Female Incarceration: Breaking the Cycle
George Kaiser Family Foundation

...places a strong emphasis on the important relationship between mother and child. Most of our activities surround the well-being of young children and families.
In almost any given year, Oklahoma is double the U.S. average.

Female Incarceration Rates
Who leads the nation?

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics
Incarceration Rate of Women

Who leads the nation?

INCARCERATION RATE PER 100,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Average</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics
Top 3 Offenses

- Possession or Obtaining CDS: 26%
- Distributing CDS: 17%
- Assault: 12%

1,152 women entered Oklahoma Department of Corrections. 212 were sent from Tulsa County.
Pathways to Incarceration

- History of family dysfunction and instability
- Physical and/or sexual child abuse
- Neglect
- Hurdles to education
- Hurdles to employment
- Poverty
- Substance abuse
- Mental illness
- Domestic violence
Characteristics of Oklahoma’s Female Offenders

IN CHILDHOOD

- Child physical and/or sexual abuse: 66%
- Divorced parents: 61%
- Ran away from home before age 18: 53%

Source: Oklahoma Study of Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children, January 22, 2010; Susan F. Sharp, Ph.D., Emily Pain, and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.
Characteristics of Oklahoma’s Female Offenders

IN ADULTHOOD

- Domestic violence: 71%
- Victims of rape after age 18: 36%

Source: Oklahoma Study of Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children, January 22, 2010; Susan F. Sharp, Ph.D., Emily Pain, and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.
Characteristics of Oklahoma’s Female Offenders

AT RECEPTION (FY 2013)

- Need for substance abuse treatment: 61%
- Unemployed: 95%
- Reliance on social assistance: 63%
- Need for basic education: 75%
- Mental illness (current/history of): 79%

Source: Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report Female Offenders
What about their families?

Are mothers to a total of 6,825 children
- 4,464 under age 18
- 3 children per mother

55%

Of children have never visited their mother in prison

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to become incarcerated themselves.

Source 1: Oklahoma Study of Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children, January 22, 2010; Susan F. Sharp, Ph.D., Emily Pain and the Oklahoma Commission on Children & Youth

Source 2: In January 2012, ODOC and GKFF conducted a survey of the 2,333 women incarcerated on that date. 2,028 surveys were completed— a response rate of 86.9 percent.
What are the numbers?

Total Female Population
2,889

Prison Admissions
Statewide: 1,153
Tulsa County: 214
Oklahoma County: 192

Prison Releases
Statewide: 1,078
Tulsa County: 214
Oklahoma County: 194
What Works to Reduce Recidivism

1. Focus on the offenders most likely to commit crime Who

2. Invest in programs that work, and ensure they are working well What

3. Strengthen supervision and use swift and certain responses How
Policy Options

Reduce Receptions
• Use of objective risk assessments to inform decisions
• Insufficient resources available to people under community supervision
• Swift and certain sanctions
• Provide treatment combined with supervision to high-risk, high-need individuals
• Incentive-based approaches
• Prohibition on probation on third or subsequent felony
Policy Options

Sentence Length
- Mandatory minimums/one-size-fits-all mandates
- Judicial safety valve

Reduce Recidivism
- Post-release supervision with resources to strengthen supervision
- Reduce employment barriers (e.g. licensed occupations; expungement; driver’s license)
- Fines/fees
Meet Andrea.

Before
• 23 years in addiction
• 362 days in county jail awaiting trial
• Unemployed for 10 years
• Very limited contact with child
After

- Sanitation Associate for Bama Companies
- Full-time employee with benefits
- Involved in the life of her daughter and active grandmother to her beautiful thriving grandchild
- Over 4 years of sobriety
- Successful reunification with immediate and extended family