

Article review

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Social Science principles: This article leans on sociology, psychology, and public health to examine the impact of incarceration on inmate's physical and mental health. It highlights the social determinants of health and how prison environments can exacerbate health problems. The article does this through use of empirical data, research, methodology, and theory.

Research Questions:

- How does incarceration affect the physical and mental health of prisoners?
- What are the mechanisms by which prison environments influence health outcomes?
- Are there existing interventions that can improve health in prisons?

Research Methods: This article is a systematic review due to the researchers using academic databases to find relevant studies then analyzed those based on pre-defined criteria. Using this research method allowed for research to shed light on a certain trend that impact certain demographics in prison. The only limitation with conducting a systematic review is that it does not present new findings. In this article it was used to raise awareness of the health needs of incarcerated individuals and the impact prison can have on individuals. These reviews are needed to create a more humane criminal justice system.

Data and analysis:

The data used in this study is comprised from 83 existing studies based on the health of incarcerated individuals. The authors analyze the studies to identify common themes and trends in health outcomes and influencing factors. It provides line charts in some sections to compare how different populations have changed in the American prison system.

Class Concepts: The Fazel study draws on multiple social science concepts such as criminology, health disparities, and the social detriments of health. While criminology isn't the focus of the

study since it focuses on the after vs. before prison, it touches on recidivism rates. The impact prison can have shown how it can disproportionately affect the health of specific groups. Racial and ethnic minorities are overrepresented in prison populations, and they may have poorer health outcomes due to pre-existing disparities and limited access to quality healthcare within prisons. As discussed in class, it's important to understand how social factors like poverty, education, and social support influence health outcomes is crucial.

Marginalized groups: Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented in prison populations due to numerous factors. Mainly to hold people society deemed as undesirable. The Federal prison system was created to manage the massive influx of prisoners, most of which were minorities.

Contribution to society: I believe that this article was needed to highlight the negative health impacts of prison environments, the research can inform policies that prioritize healthcare services within prisons. This could lead to better physical and mental health for incarcerated individuals. Studies have shown that there is a link between health and recidivism. Individuals with better health might be more likely to successfully reintegrate into society after release. This study's findings can support programs that address health issues in prisons, potentially leading to lower recidivism rates.

Reference Page

Smith, Amy. "Health and Incarceration: A Workshop Summary ." *National Center for Biotechnology Information*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 8 Sept. 2013, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books.