

“Threats to caregiving in the community following infant reentry from a prison nursery”

This session continues to report on findings from the first longitudinal study of infants raised in a US prison nursery and their mothers, “Maternal and Child Outcomes of a Prison Nursery Program” (RO1 NR007782, M. Byrne, PI), a project supported by NIH for the past 8 years. A weekly Nurse Practitioner visit program was added to the prison nursery programming during the prison co-residence stay of 100 mother/infant dyads and then children were followed during the reentry years with the biological mother and/or an alternative family caregiver.. Multiple survey, questionnaire, videographed, and qualitative outcome measures were used. This study focuses on predictors of behavioral development for a subset of 53 child/primary caregiver dyads re-enrolled in the long term reentry study phase. Secure attachment in spite of maternal insecurity and achievement of child development milestones were established during the nursery phase. Caregiver changes, under employment, and sparse resources characterized the reentry phase. Children separated from the mother at end of nursery co-residence had more internalizing problems in third reentry year than children seamlessly cared for by their mother. Caregiver depressive symptomatology and parent-child dysfunctional interaction explained 45% of the variance. Following a supportive prison nursery co-residence experience both maternal and alternative caregivers require continued community nursing resources.

Study related publications:

Goshin, L.S., Byrne, M.W., Blanchard-Lewis, B. (in press) Preschool Outcomes of Children Who Lived as Infants in a Prison Nursery. *The Prison Journal*.

Goshin, L.S. & Byrne, M. W. (2012) Predictors of post-release research retention and subsequent reenrollment for women recruited while incarcerated. *Research in Nursing and Health* 35(1), 94-104. Available online November 21, 2011. DOI: 10.1002/nur.21451.

Byrne, M. W., Goshin, L.S., & Blanchard-Lewis, B. (2012) Maternal separations during the reentry years for 100 infants raised in a prison nursery. *Family Court Review*. 50(1), 77-90.

Byrne, M. W. From Prison Research to Evidence Based Reentry Support Program for Women and Children, pp. 72-76. In Melnyk, B., & Fineout-Overhold, E., Eds. *Implementing Evidence -Based Practice: Real-Life Success Stories*. (2011). Indianapolis, IN: Sigma Theta Tau International.

Byrne, M. W. ( 2010) Interventions within prison nurseries, pp.159-187. In Eddy, M. & Poehlmann, J., Eds. *Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Handbook for Researchers and Practitioners.*, Baltimore, MD.: The Urban Institute Press.

Byrne, M., Goshin, L. & Joestl, S. (2010) Intergenerational transmission of attachment for infants raised in a prison nursery. *Attachment and Human Development*, 12 (4), 375-393. Doi: 10.1080/14616730903417011. PMID: PMC2942021 (available after 2011/7/1)

Borelli, J., Goshin, L., Joestl, S. Clark, J. & Byrne, M.W. (2010) Attachment organization in a sample of incarcerated mothers: Distribution of classifications and predictive associations with clinical symptoms, perceptions of parenting competency and social support.. *Attachment and Human Development*, 12 (4), 355-374. Doi: 10.1080/14616730903416971. PMID: PMC2946896 (available after 2011/7/1)

Byrne, M. W. (2009) Before the next surge: An assessment of the contemporary prison nursery movement. *Women, Girls & Criminal Justice*, 10 (5), 65-80.

Goshin, L.S. & Byrne, M. W. (2009) Converging streams of opportunity for prison nursery programs in the United States. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 48, 271-295. PMID: PMC2768406.

Byrne, M. (2005) Conducting research as a visiting scientist in a women’s prison.. *Journal of Professional Nursing*. 21(4), 223-230. PMID: PMC155477.

Additional information contact: Mary Byrne, PhD, MPH [mwb4@columbia.edu](mailto:mwb4@columbia.edu)