

PRISON CLASS, TIME, SPACE, AND RULE VIOLATION
Scott P. Lauder, Richard O'Toole, Kent State University;
Paul K. Jones, Case Western Reserve University

INTRODUCTION

There is a long tradition of research on ecological and time variation in crime rates (Harries 1979). Results provide information for decision-making at policy and administrative levels in political units charged with control of criminals. At the prison level, classification, time, and space variables are important predictors of behavior, and should be considered by planners, administrators, and staff. Previous research has centered on architectural design, scheduling, and perhaps most important, classification systems (Kratcoski & Kratcoski 1979). One goal of classification is to group inmates of similar personality and behavior patterns together, to facilitate rehabilitation, security, and routine problems in the prison community.

We sought to identify the variables which best predict violation of prison rules. We investigated the Quay classification system, location of incidents, and variation by day of the week and by staff-duty shift. Due to widespread belief in its effects on inmate behavior, we investigated the coincidence of the full moon with rule violation. Whether or not the moon could have physical effects, if inmates or staff believe that it does, this could affect commission or reporting of violations.

PROCEDURE

Data were collected at a maximum-security Federal correctional institution (Level 4 F.C.I.). It is a relatively new facility located on a square mile of land. The compound occupies 240 acres, and consists of nine dwelling units and a central complex. On the east side, there are four units where two inmates share a room. Doors are electronically controlled by the unit correctional officer, and at curfew, inmates are locked in for the night. The remaining five units on the west side of the compound have single rooms. The inmates carry their own room keys, and there is no curfew. The central complex, where most staff and inmate work is performed, contains dining halls, a gymnasium, educational services, prison industries, hospital, detention unit, and administrative offices.

The Quay classification system, developed at the Robert F. Kennedy Youth

Center in the early 1970s, at first included five personality-behavior factors, which were collapsed to three at this institution (Lauder 1980). We called these classes 1) *aggressive*; 2) *immature*; and 3) *normal*. On admission, inmates with the same Quay classification were housed together in the locked rooms on the east side. As a reward for compliance with prison rules, inmates can move later to the single rooms, but they remain with their Quay classmates. Dwelling units are known by their Quay type.

Data for the study were collected from written reports of rule-violation incidents, turned in by prison-staff members. There were 856 reports written and collected in 18 months. Relevant data included date, shift, Quay class, location, and type of violation. The first author's direct observations for three months at the research site helped to validate the analysis.

RESULTS

Our major finding is that Quay classification is the best predictor of inmate violations. Table 1 shows that 57 percent of the reports were on aggressive inmates, compared to 10 percent on normal inmates. If classification was unrelated to incident reports, the distribution should be approximately proportional to the distribution of class types. This was clearly not the case.

Also examined were relations concerning day of the week, staff's duty shift, phase of the moon, and location of the infraction. There is a gradual increase in violations from Sunday through Wednesday tapering to a low on Saturday, as shown in Table 2. The staff duty-shift comparison shows no significant effect, as shown in Table 3.

The full-moon effect, for the three-day period centered on the new moon, showed no relation to the incidence of rule violations ($\text{Chi squared} = .09$). This finding refutes the belief previously expressed by many of the staff, and elsewhere in correctional organizations, that the full moon had a notable effect on inmate behavior.

We found no relation between the location of the offense and the Quay class of the offender. However, the severity of the offense, as defined by the United States Bureau of Prisons, demonstrated a marked relation to the offender's Quay class. By

analysis of variance, the aggressives were significantly more involved in serious incidents than immature inmates, who in turn, were more involved than normal inmates ($F = 4.4$; $df = 3$, 269; $p = .01$).

TABLE 1: INCIDENT REPORTS BY QUAY CATEGORY

($\chi^2 = 138.1$; $df = 2$; $p = .001$)

Category	Percent of Incidents	Percent of Inmates
Aggressive	57%	47%
Immature	33	25
Normal	10	28

TABLE 2: INCIDENT REPORTS BY WEEK DAY

($\chi^2 = 31.4$; $df = .001$; $N = 855$)

Day of Week	Reports	Percent
Sunday	110	13%
Monday	130	15
Tuesday	140	16
Wednesday	148	17
Thursday	141	16
Friday	110	13
Saturday	76	9

TABLE 3: INCIDENT REPORTS BY STAFF DUTY SHIFT

($\chi^2 = 88.0$; $df = 1$; $p = .001$)

Shift	Hours	Incidents	Percent
7am-5pm	10	492	57%
5pm-7am	14	364	43

CONCLUSIONS

It appears possible, by using the Quay system, to adjust the use of personnel and programming to facilitate the correctional environment. Organization procedures should also note the relation of Quay class and inmate location on the compound. For example, aggressive inmates tended to work primarily in prison industries rather than on lower-paying work assignments. It could appear, at first, that a certain type of

correctional program coincides with the number of rule violations, when in fact, the relation is due to the type of persons who are able to maneuver their way into such positions.

The analysis of rule violations by day of the week disclosed a temporal pattern which is the reverse of that in regular American society, where misdemeanors and crimes are concentrated on the weekends.

REFERENCES

- Harries, K. 1979. *Crime in the Environment*. Springfield, Illinois. Thomas.
- Kratcoski, P., and L. Kratcoski. 1979. *Juvenile Delinquency*. Englewood Cliffs, Prentice Hall.
- Lauder S. P. 1980. "Use of the Quay System of Classification in Correctional Organization and Management." *Correctional Counseling and Treatment*. Kratcoski & Kratcoski (eds). Belmont, California. Duxbury.