

Gendered Justice:

Creating Trauma-informed Services for Women

Overview

Due to the increasing number of women in correctional settings, there is a growing recognition of the need for gender-responsive services. Their pathways into the system (substance abuse, violence, and poverty) provide the framework for developing effective services. Critical to the success of any intervention is an understanding of the connection between addiction and trauma. It is important for each jurisdiction to become trauma-informed because of the impact of trauma on the health, mental health, and management issues of women. Staff who become trauma-informed have a greater understanding of the behaviors often seen in reaction to authority and develop new skills for responding to these behaviors. Research findings on trauma-informed services for women in correctional settings are provided to support the use of evidence-based materials.

Topics

- Profile of women in correctional settings
- Levels of violence
- Definition of gender-responsive and trauma-informed services
- ACE study
- Process of trauma
- Posttraumatic stress disorder
- Specific therapeutic strategies

Objectives

- Define gender-responsive and trauma-informed services
- Discuss the connection between substance abuse and trauma
- Describe the process of trauma and typical responses
- Delineate the four issues that recovering women find most challenging and that are major triggers to relapse (self, relationships, sexuality, and spirituality)
- Demonstrate treatment techniques
- Discuss results of NIDA-funded research on two specific curricula