A Public Administration Headache: An Evaluation Analysis of Prison Policy and Recidivism toward Social Reintegration

*(an earlier version of the article to be published in IJPA)*

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**Abstract:** We focus on discovering, describe and understand prison recidivism; secondly, we intend to know if the prison policy contributes to deterrence of crime; thirdly, we want to know if prison labor and vocational education and training influences the rate of prison recidivism by increasing social reintegration or decreasing prison recidivism. We use a sample of $n = 1643$ prisoners, multivariate clustering methods, focusing on latent class models, to trace the profile of prisoners, and we use Chi-square test to test dependence/independence of some variable pairs. Data support the heterogeneity of inmates, resulting in two clusters, recidivists (50%) and not recidivists.

**Key words:** public administration, public policy, prison policy, recidivism, social reintegration
1. Introduction

Reform of Public Administration, held in Portugal in recent decades, especially after the "Carnation Revolution", brought important changes that resulted in an approach to the management of public administration managerial (Araújo 2004), which, has brought a greater importance to the evaluation of public policies.

The prison policy, born of Illuminist ideas, brought major changes to the way it began to become crime and how it should be penalized. Portugal was no exception and over the second half of the nineteenth century Classical School, strongly dissuasive, would have a major influence on the way to do such a policy.

The Neoclassical school, born in the sixties of the twentieth century, recovers some of the ideas of Classical School, after a long prevalence of the ideas of the Humanist School, who proved to be the most appropriate response to crime. School that was revealed through a set of theories and models that demonstrated the need to deter crime through social control in general and the prison system in particular (Garrido, Strageland and Redondo 1999).

The prison reform has been marked, in Portugal, the issue of social integration and respect for human rights of prisoners as a panacea to the problem of crime, forgetting often, the victim, most prejudiced against crime (Dias and Andrade 1997). The understanding given to the way of punishment, enshrined in prison policy, the various subsectors of the prison system should include deterrence as a final reason to prevent recidivism and reduce crime.

We collect individual information of a significant sample of offenders in the Prisons Carregueira, Linhó and Sintra, warranties of reliability by addressing constraints and problems posed by the statistics of Justice in Portugal.
It is extraordinarily difficult to find what lies behind the policies and the strategies they generate, Cohen (2010), and one answer would be that we cannot find what lies behind them because it is not there.

The object of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of prison policy in Portugal in terms of deterring crime. We intend therefore to reflect on the role of the prison organization and the circumstances surrounding it, in order to understand to what extent is that prisoners are "returning" to the prison system (prison recidivism), considered a robust indicator deterrent policy.

We intend to outline the profile of the males’ prisoners according to the collected sample, and thus describe, understand and discuss the contribution of prison policy and the current prison system, to the deterrence of crime against the continued rise in crime in Portugal.

Are the policies appropriate to the reduction of prison recidivism? This is our research question, dealing mainly with the evaluation of prison policies. We intend therefore to analyze the following hypotheses:

H₁: The prison policy contributes to the deterrence of crime among the prison population.
H₂: Prison labor influences the rate of prison recidivism.
H₃: The vocational education and training influence the rate of prison recidivism.

2. Conceptual Framework

Local authorities increasingly face the challenge of responding to community demand for more responsive, efficient, and effective government (Fan, 2011). This study aims to address phenomena such as crime policy, prison policy, social control, prevention, deterrence, recidivism, prison recidivism and social reintegration of the prisoner,
because they are correlated phenomena, some perhaps similar, they have a big effect on crime and thus in seclusion in Portugal.

Social control is a concept quite broad and refers to certain social processes that society imposes or attempts to impose on individual behavior, subject to the rules, forms and requirements of cohesion, discipline and integration, which are the conditions necessary to ensure order and social peace, against inaccuracy and deviation of individual behavior. These processes may have an informal character involving the approval or disapproval of a behavior by the society or may have a formal character which is carried out by the different regulatory systems in place in that society, whether they are ethical, religious, legal or other (Herrero 2001; Molina 2001). Criminal Politics is a discipline that provides the basis for consistent and scientific options most appropriate for effective control of crime through consequential legal alternatives to the fight against crime (Paz and Pérez 2002, Molina 2009). The Prison Policy is, in this way, within the Criminal Policy and reflected in the systematic set of legal rules aimed at regulating the execution of punishments and measures of deprivation of liberty in the struggle of society through the legal apparatus of the State against crime and its results in terms of formal social control.

Prevention is understood here, according to Molina, as a dynamic and positive intervention of society which has the goal of neutralizing the root causes of crime. A need of society and not just the legal apparatus of the state, so that prevention should be completed by the mobilization of society - social prevention - to solve the social problem of crime (Molina, 2001).

For deterrence means the immediate and superficial as to hinder the execution of a crime, deterring the offender or the threat of a penalty or punishment, either by changing the "scene of the crime" putting obstacles of every kind to the author or
authors of a crime in their planning process and its implementation (Molina 2001, Giddens 2008).

The recidivism corresponds to a legal concept applied in criminal law, which explicitly means to commit a serious crime that should be punished with effective imprisonment exceeding six months, having been convicted by final judgment to effective imprisonment exceeding six months for another serious crime if, according to the circumstances of the case, the agent is to blame for the conviction or previous convictions did not have served as sufficient warning against crime. The prison recidivism, the principal object of this study corresponds to the fact that someone convicted with an effective imprisonment have been sentenced to another effective prison sentence regardless of any other circumstances in which the crime or crimes have occurred. The problem of recidivism and desistance from crime is thus recast as a problem of reintegration and restoration of full citizenship rights, (Uggen, Manza and Thompson 2006).

The social reintegration of inmates based on the assumption that during the period of confinement shall provide to the inmate the means and skills to achieve that, once free, integrate socially in order not to relapse into crime (Gomes Duarte and Almeida 2004).

During much of the twentieth century, the public service organizations customized the stability and security; invariably included as part of the government as a whole, these organizations correspond to the classical Weberian bureaucracies (Osborne and Kerry 2005). The formal bureaucracies are plagued by excessive rules, linked to budgets and management systems hard and focused on control. Accordingly, these organizations eventually generate dysfunctions that affect their performance, through lack of transparency, lack of incentives for innovation, excessive concern with the rules and procedures rather than with the performance and results (Araújo 2000). In the final
years of the twentieth century witnessed a major change in this type of organizations, mainly the result of economic globalization, which could no longer rely on incremental growth and development slow and planned administration of public services (Osborne and Kerry 2005). Prisons had the effect of such changes focusing on efficiency and effective use of scarce resources, opting instead for increasing the management managerial as opposed to the traditional provision of public services (Richards 2009).

The managerialism underlying the reform of public administration and referred to a cluster of ideas and practices that seeks, at its core, using private sector practices and approaches in the public sector entrepreneurs (Denhardt and Denhardt 2000). It is based on the conviction that the path to social progress lies in increasing productivity, the application of information and communication technologies (ICT), the increasing specialization of public officials, professional and competent management and greater powers of the autonomy of public managers (Pollitt 1993), including the directors of the prisons.

The Portuguese public administration has followed this trend worldwide in recent decades, adopting a set of reforms to modernize and adapt the services to this new design, reflecting mainly the reduction of this administration in the state budget, in reducing bureaucracy and complexity of services and the trend of decentralization, flexibility and democratization of Public Administration (Mozzicafredo 2001).

Despite the specificity of the administration of justice itself, this area also suffered the influence of managerialism. There is thus a powerful story to tell about managerialism, including the New Public Management, the Government or any Reinventing simple and dynamic term as New e-Government and Public Service (Hood 1991, Pollitt, 1991, Pollitt, 2000). However, let us look then on the New Public Management (NPM), being
the one that most influenced and continues to influence public management and public policy in Portugal since 1985.

We should emphasize: (1) attempts to reverse or slow the growth of the state, in terms of expenditure and personnel, (2) the shift to privatization or privatization of most public sector with emphasis on ancillary services, (3) the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the production and distribution of public services, and (4) the development of an international agenda with a strong focus on general issues of public administration, as the four mega trends that seem, according to Hood (1991), be linked to the rise of NPM in the last 15 years, all over the world.

NGP is not an inevitable result of a number of factors but a product of deliberate choices made by governments of several countries that have adopted these ideas, a kind of "á la carte menu" from which we choose the dishes that best serve the appetite of the ideological leaders (Hood, 1995). According to most commentators and advocates of this doctrine, the choices can be made from a list to which Hood (1991) calls doctrinal components of new public management.

Regarding the evaluation of public policies including prison policy, this new doctrine calls for greater accountability, not only in terms of a more professional management, but also in terms of a clear definition of objectives, a natural consequence of the need for efficiency and effectiveness. According to Howlett, Ramesh and Perl (2009), policy evaluation thus refers broadly has actually fared in action.

The assessment is part of a production process of public policies that unfolds cyclically starts with identifying a problem, identified by authorities or expressed by society, entering the political agenda, followed by the formulation of policy proposals aimed at solve problems; chosen a political legitimacy it proceeds to its implementation, succeeding the assessment of public policies, ending the cycle when the results of the
evaluation phase provide input to the reset or not political solutions (public policy) to solve social problems, as is the crime case (Pasquino 2002). But it reveals also the structure of the form of government and public administration, enabling us to make the government and administrative reforms that will best serve the interests of society in general and the ways of the government and public administration for a specific public policy (Howlett, Ramesh and Perl 2009), such as prison policy.

3. The Prison Policy in Portugal

The Republic Constitution of 1976 stipulates that nobody may be deprived of their liberty except as a result of court judgment of conviction of a crime, an act punishable by imprisonment or judicial enforcement of safety measure.

After the Carnation Revolution (April 25, 1974) is initiated a movement with strong legal and practical impact of the dogmatic structure of the criminal justice system and prison policy Portuguese, which corresponded to the reform of the prison organizational in 1979 that sought to articulate the legislative reform with the law giving space for possible future adoption of a penal code. A law that took into accounts the minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners proposed by the ONU (1955) and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (1973), also taking into account the reforms in the implementation of measures involving deprivation of liberty in countries like France in 1975, Spain in 1977 and 1978, Italy in 1975 and Germany in 1977 (Preamble to the Execution of Punishments and Measures Private of Freedom).

These measures taken to prison introduced strongly the idea of corrigibility of all those condemned, without affecting the idea of prevention imposed by social defense through a set of assumptions such as: (1) the idea of easing the enforcement of sentences, (2) the licensing system output, (3) treatment plans, (4) the concern with the guarantees of the
defense of prisoners, (5) attention due to the work, training and professional
development, (6) the leisure time occupation, religious and spiritual care and medical or
health, within a framework of own rules which bound the prisoners.

The Law of Execution in custody but incorporates several important points regarding
the deterrence and prevention of crime, which include: (i) the separation between
primary and repeat offenders, (ii) the mandatory wearing of uniform, (iii) the obligation
to work or have an activity that suits your situation, (iv) the remuneration to take into
account the costs of hospitalization, (v) the obligation to follow orders and schedules
regulating prison life, and (vi) the immediate implementation of disciplinary measures
applied to prisoners.

The Criminal Code of 1982 finally came to replace the Criminal Code of 1886, keeping
the term of imprisonment as a sentence, with the overall goal of prevention, but with the
perception that should be kept to a minimum and in order to harmonize as much as
possible your organization with the recovery of the damned. However, at present, the
Code cannot stop using the prison (Preamble to the Criminal Code of 1982). What,
according to Foucault (1997), means that despite all the contraindications (i.e.
dangerous, useless, etc.). Imprisonment remains the primary measure of all
punishments, since it is not obvious what to put in its place. Considering how
intolerable a solution which we cannot give up, but also a punishment more equitable,
better than fine, more clearly and legally allows a repair, though contrary to the theory
of criminal law, since no reimburses only the victim but also the whole society and the
harm it is said that the criminal is bound to pay their debt (p. 219).

Relapse continues to be considered an aggravating situation under this law. It is
considered a repeat offender who, alone or in co-authoring, committing a criminal act
that is punishable in prison after being convicted by final judgment to imprisonment
fully or partially satisfied, on the other felony, whether between their practice and following the crime has been more than five years, if only in regard to imprisonment and not any other security measure involving deprivation of liberty.

In summary, the current Code of Execution of Punishments and Measures Private Liberty turns away from any form of corrigibility, the hallmark of previous laws, and focuses on recovery and rehabilitation of the convict, a paradigm that failed, for example, in USA (Moliné and Pijoan 2001). In this sense, the rights of prisoners have been strengthened and their duties diminished, which justifies some concern over the functioning of a policy that should be a prevention to crime and as such require more inmates than it does the good of the society.

4. Methodology

To ensure consistency scientific chosen by the use of mixed method supported on both paradigms as described below.

Data Collection

Given the nature of the study, it was decided to perform some structured interviews, addressed to the prison guards and prison officers (qualitative paradigm), as well as the establishment of a database (quantitative paradigm) resulting from a query to individual files, inserted into the System Information Prison (SIP) of prisoners serving sentences of imprisonment in the aforesaid establishments (n = 1643).

Data Analysis

In terms of methods of data analysis Grubesic and Mack (2008) applied cluster analysis, among other techniques, to a comprehensive database of crime events for Cincinnati, Ohio. As suggested by Dölling, Entorf and Hermann (2009), deterrence research needs
more hypotheses that can be empirically tested. We used multivariate clustering methods, focusing on latent class models (Fonseca, 2013a, b), in order to trace the profile of male prisoners, trying to discover, describe and understand the typology associated with the inmates, using for this purpose two sets of variables: a core set, the field of criminology, clustering base variables, responsible for estimating the model parameters and discovery of typology, and another set of variables, demographic variables, which will help in the description and understanding of the typology (Fonseca, 2009). Next we used chi-square test eventual relationships between prison recidivism and prison labor, prison activity, level of education (Fonseca, 2010).

A mixed methodology at this stage appear, at least when we use the knowledge generated by qualitative interviews to increase understanding of the typology generated quantitatively.

5. Analysis and Discussion of Results

We applied LCM that allows us to cluster the prisoners in homogeneous groups of prisoners according to the clustering base variables. We started the study with the adjustment of a model of one latent class (homogeneity), then adjusted models with two, three and four latent classes; the criterion for model selection, AIC3 (Fonseca and Cardoso, 2007) allowed us to select the model with two latent classes. Tables 1, 2 and 3 are presented the estimates of model parameters selected, which represent two kinds of probabilities: common odds, the odds of belonging to groups (0.5 for each group, in this case) and conditional probabilities: For example, 0.5485 and 0.4515 represent the probabilities of certain inmates to be aged in the range 16 to 25, since they belong to class 1 or 2, respectively; 0.5485 being greater than 0.4515, it means that having age in that range will be a characteristic of class 1(see Table 1).
Table 1 here

Based on information of Table 1 to Table 3, we display the profile of prisoners in Table 4, by using clustering variables and covariates, in order to understand prisoners' behavior.

Table 2 here

Table 2 (continued) here

Now we present in Table 3 the profile of inmates, based on tables 1 to 2.

Table 3 here

Table 3 allows us to infer the existence of two groups (types) of prisoners, recidivists and not recidivists lying on prison. In the group of recidivists, 50% of prisoners, we have the youngest of the whole sample (up to 36 years), with numbers of arrests ranging between 2 and 15 and with sentences ranging between 2 and 24. The inmates of this group committed their first crime punishable by imprisonment of up to 28 years of age. They are inmates, mostly suffered the first sentence to prison for committing actual crimes against property, crimes most notably, crimes against life in society and other crimes.

In relation to the following offenses (other crimes) they were convicted and returned to prison (recidivism), these inmates have committed crimes against persons, crimes against property, crimes against life in society, crimes relating to drugs and other crimes, i.e., when relapse diversified criminal activity and do all sorts of crimes. It must however be noted that within this set of crimes against property crimes and later crimes
relating to drugs are those with higher expression. The time between the first and last sentence varies between 4 and 44 years, a long period associated with crime offenders in this class.

In relation to activities that serve to legally ensure the social reintegration, prisoners of this group are studying; they are in training or, mostly having no activity. Regarding the pending cases are prisoners who have between 1 and 16 lawsuits pending. What tells us at the outset that there is a high probability of increasing the number of convictions and eventually the number of arrests if the inmate out in freedom before being sentenced to imprisonment for a new effective on the processes that have pending.

In the group of primary or non recidivists’ offenders we meet the remaining 50% of inmates who have older ages (between 37 and 85) and number of arrests and convictions in rule 2 to 24 and 1, respectively. The inmates of this group committed their first and only crime punishable by imprisonment between 29 and 81 years old. The crimes they were sentenced to prison are mostly effective against persons, while crimes relating to drugs have, in this analysis, some expression. It is a group of inmates who generally have no pending cases and are very active in relation to activities that can ensure their social reinsertion. The vast majority work, and some work, study and are still training.

The covariates, as we have seen, allow us to raise awareness about prisoners of both groups as follows: (i) the inmates of the group of recidivists are characterized by mostly single or living unmarried couples, (ii) by possess qualifications that vary between the first and second cycle, (iii) holders are, in general, such as unskilled plumber, carpenter, cook, electrician, barman, plasterer, mechanic, fisherman, baker or baker, painter, locksmith or servant as a result of poor skills, (iv) born in the districts of Braga, Bragança, Évora, Leiria, Lisbon, Portalegre, Setúbal Viana do Castelo and the
autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira (v) reside in the districts Braga, Coimbra, Évora, Lisbon, Setubal, Viana do Castelo Vila Real and (vi) comply with feathers, as a rule, in prisons of Linhó and Sintra, and (vii) have Portuguese or Angolan.

Importantly, we found some professions that did not meet the qualifications were presented as an engineer, journalist or teacher. The only prisoner, who had skills that correspond to the profession which he belonged, when at liberty, was a university professor. We draw also attention to the fact that the places where the inmate resides or may not coincide with the locations of birth, but have nothing to do with the places where they committed the crimes they were convicted.

Regarding the group of non recidivists inmates they are characterized as follows: (i) because they are married, divorced or widowed and are or have been emotionally attached to another person, (ii) their qualifications are generally higher than those of another group with many prisoners with the third cycle, the secondary and even some graduates, it seems that the qualifications can be a deterrent factor of recurrence, (iii) occupations in this group are therefore more qualified as a lawyer, economist, engineer, bank and several senior staff, although there is some inmates with unskilled as a farmer, owner of iron merchant, postman, courier, photographer, gardener, tiling, driver, construction worker, welder, vigilant, (iv) the districts of birth of this group of inmates are Aveiro, Beja, Castelo Branco, Coimbra, Guarda, Porto, Santarem, Vila Real, Viseu and the foreign born, (v) the districts of residence are Aveiro, Beja, Bragança, Castelo Branco, Guarda, Portalegre, Porto, Azores, Madeira and abroad, (vi) are serving the sentence of imprisonment in the prison Carregueira and (vii) are mostly nationals of Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, S. Tomé and Principe, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Bulgaria, Spain, France, Italy, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Bolivia and Hungary. They are living in the districts of
Aveiro, Beja, Bragança, Castelo Branco, Guarda, Portalegre, Porto, Santarém, foreign and autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira.

6. Discussion of Results

Over the past thirty years, the onslaught of consumer culture has accelerated the rise in social aspirations at the very same time that their satisfaction has become altogether more precarious, (Cheliotis and Xenakis 2010), in Greece, and the significant drop in absolute levels of poverty experienced between the early 1960s and early 1980s stagnated thereafter, leaving the proportion of the population at risk of poverty one of the highest in the EU and OECD (Lampousaki 2010). And what concerning Portugal? About 50% of repeat inmates are young aged up to 36 years, with arrests ranging between 2 and 15, with sentences ranging between 2 and 24 and pending ranging between 1 and 17. In assessing the effects that prison has on society, we often forget that some effects may not come from the number entering prison in a given year or the number incarcerated on a given day, but from the volume of persons passing through or exposed to prison (Lynch and Sabol 2000). It is perfectly plain the real extent of this serious social problem, and every day there are more repeat offenders aged too low to cause big problems. Thus, young offenders relapse more than the older offenders who recur less, which is in accordance with Garrido et al. (1999). What in fact may be related to needs for affirmation in the world of crime, with the largest exposure to drug use, lack of opportunities in the world of work, which tends to worsen with the economic crisis, and the existence of a judicial system tolerant and wasteful with juvenile crime that leads to recurrence which is confirmed by our results. It becomes the most serious problem when compared to the means that the prison system has to promote the social reintegration of inmates (work, study and vocational
training), repeat offenders, the vast majority does not use these means at their disposal, and prisoners are entitled to everything and therefore do nothing.

The group of non-recurring for the same medium is in opposition, much more active. In general, the type of crime that led to the chain were crimes against persons, who are mostly emotional or expressive crimes that occur on impulse, in moments of madness in which the person in the next moment repent, they are punished with heavy prison sentences which makes these difficult inmates reoffending. As Wacquant (2009) illustrates, the language of zero tolerance appears to have swept the globe, (Newburn 2010).

In the group of relapsing types of crime that led first to the chain were the vast majority of crimes against property. The known instruments or materials crimes imbued with certain rationality, since it is deliberate as a way to achieve an economic gain. They are crimes that are usually punished with light sentences and therefore weighed the pros and cons, judged attractive by criminals, which together makes these inmates easy recurrence.

The results obtained in relation to the covariates revealed that the group of recidivist’s offenders is composed of mostly singles and a lack of love ties and excitement in their lives. Since this is a subject that is beyond us at this demand, we will merely state the obvious: that individuals are voluntarily or involuntarily, egocentric very focused on themselves and therefore more rational brain and the inmates of the group of non-recurring. Who live or have lived relationships and so also prove to be more emotional than rational.

The poor qualifications and consequently low-skilled jobs are the hallmark of the group of recidivists, and so researchers and policymakers should be exploring and evaluating the use of programs designed to increase high school graduation rates, (Raphael 2010).
Conversely, better qualified and better skilled jobs thus are characteristic of non-recurring. These facts indicate that investment in education will be a solution to some of the elaborate little crime associated with the group of repeat offenders. The same cannot be said of crime more elaborate, as found in the group of non-recurring and some crime such as corruption, white collar crime and environmental pollution, which have no expression in the Portuguese prison population, associated with better qualifications.

Housing prisons of Sintra and Linhó have most of the inmates in the group of repeat offenders. It seems that it is a difficult situation to manage, especially when the penalties are severe, since, as we have seen, these prisoners are very rational and well known to find other inmates who form groups, studying the weaknesses and problems of the system prison to better take advantage of all possible situations. *Here we have arrested almost entire families, which brings us great problems* as said the director of a prison target of our investigation.

Finally, with regard to the nationality of the group is mostly composed of recidivists and Angolan nationals, but the surprise is in relation to non-recurring, primarily from foreign countries because not all depend on extradition procedures and contrary to the study of the Observatory Emigration predicted, we conclude that it is more difficult for a foreigner to go to jail by relapse in criminal and penal aspects.

With the introduction of statements of prison staff, drawn from interviews, we can validate or enhance the knowledge extracted from the quantitative analysis, using the extracted knowledge qualitatively, in a mixed methodological perspective.

7. **Conclusions and implications**

Any discussion of the criminal question encodes in miniature a set of claims about the nature of the good society and any attempt to answer it – however apparently dry,
technical, or limited in scope – carries and projects a possible world, a desirable state of affairs that a political or criminological actor wishes to usher into existence (Loader and Sparks 2010). The Portuguese prison policy, today's ideological point of view, somewhat aware of what happens in other European countries, is against with the ideas of the New Neoclassical Criminology and School. The ideal of rehabilitation and resocialization of prisoners is in crisis by the continued increase in crime and especially due to high rates of recidivism (50% of recidivists prison), similar to what in the United States of America had already completed (Moliné and Pijoan 2001 ) and Giddens (2008) found for several countries. They will sooner or later return; here we have prisoners who are professional criminals as stated by guard Y of EP Sintra. It is therefore necessary to find a balance between the need for rehabilitation and resocialization of prisoners and the general deterrence or intimidation, which will contribute to an increased effectiveness and efficiency of prison policy in defense of freedom and security of society. We need, therefore, better prisons and better staff, but also more rigorous and strong management throughout the prison system.

The first hypothesis, H₁: The prison policy contributes to the deterrence of crime among the prison population is not checked because the layout of the profiles of inmates allowed us to verify that there is a profile with 50% of prison inmates who counts ranging from 2 and 15 and a number of sentences which ranges between 2 and 24. These figures contradict the hypothesis that the prison policy contribute to the deterrence of crime among the prison population.

The use of chi-square test to analyze the dependence / independence between pairs of variables has allowed us to draw some important conclusions with respect to pairs of variables, allowing us to test the two hypotheses remaining.
(1) Activity prison versus number of crimes

To test the second hypothesis, based on the chi-square test, we test:

\( H_{2.0} \): Prison labor does not influence the rate of prison recidivism, versus

\( H_{2.1} \): Prison labor influences the rate of prison recidivism

p-value = 0.002 < \( \alpha = 0.05 \), thus we reject \( H_{2.0} \) and accepted \( H_{2.1} \), concluding that prison activity and prison recidivism are dependent variables. This conclusion is extremely important because it tells us that the activity influences the number of arrests, so a good prison policy designed to reduce recidivism would be the development of more activities. With well-designed activities, crafts, for example, could lead to revenue for the prison institution as well as a saving for the inmates of which were to have when they return to be full members of society.

(2) Educational versus Number of Arrests

With this analysis we intend to test the third hypothesis,

\( H_{3.0} \): The school does not influence the rate of prison recidivism, versus

\( H_{3.1} \): The school does influence the rate of prison recidivism

p value = 0 < \( \alpha = 0.05 \), we reject the \( H_{3.0} \), thus accepting \( H_{3.1} \), concluding that qualifications and number of arrests are dependent variables. The analysis of contingency table associated allows us to verify that as education level increases the number of arrests decreases, which is in accordance with Arun and Beattie (1999) findings. This result is also important with regard to future policy activities in prison because the inmates should be encouraged to study, for the reason that most (well try to decrease the number of arrests per inmate).

In response to the initial question, to what extent the Portuguese prison system contributes to the deterrence of crime in the male prison population? The current prison
policy gives a very weak contribution to the deterrence of crime between the male prison populations, since there are high rates of recidivism prison. All this is compounded by the fact that crimes are committed by a young population with a broad-based criminal who mostly do not want to change life, since it rejects the means of social rehabilitation available to them.

The type of crime that leads these individuals to jail is mostly economic crimes, as a rule, with a mild punishment in which the author weighs the costs and benefits of committing the crime, and accordingly is endowed with a type of crime with certain rationality. This is a fact that reinforces the need for deterrence of crime through the prison system, the last bastion of Criminal Justice and a guarantor of a more just and free for all; moreover, Culle, Jonson, and Nagin (2011), concluded that there is little evidence that prisons reduce recidivism and at least some evidence to suggest that they have a criminogenic effect.

The prison system is therefore at present a vicious cycle in which social reintegration, being seen only as a right and not as a duty, does not work well. The repeat offenders have numerous arrests and several convictions and continue, however, having few or no qualifications, which results in unskilled or casual work, as a rule are a source of weak income and an explanation for more crime.

Next, we stress, as it was proved, that this is a social problem and its resolution is far beyond the high walls, barbed wire, a prison. Deterrence, along with social reintegration, are merely contributions to alleviate a problem rooted in the society itself and therefore would be more effective if tackled by policies other than prison policy. The problem of recidivism and desistance from crime is thus recast as a problem of reintegration and restoration of full citizenship rights, (Uggen, Manza and Thompson 2006).
Finally, we recall some proposals to make the policy prison more deterrent to crime: (i) the repeat inmates should be separated from the primary offenders, (ii) modern prisons should be small, with populations of 100 or less, as is stressed by Richards and Jones (1997), because small facilities provide the staff with an opportunity to get to know the prisoners, to know their names, their needs, and their ability for self-improvement, as one correctional counselor suggested; two directors of prisons also have the same opinion; (iii) from our findings, better qualified and better skilled jobs thus are characteristic of non-recurring; these facts indicate that investment in education will be a solution to some of the elaborate little crime associated with the group of repeat offenders, which is in accordance with Arun and Beattie (1999) findings indicating that high school educational experience has a lasting effect on an individual’s risk of incarceration, and they speculate that this effect is likely due to the effect of the education on the propensity for criminal behavior, which would increase the overall risk of imprisonment; moreover, at the broadest level, 21% of prisoners report that they have some condition that limits their ability to work, and in 1994, 67.5% of the released prisoners were re-arrested within 3 years, (Freeman 2003); (iv) non repeat inmates majority study, work or/and are engaged at training programs; given the increasing human and financial costs associated with prison - and all of the collateral consequences parolees pose to families, children, and communities - investing in effective reentry programs may be one of the best investments we make, (Petersilvia 2001); this is of great importance, because prison has emerged as a powerful and often invisible institution that drives and shapes social inequality (Wakefield and Uggen 2010); (v) at last, the repeat inmates are mainly single, with lower education, younger, with a lot of prisons and convictions; thus individuals returning home from prison have been shaped by their offending and substance-abuse histories, their work skills and job histories,
their mental and physical health, their prison experiences, and their attitudes, beliefs, and personality traits, (Visher and Travis 2003). 95 percent of prison inmates, who tend to be poor, ethnic or racial minorities, male, and young, will eventually be released to rejoin society and either return to their criminal lifestyles or adopt new, socially responsible patterns of behavior, (Harrison and Beck 2006). Sociological models of inequality suggest three major conceptual schemes for understanding the place of felons in American politics and society: castes, classes, and status groups; at the most extreme, felons might be viewed as a distinct caste, or caste-like group, (Uggen, Manza, and Thompson 2006). Again, this is in accordance with our findings, because we have mainly Portuguese and Angolan citizens in class 1, with lower education and youngest. As implications of our findings for social policy, providing greater opportunities for adolescents to attach themselves to conventional activities during high school decreases the likelihood of adult incarceration, as corroborated by Arun and Beattie (1999) findings, thus reducing the long-term societal costs of incarcerating adults.

References


