



## Trauma and Mental Health among Women in the Criminal Legal System: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Justice-involved women are a vulnerable population with high rates of mental illness and exposure to chronic and severe trauma (Harner et al. 2015). The most prevalent mental health concerns in this population are diagnoses often associated with traumatic stress including PTSD, depressive disorders, and substance-use disorders. Indeed, interpersonal violence victimization has long been conceptualized as a pathway to prison for women, oftentimes through the development of mental health issues (e.g., Lynch et al., 2017). However, research that goes beyond simply documenting the presence of these issues is limited, and there is a need for greater emphasis on the causes, consequences, and solutions for improving justice-involved women's health and wellbeing.

This Special Issue aims to build on the well-established connection between traumatic stress and women's incarceration by soliciting empirical, review, and theoretical articles that can be used to inform efforts to improve the health and well-being of justice-involved women, their families, and their communities.





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