**Capstone Proposal: Advocating for Better Maternal Healthcare: A Focus on Incarcerated Women and Doulas**

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**Introduction**

It is essential to advocate for better maternity healthcare, particularly for women who are incarcerated, to advance social justice and health fairness. This annotated bibliography looks at academic studies to comprehend the special difficulties experienced by pregnant inmates and investigates evidence-based suggestions to improve reproductive healthcare in prisons.

**Sources**

Jauk-Ajamie, D. (2023). Global governance and climate stress of incarcerated women: the case of the US. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, *47*(2), 115-129. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01924036.2022.2146731>

Jauk-Ajamie investigates the relationship between climate stress and global governance as it relates to US prison women. This study investigates the effects of governance systems and environmental factors on the health and well-being of pregnant inmates in correctional facilities. The study highlights the necessity for comprehensive reproductive healthcare policy by shedding light on the environmental and governance issues that pregnant inmates and doulas face. When it comes to addressing maternal healthcare interventions in custodial settings, the study might be lacking in specificity. This study supports the advocacy position as it emphasizes how crucial it is to take into account more extensive structural elements when promoting better maternity healthcare for women who are incarcerated and doulas, such as environmental stressors and global governance. In addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, it highlights how environmental justice and reproductive rights are intertwined.

King, Z., Lyerly, A. D., & Knittel, A. K. (2023). Safekeeping of pregnant people experiencing incarceration. *Women & Criminal Justice*, *33*(5), 363-377. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08974454.2022.2104986>

King et al. investigate methods for guaranteeing the security and welfare of expectant inmates in correctional facilities which requires the input of doulas. To reduce risks and enhance favorable outcomes for mothers and infants, the study looks at best practices for prenatal care, labor, and postpartum support that can be observed by doulas and other stakeholders. The study offers doable suggestions for enhancing obstetric care and prenatal screenings for mothers residing in penitentiary environments. The study might not be able to fully address the structural obstacles to putting these suggestions into practice in a variety of jail settings. However, the piece provides evidence-based recommendations for protecting the rights and health of pregnant women. Moreover, it emphasizes the importance of implementing compassionate, all-encompassing methods of maternity healthcare that put safety, dignity, and autonomy first.

Knittel, A., Ti, A., Schear, S., & Comfort, M. (2017). Evidence-based recommendations to improve reproductive healthcare for incarcerated women. *International Journal of Prisoner Health*, *13*(3/4), 200-206. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJPH-07-2016-0031>

Evidence-based suggestions for improving reproductive healthcare for women in prison are provided by Knittel et al. The study identifies important areas for improvement, such as prenatal care, access to contraception, and postpartum support, by synthesizing the body of research and expert consensus. Knittel et al. provide insightful information about practical approaches to meeting the reproductive health requirements of women who are incarcerated. To account for differences in correctional healthcare systems and budget limitations, the study’s suggestions might, nevertheless, necessitate customized implementation strategies. A thorough framework for improving maternity healthcare in correctional facilities is offered by this research. Moreover, the authors provide useful advice for legislators, medical professionals, and advocacy organizations working to advance reproductive rights and health justice for women who are incarcerated.

Cross, J. (2020). Imprisoning pregnant and parenting women: a focus on social justice, equal rights, and equality. *Health & Social Work*, *45*(3), 195-201. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hsw/hlaa008>

Cross looks at how imprisoning expectant and nursing mothers affects social fairness. The study highlights the role of equality in addressing this population’s particular demands and vulnerabilities inside the criminal justice system. To preserve justice and dignity, laws and practices about the incarceration of pregnant and parenting women must be changed immediately. The research exposes systematic injustices and human rights breaches in this regard. By highlighting the core ideas of social justice and human rights in addressing the maternity healthcare requirements of jailed women, this research supports the advocacy viewpoint. Cross supports the proposed advocacy because he draws attention to how experiences of incarceration and access to healthcare are shaped by the intersectional dynamics of gender, race, and socioeconomic class.

**Conclusion**

The annotated bibliography, in summary, offers a thorough overview of peer-reviewed studies on maternity care for women who are incarcerated. Through a thorough analysis of many viewpoints and recommendations supported by research, it is possible to better understand the systemic obstacles, policy ramifications, and advocacy opportunities surrounding reproductive health in correctional environments. Future researchers can endeavor to construct a more just and compassionate healthcare system that respects the rights and dignity of every person, including those who are incarcerated, by working together and engaging in educated advocacy.

**References**

Cross, J. (2020). Imprisoning pregnant and parenting women: a focus on social justice, equal rights, and equality. *Health & Social Work*, *45*(3), 195-201. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hsw/hlaa008>

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