

Lecture 24:
Institutionalization and
Juvenile Justice Trends
and Problems

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Institutionalization

- "detention" versus "commitment"
 - Detention: held as case is processed (rules)
 - Commitment: court-ordered placement in institution
- 108,000 juveniles in institutions (2001)
 - MN: 1,946 total, half private; 18% for violent offenses
 - State Training Schools: Red Wing, Thistledeew
 - Hennepin Co. Home School (Minnetonka)
 - Race: 40% African American; 37% White; 18% Latino; 2% American Indian (high in MN); 2% Asian
 - Gender: 87% male

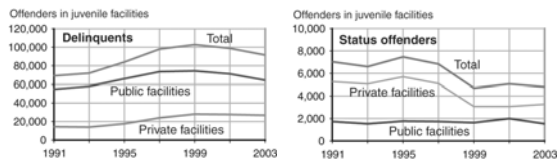
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How effective are institutions
in reducing delinquency?

- "Suppression effect" =
 $(\#before - \#after) / \#before$
 - "everything works" over time
 - PROVO: Institution suppressed 61%; community 69%
 - SILVERLAKE: Institution 72%; community 73%
 - Why?

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public & private institutions:
delinquents v. status offenders

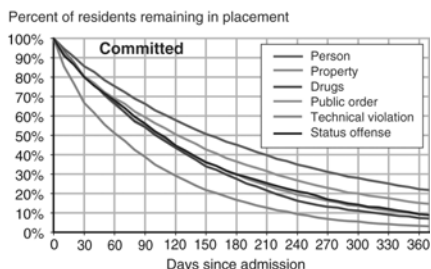


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In 2003, committed person offenders were in placement longer than other types of offenders

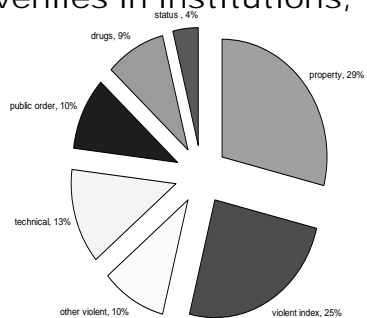


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juveniles in institutions, 1999



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What about Incapacitation? Wolfgang's *Delinquency in a Birth Cohort*

- 6% (18% of contact group) did 52% of official offenses
 - Incapacitation: remove opportunity to commit crime by institution (or death). Punish for FUTURE, not past
- If we locked up everybody after 1st arrest, we would prevent 66% of offenses. Why not?
 - Half never do another: We can't predict recidivism well; Very expensive: only 10% are "personal index"
- REPLICATION: WOLFGANG'S 1958 COHORT:
 - 7.5% had 61% of police contacts; Incapacitation after 3 contacts would prevent 43% of offenses, but 28% would be unnecessarily incapacitated
 - A few chronics do a lot of delinquency, but we can't reliably identify them: too many errors, too much money
- Conclude: Reserve institutions for serious (violent) offenders with long histories

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juvenile justice

- Current Trends and Stubborn Problems
 - Increasing formality
 - Overuse of detention
 - Juveniles (still) in adult jails
 - Racial disparities

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Barry Feld (MN law) - abolish the juvenile court

- Shift from a "nominally rehabilitative social welfare agency into a scaled-down second-class criminal court for young people."
 - Kids get neither therapy nor justice
 - Substantive and procedural convergence with adult system
- Alternative: An "age discount"
 - Youth as a mitigating factor
 - 14 year old gets 25-33% of adult time; 16 gets 50-66%; 18 year old gets 100%

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next

- Thursday: Monster exercise, conclusions
- Tuesday: Review
- Thursday: Midterm #2

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