

TITLE: Pathways to Recidivism among Women Prisoners with Histories of Victimization: Implications for Assessment, Transition Planning and Reentry. Community Based Research with North Carolina Department of Corrections Prisoners

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PROJECT ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this project is to assess the influence of childhood physical and sexual victimization on recidivism for a random sample of women prisoners in North Carolina. Social support, mental health, and substance abuse are used as both moderating and mediating variables. The researchers interview women soon to be released from prison every three months, using the following measurements to collect information on victimization, mental health, substance abuse, and social support: Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, Experiences of Sexual Victimization, Abuse Behavior Inventory, National Violence Against Women Survey, Substance Abuse Module, Abbreviated Addiction Severity Index, Social Support Survey, Important People Drug and Alcohol Interview, and MINI-Abbreviated. The researchers will receive recidivism data – whether or not the participant has returned to the North Carolina Department of Correction - one year after data collection is complete. The research team will use structural equation modeling to assess the relationships between previous victimization, mental health and substance abuse, and recidivism. Additionally, the researchers will use survival analyses to determine the influence of victimization, mental health, and substance abuse on time to recidivism for those who recidivated. When this project is complete, the research team hopes to receive federal funding to conduct a multi-state study assessing the influence of victimization on recidivism, with the aim of developing a women-specific prisoner reentry program based on predictors of recidivism specific for women prisoners.

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Co-Investigators: None

Community Collaborators:

North Carolina Department of Correction
