

Exploring the relationship between prisoner and prison characteristics, and the prevalence and incidence of male prison offending in Western Australia

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Acknowledgement

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Research Overview

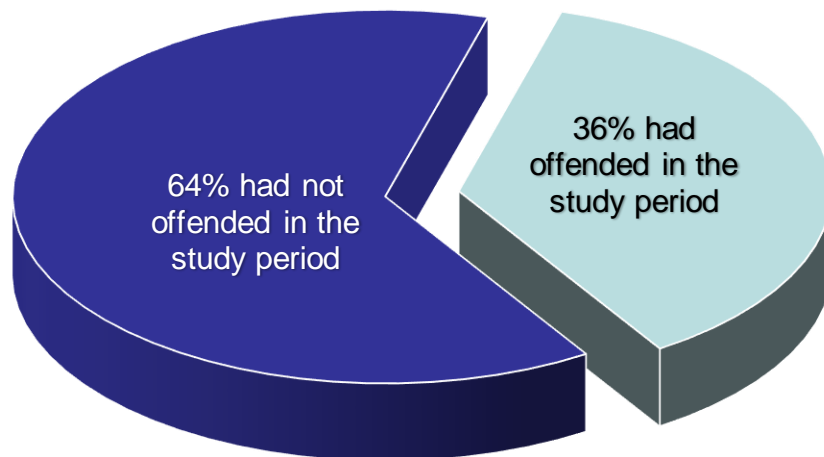
- Is the prevalence and incidence of prison offending related to **prisoners** themselves; or **prisons** and associated real or perceived deprivations?

Importance of Research

- Previous research of a similar nature undertaken only in overseas jurisdictions.
- Differences in the definition of ‘prison offending’, and individual cohorts between jurisdictions.

Sample

Prisoner Sample



- 1,959 male prisoners
- 715 (36%) of whom had offended once or more

- 12 month study period
- 17 independent variables
- Prevalence and incidence of offending

Prisoner & Prison Characteristics

- 17 prisoner characteristics
 - Demographic characteristics
 - Conformist behaviours
 - Non-conformist behaviours
- 4 prison characteristics
 - Relate to the prison itself
 - Include those that may affect the psychology of prisoners

What is Prison Offending?

Prisons Act 1981

- Section 69 – Minor prison offences
- Section 70 – Aggravated prison offences

Only offences for which prisoners had been found guilty were included.

Prevalence and Incidence of Offending

- **Age and Prisoner Security Rating** were significant to both the **prevalence** and **incidence** of prison offending.

Practical Applications

- Interventions which address underlying causes of poor behaviour in young people
 - Improve adjustment to prison
 - Decrease boredom
 - Positive reinforcement for good behaviour
 - Clear boundaries
- Reduce deprivations felt by maximum and medium security prisoners

Questions

- Further information –
<https://ro.ecu.edu.au/theses/2163/>
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- **Questions?**