

## **WHEN VICTIMS OF BATTERING ARE ON PROBATION OR PAROLE**

### **Internet Resources**

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*When Survivors Reenter their Communities after Jail or Prison*  
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# Introduction

Many battered women who are convicted of a crime must comply with conditions of probation or complete parole after they are released from prison. Although complying with required conditions can be challenging for all people, for survivors of abuse, there may be additional barriers to successfully completing their probation/parole. For example, her abusive partner, who may still be living in the community, can pose a risk to the safety the woman. Or, he may try to sabotage her successful completion of the conditions of her probation/parole. In some cases, women also might risk violations or a revocation of her probation or parole when she assesses she must break a condition for her safety, like fleeing the jurisdiction to get away from her abuser.

The resources in this listing are geared to probation and parole officers as well as advocates working with battered women, and will, we hope, offer insights into the challenges women face when on parole or probation. We included background resources to give an overview of the landscape as well as some common issues that are raised when a reentering person is under state supervision after release. We also included pieces that discuss the differences in probation and parole experiences of men and women and suggest changes in policy and practice to improve outcomes for women. This listing does not include resources that address supervision of batterers in intimate partner violence (IPV) relationships.

## **A NOTE ON LANGUAGE**

Labels can often stigmatize people and create barriers between those using the labels and those being labeled. Some of the resources included in this listing use the term “offender” for women incarcerated or returning home from jails and prisons. It is not a term we use at the National Clearinghouse. Many incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women have objected to that term. We believe it is critical that individuals not be defined by their crime/alleged crime. Instead, we use terms such as “reentering woman,” “person returning from jail/prison,” or “formerly incarcerated woman.”

In this resource listing we changed words like “offender” or “inmate” when they did not appear in the title and when it did not affect the integrity of the document being described.

***If you know of additional online resources that should be added to this list, please contact the National Clearinghouse.***

*This resource is part of a series of internet listings about When Survivors Reenter their Communities after Jail or Prison published by the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women. Copies of these resources are available at [www.ncdbw.org/reentry\\_resources.htm](http://www.ncdbw.org/reentry_resources.htm). Or email us at [ncdbw@ncdbw.org](mailto:ncdbw@ncdbw.org) and we will forward copies.*

# Background Information and Resources for Practitioners and Advocates

Despite extensive research by National Clearinghouse staff on the topic of victims of battering on probation and parole, we found very few resources on victims of battering on probation or parole. The resources we did find are included in future sections.

However, directly below you will find a few resources we encourage you to explore to get general background information and resources about this topic. By no means do we think these resources will provide a complete primer on probation and parole. We include them here for those who may not have a lot experience with probation and parole and intend for these resources to be a starting point for your own research on the topic.



## **AMERICAN PROBATION AND PAROLE ASSOCIATION**

Organizational Description: “The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) is an international association of members actively involved with pretrial, probation, parole, and community-based corrections, in both criminal and juvenile justice arenas. APPA provides training and technical assistance including producing a journal, monographs and guidebooks, conducting research, and providing information clearinghouse services and advocacy for its constituents and constituent partners.”

*For APPA Publications and Reports:*

[http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=VC\\_PubsReports](http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=VC_PubsReports)

## **BATTERED WOMEN’S JUSTICE PROJECT**

Organizational Description: “The Battered Women’s Justice Project promotes change within the civil and criminal justice systems to enhance their effectiveness in providing safety, security, and justice for battered women and their families. They offer training, technical assistance, and consultation on the most promising practices of the criminal and civil legal systems in addressing domestic violence. They have a Probation and Parole Project, which primarily focuses on batterers who are under supervision, but they also address the issue of when victims of battering end up being supervised.”

*For resources about domestic violence and probation and parole:*

<http://www.bwjp.org/articles/article-list.aspx?id=31>

## **NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON JUSTICE INVOLVED WOMEN**

Organizational Description: “The National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women is a resource for professionals, policymakers, and practitioners who work with adult women involved in the criminal justice system. It was established to assist practitioners in understanding and applying the lessons learned from research, promising practices, and the insights of justice-involved women themselves, as practitioners strive to transform the criminal justice system into one that is more gender-responsive to more effectively meet the needs of incarcerated women.”

*For information about “Managing Women in Community Settings:”*

<http://www.cjinvolvedwomen.org/offender-management-supervision> (scroll to bottom of the page)

## **RETHINKING THE USE OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION**

*by Cecelia M. Klingele (2013)*

Author's Abstract: "Community supervision, whether in the form of probation or post-release supervision, is ordinarily framed as an alternative to incarceration. For this reason, legal reformers intent on reducing America's disproportionately high incarceration rates often urge lawmakers to expand the use of community supervision, confident that diverting [justice-involved individuals] to the community will significantly reduce over-reliance on incarceration. Yet, on any given day, a significant percentage of new prisoners arrive at the prison gates not as a result of sentencing for a new crime, but because they have been revoked from probation or parole. It is therefore fair to say that in many cases community supervision is not an alternative to imprisonment, but only a delayed form of it. This article examines the reasons why community supervision so often fails, and challenges popular assumptions about the role community supervision should play in efforts to reduce over-reliance on imprisonment. While probation and post-release supervision serve important purposes in many cases, they are often imposed on the wrong people, and executed in ways that predictably lead to revocation. To decrease the overuse of imprisonment, sentencing and correctional practices should therefore limit, rather than expand, the use of community supervision in three important ways. First, terms of community supervision should be imposed in fewer cases, with alternatives ranging from fines to unconditional discharge to short jail terms imposed instead. Second, conditions of probation and post-release supervision should be imposed sparingly, and only when they directly correspond to a risk of re-offense. Finally, terms of community supervision should be limited in duration, extending only long enough to facilitate a period of structured re-integration after sentencing or following a term of incarceration."

<http://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7463&context=jclc>

# Victims of Battering and Sexual Assault on Probation and Parole

*NOTE: The materials in each section are listed by year from the most recently published to those published longest ago. Within each year, they are listed alphabetically by title.*



## **VICTIMIZED AGAIN: HOW THE REENTRY PROCESS PERPETUATES VIOLENCE AGAINST SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

*by Courtney Cross for the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women (2013)*

Excerpt: “Because of the growing number of women entering the criminal legal system and returning to their communities after incarceration, it is important to recognize the effects that domestic violence has on their pre- and post-incarceration lives. This Monograph focuses on how the structure and substance of community supervision perpetuates violence against women by pressuring them to enter unstable homes and denying them flexibility and options needed to respond effectively to domestic violence. Further, because the conditions of release imposed on returning citizens by community supervision are so strict, survivors must often choose between violating their community supervision (and risk reincarceration) and endangering their safety. It is unsurprising that in this environment, abusers frequently exploit survivors’ status as returning citizens by engaging in reentry-specific forms of violence. . . . This Monograph is designed for practitioners, particularly those working in community-based battered women’s organizations and those working in women’s reentry organizations. It is our hope that it will help them learn more about the experiences and realities of reentering domestic violence survivors. It is not intended to be a primer about battering and the possible effects of battering, except in the context of reentry. Rather, it assumes some knowledge about the realities of battering and what victim/survivors experience.”

<http://ncdbw.org/CC%20NCDBW%20paper--%207-31-14%20clean.pdf>

## **PREVENTING & RESPONDING TO CORRECTIONS-BASED SEXUAL ABUSE: A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS**

*by the American Probation & Parole Association, with the International Community Corrections Association and Pretrial Justice Institute (2009)*

This resource is written for probation and parole officers (and other community-corrections staff) about preventing sexual abuse and implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) guidelines in community correction settings. It addresses the fact that many people on probation or parole are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or other forms of trauma, includes concrete examples of how such trauma may affect people’s responses to state supervision, and gives probation and parole officers suggestions for how to minimize harm. It may also be a helpful resource for community-based advocates, as well as people on parole or probation.

[www.appa-net.org/eweb/docs/APPA/pubs/PRCBSA.pdf](http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/docs/APPA/pubs/PRCBSA.pdf)

## **WOMEN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: SUPERVISION STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS**

*by Connie Neal (2007)*

This resource was written for an audience of community corrections professionals. Abstract from National Criminal Justice Reference Services (NCJRS): “This article discusses community



supervision strategies for [justice-involved women] who are victims of domestic violence. As the number of women entering the criminal justice system has increased, it has become evident that the vast majority of women under community corrections supervision are victims of domestic abuse. As such, one of the most important duties of a community corrections agency is to implement policies that respond to the safety issues of these women and to the complexities of their everyday lives. Supervision strategies for [populations of justice-involved women] are offered that include, first, a thorough screening for domestic violence for all [justice-involved women] who come under community corrections supervision. Specific strategies for the screening are offered followed by a discussion of the development of preliminary safety plans for [justice-involved women] experiencing domestic violence. Women should also be referred to a domestic violence advocate to develop more comprehensive and long-term safety plans. The article next turns to a discussion of strategies that officers can use for supervising women who are abused. These strategies include recognizing and catering to the victim's unique safety needs, creating a safe environment where women can disclose the abuse, and not mandating the victim to batterer programs or domestic violence counseling programs. A final strategy offered by the author is to build coalitions between community corrections officers and domestic violence advocates in order to more effectively serve this growing population of women."

*Not readily available on-line; unformatted version available at:*

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Women+who+are+victims+of+domestic+violence%3A+supervision+strategies...-a0167889363>

#### **THE PROBATION RESPONSE TO SUPERVISION OF WOMEN WHO ARE ABUSED**

*by Sherry Frohman and Connie Neal for Violence Against Women Online Resources (2005)*

Excerpt: "While the criminal justice system must take criminal conduct seriously and respond with appropriate sanctions, it is also important to develop policies and practices that recognize the pathways that bring women who are abused into the criminal justice system. The dynamics of domestic violence may be a critical, causal factor to the criminal behavior of women probationers who are also victims of domestic violence. Probation is in a unique position to reduce the impact of these unintended consequences through a variety of supervision strategies that hold [defendants] accountable and support the safety of women who are abused." The authors suggest strategies to minimize the revictimization of victim-survivors of domestic violence on supervision, and include a series of appendices that are potential tools for probation officers working with victims of battering on probation or parole.

[www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/commissioned/probationanddv/probationanddv.pdf](http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/commissioned/probationanddv/probationanddv.pdf)

# Women on Probation and Parole: Gender-Specific Resources

*NOTE: The materials in each section are listed by year from the most recently published to those published longest ago. Within each year, they are listed alphabetically by title.*



## **MEETING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY JUSTICE SYSTEMS: A TOOLKIT FOR POLICYMAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS**

*by Barbara E. Bloom (2015)*

Excerpt: This California-specific “[t]oolkit describes how counties can benefit from developing criminal justice solutions focused on women. It is designed to provide sheriff’s departments, probation departments, practitioners and other leaders with a blueprint for addressing women under local supervision. . .The toolkit provides suggestions for innovative and focused interventions targeting the special risks and needs of women in the justice system. It provides an overview of risk and needs assessments, case management approaches, principles, strategies and programs that take into account the needs of women (gender-responsive). There are recommendations for creating community-based options for women and 10 key steps for working toward sustainable reductions in the number of women in county jails and the creation of gender-responsive community justice systems.”

[http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/211/11/4/608/WomensToolkit\\_singles\\_5.5.15v1.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/211/11/4/608/WomensToolkit_singles_5.5.15v1.pdf)

## **JAIL REENTRY PLANNING: A LITTLE COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION GO A LONG WAY**

*by Andrew Verheek for the Kent County Office of Community Corrections, Grand Rapids, Michigan (2014)*

Excerpt: “Once the discussion began in earnest through the Program Subcommittee and Kent County Community Reentry Coordinating Council (CRCC) regarding the different issues affecting [justice-involved women] and their reentry experiences, we explored what gender-specific programming was needed and how a female reentry pod could be created in Kent County Correctional Facility (KCCF). A big part of this effort was to educate stakeholders about the need for and importance of trauma-based treatment options for female prisoners.” The paper outlines the process of transforming the programming and discusses the outcomes and lessons learned of their jail reentry initiative. Specifically, the author discusses the collection and analysis of data specific to the female population at Kent County Correctional Facility (KCCF), and the implementation gender-specific services.

[http://community.nicic.gov/cfs-file.ashx/\\_key/CommunityServer.Components.PostAttachments/00.00.09.46.76/Kent-County-TJC.pdf](http://community.nicic.gov/cfs-file.ashx/_key/CommunityServer.Components.PostAttachments/00.00.09.46.76/Kent-County-TJC.pdf)

## **MAINE’S WOMEN OFFENDERS: WHAT DO WE KNOW?**

*by Erica King, Jillian Foley, and Mark Rubin (2011)*

This resource was written primarily for systems-based professionals. Excerpt: “In the U.S. from 2000 to 2009 the number of incarcerated females increased by 24%, compared to 16% for males. In Maine, the numbers are much more staggering. From 2000 to 2009 the increase of incarcerated females in Maine was 118%, for males during the same time period it was 17%. However, females in Maine are now about 7% of the incarcerated population, which is the same as the nation. Whereas in 2000 Maine was below the national average with 4% of its prison population being

females, compared to 6% in the U.S. What is clear is that the female incarceration rates are increasing and thus we need to make sure that our previously male-based policies and procedures address the needs of the growing female population. This report looks at two samples of Maine Women Probationers in order to try and understand those needs. The purpose of this paper is to update the previous 2009 report (King, 2009) with new data. The previous report focused on a sample of Maine women entering probation in the years of 2004, 2005, and 2006. This report uses a new sample of Maine women entering probation in the years of 2007, 2008, and 2009. The goal is to present the latest data and any trends between the two samples.”

[http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/justiceresearch/Publications/Adult/MainesWomenOffenders\\_WhatDoWeKnow.pdf](http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/justiceresearch/Publications/Adult/MainesWomenOffenders_WhatDoWeKnow.pdf)

### **WHAT WORKS FOR FEMALE PROBATIONERS? AN EVALUATION OF THE MOVING ON PROGRAM**

*by Krista Gehring, Patricia Van Voorhis, and Valerie R. Bell (2010)*

Excerpt: “In 1998, the Iowa Department of Corrections implemented *Moving On* because the numbers of women coming under correctional supervision had increased to the point that correctional personnel believed programs were necessary to target the unique needs of justice-involved women. This study examines the effectiveness of *Moving On* among probationers who entered the program between 2003 and 2006. The primary goal of *Moving On* is to provide opportunities for women to mobilize and enhance existing strengths and to access personal and community resources. This resource could be useful to corrections professionals seeking gender-responsive curricula and programming for women under their supervision.”

<http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/womenoffenders/docs/MOVING%20ON.pdf>

### **OUTCOME EVALUATION OF THE WOMEN OFFENDER CASE MANAGEMENT MODEL IN CONNECTICUT PROBATION**

*by Orbis Partners, Inc. for the National Institute of Corrections (2009)*

This piece is an outcome report on the Women Offender Case Management Model (WOCMM) implemented in Connecticut probation. Excerpt: “WOCMM was developed to focus on issues that are unique to serving women. It involves an enriched case management approach to address the risk, need and responsivity issues that are critical for success with women. The theory on which WOCMM is based is best described by eight principles that guided the development of the model. These principles are: WOCMM is a gender-responsive approach developed exclusively for women; WOCMM is a dynamic process, WOCMM requires the active and collaborative involvement of women; WOCMM is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team that recognizes the importance of open communication and the on-going transfer of information, knowledge and skills that can be shared with all members of the team; WOCMM promotes the development, implementation and monitoring of individualized service plans; WOCMM provides a range of services and opportunities; WOCMM was designed to help women mobilize existing strengths and resources; and WOCMM was designed to monitor progress and report outcomes.” Though a promising practice, due to the sampling size, the effectiveness of this model was not statistically significant.

<http://nicic.gov/Library/025927>

### **RESPONDING TO WOMEN OFFENDERS: THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S JUSTICE SERVICES IN COOK COUNTY, IL**

*by Judy Berman, National Institute of Corrections (2006)*

Excerpt: “This bulletin describes the programs of the Department of Women’s Justice Services (DWJS), which provides more than 200 nonviolent [justice-involved women] with community-based healthcare, mental health and substance abuse treatment, maternity and childcare services, and support services (life skills training, education, job training and employment, housing, and

spiritual support). The success of DWJS is based on several innovations that can serve as a model for other agencies: 1) the use of decision mapping to show how women [defendants] interact with the criminal justice system; 2) a commitment to gender responsiveness in programs, environment, and staff training; 3) collaboration among key players within and outside the criminal justice system; and 4) the involvement of researchers and mental health professionals in the design and implementation of programs.”

<http://nicic.gov/Library/020873>

### **SUPERVISION OF WOMEN DEFENDANTS AND OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY**

*by Linda Sydney for the National Institute of Corrections (2005)*

This publication summarizes what has been learned about justice-involved women and their needs based on *Gender-Responsive Strategies: Research, Practice, and Guiding Principles for Women Offenders*, a report that examines the characteristics of women in the criminal justice system and the effects of current practices and policies on women. This resource, written for corrections professionals reviews the theoretical perspectives and six guiding principles for managing, supervising, and treating justice-involved women presented in that report and discusses the application of the guiding principles in community corrections, including steps for implementation.

<http://nicic.gov/Library/020419>

# Studies on Probation/Parole Outcomes for Women

*NOTE: The materials in each section are listed by year from the most recently published to those published longest ago. Within each year, they are listed alphabetically by title.*



## **ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION AND OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN ON PROBATION AND PAROLE**

*by Miriam Northcutt Bohmert (2014)*

This resource could be informative to practitioners working with justice-involved women particular those who are under supervision and might find need more information about access to transportation and how it impacts on women. Excerpt: “The current study focuses attention on a previously understudied topic – transportation deprivation in [justice-involved women. This is a timely and important endeavor given the scale of mass incarceration, number of women on probation and parole, and the numerous barriers women with a criminal record face. The study utilizes a mixed-methods sequential explanatory design of transportation access and its causes and effects on recidivism for 402 women on probation and parole.”

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/248641.pdf>

## **FROM PRISON TO HOME: WOMEN’S PATHWAYS IN AND OUT OF CRIME**

*by Jennifer E. Cobbing; US Department of Justice (2009)*

Author’s Abstract: “Drawing from primary in-depth and survey interviews and an examination of official records, the current research examines the reentry experiences of a matched sample of women [ex-prisoners] in the process of desistance with incarcerated female recidivists.

Specifically, this study provides a nuanced analysis of the pathways women take into crime, the challenges they face post-release, the strategies females use to successfully or unsuccessfully reintegrate into the community, the reasons for recidivating, the motivators and methods used to desist from crime, as well as to capture the meanings of their experiences. This study highlights the importance of an intra-gender, theoretical understanding of reentry for women [prisoners] and has direct implications for correctional policies and practices. Drawing from my study findings, I conclude by providing recommendations to help women reintegrate into society as responsible and productive citizens and to improve their reentry outcome by reducing the risk of recidivism.”

[www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/226812.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/226812.pdf)

## **REENTRY AND RENEGOTIATING MOTHERHOOD: MATERNAL IDENTITY AND SUCCESS ON PAROLE**

*by Marilyn Brown and Barbara Bloom (2009)*

Author’s Abstract: “Combining quantitative explorations of women’s parole case files (203) with in-depth interviews (25), this research demonstrates that reentering mothers confront many of the same problems that mediated their incarceration: poverty, lack of education, unstable housing, lack of access to social services, underemployment, and addiction. While the maternal role may constitute a conventional identity “script” for these [ex-prisoners] and motivate their success on parole, the challenges they face that impact their childrearing before prison make reassuming their maternal roles a precarious enterprise. Recommendations for gender-responsive policies and programs are provided.”

<http://cad.sagepub.com/content/55/2/313> (not free access)

## **WOMEN ON THE OUTSIDE: UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCES OF FEMALE PRISONERS RETURNING TO HOUSTON, TEXAS**

*by Nancy G. LaVigne, Lisa E. Brooks, and Tracey L. Shollenberger for the Urban Institute (2009)*

Excerpt: "This research brief explores the unique experiences of women exiting prison, focusing on a representative sample of 142 women who were released from Texas state prisons and state jails in 2005 and returned to Houston communities. Because the information presented here stems from a larger study of both male and female returning prisoners, significant differences between the experiences of women and men are highlighted throughout this report. . . .The findings are presented with an eye toward how policies and practices designed to promote the successful reentry of prisoners might be adapted or enhanced to support women who are returning home."

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411902\\_women\\_outside\\_houston.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411902_women_outside_houston.pdf)

## **CRIMINAL RECIDIVISM OF FEMALE OFFENDERS: THE IMPORTANCE OF STRUCTURED COMMUNITY-BASED AFTERCARE**

*by Kirk Heilburn, David DeMatteo, Ralph Fretz, Jacey Erickson, Douglas Gerardi, and Catherine Halper (2008)*

Author's Abstract: "Since rearrest was found to be less frequent, both in number and rate, for women who received structured and gender-specific programming, these results are promising for the risk reduction value of this kind of intervention. The comparison was made during an outcome period of 6 months in the community. The results provide some basis for gauging the impact of programming that is structured, gender-specific, and delivered following release from prison and prior to return to the community under standard parole conditions. The increase in [justice-involved women] and [incarcerated people] under the jurisdiction of State and Federal correctional authorities is being accompanied by a correspondingly large increase in the number of females being released into the community from incarceration. Given the increasing numbers, researchers have begun examining whether male and [justice-involved women] present with different treatment/rehabilitation needs. The identification of distinctive treatment needs among [justice-involved women] is increasingly recognized as important in today's corrections field. Even with the call for gender-specific programming in correctional contexts, there has been minimal empirical attention to the effectiveness of such programming. Gender-specific programming requires further study to attain and establish a strong empirical foundation. This study was designed as an empirical effort to compare the criminal recidivism of [justice-involved women] receiving gender-specific programming following release from prison with [justice-involved women] who did not receive an intervention."

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Criminal+recidivism+of+female+offenders%3A+the+importance+of...-a0178758357>

## **SUPERVISION STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES FOR FEMALE PAROLEES: EXAMINING THE LINK BETWEEN UNMET NEEDS AND PAROLEE OUTCOME**

*by Pamela J. Schram, Barbara A. Koons-Witt, Frank P. Williams III, and Marilyn D. McShane (2006)*

Author's Abstract: "A number of parolees are returning to the community with programming needs that may not have been addressed during their incarceration; these unmet needs may subsequently affect their successful reintegration into the community. Although there is an increasing female parole population, there has been a paucity of research concerning female parolees. The current study examines the types of needs identified at intake from a sample of 546 female parolees. The results revealed the following. First, if a parolee was employed, had stable living arrangements, and was assessed as needing and receiving some type of drug and/or alcohol

program intervention, she was less likely to fail on parole. Second, many of these women were underassessed for having needs for drug and alcohol treatment as well as employment, housing, and other assistance. This underassessment may be because of an increasing emphasis on parole supervision (i.e., custody) rather than treatment in parole agencies.”

<http://atgstg01.sagepub.com/hanserstudy/articles/14/Schram.pdf>