



Programs and Prison Recidivism

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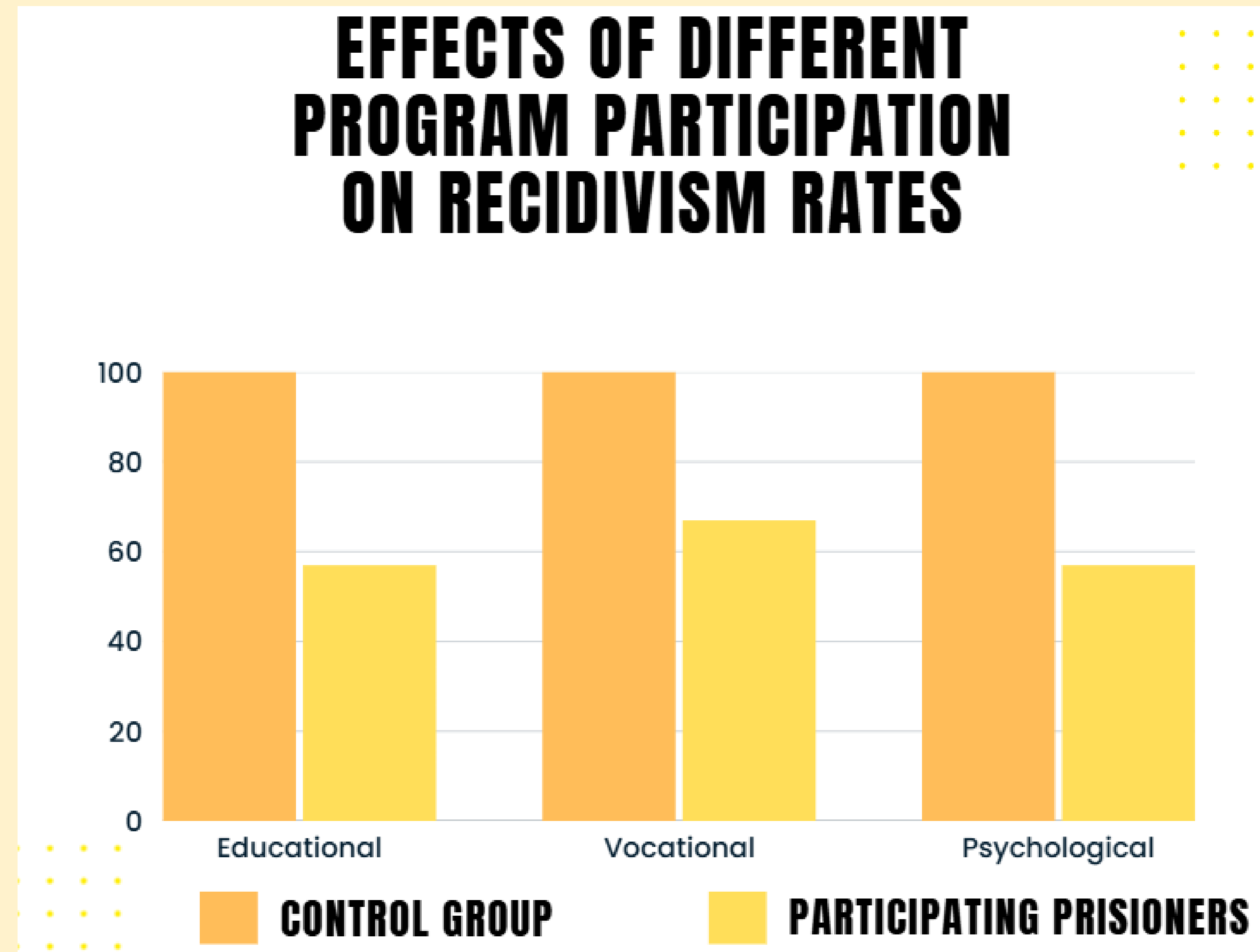
How does the participation in educational, vocational, and psychological rehabilitation programs in prisons affect recidivism outcomes in the United States?



Introduction:
Research into recidivism has become increasingly popular among those interested in research on the prison system. Despite this, the effectiveness of participation in educational, vocational and psychological programs is not well studied. If these programs prove to be successful they could help reduce overcrowding in prisons and improve lives. This study aims to fill the gap in knowledge about the comparative effectiveness between the three programs to see which, if any, should be further studied.

Discussion:
Educational, vocational, and psychological programs have all been shown to effectively reduce recidivism rates when prisoners participate during their sentence. The most successful of these programs were the education programs and the psychological programs. Literature on all three programs was minimal; however, vocational programs proved to have the least literature surrounding recidivism. The research found indicates a need for more research into all three programs due to their promising nature and potential to bring down overcrowding in prisons.

Results:
According to the RAND Education, Employment, and Infrastructure, a nonprofit and nonpartisan research organization “according to a ... study from the RAND Corporation, incarcerated individuals who participated in correctional education were 43 percent less likely to return to prison within three years than prisoners who didn't participate in any correctional education programs.” (Public Policy Impacts). Additionally, according to the United States Sentencing Commissions, an official government source, “male participants in BOP vocational or apprenticeship training “were 33 percent less likely to recidivate” in an 8-to-12 year follow-up period.⁴⁰” (Recidivism and Federal, 2022). BOP stands for Federal Bureau of Prisons. Finally, a team of mental health experts led by Yin-Lan Soon “Individuals not diverted had 43% higher reoffending rate than those granted diversion” (Soon et al., 2024).



References:
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