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Mental health difficulties and service use of incarcerated women: The influence of violence perpetration and victimization

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Mental health difficulties and service use of incarcerated women: The influence of violence perpetration and victimization

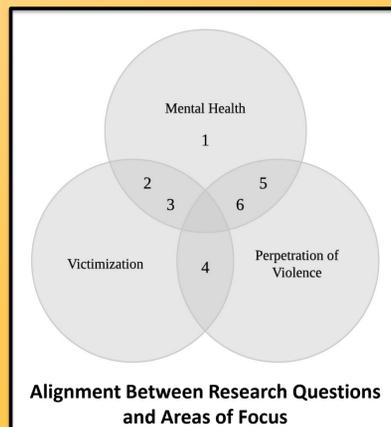
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Background

- Incarcerated women report high rates of **mental health difficulties**:
 - 73% have been diagnosed with a mental disorder¹
 - 60% have been diagnosed with a substance use disorder²
 - Twice as likely to die by suicide as women in the community³
- Incarcerated women have many **experiences with violence** that could potentially influence their mental health:
 - Between 25% and 30% have experienced physical victimization^{4,5}
 - Between 42% and 72% have experienced sexual victimization^{6,7}
 - Twice as likely to have experienced victimization as women in the community⁵
 - 30% of women in state correctional facilities are incarcerated for violent offenses⁷

Research Questions

- What **patterns of mental health difficulties** exist among incarcerated women?
- What is the relationship between **victimization and mental health difficulties** among incarcerated women?
- What is the relationship between **victimization and mental health service utilization** during incarceration?
- What is the relationship between past **victimization and past perpetration of violence** among incarcerated women?
- What is the relationship between **perpetration of violence and mental health difficulties** among incarcerated women?
- What is the relationship between **perpetration of violence and mental health service utilization** during incarceration?



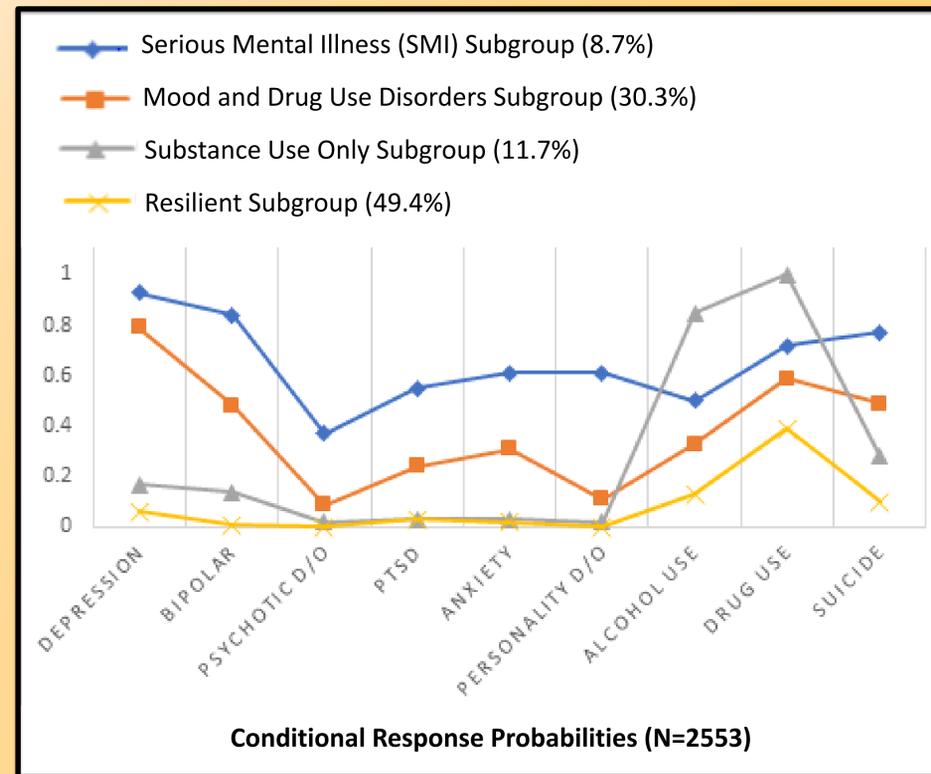
Methods

- Analyzed secondary data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics
 - 2004 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities
 - Final sample size of 2553 women
- Conducted statistical analyses using SPSS 24 and Mplus
 - Latent class analysis** to examine patterns of mental health difficulties
 - Logistic regression** to examine the likelihood with which violence-related variables predicted mental health-related variables

References

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Findings from Latent Class Analysis



Implications for Correctional Services

- Increase and calibrate mental health resources to meet need
- Implement peer-based programs
- Tailor interventions to target co-occurring disorders
 - Wraparound milieu-based services for SMI subgroup
 - DBT, CBT, or dual diagnosis treatments for mood and drug use D/O subgroup
 - Substance abuse treatment for all
- Treat trauma associated with victimization
- Develop interventions tailored for violent female offenders

Implications for Community-Based Interventions

- Divert women with SMI away from criminal justice system
- Prevent and remediate drug-related crime
 - Decriminalization through legal reform
 - Establishment and standardization of drug courts
 - Increase access to substance abuse treatment in community settings
- Prevent and treat trauma from victimization
 - Reduce stigma and increase access to services
 - Mobilize communities around bystander intervention
 - Promote primary education targeting future perpetrators

Significant Findings^a from Logistic Regression Analyses (N=2553) Odds Ratio

Category	Outcome	Odds Ratio
Childhood Sexual Victimization Women who had experienced childhood sexual victimization were...	...more likely to be in the serious mental illness group ^b	3.59
	...more likely to be in the mood and drug use disorder group	1.64
	...more likely to be in the substance use only group	1.37
	...more likely to have used any mental health treatment	1.92
	...more likely to have used psychotropic medication	1.77
	...more likely to have used substance abuse treatment	1.52
...more likely to have perpetrated a violent offense	1.42	
Adulthood Sexual Victimization Women who had experienced adulthood sexual victimization were...	...more likely to be in the serious mental illness group	2.00
	...more likely to be in the mood and drug use disorder group	1.95
	...more likely to be in the substance use only group	1.66
	...more likely to have used any mental health treatment	1.42
	...more likely to have used psychotropic medication	1.43
	...more likely to have used substance abuse treatment	1.29
Childhood Physical Victimization Women who had experienced childhood physical victimization were...	...more likely to be in the serious mental illness group	3.30
	...more likely to be in the mood and drug use disorder group	2.16
	...more likely to be in the substance use only group	2.05
	...more likely to have used any mental health treatment	1.85
	...more likely to have used psychotropic medication	1.87
	...more likely to have used substance abuse treatment	1.35
...more likely to have perpetrated a violent offense	1.58	
Adulthood Physical Victimization Women who had experienced adulthood physical victimization were...	...more likely to be in the serious mental illness group	2.49
	...more likely to be in the mood and drug use disorder group	1.74
	...more likely to be in the substance use only group	1.93
	...more likely to have used any mental health treatment	1.42
	...more likely to have used psychotropic medication	1.29
	...more likely to have used substance abuse treatment	1.41
History of Violent Perpetration Women with histories of violent perpetration were...	...more likely to be in the serious mental illness group	1.59
	...more likely to be in the mood and drug use disorder group	1.31
	...more likely to have used any mental health treatment	1.50
	...more likely to have used mental health counseling	2.03
	...more likely to have used psychotropic medication	1.78
	...more likely to have used substance abuse treatment	1.78

Notes. a. Findings are significant at the p<.05 level
b. Resilient group is reference group

Recommendations for Future Research

- Investigate violent perpetration and mental health further
 - Longitudinal/retrospective data to establish time order of variables
 - Qualitative inquiry of women's own understanding of this relationship
- Build theoretical explanations of violent female offending
 - Account for influence childhood victimization experiences
 - Account for influence of other gendered experiences of marginalization
- Investigate factors associated with use of specific types of mental health services, such as counseling and medication