Juvenile Justice
CJ 3650
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Week 12
Institutional Corrections

• Placement
  – Secure placement is the most severe and intrusive sanction in the JJ system.
  – Trends in placement mirror the trends in juvenile arrests and court cases.
    • Figure 12.1 page 350

• Commitment and detention rates vary by state.
  • Figure 12.2 page 352
  – Most states have a central juvenile correctional authority.
• **Public vs. Private**
  
  – Most juveniles in public facilities (96%) are held by court order.
  
  – Most in private facilities are status offenders (14%) or non-offenders (41%).

• Figure 12.3 page 354
Institutional facilities

- Generally serve two classifications of juveniles:
  - Detained and awaiting a detention or adjudication hearing.
  - Institutionalized juveniles in 1999
    - 74% were committed
    - 25% detained
    - 1% voluntary admissions
• Facilities range from
  – Detention centers
  – Orientation and diagnostic centers
  – Transfer facilities
  – Boot camps
  – Youth ranches and camps
  – Institutions and state schools
  – Transitional facilities
Detention

- Secure
- Short-term units
- Juveniles awaiting hearings or adjudication.
  - Numbers have increased 41% between 1985 and 2000.
  - This is mirroring the progression in adult corrections.
Short-term Secure

- **Assessment facilities** – generally a stand-alone facility that determines placement.
- **Transfer** – moving from community placement to secure or vice versa.
- **Boot camps** – a secure facility that emphasizes military-style discipline.
- **Youth camps/ranches** – help provide a bridge to a valued, responsible, and productive future.
Treatment

• The variety of approaches and philosophies are almost as numerous as the number of facilities.

• There are four primary goals:
  – Rehabilitation
  – Deterrence
  – Incapacitation
  – Retribution
Correctional Education

- One of the primary goals of juvenile corrections is education.
- The educational levels of juvenile inmates varies considerably.
- Educational programs often serve as the core program consuming the largest portion of time.
- Youths in institutional settings manifest many problems beyond educational issues.
• Acting out in violent manners is a considerable problem for the institution and the educators hired to work within.

• Teachers in these institutions must incorporate innovative methods to stimulate incarcerated youths to learn.

• Research on correctional education has revealed that education is considered to be the most important component of the rehabilitation process.
Vocational training

- The majority of delinquents age 16 years and older do not return to school after release from a correctional setting.
- Juveniles who enter the workplace need training in working productively with others on teams, acquiring and using information, understanding and utilizing systems and using technology.
Specialized Treatment Programs

- These are programs designed specifically for treatment of:
  - Capital offenders
  - Sex offenders
  - Chemically dependant
  - Emotional disturbed
  - Mentally retarded

- Delinquents are often deficient in cognitive problem-solving skills, moral reasoning, communication skills, and social skills.
Programs for serious and repeat offenders

- Many states have programs that target these types of offenders.
- This can also include first-time offenders who commit serious and violent offenses.
- These types of programs share common characteristics:
  - Have well-defined treatment programs with strong intuitive appeal.
  - These programs have demonstrated positive effects.
Institutional life

• Out of home placement may at times be better than the environment the offender came from.

• Nonetheless, juveniles do not welcome this change with open arms.

• **Facility life** – is fundamentally different.
  – Most prominent is the structure
  – The facility dictates time, not the juvenile
  – Regimentation
    • Meals, sleep, exercise, tasks, etc...
Conversely, release from the facility is not without problems.

- Institutional programming leads to the juvenile manifesting institutionalized behavior upon release.
The Staff

- Various jobs within the facility include:
  - Administration
  - Psychological testing and treatment
  - Educational teaching and assessment
  - Security
  - Medical treatment
  - Food services and housekeeping
  - Vocational training
  - Maintenance and operations