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ASSESSING THE REENTRY NEEDS OF BANNOCK COUNTY'S INCARCERATED  
POPULATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

by

Taylor Richardson

A Project Presented to

The Faculty of Idaho State University

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts in Sociology

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To the Graduate Faculty:

The members of the committee appointed to examine the thesis of TAYLOR RICHARDSON find it satisfactory and recommend that it be accepted.

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September 25, 2018

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Dear Ms. Richardson:

Thank you for your responses to a full-board review of the study listed above. Your responses are eligible for expedited review under FDA and DHHS (OHRP) regulations. This is to confirm that I have approved your application.

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# ASSESSING THE REENTRY NEEDS OF BANNOCK COUNTY'S INCARCERATED POPULATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Thesis Abstract — Idaho State University (2019)

Bannock County Detention Center in Pocatello, Idaho is among many local jails encountering overcrowding and high recidivism rates. This study aims to discover what individuals incarcerated at the detention center are needing upon reentry in order to use the data for future recommendations. Additionally, this study also looks to discover whether different demographics of participants will yield different reentry needs. A survey was conducted of currently incarcerated individuals at the detention center (N=148). The short survey consisted of demographic questions and needs-assessment questions with two open-ended questions — this data collection method allowed for findings that paint a clear picture of reentry needs and experiences in Bannock County. Housing, DMV services, and transportation are among the most reported needs by participants. Additionally, the most significant demographic impacts on difference in needs include gender, age, ethnicity, education level, and whether incarcerated before. Further research on the needs of those reentering the community in Bannock County is needed.

Keywords: reentry, recidivism, needs

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

“‘American jails operate primarily as catchall asylums for poor people.’ Some have added other correlates of poverty: ‘With few exceptions, the prisoners are poor, uneducated, unemployed, and they belong to minority groups.’...It is this: the jail was invented, and continues to be operated, in order to manage society’s rabble.” (Irwin, 2013: 2)

While prisoner reentry and prisoner recidivism have been prominent research avenues for sociologists and social scientists alike, there has been little focus on jail reentry and jail recidivism. While prisons statistically hold more incarcerated people than jails at any given time, many more people go through the jail system per year than prisons. This results in a higher amount of people being released into communities from jails than prisons (White et al., 2012). And yet, much of the reentry research and reentry resources are solely focused on state and federal prisons. The lack of research and resources for jails is problematic for approximately nine million people who are released from county jails annually (NRRC Facts & Trends). While those who spend time in jail still experience many of the same reentry barriers as prison reentries such as loss of employment and stable housing, many returning from jail must go without the same reentry resources (Freudenberg et al., 2008; Visher & Travis, 2003).

While jail reentry research is scarce, rural jail reentry is even further from enough interest and research. Rural reentry is different from urban reentry because the local resources and reentry needs are different (Garland et al., 2011). Rural communities have

much less access to local reentry resources such as half-way housing, drug abuse treatment, and more simply because the resources are not there. This scarcity is typically due to lack of funding and people. There also tends to be different types of crimes committed in rural communities, and this may require different reentry needs.

### *Southeast Idaho/ Bannock County*

Southeast Idaho is a quiet area filled with small, quiet communities. Southeast Idaho has a small-town feel. While the communities feel small and welcoming, this area is not exempt from crimes and incarceration. While Bannock County holds one of the state's ten prisons, it also holds the Bannock County Detention Center (BCDC), or the county jail. Based on the last five years, the detention center has on average 4,468 bookings a year. Many of which are repeat offenders. Out of this same booking data, about forty-two percent of the bookings were repeat offenders in this facility only. This statistic is problematic because once a person gets entangled in the criminal justice system cycle, they are less likely ever to succeed and exit the revolving door. Rehabilitation is necessary to help people out of the cycle. There are also plenty of benefits to rehabilitating those incarcerated.

### *Benefits to Rehabilitation*

One of the most significant benefits is public safety. If a violent criminal is released back into society without any proper rehabilitation effort or reentry program, research suggests they will typically go back to their old lifestyle, which may include violent crime (Freudenberg et al., 2005; Spencer, 2013; Visher & Travis, 2003; White et al., 2012). That is not the only public safety concern. Mental health often goes untreated

and ignored while people are incarcerated. Mental health can further deteriorate while in incarcerated due to the often poor conditions (Patterson, 2013). This atrophy leads to offenders being released into communities with much worse off mental health situations and no way to care for themselves in that way properly. If we can rehabilitate the individual before releasing them and make sure they have the resources needed to reenter society, including mental health support, successfully, then the chances of them going back to their old lifestyle are lower, resulting in a safer community (Austin & Hardyman, 2004).

Another benefit of assisting those incarcerated with reintegration is the decreased risk to close family members and friends as the majority of crime is committed against victims who know the perpetrator (Harris & Shaw, 2000; Spencer, 2013). Rehabilitating incarcerated people proves much more successful in keeping the family and friends of the incarcerated safe. This research finding means the incarcerated individual's close circle of family and friends will be much safer if they are successfully rehabilitated before going back home and into the community.

Rehabilitating incarcerated people is also cost-effective. Aside from the high daily costs of incarcerating a person, formerly incarcerated individuals who are rehabilitated can also contribute back to society as another benefit. If they re-offend, they can no longer contribute to society as they are locked away for months to years at a time. However, if they are rehabilitated successfully, these individuals can obtain legal employment, pay taxes, contribute to the well-being of society, as well as contribute to their own quality of life, and possibly to the lives around them.

Lastly, and by far the most significant benefit of rehabilitating those incarcerated, is the possibility of crime rates going down as a result (Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2006). If previously incarcerated people are successfully rehabilitated, the chances that they will re-offend is meager (Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2006). This process will drive down crime rates, as the Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that seventy-nine percent of incarcerated individuals will re-offend within the next six years (2018). Implementing reentry services and resources that assist with rehabilitating those incarcerated will lower recidivism as a result as theoretically, many will not go back to jail or prison if rehabilitation is successful. Assistance also goes hand in hand with the public safety benefit as fewer crimes will mean fewer victims.

This work that I present is a descriptive semi-mixed methods study done on the BCDC. I began with volunteering in the facility for many months, and then I administered a survey with both close-ended and open-ended questions to those currently incarcerated. This work will first begin with a review of the literature, a review of relevant theories and frameworks, the methods used in this study, the findings from the survey, and a discussion of such findings including recommendations for Bannock County.

### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

1. What are the specific needs of incarcerated individuals at the Bannock County Detention Center relating to re-entering society?
2. Do individuals in different demographic categories have different needs?

## **Language, Operational Definitions, & Acronyms**

Throughout this thesis, I will periodically, and at times very often, use specific language and refer to many terms regarding reentry for those incarcerated. This section will provide a brief explanation for the chosen language and loose definitions for terms.

### *Language*

First and foremost, I want to address the terms I use to discuss incarcerated people. I strategically do not use stigmatizing labels such as criminals, prisoners, inmates, offenders, or any other label that may have a negative connotation. This language choice is essential in this study because participants in this study were incarcerated at the county jail. This actuality means participants may have been awaiting trial, and therefore, may not be guilty of any crime. I also have chosen this language because I want to perpetuate the idea that incarcerated individuals are real people and labeling them as criminals can have lasting effects long after incarceration (Goffman, 1986).

### *Definitions*

Reentry – the process in which an incarcerated individual reenters society after being incarcerated for a set amount of time (often years)

Recidivism – while recidivism has a broad definition, this paper uses the term as the tendency to relapse criminal behavior or re-offend

### *Acronyms*

BCDC – Bannock County Detention Center

CRC – Community Reentry Centers



GLM – Good Lives Model

RNR – Risk-Need-Responsivity

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Research on prisoner reentry and recidivism has been gaining much popularity within the last few decades. Insufficient reentry efforts and high recidivism percentages have emerged as critical issues and barriers to successful rehabilitation within correctional facilities all over the United States. While most of the literature on prisoner reentry focuses on rehabilitation and reintegration after a *prison* sentence, very little research has been done on successful rehabilitation and social reintegration after a *jail* sentence (Miller & Miller 2010; White et al. 2012). Research is also lacking on incarceration and reentry in rural communities. Because of this, this review of literature will be divided into two sections: background and general concepts. The background information will focus on the background knowledge on recidivism and reentry based on geography. This information will include background knowledge at the U.S. level, Idaho, and finally, Bannock County. The general concepts section will serve as an overview of relevant basic concepts regarding recidivism and reentry needs based on peer-reviewed research and data.

#### **Background**

##### *Reentry & Recidivism on U.S. Level*

A Bureau of Justice Statistics study found incarcerated people released from U.S. state prisons have a five-year recidivism rate of 76.6% (Durose et al. 2014). To put it simply, people being released from prison have a little over a three-fourths chance of returning to prison within five years after release. That high percentage depicts the

underlying issue we have with incarceration and reentry in the United States. This research demonstrates the immense need for additional studies on what works in prisoner reentry, and more specifically, jail reentry.

Being thrust back into a free society after possibly years of strict schedules, rules, and confinement can be devastatingly tough on any individual (Visser and Travis 2003). This difficulty is what reentry often feels like to U.S. citizens getting released from prison/jail. Often, many people, especially those incarcerated in jails, are not adequately prepared to transition back into society (Vigne et al. 2006). High recidivism rates lead to the assumption that before an individual is released, there must be a reentry process that assists and supports the individual back into society to ensure lower recidivism rates. Without the assistance and support, the person has a much higher chance of ending up back in the system, thus, further raising recidivism rates (Visser and Travis 2003; Miller and Miller 2010).

#### *Jail Reentry in the U.S.*

Much of the literature focuses on prisoner reentry and recidivism. While this information is vital, the literature is lacking research on jail reentry and recidivism (Miller and Miller 2010). Jail population growth has exceeded prison population growth since 2001 (Kang-Brown & Subramanian 2017; Petteruti and Walsh 2008). Not only this, but the amount of people being released from jails far exceeds the number of people being released from prison annually (White et al. 2012). This fact alone calls for more research to be conducted on jails and more specifically, jail reentry. Jails in the United States have traditionally been used to house people before prison. However, what many people do not realize is how jails also house pre-trial detainees who are awaiting trials for

misdemeanors. These individuals are different from nuclear research on prisoner reentry. They are not incarcerated for an extended period; rather, they typically serve a short sentence of less than a year. Although their sentences are shorter, they still risk spending many months out of society. Being incarcerated for weeks to months results in loss of jobs, loss of housing, loss of custody of their children, and much more devastating personal losses (Freudenberg et al. 2008; Visher and Travis 2003).

Moreover, reentry services are typically only offered in prison settings (Miller & Miller 2010; White et al. 2012). So, individuals who only serve jail time experience many of the same social consequences as those serving a longer prison sentence; however, they do not receive nearly as much guidance and assistance in the reentry process (White et al. 2012). Jails also have been turned into institutions for the mentally ill and drug addicted (Petteruti and Walsh 2008; Irwin 1985). Our county jails are expected to treat individuals with behavioral health and substance abuse disorders. These activities fall outside of the remit of jails, which were originally designed solely as custodial institutions (Freudenberg et al. 2008; Petteruti and Walsh 2008). Often, county jails do not have adequate funding or resources to provide these services appropriately. This inadequacy results in higher than average recidivism rates in county jails across America.

### *Idaho Reentry*

In the state of Idaho, there are currently four Community Reentry Centers (CRC) that focus on assisting and supporting incarcerated people as they prepare to reenter society after incarceration. The locations of those centers include Nampa, Idaho Falls, and two in the Boise area. The website for these facilities states “These facilities house court-retained jurisdictional offenders together with offenders preparing to parole from

state prisons” (Idaho Department of Correction). Each facility holds the capacity for only 108 people, for a total of 432. The small capacities result in approximately 7,500 people incarcerated in Idaho prisons who do not qualify to receive the assistance and support from the CRC’s. The services offered at the CRC’s are also not available to those leaving from county jails. Thus, furthering the dire need for more resources and reentry services for those not only being released from Idaho prisons, but also those being released from Idaho county jails.

### *Rural Criminology and Reentry*

When looking to assess Bannock County reentry and recidivism, it is vital to first consider the literature on rural criminology. The Bannock County Detention Center is in a relatively rural area. Rural criminology suggests that rural crime tends to be different from the further researched urban crime. Crime happens everywhere; however, the central focus within much of the literature and even media is on urban crime. People may hold beliefs that there is little to no crime in rural areas because of this, but in reality, rural regions are profoundly affected by higher than average crime rates (Donnermeyer & DeKeseredy 2014).

Rural crime tends to be of different types of offenses compared to more populated areas. If the types of crimes are different, this calls for different types of rehabilitative and reentry services. To put it simply, incarcerated people in rural areas require different needs. One of the most significant problems with crime in rural areas is drugs, and in particular, meth (Reding 2010). Meth is a highly addictive drug that is sweeping its way across rural America. A vast majority of Idaho county jail bookings are drug-related. In

October 2017, Bannock County was named one of 16 counties across 13 states as a High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (Loukides 2017).

The opioid crisis that has been sweeping the nation also has massively affected rural communities such as Bannock County. “In October 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the rates of drug overdose deaths are rising in rural areas, surpassing standards in urban areas. Additionally, a December 2017 survey by the National Farmers Union and the American Farm Bureau Federation found that the opioid crisis has directly impacted as much as 74 percent of farmers” (Opioid Misuse in Rural America). This statistic is significant because Bannock County, as well as a large portion of South East Idaho, is home to many farming communities. This is also important because as reported by Bannock County Detention Center staff, the majority of bookings are drug-related offenses. This data may imply a severe need for drug abuse treatment services for not only the people detained at BCDC but the community as well.

Along with drug use, domestic violence is among the most common types of crime found within rural communities (Donnermeyer and DeKeseredy 2014). This fact reveals that rural communities, such as Bannock County, need more drug treatment options as well as domestic violence services. These services are needed not only for those incarcerated but for the community members as well. Domestic violence affects women at higher rates than men, so this means this is more likely to affect incarcerated females (Donnermeyer and DeKeseredy 2014). People need safe places to go once they get out to ensure successful reintegration and rehabilitation. Without a safe place to go, women risk their safety and also risk going back to jail. Large urban areas such as New York or Los Angeles have a plethora of resources for things like employment, housing,

mental health treatment, drug treatment, and domestic violence. Unfortunately, rural communities, such as Bannock County, have far less access to essential resources to reintegrate and rehabilitate an individual back into society due to less funding and fewer people. Because the literature suggests that drug abuse and domestic violence have become massive complications in rural communities, this is something that needs further consideration when researching crime, reentry, and recidivism in rural communities.

#### *Bannock County Detention Center*

Many county jails in Idaho are over capacity (Brown 2017). Bannock County Detention Center is no different. The Bannock County Detention Center (BCDC) was built in 1994 as a replacement for the previous existing county jail that only could hold 72 people. It was constructed as a response to the expanding jail population in the county. The BCDC website reports the facility can house up to 253 people and yet, on April 9, 2018, there were 299 people. As a result, around 46 people were without a bed to sleep on at night. The current number of incarcerated people at BCDC fluctuates but tends to float between 260-315 which is much higher than the allowed capacity. As part of my initial observation at BCDC, I was shown small rooms where many detainees would sleep on cots and the floor when particularly overcrowded. Upon another observation, I saw people waiting to be assigned their cell in the booking area on the ground in an open, common area with blankets. A solution to the overcrowding crisis in Bannock County is much-needed.

In 2017, the BCDC proposed a \$16 million bond to expand the jail in response to the overcrowding issue. Along with expanding the facility, the bond would also pay for a new mental health and drug treatment facility. As it stands, the jail cannot currently

provide those services, and people go without this much-needed help. The bond failed by 43 votes.

Recidivism rates at the BCDC are said to be very high by many employees of the jail, but unfortunately, those numbers are not made available to the public. Fortunately, I was able to get the booking data from BCDC from the years 2013-2017. In this data, the recidivism rate between 2013-2017 is 42 percent. This statistic indicates that almost half of the people booked into BCDC during this period went back to this same jail within these five years. This data backs up the numerous claims made by the BCDC employees that one of the jail's biggest concerns is returning people. This concern furthers the dire need for further research on reentry in BCDC, and more specifically, the needs of those incarcerated at BCDC returning to society.

So why does BCDC have such a high recidivism rate? We can look at its current reentry efforts as a possible answer to this. As of the time of my research, between spring 2018 and fall 2018, the only programming offered was a program called "SHARE." SHARE stands for Sheriff's Help and Recovery Environment. Its primary focus is on drug and alcohol abuse treatment. The program consists of alternating classes throughout the year that each last two weeks. Some courses include anger management, parenting, with many focusing on alcohol/drug addiction. One problem with this program is that it is only offered to people of certain classifications, disallowing many people the access to the only program with the intention of assisting with rehabilitation.

When asked about other programs for incarcerated people, I was told there were none. There is also a non-existent programming department as many detention/correction settings have. While the SHARE classes may appear as enough on the surface, the



recidivism rates at BCDC tell a different story. More is needing to be done to better rehabilitate and prepare the incarcerated population back into the Bannock County communities.

### **Reentry Needs**

Now that background information has been provided on reentry and recidivism on U.S. level, jail reentry, Idaho reentry, rural criminology and reentry, and more specifically, reentry at the Bannock County Detention Center; I will next go into the review of existing relevant literature on prisoner reentry needs. It is important to note that one of the most prevalent themes found within the literature is the importance of knowing the needs of the incarcerated people before being released. Reentry programs and services help assist people to reenter society, but how do we know what exact assistance each needs before release? This especially when no current reentry program is offered. While one person might need help obtaining a job, another might have a job but need help with transportation to get there. Essentially, reentry programs are not and should not use a one size fits all approach. In order to build a successful program, it is of the utmost importance to ask people what their specific needs are to ensure the program is successful for everyone involved (Morani et al. 2011; Koski & Costanza 2015; Zortman et al. 2016). Incarcerated voices need to be heard to create a program or services that better assist those incarcerated at BCDC preparing to go back into the community.

### *Generalized Reentry Needs*

Research is limited on what the needs are for the incarcerated population upon reentering society. The research that is out there typically only focuses on prison reentry, rather than jail reentry. Existing research on needs also tend to primarily focus on men's

needs as men hold a higher population in prisons. In one study of men in prison, the men reported needing assistance with getting a driver's license, general finances, furthering education, job training/ skills, and obtaining employment (Visser & Lattimore 2007). Another study which focused on *previously* incarcerated men reported the most significant needs being assistance with transportation, clothing, food, housing, and obtaining employment (Morani et al. 2011). One of the very few studies that focuses on incarcerated women's needs found that women need more trauma-informed interventions, or treatment (Lynch et al., 2012). This kind of treatment is needed because incarcerated women report higher rates of domestic violence which causes trauma for many.

A common theme found within reentry needs literature is the immense need for substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment. Substance abuse treatment is not surprising considering the Federal Bureau of Prisons (2019) has reported an average of 49% of those incarcerated in federal prisons are in on drug charges. No other criminal charge has a higher percentage rate than that. Mental health treatment is also not surprising as the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006) has reported 64 percent of those in jails, 56 percent in state prisons, and 45 percent in federal prisons have symptoms of severe mental illnesses. While all three statistics are alarming, most problematic is the mental health crisis in jails. Not only are mental illness symptoms more often found within jails, but jails also have the least amount of resources compared to state and federal prisons. This dilemma furthers the need for more research to be done on jails and more importantly, needs assessments for those in specific jails as needs may vary depending on location.

### *Indicators of Rehabilitation Success*

An indicator of triumphant rehabilitative success that is often researched is the role of the family in the rehabilitation process. Not only this, but there is also literature that suggests regular familial contact *while* incarcerated also allows the person a better chance at rehabilitation (Dobmeier et al. 2017; Visser & Travis 2003). Research suggests this is because it enables the person to strengthen the bond between themselves and family members while away for months or years at a time. This evidence is compelling because research also suggests that family is even more critical post-release (Visser & Travis 2003). One study found that strong familial ties post-release were significant for two reasons: emotional support, and arguably more critical, housing (Nelson et al. 1999). Housing is a well-known barrier to successful rehabilitation and having a supportive family can ease that barrier by providing housing temporarily for those who need it.

Another indicator of successful rehabilitation is strong foundational support (Dobmeier et al. 2017). Building a robust structural support system through the criminal justice system, community providers, and family and friends can also predict higher rates of successful rehabilitation. This foundation must start while incarcerated while also continuously being built once released as well. One of the most significant needs that almost always requires support is employment (Dobmeier et al. 2017). If community support is not there, the previously incarcerated individual will not be able to obtain legal employment which can act as the beginning of a domino effect resulting in recidivism.

### *Policy Suggestions*

The last concept found in reentry literature is policy suggestions. Many researchers suggest that something that needs to be done while an individual is incarcerated is to obtain better decision-making skills (MacLellan; Garland et al. 2011; Bronwyn et al. 2016; Zortman et al. 2016; Miller & Miller 2010). This idea is on the basis that the individual's decision-making is what likely landed them in the criminal justice system in the first place. So, the idea is to better the decision-making process while the individual is incarcerated, in hopes of lowering the chance of re-offending once released.

Another predominant policy suggestion from the literature is to ensure that support systems are in place before the person is released. Often, people are released, and they go back to the exact environment that led them to incarceration in the first place. Most often the environment includes the individual's close group of friends, and even family (MacLellan; Garland et al. 2011; Bronwyn et al. 2016; Zortman et al. 2016; Miller & Miller 2010). To combat this issue, researchers suggest that during the reentry process, prior to release, support systems are put into place to ensure the individual has a positive support group to lean on during the challenging reentry process (MacLellan; Garland et al. 2011; Bronwyn et al. 2016; Zortman et al. 2016; Miller & Miller 2010).

## **Conclusion**

The two goals for this review are to first, provide background information in terms of geography regarding reentry and recidivism, and second, present what has been already found within reentry needs research. Additionally, this review also exposes the missing pieces in existing reentry research. The vital missing pieces include reentry from the jail setting as well as reentry needs in rural communities. The needs of individuals

reentering society after being released from a provincial jail differ significantly from urban prisoner reentry needs that are more often centralized in reentry literature. This review also highlights some of the possible needs that may be found in this research. Common basic needs have been reported such as housing, employment, substance abuse treatment, and mental health treatment. To summarize the essential point of this review, reentering back into rural societies require different types of reentry efforts and this is why it is of absolute importance that research is done on the needs of these individuals so adequate resources and services can be provided to this disadvantaged population.

## CHAPTER 3

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### *Risk-Need-Responsivity Model*

Being that this thesis research is looking to assess the risks/needs factors of those incarcerated at BCDC, it is necessary to refer to the risk-need-responsivity (RNR) model. The RNR model is a risk assessment often used in criminology to determine what would best assist each offender in rehabilitation based on the risk they pose to reoffending and what their specific criminogenic needs are. Essentially, this model suggests that incarcerated people are diverse, and a one size fits all approach to rehabilitation is not an appropriate tactic for successful reentry. The RNR suggests that reentry is multi-factorial and approaches to reentry need to consider the many different factors (Looman & Abracen, 2013).

The RNR model was developed in the 1980s and formalized in 1990 by Canadian researchers Donald A. Andrews, James Bonta, and Paul Gendreau. Although the RNR model has not been adopted primarily in the U.S., it is a common approach that has been deployed in countries such as Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand (Looman & Abracen, 2013). Some studies have suggested that this model has been quite successful in rehabilitative measures (Bonta & Andrews, 2007; Fortune et al., 2012; Hanson et al., 2009).

The RNR model can be broken down into three principles. The Risk principle refers to the risk the incarcerated person poses to reoffending based on the crime committed and behavior displayed while incarcerated. This part of the model suggests

that the higher the risk an incarcerated individual poses, the more treatment is needed to rehabilitate and reintegrate the person back into society successfully. The Need principle refers to the person's criminogenic needs. These needs are based on empirical research done on the needs of previously incarcerated people who have successfully re-entered society. Criminogenic needs are risk factors that lead to criminal behavior that can include anti-social behavior/personality, pro-criminal attitudes, social supports for crime (friends), substance abuse, poor familial and marital relationships, poor performance in school and work, and lack of prosocial recreational activities (Bonta & Andrews, 2007). This needs-assessment component works to assess the criminogenic needs of the individual and use this to inform the type of treatment the individual needs. The Responsivity principle refers to the response, or approach in which is used based on the above two principles. There are two components in this principle consisting of general responsivity and specific responsivity. General responsivity suggests the use of treatment programs based on cognitive, behavioral, and social learning theories tend to be the most effective in rehabilitating offenders regardless of the type of offender (Bonta & Andrews, 2007; Looman & Abracen, 2013; Smith et al., 2009). The specific responsivity suggests that non-criminogenic needs such as age, gender, and race also should be taken into consideration in order to maximize treatment success (Bonta & Andrews, 2007; Looman & Abracen, 2013; Smith et al., 2009). These three components of the RNR model are pertinent to this research as this research is looking to assess the risk/need factors of those incarcerated at BCDC in the hopes that responsivity will be developed as a result.

Although the risk-need-responsivity model has achieved positive results, there are also critiques of this model that are worth noting. One critique is that while assessing the

risk and need factors in the responsivity aspect is necessary; it is not sufficient enough for an effective reentry treatment plan (Ward & Gannon, 2006; Ward et al., 2006). Arguably the most substantial critique the RNR model faces is the lack of engagement and motivation of the incarcerated population during treatment (Mann, 2000; Ward & Brown, 2004; Ward & Maruna, 2007). This critique is based on the idea that treatment is focused on the needs based on empirical data and fails to recognize that incarcerated people typically need the motivation to succeed. Because there is research suggesting the RNR model is not sufficient alone, a review of another rehabilitation framework the Good Lives Model and a criminology perspective Convict Criminology will follow.

### *Good Lives Model*

Rehabilitation framework and theory has seen a slight shift from the RNR model to the Good Lives Model (GLM) in recent years. The GLM is another international model that was developed in the early 2000s by Australian researcher Tony Ward, who namely criticized the RNR model, to aid in prisoner reentry and reduce recidivism. The GLM is similar to the RNR model in that they are both rehabilitation frameworks used in corrections. The similarities between the two end there. The GLM prides itself on being more of a positive strengths-based approach to rehabilitation. This approach focuses on building up the skills and strengths of the individual to better prepare them for being more successful on the “outs” of jail/prison. This framework is relevant to this research because the central focus is to assess what the incarcerated population needs to be the most successful when released from BCDC. This model can be used in the future in responsivity as this research may predict the strengths and weaknesses of the incarcerated population. This model can also help the BCDC decide where to focus future



programming based on the strengths of those incarcerated. What is different between the RNR model and the GLM is where each model places the focus on treatment. The RNR model suggests we consider the risk and need of the offender above all whereas the GLM suggests we consider the strengths of the individual and work to build and cultivate those (Barendregt et al., 2018). Furthermore, the GLM argues that risk factors can be understood as obstacles, which may deter the individual from successful rehabilitation (Ward & Stewart, 2003).

Additionally, the GLM framework has other strengths. The GLM argues that everyone, whether incarcerated or not, has innate, human needs, or human goods. Some of the needs include the desire for relationships (or intimacy), the desire for community (feeling a part of something), being physically healthy, and happiness, among others. This model further argues that when individuals cannot obtain these needs through conventional, or pro-social pathways, they turn to crime to obtain them. With this ideology, the GLM also works to assist incarcerated people with understanding the needs and provide them with the tools to obtain these needs in more conventional, healthy, and legal pathways. Moreover, this model suggests that providing these tools will in turn also reduce or eliminate criminogenic needs (Ward & Gannon, 2008).

Because the GLM is a relatively new framework, there is not enough empirical data to judge the complete efficacy of such framework compared to the RNR model. Some research has suggested the RNR model framework supplemented with the GLM aspect may be the most appropriate for further success of rehabilitation (Fortune et al., 2012; Looman & Abracen, 2013). Where the RNR model lacks in encouragement and motivation, the GLM can effectively introduce both aspects into treatment. Where the

GLM lacks stability and empirical evidence, the RNR model can effectively balance that. Essentially, the GLM can fill in the voids of the RNR model and vice versa strengthening the two reentry frameworks.

### *Convict Criminology*

A newly emerging perspective in criminology is what is called Convict Criminology. This perspective has been recently developed primarily by Stephen Richards and Jeffrey Ross and continues to be developed in the new school of thought. Convict criminologists consist of real ex-convicts who after being incarcerated and doing their time become graduate students and eventually go on to earn higher degrees such as a Ph.D.

Convict criminologists started emerging when ex-convicts entered academia and found that much of the literature on incarceration was not from the point of view of those incarcerated (Richards, 2013). Additionally, much of the literature, according to some convict theorists, was not as accurate compared to what they experienced themselves while incarcerated (Richards, 2013).

Convict theory is an essential theoretical framework in this research because this research also attempts to listen to the voices of those currently incarcerated. Without the voices of those incarcerated, we can attempt to look at empirical data to guess or assume what the needs and concerns are, but every geographical area or county is different with different demographic needs. Especially considering the rural nature of Bannock County, we must determine the needs of our incarcerated population straight from the source.

Convict criminology supports this outlook, and this perspective is used in the cultivation of this research.

The RNR model, GLM, and Convict Criminology have all significantly been instrumental not only in this entire research design, but they have also informed the survey questions used. Both the RNR model and GLM look to assess the needs of the individual to provide the most appropriate treatment which will, in theory, lower the risk of re-offending. This research attempts to assess the criminogenic and non-criminogenic needs of those who are incarcerated with the intention of this information being used for more effective treatment efforts in the future. All of the needs-assessment questions were constructed with these two model's frameworks. Furthermore, the use of convict criminology informed this research in that I included open-ended questions in the survey in order to allow participants the capacity to voice what they believe to be important, aside from the specific survey questions.

## CHAPTER 4

### METHODS

A possible solution to the dilemma of recidivism in Bannock County may be providing more reentry resources to individuals who are being released from the BCDC. These resources can include housing/shelter information, job information, social security information, and even social services information (healthcare, food stamps). Research shows that with the right resources and assistance, individuals will be given the opportunity to begin a more stable life and the likelihood of reoffending may be lessened (Austin & Hardyman, 2004; Morani et al., 2011; Visser & Travis, 2003). The central purpose for this needs-assessment research is determining what exactly is structuring the reentry experience in Bannock County in hopes of using this data to make recommendations for future programming not only in Bannock County but in other rural areas in Idaho.

#### *Design Overview*

This research began by first contacting the BCDC at the beginning of the spring 2018 semester. Beginning initial contact early was intentional to begin building rapport not only with the facility but with the future participants. I was put into contact with the Lieutenant who oversees the “programming” department. He began by giving a tour of the facility and explaining the basics of how the detention center is run. After discussing the research goals and expectations, the research project was approved by the detention facility.

Following the initial tour and meeting, I began volunteering at the center. Every week I was able to observe a different aspect of the jail in order to better understand how the detention center is run. Each time would last four hours. I first began in the booking area. From there, I was able to learn the duties of a booking officer and the booking process as well as other processes such as releasing of detainees who have made bail or finished his or her time served. It was here that I learned that each detainee is charged twenty-five dollars a day up to a total of five hundred dollars. If the person is unable to pay this upon release, they are given a payment plan. If they fail to pay the amount owed, the balance is sent to collections.

After volunteering in booking on more than one occasion, I began volunteering in C pod and E pod. C pod serves as a panopticon style pod. At the center of the pod is the detention officer area or office and all around this area are smaller micro pods. These pods range from medium to maximum security and when inside the pod, mirrored glass makes it impossible to see out. E pod is a minimum-security pod that houses the work-release people. Volunteering in both pods allowed me to gain insight on how the pods are run daily as well as allowed the chance to talk with some of the detention deputies about the likes of the job.

After the pods, I volunteered in what is called “central control.” Central control is where access to all cameras in the facility is located. A booking deputy rotates during his or her shift, and central control is part of the rotation. The job of the deputy is to watch all the cameras for signs of foul play, but they are also in charge of unlocking doors in the facility. Once inside the facility, all doors lock when closed. If someone wants to open a door, say to a pod, the person must press a button notifying the central control deputy

who will then check to see if the person has clearance to enter and then open or deny entry. Time spent in central control was interesting as it allowed me to have visuals of sections of the facility not previously seen such as the kitchen and laundry room.

On one of my last volunteering days, I was able to go on a ride along in the transportation van to the courthouse. The van transports incarcerated people to and from court daily. Not only was I able to experience what participants experience going to and from court, but I was also able to see the inner workings of the courthouse. The courthouse is where the old jail used to be. A few cells remain, and that is where incarcerated people are held while waiting to be seen in court.

Having the opportunity to volunteer in different parts of the detention center was vital in this research project because it allowed for a better understanding of all the jail processes and to get a better feel for how the jail is run and further insight through talking to various detention staff along the way. In this experience, I learned what the booking process entails, how housing pods are run, how security works in central control, and what the transportation to court process entails. This involvement also allowed me to gain a small insight into what participants in this study experience while incarcerated at BCDC as well as allowing for rapport building within the facility.

Building rapport with the facility staff was crucial because it allowed the staff to become familiar with myself and the research, and they began to trust the research efforts. It was even more critical with the incarcerated population because trust is necessary for dependable research with incarcerated populations (Patenaude, 2004). Many times, detainees would question who I was and what I was doing during the various volunteering occasions. These interactions granted the chance to briefly explain

the research purpose while also recruiting for the study. These prior interactions helped the recruitment because much of the sample had recognized me when it came time to distribute the survey.

This work is intended to be exploratory research. This project's primary focus is a needs-assessment for the currently incarcerated people at BCDC. Because of this, a two-part survey was distributed to all eligible incarcerated people. Eligibility will be further explained later in this section. After the IRB approval in September 2018, surveys were distributed on two separate occasions. The first distribution was on October 5, 2018, and the second was on October 26, 2018. There were two different distribution days to allow more voices to be heard as people go in and out of the detention center regularly. Anyone who had filled out a survey on the first run and was still incarcerated by the second run was asked not to participate. I was escorted by a detention officer each time, and we walked through the entire detention center distributing the survey to anyone willing to participate. The security level of each pod differed depending on time and pod. Sometimes everyone in a particular pod was on lockdown during the distribution of the survey which meant I distributed surveys to every cell individually. While at other times in other pods everyone was out of their cells roaming freely during distribution. Whether the pod was on lockdown did not affect the survey distribution. Once we had distributed to every pod in the facility, we would go back around and collect all completed surveys.

### *Study Site*

This research took place exclusively at the BCDC. The facility is located south of Pocatello, Idaho just outside of town. The facility is connected to the county driver's license building. Across the street stands the Idaho Police Patrol office. The facility has a

for-profit medical infirmary that provides basic medical and dental needs for those incarcerated at a price. There is also a visitor's room where family and friends can video call those incarcerated at the center.

### *Sample*

The sample includes both males and females who are eligible and willing to participate in the study. The qualifications for becoming eligible for the study depended on the discretion of the detention staff. As a result, this can inevitably invoke a response bias as the staff at the detention center had the power to choose who they want and do not want to participate. I predicted that most incarcerated people who are in good standing with the facility and are not on any probation would be allowed to participate. At the time of my data collection, I was not made aware of any people not allowed to participate in the study. The sample size is 148 people over the age of 18 who were currently incarcerated at BCDC at least one of the two separate times the survey was distributed. Everyone who was currently incarcerated at BCDC during one of the two distribution days had an equal opportunity to participate in the study. Although the ideal candidate would be someone who has been previously incarcerated, all voices were encouraged to be heard. By allowing participants to volunteer in participation, this created voluntary response bias. This means the sample may be biased because the sample may be highly comprised with people who have a special interest in the topic or a strong opinion. The participants were sought out by fliers put up in the detention center pods (housing units) two weeks before the first data collection as well as word of mouth recruitment. Word of mouth included verbally introducing the purpose of the research to participants before survey distribution either at one of the observations or the day of the survey.



Additionally, special steps were taken when constructing the sample because of the nature of the population. The incarcerated population is an exceedingly vulnerable population (Patenaude, 2004). Throughout history prisoners have been used and abused, even becoming test subjects for new medicines and drugs all in the name of research (Kiefer and Veit, 2014). New laws and regulations have since been placed to better protect the incarcerated population in research. One issue with researching the incarcerated population that has yet to be resolved is the harm that may come as a result of asking specific questions that may invoke a strong emotional response. A strategy was used in which the survey questions were fundamental, non-invasive questions to combat this issue (Kiefer and Veit, 2014). The surveys are also anonymous to ensure participants would not have consequences for filling out a survey or for his or her answers.

### *Data Collection*

This study uses a semi mixed-methods approach. The instrumentations of choice were both a multiple-choice survey and an open-ended write-in section. Being that this research is serving as exploratory research, specific questions were constructed in order to directly answer the research questions. The survey consists of fourteen questions, twelve of which ranging from demographic questions to reentry needs-assessment questions. The demographic questions include information such as age, gender, level of education completed, and whether they have been incarcerated before. Using the RNR model and GLM as the framework, the needs-assessment questions asked what services are needed upon release, what services they are currently aware of, what barriers they have to employment, what classes they would like to see being offered at BCDC, whether they have a safe place to go when they get out, if they will have transportation when they

get out, and whether a resource guide would be helpful in their transition out of the center.

There are a few reasons that explain why the survey was assembled the way it is. The survey was kept relatively short to ensure that participants do not feel overwhelmed and unmotivated to finish a lengthy survey. Furthermore, there was not an incentive provided to the participants to complete the survey. Due to overcrowding and safety concerns, I was also unable to stay with each participant during the completion of the survey. This limitation led to the survey being shorter and more concise, so it is easier to understand. The National Assessment for Adult Literacy has reported seventy percent of the incarcerated population have reading levels in the upper elementary grade levels (2003). For this reason, the survey was run through a reading level assessment, and it registered at a fifth to sixth-grade reading level. This step was done to ensure that the majority of the sample would be able to understand the questions without assistance.

The two write-in questions in the survey are open-ended questions to encourage participants to write as little or as much as they want. The questions also encourage participants to write about things not addressed in the survey multiple choice questions. These open-ended questions include how the BCDC can better assist their transition out of the facility and if they had any other experiences within the BCDC that they would like to share. Using *Convict Criminology*, these questions were intentionally made to be quite broad to encourage participants to share anything they think is essential.

The chosen instrument, survey, attempts to ensure validity to my research as it provides the information I need to answer my research questions because most of the survey questions focus on needs-assessment upon release. The data extracted from the

survey answers will answer the research questions. This research will also be non-experimental as manipulation of any variables was not used. By using the same survey for every participant, this allows for reliability of the results.

### *Data Analysis*

The first step in analyzing the data was to give each survey a number identification. When analyzing the multiple-choice survey data, Stata, a quantitative data analysis software, was used. After manually entering in all the data from each completed survey, the data software provided a better understanding of the trends among both demographics and needs of returning citizens in Bannock County through basic tabulations and binary logistic regressions. Tabulations were used to find out basic totals for each reported need. Tabulations allowed me to see the total number of participants who answered “yes,” “no,” and “maybe” out of the entire sample.

When looking to analyze the demographics and needs together, logistic regression is the most appropriate statistical model. This model is most appropriate because “logistic regression is used when your dependent variable is binary, or only has two outcomes, and can be coded as simply 0 or 1” (Kremelberg 2011:236). Most variables in this data set are dichotomous and are coded as such. The only variables not coded dichotomously are age and education level. Age is a numeric variable and education level was coded as such: 1 representing “Less than High School,” 2 representing “G.E.D.,” 3 representing High School,” 4 representing “Some College,” and 5 representing a “College Graduate.”

The demographics, whether incarcerated before, age, gender, ethnicity, and education level served as the dependent variables in each regression and the specific

needs were the independent variables. Dummy coding was used for one variable, ethnicity. This question is a select all that apply type of question. The answer options are Caucasian, Native American, African American, Hispanic, and other. The Caucasian variable was used as the dummy variable. This means I was comparing any findings within the Native American, African American, Hispanic, and other variables to the Caucasian variable. Along with this data, descriptive statistics, which organize and summarize data will also be included in the analysis (Dixon et al., 2016).

Due to the way the variables were coded, many binary logistic regressions were run. In total, there were thirteen regressions ran. With many regressions ran, type one error can occur as a result. Type one error occurs when there is a false positive result. This may happen as a result of too many regressions ran because this leaves more room for errors to be made within running each regression. This is a limitation to the way the questions were coded and analyzed.

Next, each participant's open-ended responses were typed into separate Word documents and given a number identification that matches the corresponding multiple-choice data. From there, the documents were imported into ATLAS.ti, a qualitative data analysis program. After that, each participant's answers were coded sentence by sentence using ATLAS.ti. One word or short phrase codes were used to represent what is being said in the responses accurately. This method allowed for proper data reduction which then allowed for the various themes and patterns to be drawn out from dense data (Berg & Lune, 2012). After the first few responses, I began working inductively to find specific emerging themes prevalent in many of the responses, and I started focusing on those specific codes and themes to build the argument (Dixon et al., 2016). I also coded for

quotes that I found valuable and relevant in the analysis of the data. The codebook was then created after extracting the significant themes and most used codes within the open-ended answers. I then further defined each code to complete the codebook. Three rounds of coding were conducted. After the first round, the codebook was used to organize each theme within each response in the following rounds of coding.

### *Ethics*

Considering that the incarcerated population is a vulnerable one (Patenaude, 2004) a consent form and a debriefing statement were included along with each survey distributed. The primary purpose of the consent form is to inform each participant of the participant's right to privacy, explain how the survey is entirely voluntary, inform consent, explain confidentiality of the study, and explain the right to withdraw at any time. Additionally, the consent form has further brief information about the study being conducted. In addition to having this information on the consent form, I also briefly explained everything verbally before they participated to ensure a complete understanding. The consent form was a waived consent form meaning participants did not sign it. This decision is to protect the identity and confidentiality of the participants and their answers. The participants were to keep the consent form for their personal use. The consent form also stresses that any information shared on the survey will not affect their sentence, nor get them out of jail (Newman, 1958).

The debriefing statement served as a form in which participants were given more information about the study, and it reiterated the purpose of the study. The statement also included contact information for the researcher if a participant wanted further information about the study or wanted to know the outcome. The statement also reiterates

appreciation for participation, and that participation will not affect his or her relationship with the detention facility nor will it affect any sentencing outcomes.

### *Limitations of the Study*

The findings in the next section, like any research project or study, are limited. The research sample population is limited to a small, rural county in South East Idaho. While the findings will not be generalizable, this information can prove useful or insightful for other rural communities in Idaho, and possibly rural areas in other states.

A limitation of this study is a lack of racial diversity in the participants. Because Bannock County, and many rural areas, tend to have a much higher population of Caucasian people over any other race, this is prevalent in the sample. This obstacle is limiting because this study will lack the voices and needs of those who are not Caucasian, which may be vastly different from the needs of the dominant demographic.

Another limitation was working within the facility rules and conduct. When conducting this research, I had to be aware of institutional needs. This awareness made me very conscious of abiding by any necessary rules. Some of the rules included not bringing my cell phone into the facility, wearing close-toed shoes, allowing the facility to access my background/personal information, and attending a volunteer Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) class. I had to work around the schedule of the facility and work with the staff. While this was not an issue, I had to keep in mind these rules and regulations regularly in my decision-making process for this study.

Time constraints also served as a limitation to this study. Ideally, and originally planned, informal interviews were to be conducted with those currently incarcerated at

BCDC alongside the survey. I believe conducting face-to-face interviews will provide further impactful information on the needs of those being released from BCDC. I believe this because it will allow much more time for participants to voice their concerns and opinions as well as provide further information not addressed in the survey alone such as real experiences.

Additionally, a limitation to using the method of a survey is that there may be incarcerated individuals who have reading disabilities. This constraint will disable some people from participating who deserve to have their voices heard. Doing further verbal face-to-face interviews would help with this issue as it would be a strategic way to still hear from those who have reading disabilities.

Lastly, my volunteering at the facility in the months leading to the survey distribution is also a limitation. While I believe building rapport within the facility is a strength, it also may have dissuaded some people from participating in the survey. During my volunteering, I shadowed many employees at the facility. In this shadowing, I had the opportunity to talk to the staff about the facility and how they like or dislike the job. While this allowed me to gain an alternative perspective, it also allowed the incarcerated population to see me interacting with the staff. While some facilities are better than others, most facilities still deal with an “us versus them” mentality between facility staff and the incarcerated population. This mentality may have dissuaded people from wanting to participate if they believed I was just “one of them” (staff).

## CHAPTER 5

### FINDINGS

#### **Quantitative Data**

I will begin with the quantitative findings. The goal of extracting the quantitative data was to gather demographic information on the participants as well as compare those demographics to the needs each participant reported needing upon transitioning back into the community after BCDC. I will start with the demographics measured in this study, present the needs of the overall sample, and lastly, present any statistically significant correlations between demographics and needs reported.

#### *Demographics*

The first demographic question was whether the participant had been incarcerated before. Ninety-five percent (n=140) of participants reported having been incarcerated before. Next demographic is gender. About sixty-six percent (n=98) of participants reported being male while about thirty-three percent (n=49) reported being female (note: an “other” option was given, no participant utilized it). The age range of participants is between 18-63 years old (mean=36; SD=15.2). With ethnicity, participants had the option to check all that apply. Seventy percent (n=103) of participants identified themselves as white or Caucasian, twenty-six percent (n=39) as Native American, fifteen percent (n=22) Hispanic, three percent (n=5) African American, and 6 percent (n=9) other. The last demographic measured in this study is education level. Eleven percent (n=16) of participants reported having less than a high school diploma, nineteen percent (n=28) has a G.E.D., thirty percent (n=44) graduated high school, thirty-four percent (n=51) has

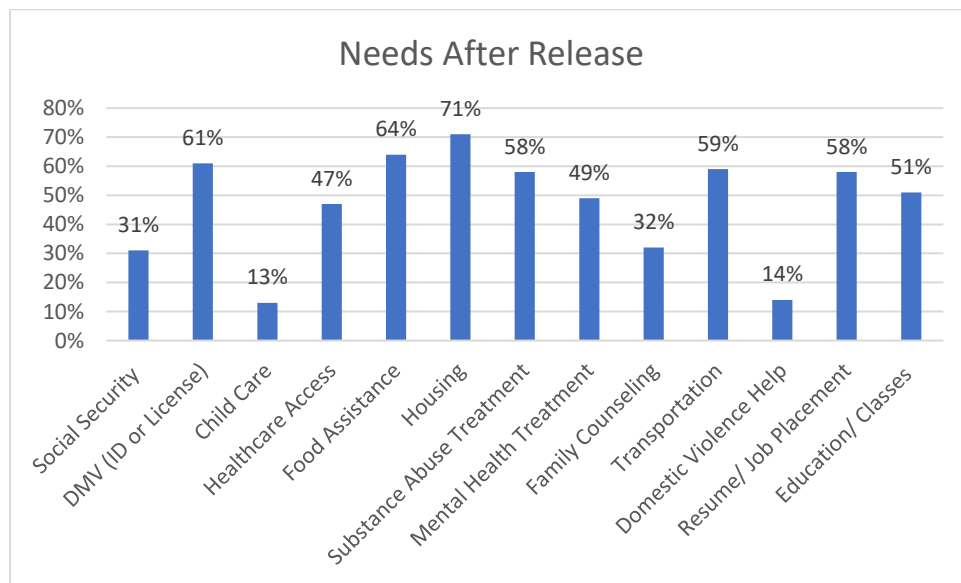


some college, and four percent (n=6) are college graduates. It is important to note that any demographic that has a cell size of less than 10 (n<10) will not be analyzed because the sample is too small to generalize.

### *Needs*

The needs that were included in the survey questions included social security, DMV, child care, healthcare, (access to) food, housing, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, family counseling, transportation, domestic violence help, help with a resume or job placement, and education through classes. The results can be found below in figure 1.

Figure 1

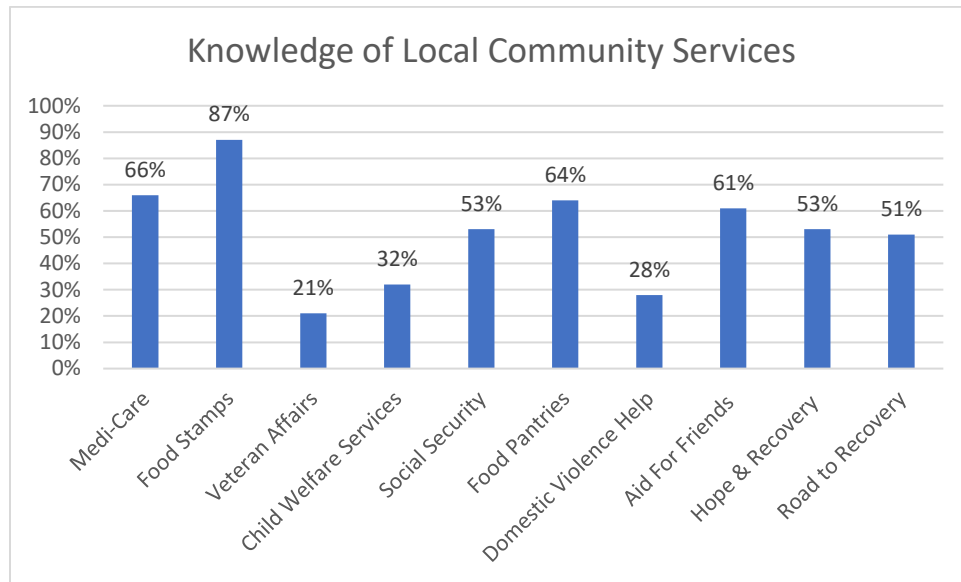


Thirty-one percent of participants reported needing social security. Sixty percent of participants reported needing help with getting access to the DMV. The DMV can include anything between getting their ID, getting their license, or getting their car

registered. It is important to note that, many of the participants referenced getting their ID in the write-in sections more often than the other needs at the DMV. Interestingly, only thirteen percent of participants reported needing child care. A limitation of this study is that the survey did not ask whether the participant had children. Forty-six percent of participants reported needing access to healthcare. Sixty-four percent of participants reported needing access to food. Not surprisingly, seventy percent of participants reported needing housing. Fifty-eight percent of participants reported needing substance abuse treatment. Forty-eight percent reported needing mental health treatment. Thirty-two percent reported needing family counseling. Fifty-nine percent reported needing transportation. Fourteen percent reported needing domestic violence help. Fifty-eight percent of participants reported needing assistance with their resume or job placement. Lastly, fifty-one percent reported needing more education through classes. The top three needs reported are housing, food assistance, and DMV services.

Next, the survey asked participants about their current knowledge of local community services. The point of this question was to identify any local services that need to be further discovered and explained to those incarcerated at BCDC. The options for this question were based on local services in the area: Medi-Care, Food Stamps, Veteran Affairs, Child Welfare Services, Social Security, Food Pantries, Domestic Violence Help, Aid for Friends (shelter), Hope & Recovery (substance abuse treatment), Road to Recovery (substance abuse treatment). The results are represented in figure 2.

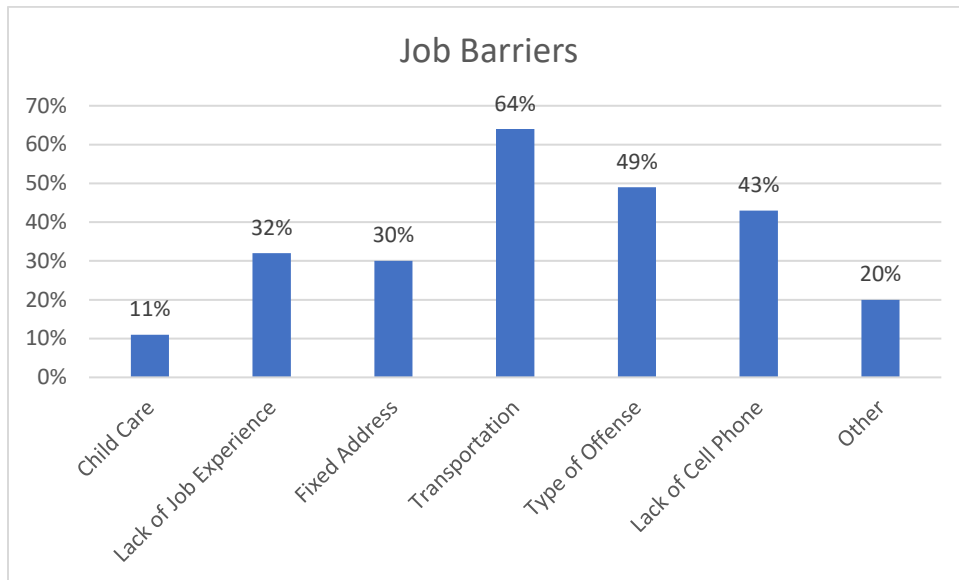
Figure 2



These results suggest that community services such as food stamps (87 percent), Medi-Care (66 percent), and Aid for Friends (61 percent) are the top three local community services that incarcerated people know about prior to the survey. These results suggest that community services such as Veteran Affairs (21 percent), domestic violence support (28 percent), and child welfare services (32 percent) may need to be added to the conversation. These services may prove very helpful to some incarcerated people, but not if they do not know about the existence of such services. Overall, most local services could use more advertisement for the incarcerated population.

Next are barriers to employment. The options for this question were child care, lack of job experience, lack of a fixed address, transportation, type of offense, and other. Participants were encouraged to check all the apply. The results are found in figure 3.

Figure 3

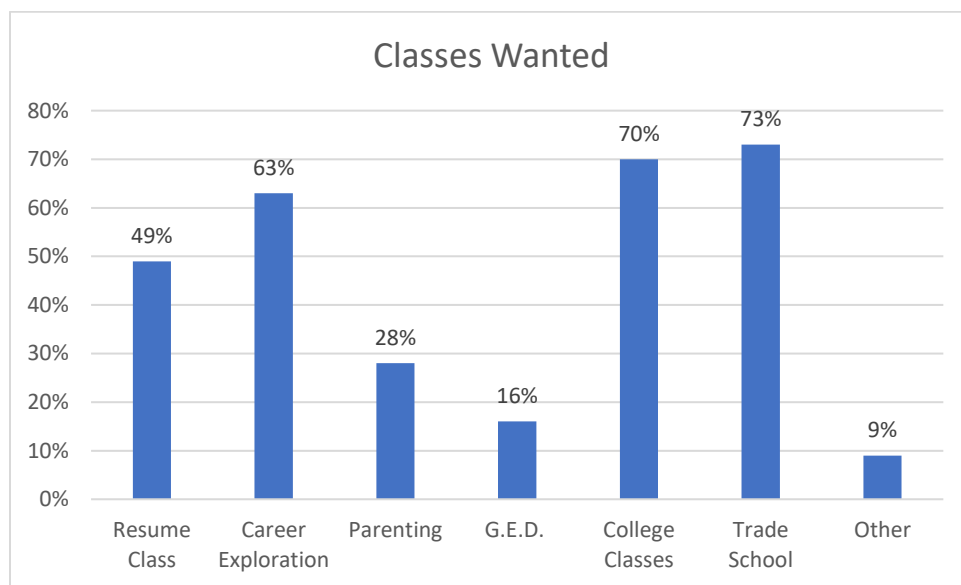


The most significant barrier to employment after incarceration reported by participants is transportation at sixty-four percent. Transportation is followed by type of offense at forty-nine percent. Many participants reported having a felony, some referenced “checking the box,” which disqualifies them from many different jobs. Lack of cell phone was reported by forty-three percent of participants. Lack of job experience and lack of a fixed address came in at about the same rates, thirty-two and thirty percent. Not surprisingly, child care was the lowest reported at eleven percent. This percentage aligns with the previous results of only thirteen percent of the entire sample reporting needing child care. Lastly, the question allowed for a write-in “other” option. Twenty percent of participants utilized this option with most reporting barriers such as lack of

motivation, lack of government ID and social security card, and lack of social acceptance and lack of the number of jobs offered to previously incarcerated people.

Next, the participants were asked what classes they would be interested in taking while incarcerated that would better help them with transitioning back into society. The options for this question were resume building classes, career exploration classes, parenting classes, G.E.D. classes, college classes, trade skill classes, and a write-in “other” option. The results are represented in figure 4.

Figure 4



Overwhelmingly, the most sought-after classes reported by participants are college classes and trade skill classes at seventy and seventy-three percent. Next, career exploration and resume building classes were reported at sixty-three and forty-nine percent. Twenty-eight percent reported wanting parenting classes. Again, a limitation to this study was not asking the participants whether they already had children as this would

help explain the lower percentages of participants reporting needing help with child care and parenting classes. Sixteen percent reported wanting G.E.D. classes, and this can only represent participants who have not already earned a G.E.D. or high school diploma (n=16). Lastly, nine percent utilized the write-in option and reported classes such as self-help, transitioning back into the community, and financial planning.

Lastly, the participants were asked three questions regarding safe places, transportation, and resource guides. The first question asked whether they have a safe place to go once released. The options were “yes” or “no,” but many participants wrote in “maybe,” so this was added to the analyzation. Seventy-three percent of participants reported having a safe place to go once released, twenty-two percent reported not having a safe place to go, and three percent reported maybe. It is important to note that women were more likely to report not having a safe place to go. A limitation to this question is that a “safe place” was not defined and participants were left to use their own definition which may vary across participants.

The next question asked whether the participant had transportation once they are released. The question clarifies the options of being having their own car or someone to drive them. The answer options were “yes” or “no,” and again, some participants wrote in “maybe.” Interestingly, forty-seven percent of participants reported having transportation when they get out while forty-seven percent also reported not having transportation. Five percent reported maybe having transportation.

The last question asked the participant whether or not they would find a resource guide helpful to them once released. The question clarifies that this theoretical guide would have phone numbers and addresses to local resources for things like housing and

food. Again, the options were “yes” or “no,” while some wrote in “maybe.” Eighty-six percent reported that they would find a resource guide helpful, twelve percent said it would not be helpful, and one percent said maybe.

### *Cross-Sectional*

An interest in this study is not only what needs are participant’s in Bannock County reporting needing upon release, but if demographics yield different needs. In order to figure this out, many binary logistic regressions were run, and each need was the dependent variable and each demographic variable as the independent variables. The demographic variables include whether they have been incarcerated before, gender, age, ethnicity, and education level. The results of the statistically significant variables can be summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1

## Likelihood of Needs Based on Demographics

Need:	Social Security		DMV Services		Childcare		Food Access	
	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gender	—	—	—	—	3.017955	0.033	3.598638	0.004
Age	1.030411	0.021	—	—	—	—	1.037874	0.028
Ethnicity								
Native American	3.016468	0.007	2.860905	0.019	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
African American	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0743789	0.034
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Education Level	—	—	—	—	0.6002557	0.045	—	—
# of Observations	148		148		148		148	
Log Likelihood	-83.678058		-91.665348		-50.758933		-85.100246	
LR chi2	17.65		13.96		15.71		21.69	
Prob > chi2	0.024		0.0828		0.0468		0.0055	
Pseudo R2	0.0954		0.0708		0.134		0.113	



Table 1 Continued

Likelihood of Needs Based on Demographics								
Need:	Substance Abuse Treatment		Mental Health Treatment		Family Counseling		Transportation	
	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.685312	0.043
Gender	2.2464	0.041	2.95409	0.005	2.265216	0.027	—	—
Age	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ethnicity								
Native American	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
African American	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	0.0755826	0.024	—	—	—	—	—	—
Education Level	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
# of Observations	148		148		148		148	
Log Likelihood	-89.898116		-92.341188		-88.715759		-94.65633	
LR chi2	20.78		20.46		9.07		10.53	
Prob > chi2	0.0077		0.0087		0.3361		0.2298	
Pseudo R2	0.1036		0.0997		0.0487		0.0527	

In the interest of space, only results found statistically significant were reported in table 1. All models run in this project can be found in Appendix F on page 81. The findings in table 1 suggest that the demographics that had the highest amount of statistically significant differences in needs are gender and ethnicity. Whether they have been incarcerated before, age, and education level had the lowest amount of statistically significant relations. Gender had the most significant findings, and more specifically, females. The findings suggest that females (n=49) were more likely to report needing child care. Females were also more likely to report needing access to food, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and family counseling\*.

The next demographic that yielded statistically significant results is ethnicity. Being that a vast majority of the sample reported being Caucasian (n=103), the binary logistic regressions were set up to exclude the Caucasian variable. With this, Native Americans (n=39), compared to Caucasians, were more likely to report needing social security. Additionally, Native Americans, compared to Caucasians, also also more likely to report needing access to DMV services\*. Although statistically significant, because the sample only has five African American participants, these findings in the table cannot be reliable. Lastly, the same applies to the ethnicity “other.” While it is statistically significant, the cell size is n=9, which is too low to be reliable.

Next, the older the participant is, the more likely they were to report needing assistance with social security. Additionally, the older the participant is, the more likely they were to report needing access to food. The only statistically significant finding for the demographic of having been incarcerated before (n=140) was the need for transportation. Participants who reported having been previously incarcerated were more

likely to need transportation\*. Lastly, the only education level relation is with the need for child care. The findings suggest the higher education level the participant reported, the less likely they were to report needing child care.

\* It is imperative to note that three of these models are not statistically significant overall. These models include the DMV model, the Family Counseling model, and the Transportation model. This finding conflicts with the variable statistical significance found within each model in the above table. With this contradiction, I note that the statistical findings in these three models cannot be trusted as much as the other models that are found to be statistically significant. The positive correlations in these models may be false positives.

### **Qualitative Data**

The goal of extracting the qualitative data was to allow participants a chance to have their voice heard and allow them to freely say what they thought was essential to include in the study that may have not been addressed in the survey questions. The two write-in questions were: “How can the jail better assist you with being released? (Please add anything missing from the survey questions.)” and “Is there anything else you want to share about your experience with Bannock County Detention Center or being released?” As I began analyzing this write-in data, I began to find a few emerging themes. The major themes included deputy relations, transportation, classes, clothes, and concerns within the facility. This data is interesting because the write-in questions for the survey were intentionally broad to encourage participants to voice whatever they wanted to or what they thought was important to say. Here is what they had to say.

### *Deputy Relations*

Officer relations is not a surprising theme that emerged through the data as participants interact with the detention deputies on a regular and daily basis. Deputy relations include anything a participant mentioned about any interaction, both positive and negative, with a detention officer at BCDC. Within this theme, subthemes began to emerge. Those subthemes include “treat,” “human,” and “animal.” To put it simply, each time a participant wrote those specific words, I coded it. These subcodes emerged in the second and third rounds of coding as I noticed these words being used very often. These words were used 100% of the time to describe interactions participants had personally or had witnessed with detention deputies.

The theme/code “treat” was coded anytime a participant wrote anything regarding how they were being treated and specifically used the word. While many participants may have written about treatment, thirty participants used the word specifically. Unfortunately, not one participant positively used the word. Many of the participants reported feeling like they were treated by deputies as trash, with disrespect, guilty (as some are awaiting trial), less than human, like children, and animals to reference a few reporting’s from the participant’s words.

Unfortunately, 100% of the time, when a participant used the word “human” or “animal” it was regarding the way the detention officers treat the incarcerated population. Many participants used both terms when describing interactions with deputies. Often, they would say something along the lines like they were being treated like animals and they are human and want to be treated as such. When asked what BCDC can do to ease the transition back into society, one participant wrote:

Yes, we are all human beings, and as humans, we are prone to making mistakes.

But to be treated like animals or dogs by jail staff doesn't make anyone's recovery easier.

While other participants wrote something very similar:

I also wish that we were treated more like human beings than animals just because we have made some poor choices on the "outs" doesn't mean that we are filth or bad people.

And:

We are still human and made mistakes and it does not make me "less than" the guards.

Arguably one of the most compelling arguments a participant makes about what BCDC (and, really, the community) can do to help:

The inability to relate to in the incarcerated inmates on a human level is a problem. Instead of a warehouse facility as it currently seems to be, it'd better serve the public if it were more relatable to the people within knowing they one day will be released back into society.

### *Transportation*

Transportation was the next sizeable theme that participants chose to voice. More specifically, and importantly, transportation out of BCDC into town once released.

Thirty-nine participants wrote about the issue of transportation when they get out. Many

suggested having a day pass for the bus or a ride into town from the facility. When asked what the jail can do to better assist the transition out of jail, some have said:

Transportation options, a lot of people walk home upon release. Admin offers a bus ticket, but the jail doesn't inform inmates. It would help if the people were more aware of this.

And:

I could probably use a bus pass to get out. Especially during winter.

And:

Build a new jail in town so if you must walk somewhere, you're not miles away from town. Especially if it's storming. You have no \$ for taxi or someone to help you pick up or something. No family, no phone, you know. Or if you're not even from here this is a big burden for transients.

### *Classes*

Classes was another theme within the open-ended answers. This may have been because one of the multiple-choice questions on the survey centered around what classes should be offered. Many participants decided to write further about what classes they believe are needed to assist with transitioning out of jail. Some participants simply wrote the need for more classes while others specified what classes they thought would be most beneficial for transitioning back into society. These classes include narcotics anonymous (NA), alcoholics anonymous (AA), grief and loss counseling, self-help, college classes, coping skills, job skills, and pre-release resources. Most of these class ideas were

mentioned many times amongst participant responses. The class most often mentioned is drug treatment classes.

### *Clothes*

This need for clothing was discovered within the participant's responses. There were two concerns regarding clothing that participants reported. The first was needing clothes that fit them as they had gained weight while incarcerated. The second clothing need reported was needing weather appropriate clothing. When asked how the detention center can better assist the participant upon release one participant wrote:

I know once I am released the clothing I have on my property will not fit me. If the jail helped with something I could wear out the door, that would be most beneficial.

### *Concerns*

There were a few concerns over the facility raised by participants. While this does not directly relate to reentry needs, so many participants chose to write about their concerns about the facility that I feel it is important to mention. A few concerns raised by participants included miscommunication or inconsistency within the facility, the medical department in the facility, and the cleanliness of the facility.

Many participants complained that the facility is very inconsistent with communication when it comes to many things. First, it is reported that there are inconsistencies between the detention staff. What is okay for one officer may be entirely not okay with another. With this, participants argued that many of the rules and regulations often contradict themselves causing confusion for those incarcerated. There is

also inconsistency reported between the treatment of those incarcerated. Participants reported offenders getting treated differently depending on the staff. Lastly, one participant reported each shift not knowing what the last shift did which often causes confusion when a new shift starts.

Secondly, many participants wrote about the many issues with the medical department within the facility. Some of the admissions are alarming. Many participants reported receiving or witnessing individuals receiving the wrong medication on a few occasions. Another alarming concern raised was the amount of time it takes to be seen or cared for regarding medical issues. One participant reported:

Because they don't attend to your health. If you are sick you put in a kite then weeks later try to give you meds and you're done being sick. Got a toothache with weeks of pain, 4 months and still no medication.

Many of the participants only reported medical being poor and not giving further information.

Cleanliness was the last major theme. The cleanliness of the facility was a great concern, especially among the female participants. Many reported the facility being filthy. Many reported the facility having an issue with black mold. Another issue participants raised regarding the cleanliness is the need for cleaning supplies. Many participants described the constant begging and pleading for cleaning supplies and many reported being met with rejection, only getting cleaning supplies once or twice a week. One participant said:



The cleanliness of our pods is so gross. There's always a case of MRSA. So gross! We have to fight and argue with the CO's every day just to get cleaning supplies. And we hardly ever like (1 time out of 2 weeks) sweep our room.

The main focus of this results section is to solely report what was found in the analyzation of the data. In the next section, the discussion, I will dig deeper into these findings and interpret the most compelling findings while also discussing recommendations for the BCDC based on the results found in this section.

## CHAPTER 6

### DISCUSSION

The findings provide insight into the needs and hardship those being released back into the community experience after incarceration at BCDC, while also highlighting the importance of conducting needs assessments for each incarcerated population. It is important because a few of the findings did not match what was found in the literature about general reentry needs. Rural jail reentry is lacking in research, and rural reentry may yield different needs than metropolitan prison reentry. The results highlight the specific needs of those in the Bannock County community, and more generally, in a rural community during reentry. This data is important as recidivism rates at BCDC are at forty-two percent between the years of 2013-2017. Not only this, but BCDC has been facing many issues with overcrowding in the last few years. This data may tell us where we can start to tackle these issues.

#### *Bannock County Detention Center's Population Needs*

The results that do match prior research include participants who identified needing assistance with basic needs such as housing, employment, and DMV services. Out of all the needs, participants reported needing housing the most (71 percent). This high percentage should be addressed within the community. As it stands, there are few housing assistance programs or half-way housing in the area. The programs that do exist are not enough. What we can learn from participants reporting needing these fundamental human needs is that we need to work to ensure that basic needs are met before the individual is released. As part of a reentry plan, an individual being released soon should

be able to confirm transportation home, stable housing, food security, and a healthy support system before being released. Leaving it to the individual to figure it out on their own after being released is a recipe for failure (Freudenberg et al., 2008.). While some may not have the ability to confirm needs being met, a plan to connect the individual to community resources should be the next step in the plan.

Another similarity between this data and previous literature is the need for substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment. As stated in the literature review, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (2019) has reported that about forty-nine percent of those incarcerated in federal prisons are in for drug convictions. While this is not indicative of jail statistics, this affirms rural criminology theory that rural communities have higher drug usage than in more metropolitan areas. This study found that fifty-eight percent of participants reported needing substance abuse treatment. Further, this study found that women in the study were more likely to report needing substance abuse treatment over men. While this does not mean women are using drugs more than men, it means women recognize the need for help and are more likely to request it.

Additionally, as stated in the literature review, the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006) has reported sixty-four percent of those incarcerated in jails display symptoms of mental illness. This study found that forty-eight percent of participants reported needing mental health treatment. Again, this study found that women were more likely to report needing mental health treatment. The failed sixteen-million-dollar bond that the BCDC proposed in 2017 that would have expanded the jail and included a new mental health and drug treatment facility may have worked to address

these issues with the incarcerated population as a whole, as well as the women who may need it more.

Some findings did not correlate with the prior literature. Child care, which I believed might be heavily needed, was not a substantial barrier with only thirteen percent of participants reporting needing it. This low percentage may be for many reasons. The first, women are more likely to be sole caretakers of children, and because women in this study only represented thirty-three percent (n=49) of the whole population in the study, this may affect the percentage of participants needing child care. Again, this study found that women were also more likely to report needing child care. A limitation to this part of the study is that the survey did not ask whether the participant had children. This limitation would better explain the lesser need for child care, say if the participant does not have children.

Similarly, based on prior literature, I predicted that domestic violence services might also be in higher need for this area. According to rural criminology theory, domestic violence rates are much higher in rural communities. With only fourteen percent of participants reporting needing it, it ranked low out of all needs in Bannock County. This low percentage may reflect the low number of female participants (n=49). While men can also become victims of domestic violence, research suggests it affects women at higher rates (Alves et al., 2019; Lynch et al., 2012). However, interestingly, out of the twenty-one reports of needing it, ten were men. That is just one less than what women reported. This data may spark a bigger conversation about domestic violence in general in Bannock County, but also with more focus on men as well.

*Knowledge of Community Services*

The point of asking participants about their current knowledge of community services was to assess the level of communication in the community about local social services and resources. This data can tell us where the disconnects are between community services and the people who need the services. The three community services with the lowest knowledge based on participant's reports are veteran affairs, child welfare services, and domestic violence help. While these services may have a lesser need in the incarceration population, it is still important to inform incarcerated people of these services. There is an apparent disconnect between those incarcerated and the local community services offered. There needs to be further discussion and communication about local services as these services exist to serve the very people who are not well informed about them.

### *Barriers to Employment*

The three most significant barriers to employment participants reported are transportation, type of offense, and lack of cell phone. Transportation is one of the most substantial barriers for those transitioning back into the community. People need transportation to court dates, to their parole/probation meetings, and it is almost impossible to secure employment without transportation. The only public transportation system in Bannock County is the Pocatello Reginal Transit. While this may be an option for some people, this limits the locations where people can find work. If a prospective employer is not close to the bus route, that employment may no longer be a viable option.

Securing employment is a significant step in deterring people from committing crimes (Novo-Corti & Barreiro-Gen, 2015). An issue previously incarcerated people face is the type of offense they might have. "Checking the Box," is a phrase in which

convicted felons must check the box on a job application indicating they have a felony on their record. This practice is especially damaging as most jobs deny any applications with that box checked regardless of qualifications. Many participants reported that checking the box was a barrier for them.

Not having a cell phone or access to a stable phone line can also quickly disqualify people from getting job interviews or the job itself. This barrier is particularly a significant because most, if not all employers call candidates for interviews and if the person does not have access to a stable phoneline, employers may not make a further attempt to contact them. Additionally, if the phone number is the number to a shelter, employers may not take the candidate seriously either.

#### *Classes Wanted*

The reasoning for asking the question about which classes those incarcerated at BCDC would be interested in taking was is a recommendation to the BCDC. Currently, BCDC offers SHARE classes, but participants and those incarcerated at BCDC need more. The two types of classes that had the highest amount of interest were college classes and trade skill classes. Over seventy percent of participants showed interest in taking these classes. Not only this, but the top four classes all revolve around future employment advancement. The two classes that had the most interest after college and trade classes are career exploration and resume classes. This data tells us that participants want more assistance in obtaining employment and these classes may make obtaining employment easier.

#### *Self-Reported Barriers & Reentry Needs*

Transportation is a pressing issue that participants chose to report in the write-in section. Not only transportation but more specifically, transportation out of the facility into town. As it stands, BCDC is about three to four miles from the outskirts of Pocatello. This distance creates a massive barrier for those being released from BCDC. If they do not have friends or family to pick them up or money to pay for a ride into town, many are forced to walk. I witnessed this on a few occasions when I was volunteering at BCDC. To illustrate a better picture or perspective, there are no sidewalks on the main road right outside of BCDC. I saw released individuals walking on the side of the road to get into town on a few different occasions. Not only is this dangerous, but recently released people may not have the appropriate clothes or shoes for the weather.

A need that this study did not initially account for is the self-reported need for fitted and weather appropriate clothing. Most interesting is the report of clothes not fitting once released. This finding is unusual as most incarcerated individuals who spend time in jail are typically there less than a year, more often much less than that. Weight gain in such a short amount of time might indicate issues with the kind of food served in jails and issues with the amount of recreation time those in the BCDC receive. This problem needs further research.

The weather concern is logical as South East Idaho has four distinct seasons. It is very likely that someone will become incarcerated in one season and become released in another. The issue with this is they only have the clothes they came in with, which will likely not be appropriate for the release. This dilemma is especially present in winter as winters can be quite cold in Bannock County. For example, if someone is released in their summer clothes during winter and they have to walk into town, it can be especially

brutal. A few participants reported this very scenario. It is recommended that the jail have clothing drives where clothes can be donated from the community to combat this issue. This initiative would lessen the chance that someone is released in clothing that no longer fits them or in clothing that is not weather appropriate.

### *Concerns within the Facility*

While some of the concerns the participants reported about the facility may not directly relate with the needs-assessment, they do indirectly relate and affect reentry. If those who are incarcerated believe they are treated like animals by correctional officers, are not seen for medical needs in a timely matter and are denied adequate cleaning supplies this may affect not only their mental health while incarcerated but their physical health, too. The physical aspect is more related to lack of medical attention and cleaning supplies. If incarceration is meant to rehabilitate individuals, we must take care of them while incarcerated, and this includes both mentally and physically.

### **Future Research & Recommendations**

While this study can provide useful information specifically for Bannock County, and more generally, rural areas, more research is needed in this area of criminology. Rural jailing is the least researched area of corrections and continuing to overlook it only furthers the issues with rural reentry. Gaps in this research project include lack of diversity in the sample, voluntary response bias implications, lack of depth in data, and data only unique to this area. Future research should focus on including more diverse opinions, attempt to broaden the sample by doing non-voluntary methods, do further



interviews to broaden the depth of data and obtain more rich experiences, and look to cover more geographical area in order to make the data more generalizable.

I recommend regularly conducting needs assessments at BCDC. As jails populations often change with short term sentencing or prison transfers, the needs of those incarcerated may change as well. Needs assessments can also gauge current reentry practices and programming to assess whether they are working the way they were intended. I also believe more career-based classes would be beneficial to the Bannock County reentry process. It is clear that this population would be very interested in taking these types of classes and it may better equip incarcerated people for obtaining employment, one of the more sizeable reentry barriers. Finally, there needs to be more discussion on local community services. Whether it be more literature or meetings with the community service agencies, more information can be additionally beneficial in the reentry process. These agencies exist to help the previously incarcerated population and it is counterproductive to not ensure those exiting BCDC know about the services offered.

#### *Risk-Need-Responsivity & Good Lives*

The RNR model and Good Lives Model heavily informed this research design and survey questions. Both models are evidence-based reentry frameworks that have proved successful in many correctional facilities all over the world. I believe the models, at least in some way, should be used as a framework in Bannock County for reentry efforts. As it stands, there are little to no efforts currently being made. One model or a mixture of elements from both should be tried in a trial run at the facility. I believe if the facility and county begin to implement reentry services and efforts, recidivism will be reduced, and needs will be lessened.

## *Conclusion*

So, what can we make out of all this? This data tells us that we can do better in reentry services for those incarcerated in BCDC. Ideally, alongside more rehabilitation programming, using the RNR model or GLM, a reentry plan should be put into place for those being released from the jail before release. What should be set up before release are things such as transportation out of the jail, stable housing, a healthy support system, and employment prospects. Aside from that, Bannock County needs to continue to fight for more funding for further mental health and substance abuse treatment not only in jail but in the community as well. It would not be conducive to provide treatment while incarcerated and not set up the individual to continue treatment once released.

One last recommendation for our community is to recognize that reentry efforts and programs are not a one size fits all cure for reentry issues. We must acknowledge that different demographics often yield different needs. While child care, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and family counseling may help a female transition back into the community, men might need different resources. It is of the utmost importance to view each individual as just that, an individual. Each should have a different reentry plan that aligns with exactly what they need to be successful. We should always be working towards finding out the needs of every incarcerated individual in order to properly rehabilitate them.

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## CONSENT FORM

**You are being asked to participate in a research study.**

**You *do not* have to participate.**

**Whether you choose to participate or not will NOT affect your relationship with Bannock County Detention Center, probation, or anything else.**

**If you agree, anything you share will be completely confidential.**

**If you agree, you may end your participation at any time.**

Researchers at Idaho State University are trying to learn about the personal experiences of men and women who are being released and re-entering society after being incarcerated at Bannock County Detention Center. To be eligible for the study, you must be currently serving time in Bannock County Detention Center. A survey from the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminology at ISU will be passed out to you for you to complete to the best of your ability.

### **Purpose of the Study:**

This study has two goals.

- 1) To gather information about how people experience reentering society after incarceration.
- 2) To examine how the Bannock County Detention Center can better assist you with the process of getting out.

### **Principal Investigator**

Taylor Richardson, B.A.  
Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice  
Idaho State University

**Advisor**

Deirdre Caputo-Levine, Ph.D.  
Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice  
Idaho State University

**Procedures:**

If you agree to participate in the research, a survey will be distributed to you. It will also include questions about your experiences and/ or needs with returning to the outside community. This survey should take less than an hour to complete.

**Privacy and Confidentiality:**

We will not disclose identifying or specific information provided by you.

The information that you share with us is completely confidential. Researchers at ISU are not affiliated with law enforcement and will protect your data with due diligence.

When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, we will not include information that could reveal your identity.

**Rights:**

***Participation in research is completely voluntary.*** You are free to decline to take part in the project. You can decline to answer any questions and are free to stop taking part in the project at any time. Whether or not you choose to participate in the research and whether or not you choose to answer a question or continue participating in the project, there will be no penalty to you or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

**Potential Risks and Discomforts:**

Thinking about your personal experiences may cause some emotional discomfort or psychological risk. However, none of the questions we will ask you should be surprising.

**Anticipated Benefits to You:**

*You should not expect to benefit directly from participation in this research.*

**Anticipated Benefits to Society:**

The results of this study will contribute to the state of knowledge in the study of incarceration and prisoner reentry and will bring awareness to issues associated with incarceration and reentry. The findings can possibly be used to change policies and practices regarding incarceration and reentry in Idaho, and more specifically, Bannock County Detention Center.

**Completing this survey indicates your consent to participate in this study.**


**Debriefing Statement**

Thank you for your participation in this study. The study goals are to gather information about how people experience reentering society after incarceration, and more specifically, to examine how the Bannock County Detention Center can better assist you with the process of getting out. In the survey you were asked about what services you are needing upon being released. This information will be helpful in letting not only the Bannock County Detention Center staff, but the community better understand where we can improve to better support you.


Your participation is greatly appreciated as it will be useful when looking into future programming and services in the community.

Again, participating in this study has not in any way affected your relationship to this detention facility. You will not get in trouble for having participated or not having participated in the survey.

Thank you again for participating in our study. We sincerely appreciate your time, effort and honesty. If you have any questions later regarding this study that were not addressed in this paper or you would like to be contacted with the results of the study you can contact Taylor Richardson ([richtay3@isu.edu](mailto:richtay3@isu.edu)).



# discover OPPORTUNITY




## Interested in furthering the knowledge about the struggles of getting out of jail & staying out?

Research from the ISU Sociology department will soon be done to find out what your specific needs are when getting out of jail. These needs can include things like housing, transportation, resume help, etc.

This research will better help the staff at this jail understand

*This is a unique opportunity for individuals to share their personal experience and express their needs while maintaining the highest level of confidentiality.*

If you'd like to get your voice heard, please participate in the upcoming survey on [date]. The survey will be handed out to you and is completely anonymous.



Research by Idaho State University  
*Department of Sociology*  
Principal Investigator:  
*Taylor Richardson, B.A.*

## Appendix D – Codebook

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Sample Quotes</b>
Animals	Any direct usage of the word “animal” when describing how offenders are treated by BCDC staff.	“The guards treat us like animals most of the time.”
Charging \$	Any reference made about the detention center charging the offenders money for any reason.	“Bannock County and the IDOC in general can better assist all of us by stopping the practice of charging money.”
Classes	Any reference made about the current classes at BCDC or recommendations for new classes.	“They could provide more classes and training classing for job placement and drug abuse.”
Clothing	Any reference made to clothing, typically in reference to the types of clothing needed once released (weather appropriate, size permitting)	“Provide clothing to wear when being released. If what you have us unsuitable (too small or out of season, cold weather etc.).”
Communication	Any reference to the communication levels between offenders and BCDC staff. Often lack thereof.	“There is a major lack of communication in the jail system here when it comes to inmate’s needs.”
Dirty	Any reference to any facility filth experienced while incarcerated in BCDC.	“The cleanliness of this jail is not up to standard.”
Drug Treatment	Any reference to the need for drug abuse treatment. Mostly while incarcerated at BCDC.	“Not enough treatment programs for substance and mental health screenings.”
Employment	Any reference to the need for employment assistance.	“Support with getting a job...”
Food	Any reference to food at the facility.	“They say they feed us 2,000 calories a day. They don’t. I’ve lost weight.”
Housing	Any reference to the need for housing.	“Assist with temp housing as you get out, so we have somewhere to live once we get out.”
Human	The direct usage of the word “human” in reference to the way deputies treat participants.	“We are still human and made mistakes and it does not make me “less than” the guards.”
I.D.	Any reference to the need for DMV services, and more specifically, getting an I.D.	“Allow one to have access to DMV services (such as renewing/obtaining identification) while still incarcerated so you’re ready to go upon release.”

Inconsistency	Any reference to inconsistencies within the facility (typically between deputies and participants)	“Also, the only consistent thing is the inconsistencies.”
Medical	Any reference to the medical infirmary or medical treatment received in the facility.	“Medical is poor and very unorganized.”
Mental Health	Any reference to the need for mental health treatment or any reference to the current mental health state of the participant.	“The fact they have almost nothing for individuals with mental health issues and most times it’s seen as a bad thing.”
Officer Relations	Any reference to interactions between officers and participants (good or bad). This may include how they have already interacted or how they should interact according to the participant.	“They should treat us inmates with more respect.”
Animals	Any direct usage of the word “animal” when describing how offenders are treated by BCDC staff.	“The guards treat us like animals most of the time.”
Human	The direct usage of the word “human” in reference to the way deputies treat participants.	“We are still human and made mistakes and it does not make me “less than” the guards.”
Treat	Any direct usage of the words “treat,” “treated,” or “treatment” regarding officer interactions.	“It’s emotionally hurtful when we’re treated like we don’t matter.”
Overcrowding	Any reference to overcrowding at the facility.	“The whole place is overcrowded, which causes a domino effect of problems.”
Quote	Any direct quotes that may be used in the final thesis.	“It is almost like they are setting inmates up for failure in order to keep them in the system which in turn costs us (inmates) even more money.”
Resource Guide	Any reference to the need for printed information on local resources. A few directly said “resource guide,” while others said something similar.	“Packets on job fairs or hiring, food banks, transportation to part of town.”
Transportation	Any reference to the need for transportation. This can include transportation upon release or basic transportation needs after release such as transportation to a job.	“There should be transportation offered to inmates. They have no one to pick them up from the jail here to town.”
Treat	Any direct usage of the words “treat,” “treated,” or “treatment” regarding officer interactions.	“It’s emotionally hurtful when we’re treated like we don’t matter.”



## Appendix E

Please do **NOT** write your name or jail number. This survey is completely **ANONYMOUS**.

1. **Part 1:** What do you think will help you the most after you are released from jail?

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Social Security
- ☐ DMV (Government ID, Driver's License)
- ☐ Child Care Services
- ☐ Medicaid (Healthcare)
- ☐ Food Stamps / Food Bank
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Substance Abuse Treatment
- ☐ Mental Health Treatment/ Counseling
- ☐ Family Counseling
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Domestic Violence Help/ Support
- ☐ Resume Help/ Job Placement Help
- ☐ Education/ Classes

**Part 2:** Based on your check marks in part 1, please list your top 3.

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2. What local social services are you already aware of?

- ☐ Medicaid (Healthcare)
- ☐ Food Stamps
- ☐ Veteran Affairs
- ☐ Child Welfare Services
- ☐ Social Security (disability)
- ☐ Food Pantries
- ☐ Domestic Violence Help/ Support
- ☐ Aid for Friends (Shelter)
- ☐ Hope and Recovery
- ☐ Road to Recovery
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (Write in anything you think is missing)

3. What are your barriers to getting a job once you are released? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Child Care
- ☐ Lack of Job Experience/ Required Job Skills
- ☐ Fixed Address/ PO Box
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Type of Offense
- ☐ Lack of Cell Phone
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (Write in anything you think is missing)

4. Would you take a class that would help you when you get out of jail? (Check all you would like to take)
- ☐ Resume Help
  - ☐ Career Exploration (Help finding a job)
  - ☐ Parenting Classes
  - ☐ G.E.D. Classes
  - ☐ College Classes
  - ☐ Trade Skill Classes
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (Write in anything you think is missing)
5. Will you have a safe place to stay once you get out?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
6. Will you have transportation once you get out? (Your own car or someone to drive you)
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
7. Would you find a resource guide helpful to you when you are released? (This guide will have phone numbers and addresses to local resources for things like housing and food)
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
8. Have you been incarcerated (jail or prison) before?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
9. What is your gender?
- ☐ Male
  - ☐ Female
  - ☐ Other
10. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is your ethnicity? (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Caucasian
  - ☐ Hispanic
  - ☐ African American
  - ☐ Native American
  - ☐ Other

12. What's your highest level of education?

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ G.E.D.
- ☐ High school
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ College Graduate

13. How can the jail better assist you with being released? (Please add anything missing from the survey questions.)

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14. Is there anything else you want to share about your experience with Bannock County Detention Center or being released?

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Thank you for your participation.

Appendix F – All models in Quantitative Data (Tables 2 – 14)

Table 2

Social Security Needs		
<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	.9822681	.986
Gender	.8502528	.688
Age	1.030411	0.021*
Ethnicity		
Native American	3.16468	0.007***
Hispanic	0.7573087	.610
African American	.9036232	.921
Other	.7464259	.747
Education Level	.9489082	.563
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-83.678058	
LR chi2	17.65	
Prob > chi2	0.024	
Pseudo R2	0.0954	
Notes: * $p < .05$ . ** $p < .01$ . *** $p < .001$		

Table 3

## DMV Needs

<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	5.302498	0.076
Gender	1.425661	.359
Age	1.018536	.175
Ethnicity		
Native American	2.860905	0.019*
Hispanic	1.190409	.736
African American	1.888764	.594
Other	1.698106	.519
Education Level	.9921364	.615
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-91.665348	
LR chi2	13.96	
Prob > chi2	0.0828	
Pseudo R2	0.0708	

Notes: \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$

Table 4

Child Care Needs

<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	.2700715	.172
Gender	3.017955	0.033*
Age	1.006532	.706
Ethnicity		
Native American	3.742013	0.014*
Hispanic	1.43678	.588
African American	.5715456	.666
Other	.6269764	.656
Education Level	.6002557	0.045*
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-50.758933	
LR chi2	15.71	
Prob > chi2	0.0468	
Pseudo R2	.134	

Notes: \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$

Table 5

Healthcare Needs		
<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	5.587963	.133
Gender	1.526474	.241
Age	1.005236	.669
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.081115	.843
Hispanic	.9944613	.991
African American	1.526715	.657
Other	.8794551	.872
Education Level	1.116778	.501
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-97.173099	
LR chi2	10.39	
Prob > chi2	.2385	
Pseudo R2	0.0508	
Notes: * $p < .05$ . ** $p < .01$ . *** $p < .001$		

Table 6

<u>Access to Food Needs</u>		
<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	3.390385	.177
Gender	3.598638	0.004**
Age	1.037874	0.028
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.21801	.649
Hispanic	1.139822	.806
African American	.0743789	0.034*
Other	1.893232	.453
Education Level	.9955605	.768
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-85.100246	
LR chi2	21.69	
Prob > chi2	0.0055	
Pseudo R2	.113	
Notes: * $p < .05$ . ** $p < .01$ . *** $p < .001$		



Table 7

## Housing Needs

<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	2.112341	.296
Gender	1.211285	.623
Age	1.02028	.188
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.584266	.299
Hispanic	.5283986	.182
African American	.4252489	.324
Other	1.108703	.872
Education Level	1.058235	.666
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-84.055395	
LR chi2	8.45	
Prob > chi2	.3907	
Pseudo R2	0.0479	

Notes: \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$

Table 8

Substance Abuse Treatment Needs		
Demographic:	Odds Ratio	<i>P</i> -Value
Incarcerated Before	.9186437	.932
Gender	2.2464	0.041*
Age	1.001686	.893
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.995637	.106
Hispanic	.5679045	.257
African American	.246124	.163
Other	.0755826	0.024
Education Level	.9953508	.759
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-89.898116	
LR chi2	20.78	
Prob > chi2	0.0077	
Pseudo R2	.1036	
Notes: * $p < .05$ . ** $p < .01$ . *** $p < .001$		

Table 9

## Mental Health Needs

<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	6.324275	0.114
Gender	2.95409	0.005**
Age	1.022614	0.104
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.022975	0.955
Hispanic	0.544625	0.242
African American	0.1666456	0.130
Other	0.8377986	0.828
Education Level	1.001896	0.899
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-92.341188	
LR chi2	20.46	
Prob > chi2	0.0087	
Pseudo R2	0.0997	

Notes: \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$

Table 10

## Family Counseling Needs

<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	.6830363	.594
Gender	2.265216	.027*
Age	1.018189	.151
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.656584	.213
Hispanic	.8287066	.712
African American	.5558242	.526
Other	.7958778	.727
Education Level	1.007354	.630
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-88.715759	
LR chi2	9.07	
Prob > chi2	.3361	
Pseudo R2	0.0487	

Notes: \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$

Table 11

Transportation Needs		
<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	4.685312	.043*
Gender	1.013093	.971
Age	1.009794	.449
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.023515	.953
Hispanic	.6703707	.383
African American	.496813	.393
Other	.5488392	.337
Education Level	1.07588	.623
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-94.65633	
LR chi2	10.53	
Prob > chi2	.2298	
Pseudo R2	0.0527	
Notes: * $p < .05$ . ** $p < .01$ . *** $p < .001$		

Table 12

## Domestic Violence Needs

<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	.3073932	.230
Gender	2.40221	.069
Age	1.003119	.847
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.870732	.230
Hispanic	.8474024	.812
African American	1.03632	.977
Other	.5444107	.622
Education Level	.9814938	.695
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-58.899557	
LR chi2	6.63	
Prob > chi2	.5774	
Pseudo R2	0.0533	

Notes: \* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$

Table 13

Resume/Job Placement Needs		
<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	.63122	.509
Gender	1.645018	.169
Age	1.010604	.412
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.253119	.564
Hispanic	1.84837	.206
African American	.6147749	.555
Other	.6434833	.449
Education Level	.995338	.756
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-97.025428	
LR chi2	6.53	
Prob > chi2	.5882	
Pseudo R2	0.0326	
Notes: * $p < .05$ . ** $p < .01$ . *** $p < .001$		

Table 14

Education/Classes Needs		
<u>Demographic:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>P-Value</u>
Incarcerated Before	.7417264	.660
Gender	1.335174	.409
Age	.9811656	.132
Ethnicity		
Native American	1.335873	.447
Hispanic	.672904	.381
African American	1.068459	.935
Other	1.00004	1.000
Education Level	.9965474	.817
# of Observations	148	
Log Likelihood	-99.607584	
LR chi2	5.85	
Prob > chi2	.6642	
Pseudo R2	0.0285	
Notes: * $p < .05$ . ** $p < .01$ . *** $p < .001$		