



Reentry: Justice Involved Women

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Statistics Relating to Women

One out of every 109 adult women are under correctional supervision in the United States--more than 1 million. <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus10.pdf>

Female jail, prison, and probation populations grew at a faster rate than the male populations between 2000 and 2010 <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus13.pdf>

Since 2010, the female jail population has been the fastest growing correctional population, increasing by an average of 3.4% annually.

Women comprised one-fourth of the probation population in 2013.

Women comprised 12% of the parole population in 2014 <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus13.pdf>



Why Are More Women in Prison Now?

Mandatory prison terms for drug offenses.

Changes in arrest policies

Parole & probation revocation rates, for both new offenses (often drug use) and technical violations.

Immigration detention

What does Gender-Responsive mean?

(women & girls)

Gender responsive means creating an environment through site selection, staff selection, program development, content and material that reflects an understanding of the realities of women's and girls' lives and addresses their challenges and strengths.

(Covington & Bloom, 2002)

Gender-Responsive Principles

Bloom, Owen & Covington, 2003

1. **Gender**
2. **Environment**
3. **Relationships**
4. **Women's Services**
5. **Economic & Social Status**
6. **Community**

Theoretical Perspectives

- Pathways Perspective
- Relational Theory & Female Development
- Trauma Theory
- Addiction Theory

Women's Crimes

- 37% of women sentenced to state prison in 2012 committed violent crimes, about 28% committed property crimes, and 25% were sentenced for drug offenses.
- Compare these numbers to the profile of men in prison: 55% were in prison for violent crimes, 18% for property crimes, and 15% for drug offenses.

Source: Carson E. (2014) <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p13.pdf>

What issues do women bring?

- Mental health & physical health
- Substance abuse
- Relationships & family roles
- Poverty & economic marginalization

Effective Case Management

- Risk/Need/Responsivity – the who, what & how
- Principles of Effective Interventions – Implementation integrity, leadership, assess risk & responsivity, cog/behavioral tx
- Benefits of EBP - Research based, consistency, better use of resources, reduced bias, increased professionalism.....
- and are valid with women...BUT

Effective Case Management with Women

- Current assessment tools are designed on majority correctional populations and then applied to women.
- Current tools don't adequately identify risk and women's needs that contribute to their risk.
- If we are looking for better outcomes such as reduced recidivism and improvement in intermediate outcomes..
- ...We need to sharpen our practice by properly assessing and addressing those areas.

Classification of Women

Why Develop Gender Responsive Tools?

Because...

- Over/under classifying
- Significant % of over rides
- High needs are translated into high risk
- Higher rates of confinement than risk warrants
- Inappropriate program placement
- Appropriate programs not available

Women's risk & need assessment

- Decade long collaboration between University of Cincinnati & NIC
- Development/validation of gender-responsive R/N assessment
- Built, validated entirely on populations of women
- Stand-alone tool & pre-trial, prison, pre-release, probation versions - used in conjunction with current generation of R/N tools
- Construction validation research identified areas of need contributing to women's risk...

Gender Neutral Risk Factors

- Antisocial attitudes, values, beliefs
- Antisocial associates
- Antisocial personality patterns
- Criminal history

- Family dysfunction
- Reduced levels of education, vocational, financial achievement
- Reduced involvement in prosocial activities
- Substance abuse

EBP/Gender Responsive Factors

(Applicable to Women)

- **Criminal History**
- **Criminal thinking**
- **Antisocial associates**
- **Vocational and educational problems**
- **Low family support**

Areas of Need Contributing to Women's Risk

- ❑ Mental health history
- ❑ Depression/anxiety (symptoms)
- ❑ Psychosis (symptoms)
- ❑ Child abuse
- ❑ Adult victimization
- ❑ Relationship dysfunction
- ❑ Parental stress
- ❑ Housing safety

Strengths & resiliency

○ Strengths:

- self-efficacy, family support, parental involvement, educational assets
- *A strengths-based approach assumes that women, regardless of their level of risk or crimes, have strengths to be mobilized to enhance positive outcomes. (VanDieten, 2006, WOCMM)*
- *Protective factors can mediate the impact of adversity....have a more profound influence on criminal justice outcomes than specific risk factors. (Werner and Smith, 1992)*

Women's Reentry & Supervision

- **Trauma-informed settings**
- **Case management of assessed risk and needs**
- **Building connections to support & services**
- **Meeting court, probation, parole, agency- imposed conditions**
- **Access to housing**

Women's Reentry & Supervision

- **Transportation**
- **Financial**
- **Parenting responsibilities & childcare**
- **Employment search & employment**
- **Managing relationships**
- **Barriers to accessing support & benefits**
- **Substance abuse and mental health issues**

Complex Problems



Legend

- indicates strong, positive or important relationships
- +++++ indicates stressful, cause tension or conflict
- indicates no relationship, but would like one

Source: Ann Hartman (1978)
*Diagrammatic assessment
of family relationships*
*Family in Society: the
Journal of Contemporary
Human Services*, 76 (2),
111-122.

Multi-System Involvement

- Treatment Services
- Courts
- Parole, parole
- TANIF
- Employment
- Children's Services
- Others??



Culture of GR Supervision

Relationships

- Relationships & impact on decisions, model healthy and empowering, skill development & resources

Trauma Informed

- Setting, Assessing, Disclosure, Trauma Informed Practice

Identifying Strengths

- Identify strengths by looking at the whole picture.

Resources showing positive outcomes with women

- **Helping Women Recover (Covington)**
- **Beyond Trauma (Covington)**
- **Seeking Safety (Najavits)**
- **Female Offender Treatment and Employment Program (CA)**
- **Women Offender Case Management Model (NIC)**
- **Moving On (Van Dieten & MacKenna)**

NIC Resources

Models of Practice

- **Gender Responsive Policy & Practice Assessment (GRPPA)** <http://nicic.gov/grppa/>
- **Women's Risk and Need Assessment (TA)**
www.uc.edu/womenoffenders
- **Gender Informed Policy & Practices Assessment (GIPA) (TA)**
- **Collaborative Case Work** (formerly women offender case management model)
<http://nicic.gov/library/021814> (revision pending)

NIC Resources

Publications

- **Gender Responsive Strategies: Research, Practice, and Guiding Principles for Women Offenders**
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/018017.pdf>
- **Gender Responsive Bulletin Series**
- **Girls Adjudicated as Adults** (awaiting publication on NIC website)
- **Pregnancy and Child-Related Legal and Policy Issues Concerning Justice-Involved Women**
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/027701.pdf>
- **Video Visiting in Corrections: Benefits, Limitations, and Implementation Considerations**
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/029609.pdf>

NIC Resources

Training Programs

- E-learning (Justice Involved Women) 5 course series
- Gender-Responsiveness in the Operations and Management of Women's Prisons
- Women Offenders: Developing an Agency-Wide Approach

Technical Assistance: targeted (models of practice) and general assistance on issues impacting systems managing justice involved women.

GR Resources

National Institute of Corrections

www.nicic.gov/womenoffenders

Gender-Responsive News for Women & Girls

(weekly, apply NIC website)

National Resource Center for Justice
Involved Women (BJA funded)

www.cjincludedwomen.org

Gender Matters

- What is predictive for women can sharpen our interventions
- Addressing women's needs that inform risk
- Building upon strengths that can support success contributes to improved outcomes

Thank You!