Why Do Offenders Keep Reoffending?

Wade Brown, Jeremy White, & Lauren Hicks
Group 8
Hypothesis

Offenders reoffend because we as a society do not accept them back into the community because we attach a negative stigma to people that have criminal records, thus pushing them away and forcing them back into their old habits.
Our Survey

- Sample Size
  - 500 UVU students via email
  - Got a total of 62 responses
- Confidence Level & Interval
- Problems Group 8 Encountered
- IRB Feedback
- Response Rate
  - 62 Responses
Literature Review

Paige Paulson

Role of community based programs in reducing recidivism in ex-offender

Five themes in this research emerged through data analysis

Offenders are not prepared for successful release due to societal and personal barriers

Jeffrey D. Morenoff & David J. Harding

Whether and how mass incarceration has affected the social and economic structure of American communities.

How residential neighborhoods affect the social and economic reintegration of returning prisoners.
Research Design & How We Collected Data

- Qualtrics Survey
- Anonymous
- 33 Questions
- Sent through Utah Valley University provided email addresses
Did you grow up in a single parent household?

Yes

No
Were your parents ever incarcerated?

- Yes: 8.20%
- No: 91.80%
Have you ever been incarcerated?

95% No

Highest level of education

48% Some college
30% Associate degree
17% Bachelor degree

Less than high school, High school degree or equivalent (e.g., GED), Some college, Associate degree, Bachelor degree, Graduate degree, Master's degree, Professional degree, Doctorate degree, Trade/technical/vocational training
Do you think criminality begins in childhood?

- Definitely yes
- Probably yes
- Might or might not
- Probably not
- Definitely not
Do you think mental health disorders contribute to the increased risk of recidivism?
Do you think parole and probation services help reduce the risk of recidivism?

- 12% Definitely yes
- 61% Probably yes
- 23% Probably not
Do you think rehabilitation during incarceration reduces the risk of recidivism?
Do you think offenders reoffend because they are under the influence of one or more drugs?
Do you think the Justice System should be harder on people with a past criminal history?

- 16% Definitely yes
- 30% Probably yes
- 42% Probably not

- Red: Definitely yes
- Purple: Probably yes
- Blue: Probably not
- Green: Definitely not
Would you enroll into a class if you knew that somebody enrolled in that class had been convicted of murder?
If you were an employer, would you refuse to hire a convicted felon?
Former criminals have become some of America's greatest in industry.
Former criminals have become some of America's greatest leaders in law.
If you managed a rental property, would you rent your property to a convicted felon?

- Definitely yes
- Probably yes
- Probably not
- Definitely not
Do you think a contributing factor of recidivism includes the difficulties released offenders face in renting an apartment?
Do you think a contributing factor of recidivism includes the difficulties released offenders face in getting an education?
Do you think, an individual who is found guilty of a misdemeanor drug offense (e.g. possession of marijuana) while receiving Federal student aid should be disqualified from receiving further aid for a specific period of time?
Do you think a contributing factor of recidivism includes the difficulties released offenders face in finding a job?

- Definitely yes: 42.11%
- Probably yes: 50.88%
- Probably not: 5.26%
- Definitely not: 1.75%
If you were on a parole board, would you grant somebody early release if they were sentenced to life in prison?

36% Probably yes

58% Probably not
Offenders should be treated like everybody else.
In Conclusion..

The data received shows UVU students understand that recidivism is a problem, and understand a lot of the causes. However, the data shows a pretty close split of their opinion interacting with these offenders. The students don’t feel like they personally discriminate against offenders, they do however see society as a whole discriminate against offenders. This survey was only sent out to UVU students, so they don’t speak for the public as a whole. For more accurate data the study would need to be extended for time, and a broader sample.