WOMEN'S NEEDS AND RISK-NEED ASSESSMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS

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OVERVIEW

• Prison Research in the Netherlands
• Background female prisoners in NL
• Women in TBS (detention under hospital order)
• Risk assessment
• Recommendations


VIP (WOMEN IN PRISON) – PROJECT 2012-2015

• No research in NL on the life course of imprisoned women
• In NL different results possible, due to:
  • different social security system
  • drug use and prostitution not punishable
DUTCH VIP PROJECT

• Gendered pathways into prison
• This project unveils risk factors that are uniquely important to women’s offending trajectories: the interplay of disadvantages resulting from intimate relations, victimization, addiction, and (single) parenting.
• Findings from this research are critical for designing interventions women detainees need to effectively reintegrate into society and reunite with their families.
What specific factors characterize the life of women in Dutch prisons?

Domains examined:
health
economic marginalization
partner relationships
victimization
addiction
motherhood
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr</th>
<th>Dob</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leeftijd</td>
<td>&lt;16</td>
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<td>Bij ouders/familie</td>
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<td>Inwonend</td>
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<td>Instelling</td>
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<td>Zelfstandig</td>
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<td>Dakloos</td>
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<td>Alleenstaand</td>
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<td>Vaste relatie</td>
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<td>Samenwonend</td>
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<td>Getrouwd</td>
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<td>Relatie tevredenheid (1-10)</td>
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<td>Kind (2/0)</td>
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<td>Dagelijkse zorg kind</td>
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<td>Partner drugs/alcohol (D/A)</td>
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<td>Partner crimineel (V/G)</td>
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<td>Partner geweld (V/G)</td>
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<td>Uitendwerk (P/F)</td>
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<td>Regulier werk (P/F)</td>
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<td>Werk tevredenheid (1-10)</td>
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<td>Eigen bedrijf</td>
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<td>Sociale werkplaats</td>
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<td>Zwart werk (P/X)</td>
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<td>Huisvrouw</td>
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<td>Werkzoekend</td>
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<td>Uitkering</td>
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<td>Fin. onderhouden</td>
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<td>Schulden (bedrog)</td>
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<td>Inkomen uit criminaliteit</td>
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<td>Vermogen/geweld (V/G)</td>
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<td>Arrestatie</td>
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<td>Veroordeling</td>
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<td>Detentie</td>
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<td>Slachtoffer delict (V/G)</td>
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<td>Alcohol (I/R/V)</td>
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<td>Soft drugs (I/R/V)</td>
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<td>Hard drugs (I/R/V)</td>
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<td>Methadon (I/R/V)</td>
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<td>Beh./hulp verslaving (A/R)</td>
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<td>Medicatie psy. klachten</td>
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<td>Beh. psy. klachten (A/R)</td>
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<td>Belangrijke gebeurtenissen</td>
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SAMPLE N = 400 IMPRISONED WOMEN

- Average age = 34.5 years
- 58% born in the Netherlands

current offense

- Drugs: 32%
- Property: 27%
- Violence: 16%
- Other: 25%
FAMILY SITUATION BEFORE AGE 16 IN PERCENTAGES

- Homeless: 10%
- Ran away from home: 33%
- Lived in institution: 17%
- Stepparent: 20%
- Single household with mother: 33%
- Witness domestic violence: 28%
- Divorce parents: 36%
- Parent in detention: 8%
- Drugs/alcohol abuse parents: 27%
- Parents with mental health problems: 17%
VICTIMIZATION IN PERCENTAGES

- Psychological abuse < 16: 32%
- Physical abuse < 16: 33%
- Sexual abuse < 16: 25%
- Ever victim of crime > 16: 74%
- Victim sexual violence > 16: 16%
- Victim partner violence > 16: 59%
- Perpetrator partner violence > 16: 38%
MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AND ADDICTION IN PERCENTAGES

- Ever treated for psychological complaints: 50%
- Ever medication for psychological: 30%
- Psychological treatment before detention: 26%
- Ever treated for addiction: 18%
- Treatment addiction before detention: 13%
- Ever addicted to alcohol: 14%
- Ever addicted to soft drugs: 17%
- Ever addicted to hard drugs: 21%
- Daily drugs use before detention: 19%
- Drugs <16: 26%
- Alcohol <16: 39%
• For many variables percentages comparable to international literature
• Low percentages sexual victimization (childhood and adulthood)
• Few women report drug addiction
• Few women – teenage mothers
• Many women unemployed and social security
Level of Service Inventory (LSI)

- Risk assessment criminal behavior in general
- Adapted for women
- Both gender sensitive and general factors predict recidivism after release
- LSI seems to predict worse for violent crime than for general crime

(Reisig et al., 2006; Schwalbe, 2008, Van Voorhis et al., 2010)
RECIDIVISM RISK ASSESSMENT SCALES (RISC) IN THE NETHERLANDS

- based on the English Offender Assessment System (OASys)
- used by probation and aftercare services
- For most imprisoned men and women no RISC and short detention
- Some women with sentence left of 4 months RISC used – if refused – not all detention programs available
CRIMINOGENIC FACTORS RISC (IMPORTANT FACTORS FOR WOMEN IN RED)

1  Criminal history
2  Current crime and crime pattern
3  Accommodation and living
4  Education, working and learning
5  Income and handling money
6  Relationships with partner and (extended) family
7  Relationships with friends and acquaintances
8  Drug use
9  Alcohol use
10 Emotional wellbeing
11 Thinking patterns, behavior and skills
12 Attitude
HCR-20 – female additional manual (FAM) – Additional guidelines for the HCR / HKT for assessing risk of violence in women (Vivienne de Vogel)

• Adjustments some Historical items • New items specifically for women

Besides violence to others:
- Self-destructive behavior
- Victimization
- Non-violent criminal behavior
### RISK FACTORS HCR-20/FAM
### 275 MAN AND 275 WOMEN (DE VOGEL, IN PREPARATION)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>men higher scores</th>
<th>women higher score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>previous violence</td>
<td>prostitution</td>
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<tr>
<td>first violent incident at young age</td>
<td>problems with childcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>drugs and alcohol abuse</td>
<td>pregnancy at early age</td>
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<tr>
<td>psychopathy</td>
<td>suicidal behavior/ self harm</td>
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<tr>
<td>problem behavior in childhood</td>
<td>victimization after childhood</td>
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</table>
CONCLUSION - RECOMMENDATIONS

When using risk-need assessment in women do not forget:

- relationships with partner and children (and extended network)
- victimization
- emotional wellbeing – mental health problems
Thank you for your attention!

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