

Research Topic & Research Questions

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Fully describe your research topic and create a research question.

Research topic: Post secondary educational program provided by Alliance University's benefits and effects on inmates of Fishkill Correctional Facility. Research will examine the benefits and effects of 85 Fishkill inmate students currently enrolled in post secondary education.

Do educational programs motivate inmates to pursue careers? ( Quantitative)

How effectively do inmates find Alliance University at an educational Fishkill Correctional Facility? (Qualitative)

How effective are educational programs provided to inmates in reducing recidivism?

Do educational programs provided to Fishkill Correctional Inmates improve postrelease outcomes?

**Describe special populations that you are interested in (e.g., people with mental illness: diagnosis, definition, status, % in the U.S., etc.)**

Correctional Inmates, who are participants of Alliance University Post Secondary Education. Educational program being offered contains enrolled 85 inmate students pursuing their degree of interest. Research topic will consist of the benefits and effects of student inmates of Fishkill Correctional Facility interested in continuing their education.

**Describe social problems that the special populations experience and/or cause (e.g., compared with those with no known mental illness, patients with mental illness had increased spending on physical illnesses by more than one-third, or nearly \$5000. Previous studies found that people with mental illness are more likely to have unhealthy lifestyles).**

It is very common for inmates to return back to prison if they're not able to obtain employment post release. Because most good paying careers require post secondary education, post secondary education will allow inmates to obtain employment so they can thrive in the general population.

If inmates are not able to obtain PSE and employment they can experience poverty post release. In addition, isolation, homelessness, and discrimination which can cause psychological problems. Furthermore, recidivism, substance and/or alcohol abuse, and possibility of self harm and/or suicide are also other risk factors for inmates post release.

**Identify the target client group. This can be the same as the special populations (e.g., people with mental illness who may have unhealthy lifestyles).**

The target client group is Fishkill inmates who are enrolled in the Alliance University PSE program.

**Discuss services that promote changes in clients (e.g., Clubhouse exercise program, Wellness Initiative, Weight Watchers program, etc.).**

Alliance University Post Secondary Educational Program.

**Address why your research topic is important.**

This topic is important, because we want to know if inmates receiving PSE have a positive impact and effect on them. If the AU PSE program at Fishkill correctional facility has a positive impact on inmates, there's a possibility that PSE can prevent recidivism, poverty, isolation, and homelessness, due to inmates obtaining employment. In addition, because inmates and former inmates are a vulnerable population, PSE can be another intervention that the social work practice can use to help inmates in the U.S. prison system, and create policies that can prevent inmates from being a high risk population.

**Discuss the gaps in understanding existing research and knowledge about your research topic.**

The gaps understanding the research is the success rates of former inmates obtaining a career and the longevity of maintaining their employment. Even though PSE programs reduce recidivism, We do not know the percentage and/or amount of former inmates not returning to prison. For example, is 1 out 50 inmates obtaining employment post release or is the rate higher? In addition, there's no consensus of the best PSE program for inmates because so many colleges and programs that offer PSE programs, we do not know how successful each individual program is.