

Void of the American Dream: Recidivism And
“First Time Forgiveness”

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VOID OF THE AMERICAN DREAM: RECIDIVISM AND
“FIRST TIME FORGIVENESS”

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Abstract

The issue in this research paper was to examine the affect that the prisons and correction system has had on the families from 1935 to the current time. A brief review of literature on the history of the juvenile correction system, and the adult correction system vs. re-entering the community is provided. The author also argues that once a person has served their time to re-enter the community their should be programs and resources available that can effectively prevent recidivism, mental illness, crimes, unemployment, broken homes and the lack of education.

Wisconsin has the highest percentage of African Americans incarcerated than any other state in the nation (Dixon, 2005)

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CHAPTER 1
Introduction

After researching various articles, books from 1935 to 2008, case studies and meeting with different professionals the topic the title of this paper emerged as *Void of the American Dream*.

Originally, the paper was going to be entitled *First Time Forgiveness*. The meaning behind the topic is that many men and women who serve time in person will not get the opportunity to live the American dream some people take for granted. It would be optimistic for first time offenders to get the opportunity to have their records expunged after they have served their prison sentence to prevent the high rate of recidivism. The felony charge would be removed from their record so they could get an education of their choice GED, Associates, Trade, or B.S. /B.A. Degree to obtain employment with a good paying job to provide adequately for themselves and their families. A felony charge on one's record prevents them from receiving funding for higher education, eligibility from some employment, and in most cases reasonable paying jobs. The first time forgiveness of a felon being released back into society with a free and clean record to start over again after they have served their debt to society would increase the chances of these individuals living the "American Dream". It would also provide a good foundation, education, more job access, and the right to vote. Counseling and good support systems would help make some productive members of society. Affording these individuals more opportunities with the expunging of the felony records for first time offenders would potentially decrease the number of dysfunctional families and break the cycle which might help with teenage gang violence and the teenage pregnancy rate.

Neurobiological Research and Moral Culpability has adopted a paternalistic view that juveniles delinquent are childlike, immature and able to be rehabilitated, according to the study intervention could lead them away from crime as to help them become productive. (Dixon, 2005)

There would however be exceptions to expunging some first time offender records; it would depend on the nature of the crime and the victims. Crimes that target young defenseless children, rape or sexual assault would not be candidates for the programs. Crimes not considered violent

such as drug offenses or prostitution would be ideal for this type of program. No one forced the drug addict to buy drugs and the prostitute provided a service and was paid for it. However anything over \$500.00 is considered a felony.

In the 1970's life in prison for murder only consisted of 10 to 12 years some of those prisoners are back into the community looking for jobs or on SSI. Some of the men and women that went to prison and received

educational training while incarcerated are only able to find minimum wage paying jobs, collecting social security, or are back into the judicial system due to lack of opportunities. There is so much funding going into building correction facilities, but very little being utilized to re-establishing first time felons. This topic will be researched further to see if in any states have programs set up to remove the felony off prisoner records once they have served their time.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

What is the relationship between an offender's record and their employment potential?
What is the value of expunging the record of first time offenders to prevent recidivism?
Men and women are coming out of correctional facilities and need to have their record expunge (if first time felons) to reenter the community and workforce. In an effort to prevent repeat offenders those with first time felons must have their basic needs met, a job, education, employment skills, shelter, transportation, training, a mentor, and a counselor. What are the variable objections available for men and women coming out of correctional facilities to build trust back and to move forward?

DELIMITATIONS OF RESEARCH

The research was continue education. The review of literature was conducted to find reputable resources to support the assumption on which the paper is based.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Correctional Recidivism: according to and article on a comparison to study oRecidivism (1995) for the purpose of the Wisconsin juvenile study, correctional recidivism is a consequence for a new offense after being released from a juvenile correctional institution, or a placement in a Wisconsin prison for either a new criminal offense or an adult probation rule violation within a period of time after being released from a correctional institution.

Juvenile correctional facilities: A state-operated secure detention facilities that is suppose to educate, rehabilitate, and detain juvenile offenders at the age from 10- years-old to 16 - years of age.

Expunge: To get rid of something completely, erase or clear up an old criminal record regardless whether it is a felony or misdemeanor.

METHOD OF APPROACH

A review of literature related to research, studies, at what age did the offenders stop trusting the larger society, and authority figures, potential employment rate for offenders without marketable skills, adult education programs, and the impact reentering the community

has on the families, children, outcomes overall, and personal interviews with men and women who have come out of correctional facilities and are unable to find adequate employment or continue their education will be conducted. The findings will be summarized and recommendations will be made.

CHAPTER 2

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History of Expunge /Recidivism

There is a need to move from a system that focuses on “warehousing” inmates including juveniles to a system that will truly rehabilitate the needs to give consideration to the nature of recidivism, home and family, unemployment and education. The conflicts and confusions which arise in the clash of our American conventions and our closely integrated socio-economic life is apparently unavoidable. The young adults of today, in their contact with life are faced with many perplexities and problems. It seems almost impossible that an immature mind can perceive the hundreds of pitfalls which may be ahead in their existence. As a child must be taught everything he/she knows, to talk, eat, walk, and to obey or disobey the rules and regulations of life. Lewis E. Lawes, The warden of Sing Sing Prison has pointed out that “Man or woman is not a born criminal; children are usually created by problem parents. When the home fails to shape the behavior patterns of children, then other social agencies must assume the burden of developing in them wholesome and well integrated personalities”(1965 p126).

Many human beings together make a society. It is an organization which demands certain things of the individual and in return provides him/her with certain benefits. The individual makes his/her contributions and in return should be entitled to health, enjoyment, and a chance to develop his/her personality. If more over, he/she has health, enjoys life and develops his/her personality, then and only then will he/she become a good citizen. The forces of the child’s environment such as the school, church, movies, recreation, and companions have a very important bearing on how successful the young adults will be adapting himself or herself to a happy and useful life afforded the conditions which will enable the young adults to adjust successfully is proven by the fact that out of every hundred persons who are apprehended by the police seventeen are young adults (1965 p126) influenced by the surrounding in which they live, habits are formed. Poor environments very often will produce bad habits.

Occasionally a child with a good heritage will not succumb, but will raise above his/her surroundings. If a child does not have a good heritage, the chances of his/her surmounting a poor environment are very remote. Criminals are not born: we as a society make them. In the blundering wisdom of its laws and convention, society creates criminals. It is much easier to punish an individual than to change society or analyze the reason for the crime and correct the fault. Criminals as labeled by society are segregated and placed in an institution. In these institutions however, the hope is that the criminal will be reformed and made into a good citizen but there must be some rehabilitation while incarcerated (Bell, 1938).

According to The Wisconsin Statutes of Juvenile delinquent The Wisconsin Statutes has the following definition of Juvenile delinquents:

Any children under the age of eighteen years who has violated any law of the state or country, city, town, or village ordinance; or who by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient is uncontrolled by parent, guardian, or custodian, or who is habitually so deports him/her self so as to injure or endanger the morale or the health of others (Wisconsin Statutes 1937.48.01(1) (c) pg.637).

HOME CONDITIONS & FAMILIES

A study made by Bow 6 half of the juveniles for
whom the data had been obtained came from homes that had been broken up by death of one or

both parents or by divorce, separation, and desertion. This is a considerably higher incidence of broken homes that exist in the general population (Bowler and Bloodgood). In over half of the families of the juvenile delinquents neither parent had ever attended school nor in more than three-fourths of the families of the adult criminals one or both parents illiterate. The importance of the home conditions and the family has long been recognized and critical characteristics have been identified by Aristotle's belief was that strong families are the best crime prevention policy. The first major inquiry into the family's influence on delinquency appeared in 1950 seemed to back up Aristotle's belief. (Benton, 1952). Travis Hirschi, investigating whether a poor parent child relationship retards the child's social skills conceived his "social control" theory. The theory maintains that the probability of delinquency increases as an individual's feelings of attachment to family, and subsequently to society, weaken (Hirschi, 1976). By having attachment, the child desire to win and hold the approval of others and the belief that, given certain conditions, he/she can count on having that approval. Another primeval presumption that has become controversial is that two parent families are better than a one parent family environment (Solomon & Waul, 2001). It has been demonstrated persuasively in recent years. In short, the interacting parent needs help both financially to allow one parent to devote more time to the child/children and their emotional needs, school work, and daily activities. Others such as the extended family and churches can sometimes assume this critical supporting role, as such second-string parents are needed in today's society but are hard to find and are generally a poor substitute to the child's absent parent (Arizona, 1992). Plato's Republic was the first work to address the relationship between the "family and social justice". The two parent family and the institution of marriage that preserved it were compatible with mankind pursuit of justice. Justice, as Plato envisioned it, entailed the proper ordering of social classes and duties of a two parent family (Cornfold, 1966).

At present time more than two-thirds of all black American children are born out of wedlock. Half of all black children are born to teenagers. In 1975, sixty-three percent of black women aged twenty to twenty-four were married or had been married. In 1990, the number decreased to thirty-nine percent of today's young African-American women. About twenty-five percent of today's young African-American women will never marry, compared to less than 10 percent of young white women (Bureau, 2005). This demonstrates the end result that a black child born today has only a one-in-five chance of growing up with two parents until the age of sixteen (Brown, 1993).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that in the 1980s illegitimacy birth rates had doubled (Media research, February 2006). So more than one out of every five white children is now being born to an unmarried mother. By contrast the black illegitimacy rate rose only forty-three percent during the decade, or less than half the rate of growth among whites (State of Bureau, 2005).

CRIME

In America today some sort of crime occurs every two seconds and the number of violent crimes committed annually is at an all-time high. A burglary is committed every 10 seconds, someone is assaulted every 29 seconds, and a woman is raped every 46 seconds. The violent crime rate has risen five hundred-sixty percent since 1960 (Peyton, 1994). Every year one out of every four households is the target of a violent crime of theft. Eighty-three percent of children born in 1975 or later will be victims or intended victims of a violent crime at least once in their life time. Fifty-two percent will be victims of crimes more than once (Brown & Castaneda, 1993). Today in America it appears that murder is becoming the most popular method of dispute

resolution. Since 1990, more than 90,000 Americans have been murdered, more than twice the number of American fatalities in Vietnam War. Lower income Americans are more likely to be prey to a violent crime than middle and upper – income people (Fritze, 1993). Blacks are forty-one percent more likely and Latinos thirty-two percent of White Americans believe crime to be a “real problem” in their neighborhood, forty-nine percent of African –American has the same concern (Scull, 1993).

Researchers have estimated the average psychological cost of crimes against Americans at \$16,000 per assault, \$19,200 per robbery and \$54,000 per attempted or completed rape, which if included in the calculations would make the nation’s total loss to crime still in greater proportions. The justice intervention programs are focused on repairing this harm, some times through correctional institutions (Van Ness, 1990).

INSTITUTIONS

The correctional institutions of today are places in which convicted offenders receive treatment in a scientific manner so that they may again fit into community life. It must be realized that no matter how good an institution may be, it cannot be a satisfactory substitute for an inmate’s own home life. The environment should be matched as closely as possible to the situation the young adult would meet in his own home, school or community. The institution must realize that it exists for the young adult and its duty definitely is to adjust and train the young to return to their home community (McCann, 1996).

We have some state prisons that when a program of social engineering is implemented, the officials charged with its enforcement inhibit its very existence. Some of America’s prison systems are as old as criminal justice it self. In 1973, Isaac Ehrlich did a more

comprehensive study of “participation in illegitimate activities”. Isaac Ehrlich used national data from the years 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960 and 1970’s. Ehrlich sought to determine the criminal laws ability to deter potential offenders. He developed a model of behavior in which the crime rate was a function of variables such as the probability of incarceration, the average length of prison sentence, the percentage of non whites and males in the subject population, income, unemployment, and others. In Enrlich’s study he found that for every seven selected violent offenses, the greater the probability of incarceration and the average length of prison sentence, the lower the crime rate. The threat of punishment on the whole appeared to deter potential criminals. Greater criminal punishment can therefore in most cases suppress the crime rate (Ehrlich, 1973).

In other studies that moved beyond examining the remunerative wisdom of incarceration has run into more serious objections. Methvin, a writer for Reader’s Digest, compared the sentencing practices of several states in the latter half of the 1980’s and inferred that incarceration rates had a significant effect on the crime rate. He concluded that longer incarceration policies backed by the construction of new prisons were responsible for reducing California’s crime rate during the 1980s. The inmate population nearly quadrupled during the 1980’s. These policies Methvin felt netted a reduction in the murder, rape, and burglary rates of twenty-four percent, twenty-nine percent, and thirty-seven percent. In the state of Illinois during the same period, prisoners released early, saved the state government sixty million but cost Illinois crime victims an estimated three hundred-four million (Casper, 1984).

America leads the world in the number of citizens who are under direct government supervision and control. The United States spends one hundred-twenty billion for imprisonment and supervision (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1996). Two million people are in jail or prison;

four million are on probation or parole (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000). The spending and high incarceration rate might be acceptable if we were accomplishing any stated goal or any type of measure of success.

The system failed; for example, a nineteen year old young man who is whacked out on crack who steals a five hundred dollar television set and sells it for twenty-five dollars to get high, but makes the drug purchase from an undercover narc who busted and arrested him. Due to the fact that the young man did not have anyone to roll over or to tell on, the young man goes to court and receives a year in prison. This cost taxpayers twenty-five thousand for a five hundred dollar television (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000). Incarceration does not work; it makes criminals worst. They are more likely to re-offend after a stay among real criminals than if they had been sent to school or a training camp, and had supervised probation. The victim taxes go up to help pay for the young to be in prison. Since it is their first felony and the crime is not serious I feel that the person should get probation and restitution, sent to school or a training camp, obtains employment and mandatory AODA treatment. If the young men do not comply than they should be put in jail for a short time to teach them that there are consequences for their actions. The offenders need to acknowledge responsibility, apologize, and offer amends for their crimes. This will teach them an important lesson. The adversarial system presumes that the victim or his/her survivors will only want vengeance, but will commit further crimes. This demeans the ability of the victim, as it separates the offender from the community. When the offender finally does something serious, and hurts someone in the process the courts put him/her in prison for a long period of time, then he/she learns new skills and re-offends once released (Perry, 2002). The effects of suffering a loss of property, a violation of space, or a trauma to self or loved one triggers deep responses in all humans. Sometimes people move from the loss or trauma to shock,

anger, denial, blame, transference, and revenge (Gendreau, 1996). The victim needs to be heard to tell their story making the event real and the loss recognized in turn repairing the damage done, returning the value lost, restoring the victims to their former state of well being when it is possible making amends for the losses suffered. Diane Gordon calls recycling two-thirds of the prisoners released from prison back into prison, “The Justice Juggernaut”. A third of the probationers are back into prison to teach them a lesson (Gordon, 1990). The prison system feeds on its own failures; over 700,000 people in jail or in prison last 10 year out of a reported thirty million crimes. The supply of prisons will never catch up with the crime demand (Gordon, 1990).

By the middle of the twentieth century, the new rehabilitations became more or less the working ideology of American prisons. Reformation and rehabilitation of the offenders have become important goals of criminal jurisprudence (Marshall, 1972. In 1972, Thurgood Marshall argued that “punishment has been almost totally rejected by contemporary society” (Marshall, 1972). Rehabilitations was eventually rejected both by many academics and by the American public. Prior to the late 1960s, prison officials implemented the advice of criminologists and the apparent wishes of some legislators by instituting the recommended means of rehabilitation with the use of educational arts and craft classes, group “rap sessions,” and plenty of recreation time. Psychiatrists were also retained to facilitate the offender’s return back into the community and to an honest life. Virtually no prison in the nation failed to adopt at least some part of rehabilitation’s first agendas (Beck, 2005). Crime has been rising to unprecedented levels, and rehabilitation has not brought any observable reduction in recidivism (Harer, 1995). After the prison riots that began in 1971, the American’s predominant theory of punishment, beginning a series of prisons uprisings. The Attica Riot in New York

made prison officials wary of the philosophy, especially given the ingratitude of the inmates (The Attica event almost single handed took away empirical support for rehabilitation and eroded its rank among social scientists (New York Times, 1987). In 1973, Robert Martinson did a study of rehabilitation in practice. In Martinson's self-described "massive task" he studied every available report on rehabilitation techniques in the English language that was published from 1945 to 1967, drawing from them a total of two hundred-thirty studies. Martinson found in the studies that none of the rehabilitative efforts had an "appreciable effect on recidivism" (Martinson, 1973). Later on Martinson qualified his otherwise categorical rejection of rehabilitation; his earlier conclusions were stated with such apparent statistical firmness that his central finding "nothing works" was accepted by many in academia. Martinson died before explaining his revised position. No comparable research refuting Martinson's analysis has not yet been materialized (Martinson, 1973). The rehabilitation treatment of criminal offenders rather than tragic figures led to violence by an abusive society was thought faulty and unjust. If any offenders cried out for rehabilitation, the theorist felt it was society, not the offenders.

REHABILITATION

The traditional meaning perhaps would be "to re establish or bring into good reputation again". The rehabilitation of a delinquent young adult cannot be estimated or determined unless there is a definite follow-up through the years until it is definitely established that the young adult has become a useful, v. 13 quencies bears a certain resemblances to the attempt to "cure" tuberculosis. Treatment in a sanatorium for

tuberculosis consists largely of measures designed to build up the patient's natural strength and resistance and so arrest the progress of the disease, and when a patient is believed to be strong enough to lead a reasonably normal life outside the routine and protection of the sanatorium authorizes (Salekin, 2008). Everyone that has been involved in serious delinquencies has to work much harder to keep out of conflict and future involvement with the law than does the young adult who has never had the experience of being involved with the law or the court system (Sullivan, 1990). The rapidly growing concern about crime and lawlessness in general has come due to recognition of the fact that crime often has its beginning in the delinquencies of the young adults with whom all agencies have failed. It has been stated "every boy, every girl and every adult" for that matter is crying out day by day for food, shelter, jobs, sex, social security, and affection (Chartrand, 1996). If there is indication of high percentage of paroled young adults who are unable to live without social conflict, there is a need to consider and examine the correctional and educational programs of the institution.

conducted through the Racine Public library (Racine, WI) and Gateway Technical College (Racine, WI) and Karmann libraries (University of Wisconsin-Platteville). Primary searches included conducted via Internet through EBSCO Host, ERIC, Academic Search Elite, Google.com and Yahoo.com. Key search topics included "adult education" and "basic skills training for felons," "re-entering the community," and "expunge", "recidivism" along with personal interviews with felons that have been unable to find employment, or to

MENTAL HEALTH

Some offenders in American (Poverty" made them commit their crimes; Criminologist's have completed surveys to try and understand poor people

that commit crime. Tragic crimes committed by Blacks, but understandable vestige of racism. Black on Black crime, more tragic, but the same excuses applies. There are some wives who murder their abusive husbands rather than simply leaving them. Those who resist violent crimes with like violence are sometimes judged more harshly than their assailant. In short, poverty in Modern America is that poor Americans are labeled as such because they lack certain status symbols such as large homes, expensive cars, and designer apparel. Thus, while poverty is a transparently inadequate explanation for crimes by poor Americans it cannot be excused (Taylor, 1992).

A movement began in the 1970s to deinstitutionalize the mentally ill and reintegrate them back into society. This widespread resulted in the closing of many large scale mental hospitals and treatment centers. With fewer options open to them, the mentally ill came into contact with law enforcement authorities more often. An increasing number of adults with mental illness have become involved with the criminal justice system. State and federal prisons have undergone a dramatic transformation, housing a growing number of inmates with serious mental disorders (Haney, 2006). More than half of all prison and jail inmates have a mental health problems. Specifically, 705,600 inmates in state prisons (fifty-six percent of all state prison inmates) and 479,900 inmates in local jails (sixty-four percent of all local jail inmates) reported symptoms of mental health problems (Agnew, 1992). The symptoms range from major depression, psychotic disorder, bipolar, mania, hearing voices, schizophrenics, insomnia and suicidal tendencies. Female inmates have a much higher rate of mental health problems than male inmates, seventy-three percent of female state prison compared to fifty-five percent of male inmates (Pfeiffer, 2007).

In 1998, four out of fourteen suicides occurred in what the prison system calls “special housing units”. That was twenty-nine percent of all suicides among just 3 percent of the population. When people commit suicide in prison, rarely is the information released to the public (Harrison and Beck, 2005). It appears that there is something seriously wrong within the “special Units” of our state prisons.

There is a growing population of mentally ill inmates, with conditions of depression, psychotic disorder, bipolar, mania, hearing voices, schizophrenics, insomnia and suicidal tendencies without the resources to care for themselves and stay out of trouble. Society has failed to provide for some of its most vulnerable citizens and has allowed them to be treated as criminals. There are a small proportion of people in jails and prisons who think in disjointed ways, act out bizarrely, or are outright psychotic. It could be our sisters, brothers, sons and our daughters who are unfortunate enough to be afflicted with mental illness in an era in which handcuffs and bars have replaced treatment. Some mentally ill people hang themselves or starve themselves, been killed in altercations with prison guards, or have been locked in the prison box for years (Bureau, 2006).

The mental ill inmates cannot be controlled in the general prison population so they end up in solitary confinement. Confinement is a place where inmates are known to scream day and night, spread feces on walls, throw bodily fluids at officers, and mutilate themselves in ingenious ways. More than thirty state prisoners have built units to house what was often called “the worst of the worst”, the mental ill inmates (Bureau (2006). American now has 2.2 million people in its jails and prisons. Of the ones that are incarcerated an estimated 330,000 are mentally ill. Police and mentally ill people tangle every day in unfortunate and sometimes tragic ways. Police will act out in fear of the mentally ill, a

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rather than quelling them.

So many people with mental illness are killed by policemen, rather than receiving medical help. Studies show the number accounted for twenty percent of the total nationwide were killed by policeman. Police need better training and attitude adjustments to work with the mental ill.

In 2005, Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) teams were created and cared for one hundred seriously mentally ill people living in the community, after the closing of woods mental health hospital due to patients dying at the hands of the police officers, and several law suits. Woods cost forty-two million to operate about one hundred thousand annually. Law enforcement officials have assumed the role of caretakers and custodians of people with mental illness. These were the sickest and poorest; half had been in mental hospitals and sixty percent qualified for Medicaid. The mandate of the FACT teams was to help mentally ill people find housing, visit them frequently to make sure they had access to and taken their medications, counsel them, and otherwise manage their lives outside an institutions. FACT teams served about thirty-one hundred people, three thousand forty-seven hospitals, four hundred-thirteen incarcerations in either jail or prison, and forty deaths (Randall, 2008). It appears it would be more cost effective to treat addiction and mental illness. After suicides in the special housing units in New York, one of the thirty states that operated twenty-three hour confinement units and prisons. Many of these super max facilities were built in 1990's, by 2004 imprisoned at least twenty- five thousand Americans nationwide (Pfeiffer, 2007).

From 1992 to 2003 emergency rooms saw fifty-six percent increases in people experiencing psychiatric crisis. People with mental illness have trouble obtaining the most basic human needs. The people with mental illness need hospital care outpatient care crisis services, case management, housing and job training. If they are arrested, they need mental health courts to divert them from jail and prison. They need to be prevented from suicide during passing

moments of despair. The mental ill need to be counseled, supported, and sheltered. Suicidal behavior is also a serious problem in juvenile confinement facilities. In a 1990 survey, 970 juveniles committed 1,487 acts of suicidal behavior; that is attempted suicide, made suicidal gestures, or engaged in self- mutilation (Ayers, 1997).

COMMUNITY

All live in a community. In fact, each individual is a part of many communities that revolve around the aspects of our daily lives, neighborhoods, work, schools, and places of worship, friends, and clubs. Communities are enormously diverse, but they have one thing in common, they are all formed by relationships between people. The strength of a community depends on the quality of the relationship that binds it together (John, 2002). When a crime is committed, it is more than just a violation of the law or an assault against a person or property it affects the whole community. Many parties are injured when a crime is committed. The victim's faith in the community may be shaken because it failed to protect him/her from a crime. Also the offender loses the trust of the community because of the crime, and there is often a host of friends, neighbors, and family of the victim, and the offender who are affected (Solmon, 1990). All of these people or communities represent vital links in a chain that are being weakened by crime. Depending on the severity of the crime and the experience of injustice, less trust maybe greater of less accompanying the feeling of range from slight irritation to extremely intense anger and hate.

Today in society most communities are using community policing in specified locales or neighborhoods. Community policing initiatives often involve certain foot patrols, permanent geographic assignment of officer

specific objectives however are varied to reduce crime and the fear of crime. That includes the calls for service and complaints against police to increase preventive knowledge, crime clearance rates, public satisfaction, police satisfaction, police efficiency, and police effectiveness and also to build police-community partnerships (Normandeau, 1993). With attempts to organize and unify neighborhood residents into a “community” also are common practices (Rosenbaum, 1994). The specific methods of achieving these aims may differ, and despite its popularity, community policing has been characterized as being “more rhetoric than reality” (Mastrofski & Klockars, 1988). Community participation has largely been limited to four primary roles:

- 1) Eyes and ears of the police
- 2) Cheerleading (political support for police).
- 3) Monetary assistance, taxes supporting foot patrols, biking).
- 4) Statement making (threats of opposition, intolerance and sanctions for misconduct, such as “Drug-Free School Zone” or “Neighborhood Watch” signs), Police officers have to continue education and training of neighborhood residents for their roles in the community, and by using the least restrictive and the least intrusive methods of dealing with a problem in the community (Sadd & Grinc, 1994). The innovative Neighborhood Oriented Policing (INOP) programs are funded by the Bureau of Justice assistance. To implement community policing their goal in the community is to eliminate the drug-demand reduction, this approach is an example of the interchangeability of the “community” and “neighborhood”. INOP program efforts included increase law enforcement, drug prevention, education programs, and AODA treatment, the creation of satellite offices and the purchases of motor homes to increase the presence of polices in specific problem nei
ment of community residents in
program design. Some citizens are largely unaware of the project goals and they do not want to

become involved. More come involved when they are victims (Bayley, 1994). Most people in the community never seriously attend a local neighborhood watch meeting until they become a victim. Home owners and renters are easy to persuade to invest in a security system after a burglary. A project study by Huddersfield, focused resources such as temporary alarms on prior victim's reduced domestic burglary by twenty-four percent in a Rockdale project reduced burglary by seventy-two percent. Victims that have been burglarized are four times as high to be burglarized again as the ones that had not been burglarized before (Bridgeman and Hobb, 1972). The homeowner also worries that someone who knows how to get in to his/her home will be watching for arrivals of brand new replacements or new merchandises. Most people living in the community need to educate their selves, identify the credible leaders in the community or neighborhood, attend community or neighborhood meetings, attend community gathering, read local papers and work with the community leaders. When an offender re-enters the community the response is feeling disrespected, disempowered, alienated and less inclined to cooperate with the community. The community leader should want to make the offender feel safe, cared for, respected, trusted empowered, restored, that will make the offender more inclined to cooperate with the community(Mann, 1993). According to Claasen (1991), reconciliation is the heart of Victim Offender Program (VOP). If the healing and movement toward reconciliation does not happen, the distrust and distance intensifies. Reconciliation is a voluntary and cooperative process so that most of the community can encouraged and assist. The VOP, program is to encourage the victims and offender to welcome discussion about the event. It is best for the victim to ask questions of the offender in hopes that something good will comes out of the meeting and a positive line of communication between the two. There is a process for the victim and offender reconciliation meeting. The cases start with a referral from the police department,

probation and parole officers, social workers and pastors. The case is then assigned to a trained volunteer mediator. The mediator makes a commitment to be constructive in all of their meetings with the victim and offenders (Barajas, Jr. 1995).

The guidelines are set up by the courts or the probation officers for the mediator to listen, and try to understand both sides by trying to put themselves into the other person's shoes as much as possible. The media to, victim and offender should listen to each other openly and search for ways to repair the damage as much as possible and try to safely move forward.

The Fresno Victim Offender Reconciliation Program started with five experimental cases in 1983 and grew to five hundred ninety-five case referrals in 1995. The Fresno Victim offender reconciliation program receives referrals as a diversion, pre sentence, post sentence, and from institutions as part of a transition back into the community (Bazemore& Griffiths, 1997).

EMPLOYMENT

Many Americans lose their jobs or employment prospects as a direct result of crime. Crime causes some business sales to suffer and business to open fewer hours due to employees have quit because of crime. Americans are limited to the places they go because of crime. Crimes force people to purchase and use cumbersome locks and security devices and check out lines at the grocery stores are longer because of time- consuming procedures for thwarting bad checks. Every present threat of crime makes Americans lives more complicated and less pleasant (Arizona Republic, 1993). Like so many other defects in the country's criminal justice system, the disbandment of prison labor resulted from the common delusion that effective crime control could be had without paying for it.

In the case of prison labor, the price was a marginal economic sacrifice by select categories of politically influential workers in free society. It did not take a long time for prison labor to become a powerful competitor with private labor in the lower-skilled industries. Not only were inmates wages lower; employers also had in prisoners a captive readily available workforce that was always on time and could neither complain or quit. But unlike inmates, free laborers could vote. If in America prisoners are given work and discipline and required to confront their transgressions crimes against their neighbors, crimes for which they are individually responsible, prison could actually prove beneficial for a change to the offenders and to the community.

Abuse is not as easily concealed. Pre-existing abuse may have been tolerated as long as a parent was providing financial support. It could be that the behavior does not change but rather the tolerance of others within the unemployed person's costal network changed (Steinberg, 1981).

EDUCATION

Horace Mann in 1947 wrote, "If any given percentage of all the children can be rescued from vice and crime, and can be educated and trained as to become valuable citizens, but state refuses or decline to do this work, then the state it self become a culprit". The criticism heard sometimes today that education has failed to prevent crime is another way of saying what Horace Mann said that "the state has become a culprit". The schools can only be as good as what the citizens of the community are willing to demand and support. Inadequate provision for schools in times of prosperity and retrenchment in periods of depression contribute to the maladjustment, delinquency and crimes among our young adults (Horace Mann, 1947).It would seem that our education system, as one of the most important factors of our young adult's environment, has an enormous task to perform. It a

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re being defeated and the

basic training gained in schools reading, writing, and math (arithmetic) is used to further a life of delinquency and crime at the expense of the tax-payers. The objectives of education are also defeated if the young adult does not spend his/her leisure time in useful or at least socially harmless ways and if the young adult does not know how to work. It has been estimated that the cost of crime in the year 2000 totaled about fifteen billion dollars and was equal to four times the cost of education. The average cost to every man, woman, and child to spend time in a correctional institute is several billion dollars a year. Our national debt could be easily paid off if crime could be eliminated for three years (Saylor & Gaes, 1997).

Vocational education is a way to learn how to earn some money to support ones self, vocational training was an intensive preparation in a job that the teacher or parent or authorities thought was best for young adults without any emphasis on other phases of educational training (McCann, 1997). Industrial education, is the training received in vocational education, however when applied is usually that of preparation in acquiring related industrial knowledge and some skill which may be used in leisure time actives or hobbies, and shop work.

Delinquency and the parents' lack of education, or trade seem to be closely correlated as evidenced by the juveniles and young adults in correctional institutions. Among one thousand of the juveniles who had already completed their schooling when brought before the juvenile court, eleven percent had stopped school at 5th grade, forty-six percent went as far as the sixth grade or seventh grade, and twenty-five percent reached the eighth grade, while seventeen percent had begun but not completed high-school work (McCann, 1997). In over half of the families of the juveniles delinquents neither parent had ever attended school, and in more than three-fourths of the families of the adult criminals one or both parents were illiterate, these proportions comparing to but 5 percen

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opulation of young adults

twenty-one or over. The attendance of High schools or colleges by the parents of delinquents and criminals was negligible (Henry, 2006).

In 1997, 11.4 percent of state prisoners and 23.9 percent of federal prisoners had “post secondary/ some college, a college graduates or more”. Prisoners with less than high school education comprised 39.7 percent of state prison population and 26.5 percent of the federal prison population in 1997, compared to only 18.4 percent of the general population (James & Glaze, 2006). The number of prison staff providing education has decreased, 41.1 percent in 1990 to 3.2 percent of the total staff in 2000. More recently several states, including California, Florida, and Illinois have cut their education budgets even more (Maruschak, 2005). Many prisons offer educational programs to inmates including basic adult education, vocational training, and study release programs. All federal prison inmates who lack a high school diploma or GED must participate in literacy programs for at least two hundred-forty hours or until they have obtained their GED. In addition the bureau of Prisons offer or funded three hundred-forty occupational training programs, five hundred-forty apprenticeship programs, and one hundred fifty advanced occupational training programs in 2005. Eleven thousand federal prisoners were enrolled in the educational programs during 2005; thirty-five percent of the prisoners were enrolled in at least one education program (Maquire, 1988). As part of the “ get tough on crime “ movement, inmates are no longer eligible for Pell grants to support the costs of post secondary education (Bassinger, 1985).Coley and Barton report that according to several studies, inmates who participate in educational programs are less likely to commit crimes after they are released than other prisoners. Several studies show that when prisoners participate in vocational or college educational programs they are more likely to get a job after they are released from prison and less likely to have disciplina

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper gives explanations of why there is a “Void of The American Dream”. There is concrete evidence that poverty, the lack of education, and unemployment increase abusive behavior, drugs, gang involvement, and dysfunctional families. The family life cycle perspective looks at the time of the job loss to assess effects on the children and other family members (Bus & Redburn, 1983). As in many situations children are the most vulnerable population. This review suggests that problems such as marital conflict, crimes, juvenile behavioral problems, suicide, school difficulties, and lack of education, child abuse, sexual abuse, and excessive substances abuse have been a major outcome of unemployment before and after incarceration.

In this report the exact length of time confined was not precisely defined in many of the more vs. less incarceration studies and unreported in 86% of the incarceration vs. community effect sizes. So it was difficult to determine if the people that spent more time incarceration recidivism more or less than the people that spent less time incarceration.

In order to draw a conclusion about the causes of the unfair justice system one must consider these studies used a variety of the population’s percentage in different contents. One would need to have baseline measurements to determine any significant change in mental health behavior once an offender was out of an institutional setting. Prisons need trained prison officers to work with and respect mentally ill inmates and invest in prison rehabilitation programs, which curb recidivism.

Wisconsin’s correction facilities have a number of services and educational opportunities that are offered to juveniles, st

psychologist, alcohol and drug treatment, anger management, parenting skills, sex offenders, and mentors while incarcerated. (Gendreau, 2002)

There is a need for plan intervention within the community, social workers, and probation and parole officers. Some police officers, the victim, and their families should be provided counseling which would be helpful to modify perceptions and expectations the released offender might have. The assessment could also be useful in explaining to the family of the victims what to expect and normalizing the fear, anger, and loss they most likely feel.

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