOs



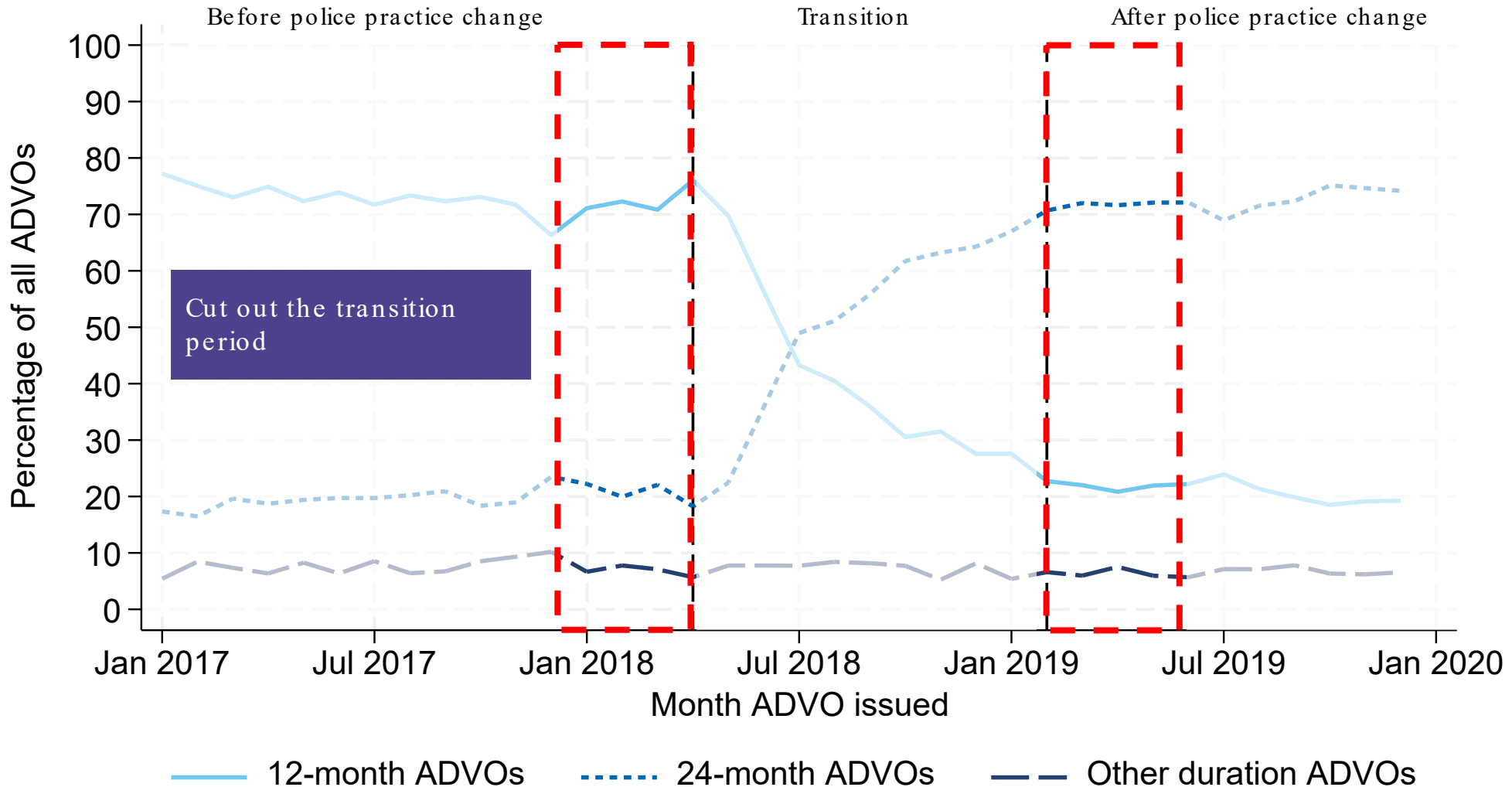
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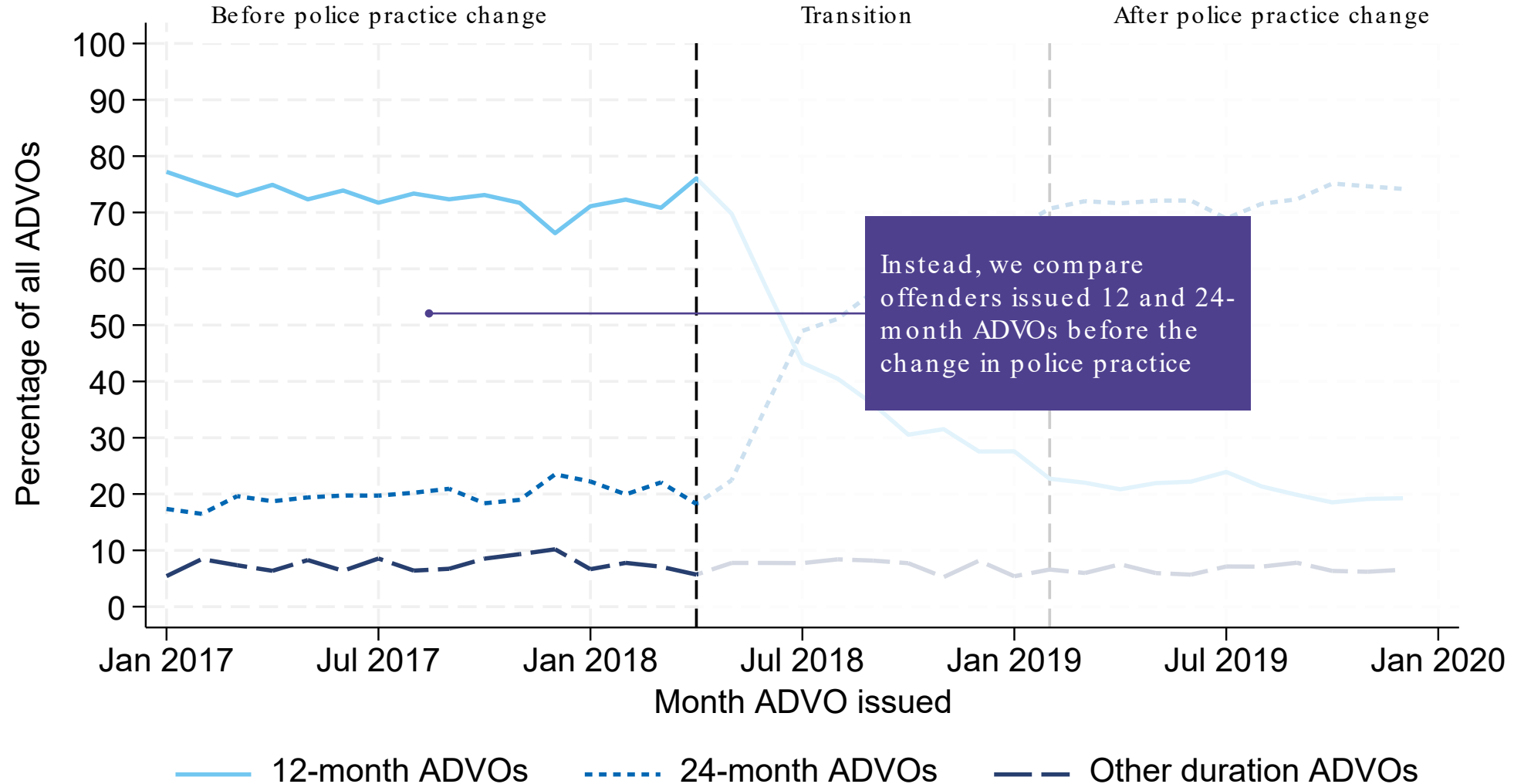
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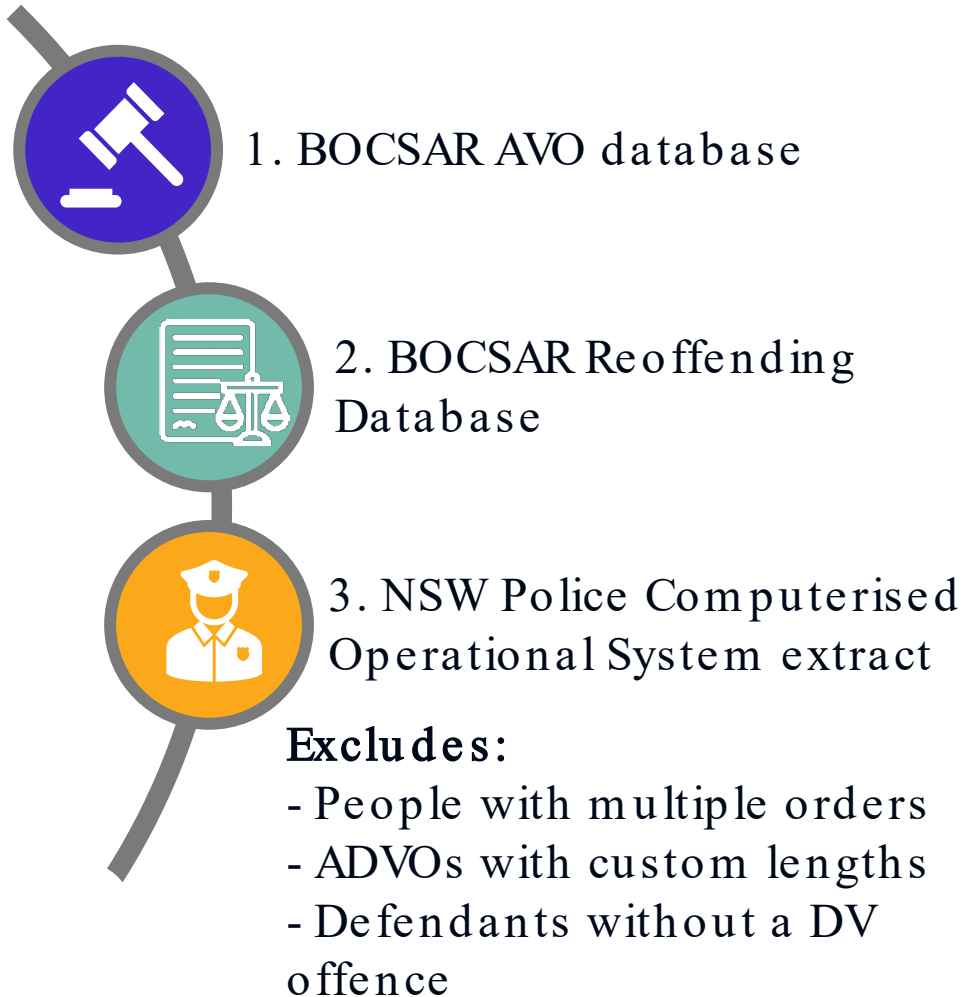
Proportion of 12 and 24-month ADVOs around change in police practice for issuing ADVOs



3

Methodology

We linked data from three sources to find groups of offenders subjected to different lengths of ADVOs



24-month ADVOs

2,897 DV offenders placed on 24-month ADVOs between January 2016 and April 2018.

12-month ADVOs

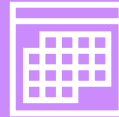
10,820 DV offenders placed on 12-month ADVOs between January 2016 and April 2018.

We use a matched event study to estimate the impact of longer ADVOs



Matching

We compare offenders with similar backgrounds, prior offending, and ADVOs start dates.



Event study

We compare offending in:

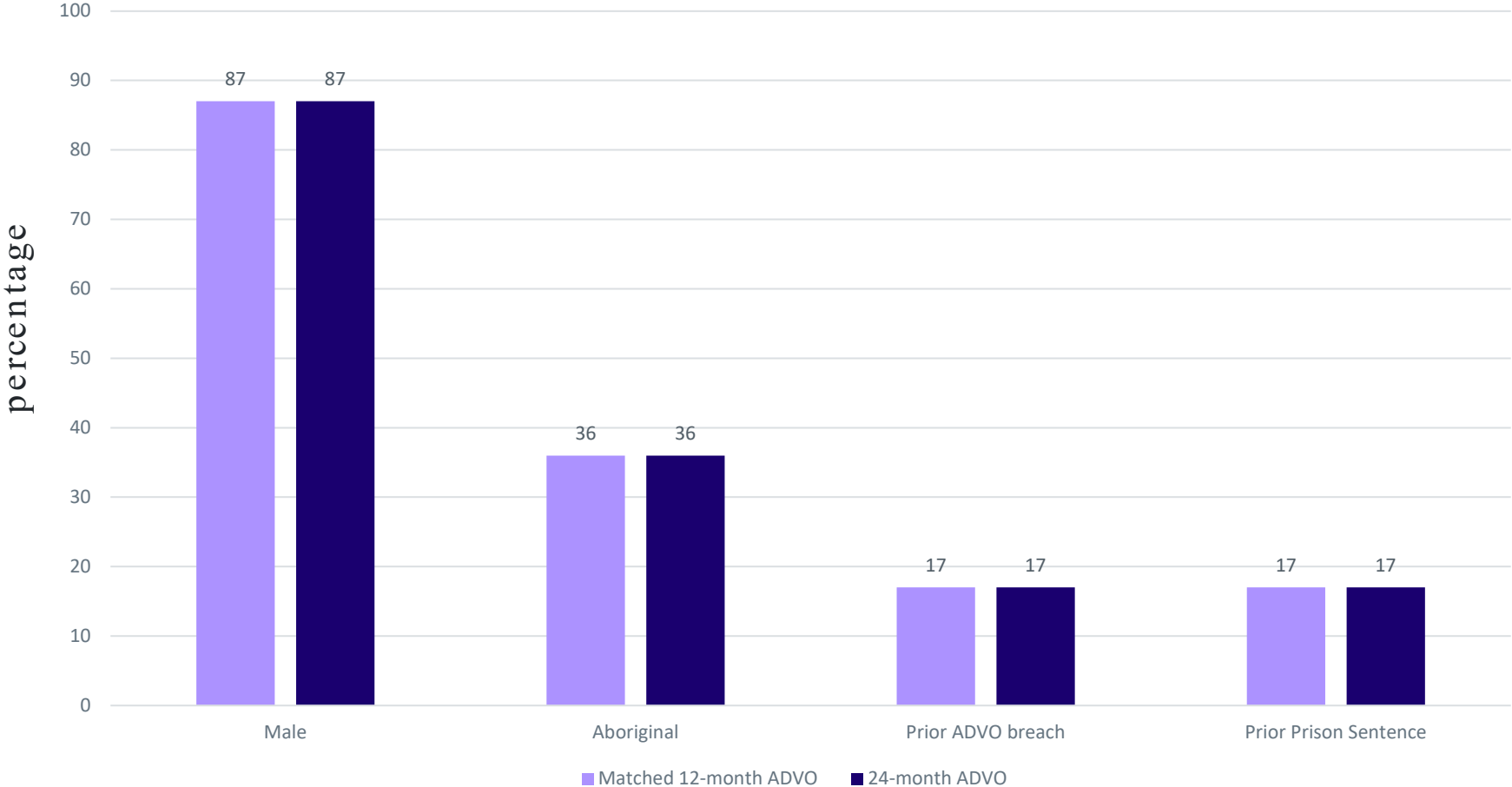
- 1) the first 12 months
- 2) the second 12 months
- 3) the third 12 months

&

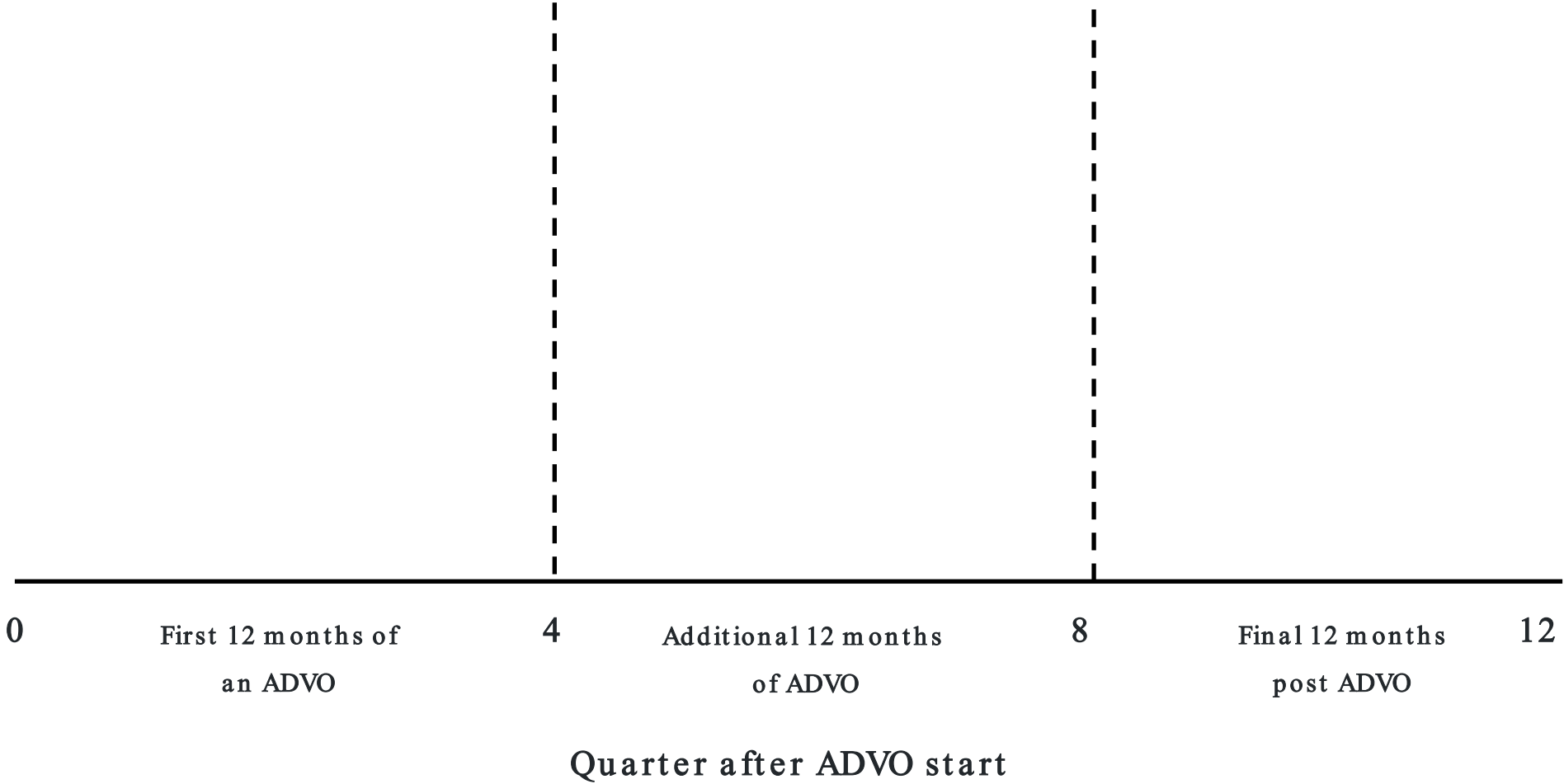
Defendants on 24-month ADVOs differed in demographics and were more likely to have extensive prior offending histories

We control for differences in observable characteristics by using a matching approach

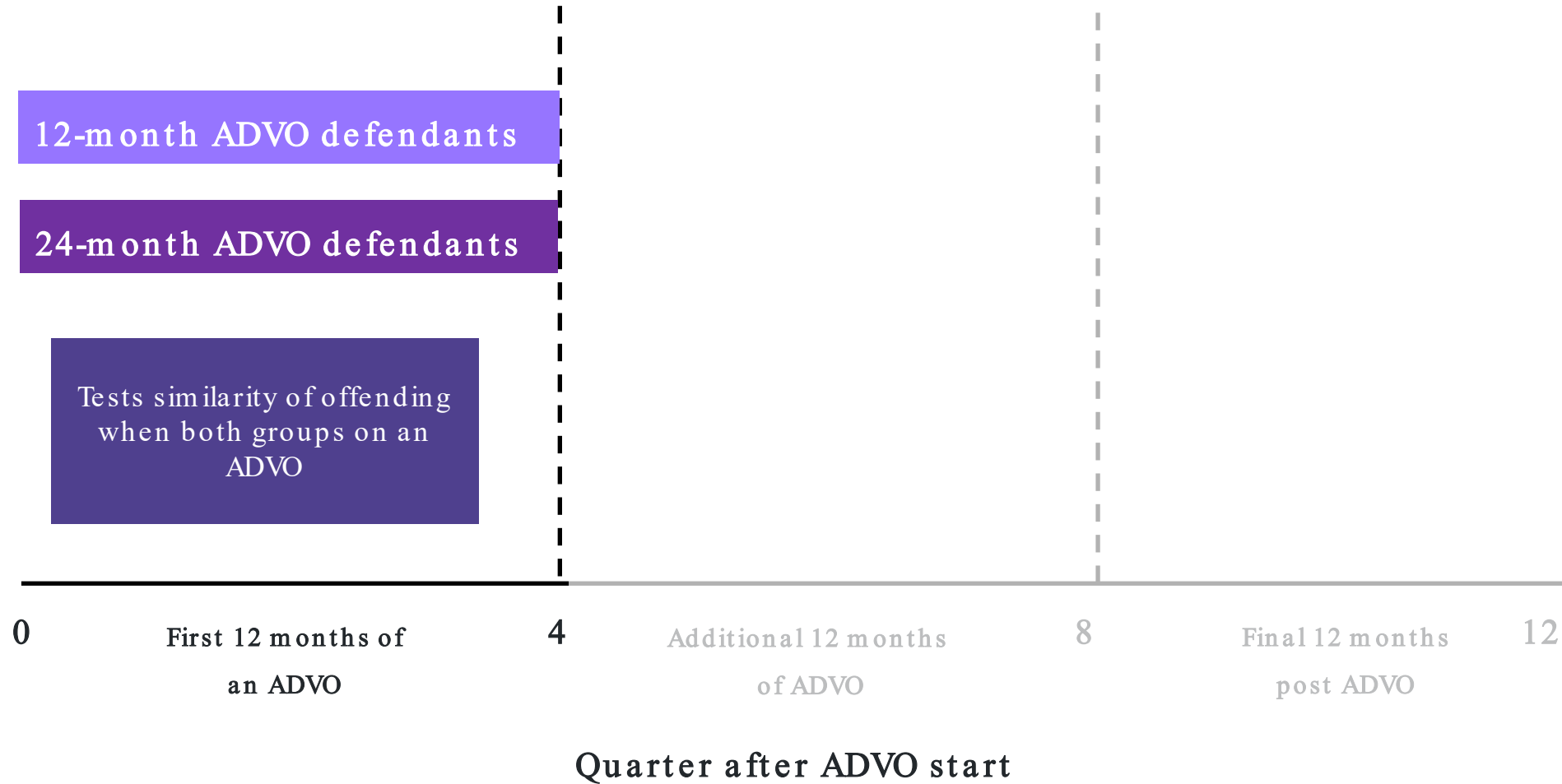
Key differences in demographics and criminal justice characteristics of defendants issued ADVOs, by ADVO duration after matching



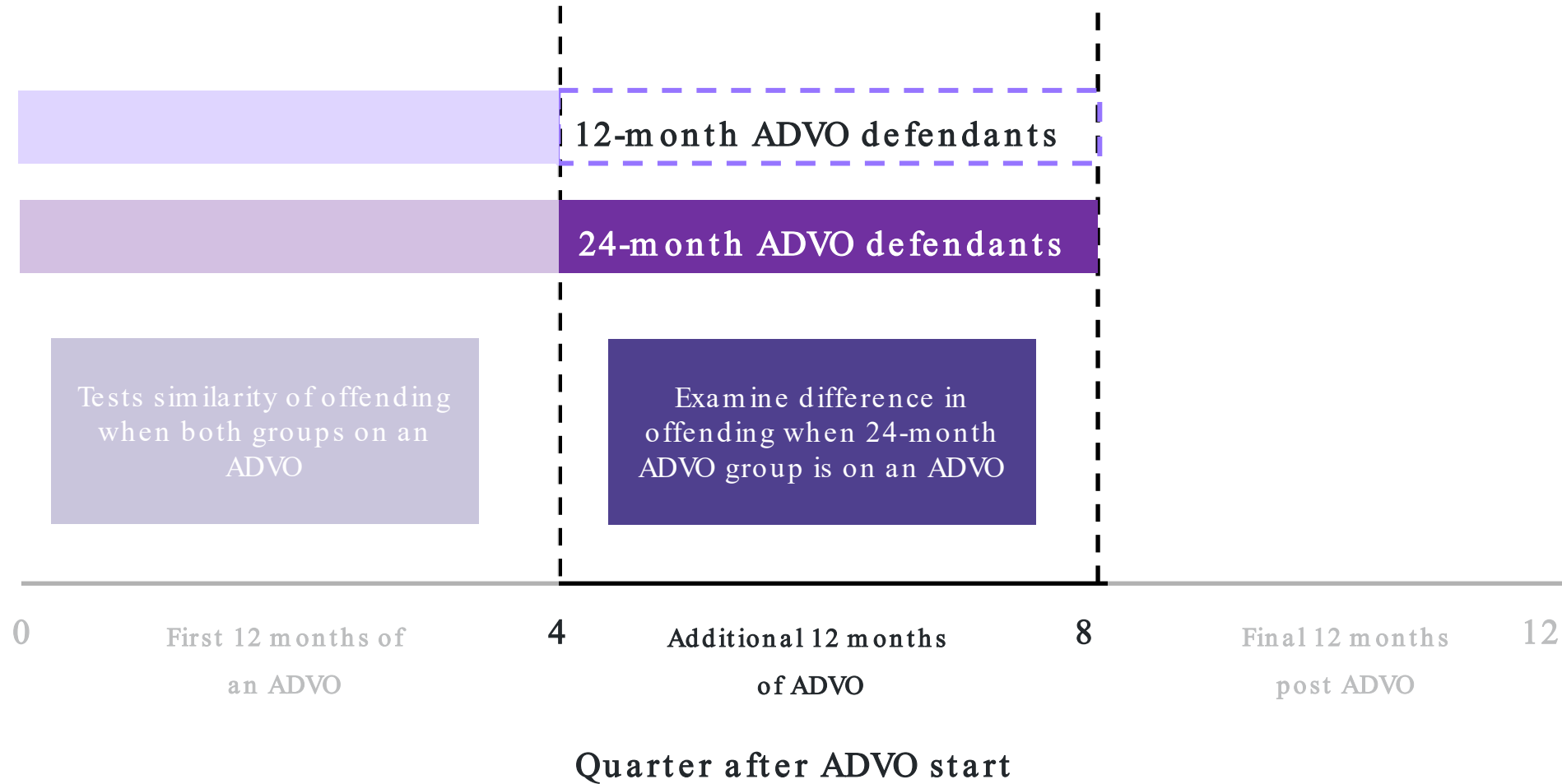
We implemented an event study to compare successive cohorts of defendants on 12 and 24-month ADVOS across 3 key periods:



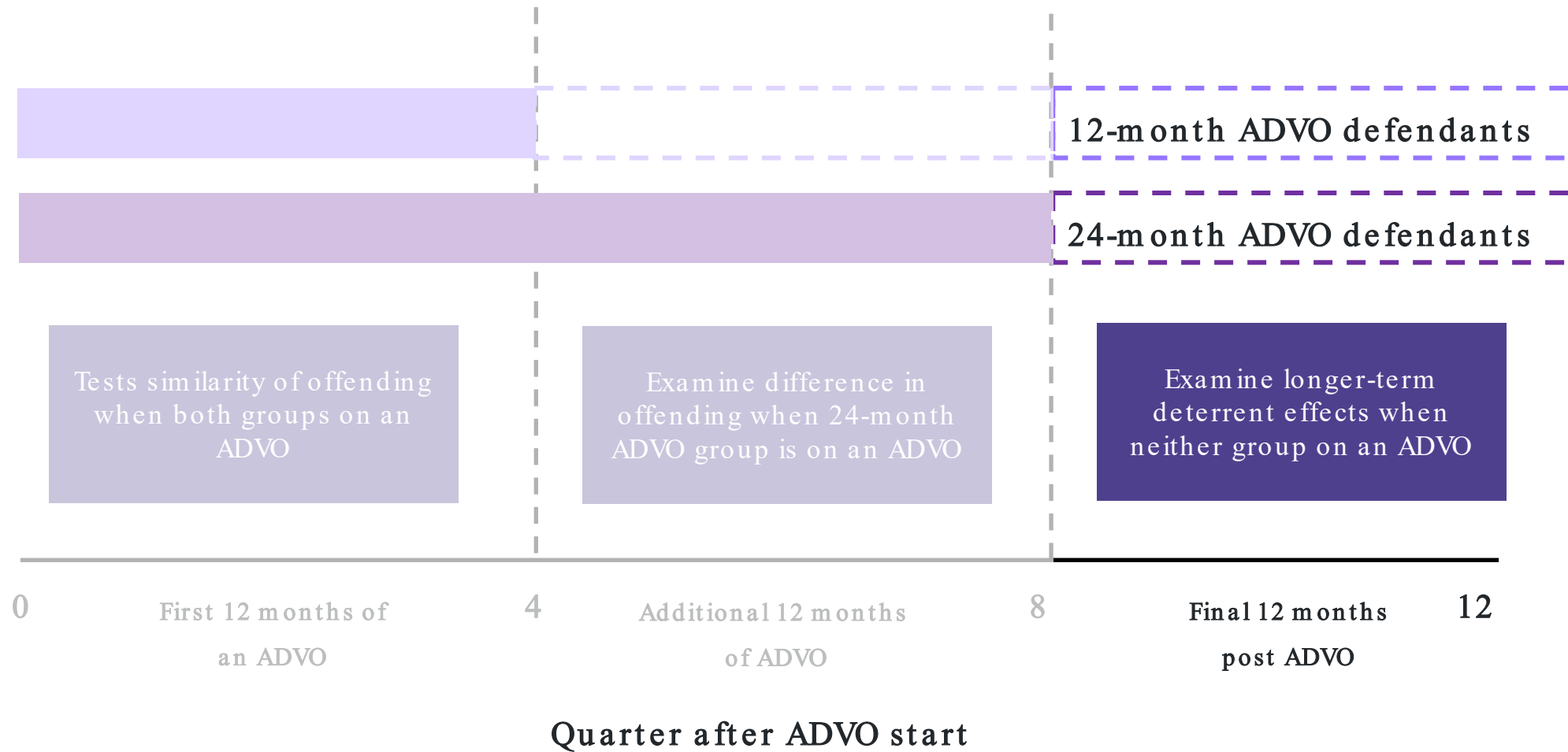
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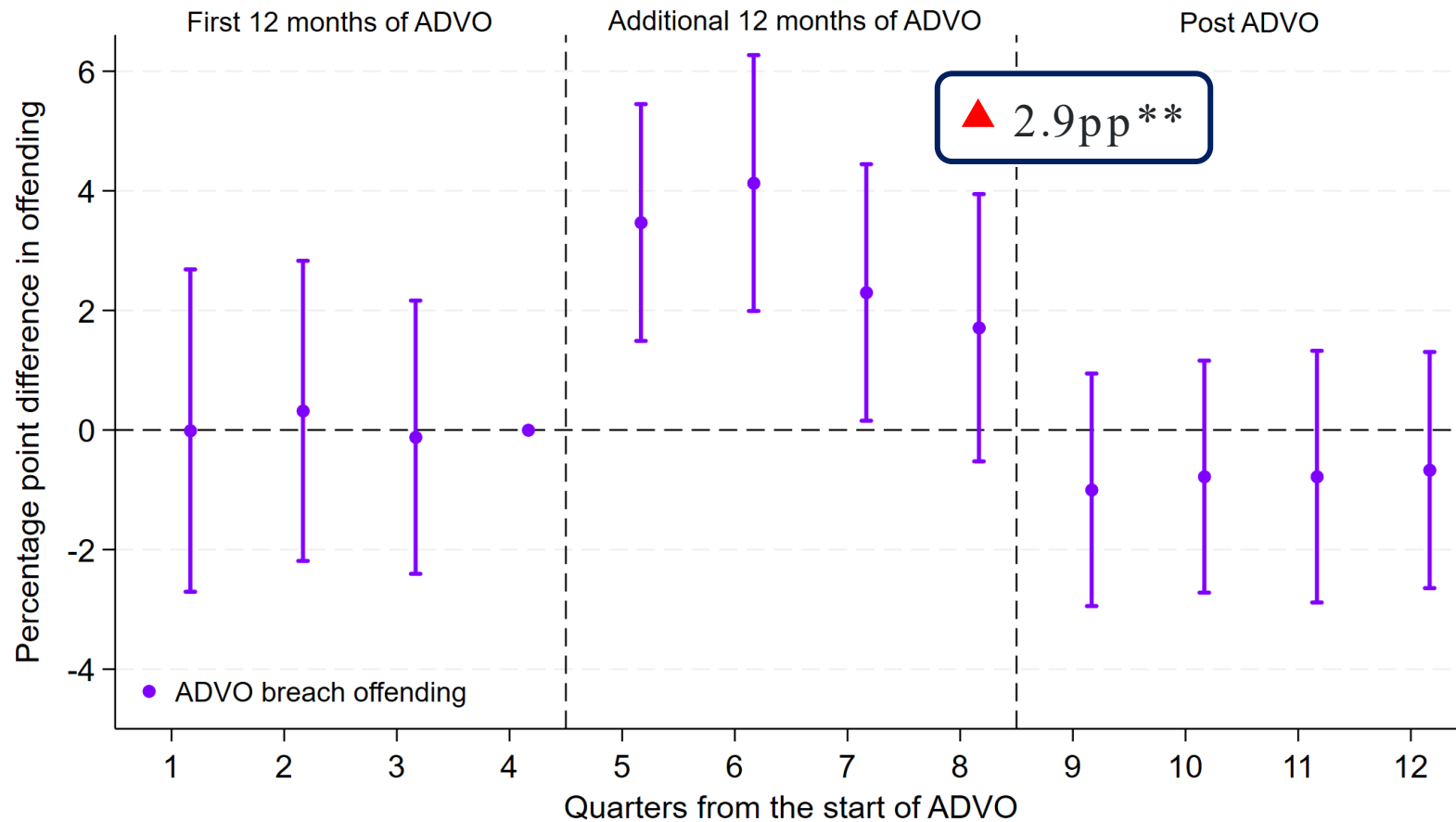


4

Key Findings

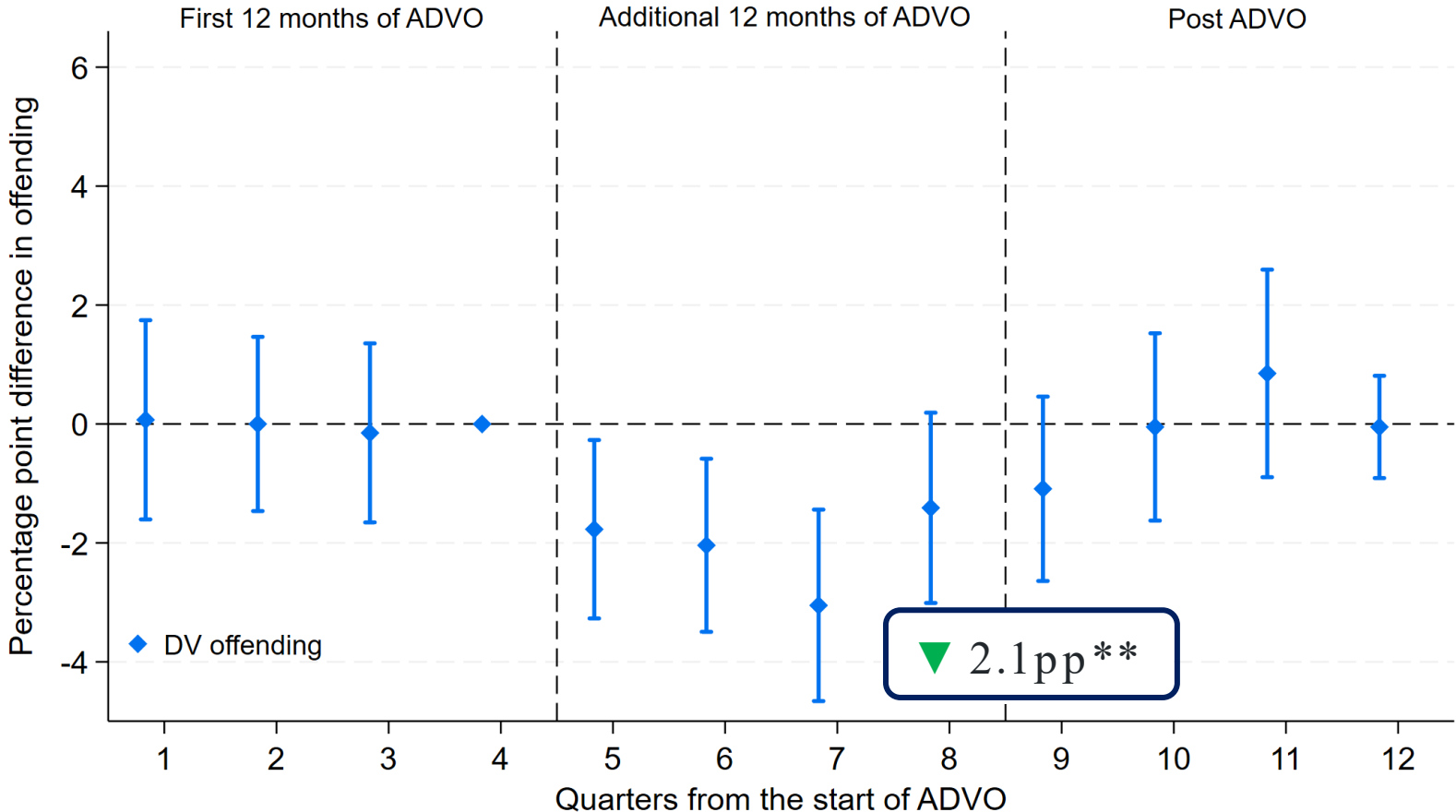
There were significant increases in ADVO breaches in the additional 12 month ADVO period

Difference in quarterly ADVO breach rates between people placed on 24- and 12-month ADVOs



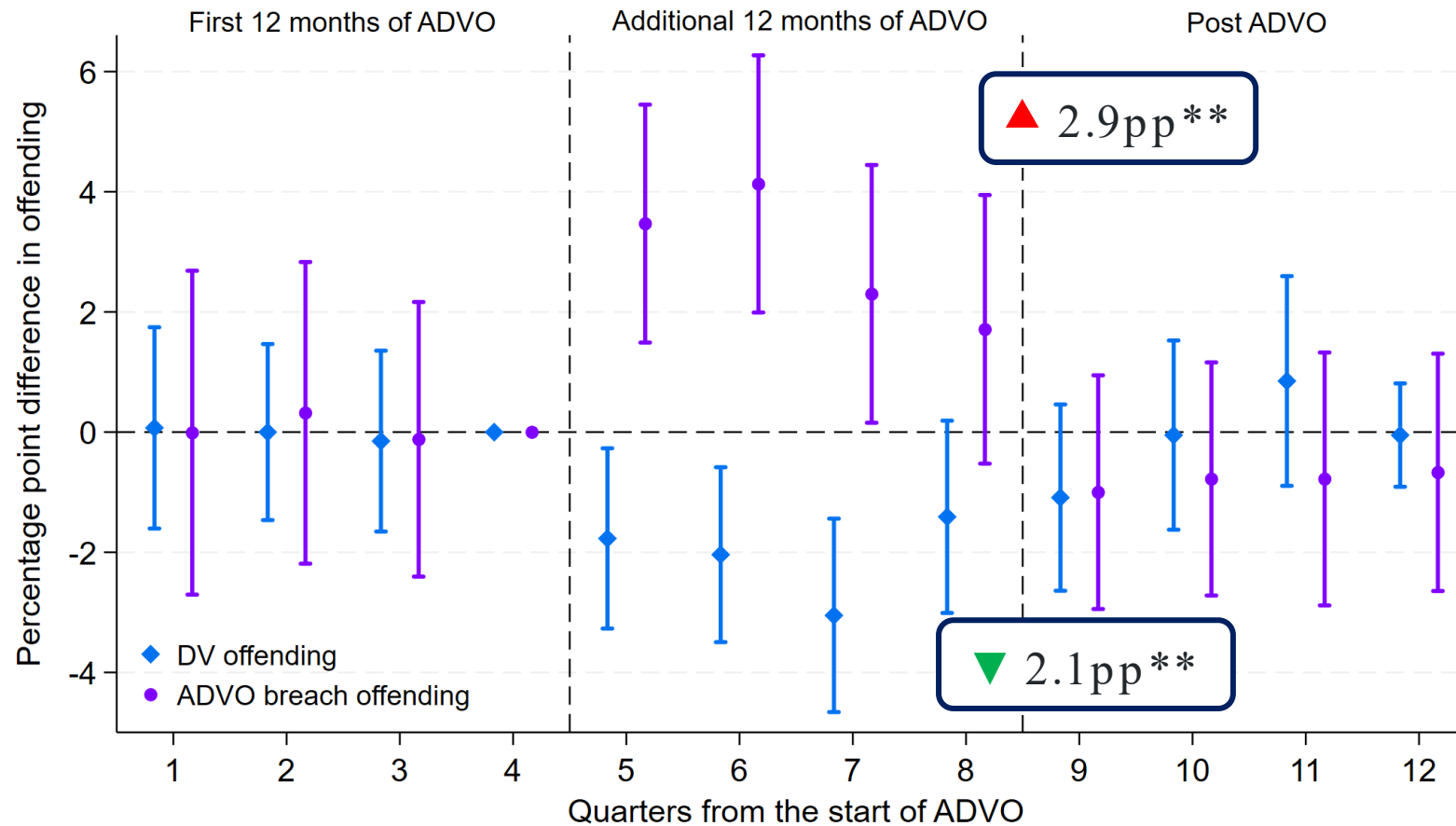
There were significant decreases in DV offending in the additional 12 month ADVO period

Difference in quarterly DV offending rates between people placed on 24- and 12-month ADVOs



There were significant increases in ADVO breaches and decreases in DV offending in the additional 12 month ADVO period

Difference in quarterly ADVO breach and DV offending rates between people placed on 24- and 12-month ADVOs



5

Implications
and limitations



SUMMARY



Longer orders were associated with reduced domestic violence and more ADVO breaches



Benefits were only observable while longer ADVOs were in effect



We were unable to estimate a causal effect of longer ADVOs



Reductions in DV may be understated due to unreported DV



Extending order duration again may further reduce domestic violence



More research is needed to understand which conditions are being breached



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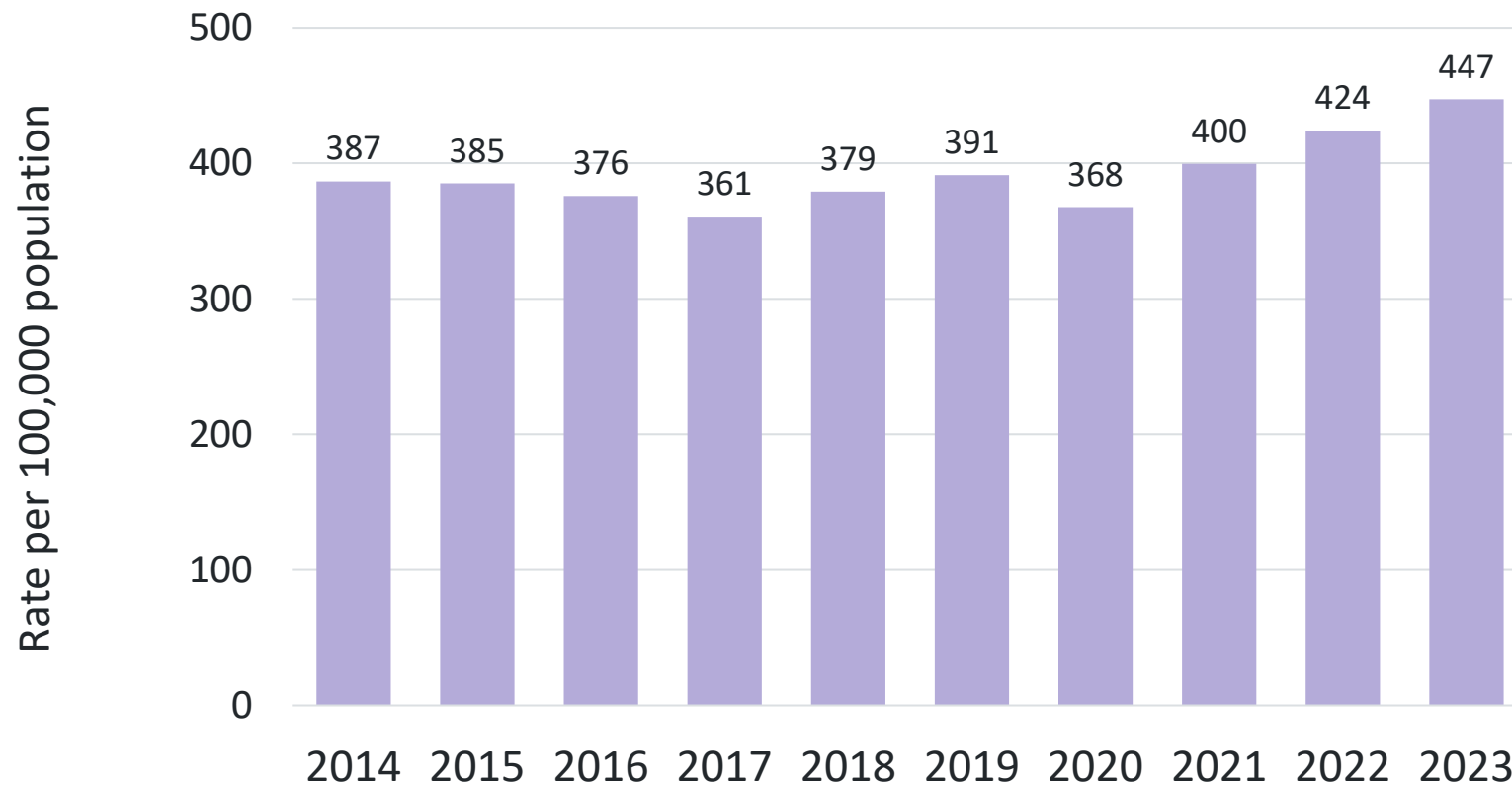
Extending order duration again may further reduce domestic violence



More research is needed to understand which conditions are being breached

Although we find that conditional on being on an ADVO, longer ADVOs reduce DV offending, rates of DV remain high

Domestic and family violence related assault incidents, NSW, rate per 100,000 population³





CONTACT US

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

CRIME AND JUSTICE BULLETIN

NUMBER 263 | DECEMBER 2023

The long and short of it: The impact of Apprehended Domestic Violence Order duration on offending and breaches

Adam Teperski and Stewart Boiteux

AIM To examine whether longer apprehended domestic violence orders (ADVO) are associated with changes in domestic violence (DV) offending and ADVO breaches.

METHOD A dataset of 13,717 defendants who were placed on an ADVO after a DV incident between January 2016 and April 2018 was extracted from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research's ADVO database. This included 10,820 defendants subject to a final 12-month order, and 2,897 defendants subject to a final 24-month order. We utilised an entropy balancing matching approach to ensure groups of defendants subjected to differing ADVO lengths were comparable and implemented an event study analysis to examine quarterly differences in offending outcomes in the three years after the start of the order. In doing so, we were able to examine relative differences in offending in the first 12 months (where both groups were subject to an ADVO), the second 12 months (where only the 24-month ADVO group were subject to an ADVO), and the third 12 months (where neither group were subject to an ADVO).

RESULTS In the 12 to 24 months, where ADVOs with a longer duration were active and shorter ADVOs were not, longer ADVOs were associated with increased breach offending and decreased DV offending. Specifically, in the 5th, 6th and 7th quarters after the beginning of a final order we observed 3.4 percentage points (p.p.), 4.1 p.p., and 2.3 p.p. increases in defendants breaching their ADVO, respectively. When considering baseline rates of breaching, this represents relative increases of 79% to 144%. In the 5th, 6th, and 7th quarters after the beginning of a finalised order, longer ADVOs were associated with respective 1.8 p.p., 2.0 p.p., and 3.1 p.p. decreases in DV offending, reflecting relative decreases in DV offending by 41% to 59%. We find no group differences in DV offending or breaches in the subsequent 12 months, when ADVOs for both groups had expired. While the study examined multiple factors related to both longer ADVO length and offending, we cannot exclude the possibility that unobserved factors may be influencing our results.

CONCLUSION Relative to 12-month ADVOs, 24-month ADVOs were associated with an increase in the probability that an offender breaches the conditions of their ADVO, and a decrease in the probability that an offender commits a proven DV offence.

KEYWORDS Apprehended violence orders (AVO) Domestic violence Recidivism Offenders Victims Policing

Suggested citation: Teperski, A. & Boiteux, S. (2023). The long and short of it: The impact of Apprehended Domestic Violence Order duration on offending and breaches. Crime and Justice Bulletin No. 263, Sydney: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

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