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Annotated Bibliography

References

**Ainsworth, S.L., & Roth, R. (2015). “If they hand you a paper, you sign it”: A call to**

**end the sterilization of women in prison. *Hastings Women’s Law Journal*,**

**(26)7, 7-49.**

The authors, an independent researcher and the Director of Legal Advocacy at National Advocates for Pregnant Women, argue that prisoners cannot adequately give consent for sterilization procedures due to prison’s oppressive structure. This work examines the history of eugenic sterilization in the United States, ways in which prisoners are currently coerced into sterilization, and medical ethical guidelines on prisoner sterilization to call for the abolition of sterilizations on prisoners. Ainsworth and Roth use transcripts from court cases, former prisoner testimonies, written penal policies and laws, and extensive historical research to contextualize modern sterilization as an extension of the eugenics movement. While certainly not alone in arguing against forced sterilization, the authors contribute the somewhat unique argument that prisoners cannot consent to sterilization, and also effectively meld personal stories and legal analysis to paint a full picture of the issues surrounding prisoner sterilization.

**Coutts, S., & Greenberg, Z. (2015). Women, incarcerated. *Prison Legal News,* 26(6),**

**1-17. Retrieved from** [**https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/issue/26/6/**](https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/issue/26/6/)

The authors, writers for the advocacy organization RH Reality Check, conducted interviews with incarcerated women and analyzed data from other advocacy organizations to gain insight into the systemic abuses women face while in prison, especially in relation to pregnancy and childbirth. Using the personal stories told by prisoners, the authors successfully depict how the prison guards’ and medical providers’ arbitrary treatment of pregnant women leads to unnecessary health risks, human rights’ violations and, in extreme cases, miscarriages and stillbirths. In addition, the article focuses on drug use and former addiction among mothers, and how prisons drug-related programs affect post-prison experiences of motherhood. This focus on drug addiction programs provides much needed data and insight on how drug addiction affects experiences of pregnancy in prison.

**Kraft-Stolar, T. (2015). Reproductive injustice: The state of reproductive health**

**care for women in New York state prisons. Retrieved from**

[**http://www.correctionalassociation.org/resource/reproductive-injustice**](http://www.correctionalassociation.org/resource/reproductive-injustice)

Members of the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York interviewed 950 incarcerated women, reviewed medical charts and analyzed data from over 1,550 surveys over a five year period in order to identify specific reproductive problems and positive aspects of care in the New York state prison system, and make explicit policy recommendations for the legislature and prison authorities. The report found that while women had some positive experiences, overall the system lacked oversight and failed to provide adequate care in many cases dealing with general reproductive health care, care for pregnant women, treatment during labor, and several other areas. The Correctional Association of New York’s findings can be used as a base for further research and advocacy work in other states, and has given explicit insight into how policies affect incarcerated women in a variety of ways.

**Levi, R., Kunakemakorn, N., Rodriguez, S., Horan, A., Hashemi, A., Welleck, A., …**

**Karmali, A. (2009). Prisons as a tool of reproductive oppression. *Stanford***

***Journal of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties,* 5(2), 309-356.**

The authors, all participants in the Human Rights Program at Justice Now, conducted surveys and interviews with women inside the California prison system between 2004 and 2007 in order to ascertain specific barriers to reproductive justice and the scope of these barriers. Combined with data obtained during the same period from advocacy organizations within California, the authors describe how California prisons overuse hysterectomies, routinely do not obtain informed consent for the procedure, and provide poor reproductive health care. The authors contextualize these findings within the history of eugenics in the United States, examine potential legal opportunities to instigate change, and conclude by recommending specific reforms. This article contributes a strong argument that the modern prison-industrial complex is a continuation of the eugenics movement, emphasizing a racial analysis of direct and indirect sterilization practices.

**Roth, R. (2004). Do prisoners have abortion rights? *Feminist Studies,* 30(2), 353-381.**

The author, a Fellow at Ibis Reproductive Health, surveyed state corrections policies on abortion in order to provide a more complete national overview of the state of incarcerated women’s access to abortion services. The author then combines this data with an analysis of court decisions and public discourse on abortion in order to recommend particular strategies and points for reform. This article provides much needed data on states’ often-elusive abortion policies, and to what degree those policies are upheld, providing a good foundation for continued research on abortion access in prison and for the development of more effective advocacy practices.

**Roth, R. (2004). Searching for the state: Who governs prisoners’ reproductive**

**rights? *Social Politics*, 11(3), 411-438.**

The author, a Fellow at Ibis Reproductive Health, investigates the ambiguity of “the state” in relation to imprisoned women’s reproductive rights in the United States using court cases and personal stories from incarcerated women who experienced difficulties obtaining abortions and maintaining healthy pregnancies. She concludes that decentralization and discretion in the state apparatus leads to the treatment of reproductive rights as nonessential, despite contrary legal precedent, and presents distinct challenges to incarcerated women’s ability to exercise their reproductive rights. Examining the individual processes incarcerated women go through to obtain an abortion adds a practical lens to scholarly work that largely uses more broad, legal frameworks in their critiques.