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Understanding Recidivism: An Analysis of Demographic Factors, Crime Types, and Release Mechanisms in the Context of Recidivism in New Hampshire.

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Abstract

This study explores recidivism patterns in New Hampshire, examining how demographic factors, crime types, and release mechanisms influence outcomes for formerly incarcerated individuals. The findings highlight that recidivism is most prevalent among younger adults, particularly within the first 12 months post-release, with age, gender, and racial disparities contributing to these trends. Notably, Black and Hispanic populations, as well as individuals convicted of drug-related and violent crimes, exhibit higher recidivism rates, often facing compounded socio-economic challenges. Parole release mechanisms also emerge as significant, with technical violations—especially among low-income, young, or minority parolees—frequently resulting in re-incarceration. Addressing these dynamics requires targeted interventions, such as flexible parole conditions and accessible support for substance use and mental health, aimed at reducing repeat offenses and promoting sustainable reintegration. These insights underscore the need for equitable, community-based alternatives to traditional punitive measures, ultimately supporting a fairer and more effective approach to criminal justice in New Hampshire.

Key Words: Recidivism, demographic factors, crime type and release mechanism

1.0 Introduction

Recidivism, the tendency of formerly incarcerated individuals to reoffend and return to the criminal justice system, remains a significant issue worldwide, particularly in the United States (Pager, 2007; James, 2015; Petersilia, 2003; Visher, 2003). Ex-offenders are generally expected to reintegrate successfully into society following their incarceration and to engage in reentry programs designed to facilitate this process. However, a significant number of individuals released from prison tend to recidivate, returning to criminal behavior and facing re-incarceration within a few years of their release (Phelps, 2017; James, 2015).

Scholarly research underscores that the causes of recidivism are intricate and multidimensional, involving an interplay of personal, social, and economic factors (James, 2015; Mears et al., 2016; Pager, 2007 and Phelps, 2017). Individual-level challenges, such as substance abuse disorders, mental health issues, and lack of education, combine with external conditions, including unemployment, housing instability, and limited access to support networks, making successful reintegration difficult (James, 2015; Mears et al., 2016 and Pager, 2007).

Recidivism serves as a critical measure of the system's capacity to rehabilitate offenders and facilitate their successful reintegration into society (Mears et al., 2016; Pew Charitable Trusts, 2020). Understanding the patterns of recidivism and the mechanism of release is crucial for effectively addressing the challenges within the criminal justice system, as these factors significantly influence an individual's likelihood of reoffending.

2.0 Statement of the Problem

In New Hampshire, recidivism rates present a significant concern, with approximately 43% of individuals released from incarceration reoffending and being re-incarcerated within a short period (New Hampshire Department of Corrections, 2023). This statistic surpasses the national average, highlighting a systemic inadequacy in providing effective rehabilitation and reintegration support. The high recidivism rate indicates that nearly half of formerly incarcerated individuals in New Hampshire face considerable challenges in successfully reintegrating into society. This situation raises critical questions regarding the efficacy of post-incarceration support systems and the factors contributing to reoffending.

Research has shown that while interventions such as vocational training, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services have the potential to reduce recidivism, a comprehensive analysis of demographic characteristics, crime types, and release types is essential for identifying targeted strategies that can further improve reintegration

outcomes (Phelps, 2017). Understanding the interplay between these factors can illuminate why certain groups may struggle more than others and how specific release mechanisms affect recidivism rates. Through this lens, this study seeks to examine the role of release type as a significant determinant of recidivism in New Hampshire. By evaluating the effectiveness of existing release policies and identifying systemic challenges that impede successful implementation, this research aims to shed light on the complexities surrounding release mechanisms. Ultimately, this examination will contribute to the development of more effective interventions that address the unique needs of various demographic groups and crime categories, thereby enhancing offender reintegration and promoting public safety.

3.0 Significance of Study

Understanding recidivism provides a valuable insight into the effectiveness of criminal justice systems, including the efficacy of incarceration and reentry programs. This helps policymakers and stakeholders identify gaps in these systems, ensuring that interventions are appropriately targeted to reduce reoffending, promote public safety and offer individuals a meaningful chance at reintegration (Durose et al., 2014). Conversely, high recidivism rates place a significant economic burden on governments due to repeated incarceration costs. Reducing recidivism can help allocate public funds more effectively, shifting resources from correctional facilities to prevention programs, mental health services, and employment support for formerly incarcerated individuals (Pew Charitable Trusts, 2011). The study can support efforts toward successful reintegration and promote community well-being. Successful reentry reduces the likelihood of future crimes and fosters safer communities (James, 2015; Phelps, 2017).

4.0 Objectives of the Research Paper

The primary objective of this study is to analyze the relationship between demographic factors, crime types, and release mechanisms in order to understand their combined impact on recidivism rates in New Hampshire. Specifically, this research aims to:

- Examine how age, gender, and race influence recidivism outcomes among formerly incarcerated individuals in New Hampshire.
- Analyze the differences in recidivism rates based on the nature of the original offenses, including violent crimes, property crimes, and drug-related offenses, to determine how these factors correlate with reoffending behaviors.
- Investigate the effectiveness of various release types on the likelihood of recidivism, focusing on the structures of supervision and access to support services.
- Utilize the findings to propose targeted interventions and policy recommendations aimed at reducing recidivism rates.

5.0 Research questions

This study was structured around the following research questions:

1. How do demographic characteristics such as age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status correlate with recidivism rates among formerly incarcerated individuals in New Hampshire?
2. What are the differences in recidivism rates among individuals released from incarceration based on the type of crime committed?
3. How do different types of release mechanisms within the New Hampshire criminal justice system impact rates of reoffending, and what challenges do these mechanisms present in addressing recidivism?

6.0 Methodology

The methodology of this study involved an analysis of data obtained from the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. This included the creation and examination of various visualizations to interpret the findings effectively in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of recidivism trends and factors influencing reoffending rates in New Hampshire. This approach enables the identification of patterns and correlations within the data, facilitating a nuanced discussion of the implications for criminal justice interventions and policy reform.

7.0 Sources of Data

Data were obtained from the New Hampshire Department of Corrections (NHDOC) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) data bases.

8.0 Limitations of the study

A primary limitation of this study was that the data predominantly covered the years 2019 and 2020. This limited timeframe restricted our ability to conduct a broader longitudinal analysis, as additional years of recidivism data were either unavailable or insufficient. Despite this constraint, we based our analysis on the existing data, aiming to provide preliminary insights. Future research with a more extensive dataset could help enhance the study's depth and generalizability.

9.0 Theoretical Background

This study is grounded in three theoretical frameworks: Routine Activity Theory (RAT), General Theory of Crime (GTC), and Recidivism Prediction Models (RPM). These theories provide a comprehensive lens through which to analyze the factors influencing recidivism rates and the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts.

9.1 Routine Activity Theory (RAT)

Routine Activity Theory (RAT) is a criminological framework developed by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson in 1979 (Cohen & Felson, 1979). The theory emphasizes the importance of situational factors and opportunities in understanding criminal behavior (Cohen & Felson, 1979). It argues that crime occurs when three elements converge: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and a lack of capable guardianship (Cohen & Felson, 1979). According to this perspective, recidivism can be influenced by the circumstances surrounding an individual's release, such as the availability of targets and the level of supervision post-release.

9.2 General Theory of Crime

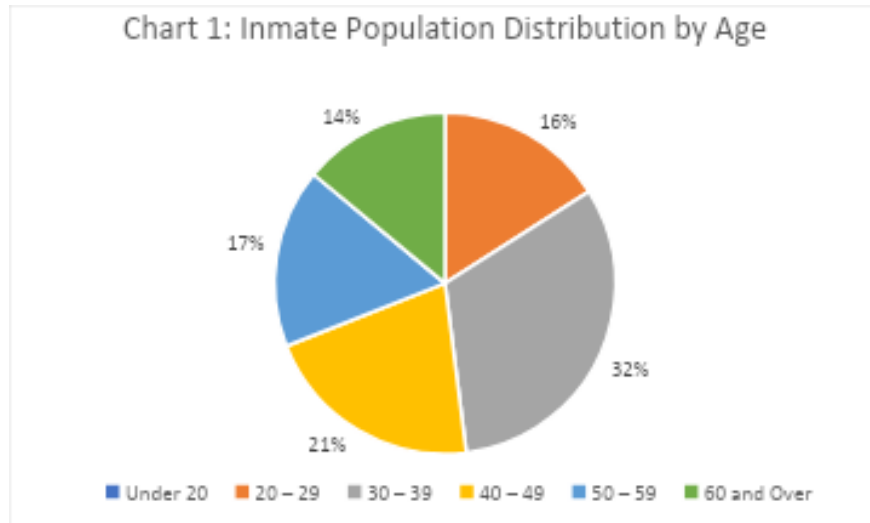
General Theory of Crime (GTC) is a criminological framework proposed by Michael Gottfredson and Travis Hirschi in 1990 (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). The theory posits that individual traits, particularly self-control, are central to criminal behavior (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). According to this theory, the primary cause of criminal behavior is low self-control, which is influenced by various factors, including parenting practices and socialization. This theory emphasizes the role of self-control as a predictor of criminal behavior. Individuals with lower self-control are more likely to engage in impulsive and risky behaviors, including criminal activities. The theory offers a valuable perspective on the relationship between self-control and criminal behavior. By focusing on the development of self-control and the opportunities for crime, policymakers and practitioners can design more effective interventions to reduce criminal activity and lower recidivism rates.

9.3 Recidivism Prediction Models

Recidivism Prediction Models are analytical tools designed to forecast the likelihood of an individual reoffending after being released from incarceration (Andrews & Bonta, 2010). The Models focus on assessing the likelihood of reoffending based on various risk factors, helping to inform intervention strategies (Andrews & Bonta, 2010, Harris, P.W., et al., 2017). These models are essential for informing parole decisions, allocating resources for rehabilitation programs, and developing targeted interventions aimed at reducing recidivism rates. The models incorporate changeable factors such as substance abuse, lack of employment and lack of social support that can contribute to criminal behavior. These models can help inform decision-making and guide interventions aimed at promoting successful reintegration into society.

10.0 Findings of the study

We analyzed the distribution of inmates in New Hampshire based on the demographic variables including age and gender, to identify patterns and dynamics of recidivism within the state. Research indicates that demographic factors, including age, gender, and socioeconomic status, significantly influence recidivism rates (Andrews, & Bonta, 2010). Studies have consistently shown that younger individuals, males, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to reoffend (Andrews & Bonta, 2010 and Pager, 2007).



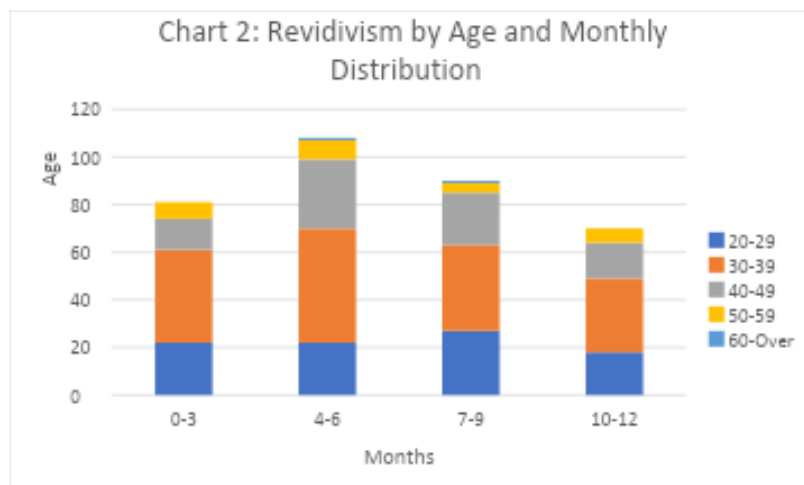
The pie chart above illustrates the distribution of the inmate population by age at the New Hampshire Correctional Facility as of June 30, 2022.

The dominance of the 30–39 age group, which comprises 32% of the inmate population, suggests that this age cohort may be particularly vulnerable to criminal behavior or recidivism. This aligns with research indicating that individuals in their 30s often face significant life challenges, such as economic instability and family pressures, which can contribute to criminal activity (Pew Charitable Trusts, 2021; Mears et al., 2016).

The 20–29 age group, accounting for 16% of the inmate population, highlights the substantial representation of younger adults in correctional facilities. This age range is typically characterized by impulsive behavior and a propensity for risk-taking, factors that are well-documented in criminological literature as contributing to higher offending rates (Andrews & Bonta, 2010).

Middle-aged individuals, represented by the 40–49 (21%) and 50–59 (17%) age groups, constitute a significant portion of the inmate population as well. This suggests that recidivism is not limited to younger demographics and emphasizes the need for targeted interventions that address the specific challenges faced by these age groups, including substance abuse and mental health issues (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990).

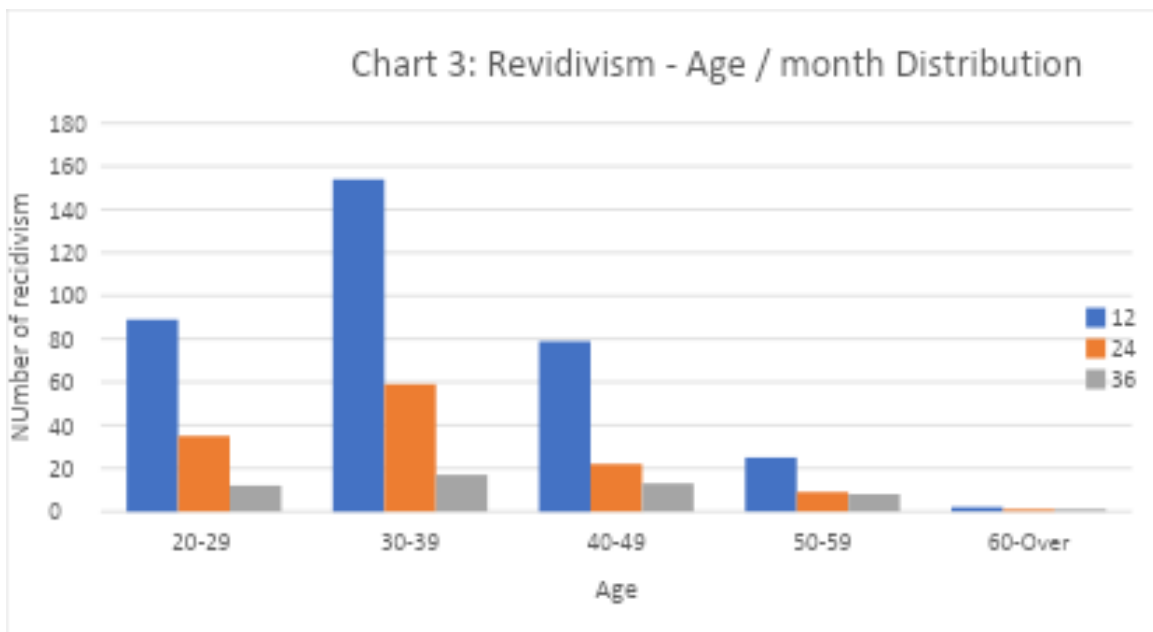
Lastly, the presence of older inmates (60 and over) at 14% indicates a meaningful number of elderly individuals within the correctional system. This finding may reflect broader societal trends, including increased longevity and the aging of the inmate population. The needs of elderly inmates often differ from those of younger populations, requiring specialized healthcare and support services (James, 2015).



Recidivism by age and monthly distribution reveals distinct trends in reoffending patterns across age groups and timeframes. Individuals aged 30-39 exhibit the highest rates of recidivism across all periods, particularly peaking in the 4–6-month range, suggesting that this age group may be more vulnerable to early reoffending. The 20-29 age group follows a similar trend, with a noticeable increase in recidivism between 7-9 months, indicating delayed reoffending compared to younger peers.

The 40-49 age group shows a gradual increase in recidivism, peaking in the 4–6-month range but declining sharply afterward. Older age groups, particularly those 50 and over, have consistently low recidivism rates across all time periods, indicating that reoffending is less common among older individuals.

Overall, the data suggests that recidivism is most concentrated among younger individuals, particularly those in their 30s, and tends to taper off with age. The early months after release appear to be a critical period for reoffending, especially for individuals in their 20s and 30s.

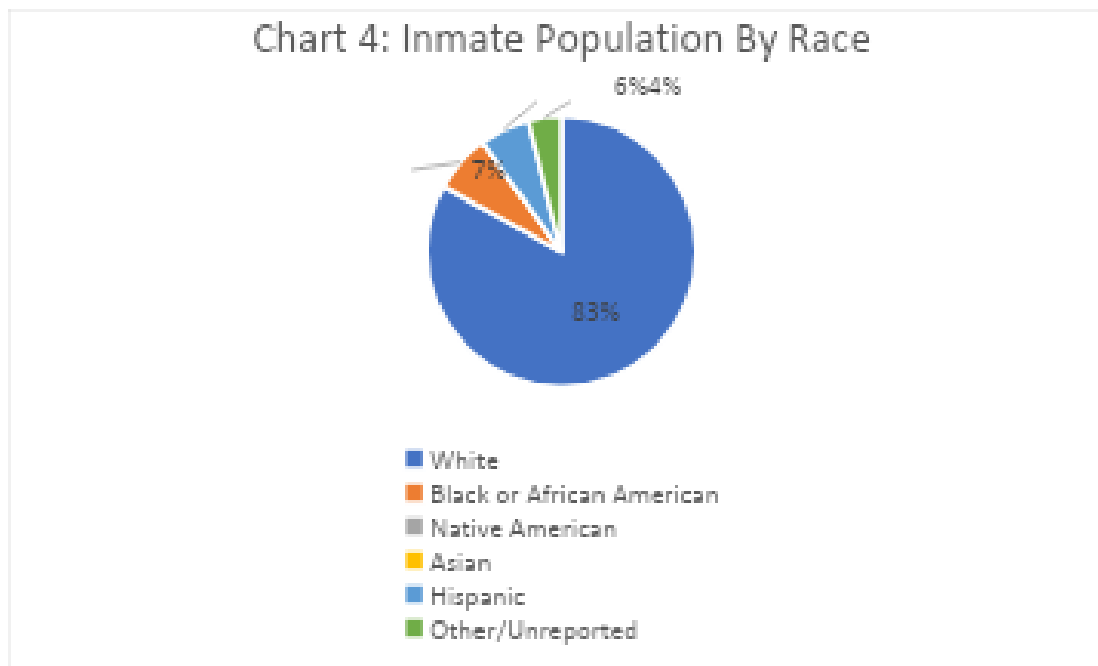


The data for Recidivism by Age Range over a 3-Year Period shows clear patterns of reoffending across different age groups over longer time frames. The 30-39 age group consistently demonstrates the highest recidivism rates across all periods, peaking at 12 months and gradually decreasing over time. This suggests that individuals in their 30s are more likely to reoffend within the first year, but the likelihood diminishes in subsequent years. Similarly, the 20-29 age group also shows a high rate of recidivism at 12 months, though at a lower level compared to those in their 30s.

Older age groups, particularly those 40-49 and 50-59, experience a sharp decline in recidivism rates after the first year, indicating that recidivism becomes less likely as age increases. The 60 and over group exhibit the lowest recidivism rates, with minimal occurrences throughout the 3-year period.

Overall, the data indicates that recidivism is more common within the first 12 months of release, particularly among younger individuals in their 20s and 30s. As age increases, the likelihood of reoffending decreases, with older age groups showing much lower recidivism rates over time.

The data on the racial composition of the incarcerated population in New Hampshire reveals significant insights into the state's criminal justice dynamics. With White individuals comprising 83% of the inmate population, their representation aligns closely with their proportion in the general state population. This suggests that White individuals are neither overrepresented nor underrepresented in the prison system, indicating a level of demographic consistency.



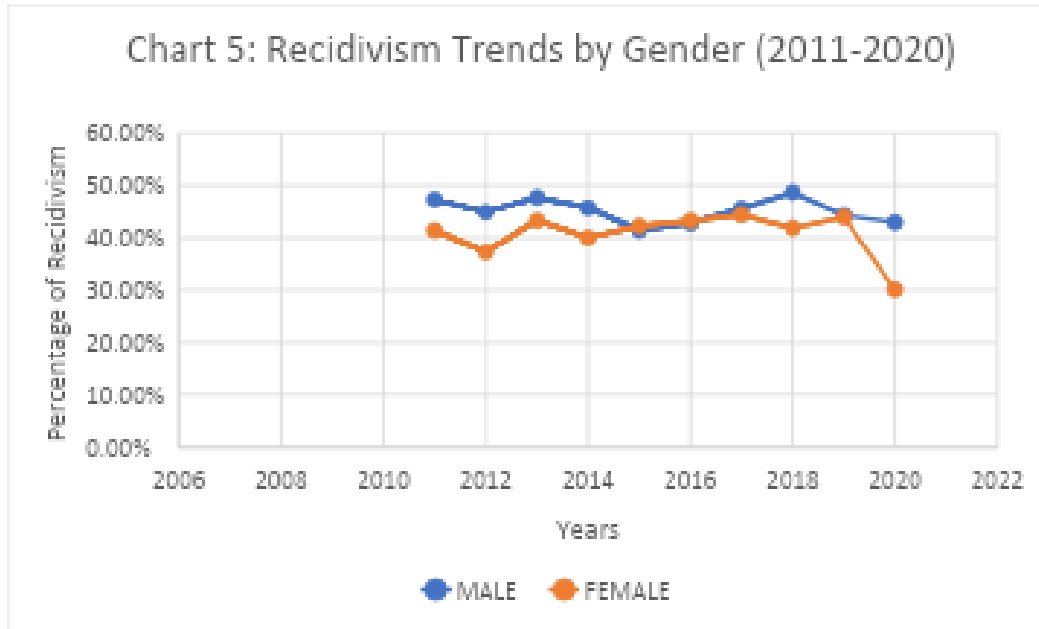
However, the statistics for Black or African American (7%) and Hispanic individuals (6%) are noteworthy. Despite their smaller numbers in the general population, their higher percentages in the prison system point to potential racial disparities in incarceration. Research has shown that systemic factors, such as socioeconomic disadvantage, discrimination in policing and sentencing, and disparities in access to resources, can contribute to these imbalances (Pew Charitable Trusts, 2021; Mears et al., 2016).

The absence of Native American and Asian individuals in the inmate population may reflect their minimal demographic presence in New Hampshire, but it could also indicate a lack of visibility regarding the issues these groups face within the criminal justice system. Moreover, the 4% of individuals classified as Other/Unreported—comprising mixed-race individuals or those without documented race, highlights the complexities of understanding racial dynamics within incarceration.

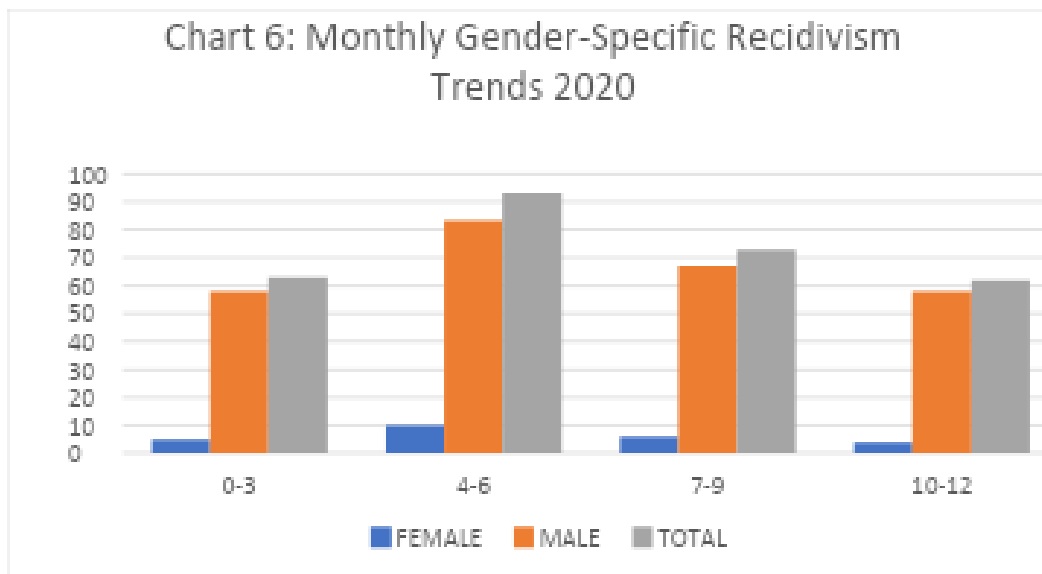
We observed recidivism rates between male and female. Female and male differ in crime type committed. Research suggests that males are more likely to engage in violent and property-related offenses, while females are often involved in non-violent crimes, such as drug-related and public order violations. These patterns may be influenced by various social, economic, and psychological factors, which affect the underlying motivations and behaviors of male and female offenders differently ((Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2003; Daly, 1994).

The graph depicts recidivism trends in New Hampshire over the past decade, highlighting gender differences. Male recidivism rates peaked at 48.70% in 2018 and dropped to 42.93% in 2020, consistently remaining higher than those of females, except in 2015 and 2016. This trend suggests that male offenders may face specific challenges that increase their likelihood of reoffending.

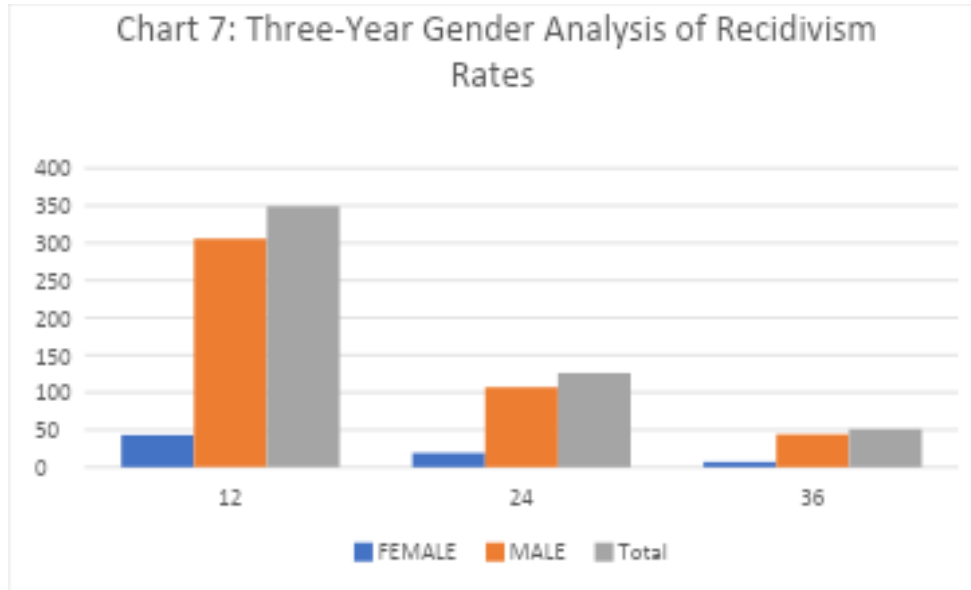
From 2011 to 2015, male recidivism decreased from 47.30% to 41.40%, followed by a gradual rise to the 2018 peak. In contrast, female recidivism rates were generally lower, indicating that female offenders might benefit more from rehabilitation or face different post-incarceration challenges. Female rates showed significant volatility, dropping from 41.40% in 2011 to 37.30% in 2012, rising again to 42.30% in 2015 and 43.30% in 2016, before plummeting to 30.07% in 2020. Despite the overall higher male rates, both genders experienced declines in recidivism in 2020, with females seeing a more substantial drop.



Overall, the recidivism rate in New Hampshire fluctuated between 41.29% and 47.80% over the decade, peaking in 2018. The trend showed an increase from 46.70% in 2011 to 47.80% in 2018, reflecting inconsistent efforts to reduce recidivism during this period. However, the sharp decline observed from 2018 to 2020 suggests that new policies and rehabilitation programs implemented in recent years may have effectively reduced reoffending rates.

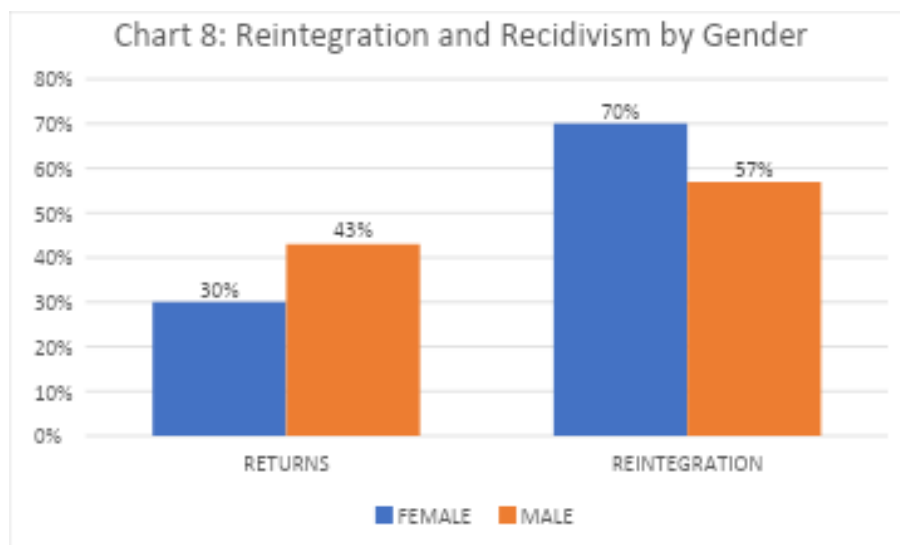


The data presents the monthly distribution of recidivism rates by gender over the first year following release. It reveals that males consistently exhibit higher recidivism rates compared to females across all timeframes. The highest total recidivism occurs in the 4–6-month category, with both genders showing an increase in numbers during this period. However, there is a noticeable decline in recidivism rates for both females and males as the months progress, particularly in the 10–12-month range. This trend suggests that the likelihood of recidivism may decrease over time, highlighting the potential impact of intervention and support systems as individuals reintegrate into society.



The data presents the recidivism rates by gender over a three-year period, highlighting a significant disparity between males and females. Across all time frames, males exhibit considerably higher recidivism rates compared to females. The highest recidivism is recorded at the 12-month mark, indicating a critical period where interventions may be most needed. As time progresses to 24 and 36 months, both genders show a decline in recidivism rates, but males still represent the majority of reoffenders. This trend emphasizes the importance of gender-specific rehabilitation programs, particularly aimed at addressing the unique needs of male offenders to reduce their likelihood of reoffending over time.

The study analyzed gender differences in reintegration and recidivism, highlighting distinct patterns in how male and female offenders adjust post-incarceration. Research consistently shows that men and women face unique challenges when reintegrating into society. For instance, men often struggle with economic stability and social expectations, which can lead to higher recidivism rates in violent and property crimes. In contrast, women may encounter barriers related to family responsibilities, mental health, and substance abuse, influencing their likelihood of reoffending, particularly in drug-related offenses. Addressing these gender-specific challenges is crucial for effective rehabilitation and reducing recidivism rates (Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2003; Salisbury & Van Voorhis, 2009).

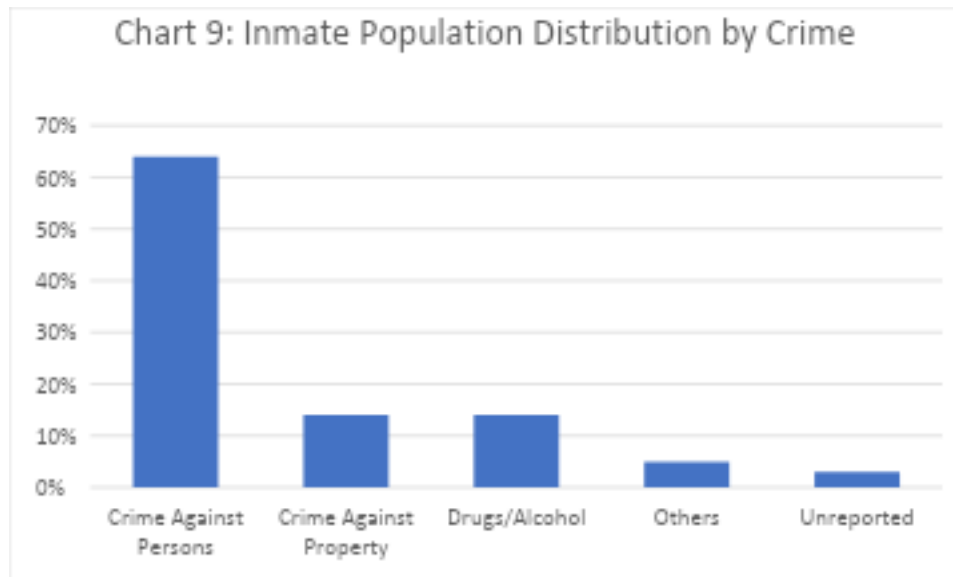


The study reveals that 43% of males return to incarceration, compared to 30% of females. This highlights a significant gender gap in recidivism rates, suggesting that male parolees encounter greater difficulties in reintegrating into society.

Seventy percent of females successfully reintegrate, compared to only 57% of males. This suggests that female parolees may have better support systems or face fewer barriers to reintegration.

The lower return rate for females might indicate effective programs or interventions specifically benefiting them, while the higher return rate for males may highlight the need for targeted support to address the challenges they face.

We examined the distribution of inmates in New Hampshire based on the crimes they committed to uncover significant patterns associated with the types of offenses.



The data indicates that Crimes Against Persons constitute the majority of the inmate population in New Hampshire, with 64% incarcerated for violent offenses. This prevalence suggests that violent crimes, such as assault and homicide, are significant contributors to incarceration rates, reflecting broader societal issues related to violence and crime prevention (Mears et al., 2016; Pew Charitable Trusts, 2021).

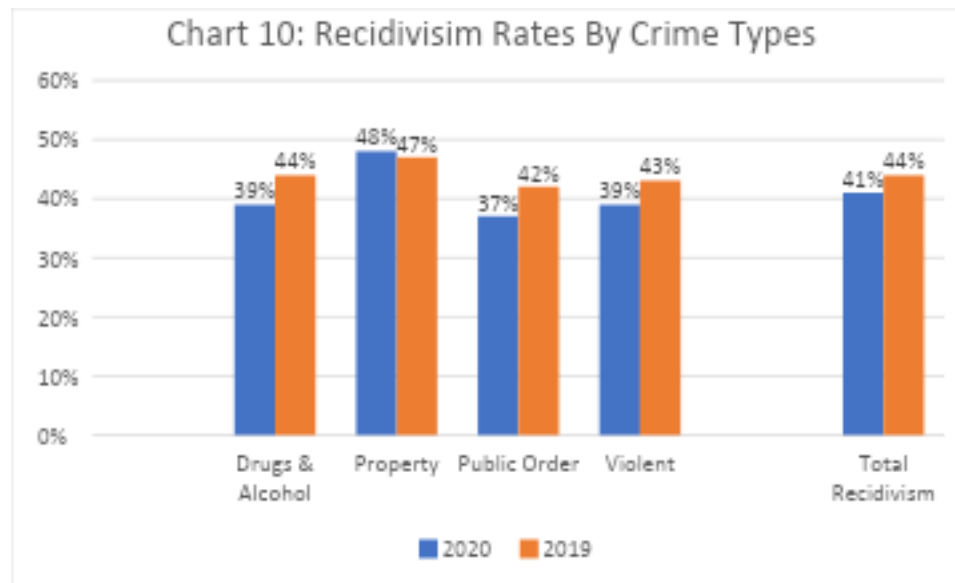
The equal representation of Property Crimes and Drug/Alcohol-related Crimes at 14% each underscores the presence of non-violent offenses within the correctional system. These figures highlight the ongoing challenges associated with theft and substance abuse, which remain critical issues in both law enforcement and rehabilitation efforts (Andrews & Bonta, 2010).

The connection between substance abuse and crime is well-documented, indicating that addressing addiction may be vital in reducing recidivism (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990).

Additionally, the categories of Others (5%) and Unreported Crimes (3%) indicate that while these offenses are less prevalent, they still represent aspects of criminal behavior that may require further examination. The relatively low percentages may reflect either the lesser impact of these crimes or challenges in accurately reporting and categorizing offenses, which is a known issue in criminal justice data collection (James, 2015).

We analyzed recidivism based on the types of crimes committed. Research shows that recidivism rates can vary considerably based on the type of crime committed. Offenders involved in property crimes, such as burglary or theft, generally have higher recidivism rates compared to those convicted of violent crimes (Visher, 2003). This may be due to economic motivations that persist after release. In contrast, individuals convicted of violent crimes often show lower recidivism rates, potentially due to longer sentences that delay reoffending or because these offenses may be more situational. Drug-related crimes also show high recidivism rates, reflecting the persistent challenge of addiction, which often requires targeted treatment interventions. Understanding these crime-type

differences is crucial for designing effective rehabilitation and prevention programs (Langan & Levin, 2002; Visher, 2003).



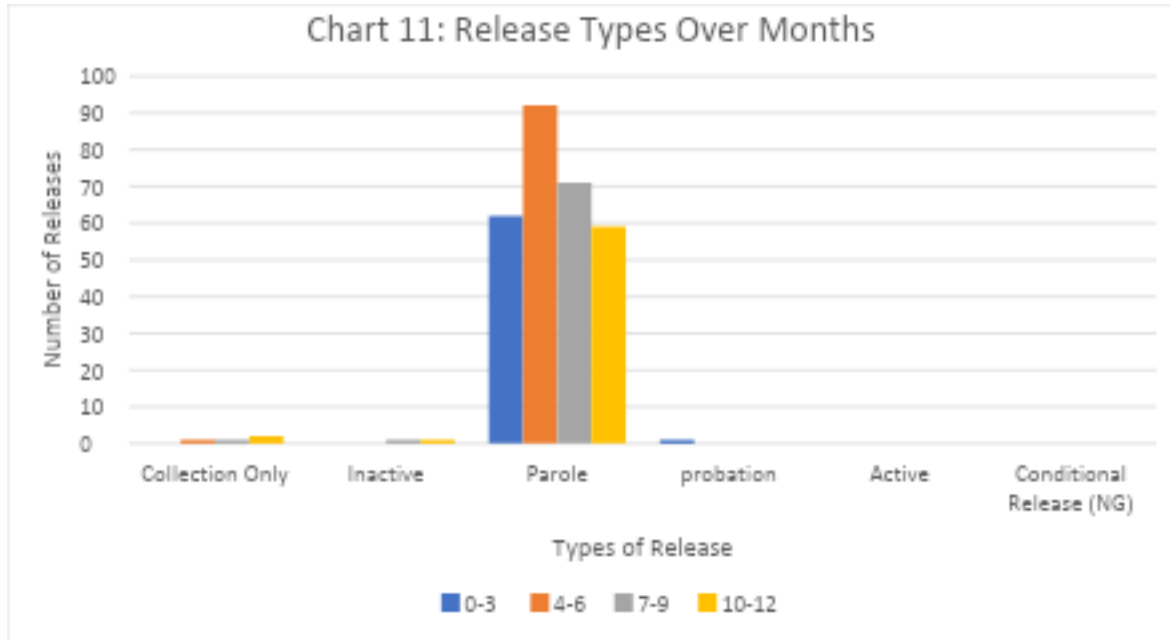
The overall recidivism rate dropped from 44% in 2019 to 41% in 2020, indicating some success in efforts to reduce repeat offenses among inmates.

The "Drugs & Alcohol" category experienced a notable decrease from 44% in 2019 to 39% in 2020, indicating a potential shift in focus toward treatment or prevention measures for substance abuse. In contrast, the percentage of the "Property Crimes" category increased slightly from 47% in 2019 to 48% in 2020, underscoring that property-related offenses remain a persistent concern.

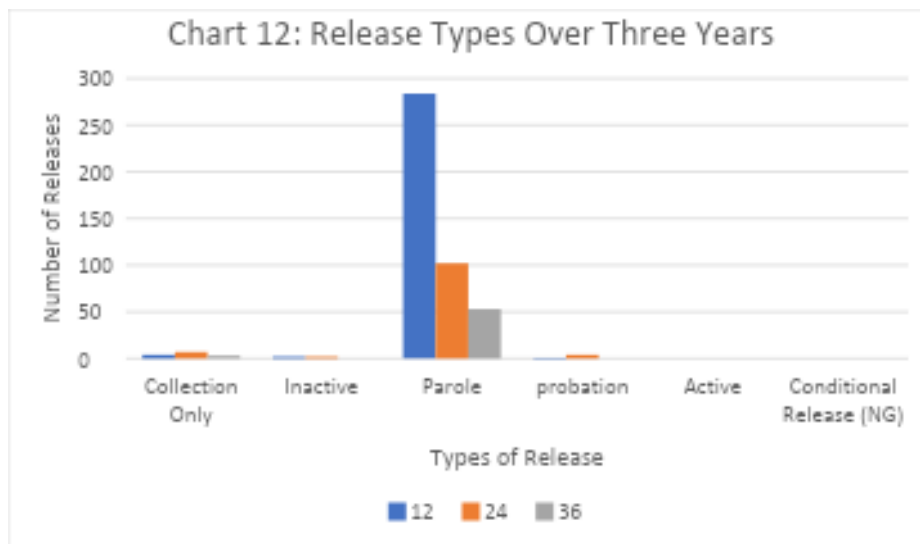
The "Public Order" category also saw a significant decline, dropping from 42% in 2019 to 37% in 2020, which may suggest effective interventions or shifts in enforcement priorities. Additionally, the "Violent Crimes" category experienced a decrease from 43% in 2019 to 39% in 2020, indicating progress in addressing violent offenses.

The reduction in total recidivism suggests that strategies implemented in the correctional system may be having a positive impact, particularly in drug and alcohol-related offenses. However, the increase in property crime recidivism highlights a potential area for further focus and intervention.

We examined the relationship between various types of release and recidivism rates to assess their impact on reoffending. The release types analyzed include parole, active supervision, inactive supervision, collection-only status, conditional release, and probation. Understanding how these different forms of release influence recidivism is essential for tailoring reentry strategies and supervision policies. Prior research suggests that the conditions and structure associated with each release type play a critical role in determining post-release outcomes, with some types such as parole or probation showing higher rates of technical violations, while others may provide more opportunities for successful reintegration. The study also examined if early release of the offenders is a problem or a solution. This question has been a topic of considerable debate within the field of criminal justice (Davis, 2013; Petersilia, 2003).

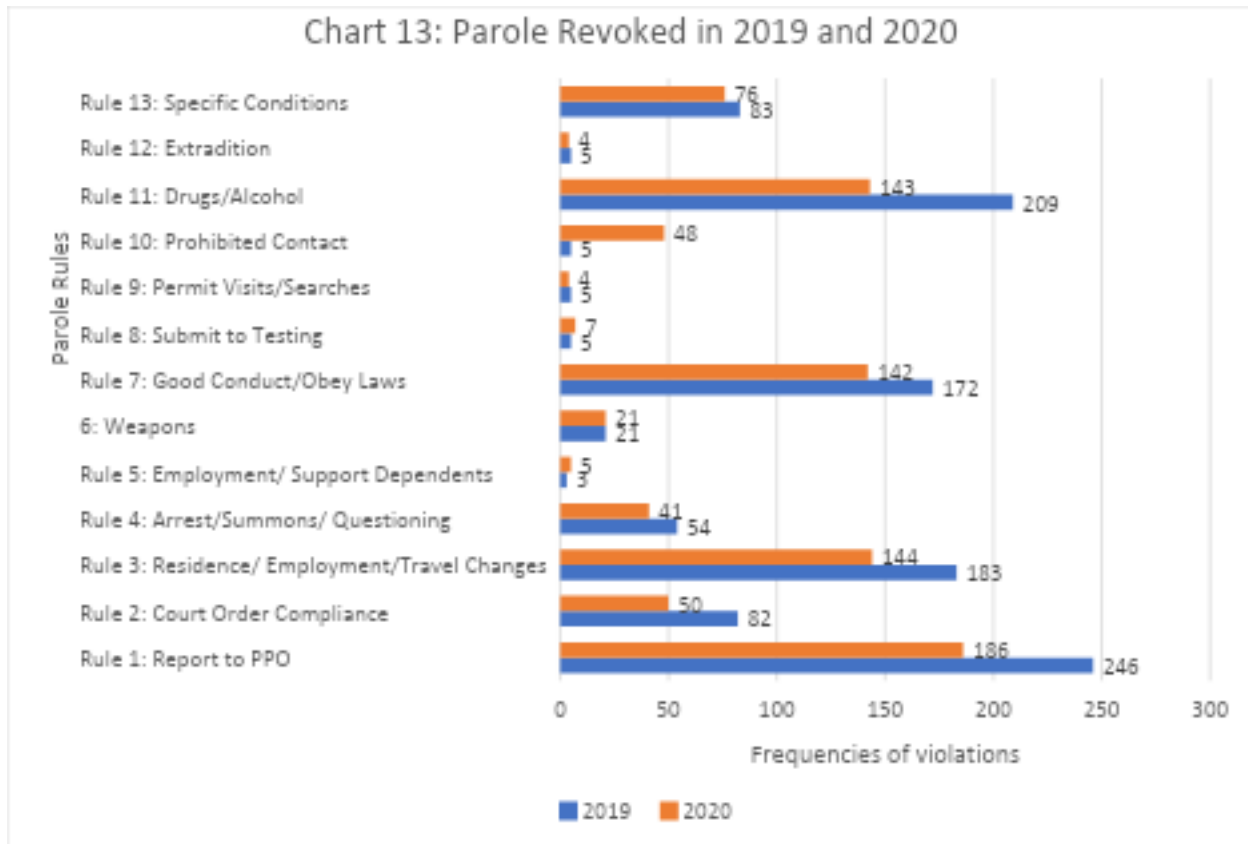


The data shows that parole is the dominant release type within the first 12 months, especially peaking in the middle period, but its frequency gradually declines as time progresses. This suggests that parole decisions are concentrated in earlier phases, likely reflecting eligibility criteria based on the duration of incarceration. Other release types, such as Collection Only and Inactive, occur far less frequently and show little variation over time. Probation, Active, and Conditional Release are almost negligible, indicating that they play a minimal role in inmate release during the initial months. Overall, the system seems structured around parole as the primary means of early release, while other methods are rarely employed.



When viewed over multiple years, the trend of parole being the most common release type continues, although its frequency diminishes over longer periods. In the first year, parole dominates, but by the second and third years, the number of parole releases significantly drops. Other types of release, such as Collection Only and Inactive, maintain a small but relatively consistent presence, while probation remains infrequent throughout the years. The absence of releases under Conditional Release or Active status further highlights their marginal role. This long-term view underscores parole as the primary tool for inmate reintegration, with other release mechanisms declining or playing a minor role over time.

We investigated the reasons for parole revocation, focusing on the period of 2019 and 2020 due to data limitations and here are the findings:



The data revealed that the primary reasons for parole revocation were associated with several key factors.

Failure to report to Parole Officer:

Failure to report to a parole officer was the leading cause, with 246 cases in 2019 and 186 in 2020, highlighting logistical challenges that parolees often encounter. The literature points out that many individuals on parole, particularly from low-income, face difficulties like unreliable transportation or job conflicts that complicate their ability to meet strict in-person reporting schedules (Urban Institute, 2018; Phelps, 2017). These challenges are especially pronounced among demographic groups, such as younger or lower-income parolees, who may lack access to flexible employment or reside far from parole offices (Carson, 2021; National Institute of Justice, 2017). Additionally, for parolees with non-violent or substance-related offenses, these logistical barriers often lead to technical violations that do not necessarily reflect risk to public safety but instead indicate a gap in supportive, accessible parole structures (Phelps, 2017).

Drug and Alcohol:

Drug and alcohol violations were the second most common reason, accounting for 209 cases in 2019 and 143 in 2020. Many individuals on parole have histories of substance abuse, and the prevalence of opioid addiction in the state exacerbates these issues. According to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), substance use disorder is a critical factor affecting recidivism rates, as individuals struggling with addiction are more likely to breach parole conditions related to sobriety or treatment compliance (NH DHHS, 2021).

Statistics indicate that younger parolees and those from low-income backgrounds in New Hampshire are significantly impacted by substance use issues (NH DHHS, 2021; Urban Institute, 2018). These individuals often lack access to adequate treatment services, making it difficult to meet the requirements set by the parole system. Research indicates that demographic factors such as age, race, and socioeconomic status significantly influence

the likelihood of substance use and subsequent parole violations (Urban Institute, 2018; Phelps, 2017). For example, young adults, especially from marginalized communities, may face systemic barriers to accessing comprehensive substance abuse treatment, increasing their risk of violating parole conditions related to drug and alcohol use.

Parolees convicted of drug-related offenses may experience heightened scrutiny and stringent monitoring, leading to increased chances of technical violations for issues like failed drug tests or missed treatment appointments. These violations may not only perpetuate the cycle of incarceration but also fail to address the underlying causes of their behavior, ultimately undermining efforts toward successful reintegration (Carson, 2021; National Institute of Justice, 2017).

Changes in Residence, employment or Travel:

Changes in residence, employment, or travel led to 183 revocations in 2019 and 144 in 2020, suggesting that adjusting to new living and work conditions is a notable challenge for parolees in New Hampshire. Many parolees face logistical challenges related to their living situations, such as unstable housing or lack of affordable options, which can lead to violations of parole conditions. Research shows that individuals from low-income backgrounds are more likely to experience housing instability, making them vulnerable to non-compliance (NH DHHS, 2021; Phelps, 2017).

Demographically, younger parolees may also struggle with job security and maintaining consistent employment due to limited opportunities and the stigma associated with their criminal records. These factors can affect their ability to report changes in residence or employment promptly, leading to technical violations that contribute to recidivism. Moreover, parolees convicted of non-violent or drug-related offenses may be subjected to stricter travel restrictions, further complicating their reintegration efforts (Urban Institute, 2018; National Institute of Justice, 2017).

The interplay of demographic characteristics and crime type highlights the need for tailored support systems that consider the unique challenges faced by different groups of parolees. By implementing flexible policies regarding residence and employment changes and offering comprehensive support services, the criminal justice system in New Hampshire can better facilitate successful reintegration and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

Violations related to Good Conduct and Law Compliance:

Violations related to Good Conduct and Law Compliance occurred in 172 cases in 2019 and 142 in 2020, underscoring the difficulties some parolees face in meeting expected behavioral standards.

Research indicates that individuals from marginalized demographic groups, particularly younger adults and those from low-income backgrounds, face an increased risk of non-compliance with parole conditions. This heightened vulnerability can be attributed to a range of societal pressures and systemic inequalities that disproportionately affect these populations (NH DHHS, 2021; Phelps, 2017). Studies have shown that factors such as limited access to resources, social stigma, and environmental challenges contribute significantly to these compliance issues, underscoring the need for targeted interventions to support these individuals effectively (Urban Institute, 2018; National Institute of Justice, 2017).

The combination of demographic characteristics and crime type suggests that tailored interventions are necessary to support parolees effectively. By understanding the unique challenges faced by different groups, especially those with non-violent offenses, policymakers and practitioners can develop strategies to foster compliance with parole conditions and reduce recidivism rates. Such interventions may include providing comprehensive support services, addressing underlying social issues, and promoting community engagement to reinforce good conduct and law compliance among parolees in New Hampshire.

Court Order Compliance:

Court Order Compliance was an issue in 82 cases in 2019 and 50 in 2020, demonstrating the challenges in adhering to specific legal requirements. Arrests, summons, or questioning accounted for 54 cases in 2019 and 41 in 2020, suggesting that interactions with law enforcement can jeopardize parole compliance.

Compliance with court orders among parolees is heavily influenced by both demographic factors and the nature of the crime for which they were convicted. Research indicates that certain demographic groups, particularly younger adults and individuals from low-income or marginalized backgrounds, often face additional barriers to adhering to court orders (NH DHHS, 2021; Phelps, 2017). These barriers may include limited access to

transportation, unstable housing, and employment challenges, which can hinder their ability to comply with requirements such as attending court-mandated programs or reporting to parole officers.

Parolees convicted of drug-related offenses may encounter stricter supervision and requirements, such as mandatory drug testing and rehabilitation programs, which can be challenging to fulfill given circumstances (Urban Institute, 2018; National Institute of Justice, 2017). For instance, if a parolee from a low-income background is required to attend frequent counseling sessions but lacks reliable transportation, this can lead to unintentional non-compliance with court orders, ultimately resulting in technical violations and potential re-incarceration.

Specific condition violations:

Specific condition violations contributed to 83 cases in 2019 and 76 in 2020, showing that individualized requirements can pose difficulties for many parolees.

Research has shown that certain groups, particularly younger adults and individuals from low-income or marginalized backgrounds, are at a heightened risk of having their parole revoked due to technical violations rather than new criminal offenses (NH DHHS, 2021; Phelps, 2017). These demographic factors can impact on the resources available to individuals, affecting their ability to comply with parole conditions, such as maintaining employment, attending mandatory programs, or adhering to curfews. Furthermore, demographic disparities can lead to differential treatment within the criminal justice system. Parolees from minority backgrounds or those with less socio-economic stability may encounter biases that influence their interactions with parole officers and the enforcement of compliance conditions (Schlager, 2018). For example, systemic issues such as over-policing in certain communities can result in more frequent monitoring and subsequent revocations for minor infractions that might go unnoticed for the other groups.

Other reasons for parole revocation were rare, with fewer than 5 occurrences each, yet still relevant in specific situations. Overall, the data highlights the primary challenges parolees face, particularly in maintaining regular communication, managing substance use, and adapting to changes in living or work situations.

11.0 Discussion

This study has provided a comprehensive examination of recidivism patterns in New Hampshire, analyzing the influence of demographic factors, crime types, and release mechanisms. Findings indicate that age, gender, and race significantly impact recidivism rates, with younger age groups (particularly those aged 20–39). Recidivism tends to be concentrated in the first 12 months following release and diminishes with time, suggesting that targeted interventions early in the reentry period may be beneficial. Racial disparities were also evident, with Black and Hispanic populations disproportionately represented, particularly among young adults, while men had higher recidivism rates compared to women, reflecting distinct post-incarceration challenges.

The findings further reveal that offenses related to drugs, alcohol, and crimes against persons dominate the inmate population. Notably, parole as a release mechanism emerged as a primary factor associated with recidivism. The study shows violations to parole correlate with demographic factors and specific crime types.

Parole compliance challenges are often exacerbated by intersecting factors related to age, race, gender, and crime type, particularly among individuals struggling with addiction. For instance, younger parolees, who are more likely to exhibit impulsive behavior, often find it difficult to meet strict parole requirements, a tendency compounded in low-income and minority communities where access to resources like reliable transportation may be limited. Moreover, individuals involved in drug-related crimes frequently face additional barriers, as substance addiction itself may undermine their ability to adhere to schedules and maintain stability. These groups may lack the financial means or support networks to attend mandated parole meetings consistently, creating a cycle of technical violations that lead to further entanglement with the criminal justice system. Addressing these barriers requires policies tailored to the distinct socioeconomic and behavioral challenges faced by specific demographic groups, emphasizing accessible treatment programs, transportation assistance, and flexible parole meeting options to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism rates.

Alternatives to reincarceration for parole violations, such as community service, electronic monitoring, and increased social support, can help reduce recidivism rates, especially when demographic factors and crime type are considered. These alternatives address the distinct needs of diverse demographic groups, offering solutions that consider the socioeconomic challenges often faced by low-income, young, or minority parolees. For instance, alternatives like community service may help reduce re-incarceration by providing constructive options for

individuals who may lack resources or stable support systems, which are common challenges among parolees from underserved communities.

Non-violent offenders or individuals with technical parole violations, such as those related to substance use, may benefit from rehabilitative alternatives that address behavioral factors rather than punitive measures. For instance, electronic monitoring can allow these individuals to remain in the community, maintaining employment or family connections, which is often essential for successful reintegration. By focusing on alternatives tailored to demographic needs and crime type, parole systems can better support individualized rehabilitation and reduce the likelihood of recidivism, fostering a more equitable approach to justice.

Access to consistent, high-quality mental health and substance use treatment is crucial in reducing parole revocation and recidivism in New Hampshire. Parolees with mental health and substance use disorders, particularly those who are non-violent offenders or who have histories of substance-related offenses, are at a higher risk of parole violations when treatment is inconsistent or inaccessible. Addressing these issues with tailored treatment can help lower the risk of parole violations tied to underlying behavioral health challenges, which are often more prevalent in certain demographics, such as young, low-income, or minority parolees.

Parolees' interactions with law enforcement can significantly influence recidivism rates, particularly when minor infractions lead to rearrest. Research indicates that individuals on parole are often more closely monitored, making them more susceptible to being detained for minor violations that might otherwise go unnoticed or be overlooked among the general population (Carlson, 2021, urban institute, 2018, national institute of justice, 2017, schlager, 2018). These interactions, particularly non-violent or technical violations such as missed appointments, failed drug tests, or minor infractions can contribute to higher recidivism rates by placing parolees back into the system without necessarily addressing the underlying causes of criminal behavior or supporting successful reintegration.

Demographic factors such as age, race, gender, and socioeconomic status impact how parolees are monitored and their likelihood of interacting with law enforcement. For instance, certain demographics, particularly young, low-income, or minority individuals, may experience more intensive supervision or scrutiny due to social and systemic biases, leading to a higher likelihood of being penalized for minor infractions (Schlager, 2018). This heightened supervision can amplify recidivism among these groups, as even non-criminal or technical violations can trigger re-incarceration, reinforcing disparities within the justice system (National Institute of Justice, 2017).

The original crime type also shapes how parolees interact with law enforcement. Parolees convicted of non-violent offenses or drug-related crimes, for example, might be more susceptible to re-incarceration for technical violations like failed drug tests or missed appointments (Urban Institute, 2018). These non-violent, minor infractions may not indicate a risk to public safety but often lead to penalties that place individuals back into the system without addressing underlying issues, such as substance dependency or lack of stable employment (Carson, 2021).

Demographic factors and crime type both play pivotal roles in determining how parolees' interactions with law enforcement impact recidivism. The interplay between these factors highlights the need for targeted, equitable interventions that address the distinct needs of various demographic groups and individuals based on crime type, helping reduce the likelihood of reoffending through support rather than punitive measures alone.

12.0 Conclusion

This study provides insights into the patterns of recidivism in New Hampshire, emphasizing the roles of demographic factors, crime types, and parole release mechanisms. Findings highlight that younger age groups, racial minorities, and males exhibit higher recidivism rates, particularly within the initial 12 months of release. Offenses involving drugs, alcohol, and crimes against persons are prevalent, and parole emerges as a key factor linked to recidivism. Challenges to parole compliance, particularly for those in low-income and minority groups, underscore the need for tailored interventions. By suggesting alternatives to re-incarceration, such as community service and treatment options, the study advocates for a rehabilitative approach that addresses underlying socioeconomic and behavioral issues, ultimately aiming to reduce recidivism and promote equitable justice outcomes.

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