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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Define what a total institution is and how it might vary by type of correctional arrangement (e.g., probation, parole, jail, prison) and inmate status.
2. Explain why the power of staff in corrections is not absolute? How might this power be used to improve the correctional environment and to destroy it?
3. According to Lutze and Murphy, how do inmates perceive minimum security and shock incarceration facilities and operations?



READING

In this article Craig Hemmens and James Marquart survey the correctional research literature on studies of inmate adjustment patterns to prison life. Early studies assumed inmates were part of a monolithic homogeneous whole, though later research suggested factors such as race, age, and socioeconomic status affect inmate adjustment to prison life. Their own research focuses on the relationship between perceptions of one aspect of the institutional experience, inmate-staff relations, and age and race or ethnicity. A survey of recently released Texas inmates revealed that race and age have a major impact on inmate perceptions of staff.

Friend or Foe?

Race, Age, and Inmate Perceptions of Inmate-Staff Relations

Craig Hemmens and James W. Marquart

Introduction

The prison experience has historically been meant to be unpleasant, and prisoners have

been expected to suffer to some degree. There is, however, some dispute in the correctional research literature as to whether prison has any impact whatsoever on today's inmates. There is