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## Selecting a Floor Machine with a KISS

By *Mike Schaffer*

**Published: 07/12/2010**



In the last few years, manufacturers in the professional cleaning industry have introduced a number of new floor machines, automatic scrubbers, and burnishers designed to make floor care easier, faster, and Greener. These new machines are being introduced in all sizes, designs, and price points.

However, some of the new machines are so new that many end customers are not sure which machine is best for them and their floor-care needs. Although it is exciting that new floor-care technologies are evolving, it must be admitted that at this time, it may also be causing some end-customer confusion.

Large facilities, such as correctional facilities are unsure if they should select some new technology now or hold off until it has been around for a while, waiting to hear what others have to say about the machine. And the severe restrictions on correctional facility budgets have made selecting any new technology, especially if it is a more expensive technology, all the more difficult.

The answer to the dilemma? Now is the best time to use the KISS formula when selecting floor-care equipment: Keep It Simple...and Straightforward.

### **KISS...in Practice**

As it relates to automatic scrubbers and other types of floor-care equipment, the KISS formula involves the following five concepts, all of which are critical to proper, cost-efficient, and environmentally responsible floor care:

1. **Performance:** At the top of the list is proper machine performance. Floors should be done right the first time. Usually this entails selecting a “world-class” machine. This means the machine is designed to work on a wide variety of floors and meets specific standards as to craftsmanship, durability, versatility, and comfort for a broad diversity of users.
2. **Productivity and ease of operation:** The cost of floor care is typically 80 percent to 90 percent labor.

Worker productivity can be enhanced by selecting equipment with an appropriately wide cleaning path; large solution and recovery tanks so that the machine performs longer with less downtime; a simple operator interface; ergonomic handles; and an easy-to-read control panel. For a correctional facility, a machine with a 26-inch cleaning path and solution/recovery tanks of 26 to 28 inches should be suitable.

3. **Serviceability:** Although most automatic scrubbers have become considerably more durable and reliable in recent years, batteries, vacuum hoses, and some other components may still need changes or adjustments. (See sidebar for more on battery care.) A “clam shell” design with a wide-opening hood makes equipment maintenance safe and straightforward and makes it easier to diagnose problems. Also, some machines now have “peel-back” shrouds covering the pads. This means pads are easier to access, and with some machines, they can be changed without tools.
4. **Safety:** A few automatic scrubbers now come with built-in worker safeguards that help avoid accidents. These safeguards include maintenance-free, nonspill, eco-friendly batteries; a clear sight line so work views are unobstructed; and parabolic squeegees, which ensure moisture recovery, helping to prevent slips and falls.
5. **Green:** Some autoscrubbers are now powered by a new type of eco-friendly battery that is far safer to use and is essentially maintenance free. Additionally, many newer scrubbers clean effectively with less water, which typically means less chemical as well, making them more sustainable as well as Green. Finally, the quieter machines on the market help reduce worker fatigue, bolster morale, and improve productivity, all aspects of Green cleaning.

## **A Note about Chemicals**

Unless the selected floor machine has been designed to perform without water, automatic scrubbers do require some cleaning solution, Green or conventional, to achieve the best results. By thoroughly removing soils, the look and life span of the floor are improved. Many chemical manufacturers now have cleaning agents that perform exceptionally well on floors. Although this includes environmentally preferable chemicals, most users and their distributors suggest trying brands made by different manufacturers before finalizing a selection.

As to finishes, many now have high solid content that resists wear, requires fewer coats (which helps cut costs), and leaves a tough, high-gloss shine. Additionally, many of these finishes can be high-speed burnished or spray buffed using a lower speed machine to quickly restore shine and gloss.

Correctional facility managers should also be aware of one more thing when it comes to chemicals. Many floor-care products are designed by manufacturers to work better together. For instance, a manufacturer may formulate cleaning agents and other chemicals to work well with their finishes and other floor-care products. It's often a good idea to test a manufacturer's cleaning and scrubbing chemical solutions first. If these perform satisfactorily, then try their other floor-care glosses and finishes.

## **Final Thoughts**

No matter what type of automatic scrubber has been selected, some basic care and maintenance issues apply to all machines. First and paramount to ensuring best-practice use of equipment is training. Many distributors will take the time to teach users how to properly operate the machine. This includes not only the actual scrubbing and cleaning function but also the correct start-up and shut-down procedures for the machine as well as instruction on how to service those items that can be repaired or adjusted in-house.

Automatic scrubbers should be inspected on a set schedule. Often this is best accomplished by having a log “checkoff” system. This formalizes the process and ensures that the machine is checked frequently and as scheduled. If a problem is noted, it should be listed on the log, dated, and brought to supervisory attention.

Also, there are some safety issues in regards to storing floor-care chemicals and finishes. Cleaning chemicals can create hazardous conditions, and even storing certain types of cleaning chemicals together can increase the likelihood that a health threat may arise. This is because chemicals can release fumes that when mixed with other fumes, can cause hazardous chemical reactions. A good policy is to store large quantities of cleaning chemicals by type in a safe, secure, out of the way location. Place smaller and more limited quantities of chemicals in facility working areas and janitorial closets.

With both floor-care machines and chemicals, make sure the equipment is used and operated per the manufacturers' recommendations, mixing directions, and guidelines. Failure to do so not only can hamper performance and results but also may result in an injury, risk the safety of others in the facility, and even void the equipment's warranty.

Mike Schaffer is president of Tornado® Industries, a leading manufacturer of professional cleaning equipment.

### **Sidebar: Battery Maintenance**

The following are some routine battery maintenance tips to keep floor machine batteries in tip-top condition:

- Check the water level regularly (if applicable).
- Check cables and connectors for cleanliness and make sure these parts are tight.
- Check the connections and cables on a regular basis, even when using sealed or maintenance-free batteries.
- Periodically charge deep-cycle batteries (a more conventional lead-acid battery) to maintain battery life, ensure the battery holds its charge, and ensure the floor machine is ready for use when needed.
- Keep all batteries and battery-operated equipment away from heat sources when stored. Heat can severely damage a battery.

**Remember to always wear safety glasses when servicing batteries.**

\*An automatic scrubber is a floor machine designed to perform three functions, all in one pass: apply cleaning solution to the floor, scrub the floor, and then vacuum dry and squeegee the floor.

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## National Study of Inmate Suicide

By *National Center on Institutions and Alternatives*

**Published: 05/29/2010**



*Dramatic decrease in rate of suicide and changing profile of victims cited.*

Mansfield, Mass., May 19, 2010. The National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA) released a major study on jail suicide on May 19, 2010. The study, commissioned by the U.S. Justice Department's National Institute of Corrections, found a dramatic decrease in the rate of suicide in county jails during the past 20 years. The suicide rate in county jails was calculated to be 38 deaths per 100,000 inmates, which was approximately 3 times greater than that in the general population of the United States (at 11 deaths 100,000 citizens), but nearly

a threefold decrease from 107 suicides per 100,000 inmates reported by NCIA in similar Justice Department commissioned-study released in 1986.

According to Lindsay M. Hayes, NCIA Project Director and author of the *National Study of Jail Suicide: 20 Years Later*, "the recent decrease is extraordinary." He said there may be several explanations for the reduced suicide rate. "During the past several years, national studies of jail suicide have given a face to this longstanding and often ignored public health issue in the nation's jails," Hayes stated. He then added, "The increased awareness of inmate suicide, coupled with the threat of liability, is also reflected in national correctional standards that now recommend comprehensive suicide prevention programming, better training of jail staff, and more in-depth inquiry of suicide risk factors during the intake process." With strong data to indicate that suicides can be prevented, Hayes emphasized that "the antiquated mindset that 'inmate suicides cannot be prevented' should forever be put to rest."

Despite this encouraging data, Hayes stressed that suicide continues to be a leading cause of death in jails across the country. The current study, a follow-up to a similar national survey that NCIA conducted for the Justice Department in 1986, resulted in a 68-page report of the findings that Hayes said "can be used as a resource tool for both jail personnel in expanding their knowledge base and administrators in creating and/or revising policies and training curricula on suicide prevention."

The study identified 696 jail suicides in 2005 and 2006 combined, with 612 deaths occurring in detention

facilities (housing individuals for more than 72 hours) and 84 in holding facilities (housing individuals for less than 72 hours). To ensure confidentiality and increase cooperation with surveyed agencies, individual states and jail facilities were not identified in the report. The findings are shown below. *Significant findings are in bold and italics.*

#### Suicide Victims:

- 67% were white.
- 93% were male.
- The average age was 35.
- 42% were single.
- 43% were held on a personal and/or violent charge.
- 47% had a history of substance abuse.
- 28% had a history of medical problems.
- **38% had a history of mental illness.**
- 20% had a history of taking psychotropic medication.
- **34% had a history of suicidal behavior.**

#### Characteristics of Suicides:

- **Deaths were evenly distributed throughout the year; certain seasons and/or holidays did not account for more suicides.**
- 32% occurred between 3:00pm and 9:00pm.
- **24% occurred within the first 24 hours, 27% between 2 and 14 days, and 20% between 1 and 4 months.**
- 20% of the victims were intoxicated at the time of death.
- **93% of the victims used hanging as the method.**
- 66% of the victims used bedding as the instrument.
- 30% of the victims used a bed or bunk as the anchoring device.
- 31% of the victims were found dead more than 1 hour after the last observation.
- **CPR was not administered in 37% of incidents.**
- 38% of the victims were held in isolation.
- 8% of the victims were on suicide watch at the time of death.
- No-harm contracts were used in 13% of cases.
- **35% of deaths occurred close to the date of a court hearing, with 69% occurring in less than 2 days.**
- **22% occurred close to the date of a telephone call or visit, with 67% occurring in less than 1 day.**

#### Characteristics of the Jail Facilities:

- 84% percent were administered by county, 13% by municipal, 2% by private, and less than 2% by state or regional agencies.
- 77% provided intake screening to identify suicide risk, but only 27% verified the victim's suicide risk during prior confinement, and only 31% verified whether the arresting officer believed the victim was a suicide risk.

- 62% provided suicide prevention training, but 63% either did not provide training or did not provide it on an annual basis.
- 93% provided a protocol for suicide watch, but less than 2% had the option for constant observation; most (87%) used 15-minute observation periods.
- 32% maintained safe housing for suicidal inmates.
- 35% maintained a mortality review process.
- **85% maintained a written suicide prevention policy, but as shown above, suicide prevention programming was not comprehensive.**

**The Changing Face of Suicide Victims.** Twenty years after a similar survey was conducted in 1986, this *National Study of Jail Suicide: 20 Years Later* found substantial changes in the demographic characteristics of inmates who commit suicide. As shown in the table below, some of these changes were stark. For example, suicide victims once characterized as being confined on “minor other” offenses were found in the 2005-06 data to be held on “personal and/or violent” charges. Intoxication was previously viewed as a leading precursor to inmate suicide, yet recent data indicate that it is now found in only a minority of cases. Whereas more than half of all jail suicide victims were dead within the first 24 hours of confinement according to 1986 data, current data suggest that less than a quarter of all victims commit suicide during this time period, with an equal number of deaths occurring between 2 and 14 days of confinement.

#### Changing Face of Jail Suicide Victims

<b>Variables</b>	<b>1985-1986</b>	<b>2005-2006</b>
Facility Type	70% Detention	88% Detention
Race	72% White	67% White
Sex	94% Male	93% Male
Age	30	35
Marital Status	52% Single	42% Single
Most Serious Charge	29% Minor Other	43% Violent/Personal
Jail Status	89% Detained	91% Detained
Intoxication at Death	60%	20%
Time of Suicide	30% 12am to 6am	32% 3:01pm to 9pm
Length of Confinement	51% within 1st 24 hours	23% within 1st 24 hours
Method	94% Hanging	93% Hanging
Instrument	48% Bedding	66% Bedding
Time Span (Obv to finding victim)	42% found within 15 min	21% found within 15 min
Isolation	67%	38%
Known History of Suicidal Behavior	16%	34%
Known History of Mental Illness	19%	38%
Intake Screening for Suicide Risk	30%	77%
Written Suicide Prevention Policy	51%	85%

In addition, inmates who committed suicide appeared to be far less likely to be housed in isolation than previously reported and, for unknown reasons, were less likely to be found within 15 minutes of the last observation by staff. Finally, more jail facilities that experienced inmate suicides had both written suicide

prevention policies and an intake screening process to identify suicide risk than in years past, although the comprehensiveness of programming remains questionable.

According to author Hayes, findings from this study create a formidable challenge for both correctional and healthcare officials as well as their respective staff. “Although our knowledge base continues to increase, which has seemingly corresponded to a dramatic reduction in the rate of inmate suicide in detention facilities, much work lies ahead,” he said. The data indicate that inmate suicide is no longer centralized to the first 24 hours of confinement and can occur at any time during an inmate’s confinement. According to Hayes, “because roughly the same number of deaths occurred within the first several hours of custody as occurred during more than a few months of confinement, intake screening for the identification of suicide risk upon entry into a facility should be viewed as time limited.” He stressed that “because inmates can be at risk for suicide at any point during confinement, the biggest challenge for those who work in the corrections system is to view the issue as requiring a continuum of comprehensive suicide prevention services aimed at the collaborative identification, continued assessment, and safe management of inmates at risk for self-harm.”

The *National Center on Institutions and Alternatives* (NCIA) is a private, non-profit organization that is headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, with an office in Mansfield, Massachusetts. The *National Institute of Corrections* (NIC), a division of the U.S. Justice Department, provides training, technical assistance, information services, and policy/program development assistance to federal, state, and local corrections agencies. NCIA entered into a cooperative agreement with the Justice Department to conduct this national study of jail suicide. NCIA has conducted four other national studies of jail, prison, and juvenile suicide for the U.S. Justice Department. **Lindsay M. Hayes** is a nationally-recognized expert in the area of suicide prevention in correctional facilities. He has directed all five national studies, acts as a consultant to correctional facilities, and is a federal court monitor.

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The full 68-page National Study of Jail Suicide: 20 Years Later can be viewed at either:

[www.ncianet.org/suicideprevention](http://www.ncianet.org/suicideprevention)

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## The Public Image of Corrections

*By Sgt. Chris Pearson - Mass Department of Corrections*

**Published: 05/24/2010**



When the topic of public safety and law enforcement careers is mentioned and initiated for discussion, why is it that becoming a correction officer is never mentioned as a sought-after career? Why is that? Is the media to blame or are we, as professionals, causing our own negative culture?

The job of a correctional officer is a thankless job not everyone can handle. Mainstream media often portray correction officers as brutal, corrupt, ignorant bullies who take advantage of unfortunate inmates with no civil rights. Anyone who has worked in corrections knows this to be far from the truth and the daily reality is

nowhere near the image portrayed by the media and the film industry. Hollywood is usually the first to be singled out because it's an industry that reaps impressive profits from prison movies that present distorted views of correctional reality by focusing on sensationalism. The most powerful images promoting a negative stereotype are presented in classic prison movies such as *The Longest Yard*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *Escape from Alcatraz*, and *The Shawshank Redemption*. These films evoke audience sympathy for inmates and contempt for prison staff while inflaming a negative stereotype of correctional professionals. The majority of the general public has no personal knowledge of modern correctional reality, so they easily accept the rhetoric of politicians and the distorted imagery of Hollywood, especially when a corrections horror story ("Prison Guards Indicted in Inmate Beating Death") is being aired on the nightly news. This enduring fallacy is initially created by stereotypical Hollywood accounts of correctional life being reinforced by news media coverage of employee misconduct and scandals.

Even though many jails and prisons suffer from overcrowding, understaffing and overworked officers, these are the realities that don't have entertainment value and, therefore, are never detailed in movies and media coverage. Everyone likes to root for the underdog and the media loves to portray inmates as the unfortunate, neglected, mistreated and misunderstood victims of correctional monsters carrying guns, nightsticks and mace who happily practice sadism as an art form. This is an insult to the correctional men and women of today who are skilled, highly trained professionals with a majority holding college degrees. A negative public perception of a correctional organization has serious consequences, including damaging the community relations of prison systems and jeopardizing their legislative support. The failure of public officials and others to fully understand

the issues confuses the public and demoralizes corrections staff who feel as if their contributions to public safety are being minimized in the public eye.

Unfortunately, employee misconduct also reinforces negative stereotypes. Although it is only a minority of correctional employees who engage in destructive behavior at any given time, all employees are tarred with the same brush. The only antidote to this negative correctional stereotyping is community education and organizational professionalism. Both methodologies serve to enhance our image and restore credit to an honorable profession.

Hopefully by educating the public, our elected officials, and the media about the challenges corrections professionals face everyday, a greater respect for our profession and an appreciation of the unwavering dedication delivered daily by the forgotten branch of public safety will be achieved.

*Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission from "Around the Block", the Mass Department of Corrections News Letter*

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### 1. **Librarian** on 05/26/2010:

There have been many times I wanted to object to news articles about corrections but feel constrained to do so because I work for the state. I always wish the Department of Corrections would respond to the fear that local news portrays about Corrections. Thank you for this article though it is preaching to the choir. It is so odd that the movies always portray the state prison as a place that mistreats prisoners.

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### 2. **Striker** on 05/25/2010:

Good article...everyone who has not worked in the corrections field all seem to have the same outlook...the poor inmate..not knowing that poor inmate raped a child or took somebodies life in cold blood and would do it again if given half the chance.

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What are you talking about?

*By Joe Bouchard*

**Published: 05/24/2010**



Our inability to understand transforms us into helpless actors on the stage, unable to read the cue cards. When we hear words and do not understand them, our audience is aware of this. That dilutes our effectiveness and lessens our professional credibility.

The slang that one hears in a correctional facility can be very vexing and confusing at times. This is true even for seasoned corrections professionals. The argot is dynamic, fluid, and decentralized. These are colloquialisms that are often morphed by intentional masking.

Time does not stand still in language.

What you learned in slang when you started may have become as dated as the more public terms such as “sweet” or “sick” or their older siblings “cool” and “groovy”.

No matter how tenuous or daunting this may be, we need to get a handle on the inside language. We need to realize the slippery and fleeting nature of slang words. What better way is there to accomplish this than through an icebreaking exercise?

This is what you’ll need – markers and a board or a flip chart. This can also be created on a slide show format projected on a screen. Of course, the flip chart works is also a good platform for “What are you talking about?” It is adaptable and easily translated for any classroom or trainer inclination.

This is how it works. The class is split into two teams. The instructor may make a sub game out of this by appointing leaders to select their team members. The interesting part comes when the facilitator directs the team leaders to change teams when all players are in place. This builds an interesting competitive spirit. Another tactic to build friendly competition is to have teams choose their team names. The names that teams select can be very surprising.

The facilitator preselects twenty slang terms spoken currently or historically by inmates. The first term is displayed. And each team is given a chance to define the word. When both teams have guessed, the definition is displayed. The first team to correctly define the term scores a point.

There are many texts, articles, and internet sources that feature prison argot. Finding them will be easy. The difficulties may be in assessing the sources for timeliness and choosing just twenty terms.

Of course, the old stand-by for trainers is the trumped up prize with very little value. Part of the fun in distributing candy bars or inexpensive gag gifts is the reactions from participants.

“What are you talking about?” works well with corrections students at the college level. We can use words that most corrections staff know for the college student versions.

And it works well with corrections professionals. It is as simple as employing more obscure words in the presentation. Since the novice/college student version would be too easy for a group of corrections professionals, some of the common slang words can be substituted with less obvious selections. There is even an opportunity to review historical words for a bonus round.

There is no doubt that slang, like graffiti, is difficult to understand. Its fluidity will ensure that. However, corrections trainers do our profession a favor by featuring this sort of training. And pre-professionals benefit by having a little more understanding of the language before they enter into service for the public.

[Visit the Joe Bouchard page](#)

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An Evolution - From the Cradle to Life: two little girl's journey to life in prison

By *Ruby J. Joyner LMSW, CJM*

**Published: 05/24/2010**



As new parents examined the tiny fingers or cuddled their bundle of joy for the first time, likely they only imagined the great things their baby girls would accomplish in life. To the surprise of some, many young girls have grown up to live much of their adult lives in jail or prison. Poet, Robert Southey (Mother Goose Society), as far back as 1820 whimsically defined girls as being made up of “sugar and spice and everything nice.” That same prose posited that boys were made up of “snips and snails and puppy-dog tails.” Certainly, the inference remains that girls are expected to simply be sweet while boys are expected to be a little rough around the

edges - to say the least.

Truly, crime is now an equal opportunity event. Serious offenders are getting younger and younger and little girls are not being left out of the phenomenon. The hypothesis here is that there can be no single answer as to why girls are committing crimes that in times past were only being committed by boys. Understandably, there are multisystemic factors that contribute to female involvement in serious felony offenses. This paper will examine two interviews with girls who committed crimes around the age of 16 that resulted in life sentences.

While we whole heartedly want to protect our children, communities should also be able to expect to be safe where they live and work. What do we do when a kid shoots into a crowd and innocent people die? What should happen when a kid has poor impulse control and flies off the handle and shoots you because he or she wants the \$20 you just withdrew from the ATM? While there are people on both sides of the issue, the overwhelming inference seems to be that criminals should be held accountable for their actions regardless of age, race, religion, national origin or even gender.

### **Personal Communication – September 15, 2009**

In 2008, Rokisha Alderson pled guilty to double homicide. She and a couple of guys entered a store and demanded money. The store owners were doing their part to comply yet, they both ended up dead. Rokisha had one of the guns in her hands. While she maintains that she shot in the air, two store owners ended up dead and a customer ended up critically wounded. Her sentence: two consecutive life sentences plus 15 years for the

attempted homicide of a third person. Growing up, she never knew her father. Getting high with her mother was quality time. She spent more time in juvenile detention than she did in school. As a result, today she reads on about a 3rd grade level. While she reports having seven brothers and sisters, all eight children have different fathers. On those occasions when she found herself in juvenile detention, she didn't mind because she got to see her friends there and it gave her a break from using drugs. At the time of this interview, Rokisha presented very melancholy; depressed and remorseful with a congruent affect. She very candidly shared details of her life that at one time she would have never shared with anyone. Today, Rokisha lives in general population along side of women much older than she. All of the people she called friends and family don't visit and they don't write. She has accepted the fact that she will age out in the Tennessee Department of Corrections.

### **Personal Communication – September 15, 2009**

In 2004, Cyntoia Brown was charged with the murder of a local business man. Local news headlines read: "Former Teen Prostitute on Trial for Murder." Friends later testified that she bragged about killing the man and stealing \$50,000 from him. While she was charged with premeditated murder and especially aggravated robbery, on appeal the especially aggravated robbery charge was remanded back to the trial court. Cyntoia, like Rokisha is bi-racial and very pretty. From her soft looks, you would never guess that she prostituted herself to make a little money. She was deemed a gifted child by the 3rd grade. Rather than finding herself in honors classes, Cyntoia spent quite a bit of time in "Resource" classes for behavioral reasons. Adopted at a very early age, she reveals that her biological mother is in prison on serious drug charges. She recalled being left at houses where men took advantage of her. When asked about her biological father, Cyntoia explained that her mother reported that her father could be one of five men. At the time of this interview, Cyntoia seemed happy despite the number of years she is expected to spend behind bars. Her adopted mother visits her often and sends her money to spend on commissary.

Hunt (1999) purports that we live in a nation of murderous children. Who's to blame? Some would posit that the deteriorating family is solely to blame. Some may say the absence of a positive role model is to blame. Clearly from the interviews examined here, neither position is entirely true. As much as these two young ladies are from different socio-economic places, there are commonalities in their stories. Both young ladies started experimenting with drugs and alcohol early on. Both young ladies lacked meaningful supervision. Both young ladies were either never diagnosed or misdiagnosed with various mental illnesses. Neither young lady has experienced motherhood and likely never will. Most notable, both young ladies are convicted murderers. Both will likely spend at least 50 years in prison. One or both may actually die in custody.

There are no cookie cutter answers. Interventions must be individualized. Indisputably, family must still be recognized as part of the problem and a huge part of the solution. This article attempted to compare and contrast interviews with two convicted murders - both 16 when they committed their crimes. The hypothesis remains that multisystemic interventions are essential and that families can be (more often than not) part of the problem and part of the solution as it relates to juvenile involvement in serious criminal behavior. **References**

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Hunt, C (1999). Juvenile sentencing: effects of recent punitive sentencing legislation on Juvenile offenders and a proposal for sentencing in the juvenile court. Boston College Third World Law Journal

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[http://www.delmar.org/mgs-long\\_folksmadeof.html](http://www.delmar.org/mgs-long_folksmadeof.html)

*At the time I encountered both interviewees, I was the Jail Administrator at the Davidson County Sheriff's Office Correctional Development Center for Females. Both interviews occurred after both were convicted.*

*Many thanks to Tennessee Prison for Women (TPW) Warden – Jewell Steele who permitted the interviews and to the interviewees for consenting to the same.*

*Click here to view the full [interview transcript](#) of both Rokisha Alderson and Cyntoia Brown*

*Editor's Note: Corrections.com Author Ruby J. Joyner is the Training Director for the Davidson County Sheriff's Office.*

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### 1. **debmac** on 05/28/2010:

Juvenile facilities are basically warehouses for juvenile offenders. Though they are mandated by law to provide four hours of education they are neither mandated or adequately funded to provide behavior modification programs for youthful offenders.

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### 2. **Swartz** on 05/25/2010:

There are certainly external risk factors that could influence one's behaviour however not everybody that were exposed too such conditions become criminals. Offenders often use mollification to justify their behaviour. The choices that you make today control your future, blaming your past for future behaviour makes you powerless, you are not in control of your life if everything you do is because of what happened in your past. Female offenders especially the youth are easily influenced by peers and toxic relationships. Many of the crimes were comitted with males eg, robbery, murder females are often accomplices in these crimes. The majority of offenders are raised in broken homes or suffered some form of abuse, what about those victims that choose not to commit crime? Certainly this is not the only option. Society have a responsibility to accept and reintegrate these offenders only if they show remorse and genuine willingness to change. Our socio economic conditions and substance abuse are the main factors giving rise to the increase in female offenders.

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