

## International Conference on Women Health



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### The increased vulnerabilities of women who experience incarceration

#### **Abstract:**

People who have been imprisoned experience longstanding physical and mental issues related to their period of incarceration; however, women who have been incarcerated tend to face more serious sequelae for the following reasons:

1. Female prisoners are more likely to be housed in more overcrowded prisons
2. Female prisoners are exposed to higher rates of infectious diseases and unprotected sexual encounters following their release
3. Women who are incarcerated tend to be housed with a group of inmates who have higher rates of criminality
4. Female prisoners are at greater risk of sexual violence and exploitation by other prisoners and prison authorities
5. Male and female prisoners are similarly exposed to high levels of physical violence
6. Most female prisoners have less access to health and social supports while in prison
7. Women who have experienced incarceration accumulate greater loads of trauma which in turn become a serious impediment to them accessing health and social supports following their release from prison
8. Female prisoners are at greater risk of serving further periods of incarceration which places them at greater risk of deterioration in their mental and physical health

The specific needs of women who have experienced incarceration needs to be considered by all of us who deliver services to this population. This group of women may feel uncomfortable attending services in the community where they are likely to encounter former inmates and may be at risk of being further traumatised by procedures required to access these services.

This presentation will provide a comprehensive survey of the range of vulnerabilities found in women who have experienced incarceration. It will discuss case studies and include helpful strategies and approaches for providing more effective support services for these women.

**Biography:** Dr James Blogg is a Public Health Physician with over 15 years' experience working in prison settings in Australia and Indonesia. He has worked as Clinical Director, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network in Sydney, NSW and continues to work with recently released prisoners as Clinical Director, Alcohol and Other Drug Services, in Southern NSW Local Health District.

He has published on a wide range of Public Health issues including: Female Prisoners in Indonesia; Keeping NSW Prisons COVID-free; HCV Treatment and Reinfection in NSW Prisons; and, Preparing Correctional Settings for the Next Pandemic.