



**Welcome Home SIS**  
A Safe Space for System Impacted Survivors

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Transitional Housing  
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**The  
Criminalization  
Of  
Trauma**

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## Agenda

**Introduction**

**Overview of incarceration:**

- US
- Women
- Women in Ohio
- Female Prisons in Ohio

**Criminalization of women:**

- Crimes
- History
- Routes to Prison

**Now what?**

- Gender-specific Needs
- Benefits of a Recovery House



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### The Criminalization of Trauma

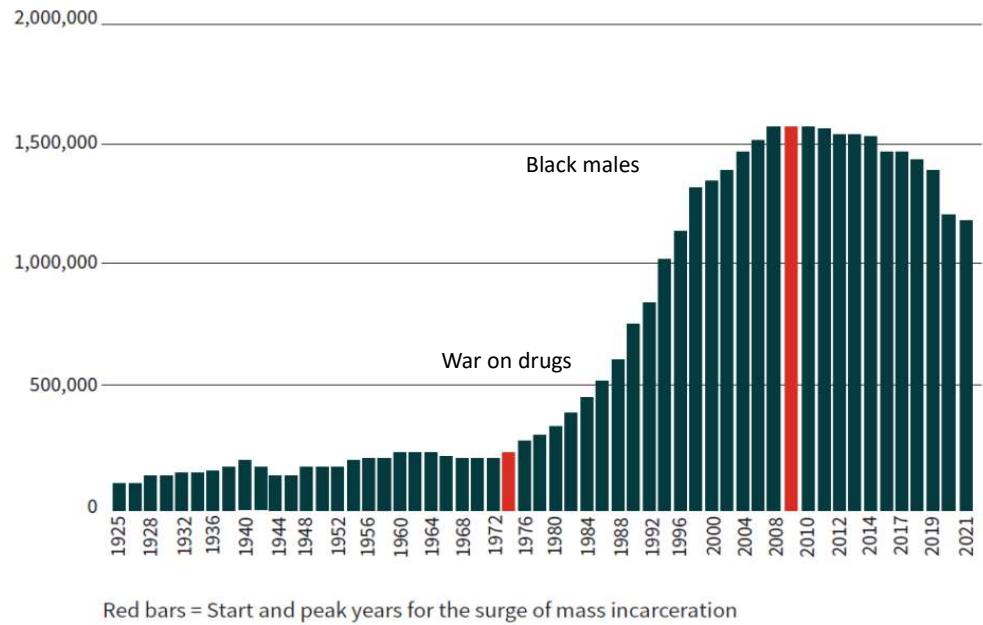
What war caused the beginning of our carceral state?

Which minority population was affected the most by mass incarceration?

What is the fastest growing prison population today?

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## Mass Incarceration/ Carceral State



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### Ohio prison incarceration rates: Women

Number of women incarcerated in Ohio prisons per 100,000 female residents, 1978-2015

- 2014-15 men decreased by .05% while women increased by 4%
- 600% increase since 1980

- Women are the fastest growing prison population nationwide and in Ohio
- Women are being incarcerated at twice the rate of men
- More than 80% are the sole providers of minor children

**WOMEN'S INCARCERATION AMONG FOUNDING NATO COUNTRIES**

United States	133
Portugal	15
Luxembourg	12
United Kingdom	12
Canada	13
Norway	9
Belgium	9
Italy	8
France	7
Netherlands	4
Iceland	5
Denmark	5

Incarceration rates per 100,000 population  
Source: <https://prisonpolicy.org/global/women/2018.html>

**Female Prisons in Ohio**

1988: Northeast Pre-Release Center (NPRC or also NEPRC), converted to Northeast Reintegration Center (NERC) in 1990

1987: Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI) made the switch to females more recently in 2011.

1914: Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW)

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## Female Crimes

**Female crimes**  
More than 80% are drug-related

**Drug offenses:**  
Possession, trafficking, manufacturing

**Drug-related offenses:**  
Theft, assault, DUI, public order, any crime committed due to an issue with illegal substances and/or alcohol

**Criminalization of....**  
Addiction?  
Substance abuse?  
Substance use disorder?  
Mental illness/disorder?

Labeled drug "offenders," because they are the ones that are offensive

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)

DSM IV: **Substance Abuse Disorder and Substance Dependency** (two separate conditions)  
"Legal issues" was a determinate of the disorder

DSM V: **Substance Use Disorder and Addiction Disorder**  
Combines the two from edition IV, drops the term abuse to create substance use disorder. Which is joined with the new addictive disorder to create new class.  
"Legal issues" is changed to cravings

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# Criminalization of Women

## History

**3,000 – 4,000 years ago**

**Offense:** Harlotry

**Punishment:** Stoned or burned publicly

## **Early 1900s (WWI )**

**Offense:** Prostitution, "being a tramp"

**Punishment:** Women needed to be reformed into moral ladies

## **1900-1935**

17 reformatories are established

## **1916**

Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW)

## Pathways to Prison

### 1. Sexual trauma

2014 Research in Ohio

- More than 70% of inmates
- More than 50% as minors
- 32% before 12
- 10% before 6

### 2. Accomplice

### 3. Crime riddled neighborhood/family



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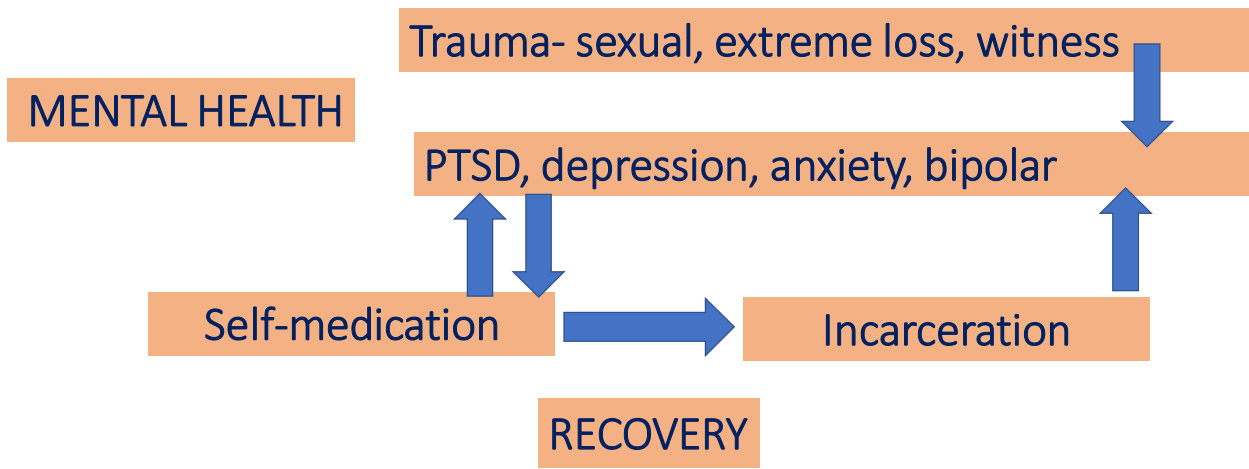
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TRAUMA- ADDICTION- INCARCERATION- TRAUMA



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# Gender-specific Needs of Women in Reentry & Benefits of a Recovery House

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## Gender-Specific Needs of Females in Reentry

### PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Women released from prison also have more physical health issues (STDs HIV, Hep C) and are hospitalized more frequently than their male counterparts.

### MENTAL HEALTH (trauma)

- More than half of female inmates in Ohio are on the mental health caseload compared to 17% of males.
- Many women suffer from mental illness before incarceration which can be exacerbated by the prison experience. Women with no prior diagnoses are often released with at least one, an average of three, most common are PTSD, depression and anxiety.
- Most of these illnesses are the result of trauma
- Women who lack essential coping skills often self-medicate

### RECOVERY

- More women are in recovery and complete substance misuse programs while incarcerated than their male counterparts
- Women are more likely than men to experience overdose and death after release
- Gender-specific barriers to accessing treatment (pregnancy, lack of childcare and sex harassment)
- Women are more receptive to treatment = better outcomes
- Higher rate of drug-related offenses
- Substance misuse is often co-occurring with other mental illnesses

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## Gender-Specific Needs of Females in Reentry/ Benefits of a Recovery Home

### HOUSING- A SAFE STABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

- The foundation of any successful reentry
- Persons in reentry are 12% more likely than the general public to be homeless
- Women in reentry are 35% more likely than men to face homelessness

### SUPPORT SYSTEM (FAMILY/COMMUNITY)

- Women thrive in an environment that is accepting
- Incarcerated women often lack family (parents who are present and a source of positive support)
- Women are hold each other accountable and are responsible for the safety of the house

\*\*Only 2/30 women in the home had a parent who could be considered a source of support. The remaining 28 had mothers who were incarcerated, in active addiction, deceased or unknown.

\*\*\*Children of incarcerated women are 5-6 times more likely to become incarcerated themselves

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QUESTIONS?

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