Review of *Serving the Stigmatized: Working Within the Incarcerated Environment*. Wesley T. Church II and David W. Springer

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Literature highlighting the incarceration of vulnerable populations in the complex system of criminal justice in the USA is increasing. Despite these advancements, people who are incarcerated continue to be stigmatized. Church and Springer aim to expose the stigma associated with some of the most vulnerable incarcerated populations. They enlisted 29 scholars with specialization in criminal justice prevention, treatment, policy and rehabilitation to shed light on the intersection of criminal justice and stigmatized populations. There are 15 chapters, each highlighting a diverse topic or population featuring case studies and web resources for additional information.

The first chapter focuses on policy, practice and challenges regarding mental health of prisoners. Attention is paid to the barriers of obtaining and maintaining prescribed medication as well as evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism. The next chapter extends the mental health conversation by discussing the risk of suicide among justice-involved adolescents and provides options for prevention. Chapter three unpacks issues surrounding people convicted of a sex offense and the challenges they face while incarcerated and upon reentry. People who are incarcerated are largely affected by HIV/AIDS in the United States, which is the topic discussed in the following chapter.

The fifth chapter recognizes the aging prison population and uses a human rights perspective to address the numerous challenges they encounter. Chapter six looks at difficult transition home for parents as they attempt to reestablish their parenting role, while securing housing and employment and fulfilling parole requirements, with a subsequent chapter focusing on the issue of juvenile offenders serving adult sentences, particularly how “adult consequences” negatively impact youth.

The concept of a therapeutic community for the treatment of substance abuse in prison is discussed in chapter eight, paying close attention to policy implications. Two following chapters address health and safety issues for LGBT inmates in the United States and internationally. It is well documented that people of color are disproportionately impacted by criminal justice
policies and have higher rates of incarceration. These disparities are then examined within adult and juvenile contexts. The challenges of reentry and proposed opportunities to enhance successful reintegration are documented in the next chapter. Final chapters are dedicated to the subjects of incarcerated veterans and the intersection of immigration and incarceration, as well as terminal illness within correctional settings, all of which are very underreported issues.

A major strength of this book is its presentation of information in a way that is useful and easily understood by professionals from a variety of fields, including criminal justice, social work, and psychology. I recommend this book for readers interested in learning about special populations in correctional facilities, options to provide evidence-based treatment, current policies impacting them and prevention strategies to potentially avoid their incarceration. A shortfall of the book is that while it provides an overview of certain vulnerable populations, the issues involving the topics are so complex that it is difficult to accomplish its stated intention of “providing extensive discussion” in each area. The book would be strengthened also by including voices from marginalized people themselves. Only in one chapter is slam poetry excerpted from juvenile prisoners, which is good, but it is imperative that the perspectives of other inmates themselves also be shared, to increase their visibility as humans and not just as criminals.

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As those who work with young people may know, changes are taking place in how young people describe their identities. More identity categories are emerging among young people than have ever been seen before. Asking young adults about their identity now produces a series of categories which many