

Harding, D. J., J. D. Morenoff, et al. (2013). "Home Is Hard to Find Neighborhoods, Institutions, and the Residential Trajectories of Returning Prisoners." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 647(1): 214-236.

- This article examines where former prisoners live after prison, focusing on returns to pre-prison social environments, residential mobility, and the role of intermediate sanctions—punishments for parole violations that are less severe than returning to prison—on where former prisoners live.
- Drawing on a unique dataset that uses administrative records to follow a cohort of Michigan parolees released in 2003 over time, the authors examined returns to pre-prison environments, both immediately after prison and in the months and years after release.
- The authors then investigated the role of intermediate sanctions in residential mobility among parolees.
- Results showed low rates of return to former neighborhoods and high rates of residential mobility after prison, a significant portion of which was driven by intermediate sanctions resulting from criminal justice system supervision.
- These results suggest that, through parole supervision, the criminal justice system generates significant residential mobility.

Miller, J., J. M. Caplan, et al. (2013). "Home Nodes, Criminogenic Places, and Parolee Failure: Testing an Environmental Model of Offender Risk." *Crime & Delinquency*.

- This article examines whether potentially criminogenic places (including bars, liquor stores, restaurants, public transport hubs, drug markets, and more), located within a 1,240-foot radius of parolees' residences (the home "node"), predict their rearrest or revocation.
- Taking these features into account, in addition to individual traits and behaviors, might pave the way for more accurate risk assessment that could help make supervision sensitive to place-based risks.
- However, multivariate survival analysis of 1,632 parolees released to Newark during July 2007 to June 2009 found little evidence that these factors increased the risk of failure.
- The authors suggest the need to incorporate more detailed measures of parolees' routine activities, including the settings and paths they frequent beyond their home environment.

Stahler, G. J., J. Mennis, et al. (2013). "Predicting Recidivism for Released State Prison Offenders Examining the Influence of Individual and Neighborhood Characteristics and Spatial Contagion on the Likelihood of Reincarceration." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 40(6): 690-711.

- This study examined the influence of individual and neighborhood characteristics and spatial contagion in predicting reincarceration on a sample of 5,354 released Pennsylvania state prisoners.
- Independent variables included demographic characteristics, offense type, drug involvement, various neighborhood variables (e.g., concentrated disadvantage, residential mobility), and spatial contagion (i.e., proximity to others who become re-incarcerated).
- The results showed that the likelihood of reincarceration was increased with male gender, drug involvement, offense type, and living in areas with high rates of recidivism.
- Older offenders and those convicted of violent or drug offenses were less likely to be re-incarcerated.

- For violent offenders, drug involvement, age, and spatial contagion were particular risk factors for reincarceration.
- None of the neighborhood environment variables were associated with increased risk of reincarceration.
- Reentry programs need to particularly address substance abuse issues of ex-offenders as well as take into consideration their residential locations.

Wright, K. A., T. C. Pratt, et al. (2013). "The Systemic Model of Crime and Institutional Efficacy An Analysis of the Social Context of Offender Reintegration." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* 57(1): 92-111.

- The current study builds on recent research that considers the importance of institutional strength for the reduction of criminal behavior; in particular, the authors assess the impact of social-structural characteristics on the treatment program integrity (i.e., institutional efficacy) of 38 halfway house programs in Ohio.
- The authors' results indicate that communities suffering from concentrated resource deprivation have a more difficult time creating and maintaining strong institutions of public social control.

Braga, A. A. and D. L. Weisburd (2012). "The Effects of Focused Deterrence Strategies on Crime: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Empirical Evidence." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 49(3): 323-358.¹

- This is an examination of the effects of focused deterrence strategies on crime
- The authors identified 10 quasi-experimental evaluations and 1 randomized controlled trial.
- The authors' meta-analysis suggested that focused deterrence strategies were associated with an overall statistically significant, medium-sized crime reduction effect.
- However, the strongest program effect sizes were generated by evaluations that used the weakest research designs.
- Conclusion. The authors concluded that this approach seems very promising in reducing crime but a more rigorous body of evaluation research needs to be developed.
- While the results of this review are very supportive of deterrence principles, the authors believed that other complementary crime control mechanisms were at work in the focused deterrence strategies described here that need to be highlighted and better understood.

Drakulich, K. M., R. D. Crutchfield, et al. (2012). "Instability, informal control, and criminogenic situations: community effects of returning prisoners." *Crime, law and social change* 57(5): 493-519.

- The present research examines the premise that a large number of returning prisoners may negatively impact a community's economic and residential stability, limiting a community's capacity for informal social control and resulting in labor market conditions conducive to criminal behavior.
- This study combines data on local social organization processes from a large survey of Seattle residents with contextual, crime, and incarceration data from the US Census, Seattle Police Department, and Washington State Department of Corrections.
- The results suggest that high concentrations of returning prisoners are associated with:
 - A reduced capacity for collective efficacy
 - The fostering of social situations conducive to criminal behavior, and
 - Higher levels of violent crime

¹ <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1223198406?accountid=26333>

- The impact of incarceration on these neighborhood processes, however, appears to be largely indirect through the turmoil that concentrations of incarceration create in a neighborhood's labor and housing markets.

Lattimore, P. K., K. Barrick, et al. (2012). Prisoner Reentry Services: What Worked for SVORI Evaluation Participants?²

- This report presents the findings and methodology of a secondary analysis of data collected for a large multi-site evaluation of State and local reentry initiatives funded under the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI).
- The evaluation found that participation in SVORI programs was associated with longer times to arrest and fewer arrests after release for all three demographic groups during a minimum follow-up period of 56 months for the adults served and 22 months for the juvenile males.
- Many of the specific SVORI-funded services had no effect on housing, employment, substance use, or recidivism outcomes; and in some cases, the effect was harmful rather than beneficial.
- There were significant effects of SVORI program participation on arrests following release, with SVORI participants associated with a 14-percent reduction in arrests for the adult men, 48-percent reduction for adult women, and 25-percent reduction for the juvenile males over the fixed follow-up periods.
- The findings indicate the need for additional research into the sequencing and effects of specific and combinations of reentry services, with an awareness that some programs may be harmful if delivered at the wrong time or in the wrong way.
- The findings also indicate that follow-up periods longer than 2 years may be necessary to observe positive effects on criminal behavior and criminal justice system interaction, since the strong effects observed at 56 months were not observed at 24 months after release, when non-significant positive effects were observed.
- Longer follow-up periods may be particularly important for high-risk populations.

Morenoff, J. D. and D. J. Harding (2011). Final Technical Report: Neighborhoods, Recidivism, and Employment Among Returning Prisoners, National Institute of Justice.³

- This study examined the influence of community context on the labor-market outcomes and recidivism of former prisoners paroled in Michigan during 2003.
- The study found that the features of the neighborhoods in which parolees lived were strong predictors of recidivism and labor-market outcomes
- However, no simple answer could be provided for the question of what neighborhood characteristics make "risky" environments for parolees.
- Neighborhood socioeconomic composition was a strong predictor of labor-market outcomes, since paroles who lived in disadvantaged neighborhoods had difficulty in obtaining employment and escaping poverty.
- For recidivism, the most robust protective factor was living in a residentially stable neighborhood; and the most robust predictor of risk for recidivism was living in neighborhoods with higher densities of young people.
- From a policy perspective, these findings suggest that parole outcomes might be improved by using a careful evaluation of a parolee's neighborhood context when approving new residences,

² <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/238214.pdf>

³ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/236436.pdf>

the placement of institutional housing for former prisoners in more advantaged neighborhoods, and inclusion of neighborhood context in risk assessment so as to improve the targeting of services to former prisoners living in high-risk neighborhoods.

- Also, caseload size and the intensity of supervision and services should take into account the characteristics of the neighborhoods in which parolees live.

Hipp, J. R., J. Petersilia, et al. (2010). "PAROLEE RECIDIVISM IN CALIFORNIA: THE EFFECT OF NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY CHARACTERISTICS*." *Criminology* 48(4): 947-979.

- The authors studied a sample of reentering parolees in California in 2005–2006 to examine whether the social structural context of the census tract, as well as nearby tracts, along with the relative physical closeness of social service providers affects serious recidivism resulting in imprisonment.
- The authors found that the presence of nearby social service providers (within 2 miles) decreases the likelihood of recidivating 41 percent and that this protective effect was particularly strong for African American parolees.
- This protective effect was diminished by overtaxed services (as proxied by potential demand).
- The authors also found that higher concentrated disadvantage and social disorder (as measured by bar and liquor store capacity) in the tract increased recidivism and that higher levels of disadvantage and disorder in nearby tracts increased recidivism.
- The findings suggest that the social context to which parolees return (both in their own neighborhood and in nearby neighborhoods), as well as the geographic accessibility of social service agencies, play important roles in their successful reintegration.

HIPP, J. R. and D. K. YATES (2009). "Do returning parolees affect neighborhood crime? A case study of sacramento*." *Criminology* 47(3): 619–656.

- This study used a unique data set that combines information on parolees in the city of Sacramento, CA, over the 2003–2006 time period with information on monthly crime rates in Sacramento census tracts over this same period, providing the authors with a fine-grained temporal and geographical view of the relationship between the change in parolees in a census tract and the change in the crime rate.
- The authors found that:
 - An increase in the number of tract parolees in a month results in an increase in the crime rate.
 - More violent parolees have a particularly strong effect on murder and burglary rates.
 - The social capital of the neighborhood can moderate the effect of parolees on crime rates
 - Neighborhoods with greater residential stability dampen the effect of parolees on robbery rates, whereas neighborhoods with greater numbers of voluntary organizations dampen the effect of parolees on burglary and aggravated assault rates.
 - Furthermore, this protective effect of voluntary organizations seems strongest for those organizations that provide services for youth.
 - The effect of single-parent households in a neighborhood is moderated by the return of parolees, which suggests that these reunited families may increase the social control ability of the neighborhood.

Visher, C. A., C. Lindquist, et al. (2007). *Lessons Learned From SVORI: Program Director Perspectives on Implementing Reentry.*

- This article presents the preliminary findings from an implementation evaluation of Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiatives (SVORIs), focusing mainly on the final program director survey regarding lessons learned and sustainability issues.
- Findings indicated that the SVORIs were generally successful at program implementation.
- Most SVORI programs delivered services both prior to and after release.
- More than half of directors indicated it was more difficult to implement the post-release phase of the program.
- The most challenging aspect of delivering post-release services was reported to be existing agency regulations or policies that made reentry programming difficult to deliver.
- Staff turnover was also noted as a pervasive problem.
- Although most SVORIs established enrollment goals, many directors reported difficulty with enrolling a sufficient number of program participants.
- Stringent enrollment criteria followed by the voluntary nature of the program were main reasons cited for enrollment difficulties.
- Program components identified as making the most difference to successful implementation were cross-agency collaboration, the use of teams, and intensive case management.
- Although directors were reluctant to identify problems with program implementation, some mentioned that mentoring was difficult due to problems with recruitment.
- Challenges in housing and employment assistance for reentry participants were also reported.
- Other directors mentioned problems with implementing the restorative justice component of the program and problems with working with so many different agencies.
- Despite difficulties, directors identified pre- and post-release supervision agencies, employment agencies, and vocational training agencies as the organizations that contributed the most to SVORI programming.

Baer, D., A. Bhati, et al. (2006). Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry: Research Findings From the Urban Institute's Prisoner Reentry Portfolio: 26.⁴

- This document provides an overview of some of the key issues in prisoner reentry into the community addressed in the Urban Institute's research.
- An important reentry issue addressed is employment.
- The Urban Institute explored the link between employment and successful prisoner reentry.
- In addition to identifying the many barriers to ex-offender employment, research has shown the importance of work-release jobs while in prison and of case-managed reentry and employment services.
- A second area of research is the health of returning prisoners. The prevalence of severe mental disorders and chronic and infectious diseases among prisoners is significantly greater than among the general population. Thus, securing continuity in medical care in the community, particularly when most prisoners have no medical insurance is a major concern.
- A third area of research has been housing for returning prisoners. Research has found that housing options for returning prisoners who do not stay with family members or friends is limited, and there are even fewer housing options for those with mental disorders.
- Another reentry challenge is the prevalence of substance abuse histories among prisoners. Those who do not receive substance abuse treatment in prison (most do not) and after release are at high risk for recidivism.

⁴ http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411289_reentry_portfolio.pdf

- Also researched has been the role of families in the experience of reentry. Recent research has found that strengthening the family network and maintaining supportive family contact can improve the outcome for both family members and prisoners.
- Other issues addressed in the Urban Institute's research are the characteristics of the communities to which most prisoners return, the risk to public safety posed by returning prisoners, the effectiveness of community supervision, and the importance of strategic partnerships and collaboration in addressing the challenges of prisoner reentry.

Petersilia, J. (2004). "What Works in Prisoner Reentry?: Reviewing and Questioning the Evidence." *Federal Probation*, vol. 68, no. 2, pp. 4 - 8, September 2004 68(2):5.⁵

- This article questions the existing evidence on what works and urges a broader conversation about current methods, outcome measures, and practitioner expertise.
- In reviewing the literature on reentry programs, the author defines such programs as "all activities and programming conducted to prepare ex-convicts to return safely to the community and to live as law abiding citizens."
- The literature review distinguishes between Canadian contributions, which tend to identify the principles of effective programs, and the American contribution, which has focused on identifying specific programs that work.
- A combination of the two types of literature suggest that reentry programs should:
 - Be based in the community in contrast to institutional settings
 - Be intensive (at least 6 months long)
 - Focus on high-risk individuals (determined by classification instruments)
 - Use cognitive-behavioral treatment techniques; and
 - Match therapist and program to the specific learning styles and characteristics of individual offenders.
- The author identifies three problems with these conclusions
 - First, there have been few rigorous evaluations upon which to base any generalizable knowledge.
 - Second, virtually all of the evaluations have used recidivism as the sole outcome criteria; reintegration, however, encompasses more than remaining arrest-free for a specified time period.
 - Third, results from the academic "what works" literature often do not reflect the experience of correctional practitioners in implementing programs.

⁵ <http://www.uscourts.gov/library/fpcontents.html>