More incarcerated women than men report mental health problems. A new study by the Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Statistics found that women in prisons and jails report having mental health problems at a much higher rate than incarcerated men.

Challenges and mental health needs of women in prison...

The world population of women and girls in prison is increasing. Evidence points to high rates of mental health problems. Approaches to these problems vary and include both psychiatric epidemiology and gender-sensitive understanding and intervention.


Incarceration severely affects the health and wellbeing of women both during their incarceration and following release. An immediate health disadvantage they already experience as a consequence of gender, race and social class. The scope of the international problem remains largely hidden from health professionals and policy makers.

Women Prisoners and Health Justice


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The Bureau of Justice Statistics has launched a new program for an alternative Reentry Program: 3744448209. Medicine & Health ScienceBooks@Amazon.com

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WHO | Women's health in prison: urgent need for action

Alarmingly high rates of mental health problems are reported, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and mental impairment. Female inmates (90%) in England and Wales, it was noted that 90% of the women prisoners have a diagnosable mental disorder, substance use or both. 5

Health & Justice | Articles

Incarcerated women: Poverty, trauma and unmet need

The Editors of Health & Justice are seeking submissions for a special issue of the journal exploring the wide range of health issues relating to women in the criminal justice system. Deadline: 31 August 2020. Call for papers: Enhancing the prison environment... Women prisoners and health justice: perspectives, issues and advocacy for an international hidden population.

Correctional Health | CDC

Health, mental health and substance abuse problems often are more apparent in jails and prisons than in the community. Women who have health, mental health, and substance abuse problems after receiving care from a correctional health provider.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Medical Problems of Prisoners

Male and female inmates in state and federal prisons were equally likely to report having at least 1 of 6 impairments (impairment. Female inmates (11%) in state prisons were more likely to report a mental impairment than male inmates (6%).

Women in the criminal justice system

In 2017, women represented 15% of adults in jails and 7% of adults in prisons in the United States (Bronson & Carson, 2017). Incarceration of females continues to rise. Women have gender-specific health needs that correctional facilities must address.

Women Prisoners and Health Justice: Perspectives, Issues and Advocacy for an International Hidden Population

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