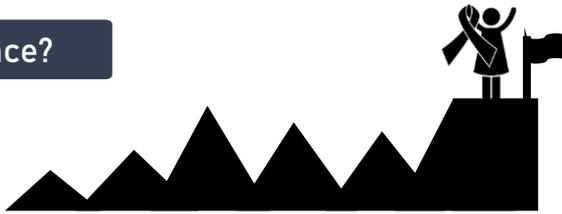


From Relapse to Desistance: The Process of Desistance for Female Drug Offenders

What is desistance?



For offenders, Desistance is a journey filled with **ups and downs**, that involves **multiple relapses** before one successfully stays **crime-free**.

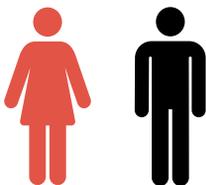
How can we identify 'successful desisters'?

What desisters have that drug reoffenders don't:



Gender-responsive needs

Compared to MALE drug desisters,



FEMALE drug desisters emphasise more **relational factors** for change, such as:



Motivation to change for **family & children**



Emotional & financial support from **significant others**



Supervision provided by **significant others**

How can we help?

When working with female repeat drug abusers,



Use a **strength-based** approach



Tailor interventions that meet an individual's **multiple needs**



Help them build a strong **social support** system



Change is difficult – set **realistic** goals and be encouraging!