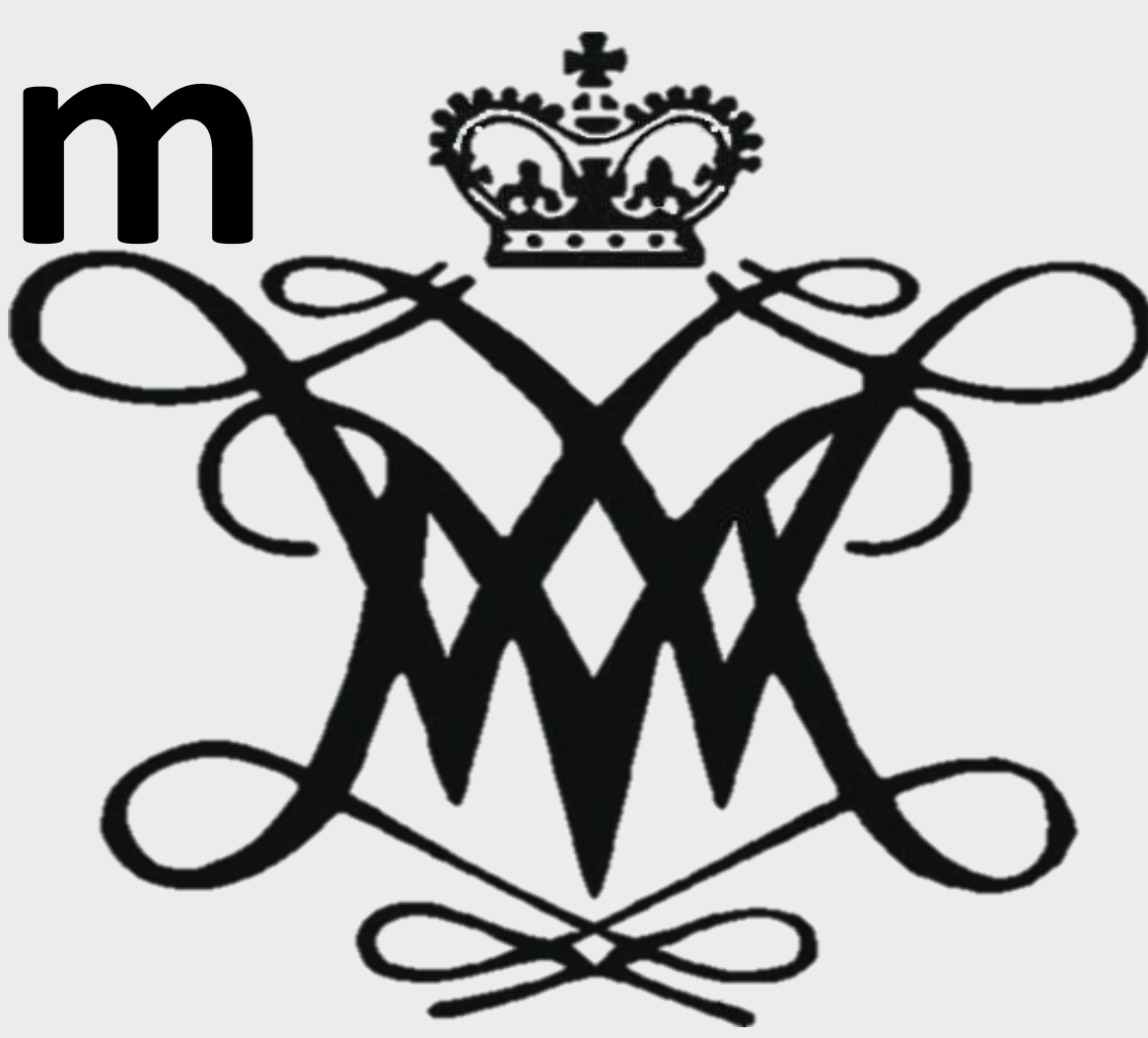




The Impact of Maternal and Contextual Stressors on Recidivism



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Prior Research

- ❖ Recidivism records of 30 states indicate 34.4% of females released in 2005 were rearrested within 1 year and 68.1% were rearrested within 5 years (BJS, 2014).
- ❖ In 2007, 61.7% of women in state prisons and 55.9% in federal prisons reported having minor children (BJS, 2010) for a total of 65,600 mothers in US prisons.

Research Question

- ❖ This research assesses the incremental ability of maternal, psychological, and contextual stressors to predict new mother's likelihood to recidivate.
- ❖ Which specific stressors are predictive of these new mothers' recidivism rates?

Participants

Participants include 176 pregnant, incarcerated women:

- ❖ Average age 25.6 ($SD=5.11$) years
- ❖ 51.1% African American ($n=90$)
- ❖ 25% first time mothers ($n=44$)
- ❖ 67.6% single ($n=119$)

Participants completed intake ($n=176$) and postpartum ($n=110$) surveys:

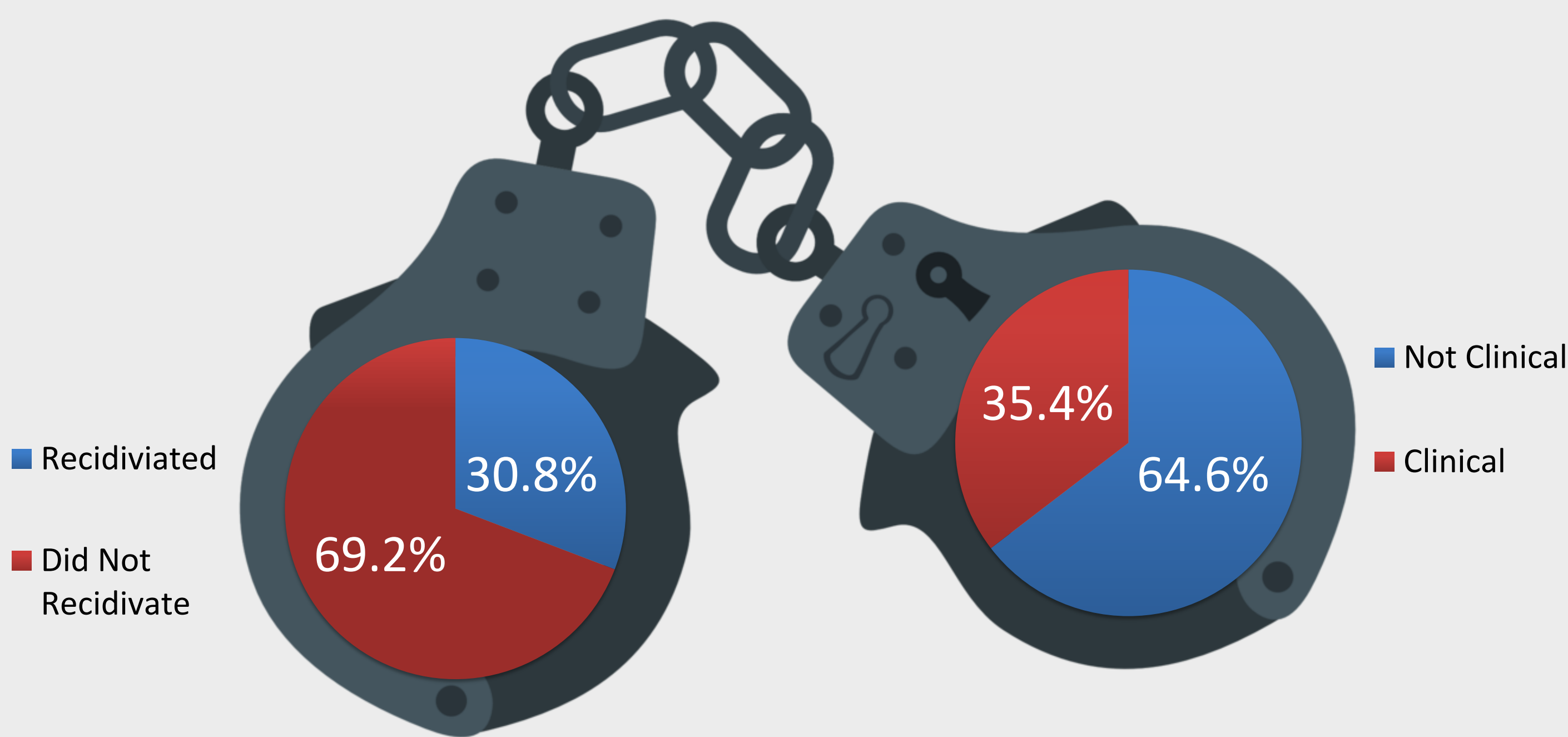
- ❖ Data are from mothers who were released from their original incarceration and have completed intake and postpartum questionnaires as of Sept. 1, 2015

Measures

- ❖ **Contextual Stressors Include:** Life-stress index total score and individual variables (10 items), food insecurity (3 items), income insecurity (3 items), social support (4 items – reverse scored), recent history of domestic violence (3 items).
- ❖ **Psychological Stressors Include:** CES-D scores, self-reported mood or psychological disorder.
- ❖ **Maternal Stressors Include:** Preterm birth, newborn health issues, delivery while incarcerated, breastfeeding initiation, if the baby was living with the mother at postpartum.
- ❖ **Recidivism:** Recidivism is defined as reincarceration 1-12 months after release from the incarceration where they were enrolled in Healthy Beginnings according to Vinelink, a web service used to track offenders.

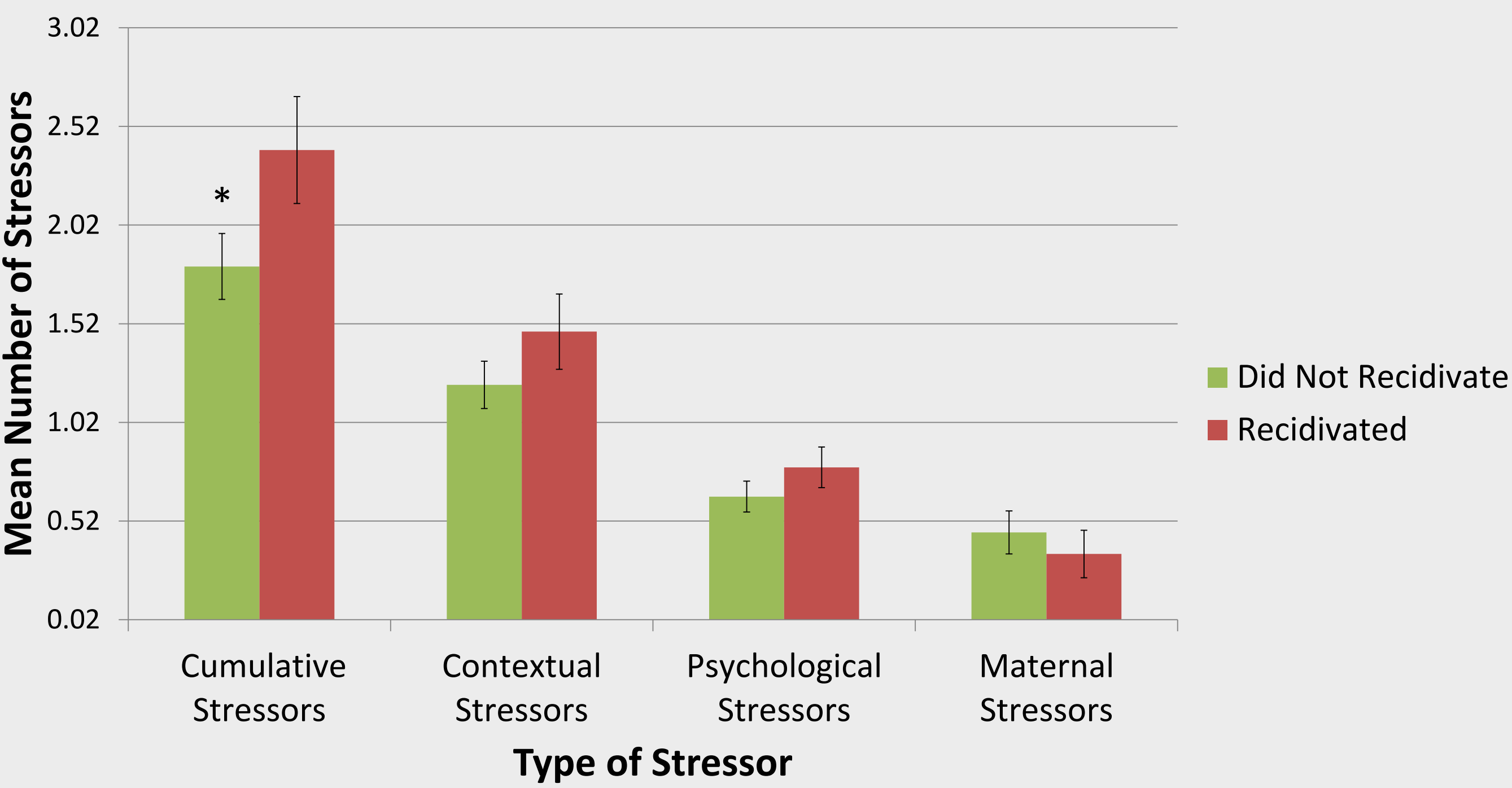
Depression and Recidivism

- ❖ **Psychological Stress:** The indicator for heightened psychological stress was significantly associated with recidivism ($\chi^2=6.43$, $p=0.01$). Reporting a psychological or mood disorder was marginally significantly associated $t(119)=-1.93$, $p=.056$. Depression scores were not associated with recidivism.



Comparing Stressors Across Categories

Comparison of the Mean Number of Stressors Indicated by Participants who Recidivated and Did Not Recidivate



- ❖ Independent samples t-tests examine if the mean number of stresses indicated for each category were different between the women who did and did not recidivate.

- ❖ Cumulative stress represents the combined indicators for each stress category reported by participants.

- ❖ **Cumulative Stress:** The difference between total stress indicators is marginally significant between those who recidivated and those who did not. The cumulative indicator is not associated with recidivism.

- ❖ Women who recidivated report more cumulative stressors than women who did not recidivate, $t(167)=-1.92$, $p=.057$.

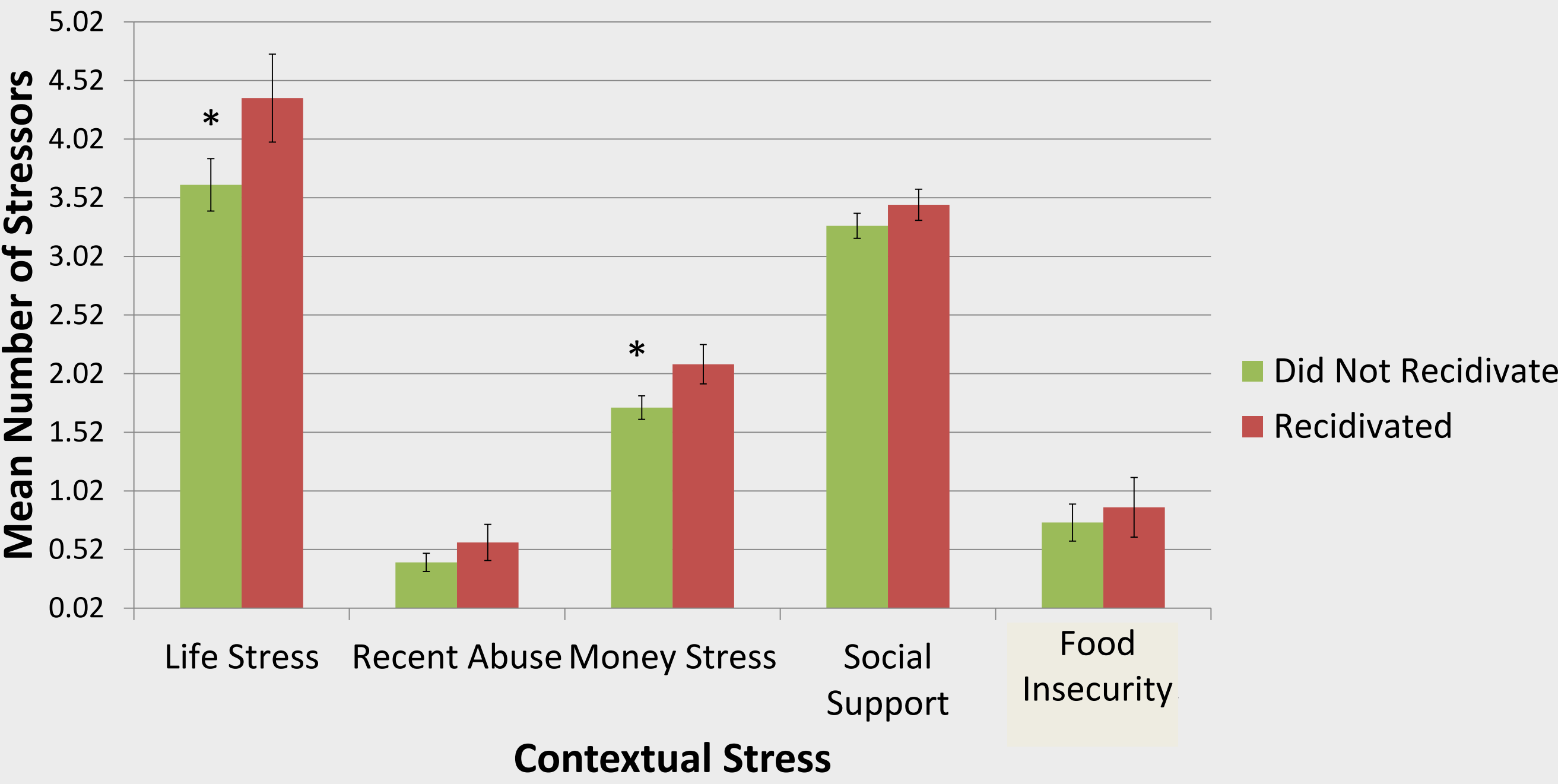
- ❖ **Maternal Stress:** No factors, individual, cumulative, or as an indicator, were significantly related to recidivism.

Contextual Stress Factors

- ❖ **Contextual Stress:** Total number of contextual stressors and an indicator for contextual stress were not significantly related to recidivism. Individual factors that contribute to contextual stress which related to recidivism include:

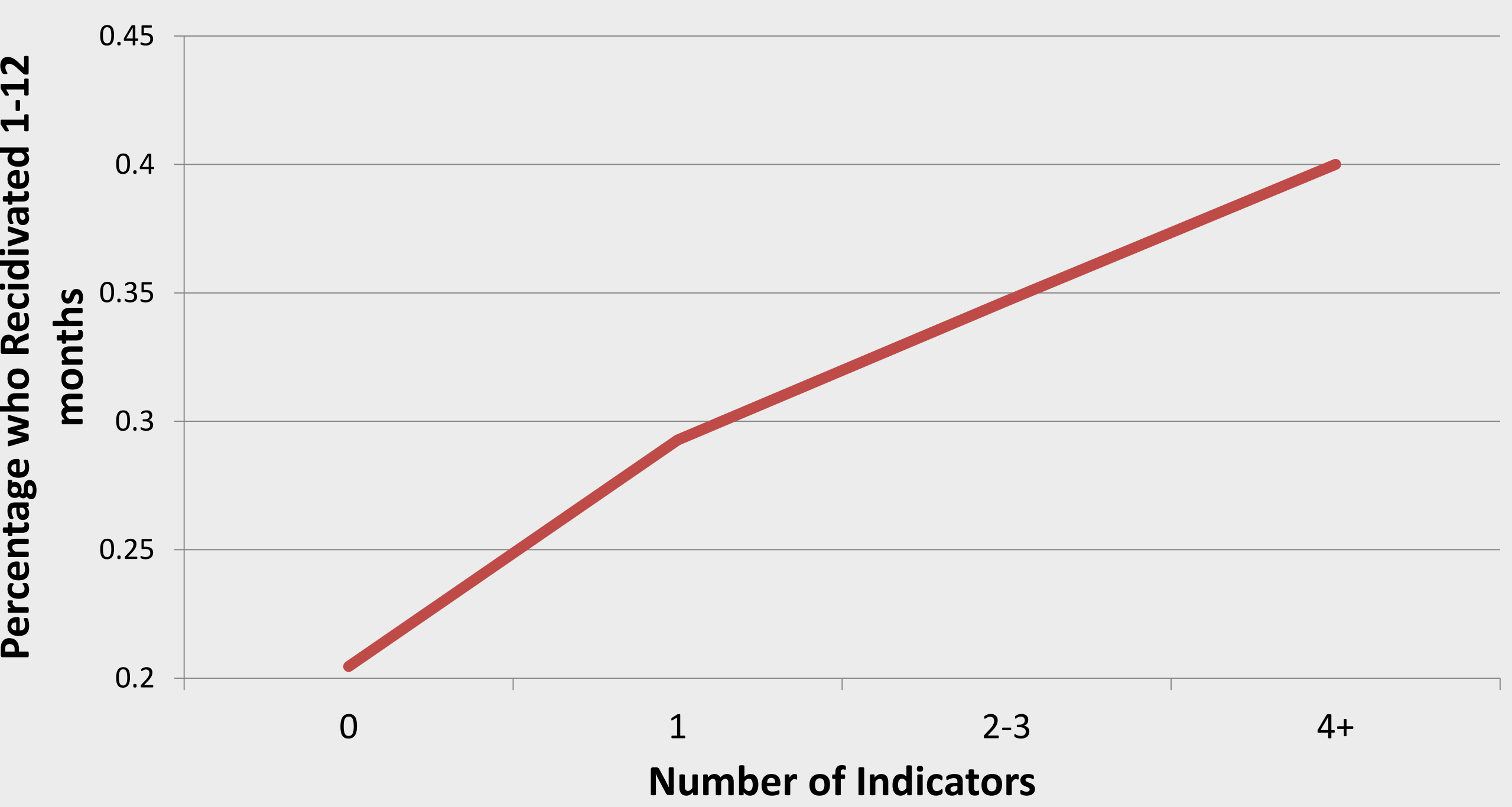
- ❖ **Life Stress at intake** $t(167)=-1.75$, $p=0.08$
- ❖ **Money stress** $t(163)=-1.95$, $p=.05$
- ❖ **Unemployment** $\chi^2=11.81$, $p<.00$
- ❖ **Homelessness** $\chi^2=9.64$, $p<.00$
- ❖ **Illegal Drug Use** $\chi^2=13.76$, $p<.00$
- ❖ **Someone close addicted to drugs or alcohol** $\chi^2=6.60$, $p=.01$

Comparisons of the Mean Number of Contextual Stressors Between Participants who Recidivated and those who Did Not Recidivate



Cumulative Stress and Recidivism

Cumulative Incidators of Stress and Recidivism



- ❖ Cumulative indicators range from 0 to 8 indicators of stress in the following areas of participants lives:

Contextual stress
Money stress
Life stress index
Recent domestic abuse
Social support
Food insecurity
Psychological stress
Clinical depression
Maternal Stress

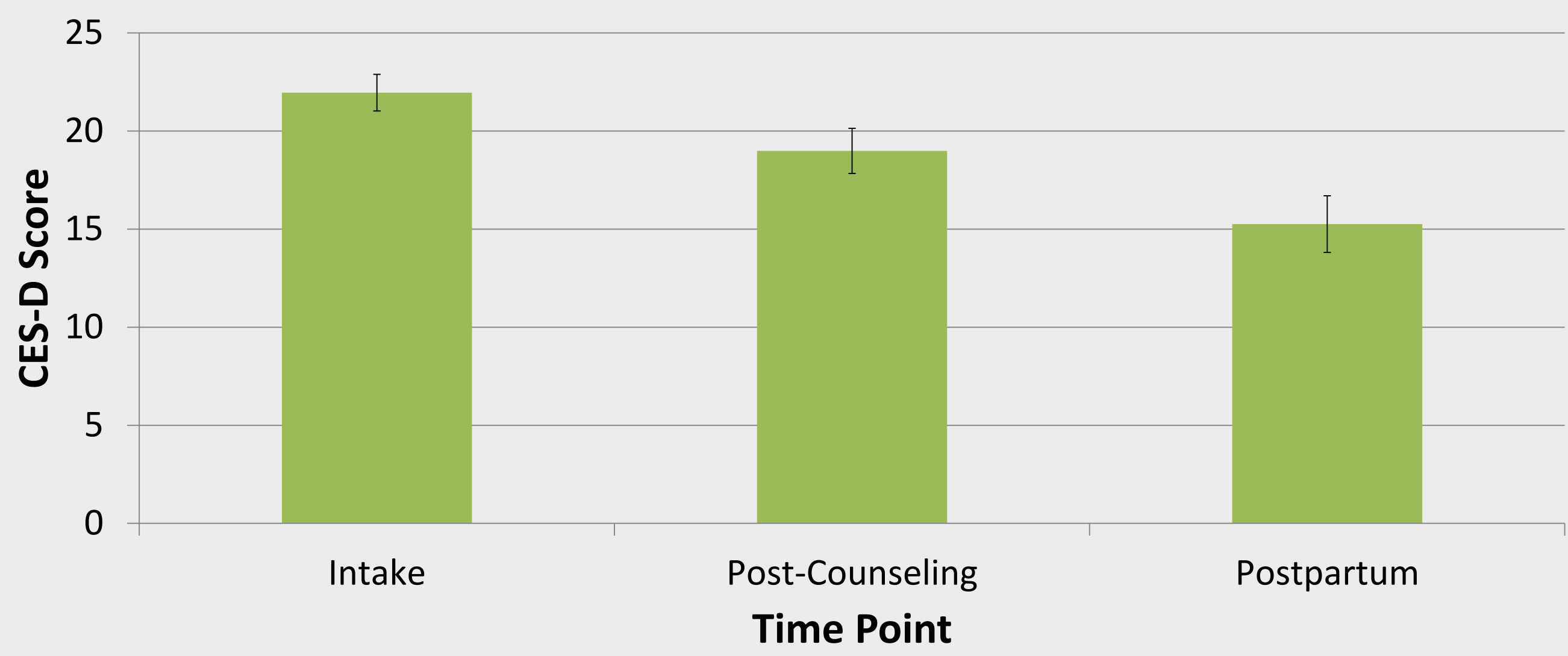
- ❖ A binary logistic regression examined the relative risk for all the combined indicator stress variables in the prediction of recidivism, $\chi^2(1)=1.18$, $p=.06$

- ❖ The results indicate that with increased stress exposure, women are 1.18 times more likely to recidivate.

Additional Results

- ❖ African American participants were more likely to recidivate than non-African American participants ($\chi^2=5.10$, $p=0.03$).
- ❖ There was no association between CES-D scores, the change in CES-D scores between time points, or if the scores indicated depression and recidivism.
- ❖ A one-sample t-test determined there was a significant decrease in CES-D scores between time points:
 - ❖ **Intake to Postpartum:** $t(80)=5.63$, $p<0.00$
 - ❖ **Intake to Post-counseling:** $t(102)=2.68$, $p<0.01$
 - ❖ **Post-counseling to Postpartum:** $t(63)=1.98$, $p=0.05$

Mean CES-D Scores at Each Time Point



Discussion

- ❖ General factors related to recidivism, particularly income instability and substance abuse, were also predictive of recidivism in previous studies (Greiner, Law, & Brown, 2015; Harm & Phillips, 2001; Holtfreter, Reisig, & Morash, 2004).
- ❖ Previous studies considering contextual factors and motherhood found similar results, where factors such as drug use were associated with recidivism, but having dependent children was not (Huebner, DeJong, & Cobbina, 2010).

Clinical Implications and Future Research

- ❖ Depression may not be as strong an indicator of recidivism as initially believed, especially due to the confounding depressive context of incarceration.
- ❖ Interventions for incarcerated mothers should focus on substance abuse, addiction, and financial stability if the goal is to lessen the risk of recidivism.
- ❖ In Richie's 2010 qualitative study of motherhood and recidivism, many mothers relate their successes or failures during reentry to their children.
- ❖ Current data collection on the subject is ongoing, and attempts to reach a more complete understanding of the impact motherhood has on the reentry process through qualitative interviewing.

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