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


Read more at http://ccj.asu.edu/ccs