Peer Feedback-Week Two

The purpose of this journal article is that it provides a discussion of the use of recidivism as a measure of effectiveness of criminal justice interventions. The article argues that there has been a significant growth in recidivist studies, particularly as a measure of effectiveness. However, there has been less attention placed on the limitations of measures of recidivism, or the nature of extraneous factors that influence re-offending. The article is based off the qualitative interviews among staff and offenders which were overwhelmingly positive about the program. Yet it still raises the question, “What value is placed on recidivism in evaluating programs when qualitative outcome information appears conclusive?

Article two uses Stein and Markus’ (1996) self-concept and behavior change framework to examine youth offenders’ responses to individual-level treatment in a residential prison. Transcripts were collected from 10 male offenders, aged 15-17, who were interviewed at least three times over a period of four to six months. Results showed that while many offenders were able to identify negative trends in their life that led to their criminal behavior, other cognitively filtered out self-defeating information and did not identify troubling life patterns. Offenders also articulated visions of hoped for selves that were anchored in their lived experiences with positive role models and feared the selves that they might become if they continued down a criminal path. However, nearly all the offenders had loosely organized or vague strategies for achieving their hoped for or idealized selves. Based on these findings, the implications for self-concept theory and for treatment practices with this population group.

In my third article, the assessment of criminal recidivism risk among adolescents who have offended sexually is a complex task with significant implications for the adolescent and the community. Information has been viewed and factors associated with criminal recidivism in adolescents who have offended sexually was presented and findings were contrasted against the extensive data available for adults who offend sexually and adolescent criminality in general. Limitations were noted, such as shortage of validated risk factors for qualitative aspects of reoffending and research specifically with females and ethnic minorities. Recent attempts to combine evidence-based risk factors with case-specific clinical considerations into structured professional or empirically guided judgment formats were presented. It was concluded with suggesting practical strategies for the assessment of recidivism risk.

The commonality among each of my articles were that each one specifically stated in the abstract that the primary research conducted were those of qualitive studies. What I learned from article one is that when rehabilitative programs are introduced to those who are considered a first offender, the changes of recidivism decreasing becomes a higher possibility. Article two educated me on the fact that not every juvenile offender begins with a negative home life or circumstances. There are individuals who, with a clear and concise mind, purposely choses to pursuit a life of criminal intent. The last article introduced a more sensitive topic of criminal offenses, which were those of sexually nature. The study is still in the works of the likely hood of criminal juvenile offenders repeating sexual crimes.

References:

Abrams, L. S., & Aguilar, J. P. (2005). Negative Trends, Possible Selves, and Behavior Change: A Qualitative Study of Juvenile Offenders in Residential Treatment. Qualitative Social Work, 4(2), 175–196. [https://doi.org/10.1177/1473325005052392 (Links to an external site.)](https://doi.org/10.1177/1473325005052392)

Chris Cunneen & Garth Luke (2007) Recidivism and the Effectiveness of Criminal Justice Interventions: Juvenile Offenders and Post Release Support, Current Issues in Criminal Justice, 19:2, 197-210, DOI: [10.1080/10345329.2007.12036426 (Links to an external site.)](https://doi.org/10.1080/10345329.2007.12036426)

Worling, J. R., & Långström, N. (2003). Assessment of Criminal Recidivism Risk with Adolescents who have Offended Sexually: A Review. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 4(4), 341–362. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838003256562>

Feedback Responses:

Interesting research. **How do these resources help fine-tune your topic from a methodological perspective?**As an FYI, In your Dissertation, it will be important to justify and explain your choice of methodologies employed in your research. Thanks for sharing.

Hello Britnee,

Thank you for sharing these articles. It is interesting to learn more about the value placed on recidivism, the programs being used to mitigate this risk, and the supported risk factors that predict reoffenses. Abrams and Aguilar (2005) noted in the method section that their study used field notes and transcripts from interviews. These methods align with the requirements for data collection methods for a qualitative study, and the participants were selectively chosen based on their life experiences (Polkinghorne, 2005). Based on the age of the study, were you able to locate any more recent qualitative studies that were along with similar metrics that produced similar results? Similar challenges appear to have been noted in Worling and Långström (2003), having examined recidivism with youths with sexual offenses. This article clearly articulated the study's limitations and the proposal for future study. Based on our qualitative research study, this article itself appears to be more of a narrative review than an independent qualitative study. What is most valuable is the overview of critical topics substantiated and the areas of opportunity for future study. Have you found limitations in your current topic regarding qualitative studies, and is there a trend towards quantitative research?