

Pathways into crime: the interrelation of poverty, education, family factors and attachment among Dutch Caribbean women

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Antillean women are overrepresented in criminality. They are often single mothers and so the detention of the mother has a major impact on her children. The causes of their criminality are not clear but there are often several problems: they are frequently poor, with little education, victims of violence or relational violence, and young single mothers. In addition they have often experienced violence and instability in their own families, with fathers who only played a marginal role. The role of psychological factors is unclear. No previous studies have examined the entire 'puzzle' from a multidisciplinary viewpoint to see which factor is crucial. In both the Netherlands and the former Antilles this project will investigate which factors contribute to the criminal behaviour. A steering group will ensure that the results are also available to policy makers and practitioners in the field.