

Communiversality

GIFT Project-Phase I

Prepared in partnership with
Hennepin Powderhorn Partners

Prepared by
Yael Gun
Research Assistant

University of Minnesota
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Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)
University of Minnesota
330 HHH Center
301--19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
Phone: (612) 625-1551
Fax: (612) 626-0273
E-mail: cura@umn.edu
Web site: <http://www.cura.umn.edu>

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GIFT Project-Phase I

Final Report for Communiversity, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs

By Yael Gun and Lauren Martin

August 26, 2008

The Goal of GIFT is to reduce recidivism of women on probation for prostitution using evidence-based best practices to remediate the issues leading women to involvement in prostitution. The purpose of the CURA funded GIFT Project – Phase I was to finalize the design of the GIFT Project in order to measure the degree to which all planned project components are currently being executed. The objectives for this summer project was to compile an annotated bibliography of best practices for working with women in prostitution and to evaluate the current functioning of GIFT through participant observation of the GIFT project in action at 1201 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN. The data was gathered to evaluate how closely the program was following the organizing principles, operating under the program logic model, and to find possible service gaps to be addressed as GIFT moves forward. Participant observation data was collected from May 26 2008 through August 11, 2008.

With the support of Communiversity, we hired Yael Gun, a master's student in the School of Social Work to accomplish the project goals. Ms. Gun was supervised academically by Lauren Martin (Ph.D.) at the University of Minnesota, an Anthropologist with extensive research experience in prostitution; she was supervised at her field site by Pamela Bensen, a neighborhood probation officer, and Richard Hughes, the Program Manager Supervisor for Hennepin Powderhorn Partners. Ms. Gun had worked previously at Hennepin Powderhorn Partners and completed the Hennepin County confidentiality agreements and safety training.

The participant-observation occurred at the Hennepin Powderhorn Partners site where Ms. Bensen is located. They met with clients, worked the phones, entered GIFT project data, conducted case management, tracked clients, managed client compliance with bench probation conditions, and more. The two also spent a great deal of time in Ms. Bensen's car - in the community with clients at chemical dependency treatment, temporary housing, court, and the Adult Correctional Facility known as "the workhouse".

Methods

Yael Gun conducted traditional Anthropological participant-observation of the GIFT Project by working with Pamela Bensen as she went through her daily routine in the project. Ms. Gun kept a daily field diary which was shared only with Dr. Martin. Ms. Gun and Dr. Martin met regularly to discuss the work, debrief and assess progress. Once field work was completed, Ms. Gun and Dr. Martin reviewed the field diary and compared Ms. Gun's findings about the program to the written organizing principles of GIFT as outlined in the "Prostitution Research Report: Data Sharing to Establish Best Practices for Women in Prostitution", authored by Lauren Martin, PhD and Julie Rud, M.S. The organizing principles of the GIFT program are as follows:

- Use a strength-based/empowerment approach to case management designed to address self-love (improve self-efficacy and self-esteem).
- Intentional service delivery for areas of criminogenic risk and need specific to the demographic analysis. Areas should include: education/employment, housing, chemical use, parenting and trauma/mental health.
- Decrease the barriers to service delivery by addressing basic needs such as clothing, food, daycare and local services/transportation.
- Partner with a chemical assessor, therapist, and psychiatry to facilitate access to necessary services.
- Contract with community service providers to provide integrated and comprehensive services. Contracts should include prostitution specific programming, chemical dependency treatment, parenting programming, employment/skill building, housing, trauma/mental health management.
- Use "warm/exchange" when referring the "GIFT Research Project" participants to outside agencies.

The GIFT Research Team, Lauren Martin (Ph.D.) and Julie Rud (MS.), will use this work to finalize the project logic model and determine the formative work yet to be completed before GIFT will be ready for outcome measurement.

Findings

The data revealed that most components of the program are currently in place and for the most part the program is currently operating as it should. But much of the project currently relies on personal contact rather than institutional affiliation and long-term commitment. Much project time is spent working through issues that could better be resolved by creating more formal partnerships. Further, the findings indicate that although the majority of the program elements are operating within the logic model, there were a few service gaps identified that call for additional consideration. It is not appropriate to discuss the specific program recommendations in a public report, such as this. Project successes, findings of service gaps, and specific recommendations are outlined in an internal report that will be produced for Hennepin County. In addition, all findings will be presented to the entire GIFT team in a presentation.

The Communiversiity award to the GIFT Project will make a significant contribution to the development of a novel and very promising approach to reducing recidivism among women on probation for prostitution and prostitution-related offences. Specifically, the GIFT Project – Phase I provided data and analysis toward a formative evaluation of GIFT as it stands now. The findings will be used to strengthen and improve GIFT for outcome measurement. The GIFT Project was generated in response to community desire to “do something” about prostitution; and its effects will help reduce prostitution and resolve these persistent community concerns in Minneapolis neighborhoods.

Annotated Bibliography for GIFT Project - Phase I
A Communiversy Project

08/26/08
by Yael Gun

The GIFT Project is a novel probation approach to reducing recidivism among women on probation for prostitution and prostitution-related offences that is based on gender-responsive best practices in corrections combined with research on prostitution. The primary goal of the GIFT Project – Phase I, as supported by Communiversy at the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, was to gather program data to help finalize the design of the GIFT Project and provide a literature review to support the development of best practices for helping women reduce their involvement in prostitution. Below is the annotated bibliography for this project – all the citations were selected for their relevance to the GIFT Project.

Baker, L., M, Wilson F. L., & Winebarger, A. L. (2004). An exploratory study of the health problems, stigmatization, life satisfaction, and literacy skills of urban, street-level sex workers. *Women & Health*, 39(2), 83-96.

Purpose: To gather information on the health problems, feelings of stigmatization, satisfaction with life and literacy skills of a group of urban street level sex-workers in Miami.

Methodology: Face to face interviews. Four measurement instruments: The Health Questionnaire, Stigmatization Scale, Satisfaction with Life Scale, and the Rapid Estimate of Adult Literacy in Medicine (REALM).

Sample: A convenience purposeful sample. One or both of the researchers rode with street outreach workers from a community-based organization and asked women to participate in the study. Total of 26 women participated, 35% African American, 65% Caucasian. Ages 21-50.

Results: Of the 26 women, 21 (81%) had acute or chronic health problems, only 11 sought treatment. Women's knowledge of their health problems and their method of obtaining information varied throughout the sample. The scores on the REALM indicate that their reading abilities were between a 7th and 8th grade level. Feelings of stigmatization ranged from low to high, more than half (61.5%) of women felt "very stigmatized", and all the women were found to be very dissatisfied with their lives

Relevance/Limitations: Authors suggest that this exploratory study furthered the knowledge of outreach workers about the women who receive their services. But a study with a larger more representative sample is needed to determine if stigma and life satisfaction affects a woman's decision to seek services from the outreach program or health care professionals. This research presents useful information in a clear manner.

Boynton, P. M. (2002). Life on the streets: The experiences of community researchers in a study of prostitution. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 12(1), 1-12.

Purpose: Recount the experiences of researchers in a community study with women involved in prostitution. To address some of the issues that arise from this type of research, such as safety, confidentiality, and participant protection.

Methodology: Presents excerpts from the researchers' diaries from the main study report, and observations and notes acquired throughout the research. The research written about is qualitative, data collected between October 1996 and may 1997.

Sample: Research team for a community- based research project on issues related to prostitution.

Results: Issues addressed are: training peer researchers, considerations for incorporating current or past sex-workers into the research team, presentation and consumption of sex-related data, ethics and representation

of women through this research. Discussion of relationships built between researchers and women, leaving women behind, concern for the safety of the women, etc.

Relevance/Limitations: Helpful for practitioners doing research. Not organized as a research article, more of a narrative.

Burnette, M. L., Lucas, E., Ilgen, M., Frayne, S. M., Mayo, J., Witlauf, J. C. (2008). Prevalence and health correlates of prostitution among patients entering treatment for substance use disorders. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 65(3), 337-344.

Purpose: To estimate the prevalence of individuals entering substance abuse treatment who have been involved in trading sex for money. To explore association between prostitution and mental and physical health.

Methodology: Cross sectional secondary data analysis of a large study funded by the The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment conducted from July 1993 to October 1995. Questions covered mental and physical health, prostitution, substance use, victimization history and health care. This study focuses on the one-hour baseline interviews. Adjusted for childhood sexual abuse.

Sample: Participants from 78 SUD treatment facilities. Total sample- 4607, (1606 women, 3001 men)

Results: 50.8% women reported a history of prostitution, 41.4% in the last year. 18.5% men ever, 11.2% in the past year. Women had a greater frequency of prostitution for the past year- 82.5% of those who have ever been in prostitution, did it at least once in the last year, 32.9% more than 20 times in the last year.

Women with a history of prostitution had following characteristics- younger, inpatient treatment, black ethnicity, lower education level, homelessness, and crack polysubstance and IV drug use. More likely to report CSA. (For men same characteristics except older age, and no mention of education status). Anxiety, Psychotic symptoms, and lifetime history of suicide attempt were associated with prostitution in both men and women. General health problems were associated with prostitution in men not women.

Relevance/Limitations: Information on study is very specific, giving samples of questions, charts, numbers, etc. Important information. It is the largest sample I have seen. Calls for awareness in treatment programs, and incorporating knowledge to screening and treatment plans.

Dalla, R. L. (2006). "You can't hustle all your life": An exploratory investigation of the exit process among street-level prostituted women. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 30(3), 276-290.

Purpose: Follow up of women in a previous study. Three goals, to document the entry- reentry process in prostitution, identify the factors that contribute to reentry and the factors that promote success and allow women to stay out of prostitution for a prolonged amount of time.

Methodology: Women who were initially interviewed between 1998 and 1999 regarding their developmental experiences, including prostitution entry, maintenance and exit attempts. Various recruitment methods were used to locate the women from the previous study: a prostitution intervention program, women who were incarcerated and their parole officers, and word of mouth. The data was collected through in depth semi-structured interviews.

Sample: Of the original 43 participants, 18 women were located and interviewed. Ages ranged from 33 to 59, mostly black and non-Hispanic white, the majority (n=17) had children, but few lived with them. All but one reported current or previous chemical addiction

Results: Of the 18 women, only five had avoided prostitution, drugs and other criminal activity, nine had returned to both, one had returned to prostitution only. Three had violated parole and had been incarcerated. Three themes were influential for all the women; significance of relationships and emotional attachments, formal support and professional services, and as their "exited" peers, although there were differences in the way that women perceived the services and their commitment to making changes. None of the women who were successful in their exit strategy reported any mental health issues compared to seven out of thirteen of

the women who were not successful. Author proposes using the Stages of Change Model to understand the street-level prostitution exit process.

Relevance /Limitations: Limitations due to small sample size, and the fact that only 18 of the original women could be found. Calls for future research on identifying critical needs at various points of the exit process and more longitudinal work aimed at for how to best serve those in the entry-exit-reentry cycle in prostitution. Good information, interesting, a larger sample with a similar study would be great.

Dalla, R. L. (2001). Et tu brute?: A qualitative analysis of streetwalking prostitutes' interpersonal support networks. *Journal of Family Issues*, 22(8), 1066-1085.

Purpose: To examine the social relationships of women involved in street-walking prostitution, with emphasis on relationships with parents, sibling, intimate partners and children.

Methodology: Intensive interviews, 90 minutes long on average-data examined from a developmental point of view, emphasis on familial dynamics and personal relationships.

Sample: 31 street walking prostitutes; 26 were in a project designed to help women leave prostitution. Ages 19-56, m-34.1. 29 women also reported addiction.

Results: Themes in familial relationships: family substance abuse, domestic violence and childhood abuse (physical, sexual and emotional). Abandonment-majority reported lack of attachment with anyone during childhood years, abandonment through death, or parental figure leaving the family. Many participants reported being in foster care and going from home to home. Sexual abuse- 26 out of 31 women. Few women had a lasting connection or emotional bond with their siblings. Themes in relationships with intimate partners- first experiences with male partners at or before adolescence. Relationships progressed rapidly. Several women ran away with boyfriends at an early age. Seven women reported that their partner was their pimp, eight that their partners were former clients. The majority of the women were in violent relationships. Relationship with Children: 26 women had children, similar themes as in their own families. Mention of separation, attempts at reunification and relinquished parental rights.

Relevance/Limitations: States her bias clearly- prostitution is not a free choice and beliefs of familial experiences and development. Exact numbers would be useful, result section relies on: several, a number, a majority, few, etc. Focus on relationships is very interesting

Erickson, P. G., Butters, J., McGillicuddy, P., & Hallgren, A. (2000). Crack and prostitution: Gender, myths, and experiences. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 30(4), 767-788.

Purpose: To explore the relationship between crack addiction and prostitution, with a focus on the impact that crack addiction has on poor women who trade sex. To examine the experiences in the effects of crack and the meaning of addiction.

Methodology: Intensive interviews with 30 women who work in sex-trade to support their drug-use. Sample approached by a local street worker who the women knew well. Conducted interviews at a local drop-in center.

Sample: 30 women living/working in East Downtown Toronto. Recruited on the basis on knowledge of their use. Age range from 22-52. 17 White, 7 Native Canadian, 5 Black, 1 East Indian. 25 Had given birth, none had children living with them. 17 had stable living conditions. All but one had criminal record. Prostitution as their major source of income. Range of drug use 2-13 years.

Results: First exposure to crack- half reported specific traumatic or difficult chronic personal situations, others were already drug users and switched to crack as their drug of choice a small subset said they simply tried it because it was around/young & naïve. 27 women considered themselves addicted to crack, but only nine considered it a problem. 28 women said obtaining crack was the focal point of their daily lives, and this was connected to them providing sexual services. Women spent the most of what they make on crack. Although not all had started prostitution for this reason.

Relevance/Limitations: Insight to the relationship between crack addiction and prostitution.

Hardman, K. L. J. (1997). A social work group for prostituted women with children. *Social Work with Groups*, 20(1), 19-31.

Purpose: Written in first person, the author chronicles her experience working at a social service agency in an inner city in the UK. Through her work she became aware of the issues faced by prostituted women and their children.

Methodology: Describes her attempt to deal with these issues by setting up and leading a group for prostituted women with children. Women developed an agenda based on their needs and interests

Sample: 23 women involved in street prostitution.

Results: Meetings took place over the course of 10 weeks. Weeks one and two- welfare and state benefits, weeks three and four-parenting skills, week five-health care, week six-housing, week seven- counseling and therapy resources, week eight-education, weeks nine and ten were left open for resolving difficulties from the other sessions. At the end of the group nine of the women were re-housed and no longer working the streets. Positive feedback was gathered from the women after each of the sessions. Women developed great commitment to each other and to the group. Through suggestions, a 15- week group was created and the women from the previous groups were given a space to continue their relationships

Relevance /Limitations: First hand account. The set up of the group and weekly schedule are descriptive, could be replicated. Focuses less on theory and more on actual needs of the population. Not enough emphasis on the children as title would suggest. Author calls for the consideration of the role of social workers in work with this population.

Kurtz, S. P., Surrat, H. L., Kiley, M. C., & Incardi, J. A. (2005). Barriers to health and social services for street-based sex workers. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 16, 345-361.

Purpose: To examine the service needs and barriers to access among sex workers in Miami Florida.

Methodology: Draws from data collected from focus groups and baseline interviews for a research project on the effectiveness of two HIV/AIDS and hepatitis-risk reduction interventions between March 2001 and November 2003. Sex workers acted as recruiters and referred 95% of all participants. Intensive interviews included questions regarding physical, mental and chemical health, and social service needs. Scales, close and open ended questions were utilized. The focus groups included themes of homelessness, health, safety and survival and access to services.

Sample: 586 women and one focus group n-25 from Miami, Florida. Participants were 18 or older, had traded sex for money more than three times in the last 30 days, and used heroin and/or cocaine three or more times a week in that period. 78% of the participants were over thirty. Predominately African American and White, yet the sampling location did not include the primary Latino areas. Over half had children, but less than a third lived with them.

Results: Almost half the participants were homeless, yet the definition of homeless and housed is of little use given the lack of stable and secure housing. Crack cocaine is the primary abused drug. Shelter and employment were the biggest needs, followed by mental and physical health care, including drug treatment. 20% report having no needs or not knowing what they needed. There is a need for access to fresh water and other sanitary products. The barriers to access identified came from the focus groups and are structural (transportation, programs are targeted to specific populations, lack of a legal ID, stigma, shelters other services do not serve women who are involved with drugs, strict shelter regulations) and individual (awareness of service, drug use, mental/emotional stability, fear, appearance). They suggest an individualized case management approach is needed due to the varied needs of this population. In addition that social service and health care staff receive training to increase sensitivity to and knowledge on street-based sex workers.

Relevance/Limitations: Information regarding housing/homelessness and barriers. Large sample increases representativeness. Overall great resource.

Norton-Hawk, M. A. (2001). The counterproductivity of incarcerating female street prostitutes. *Deviant Behavior: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 22, 403-417.

Purpose: Argues that incarceration does not deter women from prostitution, it makes it harder for women to leave prostitution.

Methodology: Interviews conducted during 1998-1999 in an American City with incarcerated women serving sentences for prostitution related offenses. Quantitative and Qualitative methods.

Sample: Women in prostitution for an extended period. 64% arrested five or more times. 43% were 18 or younger at age of first arrest. Ages 19-46 mean 30. 81% had given birth to a child. Information on education, background, abuse etc. provided. 56% non-white.

Results: Drug use and prostitution reinforce each other- given social networks that perpetuate both lifestyles. Drugs came before prostitution, predominantly crack. Two thirds say that the reason they work the streets is to pay for drugs. Two thirds engage in direct sex for drug exchanges. Authors argue that avoiding jail puts women at a higher risk for violence- 80% perform services in cars in a secluded spot. Women report high levels of abuse by johns and pimps (53%). Women who had traumatic events in childhood were more likely to work for pimps. 66% have stolen form a john. Author claims- incarceration increases likelihood of return to prostitution, and it separates from ‘straight’ friends, children, etc.

Relevance/Limitations: Includes great information on the life and experiences of women in prostitution, yet the argument against incarceration seems more related to opinion/ideology than any data gathered. Does not seem grounded on any particular research question presented-authors do not provide information on the connection between the data and their position on incarceration. When the argument focuses on the impact of jail in “rehabilitation” it relies only the connections/discussions from the author. Rationally the connections that are drawn are possible, yet they do not refer to a single empirical connection between incarceration and leaving prostitution. Also, no reference to other involvement of the criminal justice system, as if incarceration was the first and only response to a prostitution arrest, i.e. they could refer to involvement in the CJS as opposed to jail time, for much of their argument.

Penfold, C., Hunter, G., & Campbell, R. Barham, L. (2004). Tackling client violence in female street prostitution: Inter-agency working between outreach agencies and the police. *Policing & Society*, 14(4), 365-379.

Purpose: Argues that there is a need to promote interagency workings between outreach agencies and the police in order to address the unacceptable level of client violence in street prostitution in the UK. A case study (evaluation) of a multi-agency project in Merseyside that aimed at reducing the levels of violence, sexual offenses and robbery experienced by sex workers. “Ugly Mugs” collaboration between Links project and the Police.

Methodology: Evaluation data from semi-structured interviews conducted with outreach workers, sex workers, and police officers. Interviews conducted at two points with members of the multi-agency partnership, eight months apart. Observation of three drop-in sessions and four outreach sessions. Brief Analysis of reported violence via incident report records, an evaluation of the Linx projects including 70 surveys of street workers used for contextual data.

Sample: 5 sex- worker outreach workers, 12 police officers, and 15 sex workers. 70 sex-workers were surveyed via a report for the linx project.

Results: Ugly Mugs encourages women to report violence to outreach workers, who then disseminate information to the police and other sex workers (preventing interaction with assailant). 63% sex workers surveyed identified “Ugly Mugs or “Dodgy Punter” schemes as making their work safer. Evidence

collaboration led to more reporting of violence Reduction in violence in street prostitution. Narrative and description of collaboration, and specifics of process.

Relevance/Limitations: writing style/organization does present information clearly. Findings jump around. Yet, the information presented is helpful in illustrating a successful partnership.

Rabinovitch, J., & Strega, S. (2004). The PEERS story: Effective services sidestep controversies. *Violence Against Women, 10*(2), 140-159.

Purpose: Elaborates on the components that allowed the Prostitution Empowerment, Education and Resource Society (PEERS) to be a successful service delivery program among the controversial issues of sex-work and the complex issues that service delivery programs for prostituted women and girls face.

Methodology: Article divided in sections as follows-PEERS program, sidestepping controversies, marginalization and the failure of traditional services, programmatic responses- choice, capacity building, and harm reduction, trust.

Sample: PEERS program, started in 1995 in British Columbia, Canada.

Results: Knowledge, ideology, etc. should never interfere with services- PEERS does not accept any of the theoretical positions. Position that sex work is a “less than optimal survival strategy or employment choice”. Strength- based approach, whole person, focus on practical help and skills, drug and alcohol treatment, employment and housing. Participate in collaboration with policy-makers, police, and researchers. Posits the need for specific services for women in prostitution by those who understand the interconnectedness of their issues. Homelessness, motherhood, etc. Four critical components to operating: choice- supports women who want to stay and want to exit, understanding that women might exit and reenter, many times, provide help along the way. Capacity building-clients are survivors, not victims, programs for employers and women, values skills gained in the trade: communication, ability to negotiate, etc. provides counseling, harm reduction- programs for those still working/dealing with addiction. Trust- peer-led services, at all levels, up to the board of directors. Most direct service work by ex sex workers.

Relevance/Limitations: Useful resource. Illustrates a successful program in action.

Sanders, T., & Campbell, R. (2007). Designing out vulnerability, building respect: Violence, safety and sex work policy. *The British Journal of Sociology 58*(1), 1-19.

Purpose: Documents the violence women experience in indoor sex work and the strategies they use to maintain safety, then suggests that the information could be used to inform how to keep street workers safe.

Methodology: Brings data from two studies in two cities in the UK. Study 1- survey and in-depth interviews with indoor sex workers and associated persons about involvement in industry, health services, and outreach project. Study 2- ethnography of women in indoor sex industry. The goal was to assess personal and occupational risks and how they were managed.

Sample: Two studies 1- 90 indoor sex workers, 27 interviews with sex workers, owners, former sex workers and receptionist of indoor sex venues. Study 2- 300 sex workers, owners, managers, etc. Both ages 18-52.

Results: Although infrequent (Study 1 71/90 study 2- 34/35 had not experience violence at work) these are some of the issues they face: robbery, non-legal sex act- clients taking advantage, Removal of condoms, disrespectful treatment, financially cheated. Strategies used: managing the environment- security cameras, secure doors, receptionist...Individual protection mechanisms- humor, good personal skills, collective control- house rules, several workers at the same place. Authors suggest that street workers do not have the same amount of informal and formal controls. Current approaches such as “Ugly Mugs” are victim centered; they are responsible for own safety, not the state. Proposes environment-centered crime prevention strategies. Argues for legalization. To reduce violence change perceptions of prostitution.

Relevance/limitations: This fits well with arguments toward legalization of prostitution. Arguments that

violence is a product of lack of formal and informal controls that women cannot have as long as they are vulnerable to arrest, etc. on the streets. The data drawn upon was interesting, specifically in comparison to data gathered on street workers. More evidence on the need to differentiate within “prostitution.”

Shaver, F. M. (2005). Sex work research: Methodological and ethical challenges. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 20*(3), 296-319.

Purpose: Highlights the challenges in conducting research projects with sex workers and suggest strategies for overcoming such challenges. Focuses on sampling techniques, confidentiality/privacy, and generalizations about sex workers.

Methodology: Describes the strategies utilized in three different studies that address the methodological concerns of sex worker research.

Sample: Three studies: #1-data from San Francisco and Montreal n-220. #2-107 sex workers matched with 73 hospital workers in Montreal and Toronto, #3-community-academic partnership, n-120 sex workers, and 34 key informants. All sample female, male, and transgender individuals.

Results: A number of techniques that aid in making sex worker research ethical and methodologically sound were illustrated. Techniques that addressed sampling biases and privacy concerns, such as field work that introduces the research team to the participants and allows access to local social networks and increasing representativeness of sample, guidelines for creating a participant centered and harm reduction approach to research were posed, and grounding research in strategic comparison groups.

Relevance/Limitations: Great information to consider when designing research. Also provides a methodological lens for which to view other research in the field.

Smith, F. M., & Marshall, L. A. (2007). Barriers to effective drug addiction treatment for women involved in street-level prostitution: A qualitative investigation. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health, 17*, 163-170.

Purpose: To examine barriers to effective drug addiction treatment for women involved in street-level prostitution.

Methodology: Qualitative. Nine in-depth interviews. Transcripts analyzed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Sample: Opportunity sample of women who attend a drop in center in Glasgow and chose to participate. Eligibility-currently engaging in prostitution (traded sex in the last four weeks) and had used either stimulant and/or opiate drugs at least four times in the last four weeks, and their drug use was perceived as problematic.

Results: Barriers categorized into five themes: impoverished sense of self worth, trust and consistency, absence of a comprehensive treatment package, discrepancy between readiness for treatment and availability of services, lack of provision for opiate addicted couples.

Relevance/Limitations: Study includes good quotes, descriptive. Extremely small sample size very little generalizability.

Surrat, H. L., Incardi, J. A., Kurtz, S. P., & Kiley, M. C. (2004). Sex work and drug use in a subculture of violence. *Crime and Delinquency, 50*(1), 43-59.

Purpose: To examine the experiences of violent victimization, and poses sex work as constituting a sub culture of violence. Subculture of violence theory – ‘violence is an acceptable “normal” part of everyday life in the inner city.’ An approach for understanding the ways that violence is socially situated rather than focusing on individual factors.

Methodology: Interviews using standardized data collection instrument based on the NIDA Risk Behavior

Assessment, the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (short form) and the Georgia State University Prostitution Inventory. One hour to complete. Six focus groups, four participants per group, lasting 60-90 mins.

Sample: Purposeful targeted sampling strategies. 325 women that traded sex for money more than three times in the last 30 days, and used heroin and/or cocaine three or more times a week in that period. Ages 16-49.

Results: Includes descriptive data on education, race, income, and homelessness. Information regarding Drug use, type of drug, and age of first use. Almost half of the women reported physical (44.9 %) and/or sexual (50.5%) abuse as children. 41.5% had a violent encounter while working in the last year. Found a modest but consistent correlation between current and childhood victimization- severity of abuse history consistently associated with more incidents of violence.

Evaluation/Limitations: Large sample is rare; useful for validity purposes. Interesting information regarding correlations between childhood and current victimization. This research is useful for information about violence, etc. in a quantitative format. The conclusion of the research calls for effective strategies for outreach, earning trust, and designing and implementing appropriate interventions.

Valera, R., Sawyer, R., & Schiraldi, G. (2001). Perceived health needs of inner-city street prostitutes: A preliminary study. *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 25(1), 50-59.

Purpose: To explore the health needs of female, male and transgendered street-workers in Washington DC.

Methodology: Researchers had a relationship with HIPS- an agency that provides support services to individuals in the sex industry. Data collected by the researcher and trained volunteers in areas known by HIPS as areas where these individuals work. Two instruments used: one has 32 items that inquire about demographic information, life experiences, and health needs and status. (Developed by Farley and Barkan) the other is the PTSD checklist -17 items that measure posttraumatic stress disorder.

Sample: 100 participants, 42% female, 32% male, and 26% transgender (males). Majority African American. Ages 18-52 mean of 30.61

Results: Age of entry into prostitution 7-35 yrs. Mean 18.8, half sample have worked from 11-20 yrs. High proportions would like to leave prostitution. (91% of men, the highest, 73% transgender, 67% female). 44% report sexual contact as children by an adult, 39% physical abuse by parent/caregiver. 66% participants current or previously homeless. 61% have been assaulted since entering prostitution. (85.7% for females) 80% have been threatened by a weapon, 50% history of rape, and 44% rape since entering prostitution. 64% report using alcohol, 57% report using drugs. 33% revealed they have physical health problems- highest categories, HIV positive (12%), general body pain (11%). Findings suggest (through scale that 42% interviewed met the DSM-IV criteria for PTSD. Needs: 59% support from others who had been in similar situations, 57% need counseling/Social support, and males reported needing a home, job, and drug and alcohol treatment.

Relevance/Limitations: Information comparing experiences between female, male and transgender is useful. Discussion includes interesting connections between PTSD and receiving services. Interestingly: Overall drug use seems lower than other research crack use seems quite low compared to all other studies. What made this sample different?

Wahab, S. (2006). Evaluating the usefulness of a prostitution diversion project. *Qualitative Social Work*, 5(1), 67-92.

Purpose: Explores the effectiveness of a prostitution diversion project in Salt Lake City, Utah. First published evaluation of a diversion program. The program evaluation/study questioned, what are the objectives? Does it meet the objectives? How is it experienced by its stakeholders and how are the sex workers being served by the project?

Methodology: Semi-structured qualitative interviews, observations, field notes, and written program materials collected from February 2003 to August 2003.

Sample: n-31. 12 sex-workers, 19 service providers. At least one participant from each stakeholder category was represented. Included stakeholders from: participants of program, case managers and program directors from the criminal justice system, harm reduction staff and PDP members.

Results: two primary stakeholders, criminal justice system and the harm reduction model, each with their own agenda, ideology, practices. CSJ- punishment, HRP-support and empowerment. There were no written goals or objectives to the program, although research gathered perceptions of objectives by stakeholders. There were also no recidivism rates available, so effectiveness of program could not be measured, only 'usefulness'. Majority of stakeholders believed that PDP would not lead to permanent exit from sex work. Strengths and limitations of program are highlighted. In sum: strengths: variety listed, related to strength and empowerment. Limitations: lack of consistency, insufficient funding, inconsistent ideologies.

Relevance/Limitations: Great resource for GIFT.

Weitzer, R. (2005). Flawed theory and method in studies of prostitution. *Violence Against Women, 11*(7), 934-949.

Purpose: Argues that ideology has contaminated knowledge on writings about the sex-industry. Research is purposely skewed to further a political and ideological agenda.

Methodology: Examined methodological flaws in research by four authors, and specifically three articles in *Violence Against Women*.

Sample: The articles are Jody Raphael and Deborah Shapiro (2004), Melissa Farley (2004) and Janice Raymond (2004)

Results: He categorizes ideological blinders-these authors pose that prostitution by definition is violence against women, and that there is always coercion and domination involved, use of politicized terminology, etc, methodological flaws- studies do not reveal where they contacted subjects, provide comparison groups, etc. problematic samples, drawing selectively from literature, and not disclosing any of the actual questions utilized. He also questions the idea that all prostitution is a form of violence against women, their numbers regarding the violence encountered, and critiques their lack of differentiation among street-level workers and other sex-workers, being that they are the most likely to experience violence.

Relevance/Limitations: Well-written and to the point. Useful to read to remind oneself about the difference between activism and academic research, etc. the need for "objectivity".

Williamson, C., Baker, L., Jenkins, M., & Cluse Tolar, T. (2007). Police-prostitute interactions: Sometimes discretion, sometimes misconduct. *Journal of Progressive Human Services, 18*(2), 15-37.

Purpose: To examine data collected in three previous studies and focus on police interactions with women involved in street-level prostitution in a large Midwestern city.

Methodology: Data analyzed from three studies on street level prostitution, from 1998-2004. Study 1- in depth qualitative interviews with women no longer involved in prostitution, only one question on the experience with police officers. Study 2- quantitative survey with room to elaborate on questions regarding the police, two questions on interactions with police. Study 3- qualitative interviews with women who were working in prostitution and in drug alcohol recovery programs and also women no longer working with no drug program. A series of questions regarding their experience with police.

Sample: Total -137 respondents who have prostituted at various times/cities. Study 1- snowball technique 21 women no longer involved in prostitution, ages 18-35. Study 2- 63 incarcerated women, mean age 35. Study 3- 53 women, ages 18-47.

Results: Study 2, 29.6% had experienced police violence. Total of 25 women (45.5%) had paid sex with a police officer and 10 women (18.2%) said they had to have sex for free. Analysis of Qualitative data show

that 6 types of police-prostitute interaction: “nice cop, non responsive officers, police officers as protectors, police officers as perpetrators, cops as paying customers and fringe benefit cops.” Explanations and illustrations of each type follow with excerpts from women’s descriptions.

Relevance/Limitations: There is not much information on this topic. Well written, inclusion of the types of questions asked. Firm methodology. Lends itself well to future research.

Young, A. M., Boyd, C., & Hubbell, A. (2000). Prostitution, drug use and coping with psychological distress. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 30(4), 789-800.

Purpose: To explore the severity of substance abuse among African American women involved in prostitution and using crack cocaine. To examine if prostitutes use drugs as a method of coping with experiences commonly related to their occupation.

Methodology: Secondary data analysis of a data set from 1992-1995 pertaining to urban African American women and crack cocaine use funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Data collection methods were 3 hour long interviews including standardized measures and open ended questions on drug and alcohol use, family and social network, and physical and mental health. Additional instruments- prostitution, severity and reasons for substance abuse, history of sexual abuse. The research controlled for a history of sexual trauma.

Sample: Convenience. Adult women who were using at least \$100 worth of crack a week. 152 women were in a treatment program and abstaining from illegal and mood alerting drugs, 56 women were in the community and continued to use drugs. Mean age 30.6, 92% of them have children.

Results: Women prostituting were addicted to a significantly greater number of drugs than those not prostituting and significantly more likely to use drugs to increase confidence, control, and closeness to others and to decrease feelings of guilt and sexual distress. Authors argue that women enter prostitution to fund drug use, but prostitutes increase their drug use in order to deal with occupational distress. Discussion of the need to address mental health issues of prostitutes abusing illicit drugs follows.

Relevance/Limitations: interesting research on the connection between drug use and street level prostitution. Very applicable with work with GIFT.