Research & Critique an Experiemental Study

(Student’s details)

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# Introduction

By researching and critiquing an experimental study, one can better understand the concepts and evidence presented in the study. The following research paper employs the paper of Yi, Turney, & Wildeman (2017) published as “Mental Health Among Jail and Prison Inmates.” In doing so, the paper summarize the key points presented in the study and critically evaluates them as well.

# Discussion

## Summary

The experimental research adds to the literature exploring the topic of mental health issues among jail and prison inmates. The research determines the extent of these issues among the two groups of inmates, examining the influence of facility type, socioeconomic factors, and demographics on the relationship between their self-reported mental health and custody. As evident from the literature review in the paper, asylum and imprisonment cause various mental issues for the prisoners. For example, those having incarceration history seem to have greater chances of developing mood disorders, depression, life dissatisfaction, and other related problems.

The article takes data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS), which is a longitudinal survey revolving around unmarried parents residing in urban areas. The nature of the survey helps in collecting wide-range data for constructing models that can be useful for predicting models related to the effects of incarceration. The participants of the survey were born between 1998 and 2000 in the United States. Basic interviews of the mothers were conducted right after the birth of the child in hospitals while corresponding interviews of the fathers were conducted as early as possible.

With this, all the follow-up interviews occurred after 1, 3, 5, and 9 years after the birth of the child. The data analysed the consequences of imprisonment and their impacts across the dimensions of children’s well-being, social life, and adults’ mental health. The dependent variables of the study include four binary indicators: depression, life dissatisfaction, heavy drinking, and illicit drug use. The analysis of the study reveals key statistics. Around 11.6% of the fathers reported depression while 13.2% of them came under the category of life dissatisfaction, 19.1% in heavy drinking, and 9.4% in illicit drug use.

Overall, the study confirms that there are negative relations between mental health and incarceration. Fathers who were incarcerated had a greater risk of developing depression, illict drug use, and life dissatisfaction. The study also reveals that the differences in the incarceration facilities also had a varying impact on the mental health of the prisoners. Specifically, those who were incarcerated in jails were more likely to develop the aforementioned issues.

## Evaluation

The scholars make it evident from the very start in the study that many literary documents have discussed the negative consequences of incarceration for mental health (Kaeble, Glaze, Tsoutis, & Minton, 2015). However, only a few of them have focused on analyzing the differences in the extent of the mental health for prison inmates and jail inmates, particularly after making adjustments for socioeconomic and demographic differences. The study also makes it clear that it is vital to focus on fathers when studying about mental health and incarceration, as they have the greatest impact on the well-being and outcomes of the overall family (Wildeman, Anderson, Lee, & Karlson, 2014). The study employs an extensive survey in order to explore the concerned topic.

It makes all the assumptions clear in the descriptive analysis. For example, the term “heavy drinking” is used instead of “binge drinking” as there is confusion in the academic literature regarding the temporal frame and exact definition of the latter. The authors have also clarified that heavy drinking and drug use are not the most substantial indicators of mental health issues but documented information shows that there is a cause-effect relationship between substance use and inadequate mental health. This evidence add to the validity of the research paper by reducing ambiguity and showing the importance of the study.

## Ethical Principles

Overall, the authors ensured to follow ethical principles in formulating the hypothesis, collecting the data, analyzing the information, and answering the research goals. The researchers ensured to uphold the privacy and confidentiality of all those involved in the research as participants, as part of their consent. All the information collected from secondary resources is properly cited in order to show the accuracy of the data and give the due credit to the authors for their contribution to the scholarly literature. The authors clear all the ambiguity in the research and provide evidence for all the claims made.

# Conclusion

The analysis of this exploratory research has helped in developing a better understanding of the overall research. The essay has provided an extensive summary of the research while evaluating the major points and describing the ethical principles that the authors have used.

# References

Kaeble, D., Glaze, L., Tsoutis, A., & Minton, T. (2015). Correctional populations in the United States. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

Wildeman, C., Turney, K., & Schnittker, J. (2014). The hedonic consequences of punishment revisited. Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, 104, 133-163.

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