

**Presentation 4:** The identity construction of justice-involved homeless young women: an exploration of the role of traumatic experiences in the process of desisting from crime

The experiences of justice-involved homeless women (JIHW) and the meanings they attach to these experiences are integral to their present and future identities. Several contemporary studies document individual characteristics resulting from life experiences that may be stigmatized and influence the underlying meaning-making process essential to the ongoing formation of identities. For example,

homelessness is an experience that leads to social stigma that may influence how they define themselves. In this qualitative study, the life narratives of five young JIHW were analyzed to identify how they describe the influence of their traumatic experiences in the construction of their 'non-offender' identity. The phenomenological analysis informs that as they cope with their traumatic experiences, young JIHW go through five consecutive identities. These results allow a better understanding of the criminality, desistance from crime and element of personal growth of this population.

Takeaway point: Analyzing JIHW narrative identities reveals how trauma recovery is closely linked to desistance by fostering a crime-free identity

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