

The Impacts of Parole Supervision

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PRELIMINARY

Abstract

We study the impacts of a reform to post-prison-release supervision in IL. The reform reduced the term of post-release supervision for some offenders from 12 months to 6 months while other similar offenders continued to receive 12 months of post-release supervision. We evaluate the impact of the reform on returns to prison using a standard differences-in-differences estimator, and we find that, over the first 15 months following prison release, the reform reduced the prison re-entry rate by over 9 percentage points, which represents a forty percent reduction. This reduction is driven almost entirely by a sharp decrease in the number of prison admissions that do not involve a post-release conviction associated with a new prison sentence. We see little change in the rate of prison admissions linked to new sentences. We also estimate proportional hazard models of the competing risks associated with re-admission events that do or do not involve a sentence for a new crime, and we find quite similar results.