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Being an addicted criminal mother: an understanding of intricate relationships.

Scientific literature informs on women's substances abuse pathways and on their involvement in criminal activities as their addiction progress. It also shows how mothering creates a perpetual cycle questioning the identity of addicted mothers and their mothering skills. However, literature seems to be restricted regarding connections between addiction and criminality without limiting the contribution of mothering. This qualitative research aims at a better understanding of addiction and deviant pathways of criminal mothers. This thesis aims at showing how those three dimensions interacts and therefore, showing how mothering influences (or not) pathways of criminal mothers. Thirty-eight semi-structured interviews were conducted with incarcerated mothers and with criminal mothers that were following treatment for their addiction. Results of the thematic analysis will be presented in this communication. Themes like the meaning of mothering, the process by which mothering identity is build and drugs/crime pathways will be address.