



# Community Reintegration: Outcomes of Released Juvenile Justice Students

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# Presentation Outline

- **Life Course Education Study**
- **Literature**
- **Student Characteristics**
- **Prior Delinquency and Education**
- **Expanded Outcomes**
- **New Research Questions**



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# Life Course Education Study



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# Prior Life Course Research

- **Prior life course research has reported persistence or continuity in delinquent to criminal behavior.**
- **More recent studies have found particular life events experienced by young adults may alter continuity in criminal behavior and lead instead to transition from criminal behavior.**
  - ◆ **For example, marriage, military experience or employment can lead to transition from criminal behavior for a number of young adults.**
- **Largely absent from the prior transition research, have been studies focused upon identifying adolescent life events and experiences that may lead to transition from delinquent behavior.**



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# Research Methods

- **Our research addresses this particular area through an assessment of the role of incarceration and educational achievement upon post-release transition from delinquent behavior for a cohort of 4,147 incarcerated youths drawn from 115 Florida juvenile institutions**
- **With in a two year follow-up, we examine academic achievement while incarcerated, returning to school after release, school attendance within 12 and 24 months, and rearrest within 12 and 24 months**
- **We employed three distinct matching methods as well as regression in its analysis of the data**



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# Research Findings

## Academic Achievement and Return to School

- Youth who experience higher educational achievement while incarcerated and presumably **stronger school attachment** were more likely to return to school after release

## School Attendance and Rearrest

- Youth who attended school **regularly** were considerably less likely to be rearrested within 12 and 24 months

## Overall Findings

- These findings indicate that **transition** from crime may extend beyond young adult life events and experiences and include certain adolescent life events and experiences



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# New Research Directions Literature on Desistence from Delinquency



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# Literature on Academic Achievement and Delinquency

- **How effective is academic achievement in reducing recidivism?**
  - ◆ **Academic achievement and participation in school decreases youth's involvement in crime**
  - ◆ **Positive experiences with education in adolescence results in less criminality among young adults**
  - ◆ **Educational programming in prison decreases the recidivism rates of offenders released from prison**



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# Literature on Employment and Delinquency

- **How effective is employment in reducing recidivism for delinquent youth?**
  - ◆ **Research shows that employment reduces recidivism**
  - ◆ **Job stability from ages 17 to 25 significantly decreases crime during this age period and beyond to 25 to 32 years of age**



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# Literature on School Participation and Employment Effects on Delinquency

- **Is it employment or education that effects recidivism?**
  - ◆ **Educational achievement and graduation affects later crime by increasing future employment success**
  - ◆ **Employment has been found to be more effective for older offenders, while educational experiences are more effective in reducing criminal behavior in younger people**



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# Data Collection for Longitudinal Follow-up



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# Official Data Sources

**DOE – School participation histories and outcomes**

**FDLE – Arrest history and severity**

**DOC – Commitments**

**FETPIP – Employment, Adult Ed./GED Prep., College Enrollment, Military**



**Longitudinal Cohort**



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# DOE Data Sources

- DOE Survey 5 data (*FY1999-00 to 2004-05*)
  - ◆ Demographic files
  - ◆ Attendance files
  - ◆ End-of-year files
  - ◆ ESE files
  - ◆ Transcript files
  - ◆ **Entry/exit testing results**



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# DOE Outcome Measures

- **Return to School**
  - ◆ **Type of School (High School, Alternative, ESE, Vocational, Adult Ed.)**
  - ◆ **Attendance and Survival Time in School**
- **Academic Performance**
  - ◆ **Grades & GPA**
  - ◆ **Credits Earned and Pupil Progression**
- **School Discipline**
  - ◆ **Suspension and Expulsion**
- **Graduation Rates**
  - ◆ **Diploma Types (Standard, GED, Special)**



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# FDLE, DOC and FETPIP Measures

## FETPIP

- Employment
- Adult Ed./GED Prep.
- Vocation Education
- College Enrollment
- Military Enlistment

## FDLE

- Number and severity of prior offenses
- Re-Arrest within three years
- Severity of offense

## DOC

- Conviction
- Commitment



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# Outcomes of Delinquent Youth Released from Residential Programs



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# Demographics

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Mean/Percentage</b>
<b>Age at Release</b>	16.8 (7-21)
<b>Gender – Male</b>	86%
<b>Race – Non-White</b>	57%



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# Pre Incarceration History

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Mean/Percentage</b>
<b>Age at First Arrest</b>	14.1 Years
<b>Seriousness of Prior Criminal Record (Arrests)</b>	137
<b>Disability</b>	38%
<b>Below Age/Grade Level</b>	1.7 (85%)



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# Incarceration Event

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Mean/Percentage</b>
<b>Security Level of DJJ Facility</b>	Level 4 = 12% Level 6 = 60% Level 8 = 26% Level 10 = 2%
<b>Length of Incarceration</b>	8 Months
<b>Above Average Academic Achievement</b>	39%



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# Public School Follow-up

<b>Return to School One Semester</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>In School at one Year</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>In School at Two Years</b>	<b>45%</b>



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# Other Educational Follow-up

## Vocational Technical School:

One Year	1%
Two Years	1%
Three Years	1%

## Adult Ed./GED Prep. in Community College

One Year	2%
Two Years	2%
Three Years	1%



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# Other Educational Follow-up

## College Enrollment:

**One Year**

4%

**Two Years**

3%

**Three Years**

3%



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# Employment Follow-up

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Percent/Mean</b>
<b>Employed</b>	
<b>1 Year</b>	47%
<b>2 Years</b>	44%
<b>3 Years</b>	44%
<b>Average Quarters Employed</b>	2.3
<b>Military (1,2, 3 Years)</b>	0.2 to 0.4



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# Recidivism Follow-up

## Re-Arrest:

**One Year**

48%

**Two Years**

16%

**Three Years**

6%

## DJJ Residential Commitment

**One Year**

17%

**Two Years**

8%

**Three Years**

1%



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# Recidivism Follow-up

<b>DOC – Prison Commitment:</b>	
<b>One Year</b>	4%
<b>Two Years</b>	4%
<b>Youth Not Found in Any Follow-up Measure</b>	
<b>One Year</b>	14%
<b>Two Years</b>	11%



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# Future Research Agenda



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# Future Research

- **Study the relationships between**
  - ◆ **Education and employment**
  - ◆ **Employment and age**
  - ◆ **Employment and delinquency**
- **The type of school youth return to after release and school dropout**



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For Information, Contact The Center for  
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850– 414 – 8355



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