

# National Institute of Justice Topical Working Group on the Use of Administrative Segregation in the U.S.

Thursday, October 22, 2015



**NIJ**

# Use of Segregation in Corrections

Denise O'Donnell  
Brian Belleque  
Terri McDonald  
Gregg Marcantel



**NIJ**

# Who Ends up in Administrative Segregation? Predictors & Other Characteristics

Ryan Labrecque  
L. Maaike Helmus  
Judith Lang



**NIJ**

# Who Ends Up in Administrative Segregation?: A Meta-Analytic Review

---

Ryan M. Labrecque, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor, Portland State University*

Presented at the NIJ Topical Working Group on the Use of AS in United States  
on October 22, 2015 in Washington, DC



Portland State  
UNIVERSITY

# Administrative Segregation (AS)

- The use of AS involves the *housing of an inmate in conditions by substantial isolation from other inmates* (ABA, 2011).
- There is a *critical need* to better understand who ends up in AS.
- This study represents the first known meta-analytic review of the research on the predictors of AS.
- The results have important **policy implications** for the management of correctional institutions, as well as **practical applications** within the context of offender treatment.

# Eligibility Criteria

- In order to be eligible for inclusion, studies were required to:
  - Be conducted on prisoners in custodial settings
  - Compare characteristics of inmates in AS settings to those in GP settings
  - Contain sufficient data to calculate an effect size (i.e., Pearson  $r$  or phi coefficient)

# Group Comparisons

- **Inmate characteristics**

- Age, race, mental disorder, gang, risk level

- **Criminal history**

- Juvenile justice involvement, record of violence

- **Institutional behavior**

- Prior segregation, misconduct history, initial security rating

- **Criminogenic needs**

- Antisocial attitudes, antisocial associates, community functioning, education, employment, family/marital, personal/emotional, substance abuse, motivation for treatment

# Effect Size Calculation and Interpretation

- Hedge's  $g$  was selected to estimate the magnitude of the effect size (ES).
- Studies could contribute more than one ES per category as long as each one represented an estimate for a unique sample of offenders.
- Random effects model results are reported.
- $I^2$  is used to evaluate the heterogeneity of the ES estimates.



# Description of Studies

- Total # of studies included = 16
- Total # of effect size estimates = 131
  
- 88% of studies occurred in North America
- 75% of studies were produced after 2000
- 63% of studies were peer reviewed journal articles
- 25% of studies separated results by gender

# Meta-Analysis of AS vs. GP Inmates by Characteristic

Characteristic	<i>ES</i>	95% <i>CI</i>	<i>I</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>
Age	-.36	[-.42, -.30]	75.30	91,610	10
Ethnic minority	.19	[-.07, .46]	96.89	88,019	8
Mental disorder	.35	[.19, .51]	93.20	33,468	10
Gang	.47	[.14, .79]	96.73	29,983	7
High-risk	.43	[.34, .51]	89.31	50,899	11
Violent criminal history	.42	[.34, .49]	86.37	102,942	14
Juvenile justice involvement	.49	[.42, .56]	64.99	13,846	7
Initial security level	.48	[.26, .70]	62.81	7,609	3
Prior segregation	.62	[.56, .87]	98.43	32,923	10
Prior misconduct	2.10	[1.24, 2.97]	96.95	63,898	2

*Note.* *ES* = mean weighted effect size (Hedge's *g*); 95% *CI* = 95% confidence interval of *ES*; *I*<sup>2</sup> = percentage of variability across effect sizes; *n* = total sample size; *k* = number of effect sizes

# Meta-Analysis of AS vs. GP Inmates by Characteristic

Characteristic	<i>ES</i>	95% <i>CI</i>	<i>I</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>
Antisocial attitudes	.37	[.29, .45]	76.17	14,212	7
Antisocial associates	.28	[.15, .40]	90.37	13,993	7
Community functioning/leisure	.21	[.12, .30]	43.07	3,927	3
Education/HS diploma	.38	[.25, .50]	63.16	21,246	5
Employment	.20	[.10, .30]	92.34	31,733	8
Family/marital	.13	[.06, .19]	0.00	4,076	3
Personal/emotional	.29	[.23, .35]	0.00	4,032	3
Substance abuse	.29	[.17, .41]	95.91	35,279	11
Motivation for treatment	.58	[.10, 1.07]	73.32	2,199	2

*Note.* *ES* = mean weighted effect size (Hedge's *g*); 95% *CI* = 95% confidence interval of *ES*; *I*<sup>2</sup> = percentage of variability across effect sizes; *n* = total sample size; *k* = number of effect sizes.

# Conclusion

- Who ends up in administrative segregation?
  - “Worst of the worst” inmates
  - “Nuisance” inmates
  - **“Difficult to manage” inmates**
- There is little empirical evidence to suggest that AS is effective in improving subsequent inmate institutional behavior (see Labrecque, 2015; Morris, 2015).
- What are the alternatives to AS?

# Implications

- One way to improve inmate behavior and reduce the use of AS is to apply the RNR framework to the management of inmates:
  - **Identifying at-risk inmates (RISK)**
  - **Treatment targets (NEEDS)**
    - Attitudes/cognitions
    - Personal/emotional
    - Substance abuse
    - Negative peer influences
    - Motivation for treatment
  - **Potential moderators (RESPONSIVITY)**
    - Variability in findings

# Contact Information

Ryan M. Labrecque, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Criminology and Criminal Justice Department

Portland State University

Phone: 503-725-5164

E-mail: [rml@pdx.edu](mailto:rml@pdx.edu)

Web: [www.ryanmlabrecque.com](http://www.ryanmlabrecque.com)



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

**Canada's Capital University**

Developing and Validating a Risk Assessment Scale  
to Predict Inmate Placements in Administrative  
Segregation in the Correctional Service of Canada

**L. Maaike Helmus, Ph.D.**



- **Correctional Services of Canada**
  - | All custodial sentences of 2 or more years
    - *Roughly 2% of convicted cases*
    - *Roughly 15,000 inmates at any given time*
  
- **Corrections and Conditional Release Act:  
3 reasons for segregation**
  - | Inmate jeopardizes security of the institution
  - | Inmate is in danger
  - | [Inmate's presence in general population may interfere with investigation]





# Sample

- **16,701 CSC Offenders**
  - | All men admitted FY 2007/2008 through 2009/2010
  - | All women admitted from 1999/2000 through 2009/2010
  - | 20% Aboriginal; 16% women
  
- **Randomly split into development (N = 11,110) and validation (N = 5,591) sample**



- **Administrative segregation placement**
  - | Within 2 years of admission
  - | For a period of 6 days or more
  - | For reason of 'inmate in danger' (IMD) or 'jeopardizing security of the institution' (JS)
  
- **24% placed in administrative segregation within 2 years**
  - | Aboriginal offenders more likely; women less likely



## 413 Potential Predictor Variables

- **Scale items (Static Factors Assessment, Dynamic Factors Intake Assessment, Custody Rating Scale)**
- **Demographic information**
- **Current sentence information**
- **Flags/needs/alerts**
- **Gang affiliation information**
- **Previous sentence information (institutional incidents and prior segregations)**



- **Computerized file information**
  - | Entry/exit in segregation is reliably documented
  - | Predictor variables as assessed by front-line staff in policy-mandated assessments
    - *Vary in quality*
    - *Missing information*
    - *Mental health information particularly spotty*

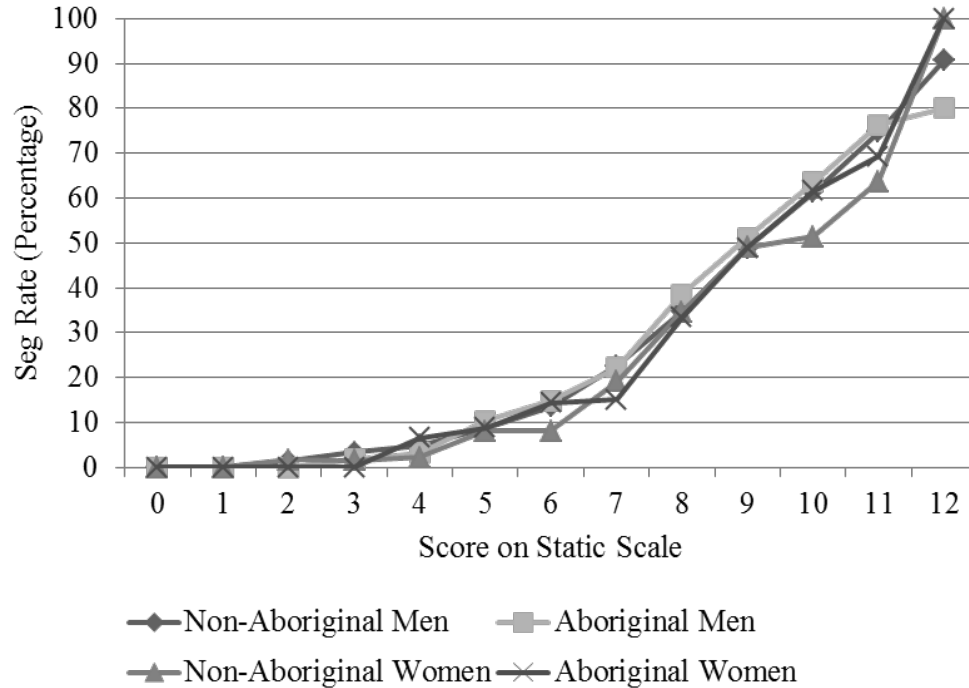
- **86% of predictors were significant**
- **Limited differences in reason for segregation**
- **Many predicted better for women**
- **Reduced items considering:**
  - | Magnitude of effect sizes, face validity concerns, practicality (ease of obtaining/coding), statistical analyses to reduce redundancies, robustness for gender and Aboriginal ancestry
- **Developed scales for static factors, dynamic, and both**



- **Static scale: Risk of Administrative Segregation Tool (RAST)**
  - | Age at admission (0-3)
  - | Prior convictions (0-2)
  - | Admission to administrative segregation in previous federal sentence (0-1)
  - | Sentence length (0-4)
  - | Criminal versatility in current convictions (0-2)
  - | Prior conviction for violence (0-1)



# RAST Recidivism Rates



- **Simple, 6-item scale had very high predictive accuracy (AUC = .80 in validation sample)**
  - | Higher than most risk scales in predicting recidivism
  - | Worked great for women (sometimes better than men), well for Aboriginal (but not as well as non-Aboriginal)
  
- **Possible utility**
  - | Risk principle of effective correctional practice
    - *Diversion efforts maximally effective when focused on highest risk offenders*
  
- **Could it be applied to the U.S.?**
  - | Would require research and tweaking
    - *E.g., sentence length, potential policy differences*



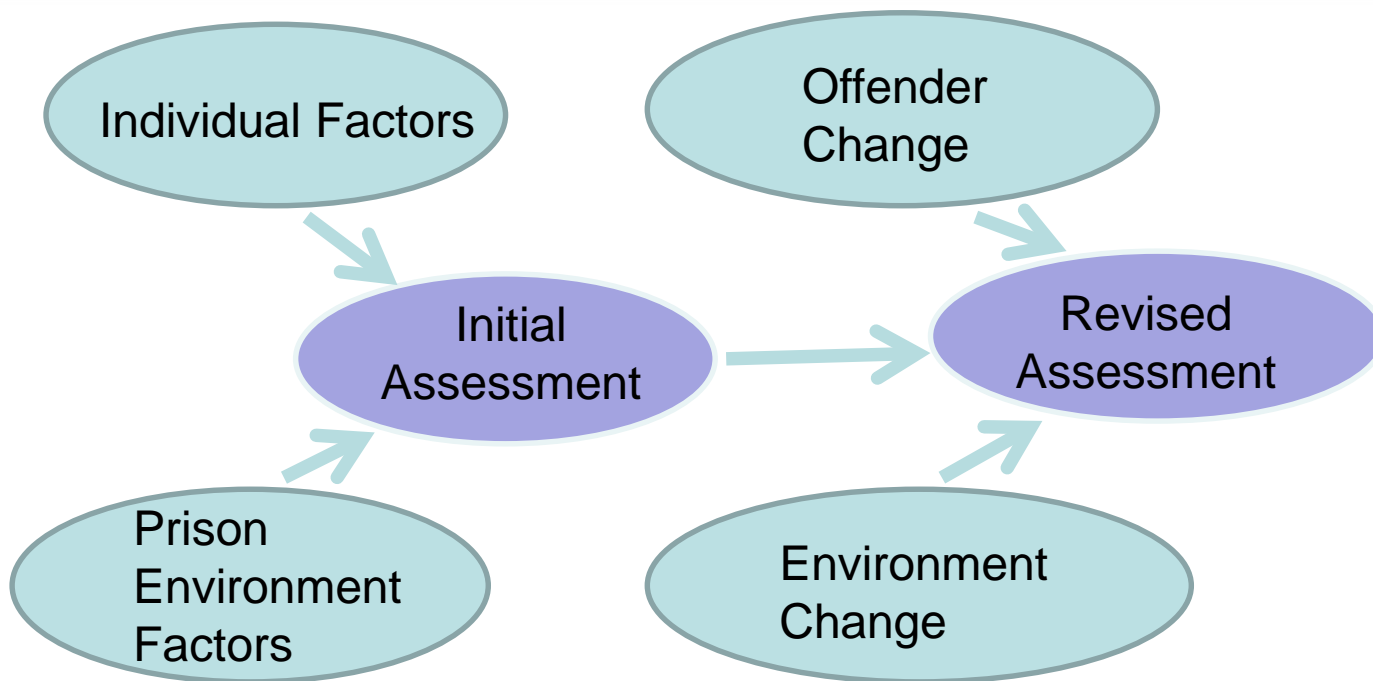


# Implications for the U.S.

- **It is possible to predict segregation with high accuracy**
  - | More predictable than community behaviour?
  - | Data on 413 predictors separately for inmate in danger vs jeopardize security, or any segregation
- **Can be predicted with simple, static risk factors**
  - | Dynamic risk factors also predict – may be informative
- **Few differences in predictors based on the reason for being in segregation**
- **Antisociality risk factors generally more prominent than vulnerability risk factors (e.g., mental health)**
  - | CAVEAT: I did not have extensive mental health information



# A Possible Future?





**For more information: [Lmaaikehelmus@gmail.com](mailto:Lmaaikehelmus@gmail.com)**

# The Relationship Between Institutional Violence & Administrative Segregation

Benjamin Steiner  
Jeffrey Beard



**NIJ**

# The Relationship between Institutional Violence and Administrative Segregation

Benjamin Steiner, Ph.D.  
University of Nebraska, Omaha

October 22, 2015

## Introduction

- Maintaining safe and orderly institutions is a high priority for prison and jail administrators, but institutional misconduct and/or violence threatens the safety and order of an institution.
- The imposition of segregation is a common response to inmate misconduct and/or violence that corrections officials use to regulate inmate behavior and promote order and safety within their institutions.

## Violence in Correctional Institutions

- In 2005, the within prison rate of assaults on inmates was 16.25 assaults per 1,000 inmates, whereas the rate of assaults per 1,000 persons in the general population was .44 (FBI, 2005).
- Studies of inmate victimization have revealed varied estimates:
  - 20% of inmates victimized by physical violence or threat of violence during a 6-month period (Wolff et al., 2007)
  - 14% of inmates victimized by personal crime during a 3-month period (Wooldredge, 1994)
  - 10% inmates victimized by physical assault or robbery during a 6-month period (Wooldredge, 1998)
  - 7% inmates victimized by physical assault during a 6-month period (Wooldredge & Steiner, 2014)
- Less than 2% of the general population experiences an assault in a given year (Catalano, 2005; 2006; Rand, 2009).

## Violence in Correctional Institutions (cont.)

- Approximately 4.4% of inmates experienced one or more sexual victimizations in the past year (Beck & Harrison, 2010).
- Nearly 7.5% of former inmates were sexually victimized during their most recent period of imprisonment (Beck & Johnson, 2012).
- Less than 1% of persons in the general population were sexually assaulted in 2008 (Rand, 2009).



## Segregation Use in Correctional Institutions

- Definitions of “administrative segregation”
- Typically, 2.5% of the custodial population within each state is held in administrative segregation (range = .1 - 7.5%), whereas 6.6% of the custodial population within each state is held in some form of restrictive housing (range = 2.1 - 14.2%) (Baumgartel et al., 2015).
- Between 5% and 8% of the state prison population is held in segregated housing (Shames et al., 2015).

## Segregation Population Characteristics

- Compared to the general prison population, the population in segregation is more likely to contain inmates with the following characteristics:
  - Younger, male, and nonwhite
  - Incarcerated for violent offense, more significant prior record, and longer prison sentence
  - Served more time, involved in gang/STG, higher rate of rule infractions, and more mental health problems
  - Higher risk/need
    - (Baumgartel et al., 2015; Lovell et al., 2000; McGinnis et al., 2014; Mears & Bales, 2010; Motiuk & Blanchette, 1997; O'Keefe, 2008).

## Predictors of Officials' use of Segregation

- Evidence from the existing studies of the predictors of placement in disciplinary segregation is mixed.
  - Researchers have found that inmates found guilty of more serious offenses and/or inmates with lengthier misconduct histories typically received more severe sanctions (e.g., Crouch, 1985; Flanagan, 1982; Lindquist, 1980), but others have not found such effects (Howard et al., 1994).
  - Researchers have found that younger inmates are sanctioned more severely than older inmates (Flanagan, 1982; Lindquist, 1980), but Howard et al. (1994) found a nonsignificant age effect.
  - Lindquist (1980) found that women were sanctioned less severely than men; Howard et al. (1994) found a nonsignificant sex effect.
  - No studies have uncovered significant race effects (Crouch, 1985; Flanagan, 1982; Howard et al., 1994; Lindquist, 1980).

## Officials' use of Segregation (cont.)

- O'Keefe (2007) found the following factors predicted placement in administrative segregation:
  - Sex (male)
  - Ethnicity (Hispanic)
  - Incarcerated for violent offense
  - Mental illness
  - Security threat group
  - Higher # of disciplinary infractions
  - Higher # of disciplinary segregation placements

## Officials' use of Segregation (cont.)

- Mears and Bales (2010) found the following factors predicted placement in supermax:
  - Age (younger)
  - Incarcerated for violent offense
  - Higher # of prior violent convictions
  - Higher # of prior escape convictions
  - More time served
  - Higher # of violent disciplinary infractions
  - Higher # of defiance disciplinary infractions
  - Higher # of contraband disciplinary infractions

## Effects of Segregation on Behavior

- Supermax confinement
  - Individual level studies
    - Nonsignificant effect on recidivism (Lovell et al., 2007; Mears & Bales, 2009; Butler & Steiner, In Press, but see Lovell & Johnson, 2004)
    - Higher odds of violent recidivism (Lovell & Johnson, 2004; Mears & Bales, 2009)
    - Evidence mixed regarding effect of direct release from supermax confinement on recidivism (compare Lovell et al., 2007 to Mears & Bales, 2009)
    - Nonsignificant effect on odds of obtaining employment or completing treatment post-release (Butler & Steiner, In Press)
  - Aggregate level studies
    - Opening of supermax prisons had little to no effect on system wide inmate-inmate assaults (Briggs et al., 2003; Sundt et al., 2008).
    - Opening of supermax prison resulted in reduction in inmate-staff assaults in IL (Sundt et al., 2008).
    - Suicides more frequent in supermax prisons relative to minimum-security prisons (Dye, 2010).

## Effects of Segregation on Behavior (cont.)

- Disciplinary Segregation
  - Individual level studies
    - Men who spent more days in segregation displayed increased aggression, but days spent in segregation had a nonsignificant effect on aggression among women (Wolff et al., 2013).
    - Nonsignificant effect on subsequent misconduct (Labrecque, 2015; Morris, In Press)
  - Aggregate level studies
    - Most studies have found nonsignificant effect on rates of violence (Steiner & Cain, In Press).

## Effects of Segregation on Behavior (cont.)

- Any Segregation
  - Higher odds of recidivism (Motiuk & Blanchette, 2001)
  - Higher odds of self-harm (Lanes, 2009)
- Jail Segregation
  - Higher odds of self harm and potentially fatal self-harm (Kaba et al., 2014)



What do we know?

What do we need to know?

Thank you

Correspondence to:

Benjamin Steiner

[bmsteiner@unomaha.edu](mailto:bmsteiner@unomaha.edu)

402-554-4057

# The Relationship Between Institutional Violence & Administrative Segregation

Benjamin Steiner  
Jeffrey Beard



**NIJ**

# Mental Health and Administrative Segregation

Craig Haney  
Lucas Malishchak  
Nicole Taylor

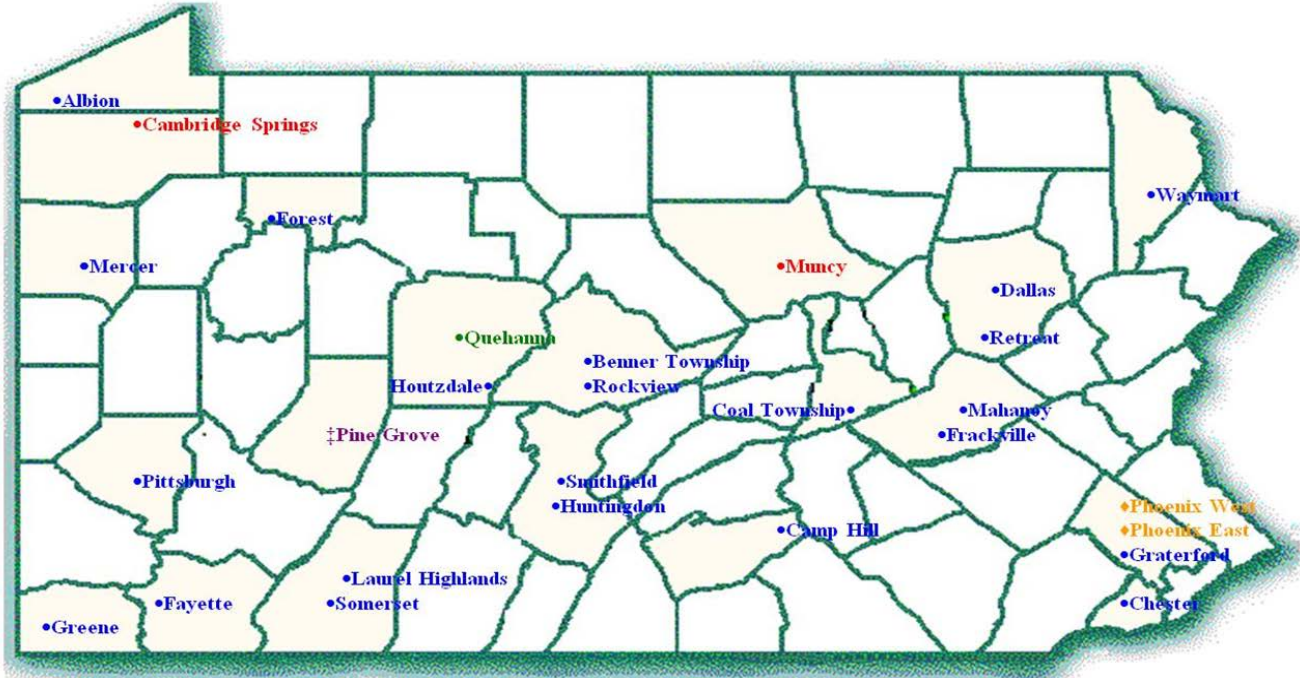


**NIJ**

“Summary of Change:  
The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections  
Mental Health Care System”

Lucas D. Malishchak, M.A., NCP  
PADOC Mental Health Program Manager

# Overview of the Pennsylvania Department of Correction



## PA DOC Mental Health Population (today)



Total Male Population: 45,584 or 95%  
Total Female Population: 2,447 or 5%  
Total Population 48,031

Total MH/ID Roster: 12,403/48,031 = 25.8%  
**Males** on MH/ID Roster: 10,758/45,584 = 23.6%  
**Females** on MH/ID Roster: 1645/2447 = 67.2%

Total Seriously Mentally Ill Inmates: 4061/48,031 = 8.5%  
Seriously Mentally Ill **Males**: 3442/45,584 = 7.6%  
Seriously Mentally Ill **Females**: 619/2447 = 25.3%

- *“The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections subjects prisoners with **SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESSES** to prolonged periods of solitary confinement.”*
- *“The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections does not adequately consider mental illness in its disciplinary and administrative processes.”*
- *“The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections continues to lack key oversight mechanisms that would identify and address the harmful effects of solitary confinement and ensure the provision of adequate mental health care.”*
- *“The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections does not track the number of prisoners with SMI in solitary confinement units; does not examine the role of solitary confinement in causing suicides; does not track self-injurious behavior; does not critically review serious self-injuries; and does not track or analyze the additional punitive responses that prisoners with SMI experience in solitary confinement units...”*



- Mental Health Classification System: identification, stability, & location.
- Disciplinary Process
- Inmates diagnosed with Serious Mental Illnesses
- Alternatives to Segregation
- Out of Cell time and programming
- Mental Health Rounds
- Individual Treatment Plans
- DOC Employees/Contractors/Volunteers
- Central Office Oversight
- Training and Mental Health Advocacy

# Arizona Department of Corrections



## Mental Health in Restrictive Housing

Nicole Taylor, J.D., Ph.D.

Thursday, October 22, 2015

# Prevalence of Mental Illness in ADC

- ❖ There are currently 42,241 inmates (as of 8/24/15)
- ❖ 11,236 (26.6%) inmates are receiving mental health services
  - ❖ 10,697 inmates are receiving outpatient services
  - ❖ 447 inmates are receiving residential services
  - ❖ 92 inmates are receiving inpatient services
- ❖ 1,965 SMI (4.7% of total population, 17.5% of MH caseload)

# Outpatient Treatment Services

- ❖ Inmates are routinely seen based on their subcode
  - ❖ A = a minimum of every 30 days by a clinician and 90 days by a provider if on medications
  - ❖ B = a minimum of every 90 days by a clinician and every 90-180 days by a provider
  - ❖ C = a minimum of every 180 days by a provider
  - ❖ D = a minimum of every 90 days by a clinician for at least 6 months until removed from the MH caseload
  
- ❖ Services include:
  - ❖ Psychotherapy
  - ❖ Psycho-educational programming
  - ❖ Psychopharmacology

# Residential Treatment Services

- ❖ Programs are located in Medium, Close and Maximum custody
- ❖ Individual therapy = a minimum of every 30 days
- ❖ Group = a minimum of one mental health group per week
- ❖ Psychiatric services = a minimum of every 90 days if on medications

# Inpatient Treatment Services

- ❖ Placement for ongoing stabilization or for short-term evaluations
  - Petitions for commitment upon release are typically handled at the Inpatient Hospital
- ❖ Individual therapy = a minimum of every 7 days
- ❖ Groups = typically occur daily
- ❖ Psychiatric services = a minimum of every 30 days if on medications

# Maximum Custody

- ❖ Parsons v. Ryan Litigation
  - ❖ All SMI inmates in our maximum custody (restrictive housing) will have a minimum amount of out-of-cell time each week
    - ❖ 7.5 (up to 9.5) of out-of-cell time
    - ❖ 10 hours of unstructured out-of-cell time
    - ❖ 1 hour of psychotherapy group
    - ❖ 1 hour of psycho-educational group
    - ❖ 1 hour of additional programming

# Maximum Custody (cont.)

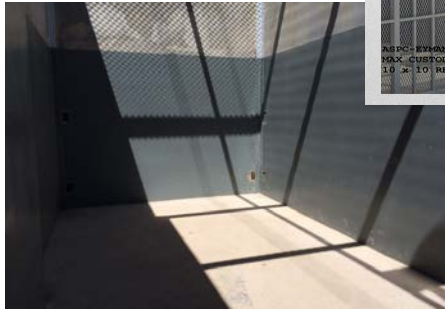
- ❖ Parsons v. Ryan Litigation
  - ❖ All other inmates in our maximum custody (restrictive housing) will have a minimum amount of out-of-cell time each week
    - ❖ Step 1 – 7.5 hours
    - ❖ Step 2 – 8.5 hours
      - ❖ One hour of group programming
    - ❖ Step 3 – 9.5 hours
      - ❖ One hour of group programming



## Maximum Custody (cont.)

- ❖ Tiered Incentive Program – **Recreation**
  - ❖ Step 1 – 6 hours per week in a standard enclosure
  - ❖ Step 2 – 7.5 hours per week with on in 10x10 enclosure per month
  - ❖ Step 3 (unrestrained) – 9 hours per week and all can be in 10x10 enclosure or rec field

# Maximum Custody (cont.)



## Maximum Custody (cont.)

### ❖ Tiered Incentive Program – **Group Programming**

- ❖ Step 1 – mental health and other programs in individual enclosures
- ❖ Step 2 – mental health and other programs typically in max custody chairs
- ❖ Step 3 (unrestrained) – mental health and other programs often around a large table
  - ❖ Group education and college courses

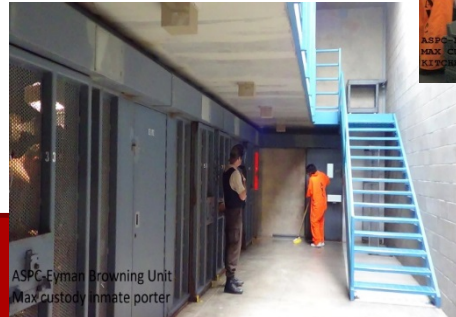
# Maximum Custody (cont.)



## Maximum Custody (cont.)

- ❖ Tiered Incentive Program – **Employment**
  - ❖ Step 1 – no jobs available at this step
  - ❖ Step 2 – jobs as a porter or other position with an officer present (or another inmate)
  - ❖ Step 3 (unrestrained) – jobs in large groups such as yard crew or kitchen

# Maximum Custody (cont.)



No Employment Available

# Litigation Effects

- ❖ Definition of Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI)
  - ❖ Some states have retained their definition of diagnosis plus functional capacity
  - ❖ Other states have had to change their definition to include categories of diagnoses
    - ❖ The “Standard 9 Diagnoses”
    - ❖ CA – includes Exhibitionism or those who merely expose themselves

## Litigation Effects (cont.)

- ❖ Are we providing the correct level of care to the inmate population?
- ❖ Is the data reported on the prevalence of SMI in corrections accurate?
- ❖ What effects will this have on reintegration into the community and their ability to provide services to this population?





# Contact Information

Dr. Nicole Taylor

[ntaylor@azcorrections.gov](mailto:ntaylor@azcorrections.gov)

602-531-2417

# The Relationship Between Correctional Officer Safety and Wellness & Administrative Segregation

Frank Ferdik  
Kenneth T. McKee



**NIJ**

# Topical Working Group on the Use of Administrative Segregation in the United States

---

A PRESENTATION PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
JUSTICE

FRANK VALENTINO FERDIK, PH.D.  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA



# Safety and Wellness Literature Synthesis Review

---

1)-Prevalence of Correctional Officer Wellness and Safety Risks

2)-Contributing Factors

- Work-Related Dangers
  - Institutional-Related Dangers
  - Psycho-Social Dangers
- 3)-Consequences of Exposure to the Dangers

# Administrative Segregation and Implications for Officer Safety and Wellness

---

## 1)-Conditions

- Deprivation of Human Contact

## 2)-Consequences (found to be connected with inmates)

- Psychosis
- Sensory Deprivation
- Hallucinations
- Exacerbation of Violent Conduct
- Mental Breakdowns
- Failure to Socialize

## 3)-Potential Consequences for Correctional Line Staff

- Elevated Risk of Physical and Mental Health Ailments
- Exposure to Inmate Trauma (Vicarious Traumatization-McMann & Pearlman, 1990) (Levin & Griesburg, 2003; Peters, 2007)
- Officers Become Desensitized and Potentially Violent Themselves

# Implications

---

- Potential Resolutions
  - Early Identification of Potentially Problematic Inmates
  - Additional Staff Required
  - Expansion of Rehabilitation Programs
  - Improved Training
  - Re-formatting of Administrative Segregation Conditions
  - Coping for Officers
  - Psychiatric Professionals for Officers as well as Inmates

## Future Research Considerations

- The Correctional Officer Perspective
- Prevalence of (Generalized) Risks for Officers
  - Implications of Specific Risks (e.g., mentally ill; gang leaders; chronically violent, etc.)

# The Relationship Between Correctional Officer Safety and Wellness & Administrative Segregation

Frank Ferdik  
Kenneth T. McKee



**NIJ**

# Civil Rights Enforcement & Administrative Segregation

Vanita Gupta



**NIJ**



# Recap and Summary



**NIJ**

# National Institute of Justice Topical Working Group on the Use of Administrative Segregation in the U.S.

Thursday, October 22, 2015



**NIJ**