

Study examines incarceration among women at risk for HIV

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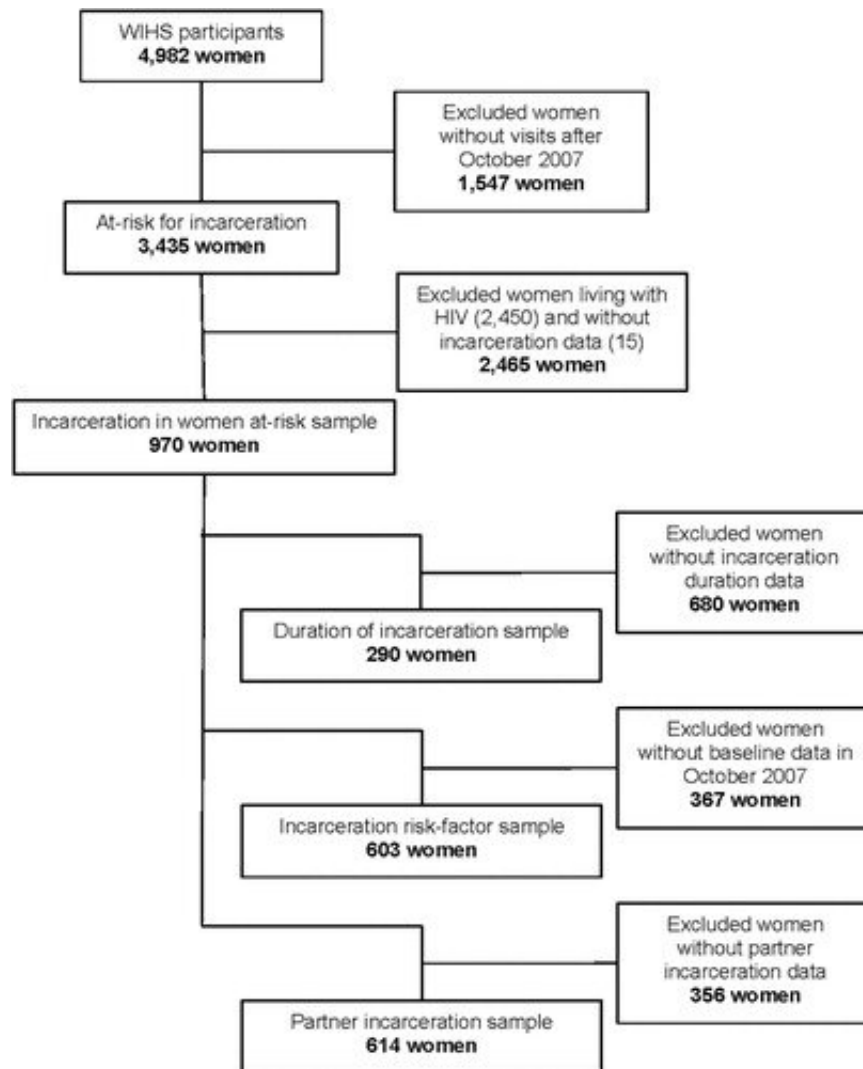


FIG. 1. Sample Sizes and Numbers of Participants Excluded at Each Step of Eligibility for Estimation of Incident and Prevalent Incarceration, Duration of Incarceration, Risk Factors for Incarceration, and Partner Incarceration among Participants at Risk for HIV Infection, Women's Interagency HIV Study,

2007–2017. HIV, human immunodeficiency virus. Credit: *Journal of Women's Health* (2021). DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2020.8417

Nearly half (46.7%) of women in the U.S. at risk for HIV have been incarcerated, according to a new study. The study is published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Women's Health*. [Click here to read the article now.](#)

The incarceration rate for women at risk for HIV was 5.5 per 100 person-years, compared to an estimated 0.16 per 100 person-years for women in the U.S. overall.

"Even among a sample of women who are identified as being at-risk of HIV, those with the greatest degree of ongoing HIV risk are those most often incarcerated," says Jaimie Meyer, MD, Yale School of Medicine, in an accompanying editorial. "Moreover, one-fifth of participants had male sexual partners who were incarcerated prior to or during the women's study involvement. This study confirms intersectional risks for both criminal justice involvement and HIV among a key population of women, which has important implications for interventions that can address health disparities."

"Our findings suggest that there is a critical need to provide HIV prevention interventions for women who have experienced incarceration as part of an effort to disrupt the cycle of HIV risk and incarceration. In particular, U.S. [women](#) who experience HIV risk due to [drug use](#) are also likely to bear a disproportionate burden of policing, arrest and [incarceration](#)," state AK Knittel, MD, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, and coauthors.

More information: Andrea K. Knittel et al. Incidence and Prevalence

of Incarceration in a Longitudinal Cohort of Women at Risk for Human Immunodeficiency Virus in the United States, 2007–2017, *Journal of Women's Health* (2021). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2020.8417](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2020.8417)

Jaimie P. Meyer. Women's Intersectional Risks for HIV and Incarceration and Implications for Interventions, *Journal of Women's Health* (2020). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2020.8841](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2020.8841)

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