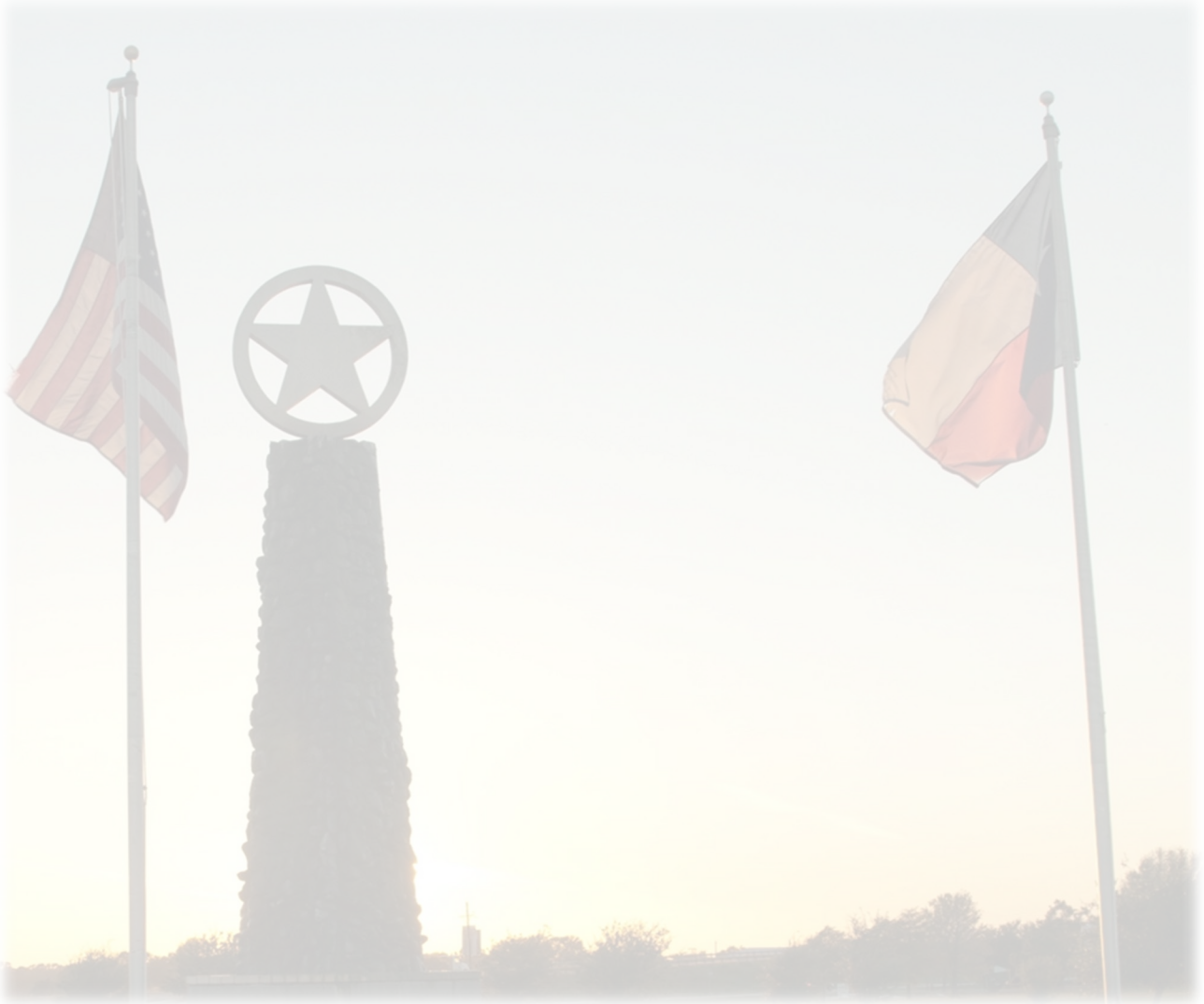


Texas Department of Criminal Justice



Report on Pregnant Inmates Fiscal Year 2022

December 2022

Texas Board of Criminal Justice

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Introduction

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) is required by the 2022-2023 General Appropriations Act, Article V, Agency Rider 61 to prepare a report on incarcerated pregnant people in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022.

The rider requires the report include the following:

- the number of incarcerated women admitted annually;
- the number of pregnant people admitted annually;
- the date, time, duration, rationale, and location of the use of restraints on incarcerated pregnant people;
- the number of incarcerated pregnant people diagnosed and treated for intellectual and developmental disorders or behavioral health issues; and
- the number of births given during incarceration.

Background

During an individual’s intake and orientation upon arriving to a TDCJ facility, the individual receives an extensive medical screening and evaluation by the facility’s medical provider, the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) or Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC). Part of that medical evaluation includes a screening for pregnancy and communicable diseases by medical staff. Similarly, each female inmate during the diagnostic process undergoes trauma screening to determine whether the inmate has experienced adverse childhood experiences or other significant trauma. If needed, individuals are referred to the appropriate medical or mental health care professional for treatment.

TDCJ correctional staff, along with any other department employee whose duties involve contact with pregnant inmates, receive additional training relating to medical and mental health care issues applicable to pregnant inmates at female facilities. The training includes information regarding the appropriate care and supervision for pregnant inmates.

Number of Incarcerated Women Admitted Annually

Number of Incarcerated Women Admitted Annually				
FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
10,799	10,529	6,313	6,516	7,058



Number of Pregnant People Admitted Annually

Number of Pregnant People Admitted Annually				
FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
204	243	116	102	98

Number of Incarcerated Pregnant People Diagnosed and Treated for Intellectual and Developmental Disorders or Behavioral Health Issues

In accounting for the number of incarcerated pregnant people diagnosed and treated for intellectual and developmental disorders or behavioral health issues, the agency includes pregnant inmates admitted in each respective fiscal year who were treated for an intellectual or developmental disability or who were on an inpatient or outpatient mental health caseload during the incarceration period in the total:

Number of Incarcerated Pregnant People Diagnosed and Treated for Intellectual and Developmental Disorders or Behavioral Health Issues				
FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
31	30	24	37	40

Number of Births Given During Incarceration

Number of Births Given During Incarceration				
FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
156	150	111	55	70

Use of Restraints on Pregnant Inmates

Pregnant inmates are secured with hand restraints in front of the body when necessary, during escorts or transports.

Hand restraints applied to pregnant inmates are the least restrictive necessary to ensure safety and security and to prevent an escape. Leg restraints, restraint belts, and transport chains are not used any time after the woman's pregnancy has been confirmed by a medical professional due to the increased risk of a forward fall.

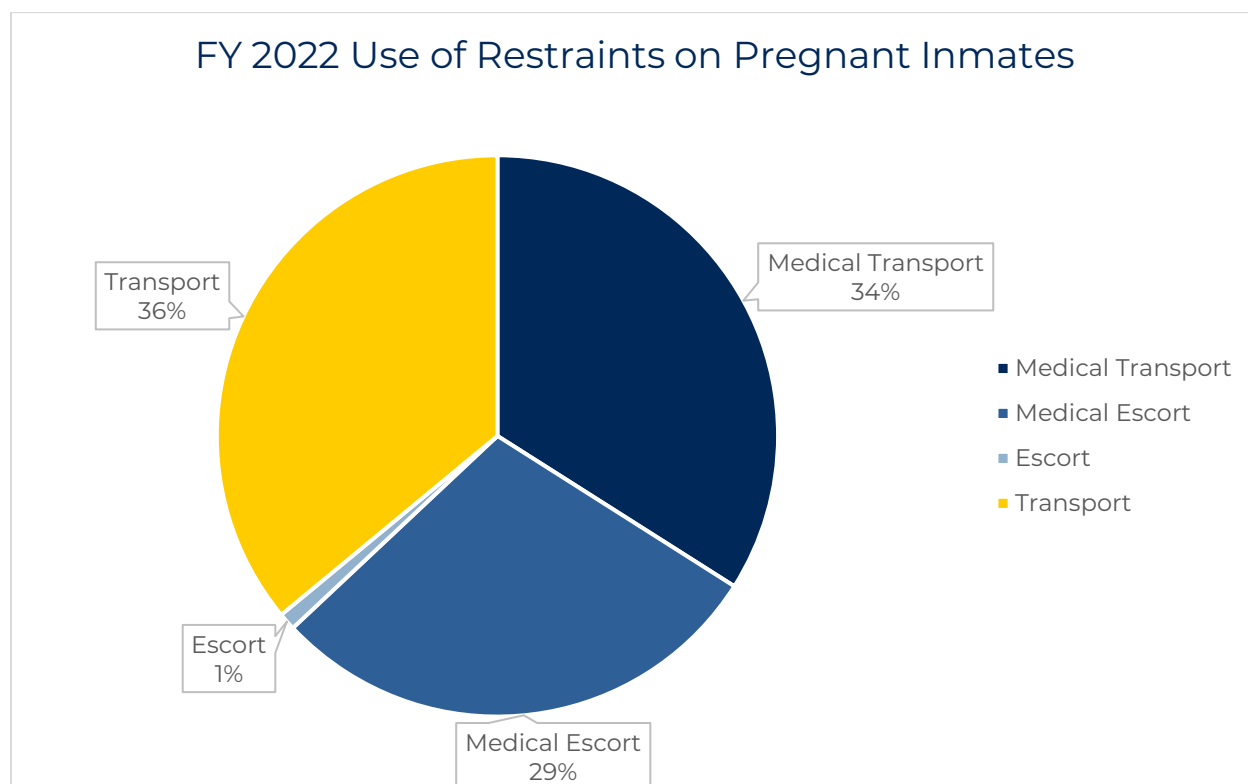


Hand restraints are not utilized when compelling medical reasons dictate, unless the warden, or a medical professional determines the use of security restraints are necessary to ensure the safety and security of the inmate, the unborn child or infant, employees, medical staff, or the public. Compelling medical reasons include when a pregnant inmate is in actual labor, delivering her baby, or in immediate post-delivery recuperation.

Hand restraints are used when necessary for the following reasons:

- Medical Transport off of the unit to another unit or community hospital for a medical reason;
- Medical Escort within the current unit of assignment for a medical reason;
- Transport off of the unit to another unit for a non-medical reason; or
- Escort within the current unit of assignment for a non-medical reason.

Date, Time, Duration, Rationale, and Location of the Use of Restraints on Incarcerated Pregnant People



Data on the use of hand restraints on pregnant inmates can be found in this file: [Rider 61 Data FY 22 \(PDF\)](#)

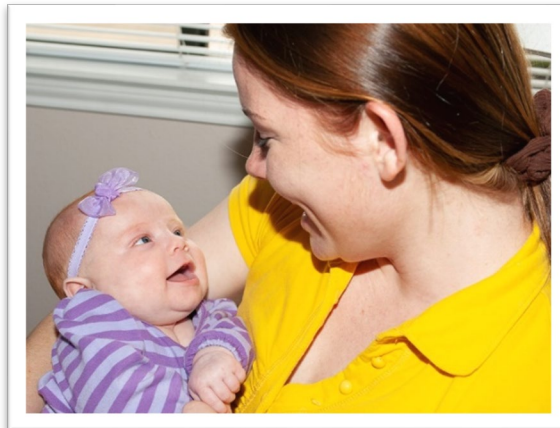
Programs and Services Provided for Pregnant Inmates and Parenting Females

Pregnant inmates are provided educational programming relating to pregnancy and parenting. These programs include instruction regarding appropriate prenatal care and hygiene, the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol and drugs on a developing fetus, parenting skills, and medical and mental health issues applicable to children. In addition, TDCJ ensures that pregnant inmates are provided sufficient food and dietary supplements, including prenatal vitamins, as ordered by an appropriate medical professional.

To assist in postpartum recovery, for a period of 72 hours after the birth of an infant by an inmate, the infant is allowed to remain with the inmate, unless a medical professional determines doing so would pose a health or safety risk to the inmate or infant. Additionally, the inmate has access to any nutritional or hygiene-related products necessary to care for the infant.

Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative (BAMBI)

The Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative (BAMBI) is a collaboration between TDCJ, UTMB, and the Santa Maria Hostel, Inc., to provide child development education, parenting training and bonding opportunities in a residential facility for up to 22 new mothers.



As of September 30, 2022, 362 mothers and 364 infants have benefited from this program since its inception. The goals of the program are to increase the female inmate's self-development; increase social and cognitive competencies for mother and child; provide for the development of a positive and productive relationship between mother and child; enhance parenting and nurturing skills and abilities of incarcerated mothers; develop the mother's empathy and ability to place another's need above self; provide prompt, loving, and consistent care for infants to develop their sense of trust; and support healthy mother-infant attachment.

Preliminary screening of pregnant inmates for program participation is conducted by the TDCJ Rehabilitation Programs Division (TDCJ-RPD). Participation eligibility includes length of sentence, offense type, and custody status. After meeting initial eligibility, the UTMB will perform medical and mental health screenings. Upon



approval for program participation, mother and infant will be screened again following delivery and arrangements for transporting them to the secure residential facility will be made by the facility's staff, TDCJ-RPD, UTMB, and TDCJ's transportation department.

Current program capacity allows for 22 mothers and their infants to reside in a unique setting that supports the mother while she completes her sentence and provides her baby with time to form a healthy attachment, which is important to healthy growth, socialization, and psychological well-being throughout the child's formative development. Over the course of the program, the mother will receive child development education, life skills, infant first aid and CPR, nutrition education, peer recovery, cognitive skills, anger management, and family reunification sessions. Additional programming may also include substance abuse education and GED classes.

BAMBI Advocacy Student Scholars Program (BASS)

Since 2016, the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing (UTMB-SON), TDCJ, and BAMBI Program have collaborated to provide valuable opportunities to improve health knowledge, bonding, and breastfeeding access for pregnant inmate mothers by utilizing student nurse led education and bedside support.

From the Spring 2016-Fall 2020, 143 undergraduate nursing students have been trained and participated in providing over 1,093 hours at the inmate mother's bedside at John Sealy Hospital, participated in 46 newborn deliveries, and conducted 75 health educational sessions at the TDCJ Carole Young Medical Facility for female inmates.

Beginning in the Spring of 2020, students were unable to conduct face-to-face education or birth support experiences based on COVID-19 restrictions. The UTMB-SON students provided student-led educational sessions to the BAMBI facility inmate mothers via ZOOM for two semesters during the COVID pandemic.



This highly successful and impactful project has been transformed into a formal scholar's program at UTMB-SON aptly named the BAMBI Advocacy Student Scholars program (BASS). The BASS program, initiated in the Spring of 2022, provides an opportunity for select nursing students to fully explore maternal health equity, health care policy, and advocacy. BASS students are exposed to an innovative service-learning environment at the TDCJ Carole Young Medical Facility. The BASS

program offers students an opportunity to support at-risk populations while fostering cultural humility, engaging scholarship, and developing leadership skills.

During the fall semesters, the BASS program students will be provided an opportunity to present seven education sessions for the pregnant inmate mothers at the TDCJ Carole Young Medical Facility and serve on call for birth, labor, and postpartum support. Each spring semester, select students will be provided an opportunity to return to the BAMBI facility and provide targeted health education for the inmate mothers.

Best for Baby

“Best for Baby” is a peer-education program focusing on childhood development, stages of pregnancy, and parenting skills. The program covers a variety of topics including how pregnancy occurs, what changes the baby and the mother experience during pregnancy, and why prenatal care is important. Each program session ends with a demonstration and participation in physical stretches that help ease some of the discomforts which people experience during pregnancy. This program is available at the following facilities: Carole Young, Crain, East Texas Treatment Facility, Hilltop, Mountain View, Murray, Plane State Jail, San Saba, and Woodman State Jail.



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Parenting and Reunification

Parenting and Reunification is a peer-to-peer facilitated educational program. This program is a two-part course aimed at improving the incarcerated parent’s relationship with their child and planning for reunification upon release. This program is available at the following facilities: Carole Young, Crain, Hilltop, Mountain View, Murray, Plane State Jail, San Saba, and Woodman State Jail.

Day with Mom Program

Offered by dedicated TDCJ volunteers, incarcerated mothers are provided the opportunity to spend approximately six hours on a scheduled Saturday with their children and children’s guardian in the “Day with Mom” program. The family is permitted to visit, eat, and recreate together. Families play board games, musical chairs, and compete in a coloring contest where everyone is a winner and prizes are given to the children. This valuable program offers families the opportunity to develop and strengthen relationships.

Women's Storybook Project of Texas

Women's Storybook Project of Texas, in partnership with Windham School District (WSD), strives to help incarcerated mothers maintain contact with and grow relationships with their children despite their physical separation. The incarcerated mothers, who qualify for the program, are allowed to pick out an age-appropriate book for each child under the age of 14 with the help of the Storybook volunteers. The volunteers then record the resident as she reads a story to each of her children. Program participants are given an opportunity to include messages of love and encouragement for each child. The Women's Storybook Project of Texas volunteers then mail the physical book to the child via their guardian, along with a hyperlink for electronic access to the recording. Upon delivery of the book, the child flips through the book as they listen to the recording of their mother's voice reading them the book text that she selected just for them. This program and gesture helps to assure the child that although their mother is not with them that she is thinking of them.

Family Literacy

Available through the WSD, the Family Literacy Program offers incarcerated parents an opportunity to become effective, active, supportive partners in their children's education with the goal of eliminating generational incarceration. Program components include a parenting course, participation in reading activities with their children, and engagement in parent-teacher conferences. The Family Literacy Program is available at the following facilities: Coffield, Hilltop, Jordan, Sanchez State Jail, Stringfellow, Torres, and Wynne.





Parenting

The WSD's parenting program addresses parenting skills and family wellness. Based on Acceleron® Prep to Parent program, the communication-based, interactive curriculum supports the development of healthy family relationships and teaches compassionate assertiveness, empathic/active listening, empowerment, and other skills to strengthen family relationships. Participants engage in an introspective process of positive personal change that addresses personal foundations, vision values, family dynamics, ages, and stages, dealing with feelings, consider then respond, choices and consequences, discipline versus punishment, praise, and encouragement, during incarceration, the well child, risky behaviors, tech troubles, legal challenges, parenting in practice, and transition and reunification. The Department of Family and Protective Services partners with WSD to refer students for completion of necessary courses.



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