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An examination of violation behavior among participating offenders involved in the grant-funded rural reentry initiative of Ohio within six months after release from prison 2014-2015



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Purpose


- Findings from the analysis are expected to inform case management and contribute to organizational decision-making in reducing violation behavior as it is considered detrimental to future engagement in new crimes.
- The findings will provide implications of whether specialized reentry services help reinforce the role of the existing substance abuse referral process in reducing relapse behavior among ex-offenders.
- The project will hopefully expand on early evaluation work and existing literature, building on our understanding of rural reentry.

Background

- Prisoner reentry services currently face multiple implementation challenges when providing parolees an access to resources in rural communities.
- Resources include: Housing, transportation, counseling/programs, driver licenses, ID acquisition, GED testing, substance abuse treatment, life skills, and employment
- As an extension of existing evaluation efforts on Ohio's Second Chance Act Grant-funded Rural Recidivism Reduction Program (OR3), this project will investigate post-prison violation behavior among a sample of offenders under supervision in a rural setting.

Potential Benefits for Participating Offenders

- Improved access to services that include employment training, healthcare, and evidence-based programming that addresses criminogenic needs
- Assistance in procuring transportation
- Reduced risk of returning to prison
- Enhanced network of resources for successful reentry



Collaborating Partners

- Network comprised of ODRC, community corrections entities, local courts, local reentry coalitions and service providers (Ross, Athens, and Highland)
- OR3 Partners include : Alvis House, HAPCAP, Ross County Sheriff's Office Day Reporting, STAR Community Justice, Terry Collins Reentry Center, Turning Point Applied Learning Center, and Ohio University

Geographical Area

- Ten county area in a rural, Appalachian region
- Counties include: Athens, Fayette, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton



Eligibility Criteria for Participants

- Offenders must be returning to one of the ten aforementioned counties (listed above)
- Offenders must be scored as moderate-to-high risk in the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) or reflect a 3 or higher in RAP
- Offenders must be released on community supervision, parole/post release control, judicial release or transitional control
- Offenders must be released from prison before October 31, 2013 (Offenders are able to sign up while incarcerated or within 60 days of release. Please note that this date was extended into 2014.)

Methodology/ Source of Information

- Utilizing quasi experimental methods to compare outcomes among grant-funded participants and an appropriately selected comparison group, the research design will employ descriptive comparisons of violation frequency and types of behavior between both groups.
- The observation period of both groups encompasses six months after release from prison.
- Both groups will be pulled from the ODRC post release control (PRC) database because the information regarding violation behavior is easily accessible .
- The primary reference source for coding violations is the FOS notes in ODRC Reentry Portal, a subset of the Departmental Offender Tracking System(DOTS)
- Software packages utilized for data entry and analysis include Microsoft Excel 2010 and IBM SPSS Statistics 22

Descriptive Analysis: Observations/Coding

- Incident/Arrest Dates
- Incident/Action Type
- Types of Violation Behavior (codes):
 - Sanction Violation
 - Absconding or Fleeing Supervision/PVAL warrant
 - Change of Residence Violation
 - Change of Employment Violation
 - Reporting Violation
 - Association Violation
 - Substance Abuse Violation
 - Parole Board Special Condition Violation
 - Programming Violation
 - Failure to Follow Instruction Violation
 - Communication with a Prisoner Violation
 - Curfew Violation
 - Threat Behavior
 - Felonious Behavior- Violent and/or Sex Offense
 - Felonious Behavior- Nonviolent
 - Misdemeanor- Theft/Forgery/Bad Checks/Misc. Property
 - Misdemeanor- Weapons
 - Misdemeanor- Domestic Violence
 - Misdemeanor- Assault
 - Misdemeanor- Drugs
 - Misdemeanor- Failure to Appear
 - Misdemeanor- Resisting Arrest
 - Misdemeanor- Traffic
 - Misdemeanor- Other (Specify)
- Employment Status at Time of Violation
- Single or Multiple Substance Abuse Violations
- Declared PVAL Date
- CDS Referral Date


Descriptive Analysis (cont.): Preliminary Findings

- PRC OR3 participant sample, n=131
- 52.7% of OR3 participants did not commit any violations within six months after release, n=69
- 47.3% of OR3 participants committed at least one violation within six months after release, n=62
- Of those 62 OR3 participants (47.3% of the sample), the following violation incidents occurred within the six month observation period.

Table 1. Total Violation Incidents Across All OR3 PRC Cases within 6 Months After Release

Type of Violation	Counts of Violation Behavior	Percentage
Substance Abuse Violation	63	24.7%
Reporting Violation	33	12.9%
Programming Violation	25	9.8%
Absconding	24	9.4%
Sanction Violation	19	7.5%
Change of Residence Violation	12	4.7%
Failure to Follow Instruction Violation	12	4.7%
Misdemeanor-Theft/Forgery/Bad Checks/Misc.Property	9	3.5%
Association Violation	9	3.5%
Felonious Behavior-Nonviolent	7	2.7%
Misdemeanor-Traffic	7	2.7%
Misdemeanor-Failure to Appear	6	2.4%
Parole Board Special Condition Violation	5	2.0%
Misdemeanor-Other (Specify)	5	2.0%
Curfew Violation	4	1.6%
Threat Behavior	4	1.6%
Felonious Behavior-Violent and/or Sex Offense	3	1.2%
Misdemeanor-Assault	3	1.2%
Communication with a Prisoner	2	0.8%
Change of Employment Violation	1	0.4%
Misdemeanor-Other (Specify)	1	0.4%
Misdemeanor-Drugs	1	0.4%
Misdemeanor-Weapons	0	0.0%
Misdemeanor-Resisting Arrest	0	0.0%
Total	255	100.0%

- The continuation of this study will include all violation incidents across the cases of a comparison group within the same time frame.
- With this data, inferences can be made about how specialized programs may have influenced the reduction of violation and relapse behavior among ex-offenders during PRC



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