



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 29, 2024

Contact: Office of Public Affairs
202-514-6551

**CARES Act Shows Promise in Reducing Recidivism,
Reinforcing the Benefits of Reduced Incarceration**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: The Federal Bureau of Prisons' Office of Research and Evaluation, under the U.S. Department of Justice, has released the results of a comprehensive study on the impact of the CARES Act on home confinement. The CARES Act, enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed vulnerable individuals in federal prison to serve their sentences in home confinement earlier and for longer periods.

The study reveals that the CARES Act has had a statistically significant impact on recidivism rates. The Act, enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed vulnerable individuals in federal prison to serve their sentences in home confinement earlier and for longer periods.

Key findings include:

- **No Increase in Recidivism:** Individuals with a CARES home confinement placement showed no higher rates of recidivism while in home confinement compared to others with similar characteristics. This suggests that early and extended home confinement did not compromise public safety.
- **Reduced Post-Release Recidivism:** Post-release, individuals with a CARES assignment showed a lower recidivism rate of 3.7% compared to 5.0% for those without a CARES assignment. This indicates that reduced time spent in traditional incarceration contributed to lower recidivism rates.
- **Possible Reduction in Violent Recidivism:** A marginally significant effect suggests a possible reduction in violent recidivism for individuals with a CARES assignment. This suggests that reduced time spent in traditional incarceration contributed to a decrease in violent offenses.

These findings suggest that the CARES Act's provision for early and extended home confinement did not negatively impact recidivism rates. In fact, it may have contributed to a reduction in post-release recidivism, offering a promising direction for justice-involved stakeholders seeking effective strategies to reduce incarceration and its associated costs, while also promoting public safety and successful reintegration into society.

FBOP Director Colette S. Peters commented on the findings, *"This study reinforces my belief, shaped by decades of experience in corrections, that alternatives to mass incarceration are the most effective approach. The findings that individuals with a CARES assignment recidivated no more or less than comparable people in home confinement, and even less often post-release, are encouraging. This study suggests that reducing incarceration for appropriate people through measures like early and extended home confinement does not compromise public safety and in fact, suggests it may contribute to successful reintegration into society."*

The study was initiated as part of FBOP's commitment to advancing the science and practice of corrections and ensuring that data and research inform correctional policies and practices. It also responds to the recommendations of FBOP's external stakeholders, which have called for more research and the development of alternatives to mass incarceration. This study serves as a testament to the benefits of innovative, compassionate approaches to criminal justice.

For a more detailed understanding of the study and its findings, we invite you to visit the Federal Bureau of Prisons' official website at bop.gov where you will navigate to the "Research and Reports" page within the "Resources" tab. Here, you can access the full report and delve into the comprehensive analysis that underscores these significant findings. We encourage all interested parties to review the results of the study to gain a deeper insight into the impact of the CARES Act on recidivism rates and the potential benefits of reduced incarceration.

###

About the Federal Bureau of Prisons

FBOP is a United States Federal Law Enforcement agency within the U.S. Department of Justice. FBOP is comprised of corrections professionals who foster a humane and secure environment and ensure public safety by preparing individuals for successful reentry into our communities. For more information on the FBOP, you may visit our public website here at bop.gov.

About the Office of Research and Evaluation

ORE is the research, development, and evaluation branch of the FBOP. ORE is dedicated to improving knowledge and understanding within the FBOP of policies and practices through science. It generates objective data to inform the decision-making of employees and external agencies to foster continuous learning and improvement within the FBOP. More information about ORE, can be found on the [ORE Resource Page](#).