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Abstract

Research on professional burnout in criminal justice has focused on specific professions or human services more broadly. The paper examines the connections and disparities across professions in criminal justice will address the issues of generalizations when applying human service research to a specific profession. The underlying causes of burnout are best categorized by occupational, organizational, and personal factors due to an analysis of various profession-specific studies of burnout. I examined research regarding burnout among police officers, lawyers, and correctional officers and compared between each profession. By examining the research on burnout across three different professions in criminal justice, unique comparisons propose that the environment results in job-specific burnout due to such diverse professions in the field. No factor is more valued due to the interlinking nature of occupational, organizational, and personal factors that depend on each other because classifying human experience requires variance. Future studies regarding additional professions are needed because the field encompasses a highly diverse variety of jobs with unique environments.

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