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INTELLECTUAL AND PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF NON-PUNITIVE SEGREGATED INMATES

> A Thesis by KENNETH WAYNE CORE

Submitted to the Graduate School Appalachian State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS

August 1981

Major Department: Psychology

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by

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August 1981

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ABSTRACT

INTELLECTUAL AND PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF NON-PUNITIVE SEGREGATED INMATES. (August 1981) Kenneth Wayne Core, B. S., Pembroke State College M. A., Appalachian State University Thesis Chairperson: Susan D. Moss

The requests for non-punitive segregation (NPS) by prison inmates have risen significantly during the last decade. However, this presents special problems for both inmates and prison administrators. The administrators must provide additional staff for the protection of inmates who opt for NPS status and NPS inmates are often the target of threats and assaults. The purpose of this study was to investigate possible differences in intellectual and personality characteristics of NPS inmates and General Population inmates.

Data were collected from original protocols taken from the files of the North Carolina Department of Correction. Thirty-five protocols of NPS inmates and 95 protocols of General Population inmates were retrieved. Data collected included age, race, type of crime, level of education, I.Q., and 21 personality characteristics as measured by the MMPI. The MMPI scales were the 13 of the regular MMPI and eight additional scales used in the corrections. The additional scales are, Prison Adjustment (Ap), Habitual Criminal (Hc), Parole Violator (Pv),

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Homosexual (Hx), Anxiety (A), Repression (R), Defect of Inhibition Control (DC), and Sensorimotor Disassociation (SD). Statistical analyses performed were either Chi Square, Analysis of Variance, or Pearson Product Moment Correlation depending on the level of data collected.

Age and race were found to be significantly different between the NPS sample and the General Inmate sample (p <.04) and (p < .01), respectively. Mean I.Q. scores as measured by the Revised Beta Examination showed statistically significant differences (p < .02). Three scales of the MMPI were found to be significantly different when mean scores were compared. These scales are the <u>F</u> scale (p < .03), the <u>Sc</u> scale (p < .01) and the <u>Hc</u> (p < .001). Other data compared between the samples were not found to be significantly different.

Results tend to suggest that young, white males are the victims of assaults in prison. Although significantly different, I.Q. score differences are similar to those found in earlier tabulations and do not constitute any real differences.

Differences in personality characteristics suggest that those who ask for NPS status are inmates who are known for their life-long psychopathic behavior. They tend to get into trouble with other inmates as well as free society. The net result is a self-imposed prison term away from the general population. Prediction of NPI inmates and therapy of NPI inmates were discussed.

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INTRODUCTION

Prison populations have historically been viewed as containing a general population (the yard) and another known as administrative segregation (lock-up). The administrative segregation group usually consists of those who are unable or unwilling to adapt to prison regulations. They are often assaultive and have to be detained for the security of the prison (Panton, 1973).

More recently a third group has appeared. This group asks for segregation for self-protection and are often labeled by inmates as informers. They are classified as being on non-punitive segregation (NPS) for self-protection. Anderson (1980) notes that the problem is steadily increasing. In the State of Illinois the rate is up to 17 percent of the total population. Other states also recognize similar increases, and Anderson (1980) reports that correctional administrators nationwide are noting the trend.

Speculation as to the reasons for the increase is varied. One possible explanation for the increase is that many of the people entering prison today have turned state's evidence and have plea bargained for shorter sentences. They are then sent to prison to be confronted by those against whom they testified.

Once the word is passed that one is an informer, Gettinger (1980) says, he is "fair game for summary punishment. At the least he will be shunned; he may be killed."

Another suggested reason for the increase in nonpunitively segregated populations is associated with recent court rulings requiring "due process." An inmate who is under investigation for assaulting another inmate cannot be locked up until prison officials have taken steps to insure that the assailant's right to due process is met. These steps may require extended periods of time, during which the victim may live in fear of further reprisal. To eliminate exposure to the assailant during this period, the victim may ask for and immediately receive lock-up for protective purposes.

A third reason given for the increase of self-protective segregation is the movement of inmates from one institution to another. Some feel this movement helps spread the reputation of an inmate. Therefore, it is difficult for the administration to move an inmate to new surroundings and leave the past behind. This reasoning suggests that, once an inmate is labeled as an informer, the reputation goes with him wherever he goes in the system.

However, Hans Toch (1980), writing on informers, suggests that the killing of informants is prison mythology. He states that if everyone who was an informer were killed, there would be prison yards filled with bodies. Toch goes on to suggest that a majority of prisoners are informers, and that other reasons exist that account for harrassment. Toch leaves the impression that the informant's fear for his own life is unrealistic.

Gettinger (1980) quoted a North Carolina inmate as saying he had been sexually assaulted. When he ask for protective custody his attackers assumed he had informed on them though he had not. He stated,

"those dudes...come by our dorm on the way to chow, and every time they come past they say, 'you know we're gonna kill you when you get back in the yard.' He adds miserably, 'I know they'll do what they mean."

Fuller and Orsach (1979) investigated violent behavior in ten units of the North Carolina correctional system. These authors were interested in answers to the following: How dangerous are prisons compared to society? Is an inmate likely to be the victim of an unprovoked assault while in prison? And finally, is interracial violence more common in prison than intraracial violence?

Results indicate, as suspected, that prisons are more violent than the general society. However, for each of the other questions the answer was negative. Of particular interest in this study was the relationship of age and race to assault. The authors found that the younger an inmate was the more likely he was to be an assailant or to be a victim of an assault, especially of an unprovoked assault.

Findings also indicate that non-whites have higher assault rates than whites. Concurrently, whites have a higher proportion of victimizations than non-whites. Data show that 69 percent of assaults are on members of the same race and 31 percent are bi-racial. In the 31 percent of bi-racial incidents, whites are much more likely to be assaulted than non-whites.

Homosexual assaults are particularly difficult to control in prison. The authors' statistics show that the annual percent of homosexual rape is 0.1 per one hundred inmates. However, the authors concur with prison superintendents who suggest this rate is probably closer to 0.7 per one hundred inmates. The authors state this rate does not include those who consent to homosexual encounters. Although firm data is hard to gather, one would suspect that many of those who consent may do so out of fear. Fuller and Orsach's (1979) results lend themselves to the hypothesis that young, white inmates are the most fearful group in prison. Assuming this to be true, one would speculate that this group would make up the largest group in protective custody.

Current policy (N.C. Department of Correction Policy Manual) requires that custody staff (guards) make initial arrangements for protective lock-up. The arrangements are then reviewed by a classification committee made up of representatives of several different disciplines. When questions arise about the usefulness of protective custody for an inmate, the staff psychologist is consulted. The psychologist gathers facts, administers tests, and interviews the concerned persons. From this he makes his recommendations to the committee.

The most frequent psychological tests used by the Department of Correction psychologist are the Revised Beta Examination, referred to as the Beta intelligence test, and the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). The Beta was designed to be used in group administration. Its scoring is simple and quick. In addition, it has no items that must be read, so it works well with illiterate subjects. One I.Q. score is yielded (Kellogg & Morton, 1934).

Results of a study by Panton (1960) in the North Carolina Prison System shows that there is no statistically significant difference between I.Q. as measured by the Beta and the WAIS. The Beta-WAIS correlation is r=.75 and above with the WAIS's verbal, performance, and

full scale I.Q. scores. Other research has also confirmed the WAIS-Beta correlation. Libb and Coleman (1971) found a positive correlation of .83 with vocational rehabilitation clients, while Rochester and Bodwell (1970) also found a high correlation between the tests in a training center.

The MMPI (Dahlstrom, Welsh, & Dahlstrom, 1975) is a self-report personality inventory consisting of 550 different true-false items (566-total items). There are ten clinical scales: Hypocondrisis (Hs), Depression (D), Hysteria (Hy), Psychopathic Deviate (Pd), Masculinity-Femininity (Mf), Paranoia (Pa), Psychasthenia (Pt), Schizophrenia (Sc), Hypomania (Ma), and Social Introversion (Si). In addition the MMPI consists of four validity scales, number left blank (?), Lie (L), Validity (F), and Correction (K). For ease of use the clinical scales are also referred to by numbers as follows: Hs-1, D-2, Hy-3, Pd-4, Mf-5, Pa-6, Pt-7, Sc-8, Ma-9, Si-0.

Research with the MMPI in correctional institutions has generally followed two directions: the MMPI as a classification tool for inmate assignments, and the development of the MMPI as a predictor of inmate behavior. In many instances the new scales can be used for both classification and prediction.

The scales measuring hostility and assaultiveness have been extensively studied. Work by Megargee and Meldelson (1962), Megargee, Cook, and Meldelson (1967) found that the most dangerous person is often fairly well controlled, mild mannered, and keeps his resentment under rigid controls. This person would typically explode, doing considerable damage, and then revert back to his normal rigidly controlled

self. In terms of damage, the authors find him to be more of a menace than the "chip on the shoulder type." From this research the O-H, or overcontrolled hostility, scale was developed.

Davis and Sines (1971) worked with the Pd-Hy configuration of the MMPI in a state hospital, a prison, and a medical center. Their results were in agreement with Megargee's O-H and Gilberstadt and Duker's (1965) "4-type." They suggest the Pd-Hy profile persons have a constitutional predisposition to be controlled by a cyclical mechanism which causes periodic distress and behavior problems. Persons and Marks (1971) replicated the study, noting that the Pd-Hy had significantly more violent behavior than the other most common types found in prison populations. In terms of application, this scale was useful to psychologists in identifying those inmates who may function well in prison but would be a risk on work release or parole.

Panton (1973) examined the MMPI characteristics of inmates who were segregated because of assaultiveness and threats to security of the institution. Panton administered the MMPI to a group of 47 inmates on punitive segregation and compared it to the inmate population of 2,551. Results indicate significantly higher mean scores on F, Pd, Mf, and Ma scales. He found significantly lower scores for Hs, Pt, and Si scales. Panton reported that the significantly higher scales indicate that these inmates would not likely benefit from psychotherapy. Panton suggests that the scales on which elevations are indicative of amenability to change are the lowest for this group.

Classification of inmates upon entry to the correctional system is controlled by three features: the charge (felony vs misdemeanor),

length of sentence, and the interpretation of tests by staff psychologists. The test most often used by the psychologist for these decisions is the MMPI. One of the most important scales used for classification decisions is the prison adjustment scale. This scale measures the likelihood of an inmate's having adjustment problems. The scale was developed by Panton (1958) working with two "adjusted" groups, two "nonadjusted" groups, and two "severely nonadjusted" groups. Results indicated that the scale correctly identified 82 percent of the adjusted group, 87 percent and 85 percent of the two nonadjusted groups, and 93 percent for both of the severely nonadjusted groups. Wattron (1963) compared maladjusted inmates and parole inmates and developed the Prison Maladjustment Scale (Pm). This scale identified 82 percent of maladjusted and 84 percent of the paroles.

If an inmate is well-adjusted and does not receive any infractions, he can enjoy a system that allows him "gain time" on his sentence. Gain time is a credit of time applied toward the sentence for work the inmate performs; its application shortens the amount of time the inmate must serve to expire his prison term. When the inmate has served a substantial portion of his sentence, he is eligible for minimum custody. Minimum custody allows more freedoms, such as home and community visits, more access to telephones, work release, and progress towards parole. The decision for minimum custody is made by a classification committee. It is typical for this committee to ask the unit psychologist for assessment of an inmate's probability of success. As noted earlier with original classification, the MMPI is the major tool used in this assessment.

Scales most often associated with this classification are the Escape (Ec) and Parole Violation (PaV) scales. Meehl and Rosen (1955) did the early work in this area, which was followed up by a 42-item Ec scale developed by Beall and Panton (1956). This scale was developed from testing inmates who had attempted to escape. Results show that the scale was effective in identifying 76.6 percent of escapees and 73 percent of non-escapees. Stump and Gilbert (1972) calculated mean scores of the MMPI on groups prior to and subsequent to escape attempts. Here researchers found those who attempted escape had a significantly higher Ec score than was found in the general population. Panton, reviewing escape groups (unpublished manuscript, 1974), compared groups of escapees to groups of nonescapees, and to groups with multiple escapes. Results of this study indicated that the Ec scale identified 74 percent of the escapees and 70 percent of the nonescapees. In comparisons of multiple escapes, the Ec scale identified 90.4 percent of the inmates with three or more escapes, 86.7 percent of the two-escape group, and 80.3 percent of the one-escape group.

Panton (1962) developed the Habitual Criminalism (Hc) scale trying to predict those inmates who would likely be recidivists. He compared the records of 50 habitual criminals aged 40 and above and who had served three felon sentences with a similarly aged group of first offenders. Results successfully identified habitual groups, especially those in the 20-29 year old group who had served prior sentences.

Escape-risk, minimum custody, parole and NPS for protective custody inmates are a part of the responsibilities of correctional psychologists. As noted earlier, data suggest that some of the factors

of influence are age, race, level of intellectual functioning and personality characteristics. Because so little research has been conducted on this group, only suggestions such as Toch's (1980) prison mythology and Fuller and Orsach's (1979) report on violence are available.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the differences between inmates on NPS for self-protection and those in the general inmate population.

HYPOTHESES

There are no significant differences in the personality measures between Non-Punitive Segregation and the General Population.

There are no significant differences in the intellectual measures between the Non-Punitive Segregation and General Population samples.

There are no significant differences between the ages of the two samples.

There are no significant differences between race of Non-Punitive Segregation and the General Population sample.

METHOD

Subjects

The non-punitive segregation (NPS) for self-protection sample was pulled from processing files of Central Prison during the years 1973 to 1980. These records contain original MMPI protocols administered at the time of admission. Thirty-five protocols of inmates who requested protective custody were used in the NPS sample. All valid protocols which were retrievable at the time of selection were used.

Data for the general population were collected by random sample from 1980 admission test files at Central Prison. Ninety-five protocols of inmates were used.

Instruments Employed

The personality measurement employed was the Minnesota Multiphasic Inventory (MMPI). The MMPI is a self-report inventory consisting of 566 true-false items. The clinical scales consist of 10 scales: Hypochondrisis (Hs), Depression (D), Hysteria (Hy), Psychopathic Deviate (Pd), Masculinity-Femininity (Mf), Paranoia (Pa), Psychasthenia (Pt), Schizophrenia (Sc), Hypomania (Ma), and Social Introversion (Si). The MMPI also consists of four validity scales, Number left blank (?), Lie (L), Validity (F), and Correction (K).

Eight selected subscales of the MMPI used in the correctional setting were employed. These included Prison Adjustment (Ap), Habitual Criminal (Hc), Parole Violator (PaV), Homosexual scale (Hsx),

Anxiety (A), Repression and Denial (R), Defective Control and Inhibition (DC), and Sensorimotor Disassociation (SD).

MMPI protocols were not accepted for this study if the L scale t-score exceeded 70, the F scale t-score was greater than 85, or the K scale t-score was more than 70.

The Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT) was employed as the measure of grade achievement level. Four measurements were obtained: Reading (WR), Spelling (WS), Arithmetic (WA), and Combined Grade Total (WT).

The intellectual measurement used was the Revised Beta Examination. It was designed to be used in group administration and is easily scored. It has no items that must be read which makes it useful with illiterates.

Procedure

Records of inmates who were classified as non-punitive segregates for protective custody and records of those in the general inmate population were reviewed to determine age, race, level of intellectual functioning, education by grades attended, achievement level in grades by performance, type of crime, length of sentence and 21 personality characteristics as measured by the MMPI.

Data collected were processed through the Appalachian State University Computer Center's Univac 90/80. Correlations were performed on all variables within groups and Analysis of Variance on between group variables. Chi square was performed on nominal data. Full statistical breakdowns were calculated.

Results

When the NPS sample mean scores were compared statistically to the scores from the general population sample, the NPS group scored significantly higher on <u>F</u>, <u>Sc</u>, and <u>Hc</u> of the 21 MMPI scales measured. The <u>F</u> scale mean scores of NPS sample and General Inmate Population sample were t=62.8 and t=58.5. The mean scores of the <u>Sc</u> scale were t=69.0 for the NPS group and t=62.4 for the General Inmate Population group. The <u>Hc</u> scale mean scores were t=62.1 for the NPS group sample and t=53.9 for the General Inmate Population sample. The null hypothesis, that no personality differences existed between the samples, was rejected on these scales. No significant differences were found between samples on any of the remaining scales. Table 1 and Table 2 presents the results of these comparisons. Figure I is a graphic illustration of the mean MMPI clinical profiles of both samples. Figure II illustrates those scales often used in corrections.

The null hypothesis, that no intellectual differences existed between the two samples, was rejected. The NPS sample had a higher Beta score statistically significant at the (p < .02) level. Table 3 presents the mean scores for each group.

Both subject variables age and race were at levels of statistical significance. The mean age of the NPS sample group was 26.5, while the mean age of the general population group was 29.7 years. The F value was 3.928 which was significant at the (p < .04) level of significance.

Race was significant with 28 of 35, or 80 percent, being white, while the general population was 31 percent white and 66 percent black. This gave an $_X^2$ value significant at the (p < .01) level of significance.

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A COMPARISON OF NPS AND GENERAL INMATE SAMPLES

BASED ON THE MEAN SCORES OF 13 MMPI SCALES

MMPI Scale	NPS Mean N=35	General Inmate Mean N=95	F
L	53.3	52.2	0.407
F	62.8	58.5	4.383*
К	52.5	51.9	0.157
Hs	57.6	56.9	0.061
D	62.4	61.3	0.212
Ну	59.5	57.3	1.133
Pd	74.8	76.7	0.031
MF	58.5	58.4	0.002
Pa	65.2	62.1	1.636
Pt	63.1	61.5	0.667
Sc	69.0	62.4	6.652*
Ma	67.0	63.6	1.741
Si	52.0	53.0	0.372

*p<.03

TABLE 2

A COMPARISON OF NPS AND GENERAL INMATE SAMPLES

BASED ON THE MEAN SCORES OF 8 MMPI SCALES

MMPI Scale	NPS Mean N=35	General Inmate Mean N=95	F
Ар	61.0	56.2	3.459
Нс	62.1	53.9	10.527*
Pv	64.4	61.4	1.652
Нх	52.3	54.2	1.159
A	54.3	54.2	0.005
R	48.6	48.6	0.000
DC	54.6	52.4	1.056
SD ·	53.3	50.9	0.899
*p<.001			

USED IN CORRECTIONS

TABLE 3

A COMPARISON OF NPS AND GENERAL INMATE SAMPLES BASED

ON THE MEAN SCORES OF REVISED BETA EXAMINATION

NPS Mean	General Inmate Mean
N=35	N=95
106.02	99.80





Results of both school attendance level and achievement level show no statistically significant differences. Table 4 presents the results of these comparisons.

Results in comparisons of type of crimes and length of sentences show no significant differences.

Discussion

Results of this study tend to be supportive of the study on violence in the North Carolina Prison System by Fuller and Orsach (1979). Statistical, significant differences were found for both age and race of NPS custody status inmates. As hypothesized earlier, young white males tend to ask for protective custody more than do either older or minority inmates.

Intellectually the NPS sample scored significantly higher than did those in the general inmate population sample. However, these data are modified by the significant number of whites in the NPS sample. Demographic information collected on all inmates processed at Central Prison in 1975 and 1976 suggests that whites tended to have a higher mean Beta I.Q. by 11 and 13 points, respectively, over black inmates. This would suggest that the significance found in I.Q. scores is no more than found in the general inmate population.

The MMPI Personality Profile revealed three scales indicating significance. They are the F scale, the Sc scale, and the Hc scale.

The <u>F</u> scale by definition is measuring the degree to which a person's thoughts are different from those of the general society. One of the implications of an elevated <u>F</u> score is that the person is trying to resist emotional illness. A high <u>F</u> scale may be raised to significant levels by problems in a single area of a persons life.

TABLE 4

A COMPARISON OF NPS AND GENERAL INMATE SAMPLES BASED

ON MEAN SCORES OF ACHIEVEMENT MEASUREMENTS

IN GRADE LEVEL AND ATTENDANCE

Achievement Measures	NPS Mean N=35	General Inmate Mean N=95	F
Reading	9.5	8.6	1.216
Spelling	7.6	6.9	0.825
Arithmetic	8.7	6.9	1.630
Total	7.9	7.4	0.663
Attendance	10.4	10.4	0.000

IN GRADE LEVEL

Many of the items that constitute the <u>F</u> scale are also items of the <u>Sc</u> scale of the MMPI. The <u>Sc</u> scale was also significantly higher for the NPS group. The <u>Sc</u> group consists of items dealing with social alienation, difficulties in impulse control, peculiar perceptions, and feelings of cognitive confusion. Persons who score high on the <u>Sc</u> scale are described as day-dreamers, and they use fantasy to avoid people or any new situation. Homosexual panic, identity crisis, or sudden personal dislocation may also be involved in elevating scores.

Finally, the <u>Hc</u> scale was significant at the (p<.CO1) level of significance. High scores on this scale indicate the inmate will resort to continual criminal activities upon release from prison. This activity will probably be life-long.

Careful evaluation of the <u>Hc</u> scale significance raises some interesting questions, one of which is the value of segregating <u>Hc</u> elevated inmates who have a "life-long" pattern of maladaptive behavior. It seems that a special kind of psychopath exists who cannot adapt to either the free or prison population. The net results is a self-imposed prison term away from the general inmate population. This is seen as a form of adaptation as noted in the Sc scale.

It is known by correctional administrators that once an inmate is allowed NPS status his adaptability to the prison system is greatly diminished. This is best exemplified when considering the labels applied and threats lodged against those who opt for NPS status. The NPS inmate has real or imagined fears for his life. What has not been established is whether threats provoke NPS request or NPS status elicits threats.

Therapy for the NPS group is usually supportive for the partially adapted NPS inmate. For the more physically and psychologically inadequate individuals, specialized programs are available. The latter therapy programs usually separate the treatment inmates in an effort to provide a better environment to teach necessary functioning skills. This, however, may be contraindicated for this group. In fact removing them from the situation may do little more than impede adaptation. A more positive approach indicated by this research would be to use a therapy program administered at the location of the maladaptation. Systematic desensitization seems to be the treatment of choice in this situation.

The results of this research might also be applied to the development of a predictive scale for identifying potential NPS inmates as they enter the system. This study suggests that young, white inmates with elevated <u>F</u>, <u>Sc</u>, and <u>Hc</u> scales of the MMPI are potential candidates for non-punitive segregation. Early detection of these inmates by diagnostic center staff members could alert the unit psychologist to begin an on-site treatment program, preventing a more difficult and more costly treatment program if postponed.

Some issues for further research should include a breakdown of the <u>Sc</u> scale using the Harris and Lingoes (1978) subscales. This would help identify which factors of the person's personality are contributing to the significant <u>Sc</u> scale and the need for NPS status.

Another issue for consideration is the measure of intellectual functioning. It would be of value to test this group with another form of intellectual measure such as the WAIS-R in an effort to identify and substantiate intellectual differences between the groups.

Of particular interest to this investigator would be the comparison of physical characteristics (such as height, weight, hand strength, and reaction time) of NPS inmates and general population inmates. There is some evidence that lack of muscular strength facilitates psychological inadequacy among NPS inmates.

With current economic cutbacks the additional manpower required for the NPS group absorbs a disportionate amount of funds. The current fiscal crunch threatens the protection the extra staff affords the NPS group. For this reason, and for the understanding of these inmates, more studies should be pursued. REFERENCE NOTES

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