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Comparisons in Parole Supervision: Assessing Gendered Responses to Technical Violation Sanctions

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EXAMINING THE GENDER GAP:
Gauging Responsivity to Parole Violation Sanctioning

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Problem Statement

- Era of decarceration → increased amount of supervisees
  - Violators make up over 1/3 of prison admissions
    - Agencies struggling to find solutions in dealing with violators
  - Technical violators and relationship to recidivism

- Gender differences in community supervision
  - Socialization and approach to rehabilitation
  - Lack of research

Literature Review

- Weakness of supervision sanctions to reduce recidivism
  - High rates of recidivism

- Reliance on deterrence based methods
  - Expected to effect all people in the same way
  - Electronic Monitoring, Boot Camp, Intensive Supervision Programs, Day Reporting Centers,
  - Supervision Effect
  - Confinement

- Need for treatment component

- Need for individualized treatment, but a lack of focus on gender needs

Literature Review

- Gender bias and socialization can add up over time
- Gendered pathways to criminal behavior
  - Different life experiences creates different avenues
- Interventions and treatment largely based on men
  - Ex. Risk/needs predictions

- Sanctions for technical violations do little to address recidivism
- Gender's relation to rehabilitation and supervision is a continuing debate

- Current study addresses concept of gender responsivity & relation to technical violations

Method

RQ: Is there a difference in how men and women respond to sanctions for technical violations?

Data: WADOC post-release supervision 2008-2010 = 54,540 cases

Eligibility criteria:
- Post-release – higher risk, less low-level variation
- Only those released at/after Jan. 2008 – Criminogenic needs data
- Release cohort ends in Dec. 2010 – Allow at least 2 yr follow-up before SAC
- At least one violation-sanction event – Account for individual violation variation
- Removed cases with missing values in static and dynamic risk info (no pattern)

Final Sample: 22,106 cases
- 3,220 women
- 18,886 men

Measures

337 covariates examined

Risk-Needs Items

- Static Risk – adult and juvenile criminal history
- Needs – central eight domains (e.g., Employment, mental health, attitudes, etc.)

Technical violations (frequency and type)

- Low-Level
  - General, employment, financial, geographic/EM, failure of treatment, and drug related
- High-Level
  - General, sex related, weapons use/possession, and contact with prohibited locations or people
- Abscond

Sanctions

- "no sanction" / verbal reprimand, treatment, condition enhancement, confinement, revocation

Measures Cont.

Focused on first violation-sanction event

Outcomes (dichotomized) – any subsequent event

- Next technical violation
  - low-level, high-level, absconding examined separately
- Rearrest (misdemeanor or felony)
- Reincarceration (jail or prison)
- New felony conviction
- Any recidivistic event (violation or new crime)

Analytical Plan

- Propensity score match – w/o replacement, nearest-neighbor with caliper
  - Match men to women on risk-need items and violation type
  - Provides an unbiased estimate
    - Effects of gender on recidivism
    - Chi-square test differences

- Logistic regression
  - Only for outcomes still significant following match
  - Importance of gender in predicting outcomes while controlling for:
    - Sanction type
    - Any remaining unbalanced covariates

Propensity Score Match

- Matched men to women
  - Balanced on risk & needs
  - Balance assessed
    - 6 measures = Successful
    - 1 covariate %Bias over 20
      - Uses prostitution to support drug use

Women
3,220
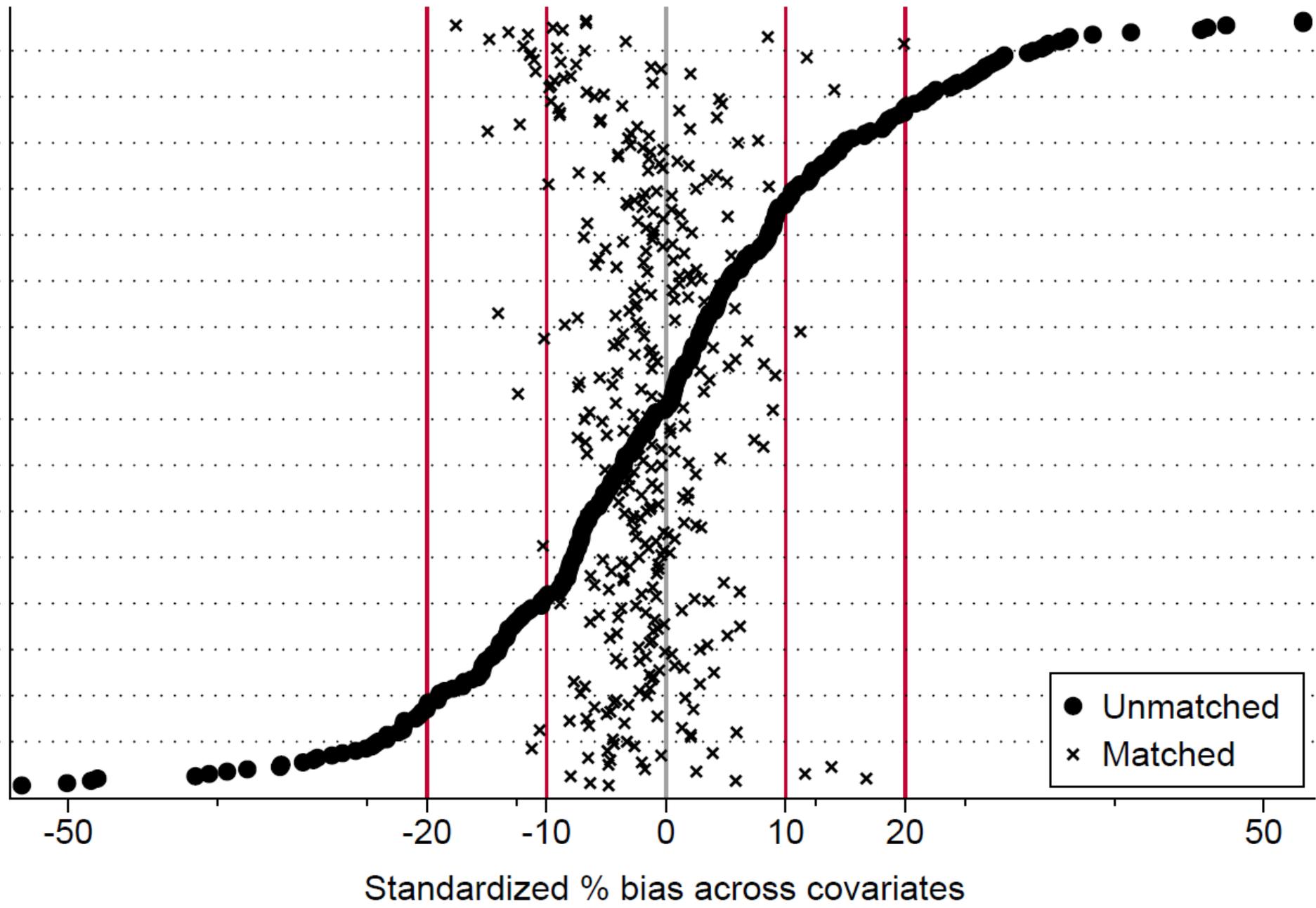
6,215

Men
18,886
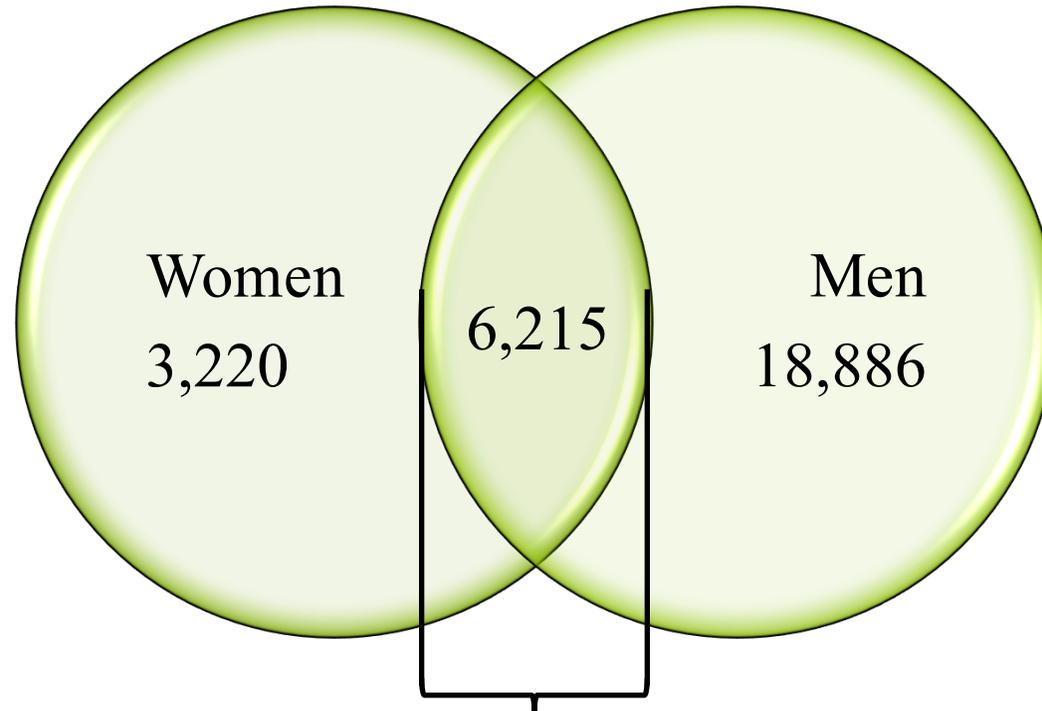
Matched Sample
- Men whose risk/needs like women
- 3,130 women and 3,085 men

Matched Covariates

<u>264 Covariates in PS</u>
- Criminal History
- Education
- Employment
- Friends/Associates
- Residential
- Family
- Alcohol/Drug use
- Mental Health
- Aggression
- Anti-Social Attitude
- Coping Skills
- Violation Type

%Bias over 20:
- Pre = 23.4
- Post = 0.3

Legend: ● Unmatched × Matched

X-axis: Standardized % bias across covariates (-50, -20, -10, 0, 10, 20, 50)

Chi-Square Results

	% Men	% Women	Cohen's d
Low-level violation*	63.5	66.3	.07
High-level violation	2.8	2.6	-.04
Abscond	15.4	15.3	-.004
Re-arrest*	8.6	7.1	-.11
Reincarceration***	86.4	83.1	-.14
New Conviction	60.9	61.1	.005
Any recidivistic event***	87.3	83.8	-.16

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Logistic Regression Results

- Predicting significantly different outcomes
  - Accounting for variables not balanced and sanction type

  - Women 13% more likely to commit a low-level violation ($p<.05$)

  - Women 20% less likely to be rearrested ($p<.05$)

  - Women 20% less likely to be reincarcerated ($p<.01$)

  - Women 22% less likely to commit any event (violation or new crime) ($p<.001$)

Discussion

Is there a difference in how men and women respond to sanctions for technical violations?

- Yes – responses to sanctions for technical violations are different for men and women
  - Warrants future investigation of importance in differences

- Covariates that retained %Bias over 10 post-match highlight important differences
  - Prostitution
  - Child support payments

Limitations

- Generalizability, Washington (progressive with parole and probation)

- First sanction event = tiny snapshot of behavior
    - includes often overlooked group

- Unreported re-arrests possibly

Future Research

- Need to examine:

  - System's response to violations by gender

  - Responses to those sanctions

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Appendix: Pre- / Post-Match Analyses

Model Fit Summary	Pre-Match 18,886 men / 3,220 women	Post-match 3,085 men / 3,130 women
Percent significant differences	81.3	29.4
Mean Standardized Percent Bias	12.7	4.1
Maximum Percent Bias	60.1	24.4
Percent with Bias over 20	23.4	0.3
Percent with Bias over 10	51.3	8.3
Area Under the Curve (AUC)	0.89	0.50

Maximum % Bias
- Pre-Match: 60.1% Bias = Men jailed more as a sanction
- Post-Match: 24.4% Bias = Women use prostitution to support drug use