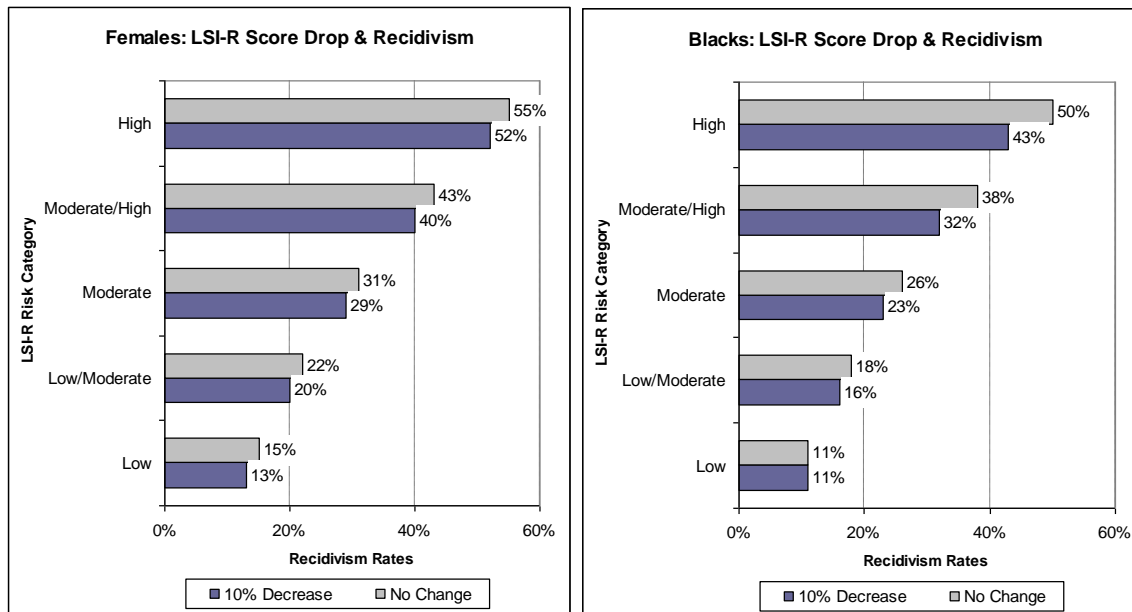


LSI-R Scores: Change Matters – Part II

In the last issue of the Data Download, we discussed that overall, a 10% drop in LSI-R scores for our highest risk offenders was associated with a 6% reduction in recidivism. However, LSI-R score reductions for the lowest risk offenders don't substantially affect their already low recidivism rates. The issue contained charts that showed this held true for both probationers and parolees. The charts below show that change also matters for women offenders and African-American offenders.



For women offenders, the drop in recidivism rates resulting from lower LSI-R scores is less dramatic than for offenders as a whole. This result may simply be a matter of the low numbers of women in the study. However, this may also indicate a need to implement more effective interventions for women offenders, such as the gender-specific case management model currently being piloted in some areas of the state. Also, previous research has documented a high incidence of mental health issues among this population, and addressing these needs may lead to a further reduction in women's recidivism rates.

For African-American offenders, a 10% drop in LSI-R scores for the High risk group is associated with a 7% drop in recidivism rates -- a larger drop than for offenders overall. The 6% drop in recidivism rates for African-American offenders in the Moderate/High risk group is also a larger drop than for offenders overall, where a 4% drop in recidivism rates was observed. This means the Iowa corrections system can play a role in reducing the disproportionate incarceration of African-Americans, as well as facilitate their successful reentry.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is:
To advance successful offender reentry to protect the public, staff and offenders from victimization.

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