Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Describe the general features of the corrections component.
2. Explain the different factors affecting prison and jail populations.
3. Describe the responsibilities of middle managers, supervisors, and correction officers.
4. Explain how jails are different from prisons.
5. Describe the duties of probation and parole officers.
6. Discuss the alternatives to incarceration.

Unit Summary

This unit presents the corrections organization in its contemporary professional nature. It shows that “corrections” is now a booming industry in terms of both expenditures and employment. It focuses on correctional agencies as organizations, including a view of the statewide central offices overseeing prison systems and their related functions. It highlights a typical individual prison's organization and administration.

The unit examines the cause and effect of prison crowding and discusses inmates’ rights and civil litigation. Research findings concerning the effects of several aspects of incarceration, including solitary confinement and life on death row is covered. The unit focuses on personnel within correctional institutions that will include a profile of prison wardens, recommendations for administering prisons, and an assessment of the diversification of the correctional staff. An overview of middle managers and supervisors is discussed, and in greater detail, the front-line personnel in prisons: correctional officers (COs). The typology of the eight types of Correctional Officers in terms of their overall orientation toward how they perform and view their occupation is discussed. Local jails are studied and how jail personnel view their work.

You will learn that community corrections originated in the years that followed World War II, when returning veterans encountered adjustment problems as they attempted to reenter the civilian way of life. Community corrections are viewed as a humane, logical, and effective approach for working with and changing criminal offenders. It also examines probation and parole and appropriate alternatives to imprisonment. The types of administrative systems and issues that are related to the administration of probation and parole are presented. New alternatives to incarceration, conventional probation and parole that are known as intermediate sanctions are analyzed.

The final chapter focuses on additional challenges for contemporary correctional administrators. Overcrowding, problems involving inmate population along with budgeting, human resource management, planning, and projecting for the future is examined.

Reading Assignment

Chapter 10: Corrections Organization and Operation
Chapter 11: Corrections Personnel Roles and Functions
Chapter 12: Corrections Issues and Practices

Key Terms

1. Correctional organizations
2. Customer model
3. Employer model
4. Hands-off doctrine
5. Parole
6. Pennsylvania plan
7. Privatization
8. Probation
9. Rehabilitation
10. Sexual victimization
11. Shock parole/probation
12. Systems theory
13. Treatment organization
14. Types of systems
15. Warden
You will consider whether the use of chain gangs and boot camps constitute cruel and unusual punishment. Issues concerning several types of offender populations such as the aging, juveniles, females, the mentally ill, and minority inmates are analyzed. Drug use within correctional institutions is also covered.