The impact of electronic monitoring compared to prison sentence. An experience research.

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11th Annual Conference of the ESC: Rethinking crime and punishment in Europe

Panel session: Alternatives to imprisonment

23 September 2011
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A. Introduction
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A. Introduction

› Electronic monitoring (= EM)

› Research on EM
  › General research
  › Experience research: two tracks

› Gaps in existing academic experience research about EM

› Aim of this presentation
B. Assumptions concerning EM

› Policy: EM is a more humane alternative for imprisonment that generates less harmful side-effects

› Public: convict bogey syndrome: EM is a ‘soft’ alternative for imprisonment
C. Methodology

› Population
  › Convicts living in Flanders, punished with EM

› Sample selection
  › Criteria: Flanders, region, gender, stage of EM

› Contact and setting
  › House of Justice

› Qualitative interviews
  › 27 open interviews about their experience with EM
D. Results

- D1. General
- D2. Social life
- D3. Work and finances
- D4. Freedom
- D5. Emotional and physical effects
D1. General

› ET vs imprisonment

› An experience is unique

› General view
  › Punishment AND favour
  › Advantages > disadvantages
  › Preference: EM (sometimes prison)
D2. Social life

› Biggest advantage: being at home

› Family: being together with partner and children
  › But: ↑ discussions because of EM

› Relatives and friends
  › Maintain relations with relatives and friends
  › Contact new persons: difficult
  › Sometimes: interruption of contact
D3. Work and finances

› Work:
  › Ability to work
  › Hard to find work

› Finances
  › Income
    › By working
    › By Justice
  › Costs because of EM
    › Telephone charges
    › Relocation costs
D4. Freedom

» They feel freedom because they aren’t confined
   » Freedom of choice
   » At some moments, they may go outside

» Difficulties: limited freedom
   » Geographical restriction
   » Keep regular hours to go outside
   » Result: temptation
D5. Emotional effects

- The feeling of being watched
- Stress
- Fear
- Visibility of EM
E. Conclusion

› Soft alternative?
  ▪ ET > imprisonment
  ▪ Advantages BUT also disadvantages
    • Pay attention to both
      Now: no attention to the disadvantages

› Assumptions need to be refined
F. Bibliography


