

Recidivism and Interventions:

A Measure of the Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System



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Introduction

- Recidivism: “Criminal acts that resulted in rearrest, reconviction or return to prison with or without a new sentence during a three-year period following the person's release.” (NJJ)

Currently, the rate of recidivism in the United States is at 76.6%, an extremely high number for a developed country (Benecchi 2021). Providing incarcerated people with basic rights, freedoms, and privileges help make prison more humane, and increase chances of successful reentry. Music and arts therapies and other interventions reduce the rate of recidivism, need more funding and awareness, and need other systemic changes to realize their full potential.



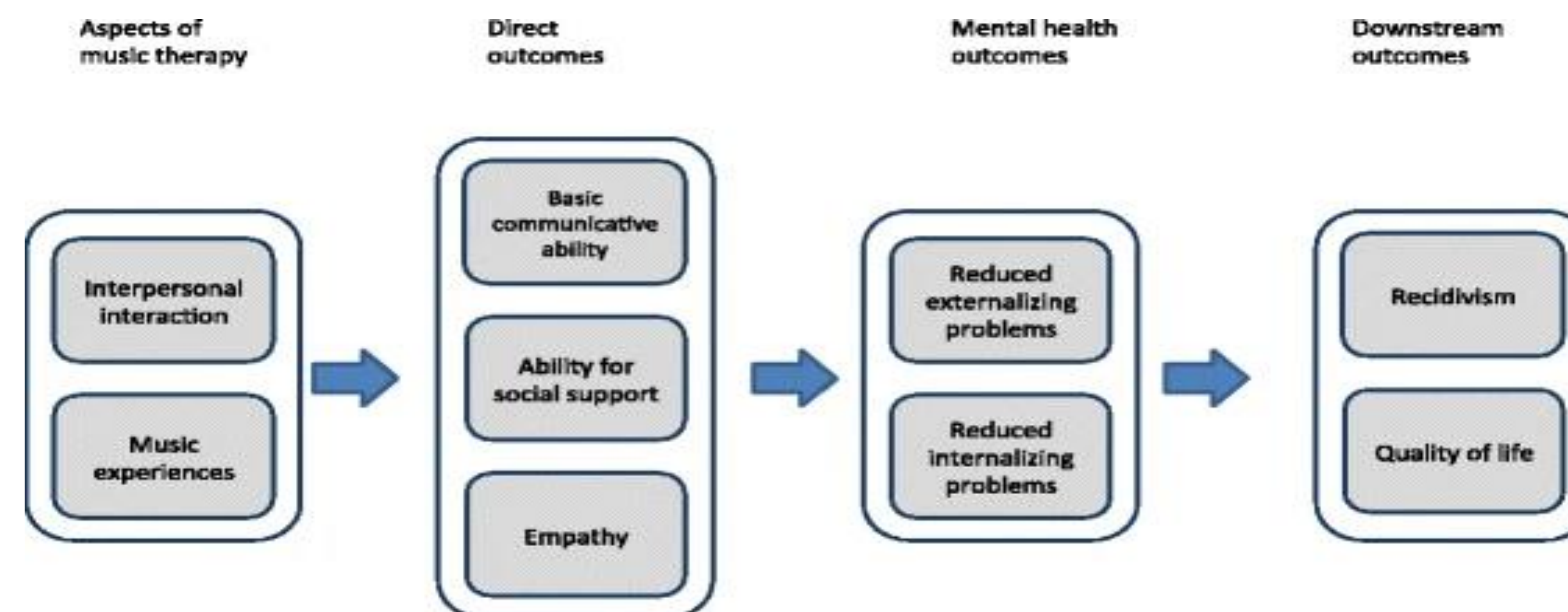
Source: Huffington Post (2014)

Methods

After deciding on this topic, I reviewed published studies and research conducted from 2010 to the present. After gathering my resources, I wrote a ten page Researched Argumentative Essay, making sure to cite Marginalized and Underrepresented Scholars in my work.

Findings

- Music production and consumption were used to construct identity in reaction to the deconstructive effects of incarceration, leading to reported improvements in self-esteem and self-efficacy.
- Participants no longer saw themselves as prisoners or criminals; they actively reconfigured their identities through music. (Dickie-Johnson, Meek; 2020)



Source: Music therapy for improving mental health problems of offenders in correctional settings (Chen, Leith, Aarø, Manger, Gold; 2016)

Conclusion

Our current criminal justice system is ineffective. We need to provide incarcerated people with basic rights, freedoms, and privileges in order to make prison a more humane and healthier place for all involved.

Once we start implementing these changes, we will see a decrease in recidivism, and an overall healthier society.

- “An examination of policies and programs for incarcerated youth suggests that it is not well understood by many policymakers and practitioners” (Wolf, Holochwost 2016).
- The key to reducing recidivism is rehabilitation and compassionate intervention.



Source: The Cisterian Informer (2021)



Full essay here.