

A black and white photograph of a pregnant woman with long dark hair, seen from the side, standing in a prison cell. She is wearing a dark short-sleeved shirt over a long-sleeved white shirt and dark pants. She is holding her pregnant belly with her left hand. The cell has cinder block walls and a mattress on the floor. A stack of folded clothes is on the mattress to her right.

Family Preservation from Prison: Supporting Families Impacted by the Criminal Legal System

Motherhood Beyond Bars



800% increase in women incarceration rates

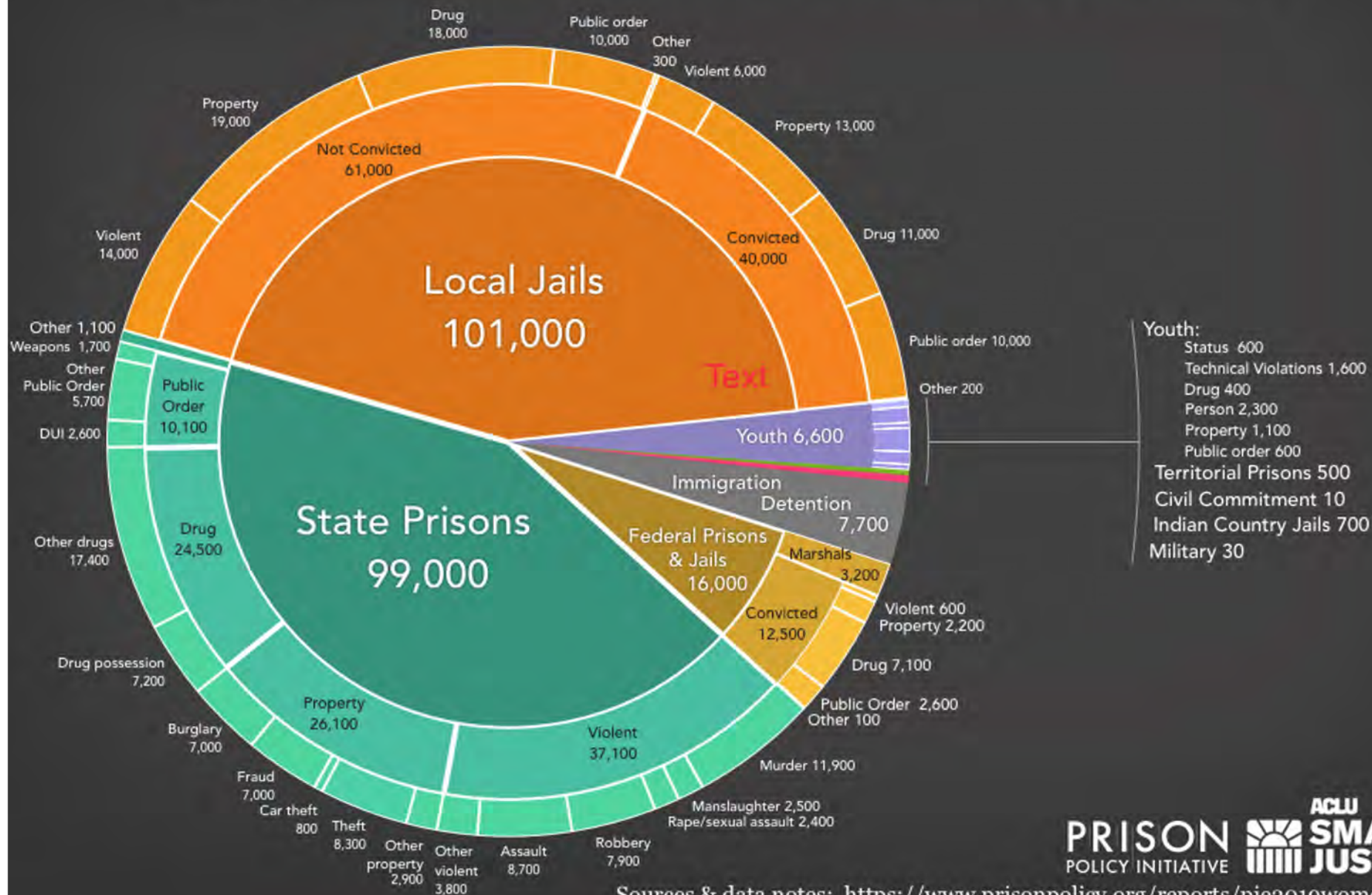
210,000 women behind bars

How many of them are pregnant?



How many women are locked up in the United States?

The United States is one of the top incarcerators of women in the world. Changing that will require knowing where 231,000 incarcerated women fall within our decentralized and overlapping systems of mass incarceration.



Sources & data notes: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2019women.html>

PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE



ACLU
SMART
JUSTICE



PULHESDWIT medical scale - 'P' overall condition ('P'hysical)

COL % - percent each COUNT is of its particular column

ROW % - percent each COUNT is of its particular row

'P' Overall Condition	Male			Female			Total	
	Count	Col %	Row %	Count	Col %	Row %	Total	Col %
1 No medical illness	31,715	73.50%	92.82%	2,453	72.70%	7.18%	34,168	73.44%
2 Well-controlled chronic illness	10,639	24.65%	92.77%	829	24.57%	7.23%	11,468	24.65%
3 Poorly-controlled chronic illness	723	1.68%	92.69%	57	1.69%	7.31%	780	1.68%
4 Significant problems requiring special housing	72	0.17%	92.31%	6	0.18%	7.69%	78	0.17%
5 Terminal illness, < 6 months to live	2	0.01%	66.67%	1	0.03%	33.33%	3	0.01%
6 Inmate is pregnant	1	0.01%	3.45%	28	0.83%	96.55%	29	0.06%
Total Reported	43,152	100%	92.75%	3,374	100%	7.25%	46,526	100.0%

Not Reported	2,844	143	2,987
Grand Total	45,996	3,517	49,513

Mode (most frequent)	1 No medical illness	1 No medical illness	1 No medical illness
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Inmates Admitted During Cy2022

Produced for **General Distribution**

Current / last mental health treatment level

COL % - percent each COUNT is of its particular column ROW % - percent each COUNT is of its particular row

Mental Health Treatment Lev	Male			Female			Total	
	Count	Col %	Row %	Count	Col %	Row %	Total	Col %
1 No problem at current time	1,813	45.88%	87.92%	249	17.39%	12.08%	2,062	38.30%
2 Receiving outpatient treatment	1,955	49.47%	62.50%	1,173	81.91%	37.50%	3,128	58.10%
3 Inpatient, moderate treatment	165	4.18%	96.49%	6	0.42%	3.51%	171	3.18%
4 Inpatient, intensive treatment	11	0.28%	73.33%	4	0.28%	26.67%	15	0.28%
5 Undergoing crisis stabilization	8	0.20%	100.00%				8	0.15%
Total Evaluated	3,952	100%	73.40%	1,432	100%	26.60%	5,384	100.0%

Never had MH evaluation	9,139	305	9,444
Grand Total	13,091	1,737	14,828

Median (middle)	Receiving outpatient treatment	Receiving outpatient treatment	Receiving outpatient treatment
Mode (most frequent)	Receiving outpatient treatment	Receiving outpatient treatment	Receiving outpatient treatment



A black and white photograph showing the silhouette of a person's head and shoulders on the right side, looking through a chain-link fence. The fence is topped with several strands of barbed wire. The background behind the fence is a cloudy sky. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

We know almost nothing
about what happens to
the infants after they are
born.

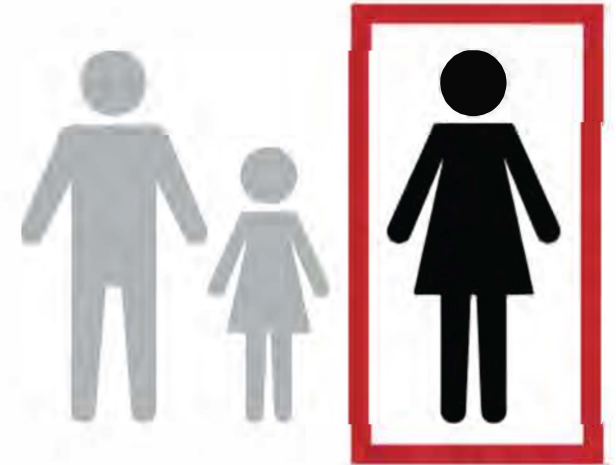
**80% of women
in jail are
mothers.**

**Over 2.7 million
children have
a parent in jail
or prison.**

2.9 MILLION
women are
jailed in the
U.S. each year.



10 MILLION
children have
had a parent
behind bars.





Statistically, there is one child in every classroom in the United States with a parent in prison.



Women enter prison already
isolated and lacking a safety net.

WELLSTAR.

Atlanta
Medical Center

MR: MATTHEW E. DOUGHERTY
LXN 101000011 01 F
CONSULTANT, Health-C
NAB: 110000000

X Fax to (ADA) 365-3276, date 10-14-2020

HOSPITAL RELEASE FORM

I, [REDACTED], the undersigned, by execution of this instrument, give to Atlanta Medical Center the authority to release my child to:

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Stn M+N Ga [REDACTED]

Phone Number: (H) 404 [REDACTED] (W) 803 [REDACTED] (C) 803 [REDACTED]

Relationship: Sister in law

I hereby relieve Atlanta Medical Center and its employees from any further responsibility for my child after the child has been released to the above named person.

[Signature]

Signature of Mother

10-13-20

Date

[Signature]

Signature of Prison Employee

10-14-2020

Date

This instrument was acknowledged before me this 14th day of Oct., 2020 by

[Signature]

(Name if Notary)

[Signature]

Signature of Notary





Infant and Caregiver Support Program



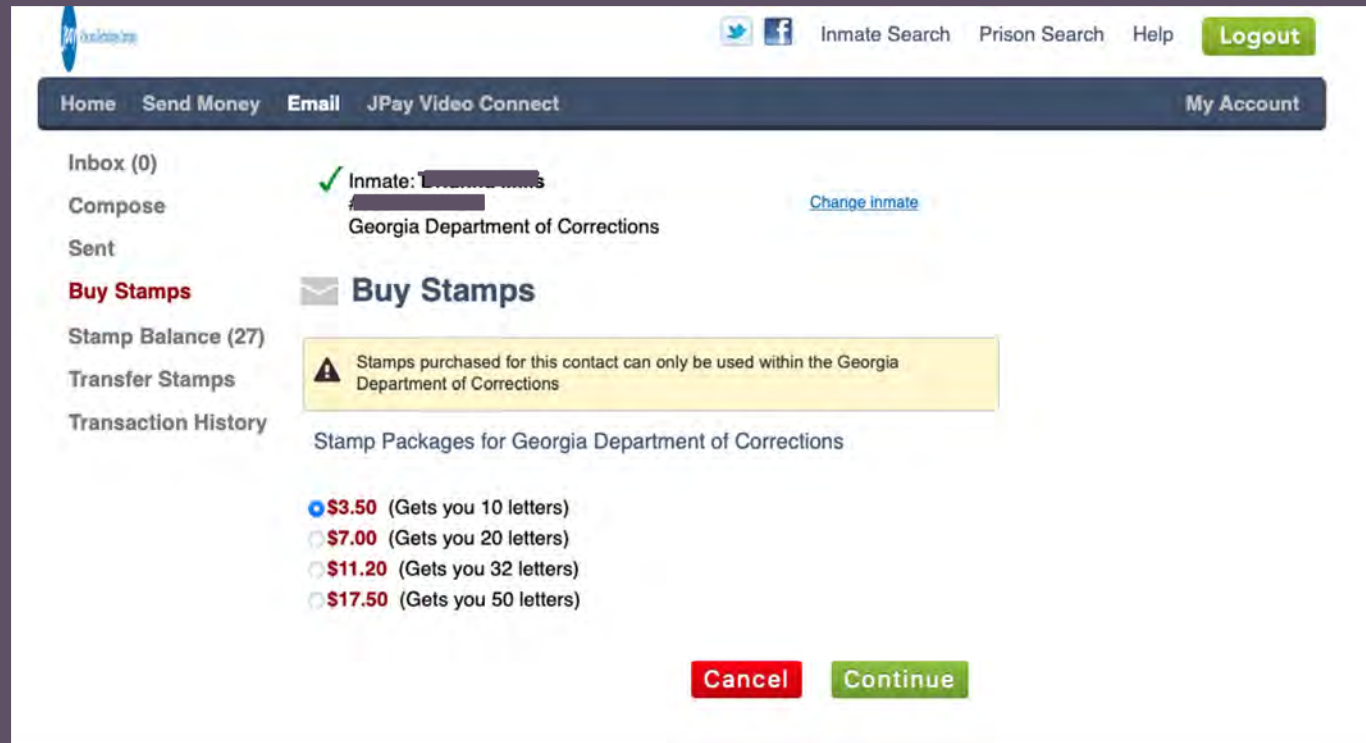


All caregiver are gifted a Begin Box at the hospital. The boxes include supplies that ensure they have all they need to safely take care of infant within the first two weeks of life.

When a Diaper is More than a Diaper



The Cost of Communication is High



The screenshot shows a web interface for the Georgia Department of Corrections. At the top, there are links for 'Inmate Search', 'Prison Search', 'Help', and a 'Logout' button. A navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Send Money', 'Email', 'JPay Video Connect', and 'My Account'. On the left, a sidebar lists 'Inbox (0)', 'Compose', 'Sent', 'Buy Stamps' (highlighted in red), 'Stamp Balance (27)', 'Transfer Stamps', and 'Transaction History'. The main content area shows a confirmation for an inmate, a 'Buy Stamps' button, a warning message about stamp usage, and a list of stamp packages with their costs and letter counts. At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Continue' buttons.

✓ Inmate: [REDACTED]
Georgia Department of Corrections [Change inmate](#)

Buy Stamps

⚠ Stamps purchased for this contact can only be used within the Georgia Department of Corrections

Stamp Packages for Georgia Department of Corrections

- ☒ **\$3.50** (Gets you 10 letters)
- ☐ **\$7.00** (Gets you 20 letters)
- ☐ **\$11.20** (Gets you 32 letters)
- ☐ **\$17.50** (Gets you 50 letters)

Cancel **Continue**

Every email costs families \$0.35

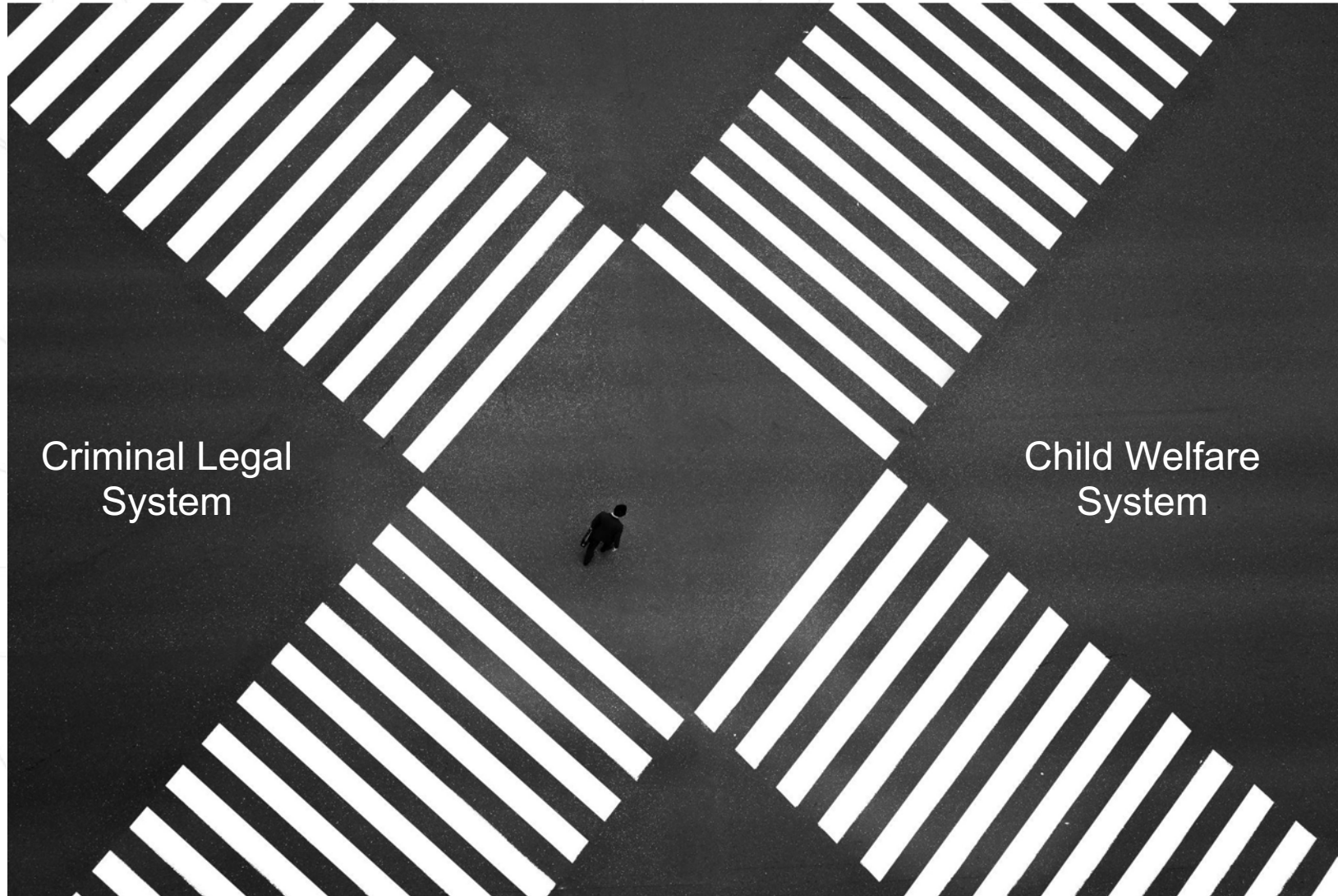




Whole Family Support Program

- Tangible, material support
- Local resource mapping
- Emotional support
- Family reunification planning
- Keeping mothers connected
- Reentry services





Criminal Legal
System

Child Welfare
System

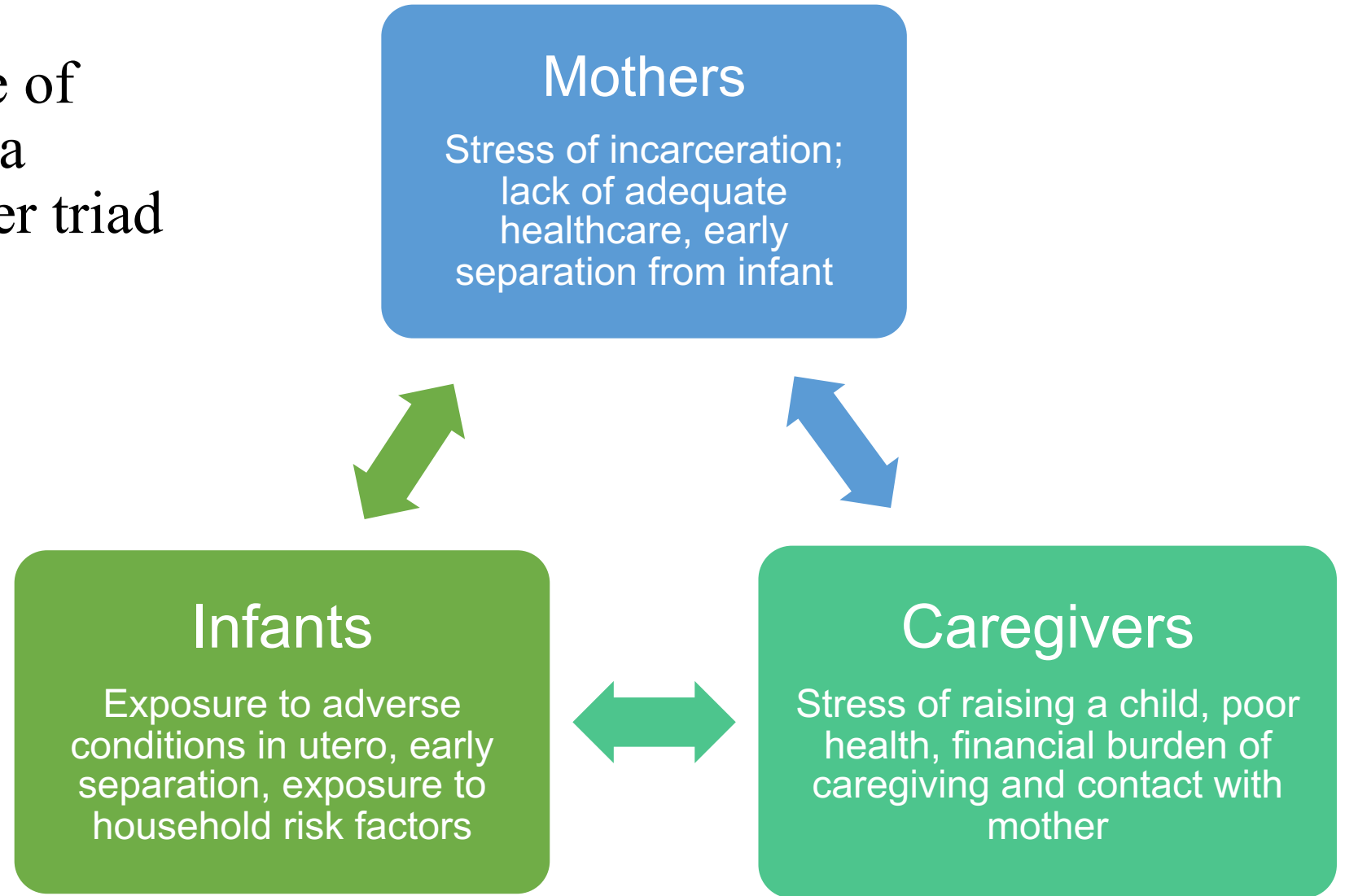


Birth Beyond Bars

A longitudinal Cohort Study

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and
Motherhood Beyond Bars

Unique experience of
incarceration as a
mother/infant/caregiver triad



Lack of high-quality research

- Only two retrospective studies have attempted to characterize caregiving from birth
- No prospective assessment of health outcomes in this population to date, especially child health



Birth Beyond Bars

Collaborative research study co-designed and implemented by Motherhood Beyond Bars and Harvard School of Public Health to:

- Characterize family experiences of maternal incarceration from birth and how this experience influences child health and development
- Provide data for program monitoring and evaluation

How it works

- Primary caregivers and infants enrolled at the infant's birth
- Mothers enrolled on their release from prison
- Phone or video interviews with open-ended questions and quantitative survey
- Follow-up every three months in the first year, every 6 months in the second year, and once when the child turns 3

Current participants

- 64 children
- 53 caregivers (at baseline)
- 11 mothers released before the birth of the child
- 17 mothers released after the birth of the child



Key participant
demographics

Children (n = 64)

- 53% BIPOC (31% Black, 21% mixed race, 1% Pacific Islander); 8% Hispanic
- 39% born via C-section
- 15% admitted to the NICU for medical reasons

Caregivers-Demographics (n = 53)

- Primarily grandparents (56%), or other relatives (20%)
- Only 4% are fathers
- 16% have no kinship relationship to the infant
- 38% Black
- Average age 45, range 23-72
- Majority had a high school education or less (62%)

Caregivers-risk factors (n = 53)

- 27% living under the Federal Poverty Line
- 31% food insecure
- 11% moderately to severely distressed (Kessler 6)

Mothers released before birth (n=11)

- 43% Black
- Age range 25-35
- 85% reported that their child's father was not involved with their care
- 100% living under the Federal Poverty Line
- 10% moderately or severely distressed

Mothers released after birth (n = 17)

- 23% Black
- Age range 25-35
- 40% released 6 months or less after the birth of the infant
- 61% continued to share care of the child with the temporary caregiver
- 69% living under the Federal Poverty Line
- 40% moderately or severely distressed

How are families forming
temporary caregiving
relationships?



How are families forming temporary caregiving relationships?

- We knew from working with families that these relationships are ad hoc
- We wanted to know more about how relationships were being formed, and what caregivers navigated to assume care of the child
- Drew from 36 caregiver and 13 mother intake interviews
- Used thematic analysis as proposed by Braun and Clarke (2006)

Selected Themes*

Preference for family

- Mothers exhibit a strong preference for their own family members in choosing a caregiver
 - Maternal grandparents and other maternal kin make up half of the sample
 - Maternal grandparents and mothers describe their choice of caregiver as “obvious,” not really necessitating a conversation
 - Even in cases where the baby is cared for by a paternal relative or friend, maternal relatives were often considered first and ruled out

“I was like, ‘I don’t know what I’m gonna do when I get to Helms.’ And she’s like, ‘Well, I’m getting the baby.’ And then I was like, ‘Okay.’ [laughs] That made me feel better...I just wanted her to stay with family, you know?” - Victoria

“So when she asked me about it, she was skeptical about her family. They have a lot of health conditions going on, and she didn’t feel comfortable leaving the baby with them. And so her mom being 100 percent disabled, she really didn’t have any family member that she would trust to, you know, take the baby.” - Stephanie

*Names used to illustrate preliminary themes are pseudonyms

Selected Themes*

Avoiding foster care

- Mother's choice of a caregiver (when there is a choice) is highly motivated by her perceived ability to reunify with that child when she is released.
 - Aliyah chose to relinquish rights to an older child under threat of losing her infant if she fought to retain custody
 - Katherine, a caregiver, was chosen by the mother even though she was a stranger, to avoid foster care
 - Tina and Stacey, caregivers, were incarcerated with the infants' mother and agreed to take over care since they were released first
- Caregivers also reported accepting the role to keep the child out of foster care

"So, I was there most of the whole time we was in jail and she was worried about the baby going to foster care and stuff like that. And I was like, well, I get out before you cuz she was going to prison. And I was like, I'll take care of it."- Tina

"Well, [child's mother]—they're not married but they're together, and her mother's still workin'. So, she couldn't do it. So, I was like, well, the systems not gettin' [laugh] my child, my grandchild. So, that's why we took over." – Wanda

*Names used to illustrate preliminary themes are pseudonyms

How stable are temporary
caregiving relationships?



How stable are temporary caregiving relationships?

- We quickly noticed that babies were changing temporary caregivers more frequently than expected
- How frequently are infants experiencing change?
- Why?
- What drives this so we can support families to prevent it?
- Drew from surveys from 40 children that reached 12 months of age or older



Motherhood
BEYOND BARS

www.motherhoodbeyond.org