

Women Incarcerated in a Maximum Security Facility

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# An NIJ Funded Study of Psychopathology

- Recruitment by the Warden Patti-Leigh Huffman looking for a university liaison
- □ Fluvanna Correctional Center was about to open in 1999
- Allowed us to collect data on 802 of 1100 female inmates with 261 follow-up clinical interviews lasting up to four hours
- Data collection on varied topics continues until today
- Denied permission to study sexual coercion and rape in prison and now collecting data in Ohio and Texas

### Maximum Security Female Inmates

□ Age	
Under age 32	48 percent
□ Race	
Minority	62 percent
Education	
No high school	49 percent
Parental Status	
Mothers	79 percent
Marital Status	
Ever married	55 percent

#### Maximum Security Female Inmates

#### □ Most serious crime

Violent	21 percent
Drug	28 percent
Property	39 percent

Length of Sentence
 Over 5 years <u>43 percent</u>

Prior Incarceration

No priors67 percent

Time served 81 percent > than one year

### Parental Roles Interrupted

#### Number of children

- 79 percent of the women mothers
- Mean of 2.5 children
- Range of 1 to 6 children
- Contact with children
  - 76 percent daily contact
  - 68 percent seen less than once a month
- □ Legal concerns about custody
  - 30 percent losing custody
  - 19 percent fighting to keep custody
  - 74 percent willingly gave up custody

# Self-reported Rates of Victimization

Victimization before age 18 years 

Sexual abuse 55 percent Physical abuse 39 percent 

Victimization in 6 months before incarceration

Sexual abuse 12 percent 

Physical abuse 19 percent

# Prison Adjustment Questionnaire (PAQ)

Problem

Worse Inside

Worse Outside

People Sleeping Angry Fights Injured Sick Attacked Advantage 58 percent
53 percent
38 percent
5 percent
6 percent
21 percent
23 percent
24 percent

42 percent
47 percent
62 percent
95 percent
94 percent
79 percent
77 percent
76 percent

#### Violence and Victimization in Prison

#### Perpetrator Threats 30 percent Assaults 38 percent Forced sex 3 percent Lies/rumors 21 percent □ Victim Threats 25 percent Assaults 22 percent Forced sex 6 percent Lies/rumors 45 percent

# Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI)

□ Scale	<b>Prison</b> (n = 798)	Outpatient (n = 577)	Inpatient (n =265)
Somatic	62	63	63
Obsessive	65	66	65
Sensitivity	65	67	67
Depression	66	69	68
Anxiety	63	69	67
Hostility	66	67	63
Phobic anxiety	63	65	66
Paranoid	70	65	65
Psychotic	72	72	71
Global severity inde	x 69	71	69

# Personality Disorders (SCID-II)

Cluster A	
Paranoid	27 percent
Schizoid	5 percent
Schizotypal	4 percent
Cluster B	
Antisocial	43 percent
Borderline	24 percent
Histrionic	4 percent
Narcissistic	10 percent
Cluster C	
Avoidant	14 percent
Dependent	4 percent

#### Logistic Regression Summary for Personality Disorder Clusters and Individual Cluster B Diagnoses Predicting Categorical Violence and Criminality Variables

Variable	В	SE	p	Odds Ratio
Cluster A				
Current conviction of violent crime with homicide	0.46	0.16	.01	2.50
Current conviction of violent crime without homicide	0.46	0.15	.01	2.49
Current conviction of prostitution	0.92	0.35	.01	6.35
Cluster B				
Self-report institutional violence*	0.59	0.17	.001	3.26
Narcissistic PD				
Current conviction of violent crime with homicide	1.01	0.33	.01	7.57
Current conviction of violent crime without homicide	0.80	0.26	.01	4.92
Antisocial PD				
Self-report institutional violence*	0.58	0.170	.001	3.18
Borderline PD				
Self-report institutional violence*	0.53	0.18	.01	2.88
Cluster C				
Current conviction of drug crime <sup>+</sup>	0.37	0.17	.027	0.48
Current conviction of regulatory crime	0.34	0.17	.05	1.96

# Psychopathy among female inmates

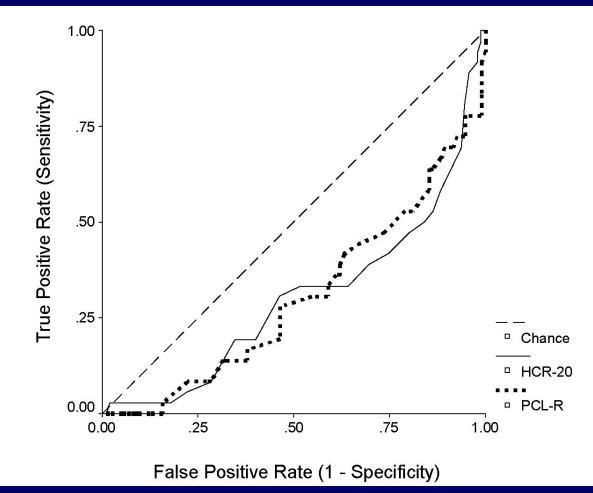
PCL-R score over 30 out of 40 points

□ Types of items 20 times scored 0, 1, or 2

- Glib, superficial charm
- Shallow affect
- Pathological lying
- Juvenile delinquency
- Criminal diversity

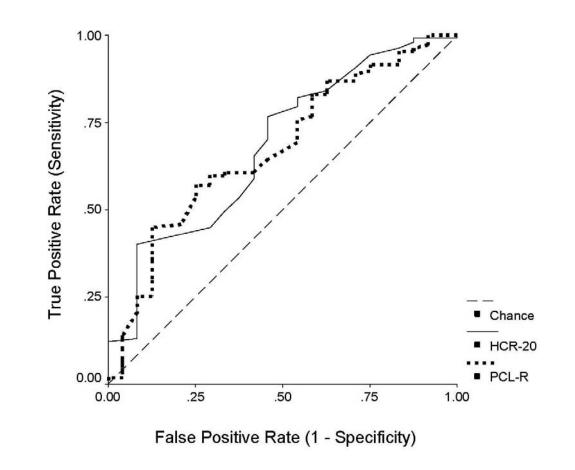
24 percent of the women scored over 30 and 46 percent scored over 25 on the PCL-R

### Psychopathy & Violence in Women



Receiver operating characteristics for PCL-R and HCR-20 in predicting 1st degree murder charges.

#### Psychopathy & Violence in Women



Receiver operating characteristics for PCL-R and HCR-20 in predicting nonviolent charges.

### In conclusion . . .

#### □ Reentry will need to address:

- The prior victimization of these women
- Their significant psychological distress
- Their propensity for drug addiction
- Their lack of education and poor employability
- Fractured relationships with alienated children who are on their way to prison
- Violent relationships made more complex by sex inside
- Personality disturbances that will begin to diminish as they reach age 40 years

## In conclusion . . .

- Case management
- □ Long period of parole
- □ Intensive community monitoring
- Parenting classes and family based interventions
- □ Random drug testing
- Education and vocational training tied to financial incentives