

Analysis of career criminals fly on the wall. Features of the real world.

Recidivism starts with an individual person who is troubled in ways that have not yet been explored and rehabilitated.

Why does one ever want to return to prison?

The answer is they don't and will avoid it at most costs with even some criminals choosing suicide before choosing to surrender to police. Although Prison can be a comfort to an individual for a certain status in the criminal scene. It can reflect the attitudes of men and women who want to be known as a strong figure criminal or it can also reflect the inability of an individual to do and choose the right path in life.

My case study bases it's recidivism analysis around my personal experiences and recollections, I am also speaking on behalf of 'John'.¹

These are actual life events and are true told by myself with respect to John's son, my son Chris.

John was a career criminal and is now deceased, he was first institutionilised as a young juvenile, and died at 34yrs old in oxley qld from a hanging suicide. At the time he was evading a return to prison warrant which led him to eventually commit suicide.

John died on the 26th Oct 2012 after more than a decade in prison and with no reason why. John wanted a reporting place for young men and women who experience things they were told not to talk about. Jail should be the place to report the offender who is in turn creating offenders by subjection to abuse.

An avenue within the reporting on a prisoners mental health should be created to encourage prisoners to report abusers. These predators are destroying young lives and creating victims who become offenders.

There details should be added to the sex offenders registry list of the future to begin the process of slowing down rates of abuse in children.

Almost half of men in prison have experienced sexual abuse as a child and will not ever find the correct avenue to deal with it.

Brisbane wacol correctional facilities house over 500 child sex abuse victims.

This is the perfect way to start the registry and offer something to the prisoners in the way of possible justice and rehabilitation.

I was also known as a past criminal, who was returned to prison shortly after going the first time, although I have now gone 5 years without reoffending and returning to prison. John and I formed a relationship mainly due to the toxic feelings we both shared. Although we cared deeply about each other and we're very protective of each other. We had a child I was 16-17yrs old and John was 28 years old.

¹ Names have been changed by the Commission for the purposes of anonymity

I first witnessed recidivism when I was left behind at 17 with a newborn baby.

John was being returned to prison for break and enters he allegedly committed. I remember he agreed to some and denied others.

John often felt he needed more money and wanted more. After never really finding a stable job in life after so much incarceration it was a shame to watch his talent go to waste.

John completed numerous work ready courses in prison although nothing built self confidence and motivation to get these jobs.

John relied on the odd break and enter which would sometimes be of value to him. Gaining high value cash or items.

John's reason for returning to prison was his untold secret of rape and abuse that he suffered as a child.

John had serious mental health issues stemming from this, which allowed his drug abuse to fester past the point of being able to control it. His impulse control was tarnished when it came to amphetamines.

When he felt like using it became a possibility instantly for him to have to steal for it.

Everytime John went to jail 15+ times the problem of recidivism grew older and wiser within him. Even after escaping twice.

No sexual abuse reporting was ever acknowledged or offered to John within juvenile and adult prison.

John became institutionilised and often worried for the future although the redress scheme offered him \$12,000 for some minor sexual and physical abuse he received whilst in boys detentions at wacol from a prison guard, this was a minor relief to him but was not enough to make the hurt pass.

His abuser as a child is still in the community and has never been prosecuted.

I believe a mandatory sexual and physical abuse reporting system would be a benefit when entering prison. Especially to juvenile detentions as it gives criminals the chance to exchange their feelings and start the process to healing and justice for their innerself. Only once this is accomplished will offenders come to terms with their troubled emotions and their unacceptable behavior.

As for myself I am what I believe to be a smarter version of female criminal. I decided to quit as it only ended up one place death like John or prison.

Sexual abuse had driven my offending behavior. Family violence aswell as domestic. I suffered this from a young age.

It caused my anger and need to excel in my criminal dimeanour.

I started offending at 15 because of my lack of parental supervision and promiscuous behavior.

I had been a sports women all my life boxing and bright in school, pretty and talented in singing.

Although I was Addicted to substance abuse and a criminal lifestyle I chose to live rather than destroy myself, my situation felt as though it was life or death and being a mother I chose to live. And accept my prison experiences and use them for the better, such as gaining entry into University studying social science majoring in criminology. Although I did not complete this due to mental health and my ability to be discouraged by my own self doubt an influences.

Furthermore I am a proud young mother now 27 and am a contributing member of society through working and being an active member in my community.

I did this through education in early life and throughout prison and post prison, as I felt it gave me the skills I needed, this can be the case more for women rather than men as men can find it harder to gain employment post prison.

There were no benefits to prison as I find it hard to break away from the lifestyle and people. I was often praised for my strength in fighting which would boost my ego from the wrong kinds of people. I was subjected to verbal violence and physical abuse that has left lasting impacts. I feel emotionally traumatized from the behavior of the prison guards, in their lack of supervision and reporting on offending inside the prison. I feel as though the culture surrounding crime for young girls is alarming as going to jail is often seen as 'street credit's to some.

Only Recommendation for future opportunities for prisoners to stop recidivism.

1. Design a health reporting system question for offenders to identify as abuse victims upon incarceration induction entry. (This is most beneficial to juveniles in the long run)

Eg.

-Question 1.

-have you ever been sexually or physically abused?

If so was it reported and would you like to name the offender/s or report it ?

- this will benefit juvenile offenders most in the long term by providing the first steps to recovery and healing. Anonymity is provided

The Reporting system will help add to the new national sex offenders registry.

Upon entering prison all offenders must be psychology evaluated post induction being more than 1 day after arriving as the hype of being inducted inflates all emotions and is too overwhelming to make proper decisions surrounding health care, mental health and the reasoning behind offending.

Only psychology is offered as a service to prisoners and this will tap into the reasons for offending and offer skills to cope.

No other mental health rehabilitation is offered to prisoners to make sure that recidivism won't occur.

Prisoners must request an appointment with a psychologist in prison and will wait on average 3 weeks for a brief appointment.

At no point is any strategy targeted at offending behavior ever offered or spoken about to prisoners during these appointments which relates to helping change cognitive functioning. Psychological reporting is a brief 15 minute appointment in which medications are usually discussed and reporting is done for the courts.

At no point are any efforts made by the corrections psychologist to help the offender gain insight into why these behaviors and offending have occurred.

Furthermore

Only long term prisoners are accepted into qualification courses offered at Brisbane women's prison. This must be adjusted to suit the sentences given to all prisoners instead of just long term ones.

More courses should be offered to prisoners to stop recidivism by giving them real world skills that can offer actual change in their lives.

Barista and hospitality industry courses are often easily used in the real world I know this from experience.

