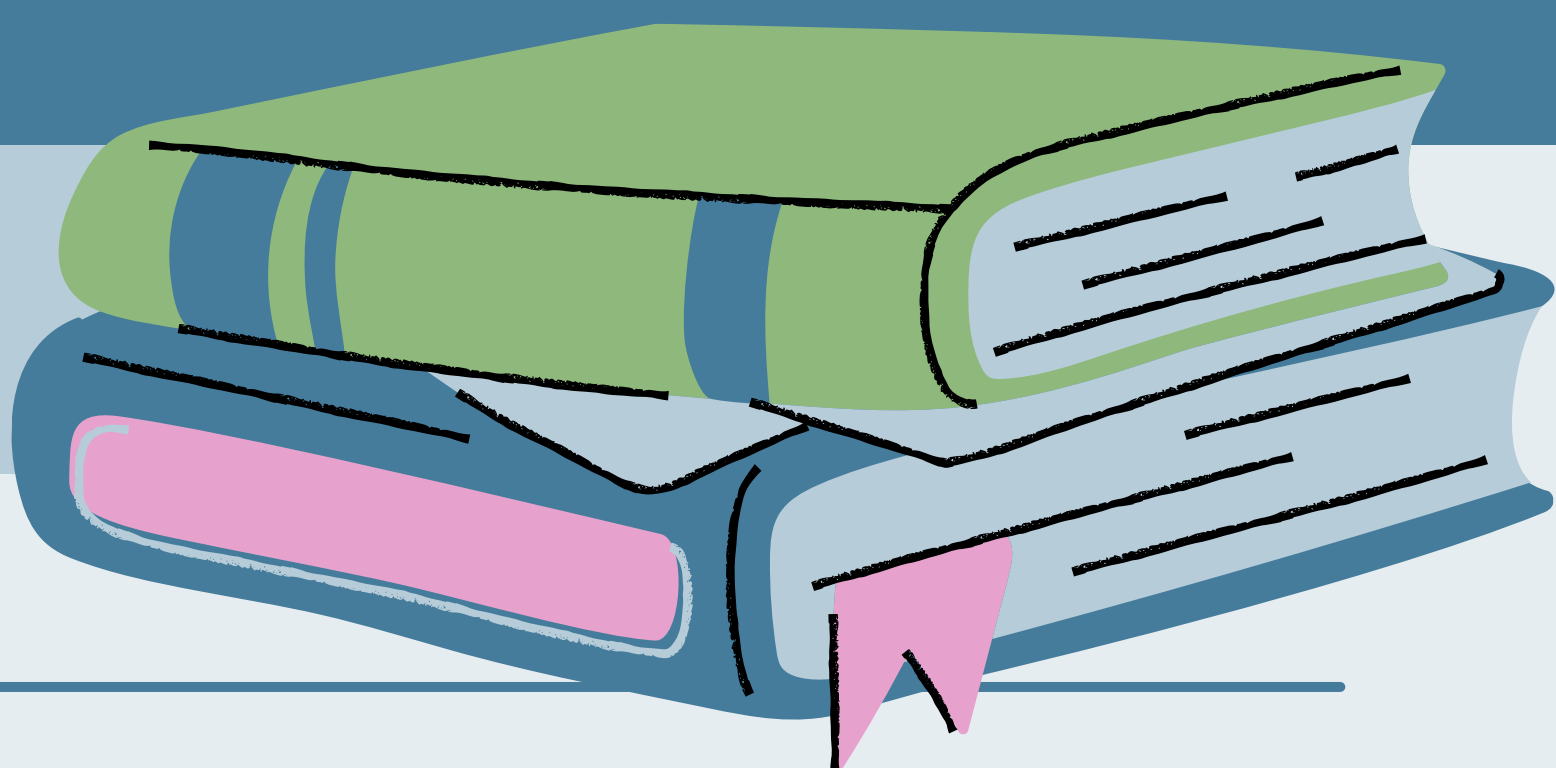


FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

Key findings from Systematic Reviews of the Literature



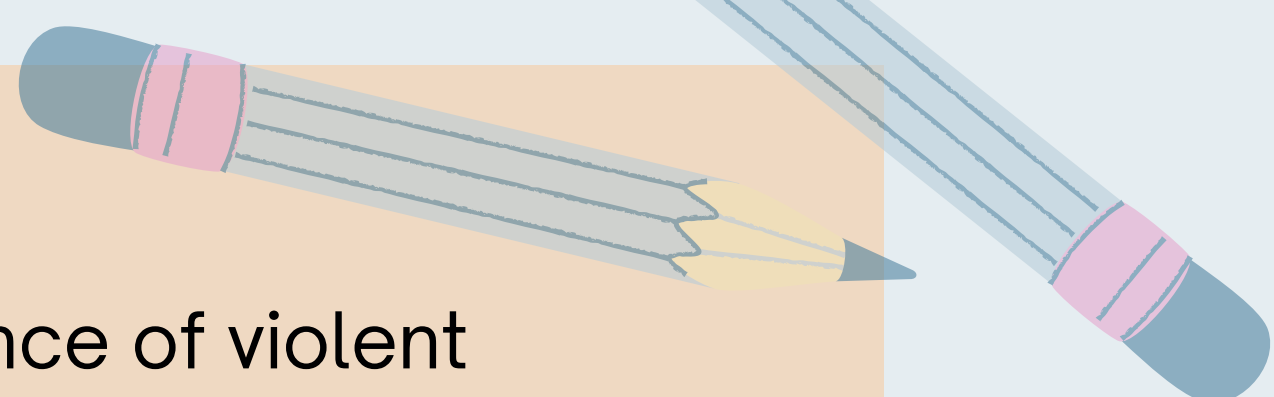
ARE THOSE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AT GREATER RISK OF VIOLENT VICTIMISATION OR VIOLENCE PERPETRATION?

FINDINGS

- Of the three studies comparing those with mental illness to those without, and looking at both outcomes, two found perpetration to be a greater risk and one found victimisation to be a greater risk
- In the remainder of the studies looking at only one of the two outcomes, rates of either violence victimization or perpetration were **consistently greater** for those with mental illness compared to those in the general population
- In general, victimisation occurs more commonly than perpetration (for both those with and without mental illness)

METHOD

- Examined the prevalence/incidence of violent victimisation and perpetration among samples/cohorts of people with mental illness and general population
- Included 9 articles reporting samples/cohorts with mental illness, 13 articles reporting general population samples/cohorts, and 3 articles that includes both types of samples/cohorts
- Findings were summarised using narrative synthesis
- Methodological differences—including data sources, definitions of victimization and perpetration, and observation periods—contributed to a broad range of outcome prevalence rates and mixed findings



Marr, C., Webb, R. T., Yee, N., & Dean, K. (2024). A Systematic Review of Interpersonal Violence Perpetration and Victimization Risk Examined Within Single Study Cohorts, Including in Relation to Mental Illness. *Trauma, violence & abuse*, 25(1), 130–149. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380221145732>

DOES MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION AT COURT REDUCE RE-OFFENDING?

FINDINGS

- Participation in post-booking court diversion programs was associated with a significantly reduced odds of recidivism (OR = 0.47, 95% CI = 0.35-0.65, prediction interval = 0.158 and 1.418)
- Given the small number of existing studies, more research is needed to confirm these findings and to better explore outcomes for key subgroups and sources of heterogeneity of outcomes to understand the mechanisms behind the effectiveness of these programs

METHOD

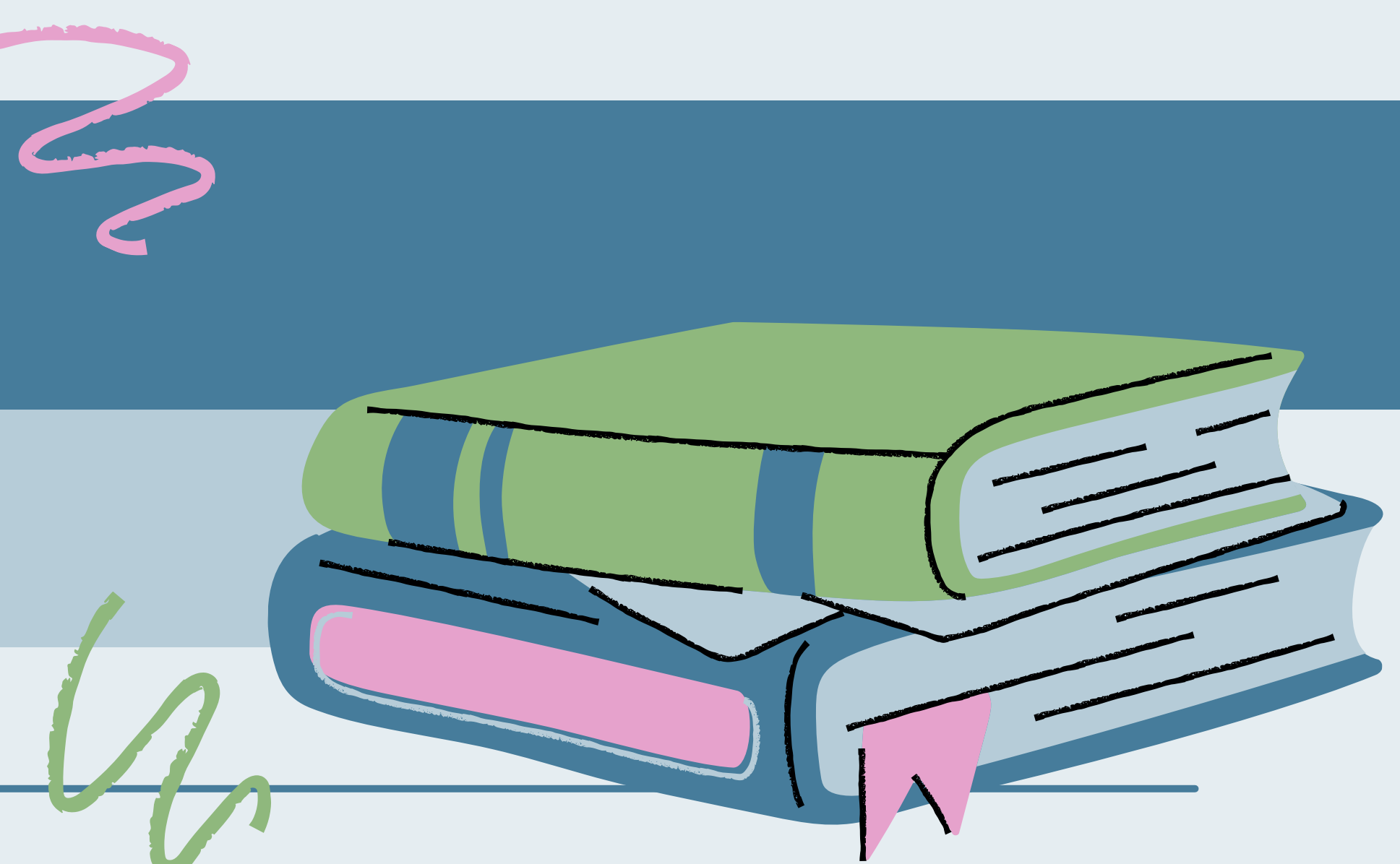
- Conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to examine the effectiveness of post-booking mental health court-based diversion programs on reducing the risk of recidivism for adults with mental illness
- Included 8 articles reporting 12 separate effect size estimates
- Findings were summarised using meta-analysis
- Limited ability to conduct subgroup analysis due to small sample size

Marr, C., Soon, Y-L., Greenberg, D., & Dean, K. (under review). Examining the impact of mental health court diversion services on recidivism: A systematic review and meta-analysis.



FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

Key findings from Systematic Reviews of the Literature



ARE THOSE WITH PSYCHOSIS AT GREATER RISK OF VIOLENT AND NON-VIOLENT OFFENDING?

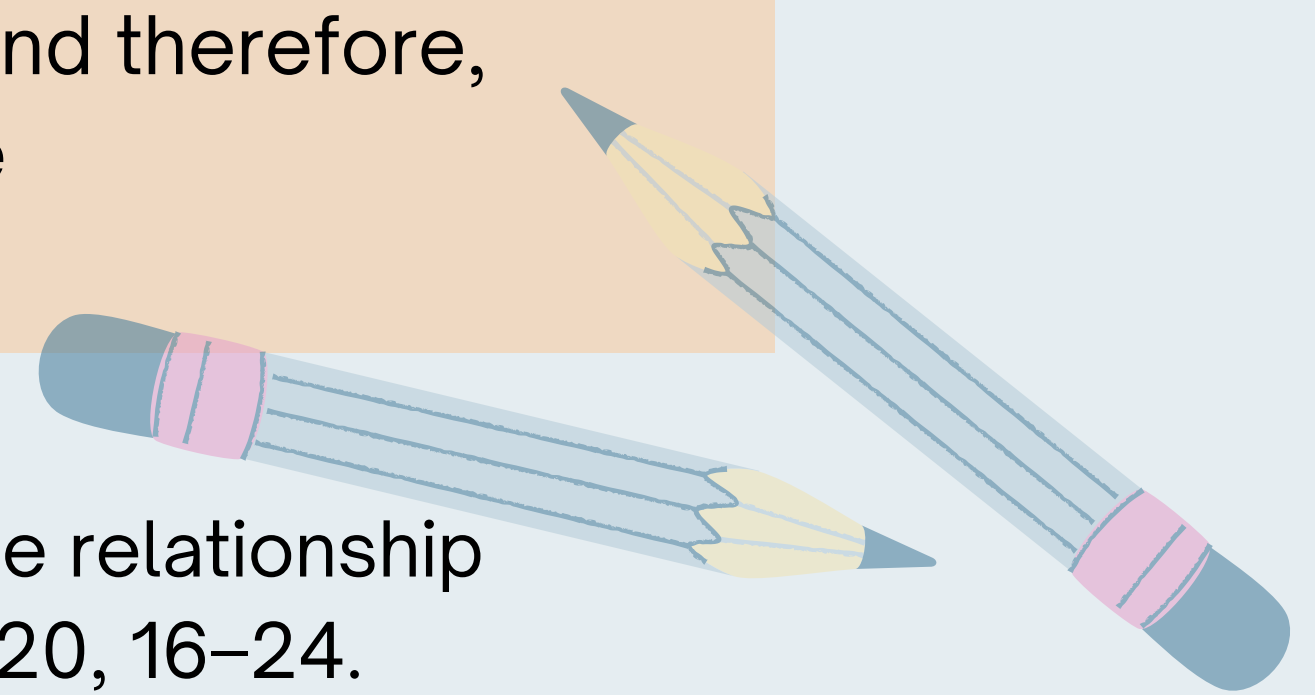
FINDINGS

- Psychosis was significantly associated with increased risk of any type of criminal offending (pooled OR = 2.65, 95% CI = 2.19-3.21)
- Trend showed risk of offending was greater among women (OR = 2.81, 95% CI = 2.11-3.76) than men (OR = 2.42, 95% CI = 1.63-3.59) with psychosis, but this difference was not significant

METHOD

- Examined the relationship between psychosis and any type of criminal offending (violent and non-violent), and whether there were sex differences
- Included 8 studies that compared rates of offending among those with psychosis to general population controls
- Studies relied on official criminal records data (conviction and police contact) and therefore, rates are likely an underestimate

Yee, N., Matheson, S., Korobanova, D., Large, M., Nielssen, O., Carr, V., & Dean, K. (2020). A meta-analysis of the relationship between psychosis and any type of criminal offending, in both men and women. *Schizophrenia research*, 220, 16–24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2020.04.009>



HAS THE PREVALENCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND PRISONS INCREASED OVER THE LAST 5 DECADES?

FINDINGS

- The prevalence of ‘any’ lifetime mental illness amongst those in Australian and New Zealand prisons did not change significantly over time. However, lifetime rates of psychosis appear to be increasing over time
- Lifetime prevalence of any mental illness was 69.0% (95% CI = 0.56-0.79); any current mental illness was 54% (95% CI = 0.39-0.68)
- Lifetime prevalence of psychosis was 9.1% (95% CI = 0.07-0.12); any current psychosis was 6.4% (95% CI = 0.04-0.10)

METHOD

- Examined the prevalence of lifetime and current ‘any’ mental illness, and separately psychotic illness, in Australian and New Zealand prisons over 5 decades
- Included 17 studies (3 NZ studies, 14 Australian studies representing NSW, ACT, QLD, VIC)
- Country, sampling year and source of mental illness diagnostic information were important sources of heterogeneity

Yee, N., Browne, C., Rahman, F., & Dean, K. (2024). Prevalence of mental illness among Australian and New Zealand people in prison: A systematic review and meta-analysis of studies published over five decades. *The Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry*, 48674241271916. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00048674241271916>



FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

Key findings from Systematic Reviews of the Literature

WHAT IS THE OVERLAP BETWEEN CHILDHOOD MALTREATMENT AND YOUTH OFFENDING IN AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SAMPLES/COHORTS?

FINDINGS

- **Maltreatment was very common among youth who have offended, particularly regarding physical abuse (range from 8 – 80%), emotional abuse (range from 9 to 90%), and neglect (range from 17 – 62%)**
- There was also a high prevalence of offending in samples of young people involved in child protection (range from 10 – 50%)
- Samples of females showed higher prevalence rates of abuse, including emotional abuse and neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse than samples of males
- Findings can inform targeted prevention and intervention strategies to address the root causes of offending rather than its symptoms

METHOD

- Examined the concept of ‘crossover kids’ - young people who have been involved with both child protection services and the youth justice system
- Included Australian and New Zealand studies using samples or cohorts of young people aged 22 or younger who had a maltreatment background (e.g., based on child protection records) or an offending background (e.g., based on justice custodial or community samples, police or court outcomes, or other offending samples)
- 22 studies were included, 18 of which focused on an offending sample, 3 of which focused on a maltreatment sample, and 1 which included both types of samples
- Heterogeneity restricted ability to perform meta-analysis; key differences between studies included inconsistencies in study design, populations, and definitions and measurements of both offending and child maltreatment

Stevenson, S., Marr, C., Dean, K., & Butler, T. (under review). The relationship between childhood maltreatment and youth offending in Australia and New Zealand: A systematic review.

WHAT IS THE PREVALENCE OF MENTAL DISORDERS IN YOUNG PEOPLE ENTERING CUSTODY?

FINDINGS

- **Pooled prevalence of conduct disorder was the highest at 42.4% (95% CI = 33.9 - 51.3)**
- Pooled prevalence of major depressive disorder was 18.4% (95% CI = 13.3 - 24.9), ADHD was 10.5% (95% CI = 7.3 - 14.9), PTSD was 12.6% (95% CI = 8.5 - 18.4), anxiety disorders was 18.0% (95% CI = 13.4 - 23.7), and psychotic disorders was 1.9% (95% CI = 1.2 - 3.0)
- Adolescent females entering custody were found to have significantly higher rates of mental disorders than males across most disorders, including anxiety disorder, depressive disorder, PTSD, and ADHD
- Substantial heterogeneity across studies including setting and time of screening, sampling approach, screening tool, diagnostic criteria, and included disorders

METHOD

- Examined the prevalence of key mental health disorders in young people aged 10-19 entering juvenile or youth detention settings
- Included 31 studies from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, England, Netherlands, and United States
- Separate meta-analyses conducted for various mental disorders

Murie, M., Marr, C., Kasinathan, J., Lloyd, T., & Dean, K. (in prep). The mental health needs of young people entering custody: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Reviews underway:

- Examining outcomes for discharged forensic patients (PhD student James McLauchlan)
- Characteristics and inpatient outcomes of patients in secure psychiatric/forensic mental health care (Emma Woods & Yesha Patel)