

## Menstrual Product Survey from Whitworth Women's Facility

### Overview

11 surveys were collected from women currently incarcerated at Whitworth Women's Facility. Length of stay at Whitworth ranged from 5 months to greater than 60 months, with the average being 19.3 months. Prior to their transfer to Whitworth, the women were held at 10 different local or county jails, with a length of stay ranging from 0.5 months to 12 months, the average being 5.5 months. 5/11 women were held in facilities in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Counties represented are shown in Figure 1. One respondent reported being post-menopausal and therefore did not contribute information of menstrual product availability at facilities.

### Experience at outside facility

9/11 responses stated that a specific facility provided menstrual products for free with a limited supply; 1/11 stated that a specific facility provided products for free without limit; 1/11 stated that products were available for purchase. Among those that reported a limited supply or having to purchase, 4/10 reported being restricted by number of products, 2/10 reported being restricted by time of distribution, and 4/10 reported being restricted by number of products and time of distribution. Examples are in Table 1.

Most respondents stated they did not have direct access to products at their local or county jail (9/10). 9/12 responses reported having to access products from a prison official, gender not specified. 1/12 reported having to access products from a female prison official, 1/12 reported having to ask a friend, 1/12 did not specify a source for products. When asked if they felt uncomfortable about requesting products, 4/8 responses reported feelings of embarrassment, 2/8 expressed apprehension in asking, 2/8 referenced the gender of the officers, and 3/8 expressed a perceived lack of regard from prison officials involved (*note that sum of numerator may exceed value of denominator as responses could be coded more than once*). When asked if they were allowed to store products for later use, 5/11 responses stated that storing products was not allowed, 1/11 stated that storing products was not allowed and reported enforcement, 3/11 stated that storing products was allowed, and 2/11 stated that storing products was allowed and reported limitations. Examples are in Table 2.

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*We often were made to feel like a burden for asking for more. It was very humiliating having to ask the men and nothing we could do if they chose not to or forgot.*  
- Respondent reporting experience at Telfair, Dodge facility asking for products

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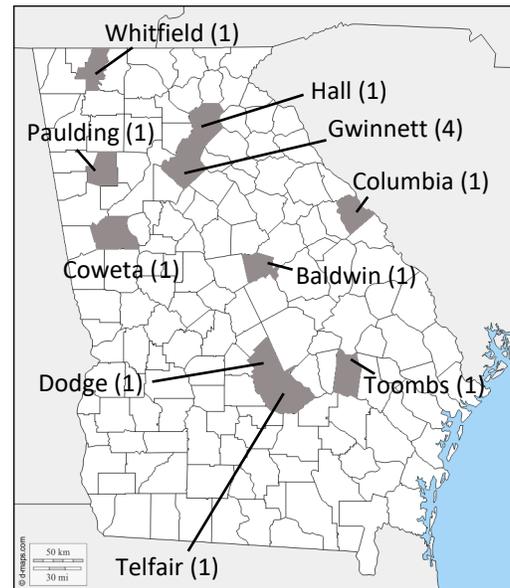


Figure 1. Local and county jails reported

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*If your menstrual started while we were in our cells we were told to use tissue until "free time"*  
- Respondent reporting experience at Gwinnett facility asking for products

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### Experience at Whitworth Women's Facility

All responses made some mention of menstrual products being free at Whitworth, with some responses also stating the products were also available for purchase. Additionally, all responses reported direct access to products, with 5/10 responses stating that additional products were requested from prison officials if supplies ran out from the central

cabinet. Of the 8 responses related to the comfort women felt in accessing products, 2 responses detailed reports of feeling uncomfortable, with one documenting general discomfort and the second stating that other inmates would take advantage of the system. One response did not report feelings of discomfort but mentioned that requests for additional products were often denied. Of the 8 responses to the question of limitations on products, 6 reported only being limited to what was available in the cabinet, with the other 2 responses reporting adequate provision. 4/10 responses reported being allowed to store extra products, 3/10 reported being able to do so with limitations (e.g. by number of products, or “having a profile”), and 3/10 reported not being allowed to store extra products. 1 response spontaneously stated that the system at Whitworth “is much better” without question prompt.

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*We have unlimited amount and all the time access*

*- Respondent reporting experience at Whitworth regarding changes from prior facility and access*

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*Many women take more than needed selfishly, leaving for the women in need at the time unless consequently the officer threaten to check every locker*

*- Respondent reporting experience at Whitworth regarding access*

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### Comparing local and county facilities to Whitworth

Overall, responses supported more direct access to menstrual care products at Whitworth than at outside facilities (10/10 vs 1/10). Fewer responses centered on discomfort around access were reported at Whitworth compared to outside facilities (7/10 vs 2/8). While concerns such as inmates taking more products than needed were described, the menstrual product distribution system at Whitworth appears to be better received over systems at the local and county jails represented.

**Table 1. Responses and their codes to question of limited menstrual product supply at outside facilities**

<i>Code</i>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Example</b>
<i>Restricted by number of products</i>	4/10	“Maybe five” (Coweta)
<i>Restricted by time of distribution</i>	2/10	“Once a month” (Gwinnett)
<i>Restricted by number and time</i>	4/10	“2 pads a piece a day per female inmate. NOTHING else” (Whitfield; emphasis placed by respondent)

**Table 2. Responses and their codes to question of storing menstrual products at outside facilities**

<i>Code</i>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Example</b>
<i>Storing not allowed</i>	5/11	Any “no” response without additional commentary
<i>Storing not allowed; enforcement reported</i>	1/11	“They were took from us if we had more than 2” (Whitfield)
<i>Storing allowed</i>	3/11	Any “yes” response without additional commentary
<i>Storing allowed, limitations reported</i>	2/11	“We were not allowed to have more than were issued in a week” (Telfair, Dodge)