



Prisoner Reentry

Location and Recidivism

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Good News/Bad News

$\log E(Y_{it} | X_{it}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 ZIP_{it} + \beta_2 Parish_{it} + \beta_3 Year06_{it} + \beta_4 Concentration_{it} + \delta(Year06_{it} * Concentration_{it}) + \log(NewParolees_{it}) + \epsilon_{it}$

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What does the Research Say?

A natural experiment of the consequences of concentrating former prisoners in the same neighborhoods

David S. Kirk, The Oxford University

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Some Alarming Statistics

- One in every 100 adults in the US is currently in prison
 - Approximately 1.6 million in Federal and State prisons
 - Approximately 745,000 in local jails
- More than 600,000 prisoners released from incarceration each year
- Most ex-offenders reside in a few clustered neighborhoods, mostly in metro areas



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50%

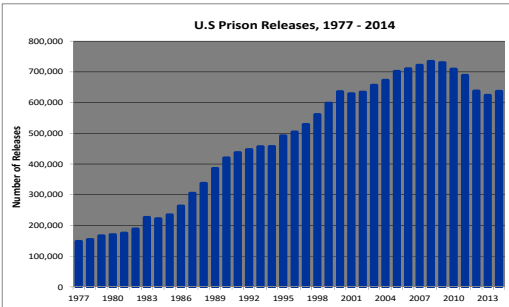
of former prisoners are re-incarcerated within 3 years (new convictions and parole violations)

Reducing this number is not only a **public safety** imperative, but also a **budget** imperative.

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U.S Prison Releases, 1977 - 2014



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The Facts

- Despite the sheer magnitude of returning prisoners in the United States, most neighborhoods are untouched by prisoner reentry.
- The geographic distribution of prisoner reentry is highly concentrated in a relatively small number of neighborhoods within metropolitan areas

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Chicago

- More than one-half of prisoners released from Illinois prisons in 2001 returned to Chicago; and
- One-third of these formerly incarcerated individuals were concentrated in only six community areas.
- These six communities are among the most economically and socially disadvantaged in the city
- Neighborhood disadvantage and the geographic concentration of former prisoners is highly correlated

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Research Question

Does residential change among former prisoners serve as a catalyst for desistance and long-term behavioral change?

Hypothesis: *The likelihood of recidivism is lower when parolees reside in a geographic area different from where they resided prior to incarceration.*

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Are Concentrated Reentry and Recidivism Linked?

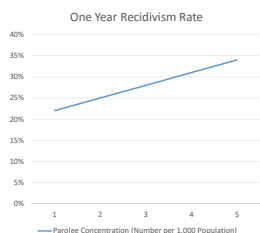
- Exposure?
- Police harassment?
- Past experience and distrust of law enforcement and the criminal justice system?
- Social networks?
- Housing prices?

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One Year Recidivism Rate

The greater concentration of ex-prisoners in a neighborhood, the rate of subsequent recidivism



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Recidivism Rate Influencers

- Parole policies – Requiring ex-offenders to return to the origination jurisdiction
- Lack of housing opportunities
- Limited income
- Limited job prospects
- Public housing policies

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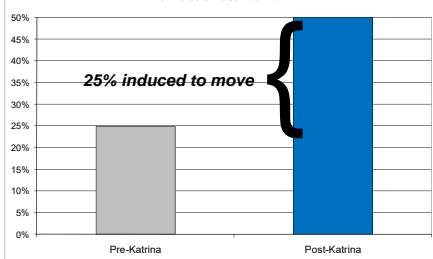
A Natural Experiment

- Hurricane Katrina was an exogenous source of variation that induced some individuals to move who otherwise would not have moved had it not been for the hurricane.
- Strategy: compare the likelihood of recidivism among parolees who moved to a different parish post-Katrina to similar parolees pre-Katrina who returned to their old place of residence.

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Percent of Parolees who Moved to a Different Parish, Pre-versus Post-Katrina



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Sample


- The sample consists of releases from the custody of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections to parole supervision.
- Two release cohorts: Sep 2001 - Feb 2002 (pre-Katrina) and Sep 2005 - Feb 2006 (post-Katrina).
- Sex offenders are excluded from the sample.

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**New Results:
Eight-Year Follow-up**

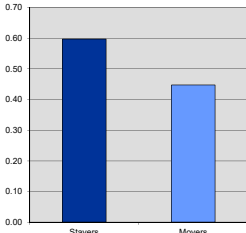
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Effect of Moving to a New Parish


The probability of re-incarceration is **0.15** lower for parolees who moved.

Predicted Probability of Re-Incarceration, Within Eight Years



Group	Predicted Probability
Stayers	0.60
Movers	0.45

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Summary of Qualitative Evidence

- Remaining in New Orleans appears to have hindered an individual's ability to separate from negative peers and to develop structured routines in life
- Moving afforded an opportunity for a fresh start and a different set of routines, as well as a new environment to undertake identity transformation
- Other themes from interviews
 - Marriage
 - The dangers of idle time
 - The consequences of criminal stigma for work and housing

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A Research Initiative

Maryland Opportunities through Voucher Experiment

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MOVE Program

- Privately funded pilot for 40 individuals
- Establishing protocols and developing an infrastructure for full research study of 300 – 400 individuals

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Pre-Selection Screening

- Pre-incarceration address in Baltimore City or Prince George's County
- Not a registered sex offender
- Exclude VPI offenders
- Release dates 6-12 months following
- No detainees

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Meeting with Inmates

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Overview

- 6 months of free housing immediately after release from prison, plus a security deposit
- Help locating housing prior to release
- Either Baltimore City or Prince George's County
- Location of housing will be determined by a random lottery

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Details

- The amount of the housing subsidy is equal to your actual rent, up to the fair market rent in the area
- \$985/month for Baltimore City
- \$1,230/month for Prince George's County
- You do not have to live alone to receive the subsidy. A participant living with his children will receive an additional \$100/month for the subsidy
- The housing subsidy will be paid to your landlord or mortgage lender, not as a cash payment to you or your family
- If you live with someone with an existing lease, we will pay his or her landlord for 6 months of rent

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The Lottery

- Like a coin flip, the lottery will randomly decide whether your housing subsidy will be usable in Baltimore City or instead usable in Prince George's County
- Sign up for the program only if you are willing to live in either Baltimore or PG County

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What is the Catch? Do I Really Get a Housing Subsidy for Free?

- There is no catch. The housing subsidy is free
- The first few months after release from incarceration tend to be very challenging for ex-prisoners attempting to return to society
- Our purpose is to make this transition easier by helping individuals with housing

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Finding Housing

- 2 to 3 months prior to your release from prison, program staff will come to the facility to work with you to find housing
 - Get to know YOU (needs and preferences)
 - But you ultimately choose where to live among the available options
 - Goal is to place you in housing immediately upon release or very soon thereafter

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Other Program Services


- Referrals to community based resources in the area where you move, including, but not limited to:
 - Utility company resources (electric, gas, water, etc.)
 - Food and furniture resources
 - Nearby employers
 - Addiction counselors/programs (if applicable)

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HUD Guidance and Programs

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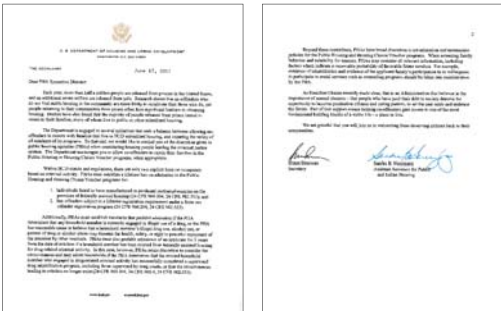


REENTRY MYTH BUSTER!
On Public Housing
A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

MYTH: Individuals who have been convicted of a crime are "banned" from public housing.

FACT: Public Housing Authorities have great discretion in determining their admissions and occupancy policies for ex-offenders. While PHAs can choose to ban ex-offenders from participating in public housing and Section 8 programs, it is not HUD policy to do so. In fact, in many circumstances, formerly incarcerated people should not be denied access.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20548
June 27, 2011

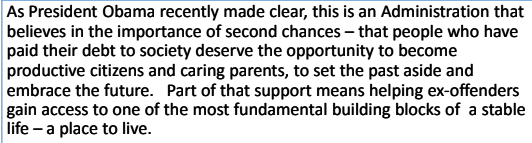
Dear PHA Executive Director:

HUD and the other Federal agencies are pleased to announce the launch of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council. This Council is a new partnership of Federal agencies that will work together to address the needs of individuals who have been incarcerated and are seeking to re-enter the community. The Council will focus on providing information, training, and support to PHAs and other community-based organizations that serve these individuals.

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Very truly yours,
Shaun Donovan, Secretary
Sandra B. Henriquez, Assistant Secretary

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As President Obama recently made clear, this is an Administration that believes in the importance of second chances – that people who have paid their debt to society deserve the opportunity to become productive citizens and caring parents, to set the past aside and embrace the future. Part of that support means helping ex-offenders gain access to one of the most fundamental building blocks of a stable life – a place to live.

Letter from Secretary Shaun Donovan and Assistant Secretary Sandra B. Henriquez to public housing authority directors, June 17, 2011.

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New HUD Guidance

- On November 2, 2015, HUD announced updated public housing arrests guidance
- Arrest records may not be the basis for:
 - Denying admission
 - Terminating assistance; or
 - Evicting tenants
- HUD does not require PHAs and owners to adopt "One Strike" policies and includes best practices and models of success from PHAs across the nation

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Juvenile Re-Entry Assistance Program (JRAP)

- Joint program between HUD and DOJ
- \$1.7 million to PHA's to aid eligible public housing residents under the age of 24 to expunge or seal criminal records
- This program specifically excludes makers of meth on public housing property, sex offenders or those convicted of domestic violence.

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Questions?



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Thank You

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