Data Description for Recidivism Data

The dataset considered here is analyzed in Wooldridge (2002) and credited to Chung, Schmidt and Witte (1991). The data pertain to a random sample of convicts released from prison between July 1, 1977 and June 30, 1978. Of interest is the time until they return to prison. The information was collected retrospectively by looking at records in April 1984, so the maximum possible length of observation is 81 months.

Although there are several variables in the data set, the ones of interest are: duration, which is the duration in months until return to prison; censored, is the censoring indicator variable; workprg, an indicator of participation in a work program; nbr_priors, the number of previous convictions; time_served, the time served rounded to months; felony, an indicator of felony sentences; alcohol, an indicator of alcohol problems; drugs, an indicator of drug use history; black, an indicator for African Americans; married, an indicator if married when incarcerated; education, the number of years of schooling; age in months.

Complete Description of Recidivism Variables

black	alcohol	drugs	supervised	married
felony	workprg	property	person	nbr_priors
education	nbr_rules	age	time_served	follow_up
duration	censored	log_duration		

  Obs: 1445

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 1. black                  =1 if black
 2. alcohol                =1 if alcohol problems
 3. drugs                  =1 if drug history
 4. supervised             =1 if release supervised
 5. married                =1 if married when incarc.
 6. felony                 =1 if felony sentence
 7. workprg                =1 if in N.C. pris. work prg.
 8. property               =1 if property crime
 9. person                 =1 if crime against person
10. nbr_piors              # prior convictions
11. education              years of schooling
12. nbr_rules              # rules violations in prison
13. age                    in months
14. time_served            time served, rounded to months
15. follow_up              length follow period, months
16. duration               max(time until return, follow)
17. censored               =1 if duration right censored
18. log_duration           log(duration)
```