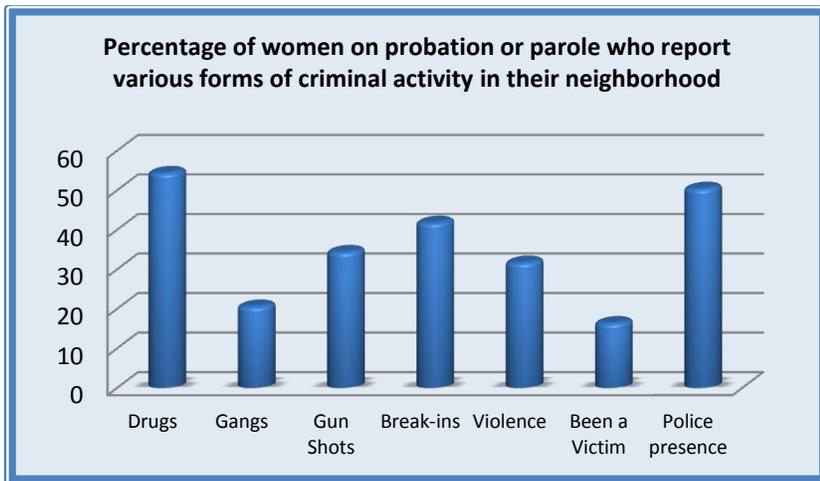


Race, Neighborhood Crime, and Coping Strategies of Women on Probation and Parole

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For a sample of 402 Michigan women on probation and parole, many were exposed to multiple types of neighborhood risk. For example, as seen in the chart, over 50% of the sample lived in neighborhoods with drugs.



- 41% of women reported that their neighborhoods included 3 or more of these types of criminal activity
- Only 27% of women reported no indicators of crime in their neighborhoods.

Strategies Women Used to Avoid Offending

Of all the women in the study, 256 described their neighborhood as unsafe or having some illegal activity. They identified several strategies that they used to avoid breaking the law in neighborhoods with criminal activity.

Strategy	Example	Percent
Avoid Criminal People	"I don't go around people that's ... doing wrong."	18%
Stay home	"[I] used to be a street-person ... [but] I'm a house-body person now."	14%
Avoid everyone	"[I] stay away from people period, because you never can trust anybody."	11%
Be with pro-social people	"[I] just keep with positive influences, go to my AA meetings, and things like that"	10%
Stay busy with legal routines	"I just go to work. I work all day so I don't have time to think about anything else."	9%
Avoid drugs	"I've noticed what works for my life is if I just ... if I stay off the dope, I stay out of trouble."	7%
Think about one's actions	"I have a made up mind to stay out of trouble."	7%
Avoid criminal activity	"I just don't do nothing wrong ... I don't do no crimes."	7%

Neighborhood Context and Strategies to Avoid Offending

The strategies women used were tied to perceived and objective measures of neighborhood characteristics:

- The strategy of spending time with pro-social others to avoid breaking the law is more commonly used by women who live in advantaged neighborhoods and less likely to perceive crime in their neighborhood
- The strategy of avoiding everyone was more commonly used by women residing in neighborhoods they perceived to be unsafe and in areas of economic disadvantage.
 - It is especially problematic that women try to avoid the negative influences of high-crime neighborhoods by isolating themselves, as the use of such a strategy would prevent them from developing strong social networks

Race and Neighborhood Crime

Overall, women who reside in more disadvantaged neighborhoods have unique challenges to avoiding recidivism as they attempt to navigate their communities. This is especially true for Black women because, compared to White women:

- Black women were more likely to live in areas with high disadvantage, and with low affluence, residential stability, and immigration concentration.
- Black women were more likely to perceive that they lived in unsafe neighborhoods and reported more types of neighborhood crime than did White women.

Helpful Policies in Michigan

- ✓ It would be especially useful to identify women most prone to using strategies that, in the long run, may not support a pro-social lifestyle, because they inhibit involvement in valuable networks.
- ✓ Outreach services to engage women in the most crime-ridden areas in pro-social networks and assistance in relocating may be crucial in assisting women avoid crime in the long run.

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