

Reproducible Research Project

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1 Introduction

On January 11, 2018 Illinois Governor, Bruce Rauner signed SB 1607, the Criminal Justice Best Practices Act, into law. This measure details best practices to help facilitate re-entry for individuals released from Illinois prisons and reduce recidivism.

2 Literature Review

In recent years there has been interest in intermediate sanctions for technical parole violators. These programs provide individuals with sanctions that do not require them to return to prison. Programs such as Halfway Back have shown statistically significant reductions in new arrests (White, Mellow, Englander, Ruffinengo, 2011).

3 Research Question

This study explores the following research question:

Is there a change in the proportion of technical parole violators, parole violators with a new sentence, mandatory supervised release (MSR) violators, or technical MSR violators after execution of the Criminal Justice Best Practices Act?

4 Methods and Data

This study uses the publicly available stock population data from the [Illinois Department of Corrections](#). This study examines stock population files for the December preceding the Criminal Justice Best Practices Act (2017) and the December following the Act's execution (2018).

R Studio Version 1.2.1335 was used to explore the data.

5 Results

There were 41,312 individuals in the December 2017 stock population file and 39,793 individuals in the December 2018 stock population file.

Technical parole violators comprised less than 0.0% of the prison population in both 2017 and 2018. Parole violators with a new sentence comprised 0.2% (n=63) of the 2017 prison population and 0.1% (n=59) of the 2018 prison population. MSR violators with a new sentence comprised 5.4% (n=2,228) of the 2017 prison population and 5.0% (n=1,989) of the 2018 prison population. Technical MSR violators comprised 10.2% (n=4,230) of the 2017 prison population and 10.1% (n=4,015) of the 2018 prison population.

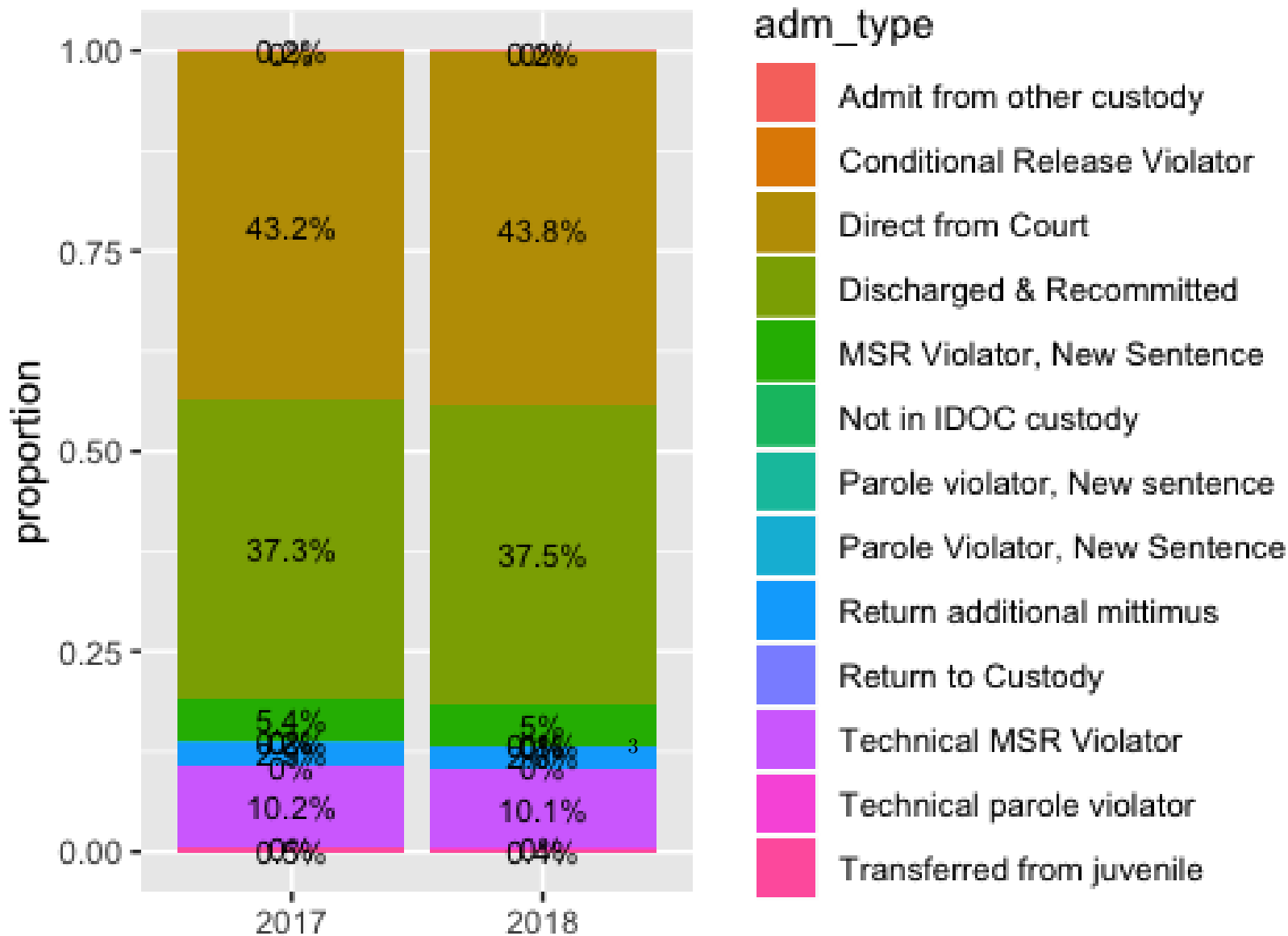
With the exception of technical parole violators, the proportion of each other category of offenders decreased between 2017 and 2018.

Table 1: 2017 IDOC Admission Types

	Frequency	Percent	Cum. percent
Return to Custody	2	0.0	0.0
Not in IDOC custody	3	0.0	0.0
Conditional Release Violator	12	0.0	0.0
Technical parole violator	13	0.0	0.1
Parole Violator, New Sentence	63	0.2	0.2
Admit from other custody	88	0.2	0.4
Transferred from juvenile	195	0.5	0.9
Return additional mittimus	1,214	2.9	3.8
MSR Violator, New Sentence	2,228	5.4	9.2
Technical MSR Violator	4,230	10.2	19.5
Discharged & Recommitted	15,412	37.3	56.8
Direct from Court	17,858	43.2	100
Total	41,318	100	100

Table 2: 2018 IDOC Admission Types

	Frequency	Percent	Cum. percent
Not in IDOC custody	4	0.0	0.0
Return to Custody	4	0.0	0.0
Conditional Release Violator	14	0.0	0.1
Technical parole violator	15	0.0	0.1
Parole violator, New sentence	59	0.1	0.2
Admit from other custody	96	0.2	0.5
Transferred from juvenile	164	0.4	0.9
Return additional mittimus	1,053	2.6	3.5
MSR Violator, New Sentence	1,989	5.0	8.5
Technical MSR Violator	4,015	10.1	18.6
Discharged & Recommitted	14,942	37.5	56.2
Direct from Court	17,444	43.8	100
Total	39,799	100	100



6 Conclusions and Limitations

This study shows that the enactment of the Criminal Justice Best Practices Act potentially had an impact on recidivism for its target population. However a major limitation to this study is that it does not examine what (if any) additional factors contribute to the lower recidivism rate. Additional statistical analysis is required to determine if other factors contributed to the results reported here and if these results are statistically significant.

7 References

White, M. D., Mellow, J., Englander, K., Ruffinengo, M. (2011). Halfway Back: An Alternative to Revocation for Technical Parole Violators. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 22(2), 140–166. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0887403410375109>.