

Research in Review

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Summary and Major Findings of Articles Reviewed in This Issue

James A. Inciardi, et. alii. 1997. "An Effective Model of Prison-Based Treatment for Drug-Involved Offenders." *Journal of Drug Issues*, 27(2), 261-278. Page 3

This study finds that inmates receiving a full continuum of treatment, including aftercare upon release, were more successful at remaining drug and arrest-free than inmates receiving a more limited spectrum of treatment. This study provides an interesting evaluation of the relative benefits of providing an increasingly intense range of treatment modalities for the drug-addicted inmate.

Ron Sipe, et alii. 1998. "Adolescent Sexual Offenders Grown Up: Recidivism in Young Adulthood." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 25(1), 109-124. Page 3

This study finds that non-violent juvenile sexual offenders show much lower recidivism rates than violent juvenile sexual offenders. Thus, non-violent juvenile sexual offenders may be more amenable to structured interventions designed to reverse their deviant sexual impulses. This study is well conducted, although with limited generalizability. While it does advance a policy agenda, it contributes to the understanding of recidivism among a particularly critical class of offender.

Paul Gendreau, et alii. 1997. "Predicting Prison Misconducts." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 24(4), 414-431. Page 4

This study finds that inmate age, antisocial attitudes, criminal history and availability of inmate programs were the most powerful predictors of misconducts. This article offers a useful summary of research into attempts to predict prison misconducts. While this piece is oriented primarily towards academics, it is also of interest to corrections administrators.

Dorothy S. McClellan, et alii. 1997. "Early Victimization, Drug Use, and Criminality: A Comparison of Male and Female Prisoners." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 24(4), 455-476. Page 5

This study finds a link between childhood abuse, emotional distress, substance abuse, and criminality in female inmates. This study is a well constructed and reported piece of empirical research. While the article does seem to have a policy agenda, it provides useful insight into how variations in life history contribute to

criminal deviance.

Steven A. Gilham, et alii. 1997. "The Impact of Drug Education and Prevention Programs: Disparity Between Impressionistic and Empirical Assessments." *Evaluation Review*, 21(5), 589-613.

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This article provides insight into the differing perceptions of the impact of drug prevention and awareness programs. This article finds that staff who provide drug education programs view their programs as successful, although data on behavioral changes among program participants suggests mixed program results. While this article focuses upon drug awareness programs in schools, its findings have implications for any programmatic attempt to alter attitudes towards drugs.

Robert W. Gallagher, et alii. 1997. "Inmate Views About the Purpose and Use of the MMPI-2 at the Time of Correctional Intake." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 24(3), 360-369.

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This study explores inmate perceptions of psychometric testing, providing insight into how inmates understand a central element of the classification process. The study finds that inmates generally understand the purpose behind such testing, although some attempts at deception are found. Other than the use of a limited sample of inmates, this study is well constructed.

Glenn D. Walters, et alii. 1998. "Use of the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles in a Group of Female Offenders." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 25(1), 125-134.

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This study finds that a new psychometric tool (PICTS) is equally valid and reliable with both male and female inmates. While this article seems to be directed primarily toward psychology researchers, it does provide interesting insight into a psychometric tool which can be of use to prison administrators, particularly those with custody of female inmates.

Christina A. Pietz, et alii. 1998. "Psychology Internship Training in a Correctional Facility." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 25(1), 99-108.

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This study finds that graduate students participating in psychology internships in state and federal prisons report positive experiences. Insight is provided into the components of a successful internship program. This research appears to be well done, oriented towards corrections professionals and provides interesting insight into career development within an occupational sub-sector of corrections.

Lynne Goodstein and Henry Sontheimer. 1997. "The Implementation of an Intensive Aftercare Program for Serious Juvenile Offenders." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 24(3), 332-359.

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This article presents an interesting case study of planned organizational change within a local criminal justice setting. The second author (Sontheimer) is a staff member with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and has interacted extensively with the Department.

Detailed Reviews

James A. Inciardi, et. alii. 1997. "An Effective Model of Prison-Based Treatment for Drug-Involved Offenders." *Journal of Drug Issues*, 27(2), 261-278.

This study provides an interesting evaluation of the relative benefits of providing an increasingly intense range of treatment modalities for the drug-addicted inmate. The research is well designed and reported.

This article reports on a study of the effectiveness of alternative treatment strategies for drug-addicted state prison inmates in Delaware. This research compares four drug treatment strategies. The **first strategy** was to provide no treatment at all. The inmates who were the focus of this strategy served as a control group. The **second strategy** involved treatment for a group of inmates within in a therapeutic community (TC) while still in prison, but with no follow-up treatment (aftercare) upon release from prison. The **third strategy** involved intensive treatment for inmates within a residential work release center, with outpatient treatment (aftercare) continuing after release from the work center. The **fourth strategy** involved intensive, primary treatment to inmates within a TC while in prison, follow-up drug treatment after these inmates had been transferred to a work release center, with aftercare continuing after release from the work center.

This study gauges the efficacy of the four competing approaches by measuring the extent to which inmates in each treatment group were successful at remaining drug-free and arrest-free (multiple variations of these indicators were measured). This study finds that inmates receiving the fourth treatment strategy (the full continuum of care) were more successful at remaining drug and arrest-free than inmates receiving the other three strategies. Further, inmates receiving the third strategy were more successful at remaining drug and arrest-free than inmates receiving the second or first strategies.

The authors conclude that the evidence gathered by this study supports the findings of previous studies - that the provision of a full continuum of drug treatment to inmates is more likely to result in their remaining drug and arrest-free upon release. Based upon these findings, the authors support comprehensive drug treatment strategies for state prison inmates, with particular emphasis upon aftercare.

Ron Sipe, et alii. 1998. "Adolescent Sexual Offenders Grown Up: Recidivism in Young Adulthood." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 25(1), 109-124.

This study is well conducted, although with limited generalizability. While it does advance a policy agenda, it contributes to the understanding of recidivism among a particularly critical class of offender - juvenile sex offenders.

This research compares the adult recidivism rates for non-violent juvenile sexual offenders with the rates of non-sexual juvenile offenders. The authors note that previous research into this topic has found high recidivism rates for juvenile sexual offenders, leading to "get tough" policies on such offenders which focus upon longer incarceration. The assumption is that juvenile sexual offenders can generally be assumed to be at high risk for re-offense.

The authors examine the arrest history of a sample of non-violent, male juvenile sexual offenders, and of a comparison group of non-sexual male juvenile offenders, in Idaho. They found that, compared to non-sexual juvenile offenders, juvenile sex offenders were significantly more likely to be arrested as adults for sex crimes. The non-sexual juvenile offenders, however, were far more likely to be arrested as adults for non-sex crimes. The adult sex offense recidivism rate for the juvenile sex offenders, though, was less than 10 percent. Thus, the commission of a non-violent sex crime as a juvenile, as opposed to a non-sexual offense, does predict adult sex offending, but only weakly. The vast majority of the sex offending male juveniles included in this study did not reoffend sexually as adults during the period covered by the study. Another finding is that a history of non-sexual, violent juvenile offenses does not appear to be related to adult violent crime.

The authors conclude that studies of juvenile sexual offenders must be careful to separate violent and non-violent sexual offenses. They argue that while there is a body of data which suggests that violent juvenile sexual offenders are at significant risk for re-offending, non-violent sexual offenders show much lower recidivism rates. They also argue that sentencing decisions for juvenile sex offenders should be based upon the exact nature of the offense. Non-violent sexual offenders may be more amenable to structured interventions designed to reverse their deviant sexual impulses.

Paul Gendreau, et alii. 1997. "Predicting Prison Misconducts." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 24(4), 414-431.

This article offers a useful summary of research into attempts to predict prison misconducts. While this piece is rather densely written and oriented towards academics, it is also of interest to corrections administrators.

This article presents a meta-analysis (a review of existing research literature) on studies of prison misconduct to isolate significant correlations between misconducts and variables which might contribute to misconducts. The authors' objective is to identify misconduct predictors which can be most useful to prison administrators in maintaining safe institutions.

The authors note that previous meta-analyses identified the following factors as being good predictors of misconducts: inmate age, marital status, employment, criminal history, education, and prison crowding. The review conducted by the authors sorted the predictor variables into three types or domains: personal domains (e.g. age), situational domains (e.g. crowding) and actuarial domains

(the use of psychometric measures to predict misconduct).

This review found the following personal domain variables to be the most powerful predictors of inmate misconduct activity: age (younger inmates at greater risk for misconduct), antisocial attitudes and criminal history. Regarding situational domains, institutional variables, such as availability of programming, were the most powerful predictors of misconducts; crowding was not a significant predictor. Regarding the use of standard psychological assessment instruments, the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) (not currently used by the Department) was the most powerful predictor of future misconduct. Finally, the authors found that the studies included in their review were more successful at predicting violent misconducts than non-violent misconducts.

Dorothy S. McClellan, et alii. 1997. "Early Victimization, Drug Use, and Criminality: A Comparison of Male and Female Prisoners." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 24(4), 455-476.

This study is a well constructed and reported piece of empirical research. While the article does seem to have a policy agenda, it provides useful insight into how variations in life history contribute to criminal behavior in male and female offenders.

This article present the results of a study of the childhood history of maltreatment in male versus female prison inmates in Texas. The objective is explore links between maltreatment as youths and subsequent delinquent and criminal behavior.

The authors note that previous research has indicated that there exists a correlation between childhood victimization and later substance abuse and criminality. Other research indicates that females tend to experience more abuse as children than males, particularly sexual abuse. In females, such childhood abuse leads to depression, substance use and self-destructive behaviors. In males, such abuse tends to lead to violent acting out as adults. Subsequent criminal behavior in female victims tends to be mediated through substance abuse. In other words, the childhood abuse leads to substance abuse, which leads to criminal activity. For males, the connection between childhood abuse and subsequently criminality may be more directly, and less reliant upon intervening variables such as drug use.

The authors test hypotheses related to these propositions using data collected from 1,500 inmates in the Texas state prison system. They conclude that their study confirms previous findings that indicate that female inmates report higher levels of childhood abuse, subsequent emotional distress and substance abuse, and criminality linked to the substance abuse, than is the case for male inmates. The authors support counseling and empowerment-building for such female inmates.

Steven A. Gilham, et alii. 1997. "The Impact of Drug Education and Prevention Programs: Disparity Between Impressionistic and Empirical Assessments." *Evaluation Review*, 21(5), 589-613.

This article provides useful insight into the differing perceptions of the impact of drug prevention and awareness programs, as well as into the difficulty of measuring the actual impact of such programs. While this article focuses upon drug awareness programs in schools, its findings have implications for any programmatic attempt to alter attitudes towards controlled substances.

This research explores the relationship between staff members' personal beliefs about the effectiveness of drug prevention programs and empirical measurements of program participants' attitudes and behaviors. The authors collected data from two junior high school drug prevention programs in Missouri over a four year period. These programs offer classroom-based exercises in self-esteem building, drug abuse awareness, decision making and lifestyle choices, as well as structured recreational activities designed to steer youths away from drug use.

The authors note that many evaluations of these types of programs indicate that staff members believe that the programs have a positive effect on the behavior of the participants, while the participants indicate little programmatic impact on their attitudes and behaviors. The authors attempt to expand upon and explain these findings.

In their own study, the authors found that while staff members were generally uncertain about the *actual* impact of their programs, they *believed* that the programs have a positive impact on youth attitudes and behavior, particularly with regard to risk factors for drug use (e.g. anger control). Measurements of the attitudes and behaviors of the youth who participated in these programs, however, indicate little or no program impact compared to a control group of youth who had not participated in such programs. Thus, there exists a disparity in impressions of program impact between those who provide the programming and those who receive it.

The authors offer several explanations for this. First, the disparity may result from the age and other characteristics of the youth who were the focus of the study. Second, staff tend to generalize from their anecdotal (single case) observations of positive program impact to the entire program population. Third, staff observations of positive program impact on risk factors (e.g. self-esteem) may lead to unsupported conclusions about specific drug-related activities and attitudes. Fourth, program staff may feel pressured into overstating program effects to secure resources for what may be a generally beneficial program. Finally, methods currently used to evaluate these programs may be inadequate. The authors conclude that the most likely explanation for the disparity in staff and participant impressions of program impact is that staff tend to rely upon anecdotal, as opposed to systematic, evidence of program effect.

Robert W. Gallagher, et alii. 1997. "Inmate Views About the Purpose and Use of the MMPI-2 at the Time of Correctional Intake." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 24(3), 360-369.

This study presents an interesting exploration of inmate perceptions of psychometric testing, providing insight into how inmates understand a central element of the classification

process. Other than the use of a limited sample of inmates, this study is well constructed.

This study investigates inmate perceptions about the use of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) at a maximum security state correctional institution in Ohio. Psychometric scales such as the MMPI-2 are widely used for offender diagnosis and classification. Until recently, the MMPI was used by the Department. The authors note that an ongoing concern is the possibility of intentional inmate deception and distortion on these scales. Inmates may believe that these scales are intended to harm them and thus may be reluctant to respond honestly. Similarly, inmates may attempt to craft their responses to such scales in such a way as to result in a psychological profile which will further their own objectives regarding classification and program assignment. While the MMPI-2 is well tested and validated, the authors note that there is little research into inmate attitudes towards this and similar scales.

These authors sampled 78 inmates after intake at the Ohio facility and presented them with a brief questionnaire designed to elicit their views about the MMPI-2, as well as self-reports of any deceptive practices in responding to this scale. The authors found that the vast majority of the inmates sampled believe that they are given the MMPI-2 for legitimate evaluation and classification purposes. Only 4 percent believe that the MMPI-2 is administered in order to harm or punish them. Over one-third of the inmates sampled believe that their responses to the instrument will give prison administrators a positive impression of them; another 40 percent have no opinion of the impact of the MMPI-2 on their status. Sixteen percent of the respondents indicated that they had distorted or misrepresented their responses to the scale. Similarly, 16 percent felt that it was in their best interests to be deceptive when responding to the MMPI-2.

This study indicates that the vast majority of inmates sampled have a realistic impression of the purpose and use of the MMPI-2, and respond honestly to it. Nearly one-fifth of inmates indicated deceptive self-reporting on the MMPI-2. The authors believe that the actual occurrence of deception is higher, due to inmate reluctance to self-report deceptive behaviors. Thus, while the use of the MMPI-2 seems to be supported by this research, the authors call for additional inquiry into deceptive reporting by inmates.

Glenn D. Walters, et alii. 1998. "Use of the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles in a Group of Female Offenders." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 25(1), 125-134.

While this article seems to be directed primarily toward psychology researchers, it does provide interesting insight into a psychometric tool which can be of use to prison administrators, particularly those with custody of female inmates.

This brief article explores the use of the Psychological Inventory of Thinking Styles (PICTS) (not currently used by the Department) in female offenders. PICTS was developed and validated in recent years for the psychological and cognitive assessment of male inmates. It had not previously been validated in female inmates.

The authors conducted a validation study of PICTS with a sample of female inmates from one state and one federal correctional facility in the West. Based upon their analysis, PICTS was found to be a reliable and valid measure of female criminal thinking styles. The reliability and validity measures produced by this study indicate that PICTS is at least as useful as a psychological inventory for female as for male prisoners. The two primary limitations to this study are the self-selected nature of the female sample which was used, and the relative novelty of the PICTS instrument itself. Further research is required into its basic utility.

Christina A. Pietz, et alii. 1998. "Psychology Internship Training in a Correctional Facility." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 25(1), 99-108.

This research is well done, oriented towards corrections professionals and provides interesting insight into career development within an occupational sub-sector of corrections.

This article presents the results of a study of a sample of graduate-level psychology internship programs in federal and state correctional institutions in several states. The purpose of the study was to determine the types of training received by the interns, their level of satisfaction with their experience, what an intern looks for in an internship program, the career progress of former interns. The authors note that correctional institutions are employing increasing numbers of psychologists, who are being asked to assume responsibility for providing a wide range of services to an increasingly difficult inmate population. They note that few studies have attempt to inquire into or evaluate these internship programs.

The authors found that the most common training topics within the sampled internship programs included case presentations, testing/assessment, suicide assessment and case law. The most common assessment training topics included objective personality assessment, intellectual assessment and projective personality assessment. The most common types of psychotherapy training included individual therapy, intake screening and group therapy.

When selecting an internship program, the sampled interns indicated that the following factors had a great influence upon their selection: experiences offered in setting, variety of training available, stipend, specialized training, and career possibilities. The vast majority of the respondents indicated that they were highly satisfied with their internship experience. The vast majority of them had secured employment within three months of completing their internships.

Lynne Goodstein and Henry Sontheimer. 1997. "The Implementation of an Intensive Aftercare Program for Serious Juvenile Offenders." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*,

This article presents an interesting case study of planned organizational change within a local criminal justice setting. The second author (Sontheimer) is a staff member with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and has interacted extensively with the Department.

This article presents a case study of the implementation of the Intensive Aftercare Probation (IAP) program in the Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Department. The article provides a review of the history and development of the concept of intensive probation supervision, discusses the evolution of the Philadelphia IAP concept and program, reviews implementation issues and problems and looks at client responses to the program.

The authors note that one serious issue which arose in the implementation of the Philadelphia IAP was a breakdown of service delivery resulting from a lack of understanding on the part of case officers of the mission, objectives and norms of the new IAP. This breakdown revealed a communication problem between program planners and case officers. Over time, these communication difficulties were resolved, resulting in the development of a successful program model and process.

The authors note that the initial participants in the IAP program tended to view their participation as a means to skirt liability for misbehavior and to secure special privileges from their caseworkers. Over time, judges and program staff succeeded in reinforcing more cooperative and positive attitudes and behaviors in participants, resulting in greater success at achieving probation goals for program participants than for a control group.