Reasons for Increased Violence in Jails/Prisons

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Abstract

Violence has increased in our country over the last several years. So it would make sense, it would increase throughout our jails and prisons. This paper enforces the fact of increasing violence within our jails and prisons. It also shows some of the reasons of why violence has increased in a supervised environment. The paper, through research, has outlined five main reasons why violence has increased in our jails and prisons. Not only does it show increasing violence in the United States, but other industrialized countries like Great Britain and Canada. Forty-two people responded to a survey, to try to determined what the main reason for the increased violence in their institution. To combat this problem, it has to be determined what is causing it. This may be more difficult than actually "getting a handle on it".

Introduction

Violence within jails and prisons is not a new problem law enforcement faces. Violence has existed "behind the walls" ever since incarceration began. Violence exists for many different reasons and factors. Reasons can range anywhere from poor conditions within the jail or prison, to the individuals themselves being violent by nature. No matter what the reason for any particular jail or prison, there are always factors that remain constant for all jails and or prisons.

In the past, inmates were not classified into different categories and housed accordingly. A person could be in jail or prison for stealing something, and be housed with someone who is incarcerated for multiple murders. This of course would most definitely lead to some kind of violence between inmates. The living conditions many years ago were not very good for prisoners. This would almost assuredly create hostility and anger, which in turn leads to violence.

The classification of inmates is much different from how it was done in the past. Classification of inmates now, places individuals with similar criminal histories together. There are three main classification of inmates. There is minimum custody, medium custody, and maximum custody. This method of classifying would theoretically keep violent inmates separate from non-violent inmates. In theory, this would help minimize violence within institutions. So why have prisons/jails become more violent in recent years?

One of the reasons violence has increased is because of overcrowding. The general population has grown significantly, but the building of new jails and prisons has not kept up with the population. Hostility, problems and violence will increase between inmates, as they are crammed together.

Another reason more violence is occurring, is gangs within the incarcerated population. There are street gangs in prisons and jails, just like there are on the streets.

Different gangs do not get along with each other and what follows is violence. Every institution attempts segregation, but to keep different gangs away from each other is nearly impossible. There is a limited amount of housing space for all incarcerated people. This problem also reflects the first problem of overcrowding.

Mental health is another problem associated with the rise of violence within institutions. Many of the mental health hospitals are closing around the country. There are more shutting down and closing all the time. Law enforcement is transporting more and more mentally unstable people to jail, because there is not anywhere else for these people to go. Jails and prisons have become the new mental health facilities around the country. Mentally unstable people can at times be very violent, especially if cornered or provoked. In addition, mentally unstable people are taken advantage of sexually and in other ways. These are a few of the examples that undeniably lead to violence.

Drugs are another cause for increased violence in jails and prisons. Drugs are being smuggled into the facilities, and inmates are using just like on the street. When an inmate is going through withdrawals, they can become violent. Some drugs can make people violent just by using them. The fight over the drugs within an institution can become very violent, just as it can on the street. The gangs within an institution can have wars over drugs, and the drug trade. This of course would be a violent act, and can involve many parties.

There are several reasons why violence has increased within jails and prisons. Some of the reasons are mentioned above. Correctional officer training and mindset seems to be a factor for the violence in some institutions as well. Society has changed over the years, and an officer's way of doing things has to change as well. Correction Officers, who have many years on the job, did the job much differently when they first started than they can today. The training of new officers needs to reflect how things should be done today. The old way of doing things is past history. Society will not allow old practices be the method today. Brutality of inmates can cause violence in institutions. Each generation is different from the past generation, and the ability to reason with a different generation takes training and practice.

Many factors determine the increased cases of violence in jails/prisons. The fact remains, incarceration is more for punishment, than it is for rehabilitation or education. The recidivism rate is very high for inmates. The more a person continues incarceration, the more violent he/she seems to become. This is probably due to the fact, the life "behind the walls" is a violent life. Survival depends on one having to stand his or her ground and fight if necessary. This is more prevalent in jails and prisons, than on the street. Are people returning to incarceration because the punishment is too weak? Are people unable to be rehabilitated and educated, so they have no other choice but to return to the life of crime? Either way, inmate recidivism is also one of the factors used to determine why the violence has increased.

What is the main reason for the increased violence in jails and prisons? Is it overcrowding? Is it lack of mental health facilities? Is it the lack of proper training for the correction officers working in the institutions? Is it the drugs and the addiction to them? On the other hand, is it the amount of gang activity (which is ever growing) the main cause? These questions will be examined and answers will conclude with the findings.

Literature Review

Overcrowding

Prisons and jails provide safety for communities as they house convicted and non-convicted people. Prisons house only convicted people of a crime. Dangers lie inside the facility itself, which can be overrun with violence. When a group of people who are quarantined in tight quarters against their will, violence can, and does occur. There are several reasons for increased violence in jails, state and federal institutions. The Bureau of Justice Statistics indicate that the Federal Bureau of Prisons and 19 states are over inmate capacity. There are another twenty states close to maximum prison capacity. Overcrowding increases stress under the best of conditions, let alone in situations when individuals have limited coping skills, such as jails or prisons. (Thompson, 2019)

Levels of violence are at least partially correlated, with overcrowding. As the number of inmates increases, the ability for correctional officers to monitor inmates decreases. Housing two inmates in a cell originally designed for one person, may contribute to violence. This is illustrative when a large number of violent physical and sexual acts occur among cellmates. Overcrowding also reduces the ability of authorities to segregate violent inmates, or victims of violence, into their own housing units to prevent future attacks. A higher prison population also results in fewer work opportunities, leaving idle those who may be the most likely to commit acts of violence against other inmates. (Levan, Corrections, 2011)

In October 2016, the Justice Department announced an investigation into all of the male prisons in Alabama, focusing on reports of increased violence and sexual abuse at the hands of both inmates and staff members. The prisons in Alabama are operating at around 172 percent of capacity. This is actually a decline after sentencing reforms, but it has been offset by a sharp plunge in the number of corrections officers. In St. Clair prison in Alabama, there were only 216 segregation cells for 1200 prisoners. (Robertson, March 28, 2017). This means, there was not enough cells to place individuals if rules were broken, or if somebody needed protection from other inmates.

State run institutions are not the only places where violence is increasing throughout the country. Private federal prisons are more abusive, violent and dangerous than the government counterparts, according to the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. In a study of two of the three prisons they visited, they "learned that all newly received inmates were housed in the Segregated Housing Unit (SHU) due to lack of available space in general population units." Violent encounters between inmates were 28 percent more prevalent than at government –run facilities. (Knight, April 12, 2016)

On February 1, 2017, a group of inmates took control of a building at Vaughn Correction in Delaware, and held four correctional officers hostage during a standoff that lasted more than 18 hours. One Lieutenant killed and several other correctional officers injured before emergency police eventually stormed the prison in the early hours of February 2. Vaughn is severely overcrowded and understaffed. The vast majority of U.S. prisoners are incarcerated in state and local facilities: Fewer than 200,000 of the 1.5 million total inmates were in federal prisons at the end of 2015, according to Bureau of

Justice Statistics data. Another 730,000 people were in local jails at the end of 2015, bringing the incarcerated population to 2.2 million. (Galvin, 2017)

The U.S. is not the only place where prisons and jails are seeing increased violence in the jails and prisons. Violent incidents among inmates in Canada's prisons are increasing. Overcrowded prisons, harder to handle inmates and a shortage of mental health services is creating the alarming rise in violence and a less predictable environment for everyone behind the walls of Canada's prisons. Assaults are up over 15 percent in the last three years, and the use of force by officers is up a staggering 37 percent over five years, as MacCharles reported in the Sunday Star. If that were not troubling enough, the problems are likely to get worse. In the past two and a half years, Canada's federal inmate population has risen by almost 1,500. This is the equivalent of around three new medium security institutions. Only Canada has not built them. This means overcrowding and insufficient programs in existing prisons. (Dyck, July 9, 2012)

Gangs

Gang affiliations, rivalries and disputes account for a percentage of violent incidents in prisons and jails. While gang members can avoid contact with other gangs on the outside, close quarters do not allow rival inmates this luxury in prison. Along the same lines, racial issues and affiliations divide inmates and can result in violence as well. (Thompson, 2019)

There are various definitions for prison gangs, but a generally accepted description is that a prison gang operates within the prison system as a criminally oriented entity that threatens, or perceived to threaten, the orderly management of a prison. Inmates belonging to a prison gang will often have similar norms, values, and have a distinct code of conduct among its members. Many prison officials use the term *security threat group* (STG) to identify a gang. Prison gangs are usually organized along racial or ethnic lines, mimicking and often overlapping street gangs. Inmates often join gangs as either a means to secure personal protection from other inmates or for economic gain. They often rely on gang members as surrogate family members. (Levan, Corrections, 2011)

Among prisoners, violence is often a means by which to gain status from other inmates, and gangs provide both a means to perpetuate this violence and protection from other inmates. Some forms of prison violence include assault, sexual assault, riots, and homicide. Much of the violence in prisons and jails remains unreported, making it difficult to address an individual victim level. Violence among prisoners, even those not involved in gangs, has become not only accepted, but also expected. Inmates must convey a tough and masculine appearance in order to thwart violent attacks at the hands of fellow inmates. Gang members may make up a relatively small number of the inmate population, but they are responsible for a large number of violent activities occurring in correctional institutions. Gang members generally account for more assaults on other inmates and staff than inmates not affiliated with a gang. (Levan, Corrections, 2011)

Just as with street gangs, turf wars may emerge over areas of the prison. Common areas, such as the cafeteria or recreation yard, are often the places for these turf wars. Rival gang members encroach upon rival gangs, fighting over specific claimed territory they feel is theirs. In prison there is no neutral or safe area for gang members to retreat,

often erupting into violence among rival gangs. This is very different from turf wars on the street, where there is a neutral ground or a place to retreat. (Levan, Corrections, 2011)

Gangs remain one of the more formidable issues that corrections officials face in managing prisons and jails. About 200,000 of the 1.5 million U.S. inmates are affiliated with gangs, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Statistics. Gangs are responsible for a disproportionate amount of prison misconduct and violence. Their presence and actions challenge ongoing efforts to maintain control, order and safety in prisons and jails. (Pyrooz, 2018)

Just like in the U.S. with overcrowding being a problem, gangs are also a problem in other industrialized countries. In the United Kingdom, the level and severity of violence is growing. Much of the violence is related to gangs. Offenders who are in gangs outside jail are unlikely to leave their affiliations behind once they are incarcerated. If rival gangs are split up within institutions, (placed on different wings, or monitored to ensure they do not exercise or do activities together), they can instruct "third Parties" to carry out assaults. (Shaw, January 13, 2015)

Canada's prison system is grappling with an explosion of gangs that is fueling violence and the drug trade behind bars. Corrections Canada has seen a 44 percent jump in gang members in the last five years, to 2040 in 2012 up from 1421 in 2007, according to the documents obtained under access to information. The documents say there are 54 different types of gangs now identified in institutions across the country. This number has swelled by 269 percent since 2000. A high percentage of prison violence is gang-related, where nearly all ethnic groups are represented. Gangs control the drug trade of most institutions, which leads to violent confrontation between gangs trying to enlarge or maintain their customer base. A New Democratic Party (NDP) Public Safety critic said, "Overcrowding coupled with fewer programs and rehabilitation raises the institutional temperature and fuels gang affiliation". Many inmates affiliate with gangs out of fear and self-preservation in the hostile prison environment, because there is not a lot to do in prisons. (Harris, 2012)

Drugs

An increased use of so-called "legal highs" in prisons is causing a rise in levels of violence, a report has warned. Newly formulated drugs are psychoactive and been blamed for a number of serious assaults. The National Offender Management Service said prisoners linked their use to an increase in "disturbed and disruptive behavior". Steve Gillan, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association said a 37 percent rise in attacks on staff in the last year could be partly attributed to drug use. "It is leading to an increase in violence both on each other and on staff". (Ward, Jun 2015)

Prison administrators have long recognized the role that illegal contraband has in perpetuating violence among prisoners. Possession or trafficking of illegal drugs is not allowed at any correctional institution. These drugs and other contraband allow gang members and other entrepreneurial inmates the opportunity to extort and commit further acts of violence. (Levan, Corrections, 2011) The problem with contraband, like drugs, becomes in demand, prisoners become in debt, which in turn causes bullying and violence when repayment cannot be made. (Shaw, January 13, 2015) Drugs continue to

be a plague as an overwhelming number of inmates deal with addiction. (Levan, Prison Violence: Causes, Consequences And Solutions, 2013)

Mental Illness

Serious mental illness has become so prevalent in the US corrections system that jails and prisons are now commonly called "the new asylums." Overall, approximately 20 percent of inmates in jails and 15 percent of inmates in state prisons are estimated to have serious mental illness. Based on the total inmate population, this means approximately 383,000 individuals with severe psychiatric disease were behind bars in the United States in 2014. This is nearly 10 times the number of patients remaining in the nation's state hospitals. (Torrey, 2014)

Additionally, pretrial inmates with serious mental illness experience longer incarcerations compared to inmates in many states, if they require an evaluation or restoration of competency to stand trial. Mentally ill inmates in some states are reported to spend more time waiting for competency restoration so they can be tried, than they would spend behind bars after convicted of the offense for which they have been charged. (Fuller, 2016) Because of their impaired thinking, many inmates with serious mental illnesses present behavioral management problems. (Mitchell, 2009) Suicide is the leading cause of death in correctional facilities, and multiple studies indicate as many as half of all inmate suicides are committed by inmates with serious mental illness." Some experts blame the recent surge on forcing more of the mentally ill behind bars". (Goss, 2002) Research has been conducted between 2006-2012 indicated the prisons that reported the most significant numbers of violent related episodes within the walls of their facilities have a larger mentally ill populations. Advocates of revolutionizing mental health care as a solution to prison violence, and prison officials both agree, there are many challenges tied to mental illness and prison violence, but they can be solved. (Frazee-Walker, 2013)

Culture and staff

A lack of staff training or inexperience also results in prisoner violence. Poorly equipped staff may have trouble interacting with inmates or responding to them professionally. (Thompson, 2019) Correction officers are hired to protect inmates from harm, either from themselves or from others; it has become more evident that this role is often compromised by cultural interference and barriers that has changed the "tolerance levels" experienced by officers trying to do their job. There are factors not often brought to light when it comes to correctional officer misconduct, abuse, or alleged misconduct. Many of these factors are well beyond the practical or realistic controls of the officers and lay somewhere between upper management decision making and the ability to provide the proper resources and necessary staff to do the job. There are officers who abuse their authoritative powers and mistreat inmates with violence, thinking it is the right thing to do under circumstances mentored, or empowered by those who trained them, supervised them, or hired them for the job. Some of these flaws can be traced back to the organizational hiring practices, training, background checks, and psychological testing.

Some instances, the management appears to condone such misconduct as normal and routine. (ToersBijins, Jun 2012)

Critics say prison guards too often resort to excessive violence with little accountability. "Excessive use of force in prisons we believe has reached crisis proportions in New York State," says U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara. "The vast majority of these men and women do their jobs incredibly well under very difficult circumstances," says State Assembly woman Janet Duprey. Mike Powers, who heads the powerful correction officers union in New York, says the real issue lawmakers should focus on is an increasingly violent inmate population. He says too many prisons are understaffed and overcrowded. (Mann, October 2016)

Prisons in the U.S. and other industrialized countries foster a culture of violence, hatred, bigotry and dominance. They take the criminally inclined, and not so inclined, and turn them into hardened convicts. After a period of years, they become dangerous men and women. The field of corrections has gone awry. Instead of focusing on rehabilitating prisoners and finding ways to make them employable upon release from custody, prison administrators look for ways to subjugate those in their charge. They search for ways to repress individuality, and rule by coercive force, which only breeds a harder, angrier, more violent prison population. (Zoukis, 2017) Correctional systems that once focused on rehabilitation and making people into better citizens, now is a "warehouse for making better criminals." (Harris, 2012)

Methods

This research paper is intended to show not only is there a problem with increased violence within jails and prisons, but what could be the major reasons for the increased violence. Data was collected through research of not only various jails and prisons in the U.S., but also from institutions in England and Canada. This research data was collected from these two other countries, because of the similarity with our system and institutions.

Data was also gathered through surveys given to supervisors of Lake County Jail, Pinellas County Jail, Polk County Jail, Volusia County Jail, Jefferson Correctional Institution and Orange County Corrections Department. Survey questions were designed to determine the major causes of increased violence within the various institutions. Survey questions asked the amount of time in the field to determine if they have had enough time to witness an increase in violence. Data was collected to find out if the various institutions were prepared to handle the increased violence, and if not, is something being done differently to combat the issue.

The survey was anonymous in order to encourage truthful answers. A weakness in the data collected, even from the research, is actual reporting of violence. Institutions do not like to report any increase of anything-uneasy happening inside their walls. This information can make people look incompetent in how things are being controlled. Many institutions will not report all the different types of violent behavior occurring within their facility for this reason.

Results

The survey was sent out to 42 people, which comprised of seven different institutions. I received 38 responses of the 42 surveys sent out yielding a 90.5% return rate. Of those 38 responses, some respondents decided to skip a couple questions.

The first two questions were demographical in nature. The respondents were asked whether they worked in a jail or prison. The next question, they were asked how long they have worked in their institution. There were only two respondents who worked somewhere other than a jail. This number is 5% of the total responses received from the survey.

The second question asked the respondents of their years of service in their current field. One respondent (2.6%) was between 5-10 years of experience. Thirteen (34.2%) were between 11-15 years of experience. Ten respondents (26.3%) had worked 16-20 years in their current field. The remaining fourteen people (36.8%) had worked over 20 years in their current field. All participants answered this question.
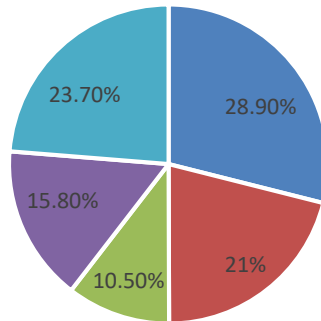
The third question was concerning the increased violence within the participant's facility. It asked whether the facility was prepared for this to happen. It was a "yes" or "no" question. Twenty-four (64.9%) answered "yes" to the question. Thirteen respondents (35.1%) answered "no" to the question. One respondent chose not to answer the question.

The fourth question asked the respondents if their facility was doing anything to get prepared for the increased violence. Twenty-four (64.9%) answered "yes" to the question. Thirteen (35.1%) answered "no" to the question. One respondent chose not to answer the question.

Question 5 asked the respondents what they thought was the main reason for the increased violence in their facility. They were given five main reasons for increased violence within facilities. They were to choose one of the five main reasons, as found in the research. Four respondents (10.5%) thought overcrowding was the main reason. Eight respondents (21%) thought drugs was the main reason. Six respondents (15.8%) chose gangs as the main reason. Eleven respondents (28.9%) chose mental illness as the main reason. The remaining nine (23.7%) thought training of new officers/staffing was the main reason for the increased violence in their facility. All respondents answered the question.
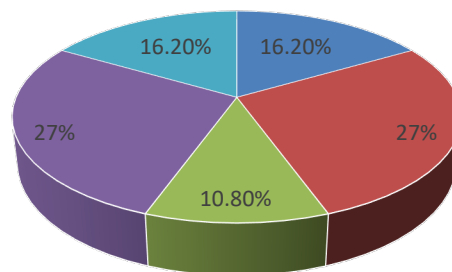
What do you think is the main reason for the increased violence in your facility?

23.70% | 28.90% | 15.80% | 10.50% | 21%

■ mental illness ■ drugs ■ overcrowding ■ gangs ■ training of new officers/staffing

The sixth question then followed up by asking what other reason did they think attributes to the increased violence in their facility. They were given the same five choices from question 5. Six (16.2%) chose overcrowding as the second reason for increased violence. Ten (27%) chose drugs as their second reason. Four (10.8%) chose gangs as the second reason. Ten (27%) chose mental illness as their second reason. Six (16.2%) chose training of new officers/staffing as the second reason for increased violence within their institutions. One respondent chose not to answer the question.

If more than one reason, what other reason do you think attributes to the increased violence?
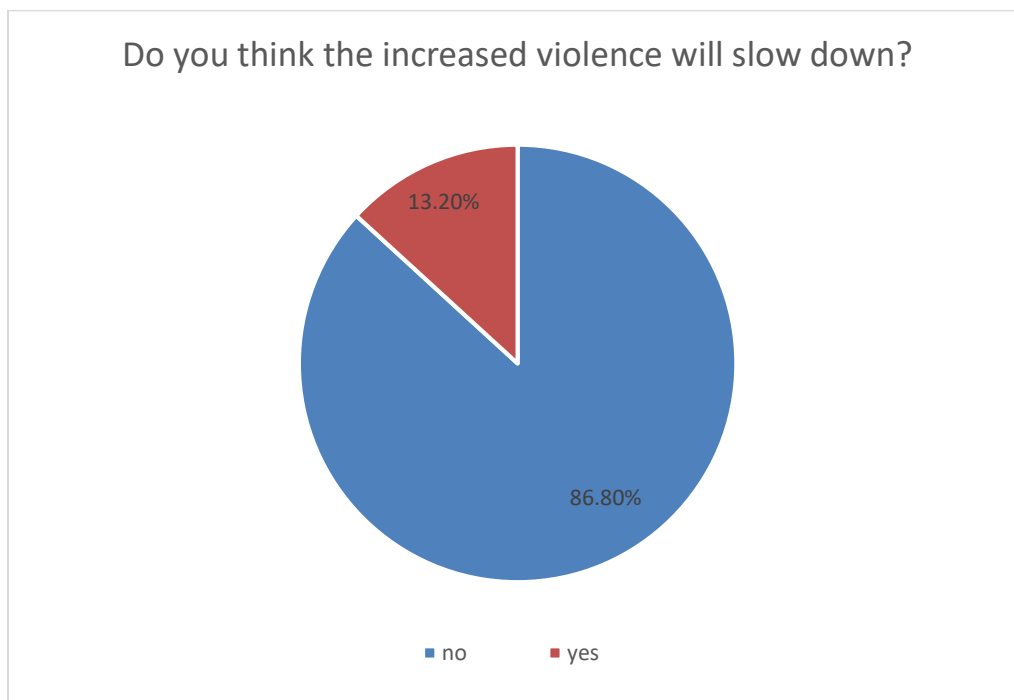
16.20% | 16.20% | 27% | 27% | 10.80%

■ overcrowding ■ drugs ■ gangs ■ mental illness ■ training of new officers/staffing

Question 7 asked whether the respondents' facilities have done anything to combat the problem of the increased violence, whether they were prepared or not. This was a "yes" or "no" question. Twenty-two (59.5%) answered "yes" to the question. Fifteen (40.5%) answered "no". There was one person who did not answer the question.

Question 8 asked whether the facilities are going to do something to try to combat the problem of the increased violence. Five people decided not to answer this question. Twenty-six (78.8%) answered "yes" to the question. Seven (21.2%) answered "no" to the question.

The last question, which was question 9, asked the respondents if they thought the increased violence was going to slow down. Five (13.2%) answered "yes" to the question. Thirty-three (86.8%) answered "no" to the question. All respondents answered this question.

Discussion

The results from this survey were very interesting. It showed 65% of the respondents felt their agencies were never prepared for violence of inmates to increase as much as it has, but in retrospect, they felt their agencies are taking steps to get prepared. It also showed respondents (79%) felt their respective agencies are doing something to try to combat the problem of increased violence now that it is here. The biggest problem found from the research is that there is no single issue from where the problem of increased violence stems. To combat the problem, agencies have to identify where the problem stems from. There are several reasons why violence has increased

throughout our institutions. One problem can stem from another problem, and so on and so forth.

The problem of overcrowding for example is out of our control. However, overcrowding can lead to the development of more gangs within our institutions. Overcrowding also causes shortage of staff, which many institutions are having a problem. The shortage of staff then can lead to lack of proper training of new officers. Trying to fill empty positions quickly gives no room for in depth training for the position. The state of Florida has lowered the standard age to 18 years old to work in corrections. This can be detrimental, because many of today's young generation may have never experienced high risks in their life. This line of work can affect people mentally, especially if someone is young and never experienced anything similar in their life.

Mental illness is another problem with increased violence within our jails and prisons. This problem is a much harder issue to try to combat. Many mental institutions have been closing throughout this country, leading to jails and prisons to be the places where mentally ill people end up. The jails and prisons have to deal with the people. Jails and prisons are not equipped, or have the room to "house" these people. This problem does not look like it will resolve itself.

Drugs is one of those problems that has been around for many years. However, many of the new synthetic drugs are making people mentally ill. The effects of the drugs on the brain have a permanent effect, making people diagnosed mentally ill. Babies being born addicted to drugs does not allow them to grow up with a normal mental capacity in many instances. This is one of those causes that can lead to another cause. Officers then need proper training on how to handle the mentally ill, and people addicted to drugs and the effects.

The two leading causes for increased violence to the survey, mental illness (29%) and drugs (27%). As we have discussed the two can go "hand in hand", or caused by the other. No matter the main reason for increased violence in our institutions, it is going to hard to slow it down, much less stop it. The survey showed an enormous amount of the respondents (87%) do not think the problem will slow down. This means it will most likely continue as is, or get worse.

Recommendations

The survey results, and the research show mental illness and drugs are the two main reasons for the increased violence. We have no control of what people do on the outside before they end up in our institutions, but there is more we can do to prevent some of the issues from occurring within our facilities. Technology has advanced to the point where drug detection can be easier. If we stop drugs from entering the facility, we can help to prevent much of the violence associated with drug use and gangs. One of the ways to help keep drugs out of a facility is to limit the amount of outsiders from entering. This can be done by having an offsite visitation. Modern scanners of people who do enter the facility can also help detect any drugs. Regular searches of the cells, and of the inmates themselves, is another recommendation.

Officer training is something in our control. Institutions shorthanded need to make sure there is proper time allotted for the training of new officers, no how bad they are

needed to fill positions. Including training for the mentally ill, and drug addicts can be longer within the academies. This is especially important for the newer generation, and the younger ages of those coming through the academies. With the inmate population increasing throughout the country, more officers are needed. We need to train those coming into the field better, but also retain. Retention can be done in a variety of ways. This is a separate discussion in itself.

Institutions that have the room, should try to segregate the mentally ill as much as possible. This will help with the increasing violence problem. Making sure gangs are kept separate, is another way to minimize increasing violence if there is enough available space. This may not always be viable for many institutions because of the overcrowding problem many face.

Ultimately, there may not be a real solution to the increased violence throughout our institutions for the short term. The long-term solution of course would be to build more jails and prisons. The inmate population will continue to increase as long as the population of the country increases. In order to do this, it takes money and more officers. Neither of which is readily available anytime soon. It is difficult enough to find and train new officers properly now. The short-term recommendation is to try to minimize the increased violence within the jails and prisons as best as can be done. Identify some of the reasons for increased violence of a particular institute and do the best to minimize. Always remember, no matter what, to stay safe and be vigilant.

Lieutenant Trent Gibson has been with the Lake County Sheriff's Office since 2002. He started his career as a civilian control room operator. He was promoted to correction officer six months later. He worked in housing for five years, before moving to permanent booking. Next, he became a corporal in booking, Sergeant in Housing, Sergeant in booking and then a lieutenant over a shift. He was moved in 2018 to an Administrative Lieutenant where he is today. Trent has a Bachelor's of Science in Political Science with a minor in Criminology from Florida State University.

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Appendix A

Survey Questions

Through research, violence in jails and prisons has increased. The five main reasons for the increased violence are as follows: (violence is described as inmate on officer, inmate on inmate, sexual, inmates on themselves).

1) Overcrowding
2) Drugs
3) Gangs
4) Mental health
5) Officer training with newer generation/staffing

1) Do you work in a;
   A. Jail
   B. Prison

2) How many years of service in current field?
   A. 5-10
   B. 11-18
   C. 16-20
   D. 20

3) Concerning the increased violence, has your facility been prepared?
   A) Yes
   B) No

4) Is there anything being done to get prepared for the increased violence within your facility?
   A) Yes
   B) No

5) What do you think is the main reason for the increased violence in your facility?
   A) Overcrowding
   B) Drugs
   C) Gangs
   D) Mental Illness
   E) Training of new officers/staffing

6) If more than one reason, what other reason or reasons do you think attribute to the increased violence.
   A) Overcrowding
   B) Drugs
   C) Gangs
   D) Mental Illness
   E) Training of new officers/staffing

7) Has your facility done anything to combat the problem of increased violence?
   A) Yes
   B) No

8) Is your agency going to do something to try to combat the problem of increased violence?
   A) Yes
   B) No

9) Do you think the increased violence is going to slow down?
   A) Yes
   B) No