

Chapter 1 - An Overview of Community Corrections: Goals and Evidence-Based Practices

True / False

1. Over the last three decades, our nation's crime control policies have resulted in a steady increase of convicted misdemeanants and felons into our correctional system.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

2. Community corrections are sanctions that may be completed after a defendant serves time in prison.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

3. According to the text, the most common form of community supervision is probation.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

4. Nearly 3% of the total adult population in the United States is currently under some form of correctional supervision.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

5. Until the 1990s, determinate sentencing was the primary sentencing philosophy in the United States.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

6. Robert Martinson, a social scientist tasked with examining prison programming in the United States during the 1960s, determined that correctional rehabilitation programs were effective at reducing recidivism.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

7. All U.S. states have adopted some form of mandatory minimum sentencing laws for certain types of offenses that require a minimum period of time be served before release can be considered.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

8. Parole is more frequently used at the federal level as opposed to the state level.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

9. According to a recent national public opinion poll, the most well-known forms of community-based corrections in the United States are probation, house arrest, and electronic monitoring.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

10. "Redeemability" refers to convincing the public that offenders can change their ways.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

11. Due to the recent fiscal crisis, there is growing consensus among state legislators and correctional administrators that jail and prison facilities should only be used for the most serious offenders.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

12. The pretrial and bail decision is one of the three major decision points in the corrections system.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

13. Pretrial supervision is reserved for those who have not yet been convicted.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

14. Less than half of all current U.S. prisoners will ever be released from prison.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

15. Parole is used for offenders who have not yet been convicted of a felony offense.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

16. In contrast to mainstream criminal justice that is focused on punishment of the offender, restorative justice is centered on the victim throughout the process and emphasizes the offender's responsibility to repair the injustice and wrong caused to the victim.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

17. Specific deterrence attempts to deter the general public from committing specific types of crime.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

18. "Evidence-based practices" refers to using the experience and opinions of trained professionals in the field, who have supervised caseloads for a long time, to determine the impact a program has on its participants.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

19. "Net widening" results in a cost increase instead of a cost savings.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

20. Recidivism can be measured through rates of rearrest, reconviction, or reincarceration.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

Multiple Choice

21. Roughly, how many people are currently under some form of correctional supervision in the United States?

a. 2 million

- b. 5 million
- c. 7 million
- d. 10 million

ANSWER: c

22. The most common form of community corrections is _____, which is the release of an offender under conditions imposed by the court for a specified period of time during which the court retains the authority to modify the conditions or to resentence the offender if he or she violates the conditions.

- a. probation
- b. parole
- c. mandatory conditional release
- d. electronic monitoring

ANSWER: a

23. _____ refers to any sanction in which an offender serves all or a portion of his or her entire sentence in the community.

- a. Community corrections
- b. Social justice
- c. Restorative justice
- d. Halfway house

ANSWER: a

24. The most common form of community corrections is

- a. boot camp.
- b. community restitution.
- c. probation.
- d. parole.

ANSWER: c

25. From the 1930s to the 1970s, _____ was the primary sentencing philosophy in the United States.

- a. determinate sentencing
- b. three strikes
- c. indeterminate sentencing
- d. retribution

ANSWER: c

26. _____ refers to a sentencing philosophy that encourages rehabilitation and incorporates a broad sentencing range in which discretionary release is determined by a parole board, and based on the offender's remorse commitment to bettering his/herself.

- a. Mandatory minimum sentencing
- b. Truth-in-sentencing
- c. Indeterminate sentencing
- d. Determinate sentencing

ANSWER: c

27. Which of the following is not considered a determinate sentencing philosophy?

- a. Mandatory minimums
- b. Truth-in-sentencing
- c. Discretionary parole
- d. Three strikes laws

ANSWER: c

28. Lack of confidence in correctional programming peaked in 1974 when _____ publication concluded that, "with few exceptions, the rehabilitative efforts that have been reported so far had no appreciable effect on recidivism."

- a. Robert Martinson's
- b. Andrew von Hirsch's
- c. Herbert Packer's
- d. James Marquart's

ANSWER: a

29. Determinate sentencing is often referred to as

- a. unconstitutional.
- b. flat time.
- c. round time.
- d. a range.

ANSWER: b

30. In 1975, _____ was the first state to return to a philosophy of determinate sentencing.

- a. Texas
- b. Maine
- c. Oklahoma
- d. Florida

ANSWER: b

31. In reference to determinate sentencing, the range of permissible sentences is determined largely by

- a. legislated statutes.
- b. treatment goals and objectives.
- c. parole boards.
- d. boards of pardons and clemency.

ANSWER: a

32. ____ require an offender to serve a specified portion of his or her sentence prior to release.

- a. Three strikes laws

- b. Mandatory minimum sentencing laws
- c. Community-based treatments
- d. Faith-based treatment programs

ANSWER: b

33. Truth-in-sentencing laws require offenders to serve at least _____ of the original sentence length before becoming eligible for release.

- a. 95%
- b. 85%
- c. 75%
- d. 55%

ANSWER: b

34. The concept that communities are made more secure by removing unsafe residents is ingrained in American tradition, but correctional policy shifts according to legislators' perceptions of what the public wants. This relationship is referred to as the

- a. swing of the pendulum.
- b. enigma.
- c. revolution.
- d. paradox.

ANSWER: d

35. Recent public surveys have suggested that adults support prisons that emphasize

- a. rehabilitation.
- b. retribution.
- c. deterrence.
- d. restitution.

ANSWER: a

36. A recent national opinion poll indicated that the most well-known alternatives to incarceration are probation, house arrest, and

- a. boot camps.
- b. electronic monitoring.
- c. day reporting centers.
- d. shock probation.

ANSWER: b

37. The three main decision points in the corrections system are bail, sentencing, and

- a. reentry.
- b. punishment.
- c. probation.
- d. diversion.

ANSWER: a

38. ____ is a monetary payment deposited with the court to ensure a defendant's return for the next court date, in exchange for the defendant's release.

- a. A fine
- b. Restitution
- c. Bail
- d. Retribution

ANSWER: c

39. ____ refers to any activity or program that is conducted to prepare parolees to return safely to the community and to live as law-abiding citizens.

- a. Compulsive education
- b. Prisoner reentry
- c. Intensive supervision
- d. Parole

ANSWER: b

40. ____ offer graduated levels of supervision and provide rewards for positive behavior, with gradually less supervision when offenders are successful.

- a. Intermediate sanctions
- b. Retributive sanctions
- c. Indeterminate sanctions
- d. Restrictive sanctions

ANSWER: a

41. ____ is the discretionary release of an offender before the expiration of his or her sentence under conditions established by the releasing authority.

- a. Probation
- b. Intermediate release
- c. Parole
- d. Determinate controlled release

ANSWER: c

42. ____ deterrence assumes that offenders who are under community supervision will refrain from committing new crimes or technical violations if they feel that the costs outweigh the benefits.

- a. General
- b. Specific
- c. Absolute
- d. Initial

ANSWER: b

43. ____ is focused on crime victims and emphasizes offender responsibility to repair the injustice the offender has caused.

- a. Restorative justice
- b. Community justice

- c. Community restitution
- d. Social justice

ANSWER: a

44. Restorative justice is most effective with ____ crimes.

- a. domestic violence
- b. nonviolent
- c. violent drug-related
- d. sexual

ANSWER: b

45. ____ is a form of corrections that uses current best practices or interventions for which there is consistent and solid scientific evidence showing that they work to meet intended outcomes.

- a. Evidence-based practice
- b. Outcome-based education
- c. Evaluative-based practice
- d. Empirical research

ANSWER: a

46. Using an intermediate sanction as a stiffer punishment for offenders who would have ordinarily been sentenced to probation or other lesser sanctions is known as

- a. community service.
- b. net widening.
- c. prison population reduction.
- d. deferring sentence.

ANSWER: b

47. The most commonly used dependent variable when evaluating the effectiveness of correctional treatment programs is _____.

- a. financial goals and objectives
- b. recidivism
- c. restitution collected
- d. number of probationers employed

ANSWER: b

48. Measures of recidivism include which of the following?

- a. Rearrest
- b. Reconviction
- c. Reincarceration
- d. All of these

ANSWER: d

49. The public demands correctional programs that satisfy both _____ and public safety

- objectives.
a. treatment
b. punishment
c. restoration
d. counseling

ANSWER: b

Completion

50. The release of a convicted offender under conditions imposed by the court for a specified period of time during which the court retains the authority to modify the conditions or to resentence the offender if he or she violates the conditions is known as _____.

ANSWER: probation

51. Community service, house arrest, day fines, and boot camps are examples of _____.

ANSWER: intermediate sanctions

52. ____ sentencing provides a range of punishments and allows the parole board to determine when an offender has been rehabilitated.

ANSWER: Indeterminate

53. ____ became the first U.S. state to return to a determinate sentencing structure.

ANSWER: Maine

54. A “flat sentence” is the same as a(n) ____ sentence.

ANSWER: determinate

55. The three main decision points in the corrections system are bail, sentencing, and _____.

ANSWER: reentry

56. Examples of _____ sentencing policies include mandatory minimums, truth-in-sentencing, three strikes laws, and sentencing guidelines.

ANSWER: determinate

57. Correctional policy is in many ways a(n) _____, because it shifts according to the tide of public perception and what is important to vocal constituents and public interest groups.

ANSWER: paradox

58. _____ is a monetary payment deposited with the court to ensure the return of a defendant charged with a crime.

ANSWER: Bail

59. _____ refers to the correctional process in which offenders are exposed to treatment in the hopes of correcting those issues that may be causing them to commit crime.

ANSWER: Rehabilitation

60. The ____ assumes at a basic level that offender compliance and active participation are integral to the offender's own success on community supervision.

ANSWER: participation process model

61. Any activity or program to prepare parolees to return safely to the community is called _____.

ANSWER: prisoner reentry

62. The philosophy and sanction of allowing the offender to remain in the community with the responsibility of repairing the injustice caused to the victim is _____.

ANSWER: restorative justice

63. _____ refers to correctional programs and techniques examined by systematic evaluation research to be the most effective way to treat offenders in the community.

ANSWER: Evidence-based practices

64. Return to criminal behavior, usually measured as either rearrest, reconviction, or reincarceration, is referred to as _____.

ANSWER: recidivism

Essay

65. What does a "continuum of sanctions" mean in the sentencing process? If you were a judge, how would you apply this continuum?

ANSWER: Figure 1.1 shows the wide variety of community-based sanctions available, including residential programs (e.g., halfway houses and therapeutic communities), economic sanctions (e.g., restitution, fines, and forfeitures), and nonresidential or outpatient options (e.g., probation, parole, and electronic monitoring). As a judge, I would apply this continuum by comparing the risks and needs presented by the offender to the ability of the chosen sanction to control the risk and meet the needs. At the most restrictive/punitive end of the continuum, I would reserve institutional corrections only

for those offenses warranting retributive sentencing or to prevent any further crime by the offender until programming could be completed addressing the needs of the offender that would serve to diminish the probability of future criminal acts. As the degree of risk and severity of needs decrease, the sanction chosen from the continuum would be reduced commensurately all the way down to regular probation.

66. What recent factors have contributed to correctional growth in the United States?

ANSWER: Box 1.1 shows the latest government statistics regarding the number of people currently on some form of correctional supervision. As of December 31, 2006, there were 4.2 million offenders on probation, and nearly 800,000 on parole, which is considerably more than the 2.3 million offenders incarcerated in jail and prison. Over the last seven years, there was an average increase of 2.4% of prisoners and 1.7% of those on community supervision each year in the corrections system (Bonczar, 2008; Glaze & Bonczar, 2008). The number of female offenders has grown as well, although women have always been underrepresented in the criminal justice system in comparison to their numbers in the general population. Sources say that, in the last 15 years, the number of women on probation and parole has doubled. Although this sounds like a lot, women still comprise only 12% of all parolees and 23% of probationers today. Although the increase is showing signs of slowing down some, the increase in convicted offenders is directly related to a number of factors, including changes in sentencing laws, an increase of probation and parole violators returning to prison, a decreased rate of release on discretionary parole, and differential police responses to drug offenses (Beck, 2000).

67. When examining research on sentencing in the United States, what is the real value in public opinion poll research compared to social science research?

ANSWER: Public opinion research on sentencing preferences demonstrated higher validity when the public was given diverse sentencing options and adequate information, such as program descriptions and detailed information about an offense or an offender. However, readers are cautioned that exposure to information may have only short-term effects rather than lasting effects, as many beliefs about crime and punishment are based on emotional rather than rational arguments (Maruna & King, 2008). This reliance on emotional reactions may lead to temporary increases in funding for particular programs, policies, or sanctions. However, it may also lead to the continuance of having punishments that do not achieve the desired outcomes. A good example is three strikes legislation that has not always resulted in removing only the most serious offenders from society. Conversely, valid social science research removes the emotional response and measures the degree of effectiveness of programs based on the program's ability to achieve desired outcomes/goals.

68. What are "evidence-based practices," and will their usage just be another short-lived correctional idea?

ANSWER: Decreasing risk, increasing rehabilitation, and restorative justice are important components in changing offenders' attitudes and behaviors, leading to the prevention of future criminal behavior. Part of the challenge therein lies in public recognition of the importance that community corrections serves to increase public safety and in the method of choice for those who break the law. One of the ways to accomplish such an image change is through evidence-based practices. EBP are not based on intuition,

speculation, anecdotal evidence, or tradition (e.g., “that’s the way we’ve always done it around here”). Rather, EBP are grounded in empirical data and research in studying what works. The idea behind EBP in corrections is that agencies should use only the most successful programs. The programs that are the best are effective in changing offender behavior—whether that behavior is reducing rearrest, reducing technical violations, increasing the number of drug-free days, or increasing the number of days the offender is working or employed while on supervision. Each goal will need a way to be measured empirically—meaning accurate data needs to be recorded electronically for later evaluation. If EBP are successful in describing programs that work and reduce crime and fear of crime, then they will be accepted. However, in the past, members of the public have relied upon recidivism as the variable that comes to their minds when discussing success. If recidivism is not reduced, then it is possible that EBP will not be accepted on a long-term basis.