Pregnancy and Postpartum Outcomes Act

Why Kentucky needs public, standardized reporting for its prisons and jails

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reason FOUNDATION

Today, problems surface through lawsuits, not public reports

What a pending lawsuit alleges (Madison County, 2023)



Booked at 37 weeks, on methadone

Says she went 5 days without it

Day 5: taken to UK Hospital

Baby stillborn

No public report would have flagged this.

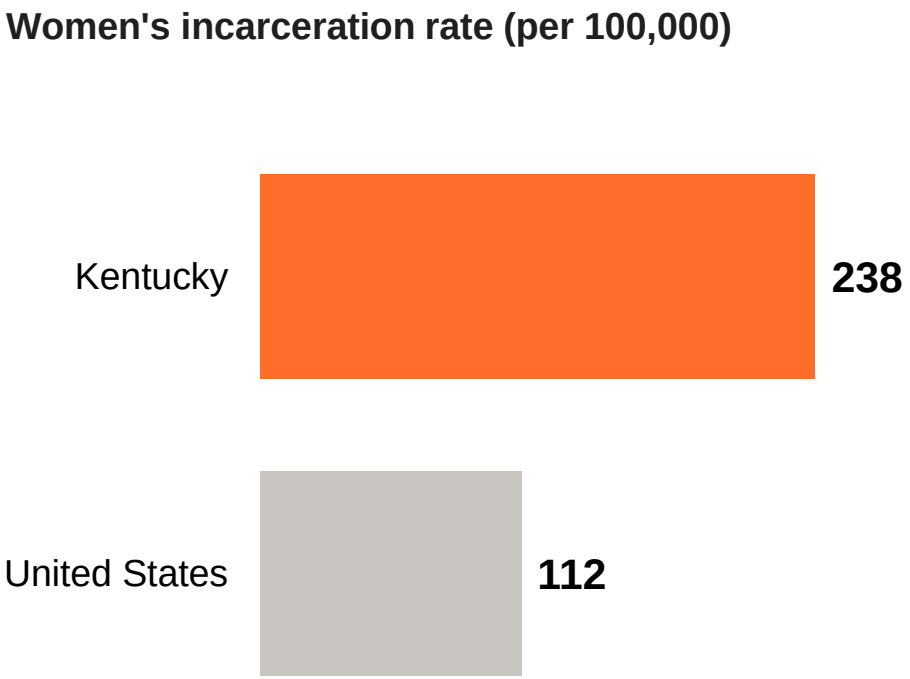
Case pending. No one has been found liable.

Frymyer v. Madison County Detention Center, No. 5:24-cv-290 (E.D. Ky.), pending

Kentucky jails women at twice the U.S. rate, so more pregnancies happen in custody

1,200+

pregnant women enter U.S. prisons and jails each year



Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Prison Policy Initiative (2025)

Pregnancy data in custody isn't public, comparable, or independent

Not public

Records stay inside facilities.

Not comparable

No shared standard across 77 jails.

Not independent

Facilities check their own work.

The fix: public reporting on every stage of pregnancy in custody

Reporting on Incarceration, Pregnancy, and Postpartum Outcomes Act



Identified | Prenatal care | Response time | Delivery | Postpartum

Every facility. Same measures. Every quarter.

Kentucky set good rules, but needs to improve its transparency regarding implementation



2018

First Dignity Bill

Limits shackling

2021

SB 84

Bans solitary during pregnancy

2027

Pregnancy and Postpartum Reporting Act

SB 84 sets standards but publishes nothing on pregnancy care

What SB 84 requires

- ✔ No solitary
- ✔ Social worker referral
- ✔ 72 hours with newborn
- ✔ Community programs

Pregnancy and Postpartum Act

- ✔ Pregnancy Count
- ✔ Prenatal care
- ✔ Response times
- ✔ Outcomes

DOC's 2025 report: flu shots and HIV tests, but no pregnancy data.