Institute for Excellence in Justice

The Institute for Excellence in Justice (IEJ) is an interagency collaboration between the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Institute on Correctional Best Practices and the Ohio State University's Criminal Justice Research Center. The partnership was established in response to a need for Ohio criminal justice practitioners and researchers to work together to identify and disseminate knowledge pertinent to the development and implementation of sound policies and practices. The IEJ will host quarterly seminars on various topics of interest, which are designed to bring together policymakers, researchers and practitioners in the criminal justice field to discuss leading criminal justice issues. The first seminar is on post prison supervision and recidivism and this select bibliography was put together in an effort to synthesize what has been done on post supervision and recidivism. Also included is a small section on international research, statistical sources for Ohio offenders and select readings on strategies for reforming community supervision.

Select Bibliography: Does Post Prison Supervision Affect Recidivism?


   **Description:** Reports the number of persons on probation and parole, by State, at year end 2004 and compares the totals with previous years. The Bulletin provides descriptive statistics as well as reports the percentages of parolees and probationers completing community supervision successfully or failing because of rule violation or new offense.


   **Description:** Examines the effectiveness of post prison supervision in reducing recidivism among criminal offenders. Overall, the authors concluded that while the effect of post prison supervision on recidivism was small, the observed relationship is dependent upon the characteristics of the offenders.


   **Description:** Using a sample of Ohio offenders released from prison to supervision, the authors examine the effect of neighborhood context, such as opportunities for gainful employment, on recidivism. Overall, the findings indicate that community context did influence recidivism.

**Description:** Provides information on the early issues facing researchers and practitioners, including, but not limited to, crime displacement, crime data, measures of effectiveness, and conducting evaluations. The information contained can serve as a benchmark of the progress we have made in evaluating crime control programs since the early 1970s.


**Description:** Presents a thorough analysis of recidivism by describing the role that different definitions have played in evaluating correctional goals and programs and shows how improper policy conclusions have been based on studies that used inappropriate definitions of recidivism. The author also reviews the purpose of recidivism in measuring goals of correctional systems and suggests how “survival models” can be used to analyze data on recidivism.


**Description:** The authors examined the effect of treatment services, organizational supportiveness and parole officer orientation on parole recidivism for two groups of supervised offenders, those enrolled in an intensive surveillance supervision program and those under traditional parole supervision. The authors conclude that intensive supervision programs are more effective if they provide more treatment to higher risk offenders, employ parole officers with balanced law enforcement/social casework orientations and are implemented within supportive organization environments.


**Description:** Two-part guide on the evolution and future of probation and parole in the United States. Includes information on parole and probation data sources, population characteristics and parole outcome and reform.


**Description:** Discusses the terms “parole” and parole “successes/failures” as well as describes how an evaluation of parole must begin with an empirical understanding of the effects of multiple system parts that shape not only who receives parole, but also the duration, intensity and enforcement patterns.

**Description:** Discusses how supervision matters from the cost of incarceration perspective.


**Description:** Discusses the effectiveness of the system of criminal justice and community supervision of offenders by reviewing research on the outcomes the community expects the system of justice to achieve; provides a model of community supervision based on the model elaborated in the 'Broken Windows Probation: The Next Step in Fighting Crime' manifesto; and reviews the literature on effective rehabilitative programming and the implications of relying on a balanced approach to supervision.


**Description:** Assesses the proportion of violent, property and drug crimes committed by prisoners through examining the number of released prisoners, the difference among them in risk to reoffend and the effects on reoffending of post release supervision.


**Description:** Reports on the effect of post prison supervision on minor felony offenders by comparing the one year recidivism rate of those released onto supervision to those released without supervision.


**Description:** Reports on the effect of post prison supervision on minor felony offenders by comparing the two and three year recidivism rates of those released onto supervision to those released without supervision.


**Description:** Discusses why parole supervision should be studied and reviews research done on this topic as well as summarizes the findings presented in the citation noted below. Includes policy suggestions for reworking parole systems.

**Description:** The study uses data from a Bureau of Justice Statistics recidivism study to compare prisoners released to parole supervision in 1994 with prisoners released without any supervision or reporting requirements. The study reports that overall, parole supervision has little effect on re-arrest rates of released prisoners.

**Responses received by and of the American Probation and Parole Association, were viewed May 1, 2006 at http://www.appa-net.org/Urban_table_contents.pdf**


**Description:** Overview of obstacles associated with parole as a system.


**Description:** Uses figures from the Bureau of Justice Statistics to document the declining role of parole boards in deciding whether prisoners are released, the increasing reliance on parole supervision, and the unprecedented growth in parole revocations leading to returns to prison.


**Description:** Involves interviews with male prisoners before and after their release from state correctional facilities, focus groups with residents in neighborhoods to which many prisoners return, and interviews with reentry policymakers and practitioners. The study reports that 75% of the sample would be under parole supervision once released from prison and for those that would be on supervision, 77% thought it would be pretty easy or very easy to avoid a parole violation. The study also contains suggestions for several policy directions.


**Description:** Using a Tennessee Department of Corrections release cohort, results suggest that technical violations rather than increase criminal activity account for the observed increase in recidivism rate and that the use of parole as a means of controlling and stabilizing growing prison populations was also associated with increased rates of return to prison.
International Studies: Effect of Parole on Recidivism


**Description:** Reports on prisoners released in England and Wales to determine whether there is a reduction in recidivism which could be attributed to parole supervision.


**Description:** Reviews release information from England and Wales to examine the effect of parole supervision on recidivism as well as discusses the release and non-release decisions of the parole board.


**Description:** Reports the two year post release criminal record of offenders released onto supervision and those released without supervision from Canada’s prisons.

**Other Information of Interest Regarding Research on Ohio Offenders:**


**Description:** Provides a detailed description of the Ohio Adult Parole Authority active supervision population as of July 1, 2004.


**Description:** Using data from a sample of post-prison supervision cases in Ohio, this study compares the determinants of multiple supervision outcomes to address the question of whether technical violations increases the likelihood of future offending.


**Description:** Reviews the process and procedures for establishing the conditions of supervision for offenders under the jurisdiction of the Adult Parole Authority.
Articles/Books on Strategies for Reforming Community Supervision:


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