

Background Check and their Correlations with Recidivism Rates

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The Goal

- Our goal was to get more information about recidivism and its correlation with background checks



Why is it Important?

- Recidivism is costing our country **\$50 billion a year.**
- We are the ones paying!!
- The more we can learn about why ex-offenders are reoffending, the more we can help them succeed and decrease our recidivism rates.



Hypothesis



- If we can eliminate some of the barriers that society creates, such as background check, we believe that parolees will be less likely to reoffend .

Are Background Checks Good



It should not ensure the
final decision

- Background checks allow employers and housing to help ensure a sound hiring and tenant decision and protect them from risks
- Although background checks are a barrier for supervised persons, we do not condone their actions, nor are we saying that all background checks should be gotten rid of.

Literature Review



National Institute of Justice

Study of 404,638 prisoners in 30 states after their release from prison in 2004

- By the end of the **first year**,
56% of released prisoners
were arrested.
- Within **three years** of release
67% of released prisoners
were rearrested.
- Within **five years** of release
76% of released prisoners
were rearrested.



Utah State Sentencing Commission also published that in 1 in 31 adults in the United States were either incarcerated or being supervised in 2017.

Check the

Box



- Many employers have a box to check on their applications
- Right now, there is a “Ban the Box” movement which is trying to get that box removed from the application
- Not having the box wouldn’t keep people from running background checks, but it may give people a better chance at getting a job

Have They Paid Their Debt to Society?

- Fines, retribution, court fees, etc.
- If they fail to make payments, their driver's license is revoked. (only in some states)
- Between 2012 and 2016, the state of Tennessee suspended more than 146,000 driver's licenses for failure to pay court fees.
 - Only 7% of those licenses were reinstated

Why Should I Care?

“High recidivism rates indirectly impact all of us —they inflate prison populations, which overflow correctional budgets that are paid for by taxpayers . So whether or not we care about the ex-offender population, we need to care about recidivism rates overall .”

- Caitlyn Curly

5-Year Study in Indiana



- Offender's education and post-release employment were significantly and statistically correlated with recidivism, regardless of the offender's classification.
- There was a high unemployment rate among released offenders within the first year of release from prison.

**Table 2: The Unemployment Rate among Offenders after the Initial Release in 2005
(Excluding Offenders Who Were Incarcerated in that Given Time Period)**

Time Period	All Offenders	Violent Offenders	Non-Violent Offenders	Sex Offenders	Drug Offenders
2005 1 st Quarter	96.4%	95.5%	96.4%	96.6%	96.5%
2005 2 nd Quarter	95.7%	96.5%	95.5%	96.6%	95.3%
2005 3 rd Quarter	93.5%	92.9%	93.3%	94.3%	94.4%
2005 4 th Quarter	92.7%	91.6%	92.9%	93.5%	93.1%
2006 1 st Quarter	63.1%	61.0%	64.8%	61.6%	61.1%
2006 2 nd Quarter	61.7%	59.2%	63.3%	59.4%	60.7%
2006 3 rd Quarter	62.0%	58.6%	63.5%	56.2%	62.6%
2006 4 th Quarter	63.9%	61.8%	64.7%	59.1%	64.6%
2007 1 st Quarter	69.7%	68.7%	70.8%	64.3%	69.4%
2007 2 nd Quarter	69.1%	65.6%	70.3%	65.0%	70.3%
2007 3 rd Quarter	67.4%	64.7%	68.8%	62.9%	67.6%
2007 4 th Quarter	70.0%	68.3%	70.9%	65.6%	70.1%
2008 1 st Quarter	73.8%	73.7%	74.8%	71.3%	72.3%
2008 2 nd Quarter	73.3%	72.9%	74.2%	69.5%	72.3%
2008 3 rd Quarter	74.3%	73.8%	75.9%	67.4%	72.6%
2008 4 th Quarter	76.6%	75.9%	77.4%	71.0%	76.8%
2009 1 st Quarter	80.7%	79.8%	82.2%	76.3%	79.3%
2009 2 nd Quarter	80.2%	80.4%	80.8%	73.2%	80.4%
2009 3 rd Quarter	81.2%	81.5%	81.9%	78.1%	80.4%
2009 4 th Quarter	78.3%	78.6%	78.9%	77.0%	77.1%

Table 3: Elapsed Time between Re-incarceration and the Initial Release

Time Return	All Offenders (n=3144)	Violent Offenders (n=559)	Non-Violent Offenders (n=1687)	Sex Offenders (n=202)	Drug Offenders (n=696)
Within 3 months	204 (6.5%)	27 (4.8%)	126 (7.5%)	10 (5.0%)	41 (5.9%)
Within 3-6 months	404 (12.8%)	65 (11.6%)	203 (12.0%)	36 (17.8%)	100 (14.4%)
Within 6-9 months	449 (14.3%)	64 (11.4%)	249 (14.8%)	31 (15.3%)	105 (15.1%)
Within 9-12 months	413 (13.1%)	75 (13.4%)	245 (14.5%)	25 (12.4%)	68 (9.8%)
Within 12-15 months	346 (11.0%)	59 (10.6%)	182 (10.8%)	23 (11.4%)	82 (11.8%)
Within 15-18 months	301 (9.6%)	49 (8.8%)	163 (9.7%)	17 (8.4%)	72 (10.3%)
Within 18-21 months	243 (7.7%)	54 (9.7%)	125 (7.4%)	17 (8.4%)	47 (6.8%)
Within 21-24 months	187 (5.9%)	36 (6.4%)	101 (6.0%)	9 (4.5%)	41 (5.9%)
Within 24-27 months	154 (4.9%)	38 (6.8%)	67 (4.0%)	11 (5.4%)	38 (5.5%)
Within 27-30 months	89 (2.8%)	13 (2.3%)	39 (2.3%)	7 (3.5%)	30 (4.3%)
Within 30-33 months	46 (1.5%)	11 (2.0%)	24 (1.4%)	2 (1.0%)	9 (1.3%)
Within 33-36 months	11 (0.3%)	2 (0.4%)	6 (0.4%)	1 (0.5%)	2 (0.3%)
Within 36-39 months	11 (0.3%)	3 (0.5%)	8 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Within 39-42 months	31 (1.0%)	5 (0.9%)	20 (1.2%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (0.9%)
Within 42-45 months	60 (1.9%)	12 (2.1%)	33 (2.0%)	1 (0.5%)	14 (2.0%)
Within 45-48 months	59 (1.9%)	17 (3.0%)	31 (1.8%)	2 (1.0%)	9 (1.3%)
Within 48-51 months	65 (2.1%)	15 (2.7%)	32 (1.9%)	4 (2.0%)	14 (2.0%)
Within 51-54 months	44 (1.4%)	10 (1.8%)	19 (1.1%)	5 (2.5%)	10 (1.4%)
Within 54-57 months	22 (0.7%)	3 (0.5%)	11 (0.7%)	1 (0.5%)	7 (1.0%)
Within 57-60 months	5 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	3 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)

Denying Employment To Exs Increases Recidivism Rates

- Ex-offenders need stabilization when they are released from prison
- They need a job and good/safe housing

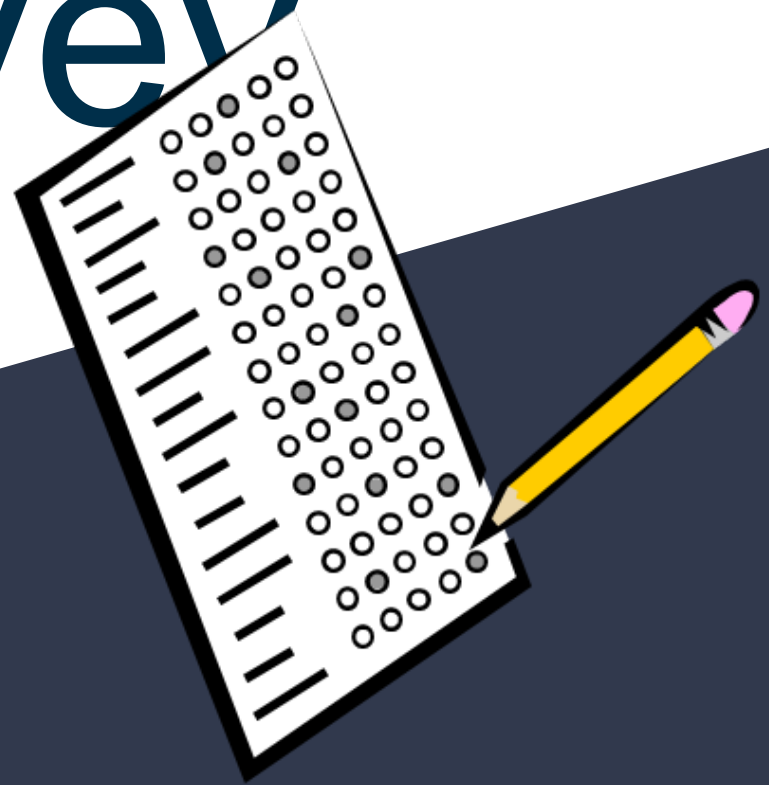


Background Checks are a Barrier



Ex-offenders need employment, and it's important to recognize their barriers to leading successful lives.

The Survey



Unanticipated Issues



- Lots of agencies said “No”
- Federal Probation dropped out last minute
- Only 4 people responded

Potential Risks

- Confidentiality
- We minimized these risks by making the survey anonymous
- Our questions were specifically worded as to not give personal information about the surveyor or the parolees/probationers

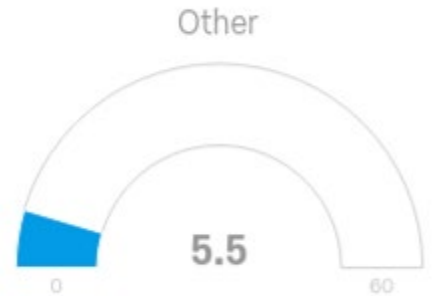
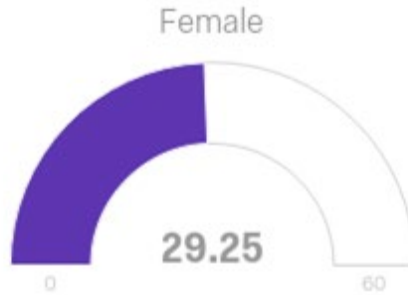
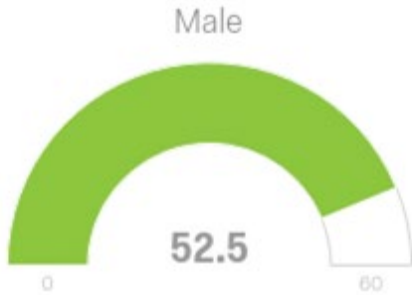
Q2- How many supervised persons do you have on your caseload?

Average:

75

65
110

Q3- What population of supervised persons on your caseload is:

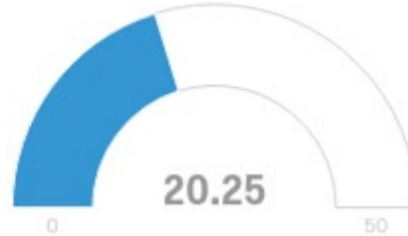


Q6- What number of supervised persons on your caseload live with:

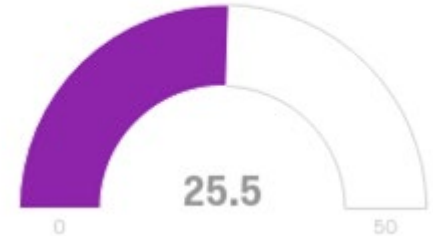
A supportive family member



A supportive friend



Not with a family member or friend



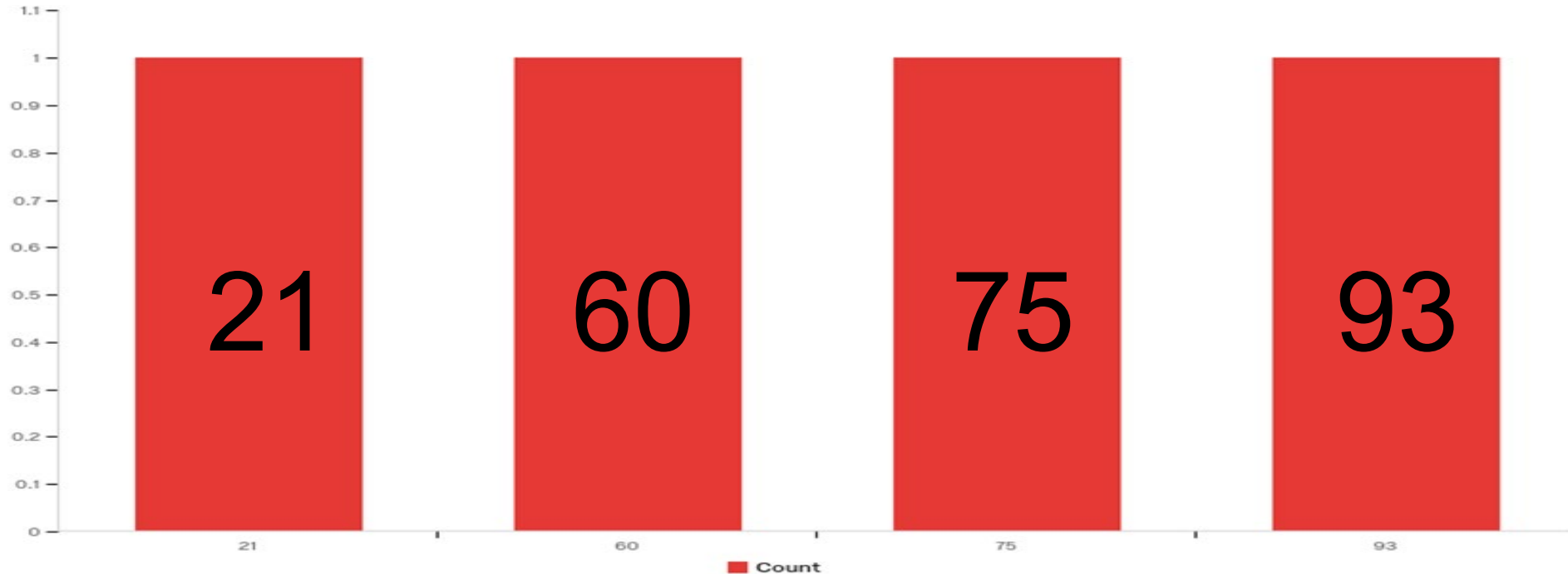
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
1	Violent Crimes	0.00	36.00	23.00
2	Drug Crimes	24.00	65.00	41.25
3	White Collar Crimes	7.00	32.00	18.33
4	Sex Crimes	4.00	6.00	5.00
5	Other	22.00	22.00	22.00

Q7- What number of your supervised persons on your caseload have a job?

Average:

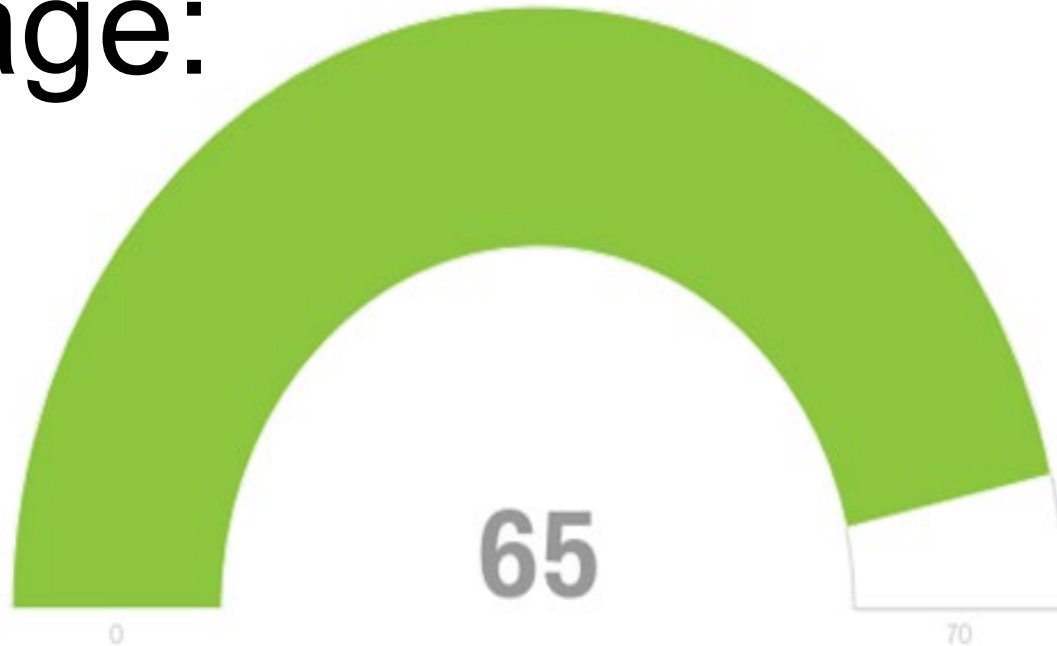


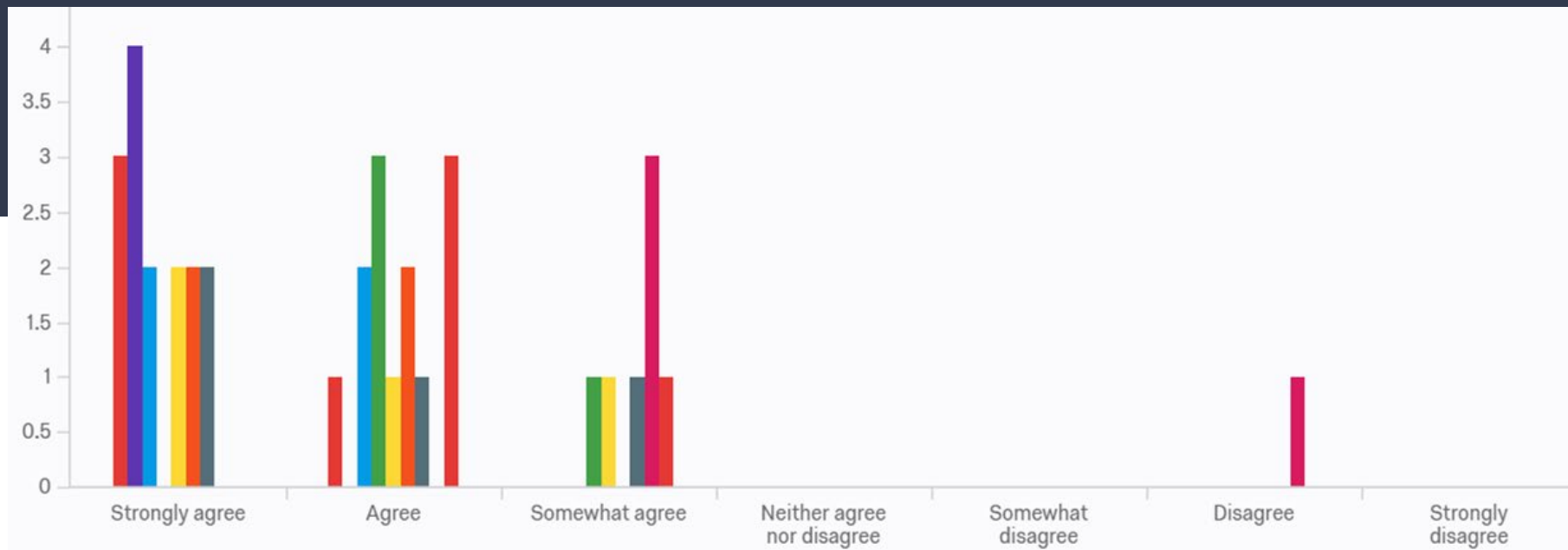
Q8- What number of supervised persons on your caseload have been rejected from a job because of a failed background check?



Q9- What number of supervised persons on your caseload have been rejected from housing because of a background check?

Average:





- Success rates increase when a supervised person has a job.
- Success rates increase when a supervised person has housing.
- Background checks for housing and employment have a correlation with parole...
- Success rate of supervised persons on your caseload is greater than the re...
- Forced housing background checks forces supervised persons into higher risk...
- Not having a job affects the success rate of supervised persons
- Not having a decent housing affects the success rate of supervised persons
- A supervised person would get violated strictly for not having a job?
- Supervised persons react negatively when they can't find a job and/or housi...

Conclusion

- People that cannot find house have a greater chance of violation probation or parole
- People that have a good support system, job and housing are more like to succeed
- Background checks can and do cause setbacks it really had no significant effect with the success on lower crimes and recidivism.
- Recidivism is an ongoing problem that can't be eliminated, but it can be reduced.
- Educate employers and housing about recidivism
 - We're paying one way or another

Work Cited

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Questions?

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