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Addiction & Trauma Considerations for Women in Reentry

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Alvis, Inc. History

Alvis has served offenders supervised by the Ohio Department of Corrections since 1968, contracted with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide transitional services since 1974, and provided employment services to former offenders in Franklin County since 1977. We have served individuals with developmental disabilities since 1981. We continue to be a United Way agency.

Alvis provides evidence-based reentry services for individuals and families with criminal justice involvement. Alvis serves 8000 people each year in 40 Ohio locations. Alvis is strengthening families and building safer communities.

Alvis Turns Lives Around

Research shows that more than 92% of our individuals who complete the residential program stay out of the criminal justice system after one year.

As part of Alvis Residential programs, a comprehensive range of evidence-based programs and services are delivered to help individuals who are transitioning from the corrections system back into the community. Alvis provides these services in a safe, supportive environment, so that individuals receive the guidance they need to navigate the challenges of finding employment and reconnecting with family members.

Women In Reentry

- Vulnerable to a host of behavioral health issues – many have come from incarceration and often have low self-esteem, substance use issues and posttraumatic stress.
- Lost parental rights to children and /or are trying to re-establish relationships after years of not being a primary parent.
- No long term employment and many have little education.
- Drug dependency, greater criminal history and low education level is associated with greater recidivism. A high school education, a stable work history, or no mental health history were associated with less likelihood to recidivate.
- Self-esteem associated with self-efficacy has been shown to reduce the likelihood to recidivate.

Women In the Study

N= 103 women- 57 representing significant trauma
 4 month program, including twenty-four 1.5 hour sessions
 Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Therapeutic Program (Stephanie Covington materials) trauma, substance abuse groups, and EQUIP: cognitive behavioral program

Research Question

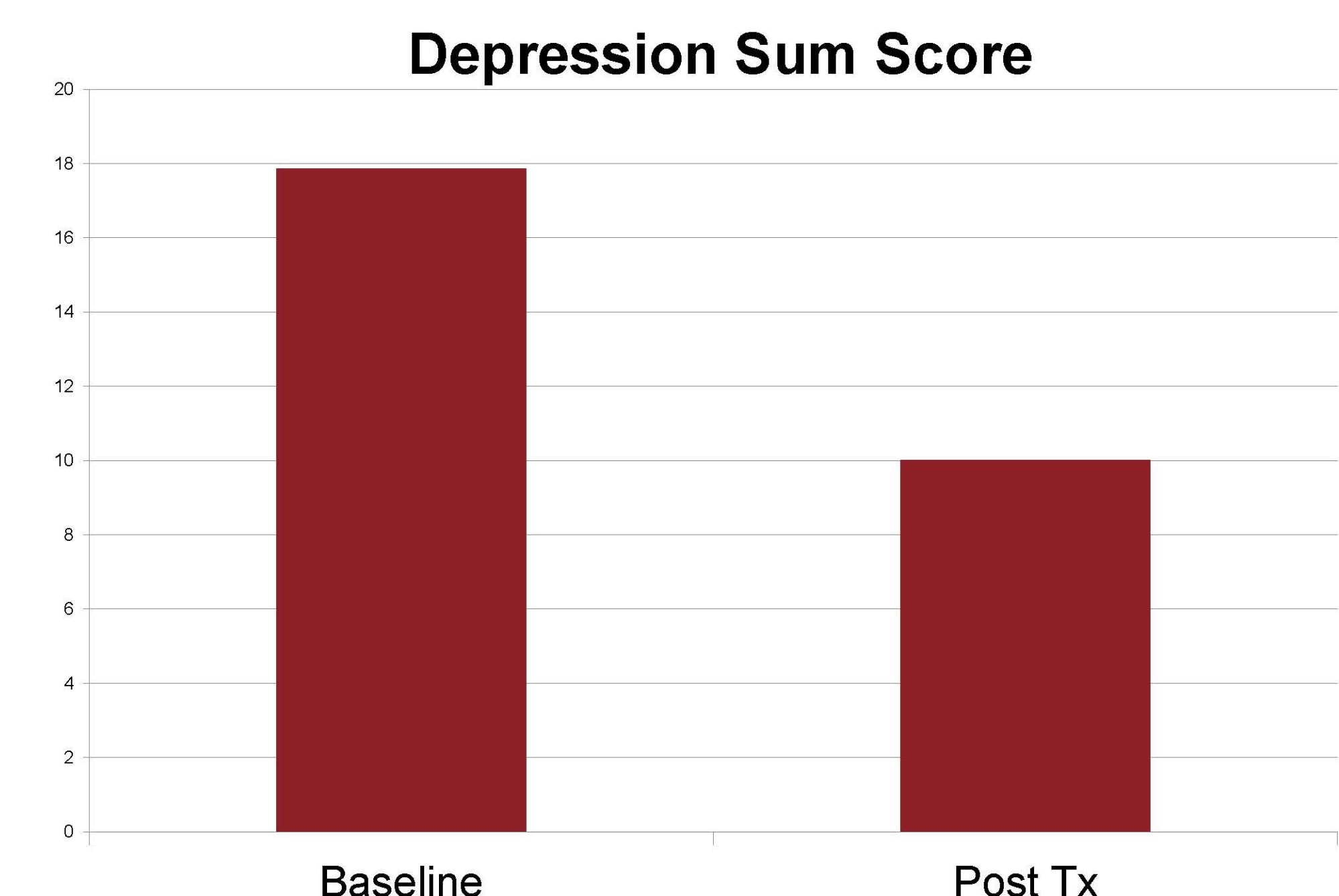
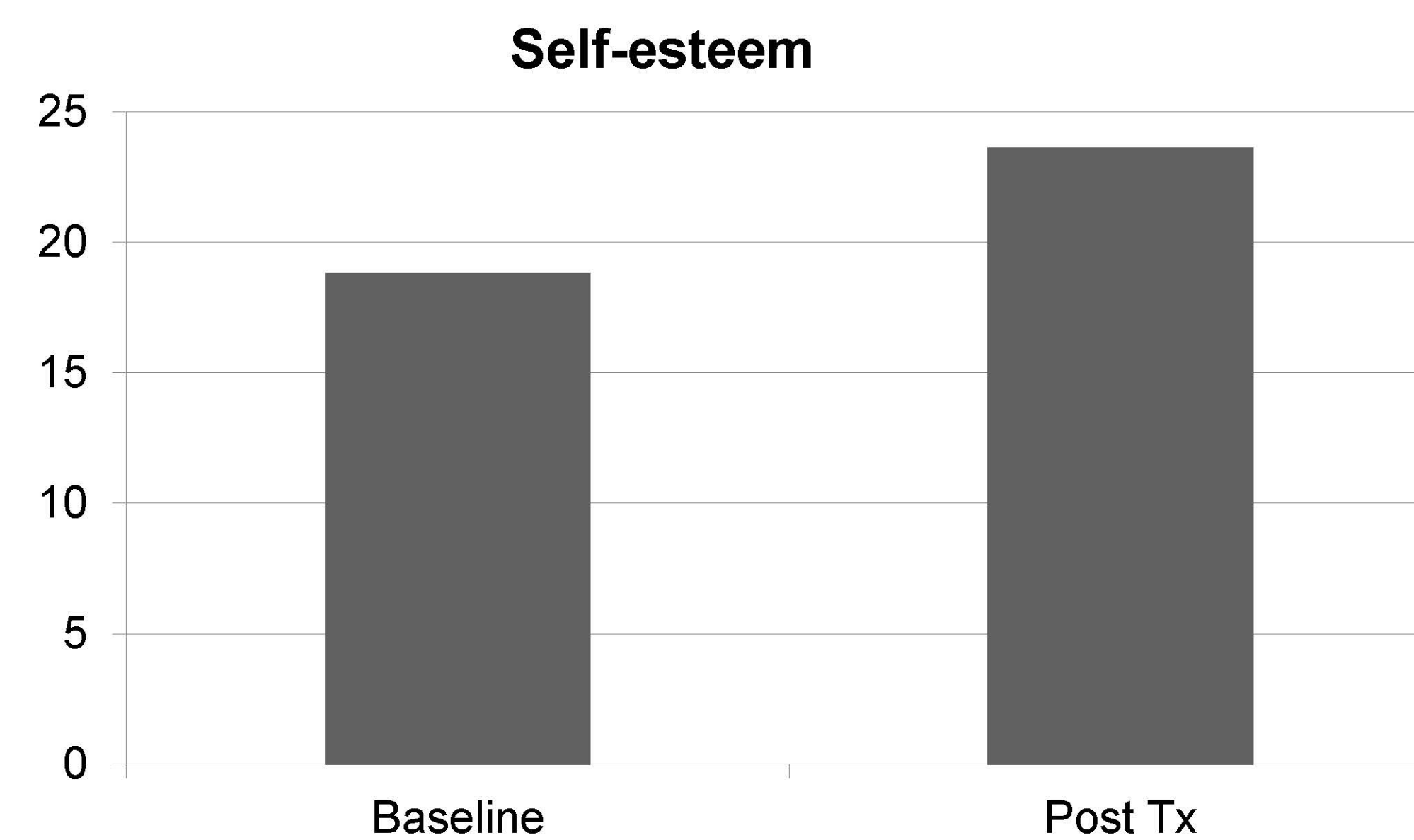
Given a set of trauma indicators, how are women who recidivate and women who did not recidivate best characterized?

Methods - Instruments

- Texas Christian University (TCU) –Drug Screen
- Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI)
- The Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale (RSES)
- Beck Depression Inventory (BDI)
- Trauma Symptom Inventory

Results

Baseline and post-treatment (Tx) differences (self-esteem, and depression) for women who received a trauma-informed, EBP.



Findings

- Self-esteem and depression are linked with women reentering the community
- Graduating from treatment is associated with decreased likelihood of recidivism
- Women who recidivated had greater alcohol dependence
- Women with histories of trauma who recidivated had lower rates of sexual dysfunction and sexual concerns



Conclusions

- Women's reentry programs need to look at self-esteem and self-efficacy as a deterrent to depression and recidivism
- Women's reentry programs need more substance use programs and aftercare opportunities
- Women's reentry programs need sexual education and discussions of sexual health due to link with recidivism

Success Story

"After 23 years of being on the street, I didn't know there was anything else except that lifestyle. I knew I couldn't do it on my own because the drugs had me beat. After going through programming at Alvis, look at me now -- I'm working, I have a bank account, and I'm sober! Because of my hard work, dedication, and the help from Alvis, I got my life back."