Prison Abuse and Mental Health

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Mental Illness as defined by the Bureau of Prisons:

“... Any emotional or mental condition which substantially impairs the inmate’s ability to function within the institutional setting. Using criteria presented in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV), substantial impairment is defined as the presence or history of a major Axis I disorder or a severe Axis II disorder, along with either a history of or a current Axis V of 40 or below.

(BOP, 1995)
INTRODUCTION: DEFINING TERMS

• Jail:
  * 1 year or less
  * awaiting bond, arraignment, and a trial process
  * serving sentence for misdemeanor/lower-level conviction

• Prison:
  * More than 1 year
  * Felony/higher-level crime

Persons who have been judged by a court to be mentally incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity are NOT held in these correctional facilities.
US FOCUS: STATISTICS & PROBLEMS

- Majority of prison population has a diagnosis of a mental illness.
  - 24% psychotic disorder & 49% depressive/mania disorder
  - Under 24 yrs. of age
- Medical Treatment while Incarcerated
- Treatment in Jail/Prison Environment
  - Longer Sentences
  - No freedoms, no socialization
  - 6ft. By 8ft. locked prison
  - Lack of Education

(HARRISON, 2012), (BJS, 2006), (HONBERG, 2013)
US INTERVENTIONS

- America’s Law Enforcement & Mental Health Project
- Rhode Island
- Colorado
- Ohio

(NAMI), (WATSON, A.C., & ANGELL, B., 2007), (PSYCHIATRY ONLINE, 2006), (HEALTH POLICY REVIEW, 2013)
GLOBAL STATISTICS

- Increasing Worldwide
- Mentally Ill Criminality Increasing
- Varies Across Countries
- Prevalence of Information Available

(MARZANO, L., CICLITIRA, K., & ADLER, J. 2012),
(MEEK, R., 2011),
(ANDERSON, 2004),
(RAMLUUGGUN, P., LINDSAY, B., & PFEIL, M. 2010)
GLOBAL PROBLEMS

- Global Abuse Experiences
- Undetected and Undertreated
- Lack of Access to Evidenced Based Interventions
- Average Allocation for Mental Health Services: 0.5% of total health budget
- Vicious Cycle
- European vs. North American Populations
- Prison staff reactions to self harm in mentally ill prisoners
- Officers vs. Healthcare Workers

(MARZANO, L., CICLITIRA, K., & ADLER, J. 2012),
(MEEK, R., 2011),
(RAMLUGGUN, P., LINDSAY, B., & PFEIL, M. 2010)
Table 1. Summary of main findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers’ responses to self-harm</th>
<th>n/N*</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helpful</td>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhelpful</td>
<td>17/20</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthcare staff’s responses to self-harm</th>
<th>n/N*</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helpful</td>
<td>6/18</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhelpful</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect of negative staff reactions†</th>
<th>n/N*</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reinforcing negative feelings and low self-worth</td>
<td>7/12</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discouraging support seeking</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing to further self-harm</td>
<td>6/12</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing to more severe self-harm</td>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preferred staff reactions†</th>
<th>n/N*</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater understanding of self-harm, mental health, and drug problems</td>
<td>4/16</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring and supportive attitudes</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-harm and prisoners who self-harm being taken more seriously</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being treated with respect</td>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved communication</td>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More proactive practical responses (e.g., searching cell for razors)</td>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>4/16</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No preference</td>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Denominators vary because of missing information, due to the semi-structured nature of the interviews, time and language restraints, and disinclination to answer some questions.
†Percentage >100 as some participants gave multiple responses.

(MARZANO, L., CICLITIRA, K., & ADLER, J. 2012)
“They should take it a bit more seriously, after losing so many people with it. I think four died since I’ve been here. **Four killings** since I’ve been in here. So I think they should take it a bit more seriously, and **deal** with it straight away really. I can’t believe I’m being left to my own devices; I’m finding it very hard not, not to hang myself properly.”

(MARZANO, L., CICLITIRA, K., & ADLER, J. 2012)
• Global Emergency
• Many Factors to Consider
• Staff Training, Support, & Supervision
• Lack of Resources Available

(PATEL, V., & SAXENA, S., 2014),
(MARZANO, L., CICLITIRA, K., & ADLER, J. 2012)
Globally

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Article 6 – “Right to life”

Article 7 – “Prohibition of torture”

Article 10 –

“Prohibition of inhumane or degrading treatment”

Convention Against Torture
Number: 5310.13    |    March 31, 1995

Screen all inmates upon arrival

  Psychiatric Referral Center
  Program Coordinator (on cite)

  Treatment plan
  Monthly progress notes
  Special housing when necessary
  Consultation and follow up
REALITY

http://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_offenses.jsp
Bacote v Federal Bureau of Prisons

Control Unit

2 psychologists / 450 inmates

“Telepsychiatry”

14 preceding lawsuits
“Apart from being especially vulnerable by virtue of being detained, detainees are generally an unpopular political cause... Consideration of their rights is not normally included in the political process.”

- Rieter, E. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
QUESTIONS?
REFERENCES


REFERENCES


