

1 **Title: Utility of the Brain Injury Screening Index in Identifying Female**  
2 **Prisoners with a Traumatic Brain Injury and Associated Cognitive**  
3 **Impairment**

4 **Abstract**

5       There is a high prevalence of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in prisoners, but  
6       screening tools for identifying TBI in female prisoners are not readily available.  
7       Using a cross-sectional design, the psychometric properties of the Brain Injury  
8       Screening Index (BISI) were investigated in a closed UK female prison.  
9       Purposive sampling comprised of 56 females. Assessment included clinical  
10      interview; the BISI; self-report measures of mood; and a battery of measures of  
11      cognitive functioning. Seven of 10 clinical indicators on the BISI met test-retest  
12      reliability criteria. Two of three BISI summary variables demonstrated  
13      correlations with questionnaires in the hypothesised directions, however only two  
14      BISI variables were associated with cognitive functioning. Findings support  
15      further investigation into the validity and reliability of the BISI with a larger  
16      sample.

17      Keywords: head injury; offending; reliability; validity; screen; assessment

18 **Introduction**

19 There is growing evidence that vulnerable and socially disadvantaged groups have higher  
20 rates of traumatic brain injury (TBI). These groups include those without homes (McMillan  
21 et al., 2015; Oddy, Moir, Fortescue, & Chadwick, 2012), military veterans (French, Lange, &  
22 Brickell, 2014; Miller, Ivins, & Schwab, 2013; Terrio et al., 2009) and prisoners (Allely,  
23 2016; Diamond, Harzke, Magaletta, Cummins, & Frankowski, 2007; Durand et al., 2017).  
24 Most TBIs are mild (Donnelly et al., 2011). Reports of problematic sequelae following mild  
25 TBI (mTBI) range from only 10% (Albicini & McKinlay, 2014) to 42% (Konrad et al.,  
26 2011). Research suggests that multiple mTBIs may have a cumulative effect (Collins,  
27 Grindel, Lovell, & et al., 1999; Diamond et al., 2007; Iverson, Echemendia, LaMarre,  
28 Brooks, & Gaetz, 2012; Miller et al., 2013). While moderate to severe TBIs tend to be self-  
29 evident, deficits from mTBIs can be easily overlooked (Donnelly et al., 2011).

30 Shiroma, Ferguson and Pickelsimer's (2010) meta-analysis of 20 studies, providing a total of  
31 4,865 offenders, places TBI prevalence in offender populations at 60.25% (95% CI: 48-72%),  
32 with a male and female prevalence estimate of 64.41% (95% CI: 53.3 to 75.53%) and 69.98%  
33 (95% CI: 50.18-89.79%) respectively. Prevalence rates of multiple TBIs in female offenders  
34 have been reported ranging from 35-48% (Ferguson, Pickelsimer, Corrigan, Bogner, & Wald,  
35 2012). Along with a higher prevalence than in the general population, prisoners are at higher  
36 risk of neurodisability following TBI, by virtue of reduced cognitive reserve from exposure  
37 to factors such substance use and mental health difficulties (Ropacki & Elias, 2003).

38 Longitudinal research from the Swedish population registers found that individuals with TBI  
39 have a significantly increased risk of committing a violent crime (Fazel, Lichtenstein, Grann,  
40 & Långström, 2011). Fazel et al.'s (2011) study demonstrated convictions occurred  
41 subsequent to the TBI and found increased significant risk even when unaffected siblings

42 were used as controls. Even mild TBI in childhood is associated with an array of long-term  
43 negative outcomes, including increased risk of arrest, violent offences, and property offences  
44 (McKinlay, 2014). Multiple risk factors and adverse life events in this vulnerable population  
45 contribute to complex clinical presentations and etiology.

46         Once in the criminal justice system, individuals with TBI may be more difficult to  
47 rehabilitate and discharge, with services ill-equipped to address their needs. Following up a  
48 cohort of prisoners 12-30 months post-release, Ray and Richardson (2017) found that the  
49 hazard of recidivism increased about 85% for those with a TBI. Hawley and Maden's (2003)  
50 study of TBI in medium secure units (MSUs) indicated that 41.60% of service users had a  
51 history of TBI, and were significantly more difficult to discharge into the community due to  
52 perceived greater risk of violence to others and of self-harm. Research demonstrating  
53 increased disciplinary incidents in prisoners with TBI (Merbitz, Jain, Good, & Jain, 1995;  
54 Morrell, Merbitz, Jain, & Jain, 1998; Shiroma, Pickelsimer, et al., 2010) suggests that they  
55 may also have increased difficulty adapting to prison life due to cognitive and behavioural  
56 sequelae such as impulsivity. This has implications for engagement in the legal process,  
57 prison management, and post-discharge and release pathways (Jackson & Hardy, 2011). Due  
58 to inadequate screening and identification of TBI, services are unable to provide adapted  
59 rehabilitation for this population. Under-identification is likely to perpetuate inadequate  
60 resources, providing no incentive to fund appropriate interventions.

61         Many studies use a self-report methodology to measure TBI prevalence rates (Allely,  
62 2016). While there is no readily available 'gold standard', as many do not seek medical  
63 assistance at the time of injury (Allely, 2016), it is important that instruments used to screen  
64 for TBI have satisfactory psychometric properties. There are currently three published  
65 screening tools, which have a growing evidence base for use with prisoners (Allely, 2016),  
66 the Brain Injury Screening Index (BISI; Pitman, Haddlesey, Ramos, Oddy, and Fortescue,

2015), the Traumatic Brain Injury Questionnaire (TBIQ; Diamond et al., 2007) and the Ohio State University TBI Identification Method (OSU TBI-ID; Bogner & Corrigan, 2009). It is difficult to compare these tools as they have differing goals and different aspects of their psychometric properties have been reported. In a sample of male prisoners in the UK, the BISI has demonstrated poor to moderate inter-rater reliability when used by staff with little or no training in its use, and moderate to good test-retest reliability (Ramos, Liddement, Addicott, Fortescue, & Oddy, submitted). Sensitivity ranged from moderate to good, with poor to moderate specificity across three administrations. The BISI has also demonstrated convergence with both self-report questionnaires of behavioural disorder and neuropsychological measures in UK male prisoners (Pitman et al., 2015), and has been used with a homeless population (McMillan et al., 2015; Oddy et al., 2012). The validity and reliability of the TBIQ has been explored with a mixed group of male and female prisoners in the USA (Diamond et al., 2007). It has been found to have moderate test-retest reliability, good internal consistency and excellent criterion validity. The validity and reliability of the OSU TBI-ID has been explored in males and females with a history of substance use (Corrigan & Bogner, 2007), as well as a prison population (Bogner & Corrigan, 2009). Moderate test-retest reliability was found and indices derived from the screening tool predicted common cognitive and behavioural consequences of TBI. However, indices on the OSU TBI-ID, which required an estimate of mTBIs, relating to episodes such as intimate partner violence, were found to be unreliable (Bogner & Corrigan, 2009). The OSU TBI-ID may be inappropriate for female prison populations because one of the pathways to TBI among women prisoners is thought to be intimate partner violence victimisation (Kwako et al., 2011). To date, the BISI is the only screening tool to have its properties explored within a UK population, and due to its increasing use with vulnerable populations, this research sought to examine its utility within a female prison in the UK.

92           Developing a valid TBI screen will enable researchers to determine the prevalence of  
93 TBI in a range of groups, including UK female offenders, which is currently unknown. The  
94 causes of TBI in women prisoners are known to be different from those in male prisoners  
95 (Brewer-Smyth, Burgess, & Shults, 2004; Durand et al., 2017; Woolhouse, McKinlay, &  
96 Grace, 2017) so the reliability and validity of a self-report screen for brain injury may differ  
97 in male and female populations. The present study aims to explore the test-retest reliability  
98 and criterion validity of the BISI as a tool for screening for a history of TBI in female  
99 prisoners.

100           It is hypothesised that the BISI will have good test-retest reliability, measured using  
101 Kappa coefficients for all binary variables and examined using intra-class correlation  
102 coefficients (ICC) for all continuous variables. In terms of criterion validity, we hypothesise  
103 the indices of Indicator of TBI, TBI Severity Index, and Total BISI Score will be positively  
104 correlated with scores obtained on the self-report measures of mood and neurodisability; and  
105 negatively correlated with neuropsychological measures of cognitive functioning.

## 106 **Method**

### 107 *Ethics*

108 This study was granted favourable ethical opinion by the National Offender Management  
109 Service National Research Committee of the Her Majesty's Prison Service for England and  
110 Wales (NOMS application number 2013-266) and the Ethics Committee at a UK university.

### 111 *Participants*

112 The study was conducted at a UK closed women's prison, with an operational capacity of  
113 282. Participants were recruited from new prison receptions. Prisoners from 18 to 80 years of  
114 age, in line with test instrument norms, were included. Exclusion criteria were acute

115 symptoms of physical or mental illness, a confirmed diagnosis of dyslexia, problems with  
116 literacy, inadequate English fluency, or having acquired a TBI in the last six months, as the  
117 validity of all measures has not been established in these subgroups. Participants with a  
118 learning disability (LD) were included, unless any question of capacity to consent was raised.  
119 Of 116 prisoners who were approached, 20 were ineligible (Figure 1). Of the remaining 96,  
120 56 (56.3%) completed the assessment, with 26 (46.42%) self-reporting a “blow to the head”,  
121 coded as an Indicator of TBI. All participants who reported a blow to the head were included  
122 in the TBI group. It is important to note that a history of a blow to the head would not mean  
123 that the clinical criteria for a TBI have been met, rather that they have screened positively for  
124 being at-risk of TBI.

125 *Insert Figure 1 here*

## 126 **Materials**

127 Data were gathered using a semi-structured interview, clinical questionnaires, and  
128 neuropsychological measures. The interview was designed to ascertain history of TBI,  
129 offending, mental health, and social history. The BISI is an 11 item TBI screening  
130 questionnaire designed by the Disabilities Trust  
131 (<http://www.thedtgroup.org/foundation/about-the-foundation/brain-injury-screening-index>).  
132 The BISI provides categorical screening data. Attempts have been made to quantify results  
133 using two different indices. The TBI Severity Index is calculated by multiplying the highest  
134 rate of unconsciousness, rated on a 0-3 Likert scale, by the number of TBIs (Pitman et al.,  
135 2015). The Total BISI Score provides an indicator of clinical need, based on indicators of  
136 TBI frequency and severity, with a range of 0-25. For both indices, it is expected that higher  
137 scores indicate more severe injuries.

138 To explore criterion validity, a battery of self-report measures assessed current mental  
139 health and perceived cognitive functioning. This included the Beck Depression Inventory II  
140 (BDI-II; Beck, Steer, & Brown, 1996), the Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI; Beck, Epstein,  
141 Brown, & Steer, 1988), the Impact of Events Scale-Revised (IES-R; Weiss & Marmar, 1997),  
142 The Neurobehavioral Functioning Inventory (NFI; Kreutzer, Seel, & Marwitz, 1999), and the  
143 Dysexecutive Questionnaire (DEX; Wilson, Evans, Emslie, Alderman, & Burgess, 1998). A  
144 clinician administered battery of cognitive measures was utilised, comprising of the Test of  
145 Premorbid Function (TOPF; Wechsler, 2009), the Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of  
146 Intelligence (WASI-II; Wechsler & Zhou, 2011), The Repeatable Battery for the Assessment  
147 of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS; Randolph, 1998), the Behavioural Assessment of the  
148 Dysexecutive Syndrome (BADSD; Wilson, Alderman, Burgess, Emslie, & Evans, 1996), and  
149 the Test of Memory Malingering (TOMM; Tombaugh, 1996).

#### 150 ***Procedure***

151 All new receptions during the period of data collection were invited to participate.  
152 Participants were provided with information about the study and asked to provide written  
153 consent.

154 Assessment took place over two sessions on different days, ideally a week apart. Days  
155 between Part One and Part Two of the assessment ranged from three to 42 ( $M = 11.55$ ,  $SD =$   
156  $9.07$ ), with both parts taking approximately two hours. During Part One, participants  
157 completed the BISI, the clinical interview, the BDI-II, BAI, IES-R, and commenced the  
158 neuropsychological battery with the TOMM, TOPF, and RBANS. The tests in Part Two were  
159 administered in the following order: the WASI-II, the BADSD, the DEX, and the NFI. The  
160 BISI was also re-administered during Part Two to allow test-retest reliability to be  
161 investigated. Participants chose the Part One endpoint to manage fatigue. Most participants

162 stopped after the RBANS. Participants could request a feedback session at the end of the  
163 assessment.

#### 164 **Analysis**

165 Analyses were done using IBM SPSS version 20 (IBM, 2011). Data preparation included  
166 checking responses, calculating total scores, and assessing normality of distribution. If  $z$   
167 scores were significantly higher than zero ( $z > 1.96$ ,  $p < .05$ ) then data were considered to be  
168 abnormally distributed (Field, 2013), in which case non-parametric equivalents of tests were  
169 used where appropriate.

170 A significance level of  $p \leq .0004$  was applied to analyses based on a Bonferroni  
171 correction for multiple comparisons. Retest reliability was assessed for the continuous  
172 variables across the two time points with intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) using a  
173 two-way fixed effect model for agreement (Rankin & Stokes, 1998). For the nominal  
174 variables, Cohen's kappa (Cohen, 1960) assessed retest reliability. Variables on the BISI  
175 were tested for convergence with measures using correlation coefficients.

#### 176 **Results**

177 Participants ranged from 21 to 64 years of age ( $M = 38.66$ ,  $SD = 11.47$ ). Estimated Premorbid  
178 IQ based on the TOPF ranged from 72 to 110 ( $M = 92.59$ ,  $SD = 8.15$ ), while obtained IQ on  
179 the WASI-II ranged from 67 to 126 ( $M = 94.65$ ,  $SD = 13.48$ ). Most participants identified  
180 themselves as White British (73.20%). Number of years spent in education ranged from two  
181 to 20 ( $M = 11.83$ ,  $SD = 3.15$ ).

182 Those who experienced a "blow to the head" ( $n = 26$ ) reported a mean of 2.83 injuries  
183 ( $SD = 1.71$ ). Age at first TBI ranged from 2 to 46 years-old ( $M = 17.57$ ,  $SD = 10.17$ ), while  
184 age of the most serious TBI ranged from 5 to 46 ( $M = 22.21$ ,  $SD = 8.89$ ). Table 1 outlines the  
185 reported causes of the TBIs.



186 *Insert Table 1 here*

187 Time since first TBI ranged from three to 50 years ( $M = 23.22$ ,  $SD = 16.73$ ), and time  
188 since most recent TBI from six months to 33 years ( $M = 8.55$ ,  $SD = 7.72$ ). Of participants  
189 who experienced a TBI, 83% reported at least one episode of loss of consciousness (LOC),  
190 with 40.50% of TBIs involving LOC. Most severe LOC reported in the clinical interview was  
191 over six hours for 24.13% of participants, between ten minutes and six hours for 17.24%,  
192 under ten minutes for 41.37%, with just dizziness reported by the remaining 17.24%. In  
193 43.01% of cases of TBI, participants did not seek or come to the attention of medical or  
194 professional assistance (Table 1).

195 The TBI Severity Index ranged from one to 15 ( $M = 4.81$ ,  $SD = 4.43$ ). The BISI Total  
196 Score ranged from zero to 22 ( $M = 4.79$ ,  $SD = 5.17$ ).

### 197 ***Test-Retest Reliability***

198 For test-retest reliability, five of the seven continuous variables demonstrated adequate  
199 reliability, with all ICC confidence intervals over .50 (Table 2; Koo & Li, 2016). The most  
200 reliable variables were Total Number of TBIs, the BISI Total Score, and the Age at first TBI,  
201 which had large positive coefficients.

202 *Insert Table 2 here*

203 For the binary variables, Indicator of TBI and Other Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)  
204 reached statistical significance (Table 3) with substantial to excellent retest reliability (Landis  
205 & Koch, 1977).

206 *Insert Table 3 here*

### 207 ***Criterion Validity***

208 No significant difference was found between those with and without a reported TBI  
209 on premorbid IQ, age, educational background, TOMM score, and alcohol use (Table 4).

210 Two participants scored under the cut-off of 45 on the TOMM, one of whom reported a TBI.  
211 Clinical observation and the effort index derived from the RBANS (Silverberg, Wertheimer,  
212 & Fichtenberg, 2007) suggested true effort was exerted during testing, and therefore these  
213 participants were not excluded from analyses.

214 *Insert Table 4 here*

215 Key summary variables on the BISI were tested for convergence with  
216 neuropsychological measures of cognitive functioning and standardised self-report  
217 questionnaires of mood and neurodisability (Table 5). The TBI Severity Index was not  
218 correlated with the self-report mood questionnaires nor with the neuropsychological  
219 measures.

220 The BISI Total Score correlated only the with NFI Motor subscale. The BISI Total  
221 Score did not correlate with any of the neuropsychological measures of cognitive functioning.

222 Similarly to the BISI Total Score, only the NFI Motor subscale was associated with  
223 reported history of TBI on the BISI. There were no correlations with the neuropsychological  
224 measures of cognitive functioning.

225 *Insert Table 5 here*

## 226 **Discussion**

227 In the TBI group 83% of participants who experienced a TBI reported at least one episode of  
228 LOC, similar to the 80.6% reported in Pitman et al.'s (2015) male sample. Colantonio et al.  
229 (2014), whose TBI screening method had a similar genesis (Hwang et al., 2008) as the BISI,  
230 reported that 84.2% of females and 73.4% of males experienced one or more episodes of  
231 LOC. Across both Pitman et al. (2015) and this study, the TBI Severity Index demonstrated  
232 similar means ( $M=5.39$   $SD=4.25$  in the male sample;  $M=4.81$   $SD=4.43$  in the female sample),  
233 suggesting that the frequency and severity of traumatic brain injuries sustained is comparable

234 across males and females. The female sample had a similar age at first TBI (17.57 years in  
235 this sample vs. 17.71 years), echoing Durand et al.'s (2017) study which found no significant  
236 gender differences in age at first TBI. Other studies have found that females have a slightly  
237 older age of onset (Colantonio et al., 2014; Fishbein, Dariotis, Ferguson, & Pickelsimer,  
238 2014). Comparison with Pitman et al.'s (2015) male sample suggests that females may be  
239 less likely to seek help at the time of injury (43.01% in this sample vs. 31.00%) thus  
240 indicating gender specific behavioural patterns in TBI (O' Sullivan, Glorney, Sterr, Oddy, &  
241 Da Silva Ramos, 2015). Kaba et al. (2014) found similar prevalence of TBI across gender,  
242 but females scored higher on severity and frequency scales of common cognitive and  
243 physical symptoms after a head injury, as well as accessing significantly more mental health  
244 services subsequently. Women may be less likely to access health services at the time of  
245 injury, but seek help to cope with the complex sequelae experienced at a later point. The most  
246 frequently reported causes of TBI were domestic violence, road traffic accidents, and fights,  
247 which is consistent with Durand et al. (2017) and Brewer-Smyth et al.'s (2004) findings of  
248 violence related incidents being the leading cause of TBIs amongst women.

249 Results support the test-retest reliability of the BISI, seven of the 10 variables meeting  
250 minimum criteria for adequate test-retest reliability (Koo & Li, 2016; Landis & Koch, 1977).  
251 Results extend Ramos et al.'s (submitted) findings of the BISI's good test-retest reliability in  
252 a male population to a female population. Comparing with the OSU TBI-ID and TBIQ across  
253 variables designed to capture the same data with prison populations, the BISI demonstrated  
254 the highest reliability across three of the four variables (Table 6), although the OSU TBI-ID  
255 has been the most widely researched screen (Allely, 2016; Bogner et al., 2017; O'Rourke,  
256 Linden, Lohan, & Bates-Gaston, 2016). Differences may be attributable to sample  
257 differences: the OSU TBI-ID and TBIQ being used in American populations; length of retest  
258 period, with the TBIQ reporting approximately two to four weeks between testing sessions,

259 the OSU TBI-ID reporting one to two weeks, while this study had a mean of 11.55 days; or  
260 differences in question phrasing. Phrasing may be an issue for the BISI's longest LOC item,  
261 which asks participants to state length of LOC rather than providing categories as in the OSU  
262 TBI-ID, with poor recall leading to high variability in responses, which is likely to be a factor  
263 for those with a TBI history. Exploring the reliability of the OSU TBI-ID, Bogner and  
264 Corrigan (2009) also found that items requiring estimation of LOC in particular had lower  
265 reliability.

266 *Insert Table 6 here*

267 Results suggest that further investigation of the criterion validity of the BISI is  
268 required. None of the BISI's summary variables demonstrated statistically significant  
269 consistent correlations with the neuropsychological battery scores. However, the majority of  
270 the TBIs reported were mild, and do not often lead to permanent cognitive deficits in the  
271 general population. This is the only TBI screening tool in an offender population that has had  
272 criterion validity investigated against a battery of neuropsychological tests, and emphasises  
273 the need to explore convergence with psychometric assessments.

274 The BISI Total Score and TBI Indicator variables demonstrated correlations in the  
275 expected direction across the self-report measures of neurodisability, however only the NFI  
276 Motor subscale was associated with both summary variables. Comparing the scores of those  
277 with and without a self-identified TBI history, the self-report questionnaires demonstrated the  
278 stronger relationships as opposed to the cognitive measures. This mirrors results found in the  
279 male study (Pitman et al., 2015), with the largest effect sizes being found in self-report  
280 measures. Durand et al.(2017) found that perceived health was notably worse in women with  
281 a TBI than men, hypothesising that women are particularly at risk of accumulating multiple  
282 health problems post-TBI. The convergence with self-report measures of neurodisability and  
283 mood rather than the objective cognitive assessments, highlights the complex relationship.

284 Chamelian and Feinstein (2006) found that when mood is controlled for in TBI, subjective  
285 cognitive difficulties no longer predict most objective cognitive difficulties, with  
286 psychological factors influencing objective recovery. This may be particularly relevant for  
287 TBI rehabilitation considering females report higher levels of somatic depression in particular  
288 (Silverstein, 2002). While this may be an artefact of the gender response bias hypothesis  
289 (Sigmon et al., 2005), which posits that gender differences in depression prevalence rates  
290 may reflect a tendency for men to underreport depressive symptoms, examining means across  
291 self-report measures of mood and cognitive functioning between this study and Pitman et  
292 al.'s (2015) study, the female group did not consistently report greater pathology than the  
293 male sample across measures. For example, scores on the BDI-II and NFI Depression  
294 subscale are higher than the male sample in the non-TBI group but similar in the TBI group.  
295 This convergence also demonstrates the difficult negotiation between sensitivity and  
296 specificity when screening for TBI. TBI symptoms and risk factors overlap significantly with  
297 psychiatric constructs. Albicini and McKinlay (2014) highlight the absence of a gold standard  
298 in TBI assessment, emphasising the complex nature and specialist skills required to diagnose  
299 TBI. It is recommended that future TBI research includes neuropsychological cognitive  
300 assessments to refine screens and reduce the false positives, which can lead to inefficient use  
301 of clinical resources, overburdening services and ultimately compromising their  
302 sustainability.

303         Contrary to the hypotheses, the TBI Severity Index demonstrated no association with  
304 the self-report measures, and the cognitive tests. It is possible that the TBI Severity Index is  
305 an invalid clinical indicator in this population due to gender differences in TBI presentation,  
306 such as difficulties in recalling periods of LOC. Albicini and McKinlay (2014) emphasise the  
307 problem with validity that relying on self-report LOC causes for diagnosis, for example,  
308 individuals confusing post-traumatic amnesia (PTA) with LOC, which are subjectively

309 experienced as the same (i.e. a gap in memory). Without reliable corroborating reports, using  
310 LOC as an indicator is likely to be misleading. Considering most women in this study did not  
311 seek medical help, corroborating reports are unlikely to exist. Longest LOC could be  
312 rephrased to capture LOC range, however due to poor validity of self-report LOC,  
313 particularly in mild TBI, LOC range may not contribute sufficient clinical value to a screen,  
314 and may be best removed.

315         Reliance on self-report is an ongoing issue in screening for TBI, with responses  
316 demanding understanding of the question, retrieval of relevant information, forming a  
317 judgement based on integration of retrieved information, and mapping the judgement to  
318 potential responses (Tourangeau, Rips, & Rasinski, 2000). Brief scales and surveys are at risk  
319 of detecting all but the most recent or severe TBIs (Corrigan, Selassie, & Orman, 2010).  
320 McKinlay, Horwood and Fergusson's (2016) cohort study found only 50% of hospitalised  
321 TBIs were recalled. Equally, reliance on medical records can risk under-identification of TBI,  
322 with reports of up to 43% of individuals with a TBI not seeking medical attention (Setnik &  
323 Bazarian, 2007), as well as risk of errors and insufficient recording (Horwitz & Yu, 1984).  
324 Schofield, Butler, Hollis and D'Este (2011) found that prisoners' self-report of TBI is  
325 generally accurate when compared with hospital record, but lower education and a lifetime  
326 history of more than seven TBIs was associated with less agreement. This suggests that  
327 screening for TBI may require a combination of self-report and review of medical records.

328         While the BISI was designed to be administered with minimal training, in this study  
329 the BISI was administered by trainee clinical psychologists with experience working with  
330 TBI. Therefore the findings may not be representative of administration in general practice,  
331 such as by prison officers or others where staff workloads are high and training in working  
332 with TBI is rare. Administration by a clinician with experience in TBI would likely increase  
333 the sensitivity and specificity of the BISI as they may be more skilled at picking up on mild

334 TBI. Ramos et al. (submitted) identified the importance of staff training to improve inter-rater  
335 reliability in the BISI.

336 The small sample size proves to be a limitation of this study. The response rate of  
337 56.3% was also lower than that of the male study, which had 66% of eligible participants  
338 complete the full neuropsychological battery (Pitman, Haddlesey, Ramos, Oddy, &  
339 Fortescue, 2014). This difference may be attributable to variation in study design which was  
340 informed by constraints of the prison regime. It is important to note that acquiring larger  
341 samples of females in prison proves challenging with women only making up a small  
342 proportion of the prison population.

343 There are a number of limitations for establishing test-retest reliability. Although  
344 every effort was made to ensure a retest interval of seven days, due to the practicalities of  
345 conducting research in a prison, this was not always possible. There was a wide interval  
346 range, however 87.5% of participants had an interval of seven days or longer. It could also be  
347 argued that knowledge of the BISI results could bias scoring at the second time point, or  
348 scoring of the neuropsychological battery; however adherence to assessment instructions  
349 minimised this risk. The TOMM was only administered on the first testing session, therefore  
350 it is possible that participants with reduced effort in the second testing session could have  
351 been missed.

## 352 **Conclusions**

353 This study of adult female prisoners in the UK provides support for further investigation and  
354 refinement of a short TBI screening tool. Seven out of 10 clinical indicators demonstrated  
355 adequate test-retest reliability. For criterion validity, two of the three summary variables were  
356 associated in the hypothesised directions with a range of measures of mood and  
357 neurodisability, indicating the value of further research with a larger sample. These findings

358 have implications for the future refinement of the BISI, which will allow it to address under-  
359 identification of TBI in female prisoners.

360           This study is the first of its kind to explore reliability and validity of the BISI  
361 screening tool for female offenders, beginning to extend evidence of its utility from male  
362 offenders (Pitman et al., 2015). The development of a reliable and valid screening tool for  
363 women with TBI will enable researchers to address the dearth of studies into TBI in female  
364 offenders (O' Sullivan et al., 2015), highlighted in the UK by the Repairing Shattered Lives  
365 report (Williams, 2012). Adoption of a screening tool by female prisons can inform funding  
366 for services, by ensuring the most efficient use of resources. Identifying this vulnerable  
367 population can help apportion funding into training of prison staff in working with female  
368 offenders with TBI, inform offender rehabilitation plans, promote the population's  
369 engagement with the criminal justice system, and identify who would benefit from specialist  
370 assessment and rehabilitation services. Differences in presentation of TBI between men and  
371 women, such as help seeking behaviours, emphasise the possibility of gender specific  
372 behavioural pathways in TBI, which require much further research.



## References

- Albicini, M., & McKinlay, A. (2014). Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: A Review of Terminology, Symptomatology, Clinical Considerations and Future Directions. In F. Sadaka & T. Quinn (Eds.), *Traumatic Brain Injury: InTech*.
- Allely, C. S. (2016). Prevalence and assessment of traumatic brain injury in prison inmates: A systematic PRISMA review. *Brain Injury, 30*(10), 1161-1180.  
doi:10.1080/02699052.2016.1191674
- Beck, A., Steer, R., & Brown, G. (1996). *Beck Depression Inventory II*. San Antonio, TX: The Psychological Corporation.
- Beck, A. T., Epstein, N., Brown, G., & Steer, R. A. (1988). An inventory for measuring clinical anxiety: psychometric properties. *J Consult Clin Psychol, 56*(6), 893-897.
- Bogner, J., & Corrigan, J. D. (2009). Reliability and Predictive Validity of the Ohio State University TBI Identification Method With Prisoners. *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, 24*(4), 279-291 210.1097/HTR.1090b1013e3181a66356.
- Bogner, J. A., Whiteneck, G. G., MacDonald, J., Juengst, S. B., Brown, A. W., Philippus, A. M., . . . Corrigan, J. D. (2017). Test-Retest Reliability of Traumatic Brain Injury Outcome Measures: A Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Study. *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, 32*(5), E1-E16. doi:10.1097/htr.0000000000000291
- Brewer-Smyth, K., Burgess, A. W., & Shults, J. (2004). Physical and sexual abuse, salivary cortisol, and neurologic correlates of violent criminal behavior in female prison inmates. *Biological Psychiatry, 55*(1), 21-31. doi:[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0006-3223\(03\)00705-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0006-3223(03)00705-4)
- Chamelian, L., & Feinstein, A. (2006). The Effect of Major Depression on Subjective and Objective Cognitive Deficits in Mild to Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury. *The*

*Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*, 18(1), 33-38.

doi:doi:10.1176/jnp.18.1.33

Cohen. (1960). A coefficient of agreement for nominal scales. *Education and Psychological Measurement*, 20, 37-46.

Colantonio, A., Kim, H., Allen, S., Asbridge, M., Petgrave, J., & Brochu, S. (2014).

Traumatic Brain Injury and Early Life Experiences Among Men and Women in a Prison Population. *Journal of Correctional Health Care*, 20(4), 271-279.

doi:10.1177/1078345814541529

Collins, M. W., Grindel, S. H., Lovell, M. R., & et al. (1999). Relationship between

concussion and neuropsychological performance in college football players. *JAMA*, 282(10), 964-970. doi:10.1001/jama.282.10.964

Corrigan, J. D., & Bogner, J. (2007). Initial Reliability and Validity of the Ohio State

University TBI Identification Method. *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, 22(6), 318-329 310.1097/1001.HTR.0000300227.0000367748.0000300277.

Corrigan, J. D., Selassie, A. W., & Orman, J. A. (2010). The Epidemiology of Traumatic

Brain Injury. *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, 25(2), 72-80

10.1097/HTR.1090b1013e3181ccc1098b1094.

Diamond, P. M., Harzke, A. J., Magaletta, P. R., Cummins, A. G., & Frankowski, R. (2007).

Screening for Traumatic Brain Injury in an Offender Sample: A First Look at the Reliability and Validity of the Traumatic Brain Injury Questionnaire. *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, 22(6), 330-338

310.1097/1001.HTR.0000300228.0000305867.0000300225c.

Donnelly, K. T., Donnelly, J. P., Dunnam, M., Warner, G. C., Kittleson, C. J., Constance, J.

E., . . . Alt, M. (2011). Reliability, Sensitivity, and Specificity of the VA Traumatic

- Brain Injury Screening Tool. *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, 26(6), 439-453. doi:10.1097/HTR.0b013e3182005de3
- Durand, E., Watier, L., Lécuyer, A., Fix, M., Weiss, J.-J., Chevignard, M., & Pradat-Diehl, P. (2017). Traumatic brain injury among female offenders in a prison population: results of the FleuryTBI study. *Brain and Behavior*, 7(1), e00535-n/a. doi:10.1002/brb3.535
- Fazel, S., Lichtenstein, P., Grann, M., & Långström, N. (2011). Risk of violent crime in individuals with epilepsy and traumatic brain injury: a 35-year Swedish population study. *PLoS medicine*, 8(12), e1001150.
- Ferguson, P. L., Pickelsimer, E. E., Corrigan, J. D., Bogner, J. A., & Wald, M. (2012). Prevalence of Traumatic Brain Injury Among Prisoners in South Carolina. *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, 27(3), E11-E20  
10.1097/HTR.1090b1013e31824e31825f31847.
- Field, A. (2013). *Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics*. London: Sage.
- Fishbein, D., Dariotis, J. K., Ferguson, P. L., & Pickelsimer, E. E. (2014). Relationships Between Traumatic Brain Injury and Illicit Drug Use and Their Association With Aggression in Inmates. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 60(5), 575-597. doi:10.1177/0306624X14554778
- French, L. M., Lange, R. T., & Brickell, T. (2014). Subjective cognitive complaints and neuropsychological test performance following military-related traumatic brain injury. *Journal of rehabilitation research and development*, 51(6), 933-950.  
doi:10.1682/jrrd.2013.10.0226
- Hawley, C. A., & Maden, A. (2003). Mentally disordered offenders with a history of previous head injury: are they more difficult to discharge? *Brain Injury*, 17(9), 743-758.  
doi:doi:10.1080/0269905031000089341

Horwitz, R. I., & Yu, E. C. (1984). Assessing the reliability of epidemiologic data obtained from medical records. *Journal of Chronic Diseases*, 37(11), 825-831.

doi:[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0021-9681\(84\)90015-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0021-9681(84)90015-8)

Hwang, S. W., Colantonio, A., Chiu, S., Tolomiczenko, G., Kiss, A., Cowan, L., . . .

Levinson, W. (2008). The effect of traumatic brain injury on the health of homeless people. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 179(8), 779-784.

doi:10.1503/cmaj.080341

IBM. (2011). *IBM SPSS Statistics 20*. New York: IBM Corp.

Iverson, G. L., Echemendia, R. J., LaMarre, A. K., Brooks, B. L., & Gaetz, M. B. (2012).

Possible Lingering Effects of Multiple Past Concussions. *Rehabilitation Research and Practice*, 2012, 7. doi:10.1155/2012/316575

Jackson, M., & Hardy, G. (2011). *Acquired Brain Injury in the Victorian Prison System*.

Retrieved from Victoria:

Kaba, F., Diamond, P., Haque, A., MacDonald, R., & Venters, H. (2014). Traumatic Brain Injury Among Newly Admitted Adolescents in the New York City Jail System.

*Journal of Adolescent Health*, 54(5), 615-617.

doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2013.12.013>

Konrad, C., Geburek, A. J., Rist, F., Blumenroth, H., Fischer, B., Husstedt, I., . . . Lohmann,

H. (2011). Long-term cognitive and emotional consequences of mild traumatic brain injury. *Psychological Medicine*, 41(06), 1197-1211.

Koo, T. K., & Li, M. Y. (2016). A Guideline of Selecting and Reporting Intraclass

Correlation Coefficients for Reliability Research. *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine*, 15(2), 155-163. doi:10.1016/j.jcm.2016.02.012

Kreutzer, J. S., Seel, R., & Marwitz, J. H. (1999). *Neurobehavioural Functioning Inventory*.

San Antonio, TX: The Psychological Corporation.

- Kwako, L. E., Glass, N., Campbell, J., Melvin, K. C., Barr, T., & Gill, J. M. (2011). Traumatic Brain Injury in Intimate Partner Violence: A Critical Review of Outcomes and Mechanisms. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 12*(3), 115-126.  
doi:10.1177/1524838011404251
- Landis, J. R., & Koch, G. G. (1977). The Measurement of Observer Agreement for Categorical Data. *Biometrics, 33*(1), 159-174. doi:10.2307/2529310
- McKinlay, A. (2014). Long-Term Outcomes of Traumatic Brain Injury in Early Childhood. *Australian Psychologist, 49*(6), 323-327. doi:10.1111/ap.12084
- McKinlay, A., Horwood, L. J., & Fergusson, D. M. (2016). Accuracy of Self-report as a Method of Screening for Lifetime Occurrence of Traumatic Brain Injury Events that Resulted in Hospitalization. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 22*(7), 717-723. doi:10.1017/S1355617716000497
- McMillan, T. M., Laurie, M., Oddy, M., Menzies, M., Stewart, E., & Wainman-Lefley, J. (2015). Head injury and mortality in the homeless. *Journal of neurotrauma, 32*(2), 116-119.
- Merbitz, C., Jain, S., Good, G. L., & Jain, A. (1995). Reported head injury and disciplinary rule infractions in prison. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, 22*(3-4), 11-19.  
doi:10.1300/J076v22n03\_02
- Miller, K. J., Ivins, B. J., & Schwab, K. A. (2013). Self-reported mild TBI and postconcussive symptoms in a peacetime active duty military population: effect of multiple TBI history versus single mild TBI. *J Head Trauma Rehabil, 28*(1), 31-38.  
doi:10.1097/HTR.0b013e318255ceae
- Morrell, R. F., Merbitz, C. T., Jain, S., & Jain, S. (1998). Traumatic Brain Injury in Prisoners. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, 27*(3-4), 1-8. doi:10.1300/J076v27n03\_01

- O' Sullivan, M., Glorney, E., Sterr, A., Oddy, M., & Da Silva Ramos, S. (2015). Traumatic brain injury and violent behaviour in females: A systematic review. *Aggression and Violent Behaviour*. doi:10.1016/j.avb.2015.07.006
- O'Rourke, C., Linden, M. A., Lohan, M., & Bates-Gaston, J. (2016). Traumatic brain injury and co-occurring problems in prison populations: A systematic review. *Brain Injury*, 30(7), 839-854. doi:10.3109/02699052.2016.1146967
- Oddy, M., Moir, J. F., Fortescue, D., & Chadwick, S. (2012). The prevalence of traumatic brain injury in the homeless community in a UK city. *Brain Injury*, 26(9), 1058-1064. doi:doi:10.3109/02699052.2012.667595
- Pitman, I., Haddlesey, C., Ramos, S. D., Oddy, M., & Fortescue, D. (2015). The association between neuropsychological performance and self-reported traumatic brain injury in a sample of adult male prisoners in the UK. *Neuropsychol Rehabil*, 25(5), 763-779. doi:10.1080/09602011.2014.973887
- Pitman, I., Haddlesey, C., Ramos, S. D. S., Oddy, M., & Fortescue, D. (2014). The association between neuropsychological performance and self-reported traumatic brain injury in a sample of adult male prisoners in the UK. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*, 1-17. doi:10.1080/09602011.2014.973887
- Ramos, S. D., Liddement, J., Addicott, C., Fortescue, D., & Oddy, M. (submitted). The reliability, validity and diagnostic accuracy of the Brain Injury Screening Index (BISI) with adult male prisoners.
- Randolph, C. (1998). *The Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status*. San Antonio: The Psychological Corporation.
- Rankin, G., & Stokes, M. (1998). Reliability of assessment tools in rehabilitation: an illustration of appropriate statistical analyses. *Clinical Rehabilitation*, 12(3), 187-199. doi:10.1191/026921598672178340

Ray, B., & Richardson, N. (2017). Traumatic Brain Injury and Recidivism Among Returning Inmates. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 44(3), 472-486.

doi:10.1177/0093854816686631

Ropacki, M. T., & Elias, J. W. (2003). Preliminary examination of cognitive reserve theory in closed head injury. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 18(6), 643-654.

doi:[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0887-6177\(02\)00153-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0887-6177(02)00153-1)

Schofield, P., Butler, T., Hollis, S., & D'Este, C. (2011). Are prisoners reliable survey respondents? A validation of self-reported traumatic brain injury (TBI) against hospital medical records. *Brain Injury*, 25(1), 74-82.

doi:10.3109/02699052.2010.531690

Setnik, L., & Bazarian, J. J. (2007). The characteristics of patients who do not seek medical treatment for traumatic brain injury. *Brain Injury*, 21(1), 1-9.

doi:10.1080/02699050601111419

Shiroma, E. J., Ferguson, P. L., & Pickelsimer, E. E. (2010). Prevalence of Traumatic Brain Injury in an Offender Population: A Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Correctional Health Care*, 16(2), 147-159. doi:10.1177/1078345809356538

Shiroma, E. J., Pickelsimer, E. E., Ferguson, P. L., Gebregziabher, M., Lattimore, P. K., Nicholas, J. S., . . . Hunt, K. J. (2010). Association of Medically Attended Traumatic Brain Injury and In-Prison Behavioral Infractions: A Statewide Longitudinal Study.

*Journal of Correctional Health Care*, 16(4), 273-286.

doi:10.1177/1078345810378253

Sigmon, S., Pells, J., Boulard, N., Whitcomb-Smith, S., Edenfield, T., Hermann, B., . . .

Kubik, E. (2005). Gender Differences in Self-Reports of Depression: The Response Bias Hypothesis Revisited. *Sex Roles*, 53(5-6), 401-411. doi:10.1007/s11199-005-

6762-3

- Silverberg, N. D., Wertheimer, J. C., & Fichtenberg, N. L. (2007). An Effort Index for the Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS). *The Clinical neuropsychologist*, 21(5), 841-854. doi:10.1080/13854040600850958
- Silverstein, B. (2002). Gender Differences in the Prevalence of Somatic Versus Pure Depression: A Replication. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 159(6), 1051-1052. doi:doi:10.1176/appi.ajp.159.6.1051
- Terrio, H., Brenner, L. A., Ivins, B. J., Cho, J. M., Helmick, K., Schwab, K., . . . Warden, D. (2009). Traumatic Brain Injury Screening: Preliminary Findings in a US Army Brigade Combat Team. *The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, 24(1), 14-23. doi:10.1097/HTR.0b013e31819581d8
- The Disabilities Trust. Retrieved from <http://www.thedtgroup.org/foundation/about-the-foundation/brain-injury-screening-index>
- Tombaugh, T. N. (1996). *Test of Memory Malingering (TOMM)*. New York: Multi-Health Systems, Inc.
- Tourangeau, R., Rips, L. J., & Rasinski, K. (2000). *The psychology of survey response*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Wechsler, D. (2009). *Test of Premorbid Functioning*. San Antonio, TX: The Psychological Corporation.
- Wechsler, D., & Zhou, X. (2011). *WASI-II (Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence) Manual*. Bloomington MN: Pearson.
- Weiss, D., & Marmar, C. (1997). The Impact of Events Scale - Revised. In J. Wilson & T. Keane (Eds.), *Assessing Psychological Trauma and PTSD* (pp. 339-411). New York: Guildford Press.
- Williams, H. (2012). *Repairing shattered lives*. London: Transition to Adulthood Alliance.



Wilson, B., Alderman, N., Burgess, P., Emslie, H., & Evans, J. (1996). *The Behavioural Assessment of the Dysexecutive Syndrome* Bury St Edmunds, UK: Thames Valley Test Company.

Wilson, B. A., Evans, J. J., Emslie, H., Alderman, N., & Burgess, P. (1998). The Development of an Ecologically Valid Test for Assessing Patients with a Dysexecutive Syndrome. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*, 8(3), 213-228.  
doi:10.1080/713755570

Woolhouse, R., McKinlay, A., & Grace, R. C. (2017). Women in Prison With Traumatic Brain Injury: Prevalence, Mechanism, and Impact on Mental Health. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 0(0), 0306624X17726519. doi:10.1177/0306624x17726519