Mistreatment Of Prisoners In The U.S
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**Mistreatment Of Prisoners**

- Correction officers have a lot of power over inmates and sometimes abuse it to the point where the inmates are being mistreated.
- There are a lot of unreported crimes that are committed in prisons that go without any punishment which is bad for the safety and the well-being of the inmates.
- Solitary confinement can have negative effects mentally and physically on inmates.

**Abuse Of Power By Correctional Officers**

- Corrections officers are given authority over prison inmates.
- There are times when the authority they are given is abused and their misconduct is an unfortunate consequence. As a result, prison inmates are wrongfully treated.
- One way that corrections officers abuse their power is often by assaulting prisoners sexually. This is unethical and highly illegal.
- It is noted that sexual abuse perpetrated on an inmate by a guard should be characterized as cruel and unusual punishment because it harms an inmate psychologically and sometimes physically.
- To face sexual contact, fondling, solicitous threats, and offers for quid pro quo exchanges from an official who controls every aspect of an inmate’s life is serious harassment.

**Unreported Crime Within The Prison**

- Among the male inmate population, a fear of the inmate subculture is one of the primary reasons often cited for not reporting sexual assault.
- Inmates report being afraid of retaliatory action by their attackers or other inmates for violating the convict code, as well as involving correctional officers in matters that could be settled among themselves (Alarid, 2000; Beck & Hughes2005; Chonco, 1989).
- Even inmates who simply witness a sexual assault are likely to not report it (Banbury, 2004; O’Donnell & Edgar, 1998), suggesting that the fear of retaliation is so pervasive that even those who are not directly involved in altercations are disinclined to involve officials.” Basically, inmates are too scared to report their attackers in prison because they are “violating a convict code” by involving correctional officers. What is surprising is why they don’t tell. Can’t they seek some type of help? Maybe they fear that the correctional officers don’t want to help.

**Unfair Punishments (Solitary Confinement)**

- Although conditions vary from state to state in different institutions, systematic policies and conditions of control and oppression used in isolation and segregation can include:
  - confinement for 23 hours a day
  - limited contact with other human beings
  - infrequent calls and rare non-contact family visits
  - restricted personal property
  - violence and much more.
- What makes solitary confinement such a cruel punishment in itself is the mental torture and the effects it can have on a human being.
- Solitary confinement causes prisoners significant mental harm and places them at grave risk of even more devastating future psychological harm.
- According to researchers, prolonged solitary confinement causes a persistent and heightened state of anxiety and nervousness, headaches, insomnia, lethargy or chronic tiredness, nightmares, heart palpitations, and fear of impending nervous breakdowns.

**Citation**


