

# MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



## *An Evaluation of Minnesota's Second Chance Act Adult Demonstration Grant: The High-Risk Revocation Reduction Reentry Program*

October 2014

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The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) recently completed an evaluation of its High-Risk Revocation Reduction (HRRR) program. The HRRR, a reentry program funded by a federal Second Chance Act (SCA) grant, provides sustained case planning, housing assistance, employment assistance, group mentoring, life skills programming, and transportation assistance to adult male release violators (RVs) who are about to be re-released into the community. These RVs also have access to a community hub located in North Minneapolis, which serves as a “one-stop shop” for all of the grant-funded resources, as well as services provided by local nonprofit organizations. Using a randomized controlled trial research design, the DOC evaluated the effectiveness of this program at reducing four different types of recidivism.

### KEY FINDINGS

- HRRR group selection significantly reduced two of the four measures of recidivism.
  - Controlling for several other factors, assignment to the HRRR program rather than the control group significantly reduced the risk of a new supervised release revocation by 28 percent and the risk of a new conviction by nearly 42 percent.
  - Assignment to the HRRR program over the control group was associated with a 26 percent reduction in the risk of rearrest and a nearly 34 percent reduction in the risk of incarceration for a new offense. However, these two relationships were not statistically significant.
- Receiving an increased number of reentry services (e.g., enhanced case planning, employment assistance) significantly decreased the risk of two out of four types of recidivism.
  - Regardless of HRRR group participation, an increase in the number of reentry services received by the RVs was associated with an 11 percent reduction in the risk of a supervised release revocation and 9 percent reduction in the risk of rearrest.

- An increase in the number of reentry services received by the RVs also reduced the risk of new convictions and incarcerations for new offenses, but these relationships were not statistically significant.
- Additional analyses using each reentry service separately to predict the four recidivism outcomes revealed that participation in certain reentry services significantly reduced the risk of recidivism.
  - Employment assistance, particularly subsidized employment, was a salient factor in reducing recidivism among the RVs included in this study.
  - Other individual reentry services that significantly reduced at least one of the recidivism outcomes included the following: enhanced case planning, community hub engagement, community-based cognitive behavioral programming, and transportation assistance.

The DOC was originally awarded the SCA Adult Demonstration Grant which funded the HRRR program during the fall of 2010. Once a week between April 2011 and April 2012, DOC research staff identified eligible RVs and randomly assigned two-thirds of them to the HRRR program and the remaining third to a control group. To be eligible for the HRRR program, RVs had to be housed at either the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Lino Lakes or MCF-Rush City and have no fewer than 60 days of confinement time left after the date of selection and no more than 180 days of total confinement time for their release violations. They also had to be released to Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, or Ramsey counties.

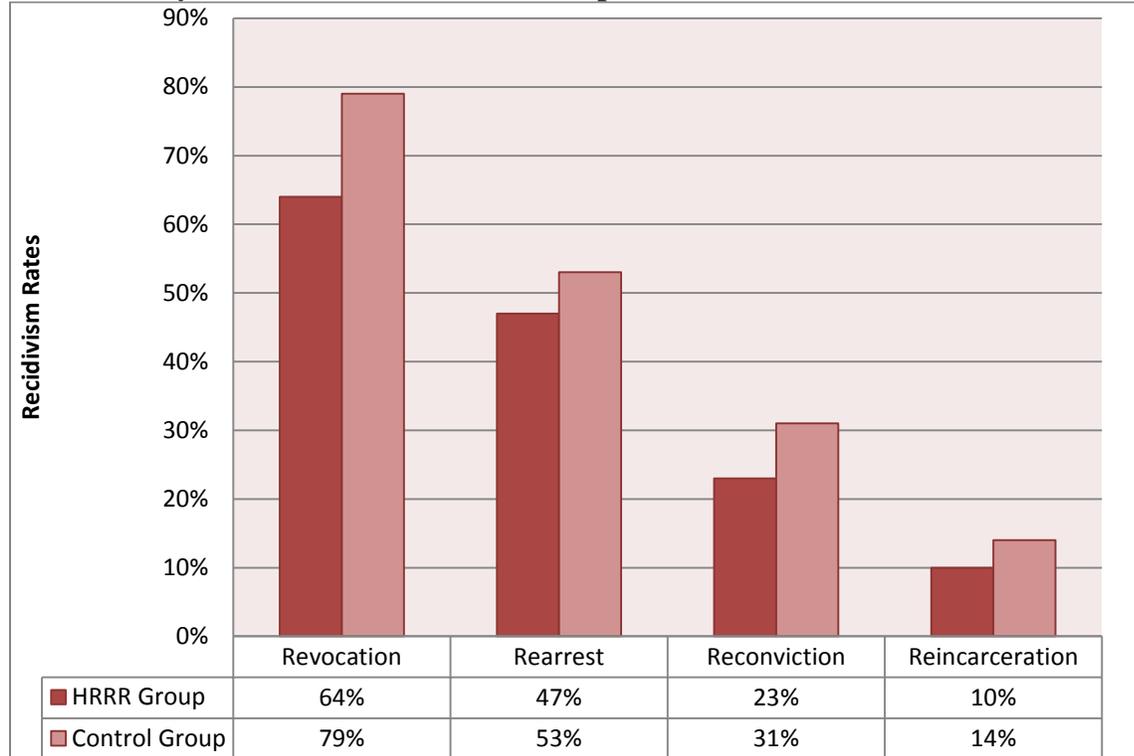
After selection into the program and at least 60 days prior to release from prison, grant-funded reentry coordinators would introduce the RVs to the program and begin the case planning process. HRRR staff worked with the RV, the RV's institutional case manager, and the RV's community supervision agent to determine which reentry services the RV needed for a successful transition from prison to the community. While treatment group members received HRRR services, the control group members received standard release planning by institutional case managers.

This research used a randomized experimental research design with both intent-to-treat and as-treated design elements. That is, DOC researchers estimated the effect of selection into the HRRR program on four types of recidivism, and they also measured the effect of the total number of reentry services received as well as individual reentry services on recidivism. RVs included in this research had one to two years of post-release follow-up time.

### **Recidivism Results**

HRRR group members had lower rates of all four measures of recidivism (supervision revocation, rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration) than control group members (see Table 1). A test of significant differences between groups revealed that rates of revocation and reconviction were significantly lower for HRRR group members than control group RVs. Cox regression models found that treatment group selection significantly reduced the risk of supervision revocation and reconviction even after controlling for other key factors. Regardless of HRRR group membership, receiving an increased number of reentry services was associated with a lowered risk of recidivism. Employment assistance was a particularly robust factor in reducing multiple recidivism outcomes.

**Table 1. Recidivism Rates between Treatment (HRRR) and Control Group Members after One to Two years of Post-Release Follow-Up Time**



**Summary**

Traditionally, RVs do not receive substantial case planning and reentry resources because they are held for relatively short periods of time. Given that they account for about a third of annual prison admissions, reducing recidivism among RVs could have a substantial impact on reducing overall Minnesota prison populations. The results of this research demonstrate that dedicating some extra planning and resources towards these high-risk short-term offenders may be beneficial to the offenders and promote overall public safety.