

Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of a novel approach to prevent recidivism in state prisons. The program provided financial aid to certain convicts and followed them up for 52 weeks to see if they reoffended. The data contains information on 432 convicts, including their demographic characteristics, criminal history, education, and employment status.

Summary

A correlation analysis was conducted to determine the relationship between the "arrest" variable and various demographic, criminal history, and employment variables. The analysis revealed that 26.4% of convicts were rearrested during the follow-up period.

At the start of the program 50% of convicts were provided with financial aid. The program was found to be somewhat effective in preventing recidivism, as convicts who received financial aid had a rearrest rate of 22.2%, while those who did not receive financial aid had a rearrest rate of 31%. However, it should be noted that financial aid did not have a significant impact on employment after release. The percentage of individuals who were employed after release was roughly the same for those who did not receive financial aid (82.8%) compared to those who did (83.8%).

Conclusion and Recommendations

Overall, the program was quite effective in preventing recidivism, but financial aid and employment were found to be associated with a lower likelihood of re-arrest. To improve the program's effectiveness, we recommend targeting financial aid to convicts who are most at risk for re-arrest based on their demographic characteristics and criminal history.

Additionally, providing additional resources and support to help convicts find and maintain employment after their release could help reduce recidivism.