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Improper Proposal
Humanities

Research Questions:

1. What is the history of women's correctional facility?
2. What are some examples of the most popular women's correctional facilities?
3. What are the conditions like in women's correctional facility?
4. How does this vary with privately owned prisons and publicly owned prisons?
5. How does social class and race affect arrests and sentencing in America?

#1

- the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP), founded in 1873 in Indianapolis, is often described as the first separate prison for women in the United States.
- The social and economic climate at the end of the Civil War was abysmal for women. Prostitution, theft, and fraud, the only alternatives to destitution and death for many marginalized women, often led to their incarceration.
- In Indiana, Rhoda Coffin and her husband, Charles, both Quakers, exposed the sexual abuse and exploitation of women held in the men's state prison in Jeffersonville. This exposure ultimately compelled Governor Conrad Baker and the state legislature to create the Indiana Reformatory Institution for Women and Girls (now known as the Indiana Women's Prison).
- Smith said, "What, it will be asked, has been the result of all this improvement in prison life? We answer: In most cases restored womanhood, to enter again in life able to care for themselves and not a terror or an expense to society."² In 1878, the Board of Managers reported an 82 percent success rate for women and girls reentering society, measured by Smith's visits and correspondence. According to the report, this social experiment in the rehabilitation of women and girls in the sole charge of women was working. The first women's prison in the United States was saving "fallen" women.
- At the time, women who were forced or consented to engage in prostitution were considered fallen and remained fallen by the standards of the day.
- As a journalist for *The Fort Wayne News* put it succinctly in 1897, "... in the minds of legislators and public men generally, a woman fallen is down forever. That an unfortunate or criminal woman or girl is so much worse than a criminal man or boy, that there is no hope for her reformation."

- When we started to analyze crimes recorded in the prison registry for the first 15 years, we stumbled upon a glaring omission. Not one woman was incarcerated for prostitution or any sexual offense. Indeed, not until October 27, 1897—24 years after the prison's founding—did Estella Koup arrive at the prison as the first woman sent there for prostitution. Hadn't the prison been created for all the "fallen" women? If they weren't at IWP, where were they?
- Our current theory is that in the earliest years of the Indiana Women's Prison, the most "fallen" of women—prostitutes—were not admitted there but were sentenced to the HGS instead.
- Moreover, we have now found 15 Catholic prisons for women in the United States that predate IWP, all modeled on the infamous Irish Magdalene laundries. Magdalene laundries led by Catholic nuns were institutions where women committed by family, priests, or courts performed arduous physical labor washing the clothing of others. The work was punitive and was figuratively and literally a means by which women could turn from their "sin" and "cleanse" themselves.
- As a different picture of our prison began to form, we came to understand that its self-proclaimed successes in reformation would have to be tempered against a dramatic legislative investigation in 1881 into physical abuse of inmates by Superintendent Smith and her staff at the prison. We learned of allegations of water-boarding or "dunking," of outright physical abuse, of women stripped naked and put in solitary confinement.
- Further, we discovered that an acclaimed doctor who cared for the women and girls at the prison from 1873 to 1883 advocated female circumcision and removal of women's ovaries to cure nymphomania and masturbation. As revealed in the 1881 legislative investigation, Theophilus Parvin performed operations on the women for reasons not always clear to the inmates. During each of the 10 years that Parvin worked at IWP, he had nearly unfettered access to an average of 25 women and 100 girls. Only three years after leaving, he published one of the most extensively illustrated and detailed textbooks on gynecology and obstetrics of his time, which established him as an internationally recognized authority in the field of gynecology. Did he use his 10 years of employment at the women's prison to study and experiment on the women prisoners as he cataloged female anatomy, diseases, and treatments? Thus far, we have positively identified three incarcerated women Parvin used as study subjects in one peer-reviewed article in a medical journal.
- <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/february-2015/womens-prison-history>
- Prior to the development of the all-female institution, women were housed in a separate unit within the male prison. Generally speaking, the conditions for women in these units were horrendous and were characterized by excessive use of solitary

confinement and significant acts of physical and sexual abuse by both the male inmates and the male guards. Women in these facilities received few, if any, services (Freedman, 1981).

- In many cases, these men would stay longer than necessary to complete their job duties. To no surprise, there were many prison related pregnancies that resulted from these interactions. The death of a pregnant woman named Rachel Welch in 1825 as a result of a beating by a male guard led to significant changes in the housing of incarcerated women.
- . In 1839, the first facility for women opened its doors. The Mount Pleasant Prison Annex was located on the grounds of Sing Sing, a male penitentiary located in Ossining, New York.
- While Mount Pleasant had a female warden at the facility, the oversight of the prison remained in the control of the administrators of Sing Sing, who were male and had little understanding about the nature of female criminality. Despite the intent by administrators to eliminate the abuse of women within the prison setting, the women incarcerated at Mount Pleasant continued to experience high levels of corporal punishment and abuse at the hands of the male guards. Conditions of squalor and high levels of abuse and neglect prompted moral reform
- A key figure in this crusade in the United Kingdom was Elizabeth Fry (1780-1845). Her work with the Newgate Prison in London during the early 19th century served as the inspiration for the American women's prison reform movement. Fry argued that women offenders were capable of being reformed and that it was the responsibility of women in the community to assist those who had fallen victim to a lifestyle of crime. Like Fry, many of the reformers in America throughout the 1820s and 1830s came from upper- and middle-class communities with liberal religious backgrounds (Freedman, 1981).
- The Indiana Women's Prison is identified as the first stand-alone female prison in the United States.
- Based on the philosophy that the reformatory was designed to "improve the moral character of women," women were sentenced for a variety of "crimes," including "lewd and lascivious conduct, fornication, serial premarital pregnancies, adultery [and] venereal disease"
- the conditions at the reformatory were superior to those found at the custodial institution. The reformatory was effective in responding to abuse of women inmates by male guards, as many of these institutions were staffed by women guards and administrations.

Summary (given by website)- • The first prison for women was opened in 1839 in response to the growing concerns of abuse of women in male prison facilities. • The reformatory prison was designed to rehabilitate women from their immoral ways. • The custodial

institution offered very little in terms of rehabilitative programming for incarcerated women.

- Women of color are overrepresented in women's prisons.
- Women in custody face a variety of unique issues, many of which the prison is ill equipped to deal with.
- Some facilities have prison nursery programs, which allow mothers to remain with their infant children while incarcerated.
- Gender-responsive programming is designed to address the unique needs of female offenders.
- Upon release, many women return to the communities in which they lived prior to their incarceration, where they face issues of addiction and dysfunction in their lives.

- Over the past 20 years the war on drugs has caused significant rise in the number of women incarcerated and their access to adequate drug treatment.
- 40% of criminal convictions leading to incarceration of women in 2000 were for drug crimes
- 34% were for other non-violent crimes such as burglary, larceny, and fraud
- 18% of women in prison have been convicted because of violent conduct
- 7% were for public order offenses such as drunk driving, liquor law violations and vagrancy

What are some examples of the most popular womens correctional facilities? What are some famous convictions made?

- The Alderson Federal Prison Camp-

Billie Holiday went and so did Martha Stewart

The facility has the capacity to house 992 adult female offenders, but often houses upwards of 1050.

All offenders at Alderson Federal Prison Camp are given a work assignment (with the exception of those not cleared medically). Work assignments at Alderson include facility maintenance, working as an orderly, in commissary, laundry, in food services, health services, and recreational/educational department.

Educational opportunities are provided to all inmates at Alderson FPC. Educational classes include literacy, adult basic education, and GED courses/testing. Some of the educational programs at Alderson are mandatory if the inmate does not possess a high school diploma or GED. Vocational programs taught at FPC Alderson include horticulture, library assistant, and cosmetology. Inmates may also earn their cosmetology license by completing a 2,000 hour training program and passing a state examination. Inmates who suffer from drug or alcohol dependencies have access to two drug treatment programs; A residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP for short) is a nine month, 500 hour substance abuse program. A non-residential 21 week voluntary substance abuse program is also available.

"The rehabilitation really is nonexistent for the most part." -Martha Stewart

When Stewart was at Alderson, the local town saw a financial boon because of the media's presence, with one landowner charging satellite trucks \$750 to park on his property near the prison gates.

- On December 19, 2017, Clark County District Court Judge Stefany Miley had reversed Lobato's murder conviction. After a five-day hearing in October, the court had found that Lobato's defense lawyers violated her constitutional right to effective legal representation by failing to call pathology and entomology experts regarding the victim's time of death, which would have supported her strong alibi. Lobato has served nearly sixteen years in prison despite compelling evidence of her innocence.

- An estimated 4 to 9 percent of women come to prison pregnant. Women who give birth while incarcerated are rarely allowed to spend time with their child after birth. Mother-infant bonding is severely undermined by this lack of contact after birth. **Bedford Hills, a women's prison in New York**, is the only program in the U.S. that allows women to keep their newborns with them in a special prison program. This humane response is more common in Britain and other European nations.

How does this vary with privately owned prisons and publicly owned prisons?

- They are run by private, third-party companies rather than the state government, who runs traditional public prison. Private prisons receive their funding from government contracts and many of these contracts are based on the total number of inmates and their average length of time served.
- This means that the more inmates these prisons can hold - with longer sentences - the more money they earn.
- They are owned and operated by local, state, or federal governments and function as non-profits. In this scenario, the government controls which prison inmates are sent to. The government also has the ability to release inmates early. Inmates are monitored and directed by state and federal guidelines, and operations are funded directly by the government. These prisons receive their funding from tax dollars, so public prisons are also required to make certain information about the prison available to the public in order to provide them with an idea of how the prison is operated and how well taxpayers' money is used.
- Research has shown that private prisons will usually choose less violent offenders because serious offenders require an increase in the amount of required security. Thus, public prisons hold more violent offenders and private prisons hold more nonviolent

offenders; in fact, the majority of inmates in private prisons have committed non-violent drug-related offenses. While private prisons may be cheaper, they're also known to be worse for inmate rights and have a higher need of qualified correctional officers.

- Most private facilities, for example, have lock-up quotas that require a minimum number of inmates or the prisons risks paying penalty fees
- The Justice Department concluded in a review that private prisons were more dangerous and less effective at reforming inmates than facilities run by the government, leading to policy changes under the Obama Administration to phase out private contracts. However, the Trump administration reversed this directive in 2017, instead opting for harsher immigration and drug policies
- Private prisons also run many immigration detention facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which are often not included in the Bureau of Justice Statistics reports.
- Private prison facilities housed 18% of the federal prison population and 7% of state prisoners in 2016
- 73% of detained immigrants were held in privately run facilities in 2017 (The Sentencing Project).
- The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) sends around 400,000 undocumented immigrants to be detained in a private facility each year, which is increasing the need for private systems (Truth Out)..

How does social class and race affect arrests and sentencing in America?

- Black women were also sent to work on state-owned penal plantations under conditions that mimicked the days Section X The Incarceration of Women 463 of slavery in the south. Women of color generally had committed less serious offenses compared to White women, and yet they were incarcerated for longer periods of time. Indeed, it was rare to see women of color convicted of moral offenses—since Black women were not held to the same standards of what was considered acceptable behavior for a lady, they were not deemed as in need of the rehabilitative tools that characterized the environments found at the reformatory (Rafter, 1985). Prison conditions for women at the custodial institution were characterized by unsanitary living environments with inadequate sewage and bathing systems, work conditions that were dominated by physical labor and corporal punishment, a lack of

medical treatment for offenders, and the use of solitary confinement for women with mental health issues

- These policies had a differential impact by race and ethnicity. While recently there has been a notable dip in the incarceration rate of black women, in 2014, the imprisonment rate for African American women was still more than 2 times the rate of imprisonment for white women. For Hispanic women incarceration rates were 1.2 times the rate of white women.

- <https://cjininvolvedwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Fact-Sheet.pdf>

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- 7% were for public order offenses such as drunk driving, liquor law violations and vagrancy
- <https://www.aclu.org/other/facts-about-over-incarceration-women-united-states>
- African American women are 8 times more likely to be incarcerated than white women. Hispanic women are 4 times more likely.

What are the conditions like in women's correctional facility?

- "Could we work for deodorant?" one woman asked. Like shampoo, conditioner and other basic hygiene supplies, deodorant cost money at the commissary, and the women had no income. There were other problems: They weren't given bras or tampons (a possible security concern, according to the facility's medical director). They wanted access to education, and to fresh vegetables. They wanted to see the sunlight more. "Basic f---ing needs," Johnson told me.
- **Many states still shackle women during labor and delivery.** You read that right. Some women are shackled while being transferred to the hospital and even in their beds while giving birth, making labor and childbirth all the more challenging. Even in states where anti-shackling laws have been put in place, this inhumane practice continues to occur all too often.

- Sixty percent of women in jail, according to the ACLU's Smart Justice Campaign and the Prison Policy Initiative, have not been convicted of a crime and are awaiting trial. Defendants can lose their jobs, along with access to benefits and even their housing. In short, incarcerating a woman who is poor will only make her poorer.
- Guards also threaten the women's visitation rights as a way of silencing the women. Keeping women connected to their families is a key aspect of providing services to incarcerated women but correctional officers often take that opportunity away from them if they speak up. These men watch women undress, use the toilet, and shower. There's no escape for the women who are incarcerated.
- "That was not part of my sentence...to perform oral sex with the officers." -New York prisoner, Tanya Ross to NBC's Dateline
- "I'm tired of being gynecologically examined every time I'm searched." -California inmate to Amnesty International
- Over half of the facilities reported more than 2.5 assaults per 100 inmates in a one year period, while nearly 30 percent of the facilities reported 5 assaults per 100 inmates. Approximately, 12 percent of these facilities had rates of at least 10 assaults per 100 inmates. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/243901.pdf>
- Sexual abuse is rampant in U.S. prisons and 12 states still have no laws prohibiting sexual contact between the prisoners and the officers: Alabama, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin
- <http://faculty.webster.edu/woolfilm/prisons.html>
- For example, Felitti and colleagues (1998) found that, compared to men, nearly twice as many women experienced three or more adverse childhood experiences (ACE's), such as psychological, physical, and sexual abuse (e.g., 17.2% of women experienced three or more ACE categories compared to 8.9% of men). Felitti and Anda (2010) found that women were 50% more likely than men to have experienced five or more categories of ACE's than men
- https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/2f3f/708a567d3fd9512d2a739f2583f5132c7115.pdf?_ga=2.24318642.965342370.1573525657-584649634.1573525657
- Each year, 900 women use these 29 beds to get clean.
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- "...9 out of 10 female prisoners are drug addicts" A World Apart: Women, Prison, and Life Behind Bars By Cristina Rathbone