CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

Julie Poehlmann, Ph.D.

Dorothy A. O'Brien Professor of Human Ecology
Human Development & Family Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA





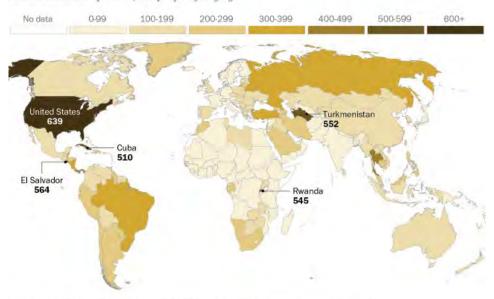


PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Scope of the problem
 - Incarceration in the United States
 - Numbers of children affected by parental incarceration
- Current research
 - Impact of parental incarceration on children
 - When children witness their parent's arrest prior to parental incarceration
 - Supporting positive parent-child interactions during parental incarceration

U.S. incarcerates a larger share of its population than any other country

Incarceration rate per 100,000 people of any age



Note: Figures reflect most recent available data for each country. Territories are counted separately.

Data accessed Aug. 10, 2021.

Source: World Prison Brief, Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research,

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



U.S. State and Federal Prison Population, 1925-2019

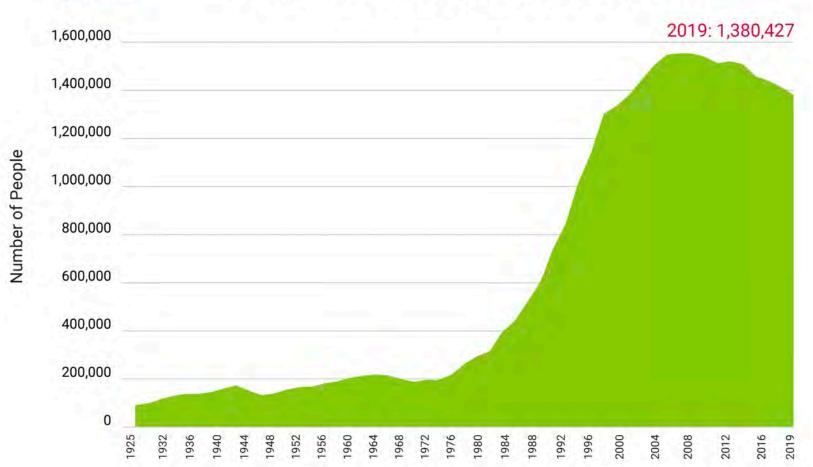
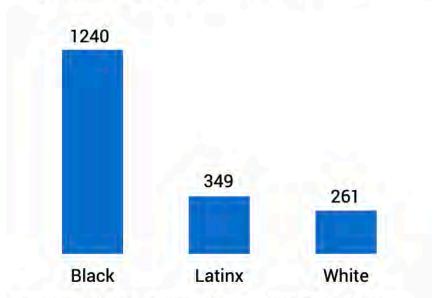
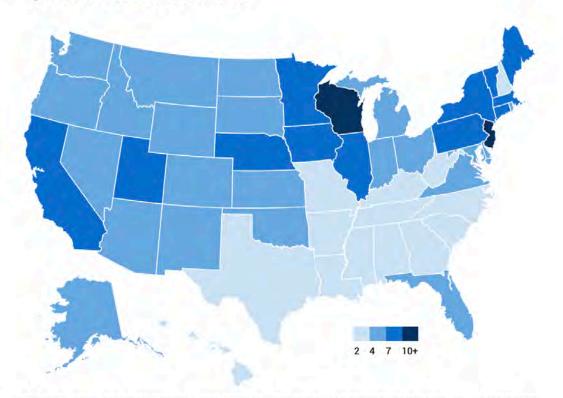


Figure 1. Average Rate of Black, Latinx and White Imprisonment Per 100,000 Residents

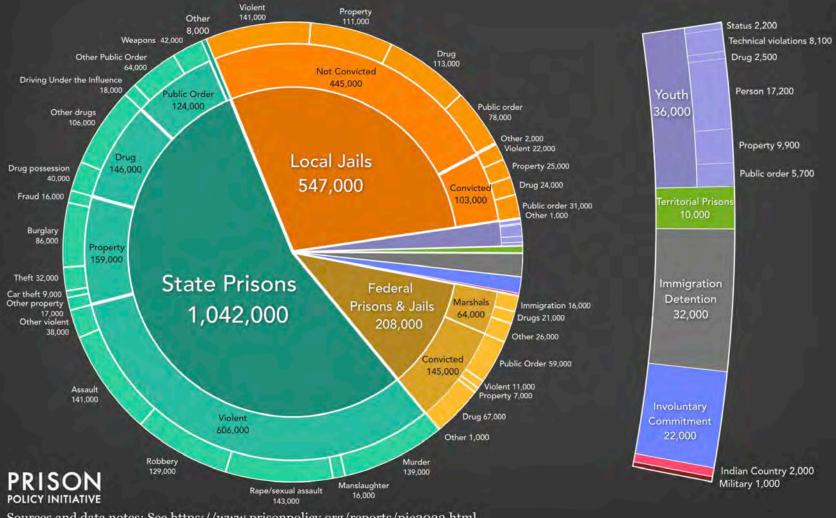


Data Source: Carson, E. A. (2021). Prisoners in 2019. Bureau of Justice Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). Age, sex, race, and Hispanic-origin–6 race groups. (SC EST 2019-ALLDATA6).

Figure 2. Black/white incarceration ratios



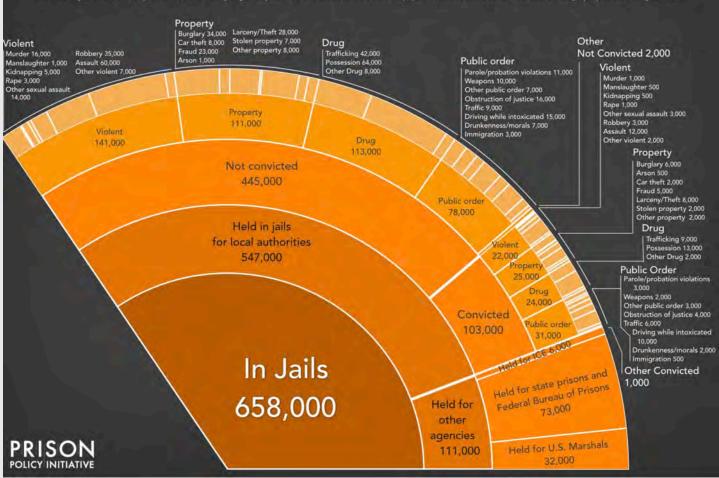
Data Source: Carson, E. A. (2021). Prisoners in 2019. Bureau of Justice Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). Age, sex, race, and Hispanic-origin–6 race groups. (SC EST 2019-ALLDATA6).



Sources and data notes: See https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2022.html

1 in 3 people behind bars is in a jail. Most have yet to be tried in court.

Over 80% of those in jail under local authority have not been convicted and are presumed innocent. If you include the 111,000 people held in jails that rent out space to other agencies, 67% of all people in jails are unconvicted. Either way, jail incarceration rates are driven largely by local bail practices.



Every Second

1 in 2 adults in America has had a family member in jail or prison.

This is an incarceration crisis.

Most incarcerated individuals are parents of minor children

- 58% of women in state and federal prison in the US report that they are mothers of minor children
- 80% of women in jails are mothers

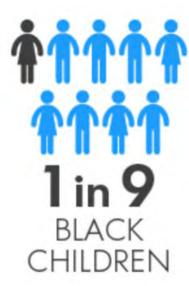
- 47% of men in state and federal prison in the US report that they are fathers of minor children
- Higher rates reported in jails



PARENTAL INCARCERATION

5 million US children have been separated from their co-resident parent because of parental incarceration















PARENTAL CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM: MOST RESEARCH HAS FOCUSED ON PARENTAL INCARCERATION





PARENTAL CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM & CHILD WELL-BEING: MY RESEARCH IS HIGHLIGHTED IN RED







A BILL **OF RIGHTS**

I HAVE THE RIGHT...

- 1. TO BE KEPT SAFE AND INFORMED AT THE TIME OF MY PARENT'S ARREST.
- 2. TO BE HEARD WHEN DECISIONS ARE MADE ABOUT ME.
- 3. TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN DECISIONS ARE MADE ABOUT MY PARENT.
- 4. TO BE WELL CARED FOR IN MY PARENT'S ABSENCE.
- 5. TO SPEAK WITH, SEE AND TOUCH MY PARENT.
- 6. TO SUPPORT AS I FACE MY PARENT'S INCARCERATION.
- 7. NOT TO BE JUDGED, BLAMED OR LABELED.
- 8. TO A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PARENT.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES



Article 🙃 Open Access 😊 😧 😑 🥞

A Developmental Perspective on Children With Incarcerated Parents

Julie Poehlmann-Tynan , Kristin Turney

First published: 17 November 2020

https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12392



CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS, ON AVERAGE, ARE MORE LIKELY THAN THEIR PEERS TO EXPERIENCE

Infant mortality

Behavior problems

Health problems

Problematic academic outcomes

Poor mental and physical health in adulthood

More adverse childhood experiences





"A LONG SHADOW" PARENTAL INCARCERATION CAUSES SOME FAMILY PROBLEMS AND MAGNIFIES OTHER FAMILY PROBLEMS

- Residential instability
- Homelessness
- Socioeconomic disadvantage
- Dependence on public assistance
- Unemployment
- Mental health concerns
- Family conflict
- Diminished coparenting
- Relationship dissolution and repartnering



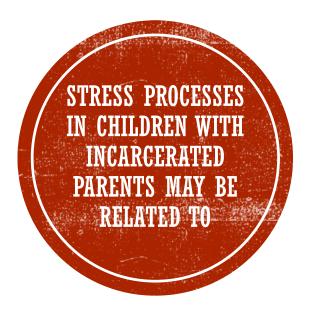
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES

A Developmental Perspective on Children With Incarcerated Parents

Julie Poehlmann-Tynan, and Kristin Turney2

University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of California at Irvine

- Findings of review:
- Worse outcomes when parental incarceration occurs earlier in the child's life
- Worse outcomes documented as children reach adolescence and young adulthood
- Why: Continued stressors? Stressrelated changes on the body and brain? Types of measures used in adolescence and young adulthood? Cascades of risk? Diminishing protective factors? Repeated incarcerations?



Problems that exist before or are exacerbated by parental incarceration

- Poverty
- Housing instability or homelessness
- Shifts in caregivers
- Exposure to violence
- Other adverse childhood experiences

Problems specific to parental criminal legal system involvement

- Witnessing parental arrest
- Stigma, secrecy around the parent's incarceration
- Visiting in corrections
- Parental absence
- Repeated contact with criminal legal system (parental recidivism)





ABUSE

NEGLECT

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Physical



Physical



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Emotional



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse



Sexual



Divorce

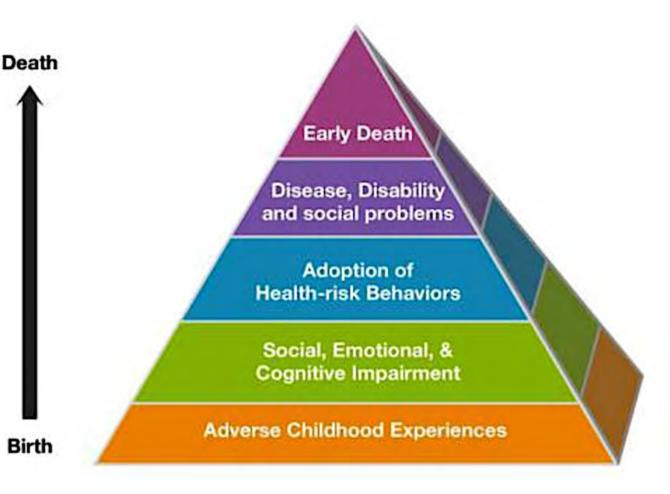
ADVERSE **CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES** (ACES)

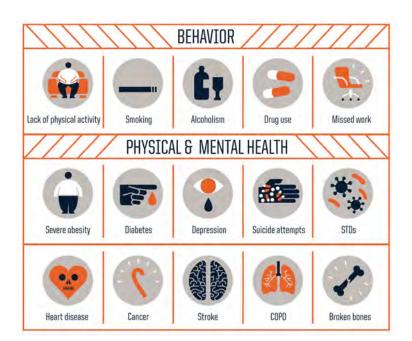


Relationship between early childhood trauma and health and well-being problems later in life.

Source: World Health

Organization



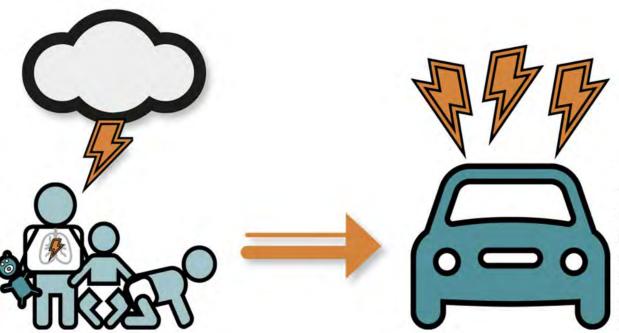


WHEN A PERSON HAS HAD 4 OR MORE ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO SHOW HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS



TOXIC STRESS EXPLAINS HOW A(ES

Experiencing many ACEs, as well as things like racism and community violence, without supportive adults, can cause what's known as toxic stress. This excessive activation of the stressresponse system can lead to longlasting wear-andtear on the body and brain.



The effect would be similar to revving a car engine for days or weeks at a time.

Developmental Psychobiology

SPECIAL ISSUE 🙃 Full Access

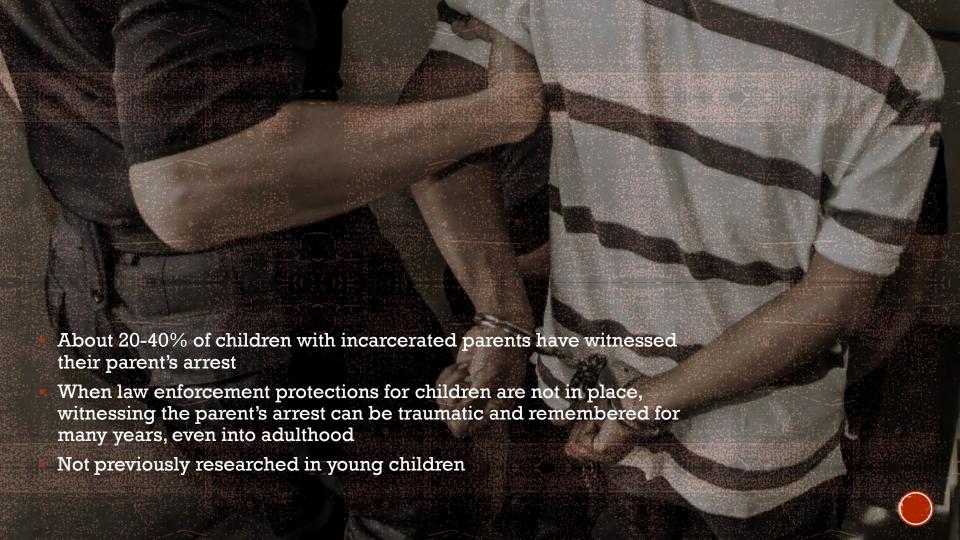
Getting under the skin: Physiological stress and witnessing paternal arrest in young children with incarcerated fathers

Luke Muentner, Amita Kapoor, Lindsay Weymouth, Julie Poehlmann-Tynan

First published: 25 February 2021 |

https://doi.org/10.1002/dev.22113







Child Witness Parental Arrest

Parental Arrest

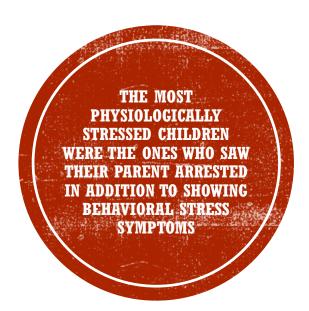
Parental Incarceration

Home Visit

Child Stress Symptoms Scale, Child Behavior Checklist, past 180 days

Child Hair Cortisol and Cortisone, past 2-3 months

- Witnessing parental arrest was associated with higher levels of stress hormones in the children's hair, even controlling for demographic factors and witnessing the parent's criminal activities
- In this study, the law enforcement systems had not implemented model policies regarding safeguarding children of arrested parents



The Health and Development of Young Children Who Witnessed Their Parent's Arrest Prior to Parental Jail Incarceration

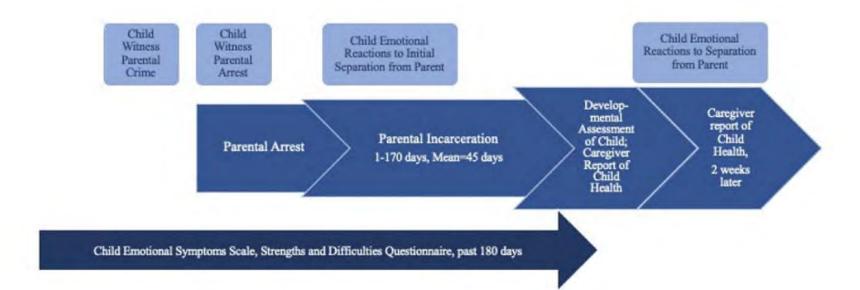
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by U Julie Poehlmann-Tynan 1,* ♥ 0, U Luke Muentner 1 ♥ 0, U Kaitlyn Pritzl 1 ♥ 0, U Hilary Cuthrell 1 ♥, U Lauren A. Hindt 2 ♥, U Laurel Davis 3 ♥ and U Rebecca Shlafer 3 ♥
```

- School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, USA
- Department of Psychology, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL 60660, USA
- Department of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA
- * Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

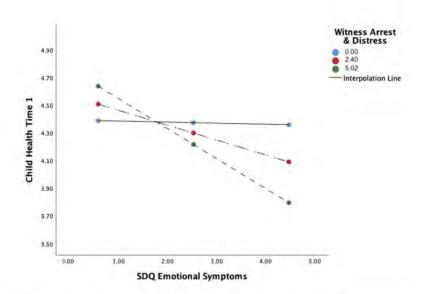
Academic Editor: Paul Tchounwou

Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2021, 18(9), 4512; https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18094512





(a) Approximate Timing of Measures.



(b) Interaction between Child Witnessing Arrest and Emotional Symptoms on Child Health at Time 1.

- The children with the least optimal health and development witnessed the parent's arrest (and exhibited a high level of distress at the time of the arrest), in addition to showing ongoing emotional stress symptoms
- In this study, we included witnessing domestic violence as a covariate
- Again, the law enforcement systems had not implemented model policies regarding safeguarding children of arrested parents





 https://www.theiacp.org/reso urces/safeguarding-childrenof-arrested-parents-toolkit



Journal of Child and Family Studies (2022) 31:1933–1946 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-022-02251-y

ORIGINAL PAPER

Parental Arrest and Child Behavior: Differential Role of Executive Functioning among Racial Subgroups

Elizabeth I. Johnson 61 · Elizabeth M. Planalp2 · Julie Poehlmann-Tynan2



WE USED DATA FROM THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT (ABCD) STUDY





Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development

TEEN BRAINS. TODAY'S SCIENCE. BETTER FUTURE.

- 11,500 youth aged 9-10 nationwide
- Followed yearly for 10 years
 - School-based recruitment, nationally representative sample
 - Factors influencing brain, cognitive, emotional, health development



ARRESTS OF PARENTS FOR DRUG- OR ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIMES INCLUDING DUI

- Data on parental arrests were derived from items pertaining to biological parents' problems with alcohol or drug use (collected at the first wave of the ABCD study)
 - the participating parent was asked to indicate whether either the 9-10 year old child's biological mother or father ever experienced arrests or DUIs related to alcohol or drug use
- At the first wave of data collection, 12.5% of the youth had a parent who had been arrested for an issue related to drugs or alcohol
- Youth who experienced parental arrest exhibited higher levels of both internalizing and externalizing behaviors, especially when their mother had been arrested, compared to their peers and controlling for a number of other risk factors—which tended to co-occur with parental arrest
- Youth in the parental arrest group also showed lower levels of cognitive flexibility and working memory, but the groups did not significantly differ in terms of inhibitory control/attention



Johnson, E. I., Planalp, E. M., & Poehlmann-Tynan, J. (2022). Parental arrest and child behavior: Differential role of executive functioning among racial subgroups. Journal of Child and Family Studies, February 7 2022, 1-14.

EACH POLICE ENCOUNTER HAS THE POTENTIAL TO REMOVE A PERSON FROM THEIR FAMILY

(AND FOR PARENTS, FROM THEIR CHILDREN)

- Racial disparities in arrest are common
 - In 2016, 27% of all individuals arrested in the US were Black—double the rate expected based on the US population
- Disparities also exist in outcomes of police stops
 - Monce pulled over, Black and Latinx drivers are three times as likely as White drivers to be searched and Black drivers are twice as likely to be arrested
 - Black and Latinx people are more than 50% more likely to experience some form of force in interactions with police than White people







CAMP

Sesame Street Intervention

- Children age 3-8
- 258 individuals nested in 86 triads; 2 & 4 week f/u



Child-Friendly Visit Program Evaluation

- Children age 7-14
- 37 children followed 8 hrs/day for 1 week; 2 month f/u



Enhanced Visits in Jail

- Children age 3-12
- 136 individuals nested in 41 families; 3 month & 1 year f/u

IMPORTANCE OF PARENT-CHILD CONTACT DURING PARENTAL INCARCERATION FOR PARENTS

- & During incarceration:
 - * Reduced rule-breaking inside prisons
 - ★ Fewer symptoms of depression
 - More engaged relationships with children
- ★ After incarceration
 - More positive parenting activities
 - playing, helping with homework, discipline
 - **Fewer symptoms of depression**
 - More hours of work
 - **K** Fewer correctional supervision violations
 - **X** Less engagement in criminal activities



https://www.earhustlesq.com/epis odes/2018/4/25/thickglass?rq=children

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARENT-CHILD CONTACT DURING PARENTAL INCARCERATION FOR CHILDREN

- & Child-friendly visits are best
- Supported remote video visits are a good supplement
- & Family choice
- Free or low cost is important
- Limit plexiglas for young children
- Limit wait time for families
- Mark Improve interactions with corrections staff









Tips for Parents and Caregivers

Sesame Street presents Little Children, Big Challenges:
Incorceration, an educational outreach initiative for families with children (ages 3-8) who are coping with a parent's incarceration.
Our resources provide talking points and tools to help families manage the changes resulting from this situation and to find comfort in one another.





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Home > Coping With Incarceration

Coping With Incarceration

The incarceration of a loved one can be overwhelming for both children and caregivers. Because of the feeling of stigma, it takes special effort to start important conversations and answer kids' questions. But parents can comfort children and guide them through difficult moments just by talking. With love and support, the family can cope with the challenges of incarceration together.



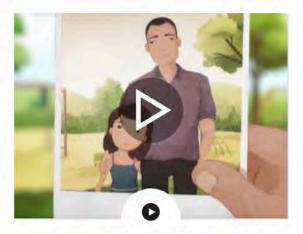








What Is Incarceration?



Visiting a Parent in Prison



In My Family



Article Ask Me Anything



Article Little Children, Big Feelings



Interactive ArtMaker: Draw It Out!



Workshop Helping Kids Stay Connected



Printable Sticking to Routines



Video You're Not Alone



Multisite randomized efficacy trial of educational materials for young children with incarcerated parents

Published online by Cambridge University Press: 19 May 2020

Julie Poehlmann-Tynan (D), Hilary Cuthrell, Lindsay Weymouth, Cynthia Burnson, Lexi Frerks, Luke Muentner, Nicole Holder, Zoe Milavetz, Lauren Lauter, Lauren Hindt, Laurel Davis, Erin Schubert and Rebecca Shlafer

Show author details >

- 2 71 diverse children aged 3 to 8 years with a jailed parent participated
- observed children during jail visits and interviewed caregivers by phone 2 and 4 weeks later
- caregivers in the Sesame Street intervention group reported more positive change in how they talked to children about the incarceration over time compared to the control group
- effects of the intervention on children's behavior and emotions occurring during a jail visit depended on what children had been told about the parent's incarceration
 - children who were told the simple, honest truth about the parent's incarceration (a recommendation in the Sesame Street materials) exhibited more positive emotion during the visit with their incarcerated parent
 - They also showed less negative emotion at entry, an increase in negative affect when the intervention was administered, and a decrease in negative affect during the visit



https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/development-and-psychopathology/article/multisite-randomized-efficacy-trial-of-educational-materials-for-young-children-with-incarcerated-parents/F9E4627CF09A6F239A9A3318AE5348E9



About In The Media Contact

MISSION

Camp Reunite provides hope, healing and resiliency by strengthening the bond between children and their incarcerated parent.

OUR APPROACH

Utilizing trauma-informed care practices in a supportive camp setting, Camp Reunite provides children with coping skills, conflict resolution strategies and increased resiliency. Through extended and meaningful visits to correctional institutions, children have the opportunity to reconnect with their incarcerated parent. As all the children share the bond of having an incarcerated parent, Camp Reunite is a place of unparalleled acceptance and understanding.



FORMATIVE PROGRAM **EVALUATION OF CHILD-**FRIENDLY VISITS

- Child-friendly visits were viewed positively by mothers, children, children's at-home caregivers, corrections and camp staff, and corrections and camp administrators
- Saying good-bye was challenging, but the following helped
 - Providing structure, like a good-bye song and ritual
 - Giving children a transitional object (stuffed toy) as they left
 - Giving both the mom and child a photo of them together to keep
 - Therapeutic art activities (drawing, painting, clay)
 - Therapy dogs
 - Extra 1:1 and small group support from staff





Child-Friendly In-Person Visits

FEATURED SPECIAL SECTION: PARENT INCARCERATION AND CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING



Lessons From the Field: Developing and Implementing an Intervention for Jailed Parents and Their Children

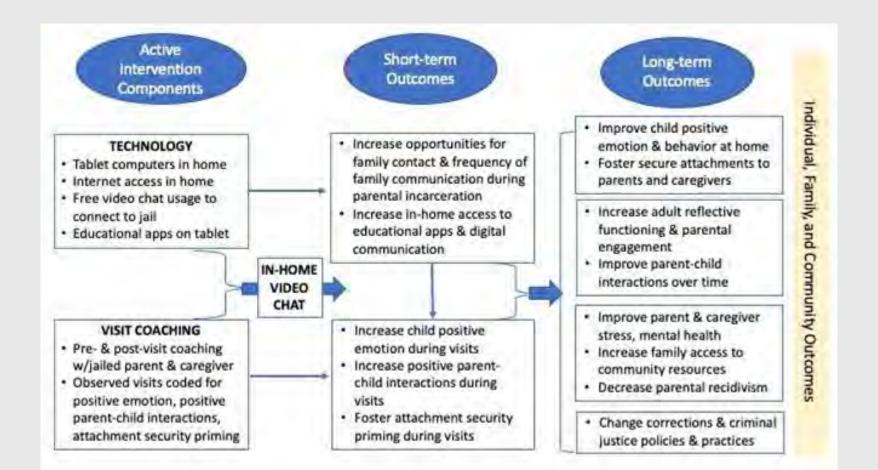
Pajarita Charles , Margaret Kerr, Jennifer Wirth, Sarah Jensen, Michael Massoglia, Julie Poehlmann-Tynan

First published: 11 December 2020

https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12524



Enhanced Visits Model





Plexiglas Visit



In-Jail Video Visits



Supported Remote Video Visits



Supported Remote Video Visits

Dear Mem, Mankyou for the lotters you recently sent me, I heeded to how everything you wrote me in both of those letters... Yes I got better with my endness, and yes the been better 3 happy but minn, I has you SO Liuch. Not having you have horts me so much home than you could even imagine. I feel happy and store but then at the end of the day Tooks just come out thousang of your so I get fushtraited and I get a stopped bythere. Or I gost get other propose around me mad. and then I get introubte and ? Just Start to hak everything.

You being here is the only thing I need

BOOKS AND LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR INCARCERATED PARENTS

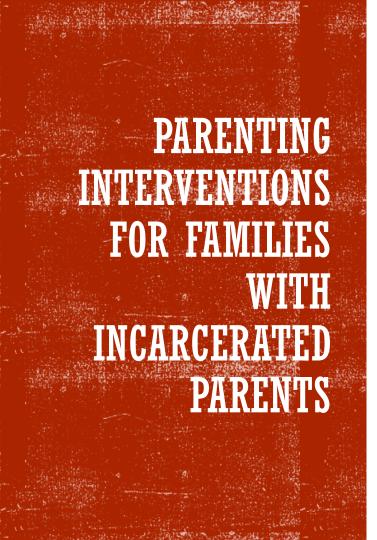
https://stateofopportunity.michiganradio.org/families-community/2016-09-29/6-books-for-kids-with-parents-behind-bars

Examples of Family Literacy Programs in Corrections

- The Literacy Link
- Read to Me
- Read to Your Child/Grandchild
- Storybook Dads

How to start a literacy program for children with incarcerated parents http://en.copian.ca/library/research/hudson/bringing/bringing.pdf

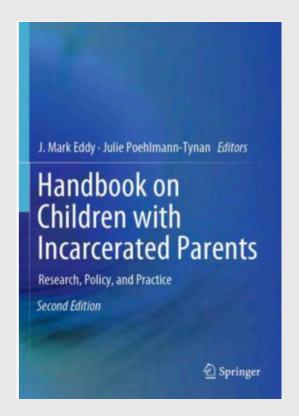




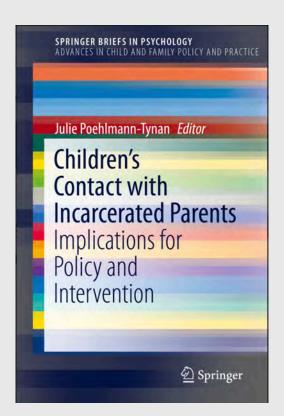
- Designed and evaluated with incarcerated parents and their families
 - Parenting Inside Out
- Designed and evaluated for other vulnerable children and tried with children whose parents are involved in the criminal legal system
 - Circle of Security
 - Strengthening Families Program (SFP)
- Could be tried
 - Mediational Intervention for Sensitizing Caregivers (MISC)
 - Attachment and Biobehavioral Catchup (ABC)

Exploring connections to your work and life

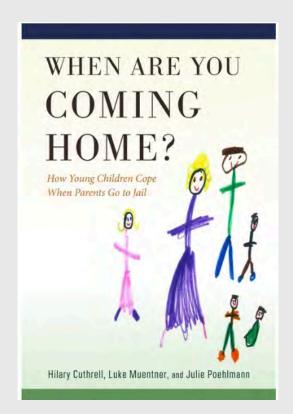
- What experiences do you have with children or families affected by the criminal legal system?
- What would you like to do in the future regarding affected kids and families, either from the ideas presented here or from other sources?
- What is one thing that you can try starting this week or next week?



https://link.springer.com/book/ 10.1007/978-3-030-16707-3



https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-16625-4



https://www.rutgersuniversitypress .org/when-are-you-cominghome/9781978825703



KIDS WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

by Julie Poehlmann, PhD



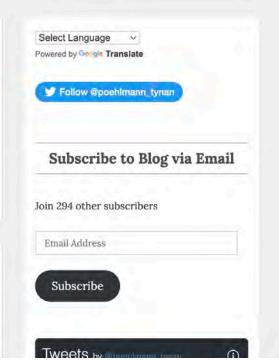
Black incarcerated fathers' connections with their children

Posted on April 1, 2022 By jptadmin

Thomas, A., Wirth, J. C., Poehlmann-Tynan, J., & Pate Jr, D. J. (2022). "When She Says Daddy": Black Fathers' Recidivism following Reentry from Jail. International...



Youth who experience parental arrest for alcohol- or drug-related charges show more behavior problems





- I am indebted to those with lived experience who have shared their stories with me for the past 25 years. I do my best to represent their stories and amplify their voices.
- Thank you to my undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and collaborators for their hard work and perseverance.
- Thank you for hosting educational opportunities like this.
- Thank you to the audience for watching and listening!