

Keywords

[Crime, Violence, & Conflict](#), [Welfare](#)

Additional Keywords

[service utilization](#), [recidivism](#)

JEL code(s)

Secondary IDs

Abstract

The goal of this study is to examine whether higher utilization of social services helps prevent/delay recidivism among ex-inmates. We partner with Foundation of Hope Aftercare services, a nonprofit comprehensive service center for ex-inmates, located in Pittsburgh, PA. Individuals new to Aftercare are randomized into treatments that incentivize usage of Aftercare services at various intensities. We will keep track of use of Aftercare services and arrest records to see how usage of these services affect recidivism.

External Link(s)

Sponsors & Partners

Sponsor(s)

Sponsor name

[University of Pittsburgh Small Grants Program](#)

Sponsor location

Pittsburgh, PA

Sponsor Url

<https://www.pitt.edu>

Sponsor name

[Texas A&M University Small Grants Program](#)

Sponsor location

College Station, TX

Sponsor Url

<https://www.tamu.edu>

Partner(s)

Name

[Foundation of Hope Aftercare](#)

Type

ngo

Url

<https://www.foundationofhope.org/programs/aftercare/>

Experimental Details

Interventions

Intervention(s)

The goal of this study is to examine whether higher utilization of social services helps prevent/delay recidivism among ex-inmates. According to a study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, out of the 700,000 individuals released annually from prisons, 67% are rearrested within three years and 50% are rearrested within the first year (Durose et al. 2014). Many ex-inmates commit crimes as they struggle to fulfill basic needs or re-associate with deviant peers (Thornberry et al, 2003). Programs that offer a comprehensive menu of material and social support services (e.g. housing, transportation, job counseling, peer support groups, etc.) after release are potentially crucial to reduce the high rate of recidivism.

This intervention will incentivize usage of these type of comprehensive social services by ex-inmates to explore whether this has an effect on re-arrest. Ex-inmates will be recruited to be part of a study and will be randomized into a control group or treatment groups that offer different levels of incentives to increase the frequency of utilization of social services designed to help ex-inmates. We will examine whether these incentives help ex-inmates through this crucial post-release period and put them on a pathway of a lower likelihood of re-arrest and the size of the incentives needed to change behavior.

Intervention Start Date

2018-10-22