

Concurrent Disorders and Homelessness

Services for Women – where are they?

Some of what we know...

- In City of Toronto April 2006 “Street Count” women made up approximately 1,364 / up to 27% of the 5,052 homeless individuals
 - Women less “visibly” homeless
- Homeless women and men experience worse health than the general population (Hwang 01, 04 & Street Health 07 research reports)
 - 84% reported having at least one serious physical health condition compared to 70% of men
 - 68% experience serious depression
 - 21% of homeless women had been sexually assaulted or raped in the past year (10 times more likely, compared to homeless men)

...Some of what we know

- National research reports that 30-60% of homeless women use alcohol, 10-20% use other drugs, and 10-20% are living with a “concurrent disorder”
 - Estimates that 35% of homeless women had a concurrent issue, 9% were immigrants, (Street Health)

Gaps in Knowledge...

- Dearth of research that focuses on homeless women and concurrent disorder
 - Differential experience of women
 - Homeless women specific models of CD services
 - Accounting for racialization and immigrant status as impacting on CD experience and access to services
- Gaps in current services
 - contributor to gaps in knowledge & gaps in development of responsive treatment models

...Gaps in Knowledge

- Opportunities to fill research and service gaps are present, however hesitancy to fund for lack of evidence
 - Women's detox
 - Supportive housing model
 - Women's treatment programs
 - Hospitals & CHC's with urban health specialization that considers broad determinants