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The University of Dublin

Familiarity with Prison Oversight Bodies

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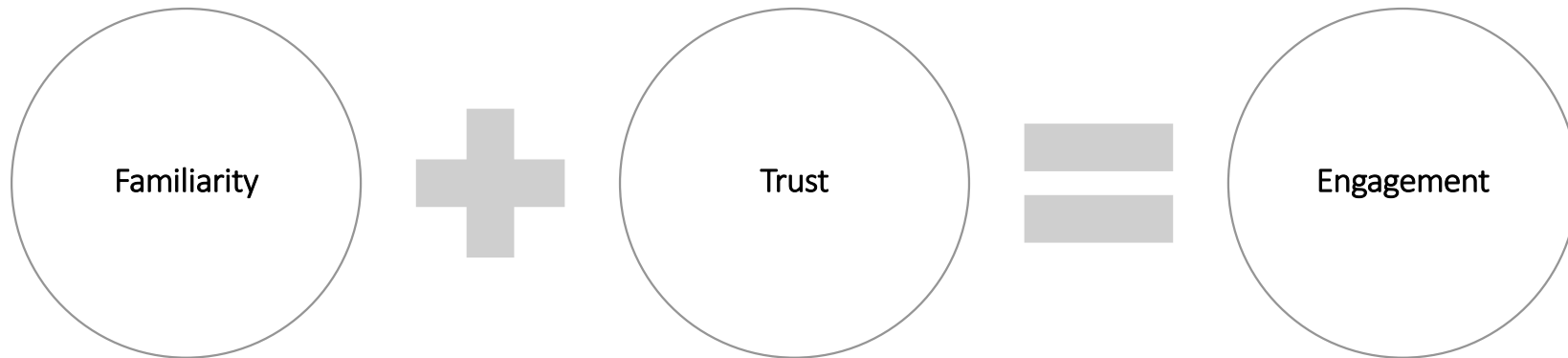
PRILA



Prison Oversight Bodies



Prison inspection and monitoring bodies are important safeguards against breaches of human rights



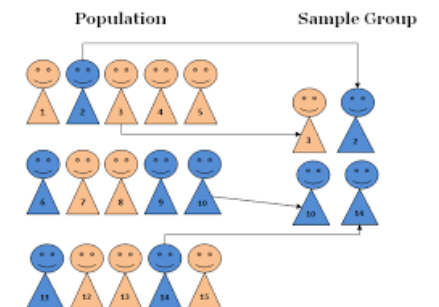
Methods

- Semi-structured interviews (44)
- Surveys (N = 509)
- Random selection
- 3 medium male security prisons



survey

#236968115



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Objectives of Study

Wider project exploring prisoners' perspectives of oversight bodies

Current Objectives

1. To examine awareness and familiarity amongst prisoners of oversight bodies
2. To identify characteristics associated with degree of familiarity



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The Survey



Awareness

Inspector of Prisons

Visiting Committees

CPT

Personal Approach

Inspector of Prisons

Visiting Committees

CPT

Contact

Inspector of Prisons

Visiting Committees

CPT

The Survey



Participants

508 prisoners randomly selected from three Irish prisons (RR = 83.9%)

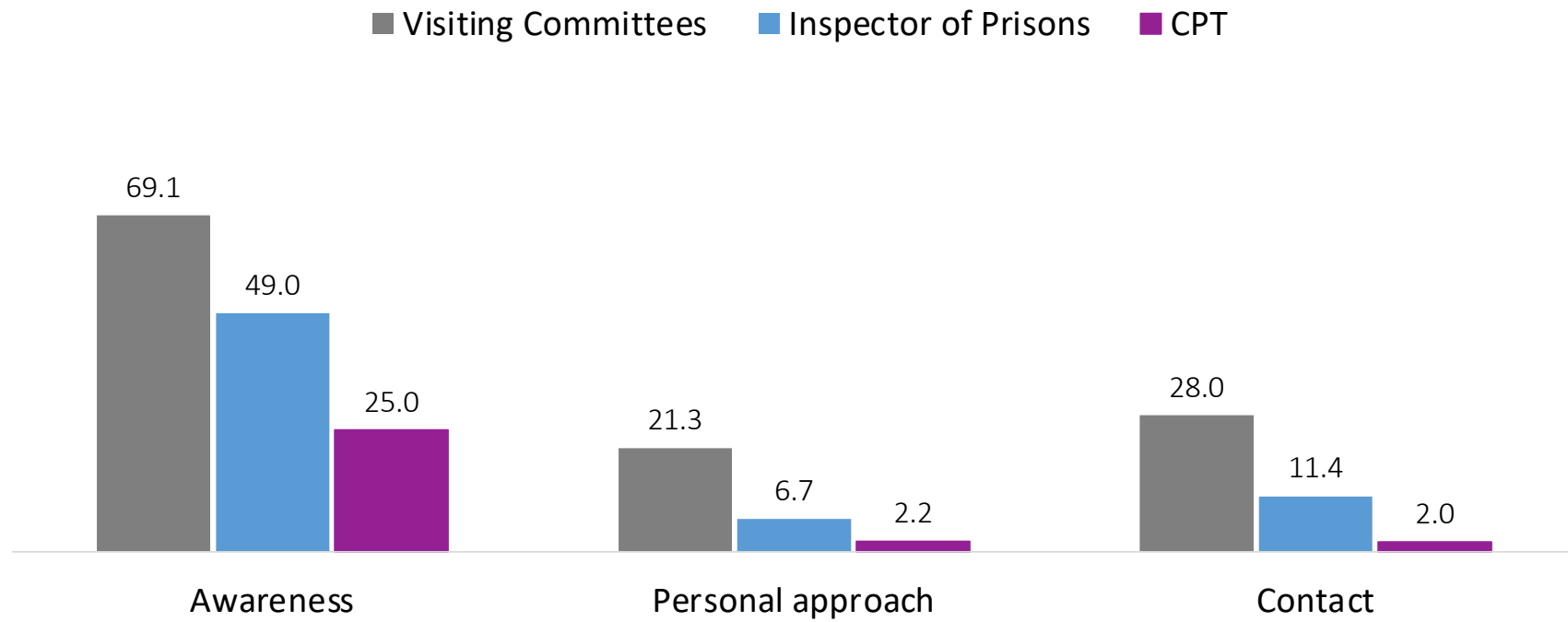
Instrument

Self-administered paper questionnaires

Fieldwork

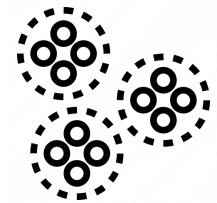
November 2018 - February 2019

Familiarity



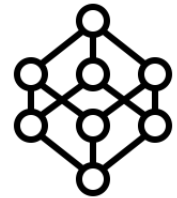
Typologies

- Latent Class Analysis



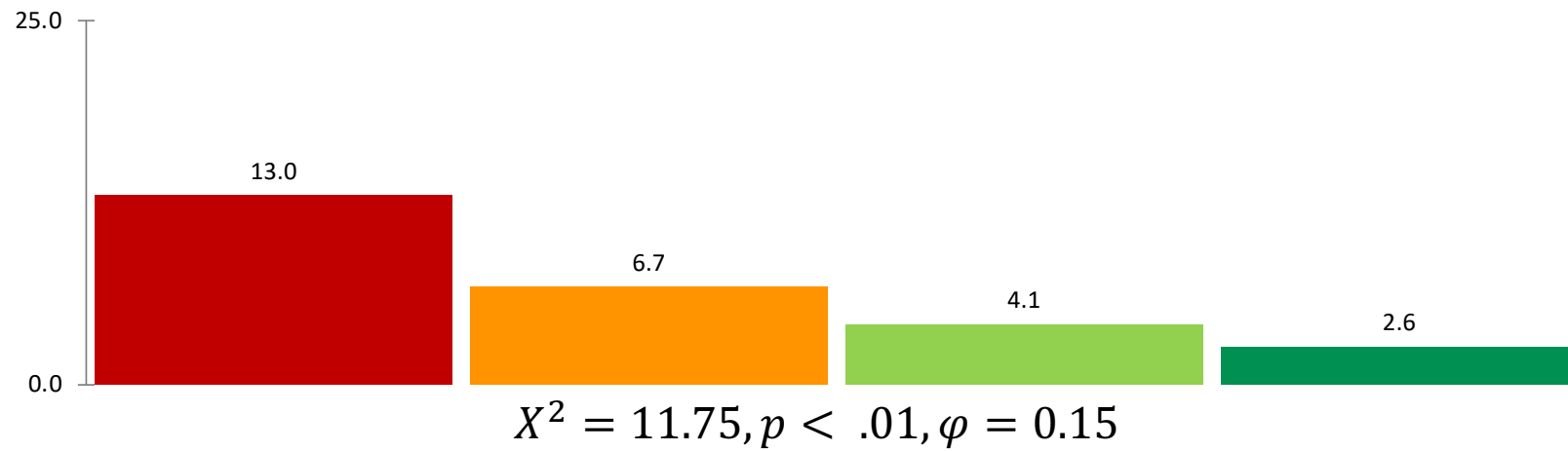
Low Familiarity	Awareness only	Familiarity with the VC	High Familiarity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 43.9% of prisoners▪ Low levels of awareness, personal approach and contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 26.4% of prisoners▪ High awareness with low engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14.5% of prisoners• High familiarity with the VC only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 15.4% of prisoners▪ High levels of awareness, personal approach and contact

Class Membership

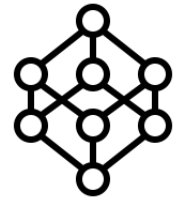


% of foreign prisoners by class

■ Low Familiarity ■ Awareness only ■ VC only ■ High familiarity

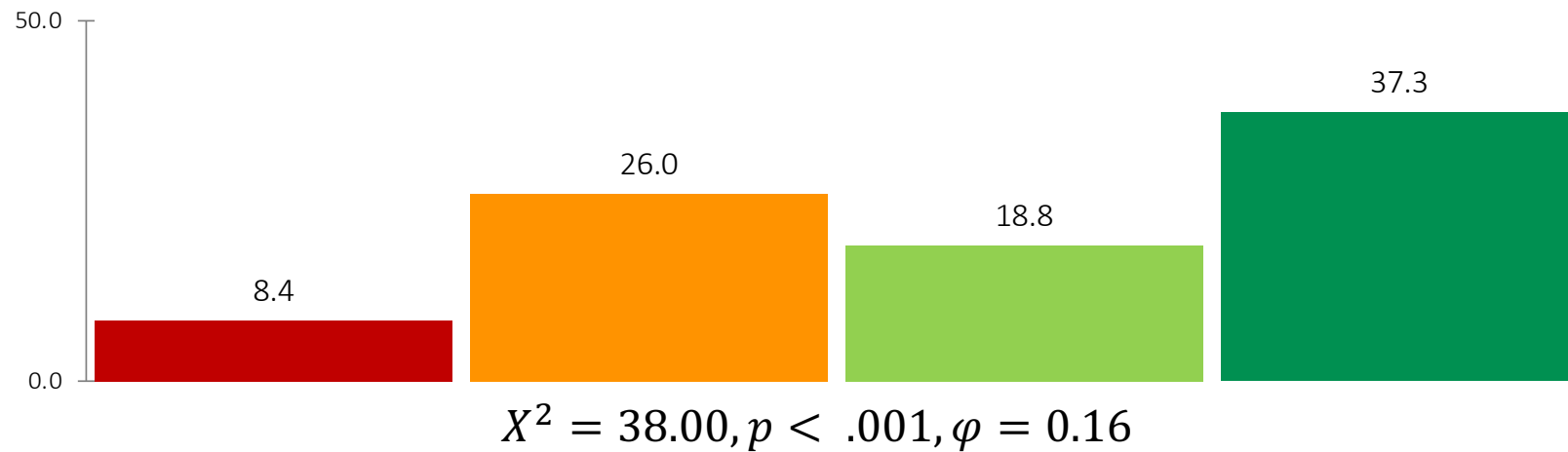


Class Membership

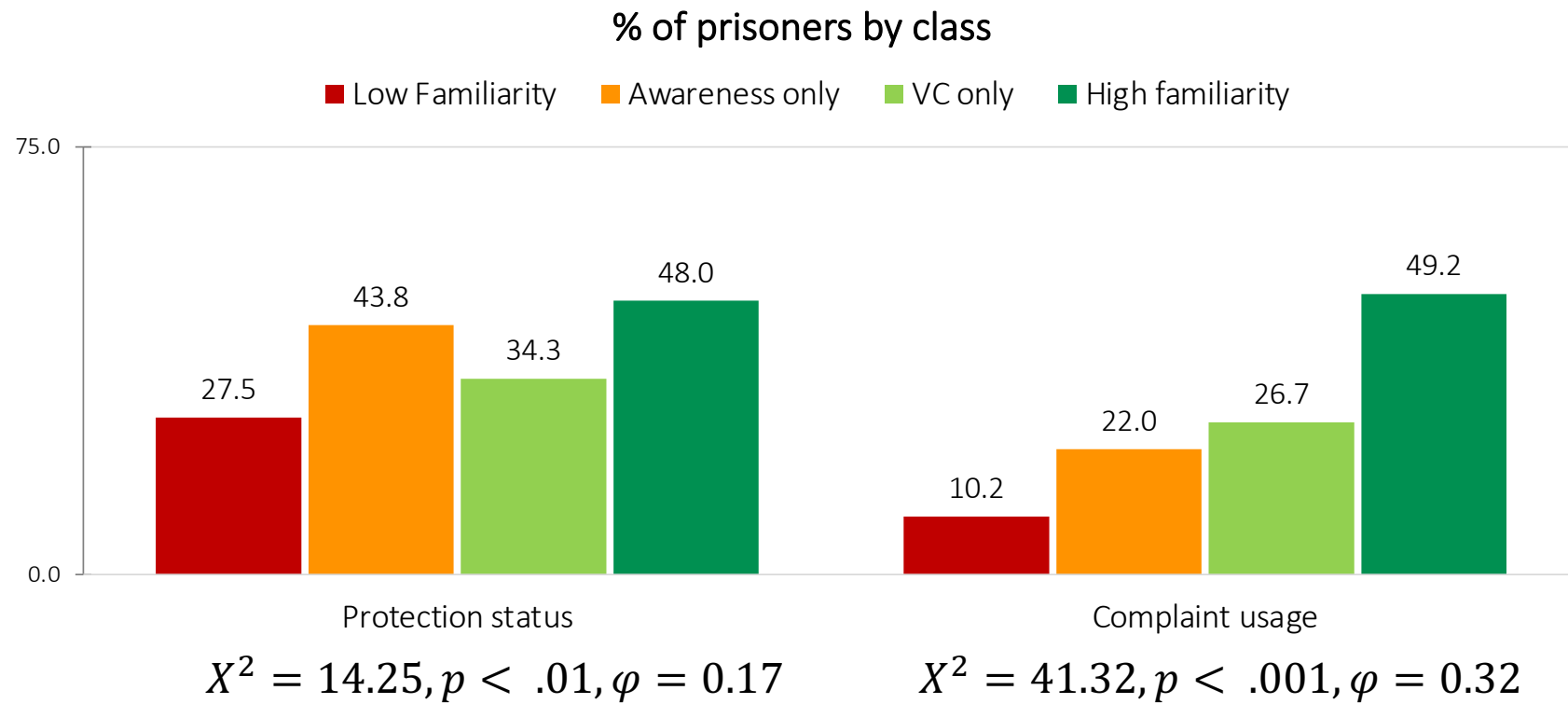
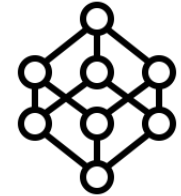


% of prisoners serving sentences of 10 years + by class

■ Low Familiarity ■ Awareness only ■ VC only ■ High familiarity



Class Membership

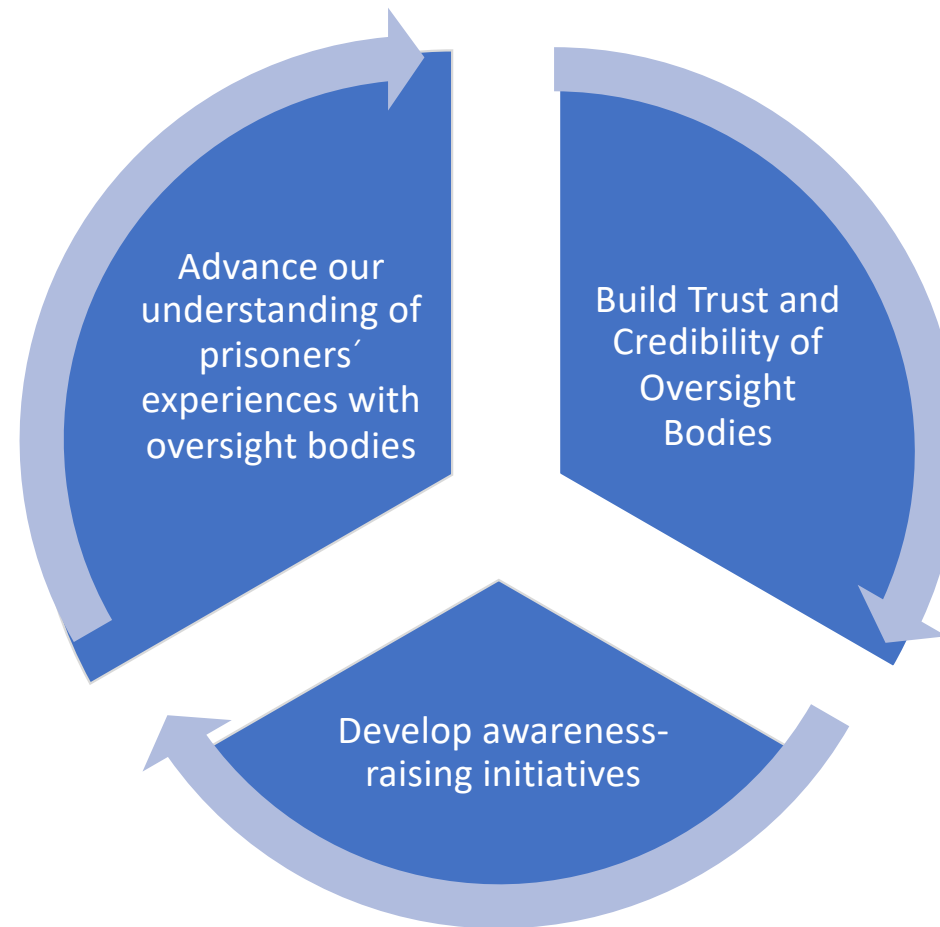


Conclusions

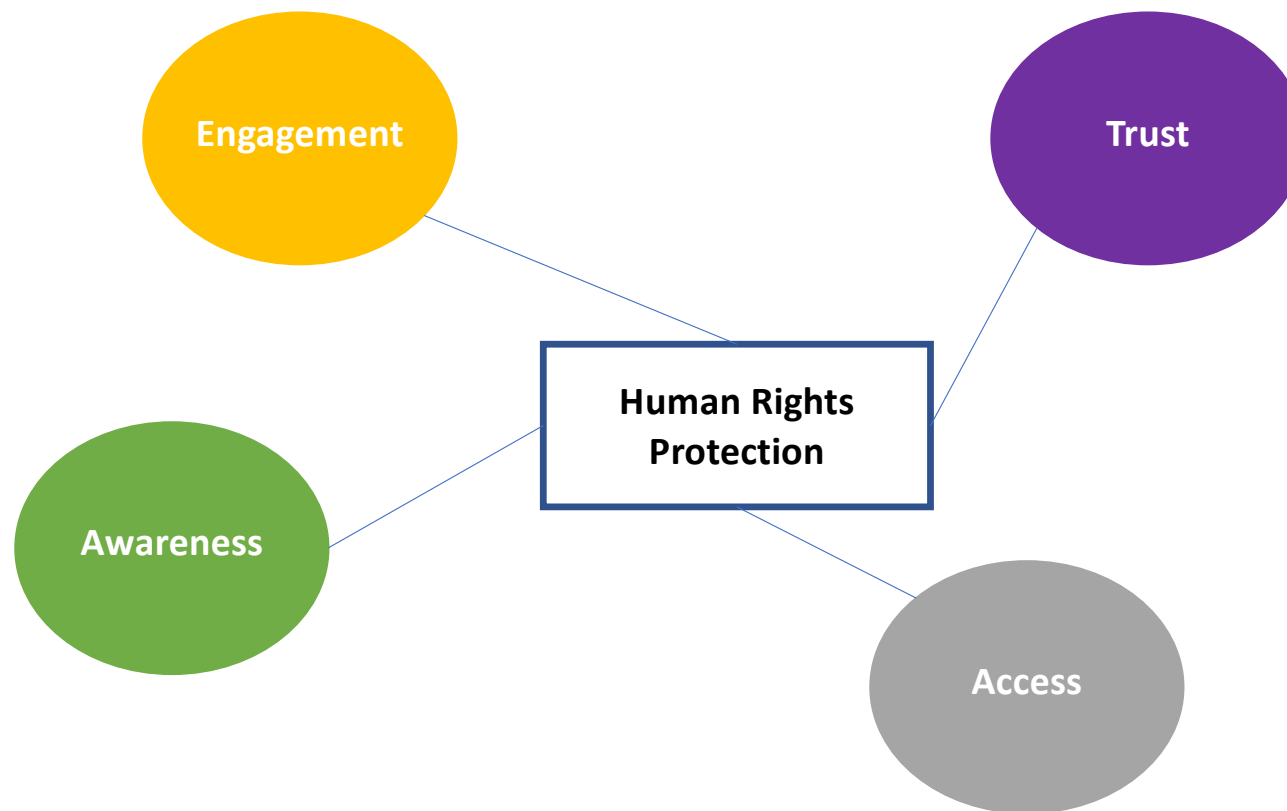


1. Diversity of experiences that prisoners have with oversight bodies
Four subgroups of prisoners characterized by distinct patterns of awareness and contact with prison oversight bodies
2. Profiles of prisoners differ in their background characteristics and experiences in prison
 - Low familiarity (43.9%) - nationality
 - Awareness only
 - Familiarity with Visiting Committees only
 - High familiarity (15.4%) – longer sentences, protection, complaint experience

Implications: Typologies



Effective Oversight Protection





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Thank you

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