Terrorism Recidivism Study
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Research Question
What does the population of Guantanamo Bay look like? Are alleged terrorists released from Guantanamo Bay recidivating? If so, what does the population of recidivists look like? What does the population of non-recidivists look like?

Total Population Variables
Guantanamo Bay has housed 780 male detainees. The population consists of:
• Average age: 29
• 342 Asian individuals, 87 Black individuals, 33 European White individuals, and 318 Middle Eastern individuals
• Most citizenship from Afghanistan, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia
• 525 violent offenses, 72 non-violent financial offenses, 255 non-violent non-financial offenses

Non-Recidivism Variables
Non-recidivism variables are as follows for a population of 726 or 93.1% of the total population.
• Average age: 29
• 328 Asian individuals, 75 Black individuals, 21 European White individuals, 302 Middle Eastern individuals
• Bulk of citizenship from Afghanistan, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia
• 490 violent offenses, 67 non-violent financial offenses, 233 non-violent non-financial offenses

Point of Comparison
A study of apolitical offenders by Alper, Durose & Markman (2018) suggests that of those released from state prisons, 83 percent recidivated at least once within nine years. 68 percent were arrested within three years, which increased to 79 percent after six years.

Recidivism Variables
Recidivism variables are as follows for a population of 54 or 6.9% of the total population:
• Average age: 29
• 14 Asian individuals, 12 Black individuals, 12 European White individuals, 16 Middle Eastern individuals
• Bulk of citizenship from Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Yemen
• 35 violent offenses, 5 non-violent financial offenses, 22 non-violent non-financial offenses

Results & Discussion
Based on the data, many characteristics are similar between the total population, recidivist population, and non-recidivist population, but a few stand out.
• Proportionally, 36.4 percent of European white detainees have recidivated, in comparison to 4.1 percent of Asian detainees, 13.8 percent of Black detainees, and 5.0 percent of Middle Eastern detainees
• Additionally, 8.6 percent of those who committed a non-violent, non-financial crime recidivated, in comparison to 6.7 percent of violent crimes, 6.9 percent of non-violent financial crimes.
Lastly, the Guantanamo Bay population is recidivating at a much lower rate (6.9 percent) than apolitical offenders (83 percent).

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References