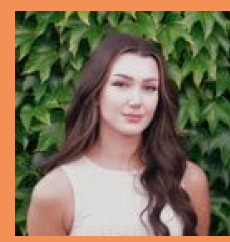


Convicting the Innocent: An Analysis of the Effects of Wrongful Conviction



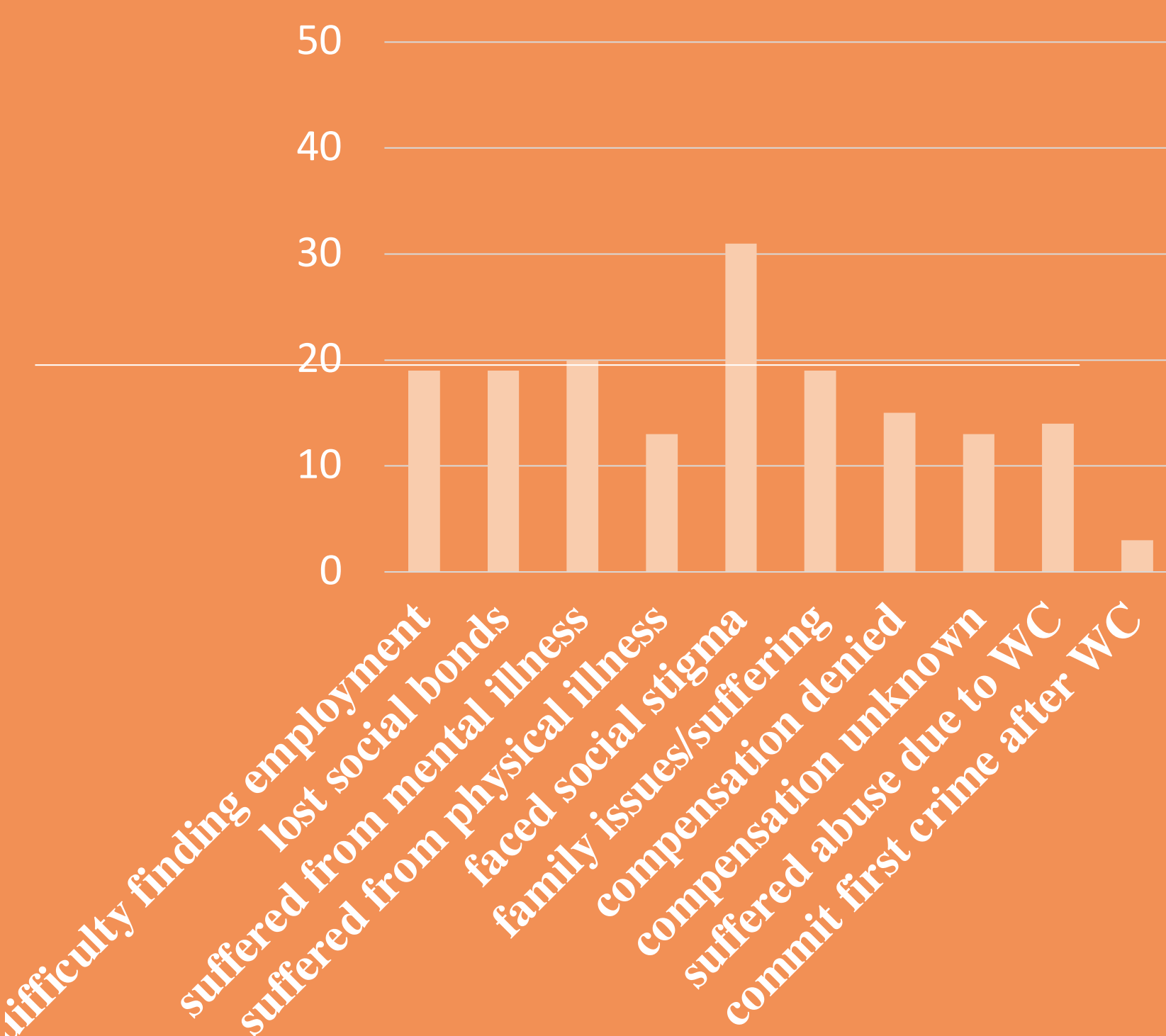
PRESENTER:
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The literature on effects of incarceration and wrongful conviction largely excludes exoneree re-integration. This study collects demographic information and case characteristics to evaluate people at-risk of wrongful conviction and their barriers to successful re-integration.

RESULTS

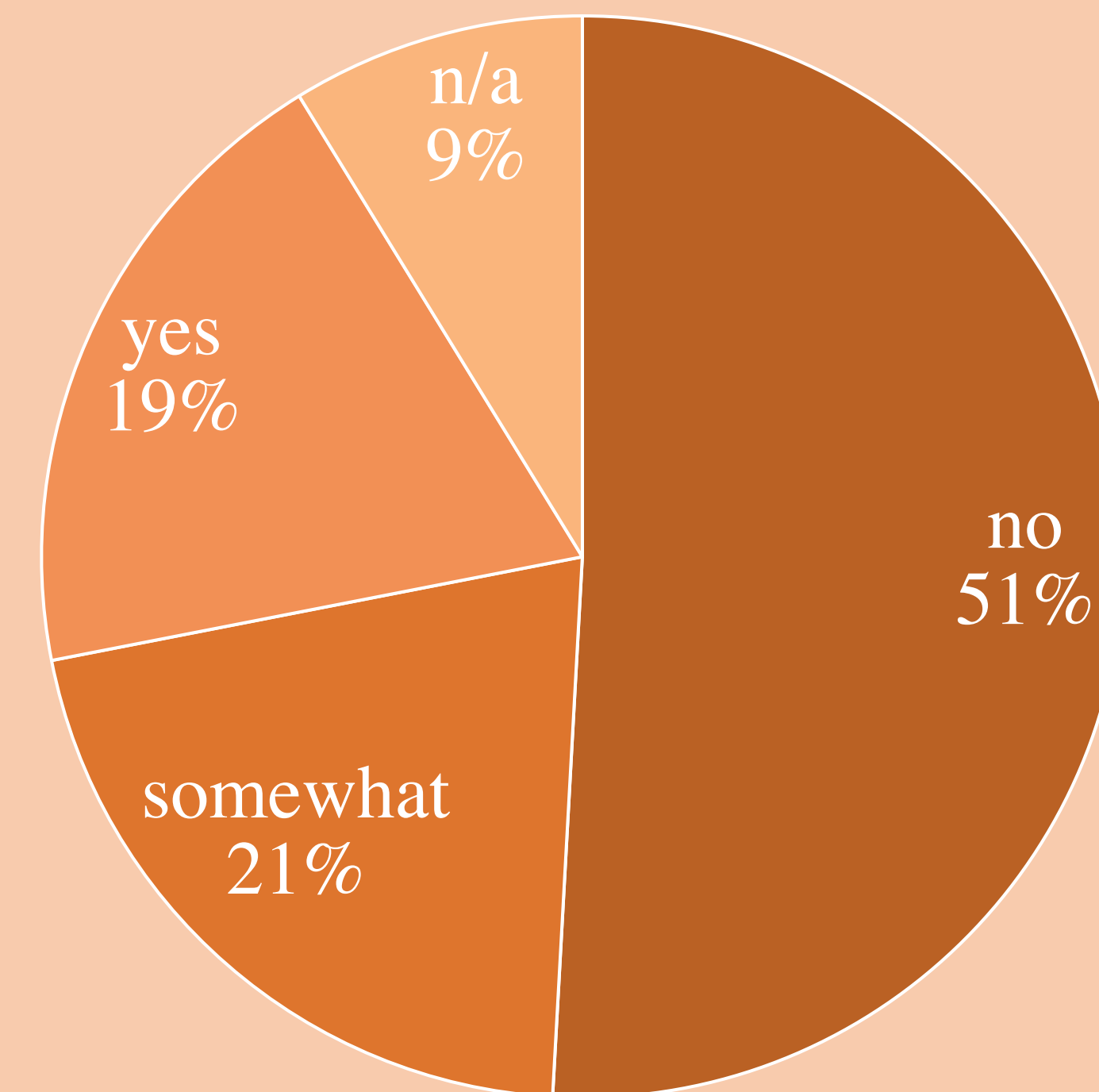
- Only 23% of exonerees who obtained compensation were successful, however 46% who obtained compensation were less than successful.
- Exonerees with familial support were successful 31% of the time, and un-successful 28% of the time. However, **NO** exonerees were successful with the absence of any familial support.
- Those who had both compensation and familial bonds but were less than successful all had major barriers in successful re-entry such as mental illness, physical illness, suffered abuse, or extreme stigmatization. Likewise, those with an absence of bonds, even when compensated, were not successful.
- Indigenous exonerees, those facing family loss, and/or dealing with illness face additional barriers in re-entry, making successful re-entry more difficult to attain.

Issues arising due to wrongful conviction



1 in 2 Canadians wrongfully convicted of a serious crime do not re-gain success or their lives following their exoneration.

Successful Re-integration Among Canadian Exonerees



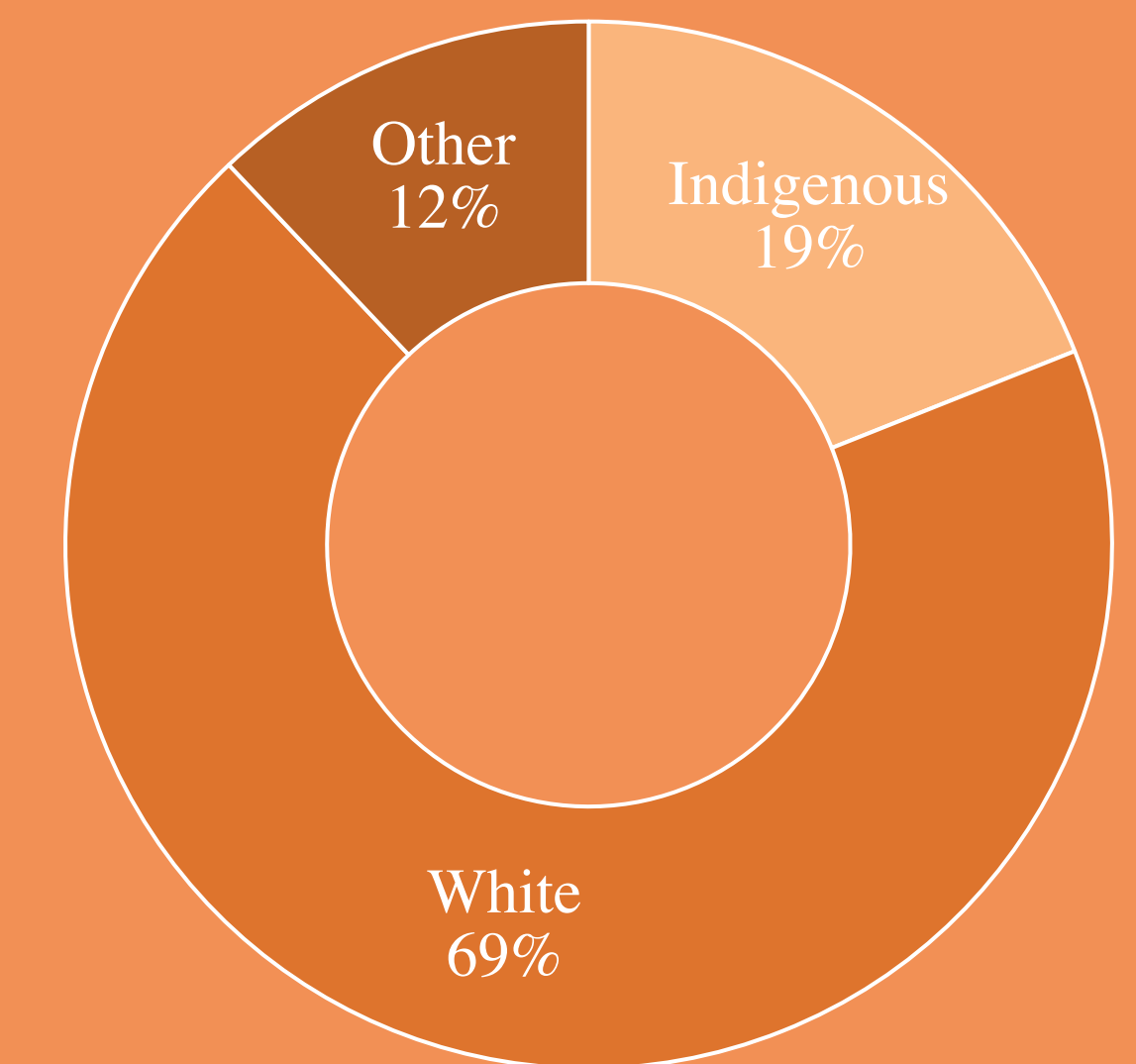
Fact vs. Fiction



METHODS

1. A non-random sample of Canadian exonerees accused of serious crimes was taken to analyze demographics and case characteristics. 57 exonerees were analyzed.
2. Using NVivo, a content analysis of 81 newspaper articles and blogposts was conducted.
3. Deductive coding was utilized to look at exoneree demographics and case characteristics (social bonds, compensation awarded, life in prison, illness, employment, housing, etc.).

Indigenous People in Wrongful Convictions



DISCUSSION

- Are white men *actually* wrongfully convicted more than minorities?
- Under a patriarchal system, when women are thought to commit a violent crime, they are vilified and stigmatized against due to stereotypical notions of femininity and societal expectations of how women should behave
- 6 of 9 women were mothers wrongly convicted of killing their children, these women faced incredible stigma due to the nature of their crime and suffered tremendous loss as any other children they had were taken away and put in foster care or adopted.
- Programs created by a colonialist institution are unlikely to be as meaningful or helpful to Indigenous people. Indigenous releasees are known to face significant barriers in re-integration hypothesized to be caused by a lack of culturally relevant programs (Willis, 2008, p. 5).

REFERENCES

- Willis, M. (2008). Reintegration of Indigenous prisoners: key findings. Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice, 364, 1.
- Correctional Services Canada. (2019). Women Offenders: Quick Facts. Government of Canada. Retrieved on February 7, 2022 from <https://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/publications/005007-3012-en.shtml>

