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A Descriptive Analysis of Bookings in Sibley County Jail Between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009

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Abstract

Each year approximately 12 million admissions and releases occur in U.S. jails (Solomon, A. L., Osborne, J. W. L., LoBuglio, S. F., Mellow, J., & Mukamal, D. A.). Those that cycle in and out of jail often times are unstable. These instabilities include: substance abuse, lack of housing and employment, mental illness, and health concerns. More than 80 percent of offenders are incarcerated for less than one month; some for a few hours or a few days (Solomon, et. al.).

This concern was identified by the Public Health Nurse (PHN) who has seen the same offenders being booked in, time after time. The PHN and the Jail Administrator wanted to find out what caused these individuals to return and how could recidivism be decreased. In order to address this concern, information needed to be analyzed to find out the trends and patterns of individuals being booked in Sibley County.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this Capstone Project was to identify trends and patterns of individuals booked in the Sibley County Jail beginning January 1, 2008 and released by December 31, 2009. This information will assist Sibley County in identifying valuable resources to assist offenders' successful transition back into the community.

Research Questions

What are the trends and patterns of individuals booked in the Sibley County Jail beginning January 1, 2008 and released by December 31, 2009?

Methodology

A systematic review of literature was conducted supporting evidence-based practices in jail systems. The data was collected from journal articles, Department of Corrections reports, Department of Justice reports, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Urban Institute.

Information was gathered from all bookings beginning January 1, 2008 and released by December 31, 2009 alphabetically from the Aegis Public Safety System database distributed by the Sibley County Jail Administrator.

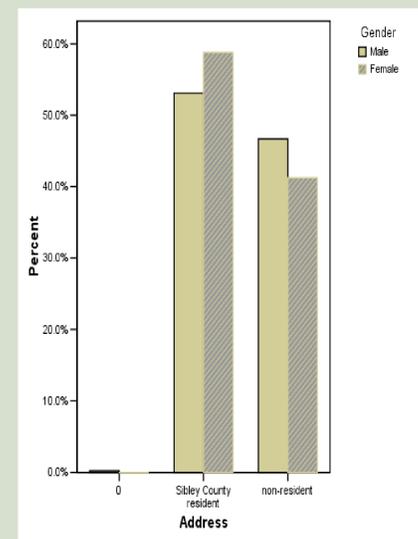
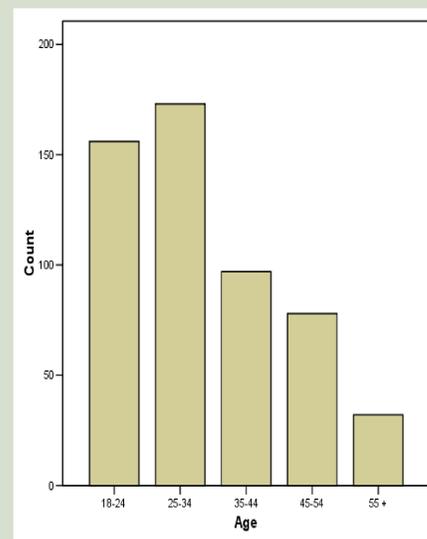
Each individual was given an identification number starting with 001. Each individual was identified as a Sibley County resident or non-Sibley County resident. They were placed in age ranges of 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, and 55 and older. Then each individual was identified as either male or female. They were also placed in ranges for total days incarcerated, identified as: booking only, less than 24 hours, 1-14 days, 15-30, 31-60, 61-90, and 91 and more. Then the number and type of booking charges were documented from the Aegis Public Safety database. The categories of offenses were identified as: assault, traffic, alcohol/drugs, probation violation, theft, and other.

All the information was entered into an Excel spreadsheet and also transferred into SPSS for analysis.

Key Findings

- There were a total of 536 individuals booked into the Sibley County Jail by January 1, 2008 and released by December 31, 2009
- 79% were male and 21% were female
- 54% were Sibley County residents and 45% were non-Sibley County residents
- 32% were between the ages of 25 and 34 and 29% were between 18 and 24
- 34% were charged with alcohol/drug related crimes; 26% were charged with traffic related crimes; 25% were charged with other related crimes
- Out of the 536 individuals, 24% had re-offended within two years of release and 67% of the 24% that had re-offended, re-offended more than once within the same time period

The data indicates that the majority of bookings in Sibley County were male between the ages of 18 and 34, with an incarceration rate of less than 24 hours to 14 days. The majority of offenses were alcohol or drug related. The second greatest offenses were traffic incidents, followed by other and assault. These results are in accordance with previous research from other counties throughout the nation.



Literature Review

The nation admitted almost 13 million persons during a 12 month period (Mellow, & Mukamal, 2008). According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 2007, approximately two-thirds of inmates are rearrested within three years after re-entry (as cited in Mellow, Mukamal, LoBuglio, Solomon, & Osborne, 2008). Statistics reflect roughly 75% of persons with serious mental illness are booked into U.S. jails annually who also have substance abuse disorders (Rothbard, Wald, Zubritsky, Jaquette & Chhatre, 2009). Significant challenges exist that prevent released offenders from making a successful transition back into the community upon release from local jails. Some of these challenges of inadequate transition planning include the compromise of public safety, an increased incidence of psychiatric symptoms, relapse to substance abuse, hospitalization, suicide, homelessness, and re-arrest (Osher, Steadman, & Barr, 2002). If the offender's needs are met upon re-entry to the community, they are less likely to recidivate (Murphy, 2009).

Bureau of Justice System (2008) estimates that fewer than 20 percent of annual admissions stay longer than one month. The average length of stay in a small jail is eleven days (as cited in Solomon, Osborne, LoBuglioround).

As reported in 2006, Sibley County has a capacity of 20 beds and an average daily population of 14 inmates (Sibley County Minnesota, 2008). According to national research, jail sizes that are comprised of fewer than 50 inmates had a weekly turnover rate of 137.8%, indicating the numerous admissions and releases (Milton, 2010).

The male population in jails comprise of 88 percent, 28 percent are between the ages of 18 and 24 and one-third is between 25 and 34 years of age (as cited in Solomon, Osborne, LoBugliio, Mellow, & Mukamal, 2008).

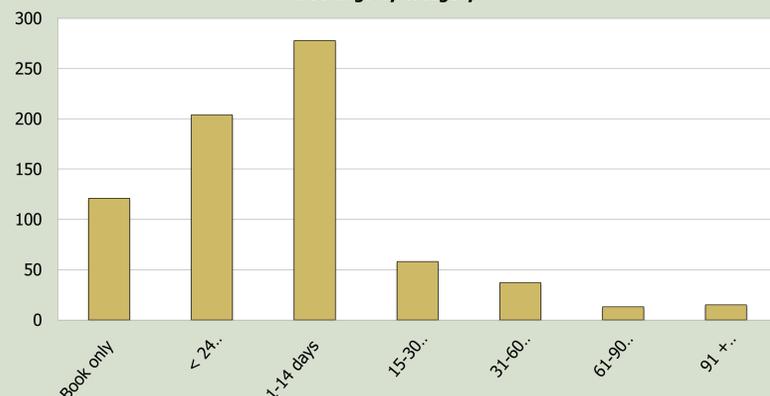
Conclusion

In conclusion this project was a benefit to the student, offenders, and the Sibley County Jail. This project helped identify the characteristics of individuals booked in the Sibley County Jail between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. These findings will be presented to the Sibley County Board of Commissioners to make them aware of these findings and hopefully help them understand that services are needed within the jail and in the community to reduce recidivism and better the community as a whole.

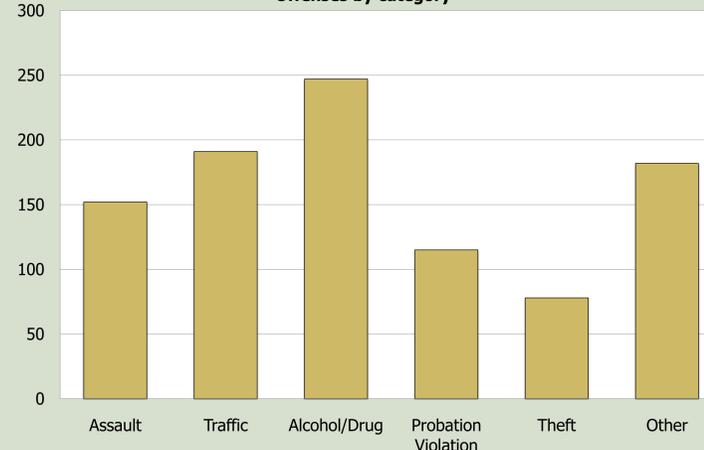
Upon reviewing research on offender's there are numerous programs being implemented throughout the U.S. to assist offenders back into the community successfully. Some of these programs are funded by the county, grants, private agencies, and/or in combination. These programs have been successful in decreasing recidivism within their jail system.

The next step for Sibley County is to determine if they want to continue services at the jail. In order for the services to continue funding needs to be established along with collaboration of outside agencies.

Bookings by category



Offenses by category



References

References are available from the author upon request.