

0972

**Practice and possibilities: Growing occupational therapy in criminal justice settings**

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**Rationale:** Prisoners and parolees present a myriad of occupational performance problems. Occupational deprivation may lead to abandonment of participation in natural occupations. OTs can address these needs yet many have limited knowledge of literature or practice. This workshop shares a recent scoping review of OT literature examining OT roles/practices in criminal justice and two studies surveying practice in the U.S. and comparing practices in different countries. Program examples that may inform the development of practice are included.

**Method:** Systematically searched 5 databases using consistent terms/established protocols. Relevant literature was quantitatively/qualitatively categorized. Surveyed practitioners working in criminal settings and educators using these environments for training in in the U.S., Canada, the U.K and Australia.

**Results:** >100 journal articles were analyzed in review. Literature includes assessment, program descriptions or training opportunities for OT students. Research literature is limited but explores independent living, sensory/emotional regulation, gender specific issues, ADLs, role functioning, time use and participation. Survey data revealed work settings and practice models, assessments and interventions frequently used.

**Conclusion.** OT has long recognized the role we may play in addressing the needs of prisoners and parolees who face multiple occupational injustices. Recent attempts to survey literature and practice can inform practice and create possibilities.

**Objectives:**

- Define the extent and type of literature that defines the role of occupational therapy in criminal justice systems
- Articulate recurring characteristics of occupational therapy assessment and intervention for practice in criminal justice settings
- Describe examples of OT programming and imagine future practice possibilities