

Working with Justice Involved Women



Criminal justice system practitioners can achieve more successful outcomes with justice involved women when they become more gender informed.

Women are entering the criminal justice system at an alarming rate

Most justice involved women are arrested for non-violent crimes



Since 1985, the number of women in prison has increased at a faster rate than men¹



Of all arrests of women in 2013²

Many justice involved women share similar life circumstances that are unique from men

77-98% of incarcerated women have experienced trauma (including interpersonal violence and/or physical/sexual abuse)³

60% of women in prison reported using drugs just prior to their offense (compared to 56% of men)⁵

73% of women in prison reported a mental health problem⁴

Up to half of women who are incarcerated were homeless in the month before their incarceration⁶

Maternal incarceration significantly impacts children

147,700 children had a mother in prison in 2007, up 131% from 1991⁸

64% of mothers in state prison lived with at least one of their children just prior to imprisonment⁷

Race/Ethnicity



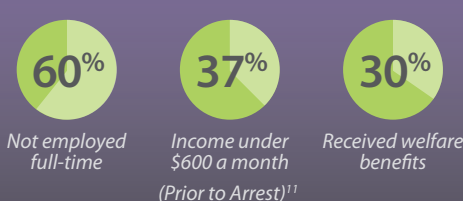
In 2013, percentage of women in state or federal prisons⁹

Education



42% of women in state prisons have not completed high school¹⁰

Employment



Women's unique risk and needs must be acknowledged and addressed in an integrated manner across all stages of the justice system

Utilize a multi-faceted approach from intake to service planning to aftercare that is:¹²

- Relational
- Strengths-based
- Trauma-informed
- Culturally Competent
- Holistic

Provide pregnant women in correctional facilities with special privileges, such as:¹³

- Limited or non-use of restraints
- Bottom bunk assignments and light work duty
- Additional snacks/milk to meet their nutritional needs
- Ongoing obstetric appointments, prenatal vitamins, social support and counseling, birth education, and transportation to and from the hospital

Take advantage of available resources

NRCJIW provides resources and tools to support practitioners within courts, correctional facilities and community settings to achieve successful outcomes with justice involved women.

To learn more, visit www.cjinvolvedwomen.org.

¹Women in the Criminal Justice System: Briefing Sheets, The Sentencing Project, 2007

²Prisoners in 2013, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sept. 2014

³Looking Beneath the Surface: The Nature of Incarcerated Women's Experiences of Interpersonal Violence, Treatment Needs, and Mental Health, Heath, Nicole M., April Fritch, Shannon M. Lynch, Feminist Criminology, Published April 2012, Revised Oct. 2012

⁴Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Published Sept. 2006, Revised Dec. 2006

⁵Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004 Bureau of Justice Statistics, Published 2006, Revised 2007

⁶Gender-Responsive Strategies for Women Offenders, National Institute of Corrections, 2010

⁷Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Published 2008, Revised 2010

⁸Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Published 2008, Revised 2010

⁹Prisoners in 2013, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sept. 2014

¹⁰Education and Correctional Populations, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Published Jan. 2003, Revised April 2003

¹¹Women in the Criminal Justice System: Briefing Sheets, The Sentencing Project, 2007

¹²The Five CORE Practice Areas of Gender Responsiveness, CORE Associates

¹³Improving Health Care for Incarcerated Women, National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women, 2015 and National Task Force on the Use of Restraints with Pregnant Women under Correctional Custody, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012

