## NC Shell

Rehab promotes negative public perception of prisons and demoralizes prison officers. **Logan and Gaes 93** write[[1]](#footnote-1)

As agents of governmental authority, prison officers must understand that they are obliged to operate within rigid constraints. They ensure that justice is done, first and foremost, by following the rules that define the parametars of justice, the rules that determine what is too permissive and what is too harsh. If inmates are treated unfairly inside prison, they will find it hard to appreciate that it is fair for them to be in prison in the first place. To accept the justice of their punishment, inmates must understand that it is principled, not malicious. Prison officers, as representatives of society, must convey that message to them through their demeanor. First, however, prison officials, and officers must accept without apology the fact that they are among society's "ministers of justice." Think about it: isn't that a more admirable mission than being a "correctional officer?" **Prison officers deserve a more favorable image as agents of punishment.** The most negative result of emphasizing **rehab**ilitation is that almost **inevitably** it **demoralizes** security and custody **staff members** who are **portrayed** (if only by implication) **as less professional and** less **humane than** the treatment and **program staff. It** also **impugns** the most important **purposes of imprisonment–**justice, **punishment, and security–by portraying them as uninspiring**, if not morally inferior. Prison professionals need to understand, to be reminded often, and to help the public appreciate that the job of confining and controlling an unwilling population without violating rights, the job of treating inmates "firmly but fairly," is every bit as praiseworthy as the pursuit of rehabilitation, if not more so.

Demoralization and negative public perception is the root cause of prison understaffing.

**Pearson 10**[[2]](#footnote-2)

When the topic of public safety and law enforcement careers is mentioned and initiated for discussion, why is it that **becoming a correction officer is never mentioned as a sought-after career**? Why is that? Is the media to blame or are we, as professionals, causing our own negative culture? The job of a correctional officer is a thankless job not everyone can handle. Mainstream **media** often **portray correction officers as** brutal, corrupt, ignorant **bullies who take advantage of** unfortunate **inmates with no** civil **rights. Anyone** who has worked **in corrections knows this to be far from the truth** and the daily reality is nowhere near the image portrayed by the media and the film industry. Hollywood is usually the first to be singled out because it’s an industry that reaps impressive profits from prison movies that present distorted views of correctional reality by focusing on sensationalism. The most powerful images promoting a negative stereotype are presented in classic prison movies such as The Longest Yard, Cool Hand Luke, Escape from Alcatraz, and The Shawshank Redemption. These films evoke audience sympathy for inmates and contempt for prison staff while inflaming a negative stereotype of correctional professionals. **The majority of the general public** has no personal knowledge of modern correctional reality, so they **easily accept** the **rhetoric of politicians and** the **distorted imagery** of Hollywood, especially when a corrections horror story ("Prison Guards Indicted in Inmate Beating Death") is being aired on the nightly news. This enduring fallacy is initially created by stereotypical Hollywood accounts of correctional life being reinforced by news media coverage of employee misconduct and scandals.**Even though many** jails and **prisons suffer from** overcrowding, **understaffing and overworked officers, these** are the realities that don’t have entertainment value and, therefore, **are never detailed in** movies and **media coverage.** Everyone likes to root for the underdog and the media loves to portray inmates as the unfortunate, neglected, mistreated and misunderstood victims of correctional monsters carrying guns, nightsticks and mace who happily practice sadism as an art form. This is an insult to the correctional men and women of today who are skilled, highly trained professionals with a majority holding college degrees. A **negative public perception** of a correctional organization **has serious consequences, including damaging** the community relations of **prison systems and** jeopardizing **their legislative support.** The failure of public officials and others to fully understand the issues confuses the public **and demoralizes corrections staff** who feel as if their contributions to public safety are being minimized in the public eye. Unfortunately, employee misconduct also reinforces negative stereotypes. Although it is only a minority of correctional employees who engage in destructive behavior at any given time, all employees are tarred with the same brush. The only antidote to this negative correctional stereotyping is community education and organizational professionalism. Both methodologies serve to enhance our image and restore credit to an honorable profession.  Hopefully by educating the public, our elected officials, and the media about the challenges corrections professionals face everyday, a greater respect for our profession and an appreciation of the unwavering dedication delivered daily by the forgotten branch of public safety will be achieved.

Understaffing is the root cause of prison violence. **Kemph 12**[[3]](#footnote-3)

Until the staffing shortage at the Rutherford County Adult Detention Center is resolved, inefficiencies in daily operations will continue to pose an increased risk of future lawsuits, according to multiple independent audits. Citing concerns over guard and inmate safety, several auditors have determined the **staff**ing **shortage**, combined with the ever-growing daily workload, **has led to improper classifications of offenders and little direct interaction with inmates** – all of which is a recipe for disaster. “I strongly suggest that the staffing inadequacies be prioritized,” said Fran Zandi, technical assistance manager with the National Institute of Corrections, an agency with the U.S. Department of Justice. “Without proper staffing levels, I am convinced the Rutherford County jail and its staff will struggle with inmates who are inappropriately classified and housed,” she said. “Ultimately, the **grievances, fights and assaults will continue until proper identification and separations can be made**.” In 2011, staff recorded 89 fights occurred inside housing units, of which 25 involved an inmate assaulting a fellow prisoner.  As such, Zandi said, “the potential for litigation, serious injury and property destruction should be of great concern” to Rutherford County government officials. “Although the Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office would like to be progressive in the supervision of the inmate population by directly supervising inmates, there are many operation, classification and staffing issues that must be considered first,” she said. The analysis is just one of the recent reports Sheriff Robert Arnold has submitted for review to Mayor Ernest Burgess and the Rutherford County Commission. The comments reveal what some state auditors have described as a worsening situation that needs to be fixed as soon as possible. An inspection conducted by the Tennessee Corrections Institute determined the **staffing shortage has negatively impacted jail safety**, concluding the likelihood of lawsuits against Rutherford County continues to grow. As the problem continues to worsen, the liability on the County Commission “may be increasing,” according to the report. “This is an important issue for Rutherford County because we are required to follow federal and state laws, which means having the resources to keep people safe inside the jail,” Arnold said, during a recent interview.  “Do I like having to inform the County Commission that more money is needed?” he said. “No, not at all. But it is my job to make sure we are following the law.” At least 40 additional full-time employees are needed to efficiently manage daily operations and adequately oversee inmates, according to a jail staffing analysis conducted by officials with the County Technical Assistance Service, an arm of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service. Based on current salary levels, the Sheriff’s Office would need more than $1.25 million annually to pay for the recommended 44 full-time positions. “We identified many forces that shape staffing needs, and many changes that have occurred in recent years,” said Jim Hart, a jail management consultant with the County Technical Assistance Service. “Current staffing patterns are insufficient to meet all the demands that corrections staff are faced with.” Because there are a myriad of activities that require detention officers to serve multiple functions not directly associated with overseeing inmates in housing units, he said supervision has decreased. “We noted that **due to insufficient staffing, several** of the **tower posts are routinely unmanned**,” Hart said, adding hourly checks on cells are not consistently being performed. “Tower officers have empowered the trustees to correct deficiencies in a housing unit,” Hart said, noting jail trustees are used as a goffer between guards and other inmates. **Subsequently, there is less interaction between detention officers and inmates**, which has led to jail trustees having too much authoritative power over other prisoners inside a housing unit, Hart said. “I would strongly suggest exploring other options to assist in minimizing this frustration and to take control of the housing units – not empowering the trustees,” he said. During a tour of the **jail**, several **trustees said** they also **felt** like **having more detention officers directly oversee inmates would improve the overall climate** inside housing units. “It would be helpful to have a guard patrolling the floor,” said Eric Emmons, a jail trustee, who is originally from Union County, Tenn. “I like having responsibilities, but there are times when it becomes very difficult to balance my job with inmate politics.” Having a detention officer inside the housing unit on a regular basis would also help to prevent flare-ups between inmates, he said. “Being able to talk to a guard face-to-face – even for just a minute – helps morale,” Emmons said. “A lot of things would get better in here if there was more communication and interaction with us.”

Prison violence leads to AIDS spread in prisons. **Shah 05**[[4]](#footnote-4)

Prisons are hostile environments. Assaults among prisoners, **violence between prisoners** and prison officers, suicide, self-mutilation, and open syringes and needles containing blood as a result of drug usage are all occurrences in prison environments. Such actions **expedite** the **transmission of** communicable **disease**s**.** In an effort to thwart disease spread, prison guards and employees are encouraged to take precautions to prevent contracting or spreading diseases. Usage of impermeable gloves and a uniform worn only in the prison are the minimum precautionary measures to reduce exposure to diseases, as recommended by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) [1] for prison guards and employees. Ideally, all prison guards, employees, and inmates should be provided with gloves. **Protective** eyewear, aprons, tongs or forceps, **and disinfectant** solution are all additional measures that should seriously limit disease-causing contact with prisoners and thereby reduce disease spread [2]. Unfortunately, such preventive **measures are costly** and considered impractical at the current **time, leaving prisons** mostly **only able to screen inmates for health problems.** Meanwhile, involuntary actions such as the **increasing** numbers of **rapes in prisons** are **fuel**ing **disease spread** as well. According to Laura Stemple, executive director of the human rights group Stop Prison Rape, the rate of sexual abuse is as high as 27% among women in some prisons. In the general United States population, only three in every ten thousand people have been raped according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) [3]. However, in prisons, one in five has been sexually assaulted, while one in ten has been raped while in prison [4]. Thus, disease spread through rape is far more likely in prisons. Many victims of rape find it embarrassing to reveal that they have been raped and refuse HIV/AIDS testing and other tests for sexually transmitted diseases. Oftentimes, prisons ignore rapes because it clearly displays to the public and government that the prison administration has not been effective. Rape is not death and therefore is easy to conceal. Thus, many prisons have gotten away with concealing rape incidences and are not pressured to prevent it from occurring. In response, Congress introduced the Prison Rape Reduction Act in 2002 to establish a national commission to drastically reduce rape occurrences in prisons nationwide. The Act established committees by the Justice Department that review prisons annually. Those prisons with unusually high rape incidents would have to undergo examination and determine how to improve. An acute disease such as HIV/AIDS is already a health obstacle in American society. According to the NIAID, **the rate of** HIV/**AIDS infections has been** continuously **increasing** despite increased efforts taken by the government and activist groups to control the HIV/AIDS spread. Shockingly, the rate of **HIV/AIDS spread is five to ten times higher in prisons** than that in the general population according one study by the U.S Department of Justice [5]. **When** prison **inmates are released** back into society, the **chances of** incidence of HIV/**AIDS are dramatically increased. An already deadly and difficult-to-control disease is becoming more difficult to control.** Health concerns are not monitored closely enough in prisons. The Prison Rape Reduction Act is a step in the right direction; however, more funding should be allocated to ensure prisons are safer. After all, those same individuals who are disregarded as **prisoners will return to society** as regular citizens **and** will **spread** communicable **disease**s**.**

AIDS spread risks extinction.

**Lederberg 91**[[5]](#footnote-5)

Will Aids mutate further ? Already known, **a** vexing **feature of AIDS is its** antigenic **variability**, further **complicating** the task of developing **a vaccine.** So we know that **HIV is still evolving.** Its global spread has meant there is far more HIV on earth today than ever before in history. **What are the odds of** its learning the tricks of **airborne transmission?** The short is, “**No one can be sure.**” But we could make the same attribution about any virus; alternatively the next influenza or chicken pox may mutate to an unprecedented lethality. As time passes, and HIV seems settled in a certain groove, that is momentary reassurance in itself. **However,** given its other ugly attributes, **it is hard to imagine a worse threat to humanity than** an **airborne** variant of **AIDS. No rule of nature contradicts such a possibility;** the **prolif**eration **of AIDS** cases with secondary pneumonia **multiplies the odds of such a mutant, as an analogue to** the emergence of **pneumonic plague.**

## Case Turns

### Crime Turn

Prison violence increases crime, turns the case. **Pritikin 8**[[6]](#footnote-6)

Even the United States Supreme Court has recently acknowledged that **“[p]risons are dangerous places.” The dangerous conditions** inside these institutions **may** tend to **increase crime** in a number of ways. Violence against inmates by guards has always been an aspect of prison life to a greater or lesser degree.31 Not only is such violence itself criminal when it is inflicted for no legitimate security purpose,32 but it can lead inmates to commit crime. Brutalization of an inmate by a guard may destroy his sense of personhood33 or make him resent the state and its systems of authority.34 Either psychological mechanism could aggravate the inmate’s sense of belonging outside of society, and reduce his willingness or ability to conform to its norms. **Violence** committed **against inmates by other inmates may** similarly destroy the victim’s sense of self-worth and **make him resent the system that failed to protect him.** Even the mere threat of violence that pervades prisons can cause inmates to become hardened as a selfdefense mechanism; **they may associate with gangs** or other violent groups in an effort **to protect themselves.** And to the extent that inmates victimize other inmates,37 the very act of **brutalizing others may** tend to **harden them.** Any or all of these effects may tend to make criminals more hostile, violent, and socially maladjusted when they are released.

### Overcrowding Turn

Understaffing increases prison overcrowding. Former prisoner agrees.

**BBC News 12**[[7]](#footnote-7)

**A former prisoner**, who wanted to remain anonymous, **said** he spent one year in HMP Liverpool from 2002. "I know **they used to put six men in a four-man dorm** or three in a two-man cell. It was like being put in a cage made for one animal and then getting two or three other people in. "There was a lot of stress, anxiety and violence. It was one big stress pit, is the only way I can describe it. **"I used to spend 23 hours in my cell** and I was allowed two hours a week on association, which means watching TV. **We were told the reason** we spent so many hours in our cells **was because they were understaffed.** "I signed a petition, intended for our local MP, to complain about the overcrowding and shortly after I got moved to Risley Prison (in Warrington, Cheshire). Risley wasn't overcrowded, it was so much better, the inmates were more relaxed. I was allowed out of my cell."

1. CHARLES H. LOGAN (University of Connecticut) and GERALD G. GAES (Federal Bureau of Prisons) META-ANALYSIS AND THE REHABILITATION OF PUNISHMENT. JUSTICE QUARTERLY, Vol. 10 No. 2, June 1993. http://www.bop.gov/news/research\_projects/published\_reports/cond\_envir/oreprlogangaes.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Sgt. Chris Pearson (Massachusetts Dept. of Corrections). “The Public Image of Corrections.” Corrections.com. May 24th, 2010. http://www.corrections.com/news/article/24602-the-public-image-of-corrections [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Marie Kemph. “Understaffed jail fuels myriad problems.” The Murfreesboro Post. September 23, 2012. http://www.murfreesboropost.com/understaffed-jail-fuels-myriad-problems-cms-32660 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Rohan Shah. “Are Health Concerns Closely Monitored in Prisons?” JPHAS. Winter 2005, Volume 4, Issue 1. <http://www2.uic.edu/orgs/jphas/journal/vol4/issue1/news_rs.shtml> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Joshua Lederberg (Molecular biologist and Nobel Prize winner in 1958, 1991). “In Time of Plague: The History and Social Consequences of Lethal Epidemic Disease.” p 35-6 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Martin Pritikin (Associate Professor of Law, Whittier Law School. JD, Harvard Law School, 2000; BA, University of Southern California, 1997.) “Is Prison Increasing Crime?” Wisconsin Law Review. 2008. http://hosted.law.wisc.edu/lawreview/issues/2008\_6/1\_-\_pritikin.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. BBC News. “Most prisons are overcrowded – Prison Reform Trust.” August 28th, 2012. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-19395427 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)