

# Exploring the Intersectionality of Justice Impacted Women and individuals with Disabilities

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## Reentry Sisters

Reentry Sisters, a Maine-based nonprofit organization works with justice-impacted women to support successful reentry and advocate for systemic change in the criminal legal system

## Mission

Reentry Sisters empowers formerly incarcerated women by fostering community connections, self-sufficiency, and dignity through a trauma-informed, gender-responsive approach. The organization advocates for policies and programs that support women transitioning from incarceration to stable and thriving lives

## Why this work matters

Women face unique challenges when returning to their communities after incarceration. Many experience:

High rates of trauma

Limited access to health care & support services

Cognitive and developmental disabilities

Mental Health challenges and Substance Use Disorder prevalence



Unity – Support – Compassion

NH-ME LEND is supported by a grant (#T73MC33246) from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and administered by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).



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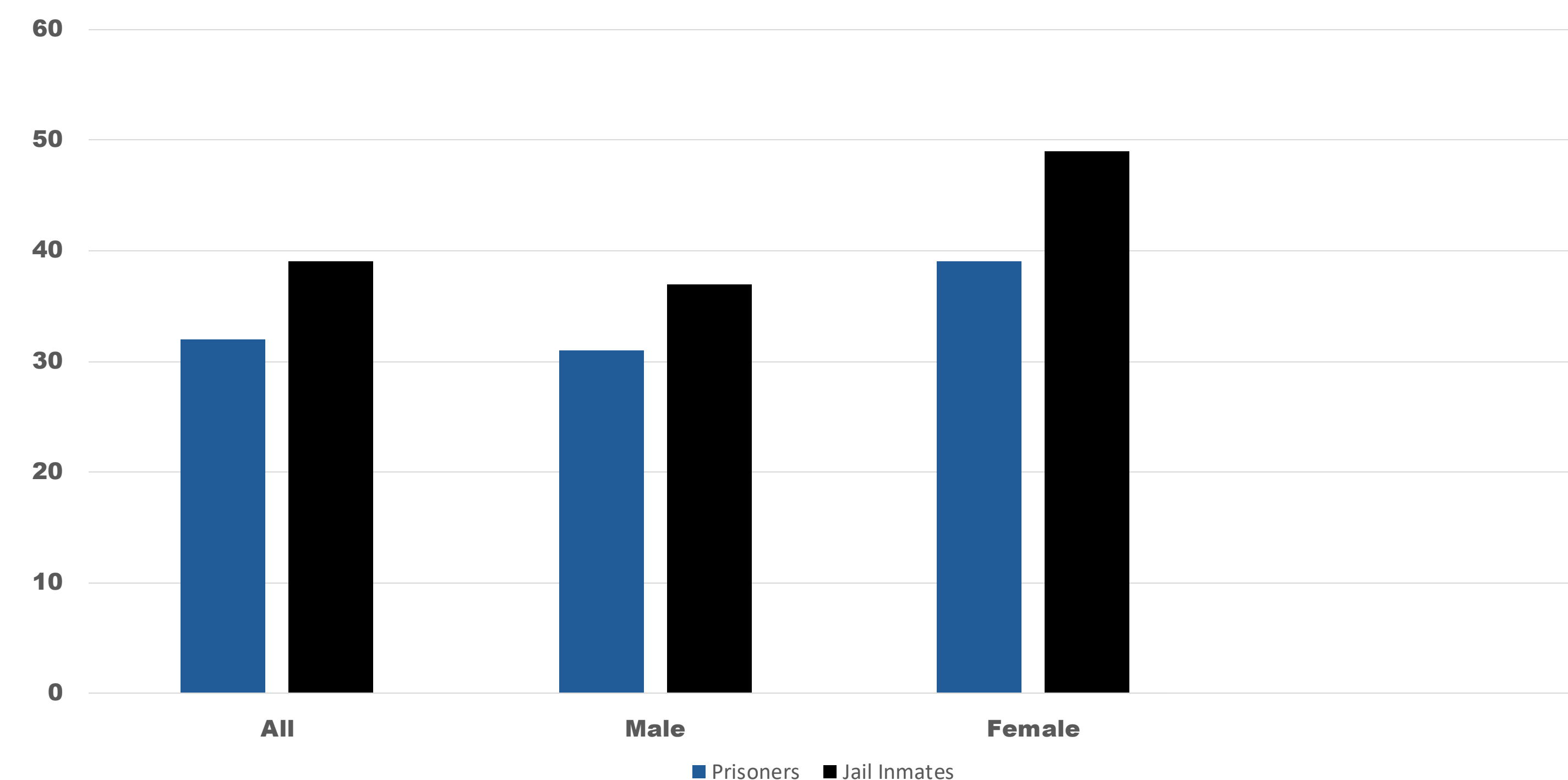


## Project Focus

- I conducted a literature review examining the intersection of disability and justice involvement among women.
- The review explored research on the prevalence of:

- Cognitive disabilities
- Neurodevelopmental disabilities

Prevalence of disabilities among state and federal prisoners and jail inmates, by sex, 2011–12



Note: Disability types include hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living. \*Comparison group. \*\*Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2011–12.

## Key Observations

Several important themes emerged from this research:

- Limited data exists on justice-impacted women with disabilities in Maine specifically
- There is a need for more research, funding, and resources
- Organizations like Reentry Sisters play an important role in addressing gaps by supporting women directly and advocating for systemic improvements

## Next Steps

- Intern or staff continue to work on literature review
- Reentry Sister's will partner with potential non-profit organizations to conduct research regarding educational disability prevalence in justice impacted women
- Continue to evaluate individuals apart of the educational programs that Reentry Sisters provides

## Resources

Finding and meeting the growing health care needs of incarcerated women in America. *Crime & Delinquency*, 44(1), 49–69.

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