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A Typology of Verbal Abuse in Prisons and Potential Predictors

The main aim of the research is to understand the different categories of verbal abuse in prisons and their potential predictors. Victims of workplace verbal abuse may experience adverse mental health outcomes and burnout. To understand verbal abuse against Correction Officers, we will develop a typology examining the differences between verbal incidents. We will use this typology to identify different types of verbal abuse, perpetrators, and the context behind the verbal abuse. We will develop our verbal abuse typology by examining narrative data from Ara Poutama Aotearoa from incident reports made by Correction Officers. This narrative data includes reports of verbal incidents perpetrated by a prisoner towards a Correction Officer. We have coded 200 reports to identify three main types of verbal abuse, and identified characteristics around the incidents, what triggered them and the function for those who carry them out. This research has both theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically it will help us understand the differences between verbal incidents, hate crime, and personal attacks. Practically, this research could inform stakeholders of the Department of Corrections.

Outputs: Full draft of dissertation produced

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