

Breastfeeding and Incarceration

An historical overview, updates and policy

Tina Lavy, MS, IBCLC

I have no relevant financial relationships with any commercial products and/or provider of commercial services.

A look at facts and figures:



- In 1970, <8,000 women were in either prison or jail.
- The number of women in jail is nearly the same as the number of women in prison. (96,000 vs 113,000).
- 80% of women in jails are mothers, and most of them are primary caretakers of their children.
- 75% of women “under control of the correctional system” are on probation

Racial analysis of incarcerated mothers

- 53% White
- 28.6% Black
- 14.2% Hispanic
- 2.5% American Indian and Alaskan Native
- 0.9% Asian
- 0.4% Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander



65% of incarcerated women report having minor children at home.

More than 2% of children in the U.S. have a parent in prison.

~25% of those children are younger than 5.

In the U.S., pregnant inmates make up 8% - 10% (up to 20% in some areas) of the jail/prison population at any given time.

1 in 25 women in state prisons and 1 in 33 in federal prisons are pregnant when admitted.

Dayton Ohio Jail System

- Pregnant inmate numbers
- Opioid crisis
- Births in jail
- To stay or be released

According to a 2006 report by the Department of Justice, only 44% percent of pregnant women received a medical examination upon arrival.



The majority of children born to incarcerated mothers are immediately separated from their mothers and placed in foster care or with relatives.

A look at the history –

all the way back to 1901....



Bedford Hills is one of several New York prison facilities, the only one exclusively for women and has run a nursery program since 1901.

What do the
prison nursery
programs
provide?



Does it work?

Jacqueline McDougall and Max,
who was born while his mom was at
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
for Women in N.Y.

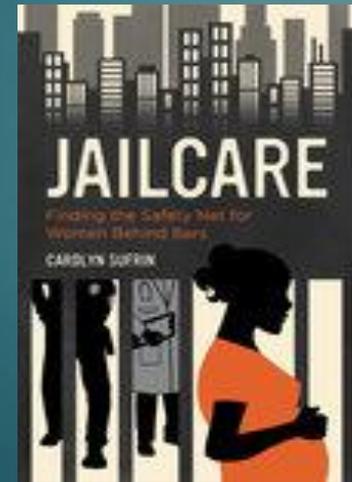
She kept Max with her for 18 months until
she was released.

Options:

- prison nurseries or community-based residential parenting programs.
- Dad or family member is caregiver
- Babies go into foster care

*Jailcare:
Finding the Safety Net for
Women behind Bars*

Author: Carolyn Sufrin



Breastfeeding
and jail or prison time
news reports

November 28, 2007

Danielle Ferreira's Story

April 05, 2011

Jennifer Delaney's Story

2011

Tami Revering's Story

June 20, 2012

Valerie Nabors' Story

April 19, 2013

Another story:
Mother sentenced to
Taos County
Adult Detention Center.

March 3, 2014

Britney Weber's Story

2016

Christina Milliner's Story

June 2017

Monique Hidalgo's Story

June 2013

Mrs. K's story

New Mexico Legislation

SB 293 and HB 277

N.Y. Correction Law § 611

Senate Bill 1524
115th Congress
(2017-2018)

Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act

When a pregnant inmate enters the prison, there are two people, of them broke the law and is serving their time. The other one is innocent. The innocent one deserves the best start in life.

~ former Sheriff.

Thank you,

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