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Analysis of Variance in Recidivism between Special Needs Offenders and Regular Offender Populations in Texas

Park Esewiata Atatah
Walden University

Walden University

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Park Atatah

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Review Committee
Dr. Paul Rutledge, Committee Chairperson,
Public Policy and Administration Faculty

Dr. Dana-Marie Thomas, Committee Member,
Public Policy and Administration Faculty

Dr. Tanya Settles, University Reviewer,
Public Policy and Administration Faculty

Chief Academic Officer
Eric Riedel, Ph.D.

Walden University
2013

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Abstract

A Specialized or Super Intensive-1 (SI-1) supervision level refers to a contact requirement imposed on special needs offenders (SNOs) under Texas parole supervision. SI-1 supervision requires greater contact with parole officers and treatment providers than supervision levels used on regular offenders (ROs), yet little is known about whether SI-1 supervision offenders violate terms of their parole or commit new crimes at a different rate compared to the regular offender population in the State of Texas. Reconstruction theory and the social construction of reality were used as theoretical underpinnings of this study, which examined whether differences in offenders' supervision levels created statistically significant differences in technical or new law violations in Texas parole hearings. A random sample of 200 SNOs and ROs data were analyzed using a 2-way ANOVA. Results indicated a positive and statistically significant difference between level of supervision and technical violations, with SI-1 offenders committing a greater number of violations of non-criminal terms of parole, but with SI-1 offenders being less likely than the regular offender population to commit new crimes. These findings challenge the social construction that SI-1 offenders introduce a higher element of risk to the community regarding new criminal activity. The positive social change implications of the study include policy recommendations to the Texas legislature and Texas Department of Criminal Justice to refocus resources on improving outcomes related to technical parole violations, including a reduction in SNOs' contact standards, which in turn, promote fiscal responsibility and improvements in public safety for the people of the state of Texas.

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ProQuest LLC.
789 East Eisenhower Parkway
P.O. Box 1346
Ann Arbor, MI 48106 - 1346

Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to God because without HIM, nothing is possible. This dissertation was motivated by the spirit of love, pushed by the power of the spiritually concerned but unknown, and powered by the Grace of God. It is dedicated to my father the late Chief James Obriki Atatah (The Otota of Umolo) who barely had a sixth grade education, but insisted that everyone of his multiple children must acquire education one way or another. His spirit is a testament to this milestone. To my mother the late Mrs. Irene O. Atatah who encouraged me to be all I could be regardless of imposing challenges or obstacles. It is dedicated to my wife the "Beautiful and Wonderful" Mrs. Catherine Kisavi-Atatah who always sees the best in me; the best that many overlook or undermine. It is dedicated to my wonderful children Phoebe Onajite Atatah, Irene Grace-Jowho Atatah, and my favorite boy in whole world Brumel Cameron Atatah. I want to express my appreciation for your patience and understanding during the course of this time consuming milestone. To my brother Richard Ekokotu Atatah who insisted in my coming to America to experience the educational process. To my brothers and sisters Meg Atatah, Edore Xmas Atatah, and Stephen (Steve Nash) Atatah (diseased) who developed an undiagnosed upset of special needs impairments that may have created the endurance for sustaining this process; may his soul rest in peace. Amen! It is also dedicated to all my nieces and nephews such as Oke Atatah, Jamie Atatah, Ejiro Atatah, Ese Atatah, Onome, Emma and cousin Bob Eyubeh to mention a few. This dissertation is dedicated to all the vocal, silence, and spiritual supporters such as Edward Jones (AKA EJ Brandy), Edward James (AKA Silence Ed), and Yolanda James Jones (AKA Dedicated YO). Finally, this dissertation is also dedicated to all the SNO and Regular

offenders in TDCJ-PD Region 3 who have provided some of the knowledge, lessons, experiences, and insights needed in successfully powering this time consuming milestone.

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help me live up to their idea of Walden University graduate who is an agent of positive social change. Amen!

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Background of the Study

Special needs offenders (SNOs) are offenders diagnosed with some form of psychiatric, psychological, or physical condition that limits their day-to-day living abilities. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division (TDCJ-PD) (2011) classified SNOs as offenders who are diagnosed with some forms of mental or physical conditions and who are assigned to be supervised in the special needs offenders program (SNOP) caseload under the super or specialized intensive-1 (SI-1) supervision level. The SI-1 supervision level requires a minimum of three face-to-face monthly contacts with the SNOs and a minimum of two monthly collateral contacts with treatment providers; significant others such as wives, husbands, relatives, and families of offenders; the sponsors of the SNOs; and treatment providers.

SI-1 supervision level is higher than those levels applied in the supervision of violent offenders such as sex offenders without sexual conviction, drug dealers, arsonists, armed robbers, substances and alcohol abusers, domestic violence offenders, driving while intoxicated (DWI) offenders, and murderers. These are populations supervised by TDCJ-PD (2011) on regular caseloads that require fewer monthly contacts than those imposed on the SNOs. These supervision levels include maximum level, requiring two contacts monthly office and home visits; medium level, requiring one office visit monthly, and one home visit every other month; minimum level requiring one office visit monthly, one home visit every 6 month quarterly reports, requiring one office visit every

3 months and one home visit every year; and annual reports requiring one office visit yearly. These supervision levels are lower than the SI-1 supervision level.

This supervision level result in challenges that lead to preventable warrants being issued, as well as revocation of the SNOs parole supervision privileges. Furthermore, the SI-1 level of supervision creates challenges associated with reporting as scheduled; keeping special needs doctors' appointments; and complying with the rules, mandates, as well as special conditions (SCs) of release. The impacts of SI-1on the SNO are preventable short- or long-terms county jails incarcerations due to their inability to comply with contact levels, issuance of parole warrants, as well as revocation hearings conducted on the SNOs that eventually lead to the revocation of their parole privileges.

It has been repeatedly argued that the supervision level an offender is classified and placed has a lot to do with the offender's risks, needs, and responsivity factors (Andrews & Bonta, 2003, 2006). Furthermore, Lurigio, Gudenberg, and Spica (1988) stipulated the proper ways to supervise SNOs in any settings. A majority of these supervision implications may be singularly created by the excessive contact requirements, imposed on the SNOs in the state of Texas (Lurigio et al., 1988). Abbott, Ploubidis, Huppert, Kuh, and Croudace (2010), Aiello (2007), Bernstein (2008), and Davis (2003) emphasized the effective approaches in dealing with SNOs' supervision. Lurigio et al. defined reasonable accommodation as giving the SNOs additionally needed incentives for the purpose of supervision or treatments. Lurigio et al. further defined unreasonable accommodation as giving SNOs additionally unneeded incentives due to their mental or physical conditions. Lurigio et al. concluded that both approaches may be

counterproductive to SNOs' successful compliance with treatment modalities and supervision. As such, SI-1 supervision level is an unreasonable accommodation as used on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, due to its excessive contact requirements.

It has been suggested that over classification of SNOs while on parole or community supervision may be motivated by stigma which could be counterproductive to the SNOs' successful compliance with rules and conditions of supervision (Jacoby, 2005; Levin & Laar, 2004; Blaine, 2007). Further, Lurigio et al. (1988), Andrews and Bonta (2003, 2006), Andrews and Dowden (2006), and Arnold (2007) suggested that over-involvement with any group of offenders, especially SNOs while on parole supervision, community supervision, or while incarcerated, creates more negative implications that could be detrimental to effective supervision of such offenders. Lurigio et al. asserted that excessive contacts with SNOs, when under one of these conditions, is considered as excessive involvement. Lurigio et al. concluded that excessive involvement could be classified as reasonable or unreasonable accommodation. Lurigio et al. also believed that both approaches maybe detrimental to the effective supervision of SNOs, in any settings. Lurigio et al. defined over-involvement as having too much contact with SNOs during treatments or supervision. Yet, the state of Texas continues to place all SNOs on this level of supervision. Repeated efforts made by the parole officers and public policy decision-makers to have TDCJ-PD leadership reduce the SNOs supervision levels have failed.

This supervision level is an unreasonable accommodation due to assumptions and perceptions by TDCJ-PD leadership that SNOs are more likely to reoffend than regular offenders. Regular offenders are offenders who are assigned to regular caseloads who are supervised at regular supervision levels (TDCJ-PD, 2011). They are supervised at lower levels than the SI-1 level of supervision. These assumptions and perceptions are not in alignment with TDCJ-PD statistics or national statistics from the United States Justice Department (USJD; 2010). According to the TDCJ-PD (2008), SNOs are more likely to reoffend while on parole, approximately 15% of the time, as compared to 37% of the time with regular offenders. The USJD (2010) indicated that crimes committed by SNOs account for less than 4% of all criminal activities committed in the United States. However, their criminal activities were more likely to make the local or national news about 80% of the time, due to the bizarre nature of their crimes (USJD, 2010). Overall, SNOs have a higher marginal propensity of completing parole, as compared to their counterparts.

The purpose of this SNOP mixed methods research study was to compare the recidivism risk factors associated with supervising SNOs with those of regular offenders. Furthermore, I analyzed the associative supervision implications and purpose, possible future implementation of lesser supervision levels, based on Andrews and Bonta's (2003) and Andrews and Andrews, Bonta, and Wormith's (2006) supervision theory of risks/needs/responsivity (RNR). The efficacy in the supervision of these offenders can be achieved with fewer social or supervisory implications (factors related to offenders' compliance abilities due to supervision level's requirements), which will eventually lead

to positive social change to the SNOs, the public, the parole officers, and the criminal justice decision-makers. This could also reduce the recidivism rates of SNOs in these counties.

Recidivism is seen by TDCJ-PD (2011) leadership as a tendency to relapse, backslide to old counterproductive habits, or behaviors that are prevalence to reoffending or reoffense by offenders under TDCJ-PD supervision. Recidivism has components that make reoffending or reoffense possible. These components include reoccurring poor attitudes, poor behaviors, poor reactions, rejections of referrals, and other general compounding disposition of character that may lead to incarcerations or revocation of the offender's parole privileges (USJD, 2010; TDCJ-PD, 2011; Andrews et al., 2006). According to TDCJ-PD classification applications, a higher recidivism group is a group that has a higher marginal propensity to display the above enlisted characteristics, while a lower recidivism group has a lower marginal propensity to display the above enlisted characteristics. The classification application used by TDCJ-PD leads to group levels of supervision.

Statement of the Problem

Many studies have been conducted on the ability of the SNOs' compliance while on community supervision or probation, parole, or incarcerated. For example, Bernstein (2008), Buchanan (2008), Dickins (2007), Hutchins (2008), and Lurigio et al. (1988) found that SNOs should not be treated differently than other offenders during parole supervision, community supervision (probation), or while incarcerated. Yet, the TDCJ-PD supervises its SNOs at one of the highest levels of supervision due to unproven

assumptions and preconceptions that these offenders may be more likely to reoffend than regular offenders. SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, are placed on SI-1 level of supervision. This supervision level requires a minimum of five or more monthly contacts, as compared to one to two monthly contacts for most regular offenders' caseloads. These regular offenders' caseloads may include murderers, drug dealers, arsonists, and sex offenders without sexual convictions.

SI-1 supervision level imposition is based on the perceptions and assumptions of TDCJ-PD leadership that SNOs are more likely to reoffend as compared to regular offenders. According to TDCJ-PD (2011) policy, this contact level is not subject to change, regardless of compliance levels, risks factors, or need factors associated with the individual offender. This is contrary to the supervision levels of regular offenders as well as other specialized caseloads that periodically change, due to associated recidivism factors. The policies concerning SNOs supervision that were implemented by TDCJ-PD leadership could be subjective, based on perceptions and assumptions. Additionally, repeated efforts to have TDCJ-PD leadership reduce SNOs supervision level, based on compliance and other associative recidivism factors, have failed.

Such supervisory implications (factors that impact SNOs' compliance) include an inability to report as required by SI-1 supervision level, disagreements with SNOs' sponsors, lack of transportation, and inability to meet other special needs treatments requirements. TDCJ-PD (2011) defined SNOs as an offender that has some form of mental impairment (MI), mental retardation (MR) with adaptive hardships prior to the age of 18, terminally ill (TI), physical handicapped (PH), or medically recommended

intensive supervision (MRIS). These offenders are supervised in the SNOs' caseload. In light of this definition and approach, SNOs may need specialized personnel to work with this population of offenders in order for them to complete parole supervision successfully. However, the supervision implications created by the SI-1 supervision level make it challenging to find sustainable specialized parole officers for this caseload. As a result, the average special needs specialized officer (SNSO) lasts less than 3 years on the caseload due to associated social and supervision implications related to SNOs' inability to comply with parole supervision rules and conditions.

All offenders should and must be assessed with some form of RNR instruments when debating about which supervision levels are appropriate and applicable for certain offenders (Andrews et al., 2006; Andrews & Bonta, 2006; Arnold, 2007; Ward, Mesler, & Yates, 2007). Although, the TDCJ-PD (2011) also uses this approach in the assessments and reassessments of regular and specialized offenders, including sex offenders (SO) who use Static 99, SNOs are not covered during these assessments and reassessments processes. Instead, SNOs are placed in a blanket supervision level (one supervision level for all SNOs regardless of RNR factors) which remains unchanged until completion of parole supervision or death. Researchers (Bourgon et al., 2009; Raynor, 2004, 2008; Trotter, 1996, 2006) have indicated that individualized programs are useful during supervision of offenders; less is known about the roles supervision levels (personnel/professional involvements with offenders) play in offenders' ability to successful or unsuccessful complete parole supervision.

This SNOP mixed methods study should be pursued for several reasons, especially due to the conflicting national and state statistics regarding SNOs compliance levels as compared to other offenders. First, I examined the supervision levels placement practices by TDCJ-PD through the lens of work of Lurigio et al. (1988) who posited that excessive involvements with SNOs, in any programs/settings, are detrimental to compliance. Second, I reviewed and applied the theory of Andrews and Bonta (2003) and Andrews et al. (2006) which contends that RNR is fundamental to offenders' supervision methodologies. Bernstein (2008), Buchanan (2008), Hutchins (2008), and Lurigio et al. reported that further research needs to be conducted on issues of too much or too little involvement with SNOs in order to improve their compliance. The SI-1 supervision level imposed on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas may include too much involvement because of its required contacts levels.

The roles SI-1 supervision level plays in SNOs recidivism rates remain unknown. This is the gap in literature that I explored, which may bring positive social change to this population of offenders. The TDCJ-PD (2011) leadership culture has promoted positive social change and efficacy in the supervision of some offenders. Through the development, promotion, and application of appropriate and applicable supervision levels, certain supervision levels have been reduced for regular offenders. For example, about 2 years ago, annual report (AR) was introduced to reduce the minimum supervision level for regular offenders (ROs) from quarterly report, once a quarter of each year, to annual report, once a year. Furthermore, early release from supervision (ERS) was also introduced.

This supervision level requires ROs to be reassessed, reevaluated, and discharged from parole supervision earlier than their actual sentence discharge dates. Although TDCJ-PD efficient approaches in offenders' supervision appeared to be favorable to regular offenders due to repeated levels requirements' reductions, the SNOs are not qualified in both approaches (AR and ERS) implemented by TDCJ-PD leadership. There is no evidence of higher recidivism rates among the ROs placed on either the AR or the ERS caseloads as a result of a reduction in contact levels. The development and implementation of applicable and appropriate supervision levels will improve efficacy in the supervision of SNOs by TDCJ-PD leadership in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas bringing about positive social change to the SNOs.

Intervals of Change in the Levels of Supervision due to Classification

Intervals of changes in levels of supervision are generated through the classification offenders' RNR assessments and reassessments (Andrews & Bonta, 2003). A comprehensive analysis of risks and needs factors are conducted via a computer-based program in order to generate appropriate and applicable levels of supervision. According to Parole Directive/Parole Operational Procedure (PD/POP; 1995):

> The case classification system serves as the basis for the development of case supervision plans. The classification system is a program on the computer system, and instructions for data entry are contained in the Data Services User Manual. Assignment to a level of supervision is primarily determined from two score components: a risk assessment score and a needs assessment score. (p. 2)

Classification generates offenders' supervision levels based on stipulated time frame.

Frequencies of Assessments and Reassessment

Frequencies of assessment and reassessment depend on various offenders' compliance related factors and timing of outlined TDCJ-PD's due dates. According to PD/POP (1995), an initial assessment shall be completed on offenders within 30 days of release from Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Institution Division (TDCJ-ID), state jails, or county jails. Regular reassessment for the purpose of classification and assignment to supervision levels will be conducted every 6 months. Levels of supervision are generated from the risks and needs scores based on certain criteria. The needs scores' criteria include academic, vocational, employment, alcohol usage, other drug usage, mental illness, mental ability, sexual behavior, and officers' impression. On the other hand, the risks scores criteria are based on prior convictions, prior incarcerations, age of first commitment, commitment offense, supervisory release revoked, substance abuse, employment, education, and release home plans. In needs analyses, the higher the needs scores, the higher the level of supervision; in risks analyses, the lower the risks levels scores, the lower the supervision levels (PD/POP, 1995).

The system will generate supervision levels based on the computed scores as a maximum level, medium level, or minimum level of supervision. The higher the level of supervision, the higher the contact requirements imposed on such offenders. After the initial assessment, if everything remains unchanged, a follow-up reassessment is due every 6 months to determine an offender's new supervision level. A special reassessment can be conducted based on an officer's discretion or the occurrence of a new law violation to increase the supervision level of such offender. Furthermore, QRs and ARs require a

special reassessment and classification process. However, as indicated by PD/POP (1995):

> If the offender no longer meets the criteria for Quarterly Reporting or violates any conditions of release, the supervision level shall be increased accordingly. Except for the terminally ill or physically handicapped (TI/PH), offenders supervised on specialized caseloads shall not be eligible for Quarterly Reporting Status. (p. 2)

PD/POP reemphasized that "The lowest level of supervision for offenders supervised on an MI, MR, or TI/PH caseload is SI-1. Reference Parole Division policy 3.7.1" (p. 2). SNOs are subjected to officers' overrides of lower supervision levels from medium or minimum supervision levels to SI-1, which is a higher level of supervision than the maximum supervision level imposed on regular offenders. SI-1 supervision level imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas remains unchanged since 1995 when PD/POP 3.2.5 was implemented by the leadership of TDCJ-PD. In this study, I examined why SI-1 supervision level remained unchanged since 1995, in light of work by Berger and Luckmann (1966) in the area of social construction of reality theory.

The Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the roles SI-1 level of supervision used in the supervising of SNOs in the state of Texas play in the compliance of the SNOs. I examined whether this supervision level was in alignment with special accommodations as outlined by Lurigio et al. (1988) through the theoretical lens of Andrews and Bonta (2006). Additionally, I reviewed the social and supervision implications associated with

SI-1 level of supervision. The secondary purpose this research study was to examine the implications associated with SNOP caseload, through a comprehensive analysis of 2006 reconstruction theory that posited that RNR is fundamental to the effectiveness in the supervision of all offenders (Andrews et al., 2006). Finally, I examined the ideologies behind the development and implementation of the SI-1 supervision level by the leadership of TDCJ-PD.

The dependent variables were the observed phenomenon or measurements that were affected by the manipulation of the independent variables (Campbell & Stanley, 1963; Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008; Trochim, 2006). Dependent variables are alternatively referred to as outcome or criterion variables (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008; Ouyang, 2010). This design is more appropriate when dealing establishing the causal relationship between independent variables and dependent variables; the researcher should design an experiment to associate or disassociate such relationship. This study will add to existing body of literature that deals with the supervision of SNOs. Also, the study will assist TDCJ-PD leadership, criminal justice, and public health decision-makers develop and implement effective, efficient, and proficient offenders' supervision policies. This study will bring positive social change to the SNOs in the state of Texas by encouraging TDCJ-PD leadership to revisit the SI-1 supervision level.

Nature of the Study

The purpose of the mixed methods research study was to examine whether the SI-1 level of supervision imposed on Texas SNOs leads to higher recidivism rates.

Additionally, I tested the ideas of Lurigio et al. (1988) who criticized the use of special accommodations when dealing with SNOs while incarcerated, under parole or under community supervision. I examined the implications of the SI-1 level of supervision as a special accommodation, in relation to associated or disassociated challenges that could lead to higher recidivism rates among this population of offenders. I analyzed the theory of needs/risks/responsivity by Andrews et al. (2006) in relation to supervision theoretical applications, from the conceptual ideas concerning excessive involvements in the lives of offenders as seen by Lurigio et al. Involvements in this study were based on offenders' supervision levels and associated contacts requirement. SI-1 is a supervision level imposed on SNOs that includes excessive involvement.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

This study was driven by one primary research question and two supplemental research questions. As a mixed method study, there was one quantitative and one qualitative question. These questions generated three types of possible hypotheses.

Qualitative Research Question

1. What were the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being imposed by the leadership of TDCJ-PD on SNOs on SNOP caseloads, in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas?

In qualitative research studies, there are no hypotheses; however, there are assumptions. Therefore, I examined this research question with two assumptions in mind.

Assumption 1. The quality of supervision and recidivism rates of the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, does not improve with the development and implementation of SI-1 level of supervision imposed on SNOs.

Assumption 2. It is possible to obtain the same or better quality of supervision and lower recidivism rates from the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties with the application of (regular levels of supervision) such as those used in the supervision of regular offenders in the same counties.

Quantitative Research Question

1. How have the ideologies behind the development and implementation of the SI-1 supervision level imposed on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas created social and supervision implications for the SNOs as compared to offenders on regular supervision caseloads?

***H_0*1:** There is no statistical relationship between the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 level of supervision imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas and compliance implications and supervision challenges as compared to ROs that leads to higher recidivism rates.

***H_1*1:** There are some statistical relationships between the ideologies behind the development and implementation of (SI-1) level of supervision imposed on the (SNOs) in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, and compliance implications and supervision challenges as compared to ROs that leads to higher recidivism rates.

The null hypothesis which stipulates that there is no statistical relationship between variables must be rejected and the alternative hypothesis that stipulates that there some statistical relationships between variables accepted.

Independent variable (IV). SI-1 supervision level; regular supervision levels

Dependent variables (DV). Compliance implications; Social and Supervision challenges; Higher Recidivism Rates

Theoretical Framework

Several theories related to my research topic were analyzed to understand the challenges associated with supervising offenders with special need conditions. Most of these theorists have asserted that SNOs need no special supervision methodologies/levels to be successful on parole, while incarcerated or while under community supervisions. In this research study, I concentrated on the ideas of Lurigio et al. (1988) who contended that no special accommodations should be given to SNOs while on parole supervision, community supervision, or incarceration. The SI-1 level of supervision in Austin County, Colorado County, and Fort Bend County, Texas is a special accommodation as defined by Lurigio et al.

One of the theoretical bases for this study was the work of Lurigio et al. (1988). Lurigio et al. addressed the associated challenges of supervising offenders with special needs diagnoses. The gap in related research researchers who have addressed issues related to supervision levels in relation to SNOs under parole, under community supervision, or while incarcerated. Special accommodations were defined. Therefore, in this study, I tested whether the application of SI-1 supervision level in the state of Texas,

is considered a special accommodation. Lurigio et al. argued that SNOs will perform equally, if not better than ROs in the absence of reasonable or unreasonable special accommodations. Lurigio et al. believed that the implementations of unreasonable accommodations for the SNOs while incarcerated or under parole supervision are considered to be an excessive accommodation, which could be hinder SNOs' progress. Instead, Lurigio et al. contended that SNOs should not be given any accommodations in order for them to comply with their released special conditions and supervision rules. Texas' SI-1 supervision level imposed on the SNOs contradicts Lurigio et al. ideas of excessive accommodation.

I tested Lurigio et al.'s (1988) ideas in relation to the SI-1 level of supervision being implemented on SNOs in the state of Texas, in the use of excessive involvement. Additional, I wished to examine the implications created by supervision levels of offenders and compare them to factors that lead to increase recidivism rates of SNOs. I examined the roles the SI-1 supervision level plays in the recidivism rates of the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas as compared to ROs in the same counties. The results of these comparisons were analyzed to determine if excessive involvements, as defined by Lurigio et al., are recidivism factors. However, RNR theory, introduced by Andrews and Bonta (2003), was applied in the review of associated risks/needs recidivism factors, in both of the populations of SNOs as compared to ROs.

Risks/Needs/Responsivity Theory

While the research of Lurigio et al. (1988) may be used as a determinant of excessive or less involvement during the supervision of SNOs, it was not applicable to its

relationship with recidivism rates of SNOs. Therefore, the theory of RNR by Bonta and Andrews (2003), Andrews et al. (2006), and Ward et al. (2007) was examined to isolate supervision levels of offenders in relationship to the risks/needs factors associated with recidivism rates. According to Andrews and Bonta (2003), the three core principles can be stated as follows:

> *Risk principle*: Match the level of service to the offender's risk to re-offend. *Need principle*: Assess criminogenic needs and target them in treatment. *Responsivity principle*: Maximize the offender's ability to learn from a rehabilitative intervention by providing cognitive behavioral treatment and tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities and strengths of the offender. (p. 1)

Furthermore, Andrews et al. (2006), and Ward et al. (2007) examined the seven major risks/needs factors associated with recidivism rates of most offenders, along with some minor risks/needs factors (see Appendix C). A comprehensive analysis of the roles the SI-1 supervision level plays in SNOs' recidivism rates was conducted comparing these RNR factors. Also, a comparison of my findings of SNOs recidivism rates was compared against those of ROs to determine whether SNOs could be supervised at lower levels of supervision with reduced recidivism rates.

Social Construction of Reality Theory

While RNR theory by Andrews and Bonta (2003) was used by the TDCJ-PD in case classification and assignment of supervision levels to ROs, the TDCJ-PD organizational policies/directives did not state the origin of the SI-1 supervision level.

SNOs are not entitled to such supervision levels' classification due to SI-1 supervision level. Also, these policies/directives did not state that the origin of the SI-1 supervision level was the one and only appropriate and applicable supervision level for SNOs. Although Lurigio et al. (1988) questioned of the meaning of involvements/accommodations, here referred to as supervision levels, with SNOs in treatment, incarcerated, under parole supervision or under community supervision, Lurigio et al. did not address the origin of SI-1 supervision level. The SI-1 level of supervision imposed on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, originated from organizational application of the social construction of reality theory that was developed by the leadership culture of TDCJ-PD that SNOs are more likely to reoffend than regular offenders. However, TDCJ-PD statistics regarding recidivism rates contradicts the development formulas behind the SI-1 level of supervision when dealing with SNOs.

The social construction of reality theory can be traced to the works of Craig (1995) and Shotter and Gergen (1994). However, the social construction of reality theory was first introduced to the sociology field by Berger and Luckmann (1966). Since its introduction, social construction of reality theory has been implemented in the fields of social construction, psychology, sociology, public relations, public health, and public administration (Burnham, 1968; Goffman, 1974; Hymes, 1972; Palmer, 1969). The goals of social construction of reality theory were to determine ways in acquiring knowledge, the understanding of old knowledge, and the avenue for the development of policies that were based on facts (Gadamer, 1976; Rorty, 1978). This approach had been further

studied by several researchers (Bloor, 1976; Buber, 1965, 1970; Burke, 1966, 1978; Gadamer, 1976; Hekman, 1986; Palmer, 1969; Rorty, 1979). Other studies were also conducted in the fields of education, psychology, and sociology using the theoretical application of social construction of reality theory. Furthermore, scholars like Goffman (1974), Heidegger (1971), and Hymes (1972) also explored social construction of reality theory.

Berger and Luckmann (1966) developed their idea of social reality in the Durkheimian theory and French school of sociology. Berger and Luckmann (1966) believed that

> Our view of the nature of social reality is greatly indebted to Durkheim and his school in French sociology, though we have modified the Durkheimian theory of society by the introduction of a dialectical perspective derived from Marx and an emphasis on the constitution of social reality through subjective meanings derived from Weber. (p. 15)

Berger and Luckmann believed that most societal ideologies are originated from the understanding and interpretations of ideas which involves subjective approaches rather than objective reasoning. Also, that if these subjective approaches are monitor and verified repeatedly, they eventually become the norms through which societal ideas are shaped, developed, and implemented.

In search of a more effective systematic theoretical reasoning, Berger and Luckmann (1966) believed that

> Durkheim tells us: "The first and most fundamental rule is: Consider social facts as things." And Weber observes: "Both for sociology in the present sense, and for history, the object of cognition is the subjective meaning-complex of action." These two statements are not contradictory. Society does indeed possess objective 5 facticity, and society indeed built up by activity that expresses subjective meaning. And, incidentally, Durkheim knew the latter, just as Weber knew the former. It is precisely the dual character of society in terms of objective facticity *and* subjective meaning that makes its 'reality *sui generis*,' to use another key term of Durkheim's. The central question for sociological theory and then be put as follows: How is it possible that subjective meanings *become* objective facticities?" (p. 16)

Berger and Luckmann (1966) emphasized, "The language used in everyday life continuously provides me with the necessary objectifications and posits the order within which these make sense and within which everyday life has meaning for me" (p. 21). Berger and Luckmann believed that language makes subjectivity "more real" (p. 36), not only for conversational partners, but also for oneself. Therefore, the capacity of language to identify and preserve an individual's subjectivity, albeit with modification, is conserved even after face-to-face interaction is over. Wilden (1987) asserted:

> Ideologies are by nature symbolic: what they symbolize may be both imaginary and real, reality being the ultimate test of their validity. They are transmitted between people by every available means: ritual, schooling, clothing, religion, jokes, games, myths, gestures, ornaments, entertainment. (p. 91)

Language becomes a person's primary reference to everyday life.

Include a topic sentence. Berger and Luckmann (1966) asserted that all human activity is subject to habitualization, meaning if an action is repeated frequently, it becomes a pattern which can be reproduced later in a form apprehended by a performer in the beginning. Habitualization implies that even undesirable actions may be performed again in the future "in the same manner and with the same economic effort" (Berger and Luckmann, 1966, p. 50). This is true for social and nonsocial activities. Berger and Luckmann argued that habitualization precedes institutionalization, "institutionalization occurs whenever there is a reciprocal typification of habitualized actions by types of actors;" in other words, "any such typification is an institution" (p. 51). According to social construction of reality theory, ideologies tend to legitimize a society's institutions (Berger & Luckmann, 1966).

However, ideologies come from individuals to groups, then to society, and finally to institutions for policy developments and implementation. Ideologies are passed down from culture to culture and generation to generation. Berger and Luckmann (1966) concluded that if such ideologies are shared long enough, they become the grounded forces in which institutions develop and implement beliefs and policies that affect individuals, groups, and society. Berger and Luckmann further asserted that the reality of these beliefs or policies may be contrary to societal realities or facts. As such, in this mixed methods study, I examined the ideologies behind the SI-1 supervision level being imposed on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, through the theoretical lens of Berger and Luckmann's social construction of reality theory.

The theory of social construction of reality deals with the generational manifest of ideologies. According to Littlejohn (1992), "An ideology is a set of ideas that structure a group's notions of reality, a system of representations or a code of meanings governing how individual and groups see the world" (para 1). Littlejohn added that every society has shared beliefs called dominant ideologies. These dominant ideologies are more believable to a majority of societal members. Littlejohn claimed that such beliefs serve as the foundation for society's institutional policies developments and implementations. In this study, I examined SI-1 level of supervision by exploring the ideologies behind its development and implementation on the SNOs, through the theoretical lens of Berger and Luckmann's (1966) social construction of reality theory.

Definition of Terms

Several terms will be used during the course of this current research study

Annual reports (AR): this is a newly introduced supervision level that allows regular offenders to report to the parole office once a year (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Dominant ideology: An ideology that is widely believed and accepted by majority in society (Berger & Luckmann, 1966).

Driving while intoxicated (DWI): Offenders that are on parole supervision for convictions of DWI (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Early release from supervision (ERS): A newly implemented supervision approach that allows Texas offenders to discharge their parole supervision, earlier than their sentences discharge dates (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Ideology: An ideology is a set of ideas that structure a group's notions of reality, a system of representations or a code of meanings governing how individual and groups see the world (Berger & Luckmann, 1966).

Medically recommended intensive supervision (MRIS): These are offenders who are released from TDCJ-Institutional Division due to illness that will lead to their death within one year of release (TDCJ-PD, 2011). These offenders are also assigned and supervised in SNOP caseload (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Mentally impaired (MI): these are offenders with mental illness with (Axis 1) diagnosis assigned and supervised in the SNOP caseload (PD/POP, 2011).

Mentally retarded (MR): Offenders that have IQ 70 or less, that have some form of adaptation challenges prior to the age of 18, assigned and supervised in the SNOP caseload (PD/POP, 2011).

Parole directive/Parole operational procedure (PD/POP): Administrative guidelines that states TDCJ-PD policies of supervision as well as employees' expectations (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Physical handicapped (PH): Offenders with some form of physical disability that adversely affects offenders' ability to act or react to simple everyday human needs. These offenders are assigned and supervised in SNOP caseload (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Recidivism: A tendency to relapse, backslide to old counterproductive habits, or behaviors that are prevalence to reoffending or reoffend by offenders under TDCJ-PD parole supervision (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Special needs offenders program (SNOP): A caseload established for the supervision of all SNOs at TDCJ-PD (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Special conditions (SCs): Specific conditions that are on certain offenders such as 8S for submission to alcohol and substance abuse counseling and treatment/s (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Super -Intensive-1 (SI-1): A level of supervision assigned to SNOs at TDCJ-PD (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Sex offenders (SO): These are offenders who have committed and convicted of sexual offenses and are assigned to the sex offenders' caseload by TDCJ-PD classification, to be under the supervision of specialized SOs' officers (TDCJ-PD, 2007).

Special needs offenders (SNOs): Offenders who are assigned and supervised in the SNOP caseload (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Terminally ill (TI): Offenders that have less than 1 year to live due to terminal illness; assigned and supervised in the SNOP caseload (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division (TDCJ-PD): A division of Texas Department of Criminal Justice that is responsible for the supervision of offenders in parole in the state of Texas (TDCJ-PD, 2011).

Assumptions

I conducted this study using three assumptions. The first assumption was that the SI-1 level of supervision creates more supervision as well as more social implications for SNOs, leading to increased recidivism rates for this population of offenders. The second assumption was that SNOs can be supervised in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend

Counties, Texas, at an equal or lower supervision levels other than the SI-1 level of supervision as compared to those offenders in regular caseload's levels of supervision and that the recidivism rates will remain the same or lower. The final assumption was that the diagnosis with special needs conditions actually creates additional social and supervision implications for both the SNOs and the parole officers, which leads to increased violation of mandatory or parole supervision rules as well as SCs of release.

Limitations and Delimitations

I conducted this study using five limitations. A lack of collaboration with scholarly peers may be a limitation of this study. In order to resolve this threat, a finished product of my quantitative research was submitted to my dissertation chair, co chair, and the Walden University Research Center for review, comprehensive evaluation, corrections, and acceptance at several stages during the dissertation process. Another potential limitation relating to the design of the SNOP research study was the size of data gathered from the population. Issues related to internal consistency as well as external validity may arise because the sample population was limited to offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend County, Texas. As a SNO officer and supervisor for almost 20 years, issues related to professional and interpersonal biases may arise as well. As such, my findings may not be generalizable statewide due to individual office variances. SNOs are considered to be a vulnerable population; therefore, legal and ethical issues may arise when dealing with such population.

Some of these limitations could be resolved through the application of nonexperimental descriptive statistics quantitative research with a survey instrument.

Campbell and Stanley (1963), Creswell (2009), and Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008) recommended using nonexperimental descriptive statistics, in a quantitative design, when dealing with vulnerable populations such as offenders. Finally, a consideration of using strictly secondary data and elimination of survey instruction was an option.

Significance of the Study

The overall significance of the research study was its potential to provide an additional supervision tool for criminal justice divisions, public health policy decision-makers, and mental health agencies in relation to SNOs' supervision and treatment modalities. This study also added to existing literature related to the supervision of SNOs in any settings. As a result of the study, offenders in the SNOP caseload may be supervised at equal or lower levels as ROs without unconfirmed fears concerning their high recidivism rates due to their supervision levels. I filled the void in literature regarding staff involvements with SNOs, as recommended by Bernstein (2008), Buchanan (2008), Dickins (2007), Hutchins (2008), and Lurigio et al. (1988). This study may bring about positive social change for the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, through the replacement of SI-1 with lesser levels of supervision.

Impacts of the Current Special Need Offender Program Study on Public Policy

Public policy paradigms are motivated by strategic changes, structural changes, and power distribution changes, according to the punctuated equilibrium theory by Eldredge and Gould (1972). The overall outcomes of these motivations are environmental

changes and technological changes, which should appear in a frequency of punctuation. Eldredge and Gould asserted that

> The central proposition of punctuated equilibrium embodies three concepts: stasis, punctuation, and dominant relative frequency. *Stasis* refers to a long period of relatively unchanged form; *punctuation* is radical change over a short duration; and *dominant relative frequenc*y is the rate these events occur in a particular situation. (p. 115)

It appears that SI-1 supervision level imposed on the SNOs in these counties fell into concept of stasis which "is a long period of relative unchanged." However, ROs at the same time, in the same counties experienced the punctuation which "is radical change over a short duration." Eldredge and Gould (1972) suggested that at any time, any of these concepts can be confusing, misleading, and counterproductive the success of the subjects of change if the punctuated equilibrium approach is not implemented. Both SNOs and ROs need the punctuated equilibrium theory approach when dealing with supervision levels to balance dominant relative frequency of changes in offenders' supervision levels.

According to Gersick (1991), Hannan and Freeman (1997), Lichtenstein (1995), Romanelli and Tushman (1994), and Tushman and Anderson (1986), in relation to the punctuated equilibrium theory, TDCJ-PD leadership's attitude toward supervision of SNOs falls within stasis (a long period of relative unchanged), based on unproven myths, perceptions, and assumptions that it is likely for SNOs to have a higher rate of

reoffending than ROs if supervised on lower supervision levels other than SI-1. I provided guidelines to change these perceptions that were based on unproven myths.

According to the punctuated equilibrium theory, ROs are periodically supervised with punctuated change over a short duration. This is evidenced by TDCJ-PD leadership's willingness to reduce their supervision levels periodically. These conflicting approaches of the periodic changes in ROs' supervision levels and relative unchanged of SI-1 supervision level since 1995 create imbalance in the supervision for the SNOs (Chidambaram, 1996; Jasperson, Carter, & Zmud, 2005; Jarvenpaa, Shaw, & Staples, 2004; Tushman & Romanelli, 1985). Punctuated equilibrium theorists argue that no change over a period of time leads to revolution. However, deep structure is "the set of fundamental 'choices' a system has made of (1) the basic parts into which its units will be organized and (2) the basic activity patterns that will maintain its existence" (Gersick, 1991, p. 14). Equilibrium periods are characterized by the maintenance of organizational structures and activity patterns, where small incremental adjustments are made to adjust for environmental changes without affecting the deep structure (Loch & Huberman, 1999; Newman & Robey, 1992; Porra, 1999; Porra, Hirschiem, & Parks, 2005). This study served as an incremental guideline, equilibrium periods, from which TDCJ-PD public policy-makers can benefit when making SNOs public policy decisions.

I believe that the implementation of the punctuated equilibrium theory is needed by the SNOs in these counties. According to Sabherwal, Hirschheim, and Goles (2001) and Street and Meister (2004), the dynamics of alignment came from the punctuation equilibrium model and incremental growth leads to transparencies. This study will assist

public policy-makers, especially those who work with SNOs, by providing the tools needed to effectuate efficacy in the management of the SNO population of offenders. Furthermore, I redefined the meaning of staffs' involvements, as present in current supervision levels (Lurigio et al., 1988), when working with SNOs in any settings, in relationship to efficacy of SNOs supervision. I provided public policy-makers access to the punctuated equilibrium model, which is needed in defining various types of involvements and supervision levels with SNOs in all settings. Above all, this study will add to existing literature that public policy-makers can use to determine leadership/supervision approaches during the public policy decision-making processes.

Summary and Transition

In Chapter 1, I outlined the background of the mixed methods research study, which included an introduction and the background of the approach to the research study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, and the nature of the study. Additionally, I also addressed the research questions as well as the associated hypotheses. I justified the importance of the research study in relationship to the efficacy in the supervision of SNOs while on parole or community supervision or while incarcerated. I addressed the methodology of the mixed methods research study. I reviewed and explained the theoretical frameworks that were applied in the study and provided reasons as to why these theories were selected over other theories.

Additionally, I addressed some of the likely limitations as well as delimitations associated with the research study. Finally, I examined assumptions associated with the research study and the significance of the study to the social scientific society as well as

to criminal justice decision-makers. In the Chapter 2, I analyzed some of the reviewed literature related to SNOs, clients in a free-world settings, and criminal justice supervision of this population of offenders. Details concerning methodology were further addressed in Chapter 3. This included the types of tests conducted, reasons why these tests were needed, the population of sample, the software that aided the study, as well as the methodological type used.

Chapter 4: dealt with institutional review board (IRB) application and approval of the study to be conducted which included mandatory human research rights protection procedures, involving risk management, and informed consent for participants. Chapter 4: also dealt with issues dealing with anonymity and confidentiality in protecting the privacy of the participants. Also, Chapter 4: dealt with data collection methods, types of data collected and analyses conducted as well as brief summary of study's findings. Chapter 5: dealt with the Interpretation of the Findings, Recommendations, and Conclusions integrates the problem, the process, and the results with comprehension of the data, and recommendations for resolving the issue.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

The purpose of this study was to examine the roles SI-1 level of supervision used in the supervising SNOs in the state of Texas play in the compliance of the SNOs. The literature reviewed for this study was comprised of studies of SNOs in correctional or none correctional facilities. Other literature reviewed involved treatment modalities when dealing with SNOs population. Even though it is recommended to review only the most current literature, in some cases, going back in history helps establish a more empirical understanding of the topic (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). Therefore, I examined literature from Walden University's recent dissertations, journals, and scholarly articles. The parameter of these reviews included offenders' education, needs/risks assessments, supervision assessments, supervision levels, policy assessments, and overall compliance/noncompliance levels assessments of SNOs. I included previous studies related to the SNOP topic as well as areas of needs for the mixed methods research study. I also analyzed special needs research studies in noncorrectional facilities as well as those dealing with quality of life (QOL) as related to special needs clients in general.

The literature was also drawn from criminology as well as criminal justice's six theories in relation to effective offenders' supervision in corrections, institutions, and while on parole, probation, or during community supervision. The major generations of criminology and theoretical/conceptual applications to offenders' supervision and management of offenders are (a) new direction in theoretical supervision approaches of offenders, (b) staff skills and effective offender supervision, (c) improving offender

supervision, (d) significant others and social networks, (e) offenders' compliance with supervision, and (f) offenders' compliance with contexts. I covered analysis of "what works" in punishment, rehabilitation, and supervision along with a brief analysis of RNR theory.

Literature Search Strategy

Strategy for literature review included a review of documents' databases using Walden University's Library services (Walden, 2009a). The databases used for literature review included ProQuest, and EBSCOHost (Walden, 2009a). The analysis used focused on government reports, public administrative reference texts, and peer-reviewed journal articles that provided depths, breaths, and insights required in the supervision of SNOs in various settings. Strategy for literature review also included comprehensive reviews of peer-reviewed journals' databases, scholarly texts, and public administration courses to draw crucial data and explanations. Literature review was also initiated through comprehensive reviews of the EBSCOHOST database, which included sites such as Education Research Complete, Education Resource Information 21 Center (ERIC), Google Scholar, Google Academic, Academic Search Premier, SocINDEX with full text, Sage Publications, and Business Source Premier (Walden, 2009a). These were significant documents' databases for various types of scholarly resources.

Also, public administration research papers submitted to Public Policy and Administration courses involving SNOs, supervision, compliances, traditional public administration values, and principles were included in the literature search review process (Walden, 2009a, 2009b). All information used in literature review was evaluated for their

essential information relevance to offenders' compliances to treatments, incarcerations rules, or supervisions modalities. The key words used to locate current peer-reviewed journal articles included criminal justice, treatment modalities, special needs, special needs offenders, reentries, rehabilitations, incarcerations, supervisions, treatment compliances, chronic diseases, psychological, mental, physical, and offenders' compliances. Other key words used included supervision levels, special conditions, and staffs' involvements with offenders' supervision. These key words posed higher possibilities that reviewed literature were current in years (within the last five years) and the contents and contexts were related and significant to the topic of this research study.

Special Needs

Correctional/Noncorrectional Facilities Special Needs Studies

Global assessment functioning is another assessment tool used in the evaluation of SNOs in relationship to poor education and challenges associated with rehabilitation. Aiello (2007) used global assessment functioning (GAF) to determine whether poor education, along with other special needs issues, made it difficult to rehabilitate juvenile female offenders. Aiello linked the roles of educational and special needs to determine how they act as attributes in female juvenile rehabilitation. Aiello concluded that low educational scores, along with other special needs issues, were twice as likely to become predictors of resocialization for female juvenile offenders. This combination also resulted in double the recidivism rates. Bernstein (2008) used the mental health court (MHC) to examine the relationship between treatment agreement and criminal activities among repeat offenders.

The finding of this study appeared to be inconclusive. Bernstein concluded that a better understanding of this population of MI people is needed in order to address the needs of these offenders. In light of the findings of these studies by Aiello and Bernstein, I reviewed RNR analysis associated with the supervision of SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas and found some gaps with these findings of these studies. These findings did not address the central or primary research question of this SNOP research study concerning the roles supervision levels plays in SNOs ability to comply with treatment or supervision modalities.

The well-being of SNOs is another area of interest in literature reviewed. Abbott et al. (2010) conducted a quantitative study using Ryff's psychological scale as a measurement tool. The aim of this study was to assess the effective measurement range of Ryff's psychological well-being scales (PWB). Abbott et al. used IRT scales using factor analysis procedures for ordinal data based on a limited information estimation approach. Abbott et al. collected "data come from a sample of 1,179 women participating in a midlife follow-up of a national birth cohort study in the United Kingdom" (p. 357). Abbott et al. found that a wider measurement of individual dimensions showed better well-being than the group measurement. Abbott et al. recommended that additional research may be needed in terms of combining well-being as a group. Abbott et al. also suggest that better measurement instruments may be needed in future studies. This finding went against the ideas of Lurigio el at., Andrews et al., and Berger and Luckmann (1966) social construction of reality theory. Also, contrary to their recommendations, the SI-1 level of supervision classifies SNOs in the state of Texas as a group, rather than as

individuals. A limitation of the Abbot et al. study was that it failed to address research questions regarding what role supervision levels play in relation to recidivism rates of SNOs.

Many researchers have addressed some of the methodologies that were involved in the effective supervision of SNOs (Abbott et al., 2010; Aiello, 2007; Bernstein, 2008). However, these scholars did not addressed the needs/risks analysis as seen by Andrews and Bonta (2003), Andrews et al. (2006), and Andrews and Dowden (2006) or the ideas of Lurigio et al. (1988). These researchers outlined the relationship between risks/needs and recidivism rates of offenders under parole or community supervision as well as those in correctional settings. Andrews and Bonta (2003, 2006) asserted that effective analysis of RNR is an accurate predictor of recidivism rates of any offender. Andrews and Bonta concluded that for a system to be effective, the researchers should review these predictors in a professional, discrete manner, in order to develop applicable modalities. Moreover, few scholars examined the new directional theoretical approaches to offenders' supervision (LeBel, Burnett, Maruna, & Bushway, 2008). As such, RNR analyses is another area I examined during the statistical analyses.

Quality Of Life Special Needs Studies

In areas of QOL, studies were conducted to examine the QOL of special needs clients. Acil et al. (2008) examined the effects of physical exercises to mental state and quality of life in patients with schizophrenia was conducted. Acil et al. studied 30 patients with schizophrenia disorder that were inpatients as well as outpatients. The purpose of their study was to “examine the effects of 10 weeks of physical exercises program on

mental states and quality of life (QOL) of individuals with schizophrenia" (Acil et al., 2008, p. 906). Acil et al. addressed the role, if any, physical exercise had on the mental wellbeing of schizophrenia disorder inpatient and outpatients. Acil et al. found that a mild exercise for both inpatients and outpatients' participants led to an increase in their QOL. Acil et al. further conclude that such increases in QOL also decreased the symptoms of schizophrenia. Schizophrenia disorders are commonly supervised in the SNOs caseloads in the state of Texas. Furthermore, while Acil et al. examined the effects of exercise on the well-being of patients with schizophrenia disorder, Acil et al. did not investigate such impacts in relation to offenders under supervision, housed in secured facilities, or while incarcerated. This is a gap in literature the SNOP research study investigated with SNOs on parole supervision.

Another study that focused on the impacts of QOL of special needs clients on rehabilitation was conducted in 2009. Ackerley, Gordon, Elston, Crawford, and McPherson (2009) conducted a quantitative study to examine the relationship between QOL and rehabilitation. Ackerley et al. find that those patients who successfully completed rehabilitation programs showed a higher QOL than their counterparts. Ackerley et al. The researchers concluded that "A strong correlation existed between the total WHOQOL-BREF and LHS scores both cross-sectionally (admission and discharge $p > 0.7$), and longitudinally ($p = 0.63$)" (p. 906). The impact of simple freedom on the well-being of the mental or physical impaired cannot be overemphasized (Ackerley et al., 2009). All participants completed the WHOQOL-BREF and the London Handicap Scale (LHS) at admission and discharge (Ackerley et al., 2009). This finding was in alignment

with Andrews et al. (2006, 2010) RNR theory. The SI-1 level of supervision tends to reduce such freedom for the SNOs in the state of Texas.

In their theory of the "chicken and egg" of subjective and social factors in desistance from crime, Lebel et al. (2008) found that certain factors predict criminal attitudes as well as behaviors. These factors, according to Lebel et al. include age, gender, criminal history, and family background. Lebel et al. stressed that one or more of these factors could accurately predict offenders' chances of reoffending. Additionally, reoffending is driven by a singular or multiple factors (Andrews & Bonta, 2003, 2006). As such, a considerable amount of effort in prison, as well as parole and community, supervision is designed to implement prison-based and evidence-based approaches geared toward new thinking and a decision-making processes to reduce recidivism of offenders (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; McGuire, 2000). In this study, the researchers did not examine the roles supervision levels play in the recidivism rates of specialized offenders such as SNOs. This is one of the areas the SNOP study was focused.

Pretest/posttest quantitative research study was another research applied in the measurement of QOL and SNOs' self-estimates. Ackerman and Wolman (2007) conducted a quantitative study to examine the determinate and validity of self-estimates of abilities and self-concept measures. Ackerman and Wolman implemented a pretest/posttest approach in their study. Ackerman and Wolman found that trait complexes indicated a higher ability in verbal competencies, however, they showed a lower correlation in math competencies. Ackerman and Wolman concluded that conducting a self-evaluation at individual levels is a better approach than a group

approach. Ackerman and Wolman's findings contradicted the implementation of the SI-1 supervision level, which is a group approach rather than an individual approach. It does so by placing all SNOs under the SI-1 supervision level. This is a level that is subject to no reduction, regardless of an individual offender's compliance during supervision. Ackerman and Wolman did not address the theory of Lurigio et al. (1988) or the most recent criminal justice rehabilitation theories of Andrews and Bonta (2003) and McGuire (2000).

Health status indicators' questionnaire was used to investigate the QOL of patients in a cross-sectional multicultural research used in clinical trials. Acquadro, Conway, Hareendran, and Aaronson (2008) reviewed methods to translate health-related quality of life questionnaires for use in multinational clinical trials. Acquadro et al. examined 891 references that measured "quality-of-life,""questionnaires,""health status indicators" matched with "translating,""translation issues,""cross-cultural research," and "cross-cultural comparison" (p. 509-521). Acquadro et al. found that more empirical research studies are needed in areas dealing with translational methodologies. Acquadro et al. recommended that instead of relying on a single approach, multiple approaches appear to yield more accurate results than previously anticipated. Acquadro et al. further stressed that the availability of standardized guidelines and centralized review procedures improves the efficiency of the production of translations. However, such standardized guidelines and centralized review procedures are not available at TDCJ-PD when dealing with the SNOs.

Dual diagnosis is another concern about effectively supervising SNOs in any setting especially while incarcerated. Buchanan (2008) conducted a study using the multidimensional treatment foster care (MTFC) to examine the relationship between antisocial issues and incarceration among young girls. Buchanan concluded that of the 82 offenders who participated in the study, other viable factors other than bad grades and antisocial behavior played more significant roles than previously anticipated. Dickins (2007) used the dual diagnosis and substance abuse management module institutionalized for offenders (DD-SAMM-O) to study the relationship representation of dual diagnosed offenders and the amount of services they actually receive. Dickins concluded that among the 25 participants in this study, offenders with substance abuse problems showed no significant improvement as compared to those with mental health diagnosis who showed a marginal improvement. Both of these researchers used the quantitative approach method in their studies. While dual diagnosed offenders are part of the SNOP caseload used at TDCJ-PD, these researchers did not examine the roles of contacts levels with SNOs played in relationship to effective supervision or manage-care while offenders are incarcerated, on parole, or community supervision. This is another deficiency that was addressed by the SNOP research study.

Supportive groups' roles and enrollments are necessary for individual identification of mentally related issues prior to incarceration. Hutchins (2008) and Mamadou (2007) used a simple survey design to examine the relationship between enrollment in school and violent behavior, with the over-representation of juvenile offenders in correctional facilities respectively. Hutchins and Mamadou examined 100

and 88 active offenders respectively. Hutchins and Mamadou concluded that on the average, students who enrolled in more supportive and/or monitored environments had more successful school outcomes than others. Furthermore, Mamadou concluded that identifying mentally-related issues prior to incarceration is important to an effective rehabilitation of offenders. Mamadou found that early identification is the key to manage care when dealing with SNOs individually or collectively. SI-1 supervision level classifies all SNOs as a group rather than individual. Researchers have argued that SNOs are to be classified as individuals rather than a group (Andrews & Bonta, 1996; Lurigio et al., 1988). This is considered as "one size fits all" approach, as seen by Andrews and Bonta (2003).

The personality assessment inventory (PAI) and logistic analysis are effective tools used in multiple or dual diagnosis of SNOs. Reinsmith-Meyer (2008) and Platt (2009) used the personality assessment inventory (PAI) and the logistic analysis (LA) to study the relationship between mental health, substance abuse, and incarceration, along with the identification of incarceration factors. Mixed method approaches were used to examine 482 and 3343 offenders, respectively. In the final analysis, both studies were inconclusive; Reinsmith-Meyer and Platt suggested that additional research may be needed to find conclusions to both studies. However, areas and levels of supervision were not addressed by both researchers. Subjective, social, nor risks/needs theory as seen by Andrews et al. (2006) were not addressed in either study. There are certain subjective social factors such as aging and employment that are related to reoffending. The

comprehensive examination of these subjective factors is fundamental to the development of programs that works.

Deciding the most appropriate and applicable intervention modalities is yet another challenge associated with working with the SNOs population (Andrews et al., 2006, 2010). In an attempt to examine appropriate intervention modalities applicable to secondary school children in Australia, De Jong and Griffiths (2008) conducted a study aimed at improving the capacity of secondary school students with high-support needs in the area of mental health. The goal of this qualitative study was to develop an effective case management approach in the supervision of secondary school children with special needs issues. De Jong and Griffiths examined the roles student support personnel, school administrators, school psychologists, school counselors, and mental health providers played when services that could benefit this population of students were jointly combined through service initiatives. De Jong and Griffiths reported that providing feedback within the involved personnel is an effective way of reaching the population of children, rather than isolated approaches.

The limitations of this study were the sample was not generalized to other populations with associative mental health needs, such as Texas offenders, because the study was conducted in Australia instead of Texas. De Jong and Griffiths did not address the roles and types of involvements implemented during the study. Also, De Jong and Griffiths did not answer the questions posed by this research study regarding the roles excessive involvements play when dealing with SNOs or population, as contended by Lurigio et al. (1988). Furthermore, De Jong and Griffiths did not address if the diagnosis

of special needs condition/s creates compliance and supervision implications, rather than solutions.

The differences between the scales used in the measurement of QOL can make a different in the actual calculation of the QOL (Lurigio et al., 1988) In a similar study designed to examine the effects of dementia QOL on the aging population in the United Kingdom, Karim, Ramanna, Petit, Doward, and Burns (2008) conducted a qualitative study on the importance of life measures for clinical practice in relation to older patients with dementia in the United Kingdom in comparison to those in the United States. Karim et al. wished to determine if there was a relationship between the United States and United Kingdom older patients with dementia using both the US Dementia-Quality of Life (D-QOL) and the UK D-QOL version. The US D-QOL validated measurement instrument of dementia quality of life was used in the study. The study was conducted in three stages. These stages were adaptation, piloting, and validation with three stages of participants. The adaptation stage was made up of lay people as well as researchers. The piloting stage was made up of 15 patients with histories of dementia. Finally, the validation stage was made up of 36 participants with histories of mild to moderate dementia offsets. This population was divided into two groups and the study was administered with 2 week intervals.

Karim et al. (2008) summed that there were comparable psychometric properties between the US version of D-QOL and the UK D-QOL version. Karim et al. concluded that this instrument was viable in the measurement of QOL in UK when dealing with patients with mild to moderate dementia offsets. However, the Karim et al. study was

designed to test an instrument rather than to test effects of offenders' behavior in supervision settings. Furthermore, Karim et al. did not outline the implications of special needs diagnosis as a confronting factor in relationship to the outcome. Finally, Karim et al. did not address any of the confronting factors the current SNOP research study examined. Issues such as the roles supervision levels in the form of offenders' contacts levels played in the recidivism rates of the SNOs was not addressed by Karim et al. Also, the roles organized and imposed special conditions play in offenders' compliance rates was not addressed as well. These were areas explored or investigated by the SNOP study.

Expressive writing (EW) is another effective diagnostic tool used in identifying chronic stress among special needs caregivers. Mackenzie, Wiprzycka, Hasher, and Goldstein (2008) examined the effects of optimistic eexpressive writing (EW) on improving mental health among chronically-stressed caregivers. Mackenzie et al. conducted a quantitative study to examine the effects of EW in relationship to the depression along with other mental illness with caregivers of older patients. A randomized sampling was used to select the participants of the study. This study was a comparison study designed to pinpoint the effectiveness of both approaches. Mackenzie et al. found that in relationship to efficacy, (™) was more effective in reducing psychological illness in caregivers than EW and hhistory writing (HW). Mackenzie et al. concluded that various people obtain their stresses from various entities. Furthermore, Mackenzie et al. stressed management related to chronic diseases are controlled by various factors. Mackenzie et al. suggested that positivity and optimism were effective ways of controlling psychological related issues dealing with caregivers.

Certain limitations exist in the Mackenzie et al. (2008) study. Mackenzie et al. selected participants from caregivers of a population of frail and cognitively-impaired older adults. This appears to be a limitation because randomized selections are more likely to yield generalized outcomes than targeted selections (Creswell, 2009). Furthermore, randomized selections often lead to more generalized outcomes than targeted selections. Randomized selections often yield a better sample representation than targeted selections. Another limitation was that the analyses of linguistic applications varied during the study, which could compromise the outcomes as well as results of the study. From a criminal justice standpoint, Mackenzie et al. did not address offenders' issues. In addition, from a special needs standpoint, Mackenzie et al. did not address special needs issues from a primary approach. This study lacks the central research problem, hypotheses, as well as questions that I addressed. In summary, while this study will benefit the caregivers of older special needs patients, it did not benefit the immediate patients themselves.

Another areas of concerns were the responses of SNOs to substance abuse treatment approaches. Friedmann, Taxman, and Henderson (2007), examined how these programs responded to the special needs of substance abuse offenders in relation to treatment approaches and recidivism rates. The purpose of the Friedmann et al. study was to examine the substance abuse offenders' recidivism rates through the implementation of evidence based practices (EBPs). The researchers believed that in 2 years, the cases of substance abuse offenders' recidivism rates increased as compared to other offenders. The study found that less than 60% of offenders with special needs concerns were offered

effective substance EBPs programs. Other findings by the study outlined that with the application of multiple regression models only community based programs provided EBPs (Friedmann et al., 2007). The statistical analysis employed by the study may be applicable and appropriate for the purpose of the study.

The specifics of the literature reviewed in relation to Friedmann et al. (2007) study are as follows. The researchers reviewed studies (Thanner & Taxman, 2003; Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2004; Henderson et al., 2007; Andrews & Bonta, 1996; Taxman & Marlowe, 2006; Taxman & Thanner, 2006) that dealt with issues of risks/needs assessments of SNOs in relation to criminal justice issues. However, it is fair to note that some of these studies were relatively older than five years. For example, the works of Andrews and Bonta(1996), Hubbard et al. (1989), and Simpson, Joe, and Brown (1997) appear to be too old to be reasonably applicable from a social scientific viewpoint. Creswell (2009) suggested that it is fundamental for researchers to review current literature in order to gain current viewpoints on the state of intended study's topic. These researchers did not follow this social scientific application wisdom.

In a quantitative study conducted by Rai, Dutta, & Gulati (2010), the examination of quality of life (QOL) was analyzed with reference to the different stages of HIV-infected patients in Northern India. The central research question in this study dealt with evidence of a relationship between Human Deficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) QOL patients in North India experienced. The goal of the study was to determine if there were variances in the quality of life of HIV-Infected patients due to differences in the stages of infections (Rai, Dutta, & Gulati,

2010). Rai et al. used the cross-sectional design that examined 68 consecutive patients within the northern regional hospitals on an outpatient basis. This study was sponsored by Department of Medicine at a premier tertiary health care center in North India. A questionnaire was administered to a majority of the nurses, doctors, and care providers within the northern India medical facilities as well as hospitals. QOL was evaluated using the WHOQOL-Bref instrument. A One way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was performed to find out significant difference between the clinical categories and socio-demographic variables on QOL domains" (Rai et al., 2010, p. 61).

The study found that on a scale of 0-100, roughly 25.8 of the participants had similarities in the areas of overall QOL regardless of the stages of HIV. Furthermore, about 81% showed some form of social issues related to different stages of HIV infections. The study found that 28% of the participants showed psychological distress, 18% showed physical concerns, and about 12% reported environmental domain. The study concluded that there were significant differences between QOL and the stages of HIV-Infections experienced by these participants. Rai et al. also found that other than the stages of HIV experiences, factors such as education, income, occupation, family supports, and clinical classifications had fundamental impacts on QOL. Therefore, a general analysis of the effective or ineffectiveness of the study in relation to the current research studies needs to be conducted.

The major limitations of the Rai et al.'s study in relationship to the current SNOP research study were; this study did not define how involvements were utilized on the participants as defined by Lurigio et al. (1988) supervision and treatment ideas when

working with AIDS/HIV offenders. Also, while this study examined the QOL of outpatients in Northern India, issues concerning replications in different environments may arise. Furthermore, the sample population may be relatively too small to be holistically generalized to others areas, other than India. This in turn, may pose issues related to external validity and reliability. While the study's research question was clearly stated, it did not include the impacts of such a study on the SNOs. Additionally, the study did not include offenders with dual conditions of AIDS/HIV and special needs disorders. One positive aspect of the study was its addition to an already exiting body of literature related to special needs care in an institutionalized settings. Such an addition could be useful to scholar-practitioners when dealing with the care of special needs patients, especially those with HIV diagnosis.

The SNOP study's research question concerning SI-1 level of supervision of SNOs was not addressed as well as the current study anticipates. Additionally, the key fundamentals of the current mixed methods approach research study's problem statement was not addressed by the Rai et al. (2010) study. Finally, theories about risks/needs reassessments as seen in the works of the theory of Andrews and Bonta (1996), Andrews et al. (2006) Henderson et al. (2007), Andrews, Bonta, and Wormith (2006), and LeBel, Burnett, Maruna and Bushway (2008) about risks/needs reassessments were not addressed as well as anticipated by the current study. These are some of the limitations that the current research study examined.

In a previous study conducted by Rajagopalan, Laitinen, and Dietz (2008) the researchers examined the impacts of metabolic and morphological side-effects in HIV-

infected individuals receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART). The study also examined the stigma associated with facial wasting (lipoatrophy) in HIV-Infected patients. This was a quantitative study of Consumer Health Sciences Survey data collected between 2003 and 2006. The scales of scoring were mental component summary (MCS) scores and physical component summary (PCS) scores with the utilization of the medical outcomes trust (MOT) questionnaire. There appears to be some similarities between both studies.

The basic similarities between this study and the previously mentioned study were they both addressed the QOL. Both studies also had populations with similar characteristics (HIV-Infected patients). The population of the study was 1,124 outpatient clients, which was appropriate for the study the racial demographics of the participants were mixed. The demographic consisted of 80% males, 20% females, the majority between the ages of 30 to 60 (90%).As far as racial demographics, 37% of the participants were Hispanic, 25% were of African American heritage, and the remaining participants were Caucasian. The overall prevalence of lipoatrophy between and among the participants was 18%.

The researchers found that statistical significance was ($p<0.001$) differences in QOL. Rajagopalan et al. concluded that there was a significance stigma associated with facial wasting in HIV-Infected patients. From a generalized QOL standpoint, this study addressed the quality of life of special needs patients. However, the issues associated with generalizations remained questionable. This study did not address specific mental health-care issues related to offenders' supervision. Another limitation found with this study is that it did answer the central research questions of the current research study.

While this study may have contributed to mental health care body of already existing literature, it did not address the fundamental question in relationship to external validity when dealing with SNOs. Also, these studies did not address the core approaches of criminal justice supervision theories such as the RNR theory of risks/needs/responsivity analysis as studied by Andrews et al. (2006). As such, the gaps in literature are clearly obvious.

The roles challenges faced by primary caregivers when dealing with SNOs transitional process from children to adulthood was another area of literature reviewed. Rapanaro, Bartu, and Lee (2008) examined the impact and challenges of supervising intellectually disabled adolescents during transition to adulthood. While this study was conducted on the disabled population, it was primarily centered on the challenges faced by caregivers rather than the challenges faced by the special needs clients during the transitioning process. The purpose of the study was to investigate the positive as well as negative impacts associated with transitioning young disabled clients into adulthood care. Stress was practically defined in relationship to the caregivers rather than the disabled clients. In a qualitative study, 119 caregivers were surveyed with a questionnaire, which was analyzed in qualitative coding.

The study found that the relationships between positive and negative perceptions were mixed (Rapanaro et al., 2008). The study also found that some participants reported some positive outcomes while working with this population during the transitioning process. However, some participants reported stress as a major factor during this process. The study concluded that parental role and involvement were significant in ensuring

smooth transition. The social implications from practitioners' standpoint was that caregivers should work with parents during this critical transitional period. The major social impact recommendations from the study was that parental involvement during the transitioning process was essential in ensuring positive outcome. Furthermore, obtaining historic feedback from parents is fundamental to smooth transitions. The study concluded that parental experience with their children during such transitional processes, if related to caregivers, could dramatically reduce the associative burdens related to the transitional processes (Rapanaro et al., 2008). Transitioning from RO to SNOP caseload is another challenge that faces the SNOs in these counties.

Although this qualitative study addressed a central question on the relationship between stress and transitions of special needs clients during transitional periods, it did not address the impact stress had on the special needs client. Also, the study's population was centered on caregivers, rather than the clients. These populations were not offenders; as such, issues of external generalizations were questionable. Therefore, a fundamental question becomes would the findings of this study, lead in a converse direction if the participants were special needs offenders? Moreover, the study did not address the critical research question of the current SNOP research study that dealt with issues regarding reasonable and unreasonable accommodations as well as social implications when supervising SNOs on parole in the state of Texas. Finally, this study did not review fundamental supervision modalities of Lurigio et al. (1988), Andrews and Bonta (2003), McGuire (2000), and Andrews et al. (2006), which is an area the current SNOP research study explored.

The researchers, Rapanaro, Bartu, and Lee (2008), reviewed studies that mainly dealt with issues of risks/needs assessments of SNOP in relationship to criminal justice supervision, such as the works of Thanner and Taxman (2003), Lowenkamp and Latessa, (2005b), Henderson et al. (2006), Andrews and Bonta (1996), Taxman and Marlowe (2006), and Taxman and Thanner (2006). However, it should be noted that some of these literature were relatively older than five years. For example, the study by Andrews and Bonta (1996), along with the studies of Hubbard et al. (1989) and Simpson, Joe, and Brown, (1997) appeared to have reviewed literature too old to be reasonably applicable from a social scientific viewpoint to a study conducted in 2011. This maintains a gap in literature regarding the SNOs that the current research study intends to address.

The Six Major Generations of Theoretical/Conceptual Applications to Offenders' Supervision

I also reviewed literature regarding the six generals of theoretical applications of criminal justice supervision.

The six generational treatment and supervision modalities of criminal justice dealt with the paradigms of approaches to offenders' supervision. McNeill, Raynor, and Trotter (2010) asserted that there were six fundamental approaches to criminal justice supervision of offenders in general. These supervision approaches went through paradigm stages of organizational drives to seek effective, efficient, and proficient methods in relation to criminal justice supervision. The six major generations of criminology and theoretical/conceptual applications to offenders' supervision and management of offenders are: (a) new direction in theoretical supervision approaches of

offenders, (b) staff skills and effective offender supervision, (c) improving offender supervision, (d) significant others and social networks, (e) offenders' compliance with supervision and finally, and (f) offenders' compliance with contexts. The generations of criminal justice supervision approaches, as well as the related literature to each approach, will be discussed as the final section of literature review for the current mixed methods research study, beginning with the New Directions in Supervision Theory.

New Directions in Supervision Theory

The new directions supervision theory dealt with modern approaches to offenders' supervision. McNeill, Raynor, and Trotter (2010), addressed what they consider to be an exciting criminal justice theoretical application. These studies included but were not limited to viewing offender assessment and rehabilitation through the Lens of the RNR model by Bonta and Andrews (2003, 2006, 2010), McGuire (1995), and Maruna and Immarigeon (2004). This approach was first developed in the 1980s and then later introduced to the criminal justice world in the 1990s. The fundamental belief of this approach is that most criminal behaviors originate from offenders needs as well as risks in relationship to their responsivity when dealing with recidivism rates. Bonta and Andrews (2006) believed that a comprehensive analysis and understanding of these risks/needs/responsivity factors is integral in the development of policies that are geared toward effective supervision of offenders in general. While this theory is older than five years, it should be noted that since its existence, various criminal justice experts have revisited it in attempts to make it more user-friendly.

Several researchers Arnold (2007), Blanchette and Brown (2006), Ward, Mesler, and Yates (2007) affirmed that RNR is designed to examine the contextualization within a general personality and cognitive social learning theory of criminal conduct. Furthermore, they believe that offenders' criminal conducts are motivated by two factors. These factors are personalities of offenders and their cognitive social learning abilities. Through overwhelming analyses, these researchers concluded that links usually develop as to which of these behaviors is more likely to land offenders into criminal activities. Furthermore, they recommend that risk analyses should include three fundamental factors. These factors are:

- *Risk Principles*: which advocates matching offenders' risks to his or her levels of re-offending,
- *Needs Principles:* which advocates a comprehensive assessment of offenders' criminogenic needs and target them in treatment modalities, and finally,
- *Responsivity Principles:* which maximize the offender's ability to learn from a rehabilitative intervention standpoint.

This approach must include cognitive behavioral treatment interventions, motivations, coping techniques, learning styles, and a general analysis of offenders' abilities, strengths, and weaknesses. These are the basic dynamics of RNR approach. Recognizing the limitations of second generation risk assessment, research began to develop in the late 1970s and early 1980s on assessment instruments that included dynamic risk factors (Andrews et al., 2006; Bonta & Wormith, 2007; Campbell, French,

& Gendreau, 2007). Criminal history items remained an important feature of the third generation risk assessment instruments, as Andrews and Bonta believed they should. According Andrews and Bonta (2006):

> Reported that the effectiveness of treatment delivered in the real world is about half of the effect of the experimental, demonstration program. Despite this sobering finding we are also learning what is necessary to enhance the delivery of effective treatment services. (p. 368)

This is a practical summation that criminal justice public policy-makers need to pay attention to during the development of model policies. The basic limitations with these studies are that they were more general than specific. Also, they did not mention the outcomes of their findings/results in relation to applications with SNOs. Finally, they did not outline the general dynamics of what actually happens when risks/needs responsivity are misread. These, among others, are some of the limitations associated with the new generational approaches to criminal justice supervision. Based on these limitations, the question about 'Chicken and Egg' which came first? By LeBel, Burnett, Maruna, and Bushway (2008) will be examined below.

The new generational approach to supervision, as noted in "The Desistance Paradigm in Correctional Practice: From Programs to Lives", by LeBel, Burnett, Maruna, and Bushway (2008) questioned the 'Chicken and Egg' of subjective and social factors in desistance from criminal activities. This study is known as the Oxford Recidivism Study (LeBel, Burnett, Maruna, & Bushway, 2008). It was an initially a qualitative study that

started with 130 prisoners in Oxford, Great Britain, in 1990 and continued into the 2000s and beyond. The analysis of this qualitative study will be conducted below.

The oxford study is another study that examined the criminological social factors associated with resistance from committing crimes. LeBel el al. (2008), conducted a qualitative research study that examined 130 property offenders in Oxford prisons through a ten year follow up analyses. The goal of the study was to examine which social factors came first when it comes to offenders' desistance from commission of criminal activities. Andrews, Bonta, and Wormith (2006), study examined factors associated with aging as a major factor in changes in offenders' criminal behaviors. The study also questioned other subjective factors such as marriages and employment as contributing to changes in offenders' criminal behavior. The researchers interviewed property offenders in Oxford prisons who were within four months of discharging their prison sentences. Beside property crimes, it should be noted that some of these offenders had other criminal convictions in the records. Also, the prisoners were within driving distance of Oxford, England. Finally, the interview took place while offenders were incarcerated, but about to be released.

The study found that there are certain social dynamic factors associated with the desistance/recidivism process (LeBel el al., 2008). These dynamics included but were not limited to employment, reasonable accommodation, family, money, income, conviction history, neighborhoods, and trouble finding and maintaining employment. Additionally, LeBel et al. found that there were certain subjective factors associated with criminal activities as well (Giodano et al., 2002; McCord, 1994; Sampson & Laub, 1993; Uggen,

2000). The subjective factors are referred to as 'motivational models of desistance' that constitutes the dynamics of personal commitment to desist from commission of criminal activities. LeBel et al. found that such commitments were driven by four subjective factors. The factors were (a) the hope and self efficacy of offender, (b) the shame and remorse associated with the individual offender, (c) the internalizing stigma associated with offenders and their families and finally, (d) the alternative identities for offenders upon release from prison.

LeBel et al. suggested that these were the driving forces that shaped offenders' resistance and desistance from further commission of criminal behaviors. The question this study could not provide an answer to, was which came first, the aging or the subjective factors? This question was recommended for future studies. Although this study addressed issues related to offenders' rehabilitation as well as desistance from further incarceration, it did not address some of the questions posed by the SNOP research study.

Some limitations identified in this study were that this study was limited to Oxford, England which may be limited with issues relating to social scientific internal as well as external validities. Questions about generalization may arise as to how we generalize these outcomes to other areas of criminal justice supervision. Furthermore, while some of the subjective and objective aspects addressed by the study may be universal; they may not be holistically universal or applicable to all prisons populations. Issues concerning replications may arise as well. Population social scientific questions may arise as to whether or not we can replicate this study in another environment, place,

prisons, populations, and time, and still achieve the same outcomes or results? Most importantly, can we achieve the same outcomes/results when dealing with special needs populations of offenders? Specifically speaking, can we achieve these outcomes/results, with the application of SI-1 Supervision Level in the State of Texas? Finally, can we achieve these outcomes/results, outside the prisons walls, during parole or community supervisions? These are some of the fundamental questions, this study did not address.

Regardless of the contribution of this study to already existing literature, it had some limitations. The LeBel et al. (2008) study did not address the key fundamental questions of the current SNOP study's research questions regarding the definition of reasonable versus unreasonable accommodation or involvements. Inclusively, the study failed to resolve what implies to be too much or too little involvements when dealing with offenders in general, and SNOs in particular. Also, what impact does too much or too little involvements have on offenders' compliance, in relationship to recidivism rates? Finally, this study was not conducted with SNOs. Therefore, the issue of holistic generalization to the current SNOP research study is limited as well, since such populations of offenders were not exposed to this study. The current research study examined these limitations.

Staff Skills and Effective Offender Supervision

In regard to staff skills and effective offenders' supervision approach that efficiently and proficiently management of offenders, several studies linked the roles criminal staff play in the supervision of offenders in general (such as Bourgon et al., 2009; Raynor, 2004, 2008). The fundamental purpose of this approach was to link

criminal justice staff members who were well trained to work with the offenders that need their expertise. For example, Bourgon et al. (2009) examined the principles of RNR and concluded that issues surrounding the relationship between design and implementation in the real world are critical. In their quantitative study, Bourgon et al. concluded that while evidence showed that RNR could be effective, implementation in the real world is challenging.

It is fair to note that while this study intended to implement the theory of RNR, its application in the above studies did not address some of the noticeable questions the current research study explored. These questions are what roles does the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level play in the recidivism rates of SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Counties, Texas? How has the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level impacted the quality of supervision of the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas? These are some questions the current study explored. The applications of these studies were not limited to SNOs on parole or under community supervision. Also the locations of these studies were different from my intended study location. Finally, these studies did not review revocation hearings of SNOs in relation to staff involvement in the form of supervision levels. These are areas, that the current research study examined. A brief philosophical summary of the remaining criminal justice supervision theoretical/conceptual arguments will be presented in the final section of this review; beginning with improving offender supervision.

Improving Offender Supervision

The philosophical approach of improving offenders' supervision contends that offenders' supervision will improve if proper risks, needs and strengths of offenders are properly identified (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Reitz & Ruth, 2003). This approach reemphasized the works of Kemshall, Durrance, Mclvor, and Sachwald (2010) that stressed evidence based analyses as well as program evaluation as the links between success and failure of improving offenders' supervision. For example, Taxman and Marlowe (2006) concluded that effective management of chaos in correctional agencies is fundamental to successful containment supervision of offenders. Although these approaches may be effective, they did not address the roles supervision levels (involvement of staffs) play in achieving such success. This was an area I examined in the SNOP research study.

Significant Others and Social Networks

In the significant others and social networks philosophy, emphasis is placed on the roles family members of offenders play in the efforts to successfully complete incarcerations, parole, or community supervision. This approach reemphasized the works of Shapiro, Dizerega, and Holland (2010), along with O'Connor and Brad Bogue (2008). The studies conducted by Trotter (1996, 2006) emphasized impacts of differences in supervision practices along with working with the families of offenders, and are the pillar points of this philosophical approach. Trotter (1996) was an outdated study that failed to address some of the questions to be examined in the current research study. Neither of these studies addressed special needs diagnoses, supervision levels, or supervision

implications created by diagnoses and levels. These were areas the SNOP research study also addressed.

Offenders' Compliance with Supervision

This philosophical approach argues that offenders should comply with the community's penalties during incarceration or supervision. It examined some of the applicable approaches that are needed for effective supervision or during incarceration. It stressed the interrelationship between programs, structure, and the dynamics that make successful involvement in offenders' lives. However, the fundamental questions associated with the study were not addressed by this philosophy. Therefore, the final section of these philosophical approaches will review the offender supervision in its contexts approach.

Offender Supervision in Its Contexts

Offender supervision in its contexts looks at supervision of offenders from a more practical standpoint. This philosophy stated that to effectively supervise offenders, certain issues should be properly examined. For example, certain offenders may pose additional safety risks to society and should be placed on electronic monitors. Issues concerning successful evidence based programs in relation to the classification of offenders, should also be addressed. The works of Mcneil and Nellis (2009) were popular examples cited by this approach. The works of Taxman and Thanner (2006), Taxman and Marlowe (2006), Trotter (2006), Welch (2006), and Wilson and Davis (2006), are some of the prime examples of this philosophical approach.

Analysis of Reentry in Criminal Justice "Nothing Works/What Works"

The debate about "what works" in criminal justice reentry in relation to "nothing works" have been overwhelming since the 20th century. These debates were centered on punishments versus rehabilitation of offenders (see Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge 1990; Andrew, Zinger, Hoge, Bonta, Gendreau, & Cullen, 1990; Antonowitz & Ross, 1994; Latessa, 2004; Latessa & Travis, 1992). The central conflict behind the debates in the 1970's was known as "nothing works/what works." As such, there were movements to seek a balance between rehabilitation and punishment through comprehensive analyses of what works in criminal justice reentry approaches (Lurigio, Rollins, & Fallon, 2004; Martinson, 1972, 1974, 1979; Reitz & Ruth, 2003). Overview reviews of 231 rehabilitation approaches by Martinson (1974) for example, found that a majority of these approaches were practically ineffective, in proficient, and inefficient across the board, upon application. On the basis of proficiency, efficiency and effectiveness, Martinson (1974) concluded that "…his analysis he concluded that offender treatment was largely ineffective" (p. 49). For example, "…education… or psychotherapy at its best, cannot overcome, or even appreciably reduce, the powerful tendency for offenders to continue in criminal behaviour" (p. 49).

The overwhelming acceptance that there was a flaw in criminal justice treatment and rehabilitation approaches opened the doors for new experts to pursue policies that work in criminal justice (see Andrews et al., 1990; Latessa, 2004; Latessa & Travis, 1992; Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005). The inability to effectively track high risks offenders from incarceration to treatment and then to community supervision (Latessa,

2004; Latessa & Travis, 1992; Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005; Welsh, 2006; Wilcox, 2001) was another issue noted about what works and what does not work in treatment and rehabilitation. SI-1 supervision level as imposed on the SNOs in these counties appears to be one of those approaches that do not work in criminal justice offenders' supervision.

Scholars such as Andrews et al. (1990) argued that tracking high risks offenders is fundamental to the success of any treatments or rehabilitation modalities. They further argued that such tracking should be comprehensive from the periods of discharge from such programs, to the behaviors at home during family environment settings. The scholars concluded that on the average low risks offenders were the most successful (80.5%), followed by low moderate (75.3%), moderate (72.6%), and high risk (63.7%) offenders. In a study of almost 7500 offenders, the researchers found that 30% of these offenders had failing rates to any type of treatment approaches or modalities (Andrews et al., 1990; Latessa, 2004; Latessa & Travis, 1992; Welsh, 2006; Wilcox, 2001). However, the researchers concluded that the higher the risks levels of the offenders, the higher the failure rates to overall treatment modalities or approaches. Therefore, from a public policy viewpoint, it appears that high risks offenders are more likely to overrun the costs of treatments, punishment, and rehabilitation of offenders than other types of offenders. As such, public policy-makers should develop and implement policies that reduce abuse by high risks offender. One of such policies was initiated by Andrews et al. (1990), Wilson and Lipsey (2001), and Welsh (2004).

Rethinking rehabilitation was another area of literature reviewed that dealt with offenders' supervision efficacy. In Farabee's (2005) book, "Rethinking Rehabilitation", Farabee argued that offenders put the community at-risk and no amount of surveillance and control will reduce this risk. One in every five offenders leaving prison today has significant mental health problems (Clear, Byrne & Dvoskin, 1993; Lurigio, Rollins & Fallon, 2004). A majority of these offenders, especially those SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas, are supervised in the SNOP caseload. SNOP caseloads require a SI-1 level of supervision which appears to fail these offenders due to its supervision implications. However, it should be noted that a few of these offenders could be monitored with electronic monitors as recommended by Farabee Instead; these offenders are supervised at SI-1 level of supervision which serves as an alternative to electronic monitors. Andrew and Bonta (2003) contended that risks/needs/responsivity (RNR) should be the determinant factors in classifications and placements of any offenders.

Analysis Risks/Needs/Responsivity RNR Model

The RNR Model by Andrews and Bonta (2003) looked at the RNR factors that motivate criminal behaviors. Andrews and Bonta believed that criminal behaviors are motivated by seven or more major high risks/needs factors that need to be contained during supervision. These factors are antisocial personality, pro-criminal attitudes, and social supports for crimes, substance abuse, family marital issues, relationships, education, and prosocial recreational activities. These factors are classified as major criminogenic major needs that trigger offenders' criminal behaviors (Andrews & Bonta,

2003). Furthermore, Andrews and Bonta contended that there are certain non-criminogenic minor needs associated with offenders' rehabilitation. These needs are self-esteem, personality distress, major mental problems, and physical problems. Andrews and Bonta concluded that each of these risks/needs respond to each other to create criminal behaviors. However, they further warned that understanding the RNR is significant to supervision or treatment in any setting.

SNOs are not qualified to be reviewed by such classifications instruments in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas. The goal of this study was to examine the SI-1 supervision level from the ideas of Lurigio et al. (1988) through the citing of Andrews and Bonta (2003) RNR Model currently utilized by TDCJ-PD. Also, SI-1 was explored from the theoretical lens of Berger and Luckmann (1966) social construction of reality theory. This exploration analyzed the fundamental ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level. The SI-1 level of supervision as implemented on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, appears to be one of those policies that do not work. For these reasons, and several others mentioned earlier, the examination of SI-1 implications through comprehensive analyses of Lurigio et al. ideas of the principles of involvements with offenders, through the citing of RNR model, along with Berger and Luckmann (1966) theory was the focus of the current research study. In summary, in light of the overwhelming premises associated with the social construction of reality philosophical approach, this research study addressed these specific concerns, which appeared to be missing from the literature reviewed.

Gaps and Deficiencies in Prior Literature

After a comprehensive review of literature related to this research study, I concluded that there were significant gaps in existing literature that needed to be filled. This was where this research study played a role. Based on dissertations and studies as highlighted above, it was noticeable that there were gaps in time. Most of the related dissertations were written between 2007 till present. These gaps are historic because between 2005 and 2006, very little information was applicable to the current research study. The problems studied by this earlier research lack comprehensive analysis that the current mixed methods approach research study intend to explore. Beside the above, a majority of the QOL studies used qualitative research approach methods, while the current research study intended to apply the mixed methods approach, which was recommended by Creswell (2009) as it involves more holistic analyses of data.

Furthermore, the above studies lack an investigation into offenders' relationships with compliance/noncompliance issues using treatment compliance/noncompliance as a dependent variable. Therefore, the fundamental goal of this research study was to examined issues related to treatment as a measurement that, if applied appropriately, it will demonstrate that SNOs should be supervised at more severe supervision levels than other offenders. This is because this study explored or investigated and concluded that the compliance levels of SNOs are universally equivocal to other offenders without the imposition of SI-1 supervision level.

Methodology

The purpose of a literature review was to outline the missing links in research paradigms (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008; Trochim, 2006). Therefore, based on lessons learned and insights gained from literature reviewed, descriptive non-experimental comparison quantitative design was more appropriate for the current SNOP mixed methods research study than other designs. Data from 2008 – 2009, with special emphasis on special needs offenders' regular offenders, and high risks offenders, was gathered. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, 2012) aided in the calculations of these measurements and helped yield some decision making insights to public administrator.

Finally, IRT scale was used as it was the most appropriate scale for my choice of study. IRT scale was used to measure people's performance in a group setting by analysis of the individual as well as collective results of each group. SI-1 supervision level operates on the fundamental principles of placing all special needs offenders as a group, rather than individual. Above all, IRT measured items responsivity within the group in terms of performance and relativity. Unlike the Likert scales that measures attitude, IRT measures performance in individuals as well as groups and this is precisely what the SNOP mixed methods research study examined.

After the review of literature, it was determined that the most appropriate and applicable methodology for the current SNOP mixed methods research study was a combination of quantitative and qualitative design (mixed methods approach). Quantitative research design deals with quantification of numerical and numbers rather

than qualifying similarities and differences (Campbell & Stanley, 1963; Creswell, 2009). Quantitative design as stated by Creswell (2009), also allows the researcher to review the variables through comprehensive analysis of the roles the variables play within the distribution as well as their relationships to association and disassociation.

Quantitative design is highly recommended by most experts when dealing with vulnerable population (Campbell & Stanley, 1963; Creswell, 2009). As such, this study's population, which included SNOs, are considered by the social scientific world to be a vulnerable population. Therefore, the descriptive non-experimental comparison design was appropriate and applicable quantitative design due to its non interference approach, which is subject to protecting the rights of participants.

However, research question 2 was analyzed via a qualitative design. Qualitative designs allow researchers to qualify rather than quantify (Creswell, 2009). Therefore, RQ2 used qualification of supervision levels using a case study approach. A qualitative survey instrument was implemented and then coded for themes and sub-themes using NVivo9 software (2012). Research Question 2 dealt with the qualitative section of this design. For these reasons, a mixed methods approach research design was more appropriate and applicable in addressing both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the current study. Details of this design was outlined in chapter 3, methodology section of the current SNOP study.

Summary and Conclusion

The literature reviewed for this research study identified gaps in current, and not so current, studies. In order to address these gaps, I posed several fundamental questions

which the current research study attempted to address. These were some missing links, which the current SNOP research study explored. The review of literature did not provide any answers for the current study's primary research question of what were the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being imposed by the leadership of TDCJ-PD on SNOs on SNOP caseloads, in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas. These were concerns that this current research study addressed.

Furthermore, literature reviewed conducted for this research study did not provide any answers for the two supplemental quantitative and qualitative research questions concerning the roles SI-1 play in the supervision of SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas. Chapter 2 also established other gaps or deficiencies in literature in relation to the current research study. These gaps or deficiencies involved programs and approaches that did not work. While literature reviewed examined the effectiveness versus ineffectiveness of criminal justice approaches, modalities, and interventions during offenders' reentries, they did not explore or investigate the roles staffs' involvements such as SI-1 supervision level played in achieving efficacy in the supervision of SNOs. This was an area gap in literature that the research study investigated and explored. Chapter 3 dealt with methodology the SNOP research study.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

The purpose of this study was to examine the roles SI-1 level of supervision used in the supervising SNOs in the state of Texas play in the compliance of the SNOs. I examined whether this supervision level is in alignment with special accommodations as outlined by Lurigio et al. (1988) through the theoretical lens of Andrews and Bonta (2006). Although these regular levels of supervision comprise of maximum, medium, minimum, quarterly reports, and annual reports, some of these offenders committed more gruesome crimes than those committed by the majority of the SNOs (United States Justice Department, 2010). Therefore, I analyzed these groups' violations factors, as reported in data from 2008 – 2009, in relation to their levels of supervision. In addition, a survey instrument was given to 15 parole officers to examine their attitude towards the SI-1 level of supervision in relation to the SNO compliance with parole rules and conditions of release. The data gathered from the survey items and sub items were analyzed with IRT software.

I also examined the types of violations and the offenders' subsequent levels of supervision using the IRT scale of measurement as guidance (Birnbaum, 1968). In Chapter 3, I will present an overview of the methodology of the research study as well as the research method employed in the study. Furthermore, the individual components to be covered in this chapter include a discussion of the type of research design selected for the study and why it was selected and concept as well as theory to be tested in this study. Some hypotheses, along with assumptions of the concept/theory and the relation to the study, will be examined as well. The nature of this study will be addressed. This chapter

will also include an analyses of the study's research questions, hypotheses, and the independent and dependent variables. The sampling strategy for this study will be analyzed and a justification for the sample strategy selection will be explained. This section will conclude with the types of tests to be conducted as well as the how ethical rights of the study participants will be protected.

Research Design and Approach

A research design should ensure that all research questions, problem statement, and hypotheses are answered effectively, efficiently, and proficiently. In a quantitative study, the three most popular research designs are experimental, quasi-experimental, and nonexperimental designs. Each of these designs has a purpose as well as a reason for use in one area over another. In addition, a research design can be thought of as the structure of research; it is the "glue" that holds all of the elements in a research project together (Campbell & Stanley, 1963; Creswell, 2009; Trochim, 2006). The design for this study was a descriptive, nonexperimental research design (quantitative), accompanied with a survey instrument (qualitative). This makes the overall approach/design of this study a mixed approach. This design was appropriate in analyzing my research questions/problem statement because I examined the relationship between the recidivism rates of the SI-1 supervision levels imposed on the SNOs, in my counties of supervision, as compared to the regular supervision levels imposed on offenders in regular caseloads.

Also, nonexperimental design is more common when dealing with offenders populations such as SNOs and ROs than experimental designs. However, Campbell and Stanley (1963) affirmed that there are many social settings in which the researcher can

introduce an experimental design into his or her scheduling of data collection procedures. In some areas, experimental designs may not be the most appropriate design for certain studies. Therefore, two designs were used in this research study. To address Research Question 1, a quantitative design was used. A quantitative design allows for the conduction of statistical analyses; upon data collected from administer a survey instrument given to the SNPOs. Research Question 2 deals with quality rather than quantity; as such, qualitative coding themes and sub themes were more applicable and appropriate.

A descriptive, nonexperimental design reduces issues related to internal and external validities, if randomizations of samples are implemented. This is because no interferences are required; findings were reported without subjecting participants to treatment (Creswell, 2009; Trochim, 2006). Additionally, a descriptive, nonexperimental design allows double-blinded nontreatments of study samples by reporting the conditions at hand, without interferences. Most experts recommend such an approach when dealing with vulnerable populations that could lead to social, ethical, and legal implications (Campbell & Stanley, 1963; Creswell, 2009; Trochim, 2006). SNOs are considered by the social scientific world as a vulnerable population. However, from a qualitative standpoint, POs who were administered the survey instrument were employees of the organization rather than the SNOs.

A descriptive, nonexperimental design also allows for a reduction in the placebo effects and increases the studies' validity as well as reliability in noninterference studies (Campbell & Stanley, 1963; Creswell, 2009; Trochim, 2006). Therefore, data were

collected as they existed and analyses were conducted without any treatment or interferences. A descriptive, nonexperimental design was a more justifiable and applicable design for the SNOP research study (quantitative design).

In some cases, mixed approach design is the only viable solution for providing answers to multiple research questions. Creswell (2009), sometimes one approach cannot answer the entire questions in a study. When such a cases arises; Creswell advised that the application of a mixed approach becomes fundamental to the study. Based on the above analysis, a mixed study was appropriate in addressing my research questions.

Applied Theories

Several theories related to my research topic were analyzed to understand the challenges associated with supervising offenders with special needs conditions. Most of these theorists agreed that SNOs need no special supervision methodologies/levels to be successful on parole, while incarcerated, or while under community supervisions. Therefore, I concentrated on the ideas of special accommodation by Lurigio et al. (1988), who contended that no special accommodations should be given to SNOs while on parole supervision, community supervision, or while incarcerated. The SI-1 level of supervision in Austin County, Colorado County, Fort Bend County, Texas is a special accommodation as defined by Lurigio et al. While there have been debates as to whether the special accommodation by Lurigio et al. is a theory or a concept, many have agreed that it is more a concept rather than a theory. Therefore, in this study, it was applied as an idea/conceptual lens of analysis of the qualitative aspects of this study.

Theoretical Application of Idea of Special Accommodation

The basic theoretical application for this research study was the theory of special accommodation by Lurigio et al. (1988), which addresses the associated challenges of supervising offenders with special needs, especially those with HIV/AIDS. However, researchers have not addressed issues related to supervision levels in relationship to SNOs under parole, community supervision, or while incarcerated. In other words, special accommodations were vastly defined. Special accommodation was examined in the study's primary research question concerning the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being imposed by the leadership of TDCJ-PD on SNOs on SNOP caseloads, in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas.

The secondary purpose of this study was to examine the implications associated with SNOP caseload, through a comprehensive analysis of 2006 reconstruction theory that posits that RNR is fundamental to the effectiveness in the supervision of all offenders (Andrews et al., 2006). I examined the ideologies behind the development and implementation of the SI-1 supervision level by the leadership of TDCJ-PD and its impacts of the SNOs recidivism rates. Lurigio et al.'s (1988) ideas were used to explore whether such excessive involvements created social and supervision implications, which eventually lead to the revocation of SNOs. This could be achieved through an analysis of the role levels of supervision played in the revocations of SNOs as compared to ROs. This was the lens in which Research Questions 1 and 2 were examined. However, other associative factors were analyzed through the lens of RNR theory in relation to the roles they played in the revocation of offenders.

Theoretical Application of Risks/Needs Responsivity

According to Andrews and Bonta (2003), the three core principles of effective treatment can be stated as follows:

> *Risk principle***:** Match the level of service to the offender's risk to re-offend.
>
> *Need principle***:** Assess criminogenic needs and target them in treatment.
>
> *Responsivity principle***:** Maximize the offender's ability to learn from a rehabilitative intervention by providing cognitive behavioral treatment and tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities and strengths of the offender. (p. 1)

Research Question 1 was examined through the lens of these three core principles using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software statistical computations for accuracy purpose (Field, 2009).

The Role of the Researcher

According to Creswell (2009) and Frankfort-Nachmia, and Nachmias (2008), researchers must be holistically involved in the data collection process of any research. The current research study was not an exemption to this rule. I collected all data and participated by accomplishing the following:

Role 1. Obtained permissions from Region 3 director to use agency's data, except those data that are considered public information in the state of Texas.

Role 2. Collected data and participate in analytical aspects of data.

Role 3. Reported findings, outputs, and results of data analyses.

Role 4. Prepared and organized figures, tables, graphs, and analyses.

Role 5. Obtained SPSS software and IRT scales software and familiarize myself with proper ways to effectively and proficiently use the software.

Role 6. Obtained permission from IRT scales usage.

Role 7. Obtained approval from Walden Research Center for the use of secondary data as a way to protect participants' rights. This was accomplished after an approval from Walden Research Center prior to data collection Institutional Review Board (IRB). (2009, 2010).

Role 8. Was to administer survey instrument.

Role 9. Was to conduct and code findings from survey as well as follow-up interviews.

Role 10. Requested and obtained secondary data from Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) upon approval from the Walden University Research Center, International Development Research Center (IDRC) (2009).

Research Questions and Hypotheses

It appeared that SI-1 supervision level was developed from dominant ideology that SNOs were more likely to reoffend than ROs. According to Littlejohn (1992), "An ideology is a set of ideas that structure a group's notions of reality, a system of representations or a code of meanings governing how individual and groups see the world" (para. 1). Furthermore, Littlejohn added that every society has shared beliefs called dominant ideologies. These dominant ideologies are more believable to the majority of its societal members. Littlejohn claimed that such beliefs serve as the foundation for society's institutional policies developments and implementations.

Primary Research Question:

Primary research question: What were the ideologies behind the development and implementation of Super Intensive 1 (SI-1) supervision level being imposed by the leadership of TDCJ-PD on SNOs on SNOP caseloads, in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas?

Quantitative Research Question

Comparison analysis using SPSS software for accuracy was used to provide some quantization outputs for research question 1.

Research Question 1: How have the ideologies behind the development and implementation of the SI-1 supervision level imposed on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas created social and supervision implications for the SNOs as compared to offenders on regular supervision caseloads?

Null Hypothesis- $H_0$1. There is no statistical relationship between the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 level of supervision imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas and compliance implications and supervision challenges as compared to regular offenders that leads to higher recidivism rates.

Alternative Hypothesis- $H_1$1. There are some statistical relationships between the ideologies behind the development and implementation of (SI-1) level of supervision imposed on the (SNOs) in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, and compliance implications and supervision challenges as compared to regular offenders that leads to higher recidivism rates.

For the study to continue, the Null hypothesis $H_0 1$ which stipulates that there was no statistical relationship between variables was rejected and the alternative hypothesis $H_1 1$ which stipulates that there some statistical relationships between variables accepted.

Independent variable (IV). SI-1 supervision level

Dependent variables (DV). Compliance implications; Social and Supervision challenges; Higher Recidivism Rates

Qualitative Research Question

Research Question 2: How has the ideologies behind the development and implementation of the SI-1 supervision level imposed on the SNOs impacted the supervision quality and the recidivism rates of SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas as compared to offenders on regular supervision caseloads from parole officers' perspective?

In qualitative research studies, there are no hypotheses; however, there are assumptions. Therefore, I examined this research question with two assumptions in mind. These assumptions were;

Assumption 1. The quality of supervision of the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, does not improve with the application of SI-1 level of supervision.

Assumption 2. It is possible to obtain the same or better quality of supervision of SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties with the application of (regular levels of supervision) such as those used in the supervision of regular offenders in the same counties and their recidivism rates will be maintained or reduced.

Quality of supervision was analyzed using Lurigio et al. (1988) conceptual application of what is reasonable/unreasonable accommodation in relationship to staffs' involvement and RNR as qualitative lens of examination. Research Question 1 and Research Question 2 was comprehensively analyzed in relation to the roles SI-1 supervision level played in the recidivism rates of SNO as compared to regular offenders in determining the ideologies behind SI-1 development and implementation on this population of offenders. This provided some lights on the current study's primary research question as to whether SI-1 was developed and implemented as a result of social construction of reality theory as seen by Berger and Luckmann (1966). The premises of this theory contend that the dominant ideology serves as justification for public policy development and implementation.

Theoretical Relationship to Research Question and Hypotheses

Several theories related to my research topic were analyzed as to understand the problems associated with supervising offenders with special needs. All of the previously discussed theories suggest that SNOs do not need special supervision methodologies to be successful on parole or on community supervision. The current mixed methods approach research study concentrated on the application of the theory of special accommodation Lurigio et al. (1988) that contends that no special accommodations should be given to SNOs while incarcerated, on parole or on community supervision. Lurigio et al. argued that over/under involvements with SNOs during supervision may create compliance issues. The current mixed methods research study examined if the SI-1 supervision level is an over involvement that creates such implications as well as

compliance challenges for the SNOP offenders compared to regular offenders, (RQ1 & RQ2). The RNR theory was used to analyze the role risks/needs responsivity played in relation to offenders' violations of rules and SCs of release as seen in Research Question 1. Based on the above, both surveys and a semi- structured interviews were used in my study (see Appendix A and B).

Survey Instrument

Surveys were previously selected to be used to collect data from the parole officers in the study's targeted counties, namely Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas. The surveys would have contained Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) questionnaires for the Special Needs Parole Officers concerning data collection about the dependent and independent variables addressed in research question 2. Furthermore, the use of the Internet was important in my study since I used convenient, secondary public data of the TDCJ-PD) currently available online as public information. These data included but was not limited to numbers of SNOs in the state of Texas, those SNOs in my study location, and other demographics that were significant to my study. Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) questionnaires was used to calculate quantitative responses of the study.

Justification for the Design and Study

The use of surveys and the Internet was fundamental to the SNOP mixed methods research study. Creswell (2009) asserts that sometimes multiple approaches are necessary in obtaining certain outcomes in some research studies. Based on this, both surveys and the Internet were appropriate in the examination of my research questions. Several

researchers have successfully conducted successful quantitative social scientific research studies using both the internet and surveys (see Choi et al., 2008; Rodchua, 2009; Wade et al., 2009). Even though their studies implemented experimental designs, my study used a descriptive nonexperimental design. In light of the differences, evidence has shown that surveys can be effective in both experimental as well as nonexperimental designs (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008).

Also, nonexperimental studies the involved the use of secondary data is highly recommended for vulnerable populations (Hyman, 1972; Hakim, 1982; Dale, Arber, & Procter, 1988). Based on my review of the above mentioned studies, some of their study demographics were similar to those in the current mixed methods approach research study. This is why I believe that descriptive non-experimental design was appropriate and applicable for the quantitative aspect of this study. However, the qualitative analyses were intended to involve the use of surveys and semi-structured interviews with some of the parole officers who are responsible for the enforcement of SI-1 supervision level. These are some of the reasons why mixed design was selected for the current research study.

Measures for Ethical Protections

The major ethical concern regarding the current research study was that the populations researcher intended to study are considered to be vulnerable populations. Studying vulnerable populations required some additional footwork; therefore, all associated consents, as well as the release of confidential information were carefully documented. Also vulnerable populations cannot be given any promises, incentives,

bribery, or rewards in order to make them participate in my research. As suggested by Creswell (2009), one of the fundamental ways of ensuring that the privacy of participants is protected when working with vulnerable populations is the use of secondary data and avoidance of lengthy surveys.

Based on this recommendation, the current research study used secondary data obtained from the TDCJ-PD along with the U.S Department of Justice on offenders' recidivism rates from 2008 to 2009. The use of survey to provide findings/results for research question 2 was intended to be avoided in order to protect the privacy of the participants. Therefore, Research Question 2 was examined through a statistical comparison of the areas of their revocation factors in relation to RNR theory. A comprehensive comparison of Research Question 1 (quantitative research question) was intended to be analyzed against research question 2 (qualitative research question) to determine whether SI-1 supervision level was developed and implemented based on the fundamental principles of social reconstruction of reality theory (primary research question). These precautions helped to ensure that the rights of participants were protected in the current research study.

Quantitative Design and Approach

Quantitative Setting and Sample

There are three fundamental types of sampling, and whatever method is implemented by researchers depends of certain variable (Strauss, 1987; Strauss & Corbin, 1990, 1994). An analysis of the three approaches, namely the convenience sampling approach, the theoretical sampling approach, and the negative cases approach showed

that the convenience approach is most applicable to my study's goals, purpose, and objectives. Therefore, after examining these three fundamental types of sampling approaches, I concluded that the convenience sampling approach was most beneficial to the current research study.

Lincoln and Guba (1985) and Gay (1996) explained that convenience sampling is selecting the sample by including participants who are readily available and who meet the study criteria. A convenience sample may be used at the beginning of the sampling process, when the investigator does not know the pertinent characteristics for criteria for sample selection, or when the number of participants available is small. For example, we may be exploring the experience of children who have had cardiac surgery, or of ventilator-dependent schoolchildren, and this patient population within a given geographic area is low. When all available participants have been included in the study (for example, all children in a particular classroom), it is referred to as a total sample.

Based on the above analysis, and as an employee and supervisor with the TDCJ-PD, most of the data needed to complete my study would have been accessible to me via my computer or in person. Additionally, the populations of offenders researcher intends to include in this study are offenders that researcher have been involved with directly or indirectly for almost 16 years. Additionally, the Special Needs Officers that supervise these offenders are colleagues, and in some cases professional or personal friends of researcher. Furthermore, issues regarding excessive contacts coming from officers and offenders are universally unequivocal. I concluded that the convenience data sampling approach would have been the ideal approach for the current research study.

Population & Sample

In Region 3, which consists of Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, and Harris Counties, Texas, there are approximately 2500 SNOs being supervised by the TDCJ-PD. These offenders are located in several offices ranging from Houston 1 to Houston 7. These offices are under the jurisdiction of Region 3. However, offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend counties report to the Rosenberg District Parole Office. This office fairly represents an average district parole office in the state of Texas. There are approximately 1500 SNOs and 25,000 regular offenders being supervised in Region 3. I believed that the estimated sample size of 250 SNOs and 250 regular offenders or approximately is reasonable enough to represent my study overall population (Creswell, 2009).

Quantitative Sampling Strategy

Sampling could be defined as the selection of items from a given population for the purpose of a study (Ouyang, 2010). Ouyang suggested that a valid sample should represent the intended study population. Therefore, a valid sample population is one that is proportional to the study population. Based on the above analysis, cluster sampling method was most appropriate in my data collection process.

The type of sampling strategy used in the current research study was cluster sampling with random assignment. Cluster sampling is a sampling method in which groups, not individuals, are randomly selected and where all members of the selected groups have similar characteristics (Gay, 1996; Creswell, 2009; Lynn-Knight, 2010; Ouyang, 2010). While my special needs populations are clustered within several counties, their common characteristics are their special needs condition, being supervised in

Specialized Special Needs Caseloads, and being supervised at the SI-1 level of supervision. The regular offenders selected in this study were also being supervised on Texas Parole. Based on these commonalities, the cluster sampling strategy was most appropriate for the current research study.

Cluster sampling has 8 fundamental steps. These steps are:

1. Identifying and define the population.

2. Determine the desired sample size.

3. Identifying and defining a logical cluster.

4. Listing of all clusters that comprise the population.

5. Estimate the average number of the population members per cluster.

6. Determining the actual sample size by adding the total of all cluster, then dividing it by the numbers of clusters.

7. Randomly select the needed number of cluster using a table of random numbers.

8. Continue to select participants until intended sample population is reached.

I implemented these steps in the data selection period of my study. By including all population members in each selected cluster, a fair representation of my study population was obtained.

The study anticipated 1500 SNOs in the cluster area. There are ten of District Parole Offices in the cluster area. A simple selection approach will be to select 30 SNOs and 30 regular offenders from each of the ten offices. This will yield a total of 600 offenders altogether. According to (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias,

2008), a study of this proportion, needs 500 offenders for the study to fairly represent the study's population. Therefore, 100 offenders were kept as spare members of the sample, should any social, legal, or ethical issues, arise. Randomization was implemented by selecting odd numbers on the list of offenders, from the top, in the first 5 Parole offices. This meant starting from 1, 3, 5, and so on, until the intended 60 offenders is obtained. In the last 5 parole offices, however, randomization was implemented by selecting the even numbered offenders, starting from the bottom. For example, starting with offender numbered 150, then 148, then146, and so on until the intended number was reached.

Cluster sampling is highly recommended when the sample population is cluster within large geographical location (Creswell, 1998, 2009). In regard to the quantitative data, the current mixed methods research study was intend to be used in sample clusters in five counties and more than 12 district parole offices. This area is classified as Region 3, of the 5 regions in the state of Texas. Therefore, cluster sampling was the most appropriate as well as the most applicable sampling strategy to implement in my study situation. Secondly, the populations are SNOs, who are vulnerable to legal and ethical situations. As a result, seeking an approval from the TDCJ-PD leadership, as well as covering large geographical location was important in satisfying the study needs. Cluster sampling was an effective study sample selection approach. This was the case because cluster sampling ensured that the collected sample could be generalized and represents the study population.

Eligibility Criteria for Participants

All participants met certain demographic eligibility criteria. The demographics of the participants of the study consisted of 250 SNOs and 250 regular offenders on parole supervision for 1 to 5 years. They consisted of 450 males and 50 females, age 20 to 50. Their reported monthly income levels were between $900, 00 to 1500.00. They were also residents of Fort Bend County, Texas, Austin County, Texas, or Colorado County, Texas.

The population of Texas female offenders is less than 7% of male offenders. The approximate population of female offenders within this selected demographic were between 4% and 5% of the SNOs' population. Therefore, limitation as a result of lack of availability of female offenders affected the balance in gender selection. However, I believe that at the ratio of 10% inclusion, female offenders were well represented in my study since their overall population is less than the statistical representation of the current SNOP study. According to Kirk and Millar (1986), quantitative research often encompasses a diversity of methods and tools rather than a single one, and the types of data collected depends on the aim of the study, the nature of the sample, and the discipline. Based on this fact, my study originated from my immediate counties of supervision. While this is how my study demographics and participants' size were calculated, I considered looking into some secondary data as a last resort as to protect the interests of the study's participants.

Sample Size

Based on the purpose of the intended current mixed methods research study, approximately 250 SNOs and 250 regular offenders were cluster selected. These offenders were comprised of male as well as female offenders. As asserted by Gay (1996), a sample size in quantitative studies should be as large as possible. Therefore, 250 offenders in a total 1500 (17%) of special needs offenders was a reasonable sample size based on the purpose of the current SNOP research study in relation to the study's population.

It is estimated that there are approximately 1100 SNOs in Region 3. Although, these are active offenders, a significant portion of them end up in revocation hearings. Therefore, 250 SNOs represent approximately 23% of the active SNOs in Region 3. As such, and as asserted by Creswell (2009), a sample of 5% to 10% of any population is more than enough in most quantitative studies. The remaining 250 regular offenders were estimated for the purposes of equal comparison. However, if estimate is not met, the sample of SNOs will be matched with regular offenders for comparison sake but sample will be a minimum of 100 SNOs to 100 regular offenders. According to Creswell (2009), in comparison studies, the use of equal numbers of group's participants is recommended. This was done in this study.

Description of Parametric/nonparametric Tests

In a comparison research study, reactions of variances within and between the groups of two or more are compared to establish statistical reasoning, similarities, differences, associations or relationships between variables distributions (Creswell, 2009;

Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). Therefore, the essence of a comparison study is to establish the similarities or differences between one group and another. As such, the current research study was a comparison study that examined the relationship between the supervision levels placement's effects of special needs offenders as compared to those in regular offenders in relationship to recidivism rates. Comparison studies are highly recommended when dealing with both experimental and non experimental research studies. This study is a descriptive nonexperimental quantitative study. Therefore, there are certain recommended measurements of comparison studies, recommended by researchers (Patton, 2002; Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008) among others.

According to social scientists, comparison studies go back to the works of Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. Both researchers believed that purpose of comparison studies is to report overviews of the wide range of possible statistical comparisons (Weber, 1947; Durkhein, 1950). As such comparison studies can simply measure and compare the central tendency within the groups (Anderson et al., 1980; Hochberg & Tamhane, 1987; Lee, Lo, Leung, & Ko, 2000; Liao, 2002). However, many researchers argued that the lack of robustness of such measurement approaches creates controversial scholarly debates concerning findings/results of the studies. As a result, Keselman, Lix, and Kowalchuk (1998), Miller (1981), and Toothaker (1993), argued that multiple comparisons of groups' differences and similarities are highly recommended to establish both internal and external validities

Therefore, this research study's measurements of central tendencies which include the mean, median, mode, variance, and standard deviation of SI-1 versus regular offenders' supervision levels, was compared. Also, independent sample tests will be conducted. Furthermore, dependent sample tests (one way ANOVA) was completed along with repeated measures ANOVA, and the Mann-Whitney U test ordinal test. Finally, association test was conducted with Chi square test for association long with two or more independent variables; one dichotomous dependent variable using multiple logistic regressions, was conducted as well.

Based on the tests conducted in this study, issues related to lack of robustness of central tendencies measurements, were eliminated. In summary, I selected descriptive comparison study because it allowed me to conduct my research study with minimum interferences. However, it was conducted with the application of the most possible social scientifically acceptable outcomes. This study was a descriptive non-experimental study, which compared variances/variables between two groups, without interference.

Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis

According to Ouyang (2010), experimental studies are completed with interferential statistics. Therefore, all interferential statistics was conducted measuring different tools, variables, instruments for validity, reliability, and consistencies to mention a few. However, in descriptive non-experimental studies, most of these analyses could be conducted as well without exposure of participants to treatments. Therefore, the below enlisted noninterference statistics was conducted. In the concept of standard errors, Sample size and standard error was conducted as a comparison of special needs samples

to regular offenders' samples. It is believed that they are normally distributed and most of the samples means will be very close to the population mean; the number of means which are considerably different from the population mean will decrease as the size of the difference increases (Creswell, 2009). While this is the case, my study is a descriptive non-experimental design, which in a noninterference design.

Test Null hypothesis, Test of significance, Type I and type II errors were conducted. Based on a test of significance I either rejected or not rejected the null hypothesis as a probable explanation for results concept of significant level the question followed .01 or .05, which of the level is better or should we select for our research. The .01 is smaller than .05, selecting .01, we can definitely decrease our chances of committing a Type I error; but, we increase the probability of committing a Type II error. Also, one-tailed and two-tailed tests, Degree of freedom, Parametric and non-parametric tests, *t* test of Independent and non-independent samples will all be conducted using SPSS software (Field, 2009). Finally, simple analysis of variance (ANOVA), multiple comparison of variance, and Analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) analysis of covariance, was also conducted in my SNOP quantitative study.

Quantitative Instrumentation and Materials

Several measures, tools, and instruments were also used to test the validity of our hypotheses. Some of these tools or measures included data that justifies the reliability and validity of the instrument (note that citing a study and saying it is reliable and valid is not enough; it is important to report actual coefficients and from multiple studies). The following was conducted. Most social scientific researchers advised that knowing what to

measure, determines the type of measurement one should implemented (Creswell, 2009; Filed, 2009). Therefore, they warned that a thorough review of the hypotheses along with the research questions should provide some insights on what to measure as well as how to measure it (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). Frankfort-Nachmias, Nachmias, and Creswell concluded that it is important to use the right measurement level, to obtain acceptable outcomes/results. This is exactly what I did in my study.

As asserted by Ouyang (2010), descriptive non-experimental statistical studies usually take measurements from Four-parameters. These parameters are measurements of central tendency, measurements of variability, measurements of relative position, and measurements of relationship. This is exactly what the current SNOP research study's (quantitative data measurements) accomplished. In regard to the measurements of central tendency, this study examined the mean, the mode, the median, the variance, and standard deviation of the SNOs as a group and regular offenders as a second group. This was accomplished with the aid of SPSS software statistical analyses.

Additionally, two group means comparison between the special needs offenders and regular offenders was conducted. Repeated measures ANOVA, along with Mann-Whitney U test was conducted as well. Furthermore, comparison of group frequencies was conducted by comparing one group frequency to the current distribution. Finally, Chi square test for association was conducted, and two groups tested for relationship using multiple logistic regressions was conducted using ordinal Pearson's Rho to establish the relationship.

Appropriate Scales: Item Response Theory

The Item Response Theory (IRT) scale was the most appropriate scale for my choice of study. The IRT scale is used to measure people's performance in a group setting by analyzing the individual as well as collective results of each group (Burnham, 1968; Frege, 1884/1984; Kant, 1786/1970). Unlike the Likert scales that measures attitude, IRT measures performance in groups. Therefore IRT was definitely an appropriate and applicable measurement scale for measurement of offenders' performances while on parole or under community supervision. The factoring of special needs conditions was measured against the no factored performance of regular offenders in different supervision levels. This was possible because in an IRT context, abilities, personality traits, and attitudes underlying performance on items are called latent traits (e.g., Birnbaum, 1968). Ability and performance are both in alignment with the current mixed methods research study intended measurements.

IRT originated in the 1950s and 1960s (e.g., Birnbaum, 1968) and came to its full bloom afterwards. Important fields of application are the following: (a) educational measurement, (b) psychology, (c) sociology, (d) political science, (e) medical research, and (f) marketing research (Boomsma, Van Duijin, & Snijders, 2001; Embretson & Reise, 2000; Weitzman, Silver, & Brazil, 2006). These researchers concluded that the IRT is an effective measurement tool in most public settings. Therefore, IRT was appropriate and applicable in Public Administration; my field of study, criminal justice, as well as the current mixed methods research study. Finally, as recommended by several researchers Frege (1884, 1984), Kant (1786, 1970), and Krantz, Luce, Suppes, and

Tversky (1971), IRT allows researcher/s to input measurement items into the scale of measurement and conduct individual items performances as well as group item responses. This was exactly what I accomplished with this scale. The Texas Parole Certificate that contains rules and special conditions of release was inputted into the IRT scale and their individual and group responses was analyzed after using SPSS statistical analyses.

The IRT scale allows researchers to input items as related predictors in measurements. The data from these items was analyzed item by item as well as group by group. The outcomes was reported in section 4 of this study. These items are measured individually as well as group for their end reactions. The overall responses of items could be True Responses or False Responses depending on variable relationships. This is precisely what I achieved in my study. Also, it should be noted that these items have direct relationship with Texas Offenders' recidivism reasons. This is precisely how IRT scale was utilized in the current research study.

Levels of Measurement

Reliability and Validity of the Instrument

It is important that all studies incorporate the concepts of content validity, empirical validity, and construct validity into their studies (Creswell, 2009). Furthermore, it highly expected for such incorporation be completed before, during, and at the final stages of each study. In regard to content validity, Creswell (2009) states that it is essential to check the operational against the relevant content domain for the construct. In essence, the researcher is practically matching the content of the study with the tools and scales of measurements that are available in their areas. The researcher is practically

analyzing the applicability as well as the appropriateness of the content to the acceptable approaches of such studies. Therefore, content validity is a comprehensive review of the research content to ensure that all needed areas are well covered (Creswell, 2009).

In order to cover all areas in my study, it was important to review all areas of concern, and to implement applicable areas of needs to my study. Also, it is highly recommended that inapplicable areas should be eliminated as well (Cordova & Lepper, 1996; Creswell, 2009). This is precisely what researcher accomplished with the current SNOP study. For example, the study that is designed to examine the relationship between the levels of supervision and the associative implications should analyze the practical definition of implications (Campbell & Stanley, 1966; Cordova & Lepper, 1996; Creswell, 2009). As emphasized by the above mentioned researchers, content validity includes but is not limited to defining the approach, analyzing the concepts, analyzing the items, and reviewing the protocol.

The concern of empirical validity is with the relationship between a measuring instrument and the measurement outcomes. It is assumed that if a measuring instrument is valid, there should be strong relations between the results produced by the instrument and other variables (Marion & Oliver, 2006). This is a level of measurement that was not appropriate for my method of study. Construct validity is the approximate truth of the conclusion that your operation accurately reflects its construct. All of the other terms address this general issue in different ways. Secondly, it is significant to make a distinction between two broad types: translation validity and criterion-related validity.

This is the case because these correspond to the two major ways one can assure/assess the validity of an operation.

The rationale behind the exclusions of predictive validity and face validity was discussed in detail. Predictive validity is an estimated prediction to an external measure referred to as a criterion and by checking a measuring instrument against some outcome (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). Two general issues are to be considered when using the predictive validity test. This was not an appropriate tool to use in reference to SNOs if it rests on the investigator's subjective evaluation as to the validity of a measuring instrument. Face validity does not relate to the question of whether an instrument measures what the researcher wishes to measure. Prior to conducting the study, the instruments of measurement's validity were tested. IRT instrument has been tested and its reliability was verified by several researchers (see Boomsma et al., 2001; Embretson & Reise, 2000; Weitzman at al., 2006).

Validity is concerned with the question "Is one measuring what one intends to measure?" There are three basic kinds of validity that can be distinguished, each of which is concerned with a different aspect of the measurement situation. Face validity rests on the investigator's subjective evaluation as to the validity. Sampling validity is whether a given population of situations or behavior was adequately sampled by the measuring instrument in question. The concern of empirical validity is with the relations between a measuring instrument and the measurement outcomes (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). It is assumed that a measuring instrument that is valid; there should be strong relations between the results produced by the instrument and

other variables. Reliability refers to the extent to which a measuring instrument contains variable errors, that is errors that differed from observation to observation during any one measuring instance (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). The reliability measure varies on a scale from 0 to 1, having the former value when the measurement involves nothing but error and reaching 1 when there is no variable error at all in the measurement.

Chi-square or binomial tests was the most appropriate test for this study. The binomial test of significance is an exact probability test, based on the rules of probability and it is used to examine the distribution of a single dichotomy when the researcher has a small sample (Field, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). The binomial test of significance tests the difference between a sample proportion and a given proportion for one-sample tests. The binomial test of significance involves the determination of the probability of getting r observations in one category of a dichotomy, and (n - r) observations in the other category when a sample of size 'n' is given. Chi-square worked well with my IRT measurement scale. Based on the above analysis, I believe that Chi-square was appropriate in testing variables in the current study sample, since the estimated sample size is relatively small.

Population for the Scale and Test

The population for the scale and the test were offenders that are in Fort Bend County and surrounding areas. These offenders were broken down into regular as well as SNOs in these areas. Harris County, Texas is a dominate areas within this jurisdiction. The goal is to obtain 500 SNOs to compare to 250 regular offenders as well as 250 specialized caseloads offenders. Additionally, the Statistics Solutions, Inc. (2009) website

illustrates the binomial test of significance assumes that the variable under consideration is dichotomous, and has two values which are mutually exclusive and exhaustive for all cases. Events are said to be mutually exclusive if they do not occur at the same time. Offenders' supervision levels compliance occurs at the same time across the board. Above all, Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division (2011) data are public data as a result; issues associated with permission will be eliminated. Finally, issues related to vulnerable population should be ironed out with the use of secondary data prior to conducting the current mixed research study. This is the case because offenders are considered to be a vulnerable population.

Study Variables

The current SNOP study examined the following dependent, independent and controlled variables in order to address the two supplemental research questions.

IV 1. SI-1 supervision level (manipulative variable)

DV 1. Compliance implications; Social and Supervision challenges; Higher Recidivism Rates

IV 2. SI-1 supervision level; Regular Supervision levels (manipulative variable)

DV 2. Maintenance of supervision quality; Maintenance or reduction in recidivism rates

Controlled variables (CV). Offenders such as Sex offenders (SO); Super Intensive Supervision Program (SISP) offenders; Substance Abuse (SA) offenders; and Electronic Monitor (EM) offenders was used as CV. These offenders are neither regular offenders nor special needs offenders; as such, they were not being exposed to my

comparison analyses during this study. They were classified as controlled variables due to lack of exposure to treatment in form of descriptive analyses.

As posited by Creswell (1998) and Field (2009), variable that are not exposed to treatment during the course of research, are regarded as controlled variables. Therefore, a comprehensive comparison of the findings of these variables were analyzed between the outcomes of the SNOs versus those from the offenders that are supervised in regular caseloads. Reporting contacts requirements based on caseload type was used to calculate violations relationships in supervision levels.

Protection of Human Participants

Secondary data is highly recommended by many social scientists when dealing with the vulnerable population. Offenders in general are considered vulnerable population; special needs offenders are even more vulnerable. Additionally, to administer a survey instruments on the parole officers is time consuming and legal and ethical issues are changing. Therefore, the current SNOP study used secondary data available in the TDCJ-PD database to outline needed analyses. This data outlined the actual revocation hearings conducted between 2008 and 2009 with the specific data demographics needed to complete my study. As asserted by Hyman (1972), Hakim (1982), and Dale, Arber, and Procter (1988), secondary data analysis is a cost effective approach in any social scientific study. This is the case because seconding data contains most needed information; allows the researcher to utilize this information with little or no efforts, and eliminates the challenges associated with administering survey instruments, among others to mention a few. Secondary data is historic with researchers.

According to Erikson, Goldthorpe, and Portocarero (1979), secondary data became popular in the 1950 and 1960 with the growth of computers. Social scientists were able to access and share research data for various reasons. Also, manipulations of secondary data allows social scientists to conduct multiple studies, using the same data. Furthermore, secondary data is user-friendly with SPSS software (Dale, Arber, & Procter, 1988; Dale, Fieldhouse, & Holdsworth, 2000), which was used in my data analyses. This study, 250 special needs offenders were compared to 250 regular offenders, in relationship to levels of supervision, and recidivism rates. Therefore, issues relating to legal, ethical, and human rights implications were most likely resolved by primary data collectors. Permission to use data in my study was obtained. Finally, Creswell (2007), and Patton (2002) recommended the application of secondary data for certain reasons.

Secondary data is recommended when national level generalizations are possible with the intended topics of study (Erikson, Goldthorpe, & Portocarero, 1979). The recidivism rates of Texas SNOs were a nationally generalized topic that affects most states in the U.S. Also, secondary data is highly recommended in comparison studies that involves groups' analysis (Creswell, 1998, 2009). The current SNOP research study is a comparison study. Finally, Erikson, Goldthorpe, and Portocarero (1979) recommended secondary data in longitudinal analysis, international comparisons, representation of data in small groups, theoretical data for quantitative reasons, and to protect the confidentiality of participants.

Therefore, for these reasons, among others, the current SNOP study used recidivism rates database already available with TDCJ-PD along with U.S. Department of

Justice. This approach will eliminate the survey initial instrument on offenders, by using secondary data analyses alone. Output reports of the revocation hearings of Texas Board of Pardon and Parole in 2008 and 2009 of SNOs and regular offenders were conducted based on offenders' recidivism viewpoint. Permission to collect data was granted from Walden University Research Department along with primary data collector/s. However, RQ2 is a qualitative research question, which could only be answered with the application of qualitative methodology

Qualitative Design and Approach

Data Collection and Analyses

Case study research involves the study of an issue within a bounded system, for example, within a setting or a context (Creswell, 1998; Stake, 2005; Creswell, 2009). This qualitative method of approach usually explores an issue within one or more cases through a comprehensive examination of the relationship between the patterns of behaviors within the cases. Many qualitative experts believe that a case study is not a methodology, but rather a choice of what is being studied within a bounded system. Researchers such as Lincoln and Guba (1985), Merriam (1988), Strauss and Corbin, (1990, 1994), and Yin (2003) present it as a strategy of inquiry, a methodology, or a comprehensive research strategy. Therefore, the foundation argument as to whether a case study is a choice of study or a methodology continues. However, due to the specifics of this study, I believe that a case study was appropriate in the examination of my survey instrument that was proposed to be used in Region 3.

Justification for the Selection of Case Study

Case study is a research method that focuses on understanding the dynamics of single settings. Although it can be used for description and deduction (Yin, 2003; Strauss & Corbin, 1990, 1994), my focus is on inductive theory development, an application for which the method is particularly well suited (Creswell, 2009; Strauss & Corbin, 1990, 1994). In comparison, with aggregated, statistical research, the primary advantage of case study research is its deeper understanding of specific instances of a phenomenon.

Furthermore, multiple case studies are variants that include two or more observations of the same phenomenon. An example of the multiple case methods is the inductive study by Galunic and Eisenhardt (2001) of 10 charter gains by divisions of a Fortune 100 high-technology firm. The roles theories play in case study are similar and different when compared to the other approaches. It has also been argued by Galunic and Eisenhardt (2001) that it is easier to implement case study when dealing with multiple data that are located in a large geographical area. The TDCJ-PD is a state organization and it was impossible to include data from the entire state. Therefore, case study allowed me to utilize similar data in Region 3, and conduct generalization tests with possible future studies.

Qualitative Data Collection

In a qualitative study, the population of participants could be as small as 1 participant in the case of narrative study and as many 50 participant in ethnographic study or 100s in a case study (Creswell, 1998; 2009). However, since this is a case study that intended to involve the use of a survey instrument, the estimated current research study

sample size included 15 to 17 parole officers in the areas of Region 3. The TDCJ-PD is made of five regions. Region 3 is located in the Houston Harris County areas along with its surrounding areas. Rosenberg District Parole Officer (RDPO), Rosenberg, Texas is one of the offices located in this region. There are 15 parole officers at the Rosenberg DPO and 2 unit supervisors. As such, the survey instrument was to be administered to 15 parole officer or approximately 88% of the population.

Although, Rosenberg DPO is made up of 15 officers and 2 unit supervisors in charge of the supervision of the current study's counties, the survey was to be administered to 15 parole officers. Creswell (2009) asserted that multiple selections using a cluster strategy may be needed whenever estimated sample size is not easily available in one location. This was not the case in the current research study. In summary, since possible issues of legal and ethical concerns could arise, the population to survey was intended to be limited to the 15 officers in the Rosenberg District Parole Office, located at 925 Spur 10 Rosenberg, Texas 77471. These officers and supervisors are responsible for the supervision of more than 1000 offenders that reside within the study's geographical locations.

Qualitative Sample Size

Case study involves a study that concentrates on a particular case. As such, the information obtain from a case study may involve certain generalization credibility due to the size of sample being studied (Gomm, Hammersley, & Foster, 2000; Strauss & Corbin, 1990, 1994; Yin, 2003). However, it is significant for a case study to involve a sample of the population that best represent the entire population. In reference to the

above, the population of the office comprises of 15 district parole officers, 2 unit supervisors, and 2 administrative clerks. The 15 district parole officers were intended to be surveyed and 33% of the participant w would have been interviewed. As affirmed by (Creswell, 2009), in case studies, the population that is available within the studied case, serves as the study sample. There are 15 parole officers in Rosenberg DPO and this is the entire population of the case that would have been selected for the purpose of this research study. These officers are responsible for the supervision of offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas. Follow-up interviews would have been conducted on 5 of the 15 officers or 33% to address parole officers' assessment of the quality of SI-1 supervision level of special needs offenders. For these reasons, decision about sample size in relationship to population size was made.

Audio Taped Interview Selection Method

The themes and sub-themes of the study would have primary focused on RQ 2 which examined the quality of SI-1 level of supervision in relationship to recidivism rates in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas. Four major structured open-ended questions would have been asked and the analysis of outputs would have been coded using NVivo9 software to aid with the coding process. A copy of the interview questions is attached as Appendix B. Of the 15 survey respondents, 5 respondents would have been randomly selected for the purpose of the follow-up interviews. The selection method would have included the first 5 odd numbered respondents. According to Creswell (2009), random selection for the purpose of interviews gives both the researcher a fair chance of selecting participants that were not aware of the purpose or research or reasons

for their selection. Creswell further sums that random selection gives the researcher a fair chance of obtaining sample that is more generalized to the study population. Based on these reasons, random selection would have been used for the purpose of interview.

Demographics of Audio Taped Interview Participants

The current research study would have used basic demographic coding of audio taped interview participants (see Appendix F). Majority of Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division employees falls within these statistical demographics. These data would have been coded with the aid of NVivo9 software and the results would have been reported in Section 5.

Interview Questions

Interview Question 1. In your own words, do you think that from offenders' classification, assessment, reassessment, and supervision viewpoint, the Super Intensive 1 SI-1 Supervision level imposed on special needs offenders (SNOs) in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas is the most appropriate or inappropriate supervision level based on their recidivism rates? Please explain.

Analysis of Interview Question 1. Interview Question 1 deals with the quality of supervision based on TDCJ-PD offenders' classification levels for the purpose of supervision.

Interview Question 2. Do you think that Super Intensive SI-1 level of supervision imposed on offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, actually maintain, reduce or increase special needs offenders' recidivism rates? Please explain.

Analysis of Interview Question 2. Interview Question 2 deals with SNOs' supervision classification based on related compliance/noncompliance factors in relationship to SNOs recidivism rates.

Interview Question 3. Do you agree or disagree that the recidivism rates of special needs offenders can be maintained, reduced or increased with the application of regular offenders' supervision levels in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas? Please Explain.

Analysis of Interview Question 3. Interview Question 3 deals with the analysis of the applications of lower levels of supervision such as those implemented with regular offenders and their impacts on recidivism rates of special needs offenders. Transcripts of interview questions will be downloaded into from Audio Tape to a Microsoft word document and be coded in themes and sub-themes using NVivo9 software as a qualitative aid.

Interview Question 4. As a parole officer at the Rosenberg DPO what regular level/levels of supervision (maximum, medium, minimum, quarterly, and annual) do you think SNOs should be placed under during parole supervision that you think will result to the same or a reduction SNOs' recidivism rates? Please explain.

Analysis of Interview Question 4. Interview Question 4 is designed to explore the parole officers' agreement or disagreement in placing SNOs in any form of regular supervision level in relationship to their likelihood to re-offend as seen by TDCJ-PD Leadership.

Interview Question 5. What do you think were the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas?

Analysis of Interview Question 5. Interview Question 5 is designed to share the parole officers' perspectives on the actual ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas.

Duration of Interviews, Location, and Protection of Participants

The individual interviews would have been limited to 30 to 45 minutes per interview. The reason for such limitation is that the TDCJ-PD insists on not using organizational equipments for purposes other than the organization's or individual's needs. Interviews would have been conducted at the Rosenberg DPO located at 925 Spur 10 Rosenberg, Texas 77471. In order to protect the legal and ethical rights of participants, interviewed parole officers would only have been identified by their positions during the course of interviews. Numbers would have been assigned from interviewee number 1 to interviewee number 5. Furthermore, other personal and professional identifiers, such as employees' name and employment numbers would have been excluded from the interview process. Finally, audio taped records, field notes, and transcripts, would have been made available to the researcher and Walden University Institutional Review Board. Therefore, by doing the above mentioned, the rights of participants would have been fully protected.

Level of Service Inventory-Revised

The Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) was developed by Don Andrews and James Bonta in 1995. The purpose of this instrument is to assist professionals who work with offenders determine what supervision of treatment methodologies to apply in order to reduce recidivism rates (Andrew & Bonta, 1995). The LSI-R has been used by various professionals ranging from clinical psychologists to probation and parole officers during classification or assignment of offenders for the purpose of supervision or treatment. As ascertained by Andrews and Bonta (1995):

> Classification is fundamental to correctional practice. It is incumbent upon any correctional agency, institution, or community to identify (classify) who is (a) at risk of re-offending, (b) likely to incur problems adjusting to prison, and (c) in need of specific services. Determining whether an offender is able to participate in various types of treatment programs, examining such traits as ethnicity, age, gender, and intelligence, also falls under the rubric of correctional classification. (para. 1)

These are areas that are fundamental in exploring the factors that cause recidivism rates in my mixed study. One reason I selected to use this survey instrument in my study was based on these reasons and fundamental areas.

The LSI-R conducts a comprehensive analysis of those factors that are critical in the examination of offenders' responses to treatment or compliance in supervision. Also, LSI-R is geared towards factors such as "Criminal History (10), Education/Employment (10), Financial (2) Family/Marital (4) Accommodation (3) Leisure/Recreation (2)

Companions (5) Alcohol/Drug Problems (9) Emotional/Personal (5) Attitudes/Orientation (4)" (Andrews & Bonta, 2003, para. 4). The LSI-R contains 54 questions that deal with these itemized areas. Some of these areas were intended to be used in my survey in relation to supervision of SNOs in the identified counties. The LSI-R had been used by TDCJ-PD in the assessment and reassessment of offenders during classification for placements in supervision levels. Additionally, items are broken down into two major areas of risks and needs. Each area is made up of 9 sub items accompanied with 3 choices that range from high, medium, to low. As such, 9 items, multiplied by 3 choices, and ten multiply by 2 sub-items equals 54 LSI-R questions. Results from the LSI-R would have been fed into IRT scale to determine the movements of items individually and as groups in relation to SNOP recidivism rates.

Roles of NVivo9 in Data Organization, Data management, and Level of Service Inventory-Revised

The NVivo9's role in organizing and managing my data would have been useful to the current mixed methods research study in the below enlisted ways. NVivo9 would have been fundamental during the actual coding period of my research by: (a) Coding categorising and indexing sections or chunks of my data, (b) Codes can come from theory and explanations 'outside the data' and/or 'emerge from the data', (c) Data formats that can be coded range from transcribed text to statistical data, (d) Coding often starts by being descriptive but needs to become analytical. Any new codes created would have been applied to the whole data set or previously coded units of data. And (e), NVivo9

would have helped generate Memos that could be used to record my thoughts and ideas about my codes during the process.

The LSI-R has been utilized endlessly by experts in various human behavioral fields (Andrews & Bonta, 1995, 2003; Wanberg & Milkman, 1998; Van Voorhis et al., 2001; Van Voorhis & Presser, 2001; Van Voorhis & Brown, 1996). Most of these experts assert that some of the reasons as to why the LSI-R is attractive to users, are issues associated with Inter-rater reliability, Test-retest reliability, Internal consistency, reliability, Face validity, Construct validity, Relative validity, and Discriminant validity, among other, to mention a few (Van Voorhis, 2000). These were some of the reasons as to why I selected this survey instrument for the qualitative section of the current mixed method research study. Although, the LSI-R has been repeatedly utilized in quantitative analysis, it could be utilized with a qualitative analysis (Andrews & Bonta, 1995; Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Austin & Peyton, 2004; Bonta, 1996; Hardyman, Hardyman & Van Voorhis, 2004). I intended to utilize NVivo9 software during my themes coding periods, of my survey outcomes.

Most of the selected DPOs conduct regular weekly as well as monthly meeting. Therefore, majority of the surveys instruments would have been conducted immediately after these meetings, prior to officers going on their lunch breaks. The TDCJ-PD strongly discourages the use of agency's resources or time for personal interests. Therefore, conducting the survey instrument during officers' lunch breaks rather than work hours would have guaranteed that we are in compliance with agency's requirements. An advance notice would have been given to the various offices' unit supervisors, parole

supervisors, and the region 3 director, with specifics concerning dates and times surveys would be administered. I would have personally administered and collected the survey instruments from the participants. The questionnaire would have been geared toward the selected items in the Texas Parole or Mandatory Certificate as outlined in the Item IRT as outlined in (see Appendix G). Therefore, to protect the interests of participants, the survey instrument would have required no name, not even as an option. Finally, a sample of the survey instrument that would have been used is attached in the appendix of this study (see Appendix A) along with all request letters from concerned personalities.

Item Response Theory Analysis Applications with Level of Services Inventory – Revised Survey Instrument

The quality of research question 2 would have been coded into 7 major items and several sub-items to reflect the approach of the LSI-R Survey Instrument (Andrews & Bonta, 1995, 2003). These themes and sub-themes would have reflected in the 7 question LSI-R survey instrument that would have been administered to 15 parole officers in Rosenberg DPO. As asserted by Andrews and Bonta (1995), while the LSI-R had been mainly associated with quantitative analyses, it can be used in qualitative data collections in form of survey questionnaires which can eventually be coded with a qualitative coding instrument. This is precisely how LSI-R was intended to be used in this research study; it was designed to provide answer to RQ2 (see Appendix H) for items and sub-item to be analyzed. Note Andrews and Bonta (1995, 2003), stated that the numbers in parenthesis reflect how many questions are associated with LSI-R Survey Instrument.

How Collected Quantitative and Qualitative Data was to be analyzed

Collected secondary data from cluster sampling data collection method was analyzed with the aid of SPSS to establish the possible ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level based on SNOs and regular offenders' recidivism rates. A review and approval of secondary data quality by Walden University Research Center was obtained prior to analyses of secondary data. Additionally, since LSI-R survey instrument is more likely to collect quantitative data rather than qualitative, LSI-R survey instrument was used as a quantitative data analyses rather than qualitative data coding. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was also used in data analyses to share some lights on the possible ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being imposed on the SNOs.

Semi-structured interview data was intended to be used to establish some lights on the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level and its possible supervision as well as compliance implications from parole officers' perspectives. Further coding using Nvivo 9 would have been conducted to examine if SNOs could be supervised at regular offenders' supervision levels without compromising the quality of supervision or recidivism rates of the SNOs. Nvivo 9 qualitative software would have been used to code collected data themes and sub themes. Comprehensive analyses of quantitative data and qualitative data findings intended to share some lights on the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level.

The use of items response theory scale. These areas would have been analyzed with the IRT scale to the degree of item activities in relationship to recidivism rates as outlined by Texas Parole Certificate. Themes and the numbers in parenthesis in the right

hand column would have been fed into IRT scale as responding items. All of these items are reflected in the Texas Parole or Mandatory Certificate. Finally, they would have been presented in the 7 question LSI-R Survey Instrument to determine which item/s corresponds with SI-1 level of supervision in relationship to the success or failure of the special needs offenders in Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, and Harris Counties. Results of these analyses would have been reported in chapter 5.

Dissemination of Findings

Findings of my study will be disseminated in the following ways. (a) This dissertation will be filed at the Walden University Library; it will be available to current or future students as an addition to already existing literature concerning the supervision of SNOs in criminal justice and public health, (b) finding will be disseminated through sectional presentations of this dissertation, in criminal justice seminars and conferences held in my counties of study as well as the state of Texas, (c) a completed copy of this dissertation will be presented to criminal justice decision-makers in the state of Texas to assist them in making effective, efficient, and proficient decisions that impact SNOs, (d) poster presentations will be conducted in conferences and seminars if available and invited and (e) finding will be sectional published in scholarly or peer reviewed articles dealing with criminal justice as well as special needs offenders in general.

Limitations of Study based on Methodology

The major threat that may be associated with quality is lack of collaboration with and from scholarly peers. In order to resolve this threat, a finish product of my quantitative/qualitative research was submitted to the Walden University Institutional

Review Board for review as well as comprehensive evaluation. Furthermore, other noticeable potential weaknesses relating to the design of the current research study is the size of potential data that was used from the intended population from the current research study. Using secondary data was another limitation associated with this study. This is possible because periodically, secondary data may not contain all the needed tangibles and intangibles variables for specific study purpose. Additionally, my findings may not be applicable statewide due to individual office variances. Therefore, this study may be limited in areas of internal and external validity as well as overall generalization to special needs offenders in the state of Texas. However, to reduce some of associative limitations, a mixed approach was selected to be more suitable than other methodologies.

Summary and Conclusion

In chapter 3, I addressed the methodology that was used for this study. I selected a mixed methods design and outlined why this design would have been more appropriate and applicable for the current research study. Also, I concluded that descriptive non-experimental design was more appropriate for my study due to possible social, legal, ethical, and participants' concerns. I also justified why this design is the best possible design for my study, due to its noninterference application. I decided not to include the survey instrument due to possible approval issues as well as to protect the rights of participants who are considered to be vulnerable population. Chapter 3 also outlined the theories as well as conceptual applications in my study as well as the roles I will play as the primary researcher.

In addition, chapter 3 outlined the research questions to explore in this study as well as the likely hypotheses and assumptions. Individual as well as collective variables were outlined in this chapter. These variables included the independent and dependent variables this study explored. The relationship between the lenses of my theoretical application was also clarified. Chapter 3 also outlined sample type, collection type, sample demographics, sample strategy, why cluster sampling is an appropriate and data collection as well as analyses to be conducted for my quantitative methodology section of this study.

Chapter 3 further addressed the qualitative section of this study by highlighting why mixed methodology would have been more applicable than other methodologies. These analyses included but were not limited to collection and analyses of qualitative data, type of approach, why case study approach was selected over four other qualitative approaches, data size, and why LSI-R survey instrument will be appropriate and applicable for my study. In addition, section 3 also examined the themes and sub-themes of coding as well as how NVivo9 would have been used in the coding process. Furthermore, in this chapter I outlined the survey instrument's items and how they would have been used during the administration process. Finally, in chapter 3, I also outlined how IRT scales would have been used with Texas Parole Certificate, types of tests to conduct, how to protect participants, and how findings/results would have been disseminated. The results achieved from these tests were reported in chapter 4 of the current SNOP research study.

Chapter 4: Data Collection, Data Analyses, and Findings

The purpose of the SNOP research study was to examine what roles the SI-1 level of supervision imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend, Texas, plays in the recidivism rates of this population of offenders. This study's primary objective was to review TDCJ-PD leadership, which supervised SNOs at a higher level of supervision based on possible unproven perceptions, stigma, and assumptions that these populations of offenders are more likely to reoffend than other populations. As outlined in Chapter 1 of this study, national records as well as TDCJ-PD's records indicated the contrary.

On average, TDCJ-PD (2011) statistics showed that SNOs are consistently less likely to reoffend as compared to ROs. The goal of this quantitative study was to (a) review the parole boards' hearings records through a comprehensive comparison of the SNOs parole violation records in relation to ROs' violation records in the same counties and (b) analyze the roles SI-1 level of supervision plays in SNOs recidivism rates.

In Chapter 4, I review the quantitative data collections, the types of tests conducted, the types of measurement analyzed, the scales used in measurements, and the theoretical/conceptual lenses used in the data analyses. In Chapter 4, the statistical assumptions associated with the tests conducted will be outlined. I conducted some comprehensive quantitative analyses of data and the results will be briefly reported. The findings of the quantitative data analyses will be examined in Chapter 4. The data will be divided into quantitative groups based on collected quantitative data.

Analyses of Research Questions and Methodology

In Chapter 3, a selection of applicable and appropriate methodology for the SNOP study was determined to be a quantitative research method. In order to provide answers for the study's central or primary research question, two supplemental research questions were developed. Therefore, supplemental Research Questions (RQ1 and RQ2) were quantitative research questions. As asserted by Creswell (2007), Frankfort-Nachmias and Machmias (2010), and Creswell (2009), in some cases, one methodology alone will not be applicable or sufficient in providing answers for the research problem or research questions. In such cases, a mixed methods design is recommended. However, in this case, both research questions are quantitative questions; hence a quantitative research method was selected for the SNOP research study.

Quantitative research methods involve quantitative analyses of collected data. Creswell (2007), Creswell (2009), and Patton (2002) recommended that breaking these data into quantitative groups reduces unpredicted complexities as well as complications. Therefore, the data collected included the review of TDCJ-Board's revocation hearings outcomes of 100 SNOs in the SNOP quantitative research study supervision areas as compared to 100 ROs in the same areas such as (Region 3). In Chapters 1 and 3, I specified the type of theoretical/conceptual lenses that would be used during data analyses and coding of data. Additionally, I outlined the types of measurements (quantitative) data analyses to be conducted (Lindsey, 2008; Patton, 2002).

Settings

Quantitative Data

Secondary data already available in TDCJ-PD database were used in this study. These secondary data fall within the private domain records of TDCJ-PD. Obtaining and gaining access to these data was fundamental to the completion of this study. In order to achieve the above, a proposal for the organizational study's approval to "conduct external research" was forwarded to Texas Department of Criminal Justice (Research Department in Huntsville, Texas) on September 24, 2012, following the approval of Walden University Research Center (Institutional Review Board [IRB]) to proceed with the SNOP research study on September 19, 2012. Dissertation approval number 09-19-12-0166882 was assigned (see Appendix I, G, O, & P). This request was approved on November 14, 2012 by the Texas Board of Pardon and Parole (BPP) and access to quantitative secondary data was granted (see Appendix K). Quantitative data were comprised of the records of 2008 and 2009 parole revocation hearings of 200 SNOs and ROs in Region 3, comprising Austin, Colorado, and Austin Counties, Texas. These years were selected because the records of 2010 and were not available or up to date.

Demographics

On November 19, 2012, it was verified with Susan Debose of TDCJ External Research Center, that I will not have access to TDCJ-PD (see Appendix J, P. 262). After accepting that some of the anticipated data for this study could be considered missing data, the committee members recommended a change in plan which impacted Research Question 2 as well as types of data to be to be collected for analyses. The dissertation

committee was responsible in making changes in the study's procedures (Graham, 2009; Schafer & Graham, 2002, pp. 549-576; Zarate, Nogueira, Santos, & Song, 2006).

Change in Data Type and Analysis Plan

Additional quantitative data were collected to address supplemental Research Question 2. These secondary data were included a comprehensive quantitative analyses of Texas Board of Pardon and Parole Annual Fiscal Year *(FY)* Reports for *FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.* These secondary data analyses would provide answers to the study's central or primary research question, along with the supplemental Research Question 2 outlined below. I also concluded that this study would be entirely quantitative rather than a mixed methods approach due to missing data.

Primary or Central Research Question

Research Question1. What are the recidivism impacts of the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being imposed by the leadership of TDCJ-PD on SNOs on SNOP caseloads, in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas?

Supplemental Research Question 2

Research Question 2. Are there statistically significant differences between changes in offenders' supervision levels and their impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings?

Data Collection

Resubmission of Institutional Review Board Application and Change in Procedures Form and Data Collection

It was recommended that a new IRB application be submitted by the committee members and approved prior to data collection. This application was resubmitted on December 8, 2012 along with a Change in Procedures Form to advise Walden IRB about the team members' intentions to change procedures due to missing data. On January 11, 2013, the application to change procedures was approved by Walden IRB, but "Data Use Agreement Form" and "Letter of Data Release Commitment" were requested (see Appendix L, M, & N) These documents were submitted to Walden IRB on January 14, 2013. On January 16, 2013 BBP Administrator Tim McDonnell provided hearing data for 2008 and 2009 to me, and public domain records data for BPP Annual Fiscal Reports for 2009, 2010, and 2011.

The purpose of collecting these quantitative data was to help provide some understanding of the study's research questions and hypotheses. Analyses of Research Question 1 along with the associated hypotheses are conducted below. These analyses include types of quantitative data collected and the related research question as well as associated hypotheses. Specifics of quantitative research question and hypotheses are examined below.

Analyses of Research Questions RQs and Associated Hypotheses

Primary or central research question: What are the recidivism impacts of the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being

imposed by the leadership of TDCJ-PD on SNOs on SNOP caseloads, in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas?

Research Question 1. How have the ideologies behind the development and implementation of the SI-1 supervision level imposed on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas created social and supervision implications for the SNOs as compared to offenders on regular supervision caseloads?

Null Hypothesis-$H_0$1: There is no relationship between the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 level of supervision imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas and compliance implications and supervision challenges as compared to regular offenders that leads to higher recidivism rates.

Alternate Hypothesis- $H_1$1: There are some relationships between the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 level of supervision imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, and compliance implications and supervision challenges as compared to regular offenders that leads to higher recidivism rates.

Justification of Research Question 1 Hypotheses

The null hypothesis predicts that assigning an offender to the SNOs caseload poses zero recidivism rates due to being supervised at SI-1 supervision level in which the ideologies behind its development and implementation remained unknown. Secondly, the alternate hypothesis predicts that whenever an offender is assigned to the SNOs caseload and supervised at SI-1 supervision level, the recidivism rates of such offender will

automatically increase due to the complications created by the unknown ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level.

Research Question 1 Variables

The variables used in this research question were

IV: SNOs SI-1 supervision level; ROs' ssupervision llevels.

DV: Compliance implications; social and supervision challenges; higher recidivism rates.

Analysis of Research Question 1

To answer Research Question 1, quantitative data were analyzed by using the successful or unsuccessful completion of parole supervision as a guideline using (Special Condition 8P) as a key factor. Special Condition 8P is an imposed special condition that is common with the SNOs that places them in the SNOP in the state of Texas. This special condition requires all SNOs offenders to submit to some form of psychological counseling which includes the use of psychotropic medications such as antidepressant, antianxiety, and antipsychotic drugs. Analyses of parole violations associated with special condition 8P were counted as social and supervisory implications. In this case, the IV was SI-1 supervision level for the SNO and regular supervision level for the ROs. The review of the analyzed data was expected to shed light on how the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level have created social and supervisory implications for the SNOs in these counties.

The collected sample of SNOs was compared to a sample of ROs, and the effect of the role that Special Condition 8P plays in relationship to SNOs' recidivism rates. All

associated sample tests and nonexperimental descriptive statistical data tests that were outlined in Chapter 3 were conducted. Also, a test was conducted to test the null hypothesis prior to testing the alternative hypotheses. A comparison between SNOs and ROs' recidivism rates, using SPSS software was conducted, for the purpose of providing some quantitative outputs for RQ1. Finally, an analysis of the roles Special Condition 8P plays in relationship to SNOs recidivism rates was calculated as well.

Comparison analysis using SPSS 21 software for accuracy was used to provide quantitative outputs for SI-1 supervision levels created by the imposition of Special Condition 8P. This contact level is different from those requirements for ROs being supervised in regular caseloads. Nonexperimental descriptive statistical tests were conducted isolating Rule #1 (reporting instructions) as a perimeter of analysis. Reporting instructions included office visits, home visits, field visits, doctor appointments, substance abuse treatment appointments, and others. A comparison of the violations (complications) related to SI-1 level of supervision was calculated against ROs in order to determine the roles SI-1 supervision level plays in SNOs' recidivism rates. Furthermore, the psychometric test IRT scale was used to determine which items within the group or groups were more responsive to the hearing process. Lurigio's (1988) concept of accommodation approach was used as a lens to analyze outcomes.

Analysis of Research Question 2

RQ2: Are there statistical significant differences between changes in offenders' supervision levels and their impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings?

Null Hypothesis_ $H_0$1: There are no relationships between the statistical significant differences of changes in offenders' supervision levels and their impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings.

Alternate Hypothesis- $H_1$1: There are some relationships between the statistical significant differences of changes in offenders' supervision levels and their impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings.

Justification of Research Question 2 Hypotheses

The null hypothesis predicts that there are no statistical significant differences between changes in offenders' supervision levels and their impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings. The alternate hypothesis predicts that there are direct relationships between the statistical significant differences in changes in offenders' supervision levels and their impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings. In other words, the types of violations a Texas offender commits are linked to his or her supervision levels.

Research Question 2 Variables

The variables used to examine Research Question 2 were

IV: SNOs SI-1 supervision level; ROs' supervision Levels

DV: Violation types in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings (law versus technical violations).

Changes in Data Collection Access Approach

Assumptions Associated with Quantitative Tests Conducted

It is important for researchers to establish and understand the quantitative assumptions associated with individual quantitative tests prior to data analyses (Creswell, 2009; Nachmias & Nachmias, 2000). Ffailure to do this often leads to Type I and Type II eerrors during data analyses and results interpretations. Therefore, some of the associated assumptions with the tests conducted in this study are highlighted below.

Statistical assumptions associated with *t*-tests. According to Laureate Education, Inc. (2011), Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2000), Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008), and Creswell (2009), there are three basic statistical assumptions associated with *t*-tests of hypothesis. These three assumptions must be met for the independent sample to be valid. Above all, *t*-tests are used to verify the quality of collected samples (Hochberg & Tamhane, 1987; Keselman, Lix, & Kowalchuk, 1998; Miller, 1981). These assumptions are

- First, the observations within the samples must be independent; they cannot be a combination of dependent and independent variables.
- Secondly, there must be a normal distribution within the two populations from which samples are collected. As such, regular offenders and SNOs in the state of Texas is a normal population.
- Finally, “the two populations from which the samples are selected must have equal variances, and this is known as homogeneity of variance”

(Laureate Education, Inc., 2011, p. 3). The variance is recidivism rates between and in-between these groups.

An analysis as well as a statement of met or did meet the test/s assumptions were made prior to conducting additional or subsequent test/s.

The null hypothesis and associated alternative hypothesis from the selected data are outlined below. According to Bogartz (1994), Wilcox (2001), Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008), and Rosenthal (1979), the null hypothesis is a statement that there is no relationship between variables; the null hypothesis is rejected when an observed statistic appears unlikely under the null hypothesis. As such, there are three main assumptions about the null hypothesis:

- The null hypothesis will be accepted due to lack of relationship between dependent and independent variables (dependent and independent variables' correlations).
- The null hypothesis will be rejected and alternatives hypothesis will be accepted.
- Alternative hypothesis could show a directional or non-directional relationships between dependent and independent variables.

The null hypothesis must be rejected and alternative hypotheses accepted for the verification of such relationships to be conducted (Field, 1998; Maxwell & Delaney, 1990; Winer, Brown, & Michaels, 1991). It is significant to reject the null hypothesis prior to conducting additional correlations or relationships verification tests.

Statistical assumptions to be met when conducting ANOVA. According to Field (2009), Creswell (2009), Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2000), and Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008), there are three statistical assumptions that must be addressed when conducting a one- or two-way between-subjects ANOVA. These assumptions are:

- The observations within each sample must be independent; therefore, ANOVA cannot be conducted on dependent or independent variables alone. They should and must be jointly linked. Furthermore, the scores in each group should not be related or interrelated to each other.
- The populations from which the samples are selected must be normal. A normal population as defined by various statisticians, is one in which the sample collected will fairly represent the population it is collected from. Also, the purpose of analysis should be unified.
- Finally, the last statistical assumption that must be met is that the populations from which the samples are selected must have equal variances. This is sometimes known as homogeneity of variance.

As affirmed by Fisher (1925), Cohen (1988), Cooper (1998), and Cooper and Hedges (1994), these are the three statistical assumptions to be met when conducting ANOVA. As such, a statement regarding whether SNOP quantitative data met these assumptions will be made prior to conducting SNOP ANOVA analysis.

The statistical assumptions for bivariate correlation test. There are three basic statistical assumptions concerning the correlation test. All of these assumptions define the

extent of a relationship between two or more variables within a particular distribution (Creswell, 2009; Cronk, 2008; Fields, 2009; Green & Salkind, 2005). These assumptions are

- The first statistical assumption is that there is a relationship between these variables. Also, the direction of this relationship could be defined as a positive or a negative relationship. In other words, if the movement of such relationship points downwards as the other moves upwards, there is a negative or opposite relationship between the variables. Furthermore, if the movement of such relationship points upward as the other moves upwards, there is a positive relationship between the variables.
- The second statistical assumption regards the form of the correlation between these variables. These forms are either linear or nonlinear. For example, a correlation could be classified as curvilinear.
- The final statistical assumption concerning correlation and regression is the degree of the relationship. For example, in a perfect correlation, the correlation is plus 1; however, when there is no relationship, the correlation is zero (Laureate Education, Inc., 2011). Therefore, a relationship between variables could range from negative 1.00 to positive 1.00.

These are the basic three statistical assumptions concerning the correlation test. A statement will be made regarding whether the statistical assumptions have been met prior to conducting these tests.

The statistical assumptions associated with chi-square test. According to Morrow (Laureate Education, Inc., 2011), there are two main statistical assumptions concerning the Chi-Square test. Morrow emphasized that both of these assumptions must be met in order to justify using the chi-square test. These statistical assumptions are:

- The first statistical assumption is that the observations must be independent; therefore, no two scores should be related to each other.
- Secondly, the expected frequencies in each cell should and must be greater than five.

Glass (1976), Glass and Smith (1978), Fields (1998), and Morrow (2011) all stressed that if either of the two assumptions is violated, the chi-square test should not, and cannot, be conducted. To simply sum up, these are the two main statistical assumptions about the chi-square test. A statement regarding whether the data met or did not meet the statistical assumption will be made prior to conducting this test.

Analyses of Research Question 2

Research Question 2 was: Are there statistically significant differences between changes in offenders' supervision levels and their impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas parole revocation hearings?

Hypotheses Associated with Research Question 2

Alternate Hypothesis- $H_0$1: There are some statistical significant differences between changes in offenders' supervision levels and some impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas parole revocation hearings.

Null Hypothesis- $H_1$1: There are no statistical significant differences between changes in offenders' supervision levels and any impacts on technical or new law violations by offenders in Texas parole revocation hearings.

The null hypothesis must be rejected prior to conducting the study.

The IV was changes in offenders' supervision levels.

The DV were Technical or New law violations.

This question will be answered through comprehensive hearing data analyses of parole hearing records available in Texas BPP Annual Fiscal Reports of 2009, 2010, and 2011. A statistical significant differences multiplier (ssdm) was developed from 2008 and 2009 actual data analyses and was used to calculate and analyze whether there are possible statistical differences in technical or new law violations in Texas parole revocation hearings between SNOs and regular offenders. SNOs are supervised at SI-1 supervision level while ROs are supervised at regular levels. Specifics of individual regular levels will not be necessary of these data analyses.

Data Analysis: Texas Board of Pardon and Parole Preliminary and Revocation Hearings for FY 2008 and FY 2009

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1 showed the descriptive statistics of the sample statistical type between SNOP and regular offenders. Data were entered into SPSS 21 as Reg which indicated regular offenders or ROs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend County according to data collected from Texas (BPP) 2008 and 2009. Data were entered into SPSS 21 as SNOP

indicated special needs offenders program in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend County according to data collected from Texas (BPP) 2008 and 2009.

Table 1

Descriptives: SNOP vs. Regular Offenders

	Range	Min	Max	Sum	*M*	Std. Error	Variance	Skewness	Statistic	Std. Error
Reg	2.00	1.00	3.00	209.0	2.09	.076	.76	.58	-.15	.241
SNOP	2.00	1.00	3.00	208.0	2.08	.070	.70	.49	-.11	.241

There were no missing numbers from the collected and analyzed data. Valid *N*=100 means all collected samples were statistically included in the data analyses. Standard deviation for RO was approximately (*SD*=.767), while in contrast, the *SD* for SNOP was approximately .71. This margin was also consistent with mean Standard Error (*SE*) = .241 but the variance was approximately .59 for RO as compared to .50 for SNOP the total sample population of SNOP offenders (*N*)= 100 and the total sample population of RO (*N*= 100) offenders.

Table 2 showed a frequency distribution between regular offenders and SNOP offenders. The mean was 2.09 for regular offenders as compared to 2.08 for SNOP. There were no missing data or invalid data. Also, there were no significant differences between the means for collected data. In contrast, the skewness was -.155 for RO as compared to -.114 for SNOP offenders. These numbers indicated a positive relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables and within the groups' sample distribution.

Table 2

Frequency Distributions

		Reg	SNOP
N	Valid	100	100
	Missing	0	0
M		2.0900	2.0800
SEM		.07667	.07061
Median		2.0000	2.0000
Mode		2.00	2.00
SD		.76667	.70611
Variance		.588	.499
Skewness		-.155	-.114
Std. Error of Skewness		.241	.241
Kurtosis		-1.272	-.963
Std. Error of Kurtosis		.478	.478
Range		2.00	2.00
Minimum		1.00	1.00
Maximum		3.00	3.00
Sum		209.00	208.00

Tables 3 and 4 showed the frequency distribution regarding the types of violations regular and SNOP offenders committed that resulted to revocation hearings. In this case, violation types represent the dependent variables. Tables showed no missing numbers, Total Valid Percent for both groups were 100%. This was also represented in the Cumulative Percent. The tables also showed that SNOP offenders were more likely to commit technical violations as compared to RO at 50% to 41% respectively. In contrast, regarding law violations, RO were more like to commit new law violations than SNOP offenders at 25% to 21% respectively.

Table 3

Frequency Tables for Regular Offenders

		F	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
	Law	25	25.0	25.0	25.0
	Tech	41	41.0	41.0	66.0
Valid	Law & Tech	34	34.0	34.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Table 4

Frequency Tables for SNOP Offenders

		F	5	Valid 5	Cumulative %
	Law	21	21.0	21.0	21.0
	Tech	50	50.0	50.0	71.0
Valid	Law & Tech	29	29.0	29.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Figure 1 represented a Bar Chart for regular offender and the types of violations that led to Texas parole revocation hearing in 2008 and 2009. The figure showed RO violated at 41% technical violations, 25% law violations and 34% law/tech combined.

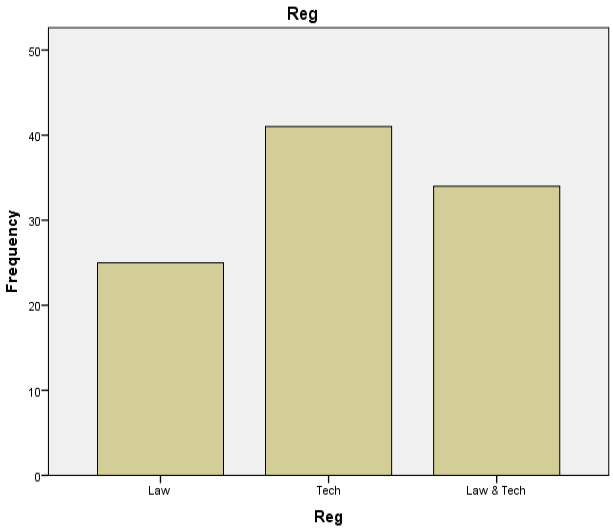

Figure 1. Bar chart for regular offenders.

Figure 2 showed similar data for regular offenders but represented in a Pie Chart. The figure showed that law violation is fully shaded in blue. This indicated that RO have a higher marginal propensity of committing new law violations that ended in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings in 2008 and 2009 as compared to technical and law/tech combined.

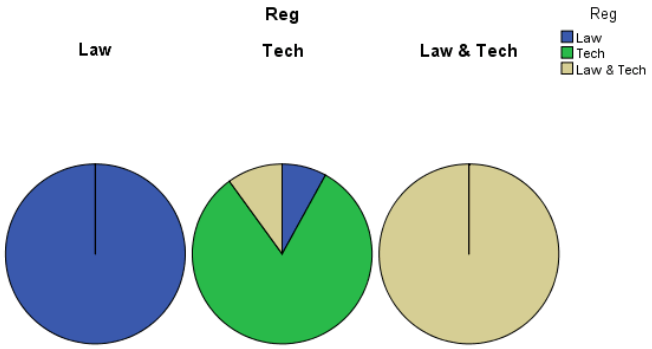

Figure 2. Pie chart for regular offenders.

Figure 3 represented a Bar Chart for SNOP offender and the types of violations that led to parole revocation hearing in 2008 and 2009. The figure showed SNOP offenders violated at 50% technical violations, 21% law violations and 29% law/tech combined.

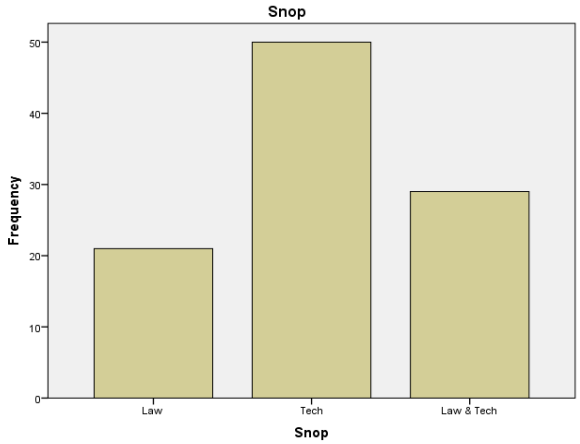

Figure 3. Bar chart for SNOP offenders.

Figure 4 showed similar data for SNOP offenders as shown in Figure 3 but represented in a Pie Chart. SNOP offenders' violations rates were similarly represented. The figure showed that technical violation is fully shaded in green. This indicated that SNOP offenders have a higher marginal propensity of committing technical violations that ended in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings in 2008 and 2009 as compared to law and law/tech combined.

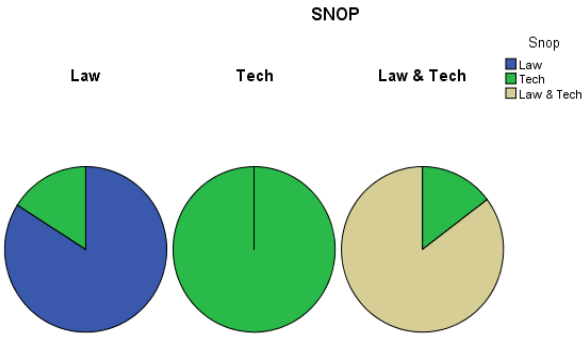

Figure 4. Pie chart for SNOP offenders.

Figure 5 is a combination of regular and SNOP offenders in a Line Chart with special emphasis on technical violations for SNOP as compared to RO. The figure

indicated “systematic upswing” in SNOP offenders’ technical violations rates (see figure 5 below).

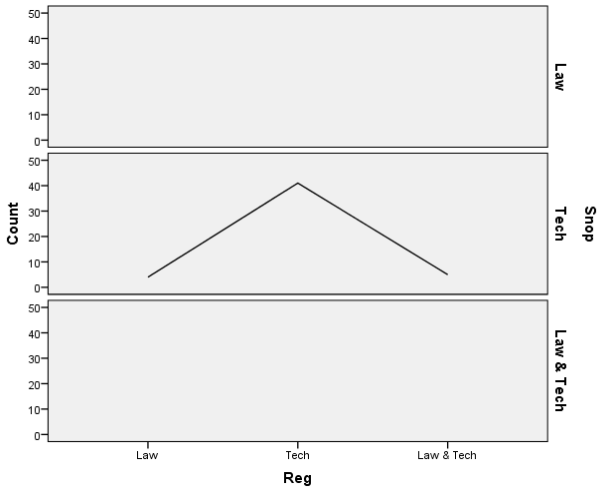

Figure 5. Line chart for SNOP offenders.

Figure 6 is a combination of Regular and SNOP offenders in a Line Chart with special emphasis on technical violations for RO as compared to SNOP offenders. The figure indicated “zero systematic swing” in regular offenders’ technical violations rates as indicated in figure 5.

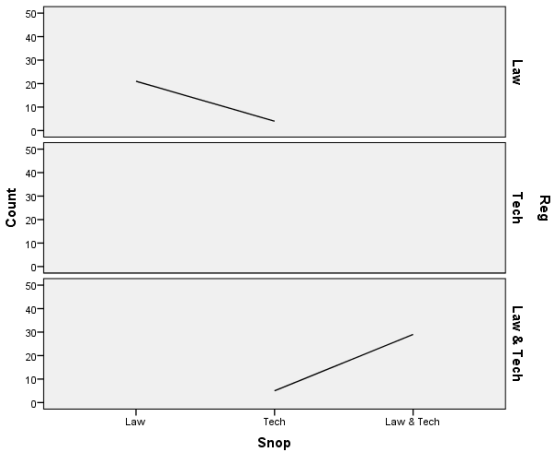

Figure 6. Line chart for regular offenders.

As shown above, Figure 7 is a similar data represented in a combine Bar Chart that indicated some increases in SNOP offenders' technical violations as compared to RO.

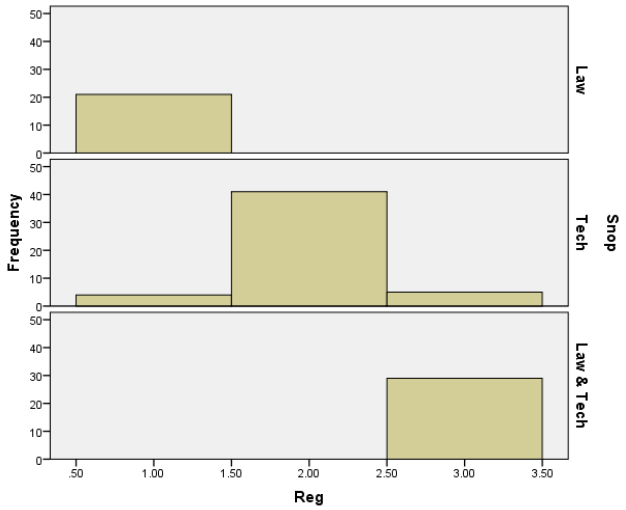

Figure 7. Bar chart for regular/SNOP offenders.

Figure 8 represented Regular Frequency Distribution with Line Curve (Histogram) showing 41% technical violation rate, standard deviation=.767 and mean=2.09 as shown above.

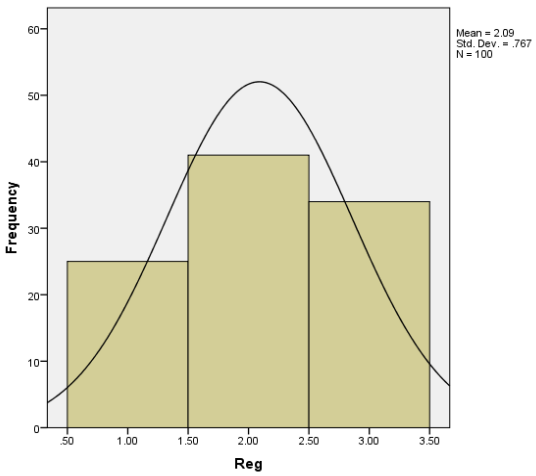

Figure 8. Regular frequency distribution (histogram).

Figure 9 represented SNOP Frequency Distribution with Line Curve (Histogram) showing 50% technical violation rate (*SD* =.706, *M* =2.08 as shown below). It was noted that the line curve in Figure 9 (SNOP) appeared to be narrower in symmetric make-up than as shown in Figure 8. This indicated some form of upswing in SNOP offenders' technical violations rates.

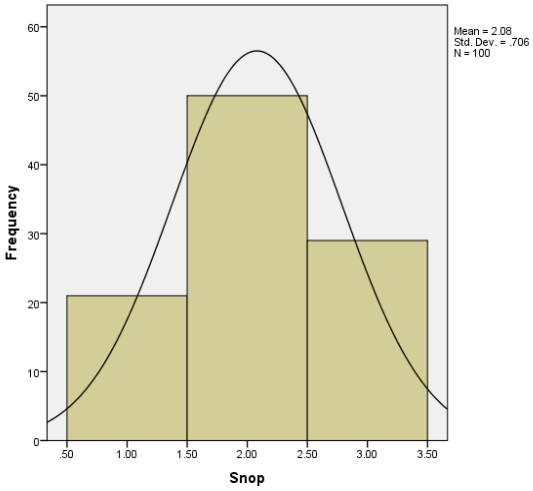

Figure 9. SNOP frequency distribution (histogram).

Figure 10 is a similar data represented in a combined Bar Chart that indicated some increases in SNOP offenders' technical violations as compared to RO.

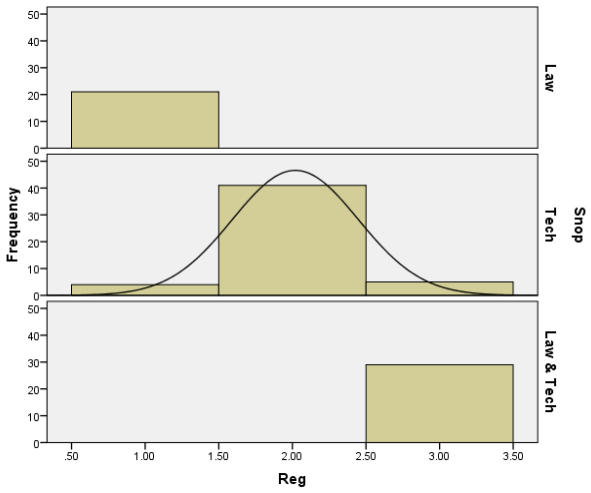

Figure 10. Regular/SNOP frequency distribution (histogram) of combination of violations.

Table 5 showed a Case Processing Summary (Crosstabs) of SNOP offenders (*N* = 100 and no missing numbers) as shown above in Table 5.

Table 5

SNOP Offenders Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	%	*N*	%	*N*	%
SNOP * Reg	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%

Table 6 showed SNOP offenders Crosstabulation for Law, Technical, and Law and Technical violations. SNOP offenders' technical violation rate is 50%. Table showed 100% of collected data of SNOP offenders' violation types was fully represented, once again, no missing data recorded. These data were represented as a bar chart in Figure 11.

Table 6

Crosstabulation: SNOP Offenders' Law, Technical, & Law & Technical Violations

		Reg			Total
		Law	Tech	Law & Tech	
SNOP	Law	21	0	0	21
	Tech	4	41	5	50
	Law & Tech	0	0	29	29
Total		25	41	34	100

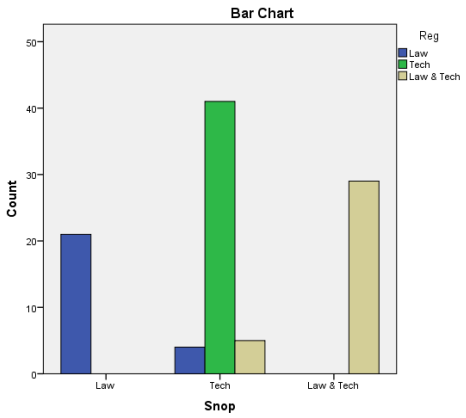

Figure 11. SNOP offenders for law, technical, & law & technical violations.

Nonparametric Tests of Significance

In this section, results of nonparametric statistical tests were presented beginning with chi-square tests of significance.

Table 7 showed the Pearson Chi-Square Tests that analyzed whether the observed frequencies were equally distributed or categorized within the samples' distribution. The degree of freedom *(df)* for Pearson Chi-Square is 4, Likelihood Ratio is 4, and linear-by-Linear is 1 (nonparametric tests). These numbers were all larger than (*P*-Value .000 < .05 but >.95) of the required *(df)*. Further, Sigma *(sig)* for all rows and columns were .000. But data collected contained cells that were less than 5 with a minimum expected count of 5.25, which interfered with the independent distribution equality reliability of observation. This observation went against one of the assumptions associated with the Chi-Square test. I concluded that this may be as a result of data entry methods rather than statistical inequality errors. Regardless, other indicators within the table showed data

collected were equally distributed or categorized within the observation. I rejected the null hypothesis $H_0$1 and the alternative hypothesis $H_1$1 was accepted.

Table 7

Chi-Square Test Assumptions

	Value	*df*	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	154.045[a]	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	156.280	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	83.705	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	100		

[a] 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 5.25.

Table 8 showed the Directional Measures (coefficient of predictability) in a nominal by nominal distribution between variables. At almost all levels of measurements, across the board, Asymptotic Standard Errors (*Z*-Scores) were more than .05 as shown in row 2 column 3; this showed that there was a directional relationship between RO and SNOP offenders based on collected data classification and dependent variables. Approximate Sig were .000 across the board which showed no significant differences with the standard error of samples. I rejected the null hypothesis $H_0$1 and accepted the alternative hypothesis $H_1$1

Table 8

Directional Measures

			Value	Asymp. Std. Error[a]	Approx. T[b]	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Lambda	Symmetric	.835	.055	8.101	.000
		SNOP Dependent	.820	.065	6.312	.000
		Reg Dependent	.847	.047	10.000	.000
	Goodman and Kruskal *tau*	SNOP Dependent	.755	.067		.000[c]
		Reg Dependent	.762	.058		.000[c]
	Uncertainty Coefficient	Symmetric	.740	.057	11.593	.000[d]
		SNOP Dependent	.756	.052	11.593	.000[d]
		Reg Dependent	.724	.062	11.593	.000[d]

[a] Not assuming the null hypothesis.
[b] Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
[c] Based on normal approximation.

Table 9 showed the Symmetric Measures (coefficient of predictability based on random selection of samples) in a nominal by nominal distribution between variables. Asymptotic Standard Errors were .026 and .026 for Pearson and Spearman Correlation respectively with a combination of .052. Further, *P*-Value is .000 at all intervals < .05. It showed that the population of selection has a normal approximation. Also, it showed that there was a relationship between RO and SNOP offenders based on collected data classification and dependent variables. I rejected the null hypothesis $H_0$1 and accepted the alternative hypothesis $H_1$1. At this point, following the statements of rejection of the null

hypothesis and the acceptance of the alternative hypothesis as $H_0 1$ and $H_1 1$, I made only statements of rejection and acceptance of hypotheses without specifics to $H_0 1$ and $H_1 1$.

Table 9

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error[a]	Approx. T[b]	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	1.241			.000
	Cramer's *V*	.878			.000
	Contingency Coefficient	.779			.000
Interval by Interval	Pearson's *R*	.920	.026	23.159	.000[c]
Ordinal by Ordinal	Spearman Correlation	.919	.026	23.087	.000[c]
N OF VALID CASES		100			

[a] Not assuming the null hypothesis.
[b] Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
[c] Based on normal approximation.

Table 10 showed a Case Processing Summary (Crosstabs) of Regular offenders (*N* = 100 and no missing numbers).

Table 10

Regular Offenders Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	%	*N*	%	*N*	%
Reg * SNOP	100	100.0%	0	0.0%	100	100.0%

Table 11 showed Regular offenders Crosstabulation for Law, Technical, and Law and Technical violations. Regular offenders' technical violation rate is 41% as shown above. Table showed 100% of participation of ROs' violation types, no missing data. These data were represented in bar chart format in Figure 12.

Table 11

Crosstabs: SNOP Offenders' Law, Technical, and Law & Technical Violations

		SNOP			Total
		Law	Tech	Law & Tech	
Reg	Law	21	4	0	25
	Tech	0	41	0	41
	Law & Tech	0	5	29	34
Total		21	50	29	100

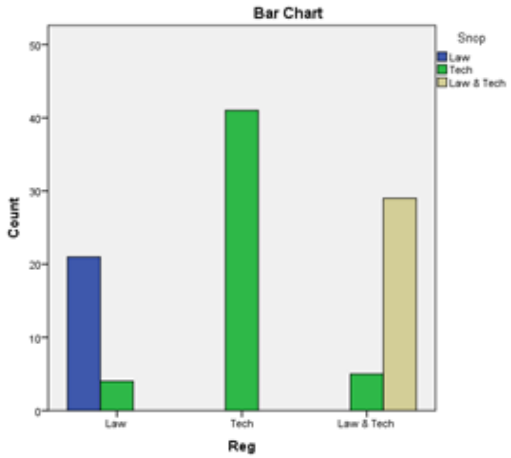

Figure 22. SNOP offenders' law, technical, and law & technical violations.

Table 12 indicated the Pearson Chi-Square Tests that analyzed whether the observed frequencies are equally distributed or categorized. Likely, the degree of freedom *(df)* for Pearson Chi-Square is 4, Likelihood Ratio is 4, and linear-by-Linear in 1

these numbers are larger than .05 or .95 of the required *(df).* Further, *(P-Value)* is .000 < .05 or > .95. But data collected contained cells that were less than 5 with a minimum

Table 12

Chi-Square test Assumptions

	Value	*df*	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	154.045[a]	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	156.280	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	83.705	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	100		

[a] 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 5.25.

expected count of 5.25 which interfered with the independent distribution reliability of observation. It is assumable that this may be as a result of data entry methods rather than statistical errors. Regardless, other indicators within the table showed data collected were equally distributed or categorized within the observation (see Table 7 as well). I rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternative hypotheses.

Table 13 showed the Directional Measures (coefficient of predictability) in a nominal by nominal distribution between variables. At almost all levels of measurements, across the board Asymptotic Standard Error of more than .05 as shown in row 2 column 3, there is a directional relationship between regular offenders and SNOP offenders based on collected data. Approximate *Sig* were .000 across the board which shows no

significant differences with the standard error of samples. As such, I rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternative hypothesis (see Table 7 as well as Table 13).

Table 13

Directional Measures

			Value	Asymp. Std. Error[a]	Approx. T[b]	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Lambda	Symmetric	.835	.055	8.101	.000
		Reg Dependent	.847	.047	10.000	.000
		Snop Dependent	.820	.065	6.312	.000
	Goodman and Kruskal *tau*	Reg Dependent	.762	.058		.000[c]
		Snop Dependent	.755	.067		.000[c]
	Uncertainty Coefficient	Symmetric	.740	.057	11.593	.000[d]
		Reg Dependent	.724	.062	11.593	.000[d]
		Snop Dependent	.756	.052	11.593	.000[d]

[a] Not assuming the null hypothesis.
[b] Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
[c] Based on chi-square approximation.
[d] Likelihood ratio chi-square probability.

Table 14 showed the Symmetric Measures (coefficient of predictability based on random selection of samples) in a nominal by nominal distribution between variables. Asymptotic Standard Errors were .026 and .026 for Pearson and Spearman Correlation respectively. As such, *(P-Value)* of .000 appears to be less than .05 but greater than .95.

This showed that there is a relationship between Regular offenders and SNOP offenders based on collected data classification and dependent variables. As such, I rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternative hypothesis (see Table 9) for comparison).

Table 14

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error[a]	Approx. T[b]	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	1.241			.000
	Cramer's *V*	.878			.000
	Contingency Coefficient	.779			.000
Interval by Interval	Pearson's *R*	.920	.026	23.159	.000[c]
Ordinal by Ordinal	Spearman Correlation	.919	.026	23.087	.000[c]
N of Valid Cases		100			

[a] Not assuming the null hypothesis.
[b] Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
[c] Based on normal approximation.

Parametric Tests of Significance

Parametric statistical tests were presented in this section, beginning with the *t*-test for paired samples. Table 15 shows Pair Samples Statistics table. The *t*-test calculates the samples' hypotheses (Standard Error Mean) or *P-Value* is approximately .077 and .071 for Regular and SNOP offenders respectively and was the same for the Standard Deviation *(SD).* This showed there were insignificant differences between the *(SD)* and *P-Value.* Therefore, paired sample statistics between SNOP and RO appeared to be similar. The null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis was accepted.

Table 15

Paired Samples t-Tests for Regular vs. SNOP Offenders

		M	*N*	*SD*	*SEM*
Pair 1	Reg	2.0900	100	.76667	.07667
	SNOP	2.0800	100	.70611	.07061

Table 16 showed the individual (One Sample Test) of RO and SNOP offenders. The *t*-value, degree of freedom *(df),* mean differentials and confidence interval of difference levels (lower and upper) were above acceptable statistical margins. The *(P-Value)* for SNOP and RO was Sig. (2-tailed) .000 < .05 but > .95 (see Table 16 below). Therefore, one sample statistics between SNOP and RO appeared to be similar. There are enough statistical insignificance that both samples (SNOP & ROs) were similar in all classification and categories within the samples' distribution.

Table 16

One-Sample t-Test for Regular vs. SNOP Offenders

	t	*df*	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Reg	27.261	99	.000	2.09000	1.9379	2.2421
Snop	29.457	99	.000	2.08000	1.9399	2.2201

Table 17 showed the Pair Sample Correlations for Regular and SNOP offenders. The pair correlation percentage is 92% with a sigma *(sig) P-Value* .000 < .05 but > .95. This showed there were no statistical differences in Paired Samples' Correlations. Based

on this information, I concluded that there was a balanced relationship between SNOP offenders and RO.

Table 17 Paired Samples Correlations

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Reg & SNOP	100	.920	.000

Table 18 showed a Pair Samples Test for Regular and SNOP offenders. Joint mean was .01, Confidence Interval of the Difference were approximately -.0498 lower and .0698 upper with .99 *df* and .741 *Sig. (2-tailed)* therefore, *P-Value of .741.* This showed there were no statistical differences in samples' pair. Based on this information, I concluded there was a balanced relationship between SNOP offenders and ROs.

Table 18

Paired Samples t-*Test for Regular vs. SNOP Offenders*

				95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				Sig. (2-
Pair 1	*M*	*SD*	*SEM*	Lower	Upper	*t*	*df*	tailed)
Reg - SNOP	.01000	.30134	.03013	-.04979	.06979	.332	99	.741

Table 19 showed the ANOVA within the SNOP distributions regarding law and technical violations this population of offenders committed. At *Confidence Interval for Mean of Lower Bound (LB)* of 1.0056 and *Upper Bound (UB)* of 1.3144 law violations and 2.00 and 2.00 respectively for technical violations there appeared to be independent

observation within the distribution. These numbers were all greater than .95% of acceptable Confidence Interval Level. It also appeared to be a normal distribution and

Table 19

ANOVA Descriptives: SNOP Offenders' Law, Technical, and Law & Technical Violations

					95% Confidence Interval for Mean			
	N	*M*	*SD*	Std. Error	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Min.	Max.
Law	21	1.0000	.00000	.00000	1.0000	1.0000	1.00	1.00
Tech	50	2.0200	.42809	.06054	1.8983	2.1417	1.00	3.00
Law & Tech	29	3.0000	.00000	.00000	3.0000	3.0000	3.00	3.00
Total	100	2.0900	.76667	.07667	1.9379	2.2421	1.00	3.00

showed equality or homogeneity with the distribution. Based on these statistics, I had enough information to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypotheses. The reactions showed *SD* .000 and *SE* .000 for law and law/tech violations but *(SD)* .43 and *(SE)* .06 respectively for technical violation. I concluded that there was a linear-by-linear relationship between SNOP offenders and ROs and the dependent variables (law, technical, and law/tech violations).

Table 20 showed the Levene Test of Homogeneity of Variances. It is an interferential, parametric test of significance that is designed to calculate equality within populations' variances. Further, it allows researchers to determine if samples in group

were equally collected. The *(P-Value)* of the Levene Test has a cut critical value of <.05 or > .95 degree of freedom. In this case, the *(df2)* is 97 while the *Sig.* value is .002 < .05

Table 20

Levene's Test of Homogeneity of Variances

Levene Statistic	*df1*	*df2*	Sig.
6.598	2	97	.002

but > .95. There appeared to be enough statistical data to conclude that both groups (SNOP and ROs) have homogeneity of variance or homoscedasticity based on randomization selection of samples. I rejected the null hypothesis and the alternative hypothesis was accepted.

Table 21 showed the results of a between Groups and within Groups ANOVA (SNOP offenders as compared to ROs). The mean square between Groups is 24.605 and within groups .093. The *f* is 265.778 while the *(P-Value) Sig.* is .000 < .05 but > .95. These numbers were higher than (<0.5 or >.95) degree of freedom. This showed insignificant statistical differences between and within groups. Based on this information I rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternative hypothesis.

Table 21

ANOVA: Regular vs. SNOP Offenders

	Sum of Squares	*df*	Mean Square	*F*	Sig.
Between Groups	49.210	2	24.605	265.778	.000
Within Groups	8.980	97	.093		

Total	58.190	99

Post Hoc Tests

When conducting an ANOVA with independent variables of three or more groups or three or more levels, it is necessary to conduct additional analyses to ascertain where the group differences within and between the distributions is located. Post Hoc tests are additional hypotheses tests that are conducted after an ANOVA to determine exactly which mean differences are significant and which are not (Cronk, 2008; Green & Salkind, 2005). In this study, there are only two independent variables (SNOP and RO caseload types) and two dependent variables (technical and law violations). Also, collected data are less than 1,500 participants. Therefore, "Post Hoc Tests" were excluded from this study's tests because independent sample groups and dependent variable total were less than three.

Figure 13 showed a mean plot or linear representation for SNOP offenders with point of interception at technical violation at 2.00. However, the linear equation appears to slide more upward vertically (see Figure 13).

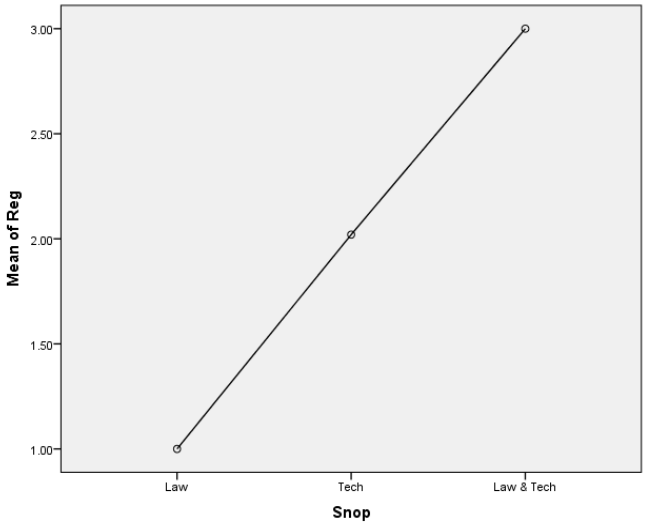

Figure 33. Means plot for regular and SNOP offenders.

Table 22 showed the ANOVA within the Regular offender distributions regarding law and technical violations committed by this population of offenders. At *Confidence Interval for Mean of Lower Bound (LB)* of 1.0056 and *Upper Bound (UB)* of 1.3144, law violations and 2.00 and 2.00 respectively for technical violations, there appeared to be independent observation within the distribution. These numbers were all greater than .95% of acceptable Confidence Interval Level. It also appeared to be a normal distribution and showed equality or homogeneity with the distribution. Based on these statistics, I had enough information to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypotheses. The reactions showed .000 and .000 in *SD and SE* respectively in technical violations but higher margins in law and law/tech violations. I concluded that there was a linear-by-Linear relationship between SNOP offenders, RO, and dependent variables (law, technical, and law/tech violations).

Table 22

ANOVA Descriptives: Regular Offenders

					95% Confidence Interval for Mean			
	N	*M*	*SD*	Std. Error	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Min.	Max.
Law	25	1.1600	.37417	.07483	1.0056	1.3144	1.00	2.00
Tech	41	2.0000	.00000	.00000	2.0000	2.0000	2.00	2.00
Law & Tech	34	2.8529	.35949	.06165	2.7275	2.9784	2.00	3.00
Total	100	2.0800	.70611	.07061	1.9399	2.2201	1.00	3.00

Table 23 showed the Test of Homogeneity of Variances within the sample distribution. The *P-Value* of the Levene Test has a cut critical value of <.05 or > .95

Table 23

Levene's Test of Homogeneity of Variances: SNOP Offenders

Levene Statistic	*df1*	*df2*	Sig.
21.367	2	97	.000

degree of freedom. In this case, the *(df2)* is 97 while the Sig. *P*-Value is .000. There was enough statistical data to conclude that both groups (SNOP & RO) have homogeneity of variance or homoscedasticity based on randomization of samples. Based on this information, I rejected the null hypothesis and accepted alternative hypotheses.

Table 24 showed results of a Between Groups and within Groups ANOVA (RO vs. SNOP offenders). The mean square between Groups is 20.868 and within groups .079. The *F-Value* is 265.474 while the Sig. or (*P*-Value) is .000. These numbers were higher than (<0.5 or >.95) degree of freedom. This showed insignificant statistical differences between and within groups. As such, I rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternative hypotheses.

Table 24

ANOVA: Regular Offenders vs. SNOP Offenders

	Sum of Squares	*df*	Mean Square	*F*	Sig.
Between Groups	41.735	2	20.868	265.474	.000
Within Groups	7.625	97	.079		
Total	49.360	99			

Figure 14 showed mean plots or a linear representation for ROs with the point of interception at technical and 2.00. However, the linear equation appears to slide less upward.

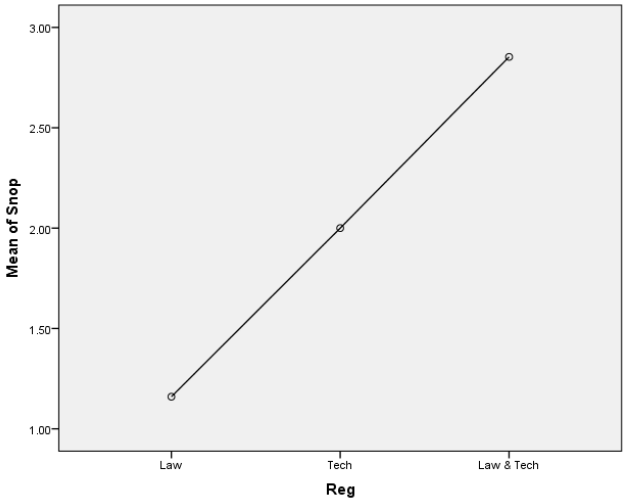

Figure 44. Regular offenders' mean plots.

Nonparametric Tests

Table 25 showed the descriptive statistics for RO and SNOP offenders in relationship to their violation rates. The percentile ranks were 2.0 and 1.25 for 25th percentiles, 2.0 and 2.0 for medium or 50th percentiles and 3.0 and 3.0 for 75th percentiles for SNOP offenders and RO respectively.

Table 25

Descriptives: Regular offenders and SNOP Offenders in Relation to Their Violation Rates

						Percentiles		
	N	*M*	*SD*	Min.	Max.	25th	50th (Median)	75th
SNOP	100	2.0800	.70611	1.00	3.00	2.0000	2.0000	3.0000
Reg	100	2.0900	.76667	1.00	3.00	1.2500	2.0000	3.0000

Table 26 showed the Ranks of RO in relationship to Law or Technical Violations. Law Mean Ranking was 16.28 while Technical Violation Ranking was 44.00. I noted that one of the drawbacks of using the Mann-Whitney Test of Independent Variables was that it can eliminate some categories. In this case, Law and Technical Violation combined column was eliminated by this analysis; as such (*N*) for RO was 66. It was statistically inconclusive to draw a reasonable conclusion due to the fact that 34% of data were missing from this analysis.

Table 26

Ranks of Regular Offenders in Relationship to Law or Technical Violations

	Reg	*N*	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
SNOP	Law	25	16.28	407.00
	Tech	41	44.00	1804.00
	Total	66		

Based on the Mann-Whitney Test conducted on the Independent Samples for SNOP offenders the *Asymptotic Sig. (2-tailed)* is .000 (see Table 27). This is a sum that is less than *.001 < .05 but > .95.* I conclude that the Independent Samples (SNOP & RO) have statistical insignificant differences between them in relationship to Law or Technical violations. Based on this information, I rejected the null hypothesis and accept both alternative hypotheses of this study.

Table 27

Mann-Whitney Test of Independent Samples for SNOP Offenders

	SNOP[a]
Mann-Whitney *U*	82.000
Wilcoxon *W*	407.000
Z	-7.053
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000

[a] Grouping Variable: Reg

Table 28 showed the Ranks of SNOP offenders in relationship to Law or Technical Violations. Law Mean Ranking was 13.00 while Technical Violation Ranking was 45.66 It should also be noted that one of the drawbacks of using the Mann-Whitney Test of Independent Variables is that it can eliminate some categories. In this case, Law and Technical Violation combined column was eliminated by this analysis; as such *N* for SNOP was 71. I noted that it was statistically inconclusive to draw a reasonable conclusion due to the fact that 29% of data were missing from this analysis.

Table 28

Ranks of SNOP Offenders in Relationship to Law or Technical Violations

	SNOP	*N*	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
Reg	Law	21	13.00	273.00
	Tech	50	45.66	2283.00
	Total	71		

Table 29 showed Asymptotic Sig. (2-tailed) is .000. This is a number lower than .01 and also a lower number than confidence level benchmark of .05 or .95. I concluded that the Independent Samples (SNOP & RO) have statistically insignificant differences

Table 29

Mann-Whitney U: Differences between SNOP & Regular Offenders on Law or Technical Violations

	Reg.[a]
Mann-Whitney *U*	42.000
Wilcoxon *W*	273.000
Z	-6.964
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000

[a] Grouping Variable: SNOP

between them in relationship to Law or Technical violations. Based on this information, I rejected the null hypothesis and accepted both alternative hypotheses of this study. Also, *P-Value* at significant level of less than (< 0.5) or (> .95) of *Sig P-Value* =.000 there were enough evidence to conclude that there were differences in the percentiles median violation rates and types between the two groups of offenders.

Analyses of Item Response Theory Scale Psychometric Tests of Significance Based on Individual Item Response within the SNOP Distribution

Table 30 showed the total numbers of Administrative Hearings conducted on SNOP offenders in Region 3 in 2008 and 2009. The data showed that based on the statistical analyses of in-between and within item/s responses of SNOP offenders, Mentally Impaired (MI) offenders accounted for almost 92% or 1,723 offenders out of 1,877 cases within and between the responding items. In some cases, MI offenders

accounted for 100% of all cases, specifically in substance abuse felony punishment facility (SAFPF) (9 out of 9), and 6 out of 6 in reopen revocation hearing. Based on these responses (Responsivities) scale of the *IRT,* there were overwhelming statistical evidence

Table 30

Administrative Hearings for SNOP in Region 3 in FY 2008 and FY 2009

	Not Revoked	Revoked	Transfer to ISF Facility	SAFPF	Reopen Revocation Hearing	Go to Revocation Hearing	Total Offenders
Mentally Retarded	21	5	26	0	0	3	55
Mentally Impaired	**699**	**269**	**641**	**9**	**6**	**99**	**1723**
Terminally Ill/Physically Handicapped	41	11	17	0	0	4	73
Mentally Recommended Intensive	13	6	5	0	0	2	26
Total Offenders	774	291	689	9	6	108	1877

Source: Texas Board of Pardon and Parole (BPP) FY 2008 and FY 2009 Region 3 SNOP Administrative Hearings Records.

to conclude that SNOP caseload created some form social and supervisory compliance implications for the MI offenders even within the SNOP caseload.

Table 31 showed data statistics in percentages of responses according to IRT scale of measurement. The variances in MI offenders' responses to compliance measurements' data were statistically overwhelming. Based on these responses, there were overwhelming statistical evidence to conclude that SNOP caseload created some form of social and supervisory compliance implications for the MI offenders (see Table 31 as shown above). Further, based on the above analyses, at this point, I concluded that SI-1 supervision level which is a derivative of special condition 8P (psychological counseling

Table 31

Percentages of Actual Item Responses within the SNOP Caseload

	Not Revoked	Revoked	Transfer to ISF Facility	SAFPF	Reopen Revocation Hearing	Go to Revocation Hearing	Total Offenders
Mentally Retarded	.027	.017	.038	.000	.000	.027	55
Mentally Impaired	**.903**	**.924**	**.930**	**100.00**	**100.00%**	**.916**	**1723**
Terminally Ill/Physically Handicapped	.053	.038	.025	.000	.000	.037	73
Mentally Recommended Intensive	.017	.021	.007	.000	.000	.019	26
Total %	100	100	100	100.00	100.00	100	1877

Source: Texas Board of Pardon and Parole (BPP) FY 2008 and FY 2009 Region 3 SNOP Administrative Hearings Records.

which includes the use of psychotropic medications) created certain supervisory and compliance issues for the SNOs offenders especially the MI offenders within the SNOP caseload distribution. This provided a partial answer to supplemental Research Question 1 of this study. Interpretation of this finding will be conducted in chapter 5 of this study.

Data Analysis of Texas Board of Pardon and Parole Annual Fiscal Report 2009

Table 32 showed the number of parole hearings conducted in the State of Texas in fiscal year 2009. Based on the analyzed 2009 hearings data available at BPP Annual Fiscal Report 2009, approximately 42% or 12,854 out of 30,349 offenders in the state of Texas who went to parole hearings in 2009 committed and were convicted of new offenses. Also, about 44% of offenders who attended parole hearings in 2009 violated technical violations rather than New Law Violations or New Law Violation with No

Table 32

Number of Hearings Conducted in the State of Texas in FY 2009

Hearing Type	Number
New Conviction	12854
Law Violation With No Conviction	4132
Technical Violation Only	13363
Total	30349

Source: Public Records Domain Texas Board of Pardon and Parole (BPP, 2009) Austin, Texas.

Conviction. At the same time, only about 14% or 4,132 of 30,349 offenders went to hearings due to new law violations without convictions (see Table 32).

The data also showed that about 86% of all parole hearings conducted in 2009 in the State of Texas were held due to new convictions and technical violations as compared to 14% for Law Violations with No Conviction only. Furthermore, at a revocation rate of approximately 24%, about 7,283 of all offenders who attended parole revocation hearings in the State of Texas in 2009 were revoked. According to the Texas Board of Pardon and Parole (BPP) (2011), decisions made on erroneous release hearings are as follows:

> The parole panel that reviews a revocation case decides whether the offender will continue on supervision, with or without modification of conditions of release. In the case of Erroneous Release, the panel can recommend that the offender be placed in the normal parole review

process upon return to TDCJ-CID, parole if eligible (FI-1), or continue on existing release certificate. (p. 18)

As such, based on the definition of "erroneous release" as well as implementation of decisions made by BPP, erroneous release will not yield viable, adequate, applicable or appropriate statistical data for this study. While erroneous release offenders may be actively supervised by parole officers, the purpose of their parole hearings is different from ROs or SNOP offenders on active parole supervision. Based on this, erroneous release offenders was excluded from this study's data analyses process. However, for the purpose of overall data analyses and probing question posed to these data, three things were done to form a benchmark of data analysis.

Estimated Benchmark for Hearing Data Analyses

1. New Conviction and New Law Violation with No Conviction (both are law violations) were combined as Law Violation during the course of this data analyses.

2. An assumption was made that in any case; totality will be taken that populations of offenders (Law or Technical Totals) are fully SNOP offenders and fully ROs in our calculations.

3. Specific percentages of violation types technical or law violations as reviewed from the analyses of Region 3 200 randomly selected RO and SNOP offenders' hearings data was used as our actual multiplier. These percentage multipliers will shed some lights on whether or not there are statistically significant differences on

the roles supervision levels play on the types of new law violations or technical in Texas revocation parole hearings.

Note that SNOP offenders are supervised at the SI-1 supervision level, which requires a minimum of three face-to-face contacts with the offender monthly and a minimum of two collateral contacts monthly. Conversely, ROs involved in such hearings may be supervised at the quarterly Level (one face-to-face) every three months, maximum level (two face-to-face) monthly, medium level (one face-to-face monthly and two every other month) and minimum level (one face-to-face) monthly (see Appendix E, PD/POP 3.2.8, p. 255) for specific contacts' requirements based on ROs' supervision level.

However, reviewed data did not specify the types of ROs' supervision levels in which offenders were placed, prior to attending Texas parole revocation hearings in collected data years. Therefore, specifics developed from SNOP and ROs' hearing records of 2008 and 2009 was used as a benchmark (a guideline) in data analyses. Furthermore, at technical violation rate of 50% for SNOP offenders and 41% for ROs and at 50% new law violation rate for SNOP offenders and 59% for ROs, statistical differences in-between and in within these groups could be determined or established.

Based on the above, the estimated significant statistical differences multipliers' (SSDM) formulas are

For SNOP offenders (new law violations) equal:

SSDM SNOP offenders law = (NLV) X .50

For (technical violations) for SNOP offenders equals:

SSDM SNOP offenders technical = (TV) X .50

For ROs (new law violations) equals:

SSDM ROs new law = (NLV) X .59

For (technical violations) for ROs equals:

SSDM Regular Offender Technical = (TV) X .41

Key:

1. **NLV=** total numbers of new law violations
2. **TV=** total numbers of technical violations
3. **SSDM=** statistically significant differences multiplier
4. **X =** the total case offenders' numbers of the available at any categories

The premises of the SSDM formula were based on the assumption that it is possible to accurately estimate actual occurrences based on previous occurrences when dealing with missing data, especially if previous occurrences' statistics are historically consistent. According to Acock (2005), Ader (2008), Ader and Mellenbergh (2008), Messner (1992), Stoop et al. (2010), Allison (2001), and Rubin and Little (2002), researchers can use the known data values to accurately calculate the statistical values or estimates (unknown) data within the distributions by incorporating estimated formulas that accurately predict the values of the missing data based on available datasets' statistics. This was precisely how SSDM was used in data analyses to establish some statistical differences.

In this case, the Law and Technical violation rates of SNOP and ROs for 2008 and 2009 in Region 3 are known, based on the historic datasets obtained from BPP in

2013. However, the datasets received from BPP for Annual Fiscal Report 2009, 2010, and 2011 did not specify caseload classifications. This data did not include caseload types or supervision level. This was where the formulated SSDM became useful in the data analyses section of this study. These established benchmarks' multipliers were used to calculate if there were significant statistical differences in the marginal propensity for Texas offenders' on parole to commit New Law violations or Technical violations in Texas parole revocation hearings based on offenders' supervision levels.

Statistical Justification for statistical significant differences multiplier formula Development

This multiplier was developed based on the following statistical assumptions and reasoning. If groups' values within samples' distributions are known and the statistical multipliers are known within the groups are known as well, and if the duration of occurrences are historically accurate and statistically consistent, then the multiplier can be used to estimate the outcomes of the groups' future occurrences (Ader & Mellenbergh, Acock, 2005; 2008; Allison, 2001; Broeck et al., 2005; Enders, 2010; Graham, 2009, pp. 549-576; Graham, Olchowski, & Gilreath, 2007; Messner, 1992, pp. 155-173; Stoop et al., 2010; Van den Zarate et al., 2006). SSDM was developed for such purpose.

Note that the actual hearing records and outcomes of SNOP offenders and ROs for 2008 and 2009 in Region 3 based on randomized selection of 200 offenders were known statistically. Furthermore, the actual violations margins' probabilities for technical, law, and law/tech were also known. Finally, the actual duration is historic; in this case, two consistent years (2008 and 2009) were also known. Based on the above,

SSDM can be accurately used to estimate the probable violations rates of the subsequent two years (2010 & 2011), and the findings should be in within and in-between the statistical confidence level of 95% or < .05 of social scientific acceptance level.

Data Analysis of Texas Board of Pardon and Parole Annual Fiscal Report 2010

Table 33 showed the number of parole hearings conducted in the state of Texas in fiscal year 2010. According to the statistical information obtained from Texas BBP *FY*

Table 33

Number of Hearings Conducted in the State of Texas in (FY) 2010

Type	Number
New Conviction	12,122
Law Violation With No Conviction	4,230
Technical Violation Only	12,573
Total	28,925

Source: Public Records Domain Texas Board of Pardon and Parole (BPP, 2010) Austin, Texas.

2010 a total include (Hearings and Waivers). The Board believed that these numbers are reflection of the changes that are regular with the legal environments. These numbers are significant because Texas BBP (2010) believed that "The annual training seminar keeps the hearing officers informed of changes that affect their decision-making responsibilities and the hearing process" (p. 29). Therefore, these numbers are absolutely accurate. However, since it was established in 2009 data analyses that Erroneous Release was

excluded from the SSDM statistical data analyses, 44 erroneously released offenders were excluded from this total. As previously established, law and law violations without conviction would be combined. Therefore, based on the SSDM application the marginal propensities for offender to reoffend through law or technical violations in 2010 are as follows. If it is assumed that law, technical and law with no conviction combined as shown in 2010 were all SNOP offender and ROs, the statistical margins were:

SSDM SNOP offenders law = (16,352) X .50 = 8,176 law violations

SSDM SNOP offenders technical = (12,573) X .50 = 6,287 Technical violations

SSDM ROs law = (16,352) X .59 = 9,648 law violations

SSDM ROs technical = (12,573) X .41 = 5,155 technical violations

The interpretations of these findings will be used to provide answer supplemental Research question 2 about the possible statistical differences between offenders reoffending via law or technical violations based on changes in supervision levels. These analyses will be conducted in chapter 5.

Data Analysis of Texas Board of Pardon and Parole Annual Fiscal Report 2011

Table 34 shows the number of parole hearings conducted in the State of Texas in fiscal year 2011.

SSDM data analysis for *FY* 2011 was conducted below; it should be noted that Erroneous Released (32 offenders' violations) were excluded from these analyses. Also, both law and law violation with no conviction were combined. If it was assumed that law,

Table 34

Number of Hearings Conducted in the State of Texas in (FY) 2011

Type	Number
New Conviction	11,825
Law Violation With No Conviction	4,603
Technical Violation Only	11,694
Total	28,122

Source: Public Records Domain Texas Board of Pardon and Parole (BPP) (2011) Austin, Texas.

technical and law with no conviction combined as shown in 2011 were all SNOP offender and ROs the statistical margins are:

SSDM SNOP offenders law = (11825) X .50 = 5,913 law violations

SSDM SNOP offenders technical = (11694) X .50 = 5,847 Technical violations

SSDM ROs law = (11825) X .59 = 6,977 law violations

SSDM ROs technical = (11694) X .41 = 4,795 technical violations

The interpretations of these findings will be used to provide answer supplemental research question 2 about the possible statistical differences between offenders reoffending via law or technical violations based on changes in supervision levels. These analyses will be conducted in chapter 5.

Results

Brief collective results of findings were partially conducted at this point and interpretations of findings were fully conducted in chapter 5 of this study.

Description of Parametric/Nonparametric Tests

In chapter 3 of this study, it was established that this study would be conducted quantitatively. In a comparison research study, reactions of variances in within and in-between the groups of two or more are compared to establish statistical reasoning, similarities, differences, associations, or relationships between variable distributions (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2000; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). The essence of a comparison study is to establish the similarities or differences between one group and another. This research study was a comparison study that examined the difference between the supervision-level placement's effects on SNOs as compared to ROs regarding recidivism rates. Comparison studies are highly recommended when dealing with both experimental and non experimental research studies (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2000, 2008). This study was a descriptive non-experimental quantitative study. Therefore, there were certain measurements of comparison studies, recommended by researchers.

According to social scientists, comparison studies go back to the works of Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. Both researchers believed that the purpose of comparison studies is to report overviews of the wide range of possible statistical comparisons (Durkhein, 1950; Weber, 1947). Comparison studies can simply measure and compare the central tendency within the groups (Anderson et al., 1980; Hochberg & Tamhane, 1987; Lee, Lo, Leung, & Ko, 2000; Liao, 2002). However, many researchers have argued that the lack of robustness of such measurement approaches creates controversial scholarly debates concerning findings/results. Consequently, multiple comparisons of

groups' differences and similarities are highly recommended to establish both internal and external validities (Keselman, Lix, & Kowalchuk, 1998; Miller, 1981; Toothaker, 1993). In this study, multiple comparisons of groups' differences were measured.

This research study measured of central tendencies, which include the mean, median, mode, variance, and standard deviation of SI-1 versus ROs' supervision levels, were compared. Also, independent sample tests were conducted. Furthermore, dependent sample tests (one-way ANOVA) were completed along with repeated measures ANOVA, and the Mann-Whitney *U* test ordinal test. Finally, association test was conducted using the Chi-square test for association along with two or more independent variables; one dichotomous dependent variable using multiple logistic regressions, was conducted as well. As mentioned in chapter 3 of this study regarding the types of tests to be conducted during the course of this study, the below enlisted tests were actually conducted.

Results and Findings of Test of Percentiles Values

Tests of values conducted in this study dealt mainly with analyses of the quartiles between and within group in relationship to sample values and discrepancies. Furthermore tests of values also dealt with the establishment of group equality. In other words, there were some forms of equality in-between and in within selected groups for comparison sake. In this study, there were overwhelming similarities and equalities in-between and in within the groups' samples of SNOP and ROs. These were also consistencies in the measurement of central tendency's tests. As highlighted above the tables and figures, majority of measurements of central tendencies conducted showed some statistical significant differences in-between and in within SNOP and reoffending

rates and types. Specifics of these differences were conducted in chapter 5 of this study (see Tables and Figures above for specific results).

Results and Findings of Measurements of Central Tendency's Tests

In order to establish robustness in statistical data analyses, it is highly recommended that a measurement of central tendency tests be conducted as well as measurement of dispersion with variables in a normal distribution (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). Regarding measurements of central tendency, the collected data mean, median, mode, and sum were exhaustively measured with appropriate and applicable scales of measurement in order to establish validity, internal consistency, and reliability to the findings of this study. Also, measurements were conducted repeatedly to ensure that findings were not skewed as a result of human or system errors. As highlighted in presenting the tables and figures, the majority of measurements of central tendencies conducted showed some statistically significant differences in-between and in within SNOP and ROs' reoffending rates and types. Specifics of these differences were examined in chapter 5 of this study (see Tables & Figures above for specific results).

Results and Findings of Measurements of Dispersion

Various measurements of dispersion were conducted to isolate the normality of independence variables in relationship to dependent variables. These measurements included standard deviation, variance, range, maximum, and minimum occurrences, range, and standard error of mean to mention a few. The findings of these tests appeared to be within statistical base for the rejections of the null hypotheses and acceptances of

the alternative hypotheses concerning sample types and correlative relationships within and between dependent variables (see Tables and Figures above for specific results).

Results and Findings of Measurement of Distributions' Tests

The three measurements of distributions tests conducted during the analysis process of this study were skewness, kurtosis, and standard error of kurtosis tests. These tests showed zero statistical differences in skewness; kurtosis was identical; and standard error of kurtosis was statistically insignificant as well. These tests results indicated that the distributions in-between and in within the sample size and types (SNOP and ROs) were normal statistical distributions (see Tables and Figures above for specific results).

Results and Findings of Measurement Parametric and Nonparametric Tests

Parametric inferential statistical tests conducted. The parametric tests conducted included reviews of basic hypotheses testing, single-sample *t*-test or (one-tail) tests, paired-sample *t*-test (two-tailed) tests, independent sample *t*-tests, One-Way ANOVA, and Two-Way ANOVA. All the findings of these tests appeared to be within statistical based for the rejections of the null hypotheses and acceptances of the alternative hypotheses concerning sample types and correlative relationships within and between dependent variables (see Tables and Figures above for specific results).

Nonparametric inferential statistical tests conducted. The nonparametric inferential statistical tests conducted Chi-Square Goodness of Fit test, Chi-square Test of Independence test, Mann-Whitney *U* Test, Wilcoxon Test, Kruskal-Wallis *H* Test, and Friedman Test. Majority of the findings of these tests appeared to be within statistical based for the rejections of the null hypotheses concerning sample types and correlative

relationships within and between dependent variables. However, it should be noted that some of the cells used in Chi-square tests contained numbers less than 5 when 5.25 was the minimum required number (see Tables and Figures above for specific results).

Results and Findings Measurements of Relationships or Associations Tests

In the measurements of relationships or associations statistics, calculated relationships or associations designed for the reduction of error estimates whenever the relationships between dependent and independent variables are predictable, are measured (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). These measurements consist of six specific statistical analyses that highlight such relationships or associations. These analyses are Lambda, Gamma, Kendall's tau-b, linear regression, Pearson's *r*, and Criterion of least squares.

Lambda. The Lambda test is used for nominal (variables) data in measurements of such relationships (e.g., SNOP & ROs)

Gamma. The Gamma test is used for ordinal (variables) data to measurements of the associations between variables (e.g., Types of Violations).

Kendall's tau-b. The Kendall's tau-b is used for ordinal (variables) data in measurements of such associations between variables whenever there are many tied pairs (e.g., SNOP & ROs, Law, Tech, & Law/Tech Violations).

Linear regression. Linear Regression is used to verify specific relationships between two intervals (variables) data through the application of a linear function (e.g., Law, Tech, & Law/Tech Violation).

Pearson's *r* correlation. The Pearson's *r* Correlation test is used to verify specific associations between interval (variables) data which can be calculated by equation which can be plotted on graphs (e.g., Law, Tech, & Law/Tech Violation).

Criterion of least square. Criterion of Least Square test is used to predict or minimize the sum of the square differences within the sample distributions (e.g., SNOP & ROs). It should be noted that the majority of the statistical outcomes of the above analyses indicated that the groups (SNOP & ROs) have some form of correlating relationships or associations between each other and the dependent variables) (see Tables & Figures above for specific results).

Results and Findings of Measurement of Psychometric Tests Item Response Theory Scale

In psychometric tests IRT scale measurements, results showed overwhelmingly that one item statistically responded more than others. This item was mentally impaired MI offenders within the SNOP population. Further, MI responses within the IRT scale were statistically overwhelming enough to categorically conclude that SI-1 supervision level actually creates some significant social and supervisory implications for the SNOP, especially the MI, within this population. Details of these reactions and their impacts on efficacy of supervision of SNOP offenders are considered in chapter 5 of this study.

Results and Findings of Measurement of Texas Board of Pardon and Parole Annual Fiscal Report 2009, 2010, and 2011

Based on the review of Texas BPP hearing records (public domain) for 2009, 2010, and 2011, it appeared that there are some statistically significant differences

between law and technical violations based on changes in offenders' supervision level. This provided a partial answer for research question 2. Details about these significant differences in law or technical violations are outlined in chapter 5 of this study.

Evidence of Trustworthiness

In order to ensure that evidence of trustworthiness is maintained throughout the data analyses process, Type I Errors (mistakes in rejecting the null hypotheses whenever acceptances were needed) and Type II Errors (mistakenly accepting the null hypotheses whenever rejections were needed) were carefully analyzed (Creswell, 2009; Cronk, 2008; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). It appears that null hypotheses rejections and acceptances were within data statistics' outputs reports. Furthermore, valid data tests were conducted using SPSS 21, the latest version of software for the purpose of accuracy. There were no missing data. Additionally, sample tests, independent variable tests, dependent variable tests, reliability tests, consistency tests, confidence levels significance tests, significance differences tests, sample validity tests, and correlation tests between dependent and independent variable tests were conducted. These tests were repeated and retested over and over again and the outputs were consistent.

Finally, these results and findings of this study were reviewed by the Dissertation Chair Dr. Paul Rutledge, Committee Member (Methodology Expert) Dr. Dana-Marie Thomas, URR Lead Dr. Tonya Settles and Walden University Research Center. These reviews, corrections, disapprovals, and approvals are "quality control procedures" (QCP) measures set aside by Walden University IRB. Upon the completion of review, corrections, and clearances by these experts, this study should meet the credibility,

transferability, dependability, confirmability, and the intra-and intercoder reliability that is required of all social scientific research studies in accordance to American Psychological Association (APA) standards when conducting any social scientific research studies.

Summary

Chapter 4 dealt with the processes involved in the collection of data prior to and during analyses. These processes included completing Walden University (IRB) application to collect data, requesting access to data and actually obtaining data. Also, the settings and demographics of the types of data to be collected were addressed. Also, chapter 4 dealt with missing data as a result of TDCJ-PD denial of researcher access to some quantitative data and all qualitative data. It should be noted that missing data were successfully addressed by the dissertation team and data analyses were successfully conducted. A summary of answers to research questions was conducted below.

Primary or central research question: What are the recidivism impacts of the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being imposed by the leadership of TDCJ-PD on SNOs on SNOP caseloads, in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas?

Summary of Answers to the Primary or Central Research Question

The study found that the ideology behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being imposed by the leadership of TDCJ-PD on SNOs on SNOP caseloads, in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas created higher recidivism

rates for the SNOP offenders especially the MI within the SNOP caseload as compared to the ROs in the same setting.

Research Question 1. How have the ideologies behind the development and implementation of the SI-1 supervision level imposed on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas created social and supervision implications for the SNOs as compared to ROs on regular supervision caseloads?

The study found that the ideologies behind the development and implementation of the SI-1 supervision level imposed on SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties of Texas created some social and supervision implications for the SNOs, especially the MI, as compared to ROs on regular supervision caseloads. However, specifics about social or supervisory implications remained unknown. The analyzed data showed that in this setting (during parole supervision), SNOP offenders were 50% more likely to commit technical violations that led to a Texas Parole Revocation Hearing compared to 41% for ROs. Also, in all other measurements conducted during the data analyses processes of this study, it was discovered that SNOP offenders' law violation rates were 50%, as compared to 59% for ROs. Also, results showed that from an individual category standpoint, SNOP offenders were less likely to commit (law only) violations in 21% of the cases analyzed as compared to 25% for ROs in the same settings.

In IRT responsivitiy measurement, the study found that even within the SNOP caseload, MI offenders over-responded to SI-1 supervision level than other SNOP offenders at an overwhelming rate. The data showed that based on the statistical analyses of in-between and in within item/s responses of SNOP offenders, MI offenders accounted

for almost 92% or 1,723 offenders out of 1,877 of all cases within and between the responding items. Additionally, in some cases, MI offenders accounted for 100% of all cases, specifically in areas SAFPF 9 out of 9, and 6 out of 6 in reopen revocation hearing). Therefore, based on these responses (Responsivities) to the measurement scale of IRT, there was overwhelming statistical evidence to conclude that the SNOP caseload created some form social and supervisory compliance implications for the MI offenders even within the SNOP caseload. This finding provided additional partial answer to research question 1 of this study.

Research Question 2. Are there statistical significant differences between changes in offenders' supervision levels and their impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas parole revocation hearings?

Results showed that there were statistically significant differences between changes in offenders' supervision levels and their impacts on technical or new law violations in Texas parole revocation hearings. Furthermore, almost 88,000 Texas parole revocation hearing conducted in 2009, 2010, and 2011, SNOs who were supervised at SI-1 supervision level were likely to commit new law violations at 50% or 44,000 out of 88,000 offenders. Also, the study found that during the same period, SNOs were likely to violate technical violations at 50% or 44,000 out of 88,000 respectively.

In contrast, ROs during the same period of time (2009, 2010, & 2011) were likely to commit new law violations at 59% or 51,900 out of 88,000 and 41% or 36,100 out of 88,000 technical violations in Texas parole revocation hearings. This provided the answer to research question 2 that there were statistically significant differences in new law or

technical violations committed by Texas offenders in different supervision levels in Texas parole revocation hearings. Details about the interpretations of findings of this study were presented in chapter 5. Also, chapter 5 of this addressed some of the limitations of the study, recommendations for future studies, social implications of the study to public policy decision-making processes, and conclusions.

Chapter 5: Interpretations of Findings and Results

The purpose of this study was to examine the roles SI-1 level of supervision used in supervising SNOs in the state of Texas play in the compliance of the SNOs. I also examined whether this supervision level was in alignment with special accommodations as defined by Lurigio et al. (1988) through the theoretical lens of Andrews and Bonta (2003, 2006). Additionally, I reviewed social and supervisory implications associated with SI-1 level of supervision. The secondary purpose of the research study was to examine the implications associated with the SNOP caseload, through a comprehensive analysis of 2006 reconstruction theory, which posits that RNR is fundamental to the effective supervision of all offenders (Andrews et al., 2006). Finally, I examined the ideologies behind the development and implementation of the SI-1 supervision level by the leadership of TDCJ-PD and its possible recidivism impacts on the SNOs.

The overall significance of this research study is its potential to provide an additional supervisory tool for criminal justice divisions, public health policy decision-makers, and mental health agencies in relation to SNOs' supervision and treatment modalities. This study adds to existing literature related to the supervision of SNOs in any settings. As a result of the study, offenders in the SNOP caseload may be supervised at equal or lower levels as ROs without unconfirmed fears concerning their high recidivism rates due to their supervision levels rather than stigmas.

Furthermore, this research study fills the void in the literature regarding staff involvements with SNOs, as recommended by Bernstein (2008), Buchanan (2008), Dickins (2007), Hutchins (2008), and Lurigio et al. (1988). This study may bring about

needed positive social change for the SNOs and their family members in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, and possibly in the state of Texas through the replacement of SI-1 with lesser but more applicable, appropriate, and effective levels of supervisions.

Summary of the Study's Findings

In all tests of differences conducted, I found that SNOs, as compared to ROs, were not only similar, but lack any significant differences in type, size, and general application to DVs. I found that in this setting (during parole supervision), SNOP offenders were 50% more likely to commit technical violations that led to Texas Parole Revocation Hearing, versus 41% for regular offenders (Atatah, Rutledge, Thomas, & Settles, 2013). Also, in all other measurements conducted during the data analyses processes of this study, I discovered that SNOP offenders' law violation rates were 50% versus 59% for ROs. I also found that from the individual category standpoint, SNOP offenders were less likely to commit (law only) violations (21% of the cases analyzed as compared to 25% for ROs) in the same settings.

I also found that whenever misdemeanor law violations were combined with technical violations (Law & Tech), SNOP offenders accounted for 29% of total hearings conducted in Region 3 in 2008 and 2009 as compared to 34% for ROs in the settings and time. However, whenever these data were isolated, SNOP offenders accounted for 21% of all law violations, 50% of all technical violations, and 29% whenever Misd Law & Tech were combined. In contrast, ROs accounted for 25% of all law violations, 41% of all technical violations, and 34% whenever Misd Law & Tech were combined. I found

that there are social and supervisory implications created for the SNOP offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas through the supervisory application of SI-1 supervision level, which may be responsible for higher recidivism rates for this population of offenders as compared to ROs (Atatah et al., 2013). With a technical violation rate of 50%, these violations were a result of SNOP offenders being unable to abide by rules or special conditions of release while under parole supervision.

Most technical violations are associated with special conditions of release or simple compliance instructions; that is, offenders may have challenges complying with while under parole supervision. Based on these findings, the SI-1 supervision level: as implemented on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas: created social and supervisory implications for the SNOs, as compared to the ROs in the same counties. However, I could not isolate the specifics of these social and supervisory implications believed to have been created by SI-1 supervision level on the SNOs. This is a partial answer for RQ 1 for this study.

I determined whether there were statistically significant differences in law versus technical violations based on changes in supervision levels, in Texas Revocation Parole Hearings. I examined the comprehensive analyses of almost 88,000 Texas Parole Revocation Hearings conducted on offenders in the state of Texas between 2009, 2010, and 2011 to provide answers for RQ 2. I used the statistical significance differences multiplier ([SSDM] Atatah et al., 2013) as a benchmark of statistical estimates or measurements. Furthermore, SI-1 supervision level on SNOs and regular supervision levels were applied as changes in the levels of supervision.

I found changes in supervision levels between SI-1 and regular levels created statistical differences in technical or law violations. For example, in 2009, of approximately 30,000 Texas Parole Revocation Hearing records reviewed, SNOs at the supervision level of SI-1 accounted for 50% or 15,000 out of 30,000 technical violations and 50% or 15,000 out of 30,000 law violations. Contrarily, ROs being supervised at regular levels of supervision (quarterly, maximum, medium, & minimum) accounted for 41% or 12,300 out of 30,000 technical violations and 59% or 17,700 out of 30,000 law violations. These were actual percentages that led to the development of the SSDM as a benchmark of measurement estimates.

In the 2009 Texas Parole Revocation Hearing records that were analyzed, I found that in 2009, there were statistically significant differences between the level of supervision a Texas offender as classified and place, and their marginal propensity to comment new law violations as compared to technical violations (Atatah et al., 2013). This conclusion was based on the finding that SNOP offenders were equally likely to commit law and technical violations at 50% across the board as compared to ROs, who committed law/technical violations at a rate of 59% and 41% respectively. I found some statistically significant differences in law or technical violations between and within these groups of offenders.

Of almost 88,000 Texas Parole Revocation Hearing conducted in 2009, 2010, and 2011, SNOs who were supervised at the SI-1 supervision level were likely to commit new law violations at 50% or 44,000 out of 88,000 offenders. Also, I found that during the same period, place, and setting, SNOs were likely to commit technical violations at

50% or 44,000 out of 88,000 respectively. In contrast, ROs during the same period of time (2009, 2010, & 2011), place, and setting were likely to commit new law violations at 59% or 51,900 out of 88,000 and technical violations at 41% or 36,100 out of 88,000 in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings. This provided the answer to RQ2 that there were statistically significant differences in new law or technical violations committed by Texas offenders in different supervision levels in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings.

I found that in between and within the SNOs caseload when the IRT scale was used to measure the collected data, even within the SNOs caseload, MI offenders overreacted to the measurement scale as compared to others in the caseload. This overreaction was so profound that it appeared that MI, MR, TI/PH, and MRIS should not be classified or grouped into one supervisory level. I found that in all areas dealing with violations and hearings, MI responded in between 92% to 100% in all measurement categories. For example, I found that of the 1,877 SNOP hearings conducted in Region 3 between 2008 and 2009, MI accounted for 90% or 699 out of 774 of offenders not revoked.

Within the same period, MI offenders accounted for approximately 93% or 269 out of 291 of paroles that were revoked. Also, MI offenders accounted for 93% or 641 out of 689 transfers to ISF facilities, 100% transfer to SAFPF, and for a 100% of all reopened revocation hearings in Region 3. The same years (2008 and 2009), MI accounted for approximately 92% or 99 out of 108 of all “Go to Revocation Hearing” Texas BPP recommendation in Region 3. Finally, MI offenders accounted for 92% or 1,723 out of 1877 of all SNOP hearings conducted in Region 3 in 2008 and 2009. As

such, the roles MI offenders played in relationship to the IRT scale is something that I did not anticipate and should be addressed in the recommendation section of this study.

As for the central research question "What are the recidivism impacts of the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level being imposed by the leadership of TDCJ-PD on SNOs on SNOP caseloads, in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas?" I found that the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas created a higher recidivism rates for SNOs offenders based on the findings of their technical violations rates of SNOs as compared to ROs supervised in the same counties.

I also found that MI offenders in between and in within the SNOP caseload were more than 92% more likely to end up in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings as compared to less than 8% likelihood for MR, TI/PH, and MRIS combined. This finding was statistically conclusive enough to sum that SI-1 created social and supervisory implications of the MI offenders within the SNOP caseload as compared to other SNOP offenders and ROs. However, I could not itemize the specifics of such social or supervisory implications due to missing data.

Interpretation of the Findings

The study's findings have confirmations as well as disconfirmations from a public policy decision-making standpoint. I confirmed that the level of supervision offenders were placed while under parole supervision plays a role in the offenders' ability or inability effectively comply with rules of supervision as well as special condition of

release. Special Condition 8P, a foundation condition of SI-1, created supervisory complications for the MI within the SNOP caseload. I also confirmed that if these special conditions or levels of supervision are not administratively controlled, they could lead to higher recidivism rates for grouped offenders such as SNOs (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Andrews et al., 2006; Lurigio et al., 1988).

Analysis of Findings

In regards to RQ 1, I found that the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 that are imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend County, Texas led to higher recidivism rates for this population of offenders as compared to ROs in the same counties. I also found that this special condition increased the technical violation rates of SNOs to 50% as compared to 41% for ROs. This finding is in alignment with the findings of Aiello (2007), Bernstein (2008), Abbott et al. (2010), Andrews and Bonta (2003), and Andrews and Bonta (2006). I verified that artificial inflammations of supervisory or custodian policies on SNOs in any settings, such as SI-1, impact their marginal propensity for such offenders to effectively comply with custody guidelines, supervisory rules, or treatments policies.

I suggest that classifying offenders into supervision groups without examination of associative variables such as RNR factors can compromise offenders' compliance rates which could lead to higher recidivism rates for the classified offenders (Andrews et al., 2006; Andrews & Dowden, 2006; Lurigio et al., 1988). Based on the evidence by the responses of MI offenders in the IRT scale measurements, I concluded that MI is a class of offenders who does not belong to the SNOs caseload as classified by TDCJ-PD

(Burnham, 1968; Frege, 1884/1984; Kant, 1786/1970; LeBel, Burnett, Maruna, & Bushway, 2008) because MI responses to the IRT scale were statistically significant. As previously asserted in Chapter 3 of this study, the IRT scale is used to measure people's performance in a group setting, through a comprehensive analysis of the individual's performance as well as collective results of each group (Burnham, 1968; Frege, 1884/1984; Kant, 1786/1970;). IRT scale operates on the premises that an individual item performance within the scale can compromise or bring false assumption to the entire performance of the group within the scale.

In areas of statistical significant differences in law or technical violations of offenders in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings, I suggest that the levels of offenders' supervision played a role in offenders' violation types (Answer to Research Question 2). With the application of SSDM estimate scale, I found that offenders who were supervised at SI-1 supervision level (a higher supervision level) had 50/50 chance of committing law versus technical violations in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings. In contrast, I also found that in the same settings, offenders who were supervised at regular levels of supervision (lower supervision level) had 59% chances of committing new law violations and 41% chances of committing technical violations in Texas Parole Revocation Hearings (McNeill, Raynor, & Trotter, 2010).

These findings were in alignment with the six generations of criminology and theoretical/conceptual applications to offenders' supervision and management of offenders. These areas are (a) new direction in theoretical supervision approaches of offenders, (b) staff skills and effective offender supervision, (c) improving offender

supervision, (d) significant others and social networks, (e) offenders' compliance with supervision, and (f) offenders' compliance with contexts (Andrews et al., 2006; Bonta & Wormith, 2007; Campbell, French, & Gendreau, 2007).

These scholars Andrew et al., Bonta and Wormith, and Campbell et al. asserted that the marginal propensity for offenders to comply with custody and control or supervision policies is directly linked to monitoring and classification levels as well as staff involvement levels. For additional information, see Bourgon et al. (2009) and Raynor (2004, 2008) for the impacts of classification or grouping in offenders' compliance levels during supervision or incarceration. I found that, from a supervisory standpoint, as defined by Andrews et al. (1990), Latessa (2004), Latessa and Travis (1992), and Lowenkamp and Latessa (2005) and as applied on the SNOs by TDCJ-PD decision policy-makers, SI-1 is an ineffective, inefficient level of supervision. As seen by Latessa (2004), Latessa and Travis (1992), and Lowenkamp and Latessa (2005), SI-1 supervision level falls under the classification of "Overdose" as well as the classification of "Nothing Works" in criminal justice 20th century reentry approaches.

There were several areas I could not verify due to missing data. This lack of verification led to methodological change that was created as a result of missing data. These areas were the nature of the social and supervisory implications created by SI-1 supervision level that may have led to higher recidivism rates for the SNOP offenders as compared to ROs. Based on analyzed data, the specifics or types of technical or law violations committed by grouped offenders were also missing (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; 2006; Andrews et al., 2006). Also, I could not verify the specific supervision levels ROs

were being supervised prior to their parole revocation hearings. Additionally, I could not pinpoint the specific technical violations SNOs or regular offenders were charged with during these revocation hearings. While these areas were not the initial purpose of this study, they could have shed additional lights on the factors that impact offenders' recidivism rates.

This lack of specifics in analyzed data could lead to repetitions of supervisory modalities (such as supervision levels) applications with inappropriate and inapplicable supervision levels which could have been previously noted to be ineffective, inefficient, and practically in proficient (Latessa, 2004; Latessa & Travis, 1992; Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005; Welsh, 2006; Wilcox, 2001). Also, I could not verify the specific diagnoses of the SNOP offenders in relationship to mental health implications or needs (Clear, Byrne, & Dvoskin, 1993; Lurigio et al., 1988; Rollins & Fallon, 2004). This was significant because as previously warned by the above listed experts, about 20% or 1 out of 5 newly released offenders from prisons nationally have some form of mental health disorders. These scholars further advised that identifying such offenders' diagnoses repeatedly is fundamental to offenders' successful rehabilitation and reentry into society. Above all, repeated implementation of previously unidentified ineffective treatments or supervisory modalities could be costs inefficient and create redundant application of in proficient policies.

Interpretation of Findings in the Context of Theoretical Framework

This study was conducted with the idea of Lurigio et al. which contends that in any setting, SNOs are capable of complying with supervisory or treatment modalities so

long as “unreasonable accommodations” (excessive contact levels, such as SI-1) are not implemented during treatments or supervisions. Based on the reactions of MI offenders to the IRT measurement scale, SI-1 supervision appears to be “unreasonable accommodation” as applied by TDCJ-PD leadership on the SNOs. Secondly, this study was conducted with the theory of RNR of Bonta and Andrews (2003) and revisited by Andrews and Bonta (2006), Andrews et al. (2006), and Ward et al. (2007). This theory posits that the risk principle, the need principle, and the responsivity principle RNR are tied to offenders’ reoffending rates. Since Texas SNOs are not classified, assessed, reassessed, evaluated, or reevaluated with this tool, I suggest that SI-1 supervision level was created from the assumption of a social stigma rather from than offenders’ supervisory efficacy.

Also, this study was conducted with Berger and Luckmann’s (1966) social construction of reality theory as a lens of analysis. This theory has been widely implemented in the fields of social construction, psychology, sociology, public relations, public health as well as public administration (Burnham, 1968; Palmer, 1969; Goffman, 1974; Hymes, 1972). This theory is known for the development of public policies based on known facts rather than perceptions and assumptions as applied by TDCJ-PD (Bloor, 1976; Buber, 1965, 1970; Burke, 1966, 1978; Gadamer, 1976; Hekman, 1986; Palmer, 1969; Rorty, 1979). This theory posits that ideologies are “transmitted between people by every available means: ritual, schooling, clothing, religion, jokes, games, myths, gestures, ornaments, entertainment” (Wilden, 1987, p. 91). This theory serves as a perimeter of public policy decision making processes in most public organizations.

According to PD/POP 3.7.1 (1995), SI-1 supervision level imposed on the SNOs has remained unchanged since its foundation. This lack of change in light of no verification of its impacts on the recidivism rates of the SNOs suggested that this is a policy developed and implemented based on perceptions, social stigma, myths, and unproven assumptions that SNOs are more likely to reoffend than are RO. I found that at any rate, SNO's reoffending rates were 50% likely to commit (law violations) compared to 59% for ROs in the same counties. Further, I found that whenever SI-1 was introduced as a factor supervision, SNOs technical violations rates were 50% as compared to 41% for RO.

I found SI-1 created social and supervisory implications that contributed to higher technical violations rates for the SNOs, especially the MI in the SNOP caseload. Finally, a review of TDCJ-PD public domain supervisory contacts policies shows that SI-1 is not uniformly applied the same way (contacts requirements) as applied to the SNOs as compared to SO and EM Program's offenders according to PD/POP 3.5.1 and PD/POP 3.6.2. As currently applied by TDCJ-PD leadership, based on reviewed public domain policies, SI-1 in SNOP caseload is equivalent to SI-2 in EM caseload and less equivocal when compared to SI-1 as applied in SO caseload with one less face-to-face monthly contact requirement. I found that as a theoretical lens, the study's findings suggest that SI-1 at its current application on the SNOs, was based simply on ideology and created with unproven assumptions, myths, perceptions, and beliefs that SNOs are more likely to reoffend than other offenders. This falls in alignment with the premises of Berger and Luckmann (1966) social construction of reality theory.

Limitations of the Study

This study was initially conducted with five limitations in mind: (a) a lack of collaboration with scholarly peers may be a limitation of this study, (b) the design of this research study is the size of potential data gathered from the intended population from the research study, (c) internal consistency as well as external validity may arise since the sample is limited to offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend County, Texas, (d) issues related to professional and interpersonal biases may arise as well. As such, the findings may not be generalizable statewide due to individual office variances, and (e) SNOs are considered to be a vulnerable population; therefore, legal and ethical issues may arise when dealing with such population (see Atatah, Rutledge, Thomas, & Settles, 2012, p. 25). The subsequent limitations experienced during the course of the study are below.

At the completion of this study, several limitations were noted. One of these limitations was the inability to have access to survey as well as interview data, that could have shed additional light on the specific roles SI-1 supervision level plays in the recidivism rates of the SNOs. This lack of access to data swayed this study's methodology from using a mixed method approach to a quantitative research approach. According to Creswell (2007), Patton (2002), Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008), and Creswell (2009), missing data could compromise the intended outcomes or findings of any study. In this case, missing data made it impossible to pinpoint the nature of social and supervisory implications associated with SI-1 supervision level as applied on the SNOs. Also, lack of access to possible social and supervisory implications created by SI-

1, from Texas parole officers' perspectives through the use of interview was yet another limitation associated with this study.

Recommendations

Recommendations for Future Studies

I recommend that future studies on the impacts of supervision levels on the recidivism rates of SNO offenders or any offenders should concentrate on making use of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. The application of varied methodologies is significant to achieving meaningful results or findings (Creswell, 2007; Creswell2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008; Patton, 2002). Furthermore, future studies should apply continued emphasis on the investigations or explorations of the role that staffs' involvements such as supervision levels play on offenders' treatments or supervisory compliances. Based on the above recommendations, potential research questions for future studies should be concentrated on the followings.

Qualitative research questions. The following qualitative research questions should be explored:

1. In what ways does the quality of supervision levels impact special needs offenders' propensity to successfully or unsuccessfully complete supervision from parole officers' perspective?

2. What are the perspectives of Texas Parole officers concerning specialized caseloads contacts' requirements imposed on special needs offenders?

Quantitative research questions. The following quantitative research questions should also be pursued:

1. What are the contributory supervisory factors that increase or decrease special needs offenders' recidivism rates?

2. What are the recidivism indicators associated with organizational impositions of "special conditions" on special needs offenders in custody, under parole, or community supervision?

Mixed method approach questions. The following mixed-method approach could be employed. A combination of one quantitative and one qualitative question from the above outlined research questions should be suitable for future "mixed method approach" research studies.

Implications

Implications for Positive Social Change

This study investigated the relationship between SI-1 level of supervision being imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas and its recidivism impacts on this population of offenders as compared to regular supervision levels used in the supervision of regular offenders. This study used the idea of Lurigio et al. to examine the possible social implications that may imply to be reasonable or unreasonable accommodations when dealing with SNOs in these counties through eyes of TDCJ-PD leaderships' policy application of SI-1 supervision level on the SNOs. Furthermore, this study applied the RNR theory of responsivity as seen by Andrews and Bonta, which attempted to reconstruct "what works" and "what does not work" when dealing with offenders' supervision levels applications in relationship to Risk/Need/

Responsivity RNR factors. According to Andrews and Bonta (2003), the three core principles can be stated as follows:

> *Risk principle*: Match the level of service to the offender's risk to re-offend.
>
> *Need principle*: Assess criminogenic needs and target them in treatment.
>
> *Responsivity principle*: Maximize the offender's ability to learn from a rehabilitative intervention by providing cognitive behavioral treatment and tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities and strengths of the offender. (p. 1)

Finally, this study also used social construction of reality theory by Berger and Luckmann (1966) to examine the ideological foundations of SI-1 supervision level and its likely recidivism impacts on the SNOs in these counties.

The theory of Social Construction of Reality deals with the generational manifestation of ideologies. According to Littlejohn (1992), "An ideology is a set of ideas that structure a group's notions of reality, a system of representations or a code of meanings governing how individual and groups see the world…" (para. 1). Based on the above analyses, TDCJ-PD leadership sees SNOs from the same presumed ideological beliefs stated at the foundation of this study that SNOs are more likely to reoffend at all cost, and as such, they should be supervised at higher levels of supervision than ROs, even sex offenders. Thus, TDCJ-PD supervision policies go against the principal recommendations of Lurigio et al. (1988), Andrew and Bonta (2003, 2006) and the fundamental principles of Berger and Luckmann's (1966) social reconstruction of reality theory. This lack of transparency on the part of TDCJ-PD leadership prevented the SNOs

from full supervisory exploration that could lead to some form of positive social change through possible supervision levels' reductions.

Positive social change statement in relation to the special needs offenders' program study. Positive social change comes in big and small forms or formats. This was precisely why a former president of the United States of America dedicated his life to helping children, women, and men through his initiative against the continued spread and infections of AIDS and HIV in underserved countries worldwide through treatment and preventive modalities. "The Clinton Foundation" or "The Clinton Global Initiative" to be specific, has been single-handedly credited for not only bringing preventive approaches, treatment modalities, and AIDS/HIV medications to some of the remotest areas in the world, but has been overwhelmingly credited for making these cost-efficient and affordable for these populations of humanity. As a result of his selfless actions, many people worldwide who could have succumbed to this terrible disease or associated side effects are currently living near full QOL. This is positive social change as seen through eyes of social construction of reality theory (e.g., Bloor, 1976; Buber, 1965, 1970; Burke, 1966, 1978; Gadamer, 1976; Hekman, 1986; Palmer, 1969; Rorty, 1979). These experts dedicated their lives in pursuit of the ideologies behind human behaviors and policy implications. Above all, it should be noted that some of the SNOs who are supervised in the SNOP caseload are diagnosed with AIDS/HIV and are classified as PH/TI within the SNOP caseload.

Additionally, a drive for positive social change motivated one of the richest men in the history of mankind to abandon his multi-billion empire (Microsoft) to power the

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, dedicated to the systematic eradication and possible elimination of all third world countries' treatable and preventable illness and diseases. The foundation had been single-handedly responsible for sponsoring some of the most expensive public health charity organizations in the history of mankind. The Bill and Melinda Gates foundation dwells on the fundamental principle idea that "All people deserve the rights to live healthy and productive lives." This is a slogan that unequivocally promotes positive social change in peoples' lives worldwide, especially in third world countries where this foundation is more active. Above all, this is a positive social change that is seen through the ideologies of Burnham (1968), Palmer (1969), Goffman (1974), and Hymes (1972) in relationship to social construction of reality theory. But positive social change does not have to be originated by famous or "larger than life" people or figures like former President Bill Clinton and Bill and Melinda Gates.

This was why Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to another bus passenger in Montgomery, Alabama in the 1963 but would rather face the legal ramifications associated with her actions, which eventually led to the civil rights movement. Parks believed that she "sat down so that young black men and women could stand up for their rights" (Rosa Parks, 2008, personal communication). This is positive social change that impacted many generations of freedom seekers and fighters worldwide. Above all, positive social change is what motivated a 26-year old man from the Atlanta, Georgia Baptist Ministry named Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to lead the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which led to the practical definition and redefinition of the Emancipation Proclamation Act as seen through the eyes of President Abraham Lincoln,

but through the reinterpretations of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Finally, positive social change was what motivated an ordinary Catholic nun to dedicate her entire life to the assistance of the oppressed, the opposed, the powerless, the unfortunates, and the unjustly treated individuals or groups in society. The works Mother Theresa did during her lifetime exemplified the classical definition of positive social change.

Therefore, I believe that positive social change includes an initiation of ideas or outlooks by a group or an ordinary person that grows to significantly create certain positive outcomes for the targeted or even the untargeted populations. Further, positive social change could create positive collateral recipients who may not be in the minds of the initial social agents of change. This study may impact more than the above enlisted groups SNOs and ROs based on the above analyses of dynamics positive social change. But, positive social change comes with certain agents of change. These agents of change are the individuals or groups that remain overwhelmingly dedicated and unmoved by fears associated with the movement toward achieving positive social change. Above all, these agents of change are physically and psychologically untouched by internal or external intimidation or retaliatory factors. Therefore, for the SNOs to realize positive social change, TDCJ-PD, BPP, TDCJ-ID, and service providers should look into the development of assessment and reassessment committee that is designed to address issues associated with the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas and beyond.

Also, those who stood consistently and motivated this dissertation were all agents of positive social change. My former dissertation chair Dr. Matthew Collins who

identified and mentored me scholarly in my second quarter in Walden University by inspiring me to be all I could be, until his departure from Walden University, is a true agent of change. Furthermore, Dr. Paul Rutledge (my current chair) who took a scholarly baton at a time when taking the baton was hot and impossible to hold on to, is a true agent of positive social change. Dr. Dana-Marie Thomas who is my methodology experts and was fundamentally responsible for mentoring this researcher for more than two years is a true agent of positive social change.

Additionally, (URR Lead) Dr. Tanya Settles who stood up and assisted in moving this study forward regardless of challenges and obstacles is a true agent of positive social change. Furthermore, Public Policy and Administration PhD Program Director Dr. George Larkins who encouraged this researcher to move forward at all costs is a true agent of positive social change as well. Above all, Board Administrator Mr. Tim McDonnell who stood against the odds by releasing Texas BPP quantitative data to this researcher, at a time when releasing data was not only unpopular, controversial, and unwise, but professionally unassuming is also a true agent of positive social change. Walden University that advocates "Positive Social Change" as its academic and professional social slogan for more than 40 years is also an agent of positive social change.

Finally, I spent almost 20 years of professional, interpersonal, and supervisory dedications to these populations of offenders. I hope that one day I will be recognized as a true agent of positive social change in the future. In summation, agents of positive social change include the SNOs population in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties,

Texas who are compared to comply with the supervisory requirements of SI-1 supervision level. The agents also include other specialized caseloads offenders and ROs in these counties who served as subjects of SNOs comparison. I hope that this study will eventually bring much needed positive social change to these SNOs and their families.

Study's potential impacts of positive social change on the special need offender program offenders. According to PD/POP 3.2.5 (1995), case classification of offenders sets the perimeter for grouping offenders into supervision levels. Furthermore, case classification leads to the development and implementation of supervision plan. Above all, case classification dwells on the fundamental principles of Andrews and Bonta (2003, 2006) reconstruction theory which contends that offenders' marginal propensity to effective comply with rules and conditions of parole supervision are based on RNR factors. Case classification is also used to assess and reassess offenders' supervision levels every six months or whenever there are any changes in offenders' supervision status.

Study's potential impacts of positive social change on Texas department of criminal justice-parole division leadership. However, SNOs are not eligible for such assessments or reassessments regardless of changes in compliance levels or treatments requirements, according to PD/POP 3.7.1 (TDCJ-PD SNOP Caseload Directive). The findings of this study will hopefully motivate TDCJ-PD leaderships to look into policies of inclusions rather than exclusion when dealing with the SNOs population in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend, Texas. The findings of this study will hopefully help TDCJ-PD leadership develop and Implement policies of inclusions rather than exclusions. This will

eventually make it possible for the SNOs to participant in TDCJ-PD's classification and reclassification processes which could reduce the supervision levels of some SNOP offenders especially those who have shown satisfactory compliance attitudes.

From a theoretical viewpoint, this study will possibly motivate TDCJ-PD leadership to review the idea of Lurigio et al. which defined what implies reasonable and unreasonable accommodations when dealing with SNO offenders in any settings. Also, this study may motivate TDCJ-PD leadership to revisit the RNR theory (Andrews & Bonta, 2003, 2006) which is currently being utilized in TDCJ-PD offenders' classification policies by including SNOs in the offenders' classification process. Additionally, this study will motivate TDCJ-PD leaderships to reexamine the origins of the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level from the theoretical lens of Berger and Luckmann (1966) social construction of reality theory and its recidivism impacts on this population of offenders. Finally, such revisiting should include reexamination of the possible supervisory and social implications associated with this imposed supervision level, regardless of offenders' compliance level, which could lead to efficacy in SNOs' supervision and should eventually bring positive social change to the SNOs population in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas and possibly beyond.

Recommendations for Action

Recommendations 1 for Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division Uniform Application of Specialized Intensive-1 in All Specialized Caseloads

At least, TDCJ-PD should incorporate a uniform definition when implementing SI-1 as a supervision level utilized on specialized caseloads' supervisions in the Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas. At its current applications, SI-1 as used in SO caseload, contact level is different from SI-1 in SNOP caseload contact level. In SO caseload for example, SI-1 contact level requires two face-to-face contacts with the SOs. This is a lesser contact requirement as applied on the SNOP offenders in light of the fact that both supervision levels are classified as SI-1 supervision levels. Also, in SO caseload, SI-2 supervision level is equivalent to SNOP SI-1 supervision level as applied by TDCJ-PD leadership on SNOs. They both have across the board similar contact levels as indicated by TDCJ-PD PD/POP-3.6.2. This policy approach is also consistent with EM program policy as outlined below by TDCJ-PD PD/POP-3.5.1.

According to TDCJ-PD PD/POP 3.6.2 Sex Offenders Program Supervision Guidelines (2007), contact standards shall be followed as minimum standards:

> **1. SI-1** At least two (2) face-to-face contacts shall be conducted per month, consisting of: a. One (1) scheduled office visit; and b. One (1) unscheduled home visit.
>
> **2. SI-2** At least three (3) face-to-face contacts shall be conducted per month, consisting of: a. One (1) scheduled office visit; b. One (1) unscheduled home visit; and c. One (1) scheduled or unscheduled field or employment visit. In rare instances when there are not any viable field/employment visit options due to documented medical reasons, the officer may substitute a field visit with an unscheduled home visit with the Unit Supervisor's approval, which shall be

documented in the OIMS within three (3) business days. In the event an unscheduled home visit is unsuccessful due to reasons other than medical (e.g. hospitalized, doctor's appointment, etc.), this substitution will no longer be allowed since it demonstrates that there are viable field visit options. However, if the offender attends regular or frequent doctor's visits, this should be considered a viable field visit option. (pp. 16-17)

Furthermore, in accordance with TDCJ-PD PD/POP-3.5.1 Electronic Monitoring Program (2011), **SI-2** contact levels are:

XIX. CONTACT REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum monthly contact standards apply:

A. Face-to-Face Offender Contacts 1. One (1) office contact – Along with other visit

requirements (e.g. scheduling, drug testing, etc.), officers shall visually inspect the transmitter to verify the integrity of the transmitter and strap.

2. One (1) home contact – Along with other visit requirements, officers shall visually inspect the HMU or cellular unit to verify the integrity of the equipment.

3. One (1) contact at the office, home, or place of employment – Along with other visit requirements, officers shall verify the offender's employment or job search.

4. All contacts shall be documented in the OIMS within three (3) business days after the contact or within three (3) business days after return to the designated

> headquarters from contacts made in the field. Delay of entry due to unanticipated leave may occur, but the goal is to maintain current information in the OIMS.
>
> B. Collateral Contacts A minimum of two (2) collateral contacts are required monthly and shall be obtained in person or by phone. 1. If the offender is employed, one (1) collateral contact is required with the employer. If the offender is attending counseling or therapeutic services, one (1) collateral contact is required to verify the offender's attendance. Collateral contacts shall be entered in the OIMS in accordance with Section XIX. A. 4 of this policy. (p. 17)

As shown above, when it comes to the Applications of SI-1 supervision levels, TDCJ-PD leadership does not apply SI-1 at an across the board uniformity. The practical application of SI-1 in SNOP caseload is equivalent to SI-2 in EM Program but unequivocal as applied in the SO caseload, as shown above (PD/POP 3.7.1; PD/POP 3.5.1; & PD/POP 3.6.2). This lack of uniform application poses certain concerns for me to outline the below additional recommendations.

Recommendation 2: Supervise Special Needs Offenders Program offenders with the same level as Applied in Sex Offenders Caseload

At least, TDCJ-PD should have certain across the board uniformity in its definitions and applications of SI-1 supervision level regardless of the involved specialized caseload type. In such application, SI-1 contact levels should and must be the same in the SNOP caseload, EM Program caseload, and SO caseload. It should be noted that EM and SO offenders posed more practical public safety hazards in these counties as

compared to SNOP offenders in the same counties due to the nature of their instant and historic offenses. Also, EM and SO offenders are classified as high risk offenders according to TDCJ-PD policies (Andrews et al., 2006). In contrast, SNOP offenders are not classified as high risk offenders; instead, they are simply classified as offender with psychological and psychiatric needs (high needs) Andrews et al. RNR reconstruction theory. As such, SNOP offenders are in need of "*Need principle*: Assess criminogenic needs and target them in treatment (p.1), rather than *Risk principle*: Match the level of service to the offender's risk to reoffend…" (p. 1).

According to PD/POP 3.7.1 (1995):

> Mentally Impaired (MI)
>
> 1. The MI category of the SNOP caseload is designed to provide community-based treatment alternatives for offenders with mental illness upon release to parole or mandatory supervision. The SNOP caseload provides appropriate supervision of offenders with documented mental health disorders in order to enhance their ability to successfully complete their term of parole or mandatory supervision. The SNOP officer shall identify, coordinate and develop support systems in the community to provide treatment and support services to the offender.
>
> 2. To be placed on the SNOP caseload under the MI category, offenders shall have a history of hospitalization or medication involving one or more of the following diagnoses in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health

Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV). Diagnostic features are referenced by page number. These diagnoses include:

a. Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders (DSM-IV, pp. 273-315)

Schizophrenia

Schizophreniform Disorder

Delusional disorder

Brief Psychotic Disorder

Shared Psychotic Disorder

Psychotic Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition

Substance Induced Psychotic Disorder

Psychotic Disorder Not Otherwise Specified

b. Mood Disorders (DSM-IV, pp.317-391)

Major Depressive Disorder

Dysthymic Disorder

Depressive Disorder Not Otherwise Specified

Bipolar I Disorder

Bipolar II Disorder

Cyclothymic Disorder

Bipolar Disorder Not Otherwise Specified

Mood Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition

Substance Induced Mood Disorder

Mood Disorder or Otherwise Specified…

(pp. 123-174)

Delirium (all types)

Dementia (all types)

Amnesic Disorder

Cognitive Disorder not otherwise specified. (pp. 4-5)

Based on the above enlisted outline, MI offenders may fall into one or more of these categories. In some cases, some may have multiple or more than multiple diagnoses. Offenders that are diagnosed with Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders, Mood Disorders, Delirium, Dementia, Amnesic, and Other Cognitive Disorders should be supervised at SI-1 as applied in the EM and SO caseloads. However, if offender is unstable with his or her psychotropic medications SI-1 as applied in the SNOP caseload should be suitable; (Three face-to-face contacts monthly) with the SNOs until stability is obtained, thereafter, apply SI-1 as applied in EM and SO.

Also, if such offender becomes stable with or without his or her medications, as verified by treatment providers, such offender should be supervised at SI-1 supervision level as currently applied in SO, EM caseloads, or RO caseload at maximum level of supervision (Two face-to-face contacts monthly). Subsequently, such offenders should remain at that level for a period of six month until some form of reevaluation or reassessment tools are used to move his or her supervision levels downward based on adjustment and compliance (Andrews et al., 2006). This is significant because in the IRT responses tests that were conducted within and in between the SNOP caseload from data collected from Texas (BPP), MI offenders overreacted more 95% across the board as

compared to MR, PH/TI, and MRIS combine. Based on these findings, MI offenders should not be supervised at the same supervision levels with other SNOP offenders. As such MI offenders should be classified separately from other SNOP offenders.

Recommendation 3: Separate Supervision levels for Mentally Impaired Offenders within the Special Needs Offenders Program Caseload

Since MI are required to have special condition 8P imposition which required these offenders to submit to some form of psychological counseling which may include but not limited to the use of psychotropic medications, I recommend that these offenders should be supervised at different levels of supervision than other offenders within and between the SNOP caseload. For example, PH/TH, MRIS, and sometimes MR offenders are not required to submit to supervisory components of psychological counseling or psychotropic medications. However, in some cases, some of these offenders maybe required to use minor antidepressants due to depressions induced by physical illnesses or conditions (Axis 3) diagnoses.

Based on their overall reactions of MR, PH/TI, and MRIS to the IRT measurement scale, these offenders can be supervised at regular offenders' levels of supervision of (maximum, medium, & minimum), and recidivism will remain practically unchanged or even improve. In "Evidence- Based", Latessa (2004) warned that assigning offenders to higher treatment levels or supervisory requirements than actually needed, puts such offenders at almost 70% reoffending or failure rates than if assigned to the appropriate and applicable treatment or supervisory levels due to overdose. It appeared that PH/TI, MRIS, and MR offenders within and in-between the SNOP caseload were

overdosed by SI-1 supervision level as applied on the SNOP caseload by TDCJ-PD leadership.

Recommendation 4: Use Already Existing Data Collection Tools

TDCJ-PD is famous for collecting data concerning offenders' supervision and employees' compliance with policies. These data are analyzed and utilized to set the tone for developing supervisory and managerial policies that impact both officers and offenders administratively. However, TDCJ-PD data collection approaches lack the research or scholarship standards or review abilities as to utilize these data more effectively. For example, in Region 3, focus group was used by the regional director to collect data from field staffs such as parole officers, supervisors, and sometime offenders, in order to understand field operations based data collected. These activities occurred monthly and in some cases bi-monthly in the region headquarter and have been ongoing for approximately or more than 3 years. According to Creswell (2007), Creswell (2009), Patton (2002), and Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2008) for focus groups to be effective, they should have beginnings, endings dates, and periods of data analyses. The focus group in Region 3 has no ending date; but only beginning dates. I recommend that Region 3 focus group should include the actual components of a focus group which could shed some additional lights on offenders' reentry compliances or noncompliance issues.

Recommendation 4-1. Focus Group in form of data collection tool as used in Region 3 should be focused on collecting meaningful data such as impacts of supervision levels on the recidivism rates of Region 3 offenders (Latessa, 2004; Andrews et al., 2006; Lurigio et al., 1988). Monthly or bimonthly focus groups should include officers'

feedbacks on the roles supervision levels play in the compliances of offenders in Region 3. Furthermore, such focus groups should have well defined "end periods" for actual data analyses which could shed some lights on the impacts of specific items on the compliance or noncompliance rates of Region 3 offenders. Finally, I recommend that Region 3 collected data must be analyzed by some form of current statistical or coding software for accuracy purposes to establish both internal and possible external validities and consistencies.

Recommendation 4-2. Pilot Study in form of data collection has been successfully implemented by TDCJ-Institutional Division Review and Release Section in collaboration with TDCJ-Parole Division. The most recent application was a collaboration of both entities in attempts to reorganize Pre-Parole Investigations (PPIs) application. The Institutional Parole Officers (IPOs) were able to collaborate with the District Parole Officers (DPOs) and successfully investigate viable pre-release addresses for out coming offenders statewide. This pilot project has been ongoing; however, it appears to be minimally used lately. This researcher recommends that TDCJ-PD reopen its pilot project data collection system by utilizing it to collect viable data on the impacts of supervision levels on the reoffending rates of offenders. Such reopening should include sample selections from participating caseload types, observation and record keeping of participating offenders' laws and technical violations, and reviews of overall impacts of supervision levels on the violations rates of these offenders. Finally, I recommend that such experiment should last at least six months but not longer than one year.

Recommendation 5: Promote and Support Transparency, Oversights, and Accountability

Transparency. I recommend that TDCJ-PD needs to review and meet state, national, and universal standards transparency acts. TDCJ-PD leadership should embank on allowing massive research access to data in a simple or complex research studies which could shed some lights on the efficacy of offenders' supervision modalities and eventually promote organizational transparency. According to various criminal justice scholars, open government allows citizens' access to governmental operations by simply examining “what works” and “what does not”, which leads to effective and efficient public oversights (Lapthrop & Ruma, 2010; Lamble, 2002; Schauer, 2011; Michael, 1990). Based on the above, I recommend that TDCJ-PD needs to be relatively open-minded and be more transparent with future external and internal research studies.

Transparency allows citizens’ participation by gaining access to organizational operations which in turns promotes employees' accountability as well as responsibility. Furthermore, transparency allows citizens of a democratic society control public employees by reducing corruptions, bribery, and other malfeasance (Elger, 2008; Elger, 2011; Schauer, 2011). Finally, transparency allows the government to provide vital information to the public coupled with concerns about protecting citizens' privacy rights so they are not exposed to "adverse consequences, retribution or negative repercussions" from information provided by governments (Elger, 2011; Michael, 1990; Theoharis, 1988). TDCJ-PD organizational support and promotion of transparency will unequivocally lead to improved management oversights and accountability.

Recommendation 6: Annual Review of Offenders' Supervision Levels

Finally, TDCJ-PD should implement some form of review of the impacts of individual supervision levels on the recidivism rates classified groups of offenders. For example, those RO that were placed on ERS, AR, and QR (punctuated equilibrium theory's dominant frequencies of changes) need to be reviewed annually to examine what roles if any reduction in supervision levels played in their marginal propensity to reoffend. Further, TDCJ-PD should conduct a supervision levels' impacts review every three to five years in attempt to pinpoint or underscore the roles each supervision level responses to offenders' violation rates. These reviews should shed some lights on the impacts of supervision levels on offenders' violation rates which could lead to the development and implementation of more effective, efficient, and proficient of supervision levels.

Recommendation for the Texas Board of Pardon and Parole

Based on the type data analyzed for this study and based on the findings of this study, there are two-point recommendations for Texas BPP. Point one is to continue on the increase release rates of nonviolence offenders and point two is to identify individual offender's supervision levels during Texas preliminary and revocation hearings.

Point one. Recently, Texas BPP has been hailed for leading the nation in the increase in release of nonviolence offenders' rate increase from 21% in 2012 to estimated 31% in 2013 fiscal year. While this is the case, BPP should indulge in implementation of inside/outside programs policies that are sustainable to these offenders. Based on the findings of this study, it is noticeable that the needs of offenders such as MI outweighed

the risks of offenders such as EM, SO, and some cases, even SISP offenders. As such, BPP should indulge in collaborative efforts with TDCJ-ID IPO officials and TDCJ-PD DPO officials to ensure that such needed programs are established during incarceration, pre-release stage, and while under parole supervision. It is recommended that Texas BPP expand treatment or service program internally and externally in order to enhance offenders' compliance and eventually reduce offender related public safety issues that cloud lead to higher recidivism rates of all offenders.

Point two. One of the disconfirmation items associated with this study is the inability to specifically identify what levels of supervision offender was placed prior to parole revocation hearing being conducted. This lack of identification of offenders' supervision levels prior to Texas parole preliminary or revocation hearings made it challenging to itemize the roles individual supervision levels play in the recidivism rates of offenders. I recommend that since supervision levels are readily available to the parole officers during the course of Texas parole revocation or preliminary hearings, they should be added to the vital statistics of BPP as additional demographic or classification information during the hearing process. I believe that adding offenders' supervision levels to BPP datasets will enhance the contents and the contexts of the database for more accurate statistical purposes, which could eventually lead to improved offenders' management policy development and implementation.

Recommendation for Public Policy Practices and Implications

According to Eldredge and Gould (1972), the punctuated equilibrium theory posits that public policy paradigms are motivated by strategic changes, structural

changes, and power distribution changes. As applied by TDCJ-PD leadership, SI-1 on the SNOs appears to be policy created out of social stigma. Since 1995, while the supervision levels of most Texas offenders have practically experienced strategic, structural, or power distribution changes, the SNOs supervision level remains the same. SI-1 appears to be a policy initiated form social stigma that SNOs are more likely to reoffend than RO

Social Stigma

According to Goffman (1963), "social stigma is a severe disapproval of, or discontent with, a person on the grounds of characteristics that distinguish them from other members of a society. Stigma may attach to a person, who differs from social or cultural norms…" (para. 1). Goffman further added that the reactions of other toward stigma can spoil a normal identity. Additionally, Goffman believed that there are three forms of stigma associated with most cultures. There forms are mental illness or diagnosis, physical handicapped, and stigma associated with race, religions, and beliefs. These forms of social stigmas can create environment that originate from cultural perceptions or attributions between what is right or wrong (Bruce & Phelan, 2001; Jacoby, 2005; Jones et al., 1984; Kurzban & Leary, 2001). Goffman warned that social stigma should not be used as perimeter of decision making processes in public policy.

Furthermore, stigmatizations are the end derivatives of social stigma that is bear by those classified as SNOs in Texas parole supervision. Also, stigmatization is strongly blamed for historic public policies decision making processes that further enhance already stigmatized environments or entities (Campbell et al., 2005; Cornish, 2006; Falk, 2001; Heatherton, Hebl, & Hull, 2000; Ritzer, 2006). Interestingly, social stigma leads to

discrimination of the classified such as TDCJ-PD supervision policy implementations on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties Texas (Blaine, 2007; Durkheim, 1982; Heatherton et al., 2000; Jacoby, 2005; Levin & Laar, 2004;). According to the premises of the social construction of reality theory, ideologies may originate from unproven perceptions or attributes which could lead to wrong or false development and implementation of public policies that impact the classified (SNOs). At any rate, it is highly recommended that Eldredge and Gould (1972) punctuated equilibrium theory be gradually implemented in most public policies initiatives as to achieve efficacy in public policy development and implementation.

Punctuated Equilibrium Theory Implications on Public Policy

As stated in Chapter one of this study, the punctuated equilibrium theory operates on three fundamental premises or concepts. Eldredge and Gould (1972) summed that

> The central proposition of punctuated equilibrium embodies three concepts: stasis, punctuation, and dominant relative frequency. *Stasis* refers to a long period of relatively unchanged form; *punctuation* is radical change over a short duration; and *dominant relative frequenc*y is the rate these events occur in a particular situation. (p. 115)

Eldredge and Gould believed that stasis is a long period of relative unchanged which could be associated with SI-1 as applied by TDCJ–PD on the SNOs since 1995. Furthermore, punctuation is a radical change over a short period of time which could be associated with supervision policies as applied by TDCJ-PD on the RO. Dominant relative frequency is an analysis of the rate there events occur in any given policy

situation. Eldredge and Gould argued that if tested, the "punctuated equilibrium theory" serves as a "balance hand" when dealing with simple or complex public policies' initiatives, developments, and implementations.

Proven tests of the punctuated equilibrium theory. For many years, it was arguable that tests of punctuated equilibrium theory's hypotheses were limited. The punctuated equilibrium theory needs to be tested (Baumgartner & Jones, 1993). While these arguments had mixed reviews by many scholars, tests of this theory became the obligation of public policies decision making scholars (Jordan, 2003; Paterson, 1995; True et al., 1999). These tests of hypotheses covered federal, state, and local government bureaucracies.

True et al. (1999) created a falsifiable hypothesis to tests punctuated equilibrium theory through a comprehensive examination of 62 budgetary sub-function organizations within the federal level of administration. True et al. found that there was a greater than expected outcomes of 290% increase as a result of the application of this theory. True et al. summed that "there was also a lower than expected number of authorization changes in the moderate range (for both positive and negative changes)" (True et al., 1999, p. 110). In a follow-up test of the theory's hypothesis, Jordon (2003) investigated local governments budgeting approaches by examining the applications of the punctuated equilibrium theory as threshold of measurements.

Jordon found that majority of local public organizations were already implementing this theory unconsciously. Jordon concludes that "For negative change, a decrease in a budget of greater than 25% below the average change rate is considered a

large negative change. For positive change, an increase in a budget of greater than 35% above the average change rate is considered a large positive change" (Jordan, 2003, p. 352). Jordon's conclusion was in alignment with Paterson (1995) who found that the application of punctuated equilibrium theory "neither hurt nor help the local economy" (pp. 350-352) but needed time to materialize.

As such, the tests of punctuated equilibrium theory were historically holistic in state and other bureaucratic public organizations such as state agencies, public schools, city budgets, assessments of performances and the results appeared to be in alignment with its theoretical concepts (see Chubb & Moe, 1990; Rice, 1996; Robinson, 2004; Gould, 2002; Robinson et al., 2004; Meier, Polinard, & Wrinkle, 2000). According to Eldredge and Gould (1972), at a time of budgeting constraints such as we currently have in the State of Texas, excessive contacts on the SNOs only complicates an already overstretched financial situation.

Above all, the social and supervisory implications created by SI-1 are overwhelming, especially on the MI within the SNOP caseload. Therefore, TDCJ-PD needs to revisit SI-1 supervision level as applied on the SNOs from a practical public policy implication standpoint and possibly implement a punctuated equilibrium theory in the supervision of the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort bend Counties, Texas. This researcher also recommends that a holistic review of Texas Laws along with the classifications of special needs offenders' definitions be reviewed by TDCJ-PD leadership in order to enhance the development and implementation of efficient, effective, and proficient policies for the SNOs in the State of Texas.

Conclusions

Conclusively, while this study may be regarded as being in its infancy concerning efficacy in the supervision of offenders, especially SNOs, it should be noted that this I have almost twenty years experience of working with SNOs and other offenders in general. These are some of the experiences I bring to the areas of public policy decision making processes when dealing with offenders in general and SNOs in particular. For almost twenty years, I have wondered about the quality versus the quantity of supervision levels and their impacts on offenders' ability or inability to comply or not to comply with parole supervision guidelines (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Andrews et al., 2006, 2010; Lurigio et al., 1988). I concluded that based on the findings of this study, that there are direct relationships between the quality or quantity of offenders' supervision levels and their marginal propensities to comply or not to comply with supervision or treatment. This was one of the premises this study set out to investigate.

An extensive review of literature showed overwhelming deficiency in identifying the particular roles such supervision levels play in the compliance or noncompliance rates of offenders. Furthermore, reviewed literature focused on treatments modalities rather than offenders' compliances linked to recidivism rates (Abbott et al., 2010; Aiello, 2007; Bernstein, 2008; Davis, 2003). While these literatures were fundamental in addressing some of the concerns associated with SNOs in various settings, they did not address RNR associated with offenders' compliances. Particularly, they did not address the RNR analysis through the eyes of Andrews & Bonta (2003), Andrews et al. (2006), and

Andrews and Dowden (2006) or the ideas of Lurigio et al. (1988). This study was designed to address these factors.

Furthermore, in the QOL section, studies repeatedly concentrated on the QOL of special needs clients in relationship to non-correctional treatment facilities they did not concentrate on offenders in supervisory or custody environments that poses different compliance demographics (Acil et al., 2008; Ackerley et al., 2009; Ackerman & Wolman, 2007). This study also set out to fill this gap in literature. Additionally, this study was designed to apply the idea of Lurigio et al. (1988) which contends that assigning SNO offenders to higher levels of supervision due to some form of mental or physical condition or diagnoses implied "unreasonable accommodation" on the SNOs.

This study set out to investigate whether SI-1 as applied on the SNOs implies "unreasonable accommodations" as seen through the eyes of Lurigio et al (1988). As applied by TDCJ-PD leadership, SI-1 was verified to be "unreasonable accommodation" due to unverified perceptions, unproven assumption, and overwhelming myths that SNOs are likely to reoffend than other offenders especially ROs in similar settings. Rather, this study found otherwise that SI-1 associative social and supervisory implications created additional recidivism factors, instead of reduction in reoffending rates of this population of offenders. What this study could not verify is the particular social or supervisory factors that led to the higher recidivism rates for the SNOs other than SI-1 as applied by TDCJ-PD leadership. This observation appeared to be in alignment with the theory of the "chicken and egg" of subjective and social factors in desistance from crime, Lebel et al. (2008) found that certain factors predict criminal attitudes as well as behaviors. This

study could not pinpoint the prediction factors responsible for SNOs higher recidivism rates based on data analyzed, other than SI-1 supervision level in general.

Additionally, this study was set out to use the theoretical framework of social reconstruction theory of RNR as a lens of analysis of data (Andrews et al., 2006, 2010). Historic application of RNR related studies were also examined in this study (Thanner & Taxman, 2003; Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2004; Henderson et al., 2007; Andrews & Bonta, 1996; Taxman & Marlowe, 2006; Taxman & Thanner, 2006). This study verified that since the SNOs supervision levels had remained unchanged since 1995 according to PD/POP 3.7.1, and SNOs are prevented from participating in RNR analyses classifications as developed by Andrews et al. (2006, 2010) by TDCJ-PD leadership. Also, it was impossible to calculate the particular impacts of changes supervision levels on the marginal propensities for SNOs to reoffend due to lack of participation in RNR analyses. Contrarily, the study found that ROs' supervision levels that changed more rapidly over the years (dominant frequency) had lower technical violations rates than SNOs due to possible associative implications created by SI-1 on the SNOs (punctuated equilibrium theory's stasis).

Also, this study was set to use social construction of reality theory through the theoretical lens of Berger and Luckmann (1966). Social construction of reality theory, as explored by Berger and Luckmann (1966) contended that ideologies tend to legitimize a society's institutions. However, realities associated with policies implications coined from such ideological approaches may be contrary to popularly believe or facts. This study probed the ideological foundations behind SI-1 supervision levels on the SNOs and

its possible recidivism impacts of this population of offenders. The study found that the ideologies behind the development and the implementation of SI-1 supervision level on the SNOs actually created social and supervisory implications that led to higher recidivism rates for this population of offenders as compared to ROs in the same counties.

Essentially, the study verified that the mentally impaired (MI) offenders were overwhelmingly more impacted than PH/TI, MR, and MRIS within and in-between the SNOP caseload. This finding was practically unexplained and unexpected because the reactions of MI to the IRT measurement scale were statistically disturbing. Regardless, this finding appeared to be in full alignment with the conceptual practical definition of "Overdose" as seen by Andrews et al. (1990), Latessa (2004), Latessa and Travis (1992), Welsh (2006), and Wilcox (2001), especially for the PH/TI, MR, and MRIS within and in-between the SNOP caseload.

Finally, this study set to examine if the punctuated equilibrium theory could be applied on the SNOs when dealing with supervision levels' improvements in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas. The fundamental premises of the punctuated equilibrium theory were public policy development and implementation on incremental basis versus non-incremental basis. As applied by TDCJ-PD leadership, SI-1 supervision level on the SNOs appeared to fall within the non-incremental basis of public policy implementation (Eldredge & Gould, 1972). Also, further evidence showed that at any rate, the punctuated equilibrium theory that dwells incremental implementation of public policies' initiatives were more successful than non-incremental in local, state, and federal

applications (Chubb & Moe, 1990; Rice, 1996; Robinson, 2004; Gould, 2002; Robinson et al., 2004; Meier, Polinard, & Wrinkle, 2000). As such, it is highly recommended that TDCJ-PD leadership revisit SI-1 supervision level, as applied on the SNOs in these counties to bring some positive social change to this population of offenders.

In summation, for almost 20 years I have been concerned about what constitutes effective, efficient, applicable, and appropriate supervision levels during the course of offenders' classification and placement. During this time, I repeatedly experienced SNOs who reported to the district parole office and the purposes of their visits or reports remained unknown me, SNOP officers, as well as the SNOs in these counties (unreasonable accommodation). Essentially, as a unit supervisor, SNOP officers complained repeatedly about the needless excessive contacts requirements imposed on the SNOs, especially those who appeared to be stable on treatment.

Furthermore, they also complained about SI-1 as applied on the SNOs especially the PH/TI, MR, and MRIS which they believed should be classified differently. It should be noted that these complaints fell on deaf ears because unit supervisors are not public policy developers. As a special needs offenders' public administrator who have conducted more than 15,000 interviews with offenders and their family, it is recommended that TDCJ-PD leadership dwells more on the quality of contacts rather than the quantity of contacts in order to achieve efficacy in the supervision of SNOs in the state of Texas.

Although it has been overly stated repeatedly that TDCJ-PD has shown overwhelming leadership in attempts to bring efficacy to the overall supervision of most

offenders in the state of Texas, its policies on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, continue to be a minute late and a penny short. These consistencies have been paramount since the development and implementation of PD/POP 3.7.1 in 1995 (stasis), even though it was revisited in 2011 by TDCJ-PD policy decision makers, PD/POP 3.7.1 remains practically unchanged. Therefore, based on the findings of this study, along with the current financial constraints faced by most criminal justice organizations statewide and nationally, I recommend that TDCJ-PD leadership revisit SI-I as applied on the SNOs which be costs efficient, effective, and proficient, and could eventually bring positive social change to this population of offenders and beyond.

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Appendix A : Survey Instrument

Sample (LSI-R) Questions

Strongly/Agreed	Agreed	Not Sure	Disagreed	Strongly/Disagreed
1	2	3	4	5

Key:

Special Needs Offender (SNOs)

Super Intensive-1 (SI-1) **(Three face-To-Face contacts and two collateral contacts monthly)**

Please, write the most applicable number at the end of each question ranging from (1 strongly/Agreed to 5 strongly/Disagreed) inside the parenthesis

1. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they have longer criminal history than regular offenders. **( )**

2. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they are less educated than regular offenders. **( )**

3. **As a Parole officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they are less financially stable than regular offenders. **( )**

4. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they are more likely to have more Drugs/Alcohol problems than regular offenders. **( )**

5. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they have more Emotional/Personal problems than regular offenders.
( )

6. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they have more Family/Marital problems than regular offenders. **( )**

7. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they have more accommodation problems than regular offenders. **( )**

8. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they should require more monthly contacts than regular offenders. **( )**

9. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that (SI-1) supervision level was an ideology that originated from fear of the SNOs re-offending than regular offenders rather than lack of compliance of SNOs. **( )**

Thanks for participating as a co-researcher in this study and I hope to give your some feedbacks in the near future.

Co Researcher,

Park Atatah

Appendix B: Interview Questions

Interview Question 1

In your own words, from parole officer perspectives, what do you think were the ideologies behind the development and implementation of offenders' classification, assessment, reassessment, and supervision levels utilized in the supervision of regular offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend County, Texas? From parole officer's perspectives, what are the differences in classification methods ideologies utilized in the supervision of regular offenders different from the (SI-1) utilized in the supervision of (SNOs) in your counties? Why do you think that (SNOs) in your counties are exempted from the typical classification methods utilized on regular offenders? In your opinion as a parole officer, what level of supervision do you think should be most appropriate and applicable supervision level for (SNOs) in your counties and why?

Interview Question 2

In your own words, from parole officer perspectives, how does the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level impact the recidivism rates of the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties? How are these impacts different from those experienced by regular offenders being supervised at regular supervision levels such as maximum, medium, or minimum? Does the development and implementation of SI-1 for the supervision of SNOs create supervision implications for the SNOs parole officers, if yes, how? Do you think that the development and implementation of SI-1 on the SNOs actually maintains, reduces, or increases the recidivism rates of the SNOs in your counties, how?

Interview Question 3

In your own words, from parole officer perspectives, is it possible to supervise SNOs with regular supervision levels such as (maximum, medium, minimum, quarterly, and annual) while maintaining, reducing, or increasing the SNOs recidivism rates, how? What supervisory levels' ideological recommendations will you suggest when dealing with SNOs supervision levels in your counties and why?

Interview Question 4

In your own words, from parole officer perspectives what regular levels of supervision (maximum, medium, minimum, quarterly, and annual) do you think should be developed and implemented for the supervision of SNOs in your counties, without jeopardizing the SNOs' recidivism rates of this population of offenders? Please, explain.

Interview Question 5

In your own words, from parole officer perspectives what do you think were the ideologies behind the development and implementation of SI-1 supervision level imposed on the SNOs in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties, Texas?

Any General Closing Remarks

Thanks for participating in this study; I will make the study's results available to you upon completion. I want to emphasize that all information obtained from you will be kept secured and confidential by this researcher. If you have no further questions, this interview concludes today, at approximately (Time :---------).

Thanks again,

Park Atatah

Appendix C: The Seven Major Risk/Need Factors along with Some Minor Risk/Need Factors

Major risk/need factor	Indicators	Intervention goals
Antisocial personality pattern	Impulsive, adventurous pleasure seeking, restlessly aggressive and irritable	Build self-management skills, teach anger management
Procriminal attitudes	Rationalizations for crime, negative attitudes towards the law	Counter rationalizations with prosocial attitudes; build up a prosocial identity
Social supports for crime	Criminal friends, isolation from prosocial others	Replace procriminal friends and associates with prosocial friends and associates
Substance abuse	Abuse of alcohol and/or drugs	Reduce substance abuse, enhance alternatives to substance use
Family/marital relationships	Inappropriate parental monitoring and disciplining, poor family relationships	Teaching parenting skills, enhance warmth and caring
School/work	Poor performance, low levels of satisfactions	Enhance work/study skills, nurture interpersonal relationships within the context of work and school
Prosocial recreational activities	Lack of involvement in prosocial recreational/leisure activities	Encourage participation in prosocial recreational activities, teach prosocial hobbies and sports

Non-criminogenic, minor needs	Indicators

Self-esteem	Poor feelings of self-esteem, self-worth
Vague feelings of personal distress	Anxious, feeling blue
Major mental disorder	Schizophrenia, manic-depression
Physical health	Physical deformity, nutrient deficiency

Appendix D: Risks/Needs/Responsivity RNR Model

Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Assessment/Reassessment geared to RNR Theory

Contact Requirements for SNOP Offenders

According to PD/POP-3.7.1 (2011), SNOP monthly contact requirements are as followed:

CONTACT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

A. Offender Face-To-Face Contacts

1. For contact purposes, an offender's supervision level is identified as SI-1. SI-1 is assigned to all offenders when initially placed on the SNOP caseload unless circumstances dictate a need for a higher level of supervision. SI-1 requires three (3) face-to-face contacts monthly.
2. One (1) contact must be a home visit and one (1) must be an office visit. The third contact may be conducted in the office, home, or field and may be an official agency contact (e.g., case staffing with local community provider and the offender). Spreading the contacts over the month as opposed to having them close together is optimal.
3. All contacts must be documented in the OIMS. Contacts must be updated in OIMS within three (3) business days after contact or within three (3) business days after return to designated headquarters.
4. SNOP officers may use discretion as to the monthly schedule of their contacts with the approval of the SNOP unit supervisor.

B. Non-Offender Contacts

1. The offender's "significant other(s)," who consist of the offender's family, friend(s), and/or employer shall be contacted one (1) time a month. This may be accomplished by telephone.
2. An interdisciplinary approach to treatment shall be used. The SNOP officer shall work together with the HSS worker/MHMR case manager at least once every month.
    a. The officer shall attend regularly scheduled treatment team meetings, in areas where contract services and case management services are available within the continuity of care program, of the officer, HSS worker/MHMR case manager, and offender.
    b. The officer shall communicate regularly with treatment providers regarding the offender's supervision status, progress, problem areas, and needs.

c. If an offender is discharged or goes into Pre-Revocation status, the HSS worker/MHMR case manager must be advised.
d. If the offender is returned to supervision, then the Treatment Team Meeting shall resume.
e. If the offender's supervision is revoked, the HSS worker/MHMR case manager must be informed.

C. Guidelines

1. Telephone calls may not be substituted for a required visit with the offender.
2. No offender assigned to a specialized caseload is granted a supervision status lower than SI-1.
3. SNOP officers responsible for the supervision of offenders who are TI/PH may, with supervisory approval, perform home visits in lieu of office visits for offenders who are non-ambulatory as a result of terminal illness or severely handicapping physical condition. With supervisory approval, the number of required face-to-face contacts for the SNOP TI/PH offender may be reduced to two (2) per month, if the offender meets one of the following criteria:
   a. The offender is non-ambulatory and is residing in a private residence.
   b. The offender is hospitalized or residing in an intermediate care or skilled care nursing facility.

   The supervisor who approves this exception shall document approval in OIMS.
4. Collateral contacts shall be conducted, at least two (2) per month, on cases with modified contacts. The collateral contacts shall be made to the actual health care provider and sponsor where the offender is residing. This may be accomplished by telephone.

5. Contacts in OIMS must be updated within three (3) business days after contact or within three (3) business days after return to designated headquarters. (pp. 17-18) (Texas Public Information).

Appendix E: Contact Requirements for Regular Offenders

According to PD/POP-3.2.8, Regular Supervision Cases monthly contact requirements are as followed:

III. MONTHLY CONTACT STANDARD FOR REGULAR SUPERVISION CASES

Monthly Contact Standards for Regular Supervision Cases

Quarterly Reporting (Parole Division policy 3.2.30)

Total No.	Face-to Face Contacts
1	Offender office contact per quarter. Home or field contact may be included at the discretion of the Parole Officer as the need arises. A home verification shall be accomplished at least one (1) time per year to verify residence.

Minimum Level of Supervision

Total No.	Face-to Face Contacts
1	Office contact each month.
1	Offender contact at home or field every six (6) months.

Medium Level of Supervision

Total No.	Face-to Face Contacts
1	Offender office contact each month.
1	Offender contact at home or field every other month.

Maximum Level of Supervision

Total No.	Face-to Face Contacts
1	Offender office contact each month.
1	Offender contact at home or field each month.

Appendix F: Demographic Coding for Interviews

Demographics of interviewers will be coded as follows:

Types of Caseloads Officers Supervise (TCOS)

Special Needs Offenders Officers (TCOS1)

Regular Offenders Officers (TCOS2)

Specialized Caseloads Offenders Officers (TCOS3)

Ages of Officers (AO)	Length of Services (LC)	Race of Officers (RO)
25 to 30 years (AO1) 30 to 35 years (AO2) 35 to 40 years (AO3) 40 to 45 years (AO4) 45 to 50 years (AO5) 50 and above (AO6)	0 to 5 years (LC1) 5 to 10 years (LC2) 10 to 15 years (LC3) 15 to 20 years (LC4) 20 to 25 years (LC5) 25 to 30 years (LC6)	Black (RO1) Caucasian (RO2) Hispanics (RO3) Asian (RO4) Others RO5)

Appendix G: List of Items to be measured with IRT Scale Based on Texas Parole Certificate and Special Condition of Release

Rule Number 1: I shall report upon release to my parole officer and thereafter follow all instructions as directed. Rule #1 has direct relationship with caseload type and contacts level.

Rule Number 2: I shall commit no offense against the state or of any other state or of the United States. Rule #2 has a relationship with new laws violations

Rule Number 3: I shall reside in a specific place as approved by my supervising parole officer. Rule #3 has a direct relationship with offenders' absconding.

Rule Number 4: I shall not travel outside the State of Texas without the approval of my supervising parole officer. Rule #4 has a direct relationship with Interstate Compact violations.

Rule Number 5: I shall not unlawfully own, possess, use, sell nor have under my control any weapon or illegal weapon. Rule #5 has a direct relationship with assault with a deadly weapon and possession of a weapon be a felon (federal law). Finally,
Rule Number 8: I shall abide by all special condition imposed upon me by the board. This rule is assigned letters that represent the actual condition/s. For example, rules number 8P and 8S as shown below.

Special Condition 8P: to submit to psychological counseling including psychotropic medications, established (SI-1) level of supervision for special needs

offenders. 8P has a direct relationship with caseload assignment and contact requirements.

Special Condition 8S: To submit to alcohol and substance abuse treatment programs. 8S has a direct relationship with alcohol and illegal usages (TDCJ-PD, 2009).

Appendix H: Analysis Items

IRT Items and Sub-Items

Items	**Sub-items**
Criminal History (10)	Risk of re-offending (1)
Education/Employment (10)	Likely to incur problems adjusting (2)
Financial (2)	In need of specific services (3)
Alcohol/Drug Problems (9)	Types of treatment programs (4)
Emotional/Personal (5)	Medications, counseling (5)
Family/Marital (4)	Family Support, married/single (6)
Accommodation (3)	Living arrangements (7)

Appendix I: IRB Conditional Approval Letter

Dear Mr. Atatah,

This email is to notify you that the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has approved your application for the study entitled, "A Comprehensive Review of Super Intensive-1 (SI-1) Supervision Level Imposed on the Special Needs Offenders (SNOs) in Texas and Its Recidivism Impacts." conditional upon the approval of the community research partner, as documented in a signed letter of cooperation. Walden's IRB approval only goes into effect once the Walden IRB confirms receipt of that letter of cooperation.

Your approval # is **09-19-12-0166882.** You will need to reference this number in your doctoral study and in any future funding or publication submissions. Also attached to this e-mail are the IRB approved consent forms. Please note, if these are already in an on-line format, you will need to update those consent documents to include the IRB approval number and expiration date.

Your IRB approval expires on **September 18, 2013.** One month before this expiration date, you will be sent a Continuing Review Form, which must be submitted if you wish to collect data beyond the approval expiration date.

Your IRB approval is contingent upon your adherence to the exact procedures described in the final version of the IRB application materials that have been submitted as of this date. If you need to make any changes to your research staff or procedures, you must obtain IRB approval by submitting the IRB Request for Change in Procedures Form. You will receive confirmation with a status update of the request within 1 week of submitting the change request form and are not permitted to implement changes prior to receiving approval. Please note that Walden University does not accept responsibility or liability for research activities conducted without the IRB's approval, and the University will not accept or grant credit for student work that fails to comply with the policies and procedures related to ethical standards in research.

When you submitted your IRB application, you a made commitment to communicate both discrete adverse events and general problems to the IRB within 1 week of their occurrence/realization. Failure to do so may result in invalidation of data, loss of academic credit, and/or loss of legal protections otherwise available to the researcher.

Both the Adverse Event Reporting form and Request for Change in Procedures form can be obtained at the IRB section of the Walden web site or by emailing irb@waldenu.edu: http://inside.waldenu.edu/c/Student_Faculty/StudentFaculty_4274.htm

Researchers are expected to keep detailed records of their research activities (i.e., participant log sheets, completed consent forms, etc.) for the same period of time they retain the original data. If, in the future, you require copies of the originally submitted IRB materials, you may request them from Institutional Review Board.

Please note that this letter indicates that the IRB has approved your research. You may NOT begin the research phase of your doctoral study, however, until you have received the **Notification of Approval to Conduct Research** e-mail. Once you have received this notification by email, you may begin your data collection.

Both students and faculty are invited to provide feedback on this IRB experience at the link below:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qHBJzkJMUx43pZegKlmdiQ_3d_3d

Sincerely,
Jenny Sherer, M.Ed., CIP
Operations Manager
Office of Research Ethics and Compliance
irb@waldenu.edu
Tollfree : 800-925-3368 ext. 1341
Fax: 626-605-0472
Office address for Walden University:

Appendix J: A Letter of Denial from Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division (TDCJ-PD)

Original E-mail

Hi, Park,

I was able to get a response from our administrator. We have been directed to abide by the Parole Division's opinion and deny the research based on their review. This decision will be from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. This is the final word you were awaiting; however I have been promised an email from Stuart Jenkins which I will use in drafting the official letter we send. Hopefully your IRB will be able to direct you from here. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Thank you,

Susan DeBose, Executive Services

(936) 437-8972

The information contained in this electronic mail and attachments is intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s) and may contain confidential, privileged, or proprietary information. Any other use of these materials is strictly prohibited. This email may not be forwarded outside the Texas Department of Criminal Justice without the permission of the original sender. If you have received this material in error, please notify me immediately by telephone and destroy all electronic, paper, or other versions.

Appendix K: Texas Board of Pardon and Parole (BPP) Approval Letter

On/About November 14, 2012 authorization was provided by the Board of Pardons and Paroles to allow the release of data relative to Preliminary and Revocation Hearings on 200 offenders to allow for Parole Officer Park Atatah to complete a study pursuant to obtaining an advanced degree. Mr. Atatah is conducting a study to determine if the supervision level on Special Needs Offenders impacts the recidivism rate. The board has no issue allowing for the release of the requested information by Executive Services with the provision that Names, TDCJ/SID and Social Security Numbers are not released. Additionally, the BPP would like to be provided with a copy of his completed research report. Any questions can be directed to my attention.

Timothy S. McDonnell

Board Administrator

Austin Board Office

Phone: 512-406-5452

Fax: 512-406-5482

Appendix L: Conditional IRB Approval of Request for a Change in Procedures

Dear Mr. Atatah,

This e-mail serves to inform you that your request for a change in procedures, in which you would like to modify your data collection procedures as described in the attached document, has been approved. Your IRB approval number for this study will remain the same.

However, this approval is conditional upon your obtaining a data use agreement from the Texas Board of Pardon and Parole. It is important to note that you may not collect or analyze data until the IRB receives and confirms receipt of the approval of this organization to release data to you. When obtained, please submit a copy of the signed data use agreement to irb@waldenu.edu or it can be faxed to the number in my signature.

Sincerely,
Jenny Sherer, M.Ed., CIP
Operations Manager
Office of Research Ethics and Compliance
Email: irb@waldenu.edu
Fax: 626-605-0472
Tollfree : 800-925-3368 ext. 1341
Office address for Walden University:
100 Washington Avenue South
Suite 900
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Appendix M: Notification of Approval to Conduct Research-Park Atatah

Dear Mr. Atatah,

This email confirms receipt of the data use agreement for the community research partner and also serves as your notification that Walden University has approved BOTH your dissertation proposal and your application to the Institutional Review Board. As such, you are approved by Walden University to conduct research.

Please contact the Office of Student Research Administration at research@waldenu.edu if you have any questions.

Congratulations!

Jenny Sherer
Operations Manager, Office of Research Ethics and Compliance

Leilani Endicott
IRB Chair, Walden University

Appendix N: Data Usage Agreement

d. Require any of its subcontractors or agents that receive or have access to the LDS to agree to the same restrictions and conditions on the use and/or disclosure of the LDS that apply to Data Recipient under this Agreement; and

e. Not use the information in the LDS to identify or contact the individuals who are data subjects.

5. Permitted Uses and Disclosures of the LDS. Data Recipient may use and/or disclose the LDS for its Research activities only.

6. Term and Termination.

a. Term. The term of this Agreement shall commence as of the Effective Date and shall continue for so long as Data Recipient retains the LDS, unless sooner terminated as set forth in this Agreement.

b. Termination by Data Recipient. Data Recipient may terminate this agreement at any time by notifying the Data Provider and returning or destroying the LDS.

c. Termination by Data Provider. Data Provider may terminate this agreement at any time by providing thirty (30) days prior written notice to Data Recipient.

d. For Breach. Data Provider shall provide written notice to Data Recipient within ten (10) days of any determination that Data Recipient has breached a material term of this Agreement. Data Provider shall afford Data Recipient an opportunity to cure said alleged material breach upon mutually agreeable terms. Failure to agree on mutually agreeable terms for cure within thirty (30) days shall be grounds for the immediate termination of this Agreement by Data Provider.

e. Effect of Termination. Sections 1, 4, 5, 6(e) and 7 of this Agreement shall survive any termination of this Agreement under subsections c or d.

7. Miscellaneous.

a. Change in Law. The parties agree to negotiate in good faith to amend this Agreement to comport with changes in federal law that materially alter either or both parties' obligations under this Agreement. Provided however, that if the parties are unable to agree to mutually acceptable amendment(s) by the compliance date of the change in applicable law or regulations, either Party may terminate this Agreement as provided in section 6.

b. Construction of Terms. The terms of this Agreement shall be construed to give effect to applicable federal interpretative guidance regarding the HIPAA Regulations.

c. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall confer upon any person other than the parties and their respective successors or assigns, any rights, remedies, obligations, or liabilities whatsoever.

d. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

e. Headings. The headings and other captions in this Agreement are for convenience and reference only and shall not be used in interpreting, construing or enforcing any of the provisions of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the undersigned has caused this Agreement to be duly executed in its name and on its behalf.

DATA PROVIDER

Signed:

Print Name: Linda S. McDonnell

Print Title: Board Administrator: Texas Board of Pardons + Paroles

DATA RECIPIENT

Signed:

Print Name: PARK ATATAH

Print Title: PAROLE OFFICER III Researcher

Appendix O: Consent Form Interview Participation

CONSENT FORM

Interview Participation

You are invited to take part in a research study of "A Comprehensive Review of Super Intensive-1 (SI-1) Supervision Level Imposed on the Special Needs Offenders (SNOs) in Texas and Its Recidivism Impacts" The researcher is inviting "Parole Officers located at the Rosenberg District Parole Office who supervise offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties" or Region 3 supervisors to be in the study. This form is part of a process called "informed consent" to allow you to understand this study before deciding whether to take part.

This study is being conducted by a researcher named Park Atatah, who is a doctoral student at Walden University. The study is part of the researcher's doctoral degree. The researcher is also known within the parole office as Unit Supervisor Park Atatah. The study is not a Rosenberg District Parole Office or a Texas Department of Criminal Justice study.

Background Information:

The purpose of this study is to examine the roles SI-1 level of supervision utilized in the supervising SNOs in the State of Texas play in the compliance of the special needs offenders (SNOs) and its recidivism impacts.

Procedures:

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to:

- **To participate in an interview section concerning SNOs supervision and compliance in your counties. (This interview should take 30 to 45 minutes to complete).**

Here are some sample interview questions:

Interview Question/s:

In your own words, from parole officer perspectives, what do you think were the ideologies behind the development and implementation of offenders' classification, assessment, reassessment, and supervision levels utilized in the supervision of regular offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend County, Texas?

Interviews will be conducted at different time and days.

Voluntary Nature of the Study:
This study is voluntary. Everyone will respect your decision of whether or not you choose to be in the study. No one at Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division (TDCJ-PD) or Walden University will treat you differently if you decide not to be in the study. If you decide to join the study now, you can still change your mind during or after the study. You may stop at any time.

Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study:

Being in this study would not pose risk to your safety or wellbeing. However, the researcher will ensure that minimum risks such as stress, condition of environment, and fatigue during the study will be monitored.

The overall significance of this research study is its potential to provide an additional supervision tool for criminal justice divisions, public health policy decision-makers, and mental health agencies in relation to SNOs' supervision and treatment modalities. This study will also add to already existing literature related to the supervision of SNOs in any setting.

Finally, this study will possibly lead to changes in supervision modalities of the SNOs which could bring positive social change to the SNOs and the Parole officers.

Payment:

Participants of this study will not receive any compensation in form of monetary payments of valued gifts. As such, participants are encouraged to participate on voluntary basis.

Privacy:

Any information you provide will be kept confidential. The researcher will not use your personal information for any purposes outside of this research project. Also, the researcher will not include your name or anything else that could identify you in the study reports. Data will be kept secure by being locked in a safe belonging to the researcher for required period of document retention of a minimum of five years. Data will be kept for a period of at least 5 years, as required by the university.

Contacts and Questions:

You may ask any questions you have now. Or if you have questions later, you may contact the researcher via park.atatah@waldenu.edu or Cell Phone 832-434-7933 If you want to talk privately about your rights as a participant, you can call Dr. Leilani Endicott. She is the Walden University representative who can discuss this with you. Her phone number is 1-800-925-3368, extension 1210. Walden University's approval number for this study is **09-19-12-0166882** and it expires on **September 18, 2013.**

Consent Form:

The researcher will give you a copy of this form to keep.

Please keep this consent form for your records.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information and I feel I understand the study well enough to make a decision about my involvement. By signing this consent form I have agree to be possibly selected as a participant of this study. I understand that I am agreeing to the terms described above.

Only include the signature section below if using paper consent forms.

Printed Name of Participant _____

Date of consent _____

Participant's Signature _____

Researcher's Signature _____

2012.09.19 10:30:40 -05'00'

Appendix P: Consent Form Online Survey Participation

CONSENT FORM

Online Survey Participation

You are invited to take part in a research study of "A Comprehensive Review of Super Intensive-1 (SI-1) Supervision Level Imposed on the Special Needs Offenders (SNOs) in Texas and Its Recidivism Impacts" The researcher is inviting "Parole Officers located at the Rosenberg District Parole Office who supervise offenders in Austin, Colorado, and Fort Bend Counties" or Region 3 supervisors to be in the study. This form is part of a process called "informed consent" to allow you to understand this study before deciding whether to take part.

This study is being conducted by a researcher named Park Atatah, who is a doctoral student at Walden University. The study is part of the researcher's doctoral degree. The researcher is also known within the parole office as Unit Supervisor Park Atatah. The study is not a Rosenberg District Parole Office or a Texas Department of Criminal Justice study.

Background Information:

The purpose of this study is to examine the roles SI-1 level of supervision utilized in the supervising SNOs in the State of Texas play in the compliance of the special needs offenders (SNOs) and its recidivism impacts.

Procedures:

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to:

- **To complete an online survey instrument concerning SNOs supervision and compliance in your counties. (This survey should take 15 to 30 minutes to complete).**

Here are some sample questions:

Survey Questions Examples:

1. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they have longer criminal history than regular offenders.

2. **As a Parole Officer I** believe that it is a good ideology to supervise (SNOs) at (SI-1) supervision level because they are less educated than regular offenders

Voluntary Nature of the Study:
This study is voluntary. Everyone will respect your decision of whether or not you choose to be in the study. No one at Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division (TDCJ-PD) or Walden University will treat you differently if you decide not to be in the study. If you decide to join the study now, you can still change your mind during or after the study. You may stop at any time.

Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study:

Being in this study would not pose risk to your safety or wellbeing. However, the researcher will ensure that minimum risks such as stress, condition of environment, and fatigue during the study will be monitored.

The overall significance of this research study is its potential to provide an additional supervision tool for criminal justice divisions, public health policy decision-makers, and mental health agencies in relation to SNOs' supervision and treatment modalities. This study will also add to already existing literature related to the supervision of SNOs in any setting.

Finally, this study will possibly lead to changes in supervision modalities of the SNOs which could bring positive social change to the SNOs and the Parole officers.

Payment:

Participants of this study will not receive any compensation in form of monetary payments of valued gifts. As such, participants are encouraged to participate on voluntary basis.

Privacy:

Any information you provide will be kept confidential. The researcher will not use your personal information for any purposes outside of this research project. Also, the researcher will not include your name or anything else that could identify you in the study reports. Data will be kept secure by being locked in a safe belonging to the researcher for required period of document retention of a minimum of five years. Data will be kept for a period of at least 5 years, as required by the university.

Contacts and Questions:

You may ask any questions you have now. Or if you have questions later, you may contact the researcher via park.atatah@waldenu.edu or Cell Phone 832-434-7933 if you want to talk privately about your rights as a participant, you can call Dr. Leilani Endicott. She is the Walden University representative who can discuss this with you. Her phone number is 1-800-925-3368, extension 1210. Walden University's approval number for this study is **09-19-12-0166882** and it expires on **September 18, 2013.**

Consent Form:

Please keep this consent form for your records.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information and I feel I understand the study well enough to make a decision about my involvement. By replying to this e-mail with the words "I consent" I am agreeing to the terms described above.

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Curriculum Vitae

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2009- Present

Candidate for Doctor of Philosophy-Public Policy and Administration (PPA),

Walden University, Minneapolis Minnesota

1993 - 1998

Master of Public Administration (MPA), Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas

1986 -1991

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

2010 – Present

University of Phoenix Online/Associate Professor

Associate Professor: Budgeting and Finance

Courses:

CJA/453: Criminal Justice Administration,

CJA/414: Public Finance, Sources Management and Reports,

AJS/522: Finance and Budgeting in Justice and Security

1996 – Present

Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division (TDCJ-PD)

Supervision of Offenders: Specialized in the supervision of Special Needs Offenders (SNOs), Sex Offender (SO), and Electric Monitor (EM), Super Intensive Supervision Program (SISP) offenders, Certified NCIC/TCIC user, DNA Coordinator, member of the local law enforcement tasks force commissions, and a member of crisis mobilization unit member.

1995 – 1996

Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Institutional Division (TDCJ-ID) in Houston Texas Custody and Control

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Since June 2009, member of American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)

Since June 2009, member of National Institutes of Health (NIH)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Pi Alpha Alpha (National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration) July 30, 2011 Walden University Chapters, Minneapolis Minnesota

April 2013 Faculty Member of the Week (April 1 to April 7, 2013)

April 2013 Esteem Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Criminal Justice Organizations Efficacies' Studies

Offenders Compliance Studies Sentencing or Service Disparities in the Criminal Justice System Studies Race Relations in the Criminal Justice System Studies

Cities and Public Safety Studies

Environmental Studies especially "Impacts of Resources Drilling on the

Environment" (e.g., Natural Gas Flaking)

Pharmaceutical Studies Dealing with the Impacts of Psychotropic Medications on the Well-being or quality of life (QOL) of the Special Needs Offenders

Public Safety Research Dealing with Offenders' Compliance with Supervision

Emergency Preparedness Studies Dealing with Safety and Mobilization of the Vulnerable Population during Natural or Man-made Disasters

REFERENCES

Dr. Paul Rutledge, Contributory Faculty, Walden University, Minneapolis Minnesota

Dr. Dana-Marie Thomas, Program Coordinator, Walden University, Minneapolis Minnesota

Dr. Tonya Settles (Lead URR), Walden University, Minneapolis Minnesota

Tim McDonnell Board Administrator Texas Board of Pardon and Parole (BPP)

Dr. Marc Weiss, Faculty Walden University Minneapolis Minnesota

ADDITIONAL ACADEMICS OR PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Will be made available upon request