

Children and Adolescents of Various Race, Ethnic and Gender Subgroups Served in System-of-Care Settings: Services, Clinical Characteristics, and Lifetime Experiences

- Paper 1:** An Examination of Ethnicity and Gender Differences in Primary Diagnosis and Comorbidity for Children and Adolescents in Systems of Care
- Paper 2:** Similarities and Difference Among Children Referred by Juvenile Justice Agencies to Systems of Care
- Paper 3:** Understanding the Lifetime Experiences of Female Offenders Referred for System-of-Care Services

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Center for Mental Health Services
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Background

Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program

- ▶ **Funded by the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch of CMHS of SAMHSA**
- ▶ **Includes 85 communities in 46 states and 2 territories**
 - 22 communities funded in 1993/94
 - 23 communities funded in 1997/98
 - 22 communities funded in 1999/00
 - 18 communities funded in 2002
- ▶ **Largest children's mental health services initiative to date (\$650+ million)**
- ▶ **Congressionally mandated evaluation**



Background

The System-of-Care Philosophy

- ▶ **Child and family involvement in service and system of care development**
- ▶ **Multi-agency involvement and collaboration**
- ▶ **Community-based services**
- ▶ **Services provided in least restrictive environment**
- ▶ **Accessible services**
- ▶ **Culturally appropriate services and contexts**
- ▶ **Individualized services**



Background

National Evaluation

- ▶ **ORC Macro is the evaluation contractor**
- ▶ **Data collected from all communities funded between 1993 and 2000**
 - Over 50,000 children have been referred for services
- ▶ **Five Primary Study Components**
 - Cross Sectional Descriptive Study*
 - Child and Family Outcome Study*
 - Practice-Level Assessment
 - Cost and Services Study
 - System-of-Care Assessment



Paper 3

Understanding the Lifetime Experiences of Female Offenders Referred for System-of-Care Service

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Background

Female Arrests Rates

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency and Prevention (Snyder, 2000) :

An estimated 2.5 million juvenile arrests were reported in 1999, 27% were of females.

Between 1990 and 1999, juvenile male arrests for aggravated assault, larceny theft, vandalism and weapons charges declined, while females rates have increased.

Juvenile female arrest rates for robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and runaway have declined slower than for males.

Simple assault and drug abuse violations have increased faster for females than for males.



Background

Community-Based Dispositions

- ▶ **Eighty to 85% of youth arrested return to the community for:** (Stahl, 2001; U.S. Department of Justice, 1998)
 - ✓ Findings of non-delinquency,
 - ✓ informal supervision,
 - ✓ or a community-based disposition.
- ▶ **Females tend to receive less-restrictive dispositions more often than males and are less likely to be placed out-of-home.** (Poe-Yamagata & Butts, 1996)



Background

Females Offenders and Life Challenges

Large proportions of females involved with the justice system have experienced, among other challenges:

Drug, alcohol, physical and sexual abuse

([DHHS], 2000; Acoca, 1999; Acoca & Dedel, 1998)

Exposure to family violence and parental arrest and substance abuse

(Acoca, 1999; Chesney-Lind, 1997; Fejes-Mendoza, Miller, & Eppler, 1995)

School problems such as academic failure, suspensions, grade repetition, special education utilization and school drop out (Acoca, 1999; Fejes-Mendoza, Miller, & Eppler, 1995)



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Background

Female Offenders and Mental Health Problems

- ▶ **Conservative estimates suggest one in five justice-involved youth has a serious mental health problem.** (Cocozza & Skowrya, 2000)
- ▶ **Co-occurrence of delinquency and mental disorder has been well documented.**
(Cellini, 2000; Elliott, Huizinga & Menard, 1989; Kazdin, 2000)
- ▶ **The estimated prevalence of mental health disorders has been reported as high as 84% for delinquent females.** (Timmon-Mitchell, et al., 1997)



Study Rationale

- ▶ **Most studies to date have focused on committed female offenders.**
- ▶ **Relatively few female offenders are being placed in residential facilities, therefore**
we must investigate and understand the challenges faced by these young women and how they differ from other service-referred youth.

This study compares the lifetime challenges of service-referred females with conviction histories with other service-referred youth.



Study Conceptual Framework

(National Research Council and Institute for Medicine (2001) and the Surgeon General (DHHS, 2000))

Females with conviction histories referred for community-based services may have different individual, family, and school related experiences than:

Service-referred females without conviction histories

Service-referred males with conviction histories

Service-referred males without conviction histories



Study Methodology

Data were collected by sites funded in 1993 and 1994 (22 sites) as part of the national evaluation of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program.

Sample Selection Criteria:

- 1) Youth participating in the child and family outcome study of the national evaluation (of a possible 18,230).
- 2) Complete data on 22 study variables.

2,220 who had complete data ⇒ Study Sample

Study sample was slightly younger and contained more Caucasian and male youth.



Measures and Indicators

Demographics	Age Race
Individual Experiences	Lifetime history of: physical abuse substance abuse psychiatric hospitalization running away suicide attempt sexual abusiveness sexual abuse
School Experiences	Academic performance Attendance



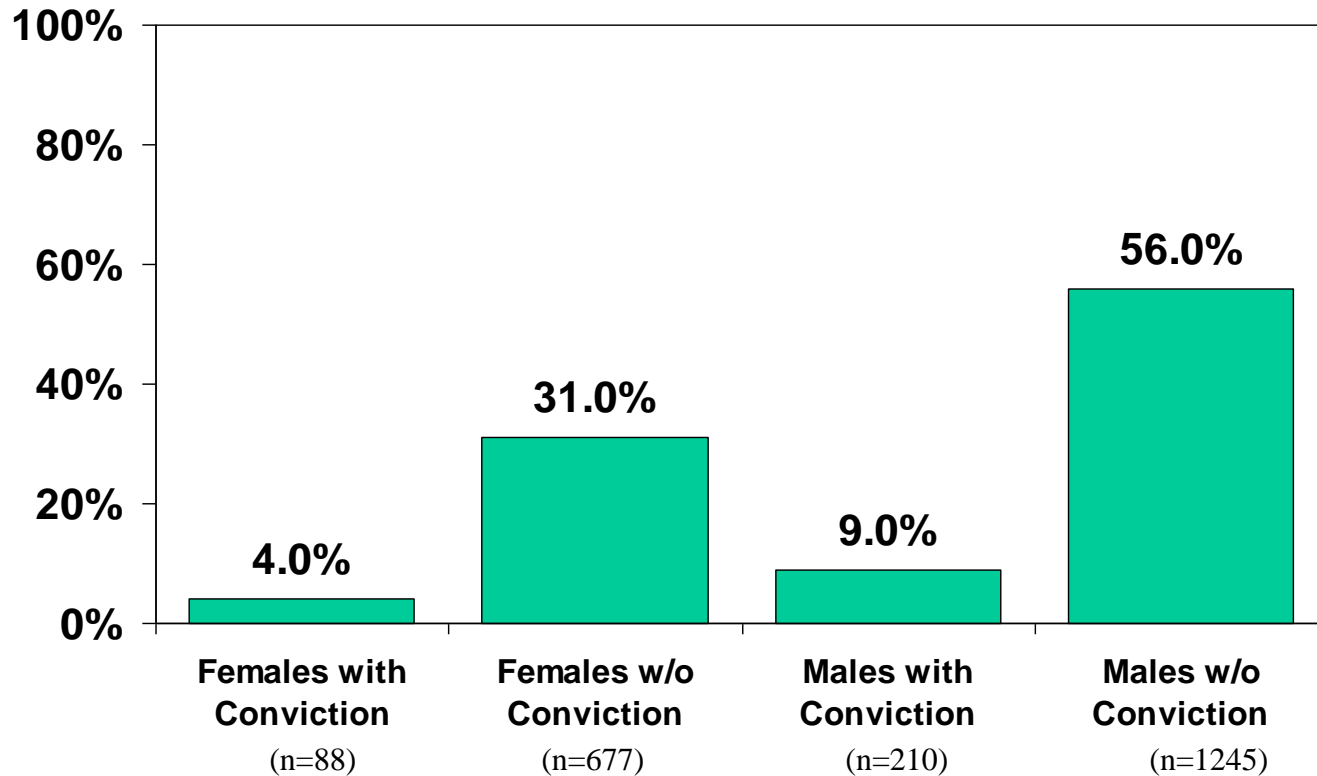
Measures and Indicators 2

Family Experiences	<p>Lifetime caregiver history of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">felony convictionpsychiatric hospitalizationsubstance abuse <p>Lifetime family history of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">family violencemental illnesssibling in foster caresibling in an institution <p>Current living placement of the youth</p> <p>Income level of family</p> <p>Living instability of child</p>
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Gender and Conviction History

(N=2,220)



Fifty percent of youth with a conviction history were referred from sources other than the juvenile justice system.

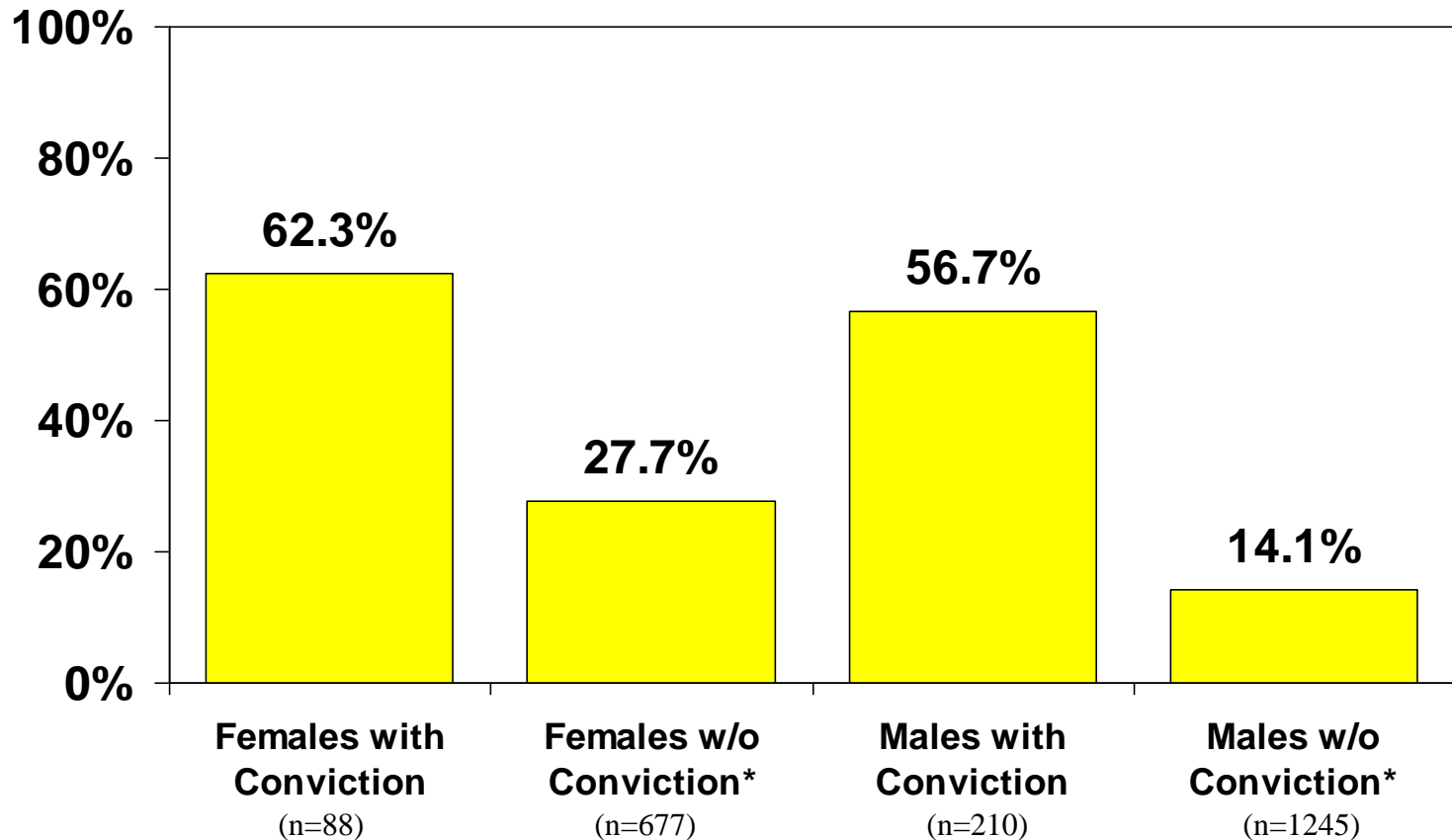


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Age: 15 years and older

(N=2,220)



**Differed significantly from females with a conviction history*

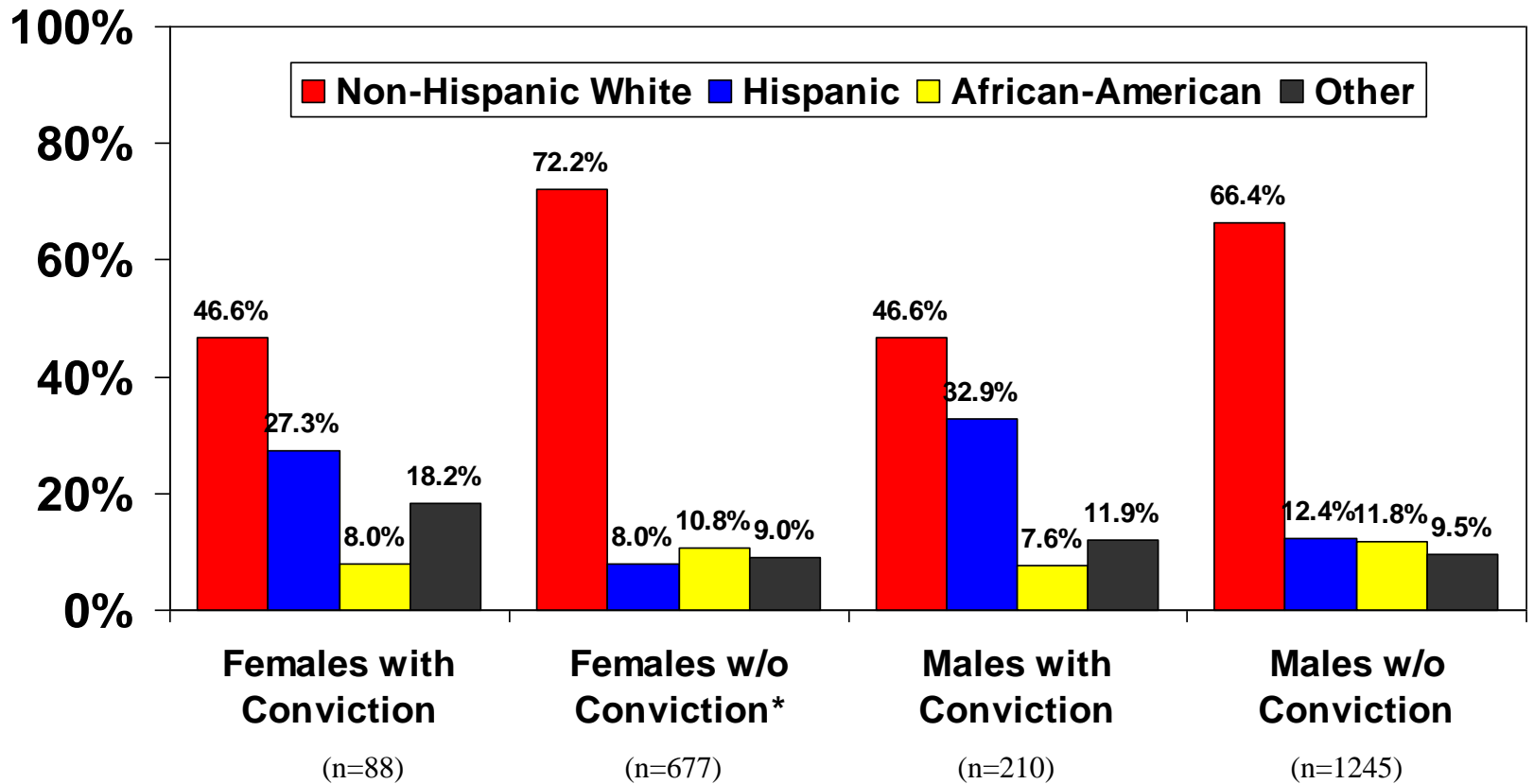


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Race and Ethnicity

(N=2,220)



**The percentage of Hispanic females without a conviction history differed significantly from that of females with a conviction history.*



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Analytic Approach

- ▶ **Multinomial logistic regression analysis used to calculate the conditional odds of being female as compared to other gender conviction status categories.**

Three regression equations generated:

1. Females with conviction vs. females w/o conviction
2. Females with conviction vs. males w/conviction
3. Females with conviction vs. males w/o conviction

- ▶ **Parsimonious Model Identified**

Demographic variables, individual, family & school correlates simultaneously entered into model

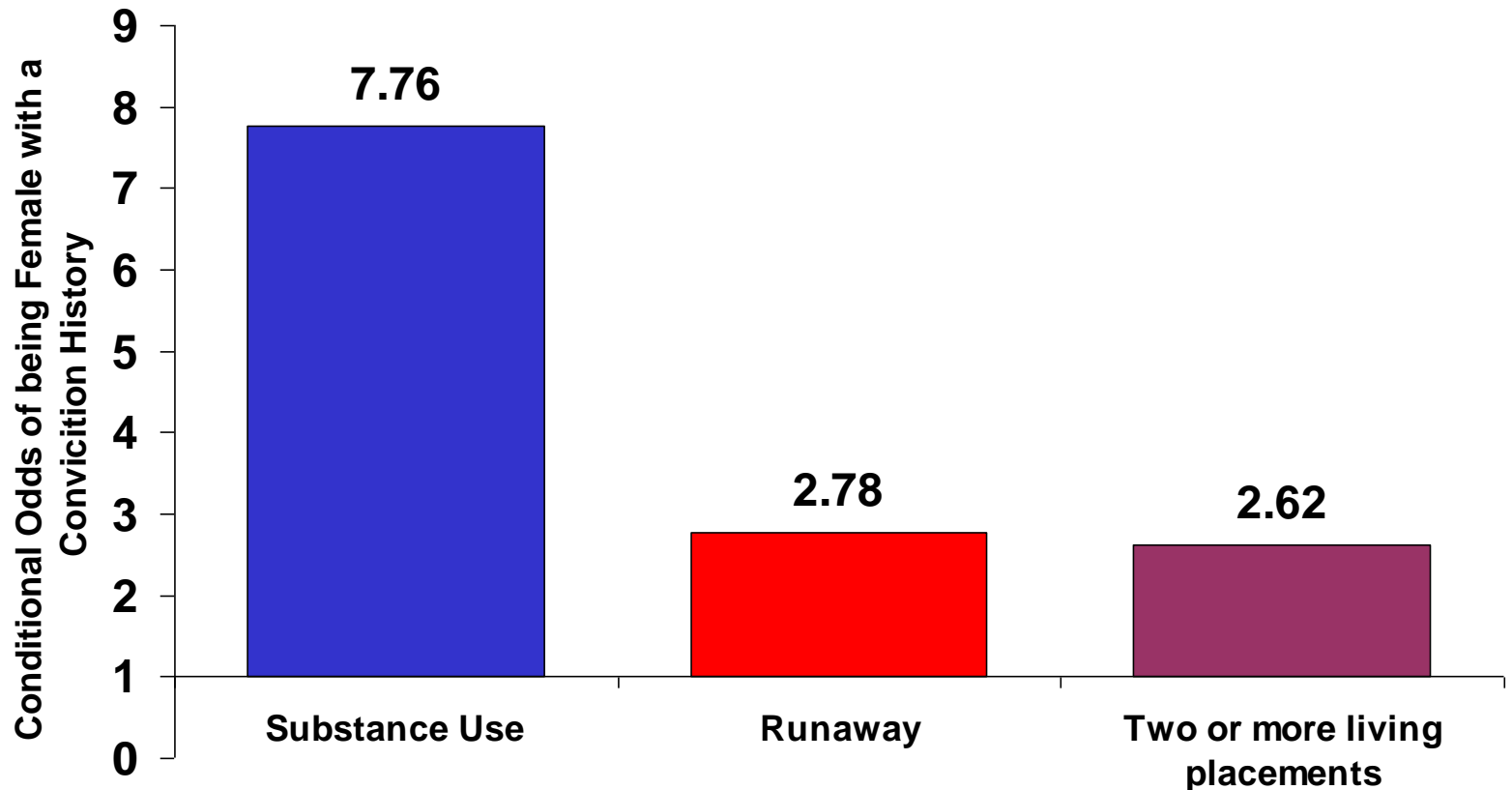
- ✓ Variables that significantly discriminate females with conviction histories from other youth were retained.

Final estimates adjusted for all other significant variables in the model.



Correlates that Significantly Discriminate Females with and without Conviction Histories

Adjusted for all significant variables in the model (includes age and race).



(N=2,220)

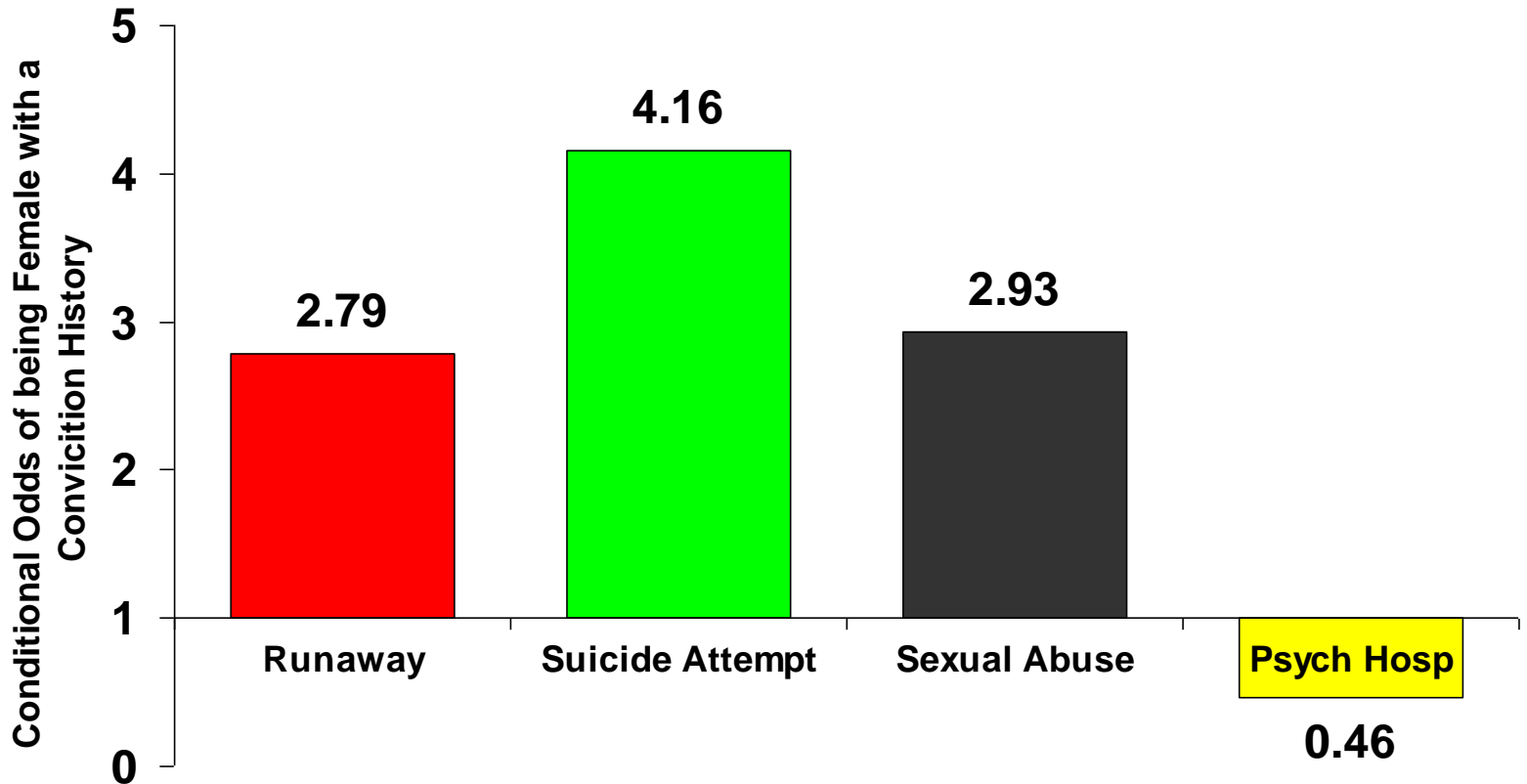


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Correlates that Significantly Discriminate Females and Males with Conviction Histories

Adjusted for all significant variables in the model (includes age and race).



(N=2,220)

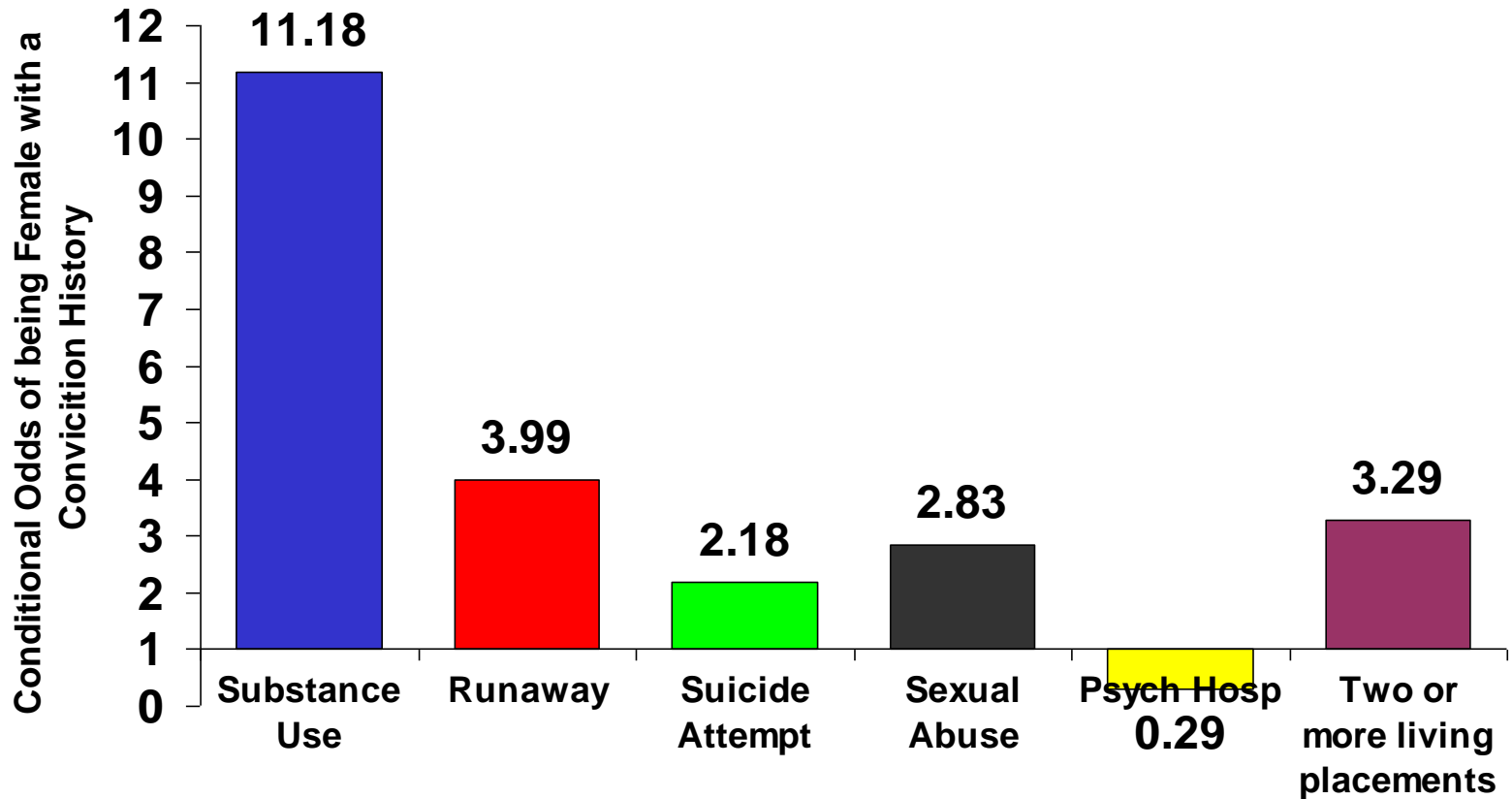


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Correlates that Significantly Discriminate Females with a Conviction History from Males without a Conviction History

Adjusted for all significant variables in the model (includes age and race).



(N=2,220)



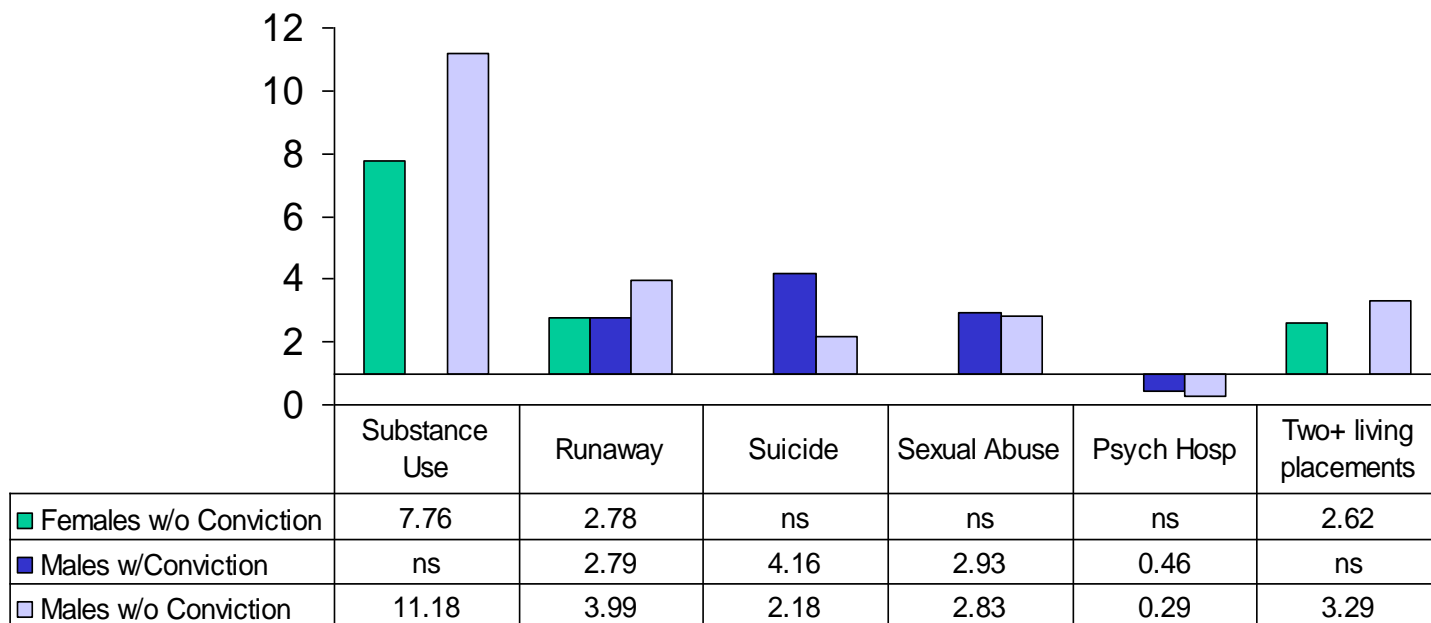
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Putting it all Together: Females with Conviction History Compared to Other Youth

Adjusted for all significant variables in the model (includes age and race).

Conditional Odds of being Female with a Conviction History



(N=2,220)



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Putting it all Together

Females with Conviction History as compared to..

	Substance Use	Runaway	Suicide Attempt	Sexual Abuse	Psych Hospital	Two or more living placements
Females w/o conviction	✓		✓			✓
Males with conviction		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Males w/o conviction	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Adjusted for all significant variables in the model (includes age and race).



Summary of the Final Model

Adjusted for all significant variables in the model (includes age and race).

- ▶ **Many of the individual correlates significantly discriminate females with conviction histories from other youth.**

Substance use

Runaway

Suicide attempt

Sexual Abuse

Psychiatric Hospitalization

Two or more living placements

- ▶ **One family correlate significantly discriminates the groups.**

Two or more living placements in the last year.

- ▶ **The school correlates do not differentially discriminate.**



Study Limitations

1. **Cross sectional data**
2. **Validity of the conviction variable**
 - Caregiver report and administrative record
3. **Specific crime types not investigated**
4. **Potential confounds between reason for arrest and correlate (e.g., substance use)**



Implications

- ✓ Findings from committed juvenile populations extend to community-based populations.
- ✓ Source of referral alone is not an indication of past juvenile justice involvement.
- ✓ Providers need to be aware of the unique histories that accompany females with conviction history.
- ✓ Underscores the need for individualized treatment planning.



Implications

There is a need for community-based comprehensive gender-specific planning, programming, and policy making.

- **American Youth Policy Forum (Mendel, 2001) outlines promising practices for community-based interventions and comprehensive supports.**
- **Guiding Principles for Promising Female Programming (U.S. Department of Justice, 1998) provides detailed information about gender-specific policies, programs and promising practices for female offenders.**



Reference

Walrath, C., Ybarra, M., Holden, E.W., Manteuffel, B., Santiago, R., and Leaf, P. (2003). Female offenders referred for community-based mental health service as compared to other service-referred youth: correlates of conviction. Journal of Adolescence, 26 (1), 45-61.

Available online at: www.sciencedirect.com



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