

Smartphones for Research and Practice at Reentry

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Newark Smartphone Reentry Project (NSRP)

- 135 participants
- Recruitment: April 2012-April 2013
- Participants followed via smartphones for 3 months each
- Participants were eligible if they were male, recently released from prison to parole in Newark, NJ, searching for work, and neither gang-identified nor convicted of a sex offense
- Over 90% self-identified as non-Hispanic Black

Photo by Derek Jensen

Employment and Health

- Basic necessity to meet daily needs
- Important for social identity, self esteem, and mental and physical health (e.g., Edin et al. 2002; Giordano et al. 2002; Kalleberg 2011; Maruna 2001)
- However, people with criminal records encounter stigma, occupational licensing restrictions, and legal liabilities related to their employment, in addition to more general barriers (e.g., spatial mismatch, few resources for job search, lower educational attainment, limited work history)
- The pressures to find good quality employment, combined with precarious and sometimes exploitative temporary work, can lead to frustration, stress, and relapse (Leverentz 2014; Pager 2009; Peck and Theodore 2008)

Outline

- Smartphone-based studies can improve knowledge about reentry
 - 1: What is the daily experience of job search and work after prison?
 - 2: Does spending time in job-rich areas improve employment outcomes?
- Smartphone-based interventions can improve outcomes at reentry
 - 1: Do peer-based online “job clubs” improve reentry experiences?
 - 2: Can a “gamified” and “crowdsourced” smartphone application facilitate service delivery in a local region?

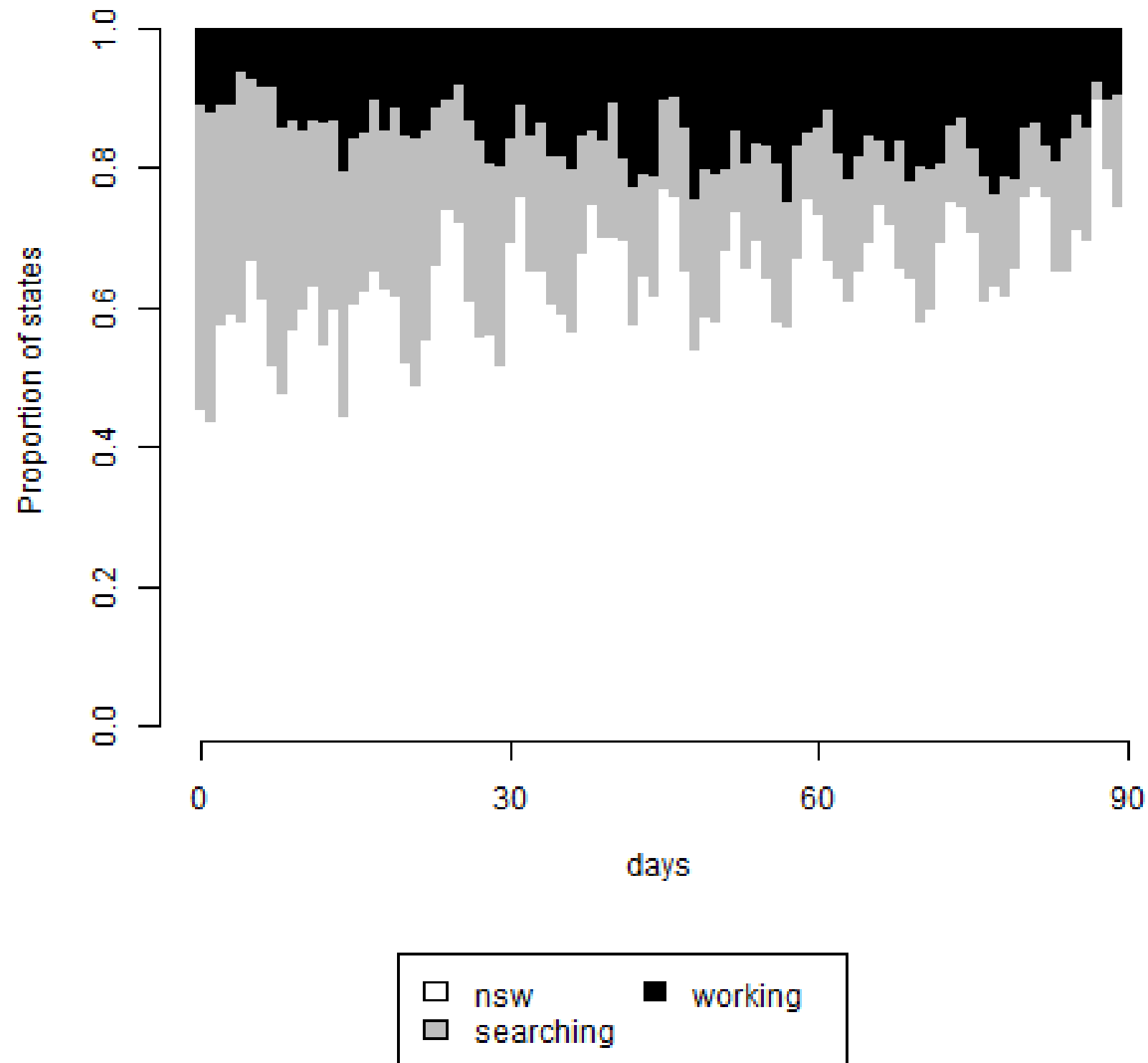
Smartphones for Improving Knowledge about Reentry

Example 1: What is the daily experience of job search and work after prison?

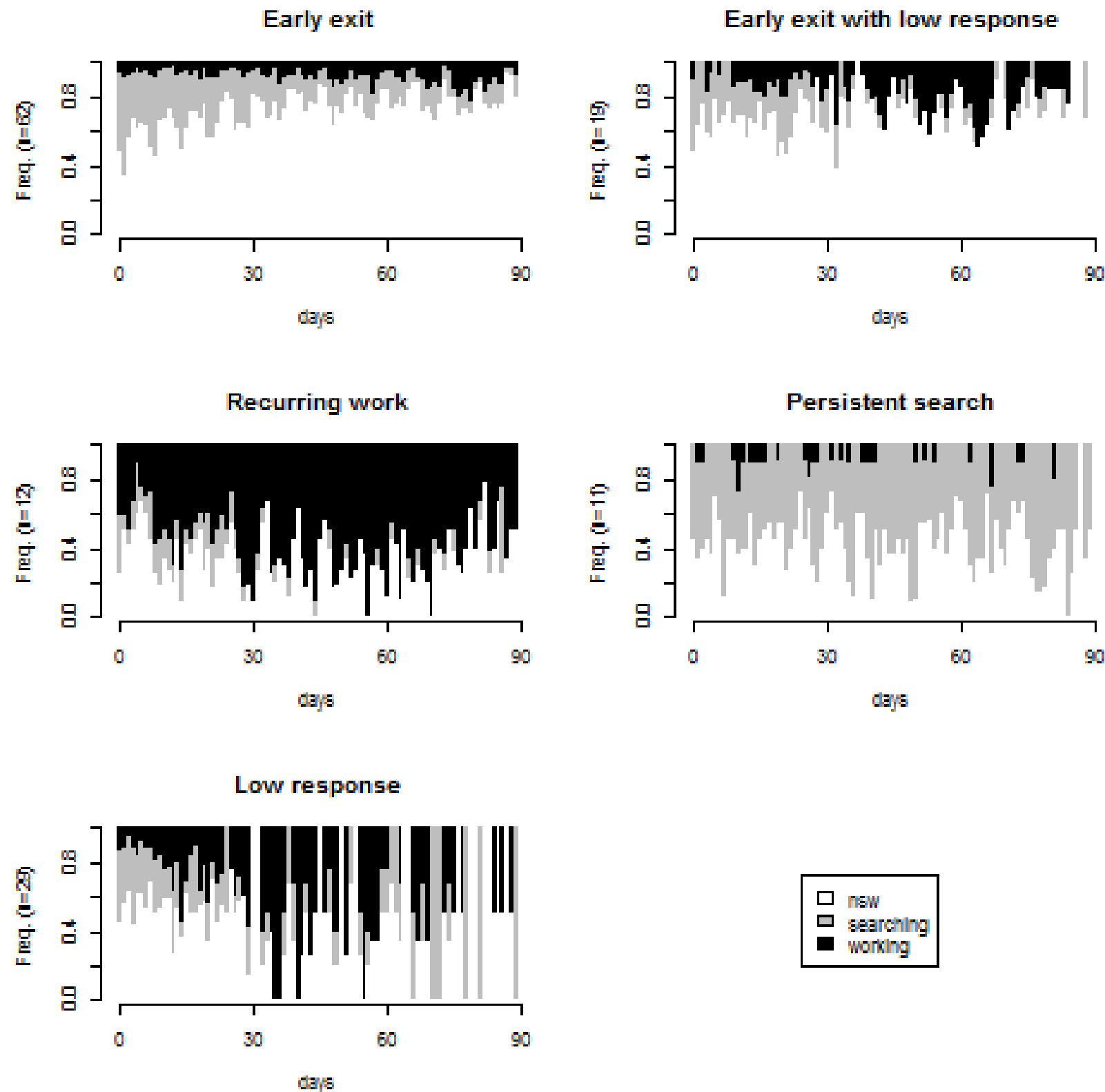
- Daily measures of job search and work from EMA (ecological momentary assessment) smartphone surveys (n=8,176)
- Sequence analysis methods (Abbott 1995; Cornwell 2015)

Sugie, Naomi F. 2018. "Work as Foraging: A Smartphone Study of Job Search and Employment after Prison." *American Journal of Sociology* 123(5):1453-91.

What is the Daily Experience of Search and Work?



Is there Heterogeneity in Daily Search and Work?



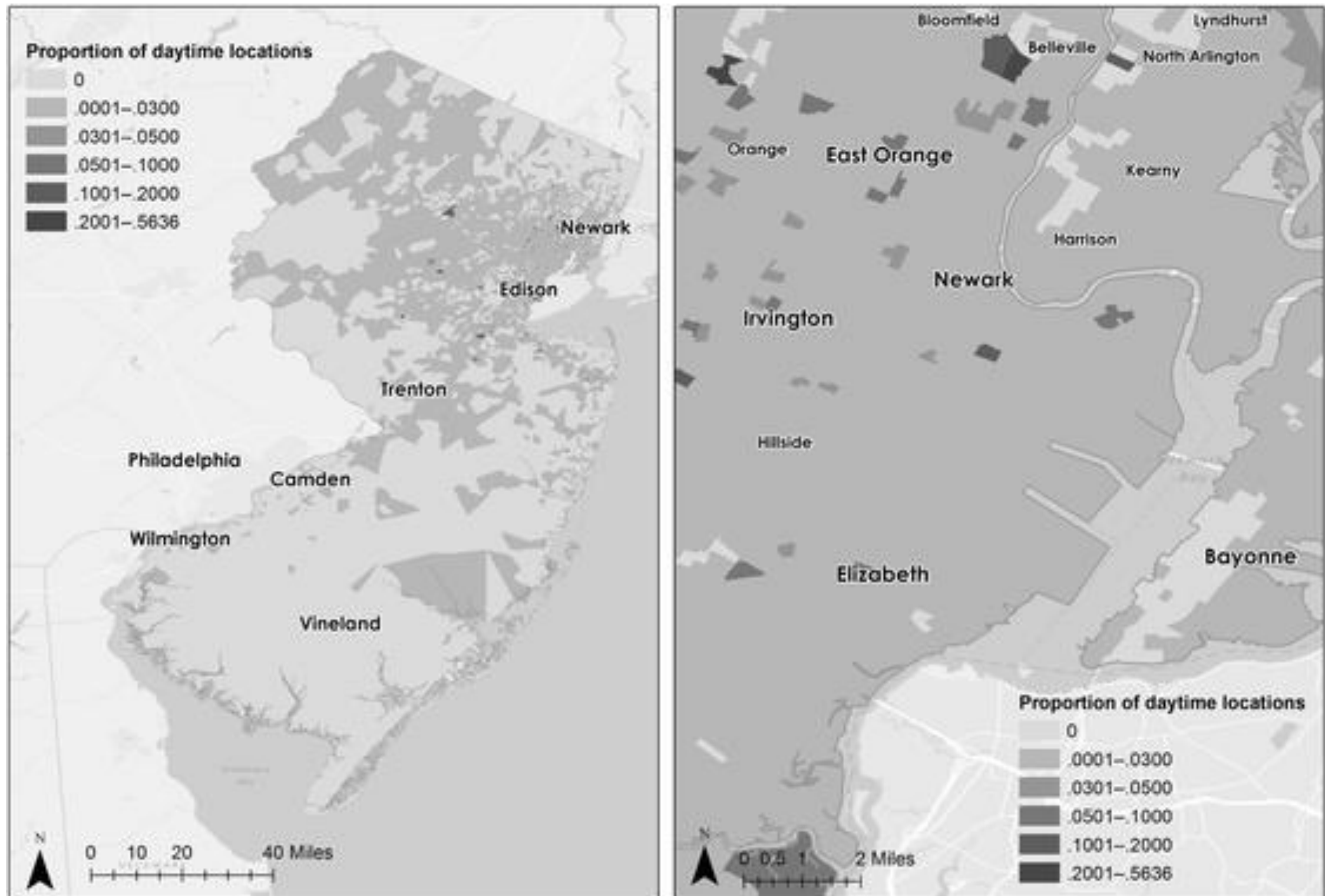
Smartphones for Improving Knowledge about Reentry

Example 2: Does spending time in job-rich areas improve employment outcomes?

- Employment outcomes: a) proportion of days worked, b) days until first day of work
- Job accessibility measures: GPS location estimates during daytime hours (8am-6pm) (n=354,691), combined with LEHD block group measures of job accessibility (Lens 2014; Shen 1998, 2001).
 - Residential
 - Daytime locations

Sugie, Naomi F. and Michael C. Lens. 2017. "Daytime Locations in Spatial Mismatch: Job Accessibility and Employment at Reentry from Prison." *Demography* 54(2):775-800.

Does Spending Time in Job-rich Areas Improve Employment Outcomes?



Does Spending Time in Job-rich Areas Improve Employment Outcomes?

	Proportion of days working			Time to first day of work		
	Coef.	SE		Coef.	SE	
Job accessibility						
Residential	.010	.021		.192	.119	
Daytime locations	.097	.021	***	.261	.064	***

Controls for age, black, education, relationship status, children, social support, self-reported health, mental health diagnosis, living in a shelter at reentry, length of recent incarceration, pre-incarceration characteristics (any formal labor market job, age at first incarceration, number of convictions, number of incarcerations, any felony conviction)

Smartphone-based Interventions in Reentry

Example 1: Do peer-based online “job clubs” improve reentry experiences?

- Participants were randomly assigned to receive job leads either through a group-based text messaging forum (n=68) or directly from researcher (n=67)
- Outcomes measured: a) emotional wellbeing (happy, sad, stressed, angry), b) search and work (% of days), c) conversation networks (size of phone call network, duration of calls per contact)

Information Sharing

Ok. I'm working for labor ready. Some of the jobs start at 7.25to\$10.00. Its on 186 west market street

Do u hav 2 b certified

No. If you got those certification it's. A plus but what I seen you gotta take a test then you gotta got thru their safety training test. They try there best to get people work

They wouldn't except my id

You need your id and socialsecurity card

Naomi im on 186 market st and its a barber shop

Nah It's over by new hope village. on the side where the family dollar

Emotional Support

This job search stuff is depressing

Absolutely. When the\$ is coming n! 121 Not

Ur absolutely right because i've seen and heard it 2:-)

How long does it take on average to find a job

121 no way of saying

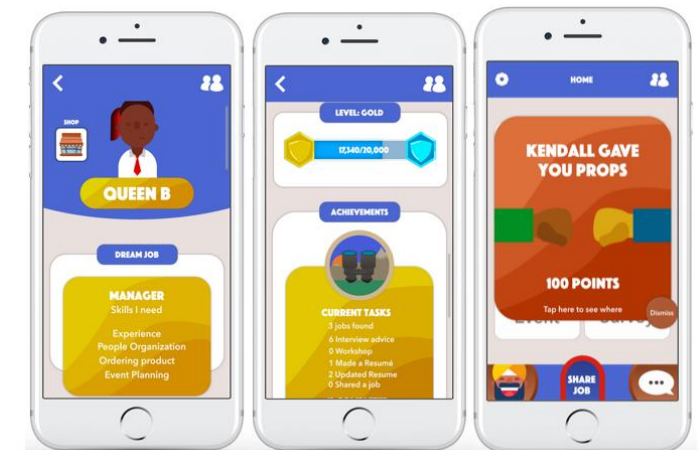
It depends on you u and how determined u r don't give up keep on looking

Absolutely. Correct 121

Smartphone-based Interventions in Reentry

Example 2: Can a “gamified” and “crowdsourced” smartphone application facilitate service delivery in a local region?

- For job searchers: job club, peer-to-peer resources for job search, job leads, and information on service providers
- For service providers: central portal for services, linkages to job searchers
- For employers: platform for recruitment, linkages to service providers
- For researchers: examine how just-in-time adaptive interventions (JITAIs) (Klasnja 2015; Nahum-Shani et al 2018) could be used to promote active and persistent job search



Thanks!

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