



Prevalence of PTSD: a Cross-Sectional Study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women in Custody

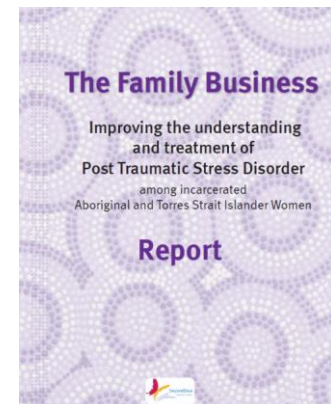
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Acknowledgements

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Original team

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- Kimina Andersen
- Kym Kilroy
- Fiona Davidson
- Elissa Waterson
- Charlene Gordon
- Andy Aboud



Mental health in Prisons

Prevalence of mental health disorders is significantly higher in prison populations compared to community samples

PTSD: 37.9% vs. 13.4%

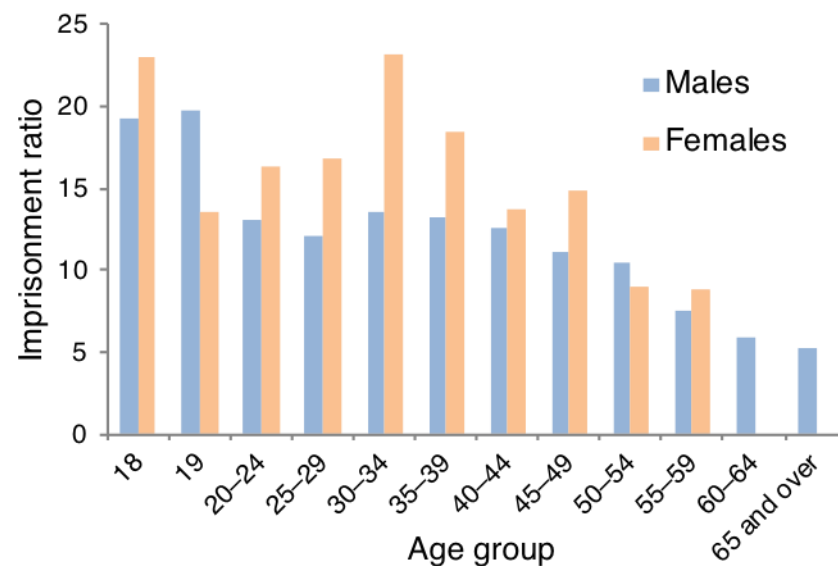
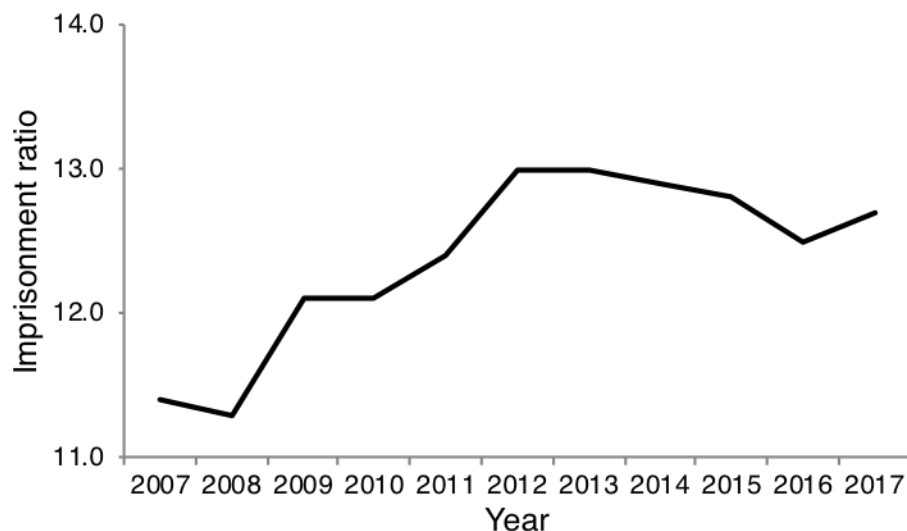
Depression: 17.5 vs. 8.8%

Alcohol use disorder: 21.6% vs 8.1%

Lifetime prevalence statistics (Australian sample), Butler et al., 2007

Indigenous Australians and the Prison system

Over represented & increasing



ABS, 2017

Inside out report

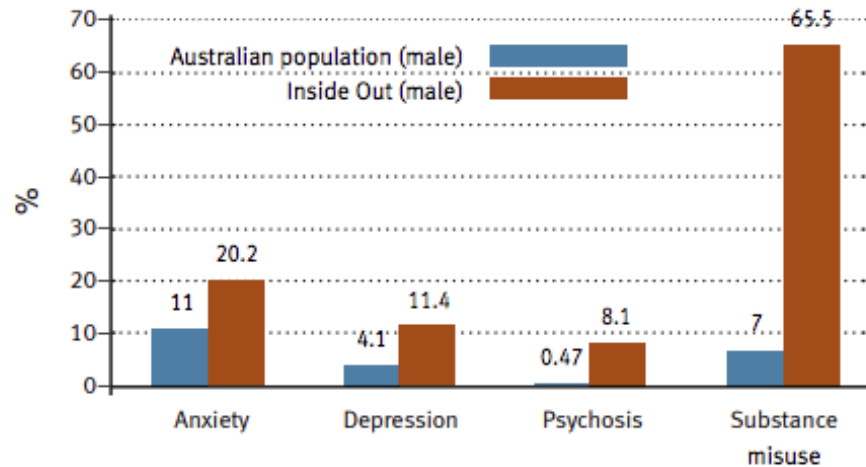


Figure 4. Prevalence of mental disorder among male participants and males in the general community

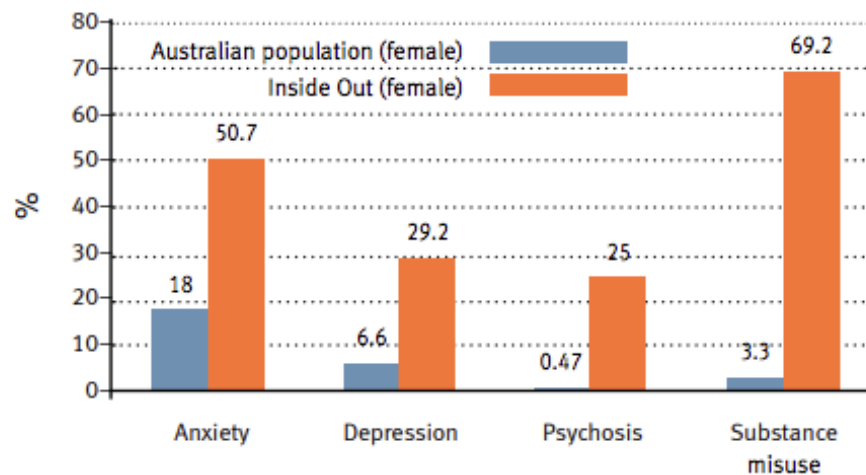
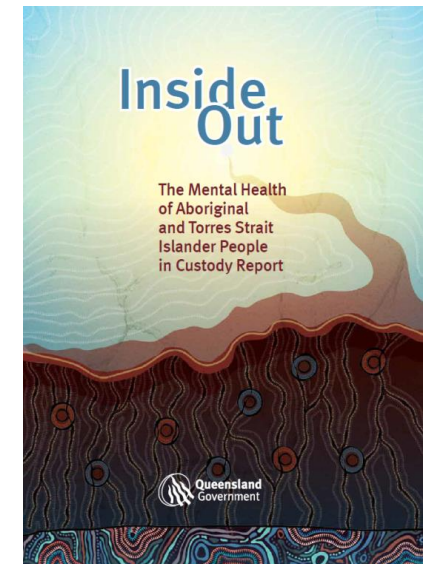


Figure 5. Prevalence of mental disorder among female participants and females in the general community



Inside out Report, 2012
Heffernan et al., 2012

Inside out report

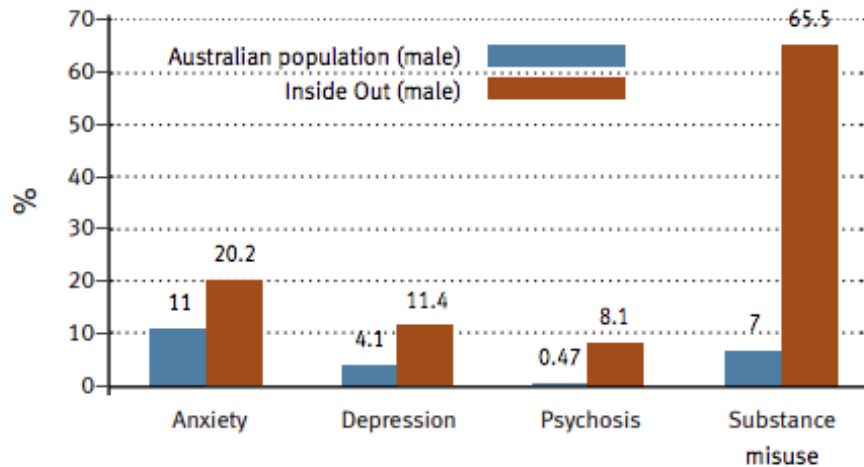


Figure 4. Prevalence of mental disorder among male participants and males in the general community

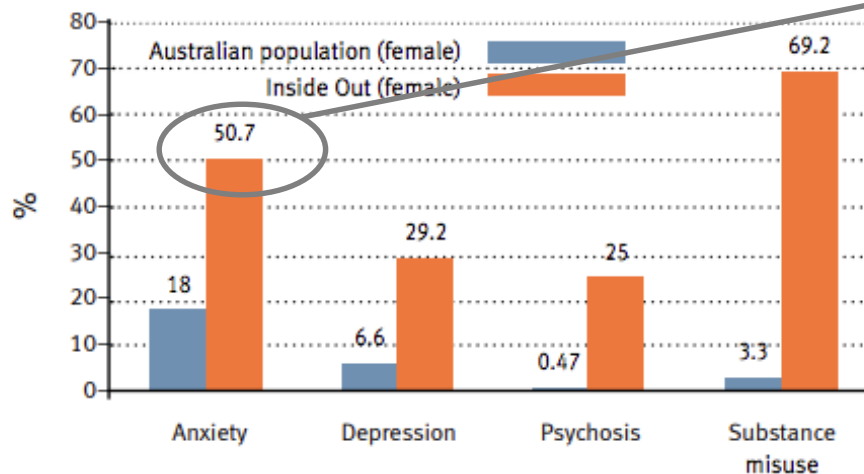


Figure 5. Prevalence of mental disorder among female participants and females in the general community

- PTSD 32.3%
- Specific phobia 21.5%
- Social phobia 12.3%
- Agoraphobia 6.1 %

Inside out Report, 2012
Heffernan et al., 2012

Aims

- Discuss findings from the Family Business Report
- Discuss preliminary future directions and collaboration

Measures

- Breslau PTSD screening tool
- Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI)
- Kessler psychological distress scale
- Indigenous trauma experience survey
- Trauma symptoms checklist (TSCL) and post-traumatic cognitions inventory (PTCI)

Demographics

- N = 116
- Mostly Aboriginal (85%)
- Young (mean age 31)
- 72% mothers
- Mean number of adult incarcerations > 4
- Mean time in custody > 2 years
- 40% youth custody

Results

The 12 month prevalence of PTSD was estimated to be 46.95% (95% CI = [39.12%, 54.78%]).

Numbers of trauma experience across the whole cohort

- 23 (19.83%) had 0 traumatic experiences
- 24 (20.69%) had 1 traumatic experience
- 9 (7.76%) had 2 traumatic experiences
- 60 (51.72%) had > 2 traumatic experiences

Results: trauma experiences

- Someone close died unexpectedly (OR = 4.22)
- Spousal abuse (OR = 2.26)
- Witness physical fights as child (OR = 3.76)
- Sexual assault (OR = 6.12)
- Child abuse (OR = 4.17)

Results: trauma experiences

All in more than 50% of the cohort

- Subject to racism
- Felt not accepted by family/ community
- As a child was removed from home, or sibling from removed from home
- Parents identified as members of the stolen generation

Results: comorbidity

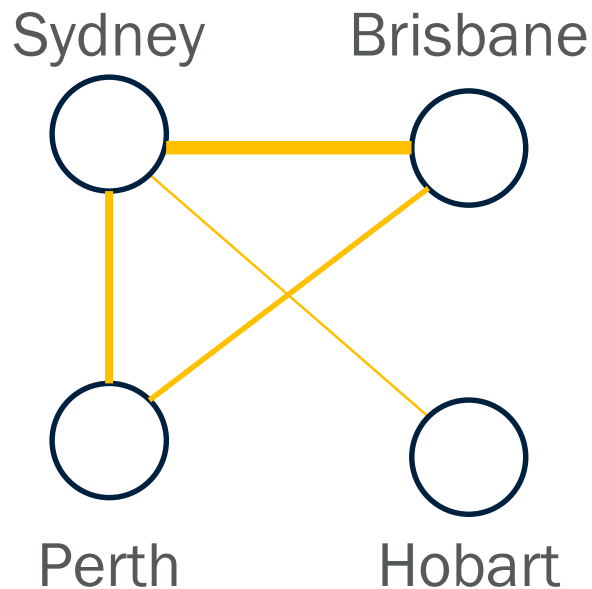
- Depressive disorder (OR = 5.56)
- Alcohol use disorder (OR = 2.34)
- Cannabis (OR = 3.48)

Conclusions

- Prevalence of PTSD is high
- 80% experienced a traumatic event
- PTSD associated with comorbid depressive, alcohol and cannabis use disorders

Future directions

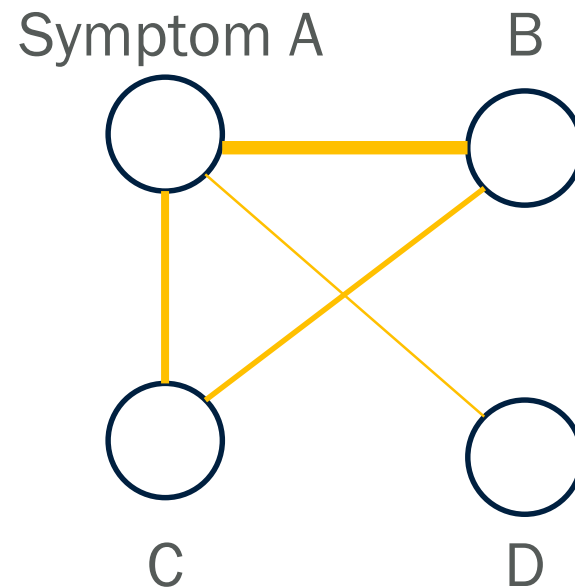
Network analysis



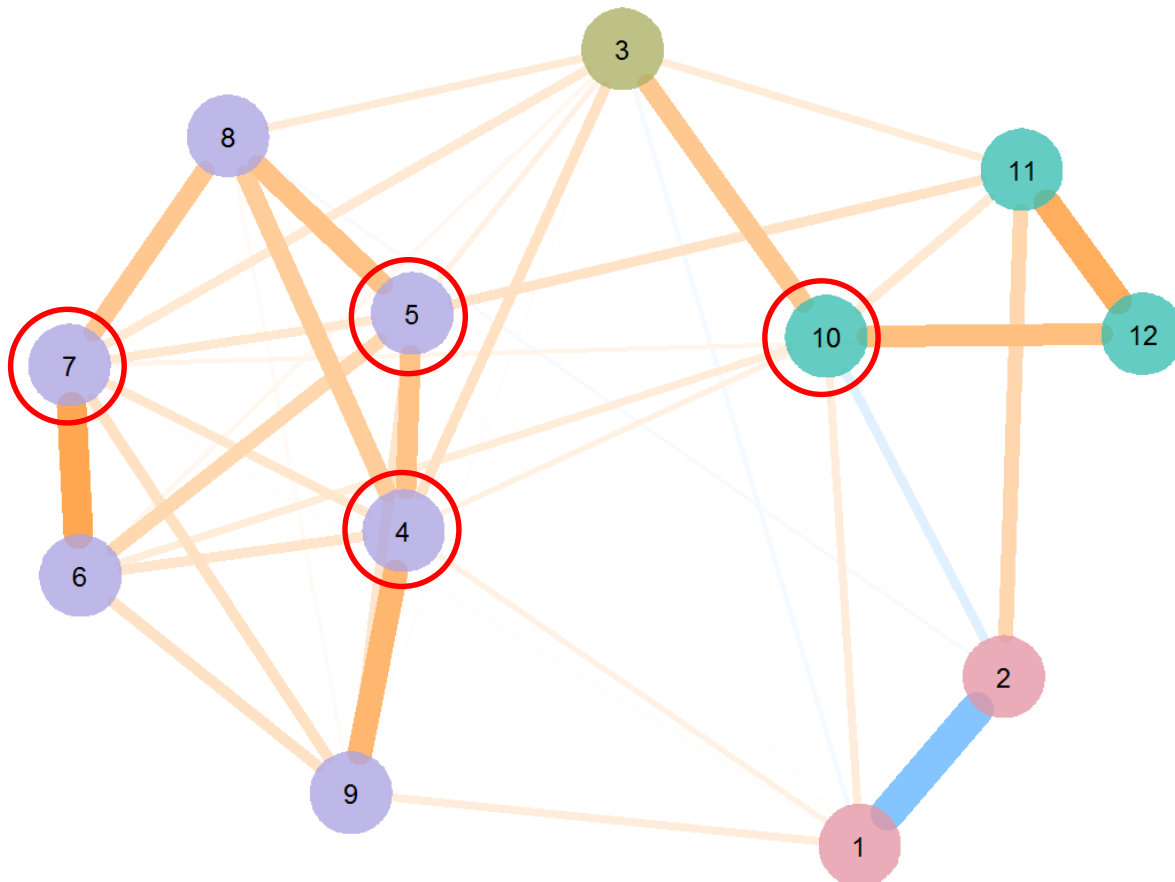
** Not actually indicative of airways in Australia*

Future directions

Network analysis



Preliminary results



CIDI

- 1: Number.of.trauma
- 2: Age.at.first.trauma

Kessler

- 3: K.5

PTCI

- 10: Negative.self.view
- 11: Negative.world.view
- 12: Self.blame

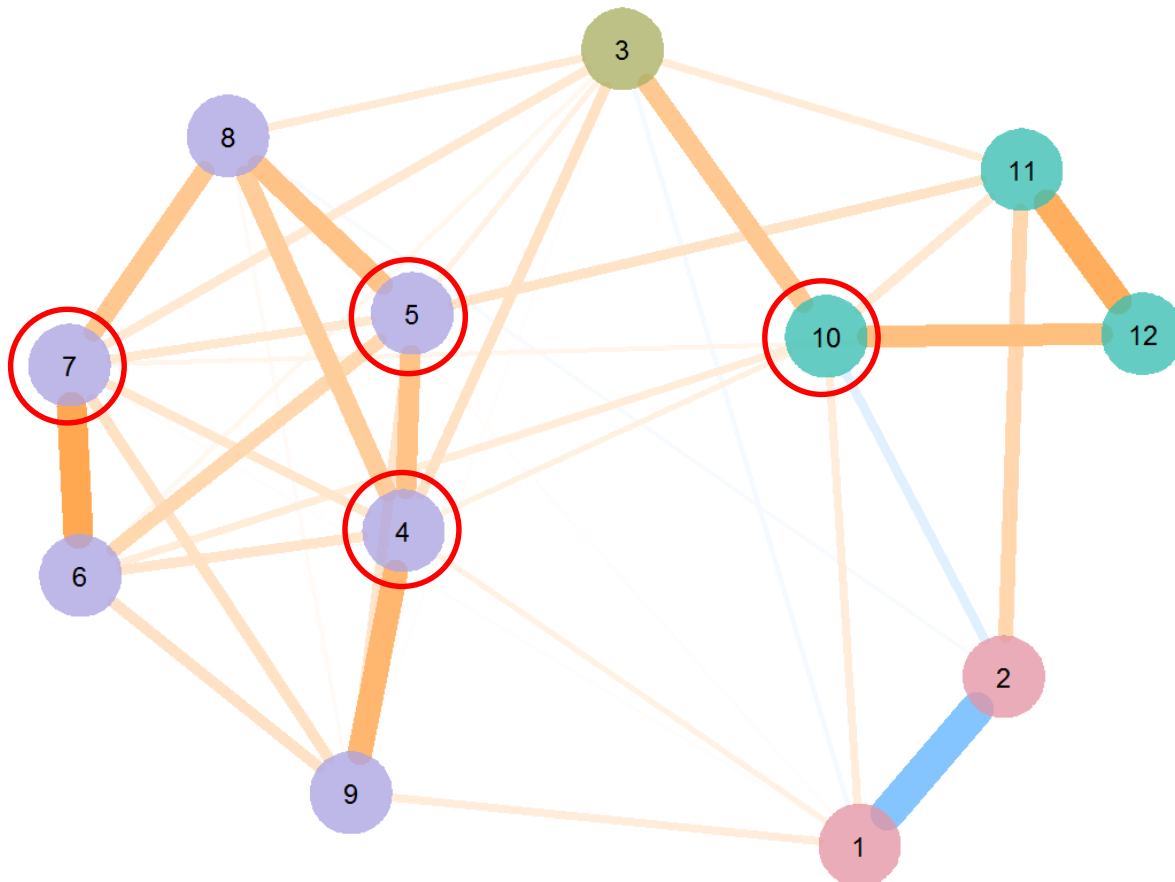
TSCL

- 4: Depression
- 5: Anxiety
- 6: Dissociation
- 7: Sexual.abuse
- 8: Sexual.problems
- 9: Sleep.disturbance

Preliminary results

Highest degree (connection strength)

Depression (4), Sexual abuse (7), Anxiety (5), Negative self view (10)



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Acknowledgements

- Beyondblue
- A/Prof Edward Heffernan
- Ms Fiona Davidson
- Ms Elissa Waterson
- Dr Carla Meurk
- Dr Megan Williams
- Dr Megan Steele

Complex Health Challenges Award

Winner, Queensland Forensic Mental Health Service

Queensland Forensic Mental Health Service researchers are recognised leaders in Indigenous Mental Health in the criminal justice system.

The researchers led Australia's first and largest systematic study of the mental health of Indigenous people in custody and were the first to examine the trauma experiences and prevalence of PTSD among Indigenous women in custody, with the results published in national and international journals.

Their findings have translated into substantial improvements in service delivery, specifically the Indigenous Mental Health Intervention programme, a multi-million-dollar Indigenous led service in custody and transitional care settings.