

# A Theoretical Framework and Quantitative Evaluation of Jail Guitar Doors USA



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## Abstract

- Two Jail Guitar Doors (JGD) programs in (a) Los Angeles Men's downtown Jail, and (b) San Diego Men's East Mesa Reentry Facility, 8-week session
- 41 matched pre- and post-surveys, we analyzed with SPSS statistical software using descriptive and comparative analyses including ANOVA and t-tests.
- 93% of respondents very much enjoyed JGD classes
- 89% reported less stress
- 83% reported they worked better with other incarcerated individuals,
- 80% wanted to learn new skills
- 58% wanted to change their lives
- 53% were curious.

**Life effectiveness variables** with significantly positive increases:

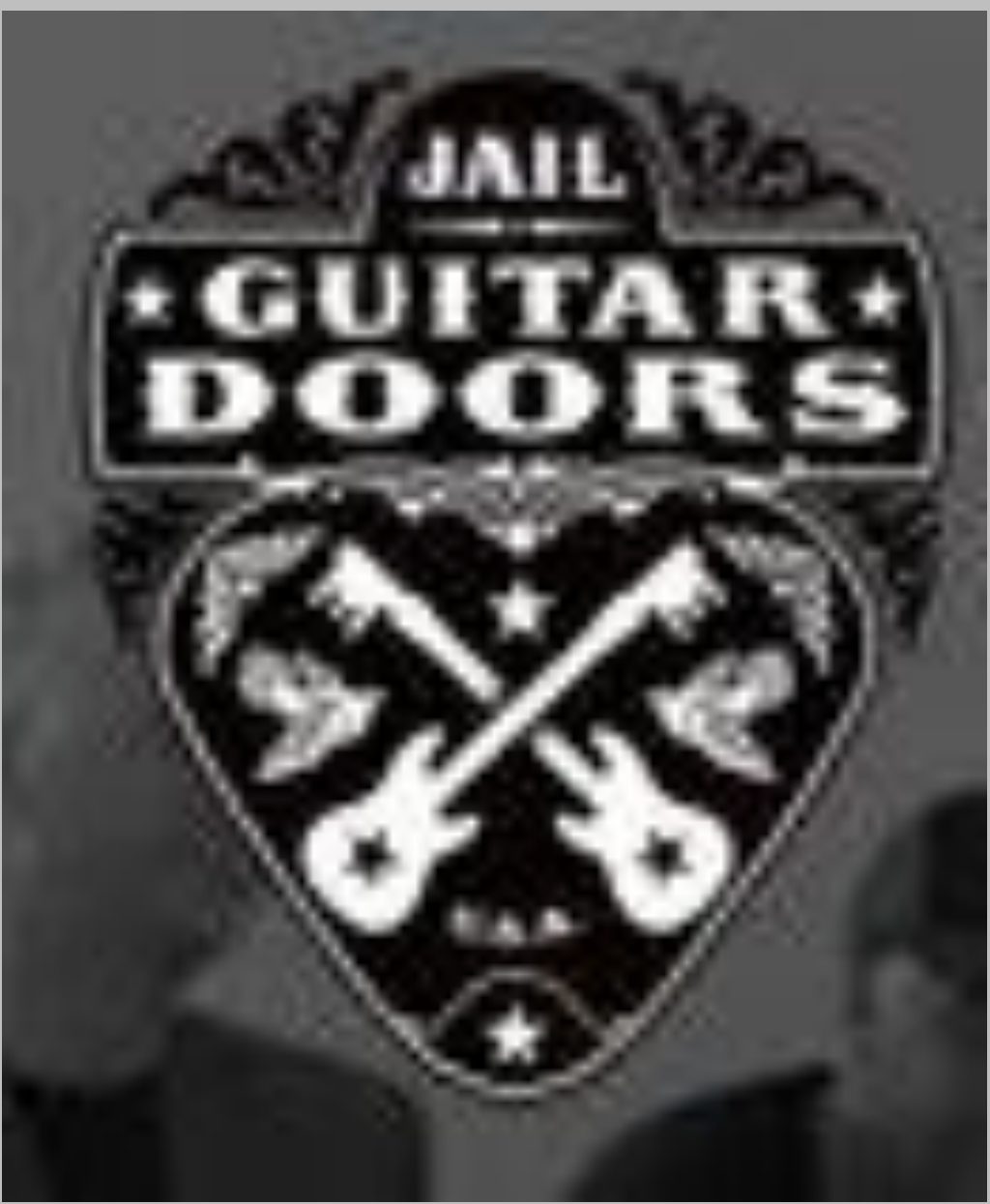
- **Intellectual Flexibility**
- **Emotional Control**
- **Self-confidence**
- **Social Competence.** Two variables with negative outcomes were Time Management and Achievement Motivation.

## Jail Guitar Doors

Jail Guitar Doors USA co-founded in 2009 by Wayne Kramer (1960s band MC5 innovated punk movement), English singer-songwriter Billy Bragg, and Margaret Saadi Kramer. Wayne was incarcerated in Kentucky in the 1970s and playing guitar allowed him to experience freedom. In 1978 The Clash released “Jail Guitar Doors” telling Wayne’s story. In 2007 Bragg began JGD in the UK to honor Joe Strummer, the founder of The Clash who died of heart failure in 2002.



Billy Bragg & Wayne Kramer



# Guitar and songwriting improved incarcerated individuals’ life effectiveness



## Measures of Life Effectiveness Factors

	TM	AM	IF	EC	Self C	Soc C
N	41	41	41	41	41	41
Pre	2.25 (2.04)	1.7 (0.94)	2.21 (0.87)	2.63 (0.99)	1.94 (1.11)	2.06 (0.88)
Post	2.47 (0.41)	1.96 (0.56)	1.68 (0.69)	2.05 (0.93)	1.48 (0.82)	1.65 (0.72)
T-Score	0.9071	0.8034	4.9376	4.5074	3.4287	3.4179
p	> .05	> .05	< /05	< .05	< .05	< .05
Cohen's <i>d</i>	0.15	0.34	0.68	0.60	0.47	0.51

TM: Time management, AM: Achievement Motivation, IF: Intellectual Flexibility, EC: Emotional Control, Self C: Self Confidence, Soc C: Social Competence

## Four Theoretical Frameworks

- **Cognitive behavior theory:** How feelings, thoughts, and behaviors interact
- **Social capital theory:** Cooperation, teamwork, relationship building, and social trust
- **Social learning theory:** Learning social roles, fulfilling performance expectations, developing personal style and identity
- **Desistance theory:** Process of stopping criminal behavior through behavior change, identity development, and social & political influences

### LIFE EFFECTIVENESS:

“A person’s capacity to adapt, survive, and thrive, that is, it refers to how well one is equipped to handle the demands of life” (Neill, 2008. p. 47).

### Sample items:

"I am successful in social situations."

"I believe I can do it."

"I am open to new ideas."

"I communicate well with people." (Neill, 2008)

## Results

