

INCARCERATION & WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

Women living with HIV experience high rates of criminalization.

76% of SHAWNA participants have been in jail or prison at some point in their lives, and 17% have been in jail or prison within the past six months.

SHAWNA shows that these factors put women at risk of incarceration:



YOUNGER
AGE



RECENT
OPIOID USE



RECENT
GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE



RECENT
HOMELESSNESS



POLICE
VIOLENCE
(physical or sexual)

Women living with HIV who have recently experienced physical or sexual violence are more than twice as likely to experience incarceration.



Incarceration impacts HIV health.

Jail/prison time is a primary factor in viral non-suppression. SHAWNA participants who have experienced incarceration are **three times more likely** to have an unsuppressed viral load.

IMPLICATIONS

- Criminalization, incarceration, and social and structural vulnerabilities are closely linked.
- There is a critical need to redress the overcriminalization of women living with HIV.
- Interventions and release plans should be women-centred, include housing and substance use supports, and address the cyclical nature of violence and incarceration.