

## Introduction

- At the end of 2014, 3,864,100 individuals were on probation (Medina, 2016).
- Nearly 1/3 of those on probation fail to complete their supervision (Pew, 2018).
- In response to a violation or a new crime, the individual on probation may get a sentence extension or will be incarcerated (Medina, 2016).
- Because availability and quality of social support is an indicator of risky behavior in relation to criminality (Spohr et al., 2016), it is important to determine what role it plays in misconduct on community supervision.
- This study seeks to examine whether the satisfaction of familial and social support impacts the receipt of probation extension.

## Method

### Sample

- Data subset is from a larger study on Fines and Fees.
- 12,433 probation cases from 2015 to 2019 from a county in Texas who took the TRAS in the same month they were assigned to probation.
  - 98% of sample were Hispanic individuals, therefore we limited the analyses to only include Hispanics. Chi square testing did *not* indicate differences in chance of probation extension based on ethnicity.

### Method

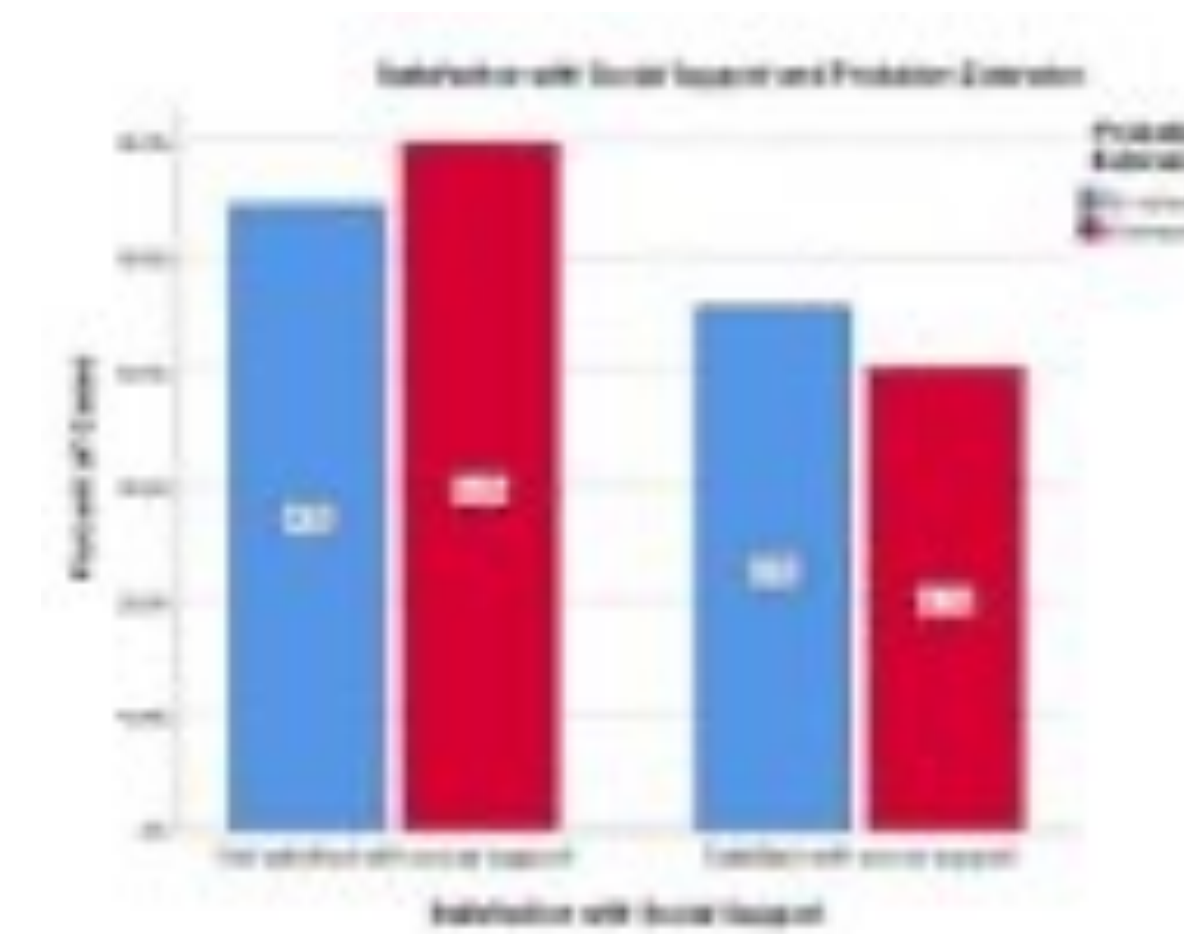
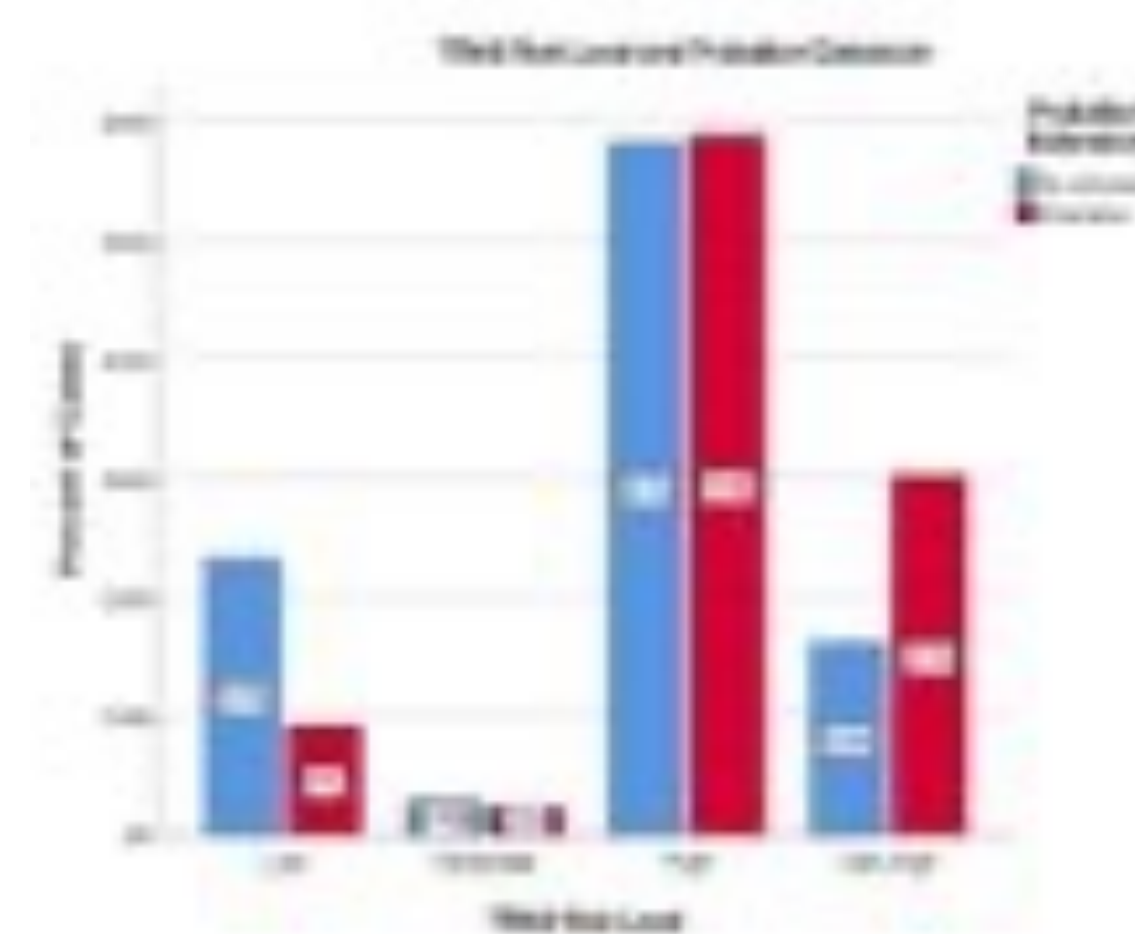
- Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS) (Lovins et al., 2018)
  - Predicts future recidivism and informs case management.
  - Composed of 34 items, 7 sub scales and 3 risk levels.
- Satisfaction with social support
  - 1 item from Family and Social Support (FSS) domain of the TRAS.
  - Scored as (0) Very satisfied or (1) satisfied/ not satisfied with the individual's current level of social support.
- Probation extension
  - Yes (1) or No (0).
- Control variables
  - Age, gender, employment, offense seriousness, and TRAS risk level.
- Data Collection Procedure
  - The CCFF Study received archival record data from the county court.
  - Records indicated which cases received a probation extension.
  - Individuals were assessed with the TRAS via interview with a case manager or probation officer.

## Sample Demographics

Table 1

Sample Demographics

	Extension (n = 1521) % (n)	No Extension (n = 10912) % (n)
% Female	21.7 (330)	22.2 (2420)
% Male	78.3 (1191)	77.8 (8492)
% Employed	61.1 (929)	66.9 (7300)
% Unemployed	38.9 (592)	33.1 (3612)
% Felony	19.9 (302)	30.7 (3351)
% Misdemeanor	80.1 (1219)	69.3 (7561)
Age	(s) 27.7 (9.1)	(s) 32.2 (11.9)



## Results

Table 2.

Chi Square Results

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	15.212	1	0.000**

\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$

Table 3.

Logistic Regression Results

	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp (B)
Satisfaction with Social Support x Offense Seriousness	0.394	0.138	0.004**	1.486
Satisfaction with Social Support	0.020	0.058	0.725	1.021
Age at assessment	-0.030	0.003	0.000**	0.970
Unemployment	0.172	0.059	0.000**	1.188
Felony	-0.580	0.069	0.000**	0.560
Female	0.041	0.059	0.557	1.041
Risk Level				
Moderate Risk	0.842	0.207	0.000**	2.320
High Risk	0.845	0.098	0.000**	2.328
Very High Risk	1.314	0.110	0.000**	3.720
Constant	-1.830	0.135	0.000	0.160

\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$

## Summary of Results

- There was no significant relationship found between satisfaction with social support and probation extension.
- The interaction of satisfaction with social support and offense seriousness is a significant predictor of probation extension; but no other significance interaction terms were detected.
- No significant association found concerning gender.
- A significant relationship was found between probation extension and age, employment, offense seriousness, and TRAS risk level.
  - More likely to receive an extension if
    - Unemployed
    - Risk level is moderate, high or very high compared to low.
  - Less likely to receive an extension
    - As the individuals get older
    - If on probation for a felony rather than a misdemeanor

## Method

- The interaction found between offense seriousness and satisfaction with social support could have occurred because those convicted of a misdemeanor were less satisfied with their relationships, thus impacting their performance on probation and ultimate likelihood of receiving an extension.
- Individuals with misdemeanors may be more likely to receive a probation extension than those with felonies and it may be because they're likely to receive shorter sentences, thus they have less time to complete their supervision requirements. If their requirements aren't completed, then they may receive an extension.
- TRAS scoring for satisfaction with social support groups individuals into only two categories. Perhaps if our measure of social support satisfaction had captured a greater variety of response types, our results would be different.

## Limitations & Future Directions

- Findings are generalizable to only Hispanic individuals on probation.
- Though our sample was large, only a small percent of the sample had extensions.
- Future studies could consider the relationship between satisfaction with social support and probation extension among more diverse samples.
- Future studies could also include broader and more varied measures of social support and social support satisfaction.

## References

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