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Socio Economics affect on Drug Treatment Courts

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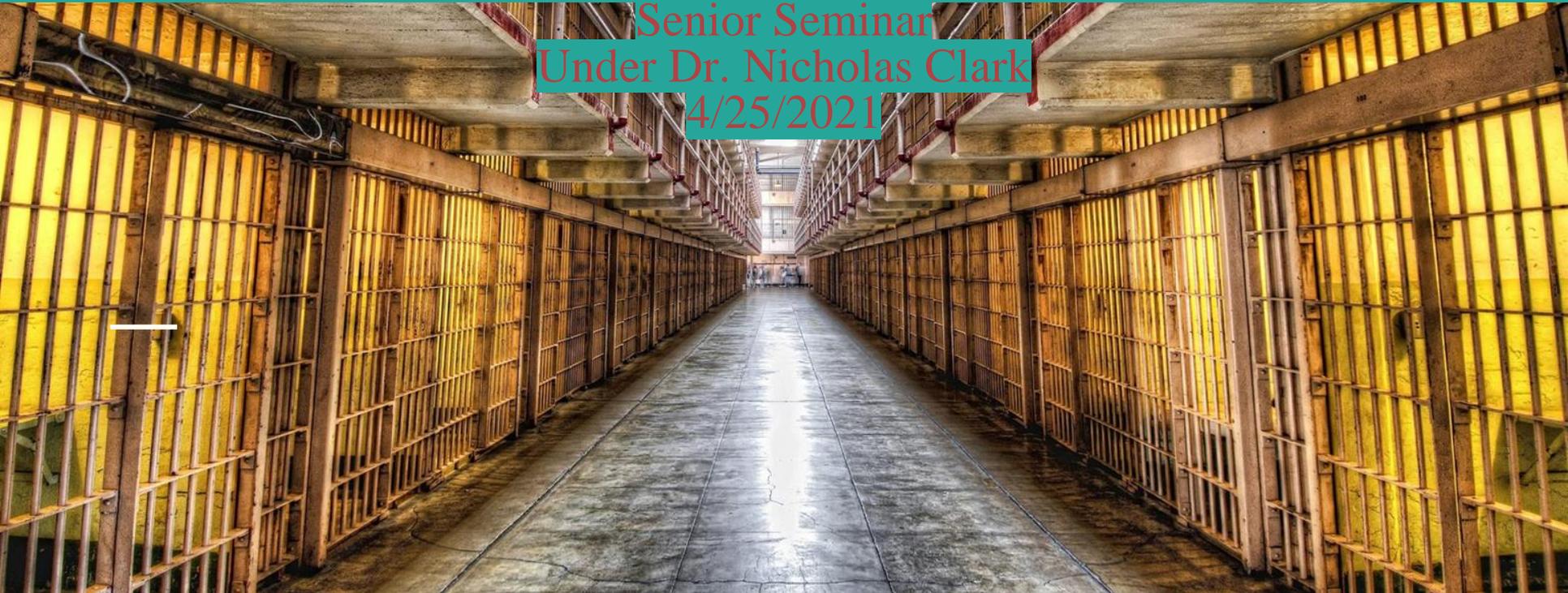
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The Socio Economic Factor of Recidivism in Drug Treatment Courts

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Senior Seminar
Under Dr. Nicholas Clark
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Definitions

- **Recidivism:** An individual's propensity to relapse into crime by either repeating the same offense or committing a different altercation.
- **Socio Economics:** The relationship between social behavior and economics. Determined by an area's income, education, and employment/occupational opportunities.
- **Drug Treatment Courts:** Variant court programs that help individuals, in both pre/post-sentencing, to recover from addiction, and stop the cycle of recidivism.

History

- President Nixon's 1971 Drug War: Scheduled list, increased incarceration rates, Cocaine epidemic, and 1972-2009 Prison's increased 700%.
- Alternatives: Pretrial diversion programs, electronic monitoring, halfway homes, and house arrest.
- DTC Conception: 1980's Resources, Politics, and Evolution.
- Socioeconomics and Crime Rates: 1940's Economic mobility, inmates backgrounds, 1993 Study.

Literature Review

- Employment: criminals unemployed have 50.1% recidivism, 90% of offenders can't find employment for the first nine months.
- Education: Higher education shows an increase of DTC graduation with HS dropouts 43%, HS completion 71%, some college 89%.
- Size/Cost: The larger the worse results, frequency, and time.
- Diversity: Age, Race, and Sex

Literature Review

- Effectiveness: 1999 assessment of 7.5%, 66% vs. 81% over two years, and savings.
- Conflict: Nothing is officially mandated, Wiped data is inconclusive, and cost are significant.
- Lower-Socio Economic Areas: 1998 study of crime 30 states and 25+ countries. Drug usage also increases. 21% of all crimes are drug related, and account for 40% of poverty crimes.

Methodology

- **Theory:** The hypothesis in this study is that areas with established drug treatment courts will have mitigated effects on their recidivism rates from lower socio economics, in comparison to areas that don't have drug treatment courts.
- **Method:** Using a Linear Regression model to determine recidivism % based upon the following causal variables for each county in the states of Indiana, Ohio, and Florida (constant); Having a DTC, median household income, unemployment %, bachelors %, high school completion %, and the recidivism % of the county (3 years).

Analysis

There were no significant results toward recidivism based solely on hosting a Drug Treatment Court. Income was found to have a significant and negative effect on recidivism causing it to decrease. The only other significant effect (positive) was the factor of living in Indiana raised recidivism 4% alone.

Reasons for Recidivism

Casual Variable	Percentage	Significance
Presence of a Drug Treatment Court	.052%	.957
Unemployment %	-.107%	.868
Median Household Income	-.000%	.009
Bachelor's Degree %	.307%	.015
Completion of High School %	32.308%	.034
Indiana	4.107%	<.001
Ohio	-1.969%	.120
Florida	-2.995%	.018

Conclusion

- Socio Economics do have an effect on Drug Treatment Courts via Median Household Income
- Limitations: Data from DTCs, Placement of DTC is based on current Recidivism, and Standards of DTCs
- Policy Updates: Guide Expectations, Help Participants, and focus on rehabilitation.

Thank You

