

“It’ll Never Happen”: Racial Integration In California Prisons for Men

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Policy Shift

- De Facto Racial Segregation: Whites, Blacks, Hispanics, and Others
 - Law Suit – Garrison Johnson
- New policy of the CDCR - More than race used for decision-making

- It is the policy of the CDCR that an offender's race will not be used as the sole determining factor in housing its offender population. This policy will ensure housing practices, including racial integration, are made in such a manner as to ensure to the maximum extent possible that the safety, security, treatment, and rehabilitative needs of offenders are being met, as well as the safety and security of staff and the institution are maintained. All offender housing assignments shall be made on the basis of rational, objective criteria, taking into consideration each individual offender's safety, security, and rehabilitative needs...(CDCR In-Cell Racial Integration Plan 2005[i])

The Justice System and People Processing

- Studies show race is a factor in how decisions are made from arrest to incarceration.
- What about decision-making in the prison?

Research Questions

- Using the CDCR's coding categories, which inmates are more and less likely to agree to integrate?
- How does race matter, if at all, in inmates' decisions to integrate?

In/Dependant Variables

- Dependant variable – Inmates' Yes/No answers to cell question.
 - Independent variables: racial classification, gang membership, level of inmate, age, previous incarceration, history of violent behavior.
- Inmates from three prisons (N=291: 72 White, 78 Black, 100 Hispanic, 15 Other)

Model 7				
Variables	B (SE)	Wald Chi ²	p	Odds Ratio
Constant	-.804 (.95)	.718	.397	.448
Black	1.168 (.54)	4.706	.030*	3.216
Hispanic	1.600 (.57)	7.869	.005**	4.953
Other	1.136 (.88)	1.654	.198	3.115
Gang Membership	-.958 (.41)	5.519	.019*	.384
Level III	-2.044 (.64)	10.115	.001***	.130
Level IV	-1.232 (.60)	4.244	.039*	.292
Level INS	-21.893 (10516.753)	.000	.998	.000
Level RC	-.974 (.49)	3.986	.046*	.378
Age	.030 (.020)	2.149	.143	1.030
Safety Concerns	1.479 (.53)	7.806	.005**	4.390
Previous Incarceration	-.895 (.44)	4.258	.039*	.407
History of Violence	-.125 (.391)	.102	.749	.882

* p<.05

**p<.01

*** p<.001

- Hispanic and Black inmates more likely than Whites to agree to integrate.
- Gang members more likely to refuse to integrate.
- Those with Safety concerns more likely to agree to integrate.
- Higher level inmates and those with a previous incarceration more likely to refuse.