

Women Engaged in the Criminal Justice System Webinar Series

Part I: What Works for Women Engaged in the Criminal Justice System

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National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women

The **National Resource Center on Justice-Involved Women (NRCJIW)** was established by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance in partnership with the National Institute of Corrections.



Mission: Provide guidance and support to criminal justice professionals who work with justice-involved women

Audience: criminal justice stakeholders, state and local governments, service providers

The Resource Center Partners

The National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women is administered by the Center for Effective Public Policy (www.cepp.com) and its partners:

- ▶ **CORE Associates** <http://coreassociates.org>
- ▶ **Orbis Partners, Inc.** www.orbispartners.com
- ▶ **The National Center for Trauma-Informed Care** www.samhsa.gov/nctic
- ▶ **The Moss Group** www.mossgroup.us
- ▶ **National Institute of Corrections** <http://nicic.gov>
- ▶ **University of Cincinnati, School of Criminal Justice** <http://www.cech.uc.edu/criminaljustice>
- ▶ **Women's Prison Association** www.wpaonline.org

Primary Activities

- ▶ **Conducts outreach activities in service of its mission**
 - ▶ American Probation and Parole Association Institute, August
 - ▶ National Association of Pretrial Service Agencies Conference, August
 - ▶ International Community Corrections Association Research Conference, September
- ▶ **Provides targeted training and technical assistance**

Develops policy briefs, tools, and other materials to fill significant resource gaps in the field

- ▶ **Ten Truths That Matter When Working With Justice Involved Women**
 - ▶ Executive Summary and Research Brief
- ▶ **Achieving Successful Outcomes with Justice Involved Women: Q&A**
- ▶ **News, Facts, and FAQs**
- ▶ **Innovators in Criminal Justice**



Serves as a referral source for information, research, and subject matter experts

- Website provides links to over 200 online resources in key topic areas:
- ▶ **Correctional Environments**
 - ▶ **Offender Management and Supervision**
 - ▶ **Classification, Assessment and Case Management**
 - ▶ **Treatment, Interventions, and Services**
 - ▶ **Community Reentry**
 - ▶ **Quality Assurance and Evaluation**
 - ▶ **Other Critical Issues like Women and Violence, Women and Drugs, Children**

Resource: National Institute of Corrections

- ▶ Technical Assistance
- ▶ Training
- ▶ The National Directory of Programs for Women with Criminal Justice Involvement
- ▶ Provides links to resources; comprehensive online library

<http://nicic.gov/WomenOffenders>

<http://nicic.gov/Library/>

Join our mailing list and visit our website

www.cjinvolvedwomen.org

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Today's Presentation

Section 1: Women in the Criminal Justice System

Section 2: "What Works" in Corrections

Section 3 : The Gender-Responsive Movement

Today's Presentation

Section 4: Research on Women in the Criminal Justice System

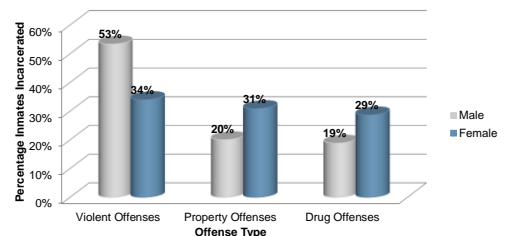
Section 5: Where Do We Go from Here?

Section 6 : Resources

Section 1: Women in the Criminal Justice System

Men and Women in State Prisons

Estimated percent of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, by offense and sex, yearend 2004



Bureau of Justice Statistics (2007). *Prisoners in 2006*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice

Percentage Increase of Men and Women Under Correctional Supervision, 1990-2000

	Women	Men
Correctional Supervision	81%	45%
Prison	108%	77%
Jail	89%	48%

By the end of 2006, the number of women under criminal justice supervision had reached over 1.3 million.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (2001). *Prison and Jail Inmates at midyear 2000*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (2007). *Prisoners in 2006*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (2001). *National correctional population*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice

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Why are More Women Entering the Criminal Justice System?

- ▶ **The War on Drugs**
 - ▶ The number of women in state prisons for drug offenses rose by 888% from 1986 to 1996
- ▶ **“Tough on Crime” Policies**
- ▶ **Reduced Funding for Mental Health**

Blanchette, K. & Brown, S. (2006). *The assessment and treatment of women offenders*. West Sussex, England: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.; Mauer, M., Poiter, C., & Wolf, R. (1997). *Gender and justice: Women, drugs, and sentencing policy*. The Sentencing Project.

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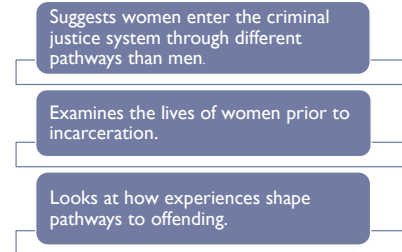
The Female Offender

- ▶ Early 30s
- ▶ Drug related crimes
- ▶ Undereducated/unskilled
- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Unemployed
- ▶ Disproportionately women of color
- ▶ Mothers to minor children
- ▶ Victims of physical and/or sexual abuse
- ▶ Substance abuse problems
- ▶ Health problems
- ▶ Mental health issues

Bloom, B., Owen, B., & Covington, S. (2003). *Gender-responsive strategies: research, practice, and guiding principles for women offenders*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice

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Pathways Perspective



Blanchette, K. & Brown, S. (2006). *The assessment and treatment of women offenders*. West Sussex, England: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.; Bloom, B., Owen, B., & Covington, S. (2003). *Gender-responsive strategies: research, practice, and guiding principles for women offenders*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice

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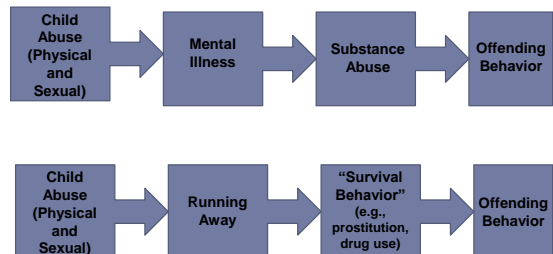
Components of the Pathways Perspective

- ▶ Histories of Personal Abuse
- ▶ Mental Illness
- ▶ Substance Abuse
- ▶ Economic and Social Marginality
- ▶ Homelessness
- ▶ Relationships

Bloom, B., Owen, B., & Covington, S. (2003). *Gender-responsive strategies: research, practice, and guiding principles for women offenders*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice

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Example of Two Pathways Women Might Travel into the Criminal Justice System



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Section 2: "What Works" in Corrections

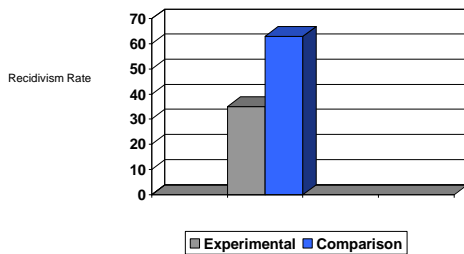
What Does "What Works" Mean?

- ▶ Evidence exists that the program or intervention is effective.
- ▶ This effectiveness is obtained through empirical research not anecdotes, stories, common sense, or beliefs about effectiveness.

...this works

Literature Review

- ▶ We prefer not to look at just one study.
- ▶ The most current and informative method is meta-analysis.
- ▶ Meta-analyses are summaries of many studies of correctional interventions.



Principles of Effective Intervention

Risk principle

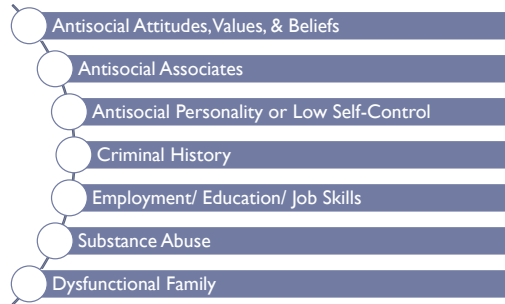
- ▶ Identify high-, medium-, and low-risk offenders based on likelihood of recidivism, escape, or other misconducts
- ▶ Direct intensive treatment to high- and medium-risk offenders
- ▶ Avoid assigning low-risk offenders to institutional placements or intensive treatment that expose them to criminogenic influences (e.g., high-risk offenders)

Principles of Effective Intervention

Needs Principle

- ▶ Needs related to future offending should receive high priority as we match offenders to programs
- ▶ Criminogenic needs = dynamic risk factors
- ▶ Programs that reduce needs → reduce criminal behavior

Gender-Neutral Risk/Needs Factors



Principles of Effective Intervention

Responsivity Principle

- ▶ Affects how well an offender will be able to respond to his/her treatment plan
- ▶ Address “barriers” to treatment
 - ▶ Examples: intelligence, anxiety, ethnicity, cognitive maturity, personality, ADD, housing, learning style, child care, transportation
- ▶ These will affect offender’s likelihood of success in a program

Section 3: The Gender-Responsive Movement

What is “Gender-Responsive?”

- ▶ Acknowledges the realities of women’s lives and how they may differ from men, including the pathways to offending and how relationships shape their lives.
- ▶ Practices address issues like violence, abuse, family relationships, and substance abuse

Bloom, B., Owen, B., & Covington, S. (2003). *Gender-responsive strategies: research, practice, and guiding principles for women offenders*. Washington D.C: U.S. Department of Justice

How do we develop gender-responsive policies, programs, and practices?

- ▶ System should be different from male system
- ▶ Target women’s pathways to criminality and issues involved with them
- ▶ Recognize the minimal danger women generally present to society
- ▶ Recognize importance of relationships

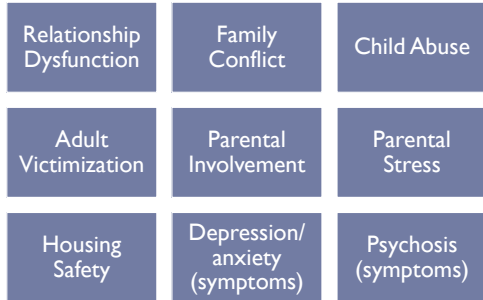
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Gender-Responsive Risk/Needs Factors

- ▶ Multidisciplinary review
- ▶ Psychology, substance abuse, mental health, family violence, health, trauma, employment, and education regarding women
- ▶ Important targets to reduce likelihood of recidivism

Bloom, B., Owen, B., & Covington, S. (2003). *Gender-responsive strategies: research, practice, and guiding principles for women offenders*. Washington D.C: U.S. Department of Justice

Gender-Responsive Risk/Needs Factors



Section 4: Research on Women in the Criminal Justice System

Gender-Neutral Risk/Needs Assessments and Women Offenders

- ▶ They were designed for men and applied to women, with little concern for appropriateness;
- ▶ They are valid;
- ▶ Existing risk/needs assessments do not tap needs most pertinent to women;
- ▶ Existing risk/needs assessments don't help us to understand these women as best we could;
- ▶ Results of an NIC study to develop women's risk/needs assessments found additional needs/risk factors for women.

National Institute of Corrections/ University of Cincinnati Collaboration

- ▶ Development of a gender-responsive risk/needs assessment tool
 - ▶ Women's Risk/Needs Assessment (WRNA)
- ▶ Research with this tool has been conducted in institutional and community settings, and most recently, the pretrial stage.

Gender-Responsive Risk/Needs Instrument

- ▶ Criminal history
- ▶ Criminal thinking (sample variations)
- ▶ Antisocial associates
- ▶ Vocational/educational
- ▶ Financial problems
- ▶ Low family support
- ▶ Housing problems
- ▶ Substance abuse
- ▶ Mental health history
- ▶ Depression/anxiety (symptoms)
- ▶ Psychosis (symptoms)
- ▶ Child abuse (institutions)
- ▶ Adult victimizations (sample variations)
- ▶ Relationship dysfunction
- ▶ Parental stress (community)
- ▶ Housing safety (community)

And **strengths** (self-efficacy, family support, parental involvement, and educational assets)

Extending Evidence-Based Practice

Table 1: Comparative Predictive Validity of Assessment Models

Risk Factor	Prison Samples			Probation Samples			Pre-release Samples		
	Colorado ^a (N=286)	Minnesota ^b (N=272)	Minnesota ^b (N=199)	Minnesota ^c (N=363)	Minnesota ^c (N=239)	Mass ^d (N=188)	Colorado ^e (N=148)	Minnesota ^f (N=189)	
	r	MEC	r	MEC	r	MEC	r	MEC	
1. Static Models	..	.17*** .57	.25*** .63	..	.23*** .66	.32*** .71	.15** .58	.15* .59	
2. Gender-Neutral Risk/Needs	.16** .59	.20*** .61	.30*** .68	.24*** .67	.31*** .71	.36*** .72	.21*** .62	.23*** .66	
3. Gender-Responsive (Total)	.27*** .62	.36*** .66	.33*** .70	.32*** .74	.35*** .74	.37*** .73	.22*** .62	.36*** .71	
4. Gender-Responsive, Abuse	.27***	.32***	.27***	.30***	.34***	.31***	..	.27***	

***p < .001
**p < .01
*p < .05
^aOutcome measure is serious misconducts within 6 months, not including minor forms of insubordination.
^bOutcome measure is serious misconducts within 12 months, not including minor forms of insubordination.
^cOutcome measure is incarcerated within 24 months.
^dOutcome measure is new arrests within 12 months.
^eOutcome measure is new arrests within 24 months.
^fOutcome measure is technical violation, new arrest, or any failure (mean time at risk = 17 months).
^gOutcome measure is returns to prison within 24 months.

What's Important for Institutional Environments?

- Gender-Neutral Factors**
 - ▶ Criminal history
 - ▶ Antisocial attitudes
 - ▶ Family conflict
 - ▶ Substance abuse
- Gender-Responsive Risk Factors**
 - ▶ Family conflict
 - ▶ Mental health history
 - ▶ Depression (symptoms)
 - ▶ Psychosis (symptoms)
 - ▶ Anger
 - ▶ Relationship dysfunction
 - ▶ Child abuse
- Strengths**
 - ▶ Self-efficacy
 - ▶ Family support
- Re-entry Needs**
 - ▶ Employment/education
 - ▶ Poverty
 - ▶ Housing safety
 - ▶ Adult victimization

What's Important for Pre-Release Environments?

- Gender-Neutral Factors**
 - ▶ Criminal history
 - ▶ Financial/employment
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Antisocial friends
 - ▶ Substance abuse
- Gender-Responsive Risk Factors**
 - ▶ Housing safety
 - ▶ Mental health history
 - ▶ Depression
 - ▶ Family conflict
 - ▶ Psychosis
 - ▶ Anger
 - ▶ Parental stress
 - ▶ Victimization as an adult
 - ▶ Dysfunctional relationships
- Strengths**
 - ▶ Self-efficacy
 - ▶ Family support
 - ▶ Educational assets
 - ▶ Parental involvement

What's Important for Community Environments?

- Gender-Neutral Factors**
 - ▶ Criminal history
 - ▶ Antisocial attitudes
 - ▶ Financial/employment
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Antisocial friends
 - ▶ Substance abuse
- Gender-Responsive Risk Factors**
 - ▶ Housing safety
 - ▶ Mental health history
 - ▶ Depression (symptoms)
 - ▶ Psychosis
 - ▶ Family conflict
 - ▶ Anger
 - ▶ Parental stress
 - ▶ Victimization as an adult
 - ▶ Dysfunctional relationships
- Strengths**
 - ▶ Educational assets
 - ▶ Self-efficacy
 - ▶ Family support

Research in the Pretrial Realm

- ▶ Variation of the WRNA in Hamilton County, Ohio
 - ▶ *Inventary of Need Pretrial Screening Tool*
- ▶ Looked at both male and female pretrial defendants (N=266)
- ▶ Were these needs related to pretrial failure?
 - ▶ FTAs
 - ▶ New Arrests
 - ▶ Any Failures
- ▶ Did these needs differ for men and women?

Needs/Scales in the Study

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Gender-Neutral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Criminal History (risk) ▶ Employment ▶ Educational Need ▶ Substance Abuse | <p>Gender-Responsive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Abuse ▶ Trauma ▶ Mental Health ▶ Homelessness ▶ Family Support |
|---|--|

Needs Related to Pretrial Failure

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>FTAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Criminal History ▶ Substance Abuse ▶ Trauma ▶ Mental Health ▶ Homelessness ▶ Family Support | <p>New Arrests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Criminal History ▶ Employment ▶ Educational Need ▶ Substance Abuse | <p>Any Failure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Criminal History ▶ Employment ▶ Educational Need ▶ Substance Abuse ▶ Trauma ▶ Mental Health (6 Mo) ▶ Homelessness ▶ Family Support |
|---|---|---|



Needs Related to Pretrial Failure

FTAs	New Arrests	Any Failure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Criminal History ▶ Employment ▶ Substance Abuse ▶ Abuse ▶ Trauma ▶ Mental Health ▶ Homelessness ▶ Family Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Criminal History (6 Mo) ▶ Employment ▶ Substance Abuse ▶ Abuse ▶ Mental Health ▶ Homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Criminal History ▶ Employment ▶ Substance Abuse ▶ Abuse ▶ Mental Health ▶ Homelessness ▶ Family Support



Overall...

Gender-Neutral Scales

- ▶ **Men**
 - FTAs
 - New arrests
 - Any failures
- ▶ **Women**
 - FTAs
 - New Arrests
 - Any failures

Gender-Responsive Scales

- ▶ **Men**
 - FTAs
 - Any Failures
- ▶ **Women**
 - FTAs
 - New arrests
 - Any failures

Section 5: Where Do We Go from Here?

Implementation

- ▶ Now that this research is emerging, what can we do?
 - ▶ Adopt gender-responsive assessment tools
 - ▶ Implement comprehensive caseplanning approaches
 - ▶ Develop/use gender-responsive programming that target the needs of women

Examples of Gender-Responsive Interventions

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Beyond Trauma</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Covington (2003) ▶ <i>Female Offender Treatment and Employment Programs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ See Grella and Greenwell (2005) ▶ <i>Forever Free</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ See Hall, Prendergast, Wellisch, Patten, & Cao (2004) ▶ <i>Helping Women Recover</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Covington (1999) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>La Bodega de la Familia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ See Shapiro & Schwartz (2001) ▶ <i>Moving On</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Van Dieten (1998) ▶ <i>Seeking Safety</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Najavits (1996) ▶ <i>Women Offender Case Management Model</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Orbis Partners (2006) |
|---|--|

Resources

- ▶ National Reentry Resource Center
 - ▶ <http://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>
- ▶ Consensus Project
 - ▶ <http://consensusproject.org/>
- ▶ National Resource Center on Justice-Involved Women
 - ▶ <http://cjinvolvementwomen.org/>
- ▶ Federal Interagency Reentry Council's Women and Reentry Subgroup
 - ▶ <http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council>
 - ▶ For further information please contact Linda Mellgren (Linda.mellgren@hhs.gov), Clare DiSalvo (clare.disalvo@hhs.gov)
- ▶ Information regarding the Women's Risk/Needs Assessment Tool
 - ▶ <http://www.uc.edu/womenoffenders.html>

Federal Interagency Reentry Council

- ▶ Federal Interagency Reentry Council
 - ▶ A collaborative effort convened by Attorney General Holder to enhance re-entry efforts across the federal government.
- ▶ Women and Reentry sub-group
 - ▶ Sub-group was initiated as a part of the Reentry Council Working Group's activities.
 - ▶ Mobilize federal systems to more effectively address the needs of women offenders and to improve outcomes for these women.
 - ▶ Building on the information exchanged at the March conference Meeting the Reentry Needs of Women: Policies, Programs and Practices, sponsored by the Office of Women's Health within HHS.

Federal Interagency Reentry Council

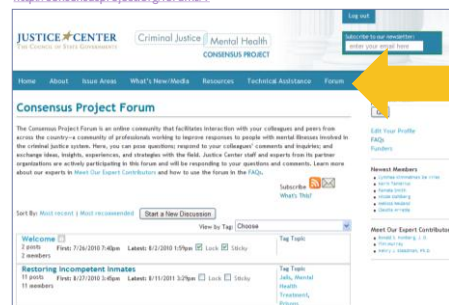
- ▶ Women and Reentry sub-group
 - ▶ The sub-group is working on a 2013 action plan strategy through five coordinated task groups, each of which addresses a different topic:
 - ▶ (1) Federal Policy and Legal Review,
 - ▶ (2) Research Synthesis and Agenda
 - ▶ (3) Communications Network
 - ▶ (4) Cross-training Needs and Opportunities
 - ▶ (5) Inventory of Programs.
 - ▶ Each of the groups is designing a proposed roadmap of activities specific to the designated topics noted above to be considered by the Reentry Council for implementation in 2013.

Questions and Answers

- ▶ Please type questions for the presenters into the question panel located on the right side of your screen.

Peer-to-Peer Connections

<http://consensusproject.org/forums/1>



Thank You!

The webinar recording and PowerPoint presentation will be available on www.consensusproject.org within a few days.

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