Addressing Serious Violent Misconduct in Prison: Examining an Alternative Form of Restrictive Housing

Summary

- Purpose was to explore behavioral and mental health outcomes associated with completing a therapeutic treatment program in restrictive housing.
- Broader purpose was to determine whether a more progressive approach to restrictive housing can serve as an alternative to traditional forms of segregation.

Data and Methods

- Sample included 240 adult males who completed the Restrictive Status Housing Program within the Arizona Department of Corrections.
- Paired-sample t tests were used to determine whether post-program behavior was significantly different from preprogram behavior.

Findings

- Assaults on inmates and staff members were lower both 6- and 12-months following completion of the program.
- There was variation between individuals in positive program outcomes.
- Those who spent more time in the program and those who had misconduct violations during the program were more likely to engage in misconduct after the program.

Implications

- Restrictive housing can be designed in a way that reduces harm to inmates.
- Future research needs to include more rigorous research designs to better isolate program effects.

Select Publications


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