Understanding Recidivism in Theft Cases: Community Perception of Demographic Factors and Social Support in Angeles City

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Abstract:

Recidivism remains a pressing global issue within the criminal justice system, with theft ranking as one of the most prevalent property crimes, presenting unique challenges in understanding re-offending behaviors. This study investigates the factors influencing recidivism in theft cases within Angeles City, Pampanga, focusing on demographic characteristics, systemic barriers, and post-release interventions. Employing a descriptive quantitative design, structured surveys were conducted with 115 respondents selected through convenience sampling, guided by GPower parameters (alpha = 0.05, power = 0.95, effect size = 0.3). Results identify substance abuse, unemployment, and systemic distrust as significant contributors, alongside demographic influences such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status. Grounded in Social Control and Labeling Theories, the study underscores the importance of social support and community supervision in mitigating recidivism. Key findings emphasize the need for targeted interventions, including addiction treatment, job training, and police reforms, to improve reintegration efforts.

Keywords: recidivism, demographic factors, community supervision, social services access, theft cases, post-release services, socioeconomic status, gender differences, age impact ,perceived barriers

Introductionn

Recidivism, defined as the tendency of previously convicted individuals to reoffend, is a persistent challenge affecting global justice systems and community safety. It is influenced by a variety of factors ranging from demographic backgrounds to the availability of social services and post-release support (Robertson et al., 2020). Notably, recidivism rates as high as 50% have been reported in some regions, contributing to issues like prison overcrowding and significant economic burdens on societies ("Recidivism Rates by Country," 2024).

This study explores public perceptions of theft-related recidivism through the lenses of Social Control Theory and Labeling Theory. Social Control Theory suggests that weakened societal bonds can lead to criminal behavior, while Labeling Theory focuses on the impact of societal stigmatization on individuals' reintegration efforts. These theories provide a framework to understand the intersection of demographic factors and social support in influencing recidivism outcomes.

While exact global recidivism rates are challenging to pinpoint, specific studies offer insights into regional dynamics. For example, a Massachusetts study observed a 24.8% recidivism rate among males and 4.3% among females within two years post-release, with gender, peer influence, and criminal history noted as significant factors (Yukhnenko et al., 2023). In contrast, U.S. rates varied widely, with an average of 43.3% across different states in 2013 (Glaze & Kaeble, 2014; Pew Center on the States, 2011).

In Southeast Asia, and particularly in the Philippines, recidivism is exacerbated by extreme prison overcrowding, with the nation's facilities operating at over five times their capacity (Narag & Jones, 2017; Bureau of Jail Management and Penology). Despite these challenges, targeted data on specific crimes like theft are scarce, complicating the development of effective interventions (Adam, 2013).

Theft remains a prevalent issue globally, with varying rates across countries. In 2016, the global average was 783 theft cases per 100,000 people, with Japan reporting significantly lower rates and the United Kingdom experiencing the highest rates (Statista, 2024). In the Philippines, theft was the most common crime against property in 2023, demonstrating a critical area for addressing recidivism (Balita, 2024).

In regions like Pampanga, Philippines, the interplay between economic growth and rising crime rates, particularly theft, highlights the need for comprehensive crime prevention strategies (Crime in Pampanga, 2024; ACPD, 2022). Community engagement in developing these strategies is vital, as demonstrated by Mårtensson (2024) and Fagan and Elliott (2024), who emphasize the importance of community-policymaker partnerships and targeted prevention programs.

Given these dynamics, this study aims to deepen the understanding of community perceptions regarding theft-related recidivism and inform prevention strategies that are both effective and contextually relevant.

Statement of the Problem

This research sought to examine community perceptions concerning the factors influencing recidivism among theft offenders in Angeles City. The study focuses on the following questions:

1 How are the types of community supervision services available to theft offenders post-release described by the respondents?
2 What are the community's perceptions of offenders' access to social services after release?
3 How are the factors influencing recidivism in theft cases described by the respondents
4 Is there a significant relationship between the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the factors influencing recidivism in theft cases?
5 Is there a significant relationship between the types of community supervision services available to theft offenders post-release and the factors influencing recidivism in theft cases?
6 Is there a significant relationship between access to social services after release and the factors influencing recidivism in theft cases?

Research Hypotheses

Based on the objectives, the study posits the following hypotheses:

● There is no significant relationship between the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the factors influencing recidivism in theft cases.
● There is no significant relationship between the types of community supervision services available to theft offenders post-release and the factors influencing recidivism in theft cases.

- There is no significant relationship between access to social services after release and the factors influencing recidivism in theft cases.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Social Control Theory and Labeling Theory, providing a foundation to explore how demographic and social factors influence perceptions of recidivism among theft offenders in Angeles City.

Social Control Theory (Hirschi, 1969) emphasizes the role of social bonds—attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief—in preventing deviant behavior. Individuals with weaker bonds to society, often influenced by demographic factors such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status, are more likely to engage in criminal activities, including recidivism. For instance, offenders from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with limited social ties are more vulnerable to re-offending. Studies like Muriuki (2023) and Wang et al. (2024) highlight how strengthening these bonds through effective community supervision and access to social services reduces recidivism.

Labeling Theory (Becker, 1963) posits that societal reactions, such as being labeled a "criminal," shape an individual's identity and behavior. This label often results in stigma, social exclusion, and reduced opportunities for reintegration, reinforcing a cycle of re-offending. Research by Chiricos et al. (2007), Pager (2003), and Smith (2021) demonstrates how stigma associated with criminal labels creates structural barriers, such as difficulties in securing employment and housing, which hinder rehabilitation. These findings underline the critical role of societal attitudes in influencing recidivism.

The study examines how social bonds and societal labeling impact recidivism among theft offenders, with a focus on demographic factors, stigma, and access to reintegration services.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study illustrates the relationship between demographic factors (age, gender, and socioeconomic status), moderating variables (community supervision and access to social services), and the perceived likelihood of recidivism in theft-related cases. Grounded in Social Control Theory and Labeling Theory, it emphasizes the role of social bonds and societal stigma in shaping re-offending behavior.

Demographic factors directly influence the strength of social bonds, as individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to experience weaker attachments to societal norms and structures. Community supervision and access to social services act as moderating variables, enhancing or mitigating the impact of these demographic factors. Effective community supervision, coupled with access to services like employment assistance and mental health support, fosters reintegration and reduces the likelihood of recidivism, as supported by Tyler and Brockmann (2017) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

This framework underscores the multifaceted nature of recidivism, integrating societal support systems and structural barriers to provide a holistic understanding of re-offending behavior. By incorporating the role of social services, it aligns with recent findings on the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reintegration programs, highlighting their influence on both offender outcomes and public perceptions of recidivism.

Paradigm of the Study
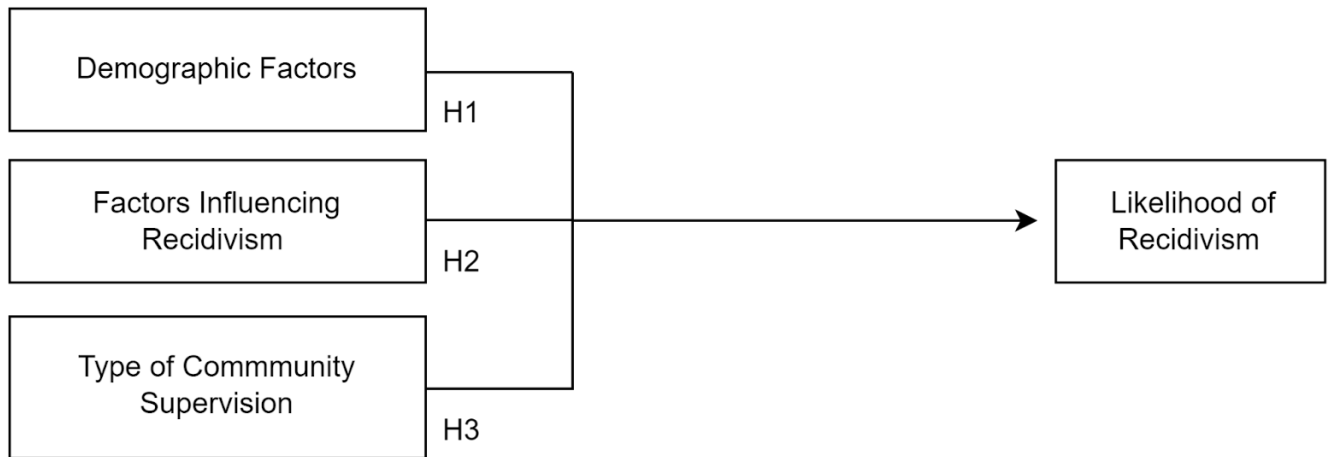
Methods

Research Design

This study utilized a quantitative descriptive approach to explore public perceptions of recidivism, emphasizing the influence of demographic factors (such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status) and social support mechanisms (including community supervision and access to social services). This methodology was selected for its efficacy in gathering and analyzing quantifiable data from a substantial sample size, allowing for statistical examination of variable interrelationships. The quantitative framework facilitates the identification of patterns and formulation of generalizable conclusions, drawing on empirical evidence from previous studies like those by Dadashazar (2017) and Zeccola, Kelty, and Boer (2021) to underscore its applicability in recidivism research.

Locale of the Study

The research was conducted in Angeles City, Pampanga, a densely populated first-class urbanized city with an approximate population of 584,962 (World Population Review, 2024). The choice of Angeles City was strategic due to its substantial urbanization and noted prevalence of theft, with a reported 1,200 theft incidents recently (Philippine National Police, 2023). The city's crime index is marked at 48.68, with theft crime rates categorized as moderate at 53.39 (Numbeo, 2023). Notably, the recidivism rate for theft in this region is approximately 35% (Department of Justice, 2023), indicating a high tendency for reoffending. Prior studies in the locale provide insights into the socio-economic and urban factors influencing recidivism, making Angeles City a pertinent site for this investigation.

Research Participants

The study's participants were adults aged 18 to 60 residing in Angeles City, chosen for their diverse demographic backgrounds. This age group is pivotal as they significantly influence community initiatives and policy development. The research leveraged previous findings that emphasize the vital role of community involvement in addressing social issues (Ostrom, 1990; Adams, Klinsky, & Chhetri, 2019). Studies have shown that engaging communities, especially younger adults, enhances collective action and promotes sustainability (Schultz et al., 2005). This demographic's participation is crucial for

understanding how community perceptions shape responses to recidivism, particularly in urban settings like Angeles City.

Sample Method

This study employed a convenience sampling method, selecting participants who were easily accessible and available. Convenience sampling facilitated practical and timely data collection, particularly valuable for exploring the correlation between demographic factors and recidivism, as well as community supervision and social service utilization in theft cases. While this method did not ensure a representative sample, it was effective for capturing trends and insights within a localized setting like Angeles City, Pampanga.

The practicality of this approach is supported by Kalra et al. (2022) and Hudgins et al. (2022), who highlighted its utility in criminal justice research. These studies demonstrated that, when combined with robust statistical tools like regression analysis, convenience sampling could effectively reveal significant patterns related to recidivism and public perceptions. Despite limitations in generalizability, this method was suitable for the study's objective of gathering timely data on recidivism.

Sample Size

Using G*Power software, the sample size was calculated for correlation analysis with an alpha level of 0.05, a statistical power of 0.95, and an effect size of 0.3. The recommended sample size was 115 participants, ensuring adequate power to detect meaningful relationships between variables. This sample size balanced statistical precision and the practical feasibility of data collection in the study setting.

Inclusion Criteria

Participants eligible for the study had to meet the following criteria:

1. Be 18 years or older to ensure legal adulthood and capacity for informed consent.
2. Reside in Angeles City for at least six months, providing familiarity with local community dynamics and issues.
3. Demonstrate engagement with or awareness of community programs focused on crime prevention, rehabilitation, or public safety.
4. Provide informed consent, including acknowledgment of their right to withdraw without consequences.

These criteria ensured that participants were informed, engaged, and representative of the community relevant to the study.

Exclusion Criteria

The study excluded individuals who:

1. Were transient residents, such as tourists or temporary workers.
2. Had participated in similar studies within the last six months to prevent bias.
3. Had severe mental or physical health issues limiting their ability to participate actively.

Research Instrument

The research instrument was developed to systematically explore factors influencing recidivism in theft cases, focusing on demographic variables, community supervision, and access to social services.

Types of Questions

The survey included closed-ended questions, facilitating statistical analysis. Questions addressed demographic characteristics, environmental and social influences, and perceptions of community supervision and social services. A 4-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree to 4 = Strongly Agree) was used to encourage decisive responses.

Development of the Instrument

The research instrument was systematically structured into four sections, each addressing specific objectives of the study. The first section, Demographic and Background Information, gathered essential data on participants' age, gender, and socioeconomic status. These categories were carefully validated by criminology experts and pilot-tested to ensure clarity and relevance, providing a solid foundation for analyzing demographic factors influencing recidivism.

The second section, Assessing Factors Influencing Recidivism, comprised 10 items grounded in criminological theories such as Sampson and Laub's Life-Course Theory. This section was designed to capture participants' perceptions of key factors contributing to recidivism, including the severity of sentences and challenges faced post-release. By focusing on theoretical constructs, this section aimed to provide insights into how various experiences shaped reoffending behavior.

The third section, Community Supervision Post-Release, included 10 items that evaluated the effectiveness of post-release supervision programs. These questions explored the support provided by supervision officers, the adequacy of services, and the balance between control and reintegration support, highlighting the role of community-based interventions in reducing recidivism.

The fourth section, Access to Social Services for Offenders, focused on the availability and effectiveness of reintegration services such as mental health support, employment assistance, and housing programs.

This section addressed critical aspects of post-release challenges, emphasizing the importance of accessible social services in supporting successful reintegration.

Each section underwent thorough validation and refinement based on feedback from criminology experts to ensure the instrument's clarity, relevance, and alignment with the study's objectives. This meticulous process ensured that the survey instrument effectively captured the necessary data for exploring the factors influencing recidivism.

Validity and Reliability

The survey instrument was rigorously tested for validity and reliability: Validity was ensured through expert reviews by correctional officers, criminology professors, and probation officers, alongside pilot testing with 30 participants. Reliability was assessed using test-retest procedures and internal consistency measures like Cronbach's alpha, with values ranging from 0.79 to 0.87, indicating good reliability.

Pilot testing identified minor issues, such as ambiguous wording, which were revised for clarity. The finalized survey was face-to-face administered, with regression analysis applied to evaluate the relationships between variables.

Data Gathering Procedure
Quantitative Data Collection
A. Survey Administration

The data collection process began with face-to-face survey administration to ensure clarity and resolve any participant questions. Participants were fully informed about the study's purpose and provided their informed consent prior to participation. Anonymity was ensured to maintain confidentiality.

B. Data Collection Procedure

Surveys were conducted in public spaces within Angeles City, Pampanga, with trained data collectors overseeing the process to ensure uniformity and resolve any technical issues. Care was taken to minimize participant fatigue, with the survey designed for completion within 15 minutes per participant.

Post-Data Collection Procedures
A. Data Cleaning

Collected data underwent cleaning to ensure accuracy and completeness. This included checking for missing values, outliers, and inconsistencies. To safeguard participant confidentiality, personal data was anonymized and replaced with unique identifiers.

B. Data Storage and Security

Data was securely stored in password-protected files accessible only to authorized personnel. Backups were created to prevent data loss, and all data handling adhered to ethical guidelines.

Subsequent Data Analysis

After cleaning, data was analyzed using statistical methods to explore relationships between demographic factors and recidivism perceptions. Descriptive statistics were followed by correlation and regression analysis to test hypotheses and identify trends.

Ethical Consideration

This study adhered to strict ethical guidelines, reviewed and approved by the AUF Ethics Review Committee, ensuring participant rights, dignity, and well-being were protected.

A. Informed Consent Process

Participants received a detailed informed consent form in English and Filipino, explaining the study's purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits. Participation was voluntary, with the right to withdraw at any time. Questions were addressed to ensure comprehension before participants signed the form.

B. Privacy and Confidentiality

Personal data was anonymized using coded identifiers and securely stored following the Data Privacy Act of 2012. Data access was restricted to the research team, ensuring responses were used solely for the study and not shared with third parties.

C. Protection from Potential Harm

Recognizing the sensitive nature of the topic, questions were carefully phrased to minimize discomfort. Participants could skip questions or withdraw at any time without repercussions. Support services, including counseling and helplines, were made available for participants experiencing distress.

D. Respect for Diversity

The study was inclusive, ensuring fair treatment of participants regardless of their background or circumstances. Efforts were made to avoid stereotypes or biases, fostering a respectful and equitable research environment.

D. Integrity and Transparency

Data collection, analysis, and reporting were conducted with honesty and rigor, ensuring accurate representation of participants' experiences. Statistical methods were applied without manipulation, and findings were reported truthfully to maintain the study's credibility.

By adhering to these ethical standards, the study ensured participant well-being and generated credible findings that contribute to the understanding of recidivism in theft cases.

Results

The study's data provided detailed insights into the various factors influencing recidivism among theft offenders. Respondents generally agreed that these factors played a significant role, with the overall average mean score sitting at 2.85. Substance abuse issues were perceived as the most significant, scoring 3.34 and interpreted as "Strongly Agree." This suggests a strong consensus on the critical role of substance abuse in reoffending. Similarly, experiences of police misconduct were also seen as a notable deterrent to positive engagement with law enforcement, scoring 3.17.

Employment challenges post-release and the nature of social interactions within prison environments were also agreed upon as increasing the likelihood of recidivism, scoring 3.06 and 2.97, respectively. Lower scores were observed for factors like antisocial attitudes (2.63) and the lack of education or vocational training (2.61), indicating recognition but lesser emphasis as direct influences on recidivism.

Standard deviations ranged from 0.74 to 1.07, and variance values peaked at 1.14, pointing to some variability but generally consistent perceptions across the surveyed group. This multi-faceted view underlines the interplay between socio-economic, behavioral, and systemic factors in influencing recidivism.

Table 1: Factors Influencing Recidivism in Theft Cases

Factor	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance
Severe prison sentences make offenders reconsider	2.53	Agree	1.07	1.14
Social interactions in prison	2.97	Agree	0.74	0.55
Inability to find employment post-release	3.06	Agree	0.85	0.73
Lack of education or vocational training	2.61	Agree	0.91	0.83
Substance abuse issues	3.34	Strongly Agree	0.84	0.7
Antisocial attitudes and associations	2.63	Agree	0.81	0.66
Individual's ethnicity	2.58	Agree	0.84	0.7
Social discrimination	2.89	Agree	0.76	0.59
Experiences of police misconduct	3.17	Agree	0.78	0.61
Limited access to mental health services	2.69	Agree	0.91	0.82

The average response on community supervision's role in reintegration was positive (Mean = 2.93), highlighting the importance of supportive supervision and clear communication of expectations, scoring

3.18 and 3.21, respectively. Challenges such as perceived restrictiveness (2.84) and unfair treatment (3.13) suggest areas for improvement in supervision practices to better balance control and freedom.

Table 2: Community Supervision Post-Release

Aspect	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance
Type of supervision aids reintegration	2.84	Agree	1.09	1.19
Supervision sometimes too restrictive	2.84	Agree	1.05	1.09
Adequacy of support services	2.73	Agree	0.73	0.54
Supervision officers should be supportive	3.18	Agree	0.84	0.71
Reasonableness of check-in frequency	2.85	Agree	0.98	0.95
Feelings of unfair treatment	3.13	Agree	0.67	0.45
Balance between control and freedom	2.85	Agree	0.8	0.63
Access to resources to reduce reoffending	2.79	Agree	1.1	1.21
Communication of rules should be clear and fair	3.21	Agree	0.72	0.52
Standard part of reintegration	2.88	Agree	0.76	0.58

Respondents rated access to social services as generally adequate but highlighted significant gaps, particularly in housing and health services, which scored 2.40 and 2.46, respectively, suggesting a need for more robust support systems to facilitate successful reintegration.|

Table 3: Access to Social Services for Offenders

Service	Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Std. Deviation	Variance
Job training programs	2.66	Agree	0.9	0.82
Health services	2.46	Disagree	0.93	0.87
Housing assistance	2.4	Disagree	1	1
Mental health support	2.58	Agree	0.96	0.92
Tailored social services	2.52	Agree	1.02	1.04
Financial assistance programs	2.82	Agree	0.89	0.79
Community programs	2.69	Agree	0.94	0.89
Effective help from social services staff	2.7	Agree	1.02	1.04
Substance abuse treatment	2.74	Agree	0.96	0.92
Outreach for service access	2.79	Agree	0.96	0.92

The correlation analyses suggest minimal impact of demographic factors on perceptions of recidivism influences, with no significant correlations found between these characteristics and recidivism factors, highlighting the complex interplay of structural and individual factors in shaping outcomes.

Discussion

Factors Influencing Recidivism in Theft Cases Respondents generally acknowledged the complexity of recidivism, agreeing on the multifaceted factors contributing to repeat offenses in theft cases. Substance abuse was recognized as a critical factor, highlighting the need for integrating addiction treatment into rehabilitative programs. Experiences of police misconduct also emerged as significant, indicating that negative interactions with law enforcement could foster systemic distrust and complicate rehabilitation efforts. Additionally, the challenge of employment barriers was emphasized, where stigma against former offenders limited access to stable job opportunities, thereby hindering successful reintegration. These findings align with Jacobs et al. (2021) who noted the exacerbating impact of co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders on reoffending risks, and Bird, Nguyen, and Grattet (2021) who emphasized the role of systemic distrust as a barrier to reintegration (Jacobs et al., 2021; Bird et al., 2021). Dockery (2019) also identifies employment stigma as a critical factor that impedes reintegration by limiting job opportunities for former offenders (Dockery, 2019). These insights suggest the importance of addressing these factors comprehensively to reduce recidivism effectively.

Employment and Social Factors The survey highlighted that employment barriers and the prison environment significantly affected individuals' ability to reintegrate successfully. The inability to secure stable employment post-release likely reflected systemic challenges such as stigma and a lack of targeted job placement programs. Additionally, social interactions within prison environments could shape post-release outcomes by fostering negative peer influences or institutional behaviors. Supporting literature by Kjellstrand et al. (2022) emphasizes the importance of vocational training and job placement programs, highlighting their role as essential components of successful reintegration (Kjellstrand et al., 2022).

Education and Mental Health Respondents viewed education and mental health interventions as critical yet less immediate issues compared to substance abuse and employment challenges. This perspective necessitates an integrated approach to address these factors comprehensively within reintegration strategies. Literature supports the role of vocational training and mental health support in enhancing employability and managing stress, crucial for reducing reoffending and aiding rehabilitation, especially among vulnerable populations. Onsat and Breva Jr. (2023) emphasize the importance of vocational training in equipping former offenders with skills that enhance employability (Onsat & Breva Jr., 2023).

Social Discrimination and Ethnicity Social discrimination and ethnicity were identified as subtler influences on recidivism, with variability in respondents' perceptions indicating diverse experiences and effects. This underscores the importance of addressing systemic biases to support marginalized groups effectively and reduce reoffending rates. Research by Mensah and Gyamfua Akuoko (2023) documents the significant role of social discrimination in limiting employment prospects and community acceptance, highlighting the need for community support in fostering successful reintegration (Mensah & Gyamfua Akuoko, 2023).

Perceptions of Community Supervision Post-Release Community supervision was recognized as significant in aiding reintegration efforts, with the importance of clear and fair communication of rules and supportive, facilitative officers highlighted. These findings align with literature advocating for

relational supervision models, where trust and understanding significantly influence reintegration success. Smith et al. (2018) support the notion that relational supervision models—fostering trust and mutual respect—are instrumental in reducing recidivism and promoting successful reintegration (Smith et al., 2018).

Challenges of Community Supervision Respondents noted that community supervision could be overly restrictive and lead to feelings of unfair treatment, suggesting a need for a balanced approach that avoids excessive restrictions and fosters feelings of marginalization. This is consistent with the study by Bird, Nguyen, and Grattet (2021), which argues that while community supervision is essential for reintegration, overly stringent control can impede this process (Bird et al., 2021).

Adequacy of Support Services While support services under community supervision were seen as beneficial, critical services such as housing and healthcare were deemed inadequate, highlighting a gap in the availability and accessibility of essential resources vital for successful reintegration. Kjellstrand et al. (2022) emphasize the crucial role that comprehensive social services play in facilitating successful reintegration and reducing recidivism (Kjellstrand et al., 2022).

Role in Reducing Reoffending The moderate agreement on the role of community supervision in reducing reoffending suggests that while recognized for its potential, the current implementation may not be fully effective, pointing to the need for more personalized, intensive support and resource-intensive interventions to maximize its impact. This calls for policy reforms focusing on improving the quality of supervision and ensuring that officers are trained in rehabilitative practices to address inconsistencies in supervision's effectiveness. Future research could provide more clarity on the direct impact of these reforms by focusing on longitudinal studies that track reintegration outcomes such as employment stability and reduced recidivism.

Conclusions

This study provided valuable insights into the factors influencing recidivism in theft cases and the role of demographic characteristics, community supervision, and access to social services in shaping perceptions of these factors. The findings revealed that substance abuse issues, police misconduct, and employment barriers post-release were perceived as significant contributors to recidivism, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of this challenge. These results aligned with established literature that highlighted the interplay between individual, systemic, and socio-economic factors in reoffending behavior (Yukhnenko, Blackwood, & Fazel, 2020; Jacobs, Fixler, Labrum, Givens, & Newhill, 2021; Onsat & Breva Jr., 2023).

Demographic characteristics such as age, gender, and income exhibited limited influence on perceptions of recidivism factors. While a significant positive correlation between age and income was observed, no meaningful relationships were found between these variables and the factors influencing recidivism. This suggested that interventions to address recidivism may not have required tailoring based solely on demographic profiles but should instead have focused on addressing systemic barriers and behavioral challenges (Van Duin et al., 2021; Suratman, 2017).

The findings on community supervision highlighted its perceived importance in reintegration, particularly the need for supportive officers and clear communication of rules. However, the lack of a significant correlation between community supervision availability and recidivism factors indicated that availability alone may not have been sufficient. Instead, the quality and appropriateness of supervision

services likely played a more critical role in reducing reoffending (Bird, Nguyen, & Grattet, 2021; Fox, Harrison, Hothersall, & Smith, 2022).

Similarly, the moderate negative correlation between access to social services and recidivism factors, though not statistically significant, underscored the potential value of comprehensive post-release support. Improved access to critical services such as housing, healthcare, and employment support remained essential for addressing the root causes of recidivism. However, variability in responses suggested that inconsistent service provision may have limited the overall effectiveness of these interventions (Kjellstrand, Clark, Caffery, Smith, & Eddy, 2022; National Institute of Justice, 2019).

These conclusions underscored the importance of addressing systemic barriers, enhancing the quality and alignment of community supervision and social services, and prioritizing holistic, evidence-based strategies for supporting reintegration. Studies also highlighted the significance of culturally sensitive approaches, particularly for younger offenders, to improve reintegration outcomes (Tepora, 2023). Future efforts should have focused on refining service delivery models and ensuring that interventions were accessible, tailored, and effective in meeting the diverse needs of individuals reentering society after incarceration. Such approaches held the potential to significantly reduce recidivism and promote successful reintegration.

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