

## Abstract

Trauma in prisons is of a higher prevalence than in the community (Goff et al, 2007). This is a grounded theory investigation that sought to understand how Integrative Psychotherapists work with trauma in a prison environment. The aim of the study was to produce a framework that gave insight and guidance into therapeutic work within a prison population, predominantly suffering with symptoms related to trauma. Six Integrative Psychotherapists were selected via targeted selection and were interviewed in a semi structured way. Data gathered was analysed using a grounded theory method (Corbin & Strauss, 1990). The findings produced five major themes including the therapists view of trauma, therapeutic tasks, the impact of the environment, the impact on the therapist and endings in therapeutic work. Although working with trauma from an integrative approach doesn't differ hugely from community settings, there are additional considerations to adopt as well as an additional responsibility and impact on the therapist undertaking this work. This research supports the necessary need for Integrative Psychotherapists to have an understanding of the environment they are entering into, to ensure safety for both the client's and the therapist prior to commencing trauma focused psychotherapy.