



Danielle Creech

# General Strain Theory

- Negative relationships → Inability to achieve **positive goals**
- Negative / stressful experiences → Anger / depression
- **Anger / depression** → **Criminal behavior / substance abuse**

# Prison Population

- Highest globally
  - **1,526,800** *at yearend 2015*
- Largescale prison release
  - *Average: 700,000/year*

# Reentry

- “Reentry”?, “Reintegration”?
  - *Prison* → *Community*
- Policy Changes
- Employment Opportunities, Family Support, Treatment Options

# Policy Changes

- “Medical Model” → “Tough on Crime Model”
- Truth-In Sentencing Laws
  - *Determinate Sentencing*
  - *No Parole Board*
- Role of Parole / Parole Officers
  - *Zero-Tolerance Policy*
  - *Rehabilitative* → *Surveillance / Punishment Focus*
- Societal Stigma

# Mediating Factors

- Family Support
  - *Housing, \$\$*
- Employment Opportunities
  - *Stigmatization, “Checking the Box”*
- Access to Treatment

# Mental Health in Prison

- “America’s New Mental Hospitals”
- Criminalization of the Mentally Ill
  - *Deinstitutionalization*
  - *National Law Changes*
  - *Lack of Community Support*
- “Co-Occurring Disorders”

# Mental Health and Reentry

- “The Revolving Door”
- Substance addiction



# Current Study

- Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) dataset
- $n = 770$
- **Dependent Variable:** Substance use post release
- **Independent Variables:** Changes in depression, Prior substance use,
- **Control Variables:** age, race

# Hypotheses

- Hypothesis 1: Incarceration exacerbating mental health issues
- Hypothesis 2: Mental health issues are worsening over the course of imprisonment, causing higher substance use post-release than prior to arrest and conviction

# Findings

**Table 2.** Regression Assessing Substance Use Post-Release ( $n = 770$ )

Variable	Coef.	S.E.
<b>Independent Variables</b>		
Depression Change	0.048	0.011***
	-	
Family Support (W2)	0.113	0.026***
	-	
Employment (W2)	0.265	0.091***
Delinquent Peers (W2)	0.097	0.015***
Divorced (W2)	0.152	0.198
Single (W2)	0.112	0.145
Substance Use (W1)	0.186	0.018***
<b>Control Variables</b>		
Race		
<i>Black</i>	0.222	0.110*
<i>Other</i>	0.134	0.144
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Age	0.016	0.006**

\*\*\*  $p \leq .001$ , \*\*  $p \leq .01$ , \*  $p \leq .05$

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# Implications

- Problems
- Solutions

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND REENTRY

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