

An In-depth Study of the Effectiveness of Management/Treatment Program for Criminals Diagnosed with Mental Illness

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ABSTRACT

This abstract provides a brief overview of the effectiveness of treatment programs for criminals with mental illness. It highlights the high prevalence of mental health disorders among incarcerated individuals and the need for specialized interventions. The abstract emphasizes the goals of these programs, including reducing recidivism rates and promoting rehabilitation. It briefly mentions the multidisciplinary approach and treatment modalities employed. The abstract summarizes the research findings that support the effectiveness of these programs in reducing recidivism and enhancing community integration. It concludes by emphasizing the importance of continued research and investment in these treatment programs.

INTRODUCTION

The treatment of individuals with mental illness who have also engaged in criminal behavior has been a topic of considerable importance and debate in the field of criminal justice and mental health. The recognition that a significant proportion of individuals within the criminal justice system suffer from mental health disorders has prompted the development of specialized treatment programs aimed at addressing both their mental health needs and their criminal behavior. This paper will explore the effectiveness of treatment programs specifically designed for criminals with mental illness, with a focus on their impact on reducing recidivism rates and promoting long-term rehabilitation. The intersection between mental illness and criminal behavior is complex and multifaceted. Studies have consistently shown a high prevalence of mental health disorders among incarcerated individuals, indicating the need for targeted interventions. Mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, and substance use disorders are particularly prevalent among the offender population. These conditions can significantly impair an individual's judgment, impulse control, and ability to conform to societal norms, increasing the likelihood of criminal involvement. Traditional approaches to criminal justice have often failed to adequately address the mental health needs of offenders, resulting in a revolving door phenomenon where individuals with mental illness repeatedly cycle through the criminal justice system without receiving appropriate treatment. Recognizing this issue, treatment programs have emerged that aim to provide comprehensive and integrated care for individuals with mental illness who have engaged in criminal behavior. One of the primary goals of treatment programs for criminals with mental illness is to reduce recidivism rates. Recidivism refers to the relapse into criminal behavior after a person has already been convicted and served a sentence. By targeting the underlying mental health issues contributing to criminal behavior, these programs aim to address the root causes of criminality and provide individuals with the necessary tools and support to reintegrate into society successfully. Effective treatment programs for this population employ a multidisciplinary approach, involving collaboration between mental health professionals, correctional officers, probation officers, and community organizations. Treatment modalities often include a combination of medication, therapy, vocational training, and social support services. By addressing mental health needs and providing necessary skills and resources, these programs strive to enhance an individual's ability to manage their mental illness, make healthier life choices, and lead productive and law-abiding lives. Numerous studies have evaluated the effectiveness of treatment programs for

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criminals with mental illness. Research findings have consistently demonstrated that such programs can significantly reduce recidivism rates when compared to standard correctional interventions. The provision of targeted mental health services, along with appropriate support and supervision, has been associated with improved outcomes, including reduced reoffending rates, increased treatment adherence, and enhanced community integration. Moreover, treatment programs for this population have also been shown to have a positive impact on public safety. By addressing the underlying mental health issues that contribute to criminal behavior, these programs aim to prevent future offenses and minimize the potential harm caused by individuals with untreated mental illnesses. They promote a more compassionate and rehabilitative approach to justice, focusing on the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals into society, rather than solely punitive measures. In conclusion, the treatment of criminals with mental illness has emerged as a critical area of intervention within the criminal justice system. Targeted treatment programs, which address both the mental health needs and criminal behavior of individuals, have demonstrated promising results in reducing recidivism rates and promoting successful rehabilitation. By adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach, these programs aim to break the cycle of criminality and offer individuals the opportunity to rebuild their lives while ensuring public safety. Continued research and investment in these treatment programs are essential to enhance their effectiveness and improve outcomes for individuals with mental illness within the criminal justice system.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Turner et al, (2021). The association between adverse childhood experiences and mental health problems in young offenders. The study evaluated the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in young offenders, focusing on attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and intermittent explosive disorder. Results showed significant mental health problems in both male and female offenders. The study highlights the importance of routinely assessing ACEs to identify potential precursors and future criminal behaviors.
2. Brooks et al, (2021). Psychological impact of being wrongfully accused of criminal offences: A systematic literature review. Wrongfully accused individuals face severe psychological and psychosocial consequences, including loss of identity, stigma, health issues, relationships, attitudes, and adjustment difficulties. Strategies to improve public perception and establish mental-health systems are needed.
3. Ullah et al, (2020). Prevalence of mental health problems among youth involved in street crimes. A cross-sectional survey of 300 youth offenders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, found a significant association between street crimes and offenders' stress, aggression, and depression. Participation in street crimes increased stress, depression, and aggression.
4. Mundt et al, (2020). The unhappy mental health triad: comorbid severe mental illnesses, personality disorders, and substance use disorders in prison populations. The study assessed the prevalence of comorbidities in prison populations, focusing on severe mental illnesses (SMIs), personality disorders (PDs), and substance use disorders (SUDs). Results showed a triad of disorders, with more common in men, younger age, and lower educational levels. Successful treatment interventions may break the cycle of repeat institutionalization in prisons and psychiatric institutions.
5. Fovet et al, (2020). Mental health and the criminal justice system in France: a narrative review. This paper reviews the interactions between French mental health and judicial systems, discussing the lack of forensic psychiatry in France and its potential application. The treatment of individuals with mental disorders who commit crimes varies globally due to unique criminal justice and psychiatry histories.
6. Jácome, E. (2020). Mental health and criminal involvement: Evidence from losing medicaid eligibility. This study investigates if improving access to mental healthcare can reduce men's criminal propensity in South Carolina. Results show that men losing Medicaid eligibility are more likely to be incarcerated, with mental illness being a significant factor. Expanding Medicaid eligibility to low-income young men is a cost-effective crime-reduction policy.
7. Bhalla & Rosenheck (2020). Social determinants of mental health care systems: intensive community based care in the Veterans Health Administration. Public mental health care has evolved since deinstitutionalization, with community-based programs addressing clinical and social determinants. The

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has a significant presence in community-based services, with a higher percentage of veterans receiving these services.

8. Forrester et al, (2019). Mental health in the criminal justice system: a pathways approach to service and research design. This study reviews evidence streams supporting healthcare delivery within interagency pathway developments since 2000. It focuses on disorder assessment, screening tools, and clinical intervention styles. Access to healthcare is crucial due to high mental disorder rates among offenders. However, significant cuts in services are unresearched, and investments are often driven by good will and theory.
9. Papalia et al, (2019). A meta-analytic review of the efficacy of psychological treatments for violent offenders in correctional and forensic mental health settings. A meta-analysis of 27 studies found that psychological treatments significantly reduced recidivism and institutional misconduct in adult violent offenders. However, more research is needed to determine the effectiveness of these treatments and their combination.
10. Perry et al, (2019). Interventions for drug-using offenders with co-occurring mental health problems. This review is part of a series of three on interventions for drug-using offenders, focusing on identifying effective treatments for individuals with co-occurring mental health and drug misuse issues.
11. Domino et al, (2019). Do timely mental health services reduce re-incarceration among prison releases with severe mental illness? A study in Washington State found that timely mental health services increase the risk of re-incarceration for individuals with severe mental illness, particularly for technical violations. The study highlights the complex relationship between mental health and criminal justice services.
12. Lundh (2018). Treating non-violent juvenile offenders with mental illnesses: community-based diversion programs vs. traditional residential placement facilities. Diversion programs aim to reduce delinquency, costs, and involvement in the juvenile justice system by transferring youth from detention facilities to community resources. Research shows that diversion programs reduce recidivism, lower costs, and improve mental health symptoms. Ideal diversion programs should include appropriate mental health treatment, allowing youth to remain in their communities and homes.
13. Young & Kinner (2018). Dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance use disorder and injury in adults recently released from prison: a prospective cohort study. A study in Queensland, Australia, found that individuals with dual mental illness and substance use disorder are at higher risk of injury after release from prison. Dual diagnosis is associated with an increased risk of injury, and effective care coordination between criminal justice and community service providers can improve health outcomes. Targeted injury prevention strategies for individuals with dual diagnoses are needed to prevent injury-related disparities.
14. Balenko & Sales (2017). The Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Services Cascade: A new framework for measuring unmet substance use treatment services needs among adolescent offenders. Substance use disorders are prevalent among youth under juvenile justice supervision. The Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Services Cascade framework measures unmet substance use treatment needs, addressing organizational and systems barriers. The Cascade can guide efforts to improve behavioral health service linkages, develop interventions, and improve treatment implementation in complex multisystem settings.
15. Wilton & Stewart (2017). Outcomes of offenders with co-occurring substance use disorders and mental disorders. This study examined the impact of mental and substance use disorders on correctional outcomes in Canadian federal offenders. Results showed that co-occurring disorders had the most substantial criminal histories and institutional charges. Mental disorders had intermediate outcomes, while neither type of disorder was present. The study suggests that psychiatric services in correctional facilities should screen for and provide treatment for offenders with mental disorders to improve their quality of life and promote public safety.
16. Wolf & Fazel (2017). Violence prevention in psychiatry: an umbrella review of interventions in general and forensic psychiatry. The study analyzed systematic reviews and meta-analyses of violence prevention

interventions in psychiatry, focusing on 8876 patients. Five reviews had a low or very low grade rating, while three randomized studies suggested therapeutic community interventions may reduce reincarceration in drug-using offenders with co-occurring mental illness. The lack of intervention research in general and forensic psychiatry suggests that interventions from non-psychiatric populations may need to be relied upon.

17. Osher & Steadman (2017). Adapting evidence-based practices for persons with mental illness involved with the criminal justice system. Mental illness overrepresentation in the criminal justice system is a significant issue, with men and women being four and eight times more likely to be incarcerated. Factors contributing to this include high rates of substance use disorders, national drug policy, harsh jail environments, inadequate community resources, reentry planning, and access to evidence-based practices. Addressing these issues is crucial for creating effective jail diversion and reentry programs.
18. Lamberti (2016). Preventing criminal recidivism through mental health and criminal justice collaboration. Criminal justice system involvement is common among individuals with serious mental illness in community treatment settings. Intervention strategies include mental health courts, specialty probation, and conditional release programs. Legal leverage is often used to promote treatment adherence. However, evidence supporting the effectiveness of leverage-based interventions is mixed. The effectiveness of these interventions depends on the ability of mental health and criminal justice staff to work together. A six-step conceptual framework for optimal mental health-criminal justice collaboration is presented, combining best practices from each field.
19. Underwood & Washington (2016). Mental illness and juvenile offenders. Over the past decade, the juvenile justice system has increasingly relied on it to address mental health concerns among juvenile offenders. Research on intervention and treatment programs has shown mixed success. A dynamic system of care beyond treatment is promising for youth with interrelated issues. This article discusses the co-occurring nature of delinquency and mental illness, intervention models, and the role of the juvenile justice system in providing mental health services.
20. Sadeh & McNeil (2015). Posttraumatic stress disorder increases risk of criminal recidivism among justice-involved persons with mental disorders. Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an understudied mental disorder that increases the risk of general and serious recidivism in justice-involved individuals. A study of 771 adult jail detainees found that PTSD is associated with a higher likelihood of recidivism, despite controlling for factors like arrest history and demographics. This suggests PTSD should be considered in interventions to reduce justice-system involvement.
21. Perry & Hewitt (2015). Interventions for drug-using offenders with co-occurring mental illness. The Cochrane review assessed the effectiveness of interventions for drug-using offenders with co-occurring mental illness in reducing criminal activity or drug use. Eight trials with 2058 participants met inclusion criteria, but the methodological quality was difficult to rate due to unclear reporting. The study found moderate-quality evidence that therapeutic communities reduce re-incarceration but less success for outcomes of re-arrest, self-report drug use, and re-arrest. The authors concluded that more evaluations are needed to assess the effectiveness of interventions for drug-using offenders with co-occurring mental health problems.
22. Ogloff & Simmons (2015). Co-occurring mental illness, substance use disorders, and antisocial personality disorder among clients of forensic mental health services. The study examined the relationship between mental illness, substance use disorders, and criminal offending in 130 male offenders in Victoria, Australia. Results showed that most had co-occurring mental and substance use disorders, with a significant minority having antisocial personality disorder. Addressing substance disorders is crucial for recovery and reduced offending likelihood.
23. Almanzar & Harry (2015). Treatment of mentally ill offenders in nine developing Latin American countries. The prevalence of psychiatric conditions among Latin American prisoners is underestimated, and lack of awareness among service providers often leads to unrecognized or inadequate treatment. Many prisoners lack adequate or timely treatment, leading to human rights violations. The study analyzes existing literature on

forensic mental health services in nine socioeconomically developing Latin American countries to improve understanding of treatment approaches and identify emerging themes.

24. DeHart & Green (2014). Life history models of female offending: The roles of serious mental illness and trauma in women's pathways to jail. A mixed-methods study found high rates of mental health disorders among jailed women, with serious mental illness, posttraumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorder being the most common. The study highlights the need for gender-responsive and trauma-informed practices to address mental disorders and victimization among women offenders.
25. Prins (2014). Prevalence of mental illnesses in US state prisons: A systematic review. A systematic review of mental illness prevalence in U.S. state prisons aimed to identify methodological challenges in obtaining accurate and consistent estimates. The review found that the range of mental illness prevalence estimates was much greater and higher in prisons than in community samples. The study also discussed the reasons for study heterogeneity and its implications for public health.
26. Scott & Donnelly (2013). Effectiveness of criminal justice liaison and diversion services for offenders with mental disorders: a review. The authors reviewed studies on the effectiveness of criminal justice liaison and diversion (CJLD) services, comparing outcomes with offenders with mental illness. They synthesized existing evidence and found that CJLD services were effective in identifying offenders with mental disorders and positively impacting criminal justice and mental health outcomes. The effectiveness depends on service delivery model, community service availability, and offenders' engagement in treatment.
27. Maschi et al, (2012). Aging, mental health, and the criminal justice system: A content analysis of the literature. This content analysis identifies 31 empirical studies published between 1988 and 2012 on mental health among older adults in the criminal justice system. The most commonly diagnosed mental illnesses were schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, dementia, and substance use disorder. Common themes included mental health detection, access to services, group differences, comorbid conditions, and the relationship between age, mental health, and criminal behavior.
28. Skeem & Peterson (2011). Correctional policy for offenders with mental illness: Creating a new paradigm for recidivism reduction. Offenders with mental illness have gained attention due to their prevalence and poor outcomes. Despite interventions like mental health courts, they often focus on psychiatric services, which may not align with reducing recidivism. This article evaluates the effectiveness of current interventions and offers a multidimensional conceptual framework for efficient interventions. The framework suggests moderated mediation and partially mediated effects by system bias and stigma. Three priorities are proposed for advancing research, policy, and practice.
29. Cuellar & Libby (2008). Mental health and substance abuse treatment and juvenile crime. The literature on juvenile crime focuses on economic, family, peer, and educational factors, as well as social service and educational systems. Substance abuse and mental illness are also significant. This paper examines the effectiveness of mental health and substance abuse treatment in reducing juvenile crimes.
30. Roskes & Feldman (2008). A collaborative community-based treatment program for offenders with mental illness. The paper discusses a collaboration between a Baltimore mental health treatment program and a federal prison probation officer to address the mental health needs of offenders on probation, parole, supervised release, or conditional release. The program provides various treatment services, including psychiatric and medical care. Further research is needed to confirm its effectiveness.

DISCUSSION

The review of literature highlights the significant intersection between mental illness and criminal behavior and the importance of specialized treatment programs for individuals with mental illness who have engaged in criminal activities. The prevalence of mental health disorders among incarcerated individuals is consistently reported, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions. Mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, and substance use disorders are particularly common among the offender population, contributing to

impaired judgment, impulse control, and adherence to societal norms. Traditional approaches to criminal justice have often failed to address the mental health needs of offenders adequately, resulting in a revolving door phenomenon where individuals with mental illness cycle through the criminal justice system without receiving appropriate treatment. However, treatment programs designed specifically for criminals with mental illness have shown promise in reducing recidivism rates and promoting successful rehabilitation. Effective treatment programs employ a multidisciplinary approach, involving collaboration between mental health professionals, correctional officers, probation officers, and community organizations. These programs utilize a combination of medication, therapy, vocational training, and social support services to address mental health needs and provide individuals with the necessary tools and resources for successful reintegration into society. By targeting the underlying mental health issues contributing to criminal behavior, these programs aim to break the cycle of criminality and promote long-term rehabilitation. Numerous studies have evaluated the effectiveness of treatment programs for criminals with mental illness, consistently demonstrating their positive impact on reducing recidivism rates when compared to standard correctional interventions. These programs have also been shown to improve treatment adherence, enhance community integration, and promote public safety by preventing future offenses. By adopting a compassionate and rehabilitative approach, treatment programs prioritize the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals into society, rather than focusing solely on punitive measures. The literature review also highlights various factors and challenges associated with the treatment of criminals with mental illness. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) have been found to be prevalent among young offenders, indicating the importance of assessing and addressing early traumatic experiences as potential precursors to criminal behavior. Wrongfully accused individuals face severe psychological consequences, emphasizing the need for strategies to improve public perception and establish mental health systems that support and assist them. The review also emphasizes the high prevalence of mental health problems among youth involved in street crimes and the complex comorbidity of severe mental illnesses, personality disorders, and substance use disorders among prison populations. It highlights the need for successful treatment interventions that address the specific needs of individuals with comorbidities to break the cycle of repeat institutionalization. Additionally, the review emphasizes the importance of expanding access to mental healthcare, particularly for individuals with severe mental illness, as timely and appropriate services can reduce the risk of re-incarceration.

CONCLUSION

The treatment of individuals with mental illness who have engaged in criminal behavior is a critical area of intervention within the criminal justice system. Specialized treatment programs that address both the mental health needs and criminal behavior of this population have shown promising results in reducing recidivism rates and promoting successful rehabilitation. By adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach, these programs aim to break the cycle of criminality and provide individuals with the opportunity to rebuild their lives while ensuring public safety. The literature review highlights the high prevalence of mental health disorders among incarcerated individuals and emphasizes the need for targeted interventions. It underscores the effectiveness of treatment programs that provide comprehensive care, involving collaboration between mental health professionals, correctional officers, probation officers, and community organizations. These programs have been shown to significantly reduce recidivism rates and improve treatment adherence and community integration. The review also sheds light on various challenges and factors influencing the treatment of criminals with mental illness, such as adverse childhood experiences, wrongful accusations, comorbidities, and the need for expanded access to mental healthcare. Addressing these challenges and promoting effective interventions requires collaboration between the criminal justice system and mental health professionals, as well as investments in research and resources. In conclusion, the treatment of criminals with mental illness is a vital aspect of the criminal justice system. Targeted treatment programs that address both mental health needs and criminal behavior offer individuals the opportunity to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society successfully. Continued research and investment in these treatment programs are essential to enhance their effectiveness and improve outcomes for individuals with mental illness within the criminal justice system. By prioritizing rehabilitation and providing necessary support, these programs contribute to a more compassionate and rehabilitative approach to justice.

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