Arrests during the Transition to Adulthood; Gender and Public Mental Health System Involvement

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Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions Struggle as Adults


Gender Differences in Offending Abound

- Offending rates are lower in females
- Females may require more aversive experience to engage in antisocial behavior
- Members of the opposite, not same sex encourage female criminal behavior
- Incarcerated juvenile girls are almost 1.5 times more likely than boys to have a non conduct psychiatric disorder with impairment


Administrative Databases

Juvenile and Adult Court Records
- Name
- Date of Birth
- Date of Arraignment
- Each Charge
- Disposition

DMH Records
- Name
- Date of Birth
- Dates of Service
- Insurance/Medicaid
- Guardianship
- Custodianship
- Functioning

Presented in Tampa, March 2007
Female Population Overlap; DMH and Justice System

Non Arrested Non-DMH MA Female Population
2000 Census
N=125,284

Non-DMH Female Arrestees
N=34,436

DMH Population

All Born

Female Arrestees
1976-1979

In what ways do DMH involved and non-DMH involved females differ in the following:
1. Proportion of total population arrested by age 25
2. Age of first arrest
3. Arrest rate at each age
4. Effect of recent arrest on current arrest risk

Male/Female Comparison within DMH population

Males compared to Females;
- More arrested in total and at each age to age 25
- Arrested younger
- Accumulate more arrests and more total charges,
- More likely to be re-arrested

JS involvement of concern in females;
- Almost half arrested by age 25,
- Arrest rates elevated at 15-23,
- Re-arrest rates markedly elevated

Proportion Arrested by Age 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DMH Females</th>
<th>Non-DMH Females</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
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Relative risk = 2.46; 95% CI = 2.18-2.78; p < 0.001

Frequency of Arrest by Age 25
DMH vs Non-DMH Females

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Arrest</th>
<th>Single Arrest</th>
<th>Multiple Arrests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMH</td>
<td>Non-DMH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Risk of 1st Arrest for Each Age
DMH vs. NON DMH FEMALES

Risk of 1st Arrest

Risk of 1st Arrest is significantly different at 20, 21 or 22-24
Proportion of Population Arrested at Each Age
DMH vs. NON DMH FEMALES

Proportion Arrested the Following Year
Arrested that year vs. Never Before
DMH vs. NON DMH FEMALES

Summary

DMH Females in Comparison to Non-DMH Females
- More arrested by 25 and at every age
- Start Younger
- More with multiple arrests
- Greatest risk in both groups around the transition ages of 18-20
- Elevated risk ages span child and adult MH systems
- Elevated risk in both groups in year following arrest

Practice & Policy Implications
1. Adolescent and Adult Services for DMH females should be aware of arrests
2. Expensive prevention interventions will need more detailed information to focus targets; less expensive approaches could be implemented at ages 13-20
3. Opportunity to intervene present after an arrest