



Prison Program Utilization and Recidivism among Female Inmates in New Mexico

Presentation prepared for:

Courts, Corrections, & Justice Committee

New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center
Kristine Denman, Director
August 2015



Who are the women in the study?

	%	Mean
Age		34 (sd=8.6)
Non-White	72%	
Never married	46%	
Current offense		
Drugs	40%	
Property	25%	
Violent	23%	
Other	12%	
New/returning admission	67%	
Average time incarcerated		430 (sd =478)
6 months or less	30%	
6-12 months	31%	
Supervised post-release	72%	
Level of need in:	At least minimum need:	
Life skills	31%	.59 (.91)
Vocational	59%	1.22 (1.18)
Education	84%	1.73 (1.12)
Substance abuse	91%	2.55 (1.27)
Classification level		
I	32%	
II	45%	
III	22%	
IV	2%	
Risk level		
Minimum	25%	
Medium	40%	
High	25%	
Extreme	10%	

Characteristics associated with program utilization

Participation in programming (N=378)							
Block	Variable	Any program	Substance abuse	Education	Vocational training	Life skills	Mental health/ cognitive
Demographics	White	1.655	1.469	1.904	3.053*	1.601	1.503
	Age at intake	1.024	.997	.953*	.969	1.026	1.012
Criminal history	Prior incarcerations	.306***	.496	.447	.850	.333***	.318
	Current property offense	.604	.829	1.182	1.482	.543*	.867
Confinement related	Days of incarceration	1.002***	1.001***	1.001***	1.002***	1.000	1.002***
	Classification Level 2	1.250	1.346	.987	2.216	1.430	1.409
	Classification Level 3/4	.631	1.562	1.054	1.380	.678	2.884
Recommendations and needs	Recommendations	1.155*	1.244	2.412*	1.022	.932	.929
	Total need score	1.897**	1.129	.896	.695	1.610***	---
Risk	Medium	1.457	.750	1.523	.453	.972	.907
	High	.773	.587	1.055	.120**	.626	.376
	Extreme	.306*	.031*	1.055	.044	.262**	.024
	Constant	.237	.117	.228	.103	.808	.024

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Program participation and recidivism: Multivariate results

Block	Variable	Arrests	Adjudication	Convictions	Incarceration	Incarceration no PVs	Any re- offense
Demographics	White	.554*	.624	.590	.711	.729	.687
	Married	.933	1.753	1.660	.862	1.317	.800
	Age at intake	.984	.985	.990	.990	.990	.990
Criminal history	Total prior offenses	1.293***	1.125**	1.107**	1.209***	1.155***	1.358***
	Current drug offense	1.449	1.936**	.379	1.208	1.916*	1.415
Criminal justice system-related	Length of incarceration	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.001	1.000
	Supervised post release	.892	.397***	.369***	2.340***	.517*	1.324
Criminogenic needs and risk	Total average need score	1.047	.841	.781	.669*	.586*	1.008
	Medium risk	1.110	1.782	1.782	1.503	2.309	1.495
	High risk	1.822	3.536**	3.003**	1.822	3.538*	2.146*
	Extreme risk	2.651	1.965	1.611	2.480	1.595	4.711**
Program participation	Any program	.877	1.174	1.237	1.332	.941	.873
	Constant	1.024	.313	.404	.218	.050	.701

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Educational programming and recidivism

Block	Variable	Odds ratio
Demographics	White	.708
	Married	.841
	Age at intake	.986
Criminal history	Total prior offenses	1.368***
	Current drug offense	1.427
Criminal justice system-related	Length of incarceration	1.000
	Supervised post release	1.318
Criminogenic needs and risk	Education need score	1.016
	Medium risk	1.521
	High risk	2.229*
	Extreme risk	4.886**
Program participation	Any education program	.487*
	Constant	.699

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Why educational programming may be different

Women with higher needs were significantly more likely to be recommended for programming, as were women with substance abuse needs

Average level of need by whether there was a recommendation:

	Any program		Life Skills		Vocational		Education		Substance Abuse	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Recommended	1.33 (.67) N=388	1.06 (.94) N=12	.44 (.86) N=18	.60 (.91) N=382	1.26 (1.16) N=129	1.21 (1.19) N=271	2.02 (.95) N=220	1.36*** (1.20) N=180	2.71 (1.11) N=329	1.82*** (1.68) N=71

But, that may not translate into participation (for education it does, for substance abuse, it does not)

Program participation by recommendations

	Recommended		Of those recommended, how many participated	Of those not Recommended, how many participated	Of those who participated, how many were recommended	Of those who did not participate, how many were recommended
	N	%	%		%	
Any area	410	96%	70%***	25%	99%***	91%
Life skills	18	4%	67%	60%	5%	4%
Vocational	138	32%	7%	8%	31%	33%
Education	225	53%	16%*	10%	64%*	51%
Substance abuse related	345	81%	19%	19%	81%	81%
Mental health/cognitive	344	81%	13%*	5%	92%*	79%

What about risk?

Program participation by community risk level (risk of recidivism) vs. institutional risk level (classification level)

	Sample distribution		Any program		Life skills		Vocational		Education		Substance abuse		Mental health/ Cognitive	
	CR	IR	CR	IR	CR	IR	CR	IR	CR	IR	CR	IR	CR	IR
Minimum	25%	32%	29%	32%	31%	33%	59%	18%	28%	29%	40%	25%	47%	15%
Medium	40%	45%	44%	46%	44%	47%	31%	39%	40%	36%	41%	40%	40%	26%
High	25%	22%	21%	21%	20%	19%	6%	43%	24%	33%	18%	34%	11%	56%
Extreme	10%	25%	6%	2%	5%	1%	3%	0%	9%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%
N	425	397	291	272	254	237	32	28	58	55	80	76	47	39

The distribution of women in each level of risk by risk type within each program type was similar to the overall sample distribution, except for vocational, substance abuse and mental health/cognitive programs. Women who participated in these programs tended to pose a higher institutional risk, but lower risk of recidivism.

Recommendations:

- Ensure that recommendations are based on criminogenic needs
- Promote program utilization related to recommendations
- Ensure that risk of recidivism is considered when making programming decisions
- Ensure that women who are released to supervision receive services related to their criminogenic needs post-release
- Employ measures like Motivational Interviewing to engage prisoners and promote programming/services delivered either in prison or after release