

INCARCERATED

WOMEN

in Latin America

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WHO ARE THE WOMEN INCARCERATED IN LATIN AMERICA?

WHAT ARE RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR CRIMINAL HISTORY?

RISK FACTORS

LIKELIHOOD OF RECIDIVISM

WHAT FACTORS INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT A WOMAN WILL COMMIT ANOTHER CRIME?



She has children



Problematic drug use



Family violence



Friends who have committed crimes



Current age and age at first arrest

EARLY AGE OF FIRST ARREST

WHAT FACTORS INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT A WOMAN WILL BE ARRESTED AT AN EARLY AGE?



Left home before turning 15



Friends who have committed crimes



Criminal gangs in the neighborhood



Her parents did not live together

DETENTION IN A CENTER FOR MINORS

WHAT FACTORS INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT A WOMAN WILL BE DETAINED IN A CENTER FOR MINORS?



Parents' problematic drug use



Left home before turning 15



Friends who have committed crimes

OUTCOMES

IMPORTANCE OF THE PEER GROUP

Women prisoners with friends who have committed crimes have a greater likelihood of being recidivists, of having been in a center for minors, and of having been arrested at an early age. Analyses of the survey data allow us to conclude that the influence of a woman's partner is relevant, as is that of her group of friends.

INFLUENCE OF OTHER FACTORS

Multivariate analyses highlight the relevance of other risk factors in the socialization context. For example, leaving home before turning 15 years old has a significant influence on the likelihood that a woman will enter a center for minors and be arrested at an early age. Living in an unstructured home environment also increases a woman's chances of being arrested at an early age. The latter finding suggests the importance of attachment and parental supervision for protecting against early criminal behavior.

Other risk factors for certain types of criminal behavior include exposure to family violence during childhood (whether as a victim or witness); having parents who frequently consumed drugs and/or alcohol; and/or growing up in a neighborhood with criminal gangs. For example, a violent family environment increases the likelihood that a woman will be a repeat offender; her parents' problematic consumption of illicit drugs and/or alcohol increases the possibility that she will enter an institute for minors; and contact with criminal gangs may lead to her arrest at an early age.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

VULNERABILITY

Women's vulnerability once out of prison needs to be addressed.

POLICIES OF INCLUSION

Interventions to reduce women's vulnerability prior to arrest.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDCARE

Coverage of economic needs

Empowerment of women: Reinforcing their independence

LABOR INSERTION

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PROFILE

Countries reviewed

- Argentina
- Brasil
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Peru



- WOMEN
- MEN

FINDINGS

THE MOST COMMON CRIME AMONG WOMEN IS TRAFFICKING OR POSSESSION OF DRUGS



38%

(for men it's robbery)

In some countries women engage more in other types of crime.

WOMEN COMMITTED LESS VIOLENT CRIMES



Use of firearms

WOMEN

11%

MEN

28%

Crimes that caused physical harm to others

28%

35%

A LARGER PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN COMMIT CRIMES WITH OTHERS



More participants were involved in the crime committed

65%

51%

1. SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Motherhood

87% HAVE CHILDREN 78%

WOMEN 27% Have more than 3 children MEN 23%

55% Had children as adolescent 17%

24% Are single parents 26%

Partner

74% HAS PARTNER 75%

WOMEN MEN Both men and women report being in a relationship in similar proportions, but of those who are:

PARTNER IS DETAINED 14% MEN

39% ↑ PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHOSE PARTNER IS DETAINED DEPENDENCY ON THEIR MALE PARTNER

Age

WOMEN 36 MEN 36

ON AVERAGE, MEN AND WOMEN WERE SIMILAR IN AGE
In Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, and El Salvador, no relevant gender differences were detected. In Argentina and Chile, women are older than men; in Honduras the opposite holds true.

Education



WOMEN HAVE MORE SCHOOLING THAN MEN
Both men and women have little schooling.

2. SOCIALIZATION CONTEXT

WOMEN 39% Parents did not live together MEN 33%

56% Family violence MEN 59%

38% Left home before turning 15 MEN 39%

COMPARED WITH MEN:

Similar proportion of vulnerable environments



WOMEN 38% Previous criminal record MEN 37%

31% Friends who committed crimes MEN 50%

44% Criminal gangs in the neighborhood MEN 54%

FEWER FRIENDS AND CRIMINAL GANGS
MORE GREW UP IN BROKEN HOMES

3. SOCIOECONOMIC CONTEXT

Work

WOMEN 8% Never worked MEN 6%

27% Did not work in the month prior to detention MEN 17%

64% Worked in the month prior to detention MEN 77%

IN ↑ PROPORTION TO MEN, WOMEN NEVER WORKED OR WERE UNEMPLOYED.

↑ VULNERABILITY

4. CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

Most common crimes

WOMEN 38% Drug trafficking or possession MEN 12%

22% Robbery MEN 41%

14% Homicide MEN 21%

2% Sex crimes MEN 15%



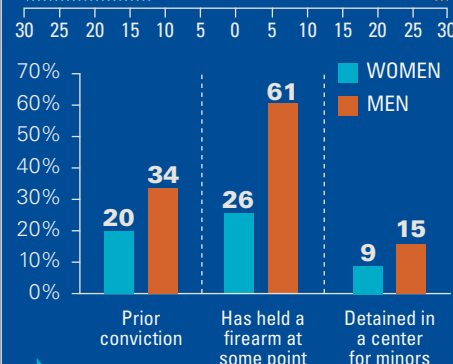
THE CRIME MOST COMMONLY COMMITTED BY WOMEN IS DRUG TRAFFICKING AND/OR POSSESSION.



THE CRIME MOST COMMONLY COMMITTED BY MEN IS ROBBERY.

Criminal history

WOMEN 30 Age of first arrest MEN 28



WOMEN HAVE SHORTER CRIMINAL RECORDS THAN MEN.