




Children of Incarcerated Parents: An Invisible Population

"To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today." – Barbara Johnson

July 26, 2017


Welcome

- Thank you for being here today and choosing to attend this workshop!



Introduction

- Lead Presenter
 - Judy Krysik, PhD, MSW
 - Center for Child Well-Being
- Co-Presenter
 - Jordan Ramil, BSW student
 - Center for Child Well-Being
- Co-Presenter
 - Sherry Boyd-Grossman, BS student
 - Center for Child Well-Being



Video

- An Unlikely Partnership-Strengthening Families touched by Incarceration

<https://vimeo.com/175240502>



Scope of the Problem

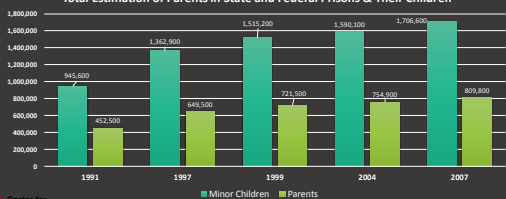
- The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world.
- Between 2 and 3 million children have incarcerated parents.
- 10 million children experience having parents somewhere in the criminal justice process.

(Robertson, 2012)
(Martin, 2017)
(Borja, Nelson, & Eddy, 2015)



Incarceration Rates

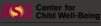
Total Estimation of Parents in State and Federal Prisons & Their Children



(Giza & Maruschak, 2010)

Population of Interest

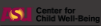
- Who is affected?
 - In 2015, research stated more than 5 million (7%) of all U.S. children experienced having had a parent go to jail or prison.



(Robertson, 2012)
(Murphy & Cooper 2015)

Population of Interest

- Age
 - 1.2 million incarcerated men and women have children under 18.
 - Among children younger than 6, 5% have a parent in jail or prison.
 - Among children 6-11 and 12-17, 8% each have a parent in jail or prison.



(Robertson, 2012)
(Murphy & Cooper 2015)

A Disproportionate Impact on Poor, Urban and Minorities

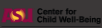
- Race
 - 1 in 15 African American children
 - 1 in 42 Latino children
 - 1 in 111 white children



(Robertson, 2012)

A Disproportionate Impact on Poor, Urban and Minorities

- Socioeconomic Status
- Children living in poverty are more than 3 times as likely to have experienced the incarceration of a parent as children in families with incomes at least twice the poverty level.



(Robertson, 2012)
(Murphy & Cooper, 2015)

Population of Interest

- Why is this population important?
 - Parental incarceration can be detrimental to children.
 - There are many gaps in the field's current understanding including effects of the earlier stages of parental criminal justice involvement on the child.



(Peterson, Fontaine, Kars, & Cramer, 2015)

Risks Associated with Parental Incarceration


- Deprivation of basic necessities and opportunities
- Danger of secondary victimization and depersonalization
- Deterioration of overall situation of a child
- Distance from incarcerated parent
- Descent into antisocial behavior



(Robertson, 2012)

Impact on the Family System


- Children
 - Possible increased exposure to ACEs
 - Behavior problems
 - Insecure attachment
 - Cognitive delays and difficulties in school

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(Shaffer, Gerrity, Ruhland, & Wheeler, 2013)
(Christian, 2009)

Adversities of Children


- Short-term Effects
 - Poor school performance
 - Nightmares, sleep disturbance

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(Parke & Clark-Stewart, 2001)
(Pew Charitable Trust, 2010)

Adversities of Children


- Long-term Effects
 - Low educational success
 - No attachment/bond forms
 - Psychological and emotional problems

 Center for Child Well-Being

(Parke & Clark-Stewart, 2001)
(Pew Charitable Trust, 2010)

Impact on the Family System

- Incarcerated Parent(s)
 - Chemical and mental health issues
 - Parent-child relationship
 - Termination of parental rights




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(Shaffer, Gerrity, Ruhland, & Wheeler, 2013)
(Christian, 2009)

Impact on the Family System

- Caregiver
 - Emotions
 - Finances

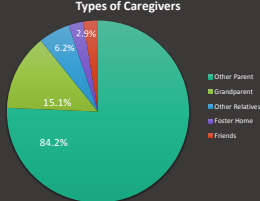


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(Shaffer, Gerrity, Ruhland, & Wheeler, 2013)
(Christian, 2009)


What Have We Learned from Caregivers?

- Caregivers bear burdens
 - Stigma and shame
 - Increased financial strain
 - Physical and emotional stress
 - Lack of external resources
- Disclosure of parents' incarceration
- The stability and quality of the home environment



Category	Percentage
Other Parent	84.2%
Grandparent	15.1%
Other Relatives	6.2%
Foster Home	2.9%
Friends	2.9%

(Hesse & Marquardt, 2010)
(De Masi & Bohn, 2010)
(Shaffer, Gerrity, Ruhland, & Wheeler, 2013)
(NICCN, 2014)



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Impact on the Family System

- Positive Impact is also possible
- Removal of:
 - chaos
 - Abuse
 - Financial insecurity



(Turanoic, J.J., & Rodriguez, N. 2017)

Current Adverse Policies- Unintended Consequences

- Sentencing-
 - 3 Strike Rule
 - Life Sentence mandatory if they are convicted of a serious violent felony and have two or more prior convictions of either serious violent felony or serious drug offense
 - Mandatory Minimums/US Sentencing Manual
 - Location/distance



Current Adverse Policies- Unintended Consequences

- Adoption and Safe Families Act
 - CIP are disproportionately impacted by the termination of parental rights practices
- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
 - CIP's adversely impacted because not guaranteed placement with family once in foster care and because once released, parent may not be able to afford to care for children.



Promising Policies/Programs

- Girl Scouts Behind Bars
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- California –arrest/phone call
- Oklahoma-ask
- Hawaii-distance of facility



Areas of Opportunity

- ❖ AZ-No specific arrest protocol for children present
- ❖ DOC doesn't collect or maintain records on prisoners who are parents of minor children.



Recommendations

- American Bar Association-Resolution 102E
 - Correctional facilities located closer to their families
 - Promoting low or no-cost public transportation
 - Adjusting visitation rules
 - Updating visitation areas, more child-friendly
 - Reasonable opportunities for incarcerated parents to contact their children
 - Reducing visitation barriers to children in foster care
 - Parenting skills programs to incarcerated parents
 - Support incarcerated parents participation in court cases related to child dependency



Recommendations

- Former Director of National Institute of Justice, Nancy Rodriguez
 - Research
 - Use of mental health services during incarceration
 - How CIP come to attention of welfare agencies
 - Influence of various social and cultural processes on receiving mental health care
 - Whether intervention/treatment was effective
 - Data Collection-DOC should collect data, using caseworkers not officers
 - Well-being of children during intake process



(Rodriguez, N. 2016)

Bill of Rights

- Developed by the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (2003):
 - I have the right to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest.
 - I have the right to be heard when decisions are made about me.
 - I have the right to be considered when decisions are made about my parent.
 - I have the right to be well cared for in my parent's absence.



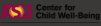
Bill of Rights

- I have the right to speak with, see, and touch my parent.
- I have the right to support as I face my parent's incarceration.
- I have the right not to be judged, blamed or labeled because my parent is incarcerated.
- I have the right to a lifelong relationship with my parent.



Summary

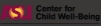
- Children of the incarcerated are innocent victims and have their own unique and deserving needs.
- Before we can help them, we have to see them
- Most important next research steps:
 - Look at the unique experiences of children of incarcerated parents.
 - Develop a more complete understanding of the problem i.e. type of crime, etc
- Policy development requires caution due to lack of knowledge



(Shaffer, Gerrity, Ruhland, & Wheeler, 2013)

Action Steps

1. Pay attention!
 - Familiarize yourself with the impact of parental incarceration on children.
2. Be proactive, look for partnerships!
 - Provide information to child welfare and correctional systems to help improve permanency outcomes for children.
3. Research, research, and more research!
 - More research is needed on impact, groups affected most, outcomes of intervention policies, programs, and partnerships.



Final Action Step

- What is needed is sustained intervention, with a focus on ACTION!
- Attend the Inaugural National Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Conference in Phoenix, AZ April 22-25, 2018, Renaissance Hotel
- Action Planning event more than a conference



<https://child-wellbeing.asu.edu/>

Attend the Inaugural National Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Conference in Phoenix, AZ April 22-25, 2018, Renaissance Hotel

- Understanding the Impact of Parental Incarceration on the Child and Family
- Evidence of Program and Policy Effectiveness for Children of Incarcerated Parents
- Training and Support for Professionals who work with Children of Incarcerated Parents
- Coordinating Multiple Agencies that Impact the Children of Incarcerated Parents



<https://child-wellbeing.asu.edu/>



Questions?

Thank you!

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