ESC Prison Working Group Annual Meeting

Secondary analysis of data collected over a 20 year period by HM Inspectorate of Prisons

27th March 2023
11:30 to 11:45 am

Welcome

1. Introduction to the Project

2. The Project's Objectives

3. Building the Foundations

4. The Project's Outcomes

5. Methods

6. The Survey

7. The Data's Potential

8. The Database

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An Introduction to the Project…

- **20 years** of HMIP prison inspections and surveys

- Historic survey data from almost **100,000 respondents**

- More than **10 million** analysable responses

- Collected from every **prison** in England and Wales

The Project Objectives…

The Project seeks to develop a **20 year database** of detainee surveys to:

- *Identify* prisoners' **self-reported characteristics and experiences** of imprisonment with regard to key elements of their treatment and conditions

- *Understand* how these perceptions differ according to **prisoners' characteristics** and **circumstances**, **sentence type**, and changes in the **external environment**

- *Use* this knowledge to **inform** the work of **practitioners** and **policy makers**

- *Prepare* aspects of the **database** for use by other academic researchers, teachers and policy makers

Building the Foundations...

The Feasibility Study

- Initial exploration of prisoner survey responses over the last 20 years

- Conducted February to June 2020

- In partnership between RHUL and HMIP

Set out to:

- Establish the **extent** of the survey data held,

- the **ethical** and **practical** problems involved in accessing and using it (**focus groups** with currently serving prisoners), and

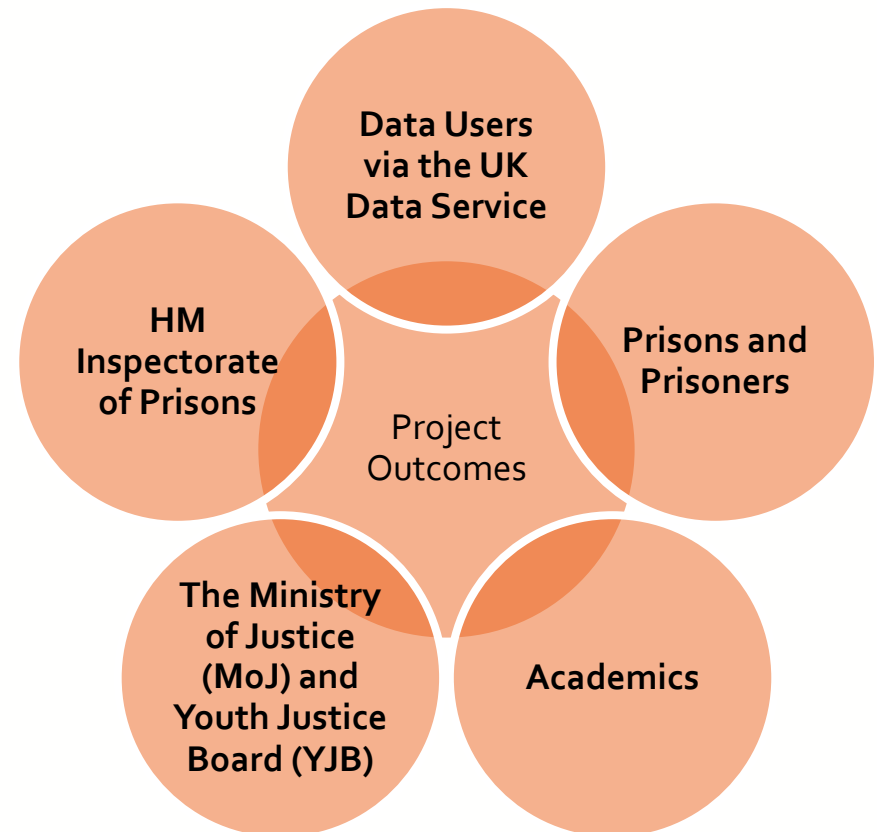- included undertaking the initial **pilot study**.

Building the Foundations…

Outcomes: Three peer-reviewed **academic papers** co-authored by RHUL and HMIP

- Quinn, A., Denney, D., Hardwick, N., Jalil, R. and Meek, R. (2020) The **feasibility** and challenge of using administrative data: a case study of historical prisoner surveys, International Journal of Social Research Methodology.

- Quinn, A., Shaw, C., Hardwick, N., Meek, R., Moore, C., Ranns, H. and Sahni, S. (2020) Prisoner interpretations and **expectations** for the governance of survey data. Criminal Justice Ethics 39: 3, 163-182.

- Quinn, A. Hardwick, N. and Meek, R. (2021) With age comes respect? And for whom exactly? A quantitative examination of prisoner **experiences** of respect elicited through HM Inspectorate of Prisons survey responses. The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice 60: 2, pages 251-272.

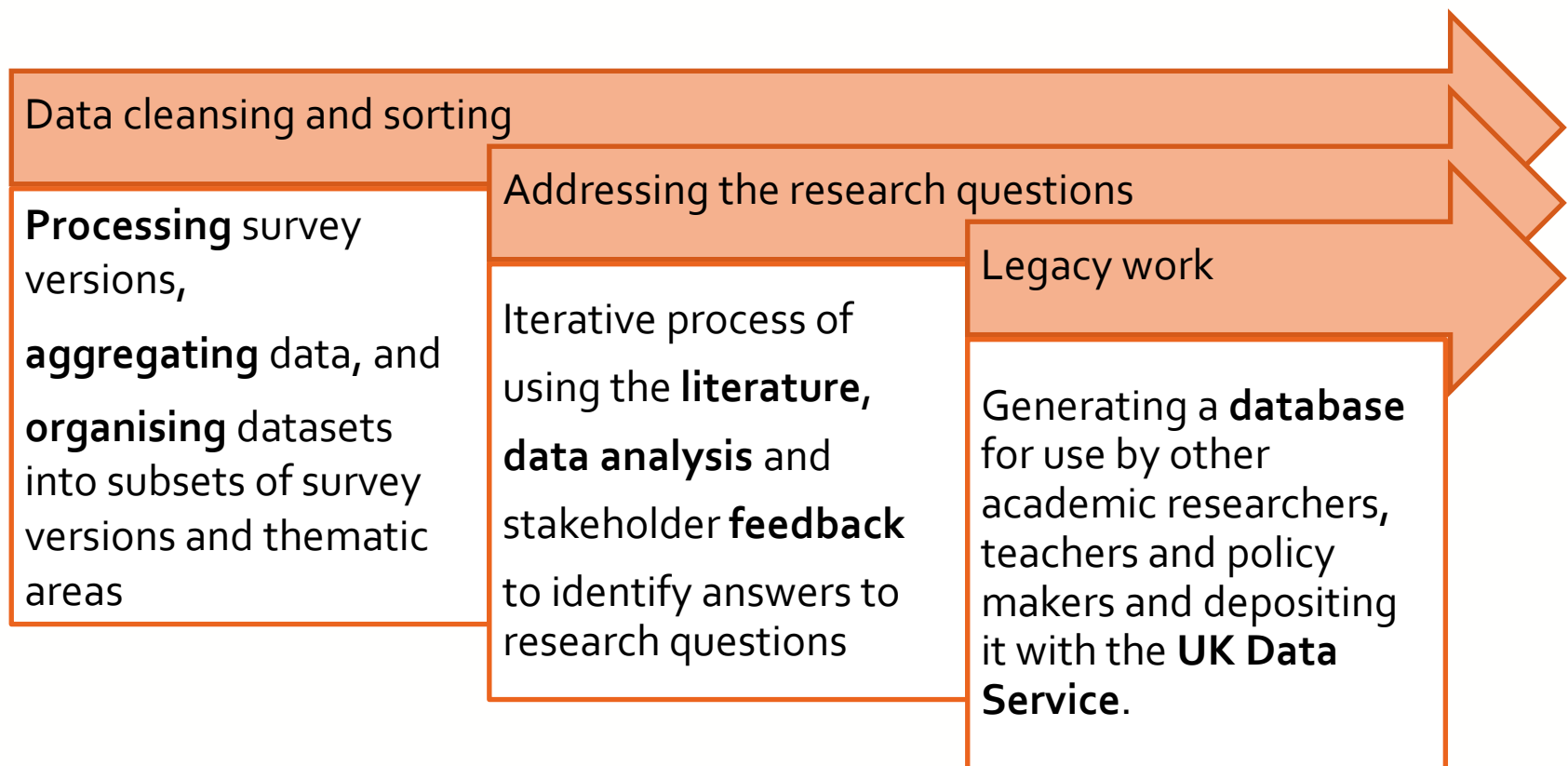Generating **policy impact** and **advancing knowledge**

- Research questions, papers and practitioner guides

  - Safety

  - Purposeful Activities

  - Reoffending

  - Policy Changes

- Impact on policy and practice

- Accessible data for future research

- User manual for guidance

Data Users via the UK Data Service

Prisons and Prisoners

HM Inspectorate of Prisons

Project Outcomes

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Youth Justice Board (YJB)

Academics

Methods…

Three distinct but overlapping streams to the work

Data cleansing and sorting

Addressing the research questions

Legacy work

Processing survey versions,

aggregating data, and

organising datasets into subsets of survey versions and thematic areas

Iterative process of using the **literature**, **data analysis** and stakeholder **feedback** to identify answers to research questions

Generating a **database** for use by other academic researchers, teachers and policy makers and depositing it with the **UK Data Service**.

The Detainee Survey…

- Surveyed **institutions**:

  Prisons, Young Offender Institutions, Secure Training Centres, Immigration Removal Centres, and Military Detention Centres

- Survey is handed out to a **representative sample** of the prison population; sample size is calculated to ensure that findings reflect the experience of the entire establishment population

- Overall **response rate** between 75% and 85%

- Questions follow the **detainee's journey** and seek to ascertain the **detainee's perspective** on how they are treated

- **Themes:**

Hexagonal theme map containing: Planning and progression, Likelihood of reoffending, On the wing, Safety, Background information, Time out of cell, Behaviour Management, First night and induction, Education, Preparation for release, Arrival and reception, Relationship with staff, Faith, Food and canteen, Contact with family and friends, Alcohol and drugs, Health care, Support needs

The Detainee Survey…

Current survey version (men): 20 pages, 20 thematic sections, 115 questions

Data allow for

- Comparing detainees' experiences in the **inspected establishment** to the experiences of detainees in **similar establishments**,

- Comparing **current experiences** of detainees in the inspected establishment to those reported in **previous inspections** in the same establishments, and

- Conducting **sub-group analyses** to compare characteristics and experiences of different populations (age, gender, ethnicity, functional type, etc.)

The Data and its Potential…

Example: Feeling safe by prison functional type over time.

LOCALS: DID YOU FEEL SAFE ON YOUR FIRST NIGHT HERE?

Legend: ■ yes ■ no

Year	yes	no
2010	80%	20%
2011	74%	26%
2012	80%	20%
2013	76%	24%
2014	77%	24%
2015	71%	29%
2016	68%	32%
2017	68%	32%
2018	64%	36%
2019	66%	34%
2021	70%	30%

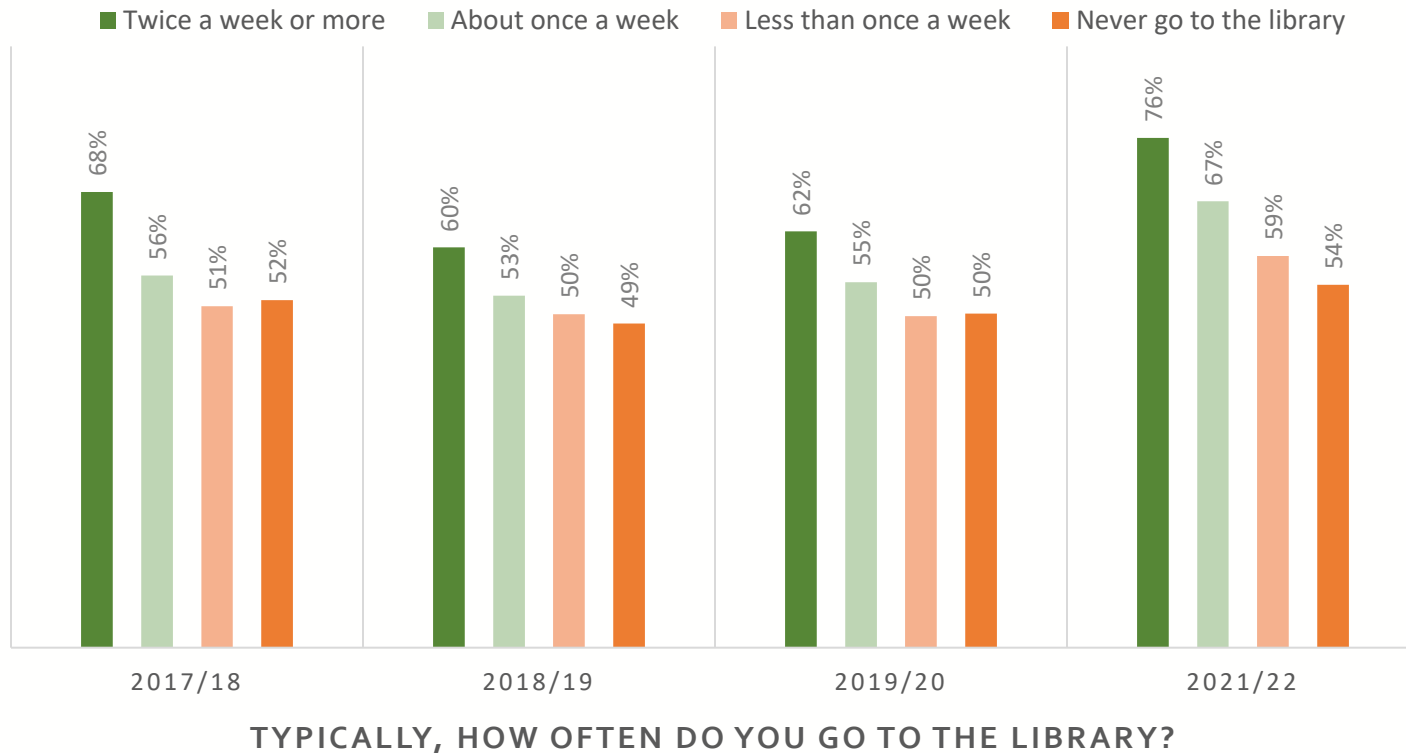**Example:** Prisoners who report that they visit the **library** frequently are those who also report that their experiences in prison made them less likely to **offend** in the future.
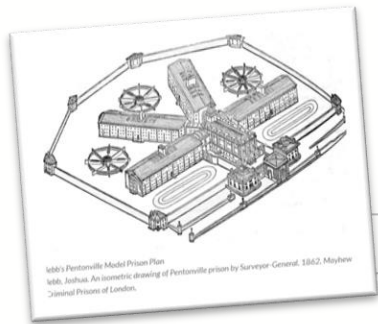

MY EXPERIENCES IN THIS PRISON MADE ME LESS LIKELY TO OFFEND IN THE FUTURE...

- Twice a week or more
- About once a week
- Less than once a week
- Never go to the library

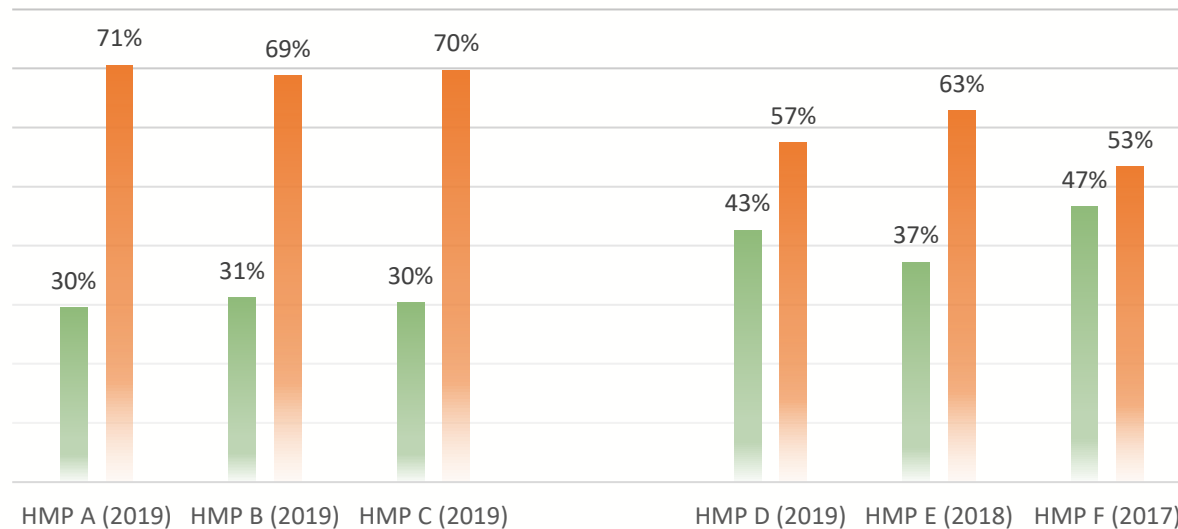|	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22
Twice a week or more	68%	60%	62%	76%
About once a week	56%	53%	55%	67%
Less than once a week	51%	50%	50%	59%
Never go to the library	52%	49%	50%	54%

TYPICALLY, HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO TO THE LIBRARY?

Example: Prison design and staff-prisoner relationships.

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE TREATED AS AN INDIVIDUAL IN THIS PRISON

yes no

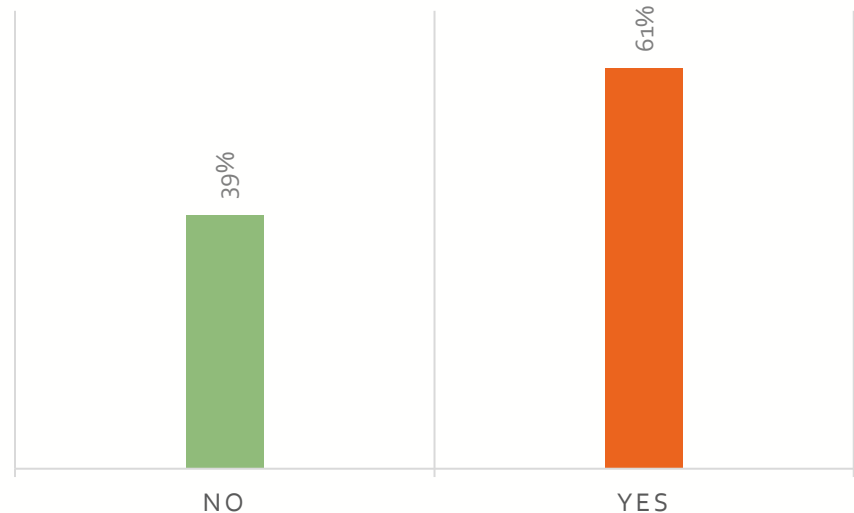|	yes	no
HMP A (2019)	30%	71%
HMP B (2019)	31%	69%
HMP C (2019)	30%	70%
HMP D (2019)	43%	57%
HMP E (2018)	37%	63%
HMP F (2017)	47%	53%

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Example: Women and Mental Health (2021-22)

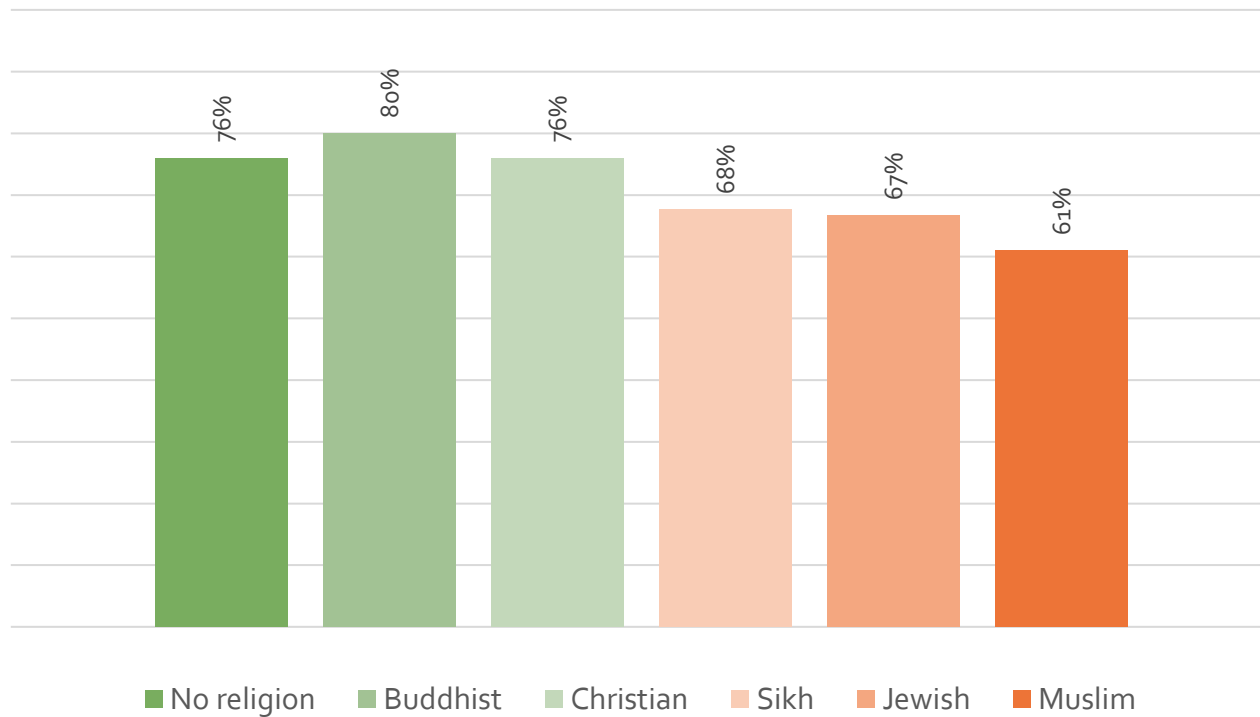**60%** of women **did not** report any **mental health** problems when they **first** arrived.

OF THOSE: DO YOU [NOW] HAVE ANY MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS?

Bar chart:
- NO: 39%
- YES: 61%

The Data and its Potential…

Example: Prisoner-staff relationships (support) by religious group.

ARE THERE ANY STAFF MEMBERS YOU COULD TURN TO IF YOU
HAD A PROBLEM? PERCENTAGE 'YES' BY FUNCTIONAL TYPE
FOR 2021/22.

Bar chart showing percentage 'yes' by religious group:
- No religion: 76%
- Buddhist: 80%
- Christian: 76%
- Sikh: 68%
- Jewish: 67%
- Muslim: 61%

The Database…

- Data analysed within the project is deposited to the **UK Data Service** upon completion of the project (**JUNE 2023**).

- Detainee survey data is classified as **'safeguarded data'**; this requires

    - users to be registered with the UK Data Service,

    - for depositors to grant permission, and

    - for data to be accessed for non-commercial purposes.

- The data is **accompanied** with **documents** that provide clear instructions on how to navigate the historical HMIP survey data.

- At present, data is available to users from the **European Economic Area** (EEA; EU member states + Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway); please **do get in touch**, though, if you are interested and from a non-EEA country.

Get Involved...

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