

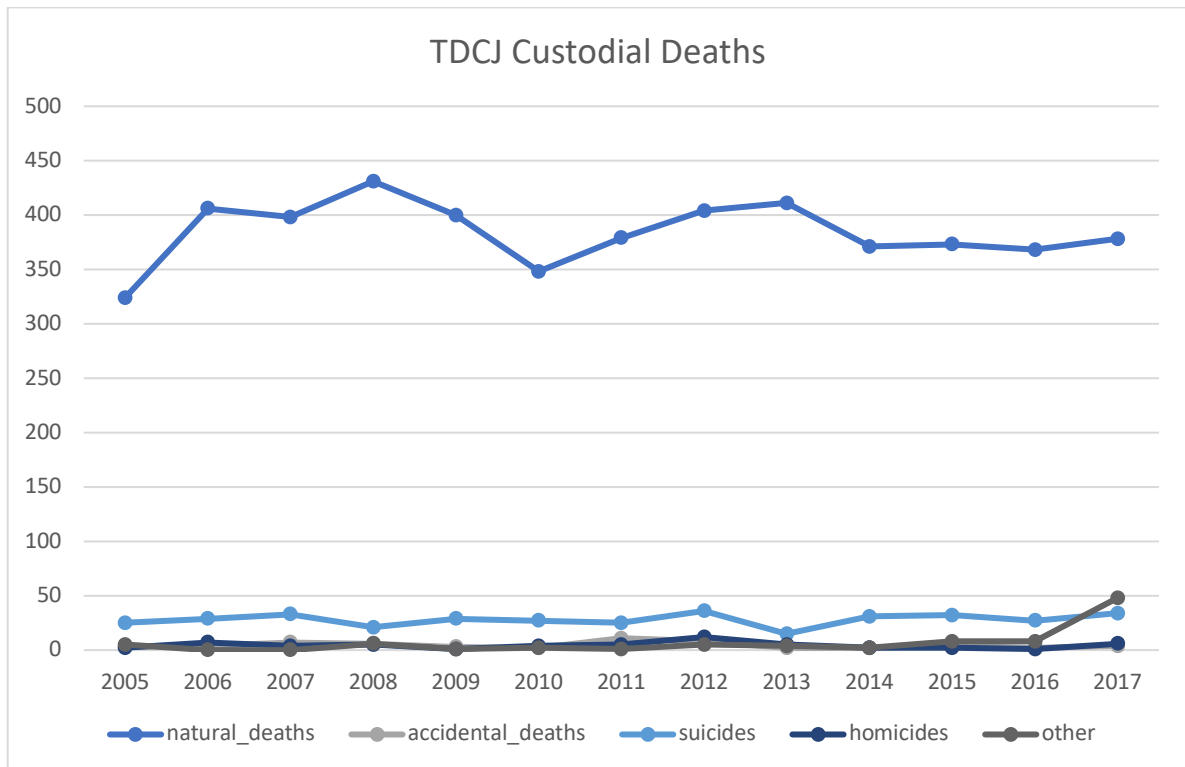
## Data for “Life and Death in a Carceral State”

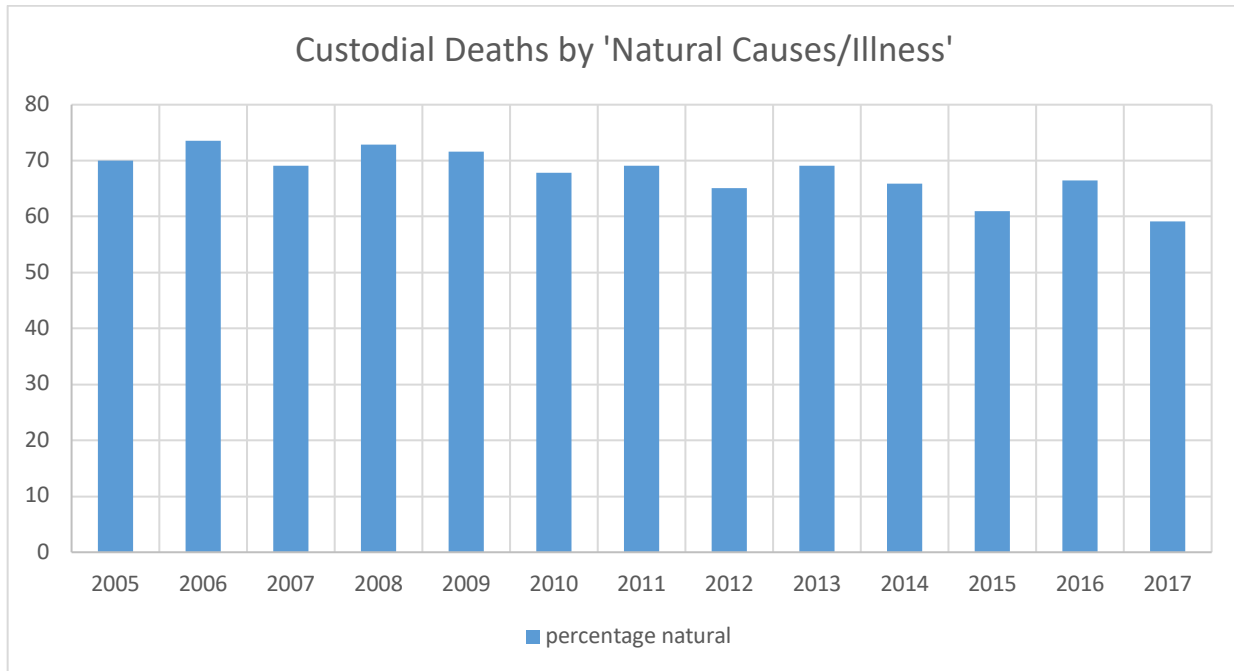
Prepared by the Texas Justice Initiative

### ‘Natural’ deaths in custody

Doug Smith spoke about natural deaths of individuals locked up by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. According to reports filed with the Texas Office of the Attorney General: *(NOTE – The cause of death on the reports can be incorrect or misleading, and is not changed to reflect relevant autopsy findings.)*

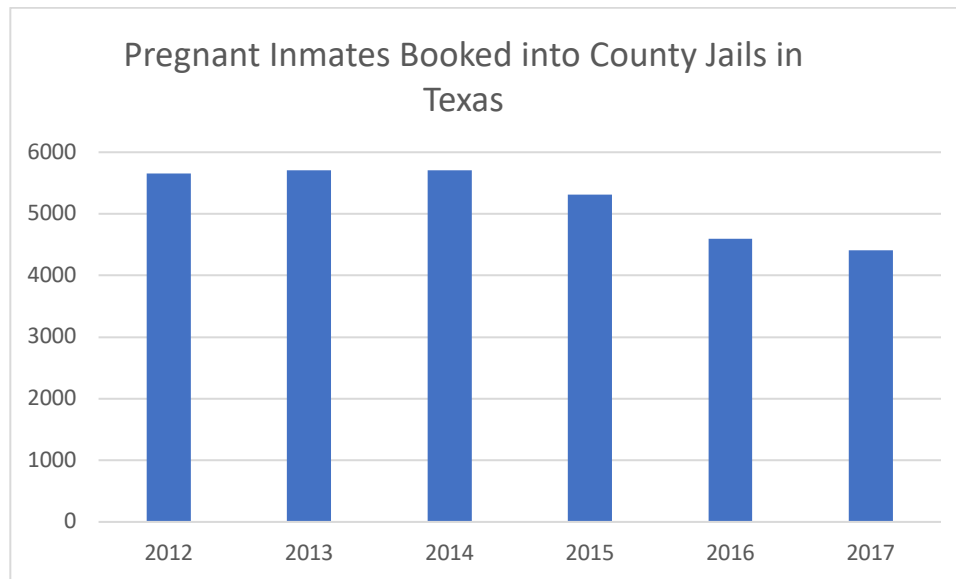
- On average, 459 people die in TDCJ custody every year, with an average of 416 each year attributed to “natural causes/illness” (not including 2018).
- 90% of deaths in prison are reportedly due to “natural causes”
- Since 2005, natural deaths have comprised between 59% and 74% of all custodial deaths; 68% on average.





## Pregnancy and birth behind bars

Lauren Johnson discussed her experience giving birth while incarcerated. According to reports filed monthly with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, an average of 5,232 pregnant women are booked into county jails each year. A 2009 statute mandates the counting of pregnant inmates in county jails, but for many years, county jails have been counting bookings of pregnant inmates, not inmate populations. Further complicating measuring the scope of pregnant inmates, the monthly population reports for county jails posted online do not break inmate populations down by gender.



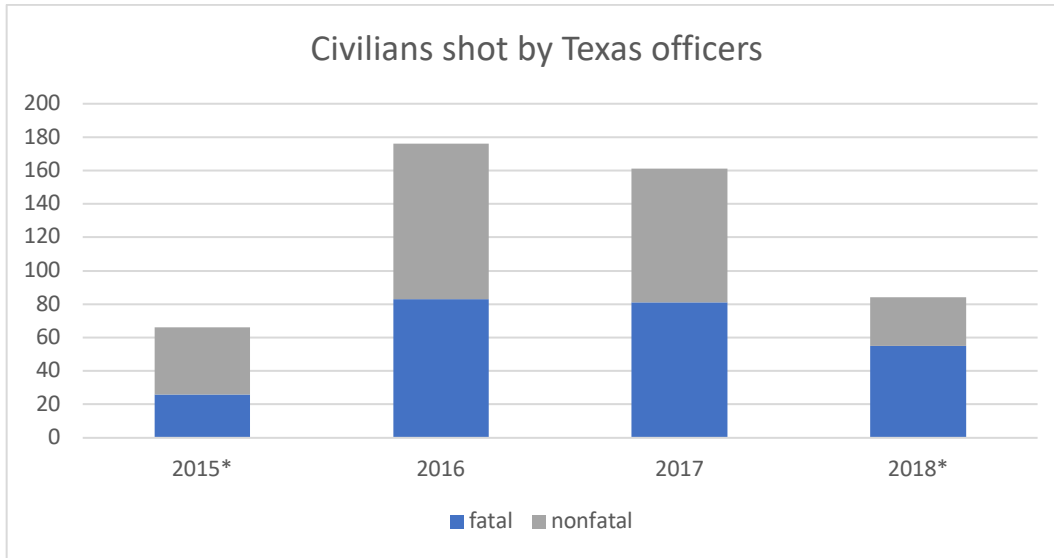
#### In 2016:

- Average daily population of females in county jails: 9,522
- 165 women gave birth (151 live births)
- 75 women had miscarriages
- Average length of stay of pregnant inmates: 21.4 days

#### Officer-involved shootings

Angela Brown and Sara Mokuria spoke about police shootings in Texas.

- In both 2016 and 2017, about 169 people were shot each year by Texas law enforcement, and about half of the shootings were fatal. Nationwide, about 1,000 people are fatally shot by law enforcement every year.
- 89% of OIS happen in Texas' urban areas
- Officers involved in shootings tend to be younger and more male than the overall population of licensed Texas law enforcement officers
- Data collected by the state since Sept. 1, 2015 shows that on average, Texas has six to seven fatal officer-involved shootings each month.



*\*2015 and 2018 incomplete*

- As reporting on deaths in Texas has become more robust throughout the past 12 years, fatal officer-involved shooting totals have increased. This may have been related to the changes in requirements over time.



### Harris County Jail deaths

Melanie Young spoke about the death of her brother, Vincent Young, in the Harris County Jail. Mr. Young’s death was classified as a suicide – he took his own life one week after he was arrested for drug possession, according to the county’s report on the death. His relatives dispute the suicide classification.

- Harris County has 16% of the state’s population
- Harris County SO is responsible for, on average, 10.6% of the state’s suicides in custody, based on the county’s reports
- On average, 48 people die in the custody of Harris County Sherriff’s Office per year, and 7 of those deaths are suicides. Most of these deaths take place before the person is booked in jail: on average, 5.7% of Harris County Sheriff’s Office’s deaths in custody are individuals who commit suicide in jail.
- The Harris County Jail reported three suicides occurred in 2017, when a total of 13 people died in jail and the average daily population was 8,422. For every 1,000 people jailed in 2017, there were 1.5 deaths.
- On average, 3 percent of the suicides in Texas jails occur in the Harris County Jail. About 13 percent of all state jail inmates are in the Harris County Jail.

