



'From Vision to Reality – Transforming Scotland's Care of Women in Custody'

Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe

Professor Azrini Wahidin

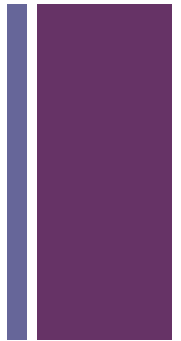


Older Prisoners: A Snap Shot

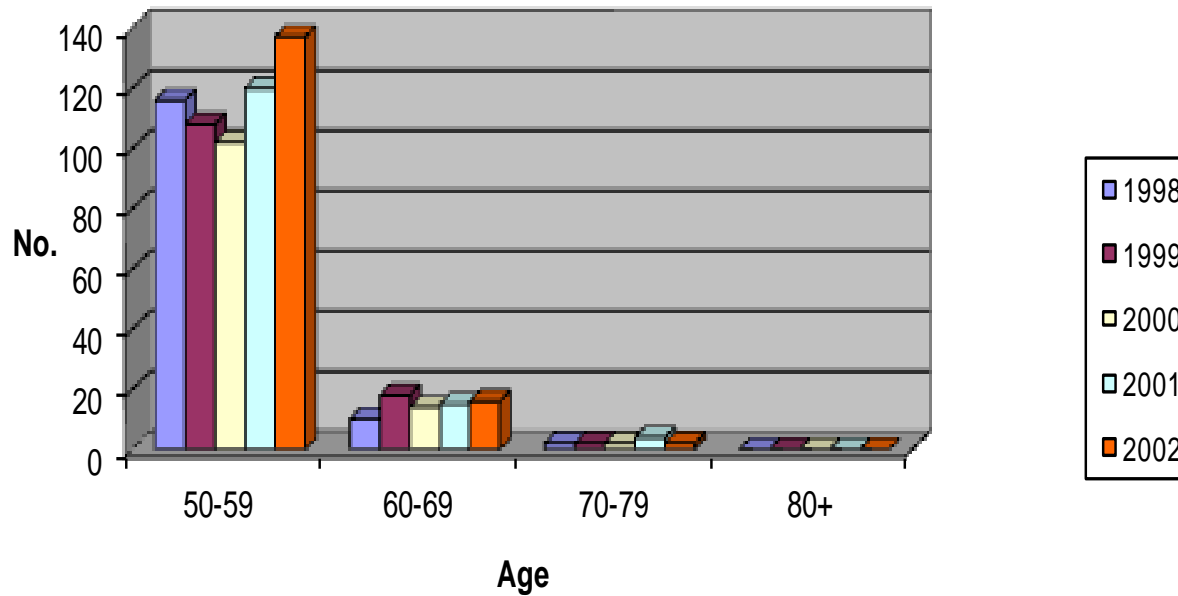
- The number of prisoners aged over 50 in Scotland increased by 71% from 387 in 2001 to 660 in 2011.
- Currently 12% of the prison population in England and Wales, (nearly ten thousand people), are aged 50+
- People age 60 and over and those aged 50-59 are the first and second fastest growing age groups in the prison population.
- On the 31st March 2014 there were 102 people in prison aged 80 and over .5 people in prison were over 90 or older.
- 2 in 5 (37%) of those over the age of 50 in prison have a disability.



Women 50+ in prison under sentence for the years 1998-2002

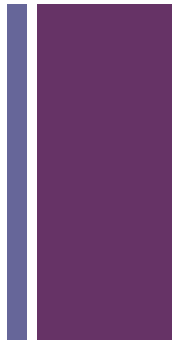


Females 50+ in Prison under sentence - further breakdown

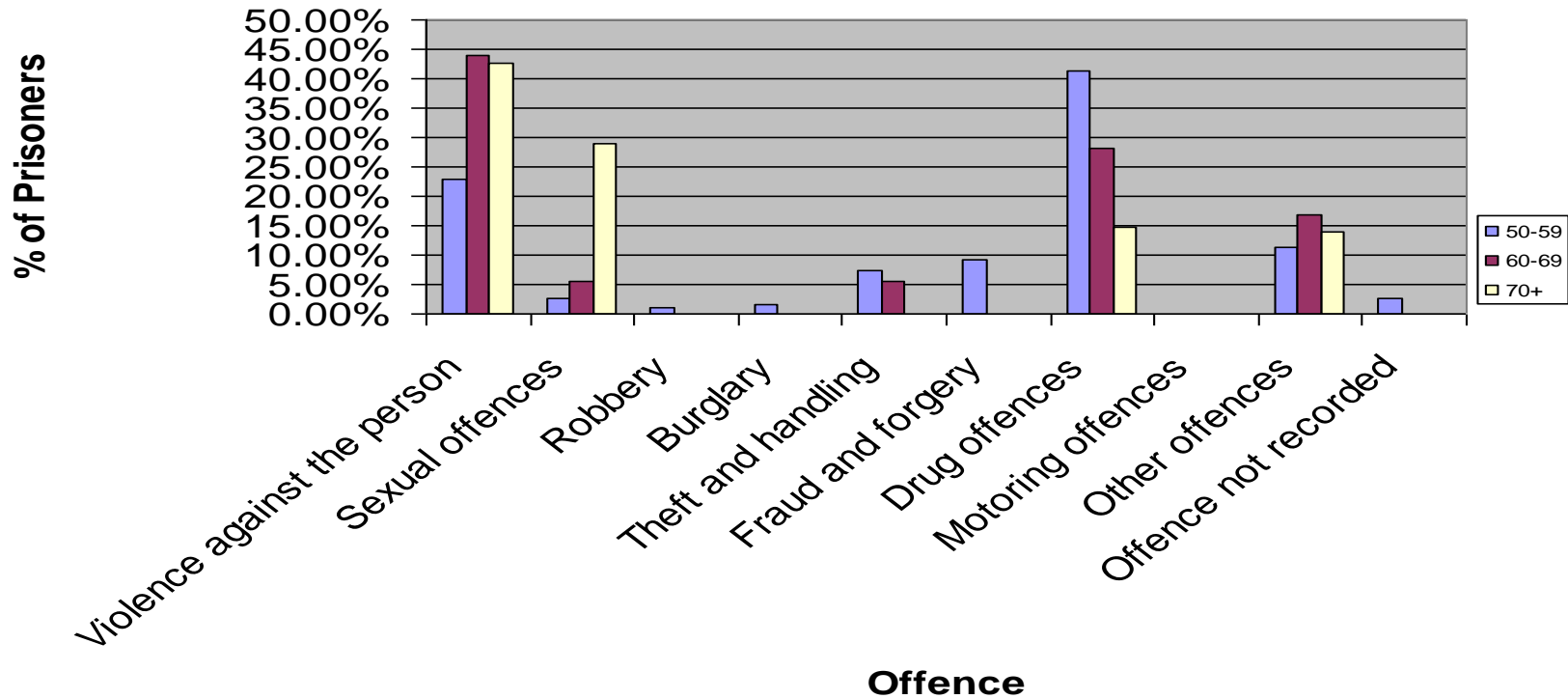




Older Female Prisoners by Offence and Age



Older Female Prisoners by Offence & Age



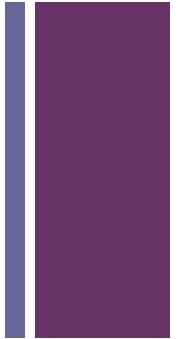


- **Issues:**

- 1) Environment – Integration versus Segregation
- 2) Health, Social Care, Need and Wellness;
- 3) Health Care, Cost and Delivery;
- 4) Develop resources and services in a small number of sites (SPS, 2000);
- 4) End of Life Issues – Dignity in Dying.

- **Responses:**

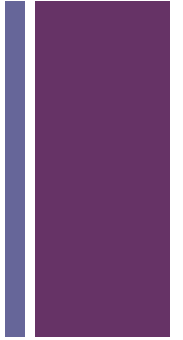
- Introduction of gender and age sensitive programmes, policies and facilities geared towards older offenders.



+ Question?

- Is the Scottish Prison Service looking after its older female prisoners?

+ From Vision to Reality



As Carlen argues:

- ‘To reduce the prison population we must first reduce the number of prisons; to reduce the number of prisons we must first abolish certain categories of imprisonment’ (2002:56).

+ From Vision to Reality



- As Pontell, 1984 cited in Carlen (1988) states:

The criminal justice system is likely to work best when it is used least. It should not be used routinely, but exceptionally.'

+ Useful References

- Aday, R. H. (2003), *Aging Prisoners: Crisis in American Corrections*, Westport USA: Praeger.
- Malloch, M. and McIvor, G (2012), *Women, Punishment and Social Justice: Human Rights and Penal Practices*: London, Routledge
- Scraton, P. and Moore, L. (2007) *The Prison Within: The Imprisonment of Women at Hydebank Wood 2004-2006*. Belfast. Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.
- Wahidin, A. (2004), *Running Out of Time: Older Women in the Criminal Justice System*, London, Jessica Kingsley.
- Wahidin, A. and Cain. M (eds) (2006), *Ageing, Crime and Society*: Cullumpton, Willan Press.