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Receiving visits in Dutch prisons: a study on the determinants and consequences of prison visitation

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Propositions pertaining to the dissertation

RECEIVING VISITS IN DUTCH PRISONS:

A study on the determinants and consequences of prison visitation

from Maria Berghuis

1. If individuals are placed in prisons close to their social network, they will likely receive more visits.
2. Individuals who have an extensive criminal history are not necessarily less likely to be visited in prison, but are less likely to receive visits from certain relationships.
3. Expanding visit opportunities should not be taken to mean that visits will have a positive influence on an individuals' behavior in prison.
4. Not receiving visits in itself, but receiving consistent, frequent visits reduces recidivism in the short term.
5. Labels used in official (prison) administrative data should be assessed for reliability and validity.
6. Social ecological models are necessary for understanding the complexity of social interactions.
7. A wider application of multilevel methods in prison research would lead to more reliable estimates of the effects of policies and practices on individual behavior, and over time, help identify effective interventions.
8. Informal social control is a viable explanation for deviant behavior within and beyond prison walls.
9. Learn to let go of perfectionism: "We are all made of strength and struggle." (Brené Brown)
10. The true value of research lies in its potential to improve the decision making of policy makers and contribute to policies and practices that have a dramatic impact on peoples' lives.