

Online Appendix: Methodology Notes and Data Tables

The authors wish to make additional information available for those curious about the details of the report and for other researchers seeking to build on its findings. Toward that end, this online appendix offers information that may be relevant to subject-matter experts. For additional information — on research reviewed during this report’s development, or for further discussions of the methodology — see appendix A and appendix B, respectively.

I. Data Used to Estimate Population Totals

TABLE OA-1

Data Used to Estimate the Formerly Imprisoned Population

YEAR	PRISON RELEASES	RECIDIVISM RATE	SURVIVAL RATE	ESTIMATE
1965	89,900	58%	0%	–
1966	90,283	58%	0%	13
1967	90,667	58%	0%	47
1968	91,050	58%	0%	152
1969	91,433	58%	1%	245
1970	92,200	58%	1%	340
1971	94,633	58%	1%	445
1972	97,067	58%	2%	805
1973	99,500	58%	5%	1,931
1974	101,933	58%	6%	2,474
1975	106,800	58%	8%	3,491
1976	118,755	58%	11%	5,314
1977	130,710	58%	15%	7,988
1978	142,665	58%	18%	10,439
1979	154,958	58%	21%	13,207
1980	158,331	58%	23%	15,404

YEAR	PRISON RELEASES	RECIDIVISM RATE	SURVIVAL RATE	ESTIMATE
1981	163,085	58%	29%	19,317
1982	175,607	58%	34%	24,720
1983	213,198	58%	38%	33,760
1984	209,655	58%	42%	36,885
1985	220,485	58%	47%	42,666
1986	248,909	58%	51%	52,542
1987	290,301	58%	55%	66,383
1988	320,460	58%	58%	77,332
1989	369,032	58%	61%	93,720
1990	405,374	58%	64%	108,076
1991	421,687	58%	67%	117,758
1992	430,198	58%	70%	125,575
1993	436,684	63%	72%	116,653
1994	437,777	64%	74%	118,258
1995	477,654	65%	76%	128,618
1996	492,069	65%	79%	133,993
1997	517,432	65%	81%	145,911
1998	549,634	65%	82%	156,016
1999	574,624	66%	83%	164,401
2000	635,094	65%	85%	186,276
2001	628,626	65%	86%	187,765
2002	633,947	65%	87%	196,467
2003	656,574	63%	88%	214,653
2004	672,202	62%	89%	226,417
2005	701,632	63%	90%	234,914
2006	709,874	62%	91%	243,692
2007	721,161	61%	92%	261,834
2008	735,651	59%	93%	281,931
2009	729,749	57%	94%	296,470

YEAR	PRISON RELEASES	RECIDIVISM RATE	SURVIVAL RATE	ESTIMATE
2010	708,677	53%	95%	314,291
2011	691,072	49%	96%	339,888
2012	636,716	40%	96%	369,868
2013	623,990	32%	97%	411,984
2014	636,346	26%	98%	461,895
2015	641,027	19%	99%	514,243
2016	626,019	10%	99%	557,318
2017	622,377	3%	100%	601,212
Total				7,725,998

TABLE OA-2

Data Used to Estimate the Prevalence of Non-Prison Felony Convictions

YEAR	PROBATION ENTRIES	RECIDIVISM RATE	SURVIVAL RATE	FELONY RATE	ESTIMATE
1980	689,878	58%	71%	49%	91,980
1981	753,460	58%	73%	49%	103,101
1982	817,042	58%	75%	49%	111,657
1983	891,153	58%	77%	49%	123,771
1984	1,032,202	58%	78%	48%	146,796
1985	1,174,832	58%	80%	50%	180,397
1986	1,265,748	58%	82%	46%	181,728
1987	1,376,244	58%	83%	46%	200,666
1988	1,465,388	58%	84%	47%	222,090
1989	1,567,156	58%	85%	47%	236,290
1990	1,637,557	58%	87%	48%	249,187
1991	1,577,528	58%	88%	49%	246,490
1992	1,517,499	63%	89%	49%	206,588
1993	1,479,624	64%	90%	54%	218,423
1994	1,397,505	65%	90%	54%	201,358
1995	1,501,589	65%	91%	54%	208,216
1996	1,651,544	65%	92%	55%	238,982
1997	1,725,431	65%	93%	54%	242,565
1998	1,672,910	66%	93%	57%	232,781
1999	1,819,403	65%	94%	51%	242,012
2000	2,032,089	65%	94%	52%	284,020
2001	2,110,550	65%	95%	53%	295,181
2002	2,129,084	63%	95%	50%	288,976
2003	2,229,668	62%	96%	52%	316,631
2004	2,217,900	63%	96%	49%	281,182
2005	2,228,300	62%	96%	50%	299,886

YEAR	PROBATION ENTRIES	RECIDIVISM RATE	SURVIVAL RATE	FELONY RATE	ESTIMATE
2006	2,272,300	61%	97%	49%	335,221
2007	2,363,900	59%	97%	47%	355,625
2008	2,369,300	57%	97%	49%	401,692
2009	2,313,600	53%	98%	51%	443,837
2010	2,190,200	49%	98%	50%	443,507
2011	2,109,500	40%	98%	53%	543,494
2012	2,048,300	32%	99%	53%	610,007
2013	2,094,100	43%	99%	55%	522,640
2014	2,067,100	40%	99%	56%	561,319
2015	1,966,100	35%	100%	57%	589,310
2016	2,012,200	28%	100%	59%	709,820
2017	2,058,300	18%	100%	61%	884,095
Total	63,767,884				12,051,518

TABLE OA-3

Data Used to Estimate the Misdemeanor Population

YEAR	MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS (SELECTED OFFENSES)	MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION RATE	MISDEMEANOR RECONVICTION RATE	SURVIVAL RATE	ESTIMATE
1995	9,264,100	50%	51%	91%	1,478,933
1996	9,441,500	50%	51%	92%	1,519,809
1997	9,560,000	50%	51%	93%	1,551,597
1998	9,177,800	58%	51%	93%	1,737,551
1999	9,013,500	40%	51%	94%	1,183,399
2000	8,984,260	67%	51%	94%	1,986,680
2001	8,731,994	84%	51%	95%	2,434,130
2002	8,829,732	65%	51%	95%	1,915,046
2003	8,675,753	85%	51%	96%	2,470,514
2004	8,892,593	83%	51%	96%	2,482,583
2005	8,912,048	73%	51%	96%	2,196,983
2006	9,242,601	62%	51%	97%	1,942,828
2007	9,134,383	71%	51%	97%	2,207,504
2008	9,054,812	79%	51%	97%	2,442,892
2009	8,835,339	67%	51%	98%	2,028,265
2010	8,565,951	67%	50%	98%	2,021,101
2011	8,032,034	57%	48%	98%	1,665,787
2012	7,845,666	66%	46%	99%	1,948,309
2013	7,187,866	74%	44%	99%	2,101,008
2014	7,025,494	73%	41%	99%	2,143,940
2015	6,798,722	72%	37%	99%	2,201,395
2016	6,689,346	72%	30%	100%	2,401,701
2017	6,620,185	72%	19%	100%	2,757,780
Total					46,819,738

This table does not illustrate the authors' adjustment for intrayear recidivism. For more on that adjustment, see appendix B.

II. Additional Sensitivity Checks of Earnings Loss Estimates

In analyzing earnings loss due to criminal justice involvement, as described in appendix B, the authors used a series of techniques to confirm their findings. In addition to those sensitivity checks, the authors performed the following analyses, which further buttress the report's findings:

- Nearest neighbor and regression adjustment matching produce results statistically similar to those of the report's propensity-score matching model.
- Defining incarceration at any stage of life produces less-conservative findings compared to the report's definition of incarceration during early adulthood.
- The Heckman two-step correction procedure described in appendix B produces less-conservative findings when alternative instruments (e.g., job growth) are used.