What works in reentry?

 Depends on your choice of recidivism measurement.

Contact:
Valerie A. Clark, PhD
Minnesota Statistical Analysis Center
valerie.clark@state.mn.us
What is recidivism?

- Relapse or renewed criminal behavior by someone known to previously offend
How are we measuring recidivism?

- Follow-up time
- Offense Type
- Offense Level
- Combined Measurements
- Reconviction
- Relapse
- Reincarceration
- Rearrest
- Supervision
- Revocation
- Bed space
How do we choose?

- Considerations:
  - The corrections population type
  - The offense type
  - The intervention
  - Follow-up time
  - What’s available?
What 10 Years of Minnesota Prisoner Reentry Research has Taught Us
Recidivism Continuum

- Revocation
- Rearrest
- Reconviction
- New Offense Incarceration
A Primer on Minnesota DOC Reentry Research

- All research based on released Minnesota prison populations
- All analyses used survival/Cox regression analyses
- All measures of recidivism measured the same way (same data sources)
- All studies utilized some form of randomized controlled trial or retrospective quasi-experimental design

- **Color Key:**
  - Null
  - Reduction
  - Increase
  - Not Measured
Does prison visitation reduce recidivism? (link to study)
Does employment training reduce recidivism? (link to study)
Does work release reduce recidivism? (link to study)
Does chemical dependency treatment reduce recidivism? (link to study)
Can a prison boot camp reduce recidivism? (link to study)
Does prison education reduce recidivism?

Secondary Education (link to study)
Does prison education reduce recidivism?

Post-Secondary Education (link to study)
Does cognitive-behavioral programming reduce recidivism? Moving On for Women (link to study)
Does cognitive-behavioral programming reduce recidivism?
Moving On – Low Fidelity
(link to study)
Can a reentry program for release violators reduce recidivism? (link to study)
Can a reentry program for release violators reduce recidivism?
Longer Follow-Up (link to study)
Does restrictive housing increase recidivism? (link to study)
Does private prison confinement *increase* recidivism? Any confinement ([link to study](#))

- Revocation
- Rearrest
- Reconviction
- Reincarceration (new offense)
Does private prison confinement increase recidivism?
Amount of time (link to study)

- Revocation
- Rearrest
- Reconviction
- Reincarceration (new offense)
Does private prison confinement increase recidivism? Proportion of time (link to study)

- Revocation
- Rearrest
- Reconviction
- Reincarceration (new offense)
Does private prison confinement *increase* recidivism? More than 1 year *(link to study)*

- Revocation
- Rearrest
- Reconviction
- Reincarceration (new offense)
Does private prison confinement *increase* recidivism? More than 50% of time (link to study)

- Revocation
- Rearrest
- Reconviction
- Reincarceration (new offense)
Conclusions and Questions

- Had we only had one measure of recidivism, the conclusions from most of our studies would have varied
  - Leaves the door open to selective users
  - Reduces confidence in research

- Sometimes there is a logical explanation for differences in recidivism findings, sometimes there isn’t
  - How are we to make sense of inconsistent findings?
  - How many consistent findings do we need before we can conclude that something works (or is harmful?)

- How much is data quality affecting our recidivism measures?