



## Women's Prison Association Resource Library Bibliography

This bibliography represents a selection of research on women and the criminal justice system identified by the Research Department of the Women's Prison Association as essential for policy makers, scholars, journalists and others interested in this topic. Each section has been annotated to highlight the policy relevance of listed works.

### Profiles of Criminal Justice Involved Women

The research literature on the profile of women involved in the criminal justice system is vast. Most of it confirms three facts: women in the criminal justice system are overwhelmingly from communities characterized by concentrated poverty; the women have personal histories distinguished by a wide range of difficult experiences and conditions including mental health problems, substance abuse and childhood and adulthood victimization; most are involved in the criminal justice system due to drug, rather than to violent, offenses. The policy implications drawn from these findings are straightforward. The majority of women in the criminal justice system pose little threat to public safety and are in great need of treatment and other services.

The interdependence between individual and structural pathways to crime receives a lot of attention in the research literature. Since the population of female offenders is a largely uniform group, it is clear that the personal histories they share are related to the constellation of demographics they have in common. The poor communities from which women in the criminal justice system are drawn are areas with high levels of substance abuse, personal abuse, social support, and discrimination. They also are rife with low levels of literacy and education and low levels of employment. It is not, then, surprising that the personal histories of women in the criminal justice system share these traits as well. While the issue of race is one which might warrant a category all its own, it is also inseparable from the other factors which affect women's offending. Women of color in the criminal justice system are most likely to come from communities where these problems are heightened. Some of the research in this section suggests that violence and drug use may be adaptive strategies used by people to deal with the extreme social and economic deprivation they experience by living in these communities. Indeed, much of this literature discusses what is called a "pathway" to criminal behavior, in which women are portrayed as starting as victims of violence and ending as offenders because they employ strategies, such as drug use, which lead to other types of criminal behavior.

Overall, this body of research shows that women in the criminal justice system represent a group of people marginalized both from mainstream society and from mainstream opportunities. Thus, many scholars interested in understanding women's pathway to crime call for the criminal justice system to address the notion that women with lifelong exposure to poverty and violence are being criminalized for what many see as their reliance on poorly chosen survival strategies. Stopping the cycle of crime and incarceration, then, is related to enhancing structural conditions and opportunities and helping people to employ more effective coping techniques. The research findings evident in this body of work shows that involvement in conventional activities such as being employed, in a relationship, or living with children decreases the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior. This, in turn, supports the call for increasing treatment and decreasing prison sentences.

1. Baskin, D.R. & Sommers, I.B. 1998. *Casualties of Community Disorder: Women's Careers in Violent Crime*. Boulder, CO; Westview Press.
2. Chesney-Lind, M. & Pasko, L. 2004. *The Female Offender: Girls, Women and Crime, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.

3. Chesney-Lind, M. & Rodriguez, N. 1983. "Women Under Lock and Key: A View from the Inside." *The Prison Journal*. 63(2):47-65.
4. Collins, C.F. 1997. *The Imprisonment of African American Women: Causes, Conditions and Future Implications*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland.
5. Galbraith, S. 1998. *And So I Began to Listen to Their Stories...* Delmar, NY: Policy Research Associates, Inc.
6. Gilfus, M.E. 1992. "From Victims to Survivors to offenders: Women's Routes of Entry and Immersion into Street Crime." *Women & Criminal Justice*. 4(1):63-89.
7. Girshick, L. 1999. *No Safe Haven: Stories of women in prison*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.
8. Griffin, M.L. & Armstrong, G.S. 2003. "The effect of local life circumstances on female probationers' offending." *Justice Quarterly*, 20(2): 213-237.
9. Haigler, K.O., Harlow, C., O'Conner, P., and Campbell, A. 1994. Literacy behind prison walls: Profiles of the prison population from the national adult literacy survey. (NCES Publication No. 94-102). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.
10. Mann, C.R. 1990. "Black Female Homicides in the United States." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 5(2): 176-201.
11. Owen, B. & Bloom, B. 1995. "Profiling women prisoners: Findings from national surveys and a California sample." *Prison Journal*, 75(2): 165-185.
12. Richie, B.E. 1996. *Compelled to Crime: Gender Entrapment of Battered Black Women*. Routledge.
13. Rosenbaum, J.L. 1989. "Family dysfunction and female delinquency." *Crime and Delinquency*, 25(1): 31-44.
14. Singer, M.I., J. Bussey, Song, L. & Lunghofer, L. 1995. "The psychosocial issues of women serving time in jail". *Social Work*, 41(1), 103-113.
15. Sommers, I. & Baskin, D. 1992. "Sex, race, age, and violent offending." *Violence & Victims*, 7(3): 191-201.
16. U.S. Department of Justice. 1998. *Women in the criminal justice system: A twenty-year update*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.
17. U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections. 1996. *Women in Jail: Legal Issues*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Corrections.

## **Prisons**

The research literature presented in this section examines ways in which the correctional environment is experienced differently by women than it is by men. The high rate of mental health problems, substance abuse and childhood and adulthood victimization noted in the Profiles Section has implications for how women “do time,” how they experience the physical environment of prison and how correctional staff need training to best work with women. The research findings presented in section show that women in prison have identity crises and coping mechanisms distinct from those of men. For instance, women are much more likely to continue to identify as mothers than men are to identify as fathers. Consequently, they experience the separation from children and family more poignantly and the threat to their parental identity more problematically. One strategy incarcerated women employ to cope with this is to form intense relationships and families with fellow inmates. At the same time, the correctional environment, itself, is potentially damaging to incarcerated women. For instance, the physical environment and routine prison procedures may re-traumatize survivors of abuse. Finally, the research shows that women question and interact with staff more than do men. Staff who are unprepared for this difference are more likely to respond inappropriately.

The studies highlighted in this section continue to develop the idea, presented in the Profiles Section, that only a small number of female offenders need to be confined to prison because they represent a risk to public safety. The rest are better served through alternatives to incarceration where women can receive the services they need while maintaining ties to their families and communities. This is increasingly true as we begin to identify the multiplicity of needs experienced by female inmates and the dearth of programming available in prison to help them. Alternatives to incarceration provide much needed services and help women maintain links to the community and their families. In this way, community-based programs also increase public safety by increasing the chances for a successful reintegration.

### Women's Prisons

1. Bosworth, M. 1999. *Engendering Resistance: Agency and Power in Women's Prisons*. Brookfield: Ashgate Publishing Company
2. Fox, J.G. 1982. “Women in prison: A case study in the social reality of stress.” In R. Johnson & H. Toch (Eds.), *The Pains of Imprisonment* (pp. 205-220). Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications.
3. Owen, B. 1998. *“In the Mix”: Struggle and survival in a women's prison.* New York: State University of New York Press.
4. Sobel, S.B. 1982. “Difficulties experienced by women in prison.” *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 7(2): 107-118.
5. Veysey, B., DeCou, K., Prescott, L. 1998. “Effective Management of Female Jail Detainees with Histories of Physical and Sexual Abuse.” *American Jails*, May/June: 50-54.

### Alternatives to Incarceration

1. Immarigeon, R. & Chesney-Lind, M. 1991. *Women's Prisons: Overcrowded and Overused*. San Francisco. National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

## **Violence against female offenders**

The prevalence of abuse histories among incarcerated women is one of the most dominant themes in the research literature on women in the criminal justice system. While estimates vary, most studies find that the vast majority of incarcerated women report a history of at least one type of abuse. Forms of abuse include emotional, physical and sexual abuse by caretakers or strangers during childhood, violence and rape by intimate partners, and sexual violence by strangers.

Many incarcerated women also experience abuse at the hands of prison staff and/or fellow inmates. This may include sexually offensive language, inappropriate touching during searches, and sometimes even rape. In the overwhelming majority of complaints of sexual abuse by female inmates against staff, men are reported to be the perpetrators. In the Amnesty International report cited below, the United States is condemned for rejecting international standards which prohibit employing men to guard women and for placing relatively few restrictions on the duties of male staff. Although most states and the Federal Government have laws criminalizing correctional sexual misconduct and most have had training to develop and implement policies and procedures, monitoring organizations advocate for improvement of internal oversight and reporting systems.

The prevalence of a history of abuse among incarcerated women has fundamental implications for understanding a woman's entry into the criminal justice system as well as her well being during, and after incarceration. For instance, research shows that experiencing childhood abuse increases the likelihood a woman will engage in risky behavior, such as substance abuse and involvement in criminal activities. Other studies reveal that abuse increases the likelihood of mental health problems and that the traumatic experiences women are exposed to in prison frequently exacerbate these problems. Women who find themselves in such a position may seek to respond with a variety of coping mechanisms often seen in prison, including substance abuse, violence, self-injury, and suicide. Thus, the cycle of violence which started in childhood continues in prison. This body of research highlights the importance of identifying the interrelated factors between criminal conduct and a history of abuse. This is particularly important for women who may be released from prison with relatively little treatment. Such women are ill-prepared to return to the abusive environments from which they originally came and are at-risk for continued abuse and, potentially even re-arrest.

- History of Abuse
  1. Browne, A. Miller, A. Maguin, E. 1999. "Prevalence and Severity of Lifetime Physical and Sexual Victimization among incarcerated women." *Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 22(3-4): 301-322.
  2. Heney, J. & Kristiansen, C. 1997. "An analysis of the impact of prison on women survivors of childhood sexual abuse". *Women and Therapy* 20(6):513-519.
  3. Simons, R.L. & Whitbeck, L.B. 1991. "Sexual abuse as a precursor to prostitution and victimization among adolescent and homeless women." *Journal of Family Issues*, 12(3): 361-379.
  
- Abuse In Prison
  1. Amnesty International. 1999. *Not Part of My Sentence: Violations of the human rights of women in custody*. New York: Author.
  2. General Accounting Office. 1999. *Women in Prison: Sexual Misconduct by correctional staff*. United States General Accounting Office.

## Parenting and Criminal Justice

Incarcerated women are more likely than incarcerated men to be the primary caregivers of their children. Consequently, sentencing women to prison is a sentence which impacts the whole family. While much research has investigated how women in prison are affected by the separation from their children and the loss of the maternal role impacts, a growing body of research focuses on the impact of maternal incarceration on the family unit and on child welfare.

In general, most studies in this section are grounded in the finding that the enforced separation which results from incarceration negatively affects both mother and child. Mothers have limited contact with their children while serving their sentences. One reason is that prisons typically are located at great distance from their children's home and their children's caregivers (often the maternal grandmothers) frequently have difficulty arranging transportation, time off from work and other resources necessary to bring children to visit their mothers. Another reason is that prison practices, such as requiring inmates to make collect calls and charging higher-than-usual rates for these calls, serve as an obstacle to frequent and quality contact between mother and child. Many researchers recommend that prison officials facilitate increased contact between mothers and children by altering policies and practices to promoting increased correspondence and telephone. This is particularly true in light of the fact that fewer institutions offer furloughs and over-night visits today than did twenty years ago. Parenting classes also are less common than they once were. This is unfortunate since parenting classes and visitation programs have been shown to increase the quantity and quality of contact between mothers and children. Parenting classes also allow mothers to improve their parenting skills by dealing with her their own problems. This is especially important for their ability to re-establish a healthy relationship with their children upon release.

Most women have the goal of reunification with their children upon release. Reunification, however, is not always a straightforward matter. The majority of children of incarcerated mothers do not live with their fathers. Instead, they typically live with another relative. Only a small percentage of these children are formally placed in foster care. Those who are, however, tend to live with non-related foster parents. Consequently, most children placed in foster care are removed from their family networks. Re-establishing the family unit requires women to navigate the complexities of the child welfare system and this can be difficult to do. This is especially true if, while incarcerated, mothers are left out of decisions regarding their child's welfare. For this reason, this body of research also calls for including women in determinations about their children's placement, including their notification of, and attendance at, court hearings. Programs also should include early and continuous legal representation for parents with children in foster care to support families in accessing services.

This body of research makes clear that the criminal justice, welfare and child welfare systems are interdependent entities. Women involved in one system often are involved in others so these systems should collaborate when they work with incarcerated women and their children. As the authors represented in this section point out, integrating criminal justice, welfare and child welfare policies would go a long way to offsetting the damage done to families by incarceration. Other recommendations include the need to modify Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) and Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) legislation so that returning mothers are not denied the welfare benefits they often need to sustain their families, and so that parental rights are not terminated simply because of enforced separation.

- Parenting
  1. Baunach, P.J. 1985. *Mothers in Prison*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.
  2. Beckerman, A. 1994. "Mothers in prison: Meeting the prerequisite conditions for permanency planning." *Social Work*, 39(1): 9-14.
  3. Boudin, K. 1998. "Lessons from a mother's program in prison: A psychosocial approach supports women and their children." *Women and Therapy*, 21(1):103-125.

4. Enos, S. 1998. "Managing motherhood in prison: The impact of race and ethnicity on child placement." *Women and Therapy*, 20(4): 57-73.
  5. Enos, S. 2001. *Mothering from the inside: parenting in a women's prison*. New York: SUNY Press.
  6. Morton, J.B. & Williams, D.M. 1998. "Mother-child bonding: incarcerated women struggle to maintain meaningful relationships with their children." *Corrections Today*, 60:98-105.
  7. Raimon, M.L. 2001. "Barriers to achieving justice for incarcerated parents." *Fordham Law Review* 70, 421.
  8. Snyder-Joy, Z.K. & Carlo, T.A. 1998. "Parenting through prison walls: Incarcerated mothers and children's visitation programs." In S.K. Miller (Ed.) *Crime control and women: Feminist implications of criminal justice policy* (pp. 130-150). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
  9. Women's Prison Association. 1995. "Breaking the cycle of despair: Children of incarcerated mothers." New York: Women's Prison Association.
- Child Welfare
    1. Covington-Katz, P. 1997. "Supporting families and children of mothers in jail: An integrated child welfare and criminal justice strategy." *Child Welfare*, 77(5): 495-511.
    10. Fritsch, T.A. & Burkhead, J.D. 1981. "Behavioral reactions of children to parental absence due to imprisonment." *Family Relations*, 20: 83-88.
    2. Gabel, K. & Johnston, D. (Eds.) 1995. *Children of Incarcerated Parents*. New York: Lexington Books.
    3. Genty, P.M. 1998. "Permanency planning in the context of parental incarceration: Legal issues and recommendations." *Child Welfare*, 77(5): 543-559.
    4. Jantz, A., Geen, R., Bess, R., Andrews, C. & Russell, V. 2003. "The Continuing Evolution of State Kinship Care Policies." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.
    5. Johnson, E.I & Waldfogel, J. 2004. "Children of incarcerated parents: Multiple risks and children's living arrangements." In *Imprisoning America: The social effects of mass incarceration*. Pattillo, M., Western, B. & Weiman, D. (Eds.). New York: Russell Sage Foundation Press.
    6. Phillips, S. & Bloom, B. 1998. "In whose best interests? The impact of changing public policy on relatives caring for children with incarcerated parents." *Child Welfare*, 77(5): 531-541.
    7. Women's Prison Association. 1995. *Breaking the cycle of despair: Children of incarcerated mothers*. New York: Author.
  - Family Units
    1. Hale, D.C. 1987. "The impact of mother's incarceration on the family system: Research and recommendations." *Marriage & Family Review*, 12(1-2):143-154.
    2. Travis, J., Cincotta, E.M. & Solomon, A.L. 2003. "Families left behind: The hidden costs of incarceration and reentry." Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Justice Policy Center.

## **Reentry into the Community**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics now estimates that more than 600,000 people return home from prison every year. The body of research presented in this section shows that release is a moment full of risks: reentry is difficult and levels of recidivism are high. It also is a moment full of possibility: appropriate services and opportunities can make reentry a time of success. While only a limited number of the articles in this section refer specifically to women, the entire collection is relevant to policy makers interested in the issue of women returning home from prison.

Overall, this research shows that former prisoners returning to the community experience a variety of challenges. Navigating the reentry process is difficult, particularly for individuals who have a variety of medical and mental health problems. Former prisoners have numerous needs such as public assistance, drug treatment and health care. Housing can be difficult to obtain and jobs are in short supply. Employers are unlikely to hire people who have served time in prison. When they do get hired, their prison experiences results in lower wages throughout their lives. For most former prisoners returning home, then, success is dependent upon receiving services. While service providers tend to focus on one area of need or another, as the articles in this section highlight, the needs are all interconnected. Consequently, services are most effective if they are provided in a coordinated fashion by prison and community supervision officials, private agencies and community groups.

Within the general body of scholarship on reentry from prison there is a small subsection which specifically investigates the unique needs of women. These studies report that in addition to the issues all former prisoners cope with such as sobriety, stigma, employment and housing, women are more likely than men to struggle with reunification with children and reintegration into prior intimate relationships. Unlike men returning home from prison who can attend to the details of substance abuse treatment, housing and employment, women frequently focus first on reforming their families. Thus, while women need all the services men need for a successful reentry, they also must deal with the added responsibility of reunifying with children and finding child care to make their other commitments possible. At the same time, the reentry process is exacerbated for women who are more likely than incarcerated men to have a history of abuse, more significant drug use problems, fewer skills, and less work experience. Like men, women need intensive, coordinated services. In addition, however, they need support for reunification with children (which includes particular housing needs) and, in many cases, special attention to domestic violence concerns.

The research presented here shows that reentry is a moment when links with services can make a huge difference in whether or not the transition home is successful. However, resourcing to individual services is insufficient. Given the multifaceted nature of the problems facing reentering individuals, these articles suggest that an equally multifaceted set of providers, from government agencies to treatment providers to the community, need to work in a coordinated effort to improve individual stability and avoid recidivism. Moreover, the difficulty of reentry is exacerbated by the fact that ex-prisoners typically return to a relatively small number of major metropolitan communities. These areas are ill prepared to integrate the influx of people smoothly and successfully because they are disproportionately affected by the consequences of long-term poverty and crime. Few resources exist in these areas to assist with the transition process and residents living in these areas are stretched too thin to compensate effectively for the lack of resources available to their returning relatives and loved ones. Given the disproportionate concentration of incarcerated and reentering individuals in a small number of neighborhoods, these places should be targeted for services. This would ease the way for reentering individuals as well as help to ensure that the families left behind are in a better position to assist others with reentry when it occurs. Not only does this make good policy sense, but as these articles show, it also makes good financial sense.

1. Austin, J. 2001. "Prisoner Reentry: Current Trends, Practices and Issues." *Crime & Delinquency*, 47(3): 314-334.
2. Burke, P. 2001. "Collaboration for Successful Prisoner Reentry: The Role of Parole and the Courts." *Corrections Management Quarterly*, 5(3): 11-22.
3. Clear, T.R., Rose, D.R. & Ryder, J.A. 2001. "Incarceration and the Community: The Problem of Removing and Returning Offenders." *Crime & Delinquency*, 47(3): 335-351.
4. Clear, T.R., Rose, D.R., Waring, E. & Scully, K. 2003. "Coercive Mobility and Crime: A Preliminary Examination of Concentrated Incarceration and Social Disorganization." *Justice Quarterly*, 20(1): 33-64.
5. Covington, S. 2002. *A woman's journey home: Challenges for female offenders*. Washington D.C.: Urban Institute.
6. Dodge, M., & Pogrebin, M.R. 2001. "Collateral Costs of Imprisonment for Women: Complications of Reintegration." *Prison Journal*, 81: 42-54.
7. Fleisher, M. & Decker, S.H. 2001. "Going Home, Staying Home: Integrating Prison Gang Members into the Community." *Corrections Management Quarterly*, 5(1): 65-77.
8. Hagan, J. & Coleman, J.P. 2001. "Returning Captives of the American War on Drugs: Issues of Community and Family Reentry." *Crime & Delinquency*, 47(3): 352-367.
9. Hammett, T.M., Roberts, C. & Kennedy, S. 2001. "Health-Related Issues in Prisoner Reentry." *Crime & Delinquency*, 47(3): 390-409.
10. Hirsch, A., Dietrich, S.M., Landau, R., Schneider, P.D., Ackelsverg, I., Bernstein-Baker, J., Hohenstein, J. 2002. *Every door closed: Barriers facing parents with criminal records*. Washington, D.C.: Center for Law and Social Policy.
11. Holzer, H.J., Raphael, S. & Stoll, M.A. 2003. "Employment Barriers Facing Ex-Offenders." Unpublished work.
12. Jacobs, A. 2001. "Give'em a fighting chance: Women offenders reenter society." *Criminal Justice Magazine* 45 (Spring).
13. LaVigne, N.G., Kachnowski, V., Travis, J. & Naser, R. 2003. *A Portrait of Prisoner Reentry in Maryland*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.
14. Lewis, D.K. 1982. "Female Ex-offenders and Community Programs: Barriers to Service." *Crime and Delinquency*, 28(1): 40-51.
15. Lynch, J. & Sabol, W. 2001. "Prisoner Reentry in Perspective." *Crime Policy Report, Volume 3*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Press.
16. Maruna, S. & LeBel, T.P. 2003. "Welcome home? Examining the 'Reentry Court' Concept From a Strengths-Based Perspective." *Western Criminology Review*, 4(2): 91-107.
17. Nelson, M., Dees, P. & Allen, C. 1999. "The First Month Out: Post-Incarceration Experiences in New York City." New York: Vera Institute of Justice
18. O'Brien, P. 2001. "Just Like Baking a Cake: Women Describe the Necessary Ingredients for Successful Reentry after Incarceration." *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services*, 82(3): 287-295.
19. Petersilia, J. 2003. *When Prisoners Come Home: Parole and Prisoner Reentry*. Oxford University Press.
20. Petersilia, J. 2001. "When Prisoners return to the Community: Political, Economic and Social Consequences." *Corrections Management Quarterly*, 5(3): 1-10.
21. Richie, Beth. 2001. "Challenges Incarcerated Women Face as They Return to Their Communities: Findings from Life History Interviews." *Crime and Delinquency* 47: 368-389.
22. Rose, D.R. & Clear, T.R. 2002. *Incarceration, Reentry and Social Capital: Social Networks in the Balance*.

23. Rose, D.R., Clear, T.R. & Ryder, J.A. 2001. "Addressing the Unintended Consequences of Incarceration through Community-oriented Services at the Neighborhood Level." *Corrections Management Quarterly*, 5(3): 62-71.
24. Rose, D.R. , Clear, T.R. & Ryder, J.A. 2000. *Drugs, Incarceration and Neighborhood Life: The Impact of Reintegrating Offenders into the Community*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice.
25. Travis, J. 2000. "But They All Come Back: Rethinking Prisoner Reentry." *Sentencing and Corrections*.
26. Travis, J. & Petersilia, J. 2001. "Reentry reconsidered: A new look at an old question." *Crime & Delinquency*, 47(3): 291-313.
27. Travis, J., Solomon, A.L. & Waul, M. 2001. *From Prison to Home: The Dimensions and Consequences of Prisoner Reentry*. Washington D.C.: The Urban Institute.
28. United States General Accounting Office. 2001. "Prisoner Releases: Trends and Information on Reintegration Programs." Washington, D.C.: General Accounting Office.
29. Visher, C., LaVigne, N. & Farrell, J. 2003. "Illinois Prisoners' Reflections on Returning Home." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.
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## **Programming for Female Offenders**

The research presented in this section highlights the finding that there is a lack of sufficient programming for women in state prisons across the country. Furthermore, the little programming that does exist is not tailored towards the gender specific needs of women. The authors of these articles stress the importance of gender-specific programming because it is designed and implemented to address the factors considered to be unique to, or particularly important to, women. Female inmates need help addressing such topics as: substance abuse treatment, education, job training, life skills, parenting issues and coping with the effects of trauma. Programs developed for men, however, cannot simply be transported into women's prisons. Women in prison have disproportionately suffered abuse and trauma and they are more likely to be addicted to drugs, have mental illness, and respond differently to custody and supervision than men. These factors need to be considered when curricula for women are being developed. In addition, since women are more likely to have responsibility for children, they are more in need of programs that address the subjects of parenting and custody. A few other factors need to be considered when programming is being developed. Among other things, the authors of the articles emphasize how important it is for programs to stress accountability, even as they strive to acknowledge the underlying causes of women's conflicts with the law. Finally, all programming for women involved in the criminal justice system should provide a continuum of care from inside facilities to a transitional component to community-based programs.

Two types of programs that have been shown to be particularly effective for reducing recidivism are highlighted here: college and work. College programs in prison not only reduce recidivism, they reduce costs, positively affect the prison environment, stimulate students' intellectual and personal growth, and they promote successful reentry. The issue of work in prison is more complicated since many jobs in prison teach job skills with little relevance to work outside the prison environment. As a result, the articles in this section discuss the importance of bringing private industry jobs into prisons and the need for job training programs appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Only then will people coming out of those programs be able to get jobs that will allow them to support themselves and their families.

- General

1. Austin, J., Bloom, B., & Donahue, T. 1992. *Female Offenders in the Community: An Analysis of Innovative Strategies and Programs*. Final Report, U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections.
2. Bloom, B. (Ed.) 2003. *Gendered Justice: Addressing Female Offenders*. Durham: Carolina Academic Press.
3. Bloom, B., Owen, B. & Covington, C. 2002. *Gender-responsive strategies: Research, practice, and guiding principles for women offenders*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Corrections.
4. Koons, B.A., Burrow, J.D., Morash, M., and Bynum, T. 1997. "Expert and Offender Perceptions of Program Elements Linked to Successful Outcomes for Incarcerated Women." *Crime and Delinquency*, 43: 512-532.
5. McMahon, M. 2000. *Assessment to Assistance: Programs for women in community corrections*. Latham, MD: American Correctional Association.
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7. National Institute of Corrections. 2000. *Topics in community corrections: Responding to women offenders in the community*. Washington, DC..
8. Rungay, J. 1999. "Violent Women: Building Knowledge-Based Intervention Strategies." In *Good Practice in Working with Violence*. Kemshall H. & Pritchard, J., Eds. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

- Programming in Prison

1. Atkinson, R. & Rostad, K.A. 2003. "Can Inmates Become an Integral Part of the U.S. Workforce?"
2. Covington, S. 1998. "Women in Prison: Approaches to the treatment of our most invisible population." *Women and Therapy Journal* 21, 141-155.
3. Fine, M., Torre, M.E, Boudin, K., Bowen, I, Clark, J., Hylton, D., Martinez, M., Roberts, M, Smart, R.A. & Upegui, D. 2001. "Changing Minds: The Impact of College on a Maximum Security Prison. New York: Ronald Ridgeway Incorporated.
4. Gray, T., Mays, G.L. & Stohr, M.K. 1995. "Inmate needs and programming in exclusively women's jails. *The Prison Journal*, 75(2):186-202.
5. Johnston, D. 1997. "Developing Services for Incarcerated Mothers." In *Maternal Ties: A Selection of Programs for Female Offenders*. Cynthia L. Blinn, Ed. Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association.
6. Lockwood, D., McCorkel, J., and Inciardi, J.A. 1998. "Developing Comprehensive Prison-Based Therapeutic Community Treatment for Women." *Drugs and Society*, 13: 193-212.
7. Pollock, J.M. 2002. "Parenting Programs in Women's Prisons." *Women & Criminal Justice*, 14(1): 131-154.

## **Criminal Justice System Policy and Practice**

Over the past twenty five years there has been a massive growth in the use of incarceration. Most of the scholarly, policy and public attention has focused on how this expansion has impacted men, particularly black men from inner-city areas. The rate of increase, however, has been especially high for women. Although a modest part of the increase in female incarceration can be attributed to the fact that twenty years ago such a small number of women were incarcerated that any increase in the number of women sentenced to prison shows up as a large proportional increase of the total, this is not the entire story. The growth in female incarceration also can be explained by The War on Drugs. This policy decision disproportionately impacted women because it focused police attention on the types of crimes women are most likely to commit. Accompanying changes in sentencing laws which increased the probability of incarceration for people arrested on drug-related offenses further widened the criminal justice net to include more women.

Most of the research evaluating criminal justice system policy and practice addresses the issue that women in prison are most likely to be non-violent offenders. Typically, they commit crimes associated with their drug addiction, a problem which frequently grows out of the abuse which punctuates many of their pasts. Women pose very little risk to institutional or community security given the types of crimes they commit. Women also “do time” differently than men and the evidence shows even women incarcerated for violent offenses typically present no, or minimal, security risk. As a result, traditional risk assessment tools developed primarily for use with men, may not sufficiently classify women. The authors presented here argue for gender-specific classification system that would be needs-based instead of risks-based because supplying women with the help they need has been shown to be the best way to reduce recidivism.

Most women could be diverted safely to alternative, community-based sanctions because they present no risk to public safety. The call for diverting women away from incarceration is strengthened by the research which points out that the preponderance of incarcerated women have a host of needs which go unmet during their stay in prison but which could be addressed effectively in the community. The research shows that although the majority of women under community supervision do not use community based services, those who do participate in community-based social services have improved outcomes on recidivism. The more access a woman has to services the longer she will go without committing a new offense. Yet, as the nation has gotten more punitive, parole has started to disappear, and the programs that do exist focus more on surveillance than rehabilitation and successful reintegration. The research highlighted in this section call for official community supervision programs to be refocused.

Keeping women in the community also is important because most women sentenced to prison are mothers. Typically they are the primary caregivers, raising their children as single parents. Consequently, incarcerating women disrupts families, increases the number of children who end up in foster care and weakens communities. Some authors suggest that there should be special consideration in sentencing for individuals with special needs, such as single mothers and pregnant women. When it comes to sentencing, however, these women are just as likely as others to receive a prison sentence.

Policy has a huge effect on who is under supervision, the nature of their supervision, the effects on others in their family and their community, and their success after supervision. Not all of the works below specifically address women, however, it all illustrates how the massive expansion of the incarceration has impacted them. Finally, this work also shows how other institutions (such as education) pay a price for the cost of incarceration when they lose funding in the face of limited resources and an ever-expanding criminal justice system.

### General Policy

1. Ambrosio, T. & Schiraldi, V. 1997. *From Classrooms to Cell Blocks: A National Perspective*. Washington, D.C.: The Justice Policy Institute.

2. Danner, M. "Three Strikes and it's *women* who are out: The hidden consequences for women in criminal justice policy reforms." In Miller, S.K. (Ed.) 1998. *Crime control and women: Feminist implications of criminal justice policy*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
3. Petersilia, J. & Tonry, M. 1999. *Prisons*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

#### Sentencing

1. Daly, K. 1989. Rethinking judicial paternalism: Gender, work-family relations, and sentencing. *Gender and Society*, 3:9-36.
2. Kruttschnitt, Candace, and Donald E. Green. 1984. "The Sex-Sanctioning Issue: Is It History?" *American Sociological Review* 49:541-51.
3. Kruttschnitt, C. 1980. "Social status and sentences of female offenders." *Law and Society Review*, 15(2): 247-265.
4. Raeder, M.S. 1995. "The forgotten offender: The effect of the sentencing guidelines and mandatory minimums on women and their children." *Federal Sentencing Reporter*, 8: 157-162.

#### Classification

1. Farr, K.A. 2000. "Classification for Female Inmates: Moving Forward." *Crime and Delinquency*, 46(1):3-17.
2. Harer, M.D. & Langan, N.P. 2001. "Gender differences in prediction of prison violence: Assessing the predictive validity of a risk classification system". *Crime and Delinquency*, 47(4):513-536.
3. Van Voorhis, P. & Presser L. 2002. *Classification of women offenders: A national assessment of current practice*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Corrections.

#### Collateral Consequences

1. Mauer, M. & Chesney-Lind, M. 2002. *Invisible Punishment: The Collateral Consequences of Mass Imprisonment*. New York: The New Press.
2. Rose, D.R. & Clear, T.R. 1998. "Incarceration, social capital and crime: Implications for social disorganization theory." *Criminology*, 36(3): 441-79.

#### Community Supervision

1. Boone, H.N. & Fulton, B.A. 1996. "Developing Performance-Based Measures for Community Corrections." *Community Corrections Report*.
2. Pearl, N.R. 1998. Use of Community-based Social Services to Reduce Recidivism in Female Parolees. *Women and Criminal Justice*, 10(1):27-52.
3. Petersilia, J. 2003. "Parole and Prisoner Reentry in the United States." *Perspectives*, 24(3 & 4): 32-46.
4. Travis, J. & Lawrence, S. 2002. *Beyond the Prison Gates: The State of Parole in America*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.

## Female offenders and health

The body of research on the health of incarcerated women shows that the majority of women in prison suffer from significant medical problems and they rely upon prison health services extensively. In particular, women in prison are more likely than women in the general population to have Hepatitis and to be infected with HIV/AIDS. The pervasiveness of these diseases is due to the prevalence of high-risk events in the histories of female inmates. These typically include substance abuse, trauma, multiple sexual partners and low protection behaviors. Researchers also have found that women in correctional settings have higher levels of psychiatric illnesses (particularly depression) compared to the general population, and that most are symptomatic during their incarceration.

The studies highlighted in this section find that while significant resources are already directed towards health services in prison, current levels are insufficient to meet the needs of incarcerated women. This is true particularly because the conditions of prison frequently exacerbate many of the health care concerns with which women enter prison. Researchers report that the harsh penalties of prison make risk behaviors worse and successful treatment of mental and physical illnesses less likely. Ironically, prison provides a unique opportunity to provide treatment for the multitude of problems faced by female prisoners. The high concentration of high-risk individuals makes it easier (and less expensive) to deliver treatment. In addition, the controlled environment means people who are otherwise hard to treat can be reached through healthcare outreach for both education and care. Compliance with treatment can also be monitored. The articles in this section recommend a continuum of care, including screening, diagnosis, treatment and post-release planning. Given that treatment is not easily continued after incarceration, researchers recommend that any interventions, including referrals, begin in prison and extended beyond the facility. Women released into the community with unresolved health problems are prone to spread infections to the community, particularly if they cannot afford medical care. One approach suggested in the research literature is to encourage collaborations with outside agencies to provide in-prison healthcare. Not only would this defray costs, but it would bring much needed medical staff into the prison, a place where individuals often are reluctant to work. It also would facilitate the transition from in-prison to community care, promoting both the health of women and the communities to which they return. Thus, health care policies for prisoners are really health care policies for the public-at-large.

- Mental Health

1. Daniel, A.E., Robbins, A.J., et al. 1988. "Lifetime and six-month prevalence of psychiatric disorders among sentenced female offenders." *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 16(4):333-342.
2. Fogel, C.I. 1993. "Hard Time: The stressful nature of incarceration for women." *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 14:367-377.
3. Jordan, K., Schlenger, W.E., Fairbank, J.A., & Caddell, J.M. 1996. "Prevalence of psychiatric disorders among incarcerated women." *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 53, 513-519.
4. Lurigio, A.J. 2001. "Effective Services for Parolees with Mental Illnesses." *Crime & Delinquency*, 47(3): 446-461.
5. Teplin, L.A., Abram, D.M., McClelland, G.M. 1996. "Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders Among Incarcerated Women: Pretrial jail detainees." *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 53: 505-512.
6. Veysey, B. 1998. "Specific Needs of Women Diagnosed with Mental Illnesses in U.S. Jails." In Levin, B.L., Blanch, A.K., & Jennings, A. (eds.) *Women's Mental Health Services: A Public Perspective*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- Substance Abuse

1. Anglin, M.D., & Hser, Y. 1987. "Addicted women and crime." *Criminology* 25, 359-394.
2. Carten, A.J. 1996. "Mothers in Recovery: Rebuilding Families in the Aftermath of Addiction." *Social Work*, 41: 214-223.

3. Wellisch, J., Prendergast, M.L. and Anglin, M. 1996. 'Needs Assessment and Services for Drug-abusing Women Offenders: Results from a National Survey of Community-based Treatment Programmes.' *Women and Criminal Justice*, 8(1): 27-60.
- Co-Occurring disorders
    1. Alexander, M.J. 1996. "Women with Co-Occurring Addictive and Mental Disorders: An Emerging Profile of Vulnerability." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 66(1): 61-70.
    2. Brown, V.B., Melchoir, L.A., Huba, G.J. 1999. "Level of burden among women diagnosed with severe mental illness and substance abuse." *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 31(1): 31-40.
  - HIV
    1. Fogel, CI, Belyea, M. 1999. "The lives of incarcerated women: violence, substance abuse, and at risk for HIV." *J assoc Nurses in AIDS Care*, 10(6) 66-74.
    2. Marquart, J.W., Brewer, V.E., Mullings, J., et al. 1999. "The Implications of Crime Control Policy on HIV/AIDS-Related Risk among Women Prisoners." *Crime and Delinquency*, 45: 82-98.
    3. Stevens, J. et al. 1995. "Risks for HIV infection in incarcerated women." *Journal of Women's Health*, 4(5)L 569-577.
  - Physical Health
    1. Acoca, L. 1998. "Defusing the time bomb: Understanding and meeting the growing health care needs of incarcerated women in America. " *Crime and Delinquency*, 44(1):44-69.
    2. Belknap, J. 1996. "Access to programs and health care for incarcerated women". *Federal Probation*, 60.
    3. Correctional Association. 2000. "Health Care in New York State Prisons." New York: Correctional Association.
    4. Young, D.S. 1998. "Health Status and Service Use among Incarcerated Women." *Family and Community Health*, 21: 16-31.

## Reference

The text books and bibliographies listed below are excellent resources for a well-rounded overview of the topic of women and criminal justice.

### Text Books

1. Muraskin, R. (Ed.) 2003. *It's a Crime: Women and Justice, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.
2. Price, B.R. & Sokoloff, N.J. (Eds.) 2003. *The Criminal Justice System and Women: Offenders, Victims and Workers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

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2. University of Toronto. 2003. Women in Prison: A Select Bibliography. Available at: <http://criminology.utoronto.ca/library/wompris.htm>
3. U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections Information Center. 1996. "Women Offender Issues: Annotated Bibliography." Available at: <http://www.nicic.org/pubs/1996/013370.pdf>