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
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
Men 18,886

Matched Sample
• Men whose risk/needs like women
• 3,130 women and 3,085 men
Matched Covariates

264 Covariates in PS
- 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

![Diagram showing unmatched and matched data points with standardized % bias across covariates.](image)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>% Men</th>
<th>% Women</th>
<th>Cohen’s d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-level violation*</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>66.3</td>
<td>.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-level violation</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>-.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abscond</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>-.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-arrest*</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>-.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reincarceration***</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td>-.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Conviction</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any recidivist event***</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>83.8</td>
<td>-.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

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

### 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