Federal researchers were interested in the difference in rearrest rates between offenders who terminated early from supervision and those who stayed on supervision for the full term of their sentence. Utilizing data from 15,266 termed cases in 2008, a research team sorted the cases to find ones that were similar in risk level and age. This total excluded any case with missing information (e.g., RPI scores, criminal history scores), juveniles, sex offenders, and violent offenders. From the 3,814 early terminations, only 1,436 were matched with a full term case corresponding in risk level and age, bringing the total number studied to 2,872. Individuals were then tracked for rearrest for a period of 3 years following the end of supervision.

Since early terms are more common among low risk offenders, the study was composed of 74.4% of low risk individuals. Medium risk accounted for 23.7% of study participants. Only 1.8% of the sample were high risk.

Researchers found that those early termed were less likely to be rearrested, more likely to be rearrested for a lesser offense, and were in the community for a longer time before re-arrest. The early term group had a re-arrest rate of 10.2%, while the full term group had a re-arrest rate of 19.2%. When the study excludes minor offenses, only 5.9% of early terms were rearrested, while full terms were rearrested at rate of 12.2%. The full term offenders, on average, were rearrested 18.8 months after completion of supervision. Early term offenders were in the community for a period of 19.4 months before re-arrest. While risk accurately predicted the likelihood of re-arrest, all risk types (low, medium, and high) of early term offenders possessed lower rates of re-arrest.

**Practical Applications**

- Familiarize yourself with the new early termination policy and checklists for adults and juveniles located on Judicialnet.
- Examine re-assessments for overall risk reduction to determine if early termination is appropriate for the probationer.
- When reviewing your caseload, actively seek out those minimum and medium risk cases and evaluate them for eligibility for early termination.
- Consider utilizing early termination on lower risk probationers who have completed all necessary terms and conditions and any needed treatment. This will allow more time for the higher risk/need probationers.
- Inform probationers at the beginning of supervision of the opportunity for early termination. Explain the criteria and encourage them to reach that goal.
- Develop a good working relationship with district attorneys; their support for early terminations is critical. Share this research, the new policy, and checklists with stakeholders in an effort to support the use of early termination.