

Apr 16th, 2:00 PM - 2:20 PM

Prison Abuse and Mental Health

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Wolfe, Hayley R.; Haas, Shelby; and Olley, Candace, "Prison Abuse and Mental Health" (2014). *The Research and Scholarship Symposium*. 4.

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**PRISON ABUSE & MENTAL
HEALTH**

Shelby Haas, Candace Olley, & Hayley Wolfe

INTRODUCTION: DEFINING TERMS

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.



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 24yrs. 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

US INTERVENTIONS

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



GLOBAL STATISTICS

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

(ANDERSON, 2004),
(MARZANO, L., CICLITIRA, K., & ADLER, J. 2012),
(MEEK, R., 2011),
(RAMLUGGUN, 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

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

UK PROBLEMS (CONTINUED)

Table 1. Summary of main findings

	<i>n/N*</i>	%
Officers' responses to self-harm		
Helpful	3/20	15
Unhelpful	17/20	85
Healthcare staff's responses to self-harm		
Helpful	6/18	33
Unhelpful	12/18	67
Effect of negative staff reactions†		
Reinforcing negative feelings and low self-worth	7/12	58
Discouraging support seeking	3/12	25
Contributing to further self-harm	6/12	50
Contributing to more severe self-harm	2/12	17
None	1/12	8
Preferred staff reactions†		
Greater understanding of self-harm, mental health, and drug problems	4/16	25
Caring and supportive attitudes	3/16	19
Self-harm and prisoners who self-harm being taken more seriously	3/16	19
Being treated with respect	2/16	13
Improved communication	1/16	6
More proactive practical responses (e.g., searching cell for razors)	2/16	13
Unsure	4/16	25
No preference	2/16	13

*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.

UNITED KINGDOM:
A PRISONER'S WORDS

- “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.”



UNITED KINGDOM INTERVENTIONS

- Global Emergency
- Many Factors to Consider
- Staff Training, Support, & Supervision
- Lack of Resources Available

THE REAL ISSUE

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

CURRENT BOP LEGISLATION

Number: 5310.13 | March 31, 1995

Screen all inmates upon arrival

Psychiatric Referral Center

Program Coordinator (on site)

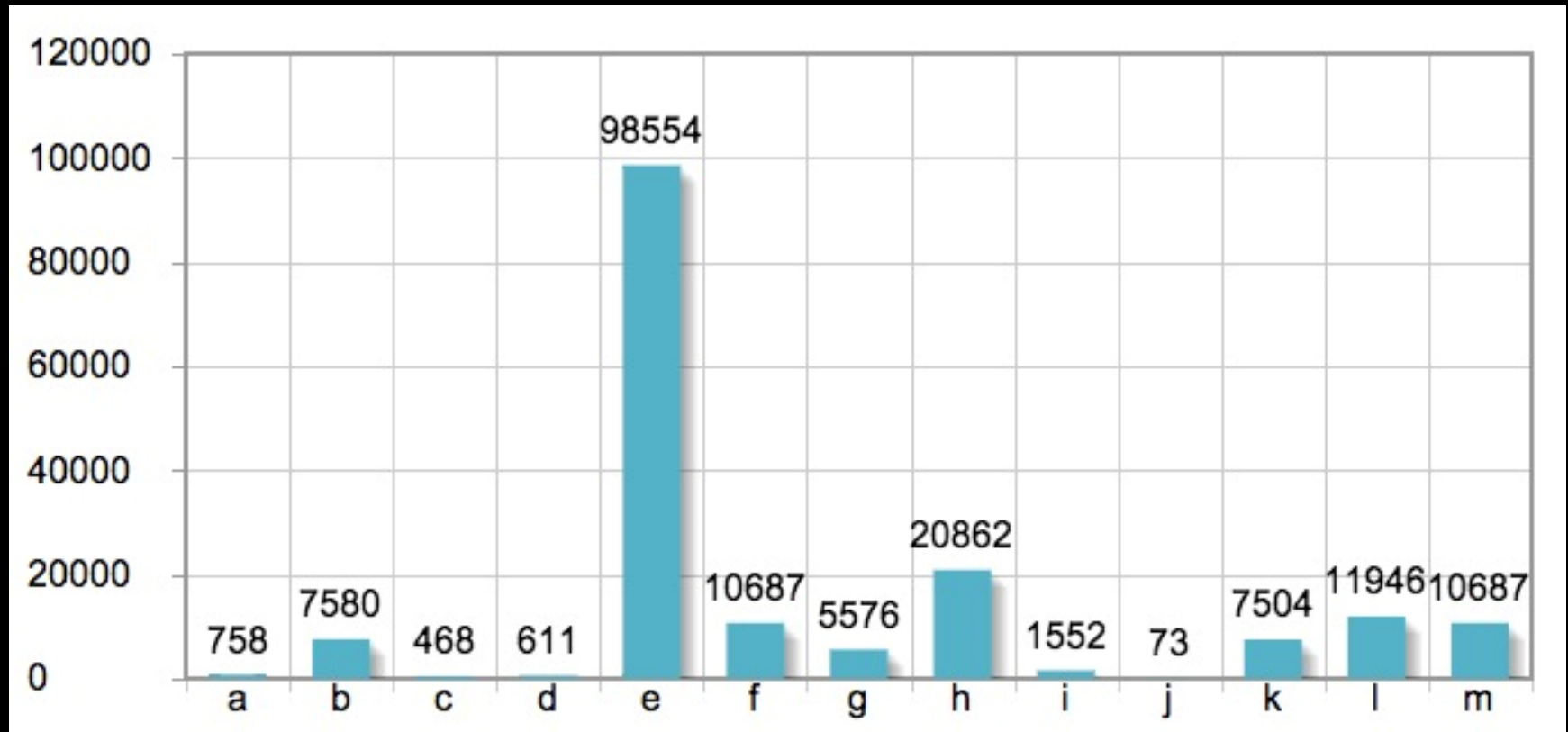
Treatment plan

Monthly progress notes

Special housing when necessary

Consultation and follow up

REALITY



http://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_offenses.jsp

REALITY

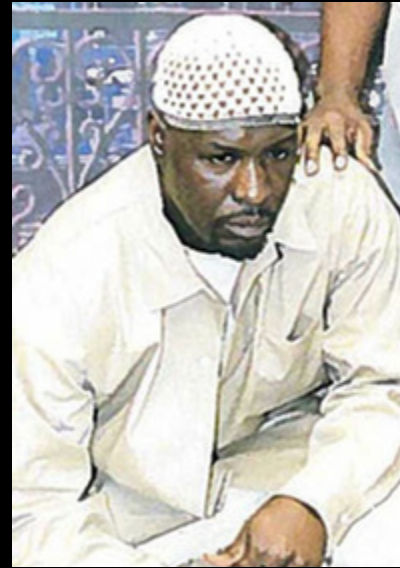
Bacote v Federal Bureau of Prisons

Control Unit

2 psychologists / 450 inmates

“Telepsychiatry”

14 preceding lawsuits



ADVOCACY

“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?

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