VIOLENT OFFENCE IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK FOR POST-TRAUMA STRESS DISORDER BUT FASTER REMISSION IN INCARCERATED FEMALES IN CHINA.

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Objectives: To assess the risk factors for post-trauma stress disorder (PTSD) due to incarceration experience and the correlations of spontaneous remission in incarcerated females with PTSD in China.

Background: The related events of incarceration including committing crime, proceedings, sentence and imprisonment, may be significant trauma of PTSD in incarcerated females. However, little is known about the risk factors of onset and spontaneous remission of PTSD over imprisoned time in Chinese incarcerated females.

Materials and methods: A retrospective case-control study was conducted in Female Prison of Hunan Province, China. A standard questionnaire was used to collect demographic and criminological factors. The diagnosis of PTSD was established using the Chinese version of the MINI International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI) 5.0. Multiple logistic regression and Cox proportional hazards regression were used to examine the risk factors of onset and remission for PTSD.

Results: A number of 220 incarcerated females were diagnosed with PTSD. Violent offence (OR=1.58, 95%CI:1.18-2.12), drug use (OR=0.50, 95%CI:0.33-0.78) and the diagnosis of antisocial personality disorder (OR=0.38, 95%:0.17-0.83) were found to be associated with the onset of PTSD at imprisonment in multiple logistic regression analysis revealed (Table 1).

Among 220 incarcerated females diagnosed with PTSD, 142 remitted at assessment. Incarcerated females with a violent offence (OR=1.51, 95%CI:1.26-2.09) and shorter sentence length (<60 months vs. >120 months) (fig 1) were more likely to remit from PTSD.

Conclusions: Although some incarcerated females with PTSD can spontaneously remit, the study suggested certain risk factors are associated with the onset of PTSD due to incarceration and remission over time. Effective interventions should be tailored to violent offenders with PTSD in female prisons.

Fig 1. Survival curve over months of imprisoned of remission among the PTSD incarcerated females by sentence groups.

Table 1. Demographics and Criminological Risk Factors For the Diagnosis of PTSD among Incarcerated Females in China.

		Total		non-PTSD		PTSD		F	p	Logistic regression model			
		N=2322		N=2102		N=220				OR	95% LCL	95% UCL	p
		mean/N	sd/%	mean/N	sd/%	mean/N	sd/%						
Age (years)		39.8	10.4	39.8	10.5	40.1	9.2	-0.53	0.60				
Education (years)		4.0	3.1	4.1	3.1	3.9	3.3	0.62	0.53				
Living in urban areas		1579	68.0	1445	68.7	134	60.9	5.62	0.02				
Unemployed		1002	43.2	925	77.0	77	35.0	6.58	0.01				
Unmarried		1305	56.2	1175	55.9	130	59.1	0.82	0.36				
Violent offence		727	31.3	630	30.0	97	44.1	18.46	0.00	1.58	1.18	2.12	<0.01
Criminal history		159	6.8	147	7.0	12	5.5	0.74	0.39				
Drug use		596	25.7	569	27.1	27	12.3	22.85	0.00	0.50	0.33	0.78	<0.01
Sentence length	(months)							14.76	<0.01				
	1-12	27	1.2	27	1.3	0	0.0						
	13-60	602	25.9	555	26.4	47	21.4						
	61-120	546	23.5	507	24.1	39	17.7						
	>120	1147	49.4	1013	1038.3	134	60.9						
Antisocial PD		229	9.9	222	10.60	7	3.2	12.2	<0.01	0.38	0.17	0.83	<0.02

Note: PTSD: post-trauma stress disorder; LCL: lower confidence limits ; UCL: upper confidence limits; PD: personality disorder