

Responsive Parenting Support During the Prison Nursery and Reentry Years

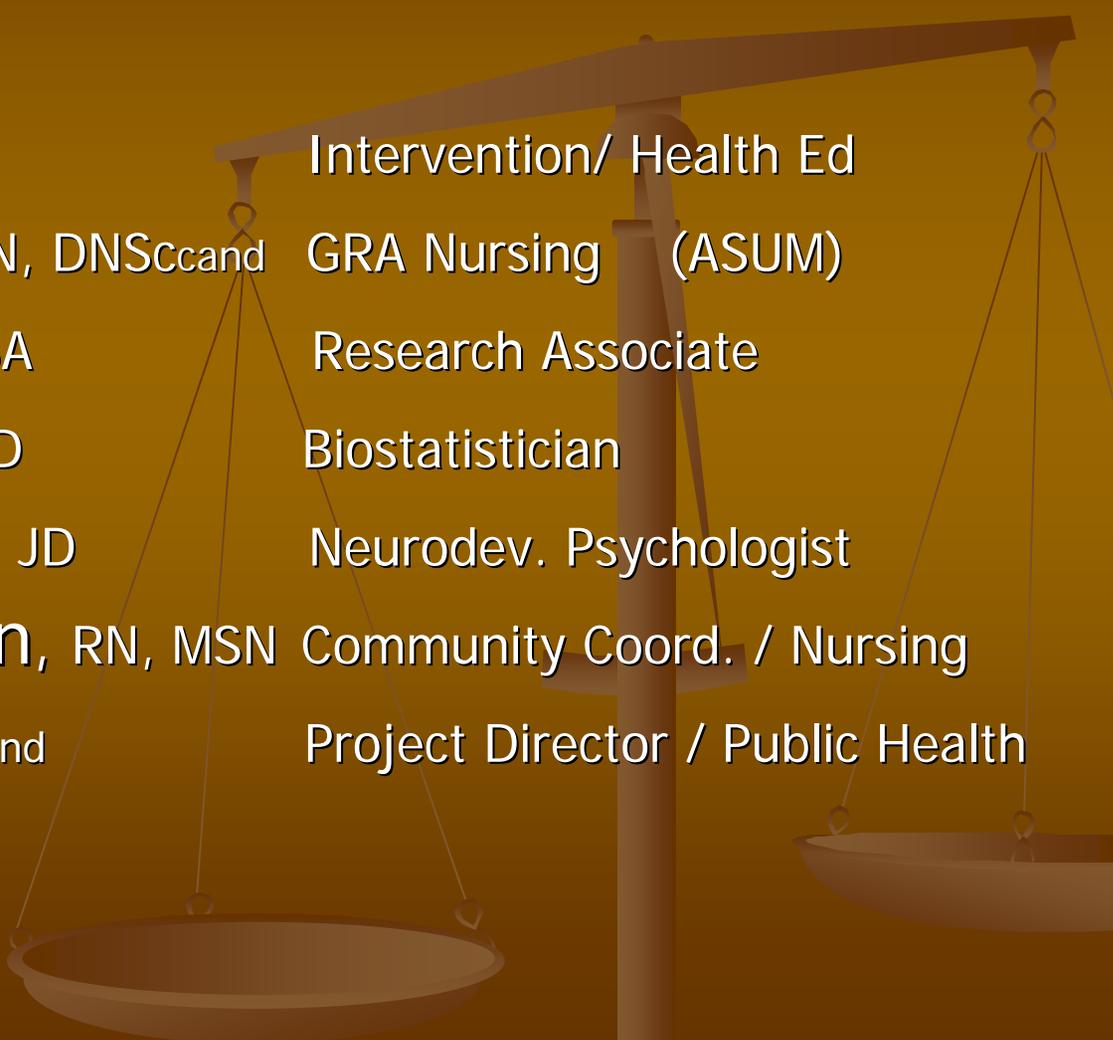
Highlights from a study in progress:
“Maternal and Child Outcomes of a Prison Nursery Program”
(RO1NR00782-04)



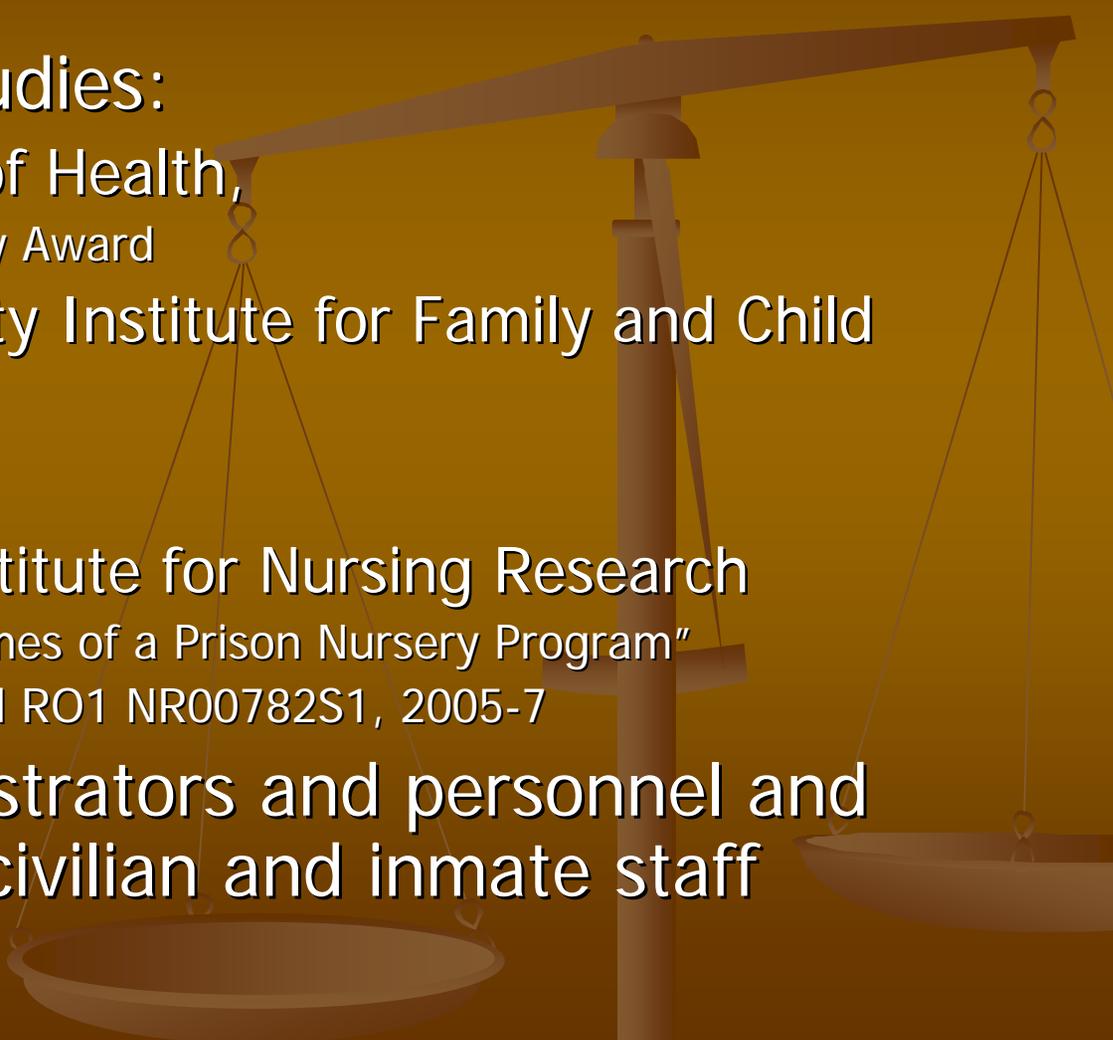
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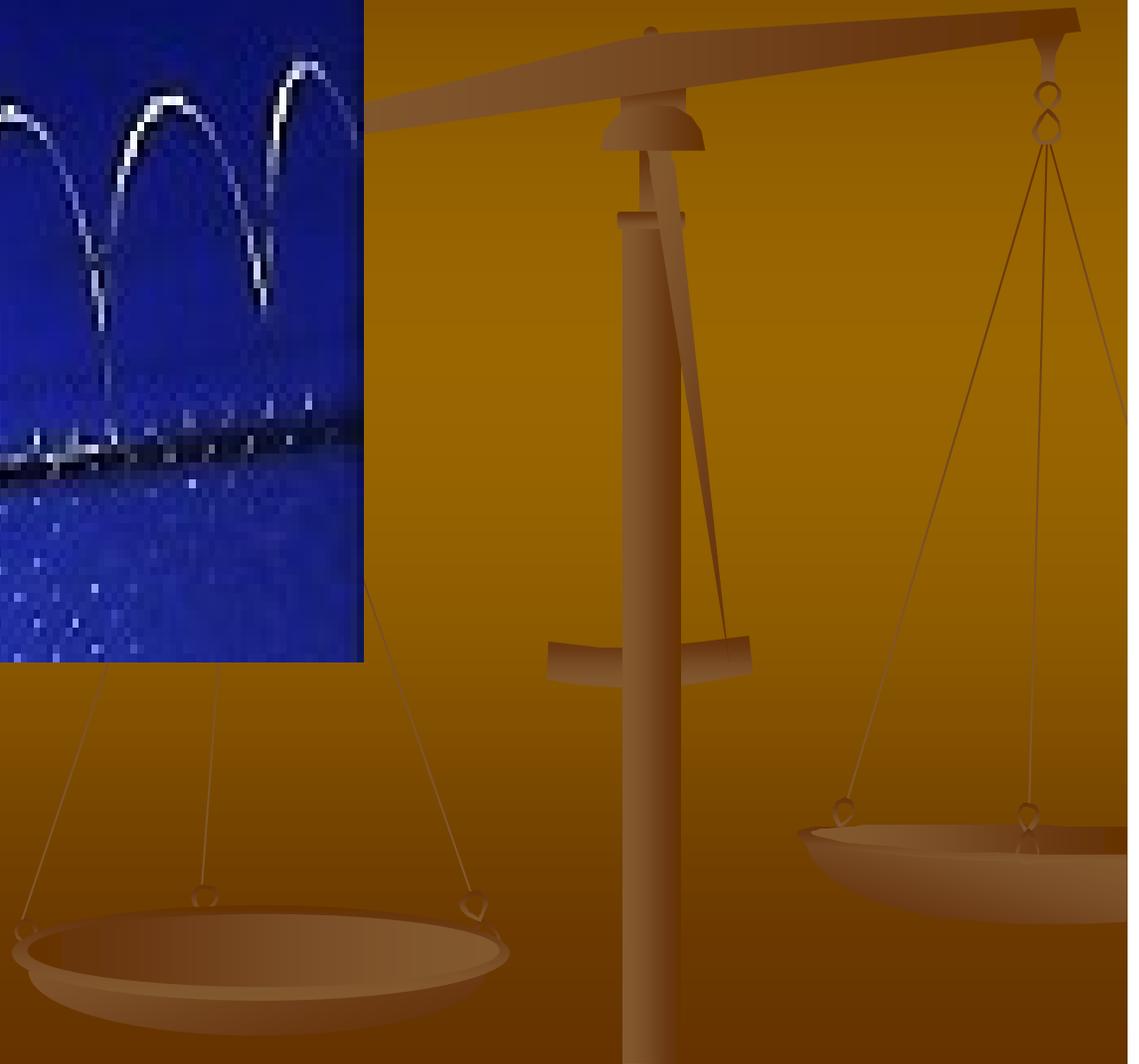
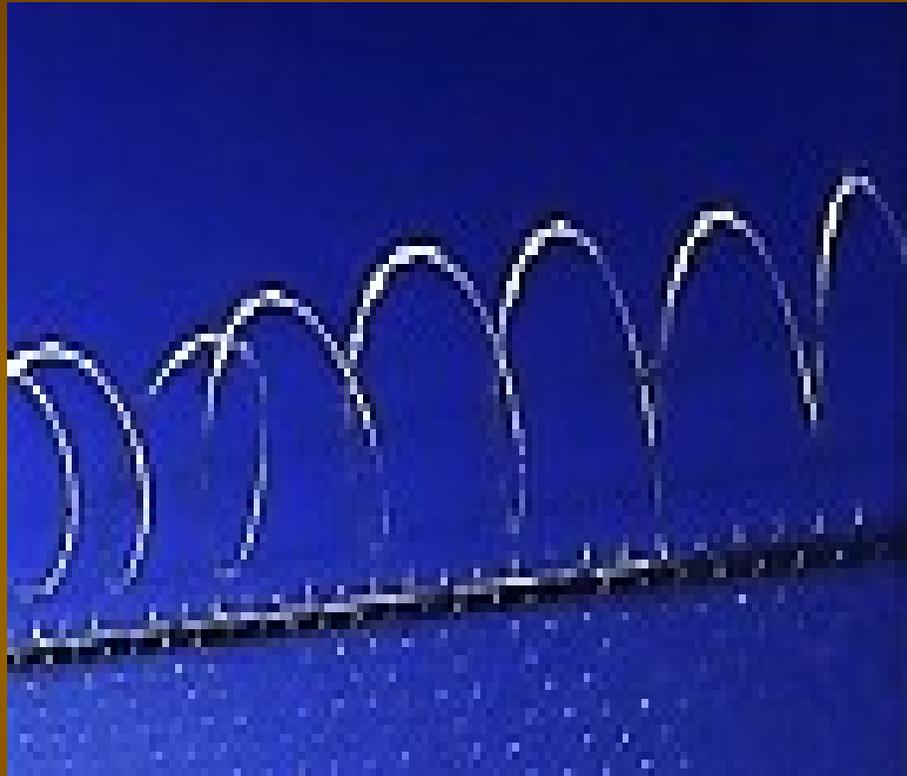
Research Team

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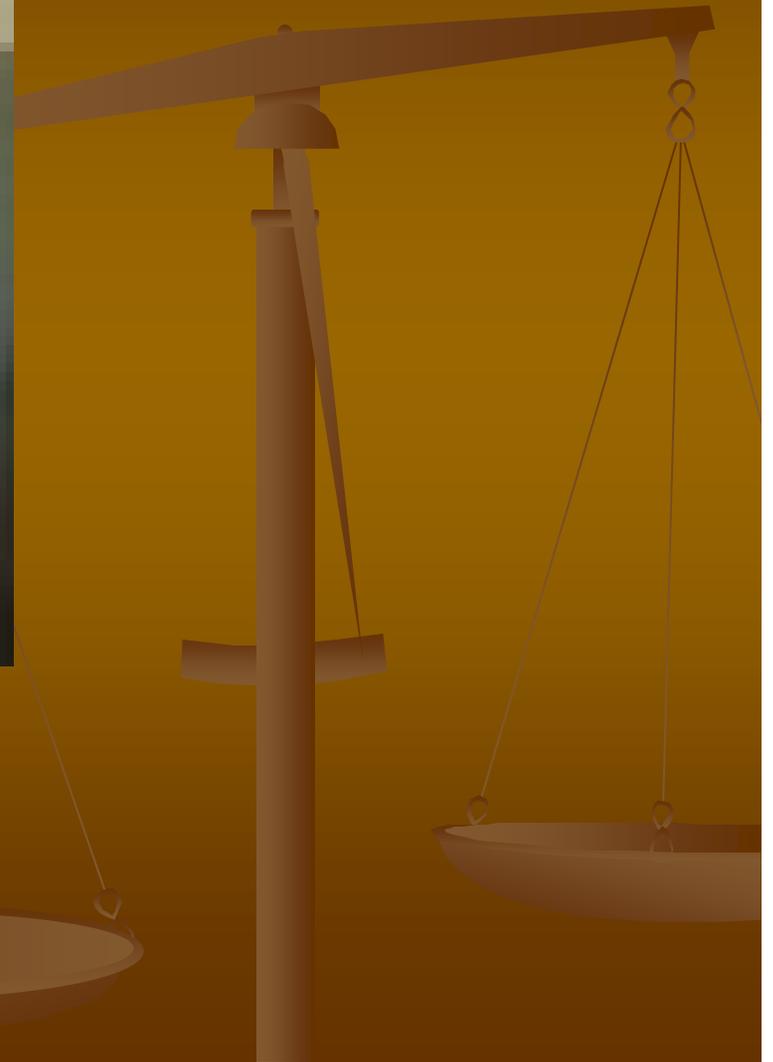
Acknowledgments: Funders and Supporters

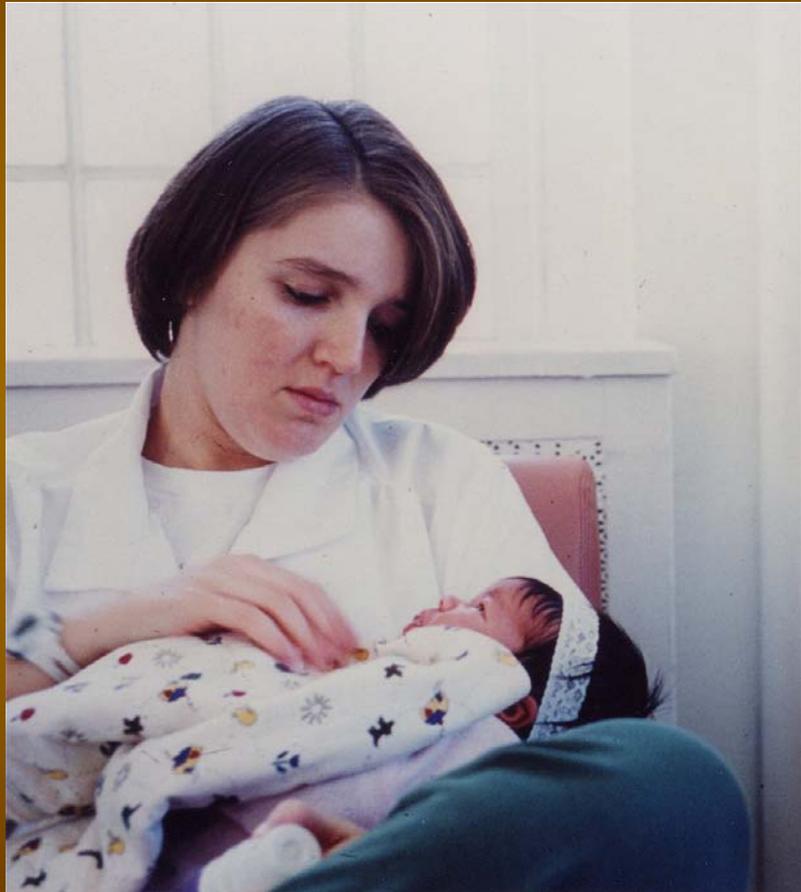


- Cross-sectional studies:
 - NYS Department of Health,
Commissioner's Priority Award
 - Columbia University Institute for Family and Child
Research
- Current study:
 - NIH / National Institute for Nursing Research
"Maternal and Child Outcomes of a Prison Nursery Program"
RO1 NR00782, 2003-7 and RO1 NR00782S1, 2005-7
- NYS DOCS administrators and personnel and
Children's Center civilian and inmate staff



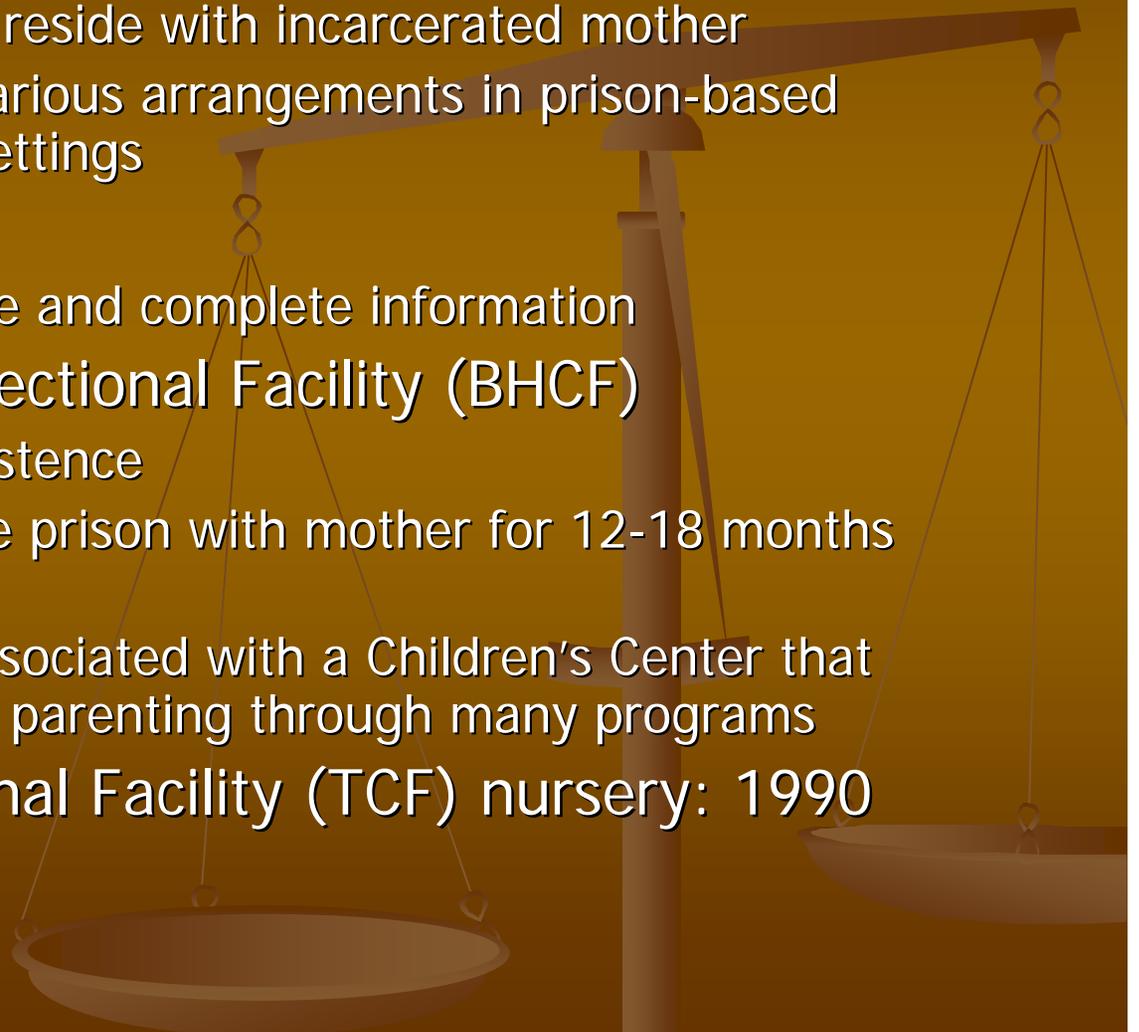




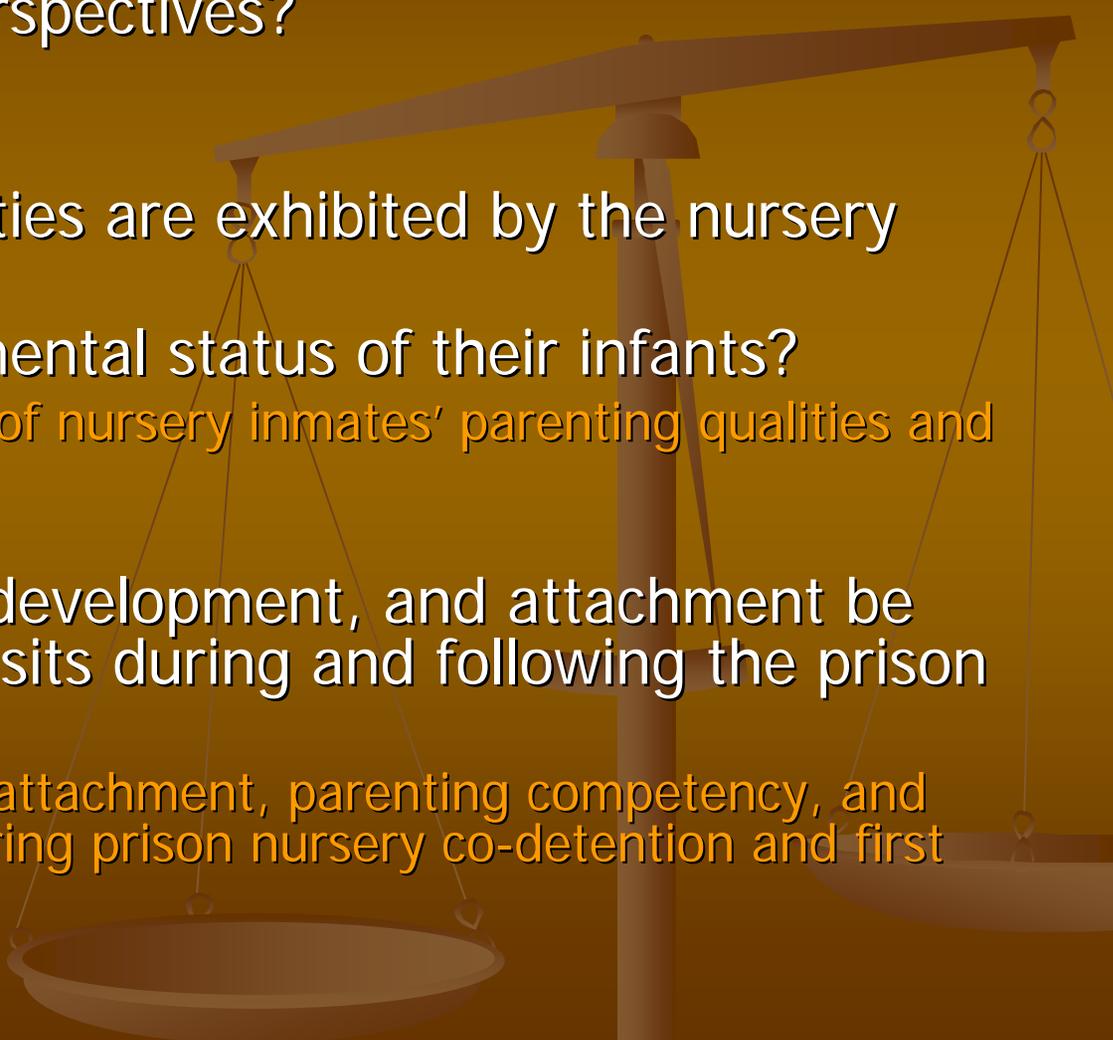


Setting: Prison Nursery

- “Prison Nursery”
 - Infants / children reside with incarcerated mother
 - Term describes various arrangements in prison-based and community settings
- Exist globally
 - Dearth of accurate and complete information
- Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (BHCF)
 - 100+ years in existence
 - Infant stays inside prison with mother for 12-18 months of her sentence
 - For 30+ years, associated with a Children’s Center that supports distance parenting through many programs
- Taconic Correctional Facility (TCF) nursery: 1990



Research Questions and Approaches

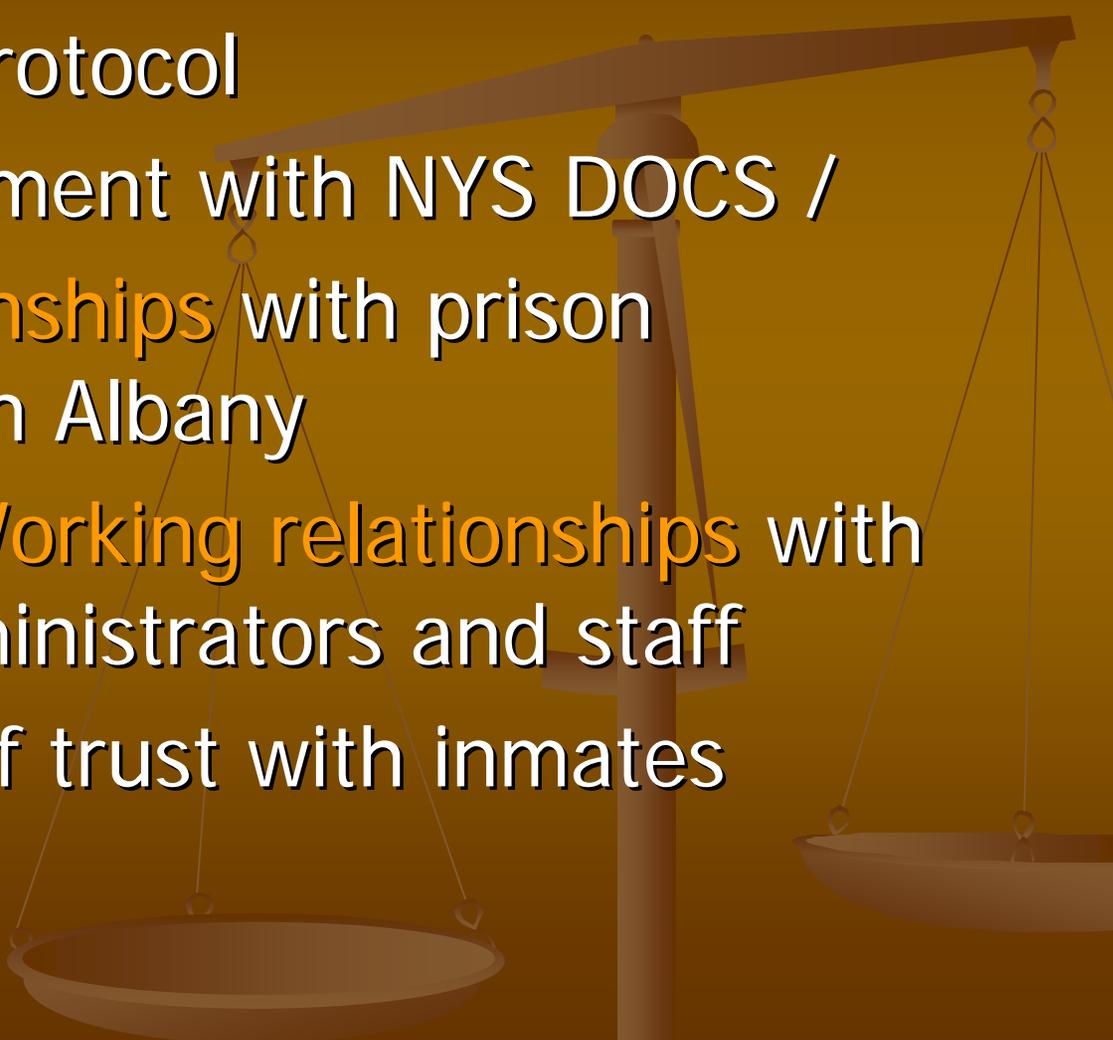


- What is the culture of a prison nursery from mother, staff and provider perspectives?
 - Ethnographic study
- What parenting qualities are exhibited by the nursery mothers, and what is the developmental status of their infants?
 - Cross-sectional study of nursery inmates' parenting qualities and infants' development
- Can parenting, child development, and attachment be enhanced by nurse visits during and following the prison nursery experience?
 - Longitudinal study of attachment, parenting competency, and child development during prison nursery co-detention and first re-entry year

Multiple Methods

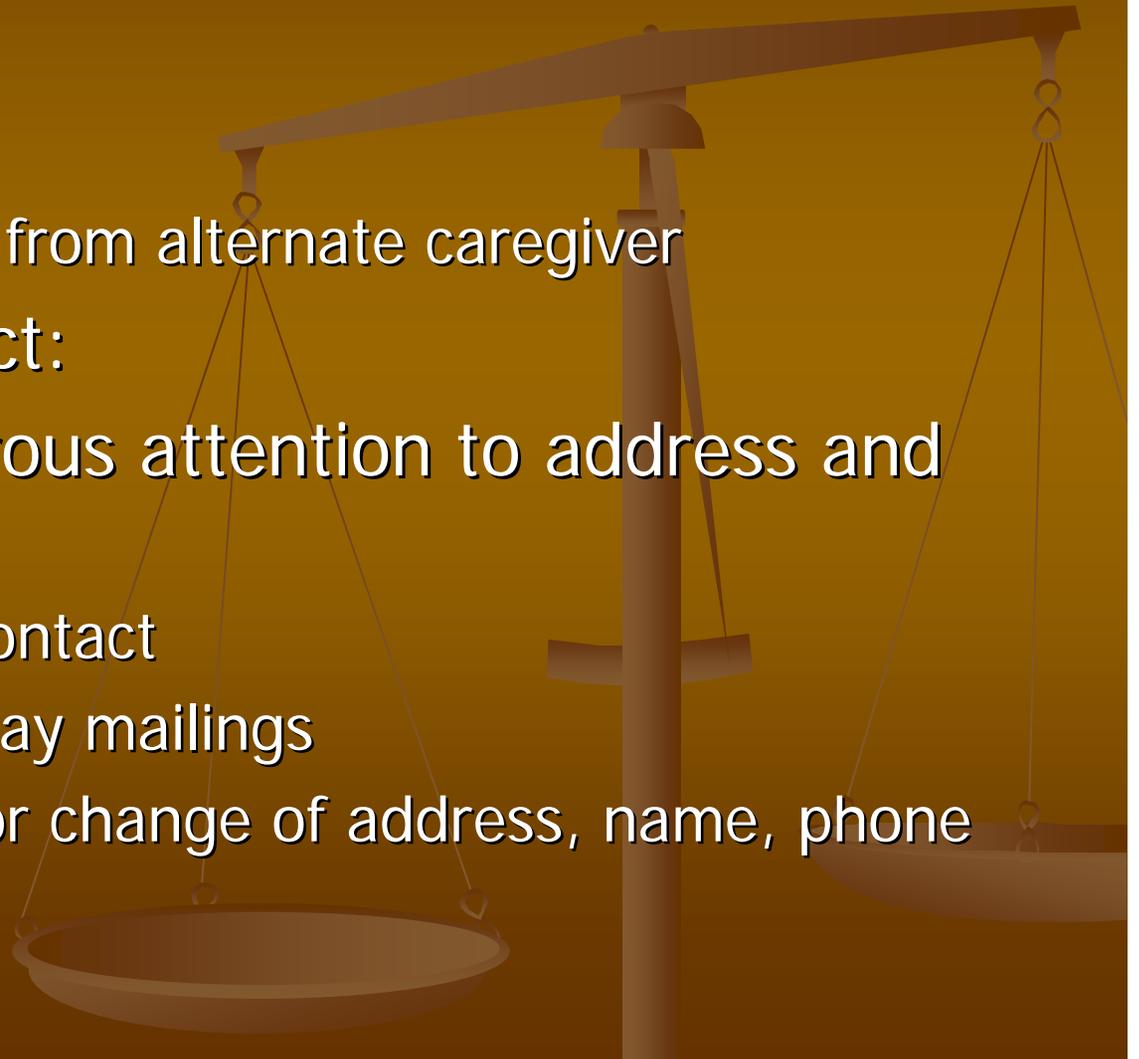
	Ethnographic	Cross-Sectional	Longitudinal
Participant Observation	Broad Selected Focused (Spradley, 1979)	Informal	Informal
Interview	Open ended Conversational Semi-structured (Spradley, 1980)	Semi-structured	Adult Attachment Interview
Developmental Assessments		Denver II Early Language Milestone Cat/Clams	Bayley Scales
Questionnaires		SF36, CES-D, SES, SSQ, EWB, abuse, PSI, PSOC, CAPI	CES-D SSQ PSOC WGK
Other		Videotaping. Prison records Medical records	NP / HE visits Video review / coding SSP: Lab attachment measure

Getting the research team inside and staying there

- IRB approved protocol
 - Research agreement with NYS DOCS / **Working relationships** with prison administrators in Albany
 - Agreements / **Working relationships** with local prison administrators and staff
 - Establishment of trust with inmates
 - Funding
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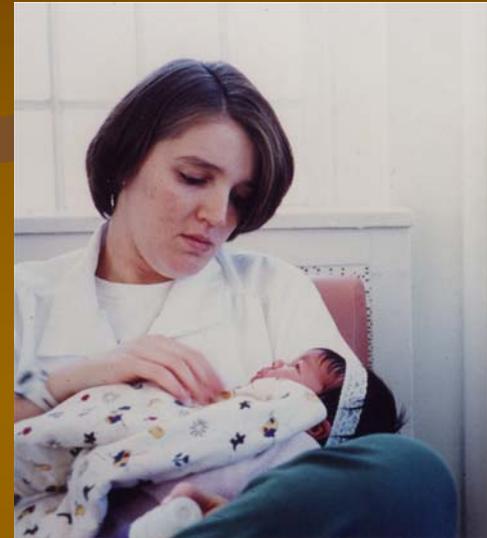
Retaining long-term participants and following them on the outside

- Building on trust
 - Informed consent from alternate caregiver
- Maintaining contact:
Creative and vigorous attention to address and phone changes
 - Frequent phone contact
 - Birthday and holiday mailings
 - Timely requests for change of address, name, phone



Longitudinal Sample to Date

- N=100 dyads (100% of target)
- Maternal age
 - 18 to 45 years; mean 28 (+/- 6.5)
- Maternal race/ethnicity
 - Varies by source of data
 - 39% Black, 34% White, 21% Hispanic, 6% biracial
- Infant age now
 - 3 months to 47 months



Data Collection Settings

- PRISON

- Recreation room
- Inmate cell
- Child Care Center

- COMMUNITY

- One or more private homes following reentry
- Transitional housing
- Office of Family and Child Research







NIDA meeting aim #1: “Provide a picture...”

What do prison nursery studies add to emerging knowledge of children with incarcerated parents?

- Mother-child pairs who are not separated by mother’s imprisonment
 - Nursery inmate mothers and their babies are a small but **unique subset of incarcerated women who are not separated from at least one infant** whom they raise during their sentence from birth through up to one year, and sometimes longer.



What do prison nursery studies add....cont'd

- Broader, richer, scientifically accurate descriptions
 - even demographic reports are sparse
 - past nursery studies: short-term, small convenience samples, little contextual data

- Models of relationships to do research of significance to inmates

Byrne, M. (2005) Conducting research as a visiting scientist in a women's prison. Journal of Professional Nursing. 21(4), 223-230.

US ponders unlocking the gates to prisoner research. Nature Medicine 12, 3 (2006)

- Trials for interventions

NIDA meeting aim #2:

“Examine trajectories to target interventions”

What have we learned about family and child functioning of prison nursery participants that is amenable to intervention?

- Parenting values and cognitions are embedded in history and culture and are not inherently different for incarcerated women
 - Build on strengths
 - Observe, inform, model, reflect, repeat, and allow time for changes
 - Crisis of imprisonment can heighten reception to and support behavioral change
 - Reconcile dependence of prisoner status with empowerment of helping relationships
 - Resources crucial in prison and during reentry
 - Transition to reentry is critical
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NIDA meeting aim #3:

“Review theory-based prevention interventions”

What theoretical lenses have been useful to our programs?

- Choosing the Parenting Self

- Identification
- Integration
- Nourishment

- Attachment Theory

- Interrupting cross-generational insecure cycle

