

# Detailing Re-Entry Challenges Faced By Formerly Incarcerated Women

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## RATIONALE

Incarceration is widely utilized by various developed countries as means of rehabilitation and to fulfill the philosophical goal of deterrence. Prison systems were first built to fulfill the needs of men and most well-established re-entry programs tend to the needs of men due to that reason. Re-entry programs were a great innovation to allow an easier transition into societal life and decrease the recidivism rates. I was curious to see whether the re-entry programs in Texas are well-equipped to help the formerly incarcerated women as their needs are distinct in various categories from the men's. My past research involved identifying the major needs of the formerly incarcerated women and in this research, I decided to delve into the various re-entry programs around Texas to see if the needs identified by women are being met at these programs and exploring the reasons that surround these issues.

## METHODS

When searching for databases, I came across multiple roadblocks as the data was limited relating to incarceration and statistics after incarceration. However, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) published an extensive report on the prisoner re-entry challenges in 2008 that conducted a survey to identify the formerly incarcerated women's needs. Through this, we were able to extrapolate various data points and make conclusions

Texas Criminal Justice Coalition. (2008).

"Practitioners' Perceptions of Prisoner Re-Entry Challenges," Austin, TX

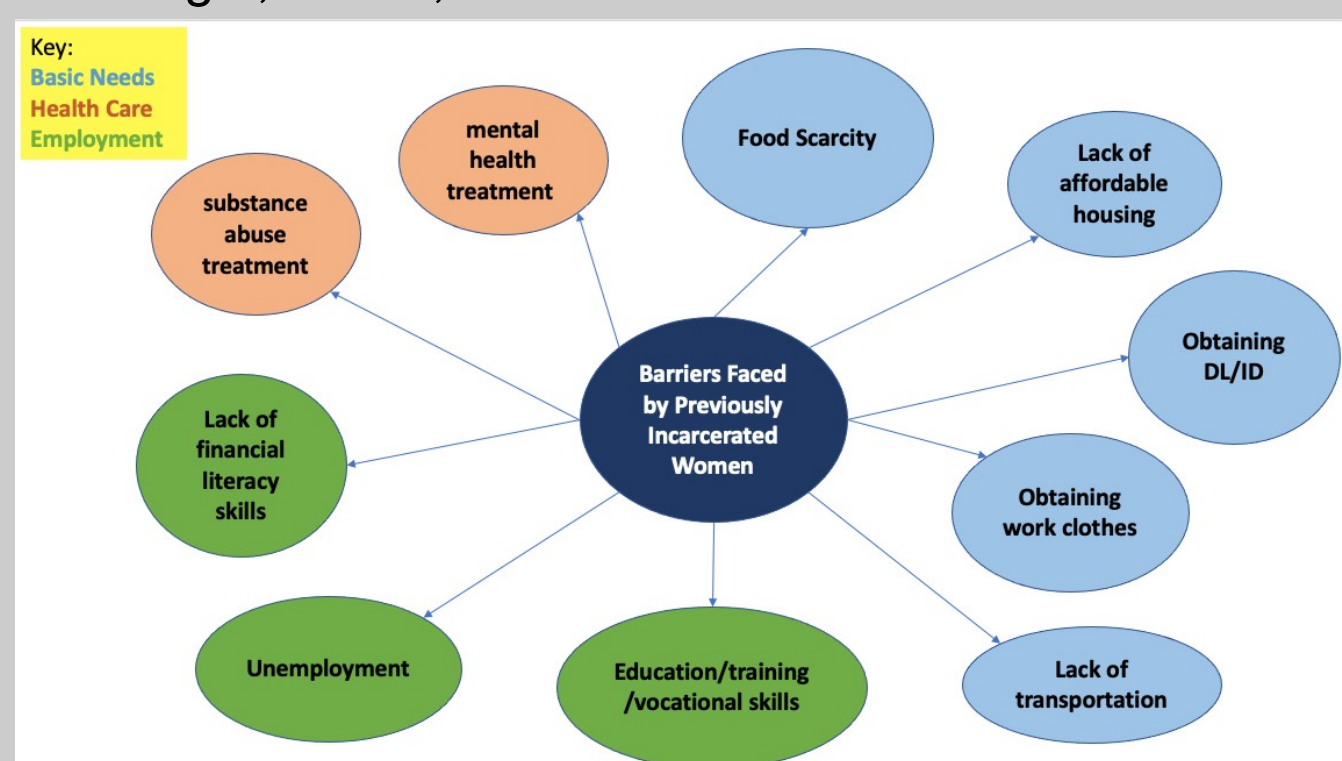


Figure 5: Major Barriers Faced By Previously Incarcerated Women divided by colors to group them into categories of needs. Data was extrapolated from the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC)

## RESULTS

Previous Work: I interviewed experts who worked with formerly incarcerated women to gauge the common barriers faced by these women and extrapolated them using alluvial plots.

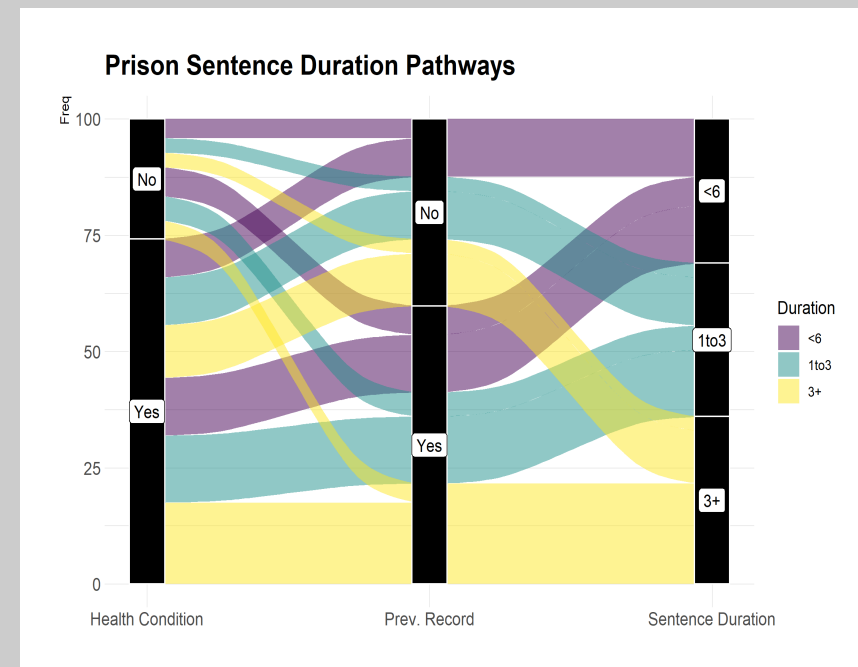


Figure 1: Alluvial Plot for Prison Duration

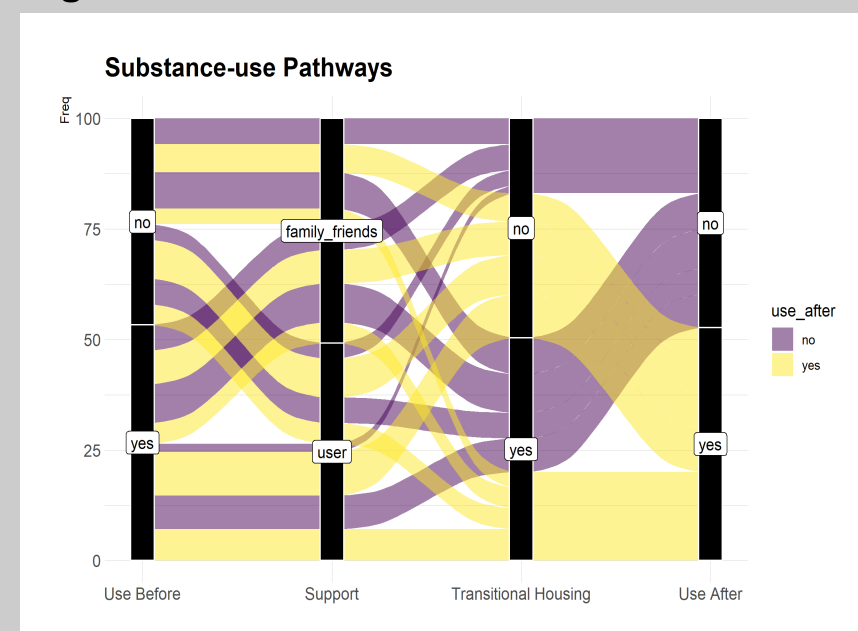


Figure 3: Alluvial Plot for Substance-use

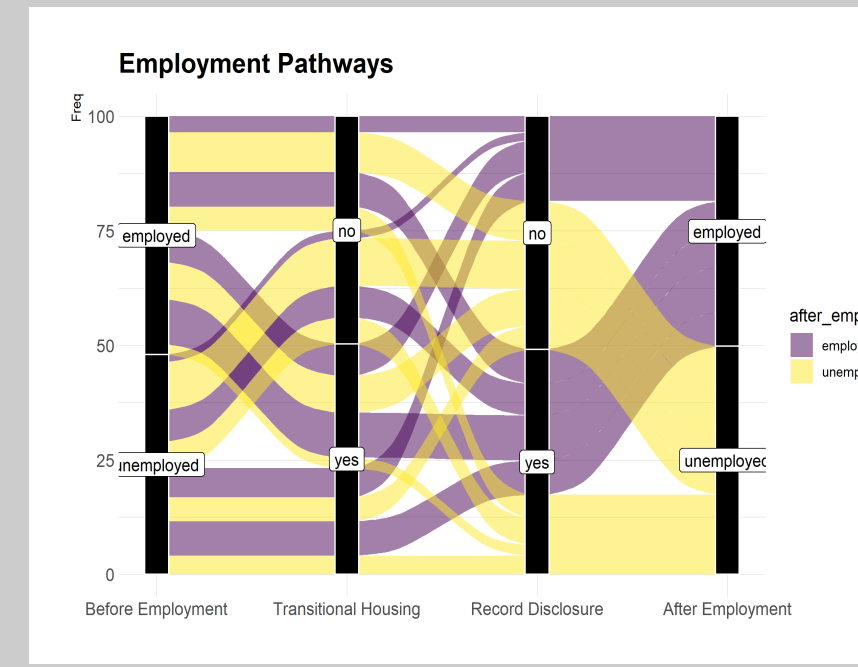


Figure 2: Alluvial Plot for Employment

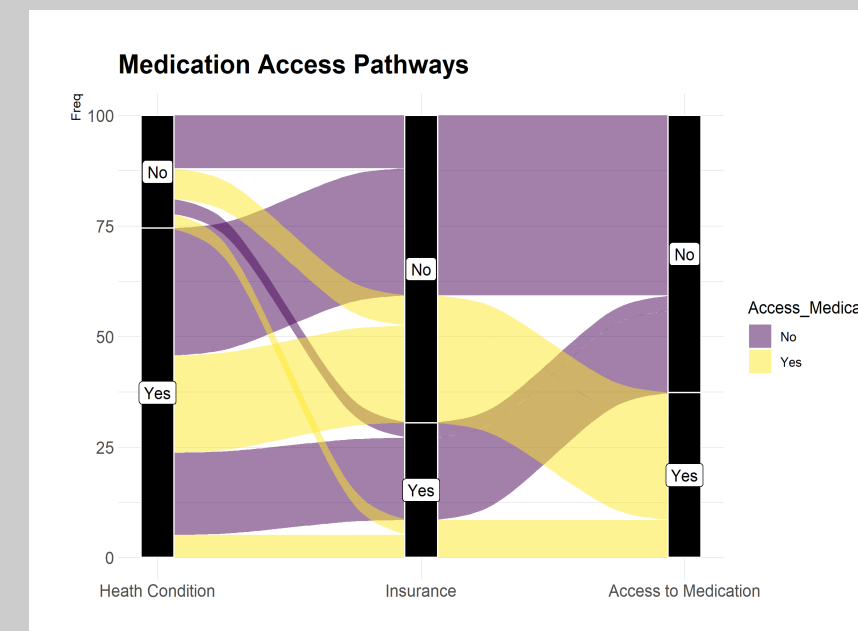


Figure 4: Alluvial Plot for Medication Access

Recent Findings: I extrapolated the data from Texas Criminal Justice Coalition that extensively details the state of Texas Re-entry programs and its various research findings.

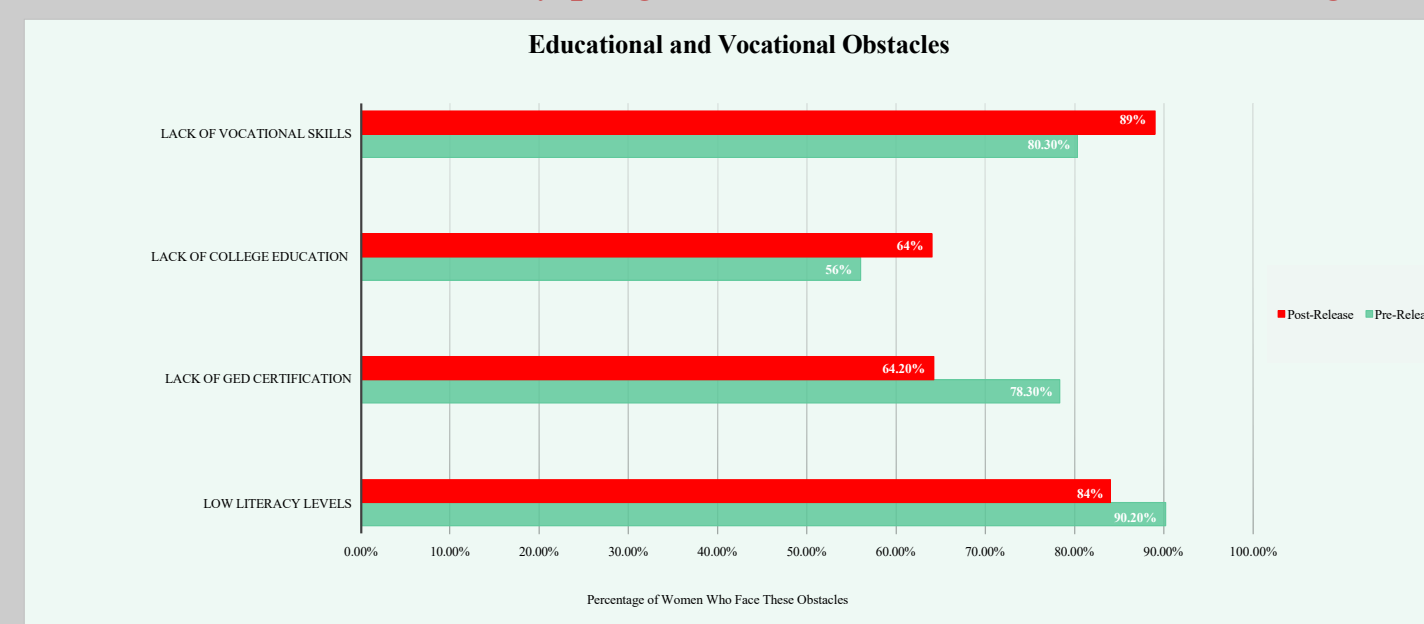


Figure 6: Educational and Vocational Obstacles before and after release from Jail

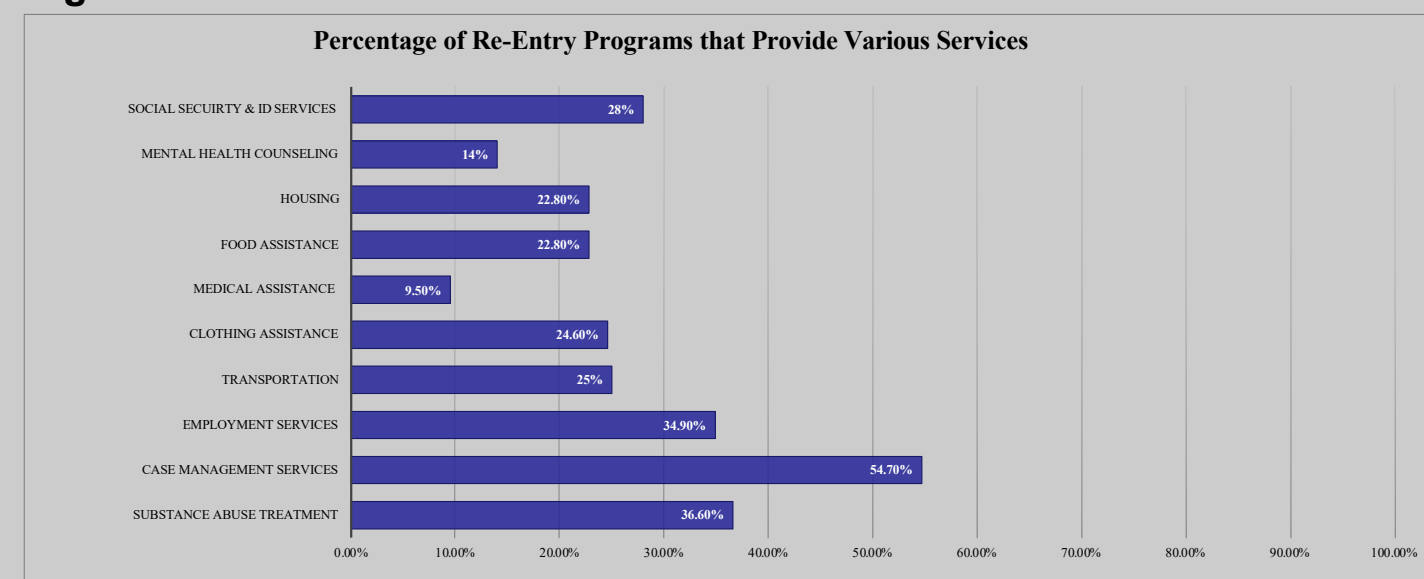


Figure 7: Percentage of Re-Entry Programs that Provide Services for the Women (n=234)

## CONCLUSIONS

My previous work showed that women are barely given any chance to get a second chance at a normal life after being released from jail. After looking at various re-entry programs around Texas, the educational and vocational obstacles got worse when the women were released from jail. Moreover, the absolute necessary needs that I identified in my previous work were the least prevalent in the re-entry programs around Texas. Also, one of the ways that men's needs differ from women's needs is the disparate need for childcare. It was shocking to see the lack of childcare services provided around Texas. Moreover, the data about funding resources was included to identify that the second biggest funding resource comes from the fees that these women are required to pay to access the resources.

## FUTURE WORK

Upon approval of our IRB, we hope to interview professionals that have worked with formerly incarcerated women to get their expert opinion on the major societal barriers faced by these women. We also plan to collect anonymous survey responses from the residents of Angela House to gauge the extent of re-entry services available for the formerly incarcerated population. We will use this data to plan various intervention pathways that can bring more awareness to the issue.

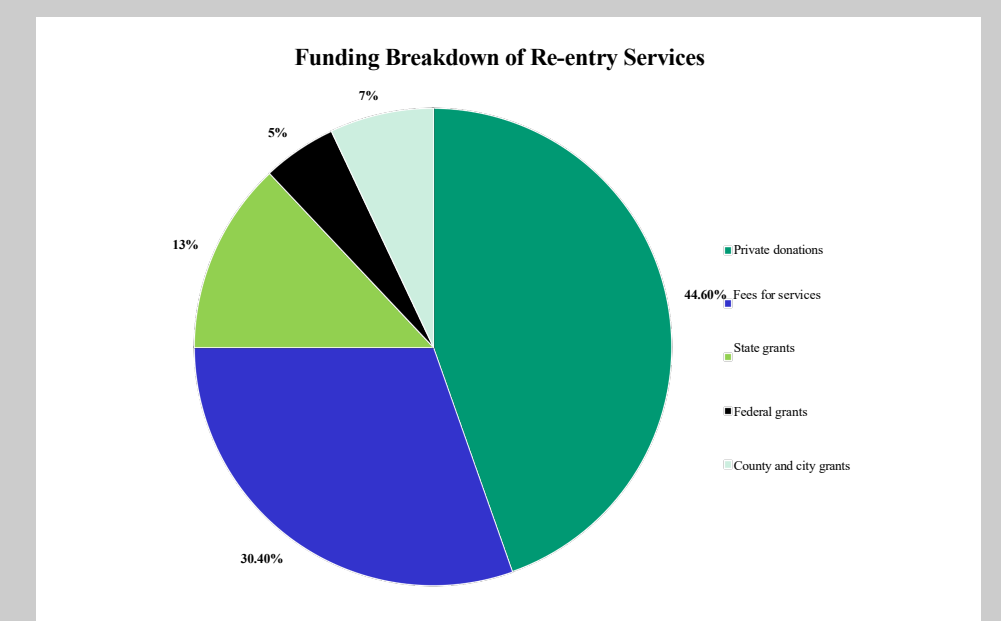


Figure 8: Funding Breakdown of Re-Entry Services around Texas