ICPA Conference, Colorado Springs
27 Oct – 01 Nov ’13
Thinking outside the cell: Reducing the use of imprisonment

POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA
School of Humanities
Criminal Justice and Legal Studies

From Analysis to Action:
A Snapshot of the Namibian Inmate Population
- Work in progress -

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Dr. iur. Stefan Schulz
From analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population

What is it (core)?
- Project conceived in 2010/2011
- Outcomes of an extended inmate self-report survey;
- Inmate informed need/risk profile of the entire NCS offender population.

Why did we do it?
- Data availability and accessibility uncertain; and
- Accuracy doubtful.
- Official NCS data suggested
  - 87% of inmates sentenced to ≤ 2 years
  - 13% of inmates sentenced to > 2 years
  (compare following slide)
## NCS Stats 2010/2011
### Inmate population

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1991 (49%)</td>
<td>1550 (38%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 6 months</td>
<td>&gt; 6 – 24 months</td>
<td>&gt; 2 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**4 059 Sentenced inmates**
What was our survey objective?

The survey aimed at producing:

• aggregate and
• disaggregate statistics which could
• satisfy NCS’ need for data
• informing strategies for the
  – introduction and
  – implementation of rehabilitation and prevention programmes.
PURPOSE (I)

- Research -

• To provide a background of the Namibian correctional services (NCS) and its inmate population

• to assess the Namibian inmate population to determine the **VOLUME/CATEGORIES (aggregate number)** of those who needs to be incarcerated, who could be incarcerated for a shorter time and who could be treated with non-institutional options, and in line with this

• to determine/assess the needs of the Namibian inmate population.
• Integration of research/applied research into the curriculum forms part of the Polytechnic of Namibia Bachelor of Criminal Justice curriculum/programme objectives, and accordingly

• Senior students shall be introduced to the practice and methods of scientific enquiry, including data collection for empirical studies.

• 10 third year students participated through planning and execution in the countrywide data collection.
## RESEARCH DESIGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fieldwork:</th>
<th>Done in all correctional facilities (13 prisons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period:</td>
<td>27 May to 26 June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study design:</td>
<td>Cross-sectional in nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population:</td>
<td>4 010 inmates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondents:</td>
<td>3 303 inmates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return rate:</td>
<td>82.4 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey (self portray):</td>
<td>Administered face-to-face (In groups of 20 inmates)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Management of the prison population growth and reducing the inmate population
## INMATE POPULATION
**(reference period: 27 May - 26 June 2013)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>SENTENCED Female</th>
<th>SENTENCED Male</th>
<th>AWAITING-TRIAL Female</th>
<th>AWAITING-TRIAL Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divindu</td>
<td>27 May '13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Nepemba</td>
<td>29 May '13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Scott</td>
<td>01 June '13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gobabis</td>
<td>21 June '13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grootfontein</td>
<td>30 May '13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardap</td>
<td>26 June '13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keetmanshoop</td>
<td>25 June '13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luderitz</td>
<td>24 June '13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oluno</td>
<td>03 June '13</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omaruru</td>
<td>20 June '13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swakopmund</td>
<td>07 June '13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walvisbaai</td>
<td>06 June '13</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windhoek</td>
<td>17 June '13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>83</strong></td>
<td><strong>3720</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>205</strong></td>
<td><strong>4010</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ADULT / JUVENILE INMATE POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>ADULT</th>
<th>JUVENILES *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentenced</td>
<td>3677</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsentenced</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3882</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A juvenile refers to a person of 18 years of age or younger (Prisons Act, Act 17 of 1998).
# LENGTH OF SENTENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>360 (11%)</th>
<th>1151 (37%)</th>
<th>1626 (52%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 6 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 6 – 36 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Community Services**
  - Parole / Probation etc.
- **Imprisonment**

3 137 Sentenced inmates
# SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Custodial classification</th>
<th># of Inmates</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>1 036</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-medium</td>
<td>1 190</td>
<td>38.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3066</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OIC, Oct 2013
# AGE OF INMATE POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age range</th>
<th># of Inmates</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-18</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-29</td>
<td>1244</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>1215</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60&lt;</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3483</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OIC, Oct 2013
CRIME CATEGORIES

- Economic: 38%
- Violence: 35%
- Sexual: 15%
- Miscellaneous: 8%
- Narcotic: 4%

OIC, Oct 2013
VIOLENT CRIMES

- Not specified: 128
- Vehicle hi-jacking: 3
- Domestic violence: 58
- Culpable homicide: 84
- Attempted murder: 119
- Robbery: 267
- Violence against persons: 377
- Murder: 489
ECONOMIC CRIMES

- Stock theft: 723
- Burglary: Intent to steal: 542
- Theft (general): 267
- Vehicle theft: 57
- Fraud: 33
- Possession: Stolen property: 19
- Other: 20
SEXUAL OFFENCES

- Rape: 602
- Child abuse: 9
- Other: 31

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
NARCOTIC OFFENCES

- All alcohol related offences: 45
- Dealing in drugs/trafficking: 93
- All other drug related offences: 32
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES

- Escapes: 118
- Firearm offences: 57
- Damage of property: 50
- Contempt/Defeat: Justice: 28
- Illegal Hunting: 27
- Traffic offences: 21
- Illegal immigration: 15
- Other: 11
RISK & NEED FACTORS
Survey items v Risk/Need Scales

Survey items

• Survey objectives (above) inform items
  – addressed through survey questions, which are
  – associated theoretically and empirically with criminal behaviour

• Survey items have been modelled (roughly) against the structure and content of the Level of Service Inventory-revised (LSI-R).

LSI-R

• Third generation assessment “current measure of choice” (Gendreau et al. 1996)

• Items
  – shown to be associated with criminal conduct and theoretically relevant
  – demonstrated considerable evidence as a predictor of criminal conduct
  – dynamic.
Risk/need:
Conceptual-definitional Matrix (Taxman & Tanner, 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RISK FACTORS</th>
<th>NEEDS FACTORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-criminogenic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Static</strong>: Historical, <em>non-changing</em> factors that are not independently</td>
<td><strong>Dynamic</strong>: <em>Variable</em>, temporal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>related to future criminal involvement.</td>
<td>factors that are not independently related to future criminal involvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criminogenic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Static</strong>: Historical, <em>non-changing</em> factors that are statistically</td>
<td><strong>Dynamic</strong>: <em>Variable</em>, temporal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>predictive of future criminal involvement.</td>
<td>factors that, when alerted, affect the likelihood of future criminal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dynamic</strong>: <em>Variable</em>, temporal</td>
<td>offending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>factors that are statistically predictive of future criminal involvement.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concept: Definitional Matrix (Taxman & Tanner, 2006)
RISK FACTORS (STATIC)
AGE AT 1ST OFFENCE v CONVICTION

Don't know
- 5.1%

50+ yrs
- 2.1%

40-49 yrs
- 6.5%

31-39 yrs
- 17.2%

25-30 yrs
- 22.9%

18-24 yrs
- 32.0%

Less than 18 yrs
- 14.3%

PERCENTAGE

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
RECIVIDISM RATES

RECIVIDISM RATE = 902 OUT OF 3 226 (28%)

Free more than 2 yrs: 448
Free 1-2 yrs: 119
Free 6-12 months: 157
Free less than 6 months: 173
Not stated: 77

RESIVIDISM RATE = 902 OUT OF 3 226 (28%)

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
FAMILY CONVICTED/IMPRISONED

- Partner: 3%
- Parent: 4%
- Brother/Sister: 17%
- Extended family: 16%
- Own children: 1%
- None: 59%

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS (DYNAMIC)

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYABILITY LEVELS
ILLITERACY RATE

- Cannot speak, read or write English

- Speak: 40%
- Read: 43%
- Write: 45%
EDUCATIONAL LEVELS

57%

PERCENTAGE

None | Primary | Secondary | Tertiary | Trade

20.4 | 36.3 | 39.6 | 3.0 | 0.7
EMPLOYMENT STATUS BEFORE IMPRISONMENT

- Living from crime: Male - 3, Female - 6
- Retired: Male - 0, Female - 1
- Part time: Male - 14, Female - 14
- Self employed: Male - 18, Female - 21
- Employed: Male - 38, Female - 13
- Unemployed: Male - 27, Female - 46

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
INFORMAL WORK SKILLS

- Panelbeating: 5.6%
- Electrical: 6.6%
- Clothing: 8.8%
- Mechanical: 8.9%
- No skills: 8.9%
- Plumbing: 9.8%
- Welding: 10.1%
- Handcraft: 11.4%
- Carpentry: 11.9%
- Other: 12.7%
- Construction: 27.6%
- Farming: 35.7%

2013/12/05 From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
SUPPORT AFTER RELEASE

Support = Financially and accommodation

- Self: 26.5%
- Brother/sister: 22.8%
- Parent: 20.0%
- Extended family: 16.4%
- Partner: 6.7%
- Grandparents: 4.2%
- Own children: 2.3%
- Friends: 1.2%
CRIMINOGENIC RISK FACTORS
(DYNAMIC)

LIFESTYLE, ASSOCIATES & CRIMINAL ATTITUDES
CRIMINAL MOTIVES

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
SUBSTANCE ABUSE BEFORE IMPRISONMENT

- Alcohol: 45%
- Drugs: 27%

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

![Bar Chart]

- Depression: 31% (Female) 38% (Male)
- Suicide: 20% (Female) 18% (Male)
- Self-mutilation: 6% (Female) 4% (Male)

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
SYNOPSIS: NEEDS

- Sexual or physical abuse: 4%
- Mental health: 7%
- Physical health (disabled): 8%
- Partner/family relationship: 11%
- Drug misuse/abuse: 12%
- Peer pressure or bad influence: 14%
- Poor health (TB, STI, HIV/AIDS): 14%
- Accommodation after release: 16%
- Social skills: 18%
- Life skills: 27%
- Vocational skills: 30%
- Alcohol misuse/abuse: 30%
- Employment issues: 38%
- Education: 45%

From Analysis to Action: A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population
WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Empirical data of our extended inmate self report survey, collected and presented here, call for commensurate:

• Policies
• Structures
• Processes
• Systems
• Services
• Human Resources
• (professional) Expertise at the level of NCS.
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead -

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