

Birthing Experiences in Care Settings: Pregnant People Experiencing Incarceration

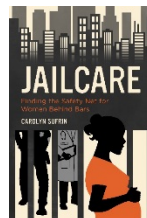
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ARRWIP

Advocacy and Research on Reproductive
Wellness of Incarcerated People



JOHNS HOPKINS
MEDICINE
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HEALTH SYSTEM

Pregnancy and birthing behind bars



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Intersections of mass incarceration, racism, & reproduction

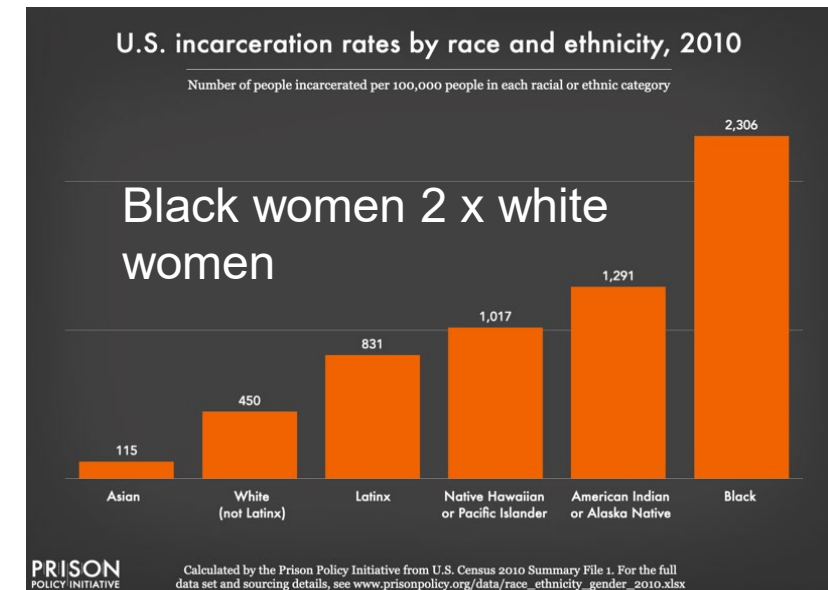
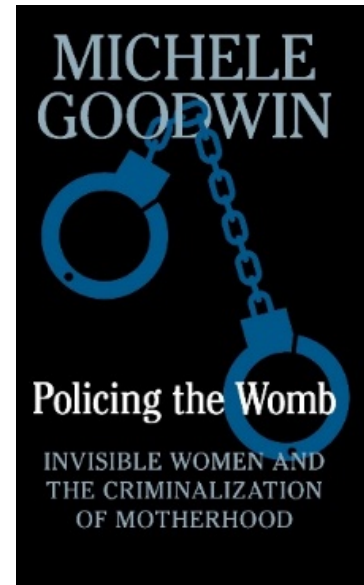
Between 1980 and 2019, the number of incarcerated women increased by more than 700%, rising from a total of 26,378 in 1980 to 222,455 in 2019.



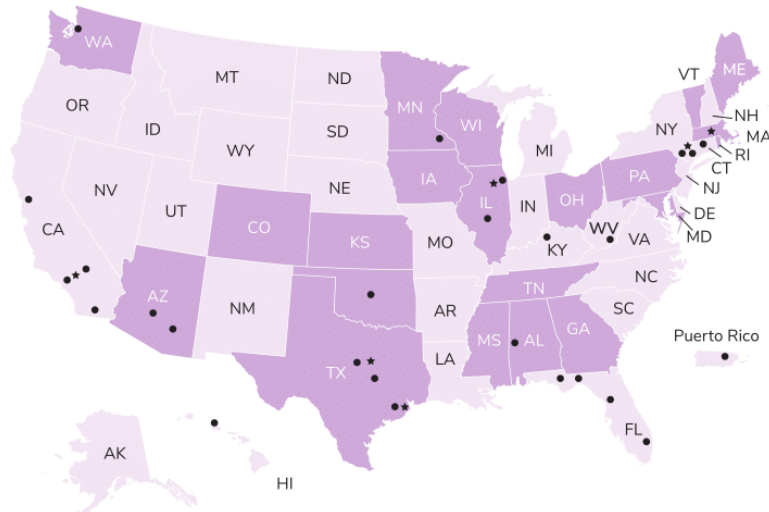
<https://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Incarcerated-Women-and-Girls.pdf>

750% increase in number of incarcerated women over 4 decades⁴

- 75% 18-45 y.o.¹
- 60% mothers to young children²
- 70% arrested/sentenced for minor charges³

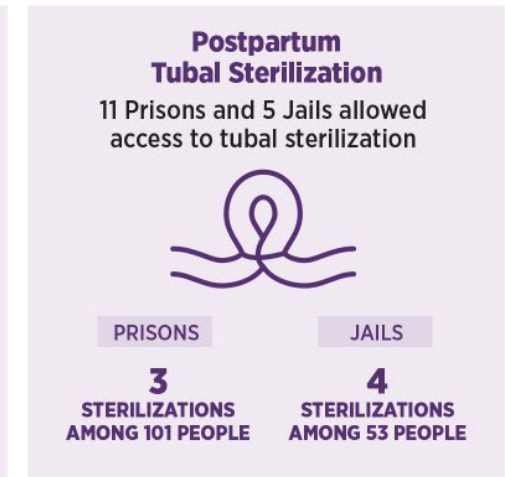
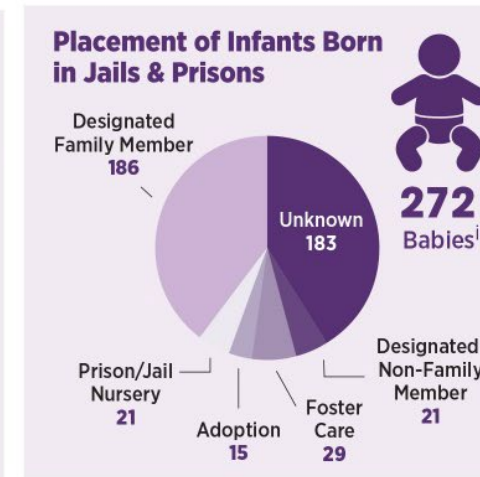
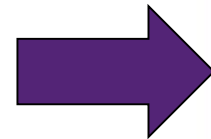
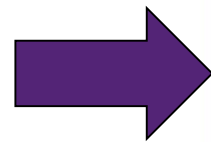


How many pregnant people are behind bars?



1 year of monthly pregnancy data from:

- 22 State Prison Systems
- All Federal Prisons
- 6 county jails (5 largest)



ⁱPregnancy outcomes data were available for women whose pregnancies ended while they were still incarcerated.

ⁱⁱData collected in a 6 month period. For a subset of sites that chose to report these outcomes (OUD: 20 prisons, 4 jails. Breastfeeding numbers: 13 prisons, 5 jails; breastfeeding policies were reported for all 22 prisons and 6 jails. Infant placement: 19 prisons, 5 jails; Tubal numbers: 10 prisons, 4 jails; tubal policies were reported for all 22 prisons and 6 jails)

ⁱⁱⁱReporting discrepancy in # of people with OUD and # of treatment interventions

For full data and citations, please visit arrwip.org.

Health care delivery & pregnancy conditions in carceral settings

- Constitutional mandate, but no mandatory standards or oversight⁹
- Medicaid exclusion policy
- Variable prenatal care services
 - 12 states had no prenatal care policy¹⁰
 - 24 had no pre-existing arrangements for delivery¹⁰
 - Forced opioid withdrawal¹¹
- Limitations of nutrition and environmental conditions

429 U.S. 97 (1976)

ESTELLE, CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR, ET AL.

v.

GAMBLE.

No. 75-929.

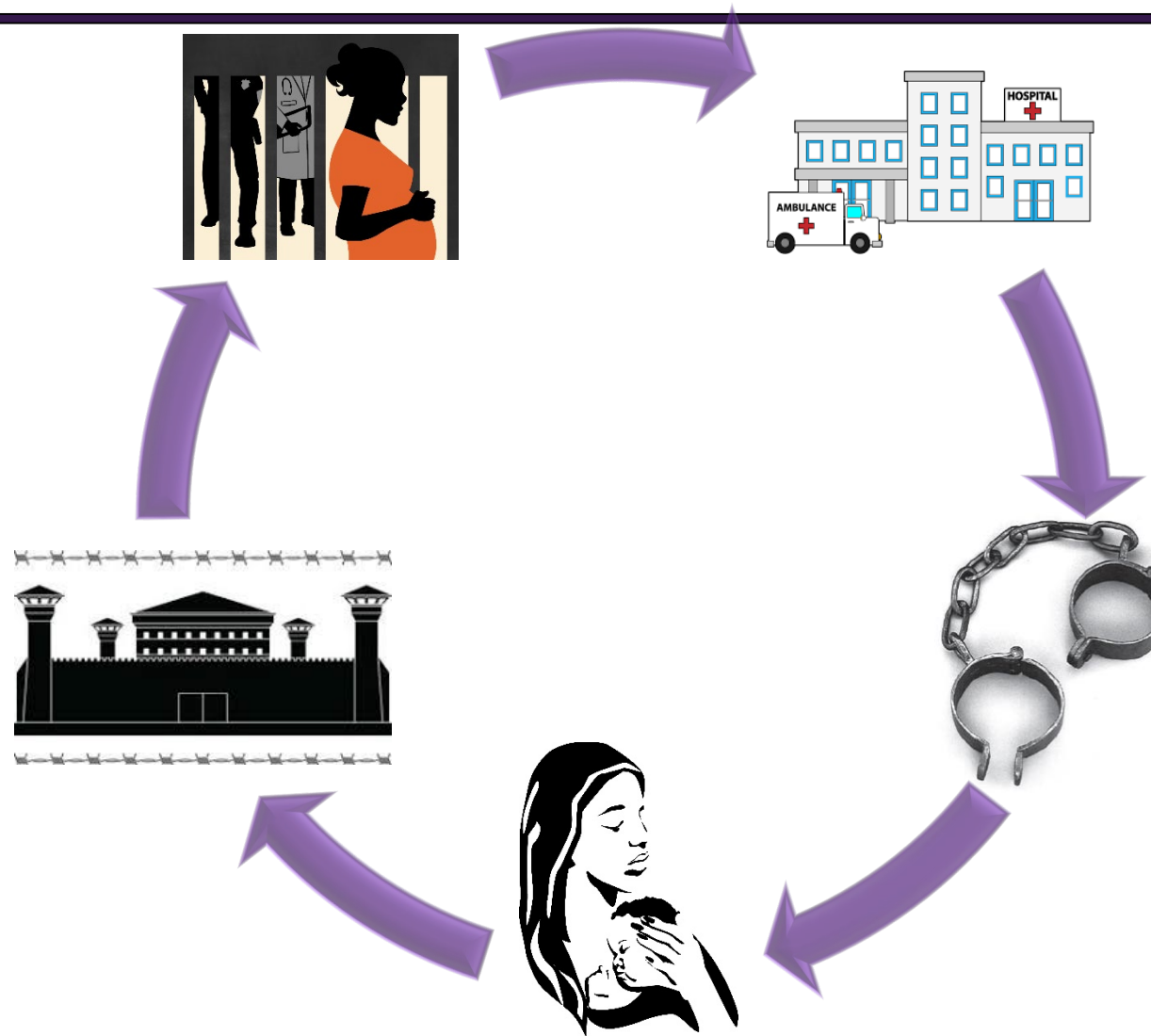
Supreme Court of United States.

Argued October 5, 1976.

Decided November 30, 1976.



Birth while experiencing incarceration



What do we need?



- End carceral births



Healthy Start Act
[SF 1315/HF 1403](#)

- End mass incarceration



- Improve quantity & quality of care
 - Mandatory standards of care and oversight
- Access to doulas
- Training of custody and carceral medical staff
- Reduce harm from hospitals
 - Trauma informed care and security protocols
 - Prolonged infant contact and postpartum recovery
- Breastfeeding support
- Postpartum and pregnancy mental health care
- Passing and implementation of anti-shackling laws



Citations

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Thank you!



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