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Title: Assessing the Effectiveness of Correctional Sanctions.

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Source: Journal of Quantitative Criminology. Jun2014, Vol. 30 Issue 2, p317-347. 31p. 3 Charts.

Document Type: Article

Subject Terms: *CORRECTIONS (Criminal justice administration)
*RECIDIVISM
*SANCTIONS (Law)
*PROBATION
*INTENSIVE probation
*CRIMINAL behavior

Geographic Terms: UNITED States

Author-Supplied Keywords: Effectiveness
Recidivism
Sanctions

NAICS/Industry Codes: 912120 Provincial correctional services
911220 Federal correctional services
922150 Parole Offices and Probation Offices

Abstract: Objectives: Despite the dramatic expansion of the US correctional system in recent decades, little is known about the relative effectiveness of commonly used sanctions on recidivism. The goal of this paper is to address this research gap, and systematically examine the relative impacts on recidivism of four main types of sanctions: probation, intensive probation, jail, and prison. Methods: Data on convicted felons in Florida were analyzed and propensity score matching analyses were used to estimate relative effects of each sanction type on 3-year reconviction rates. Results: Estimated effects suggest that less severe sanctions are more likely to reduce recidivism. Conclusions: The findings raise questions about the effectiveness of tougher sanctioning policies for reducing future criminal behavior. Implications for future research, theory, and policy are also discussed. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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ISSN: 0748-4518

DOI: 10.1007/s10940-013-9205-2

Accession Number: 95905262

Database: Academic Search Complete