

Poster Abstract 16



Title

Young African American Males (AAM) Self Reported Experiences, Incarceration and Anger

Authors

S. Fouse*

Affiliation

* Graduate Student, North Chicago VA Medical Center

Abstract

Aim: The research study was based on two questions, "What are the self reported experiences of young AAM that were responsible for the incarceration" and "what was the role of anger in the experiences."

Method: Using qualitative methodology, in-depth interviews were conducted in a midwest correctional institution that housed youth offenders. The in-depth approach permitted the young African American male to tell his story in his own words. The sample was comprised of 30 self identified AAM between the ages of 18 and 21. The risk factors for violence were incorporated in the interview. The interview consisted of approximately 12 questions designed to elicit information about the experiences of being incarcerated and the role of anger during the events that led to incarceration. In addition to the interview guide, a demographic data form was developed.

Results: All audio tapes were transcribed by the investigator. As the investigator became familiar with the narratives, she began to code the interviews by using the risk factors identified in the literature. The data could easily fit into the various risk factors but the coding scheme didn't yield any new insights or meaningful connections. Therefore, the investigator began to code each transcript by reading each line and developing working codes and themes from the data.

Conclusion: Although some data from the interviews fit into the various risk factors, themes were discovered such as absent fathers, family businesses, and educational benefits verses non-educational benefits.

Contact

Sarah Fouse
1900 - 21st Street
Racine, WI 53403
Phone: (847) 688-1900 ext. 81272
E-mail: sarah.fouse@va.gov