



Going Straight Home? The Role Of Stable Housing In Reducing Reoffending Amongst Those Who Have Left Prison

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RELEASE AND RECIDIVISM IN AOTEAROA

- In 2019, nearly 7600 sentenced prisoners were released from NZ prisons (Ara Poutama Aotearoa 2020a)
- Of those released from NZ prisons in 2018/19, within 24 months
 - 60.8% were re-sentenced
 - 41.2% were re-imprisoned
- Figures for Māori – 65.8% and 45.8 % respectively (Ara Poutama Aotearoa 2020b)

REINTEGRATION AND STABLE HOUSING IN AOTEAROA

- Only around half of releasees able to settle into long-term accommodation (Johnston 2018)
- Corrections and partners provide over 1,000 housing places each year through various initiatives, including emergency accommodation, transitional housing and provision for specific groups
- Budget 2018 – \$57.6 million for housing initiatives – Housing and Support Services Programme

IMPORTANCE OF STABLE POST-RELEASE HOUSING

- the ‘lynchpin that holds the reintegration process together’ (Bradley et al. 2001)
- ‘central to any attempt at re-integrating newly released prisoners’ (Ogilvie 2001:2)
- ‘More than any other factor, a lack of stable accommodation was the most critical contributor to negative post-release outcomes.’ (Morrison and Bowman 2017).
- Post-release housing is associated with a reduced risk of reoffending (Baldry, et al. 2006; Lutze, et al. 2014; Metraux & Culhane 2004; Ellison et al. 2013; Williams et al. 2012)
- Limitations of existing research

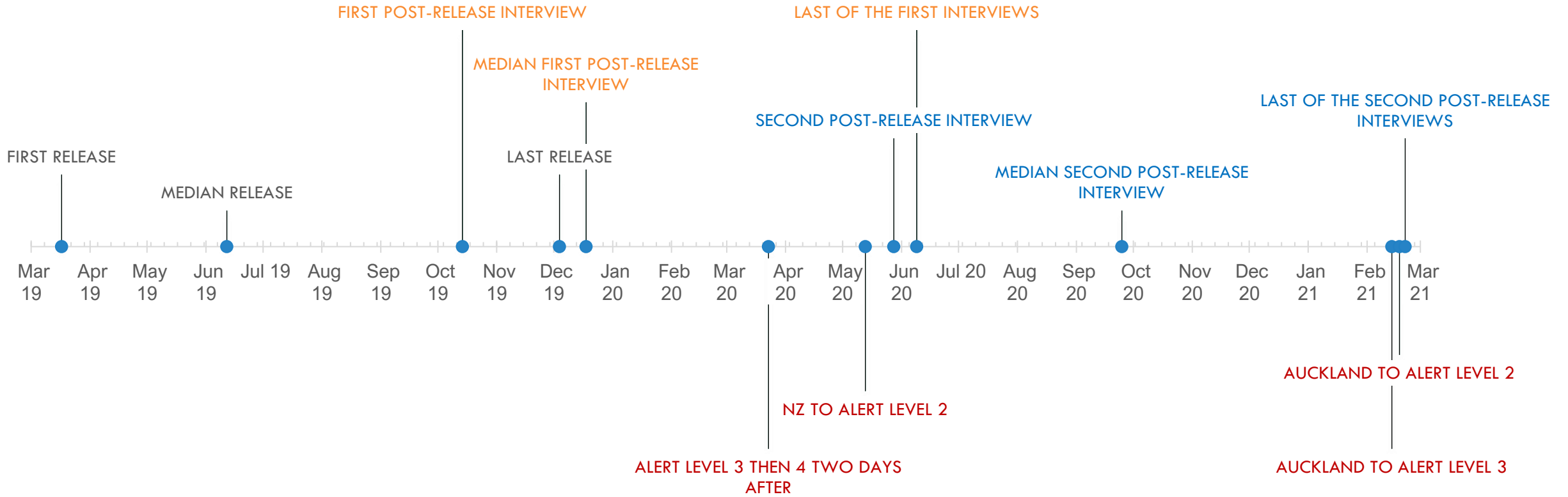
GOING STRAIGHT HOME



1. TO EXAMINE
whether stable housing is
associated with reduced
recidivism in New Zealand

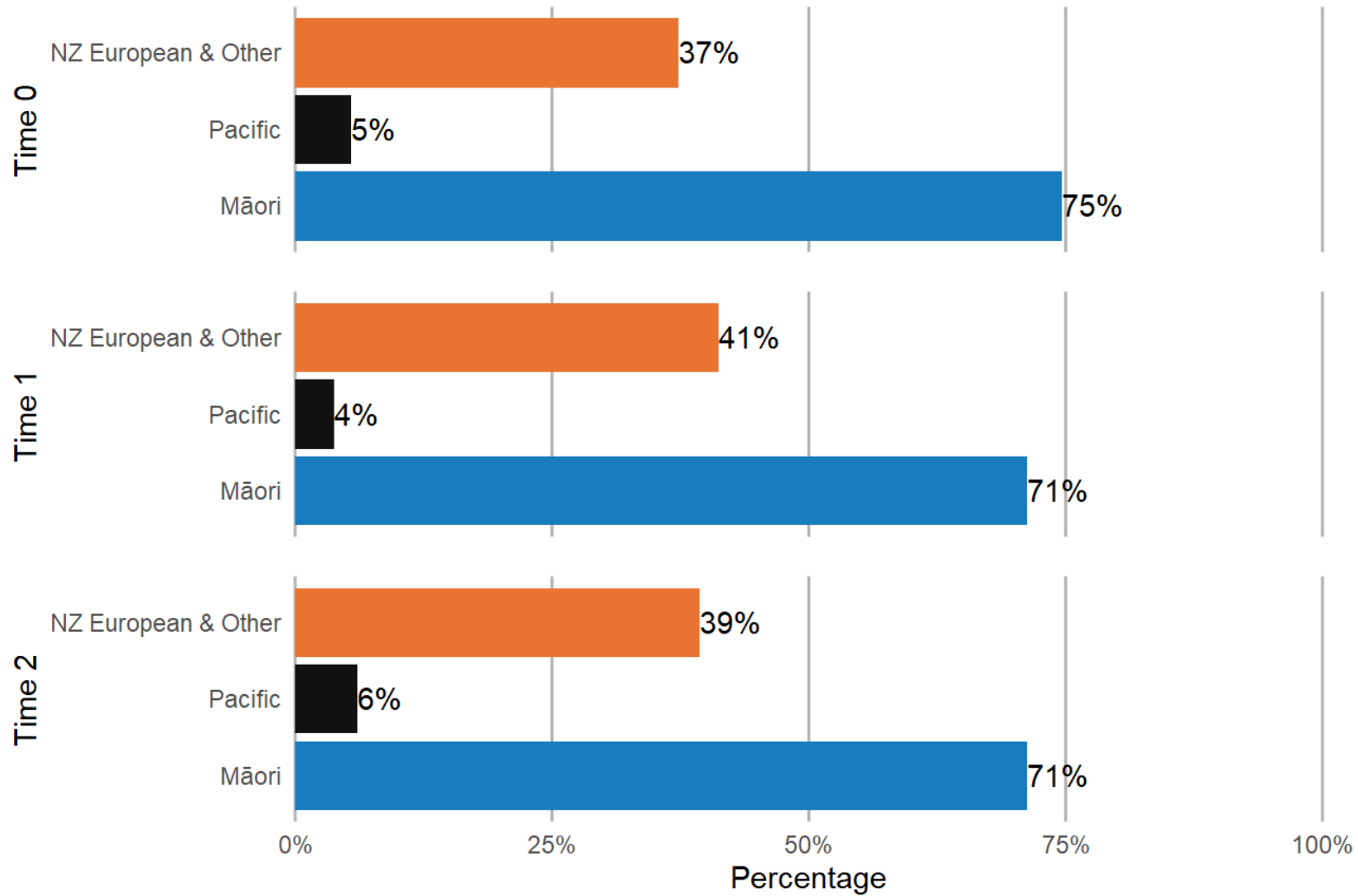
2. TO EVALUATE
the role of stable housing
in contributing to
desistance from crime



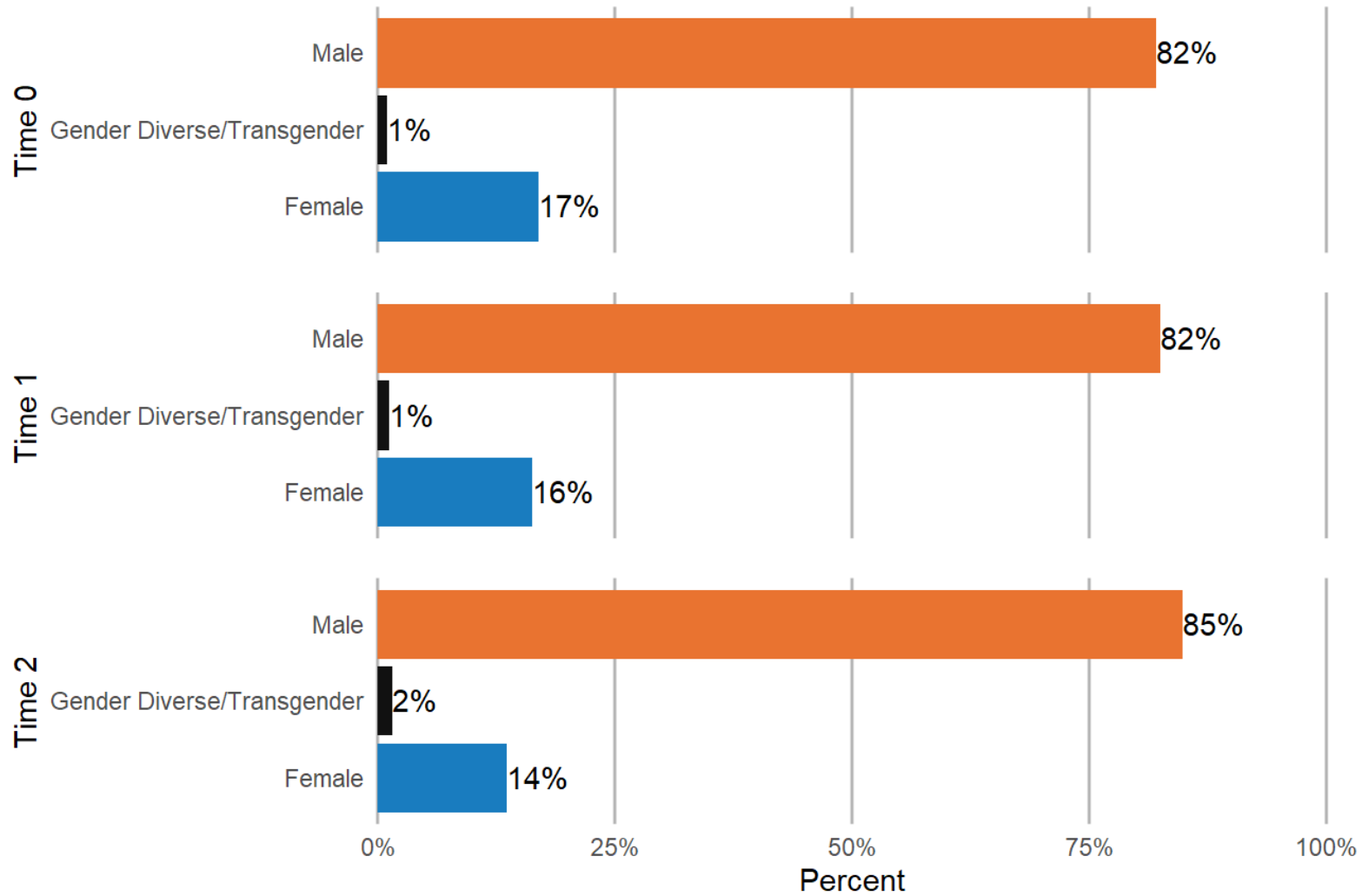


**HOW REPRESENTATIVE ARE
SAMPLES IN LATER
INTERVIEW TIMES TO THE
INITIAL SAMPLE?**

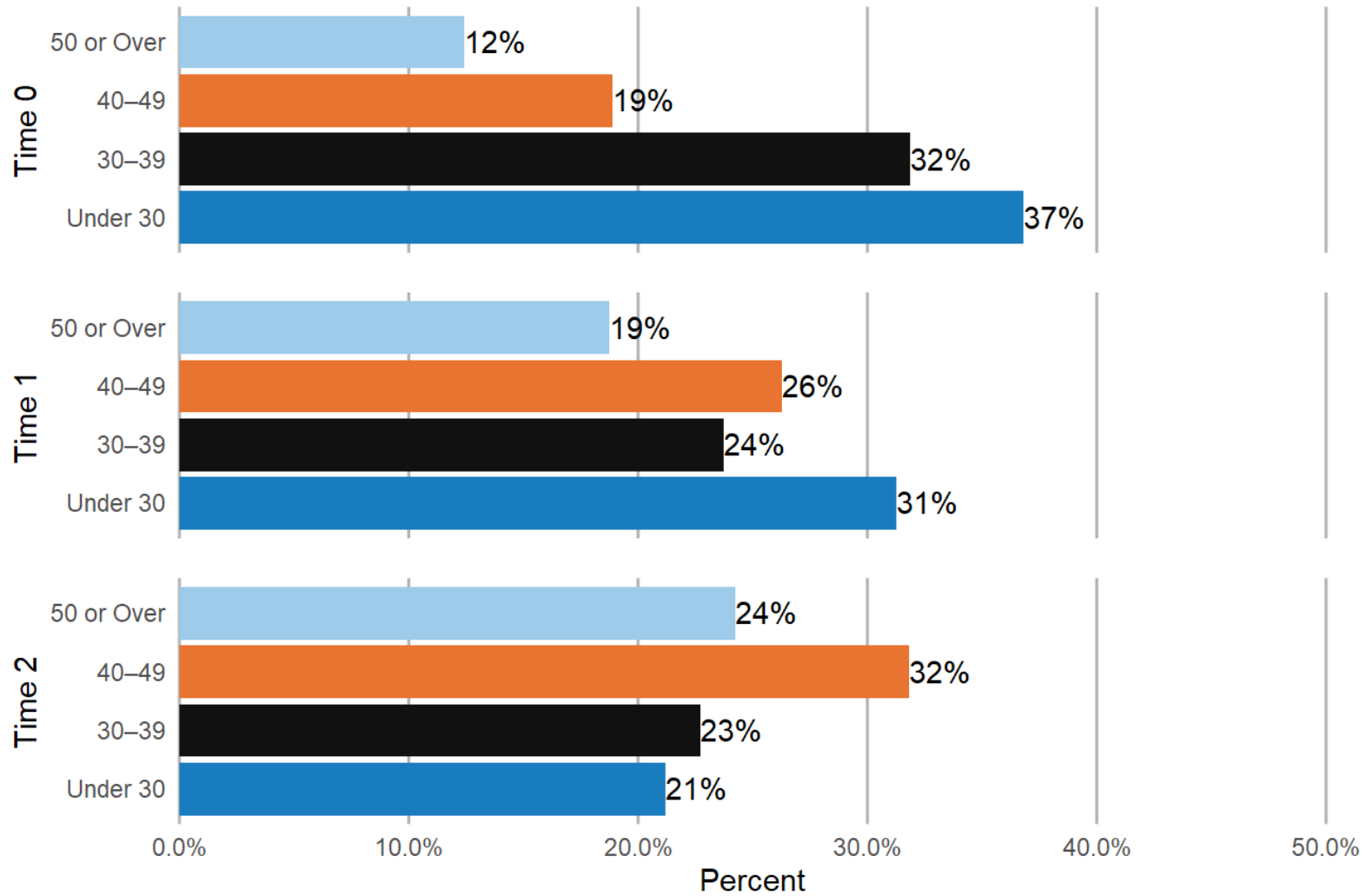
Ethnicity of participants interviewed at each stage



Gender of participants interviewed at each stage



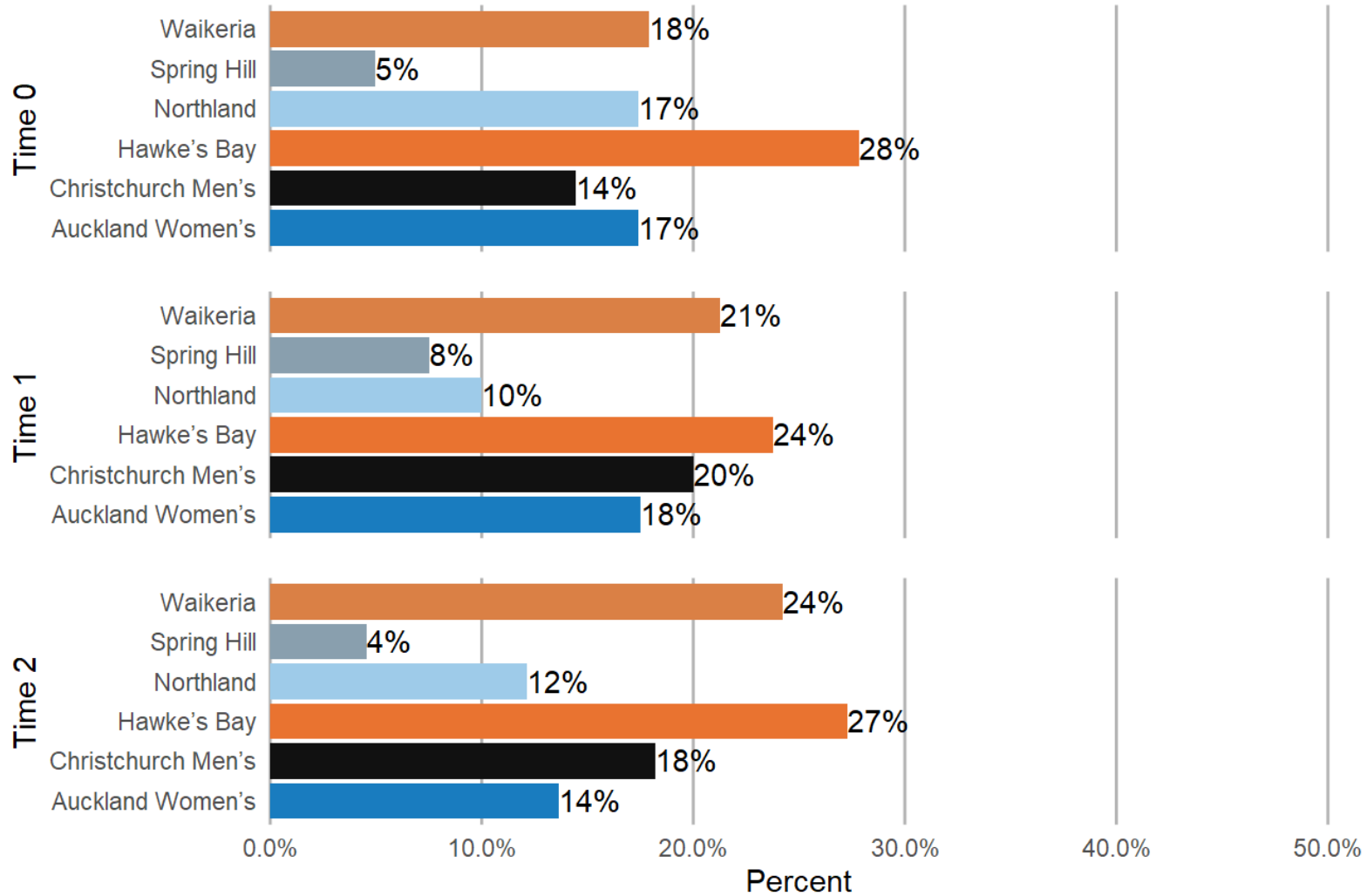
Age of participants prior to release



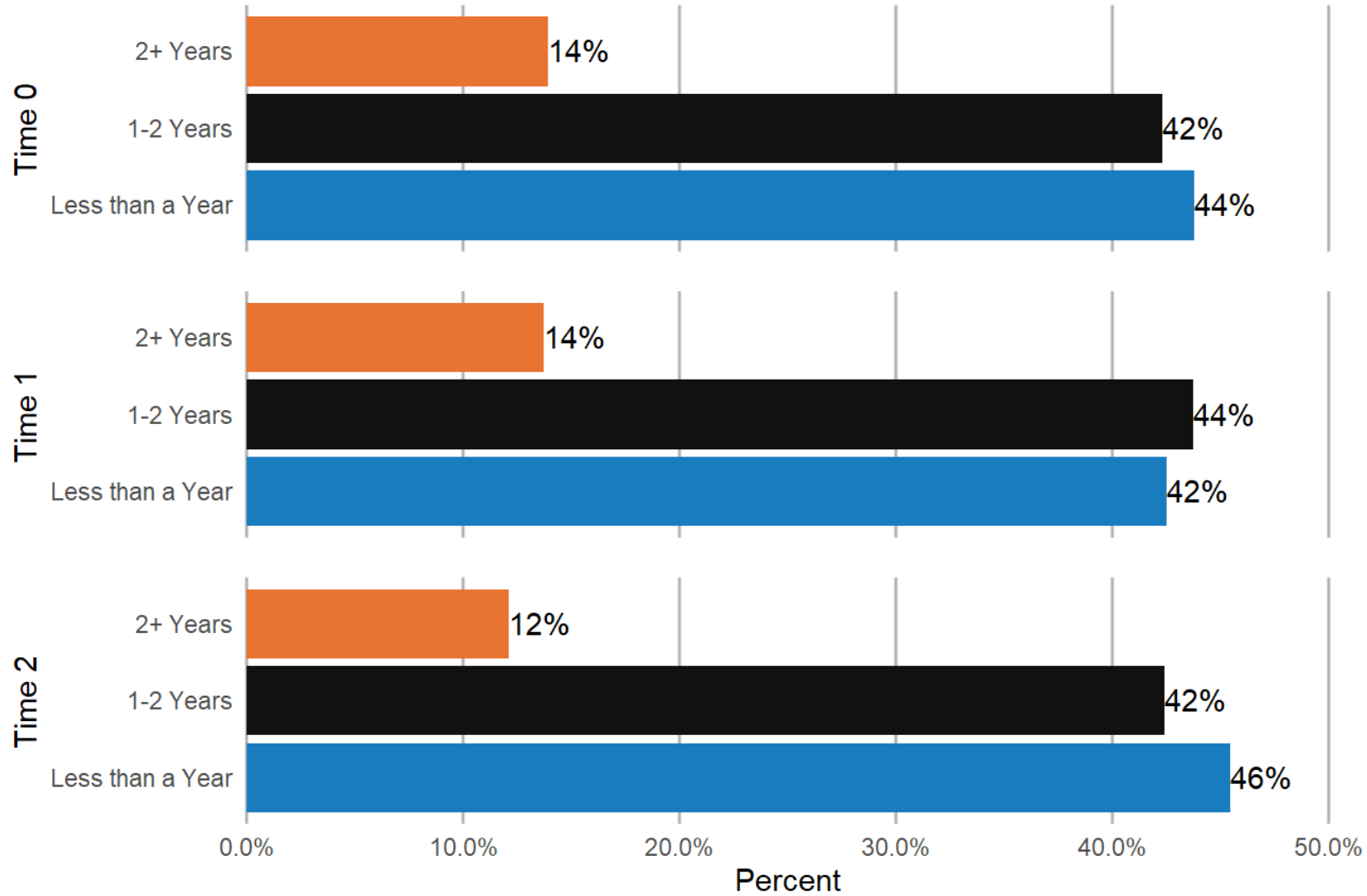
	Housing type before prison sentence			
Age group		Stable	Unstable	Total
	Under 30	36.5%	63.5%	100%
	30-39	39.1%	60.1%	100%
	40-49	42.1%	57.9%	100%
	50+	80.0%	20.0%	100%

	Housing type plans after prison			
Age group		Stable	Unstable	Total
	Under 30	24.3%	75.7%	100%
	30-39	25.0%	75.0%	100%
	40-49	34.2%	65.8%	100%
	50+	52.0%	48.0%	100%

Location participants served their sentence



Sentence lengths of participants interviewed at each stage



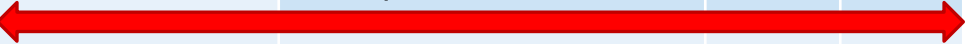
STABLE HOUSING MEASURES

Two measures of stable housing:

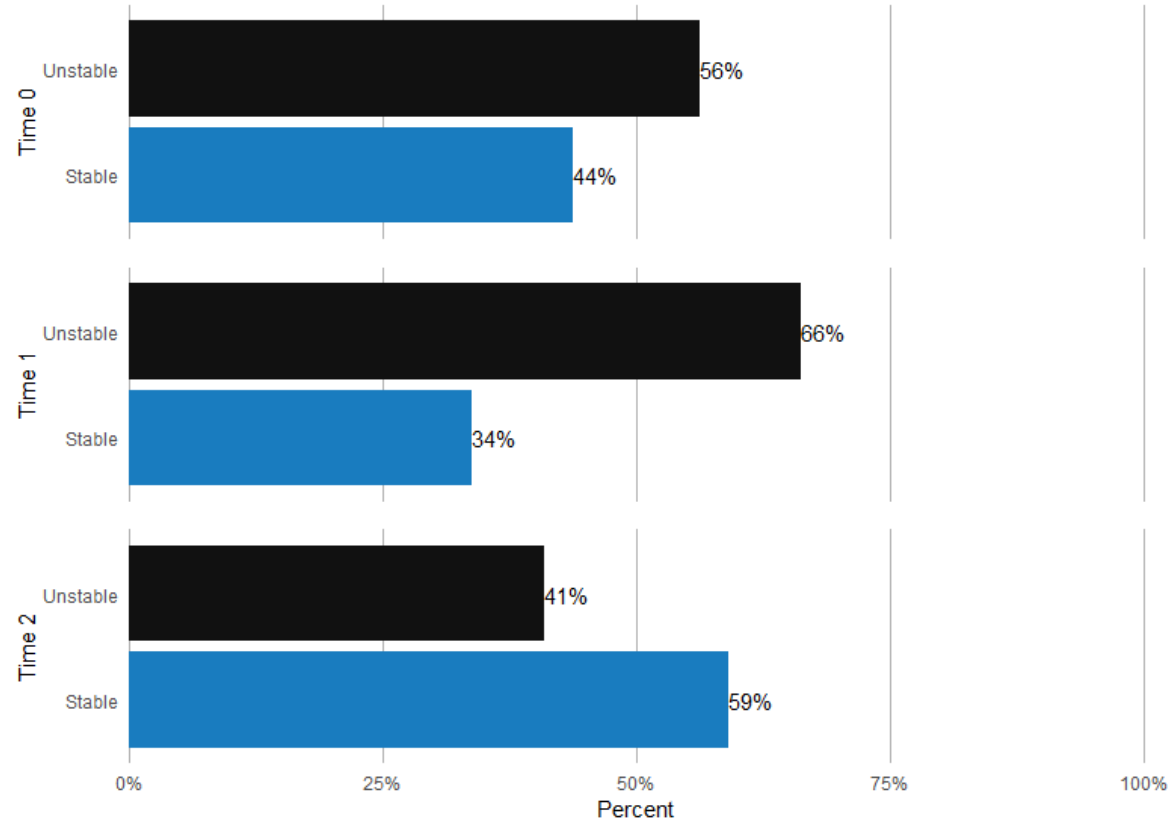
Housing type - Stable/Unstable

Number of moves in 6 months prior to the interview

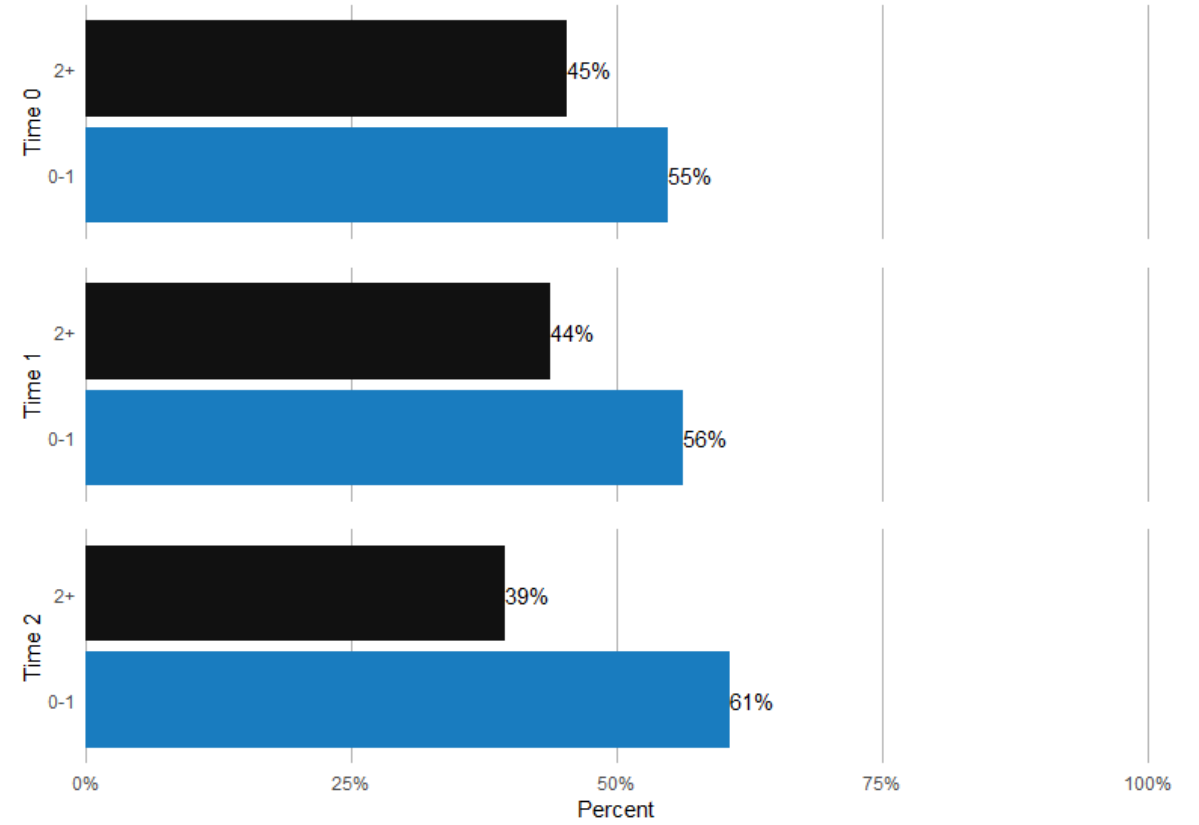
		Number of moves before prison		
		0-1	2+	
Housing type before prison	Stable	Owned	12	3
		Rented	37	12
		State housing	12	3
		Housing first/NGO	7	2
	Unstable	Friends/family	40	46
		Hotel/motel	0	5
		Hostel/boardering house/etc.	2	2
		Homeless	0	18



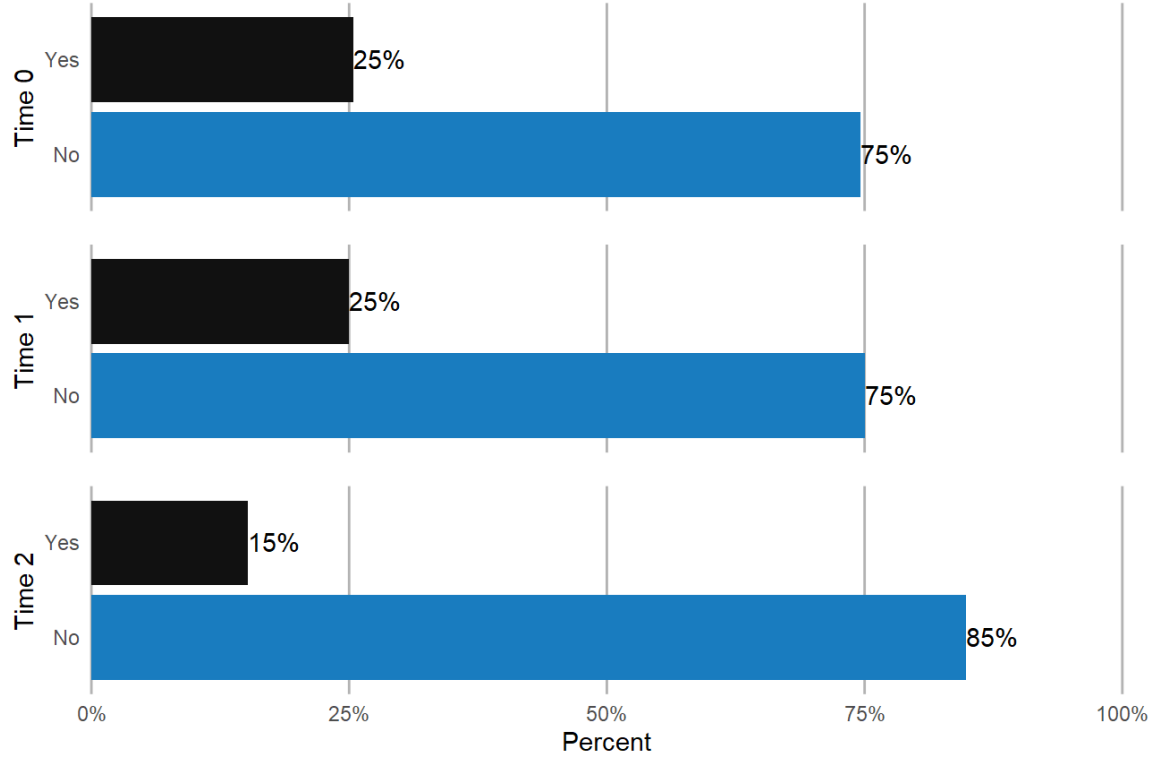
Stability of housing participants had before each interview



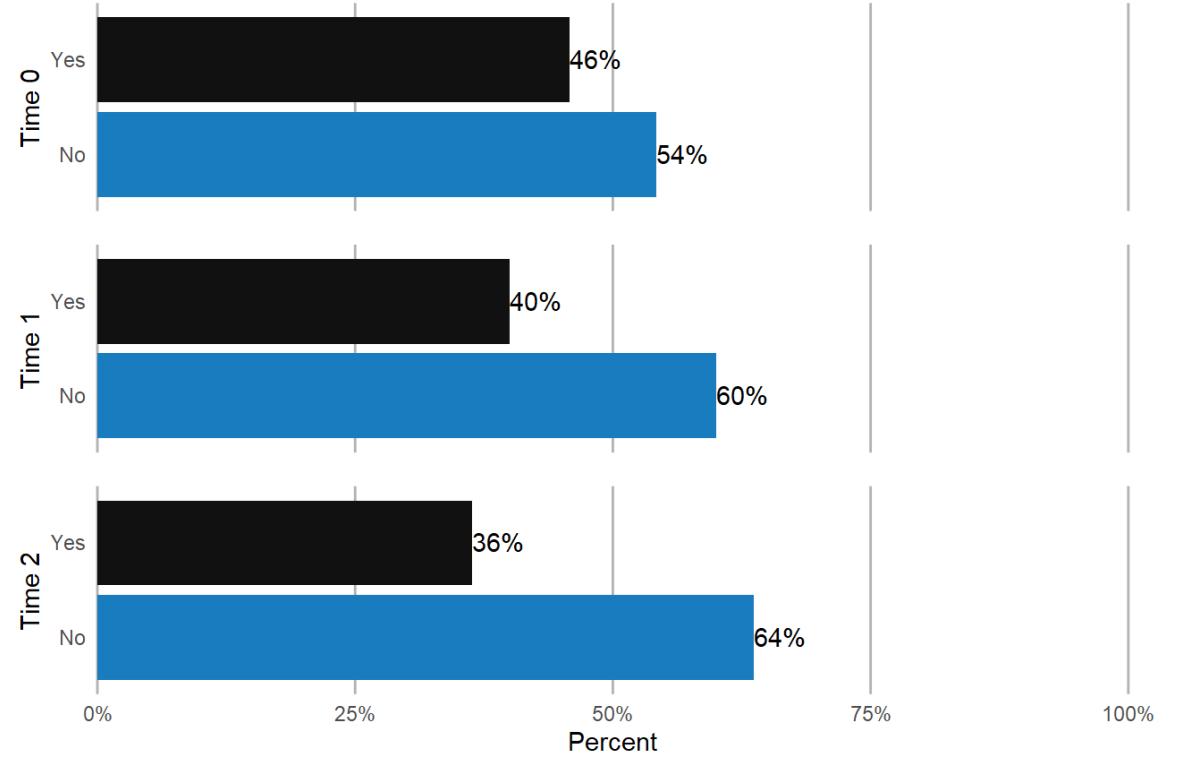
Number of moves of participants before each interview



Re-imprisoned participants interviewed at each stage



Re-sentenced participants interviewed at each stage



Of those who reported having stable housing at the first post-release interview, 7.4% were re-imprisoned within a year.

Of those who reported having unstable housing at the first post-release interview, 34.0% were re-imprisoned within a year.

		Stable housing First post-release interview	Unstable housing First post-release interview
Re-imprisoned	No	25	35
	Yes	2	18

Of those who reported having stable housing at the first post-release interview, 29.6% were re-sentenced within a year.

Of those who reported having unstable housing at the first post-release interview, 45.3% were re-sentenced within a year.

		Stable housing First post-release interview	Unstable housing First post-release interview
Re-sentenced	No	19	29
	Yes	8	24

Of those who reported moving 0-1 times by the first post-release interview, 20.0% were re-imprisoned within a year.

Of those who reported moving 2+ times by the first post-release interview, 31.4% were re-imprisoned within a year.

		0-1 moves First post- release interview	2+ moves First post- release interview
Re-imprisoned	No	36	24
	Yes	9	11

Of those who reported moving 0-1 times by the first post-release interview, 31.1% were re-sentenced within a year.

Of those who reported moving 2+ times by the first post-release interview, 51.4% were re-sentenced within a year.

		0-1 moves First post- release interview	2+ moves First post- release interview
Re-sentenced	No	31	17
	Yes	14	18

CAUSATION

Interested in the causal effects of stable housing after prison, as measured either by type of housing or the number of moves.

To find causal effects, all other variables that could have been affecting both stable housing and reoffence (confounders) should be properly controlled for. The confounding variables would ideally be accounted for in models either by inverse probability weighting or covariate adjustment.

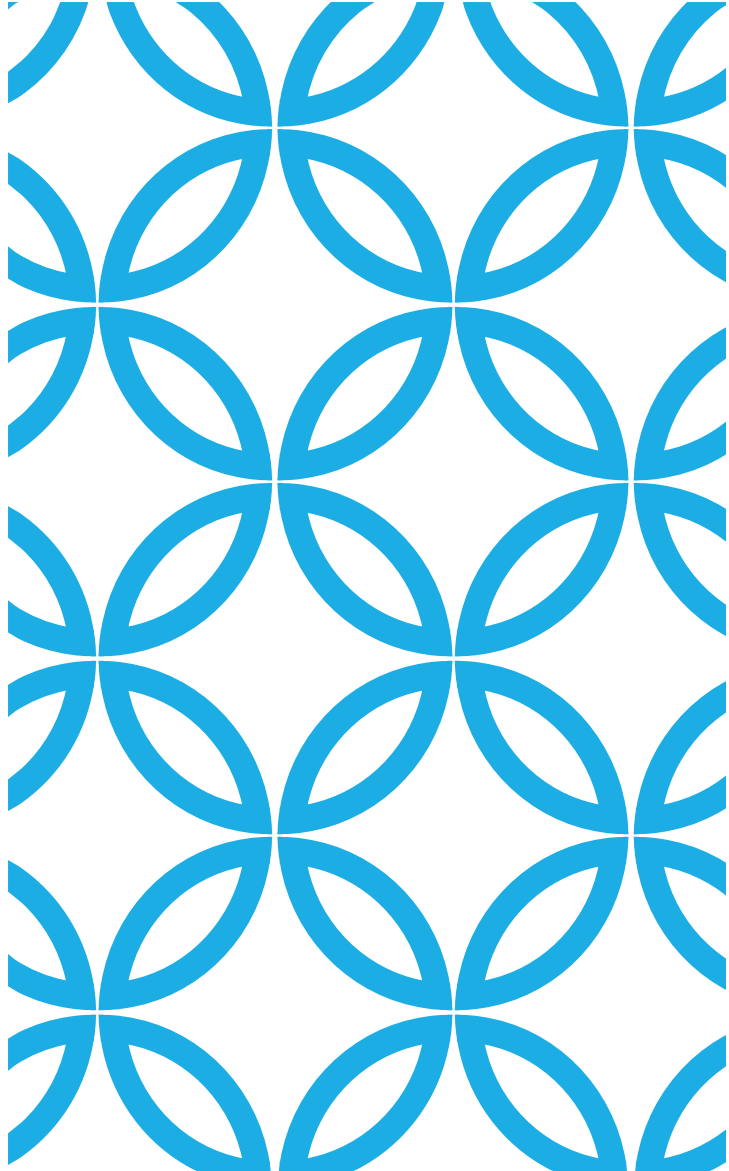
CONFOUNDERS

The confounding variables that should be controlled for are:

- Demographics (such as age group, gender, ethnicity)
- Family supportiveness
- Employment after prison
- Stability of housing before prison
- Support after prison
- Criminal history
- Whether they cared for others after prison
- Who they were living with after prison (such as alone, with whanau, etc.)
- A measure of alcohol abuse
- A measure of drug abuse

CONCLUSION

- Initial analysis confirms international research that stable housing might reduce the risk of recidivism
- Next steps
 - Cultural considerations in conceptualisations of stable housing
 - Unpacking the category of 'family and friends'
 - Continue to explore inverse probability weighting and covariate adjustment
 - Explore the possibility of creating many models for the subsets of variables.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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