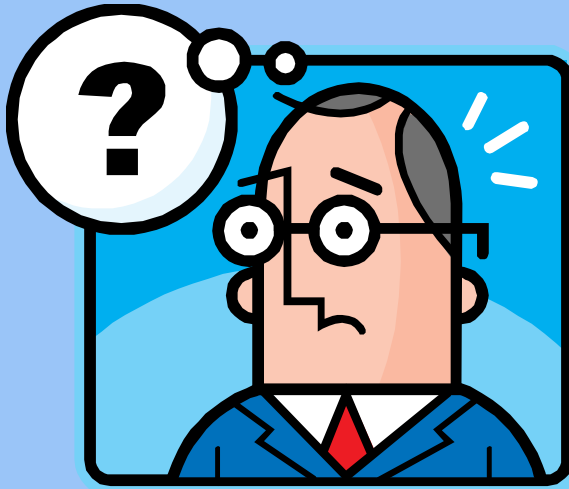


Pathways & Profiles of Women Offenders

Gender Makes A Difference

Performance Objectives

- 1) Through small group discussion, participants will describe the attributes of gender-responsive supervision;
- 2) Through guided group discussion, participants will identify 1 key component for the Pathways Perspective; Relational, Addition and Trauma Theories;
- 3) Identify three pathways that bring women into a correctional facility that are different from men;
- 4) Through small group discussion, examine the impact of trauma in the lives of the women;



If we are supposed to be firm, fair and consistent; why do we have a separate curriculum for women?

- Equality does not mean sameness
- Providing opportunities which are relevant to gender
- Treatment services may appear unequal, when they are in fact just different

Gender Responsive Principles

Profiles and Pathways

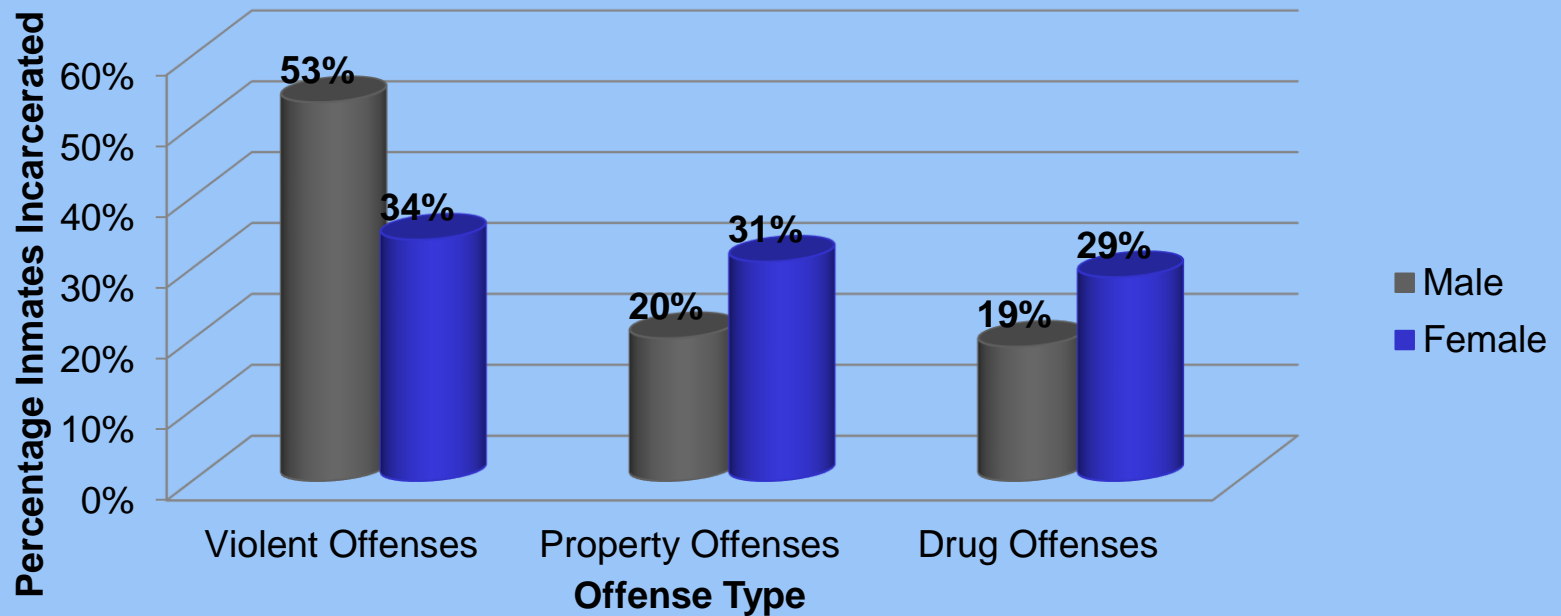
The Pathways Perspective

Women come to prison through different pathways
These pathways are gender-based

- Substance Abuse
- Education
- Medical and Mental Health
- Families/Children
- Socioeconomic/Employment

Men and Women in State Prisons

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



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

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

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

History and Projections

Women are more likely to be on community supervision (85%) than men (66%). This is a trend that has been observed since 1990 (72% of men, 87% of women).

Incarcerated women tend to be less violent than their male counterparts.

Acknowledging Your Population

As the number of women under criminal justice supervision continues to increase, there is a critical need for gender-responsive principles & strategies to guide effective programs, services, policy, & research.

Who are the women?



Substance abuse

- **Approximately 80% in state prisons have substance abuse problems**
- **About half had been using alcohol, drugs, or both at the time of their offense**
- **Nearly 1 in 3 women in state prisons report committing the offense to support a drug habit**
- **Women offenders in state prisons report higher drug usage than their male counterparts**



The Drug-Crime Connection for Women

- **Introduced to both by males typically**
- **Onset in women faster & deeper**
- **Onset of drugs first, crime usually follows closely**
- **Dual diagnosis relationship**
- **Role of self-medication & trauma**

Race & Ethnicity Make a Difference

- African American women comprise only 13% of all women in the U.S., yet they make-up nearly half of the women in State and Federal prisons
- African American girls also make up almost half of all girls in secure detention
- Black, non-Hispanic women were 3 times more likely than Hispanic women & 6 times more likely than white women to be incarcerated in 2000

Family Background

- **Likely to come from a single-parent home**
- **Almost 17% lived in foster care or in a group home**
- **More likely than men to have at least one family member that has been incarcerated**

Violence Against Women and Children

- **Witnessing domestic violence as a child may cause increased vulnerability to victimization in adulthood**
- **Approximately 80% of Women in the CJ system have extensive histories of physical & sexual abuse and are 3 times more likely than men to have a history of abuse**
- **One-third of women in state prison & one-quarter of those in jails report being raped at some time in their lives**
- **Women's substance abuse is highly correlated with physical & sexual abuse**

Safety

- For some women, their first experience of safety is in a correctional setting. Violence and abuse have been their experience at home and on the street. It is a harsh social reality when a woman believes that she is safer in prison or jail than at home.

Health Issues

- **Males & females experience disease differently (cardiovascular disease, cancer, sexually transmitted infections)**
- **Women offenders have backgrounds of inadequate health care & risky behaviors**
- **Pregnancy & reproductive needs**
- **Eating disorders**

Mental Health

- **Women in the criminal justice system have a higher incidence of mental disorders than women in general**
- **Women offenders have histories of abuse associated with psychological trauma**
- **Approximately 75% with serious mental illness also have co-occurring substance abuse disorders**
- **Women with mental illness & co-occurring disorders experience difficulties in prison & jail settings**
- **About 22% of women in jail are diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

What we've learned so far



- **The interrelationship of substance abuse, mental health & trauma is different in the lives of women**
- **The pathway to drug use & abuse is more complex for women**
- **Women who abuse drugs have higher rates of childhood physical & sexual abuse than men**



Children

- **National**

- Two-thirds of incarcerated women have children under 18
- An estimated 1.3 million minor children have a mother under correctional supervision
- More than a quarter of a million children have mothers in jail or prison

- **Vermont (2003)**

- 76% of incarcerated women had kids
- Children of incarcerated women are 7 times more likely to be incarcerated
- 75% have minor children in the care of a non-parent, vs. only 25% of the time when the father is incarcerated

Visiting

- If the father is incarcerated children continue in their mothers care, and the mother brings the children to visit.
- When a mother is incarcerated more than 50% of the time so is the father.
- More than half of the children of women never visit their mother during incarceration.
- IF a woman is disconnected from her community and is isolated she is **MORE** likely to re-offend.



Women's Facility in Vermont

Barriers

- **Father is Incarcerated**
- **Travel Conditions**
- **School, Work**
- **Elderly Caregivers**
- **Money**
- **Transportation**





Adoption & Safe Families Act

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) proceedings are started if the child(ren) have been separated 15 out of 22 months

This has made it increasingly more likely that incarcerated women with children in the foster care system will have their parental rights terminated.

Education & Employment

- **An estimated 55% of women in jail, 56% in state prisons & 73% in federal prisons have a high school diploma**
- **Approximately 40% of women in state prisons were employed at the time of arrest compared to 60% of males**
- **37% of women compared to 28% of men had incomes of less than \$600 per month prior to arrest due to Low level, low skill and low paying jobs**

Theoretical Perspectives

Theoretical perspectives are sets of plausible explanations for both the reasons women come to prison and the foundation for how we might address changing their behavior.

- **Pathways Perspective**
- **Relational Theory and Female Development**
- **Trauma Theory**
- **Addiction Theory**

Pathways Perspective

- **Women's crimes embedded in the conditions of their lives**
- **Examines the specific life course events that place women at risk for offending**
- **Combines structural issues & personal choice**

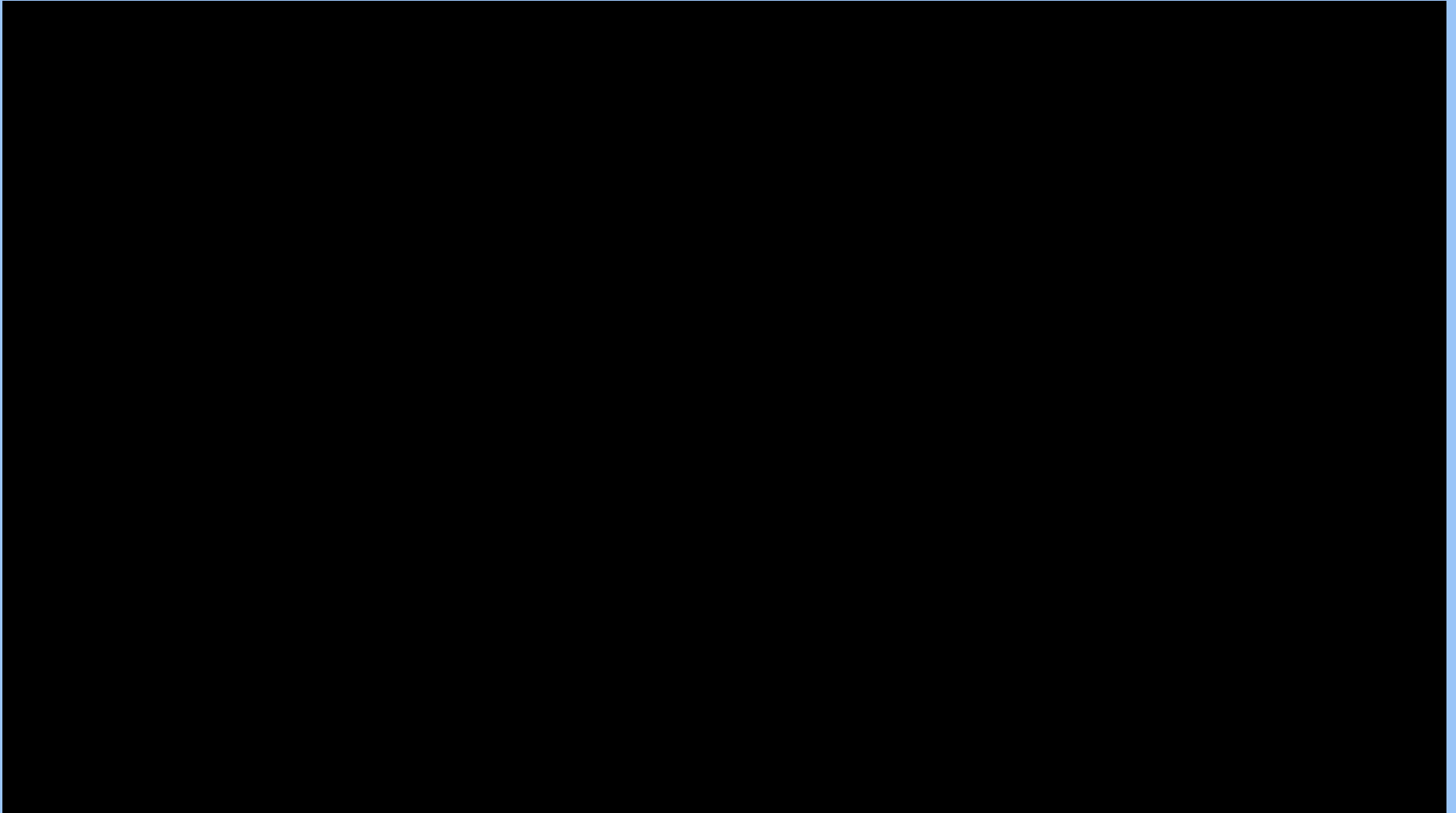




Relational Theory & Female Development

- **Stone Center Relational Model: Connection with others guides growth for females**
- **Communication (women like to talk..process)**
- **Focus on developing & maintaining relationships**
- **Compromise and conciliation**
- **Responsibility for others**
- **Internalize feeling, even at own detriment**

Its Not About The Nail



Communication Continued

“men and women learn different ways of talking and relating right from the beginning. Boys learn to relate through activities and girls learn to relate through talk...men see life as a contest, a struggle to preserve independence and avoid failure.....women see life as a community, a struggle to preserve intimacy”

Deborah Tannen

- Women Relate through **Connection & Community**.
- Men Relate through **Differentiation & Independence**

Destructive Relationships

- **Addiction**
 - **Drug-using world: connections & other users**
- **Abusers**
 - **Broken Family**
 - **Emotional Relationship**
- **Prostitution**
- **Other pro-criminal acquaintances**
- **Where else?**



Healthy Relationships: Where are they?

- **Where are Healthy Relationships modeled in the CJ system that can help women?**
- **How can we teach women that Healthy Relationship are real and they can obtain them?**
- **What are the concerns?**



Trauma Theory

Trauma is the injury done by violence & abuse and occurs on multiple levels requiring trauma-informed services

- Fight-or-Flight
- Learned Helplessness
- Loss of “volume control”
- Thinking/Remembering Under Stress, can appear to be lying
- Dissociation
- Addiction to Trauma

Theory of Addiction

- **Holistic health model: Mind-Body-Spirit**
- **Relational aspects of addiction**
- **Incorporation of trauma & relational theories**

Review of Theoretical Perspectives

- **Pathways Perspective**

 - Education

 - Socioeconomic/Employment

 - Medical/Mental Health

 - Family / Children

 - Substance Abuse

- **Relational Theory & Female Development**

- **Trauma Theory**

- **Addiction Theory**





Interventions



Choice
Respect
Information
Connection
Hope

