



LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

State Fiscal Impact of Incarcerated Mothers and Children with Incarcerated Parents in Texas

**PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF**

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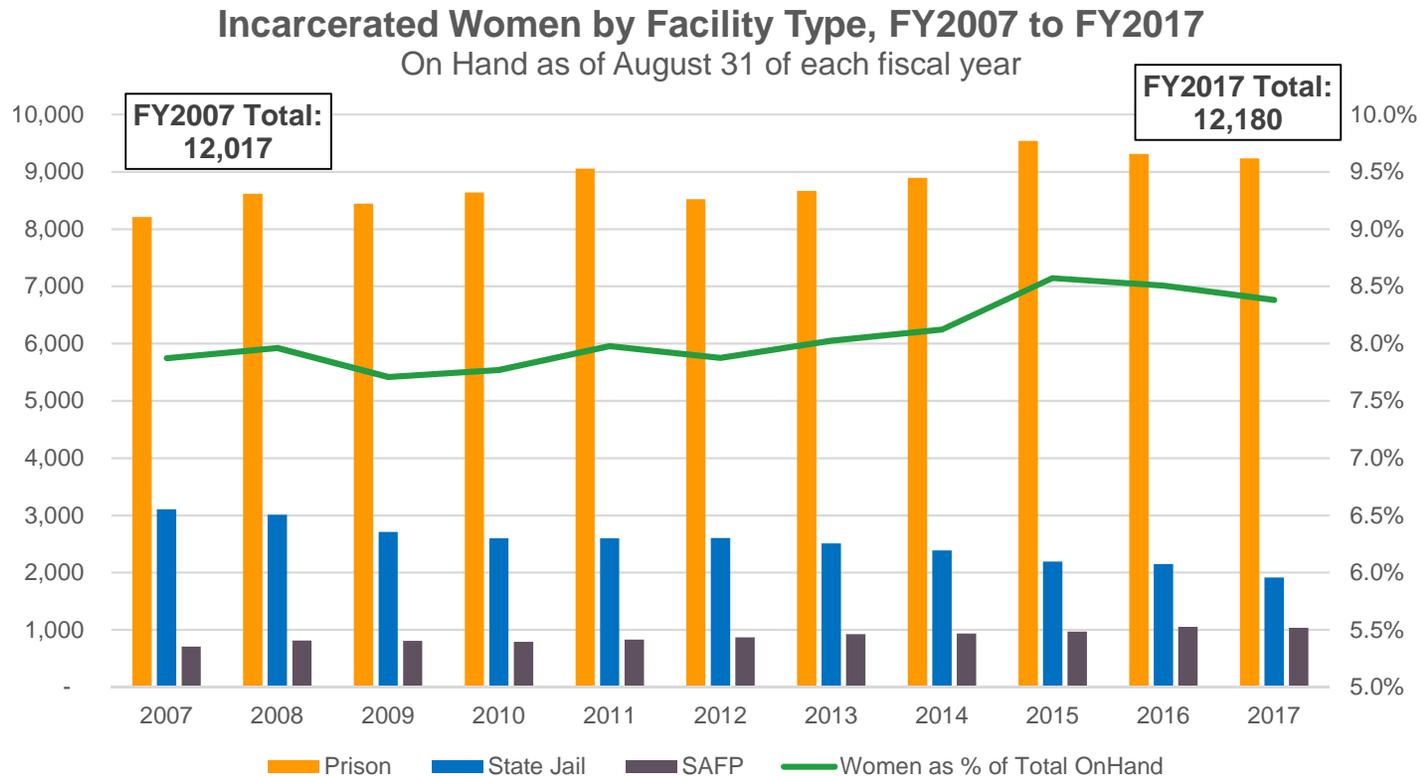
Statement of Committee Request for Information

Related to Interim Charge #4, the LBB was asked to provide available information on the state fiscal impact of incarcerated mothers and the incidence of children with an incarcerated mother in the state's foster care system.

Trends of Incarcerated Women in Texas

TDCJ's overall incarcerated population has declined significantly over the last 11 years, by roughly 5 percent, even as the state population has grown 20 percent over the same time period.

However, the number of women incarcerated in state prisons has remained fairly steady over the time period, and as a result accounting for an increasing percentage of all incarcerations.



Incarcerated Women in Texas, continued

The cost of incarceration in Texas state prison, as reported in the *Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice Cost Report*, was \$61.63 per day per person, an increase of approximately 11 percent from the prior year. For a full year, that equates to approximately **\$22,500 per prison inmate in FY2016**.

The increase in prison cost per day can be attributed to a decrease in average daily population and an increase in salaries for correctional officers and other TDCJ staff.

TDCJ Population	Fiscal Year 2015	Fiscal Year 2016
Prison (systemwide)	\$55.61	\$61.63
Parole Supervision	\$4.07	\$4.39
Community Supervision	\$3.36	\$3.42

NOTES: The cost per day for community supervision represent a total cost per day and includes both the state and local cost of supervision.
SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Children of Incarcerated Women

TDCJ does not track children of incarcerated women beyond their visitation database, but national figures suggest **more than 60 percent of women in state prisons have at least one child under the age of 18.** (Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics)

Minor children with mothers in prison are more likely to live with grandparents, other relatives, or be placed in foster care than minor children with fathers in prison (Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics)

Children of incarcerated women are estimated to be placed in foster care at a rate five times higher than children of incarcerated men.

National Data on Caregivers of Minor Children of Parents in State Prison

Children's Caregiver	Inmate	
	Male	Female
Other Parent	88.4%	37.0%
Grandparent	12.5%	44.9%
Other relatives or friends	7.1%	30.6%
Foster home or agency	2.2%	10.9%

NOTE: Detail sums to more than 100% because some children lived with multiple caregivers.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities

Children of Incarcerated Women, continued

More recent Texas data of children born to incarcerated women suggest a similar rate of children placed in the foster care system: 9.3 percent over the last 3 years. However, seventy-one percent of children are placed with the father, other relatives or family friends.

Caregiver for Child Born to Individual While Incarcerated Fiscal Years 2015 - 2017

Caregiver	FISCAL YEAR			TOTAL
	2015	2016	2017	
Related to the Child and Friend of the Family				
Mother (released)	2	2	3	7
Mother in BAMBI	29	25	27	81
Father	26	23	19	68
Other Relative/Family Friend	108	126	99	333
Total	165	176	148	489
Not Related to the Child				
Child Protective Services	28	12	12	52
Released for Adoption	4	9	4	17
Total	32	21	16	69
Other				
NICU/Unknown	1	0	2	3
GRAND TOTAL	198	197	166	561

NOTES: The Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative (BAMBI) is a residential infant care and parenting program for females incarcerated in TDCJ.
 SOURCES: Legislative Budget Board; Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Child Protective Services (CPS) – Children with Incarcerated Parents

Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) does not track maternal (or parental) incarceration in the “person characteristic” portion of its CPS database.

However, the agency has the capability to describe the incarceration of a parent as a “contributing factor” of a child’s removal from a household.

DFPS’ indicator does not distinguish between whether a mother or father was incarcerated, and only provides limited point-in-time data at the time of removal.

CPS Removals with Parental Incarceration as a Contributing Factor

Over the last 2.5 years, parental incarceration has been a contributing factor to child removals by CPS in approximately 8 percent of cases, or 19,500 children per year on average.

The annualized cost of the average DFPS payment per foster child is \$30,960 in FY2018. This excludes state costs related to caseworkers and additional associated agency expenditures.

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018 YTD ¹
Parental Incarceration Removals²	1,655	1,475	746
Total CPS Removals	19,079	19,864	9,865
Percentage of Total CPS Removals	8.7%	7.4%	7.6%

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018 Projected
Average Monthly DFPS Payment per Foster Child^{3,4,5}	\$2,210	\$2,258	\$2,580

NOTES:

(1) Fiscal Year 2018 YTD includes data through February 2018.

(2) Parental Incarceration Removals includes all Child Protective Services removals in which the incarceration of either parent is a contributing factor at the time of removal.

(3) The Average Monthly FPS Payment per Foster Child represents the average cost for all children in paid foster care, not just the removals related to parental incarceration. In addition, not all removals result in paid foster care.

(4) Performance as reported by Department of Family and Protective Services in the Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget.

(5) The average payment per foster child represents paid foster care service only. Costs related to corresponding caseworkers and additional purchased services are not included.

SOURCE: Department of Family and Protective Services

DFPS Caseworker Guidance

DFPS provides its CPS caseworkers an “Incarcerated Parents Resource Guide” to assist them in including those parents in the agency’s services.

Guidelines include:

At beginning of the case, caseworker determines if either or both parents are incarcerated and, if so, locates the parent in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice or other county, state, or federal facility.

The guidance provides information on service planning, including:

- explaining the CPS process
- facilitating visitation
- establishing available and permitted types of contact between parent and child
- identifying relatives and fictive kin
- addressing challenges facing parent or child, including literacy, learning disabilities, physical or mental disabilities, or indigence
- identifying services that may be available to the incarcerated parent in the facility, and including them into the parent’s service plan

Other Related State Program Funding

Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative (BAMBI)

BAMBI is a residential infant care and parenting program for females incarcerated in TDCJ. The program allows offender mothers and their newborns time to form a healthy attachment in a secure setting. The offender receives child development education, life skills, infant first aid and CPR, nutrition, peer recovery, cognitive skills, anger management and family reunification sessions. Additional programming may include substance abuse education and GED classes.

In FY2017, 27 women and their children participated in the BAMBI program.

The FY2016 average cost per day per person was \$122.31.

Amachi Texas Mentoring

Amachi provides one-to-one mentoring for youth ages 6–14 whose parents or family members are incarcerated or recently released from the prison system. Through mentoring the program aims to break the cycle of incarceration and encourage positive behaviors in its participants.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Texas (BBBS–NT) implements the Amachi mentoring program and subcontracts with ten BBBS programs throughout Texas.

2018-19 biennial funding for Amachi Texas through the Texas Education Agency is \$1.3 million.



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