

# Treatment Needs and Treatment Completion as Predictors of Return-to-Prison Following Community Treatment for Substance-Abusing Female Offenders

Christine Grella, Ph.D.  
*UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs*

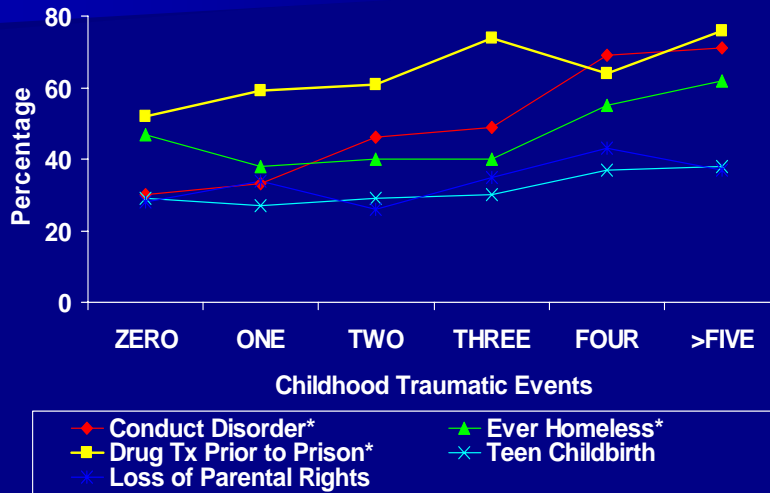
National Conference on Women,  
Addiction and Recovery: *News You Can Use*  
Anaheim, CA  
July 12, 2006

Funded by Contract No. C98.316 with Office of Substance Abuse Programs/  
California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation

## Background

- Increase in incarceration of women for drug-related crimes
- Women offenders have greater needs for parenting, mental health, and trauma-related services
- Development and evaluation of in-prison and re-entry programs for women offenders in California

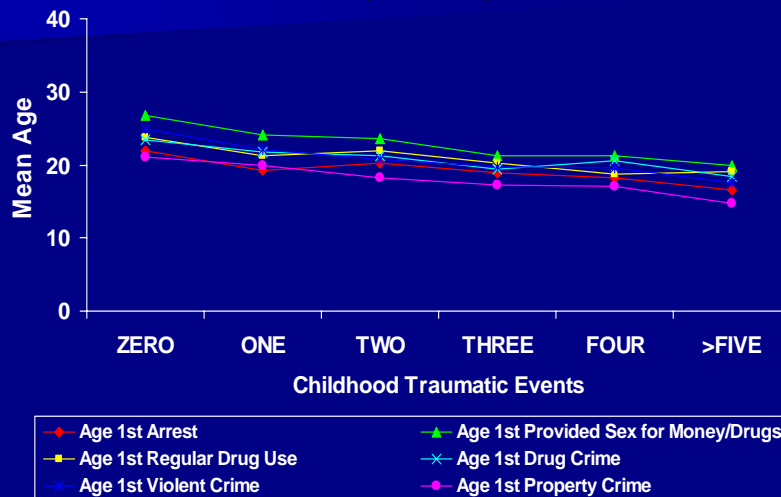
## Increased Problem Behaviors with Greater Exposure to Childhood Trauma (N=491)



\*Bivariate comparisons significant at  $p < .05$

Source: Messina & Grella, in press, AJPH

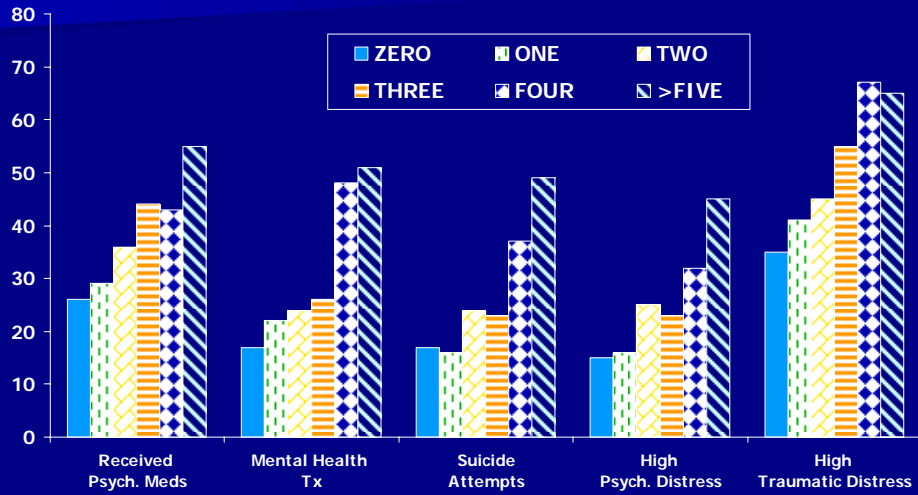
## Earlier Involvement in Drugs & Crime with Greater Exposure to Childhood Trauma (N=491)



All comparisons significant at  $p < .001$

Source: Messina & Grella, in press, AJPH

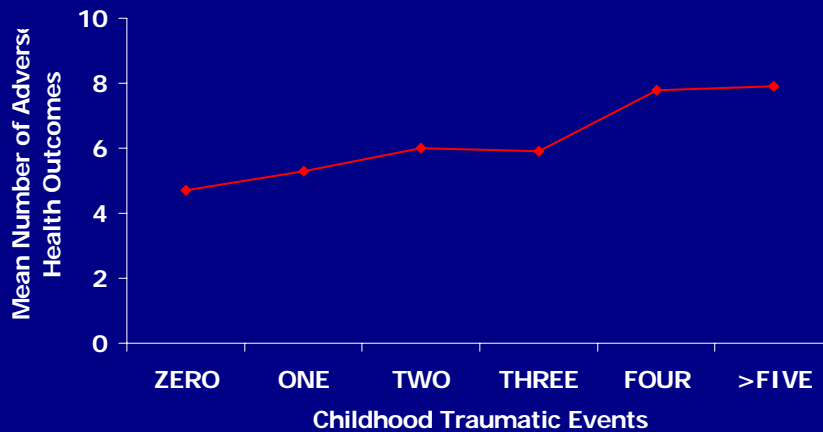
## Increased Rates of Mental Health Problems with Greater Exposure to Childhood Trauma (N=491)



\*All significant at p<.001

Source: Messina & Grella, in press, AJPH

## Greater Exposure to Childhood Trauma Increases Adverse Health Outcomes (N=491)



Source: Messina & Grella, in press, AJPH

## Research Questions

- What are correlates of treatment needs among substance-abusing women offenders?
- Do treatment needs predict completion of community-based aftercare?
- Do treatment needs and completion of aftercare predict return-to-prison?

## Study Design

- Participants (N = 1,404) were recruited at admission to in-prison substance abuse treatment in 5 prisons in California from September 1998 – January 2004
- Upon completion of the in-prison program and parole, participants transferred to community based treatment in the Female Offender Treatment & Employment Project (FOTEP)
- Participation in prison-based treatment can be mandated; participation in FOTEP is voluntary, but encouraged

## FOTEP Treatment

- Residential treatment is provided for 5-15 months in 10 community programs in 8 counties in California
- Core services:
  - ▶ Case management
  - ▶ Vocational training/job preparation
  - ▶ Parenting skills training and family services
  - ▶ Trauma-related and mental health services
  - ▶ Co-residence with up to two children (< 12 years old)

## Demographics/Background Characteristics of Sample

(N = 1,404)

- Average age: 33.8 (SD = 7)
- Ethnicity:
  - ▶ African American, 36%
  - ▶ Hispanic, 24%
  - ▶ White, 38%
- 47% had never been married
- 80% had minor children
- 52% had a HS degree or GED
- 50% were employed prior to incarceration
- 29% had unstable housing prior to incarceration

## Substance Use Characteristics

(N = 1,404)

- Average age 1st drug use: 14.5 (SD = 4)
- 83% were drug dependent (DSM-IV criteria)
- 35% were alcohol dependent (DSM-IV criteria)
- Most frequently used substances:
  - ▶ Cocaine/crack, 49%
  - ▶ Amphetamines, 41%
  - ▶ Marijuana, 40%
  - ▶ Opiates, 21%
  - ▶ Sedatives, 12%
- 20% were injecting daily prior to incarceration
- 77% used tobacco daily

## Mental Health Status

(N = 1,404)

- 29% had used prescription meds for psych problems
- 21% had prior suicide attempts
- 32% were classified with mental health problems by criminal justice system
- 44% had a history of physical/sexual abuse

## Criminal Justice History

(N = 1,404)

- Mean age 1st arrested: 20.1 (SD = 6.7)
- Mean no. of lifetime arrests: 15.5 (SD = 25)
- Mean no. of times incarcerated > 30 days: 6.7 (SD = 9.8)
- Category of most recent offense:
  - ▶ Drug related, 57%
  - ▶ Property, 24%
  - ▶ Crimes against persons, 8%
  - ▶ Other, 11%
- 61% were under influence of AOD when committed last offense
- 61% had volunteered for in-prison treatment

## Measures

- Baseline assessment was conducted at admission to in-prison treatment
- Information on completion of the FOTEP aftercare program was obtained from treatment providers
- Data on return to prison was obtained from the state criminal justice administrative data system

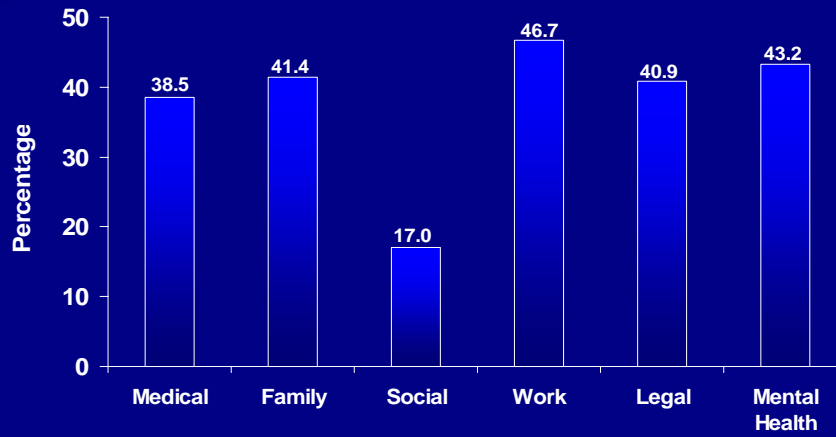
## Analyses

- Multiple regression model predicting Treatment Needs Index
- Logistic regression model predicting FOTEP treatment completion
- Cox regression model predicting return-to-prison within 12 months after FOTEP discharge

## Dependent Variables

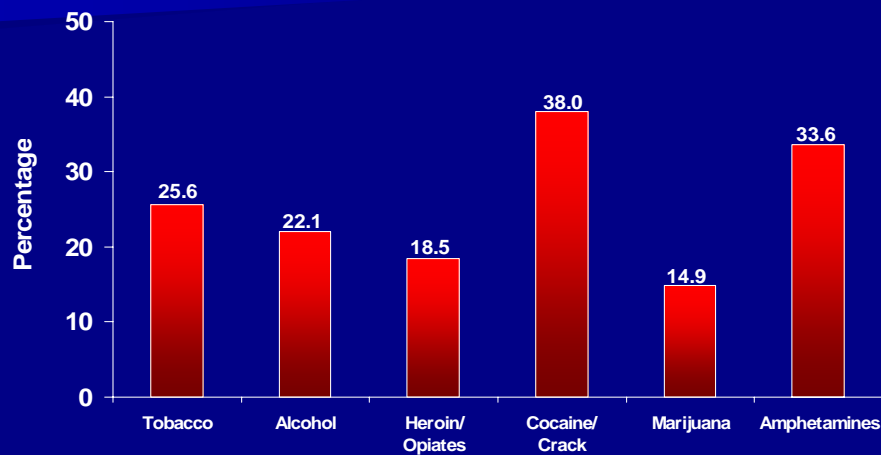
- Treatment Needs Index:
  - ▶ Sum of 13 items rating need for treatment at baseline in each area (0 = not at all, 4 = extremely)
  - ▶ Range: 0-52, Mean = 17.4 (SD = 9.8)
- FOTEP treatment completion: 39%
  - ▶ Mean (SD) / median days in treatment:
  - ▶ Completers = 217 (86) / median = 188
  - ▶ Non-completers = 76 (77) / median = 55
- Return to prison within 12 months following FOTEP discharge: 32.7%

## Treatment/Service Needs Among Women Offenders: Social and Health Needs<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Rated need as "considerable" or "extremely" high

## Treatment/Service Needs Among Women Offenders: Substance Use<sup>1</sup>



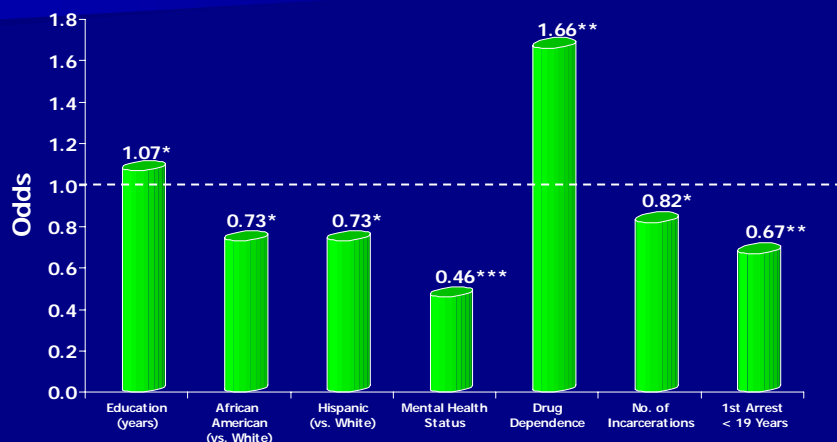
<sup>1</sup>Rated need as "considerable" or "extremely" high

## Greater Treatment Needs at Admission to In-Prison Treatment Were Associated With:

- Unstable housing prior to incarceration
- History of physical/sexual abuse
- Mental health disorder
- Drug or alcohol dependence
- First arrest at less than 19 years old
- Volunteered for treatment (vs. mandated)
- White (vs. African American or Hispanic)

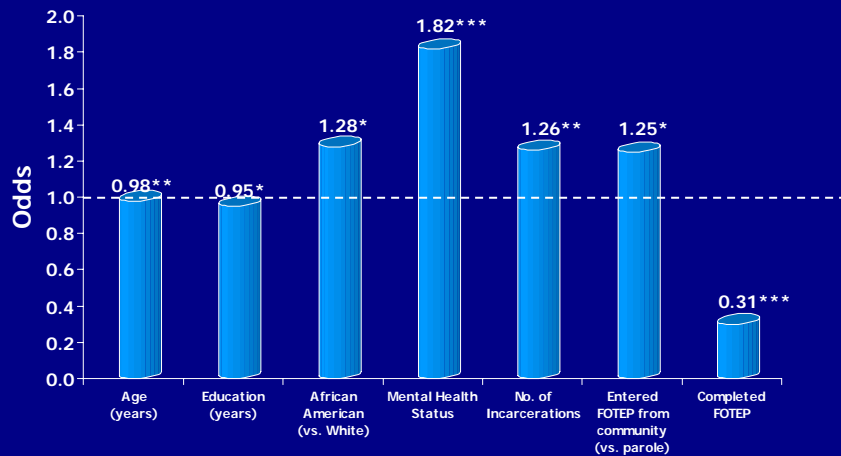
Unrelated: age, education, prior legal income

## Predictors of FOTEP Treatment Completion



\*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

## Predictors of Return to Prison within 12 Months of FOTEP Discharge



\*p < .05, \*\*p < .01, \*\*\*p < .001

## Summary of Findings

- Substance-abusing women offenders with co-occurring disorders
  - ▶ had higher treatment needs
  - ▶ were half as likely to complete aftercare
  - ▶ were nearly twice as likely to return-to-prison compared with others
- African American & Hispanic women had lower perceived treatment needs, but were less likely to complete aftercare (vs. white women)
- African-American women were about 30% more likely to return to prison (vs. white women)

## Summary of Findings

- Individuals who were drug dependent
  - ▶ had more treatment needs
  - ▶ were more likely to complete aftercare
  - ▶ but were no more likely to return to prison compared with others
  
- Individuals with earlier and/or greater CJS involvement
  - ▶ had more treatment needs
  - ▶ were less likely to complete treatment
  - ▶ were more likely to return to prison

## Summary of Findings

- Individuals who had a history of abuse, who had unstable housing prior to incarceration, and who volunteered for in-prison treatment had more treatment needs, but were no more likely to complete treatment or to return to prison
  
- Treatment needs did not predict treatment completion or return to prison
  
- Completion of aftercare treatment reduced the risk of return to prison by about 70%

## Conclusion & Implications

- Completion of community-based aftercare reduces recidivism for women offenders
- However, those with co-occurring disorders and more CJS-involvement remain at high risk for recidivism
- Treatment providers need to assess for co-occurring disorders and develop treatment plans that address high-severity profiles

The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators at Department of Health and Human Services-sponsored conferences do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.