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Are High Risk Offenders more Suited to Self Employment on Release?

PS Plus, an ESF part funded project, has assisted over 60,000 offenders (beneficiaries) in over 40 Prison Establishments since September 2002.

During the second phase of the project, "PS Plus 2", 1899 jobs were gained for PS Plus beneficiaries on release from the Prison Establishments. Full time, part time, voluntary and self employment was brokered by PS Plus staff.

PS Plus does not discriminate as regards the beneficiaries it works with – as long as assistance is needed in finding employment or education on release from the prison establishment. The aim of this report is to analyse and statistically show if the risk of a PS Plus 2 beneficiary is dependant on whether or not the beneficiary achieves a self employment or another employment outcome on release.

The dataset has been obtained from the PS Plus developed database, CATS. The risk of the beneficiary is assessed at any point during the beneficiary's time on the project. The risk is split up into risk of harm to themselves, children, public, adults, staff and other prisoners. The level of each risk can be low, medium, high, very high or unknown. The dataset looks at the number (percentage) of beneficiaries who achieved an employment outcome – split into self employment or other employment per level of risk.

Key Points:

- 1899 jobs gained by PS Plus 2 beneficiaries on release from prison establishments
 - 134 beneficiaries have started self employment on release – this equates to 7% of employment found for beneficiaries by PS Plus.
 - 93% of the beneficiaries have started full time, part time or voluntary employment on release.
- Risk
 - There is no statistical evidence (at the 1% significance level) of the level of risk determining if the beneficiary starts self employment or full time, part time or voluntary employment on release. This is true for risk of harm to themselves, public, adults, staff and other prisoners.
 - There is statistical evidence (at the 1% significance level) of the level of risk of harm to children determining if the beneficiary starts self employment rather than full time, part time or voluntary employment on release. The higher the level of risk – the greater the proportion of beneficiaries starting self employment.
- Schedule 1 and sex offenders
 - There is statistical evidence (at the 1% significance level) to show that Schedule 1 offenders are more likely to start self employment rather than full time, part time or voluntary employment on release. Schedule 1 offenders are 2.7 times more likely to start self employment than beneficiaries who are not Schedule 1 offenders.
 - There is statistical evidence (at the 1% significance level) to show that sex offenders are more likely to start self employment rather than full time, part time or voluntary employment on release. Sex offenders are 3.5 times more likely to start self employment than beneficiaries who are not sex offenders.

Sex Offences

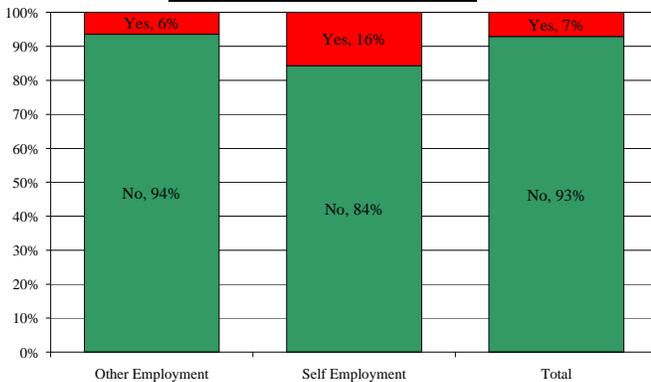
The bar charts below show the percentage of beneficiaries who have self employment on release or another type of employment on release, whether or not the beneficiary is a Schedule 1 offender and whether or not the beneficiary is a sex offender. The totals are also given.

7% of the beneficiaries who have started employment on release after PS Plus intervention are Schedule 1 offenders. Of the beneficiaries who have started self employment, 16% are Schedule 1 offenders; only 6% who have started other employment are Schedule 1 offenders.

Chi-Squared tests show that there is significant evidence at the 1% level of interaction between Schedule 1 offenders and the type of employment of the beneficiary.

Being a Schedule 1 offender influences what type of employment the beneficiary has on release – more Schedule 1 offenders start self employment than other employment types.

Outcomes Gained for Schedule 1 Offenders



6% of the beneficiaries who have started employment on release after PS Plus intervention are sex offenders. Of the beneficiaries who have started self employment, 16% are sex offenders; only 5% who have started other employment are sex offenders.

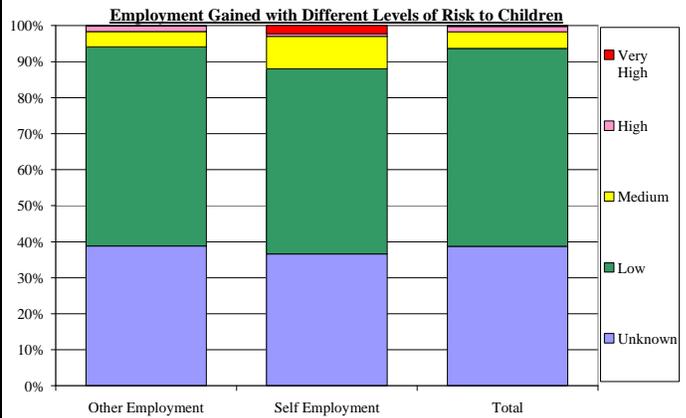
Chi-Squared tests show that there is significant evidence at the 1% level of interaction between sex offenders and the employment type of the beneficiary.

Being a sex offender influences what type of employment the beneficiary has on release – More sex offenders start self employment than other employment types.

Outcomes Gained for Sex Offenders



Risk to Children



The bar chart above shows the percentage of beneficiaries per risk level (unknown, low, medium, high and very high) who have self employment on release or another type of employment on release for levels of risk to children. The total per risk area is also given.

The risk for approximately 40% (700) of the beneficiaries is unknown. Where known, the majority of beneficiaries are low risk to children.

Chi-Squared tests show that there is significant evidence at the 1% level of interaction between the level of risk and the employment of the beneficiary. This means that there is statistical evidence that shows the type of employment gained is influenced by the level of risk of harm to children.

The higher the level of risk, the greater proportion of beneficiaries starting Self Employment.

Odds Ratio

Statistical evidence has shown that:

1. Beneficiaries who are Schedule 1 offenders are more likely to have self employment on release.
2. Beneficiaries who are sex offenders are more likely to have self employment on release.
3. Beneficiaries who have high levels of risk against children are more likely to have self employment on release.

The odds ratio – the odds of a beneficiary having self employment on release if they are a Schedule 1 or sex offender against the odds of the beneficiary having self employment on release if they are not a Schedule 1 or sex offender – are calculated as:

1. Beneficiaries who are Schedule 1 offenders are 2.7 times more likely to have self employment than beneficiaries who are not Schedule 1 offenders.
2. Beneficiaries who are sex offenders are 3.5 times more likely to have self employment than beneficiaries who are not sex offenders.

References: Field, A (2001). Discovering Statistics Using SPSS
Hutcheson, G & Sofroniou, N (1999). The Multivariate Social Scientist