Selected Sources on Women in Jail or Prison, and Substance Abusing Women

Produced for the 38th Annual Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture:

*Three Strikes: Substance Abusing, Female, and In Jail*

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UWM Libraries Materials

Based on a series of interviews collected from 1971-1974; provides interesting anecdotes but many conclusions are drawn without an evidence base.

This book is a photographic journal of women in forty different prisons, jails, detention centers, and penitentiaries in nine different countries from 1989-1998.

Reviews various theories related to women and crime, criminality.

Reviews what theory and research tell us about how women’s addictions progress and respond to treatment, rather than relying on what we know about men.

This small book characterizes the literature on female drug use and critiques quality of publications along the dimensions of methodological adequacy and presence of theory to explain sex role differences in the data. It reviews articles and papers from three groups: sociology, anthropology, and political science; psychology and biological sciences; and, “other” disciplines.

Provides historical review of various theories related to women’s criminality and their treatment in the criminal justice system.


Written as a “factual, objective” book to give outsiders an idea of what being confined in a modern women’s prison is like. The author’s information was gained during volunteer work as a teacher and interviewing prison staff, parolees, and community agents in California.


Edited volume that reviews the theories and experiences of women in prison and at reentry in Australian prison system and other systems around the world.


UWM Libraries Online Resource
Examine rationale and principles of gender-responsive programming in corrections.


Overview of how women manage mothering while incarcerated based on sociological field research from 1992-1997 at women’s correctional facilities in Northeastern U.S.


Examines gendered crimes and reviews numerous historical and contemporary theories concerning women and crime.


An edited volume that reviews theories and data related to women’s incarceration and crimes.
Presents history of women’s prisons and some women who led the reformatory movement.

Interviews detailing the lives of 40 women in North Carolina minimum security prison, applying a strong “feminist” perspective but many statements without evidence to ground them.


Guide to photographing women in different situations, capturing their experiences. Applied to photographs taken in jail facilities.


An autobiographical account (using a pseudonym).

Considers issues that are important in developing effective, individualized responses to women’s substance abuse problems in correctional settings.

Introduces a special journal issue designed to deconstruct and demystify women prisoners’ lives.

Photos of women in different situations.
Journalistic report demonstrating the plight of children who have an incarcerated parent.

Shares women’s compositions regarding their experiences of incarceration.

This is not a science based piece, but addresses perceptions of essentials for training and influencing the correctional officer culture to better serve incarcerated women.

A presentation of the stories from 18 women who are successfully “making it” in the community after having served a prison term, designed to help inform practitioners about what helps and what does not.

Combines case studies and literature review in an analysis of factors affecting the lives of women struggling with incarceration.

A study examining patterns in the “determinants” of substance abuse prior to arrest and incarceration.

Identifies reasons why treatment of women must differ from that provided to men, how “equal treatment” has unequal results, and how numbers translate into the inequities in treatment.

An edited collection of readings offering a survey of significant contributions to feminist literature related to women and crime/criminal justice systems.
A journalist’s report concerning a correctional institution serving New Haven during 1989-1994 when crack cocaine was a new entry into the urban, poor black and Hispanic communities of New Haven, emphasizing the point that many women were victims of abuse prior to incarceration.

Reprinted pamphlets and documents from this era to demonstrate differences between a correctional system established for women as against the one established for men. Lists details concerning 73 inmates in South Boston’s House of Reformation in 1834.

A man’s insider report of life in prison.


Based on the author’s dissertation work which established a procedure for systematically measuring the treatment of inmates, the book addresses inequities in treatment between male/female prisoners.

An edited collection.


Journalist review of political, economic, historical and experience factors affecting the experience of incarceration for women.

Men’s experiences of prison life.


Also note

*The County Jail*. [s.l. : The Federated Press?, 19--]. Fromkin Memorial Collection HV9950 .C68x 1919

O’Hare, Kate Richards. *In Prison; Being a Report*. St. Louis, Mo.: F.P. O’Hare, 1920. Fromkin Memorial Collection HV9475 .M83 05 1920
Based on the author’s experience as a federal prisoner from April 14, 1919 to May 30, 1920.

Other Materials


Interviews with women from jails, state and federal prisons, and juvenile justice.

Galbraith, S. (1998) *And So I Began to Listen to Their Stories...Working with Women in the Criminal Justice System*. Delmar, N.Y.: Policy Research Inc. and GAINS: The National GAINS Center for People with Co-Occurring Disorders in the Justice System. Discussion presented by a long-term advocate on behalf of women with alcoholism, drug addiction, and histories of abuse and trauma who now has encountered these women in prison setting.

Reviews aspects of best practices for addressing mental health and addictions needs of incarcerated individuals.


An overview of the history of women and alcohol, as well as the current research concerning physiology and biology of alcohol consumption and its abuse by women.


Concurrently published as a special 1996 issue of the Journal of Chemical Dependency Treatment, 6(1/2).