## Gender and the Financialization of the Criminal Justice System

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Judge to an indigent

defendant: "One last

time: pay \$40 by February

14, and a minimum of \$25

every two weeks...I don't

want to put you in jail."

Lancaster

"It was a misdemeanor one....then my fines just got bigger and

bigger, and a year probation turned into five years. And now,

they're locking me up all the time they see me, and I don't have

any money now. And now this \$155 turned into \$5,000. "



"No one goes to jail in

Philadelphia for fines

and costs...So that

makes Philly different

than every other

county, basically."

Penalties for nonpayment

vary by county.

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## Background

Despite being the fastest growing incarcerated population, women remain an understudied aspect of the the criminal justice system.

 Low-income and African-American women are overrepresented



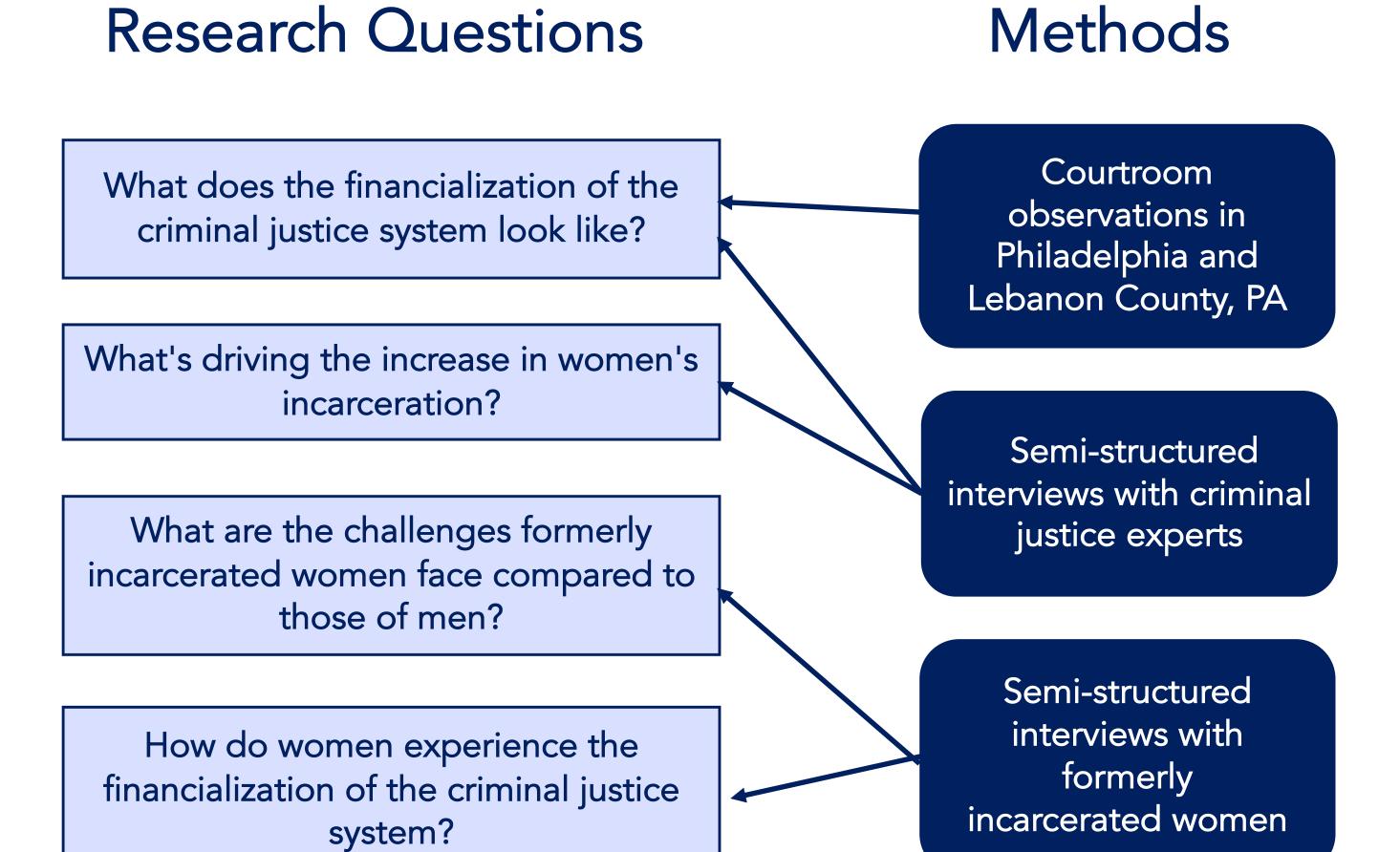
- Incarcerated women are more likely than men to:
- Live in **poverty** before incarceration
- Suffer from mental health conditions and trauma
- Experience unemployment and homelessness postincarceration
- Financialization of the criminal justice system, 1980s-now
- Increase in fines, costs, and fees
- Privatization of prison functions
- Burden low-income defendants

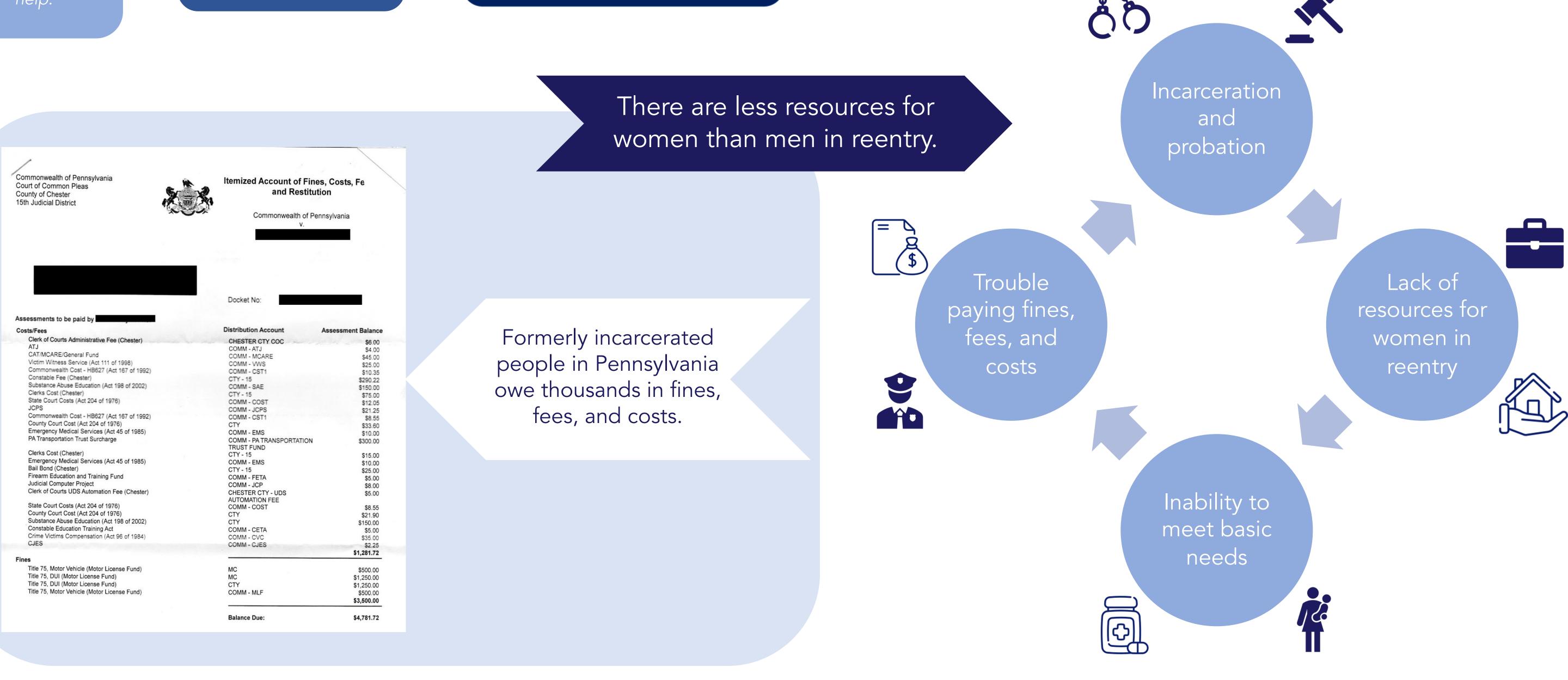












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