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Serial Killers, Recidivism, and Correctional Reform in Thailand

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Abstract

This study examined patterns of recidivism among serial and serious violent offenders in Thailand, analyzed correctional measures for managing and preventing violent recidivism, and proposed approaches to correctional reform for enhancing public safety. The study employed qualitative documentary research using academic literature, official documents, legislation, correctional statistics, and established news reports concerning selected cases of serious violent offending in Thailand. Data were analyzed through qualitative content analysis in accordance with the three research objectives. The findings revealed that serious violent recidivism cannot be explained solely by the number of previous offenses or periods of imprisonment. The selected cases demonstrated substantial differences in criminal histories, patterns of violence, and correctional needs, highlighting the importance of individualized assessment. Correctional statistics as of August 1, 2026, showed that 95,904 convicted prisoners, or 43.67% of the reported prison population, had experienced two or more imprisonments. However, this figure represents repeat imprisonment and should not be interpreted as a violent recidivism rate. The findings further indicated that existing correctional measures should place greater emphasis on systematic risk assessment, targeted rehabilitation, evidence-based release decisions, and continuity of supervision after release. In particular, procedural compliance should be distinguished from correctional effectiveness, as completion of required procedures does not necessarily demonstrate that continuing risk has been adequately identified or managed. The study proposes a correctional reform framework integrating individualized risk assessment, offender classification, targeted rehabilitation and treatment, evidence-based release assessment, structured post-release supervision, and continuous risk reassessment. The study concludes that serious violent recidivism should be addressed as a continuity-of-risk-management issue rather than solely as a failure of punishment. Integrating rehabilitation with evidence-based risk management can strengthen correctional decision-making while supporting both offender reintegration and public safety.

Keywords: Serial Killers, Violent Recidivism, Correctional Reform, Correctional Rehabilitation, Thailand



Introduction

Serial murder is among the most serious forms of violent crime and may involve different offender subtypes, behavioral patterns, and motivations (Miller, 2014). Such cases cause severe harm to victims and create fear within society. They also raise concerns about the ability of the criminal justice system to prevent further violence. These concerns become more significant when offenders have previous criminal records and return to serious crime after being released from prison.

Thailand has recently faced such concerns following the case of “Pong and Thong.” The two offenders were linked to the murders of five victims in two separate cases. Their criminal history and repeated violent behavior attracted considerable public attention (Trust News, 2026). The case also raised questions about the effectiveness of the Thai correctional system. Public attention focused on how serious offenders are rehabilitated, assessed, and managed before returning to society.

Recidivism remains a major challenge in correctional administration. The problem is particularly serious when repeat offending involves murder or other violent crimes. Previous research has shown that violent recidivism is associated with both psychological and social risk factors (Oliveira et al., 2026). Risk factors may also change during imprisonment and treatment. This makes individual assessment important when correctional authorities make decisions about rehabilitation and release.

Risk assessment has therefore become an important part of modern correctional practice. It can assist authorities in identifying offenders who have a greater likelihood of reoffending. It can also support decisions about treatment and supervision. However, existing assessment tools vary in their ability to predict recidivism (Desmarais et al., 2016). For violent offenders, risk assessment should therefore be combined with appropriate treatment and professional judgment.

The period before and after release is particularly important for offenders with a history of serious violence. Changes in individual circumstances and relevant risk factors should therefore be considered throughout rehabilitation, release planning, and post-release supervision.

Thailand has introduced legal measures to strengthen the prevention of serious repeat offending. The Prevention of Recidivism in Sexual or Violent Offenses Act B.E. 2565 (2022) provides measures for offenders who may remain a danger to society after imprisonment. The law reflects greater attention to the management of high-risk offenders. However, the effectiveness of such measures depends on their implementation within the correctional system.

Cases involving serial killers and violent repeat offenders can provide important lessons for correctional reform. They may reveal weaknesses in offender assessment, rehabilitation, release decisions, and post-release supervision. These cases can also help identify areas where correctional practices should be improved. This study therefore examines serial killers and recidivism in the context of correctional reform in Thailand. It focuses on the management of serious violent offenders and measures for reducing the risk of repeated offending.



Objectives

1. To examine patterns of recidivism among serial and serious violent offenders in Thailand.
2. To analyze correctional measures for managing and preventing violent recidivism in Thailand.
3. To propose approaches to correctional reform for reducing violent recidivism and enhancing public safety.

Methodology

1. Data Sources

This study used documentary data concerning serial offenders, serious violent offenders, recidivism, and correctional administration in Thailand. The data were obtained from academic publications, official government documents, laws and regulations, correctional statistics, and reports from established news organizations. These sources provided information on offenders' criminal histories, patterns of repeated offending, imprisonment, correctional treatment, release from prison, and subsequent offending. Documents concerning correctional policies and legal measures were also examined to understand the institutional framework for preventing serious recidivism in Thailand.

The documents and cases were purposively selected according to their relevance to the research objectives. Attention was given to cases involving serious or repeated violent offenses, especially those in which offenders had previous convictions or imprisonment before committing subsequent violent crimes. Documents were included when they provided sufficient information concerning the offender, the offense, correctional processes, or measures related to the prevention of recidivism. Academic and official sources were used primarily to examine correctional policies and practices, while news reports were used to establish the circumstances and chronology of individual cases.

The use of multiple documentary sources also allowed information to be compared across different types of evidence. When the same event was reported by several sources, the information was cross-checked for consistency. Greater emphasis was placed on official documents and primary legal sources when conflicting information was identified. This process helped reduce reliance on a single source, particularly in the analysis of high-profile criminal cases.

2. Research Instrument

The research instrument was a document analysis form developed in accordance with the research objectives. The form was designed to ensure that information from different documentary sources was collected and organized systematically. Its analytical categories were derived from the major issues addressed in the study, particularly violent recidivism, offender management, correctional treatment, and the prevention of repeated offending.

The document analysis covered the offender's criminal history, characteristics of previous and subsequent offenses, patterns of repeated violent behavior, imprisonment, rehabilitation, and release from custody. It also included offender assessment, release procedures, post-release supervision, and measures intended to prevent recidivism. For laws, regulations, and policy documents, the analysis focused on the



objectives of the measures, implementation procedures, responsible agencies, and mechanisms for managing offenders who may continue to pose a risk after release.

The information recorded through the document analysis form was organized in relation to the three research objectives. This structure enabled consistent examination of the selected cases and provided a common framework for comparing information obtained from different types of documents.

3. Research Procedure

The study employed qualitative documentary research design. The research process began with the collection and review of literature concerning serial offending, serious violent crime, recidivism, and correctional administration. Relevant laws, regulations, correctional statistics, and government documents were subsequently examined to establish the legal and institutional context of correctional practices in Thailand.

Selected cases of serial and serious violent offenders were then examined in greater detail. Information from each case was arranged chronologically to identify the sequence of previous offending, criminal justice involvement, imprisonment, release, and subsequent offending. Attention was given to evidence concerning repeated violent behavior and the correctional processes experienced by offenders before their return to society.

Information obtained from different sources was compared during the review process. Where official documents and news reports addressed the same event, official information was given priority for legal, correctional, and procedural matters. News reports were used primarily to establish case-specific facts and chronology. Academic literature was used to provide the conceptual basis for interpreting recidivism, offender rehabilitation, risk management, and correctional practices.

After the documentary information had been collected and organized, the selected cases were examined alongside existing correctional policies and legal measures. This process allowed the study to move from individual cases to broader institutional issues. Recurring issues identified across the cases were subsequently used as the basis for examining limitations and possible areas of improvement within the Thai correctional system.

4. Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis. The first stage involved reviewing and coding information according to the research objectives. Data concerning individual offenders were examined to identify patterns of repeated offending, particularly the recurrence of serious or violent criminal behavior after previous involvement with criminal justice and correctional systems.

The coded information was then organized into major analytical themes. These themes included patterns of violent recidivism, offender assessment and risk management, rehabilitation and correctional treatment, release procedures, post-release supervision, and measures for preventing repeated violent offending. Information within each theme was compared across the selected cases to identify recurring patterns, similarities, and differences.



The findings from individual cases were also considered together with correctional statistics, legal provisions, official documents, and relevant academic literature. This process was used to examine whether the issues identified in cases reflect broader concerns within correctional administration rather than isolated events. The analysis therefore considered both offender-level evidence and institutional measures related to the prevention of recidivism.

In the final stage, the findings were synthesized in accordance with the three research objectives. Patterns of recidivism were first identified from the selected cases. Existing correctional measures were then examined in relation to offender assessment, rehabilitation, release, and supervision. Finally, the findings were integrated to identify areas for correctional reform aimed at reducing violent recidivism and enhancing public safety.

Results

1. Patterns of Recidivism among Serial and Serious Violent Offenders in Thailand

The documentary analysis revealed that recidivism among serious violent offenders cannot be understood solely in terms of the number of offenses committed. The selected cases demonstrated differences in criminal histories, motives, behavioral patterns, and circumstances surrounding repeated offending. Nevertheless, a common concern across the cases was the persistence of serious violent behavior despite previous contact with the criminal justice or correctional system. This finding raises an important question regarding the extent to which previous imprisonment and correctional treatment can reduce the risk of subsequent serious violence.

The case of Pong and Thong provides a significant example. The case involved the killing of two Russian nationals and was subsequently linked to the earlier killing of three members of another family. The documentary evidence indicates a pattern of serious violence extending beyond a single criminal event. The case therefore illustrates the importance of examining an offender's previous behavior and criminal history when assessing the possibility of future violence.

The analysis of other serious violent offenders further demonstrated that violent offenders do not constitute a homogeneous group. Cases discussed in the documentary evidence included Somkid Pumpuang, commonly known as "Kid the Ripper," Ma Sadism, and Ice Metal Casket. These cases differed in terms of motivation, victim selection, circumstances of offending, and the nature of violence. The differences suggest that correctional decisions should not rely solely on offense categories. Individual



criminal history, behavioral patterns, treatment progress, and risk factors should also be considered when assessing serious violent offenders.

At the broader correctional level, recent statistics indicate a substantial presence of repeated imprisonment within the Thai prison population. Table 1 presents the number of convicted prisoners by number of imprisonments as of August 1, 2026.

Table 1 Statistics of Convicted Prisoners by Number of Imprisonments, August 2026

Number of Imprisonments	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
First imprisonment	94,072	18,070	112,142	51.06
Second imprisonment	52,871	5,103	57,974	26.40
Third imprisonment	24,844	1,758	26,602	12.11
Fourth imprisonment	7,408	445	7,853	3.58
Fifth or more imprisonment	3,269	206	3,475	1.58
Second or more imprisonments	88,392	7,512	95,904	43.67
Classified by type of offense	10,088	1,493	11,581	5.27
Total	192,552	27,075	219,627	100.00

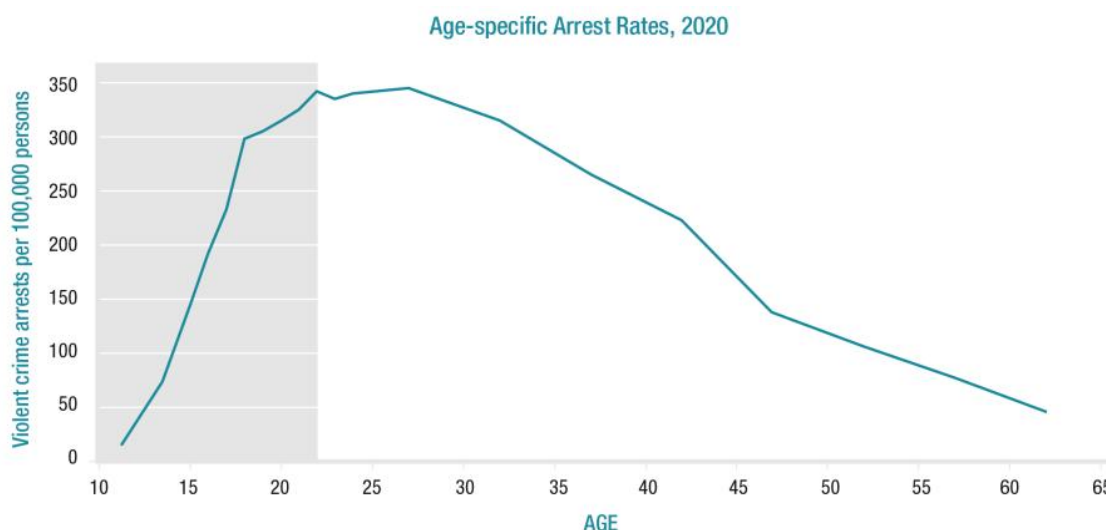
Source: Department of Corrections (2026a), Statistics of Convicted Prisoners by Number of Imprisonments, August 2026

As shown in Table 1, as of August 1, 2026, Thailand had 219,627 convicted prisoners, comprising 192,552 males and 27,075 females. Among them, 112,142 prisoners (51.06%) were serving their first imprisonment, while 95,904 (43.67%) had been imprisoned two or more times. Specifically, 57,974 prisoners (26.40%) were serving a second imprisonment, 26,602 (12.11%) a third, 7,853 (3.58%) a fourth, and 3,475 (1.58%) a fifth or subsequent imprisonment. An additional 11,581 prisoners (5.27%) were classified separately by type of offense. These figures indicate that prisoners with multiple imprisonment histories constitute a substantial proportion of Thailand's convicted prisoner population. However, the figures represent repeat imprisonment rather than a direct measure of violent recidivism, as the statistics do not distinguish whether the subsequent imprisonment resulted from a violent or non-violent offense.

The analysis also indicates that age should be considered when examining patterns of offending. Evidence from the U.S. National Institute of Justice (2024) shows that arrest rates for violent crime generally

increase during adolescence and early adulthood before declining with age. This age-related pattern provides useful contextual evidence that criminal justice involvement varies across the life course.

Figure 1 Age-Specific Arrest Rates, 2020



Source: National Institute of Justice (2024), based on data from the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book.

However, the selected Thai cases suggest that age-related decline in offending cannot be assumed for every serious violent offender. The individual characteristics of offenders remain important. The findings therefore support an individualized approach to risk assessment rather than relying on general assumptions about age, offense type, or behavior during imprisonment.

2. Correctional Measures for Managing and Preventing Violent Recidivism in Thailand

The documentary analysis identified several existing mechanisms for managing offenders within the Thai correctional system. These include prisoner classification, correctional treatment, rehabilitation, sentence administration, release procedures, and measures for monitoring offenders who may continue to pose a risk after release. The central issue identified by the study was therefore not simply the absence of correctional measures. Rather, the findings raise questions about whether existing measures can adequately distinguish offenders who have responded to rehabilitation from those who continue to present a substantial risk of serious violence.

A major issue concerns the assessment of offenders during imprisonment and before release. The documentary analysis indicates that offenders differ in their motivations, criminal histories, psychological characteristics, and patterns of violence. Compliance with prison regulations may provide useful information regarding institutional behavior, but it does not necessarily establish that the underlying risk of serious offending has disappeared. The documentary analysis therefore indicates the importance of assessing offenders individually rather than relying primarily on general classifications or institutional conduct.

This issue becomes particularly important when sentence reduction, parole, pardon, or other forms of release are considered for offenders convicted of serious violent crimes. The selected cases demonstrate that good behavior within a controlled correctional environment and the risk of violence after release are



conceptually different matters. Decisions affecting the return of serious violent offenders to society should therefore incorporate evidence concerning criminal history, behavioral risk, rehabilitation outcomes, and professional assessment.

Thailand has developed a more specific legal mechanism through the Prevention of Recidivism in Sexual or Violent Offenses Act B.E. 2565 (2022). The Act reflects recognition that some offenders may continue to present a serious risk after completing a prison sentence. The documentary evidence indicates that the legislation provides a basis for rehabilitation, monitoring, and measures intended to prevent serious, repeated offending.

The analysis nevertheless identifies a potential gap between the existence of formal measures and their practical effectiveness. The Pong and Thong case is particularly relevant because the Department of Corrections (2026b) stated that the required procedures under the measures for preventing recidivism have been followed. The subsequent controversy therefore raises a broader institutional question: whether procedural compliance alone is sufficient to demonstrate effective risk management.

From this perspective, correctional effectiveness should not be evaluated solely by whether each formal step has been completed. Greater attention should also be given to the outcome of assessment, treatment, release planning, information sharing, and post-release supervision. The findings indicate that the management of high-risk violent offenders requires continuity between imprisonment and community supervision rather than treating release as the end of correctional responsibility.

3. Approaches to Correctional Reform for Reducing Violent Recidivism and Enhancing Public Safety

The findings indicate that correctional reform should begin with a more individualized and evidence-based approach to serious violent offenders. Two major principles emerged from the documentary analysis: accurate offender assessment and the establishment of consistent standards for correctional decision-making. Both principles were strongly supported by the documentary evidence.

First, offender assessment should extend beyond the original criminal conviction and behavior during imprisonment. Serious violent offenders should be assessed according to their criminal histories, patterns of violence, individual risk factors, psychological and behavioral conditions, treatment progress, and circumstances likely to contribute to reoffending. Where appropriate, medical and mental health professionals should participate in the assessment process, particularly before major release-related decisions are made. This approach reflects the finding that serious offenders should not be treated as a uniform group.

Second, correctional decisions should be governed by clear and consistent standards. Decisions concerning classification, rehabilitation, sentence reduction, release, and supervision should be based on documented evidence and professional assessment. Clear standards are especially important in high-profile or serious violent cases because they can reduce inconsistency and provide a transparent basis for



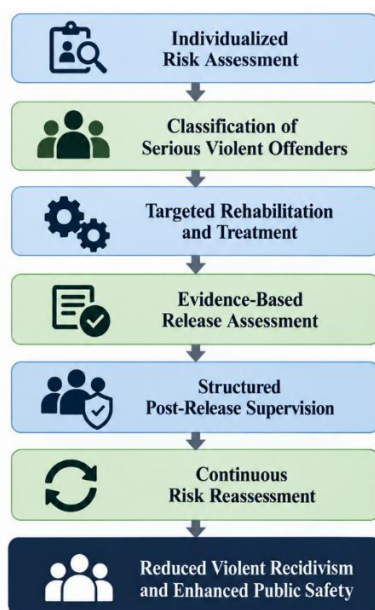
explaining correctional decisions. The findings also emphasize that correctional decisions should not be influenced by an offender's social position or other considerations unrelated to correctional risk.

Third, rehabilitation should be linked directly to the risks and needs identified for each offender. The documentary evidence discusses several approaches used internationally, including risk and needs assessment, education, substance abuse treatment, motivational support, community participation, and strengthening family relationships. These measures suggest that rehabilitation should not be understood simply as participation in correctional activities. Its effectiveness should be considered in relation to whether relevant risk factors have changed.

Fourth, release should be treated as a process rather than a single administrative decision. For serious violent offenders, assessments should occur before release and continue during the transition to the community. Information concerning risk, treatment history, and supervision requirements should be communicated among the agencies responsible for correctional administration, law enforcement, and post-release monitoring.

Finally, post-release supervision should include periodic reassessment of risk. An offender's circumstances may change after returning to society, and factors associated with violence may re-emerge. Continuous assessment provides an opportunity for authorities to respond to changes before they develop into serious offending. This approach shifts correctional policy from responding to recidivism after it occurs toward preventing serious harm before it occurs. The findings can therefore be synthesized into a proposed framework for managing serious violent offenders in Thailand.

Figure 2 Proposed Framework for Correctional Reform to Prevent Violent Recidivism in Thailand



Source: Developed by the author based on the findings of the study.

Figure 2 represents a continuous correctional process rather than a series of isolated measures. Individualized risk assessment informs offender classification, which in turn guides appropriate rehabilitation



and treatment. Rehabilitation outcomes and reassessed risk then contribute to evidence-based release decisions. Following release, structured supervision and periodic risk reassessment maintain continuity between correctional intervention and community-based risk management. The proposed framework therefore retains rehabilitation as a central correctional objective while strengthening the management of serious violent offenders and the protection of public safety.

Discussion

1. Patterns of Recidivism among Serial and Serious Violent Offenders in Thailand

The findings indicate that recidivism among serial and serious violent offenders in Thailand cannot be understood solely in terms of the number of previous offenses or periods of imprisonment. The selected cases demonstrate considerable differences in criminal histories, motivations, behavioral patterns, and circumstances surrounding serious violence. At the same time, they reveal a common correctional concern: previous punishment and imprisonment do not necessarily eliminate the possibility of subsequent serious offending.

The correctional statistics presented in Table 1 provide a broader context for this finding. As of August 1, 2026, 95,904 convicted prisoners, representing 43.67% of the reported prison population, had experienced two or more imprisonments. This proportion demonstrates that repeated imprisonment is a substantial issue within the Thai correctional system. However, it should not be interpreted as a national recidivism rate or as a violent recidivism rate because the statistics do not identify the nature of subsequent offenses. Warotamasikkhadit and Pornputtasri (2020) similarly noted that definitions and measurements of recidivism in Thailand vary according to the responsibilities and criteria of different criminal justice agencies. This distinction is important when interpreting correctional statistics because re-arrest, reconviction, and reimprisonment represent different measures of recidivism.

The selected cases further demonstrate that serious violent offenders should not be treated as a homogeneous group. The Somkid Pumpuang case provides a particularly important example of serious violence following release from imprisonment. Somkid had previously been imprisoned for multiple homicide offenses and was released in May 2019 before being accused of another killing later that year. The Somkid case is particularly relevant because deficiencies were identified in the screening process that preceded his release (Thai PBS, 2019). The case demonstrates why previous serious violence and patterns of offending should receive substantial attention when assessing offenders before release.

The Ice Metal Casket case illustrates a different issue. The offender received a life sentence in a homicide case involving severe violence and concealment of the victim's body (Thairath, 2024). The significance of this case to the present study is not primarily post-release recidivism. Rather, it demonstrates the heterogeneity of serious violent offenders and the limitations of classifying offenders solely according to the legal category of their current offense. Different patterns of serious violence may reflect different risks, motivations, and correctional needs.

These cases suggest that correctional assessment should focus not only on whether an offender has previously offended but also on the pattern, severity, and continuity of offending. Criminal history



should therefore be considered together with behavioral characteristics and other relevant risk factors. This interpretation is consistent with the Risk-Need-Responsivity model, which emphasizes that the intensity and content of correctional intervention should correspond to individual risk and criminogenic needs (Bonta & Andrews, 2017).

2. Correctional Measures for Managing and Preventing Violent Recidivism in Thailand

The second major finding concerns the capacity of correctional measures to identify and manage serious violent offenders. Thailand already employs prisoner classification, rehabilitation, sentence administration, release procedures, and post-release measures. The issue is therefore not simply the absence of correctional mechanisms, but whether existing mechanisms can adequately distinguish offenders who have responded to rehabilitation from those who may continue to present a serious risk after release.

Individualized risk assessment is particularly important in this respect. Kaewsrinual and Choosakoonkraing (2022) emphasized the importance of developing systematic approaches to recidivism risk assessment for prisoners in Thailand. Their study suggests that risk assessment can provide information for differentiating offenders and developing more appropriate correctional interventions. This supports the present finding that decisions concerning serious violent offenders should not rely solely on offense categories or general institutional behavior.

The findings also raise questions about how rehabilitation is evaluated. Good behavior during imprisonment provides relevant information, but institutional compliance should not automatically be interpreted as evidence that the risk of serious violence has disappeared. Prison represents a controlled environment in which access to potential victims, previous associates, substances, and many situational pressures is restricted. Consequently, behavior during imprisonment and risk following release are related but conceptually different issues.

This distinction is consistent with the RNR approach. Bonta and Andrews (2017) argue that rehabilitation should address criminogenic needs associated with offending rather than simply provide the same intervention to all offenders. From this perspective, the important question is not only whether an offender has completed a correctional program, but whether relevant factors associated with reoffending have changed.

The Somkid Pumpuang case further illustrates this concern. Following his subsequent alleged offending, deficiencies in the screening process associated with his sentence reduction and release were publicly acknowledged (Thai PBS, 2019). Institutional good behavior had contributed to his prisoner classification and sentence reduction, yet serious offending was alleged shortly after his release. The case illustrates the limitations of relying too heavily on institutional behavior when evaluating community risk.

Thailand subsequently developed a more specific legal response through the Prevention of Recidivism in Sexual or Violent Offenses Act B.E. 2565 (2022). The legislation reflects recognition that some offenders may continue to present substantial risks after completing imprisonment. Its significance lies in



extending the management of serious risk beyond the prison sentence through mechanisms involving treatment, surveillance, and other preventive measures.

The findings nevertheless suggest an important distinction between procedural compliance and correctional effectiveness. In the Pong and Thong case, the Department of Corrections (2026b) stated that the procedures required under the measures for preventing recidivism had been followed. The analytical question is therefore not merely whether the prescribed procedures were completed, but whether those procedures were sufficient to identify and manage continuing risk.

Correctional effectiveness should consequently be evaluated through the quality of assessment, rehabilitation, release planning, information sharing, and post-release supervision. At the same time, subsequent offending should not automatically be interpreted as evidence that an earlier correctional decision was negligent. No assessment system can predict individual behavior with certainty. The more appropriate standard is whether decisions were based on relevant evidence, consistent criteria, professional assessment, and defensible reasoning.

3. Correctional Reform for Reducing Violent Recidivism and Enhancing Public Safety

The findings suggest that correctional reform should focus on strengthening the connection between assessment, rehabilitation, release, and post-release management rather than simply adding further administrative procedures. This principle forms the basis of the correctional reform framework proposed in Figure 2.

The first component is individualized risk assessment. Serious violent offenders should be assessed according to their criminal histories, patterns of violence, relevant risk factors, treatment needs, and behavioral changes. Kaewsrinual and Choosakoonkraing (2022) similarly concluded that risk assessment could contribute to the development of approaches for preventing and controlling repeated offending among prisoners in Thailand.

Assessment should then inform offender classification and targeted rehabilitation. Individualized treatment does not imply arbitrary treatment. Rather, offenders presenting different levels of risk and different criminogenic needs should receive interventions appropriate to those differences. This approach is consistent with the RNR framework, in which intervention intensity corresponds to risk and treatment focuses on needs associated with offending (Bonta & Andrews, 2017).

The third component concerns evidence-based release assessment. Decisions involving serious violent offenders should not depend solely on sentence eligibility, completion of correctional programs, or good institutional behavior. These factors should be considered together with criminal history, treatment outcomes, current risk, and professional assessment. The objective is not to prevent the release of every offender convicted of serious violence, but to ensure that release decisions are supported by sufficient evidence regarding the individual's current risk and circumstances.

The fourth component is structured post-release supervision. Release should represent a transition from institutional management to community-based risk management rather than the termination of



correctional responsibility. The level of supervision should nevertheless remain proportionate to assessed risk. Offenders presenting substantially different levels of risk should not automatically be subjected to identical forms of supervision.

Finally, periodic reassessment should connect post-release supervision back to the assessment process. Risk is not necessarily static. Changes in behavior, relationships, substance use, employment, or social circumstances may alter an offender's risk after release. Reassessment therefore provides a mechanism for adjusting intervention when relevant circumstances change.

The proposed framework therefore emphasizes continuity across the major stages of correctional management. Individualized risk assessment should inform offender classification and rehabilitation, while treatment outcomes and reassessed risk should contribute to release decisions. Following release, structured supervision and periodic reassessment should maintain continuity between institutional intervention and community-based risk management.

The principal contribution of this framework lies in the integration of these stages. Assessment without appropriate intervention has limited value, while rehabilitation that is not informed by individual risk may fail to address relevant criminogenic needs. Similarly, release without continuity of supervision may interrupt risk management, particularly among offenders with histories of serious violence.

Overall, serious violent recidivism should therefore be understood not solely as a failure of punishment, but as a potential failure of continuity in risk management. Imprisonment can incapacitate offenders while they remain in custody, but it does not by itself demonstrate that the factors associated with serious violence have changed. Effective correctional reform should integrate individualized assessment, targeted rehabilitation, evidence-based release decisions, structured supervision, and continuing reassessment.

Such an approach does not require a choice between rehabilitation and public safety. Rehabilitation can contribute directly to public safety when it addresses factors associated with offending. At the same time, public protection should not depend solely on longer imprisonment or increasingly restrictive measures. The central objective should be to ensure that decisions concerning serious violent offenders are based on relevant evidence, consistent professional standards, and continuing assessment throughout the correctional process.

Recommendations

Policy and Practical Recommendations

1 . Implement systematic and individualized risk assessment for serious violent offenders throughout the correctional process, particularly before sentence reduction, parole, or release. Assessment should consider criminal history, patterns of violence, criminogenic needs, treatment progress, and current risk factors.



2. Integrate risk assessment with rehabilitation and release decisions so that correctional programs respond to the specific risks and needs of each offender. Program completion and good institutional behavior should not be used as the sole indicators of readiness for release.

3. Strengthen continuity of risk management after release through proportionate supervision, periodic risk reassessment, and effective information sharing among correctional, probation, law-enforcement, and other responsible agencies.

Recommendations for Future Research

1. Examine violent recidivism using larger and more diverse samples of serious violent offenders in Thailand to identify patterns and risk factors that may not be captured through selected case studies.

2. Conduct longitudinal studies of serious violent offenders after release to examine changes in risk factors, patterns of reoffending, and the effectiveness of rehabilitation and post-release supervision over time.

3. Evaluate the effectiveness of Thailand's current recidivism-prevention measures by examining whether risk assessment, rehabilitation, release procedures, and post-release supervision contribute to measurable reductions in serious violent reoffending.

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