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A Study of the Recidivism Rate of First Offenders at Louisiana Correctional and Industrial School Who Completed Vocational Training Through L.C.I.S./Sowela Institute

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A STUDY OF THE RECIDIVISM RATE
OF FIRST OFFENDERS AT
LOUISIANA CORRECTIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
WHO COMPLETED VOCATIONAL TRAINING
THROUGH L.C.I.S./SOWELA INSTITUTE

A Research Report

Submitted to the Faculty
of the School of Social Work
Louisiana State University
and Agricultural and Mechanical College
in partial fulfillment
of the requirements
for the degree of

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

BY
Beverly R. Travis
B.A., Louisiana State University, 1971

Harold J. LeBleu
B.A., 1975, Master in Guidance and Counseling, 1978
McNeese State University
MANUSCRIPT THESIS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for their assistance and cooperation in the development and completion of this study:

Dr. George Roundtree of Louisiana State University for his guidance as a resource person knowledgeable in the field of correction, and for acting as our faculty adviser.

Dr. Ed Stephens of McNeese State University for his statistical direction and guidance in data analysis.

Dr. Larry Dilks of McNeese for preliminary assistance in formulating our basic approach.

Warden J.D. Middlebrooks of L.C.I.S. in DeQuincy for facilitating access to Louisiana Department of Correction's records. A thanks to the employees in the records department at L.C.I.S. for their cooperation.

Our appreciation is extended to Earl Hamic, director of Sowela Technical Institute, for providing a record of L.C.I.S. recipients of vocational training certificates.

To Louisiana State Police Troop D Headquarters in Lake Charles, and Captain Roy for acquiring recidivism data from the FBI system.

James Morris, assistant secretary to the Louisiana Department of Corrections for his cooperation.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to determine if inmates released from Louisiana Correctional and Industrial School (L.C.I.S.) who completed a vocational training program through L.C.I.S./Sowela Technical Institute had a lower rate of recidivism than those who did not complete training, using age as a variable.

The population for this study consisted of a random sample of 99 inmates released into the general population of Louisiana prior to 1983. These subjects voluntarily completed vocational training in welding, auto mechanics, or body and fender repair between the years 1976-1982. The control sample consisted of 101 inmates selected randomly from the total prison population at L.C.I.S. during 1976-1982, and who were released into the general population of Louisiana prior to 1983. Three years were allowed for the recidivism period.

Recidivism was operationalized as returning to prison or obtaining a new felony charge, verified by Louisiana Department of Corrections data and the FBI computer system. Chi-square tests were performed to determine the relationship between training and
recidivism, the relationship between age and completing training, and between age at release and recidivism.

The median age of the population was 24.89 years. The younger subgroup ranged in age from 18 years to 24 years. The older subgroup members were greater than 25 years old. Treatment alone was not significant in reducing recidivism. Of all prisoners completing vocational training 63.3% were older than 25 years. Age was significant in completing treatment with a chi square score of 3.83, at the .05 level of significance. Age at time of release was related to reduced recidivism. This variable was significant with a chi square value of 5.85, at the .02 level of significance. Prisoners over 25 years of age had a recidivism rate of 22.4% while those prisoners who were younger had a recidivism rate of 40.2%. The combined effect of treatment and age was significant in reducing recidivism, with a chi-square value of 8.69, at the .05 level of significance.
CHAPTER I
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In recent years State legislatures have demonstrated the public's concern for the impact of recidivism on public safety by instituting mandatory prison terms or sentence enhancement for repeat offenders. Much scholarly and public attention has focused on the issues surrounding the purpose of incarceration as punishment and as a means to protect the public versus the value and effectiveness of rehabilitation.

There is a growing concern over the high incidence of recidivism. In a nationwide survey of inmates of State prisons, approximately 61% of those admitted to prison in 1979 were recidivists. Recidivists were estimated to account for about two-thirds of the burglaries, auto thefts, and forgery/fraud/ and embezzlement offenses attributed to total admissions (Greenfield, 1985).

In 1967, the U.S. Department of Justice reported that 72% of a cross-section of the general population stated the primary emphasis of prison
should be rehabilitation, but only 48% believed it was (Kadish, 1983). Public opinion surveys by the Gallup Report state that in 1982 approximately 59% of Americans expressed attitudes supporting training and rehabilitating prisoners. Additionally, 63% of those surveyed believed something should be done to substantially reduce the recidivism rate (McLeod, 1983).

Recent trends by experts and by the public are to question the capacity of prisons to rehabilitate. Factors contributing to this trend include rising crime rates, the disproportionately high frequency of repeat offenders, and the lack of rehabilitative techniques which can be empirically proven as effective in producing rehabilitation. Difficulties lie in the development and the implementation of programs, and the measurement of success or failure.

The problem of ascertaining what works is a difficult one. A conceptual definition of successful rehabilitation is defined in terms of the reduction or elimination of subsequent criminal behavior by an offender.

The purpose of this study was to determine
the relationship of completing vocational training and recidivism. Other relationships explored are the relationship of age to completing vocational training, and the relationship of age at time of release and recidivism. There has been little follow-up research presented in Louisiana regarding recidivism of first offenders who have completed vocational training programs. This study addresses this gap in research and provides guidance for further development of vocational training programs in Louisiana correctional institutions.

"Using information technologies can enable us to better protect the public, to reduce the enormous literal and human costs of incarceration, and finally, to turn our attention to such important issues as prevention and building effective community programs (Rans, 1983)."
CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

As used in the field of crime and justice, the meaning of the word "rehabilitation" includes three core concepts: 1) The purpose of rehabilitation is to reduce subsequent crime, 2) Its program is a planned intervention to do so, and 3) Its effect is the actual reduction or elimination of criminality in the offender's behavior. "The composite question is whether the three elements are found together, that is, whether any policies, developed and applied primarily to reduce the offender's future criminality, regularly and dependably succeed in doing so. At present, no such policies have been proved successful." (Kadish, 1983). Thus, further research is indicated.

The objective of rehabilitation is strongly rooted in the American criminal justice system, as drawn from the writings of Montesquieu in 1748. His theme of prevention and moderate, consistently applied punishment, graded according to the harmfulness of the crime, is a historical influence
in the orientation toward rehabilitation.

In post-Revolutionary America, the preference for imprisonment as a moderate method of law enforcement emerged. Americans sought to organize the prisons to reduce the chance of recidivism. This approach expresses the attitude that human beings are modifiable for the better if given the proper opportunity. The American approach sought deterrence combined with a humane and crime-reducing policy toward offenders.

Prison reformers including Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, and William Bradford, sought to elevate crowding, idleness, brawling, and immorality in prisons. Issues concerning the methods of reform arose, but the goals were similar. It was generally conceded that a primary purpose of criminal sentencing is rehabilitation, and that this can be facilitated during incarceration.

Seymour Halleck (1967) asserted, "A society can be judged by the manner in which it treats its deviant citizens. If it treats them as lesser beings who are to be systemically degraded and
abused, it is not a great society" (p.349). In addressing the problems of criminal justice, there has been a trend toward the rehabilitation of offenders with the goal of returning them to society with new skills which will enable them to be self-supporting citizens.

Rehabilitation of offenders is of importance to all members of society, since all but the few who die in prison return to society. Therapeutic treatment an offender receives in prison may aid in the transition from being a burden of society to becoming a self-sufficient member of society.

The cost of rehabilitating an offender is offset by eliminating future incarceration costs. Proof of reduction in the rate of recidivism is a factor in justifying the expenditures within the criminal justice system for rehabilitation.

Federal monies allocated for Federal Prison Industries, Inc., for the year 1985 was $6,391,000 for vocational training expenses alone (Budget of the U.S. Government, 1987). Fiscal responsibility is demanded by the government and by the taxpayer for the efficient and proper utilization of these
funds.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1920 authorized the creation of a federal vocational rehabilitation agency to fund state vocational rehabilitation programs. Prisoners who were determined to qualify with physical, emotional, or personality disorders could participate. In 1965, the act was amended to make the majority of prisoners in an institution eligible for vocational rehabilitation services. Services are generally worked out under a federal-state contractual agreement. Currently the interpretation has been broadened to include all persons convicted of crime because of behavioral disorders (Fox, 1977).

The general approach to vocational rehabilitation follows twelve steps: 1) evaluation, 2) determination of eligibility for vocational rehabilitation on the basis of need and prognosis, 3) case analysis to determine strengths and weaknesses, 4) plan development, 5) treatment and counseling by a vocational rehabilitation officer, 6) training, whether vocational, academic, on-the-job, or other training approaches, 7) providing
maintenance when necessary, 9) purchasing tools and equipment, 10) providing licenses and stock if the vocational rehabilitation includes the establishment of a business, 11) placement in a job, and 12) follow-up to determine whether or not the program has been successful (Fox, 1977).

Follow-up studies of the Ohio Central School System conclude that vocational education appears to have a positive effect on the employability of paroled inmates and demonstrates a low incidence of recidivism while on parole (Schaeffer & Shannon, 1983). Post-Prison analysis of Alabama ex-offenders indicates that vocational training appears essential to rehabilitation of the criminal offender (Jenkins, et al., 1974). Other research has considered the variables of type of offense, age, type of program, criminal history, type of release, and other factors. Results have been varied.

In Louisiana, the Department of Corrections directs the vocational training programs through the Office of the Secretary of Corrections, which is responsible for developing and monitoring the system-wide adult and juvenile education programs at
the various institutions. This represents a liaison with the Department of Education and the various vocational-technical schools in the state which provide programs for incarcerated offenders. Educational opportunities are provided for all offenders within the Department of Corrections, on a voluntary, first-come, first-serve basis. Vocational training programs are offered to all offenders interested in learning a specialized skill, through the auspices of the state's vocational-technical schools (Louisiana Department of Corrections, 1983).

Louisiana Correctional and Industrial School (L.C.I.S.) at DeQuincy is a minimum security prison for first offender males and those others suitable for vocational and academic training. The facility was opened in 1953 to separate young first offenders from the prison population at Angola, a maximum security state prison. The stated purpose of L.C.I.S. is to rehabilitate the inmates thereof (West, 1985). L.C.I.S. provides experiences designed to foster an atmosphere in which offenders can learn skills which will enable them to adapt to
society upon their release. Inmates of the state penitentiary who are first offenders and are considered by the superintendent of L.C.I.S. to be worthy and suitable for rehabilitation may be transferred directly to L.C.I.S. (West, 1986).

Prisoners have less than eight years remaining on their sentences. Total prison capacity is approximately 950 inmates.

Vocational training in welding, auto-mechanics, and auto body and fender repair are offered through the L.C.I.S./Sowela Program. Sowela Technical Institute is a state-operated post-secondary vocational-technical school under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

The problem to be investigated in this study contrasts, in terms of recidivism, L.C.I.S. inmates who have completed a vocational program through L.C.I.S/Sowela Technical Institute to L.C.I.S. inmates who have not completed this training. The null hypothesis is assumed, stating that completion of vocational training has no effect on the rate of recidivism of ex-offenders. The relationship of age and participation in vocational training as well as the relationship of age to recidivism is evaluated using a chi square test with cross tabulation utilizing the SPSS Batch System. The total sample is divided into four sub-groups, according to the median age of the sample populations, and according to completion of vocational training and non-completion of vocational training while in L.C.I.S.

The prison population from which the experimental group, consisting of those inmates completing vocational training, and the control
group, consisting of a random sample of all inmates
not completing vocational training, has certain
commonalities which determine placement at L.C.I.S.
All subjects were males, convicted as first
offenders in the Louisiana Criminal Justice System,
who require minimum security. The population tends
to be young. Admittance to the vocational training
program requires a literacy ability of at least a
sixth grade education. Upon satisfactory completion
of approximately 1500 hours a certificate of
graduation is issued through the Louisiana
Department of Education.

A principal research measure of the
effectiveness of rehabilitation programs is
recidivism, the occurrence of subsequent crime.
Based on other studies, this study defines
recidivism as an ex-inmate who 1) returns to prison
as a parole violator, 2) returns to prison with a
new sentence, and/or 3) obtains a new charge for a
felony against persons. This definition is suitable
from a theoretical standpoint and is measurable from
criminal records.

The time frame allowed for recidivism to occur
was selected as three years from date of release.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, an estimated 60% of those who will return to prison do so within the first three years following release. The Bureau of Justice reports that 14-15% of inmates return to prison within the first year after release, another 10% during the second year, and 5% return the third year following release. About 30% of all released prisoners recidivate (Greenfeld, 1985).

A sample group consisting of 79 inmates from L.O.I.S. who completed the L.O.I.S./Sowela Technical Institute vocational training program in welding, auto mechanics, or auto body and fender repair represents the experimental group. Participants who complete the training earn a certificate of completion through the Louisiana Department of Education. Members of the experimental group met four criteria: 1) First offender incarcerated at L.O.I.S. between 1976 through 1982, 2) completion of vocational training at Sowela Technical Institute, 3) release to a Louisiana address and 4) release before January 1983. Only inmates released
to Louisiana are included to enhance reliability in obtaining recidivism data through the Louisiana Department of Corrections Computer System.

Out of 162 total graduates of the L.C.I.S./South Technical Institute vocational training program between 1976-1982, 99 inmates were released into the general population of Louisiana. Of these 99, 17 were found to still be incarcerated as of January 1983, one was deceased, and two inmates have incomplete records which prevent a follow-up of recidivism.

The 101 member control sample group was randomly selected from the total prison population at L.C.I.S. during the years 1976 through 1981. All members of the sample were released to Louisiana prior to January 1983. All monthly releases from L.C.I.S. were available on computer data for the years 1981-1982. Data was obtained through the courtesy of the Louisiana Department of Corrections (See appendix). A list of all prisoners incarcerated at L.C.I.S. during 1976 through 1980 who were released into the general population of Louisiana prior to 1983 was compiled manually.
from files at L.C.I.S.

The combined lists were then input on computer in ascending Department of Corrections numbers. This exhaustive list of 1,913 names and numbers was the sample frame from which a random sample of 101 names was selected by computer. This list was checked against the experimental group to prevent duplication in both groups. All data was computer verified against operator error at all stages.

Subjects were identified by Department of Corrections number, race, sex, age, and date of birth. With this information records of recidivism in Louisiana were obtained for all subjects through the Department of Corrections for the State of Louisiana. A further check for recidivism outside of Louisiana was conducted using the NCIC crime computer. In the control sample, 50 subjects were not on file with the FBI. In the experimental group, 35 subjects were not on file with the FBI. The lack of inclusion in FBI records of approximately half the subjects is due to three causes: 1) local communities are not required by law to provide criminal information to the FBI, 2) no
positive I.D. found due to use of alias or name change, and 3) a complete fingerprint card, an FBI number, a social security number, name, DOB, race, and sex are all necessary information to cross check criminal history within the FBI system. Policies of privacy, confidentiality and protection of subjects prevent this information from being solicited. All guidelines for the protection of humans and animals as research subjects as set forth by Louisiana State University and the Institutional Review Board were followed explicitly.
CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS

The eligibility requirements for admission to L.C.I.S. resulted in a young sample overall. Ninety-five percent of the total sample were less than 36 years old. The median age of the total sample of 180 inmates was 24.89 years. For purposes of analysis, the younger subgroup ranged in age from 18 years to 24 years old. The older subgroup members were greater than 25 years old, with the oldest member being 51 years old.

Age was a factor in seeking and completing vocational training with twice as many older inmates completing training, as shown in Table 1. Of the 180 prisoners who completed training, 63.3% were older than 25 years. Of all prisoners in the younger subgroup, 35.4% completed training. The relationship of older age to completion of vocational training was significant at the .05 level of significance, with a chi square value of 3.83.
Table 1
Age as a Factor in Seeking and Completing Vocational Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Completed training</th>
<th>No training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24 years</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-51 years</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=180

Age was a factor in recidivism as shown by a decidedly lower percentage of older prisoners found to recidivate. The chi square value of age and recidivism was 5.85, at the .05 level of significance. Of all prisoners who recidivated 60% were in the younger age subgroup. Of all prisoners over 25 years of age, 22.4% recidivated. Of all younger prisoners 40.2% recidivated (see Table 2). The total rate of recidivism for the control and experimental group was 30.6%, which is known to be the National average rate of recidivism according to Bureau of Justice Statistics.
Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Recidivated</th>
<th>Not recidivated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24 years</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-51 years</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A cross tabulation of recidivism with four subgroups of inmates divided by age and completion of vocational training showed the combined effect of increased age and completion of vocational training was significant in reducing recidivism. Older prisoners who received training had one third the recidivism rate of younger inmates with no training. Older inmates who completed training were half as likely to recidivate as older inmates with no training (see Table 3). The chi square value was 8.69, significant at the .05 level.
Table 3

Combined Effect of Training and Age on Recidivism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Age 18-24</th>
<th>Recidivate (41.4%)</th>
<th>Not Recidivate (58.6%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>25-51</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Training</td>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Training</td>
<td>25-51</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>70.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=180</td>
<td></td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recidivism was found to be independent of completion of vocational training. The chi square value of 1.4, at the .20 level, is not significant. Treatment by itself was not found to reduce the rate of recidivism.
CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The field of criminology acknowledges the elongated maturational period characteristic of the criminally deviant. This study supports evidence that immaturity is a possible factor in the lack of effectiveness of vocational training for younger inmates. The motivation behind seeking training may differ among age groups. This is an area for future investigation.

Implications of these findings suggest that as funding sources become restricted, efforts for rehabilitation as addressed in vocational skills training need to be directed toward the older, more mature inmates. Other studies have indicated that teaching social skills which help instill responsibility and develop work habits needed to survive in the outside world show potential for the younger inmate.
The significance of a criminal conviction and the response to rehabilitative measures depends largely upon the psychological makeup and socioeconomic position of the offender. This study did not attempt to address the psychological or socioeconomic factors. The assumption is that obtaining vocational skills does provide the offender with a means of securing employment. Theory relates employment with a positive factor in avoiding criminal behavior.

The milieu to which the criminal returns appears to exercise a profound effect on the probability of recidivism. Two environmental elements of significance are the associations or support system the offender forms, and the opportunities for remunerative work (Kadish, 1983). Of particular concern to this study is the drastic decline in economic conditions in the Southwest Louisiana area linked to the drop in oil production and related industries during the years 1983-86.
A high rate of unemployment of approximately 15% has persisted, with drops in all construction and oil related industries. Consequently, the opportunities for employment have been scarce for the average citizen without the further encumbrance of a criminal record.

Another factor which the study did not address is the motivation for completing vocational training. Attendance can result in "good time" and early release. It is assumed that less transfer of learning occurs when motivation relates to getting out of prison rather than improving one's life skills. This may account for the lack of significance in receiving training and reducing recidivism in the younger age population. There is little precise knowledge about the factors in prison that affect learning, and how durable and usable that learning is in the outside world.

It is generally recognized that criminals show an elongated maturational period extending into the thirties, compared to the non-criminal population. This immaturity may account for the ineffectiveness of training for the young offenders. To maximize
efficient expenditure of finances, this study suggests that vocational training be directed toward the older and more mature offender. Alternative training which encourages the development of social skills and basic life skills emphasizing the acceptance of responsibility for self are indicated for the younger population.

Although all participants are legally classified as first-offenders, this does not mean they do not have a history of habitual criminal offense. The classification system does not account for juvenile offenses, and in fact L.C.I.S. inmates can be transferred from other facilities.

Issues of the 1980's tend toward limiting or eliminating rehabilitation as a goal of the penal system. This sentiment derives in part from the perception that no prison programs thus far have repeatedly produced successful rehabilitative effects. It has been asserted that the programs waste taxpayers' money.

Civil libertarians have urged that indeterminate sentences, earlier justified as necessary for rehabilitation, should now be
terminated. They favor fixed sentences, and that in no case should an offender be sentenced to more time in prison merely because of doubtful results in rehabilitation.

Between these extremes, Morris (1974) favors rehabilitation on a strictly voluntary basis, and not as a means to reduce or extend time served. The rehabilitative ideal requires sustained attention because it expresses a significant attitude about the worth of human beings. Justice William Brennan stated that "even the vilest criminal remains a human being possessed of common human dignity" (Kadish, 1983). In a pragmatic society the concept of rehabilitation needs to prove itself as workable. Responsible policy formation calls for the evaluation of programs and the selection of those that work. The multitude of factors which compound such research need to be studied.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Appendix A

March 10, 1986

Sowela Technical Institute/LCIS
Mr. Earl Hammett, Director
P.O. Box 16950
Lake Charles, LA 70616

Mr. Hammett:

Ms. Beverly Lumpkin and I are designing a recidivism project for thesis work for the Louisiana State University School of Social Work. The general outline of the project is described in your complimentary copy of my letter to Warden J. D. Middlebrooks which is attached.

I am requesting that you supply me access to the LCIS/Sowela application forms for the graduates of your program for the period 1976-1981. I am attaching a list of those individuals which graduated from your program during that period of time.

With kindest regards, I am,

Cordially,

Harold J. LeElen
Vocational Rehabilitation

Attachment:

cc: J. D. Middlebrooks, Warden
    Ms. Beverly Lumpkin
    Dr. George Roundtree, LSU School of Social Work
Appendix B

Louisiana Correctional and Industrial School
J. D. Middlebrooks, Warden
P. O. Box 1056
DeQuincy, LA 70633

March 10, 1986

Warden Middlebrooks:

In order to maintain state-of-the-art counseling procedures and to provide the most recent expertise in my capacity as Vocational Rehabilitation counselor at the Louisiana Correctional and Industrial School, I am enrolled in the Louisiana State University School of Social Work. My friend and colleague, Ms. Beverly Lumpkin, is also enrolled in the same program. In reference to our recent conversations, Ms. Lumpkin and I wish to construct a recidivism study. This study will contrast, in terms of recidivism, LCIS inmates that have completed a vocational program, (i.e. welding, auto mechanics, or auto body and fender repair) to LCIS inmates which have not completed this training.

This letter is to respectively request access to the Department of Corrections inmate records and computer data from 1976 to 1981 for the purpose referred to in the above paragraph. This project entails the access to approximately 500 DOC files. Please be assured that we seek no information protected by privacy laws and or Department of Corrections policies and procedures.

I will keep you informed in writing of the periodic progress of this project. Subject to your final review and approval, the results will be incorporated into a joint thesis/project that is being prepared by Ms. Lumpkin and me for the Master of Social Work degrees from LSU.

Due to the time limitations involved, your prompt consideration of this request is appreciated.

With kindest regards, I am,

Cordially,

Harold J. LeBleu
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

cc: Ms. Beverly Lumpkin
Dr. George Roundtree, LSU School of Social Work
Mr. Earl Hammett, Director, Sowela Technical Institute
March 26, 1986

Louisiana Correctional and Industrial School
J.D. Middlebrooks, Warden
P.O. Box 1056
DeQuincy, Louisiana 70633

Warden Middlebrooks:

Enclosed is a copy of the recidivism research proposal we have submitted.

In order to implement our study, we need to obtain the following information from the Department of Corrections:

1. The release dates, type of release, and date and place of recidivism in Louisiana, for the list of inmates attached who completed training at LCIS/Sowela. Please include FBI number if available.

2. As a control group we need a randomly selected matched sample group of approximately 107 individuals released to Louisiana, between the years 1976-81. For each individual we need name, date of birth, race, FBI number if available, and release dates, and date and place of recidivism.

3. In order to cover any recidivism outside of Louisiana, we respectfully request the Louisiana Department of Corrections to obtain from the FBI any record of recidivism of the individual members of each sample group.

We are planning to show the effectiveness of vocational training at LCIS, and feel certain this study will be of value to you as an administrator.

We thank you for your cooperation in obtaining this data. Please contact us for any questions.

Cordially,

[Signature]

Harold J. LeEleu and
Beverly T. Lumuch
Beverly Ruth Travis Lumpkin was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and graduated with honors from Baton Rouge High School in 1968. She graduated cum laude from Louisiana State University in 1971 with a B.A. in Sociology. Extensive graduate hours were earned from McNeese State University in Social Sciences with an emphasis in Psychology between 1974-1976, while serving as a graduate assistant.

Work experience includes real estate brokerage, camp counselling and directing, and volunteer leadership training. Anticipated graduation from the Louisiana State University School of Social Work is May, 1987.
Harold Joseph LeBleu was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, graduating from LaGrange High School in 1966. He attended McNeese State University three years until serving in the U.S. Army. Upon returning to McNeese he completed an undergraduate degree in Secondary Education in 1975 and a masters degree in Guidance and Counseling in 1978.

Work experience from 1976-1986 was gained through the State of Louisiana Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Anticipated date of graduation from the Louisiana State University School of Social Work is May, 1987.
CANDIDATE  Beverly Travis Lumpkin  
Harold Joseph LeBleu  

TITLE OF REPORT OR THESIS  A Study of the Recidivism Rate of First Offenders at Louisiana Correctional and Industrial School who Completed Vocational Training through L.C.I.S./Sowela Technical Institute  

APPROVED:  

Supervisor or Chairman  

DATE  12.12.84