

Manuscript Information

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Abstract

The juvenile justice system in the United States has long struggled to balance punishment with rehabilitation, resulting in persistently high rates of recidivism. Scholars distinctly draw attention to juvenile offenders, stressing the high stakes that intervention can have in lowering delinquency. This study examines the effectiveness of targeted, individualized intervention programs in enhancing rehabilitation outcomes for justice-involved youth in Los Angeles County. Employing a mixed-method design, the researcher combines results of a quantitative meta-analysis of 20 peer-reviewed studies with qualitative interviews from four professionals and mental health experts who have worked in the field. Statistical analysis utilizing the z-critical value further verifies the quantitative results, confirming that specialized interventions grounded in research enhance rehabilitation outcomes. Interviews are then analyzed, and the findings help identify areas where the system can improve to better meet youth needs. The study found that experts in the field emphasize the importance of holistic, multidisciplinary teams that assess biological, psychological, and social determinants of youth behavior. Participants in the study also identified key barriers to reform, including shortages of staff, inconsistent programming, and a lack of coordinated efforts. Together, the quantitative and qualitative results highlight the value of individualized treatment models that prioritize long-term progress and collaboration. These results contribute to ongoing national discussions about transforming the current juvenile systems into rehabilitative frameworks capable of reducing recidivism and fostering reintegration.

Introduction

The founding of the United States, as established in the Constitution, upholds the principle of equal rights and opportunity for all. Yet as immigration and globalization reshaped society throughout the 1900s, rising public concern about crime led to an expansion of the criminal justice system on the basis of public safety. The Eighth Amendment's prohibition on excessive punishments was designed to foster a system of justice that goes beyond merely seeking retribution and further aims to rehabilitate offenders. Despite the constitutional safeguards, as time evolved, many individuals were punished and stripped of their liberties. The drastic rise in crime in the 1960s alongside the heightened criminalization of people and drugs triggered the "War on Crime" and "War on Drugs," which led to a series of policy changes, culminating with the passage of the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing Act of 1994.¹ Minimum sentences were imposed, "three-strikes laws" were introduced, and truth-in-sentencing statutes were enabled.² The policies and practices that emerged during this era under the Reagan Administration enabled mass incarceration. The emphasis on punitive measures led to a lack of effective programs that address the root causes of criminal behavior, an obstacle that persists today.³ As social movements and emphasis on reform expanded throughout the nation, modern psychology and criminology became essential for analyzing and influencing human behavior. The U.S. government holds the role of ensuring a stable nation, offering protection, ensuring civil liberties, and moving the nation forward.⁴ In spite of these values, the criminal justice system has failed to uphold its duty with regard to rehabilitation, thereby hindering its ability to promote communal safety.

Brain Development in Adolescents

Scientists have established that the human brain is not fully developed until age 25. Thus, the absence of brain maturity and decision-making capabilities in adolescents results in a greater tendency to engage in dangerous behaviors that break the law. Indeed, a study by the National Institute of Justice finds that as brains mature, the majority of youth cease to commit crimes.⁵ Consequently, researchers highlight young offenders as a key area of focus, emphasizing youth's heightened vulnerability and the high stakes that intervention can have in reducing delinquency.⁶ One study by the U.S. Department of Justice on rates of recidivism across 24 states found that 82% of individuals released from state prison were rearrested at

¹ Messemer, Jonathan E. "The Historical Practice of Correctional Education in the United States: A Review of the Literature." *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, vol. 1, no. 17, Nov. 2011, https://www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol_1_No_17_Special_Issue_November_2011/9.pdf.

² Lattimore, Pamela K. "Reflections on Criminal Justice Reform: Challenges and Opportunities." *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, Dec. 2022, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9758469/>.

³ Hall, Wallace. "Rehabilitation in the Punitive Era: The Gap between Rhetoric and Reality in U.S. Prison Programs." *PubMed Central*, 2011, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3762476/>, have

⁴ "Overview." *Department of Justice*, <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ag/legacy/2014/03/12/apr2013-section1.pdf>. Accessed 23 Nov. 2024.

⁵ National Institute of Justice, "From Youth Justice Involvement to Young Adult Offending," March 10, 2014, [nij.ojp.gov](https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/youth-justice-involvement-young-adult-offending): <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/youth-justice-involvement-young-adult-offending>

⁶ Huebner, Beth M., and Mark T. Berg. "Examining the Sources of Variation in Risk for Recidivism." *Justice Quarterly*, 2009, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07418820903365213>.

least once within a decade of their release.⁷ Such high rates of recidivism speak to the failures of the system in acclimating and providing accurate resources for readjusting prisoners into society. In California, despite the increases in funding for rehabilitation efforts, these increases have been deemed ineffective in curbing rehabilitation rates.⁸ A study conducted in 2017 by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice further reports that 74.2% of formerly incarcerated youth were rearrested, and 37.3% returned to state custody within three years of release. Recidivism rates were 22% within six months and 61.2% within three years.⁹ Moreover, in a 2008 study, a National Academy of Sciences panel identified the complex nature of recidivism as a high priority for policymakers given its significant policy implications.¹⁰ The escalating rates of reincarceration in conjunction with their far-reaching consequences highlight the urgent need for a more nuanced understanding of recidivism, particularly among youth offenders, in order to develop more effective rehabilitation strategies capable of stopping the cycle and fostering reintegration.

Literature Review

Significant historical shifts beginning in the 1960s alongside discussion surrounding the topic have shaped the trajectory of rehabilitation efforts. Between the 1960s and 70s, the combination of the social reform movement and President Johnson's Great Society Programs led to a national focus on reforming the criminal justice system and rehabilitation efforts. *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society*, published under the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice (1967), reflected the growing concern over law enforcement and contributed to the national dialogue surrounding the need for rehabilitation efforts and humane approaches.¹¹ Furthermore, in the White House Conference on Children and Youth convened by President Nixon in the 1970s, a strong emphasis was placed on youth rehabilitation, with individuals calling for the education of young offenders rather than direct harsh punishment. This conference aided in shaping the systematic approach toward juvenile justice and policy.¹² Concerns about racial disparities and failures of the justice system led to reform efforts like education and vocational training. Prisoners could take college-level courses, receive diplomas, and develop job skills to help them reintegrate into society.¹³

⁷ Lahdon, Tenzing. "From the Desk of BJA - November 2023 | Justice Matters | Bureau of Justice Assistance." *Bureau of Justice Assistance*, 27 Nov. 2023, <https://bjao.ojp.gov/news/justice-matters/desk-bja-november-2023>.

⁸ "Legislative Analyst's Office." Legislative Analyst's Office, 2024, https://lao.ca.gov/PolicyAreas/CJ/6_ci_inmatecost. Accessed 30 April 2025; Robertson et al. "Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Youth: Findings From JJ-TRIALS." *Sage Journals*, 25 May 2020, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9285988/>. Accessed 23 Nov. 2024.

⁹ Robertson et al., "Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Youth."

¹⁰ Huebner and Berg, "Examining the Sources of Variation in Risk for Recidivism."

¹¹ Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. "The Challenge of Crime in a Free Speech Society." *United States Government Printing Office*, Feb. 1967, <https://clecpc.org/wp-content/uploads/1967-The-Presidents-Commission-on-Law-Enforcement-and-Administration-of-Justice-The-Challenge-of-Crime-in-a-Free-Society.pdf>.

¹² Chandler, Barbara. "The White House Conference on Children: A 1970 Happening." *The Family Coordinator Journal*, National Council on Family Relations, July 1971, <https://www.istor.org/stable/582065>.

¹³ Messemer, "The Historical Practice of Correctional Education."

However, by the mid-1970s, optimism for rehabilitation waned after the 1974 Martinson Report detailed the limited effectiveness of correctional programs on recidivism.¹⁴ This cultural shift, along with rising crime concerns, set the stage for a return to punitive criminal justice policies during the 1970s and 1980s. The slogan “nothing works” soon gained traction as policies including mandatory sentences, three-strike laws, and the War on Drugs emerged, catering to the interests of incarceration at the expense of rehabilitation.¹⁵ As a result, many rehabilitation programs were scaled back, a phenomenon that persisted into the 90s.¹⁶

Despite the focus on punishment, recidivism remained high, prompting scholars to once again seek reform and support evidence-based interventions. By the 1990s, the drawbacks of punitive measures became clear when mass incarceration led to crowded prisons, higher recidivism rates, and increasing expenses. Thus, people began realizing that punishment alone is not a viable solution for long-term decreases in crime and rates of reoffending.

In the early 2000s, a shift toward evidence-based rehabilitative programs occurred, moving toward mental health and substance abuse recovery, education, and vocational training.¹⁷ These programs have attempted to resolve the underlying causes of criminal behavior, such as poor family dynamics, mental illness, and substance abuse. The Second Chance Act of 2008 was an initiative that aimed to reduce recidivism by providing education, job training, and mental health support to inmates.¹⁸ It was followed by the First Step Act in 2018, which emphasized programs that focused on reentry, prison education, and substance abuse counseling. This movement represents the shift in current culture toward rehabilitation, reflecting the broader acknowledgment that effective rehabilitation programs can reduce recidivism and support successful reentry into society.¹⁹

Concurrent with the changes in policy of the adult justice system, juvenile recidivism has also undergone significant changes. Currently, many reform efforts focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment through the inclusion of diversion programs, therapy, and education. Targeted rehabilitation has been associated with a significant reduction in reoffending, especially for high-risk offenders. A study published by the National Institute of Health in 2014 found that for juvenile delinquents with social, emotional, and behavioral issues, Multisystemic Therapy (MST) has led to positive results.²⁰ Specifically,

¹⁴ Pratt, Travis C. “Key Idea: Rehabilitation is Dead.” *Sage Journals*, 2011, <https://sk.sagepub.com/books/key-ideas-in-criminology-and-criminal-justice>.

¹⁵ Reynolds, Marylee. “The War on Drugs, Prison Building, and Globalization: Catalysts for the Global Incarceration of Women.” *NWSA Journal*, JSTOR, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40071275>.

¹⁶ Phelps, Michelle. “Rehabilitation in the Punitive Era: The Gap between Rhetoric and Reality in U.S. Prison Programs.” *Law and Society Review*, Sept. 2013, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3762476/>.

¹⁷ Davidson et al. “Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care: A Perspective on the Past, Present, and Future.” *National Institute of Health*, 22 July, <https://arcr.niaaa.nih.gov/volume/41/1/recovery-oriented-systems-care-perspective-past-present-and-future>.

¹⁸ Linton, John. “United States Department of Education Update.” *Journal of Correctional Education*, Mar. 2008, https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/United-States-Department-of-Education-Update-Linton/fc6b21e81a68b78f57cdcb1759a12c1037361db2?utm_source=consensus.

¹⁹ Tripodi, Stephen. “Emphasis on Rehabilitation: From Inmates to Employees.” *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, July 2014, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0306624X14541656>.

²⁰ van der Stouwe, Trudy et al. “The effectiveness of Multisystemic Therapy (MST): a meta-analysis.” *Clinical psychology review* vol. 34,6 (2014): 468-81. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25047448/>

the family-based intervention targeting adolescents who exhibit severe antisocial behaviors, including criminal activity or substance abuse, has been empirically validated as an effective approach for at-risk youth. The study consisted of 4066 juveniles and found MST to be the most effective for those under the age of 15 with severe initial conditions, producing significant reductions in reoffending rates and antisocial behavior, while improving family function and school engagement. Additionally, researchers concluded that treatments for older juveniles were more successful when they targeted peer relationships and school-related support systems. These findings are consistent with the Risk-Need Responsivity Model conducted in 2010, which concluded that treatment should be aligned with an individual's level of risk as well as his or her needs and responsibilities.²¹ More recent research indicates that juvenile offenders assigned to interventions that target their criminogenic needs, cognitive-behavioral treatment, or substance abuse treatment, for instance, exhibit lower recidivism rates compared to juvenile offenders subjected to traditional measures of punishment or treatment.²² Bouchard and Wong further find that success within these programs often depends upon the ability to target specific risk levels of the offenders, diversion programs for low-risk offenders, and intensive interventions for high-risk youth.²³

Despite some successes, challenges persist as a more nuanced understanding of the factors contributing to recidivism rates, such as geographical and contextual variables, could help inform more accurate research findings. For instance, the population studied can exhibit varying recidivism rates. For example, Robertson et al. find that juveniles in Florida who completed community service had a rearrest rate of 19.4%; yet a sample extracted from a study of the same population showed a rearrest of 41%, a 21.6% difference in findings.²⁴ The difference arises from a greater proportion of low-risk youth in the population (75.5% vs. 39% in the sample) and more male and colored youth within the sampled population as well.²⁵ Such differing results based on discrepancies within the study can become unaccounted for and contribute to the inconsistencies between or even within studies. In other words, such inconsistencies and variations in data may fail to capture the full context and thereby lead to unreliable conclusions about a program's effectiveness on recidivism.

Further, in his study, LeBaron notes that serious offenders among juveniles have higher rearrest rates, such as 67% for males returning from state juvenile facilities in New Jersey.²⁶ Given that recidivism rates found are known to vary greatly between studies (as seen in Cottle et al.), between states (as seen in

²¹Pappas, Lacey, and Amy Dent. "The 40-Year Debate: A Meta-Review On What Works for Juvenile Offenders." *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, June 2021, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11292-021-09472-z>.

²²Lardén et al. "Effectiveness of an Individual Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Serious, Young Male Violent Offenders: Randomized Controlled Study With Twenty-Four-Month Follow-Up." *Frontiers in Psychiatry Journal*, Aug. 2021, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8365084/>.

²³Pappas and Dent, "The 40-Year Debate."

²⁴Robertson, Angela A et al. "Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Youth: Findings From JJ-TRIALS." *Criminal justice and behavior* vol. 47,9 (2020): 1059-1078. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9285988/>; Wolff, Kevin T., et al. "The Protective Impact of Immigrant Concentration on Juvenile Recidivism: A Statewide Analysis of Youth Offenders." *Journal of Criminal Justice*, vol. 43, no. 6, Nov.–Dec. 2015, pp. 522–531. ScienceDirect, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0047235215000483?via%3Dihub>.

²⁵ Robertson et al., "Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Youth."

²⁶Robertson et al., "Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Youth."; LeBaron, J. Examining the Relative Influence of Community Context on Juvenile Offender Post-Confinement Recidivism. 2002, Stanford University Libraries, <https://sfx-01stanford.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/01stanford?url>

Snyder and Sickmund), and even within the same state (as seen in Wolff et al.), few multi-site recidivism studies exist. Those that do, such as Aalsma et al., lack site-specific or contextual variables to explain differences in the rates found.²⁷ Indeed, the study conducted by Aalsma et al., which examined the MAYSI-2 (Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument, Version 2), found that while behavioral issues are linked to recidivism, there was significant variation in MAYSI-2 scores across sites, highlighting inconsistencies in both the effectiveness of the program and how youths are assessed.

Another area of limitation is evidenced by a study conducted on psychological interventions in prison, which suggests that the lack of psychological support post-release may be a key reason Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) could not succeed in significantly reducing recidivism despite initial success.²⁸ Often, studies solely focus on short-term recidivism rates and ignore the long-term effects of rehabilitative programs. While there are immediate reductions in some cases, long-term effects are difficult to study and are generally unaddressed within the field. Understanding whether the benefits of diversion programs, programs designed to redirect offenders from the justice system through programming and supervision, persist is crucial for evaluating their true effectiveness in promoting lasting behavioral change as opposed to merely delaying reoffending. Intriguingly, in programs conducted abroad, some far exceeded the success of the U.S., while others have had results that completely contradicted the notion that rehabilitation is effective. Vooren et al. examined the Halt Restorative Justice program in the Netherlands, focusing on its effects on juvenile offenders in terms of education and rates of recidivism.²⁹ The randomized field experiment found that participation in Halt, an institution within the Dutch justice system that conducts short-term interventions by offering juvenile offenders opportunities to repair their harm through service, increased recidivism by 39.3% and reduced tertiary education by 29.1%. This result questions justice programs that have assumptions about the ability of intervention to reduce criminal behavior and improve academic success, calling for better-researched restorative programs.

In stark contrast, Norway leads the world with only about a 20% recidivism rate, compared to 70% in the 1990s. Its approach has been focused on restorative justice, rehabilitation, and creating a sense of normalcy to reduce recidivism and create safer communities. U.S. juvenile systems can benefit from this approach, adapting certain aspects to better target young offenders. In this respect, previous studies often argue that the U.S. may wish to develop more targeted programs that address these complex variables and go beyond the four general approaches that typify rehabilitation programs: Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO), and MST for

²⁷ Snyder, Howard, and Melissa Sickmund. "Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report." Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2006. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ed495786>; Aalsma, Matthew C et al. "Behavioral Health Care Needs, Detention-Based Care, and Criminal Recidivism at Community Reentry From Juvenile Detention: A Multisite Survival Curve Analysis." *American journal of public health* vol. 105,7 (2015): 1372-8. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4463369/>;

²⁸ Beaudry et al. "Effectiveness of Psychological Interventions in Prison to Reduce Recidivism: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomised Controlled Trials." *Lancet Psychiatry Journal*, Sept. 2021, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(21\)00170-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(21)00170-X/fulltext).

²⁹ Vooren et al. "Examining the Impact of the Halt Restorative Justice Programme on Educational Outcomes and Recidivism in Young People." *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, Mar. 2022, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11292-022-09502-4>.

Problem Sexual Offenders (MST-PSB).³⁰

In recent conversations about juveniles, a 2017 study conducted by Bindler reports that the “age-crime profile, which typically increases in the teenage years, peaks around age 19 or 20, and then gradually decreases.” This is a commonly cited conclusion in the literature concerning the demographics of criminals.³¹ As the juvenile justice system continues to evolve, it becomes clear that rehabilitation efforts, especially when aligned with risk-need-responsivity principles, can potentially reduce recidivism rates among youth offenders.

According to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California has one of the highest incarceration rates in the U.S. A report published by the Probation Oversight Commission further finds that Los Angeles has a highly diverse population with a large number of at-risk youth and marginalized communities.³² Given the significant number of individuals cycling through the justice system, there is an urgent need for effective rehabilitation programs, and with Los Angeles being at the forefront of criminal justice reform, it is crucial to investigate the factors that hold promise for an enhanced rehabilitation system.³³

Gap in Knowledge and Research Question

Although there is a large volume of research available regarding the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in reducing recidivism, there is a noticeable lack of studies with conclusive, accurate results that can aid policymakers and program developers. Many studies are unable to assess the effects of such programs on juvenile offenders below the age of 18 due to the unique psychological and social needs that distinguish this age group. Furthermore, it becomes even more challenging to pinpoint the most effective program for each individual, given unique needs and circumstances. Understanding how community influences rehabilitation success, for instance, is especially important. Moreover, evidence increasingly suggests that inmates whose risks and needs were assessed, identified, and targeted experienced improved social integration after release.³⁴ An updated study, conducted during a time of increased focus on mental health, substance abuse, and systemic challenges, will help determine how both new and existing program elements are impacting young offenders. Such a development would allow researchers to bridge the gaps in understanding juvenile justice policies and lead to more tailored and

³⁰ Elliott et al. “Evidence-Based Juvenile Justice Programs and Practices: A Critical Review.” *Criminology and Public Policy*, Oct. 2022, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1745-9133.12520>.

³¹ Bindler, Anna. “Prisons, Recidivism and the Age–Crime Profile.” *Economics Letters Journal*, 2017, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165176517300022>.

³² Probation Oversight Commission. “A Demographic Snapshot of the Youth Detained in LA County Juvenile Hall.” La County. Gov, 2024, <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/POC24-0033.pdf>.

³³ California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. “Recidivism Reports.” California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 2016, <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/research/recidivism-reports/>; . Accessed 28 April 2025.

³⁴ Wu, Jane et al. “Targeted rehabilitation may improve patient flow and outcomes: development and implementation of a novel Proactive Rehabilitation Screening (PReS) service.” *BMJ open quality* vol. 10,1 (2021): e001267. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33685858/>; Arbour, William, et al. *Prison Rehabilitation Programs: Efficiency and Targeting*. IZA - Institute of Labor Economics, 2021. JSTOR. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep61497>. Accessed 21 Jan. 2025.

culturally relevant programs that best address the needs of at-risk youth. As educational psychologist Marsha Tarver notes, as the prison population diversifies, different rehabilitative approaches are necessary to address the varying needs of inmates.³⁵ Overall, continued research and experimentation with programs, alongside accurate risk assessment tools, are essential to advancing rehabilitation efforts.

To address the gap in research regarding the intersection of program effectiveness and the specific circumstances of the individual, the following question emerges: How can intervention programs within juvenile correction centers in Los Angeles be enhanced to improve rates of recidivism by accounting for the unique needs of the individual?

Methods

Correctional programs aimed at diminishing recidivism typically employed Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs), meta-analyses, and quasi-experimental designs as their methodological frameworks. Meta-analyses combine results from separate studies to provide an overall estimate of the effect size for a particular intervention. Often, these analyses are based on statistical measures like odds ratios and q-values to assess the differences in outcomes between diversions. Moderator analyses are also commonly used to examine demographic characteristics, while Quasi-experimental designs, such as the methodology utilized in assessing the effectiveness of the Teen Court study, involve comparisons between intervention and control groups without random assignment. Variability in design, sample size, and contextual factors results in different findings, complicates many cross-study methodologies, and must be accounted for.³⁶

Taking inspiration from previous studies on recidivism and combining commonly used methodologies, this researcher's study employs a mixed-method approach consisting of both quantitative and qualitative components to explore the effectiveness of juvenile programs in reducing the recidivism of certain population groups. Specifically, a quantitative meta-analysis utilizing 20 published studies is supplemented by a qualitative aspect consisting of four 40-minute interviews. To carry out the meta-analysis, the researcher extracted and reorganized data to determine how recidivism rates are impacted when targeted interventions are implemented. A systematic search of databases (JSTOR, NIH Google, Sage Journals, and EBSCO) was conducted to identify 20 studies that best meet the following criteria: appearing in a reputable peer-reviewed academic journal, focussing on specific juvenile problems, and including analysis of outcomes for a specific population (e.g. high-risk juveniles, low-risk juveniles, those involved in capital offenses, juveniles with familial issues.) Studies investigating specialized programs that was incorporated include "The Effectiveness of Functional Family Therapy for Youth with Behavioral Problems in a Community Practice Setting," "Recidivism Among Justice-Involved

³⁵ Tarver, Marsha L. "Rehabilitation Strategies for Diverse Inmate Populations: Consideraextractstions for Recreational Therapists, Counselors and Educators." *Journal of Correctional Education*, vol. 52, no. 4, 2001, pp. 167–71. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23292192>. Accessed 21 Jan. 2025.

³⁶ Pratt, "Key Idea: Rehabilitation is Dead.were"

Youth: Findings From JJ-TRIALS,” and “Effective Intervention for Serious Juvenile Offenders.”³⁷

A data set was then curated, and the methodology of the study, sample sizes, target populations, a brief study summary, and results were analyzed. The average effectiveness of specific programs on selected populations was evaluated, and variations in different years were addressed through direct removal: studies published before the year 2000 will be removed from the meta-analysis. This is compared to the general rate of recidivism: specifically, a 2017 DJJ report showed a 74.2% re-arrest rate within three years, while a 2010 evaluation found 81.1%. Averaging the two gives an approximate rate of 77%, which the researcher will refer to as the “average recidivism rate of California’s youth” going forward.³⁸ The goal of the comparison between the rate of recidivism following specialized programs and the general rate of recidivism (77%) is to demonstrate whether tailoring programs to address specific needs is important and how, if at all, a lack of individualization in the process can impede efforts to reduce recidivism. To ensure the results are statistically meaningful, the researcher utilizes a z-critical value, a statistical analysis tool that measures how much the findings differ from what’s expected by chance (see Figure A). Calculated as $z = \frac{(\hat{p} - p)}{\sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}}$, the z-critical value measures how much the sample proportion (\hat{p}) differs from the expected population proportion (p), adjusted for sample size (n). Due to the comparison of percentages, otherwise known as “ratios,” the researcher utilized the z-critical value rather than the t-value equation. The resulting p-value of this test will determine if the researcher’s findings are statistically significant in the population or if the findings could have occurred by chance (note: the standard threshold for significance is 5%). If the p-value falls beyond the threshold, then the null hypothesis— in this case, individually-tailored intervention programs in Los Angeles *do not* impact recidivism rates— must be rejected and an alternative hypothesis sought.

³⁷Robertson, et al. “Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Youth: Findings From JJ-TRIALS.” Recidivism Among Justice-Involved Youth: Findings From JJ-TRIALS, 25 May 2020, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9285988/>. Accessed 30 April 2025.

³⁸US Department of Justice. “Juvenile Justice Outcome Evaluation Report 2010: Youth Released from the Division of Juvenile Justice in Fiscal Year 2004-05.” August 2010, <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/juvenile-justice-outcome-evaluation-report-2010-youth-released>.
; “Moving Beyond Mass Incarceration.” Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, 24 April 2025, https://www.cjcj.org/reports-publications/fact-sheet/fact-sheet-californias-division-of-juvenile-justice-djj-reports-high-recidivism-despite-surging-costs?utm_

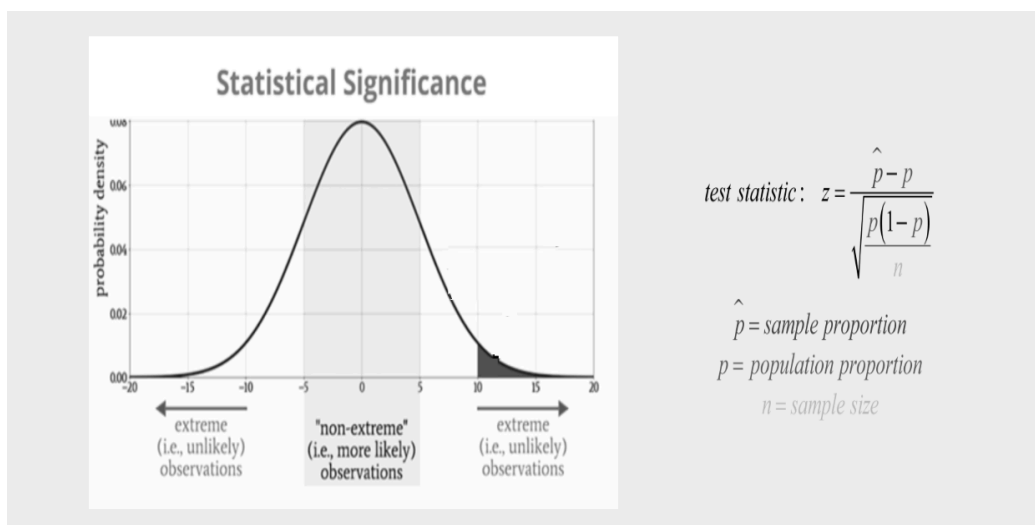


Figure 1: Z Critical Value Equation (for Statistical Significance when working with proportions)

The qualitative part of my research will include semi-structured interviews, where participants will answer a set of questions to share their personal experiences and expert opinions (reference Appendix A). Interviews will be conducted with 4 individuals: 1) Rosemarie Steinhoff, a mental health professional who has provided therapy services to both at-risk individuals and those in reintegration after experiencing the juvenile system; 2) Raymond Magsaysay, an expert of the prison-industrial complex who will provide insights into effective, comprehensive methods for reducing recidivism; 3) Ellie Donnell, a former Inside Out Writers Program Volunteer who will provide a first-hand account on the effectiveness of current efforts; 4) Wendelyn Julien, the Executive Director of the LA Probation Oversight Commission. These interviews will not be anonymous, and a consent form from each participant will be gathered prior to the interview (see Appendix B). The researcher took notes during the interviews and had full permission to record, share details about participants' professional experiences, and invite them to future studies. Interviewees were informed of potential triggers, given the option to leave at any time, and received the questions in advance. Two interviews were conducted in person and two over Zoom, each lasting between 30-45 minutes.

The triangulation of both quantitative statistics and qualitative ideas allows for a comprehensive understanding of the factors that affect success and provides direction on practical recommendations for improving existing interventions based on individual needs. Specifically, the researcher will analyze the responses of interviewees to identify common trends and insights. The researcher will then use the trends to identify areas for improvement in existing programs mentioned in the meta-analysis and offer possible explanations for outliers in the data. Lastly, the combined findings will be analyzed to provide a comprehensive suggestion of how current rehabilitation efforts in LA can be improved to better address

individual needs.

Results

For the meta-analysis, the researcher extracted 50 different numerical values of reduction in recidivism from 20 different studies. The researcher recorded the source or journal, the specific program, and the percentage by which recidivism was reduced. In analyzing the impact of different interventions on recidivism, the researcher found that studies of the Intensive Psychological Treatment program found the highest rate of reduction in recidivism, 73% for violent offenders, of all programs observed in the meta-analysis, while studies of Wilderness Programs found the lowest, 0%-5%. Similarly, the RAND Corporation reported that correctional education programs led to a 13 percent decrease, and violence intervention programs, as recorded in PubMed, yielded a 24 percent reduction. Meanwhile, studies of the Massachusetts Probation Support Centers found a reduction in recidivism of 36%, while studies of Reentry Programs found a recidivism reduction rate of 6%. (see Appendix for an example section). The same process of collection and synthesis was repeated across all sources consulted for this research. Then, utilizing spreadsheets, the researcher took the average effect of recidivism and found the value to be 22%.

SOURCE	PROGRAMS/CONDITION	EFFECT ON RECIDIVISM
Mass.gov	Massachusetts Probation Support Centers	- 36% reduction
RAND Report	Correctional Education Programs	- 13% reduction
PubMed	Violence Intervention Programs	- 24% reduction
PubMed	Specialized Psychological Treatment Programs	- 32.6% (Sexual offenses)
		- 36% (Domestic violence)
		- 24.3% (General violence)
OJP Meta-analysis	Reentry Programs (General)	- 6% reduction
PubMed	Intensive Psychological Treatment	- 73% reduction (Violent)
Dept of justice	Multiple services programs	- 5%
	Wilderness Programs	- 0-5%

*Figure 2: Example section of Numerical Values Pulled From 7 Different Studies
(Note: this process was repeated for all studies)*

Then, to effectively compare the rates of recidivism before and after specific intervention

programs, the researcher utilized a statistical significance test (see Figure 3).

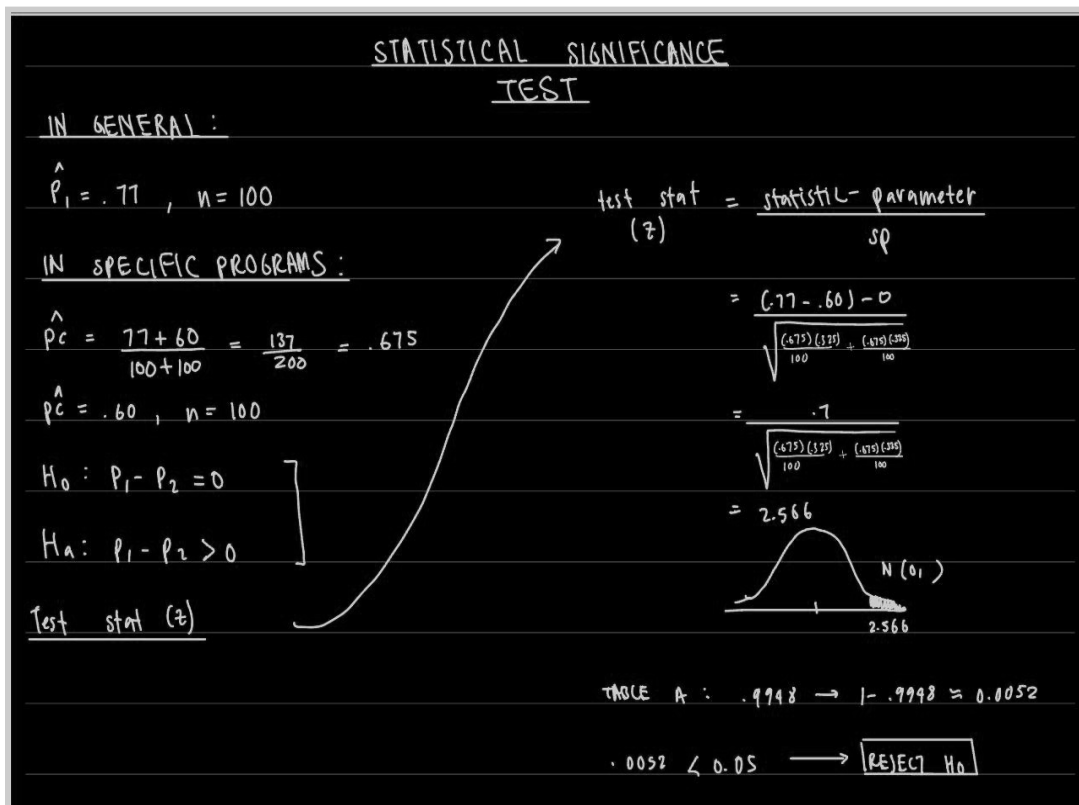
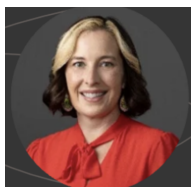


Figure 3: *Statistical Significance Test and Calculation*

The null hypothesis (H0) assumes that programs make no difference, meaning $P1 - P2 = 0$. The alternative hypothesis (Ha) suggests that the programs do have an effect, where $P1 - P2 > 0$. Given a p-value of 0.0052, which is less than the 5% significance level, we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that the programs significantly reduce recidivism.

Interview Results



1. Wendelyn Julien

Background

Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director of the Probation Oversight Commission (POC), leads a nongovernmental body that provides independent oversight of the probation system in LA County. The

POC holds public meetings, conducts inspections, produces reports for the state, and offers recommendations to both the Probation Department and the County Board of Supervisors. Staffed by a diverse team (including psychologists, public administrators, social justice researchers, communication experts, data analysts, and youth and parent advocates), the POC focuses on justice reform.

Discussion About LA County

Julien emphasized that, in Los Angeles specifically, justice-involved youth are not placed on uniform pathways, as placement is often determined by the judge. Detained youth have highly diverse problems, including mental health disorders, trauma histories, learning difficulties, and gang involvement. Typically, youth enter the system through juvenile hall, where they are separated by age or mental health needs, and then routed by the courts to various facilities, including the Dorothy Kirby Center, mental health camps, or long-term secure facilities. Placements, she argued, should be decided based on holistic risk assessments rather than solely on charges. Notably, 40-50% of these youth have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or significant mental health challenges, and most have experienced trauma, including neglect, abuse, and community violence.

Main Concerns

Despite the existing range of services, Julien identified numerous structural issues regarding rehabilitation: lack of organization in programming, over-reliance on informal networks to select interventions, and an absence of outcome-based evaluation.

Oftentimes, due to external factors, the lack of programming leaves youth idle and without sufficient support. These issues are exacerbated by systemic barriers such as insurance problems, clearance delays for new partners, and the difficulty small nonprofits face in partnering with probation services. Facilities are often overcrowded, and staffing shortages mean that youth (and even some individuals over 18 who, in certain cases, remain in juvenile centers) often have little to do after completing basic educational requirements.

Reforms

Julien advocated for the following reforms:

- Significant downsizing of facilities (from housing over 250 youth to closer to 60)
- Improving the recruitment and retention of qualified professionals, such as mental health clinicians and educators
- Individualized and clinically guided rehabilitation efforts (adoption of professional diagnostic teams to assess youth holistically, helping to recognize broader social factors such as

neighborhood safety and educational access)

- Reentry services and community-based support systems
- Including individuals with lived experience in leadership roles



2. Rosemarie Steinhoff

Background

Rosemarie Steinhoff, a former practitioner within the Department of Mental Health's Full-Service Partnership (FSP), worked with at-risk youth, probation clients, and minors entering court investigations. To address individual needs holistically, the program's approach combined:

- Therapy
- Trauma-informed caregiving
- Social work

Specifically, each client was served by a multidisciplinary team that included a therapist, a behavioral support care coordinator, and a parent partner to assist caregivers in accessing essential resources such as housing and food. Steinhoff conducted assessments using a methodology that examined physical and mental health as the nexus of biological, social, and psychological determinants. She gathered a wide range of information **that included pre-birth conditions, social interactions and community activities, and stress and current personal??? challenges** (see Figure 4). Input from teachers, social workers, siblings, and parents contributed to this understanding, which she maintained through natural, ongoing assessments. For clients who were emotionally guarded, she utilized motivational interviewing to build rapport. A Venn diagram of the biopsychosocial model illustrates that physical and mental health emerge at the intersection of biological, social, and psychological factors. Biological factors encompass disease, genetics, and bodily conditions; social factors include relationships, community context, and lifestyle; and psychological factors involve cognition, emotion, and motivation. The diagram highlights that well-being is not the product of any single domain but arises from the combined influence of biology, society, and psychology, with stress appearing as a common factor across all three.

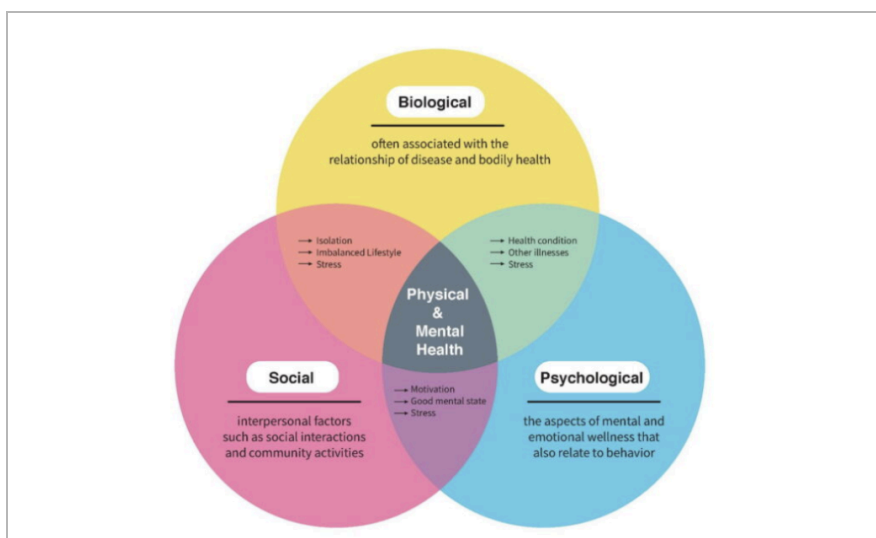


Figure 4: *Biopsychosocial Model Considerations (Washington University)*

Successes and Difficulties

One notable success from Steinhoff's work involved helping a homeless family transition into stable housing while ensuring all family members received comprehensive mental health treatment. Such achievements were the result of:

- Highly demanding work schedule (up to 12-hour days)
- Strong personal level investment
- Strong team-level dedication

She emphasized the need for manageable caseloads, ideally fewer than 10 clients per provider, to ensure quality care. She noted that the referral system itself was also flawed: although intended to connect youth to specific services, the strict criteria often excluded many vulnerable youth, leading to gaps in service.

Effective Methods

Steinhoff highlighted several effective methods:

- Trauma-informed clinicians who use the biopsychosocial method
- Working/assessing in pairs for accuracy
- Strong supervisor support
- Ongoing assessments rooted in human connection
- Building trust and understanding through daily engagement

Reforms

Steinhoff advocates for an "assess-first" mindset, which identifies underlying trauma before enrolling youth in programs. She recommends interventions such as mandatory emotional regulation

classes, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and dialectical behavior therapy. She also emphasizes the importance of culturally relevant mentorship programs, such as Men Formation (which connects colored youth to role models with lived experience). Additionally, she calls for higher pay to ensure that rehabilitation-focused jobs are treated as meaningful careers.

Steinhoff also critiques the lack of organization in certain programs and the weak connection between participation and real outcomes. She calls for trauma-informed programming, mandatory staff training, and policies being shaped by those with lived experience.



3. Raymond Magsaysay

Background

Magsaysay researches incarceration and recidivism with a focus on racial inequality, particularly among marginalized youth of color. Taking a different perspective, he advocates for culturally relevant support systems and programming that account for identity bullying, mental health challenges, and educational inequity. He emphasizes that there has been an ongoing attack on recognizing cultural differences and that the many intervention programs in existence (counseling, therapy, art courses) rarely address cultural backgrounds. He points to the success of culturally relevant programs, citing a Stanford study that found that ethnic studies courses significantly improve attendance, reduce truancy, and boost GPAs (for all, not just marginalized, students).³⁹ Indeed, he maintains that effectiveness lies not just in the type of program (e.g., therapy, art, music) but in the method of delivery.

Reforms

Magsaysay advocates for the following reforms:

- Treating youth holistically by accounting for their individual demographics and needs
- Multidisciplinary teams for assessments, including licensed social workers, psychologists, and neurodevelopmental specialists without conflicts of interest
- Prioritizing educational programs and diversion efforts over pure punitive approaches
- Community-based models (Philadelphia example: public defenders brought services directly into neighborhoods)
- Coalition-building between courts, schools, public defenders, and communities
- Programs that incorporate feedback from formerly incarcerated individuals

³⁹Bonilla, et al. "Ethnic studies increases longer-run academic engagement and attainment." PNAS Journals, 7 September 2021, <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2026386118>.



4. Elie Donnell

Background

Donnell worked with InsideOUT Writers, a nonprofit offering weekly writing classes to incarcerated youth. She taught in an opt-in program, which supplemented Los Angeles Unified School District classes for eight years, and worked primarily with the boys (ages 11-13) at Central Juvenile Hall. She also taught girls in special handling units. She emphasizes that the program was voluntary, fostering motivation and genuine interest in participants. Students often asked her to testify as a character witness during court proceedings, and she noted that the other branches of her program also provided support for youth reentering society.

In her experience, Donnell observed that small, consistent programming like writing classes could create a positive space for expression. She noted her positive experience with students over the years, even as some students cycled in and out of the system. One issue she noted was that despite the educational curriculum, students faced literacy challenges; many 13-year-olds could not read or write well, reflecting failures of certain educational initiatives. She also notes that her teaching was not paid, and wishes to push for compensation for volunteers, improving sustainability, and offering incentives for future hires.

Reforms

Donnell stressed the need for:

- Stronger literacy education
- More funding and respect for public defenders, who do crucial, often underpaid work in the juvenile justice system
- Programming with emotional buy-in (students respond best when they feel respected and seen)
- Systemic change, especially in education access, legal support, and racially motivated incarceration
- Closer monitoring of programs and educational initiatives to ensure that they are carried out successfully

Triangulation and Discussion

Primarily, the statistical analysis reveals that the predicted reduction in recidivism by 22% can solely be attributed to the enforcement of specialized programs. Therefore, it can be concluded that individualized methods of treatment should be implemented. In accord with the meta-analysis findings, all

4 interviewees support the idea of forming a specialized group of professionals to accurately assess a youth's situation. They call for a team of specialists who are trauma-informed, unbiased, and willing to provide long-term assessments. In the meta-analysis, Beaudry et al.'s findings on psychological interventions highlight that Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) reduces recidivism by 20-30%. Steinhoff agrees with its potential effectiveness but stresses the importance of analyzing individuals before assigning programs and advocates for the guarantee of receiving CBT if deemed necessary. Indeed, Julien notes that programs are not always available, and Steinhoff agrees, citing unmet criteria by potential participants or a lack of funding as common barriers. Therefore, to successfully allow therapies such as CBT to reach their targeted audience, individuals must be assessed and their specific needs met through rehabilitation programs.

On the other hand, many studies and programs appearing in the meta-analysis showed no effect or a little effect on recidivism. According to the interviewees, plausible explanations include the programs being carried out for a short period or lacking consistency and reliability. Many detention centers and prisons are short-staffed and do not have the personnel to ensure that all programs work. For instance, a recent Mobile Library program, as noted by Julien, never occurred. This demonstrates that stability and consistency are crucial in programs.

While the meta-analysis reports a 22% reduction in recidivism following the implementation of specialized programs, to further its effectiveness, the interviewees highlighted the following reforms (see Figure 5):

- Trauma-informed + personalized assessments
- Collaborative approach between professionals
- Culturally Relevant + scheduled programming
- Increase in resources

All four interviewees emphasized trauma-informed assessments and collaborative, multidisciplinary teams as critical to reductions in recidivism (see Figure 5). Culturally relevant programming and structured, consistent scheduling were each underscored by three interviewees. Better pay was identified by two interviewees, while smaller workloads and the use of risk assessments were each mentioned by one interviewee. Although some priorities were emphasized more often than others, all were identified as meaningful areas for reform, reflecting the diverse but complementary needs within juvenile justice programming.

Key Priorities for Reforming Juvenile Justice Programming

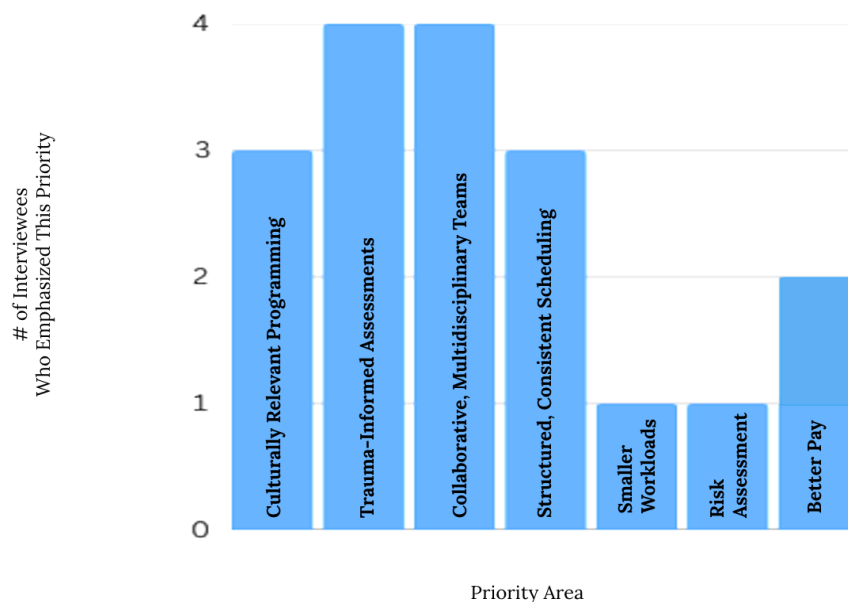


Figure 5: *Priorities Highlighted by Interviewees*

Conclusion and Limitations

In all, many specific interventions can increase the effectiveness of individualized programs. One specific approach highlighted by Julien is to increase on-site personnel by splitting locations to reduce fights and distractions. She also hints at the possibilities of offering better pay, which could attract more qualified individuals to seek employment within this sector. Furthermore, all interviewees advocate for mentorship programs, including through organizations of formerly incarcerated individuals, who can serve as positive role models for current and future detainees. Concurrently, as revealed by the meta-analysis and interviews, the structure of activities and time is key to youth development. Currently, reform programs are scattered and often inconsistent, lacking set schedules to follow. This issue should be addressed, with program organizers implementing clear organization and structure. The most important change, however, would be to accurately assess the individual in the long term, with a trauma-informed team that emphasizes collaboration. One recommended method for professionals is the biopsychosocial assessment, which involves speaking with teachers, family members, and holistically assessing the individual. To truly improve the effectiveness of these programs, the process of rehabilitation and program selection must be streamlined to meet the tailored needs of each individual.

However, one limitation that arises from the analysis is the accuracy of my quantitative data, given my dependency on the quality and consistency of the studies within the meta-analysis. Despite

accounting for time span and age groups, variations in methodologies, populations, and more can result in discrepancies that hinder accurate analyses. Without accounting for the population sizes of the programs individually, the researcher is unable to assign appropriate weight to each study. Furthermore, restrictions applied to protect vulnerable populations in interviews limited the researcher's ability to contact currently incarcerated youth. This, coupled with a small pool of interview participants, with all interviewees advocating for rehabilitation rather than punishment, can result in bias and a lack of representation across the board. The predominant view of being "tough on crime" persists in political discourse, and the previous suggestions may be deemed too controversial to implement. Economic implications and the amount of available resources also impact the juvenile system's ability to expand its curriculum and address all needs.

Future Direction

In conclusion, tailored programs designed for specific situations are key to offense prevention. Only by building a long-term relationship with the offender and having a team of informed professionals can the justice system work to effectively reduce recidivism. While the argument for punitive measures stands, it is crucial to acknowledge the need for reform. By improving existing programs, a safer society for all Americans can be achieved. Future research could explore the potential of integrating new technologies, such as data analytics, to enhance the assessment of individual needs and determine the effectiveness of singular programs. Additionally, researchers can investigate the long-term impact of tailored rehabilitation programs and carry out case studies using tested interventions in real-world facilities to accurately evaluate their effectiveness.

Appendix

Appendix A: Interview Questions

Finalized Interview Questions (POC)

Expected time: 30 mins

1. Given your expertise with LA detention centers, what is the typical pathway for rehabilitation? (Do all youth follow the same programs, and how is their placement decided?)
2. What are the most common programs available, and which has demonstrated the most success?
3. I have come across various intervention programs/initiatives (counseling, therapy, educational opportunities, etc) What factors (ex: outside organizations and funding) influence rehabilitation programs? If research supports the implementation of specific initiatives, how are these programs then implemented?
4. A news [article](#) on POC's webpage discusses how the Global Plan will help probation provide better care and tailored programs for incarcerated youth. What new programs are being developed in LA, and how are they more specifically tailored?
5. The 2024 annual report emphasizes the need for intensive care, healing opportunities in a therapeutic setting, and long-term support from professionals like therapists. How can existing programs be improved to meet these needs?
6. The annual report also notes that some Probation-led programs, like the "Mobile Library," were either not occurring or were unknown to officers and youth. What is the biggest obstacle in carrying out rehabilitation programs, and if these programs were fully implemented as planned, would they ultimately prove to be successful?
7. The la county reports that in 2022:
45.8% of arrests were for felonies: violent crimes (44.2%), property (19.4%), and drug offenses (2.3%)
49.8% for misdemeanors: assu
4.4% for status offenses
8. La County [highlights](#) the possibility of "system-impacted youth and families [being involved] in the design of strategies and systems." Do you believe this statement effectively addresses social justice and the needs of disadvantaged populations? What other recommendations would you suggest to improve the current system?

Finalized Interview Questions (Magsabay)

Expected time: 30 mins

* = priority given time constraint

1. Is there importance in having diverse programs that cater specifically to the needs of minority individuals the criminal justice system?
2. I have encountered various intervention initiatives, ranging from counseling and therapy to art courses. However, in my research, I have yet to find programs that actively consider cultural backgrounds and diversity. Your research advocates for the implementation of ethnic studies in classrooms to foster inclusion—what, if anything, should be incorporated within the juvenile system to achieve a similar impact?
3. Furthermore, if research supports the implementation of specific initiatives, how do you believe these programs should be implemented?
4. What are some of the **unique** challenges that formerly incarcerated minorities face when reintegrating into society, and how do these challenges contribute to higher recidivism rates?
5. How can we improve the criminal justice system to better address the root causes of recidivism such as mental health issues, economic inequality, or lack of education?
6. Who should have a say in the implemented programs? Professionals? Judges? Formerly incarcerated individuals?

Steinhoff Finalized Interview Questions

Expected time: 30 mins

1. Can you describe the therapy program you've been involved in with incarcerated individuals and the types of support services it offers?
2. What are some of the most significant improvements or positive changes you've observed in the individuals you've worked with during their participation in this program?
3. Current Los Angeles programs are attempting to split prisons into smaller units to have more personal will help with long-term relations.
4. How do you assess the mental health needs of incarcerated individuals, and how does the program address these needs?
5. What challenges have you encountered in providing therapy and support to incarcerated individuals, and how have you overcome them?
6. From your perspective, how can the criminal justice system improve its support and treatment for individuals facing mental health challenges, both during and after incarceration?

Donnell Finalized Interview Questions

Expected time: 40 mins

1. Can you describe the writing program you've been involved in with incarcerated individuals and the types of support services it offers?
2. What are some of the most significant improvements or positive changes you've observed in the individuals you've worked with during their participation in this program?
3. In your experience, what aspects of the program do you believe are most effective in helping incarcerated individuals with rehabilitation?
4. How do you think people should assess the mental health needs of incarcerated individuals, and how does the program address these needs?
5. What challenges have you encountered in providing such programs and support to incarcerated individuals, and how have you overcome them?

Appendix B: Informed Consent Form

INFORMED CONSENT

We are asking you to participate in a research study titled "A Second Chance: The Path Toward Juvenile Justice Reform". We will describe this study to you and answer any of your questions.

This study is being led by

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this research is to examine how intervention programs within juvenile detention centers in Los Angeles can be enhanced to improve recidivism rates by addressing the unique needs of individual offenders. This research aims to bridge the gap in existing studies by analyzing both quantitative data from meta-analyses and qualitative insights from expert interviews to assess the effectiveness of targeted rehabilitation programs. Through this approach, the research seeks to provide evidence-based recommendations for developing more individualized and effective juvenile justice policies.

What We Will Ask You to Do:

I will ask you to participate in structured interviews: If you choose to participate, you will take part in a 30-minute interview. During the interview, you will be asked questions about your experiences and personal inputs about the current rehabilitation system. You can share your thoughts and experiences in as much detail as you feel comfortable. The interview will be [conducted in person/over Zoom], and it will be recorded (if applicable). Your responses will not be confidential but you can skip any question or stop the interview at any time. Your total time commitment will be about 30 minutes and feel free to reach out with any questions.

Risks and Discomforts

This study involves minimal risk. However, you may experience the following discomforts:

- *Emotional discomfort: Some questions may bring up personal or sensitive topics that could cause feelings of sadness, frustration, or anxiety. You are free to skip any question or stop the interview at any time.*

Benefits

A likely direct benefit will come as a result of intervention research and a possible indirect benefit for participants will lead them to a better understanding of the criminal justice system and have a direct contribution to research. Political and societal benefits will ensue from this study, benefitting current and future intervention programs.

Compensation for participation

Participants will not receive compensation.

Audio/Video Recording

Interviews will be audio recorded to ensure accurate understanding and help with taking note of the information you share. The recordings will be kept secure and will be deleted once the study is completed. If you are uncomfortable with being recorded, you can let us know, and we can take only written notes instead.

Please sign below if you are willing to have this interview recorded (*specify audio or video*). You may still participate in this study if you are not willing to have the interview recorded.

☐ I do not want to have this interview recorded.

☐ I am willing to have this interview recorded:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Confidentiality:

By participating, you agree to be named in the study, and identifying details will be linked to the research data. Audio will be recorded to ensure an accurate understanding of all information and clarity. Though [I am/we are] taking precautions to protect your privacy, you should be aware that information sent through email could be read by a third party. Please note that your participation and the information you provide during the 30-minute interview will be submitted to the AP Research Board for review and may be used for future publication.

Sharing Data Collected in this Research

Data from this study may be shared with the research community at large to advance criminal justice reform. Due to the scope of this research and its dependency on participants for the qualitative aspect of the study, we do not guarantee the anonymity of your personal data.

Future use of Identifiable Data or Specimens Collected in this Research:

Identifiable information might be used for future research with obtaining your consent.

Taking part is voluntary

Your participation and involvement is entirely voluntary. If the participant wishes, they may refuse to participate before the study begins, discontinue at any time, or skip any questions/procedures that may make him/her feel uncomfortable, with no penalty to him/her, and no effect on the compensation earned before withdrawing.

Follow-up Studies/Questions (Not Likely):

We may contact you again to request your participation in a follow-up study. As always, your participation will be voluntary and we will ask for your explicit consent to participate in any of the follow-up studies.

Explicit consent:

May we contact you again to request your participation in a follow-up study? Yes/No

If you have questions

The main researcher conducting this study _____). If you have questions later, you may contact _____ questions or concerns regarding your rights as a subject in this study, you may contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Human Participants.

Participants will be given a copy of this form!

Statement of Consent

I have read the above information, and have received answers to any questions I asked. I consent to take part in the study.

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

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