



NORTHERN

Research Study to interview Correctional Officers on their opinions regarding what causes Prison Riots and how to prevent it in the future.

Augustus Cuch

Northern New Mexico College

Department of BAIS: Criminal Justice

Abstract

Prison Riots are "an act of concerted defiance or disorder by a group of prisoners against the prison administrators, prison officers, or other groups of prisoners in attempt to force change or express a grievance" (<https://educalingo.com/en/dic-en/prison-riot>). Perhaps many or most riots in prisons could be prevented or resolved if more information were used to put much effort into providing different programs. This study interviewed Correctional Officers, using quantitative with some oral history about how long these prison riots occurred. The null hypothesis would argue that prison riots can't be prevented, an alternate hypothesis is to look at the history of the causes of prison riots and investigate a using a purposive method because I will get information from Correctional Officers

Introduction

To begin this research, I conducted a literature review on the history of prison riots in America, between the late 1900s to 2000s. During those times, 4 major prison riots occurred. While the Death in these prison riots was small, we still had to keep the prisoners safe and out of harm's way

The research used in this proposal should provide exploratory information on ideas of how we could better our prison. It should also help in the future on preventing riots in the prisons. For the future we should follow from are mistakes as stated "prison riot is usually nature's way of letting the authorities know they're doing something wrong" (Stephen Chapman 07/17/1985.)

When prison riots happen there will always be a death of some people in the prison. The people target in riots will be the snitches and the weak ones in the riot. "In its length and brutality, the West Virginia riot was no anomaly. In 1980, a two-day riot in New Mexico had killed 33 people, and in 1971, the infamous four-day riot in Attica, New York, had killed 43. (Bernstein, 2013) If that happens then who will be the ones to tell their family members about the death in prison. The hardest part of the after the riot calms down you will have to count how many bodies they are laying on the ground.

We will also be learning how the riots start in this statement "The next question is how this state of institutional breakdown turns into a riot. The common-wisdom answer refers to the proverbial 'small trigger' that sets off the powder keg (cf. Aya, 1990).

Theory

There are different types of riots that happen. Theoretically, the way I see how we can better are prison and prevent prison riots is by improving the structure at the main office in the prison. The reason why I think that we should fix the front is because I feel that the main point of the whole prison. If the prisoners get a hold of that main office then that's how the prison riots start off. So I feel that in my hypothesis that we should find a way of figure something out how we can improve the prison I feel that my research is a null hypothesis, the reason why is because I feel like I can make points on how we can prevent prison riots.

Hypothesis

•Hypotheses about the causes of prison riots involve the following:

Causes:

- (X) overcrowding increases the incidence of a prison riot (Y)
- (X) lack of training for the officers increases the incidence of a prison riot (Y)

Data Collection and Methods

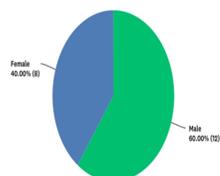
Data was collected by interviewing three male participants from Grants New Mexico Correctional Department interviewing them via email and by phone. Also a survey of 20 NNMC students enrolled in a criminal justice class were chosen as a comparative sample for this specific research because I hypothesize not many students at Northern New Mexico College will know much about Prison Riots, even though they may be going into that occupation. Therefore I will have a stronger comparison.

Measurement

The questions for the professional interviews and the questions for the survey of NNMC students involved Likert measurement and open-ended questions.

Data Analysis and Findings

Q2 Table 1 Sample What is your Gender?



QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

The sample pie chart above shows the gender of the 20 students in the survey.

For my dependent variable I was asking NNMC CJ Students: How much do you know about prison riots?

- The amount of the people that didn't know about prison riots was about Not at all: 15.00% which was 3 people.
- A little bit: 45.00% which was 9 people.
- Somewhat: 35.00% which 7 people
- Very Much: 5.00% which was 1
- A great deal: 0.00% which was 0 people.

The most interesting result shows that, out of the 20 who answered the question, none of the students interviewed said that they knew "a great deal" about prison riots, which supports my hypothesis.

QUALITATIVE RESULTS:

The qualitative questions and responses from Correctional Officers are presented below.

Questions and Responses

Q1. Have you ever been in a facility where a riot happened? Where? When? What was your position at the time?

- **Respondent 1.** "The riot that I was occurred in was at Cibola County Detention Center in Grants NM. At that time I was a corrections officer. What occurred the riot at the Detention center was poor living conditions, food conditions that they were receiving, over populated in one of the pods that they were at and those were the two major components that were caused."
- **Respondent 2** I started at the Santa Fe main as a corrections officer in 1982. And there was prison riot there from 1970 Feb That was known to be the biggest prison riot ever. It was documented as the biggest prison riot. However, I was never involved because I started as a corrections officer in 1982"

Q2. How did you know when the riot began? Or did you?

- **Respondent 1.** "they called us upon the riot already occurring, the riot popped off anytime. We were told it was already happening when we were heading over there."
- **Respondent 2.** "The riot in 1970 started because of they were getting poor medical back then, they weren't getting fed properly, no education and living conditions. It was overpopulated also. That is what caused the riots"

Q3. What makes prison riots calm down?

- **Respondent 1.** "Calm down? They went on to negotiate and find what the situation is within the riot, what causing the disturbance to happen. But over there, once the search team went in, threw the gas in, we gave them directions to the south to come out and majority of them came out calmly"
- **Respondent 2.** "Negotiators, talk them down. See what caused them. We have what we call a instant command center, you know, in this day in age, we have more control over it. That is what we call control movement. It is very hard for them to actually start a riot per say."

Q4. Where does the riot start at? And why?

- **Respondent 1.** Riots can actually happen anywhere. They can happen in the living area, pods, union sections, it can happen in the chow hall and the education area. Riots can happen anywhere and anytime. Theres two types of situations that can cause prison riots. They can be planned because they are smart about it, they stock up and are prepared or they can just have a bad day"
- **Respondent 2.** "I am not for sure where they start. but as far as inside the prison I am not sure where it started. They would start in a more populated setting. It would usually start where they are grouped together."

Q5. Do they send out alerts throughout the prison for riots? How do they deal with officer safety? Did you have riot training?

- **Respondent 1.** Yes we do. We have riot training. Were certified in the state for riot training. Every officer is certified. But you knoe inmates, some inmates will let some officers know directly but it is based off of their mood assessment that we see. Not coming out of their cell, or we see the some inmates start going to the chapel that we usually don't see going. Uhm or even an inmate will be talking to an officer, you know having conversations about something he can tell him, "Don't come to work tomorrow" those are all indicators."
- **Respondent 2.** "We have a special unit that is called the search team, they are emergency response team, we have a group of fully trained corrections officers that do with disturbances as far as riots occur, they are on call and once they are called they are reported immediately to the prison. The command system is set up to where everyone knows there roles if there is a disturbance of a riot so once its mention one officer observes a group of inmates and who is going to start a riot. The officer immediately calls it on the radio and with a master control automatically will hit a button and activate our search team for them to respond immediately to the prison"

Ethics

Some alternative ways to do the research would be random sampling as well because every person that will do the survey is confidential since you will not ask for names. Some things that are most likely going to come short within my proposed data because I will not have much people such as a female officer compared to a male's perspective. I will not put a name title at the top of the paper and I will even introduce myself a long side the note that I will have on the survey.

Conclusions

.Data collection showed that 3 people didn't really know much about prion riots. It also showed that 1 person new more about prison riots. Then the other 3 person who surveyed. In the collection of data I also found that one of my interviews were at a riot when it happen. The Correctional Officer was in a riots in Cibola County Detention Center in Grants, New Mexico. The reason why the riot occurred was because of the poor living standards in the one of the pods. Which was overcrowding. The second officer that interviewed was a Captain at the Santa Fe main but started as a correction officer in 1982. The officer told me in my interview, what caused the prison riot, it was because of poor medical back then, and they weren't getting fed properly, no education and living conditions. The data also showed, that it was really because of over populating in the prison.

When researching this project, I found out that many prison riots happen because of over populating. I learned more about prison riots and how they are started to, also know how they are controlled.

However I thought that prison riots were going to be different, from my point of view. However I was excited to find out how prison riots start, also how the riots were being controlled in the situation.

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