The effects of group living climate in youth prison

Abstract

Over the past four years five studies in a Dutch youth prison were conducted, which started by constructing and validating an instrument measuring group living climate, as little is known about group climate properties in youth prison (Marshall & Burton, 2010). As incarcerated youth spent most of their time in this environment (apart from attending school or therapy) living group climate is thought to exert a substantial influence on adolescent inmates.

Results of these five studies confirmed this assumption and showed that a positive (therapeutic) living group climate could stimulate development in incarcerated adolescents.

In these five studies, treatment motivation, locus of control, coping, empathy, stabilization of personality and self-reported violence were associated with living group quality.