

# **GENDER DIFFERENCES, TREND AND PATTERN RECIDIVISM AMONG INMATES IN SELECTED NIGERIAN PRISONS**

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## **Abstract**

The study examined gender perception and the prevalence of recidivism in Nigerian prisons; it ascertained the trend and pattern of crimes by recidivists. This was with a view to establishing the gender differences, their patterns of crime, relationships and behavioural predispositions. Primary and secondary data were generated; the primary data were collected in five purposively selected State Prison Commands. The quantitative data was collected. Quantitative data were collected through questionnaire; a sample of 567 inmates was selected using proportional sampling technique. The quantitative data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The results showed persistent rise in the prevalence of recidivism from 35% in 2007 to 44% in 2008 and 52.4% in 2010. The trend and pattern of recidivism showed that male recidivists constituted 88.5% while females, 11.5% and the prevalence was high among young offenders and within the age groups of 26-35 years (54.0%), 36 -45years (22.2%) and 16 -25 years (21.2%). The trend and patterns of crimes were mostly theft and other minor stealing (20.3%), armed robbery (11.3%) and burglary (9.0%). Female recidivists were convicted for anger related offences such as murder (10.1%) and attempted murder cases (6.2%). The study concluded that there was a constant increase in

the prevalence of recidivism; especially among male inmates and that most crimes, patterns of relationships and behavioural predispositions were offender specific.

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**Keywords:** Recidivism, Gender Difference, Gender Perception, Crime Pattern, Prisons, Behavioural Predispositions

## **Introduction**

Globally, there are more male offenders compared to their female counterparts in prisons custody. There is little doubt that the single predictor of crime is gender. Wilson and Herrnstein (1985) opined that in virtually every society for which crime records exists, the prevalence of crime and violence is greater among males compared to female offenders. In Nigeria, the rate at which released inmates return back into the prisons (recidivate) few months upon release have attracted the attentions and interest of criminologists, sociologists and scholars from other disciplines. Recidivism is the reversion to criminal acts of an offender who has been subjected to punitive sanctions/acts. There is no consensus of opinion among social science scholars especially criminologists on the significant determinants of recidivism among prisons inmates.

Recidivism is now a common phenomenon among inmates in the Nigerian prisons. These include both the male and female offenders/inmates in the Nigerian prison custody. Soyombo (2009) reported that the prevalence rate of criminal recidivism in Nigeria in 2005 was 37.3%. Also, Abrifor (2010) estimated the prevalence of recidivism in Nigeria prisons at 52.4% in 2010. Since then, there has not been any indication that the trend has declined. Wilson (2009) also reported that studies conducted in Nigeria have documented that 81% of male criminal inmate offenders and 45% of female criminal inmate offenders were re-arrested within 36 months of discharge/release from the prison custody.

This trend in the high prevalence of recidivism shows that in Nigeria and in many other countries globally, prison consensus results have shown high rate of inmates' release and high rate of inmates' recidivism. As a result of this, crime by former inmates alone account for a substantial share of current and future crimes. From this background, peace, safety of lives and property are threatened thereby affecting the rate of investment in social and economic growth and developmental processes. Thus, it becomes imperative to examine gender perception on the prevalence rate, causes and determinants of recidivism among inmates in Nigeria prisons and the accompanying challenges on both social and economic

developments in Nigeria. This makes the study of recidivism experience in Nigeria prisons service to be dynamic and interesting.

The high prevalence of recidivism has both consequences and implications for social and economic growth and development in Nigeria. Recidivism contributes to high crime rates which have resulted in loss of lives and property thereby threatening peace, safety of lives and national cohesion. Also, criminal activities by such recidivists have made the country unsafe for economic and commercial activities for both local and foreign investors, sometimes forcing them to relocate to safer countries. With such development, the country has lost billions of Naira which would have been invested for developmental projects that could benefit the Nigerian citizenry.

Studies on recidivism have linked its high prevalence to some observable factors such as gender (Renauer and Henning 2005; McELfresh, Yan and Janku, 2009;), lack of funds immediately following release from prison (Rossi, Berk, and Lenihan, 1980), poor employability and low wage earning capacity (Hinds, 1982; Meyers, 1984), poor education and unstable work history (Buikhuisen and Meijs, 1983; Eisenberg, 1985), and quality of post-release neighbourhood environment (Gottfredson and Taylor, 1985), age at first arrest and type of offence (Pitchard, 1979) and age at release from confinement (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1984; Hoffman and Beck, 1985). Subsequently, studies have equally indicated that the prevalence rate of recidivism appears to be positively influenced by availability of post-release job training programmes (Jengeleski, 1981), community treatment center placement (Beck, 1981), and availability of pre and post-release educational programmes (Blackburn, 1981; Rose and Nyre, 1979).

## **Literature Review**

Recidivism is a technical term which, if construed narrowly, by-passes the important problem it represents, the problem of persistency in criminal behaviour. However, recidivism has variously been defined in previous investigations and studies such as return to custody for any reason, including technical violations (Verbrugge, Nunes, Johnson and Taylor, 2002). Others see it as re-arrest (Benda, 2005), reconviction (Law, 2004), and re-incarceration (Deschenes, Owen, and Crow, 2006). Sani and Selo cited in Ngwuoke (1993) see recidivism as being a criterion for all seasons since the meaning of the concept varies with the Criminal Justice System involved. Maltz (1981) also states that recidivism in a Criminal Justice context could be defined as the reversion of an individual to criminal behaviour after he or she has been convicted of a prior offence, sentenced and presumably corrected,

(<http://books.google.com>). However, Allen and Simonsen (1989) defined recidivism as the repetition of criminal behaviour; habitual criminality. These authors further stated that:

*“In statistical practice, a recidivism rate may be any of a number of possible counts of instances of arrest, conviction, correctional commitment and correctional status changes, related to the number of repetitions of these events within a given period of time...”p 693*

While some authors feel that there is need to standardize the definition of recidivism, the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals noted in their volume, Corrections, (1973) that:

*“Recidivism is measured by (1) criminal acts that resulted in a conviction by a court, when committed by individuals who are under correctional supervision or who have been released from correctional supervision within the previous three years, and by (2) technical violations of probation and parole in which a sentencing or paroling authority took action that resulted in an adverse change in the offender’s legal status.”*

### **Gender and Recidivism**

In Benda’s (2005) study of 300 female and 300 male graduates of a boot camp, he noted that there are noteworthy gender differences in predictors of tenure in the community without criminal recidivism in a 5-year follow-up. The Cox proportional hazards models show that urban residence, childhood and recent abuses, living with a criminal partner, selling drugs, stress, depression, fearfulness, and suicidal thoughts are stronger positive predictors of recidivism for women than for men. Men are more likely to return to prison because of criminal peer associations, carrying weapons, alcohol abuse, and aggressive feelings. Job satisfaction and education lengthen time in the community more for men than women, whereas the number of children and relationships are more important to tenure in the community for women

McElfresh, Yan and Janku (2009) observed that nearly 41 percent of recidivating juvenile offenders re-offended within the first three months of their initial offence disposition date and nearly 29 percent of male offenders re-offended within 12 months, compared with 19 percent of females. Their findings of the logistic regression analysis for the juvenile offenders from calendar 2007 indicated that Male offenders had greater odds of being recidivists than female offenders.

Renauer and Henning (2005) compared the recidivism rates of samples of male and female perpetrators of intimate-partner violence processed in the criminal justice systems of Memphis and Portland. Their study found no gender difference in the likelihood of involvement in a future police report of domestic violence, either as a victim or a suspect (43 percent of the men and 44 percent of the women). Males were significantly more likely to recidivate as suspects-only (31 percent compared to 6 percent); and females were more likely to recidivate as victims-only (26 percent compared to 3 percent). A smaller percentage of males (10 percent) and females (12 percent) were both suspects and victims in future incidents. According to these authors, men were more likely than women to be a repeated recidivist, and women were more likely to have multiple offense reports that listed them as victims.

Renauer and Henning (2005) findings suggest that female offenders most often fit the profile of abused women who were arrested a single time for fighting back against male perpetrators in self-defence. The Memphis sample consisted of 880 suspects (440 men and 440 women) identified in police reports as having committed a domestic-violent offence against a current or former heterosexual intimate partner in 1997. Suspects were included regardless of whether they had been arrested or not. The Portland sample consisted of 6,010 individuals (5,289 men and 721 women) who were identified in police reports as suspects in a domestic-violence offence in the year 2000. The Pearson Chi-Square statistical analysis was used in all the analyses to measure the association between the variables of interest, for example gender and recidivism.

Research conducted by Menard, Anderson and Godboldt (2007) shows that women also perpetrate Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and that their pattern of offending differs from that of men. This study examines demographic (such as age, race, employment status, victim-offender relationship) and offence characteristics (for example presence of children during assault, use of death threats, drug use) as predictors of recidivism in a five-year follow-up among IPV offenders. Using court records from a large Midwestern city, this study examined 607 cases of IPV, 15.5% of which was perpetrated by women. The chi-square and t-test indicates that men and women differed significantly on most variables, logistic regression models were run separately for men and women.

*Menard, Anderson and Godboldt (2007) results suggest that there are both similarities and differences in factors that predict recidivism. However, the model provides more frequent correct classification for women (91.5%) than it does for men (60%), who recidivate. Among both men and women, non-whites as compared to*

*whites, and those with evidence of drug use as compared to those without such use, were significantly more likely to recidivate. However, only women were more likely to recidivate when their relationship with their victims had previously ended. See table (1 Pp.15 and 5 p. 22) for further details.*

## **Theoretical Framework**

Inmate recidivism, factors influencing the prevalence rate of recidivism and criminal activities by relapsed criminals are as a result of complex phenomenon; therefore, in adopting a theoretical framework for this study, the total institutions and Political Economy framework are the most applicable and adequate theories. These theories explained further on the roles which socio-economic, human and environmental factors play in modelling, developing and mending individual's behaviour (either criminal and or non-criminal) within the societal context. Emphasis was on the Erving Goffman's (1966) Total Institution Theory and the Political Economy theoretical framework. In this study, much emphasis was on the Goffman's Total Institutions Theory, while the Political Economy framework was used to compliment the Goffman's Total Institutions Theory due to their theoretical relevance and relatedness. Goffman (1961) provides a summary of one of his key concepts as that of the "total institution." In defining this concept Goffman delineates the key features of totalitarian social systems. Should a person reside in such a system, it encompasses his or her whole being. It undercuts the resident's individuality. It disregards his or her dignity. It subjects the individual to a regimented pattern of life that has little or nothing to do with the person's own desires or inclinations. And it is inescapable.

While the political economy theory explains the influence of political and economic policies and decisions on the existence of lives of individuals and groups. There are different political economy model of analysis. However, there are common grounds among them, the principal ones being (1) that there are intricate linkages between political and economic structures of a society; (2) that the political and economic structures of a society determine its general values, cultures and norms as well as the direction and practice of governance, and (3) that a more robust analysis of society is provided by an understanding of the linkages between the economy and polity and their dialectical interrelations with other structures and social institutions. Applying the political economy theory to criminality and recidivism among inmates in Nigerian Prisons, the model suggests that the prevalence rate of crime and inmate recidivism are to be understood as the reflections or products of the approach the society organizes its economy, especially the dominant interest that drive it. Political

economy theory as used here refers to the interconnectedness of political and economic factors in understanding development dynamic in social formations or national entities.

### **The Study Area**

This study was carried out in five (5) purposively selected Medium Security Prisons in five randomly selected states using purposive and random sampling techniques. The purposive sampling technique does not give every element the probability to be selected into the sample population. The five selected Medium Security Prison units were selected from five different Prisons Zonal Headquarters, representing 62.5% of the total existing Prisons Zonal Headquarters in Nigeria. Ikoyi Medium Security Prison (Lagos State) was selected from Zone A, Kaduna Medium Security Prison (Kaduna State) from Zone B and Port-Harcourt Medium Security Prison (Rivers State) from Zone E. Agodi Medium Security Prison (Oyo State) and Enugu Medium Security Prison (Enugu State) were selected from Zones F and G respectively. In addition to the five (5) selected Prison units, the Nigerian Prisons Service Headquarters, Abuja was also involved in the study.

The selection criteria for the selected Prison units are based on:

- (a) It is assumed that it is in these categories of Prisons that recidivism may be most prevalent;
- (b) Geographical location and year of establishment;
- (c) Number of prison yards and lock-ups/satellite Prisons (cottages) in the locations;
- (d) The availability of the required number staff and inmates' strength that could supply the required sample size and data for the study compared to other State Commands within the South-West States Zones;
- (e) Capacity and category of inmates (for example, they accommodate both male and female prisoners, and admit prisoners from all parts of the country);
- (f) They also represent what could be labelled first generation Prisons units and convict prisons units; and
- (g) The selected State Commands have more concentrations of Prison-yards, satellite Prisons or lock-ups and convict Prisons in their various locations.

**Table 1: Distribution of Prison Zones and Zonal Prisons Headquarters**

<b>Zone</b>	<b>List of States within the Zone</b>	<b>Location of Zonal Headquarters</b>
A*	Lagos and Ogun States	Alagbon close, Ikoyi, Lagos
B*	Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States	Kaduna
C	Bauchi, Yobe, Borno, Gombe, Adamawa states	Bauchi
D	Niger, Kwara, and F.C.T Abuja	Minna
E*	Imo, Abia, Cross-River, Rivers and Akwa-Ibom states	Owerri
F*	Oyo, Ondo, Osun and Ekiti States	Ibadan
G*	Edo, Delta, Anambra, Eboyni and Enugu states	Benin-city
H	Benue, Kogi, Plateau, Taraba, and Nassarawa States	Makurdi

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2010.

**\* Purposively Selected Zones for the Study****Methodology**

The primary data for this study were collected from recidivists in five purposively selected State Prison Commands in Nigeria. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected. The quantitative data were collected through the use of questionnaire, while the qualitative data were collected through the use of in-depth interviews. A total of 15 in-depth interviews were conducted with key informants in the study locations. A sample of 567 inmates was selected using proportional sampling technique. The quantitative data collected were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics, while the qualitative data were analysed using content analysis and categorization of responses using ZY Index Table.

**Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings**

This chapter is designed to present both the quantitative and qualitative data collected and collated from the field into a descriptive and analytical form. Six hundred (600) questionnaire was distributed to recidivists in five purposively selected Prisons in Nigeria. However, out of the six hundred questionnaires administered on the sampled population

(inmates), five hundred and sixty seven (567) representing 94.5% of the total questionnaires were found usable for statistical analysis.

### **Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Respondents in the Questionnaire Survey**

This section presents data analysis on the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of respondents. In table 2 below, the distribution of respondents by their socio-demographic and economic characteristics is presented. As shown in the table regarding sex distribution, majority of the respondents were male, representing 88.5% (502) and female 11.5% (65). The result also shows that majority of the respondents were Christians and this was represented by 49.9% (283), while 44.4% (252) and 5.7% (32) were Muslims and African Traditional Religion adherents respectively. Table 9 equally indicates that majority of the respondents were from the age group between 26-35 years accounting for 54.0% (306); 22.2% (126) and 21.2% (120) accounted for 36-40 years and 17-25 years respectively, while 46-55 years and 56 years and above accounted for 1.6% (9) and 1.1% (6). The analysis reveals that the Mean age of the respondents is 31.5 and the Standard Deviation is 7.52; while the youngest respondent was 17 years and the oldest, 56 years. These age categories are believed to constitute and represent the active workforce of Nigeria, and any nation that wants to develop cannot afford to lose her active workforce to criminal activities and incarceration in the prisons.

As shown on the table 9 is the marital status of the respondents. As indicated in the table, majority of the respondents were single accounting for 46.2 % (262), while 42.5% (241) were married and separated 6.7 % (38) respectively. Divorced and widowed respondents accounted for 4.1% (23) and .3% (3). Furthermore, table 9 reveals that majority of the respondents had Secondary Education accounting for 33.2% (188) and tertiary education 24.5% (139), while 15.3% (87) and 10.9% (62) accounted for no education and primary education respectively. It is also revealed in the table that majority of the respondents' father had 7 children and above, this is represented by 44.4% (252) of the total sampled population, while 40.9% (232) and 14.6% (83) accounted for 4 -6 children and 1child-3 children respectively.

Finally, it is shown in the table that majority of the respondents' fathers had two wives and this is represented by 41.6% (236), while 30.9% (175) and 27.5% (156) accounted for 1wife and 3 wives and above respectively with a mean and standard deviation of 1.97 and .764 accordingly. It is also indicated in the table that majority of the respondents accounting

for 54.1% (307) said that their parents were not living together, while the parents of 45.9% were living together respectively. See table 2 below for further details.

**Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Socio - Demographic and Economic Characteristics**

<b>Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics</b>	<b>Distribution Frequency n=567</b>	<b>Percentage (%) =100</b>	<b>(Mean)</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	502	88.5		
Female	65	11.5		
<b>Religion</b>				
Christianity	283	49.9		
Islam	252	44.4		
African Traditional Religion	32	5.7		
<b>Age</b>			<b>31.5</b>	<b>7.52</b>
16 Years -25 Years	120	21.2		
26 Years -35 Years	306	54.0		
36 Years -45 Years	126	22.2		
46 Years -55 Years	9	1.6		
56 Years and Above	6	1.1		
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Single	262	46.2		
Married	241	42.5		
Separated	38	6.7		
Divorced	23	4.1		
Widowed	3	.5		
<b>Level of Educational</b>				
No Formal Education	87	15.3		
Primary Education	62	10.9		
Secondary Education	188	33.2		
Tertiary Education	139	24.5		
Others	-	-		
<b>Number of Siblings</b>				

1Child-3 Children	83	14.6
4 Children-6 Children	232	40.9
7 Children and Above	252	44.4
<b>Number of Father's Wives</b>		
One Wife	175	30.9
Two Wives	236	41.6
Three Wives and Above	156	27.5
<b>Are Your Parents Living Together</b>		
Yes	260	45.9
No	307	54.1

**Source:** Field Survey 2010

### **Univariate Analysis of Responses**

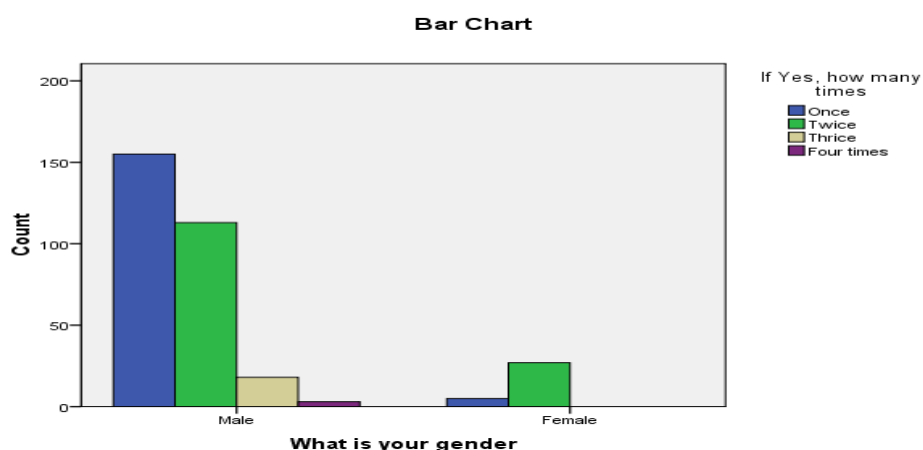
In table 3 below, the distribution of respondents by their criminal and imprisonment record is presented. As revealed in the table, majority of the respondents were Remand/Awaiting Trial Inmates (ATIs). Table 10 indicates that Remand/Awaiting Trial (ATIs) respondents were represented by 47.3% (268). This was followed by short term 29.1% (165), while 22.8% (129) and .5% (3) accordingly; .4% (2) detainees. Also, it is revealed in the table that majority 57.0% (323) of the respondents said that they had been imprisoned before their current or present imprisonment, while 43.0% (244) said they were not convicted for any crime as juveniles.

Regarding the number of times respondents have been imprisoned, it is revealed in the table that majority of the respondents have been convicted twice accounting for 42.7 % (242), while 29.5% (167) and 24.5 % (139) accounted for those convicted three times and four times respectively. However, 2.6% (15) and 1.1% (7) accounted for those convicted five times and six times and above. Furthermore, when asked if inmates return back to Prison sooner after release, the table indicates that majority of the respondents 78.3% (444) are of the opinion that inmates return back to prison as soon as they are released, while 8.1% (46) said inmates do not return back to prison and 13.6% (77) believed that they do not have idea if inmates come back to prison or not.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Criminal and Imprisonment Term Records**

<b>Criminal and Imprisonment Records</b>	<b>Frequency Distribution n=567</b>	<b>Percentages (%)</b>
<b>Type of Prison Term are you Serving</b>		
Remand/Awaiting Trial Inmates	268	47.3
Short Term	165	29.1
Long Term	129	22.8
Condemned	3	.5
Detainees	2	.4
<b>Imprisoned/Convicted for any Crime before as a Juvenile</b>		
Yes	323	57.0
No	244	43.0
<b>Number of Times Respondents Have been Imprisoned</b>		
Twice	242	42.7
Thrice	167	29.5
Four Times	158	27.9
<b>Do Inmates Return to Prison Sooner after Release</b>		
Yes	444	78.3
No	46	8.1
I Do Not Know	77	13.6
<b>Have you been Confined to a Remand Home before as a Juvenile</b>		
Yes	111	19.6
No	456	80.4

Source: Field Survey 2010



Source: Field Survey 2010

## **Bivariate/Multivariate Analysis of Responses**

### **Test of Hypotheses**

The significance of these tests of hypotheses is to possibly validate the hypotheses that are found to be true and therefore, accept them. On the other hand, those hypotheses that are facts are to be rejected. Hypothesis is thus important in any social research that is scientific to suggest explanation for certain facts and the relationships between variables.

### **Decision Rule for testing the Study Hypotheses**

The decision rule is to accept the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) if the F value (as in the statistical table) is less than the calculated table value. This will indicate that there is no relationship between the variables. On the other hand, null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) would be rejected if the calculated F value is greater than the table value; in this case, the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) would be accepted. The null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is formulated with the intention to reject or nullify it, if alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) is accepted.

### **Test Hypothesis 1: $H_0$**

“There is no significant relationship between socio-demographic and economic characteristics (such as age, gender, level of education, marital status, place of residence, number of children, religion, number of wives, parents living together) of inmates and recidivism in Nigerian Prisons”. To test this hypothesis, data collected on socio-demographic and economic characteristics of inmates and the prevalence of recidivism were subject to One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA).

In table 4 below, shown is the descriptive analysis of One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the relationship between socio-demographic and economic characteristics of recidivists and incidence of recidivism in the Nigerian Prisons at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance. The data on gender and recidivism were subjected to One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) analysis and yielded the following significant levels. As shown in the table, the result of the analysis reveals that the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 2.338 and .098 respectively ( $M_{sbg} = 2.338$ ,  $M_{swg} = .098$ ). These yielded the  $F^{-val}$  of 23.93 and  $F^{-tab}$  of 3.84 which is significant at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance ( $F^{-val} = 23.93$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). However, from the statistical analysis below, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected and alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) accepted. This implies that there is a significant relationship between inmate's gender and recidivism in Nigerian Prisons, thus gender was statistically significant as a determinant of recidivism among inmates in the Nigerian Prisons.

Further shown in the table using a One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyse for the effect of age and prevalence of recidivism, the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 15.942 and .561 respectively ( $Msb_g = 15.942$ ,  $Msw_g = .561$ ). These yielded the  $F^{-val}$  of 28.42 and  $F^{-tab}$  of 3.84 which is significant at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance ( $F^{-val} = 28.42$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). From the statistical analysis below, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected and alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) accepted. This implies that there is a significant relationship between age and recidivism, thus age was statistically significant as a determinant of recidivism among inmates in the Nigerian Prisons.

Equally shown in the table using a One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyse for the effect of marital status and prevalence of recidivism, the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 6.593 and .641 respectively ( $Msb_g = 6.593$ ,  $Msw_g = .641$ ). These yielded the  $F^{-val}$  of 10.29 and  $F^{-tab}$  of 3.84 which is significant at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance ( $F^{-val} = 10.29$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). From the statistical analysis below, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected and alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) accepted. This implies that there is a significant relationship between marital status and the prevalence of recidivism. Thus, marital status was statistically significant as a determinant of recidivism among inmates in the Nigerian Prisons.

In the table is also shown, using a One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyse for the effect of religion and prevalence of recidivism, the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 2.291 and .371 respectively ( $Msb_g = 2.291$ ,  $Msw_g = .371$ ). These yielded the  $F^{-val}$  of 6.18 and  $F^{-tab}$  of 3.84 which is significant at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance ( $F^{-val} = 6.18$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). From the statistical analysis below, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected and alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) accepted. This implies that there is no significant relationship between religion and recidivism in the Nigerian Prisons. Thus, religion was statistically not significant as a determinant of recidivism in Nigerian Prisons.

Furthermore, using a One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyse for the effect of educational status and prevalence of recidivism, the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 2.483 and 1.589 respectively ( $Msb_g = 2.483$ ,  $Msw_g = 1.589$ ). These yielded the  $F^{-val}$  of 1.56 and  $F^{-tab}$  of 3.84 which is not significant at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance ( $F^{-val} = 1.56$ ,  $P^{-val} = .212$ ). From the statistical analysis below, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is accepted and alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) rejected. This implies that there is no significant relationship between educational status of inmates and recidivism in the Nigerian Prisons. Thus, educational status was not statistically significant as a determinant of recidivism.

Also revealed in the table using a One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyse for the effect of number of siblings and incidence of recidivism, the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 4.399 and .496 respectively ( $M_{sbg} = 4.399$ ,  $M_{swg} = .496$ ). These yielded the  $F^{val}$  of 8.87 and  $F^{tab}$  of 3.84 which is significant at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance ( $F^{val} = 10.29$ ,  $P^{val} = .003$ ). From the statistical analysis below, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected and alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) accepted. This implies that there is a significant relationship between number of siblings and recidivism. Thus, number of siblings by ex-convicts was statistically significant as a determinant of recidivism in the Nigerian Prisons.

Also using a One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyse for the effect of number of wives by inmate's father and prevalence of recidivism, the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 12.584 and .562 respectively ( $M_{sbg} = 12.584$ ,  $M_{swg} = .562$ ). These yielded the  $F^{val}$  of 22.38 and  $F^{tab}$  of 3.84 which is significant at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance ( $F^{val} = 22.38$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). From the statistical analysis below, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected and alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) accepted. This implies that there is a significant relationship between number of wives in inmate's family and recidivism in the Nigerian Prisons. Thus, the number of wives by ex-convicts fathers was statistically significant as a determinant of recidivism. This analysis further indicates the number of wives in the family as a significant factor influencing recidivism.

In the table 21 below, it is further shown using a One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyse for the effect of inmate's parents living together and prevalence of recidivism, the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 4.537 and .241 respectively ( $M_{sbg} = 4.537$ ,  $M_{swg} = .241$ ). These yielded the  $F^{val}$  of 18.82 and  $F^{tab}$  of 3.84 which is significant at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance ( $F^{val} = 18.82$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). From the statistical analysis below, the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is rejected and alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) accepted. This implies that there is a significant relationship between inmate's parents living together and recidivism. Thus, ex-convicts' parent living together was statistically significant as a determinant of recidivism among inmates in the Nigerian Prisons. This analysis further indicates that parents living together constitute a significant factor influencing recidivism.

Equally presented in the table using a One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyse for the effect of type of imprisonment term and prevalence of recidivism, the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 6.626 and .694 respectively ( $M_{sbg} = 6.626$ ,  $M_{swg} = .694$ ). These yielded the  $F^{val}$  of 9.55 and  $F^{tab}$  of 3.84 which is significant at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance ( $F^{val} = 9.55$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). From the statistical analysis below, the null

hypothesis (Ho) is rejected and alternative hypothesis (H<sub>1</sub>) accepted. This implies that there is a significant relationship between type of imprisonment term and recidivism in Nigerian Prisons. Thus, type of imprisonment term was statistically significant as a determinant of recidivism.

Finally, using a One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyse for the effect of type of crime and prevalence of recidivism, the Mean Squares between Groups and Within Groups were 283.601 and 24.044 respectively (Msbg = 283.601, Mswg = 24.044). These yielded the F<sup>val</sup> of 11.80 and F<sup>tab</sup> of 3.84 which is significant at p<0.05 level of significance (F<sup>val</sup> =11.80, p<0.05). From the statistical analysis below, the null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected and alternative hypothesis (H<sub>1</sub>) accepted. This implies that there is a significant relationship between type of crime committed by an inmate and recidivism in the Nigerian Prisons. Thus, type of crime committed by an inmate was statistically significant as a determinant of recidivism.

**Table 4: Descriptive Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the Relationship between Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Inmates and Recidivism**

Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics	Relationship between Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Inmates and Recidivism						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F <sup>Val</sup>	F <sup>tab</sup>	p< 0.05 Sig.
<b>Gender</b>	Between Group	2.338	1	2.338	23.9	3.84	.000
	Within Group	55.210	565	.098			
<b>Total</b>		<b>57.549</b>	<b>566</b>				
<b>Age</b>	Between Group	15.942	1	15.942	28.4	3.84	.000
	Within Group	316.946	565	.561			
<b>Total</b>		<b>332.889</b>	<b>566</b>				

<b>Marital status</b>	Between Group	6.593	1	6.593	10.29	3.84	.001
	Within Group	362.034	565	.641			
<b>Total</b>		<b>368.628</b>	<b>566</b>				
<b>Religion</b>	Between Group	2.291	1	2.291	6.18	3.84	.113
	Within Group	209.359	565	.371			
<b>Total</b>		<b>38.000</b>	<b>566</b>				
<b>Educational status</b>	Between Group	2.483	1	2.483	1.56	3.84	.212
	Within Group	897.774	565	1.589			
<b>Total</b>		<b>900.257</b>	<b>566</b>				
<b>Number of siblings by inmates</b>	Between Group	4.399	1	4.399	8.87	3.84	.003
	Within Group	280.229	565	.496			
<b>Total</b>		<b>284.628</b>	<b>566</b>				
<b>Number of wives by inmate's father</b>	Between Group	12,584	1	12.584	22.38	3.84	.000
	Within Group	317.779	565	.562			
<b>Total</b>		<b>330.363</b>	<b>566</b>				
<b>Parents living together</b>	Between Group	4.537	1	4.537	18.82	3.84	.000
	Within Group	136.239	565	.241			
<b>Total</b>		<b>140.776</b>	<b>566</b>				
<b>Type of imprisonment term</b>	Between Group	6.626	1	6.626	9.55	3.84	.002
	Within Group	391.928	565	.694			
<b>Total</b>		<b>398.554</b>	<b>566</b>				
<b>Type of Crime Imprisoned for</b>	Between Group	283.601	1	283.601	11.80	3.84	.001
	Within Group	13585.002	565	24.044			
<b>Total</b>		<b>13868.603</b>	<b>566</b>				

Source: Field Survey 2010

Significant at p &lt; 0.05

## **Discussion of Findings**

The general findings reveal that the identified determinants influencing the prevalence of recidivism among inmates in Nigerian Prisons are complex and offender-specific. The overall analyses of the rate of recidivism among convicted inmates from 2001-2005 indicated a total of 194,926 prisons inmates, out of which, 72,707 (37.3%) were recidivists. This figure is in line with Soyombo's (2009) findings which estimated the cumulative prevalence rate of recidivism in Nigeria to be 37.3% in 2005. However, the subsequent estimations from 2006-2008 put the cumulative prevalence rate of recidivism in Nigerian Prisons to be 52.4%. Based on these findings, it is concluded that there is a constant increase in the rate of recidivism among inmates in Nigerian Prisons, especially among male inmates and young offenders. Furthermore, the analyses based on gender, age and marital status indicates that there were more male recidivists than their female counterparts, that the prevalence of recidivism is high among age group between 26-36 years and also high among single recidivists. That crimes committed by recidivists were mostly theft and other minor stealing and burglary, while few of the respondents had crime history as juveniles.

Gender was statistically significant as a determinant influencing recidivism among inmates in the Nigerian Prisons. The reasons for the larger proportions of male recidivists in Nigerian Prisons compared to their female counterparts can be linked to the fact that male convicts have higher tendency to recidivate into crime than female convicts. This can be attributed to the fact that male criminals are likely to be more adventurous and involved in a variety of anti-social activities than females. This finding can equally be linked to the masculine nature of male criminal recidivists compared to their female counterparts. This finding corroborates Benda's (2005) findings that there are noteworthy gender differences in predictors of criminal recidivism, and that men are more likely to return to prison because of criminal peer associations, carrying weapons, alcohol abuse, and aggressive feelings. Job satisfaction and education level more on men than women. While Renauer and Henning's (2005) findings concluded that men were more likely than women to be repeat recidivists as suspects, and women were more likely to have multiple offence reports that listed them as victims and Menard, Anderson and Godboldt's (2007) findings indicate that male offenders had greater odds of being recidivists than female offenders.

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