**Racial Disparities among Re-Entry Outcomes:**

Example Research Problem and Analysis Solutions

**Client Generated Research Question:** But before I build policy and practice, I need some facts regarding what’s going on. Do people of color experience a higher number re-entry challenges than whites, and does this impact their ability to remain out of prison?

**Tasks:**

* Generate Definitions:
  + Conceptual:
    - Re-entry challenge
    - Remaining out of prison (i.e., recidivism; the client did this for us)
  + Operational
    - Re-entry challenge:
    - Remaining out of prison:
* How are we going approach analyzing this research question?
  + Visual
  + Descriptive
  + Inferential:
* Given this, how do we bring this back to the client? (Form a narrative (start in the middle and work backwards))
  + How do we talk about the results with the client?
  + How much of the analysis results do we show the client? (i.e., what tells the narrative best and simplest?)
  + Do we need to explain the results differently given that it’s a survey than we would if using CJS administrative data?

Data Details: Includes short surveys of 1,020 individuals, recently released from state prison in Maricopa County, Arizona and tracked over a 2-year time period. There are three waves of data: wave 1 takes places about 1 month before the individual is released from prison, wave 2 takes place about 1-year post-release, and wave 3 takes place about 2 years post-release. Personal characteristics that are time-invariant assessed prior to release from prison. Time-varying characteristics are assessed at 1- and 2-years post-release from prison. Recidivism is defined as re-incarceration or returning to prison and verified using administrative data (i.e., ADOC confirms the respondent was re-incarcerated). While all individuals were surveyed regardless of whether or not they were incarcerated at either waves 2 or 3, some time-varying characteristics will be not applicable if the individual has been re-incarcerated.