

*Enhancing the lives of people  
living and working in our correctional system  
through research, education, and community engagement.*

# 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

Meyers, T.J., Infante, A.A., & Wright, K.A. (2018). Addressing serious violent misconduct in prison: Examining an alternative form of restrictive housing. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62(14), 4585-4608.