Health Implications and Health Care Challenges Associated with Prostitution

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Session Objectives

This session will focus on:

- The health problems and concerns of women prostitutes.
- Women prisoners—an example
- Recommendations for health care services
Health Problems

- Violence and Abuse
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health Problems
- Infections
- Survival Needs & Health Care
Violence and Abuse

- Violence is a hallmark of past and current lives
- Threat and reality of violence are common and constant
- Majority have a history of childhood abuse, especially sexual abuse
Substance Abuse

- Alcohol and drug addiction
  - Marijuana
  - Cocaine
  - Crack
  - Heroin
  - Methamphetamine
Mental Health Problems

- Stigma
- Depression
- PTSD
- Dissociation
Infections

- STDs & HIV/AIDS
  - Gonorrhea
  - Syphilis
  - Chlamydia
  - Herpes
  - HPV
  - Hepatitis
- Other infections
  - Tuberculosis
  - Pneumonia
  - Scabies
- Drug-resistant
HIV Risk Factors

- Sex work
- Substance Abuse
- Depression, dissociation
- Interrelationship of physical, emotional & sexual abuse; drug use; and multiple partners + women’s perceptions of self
Other Health Problems

- Injuries: fractures, burns
- Gynecological
- Obstetrical
- Cardiac
- Chronic liver disease
- Excess mortality
- Other
Survival Needs

- Shelter
- Safety
- Economic stability
- Adequate health care
Women in Prison
Women in Prison

- Over 95,000 women currently in United States federal and state prisons
- Short sentences & recidivism = lots of movement between prison and home
- Poor, uneducated, unskilled with sporadic employment histories
Women in Prison

- Disproportionately women of color
- Childbearing age and mothers of children (85%)
- Chronically chaotic lives
Women in Prison

- Experienced abuse—physical, emotional, sexual (~75%)
- Numerous STD/HIV risk factors
- Depression, PTSD, anxiety
WCRR Intervention

**INFLUENCING FACTORS**
- Depression
- Violence
- Relationships
- Social Support
- Substance Abuse

**LABELING BEHAVIOR**
- HIV/STD Knowledge
- Risk Perception

**COMMITTING to CHANGE**
- Protective Practices
- Attitudes
- Prioritizing

- Enactment Skills
- Communication & Negotiation
- Technical Skills

**PROTECTIVE PRACTICES**
- Unprotected sex
- More condoms use
- Fewer partners

**INFLUENCING FACTORS**
- Depression
- Violence
- Relationships
- Social Support
- Drugs & ETOH
Experimental Design

- 3-Group randomized control design to compare the WCRRRI with
  - NIDA Standard Intervention for HIV Prevention
    - Proven standard HIV prevention intervention with focus on IV drug use
  - Stay Fit and Health Intervention
    - replicate the number and duration of contacts and health-related content of the WCRRRI
    - Central theme: developing & maintaining healthy lifestyle habits for life
Experimental Design

- Total Sample Size = 324 women (108 in each group); recruited in cohorts
- In prison: Baseline interview (T1), Intervention, T2 interview, Pre-release session
- In community: Booster phone calls (WCRRRI & Stay Fit)
  - 1-month out T3 interview
  - 3-months out T4 interview
  - 6-months out T5 interview
  - 9 months out T6 interview
Empowerment

Factors Influencing Change
- Depression
- Violence
- Social Support
- Relationships
- Substance Abuse

HIV Risk Reduction Stages

**Stage 1**
Behavioral Labeling
- HIV Perceived Risk
- Knowledge: HIV, STD

**Stage 2**
Commitment to Change
- Commitment to Reduce Risk
- Pro/Con of Sexual Practices

**Stage 3**
Enactment Skills
- Sex-Communication & Negotiation
- Technical Skills: Sex Related

Enacting Protective Practice
- Increased Condom Use
- Decreased Number of Partners
- Decreased Number / No High Risk Partners
- Decreased / No High Risk Sexual Situations
## Violence Experiences in HOPE Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No SE</th>
<th>SE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feel unsafe</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>75.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stranger</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced sex</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Confluence of Events and Factors Contributing to Victimization

- Initial mistreatment or violence/abuse
- Recognition of mistreatment as abusive and wrong; sources of help
- Attempt to tell someone; seek help
- Escape/leave/run away
- Unclear roles and relationships with individuals
- Other negative effects on well-being
- Further vulnerability
- Drug and/or alcohol use
- Self-harm/self-abuse/self-injury
- Control/power issues
- Self-blame
Substance Abuse

- Early age at initiation of use-trend toward earlier use by SE subjects
- First drug ever used:
  - Alcohol & Marijuana
- Most commonly used drugs in month prior to incarceration:
  - Alcohol, Marijuana, Crack
Total Drug Use in Month prior Incarceration

Days

Number of Women

-0.00 - 0.00
-2.00 - 2.00
-4.00 - 4.00
-6.00 - 6.00
-8.00 - 8.00
-10.00 - 10.00
-12.00 - 12.00
-14.00 - 14.00
-16.00 - 16.00
-20.00 - 20.00
-25.00 - 25.00
-30.00 - 30.00
Alcohol Use in Month prior Incarceration

Days

Frequency

0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140

1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 26-30
Marijuana Use in Month prior Incarceration

![Bar graph showing the number of women using marijuana in the month prior to incarceration, categorized by days of incarceration.]

- Number of Women
- Days

Days:
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-30

Number of Women:
- 120
- 100
- 80
- 60
- 40
- 20
- 0
Crack Use in Month prior Incarceration
Use in Month prior Incarceration

![Bar chart showing the number of women per 5-day period before incarceration. The x-axis represents days (1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30), and the y-axis represents the number of women. The chart indicates a significant peak in the last 5 days before incarceration.](image-url)
Mental Health Problems

- Depression
- Dissociation
- Sadness, low self-esteem
- Hopelessness
## Infections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infection</th>
<th>NSE</th>
<th>SE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichomoniasis</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCV</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Health Problems

Common Self-Reported Conditions
- Asthma, Bronchitis, Sinusitis
- Back pain
- Hypertension & other cardiac conditions
- Diabetes
- Arthritis
- Headaches-fractures, head injuries
- Seizures
- Traumatic injuries
Challenges for Health Care Providers and Services

- Address health care within the context of women’s lives
- Know your patient
- Available & accessible services
  - Primary Care
  - OB-Prenatal care
Health Care Challenges

- Gender-based substance abuse treatment
- Reduction of dependence on survival sex