

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

Managing Violent Misconduct in a Maximum Security Prison: Processes and Outcomes in a Restrictive Status Housing Program

Summary

- Purpose was to explore the behavioral outcomes of a restrictive status housing program designed for those who commit violent assaults in the Arizona Department of Corrections
- Explore the mechanisms by which the program operates by interviewing former program participants and program staff

Data and Methods

- Sample included 240 program graduates between 2014-2017 and a matched comparison group, as well as 25 former participants and 10 program staff
- Mixed-methods research design that included propensity score matching and in-depth semi-structured interviews with program participants and staff

Findings

- Placement in the program had a null, and at times, negative effect on the prevalence and incidence of future institutional misconduct
- Ineffectiveness was tied to the involuntary nature of the program, a sole focus on behavioral outcomes, perceived punitiveness of the program, and lack of consistency in the delivery of services

Implications

- Incorporate more incentives for positive behavior
- Consider the role of extraneous factors of the prison environment during program
- Incorporate “booster sessions” to prevent future misconduct
- Capitalize on peer-mentors to overcome resource deficits

Select Publications

Meyers, T.J. (2018). *Managing violent misconduct in a maximum security prison: Processes and outcomes in a restrictive status housing program*. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Phoenix, AZ.