

The Impact of Incarceration on Minnesota Children and Families

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Overview

1. **Parental incarceration in Minnesota:** Scope of the Issue
2. **Adverse Childhood Experiences:** A Framework for Understanding Incarceration's Impact on Children
3. **Incarceration's Impact on Minnesota Children**

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How many children in Minnesota have an incarcerated parent?

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3 Key Sources of Data

1. State Survey of Parents in MN Prison (2014)
2. State Survey of Parents in MN Jails (2017)
3. Minnesota Student Survey (2013, 2016, 2019)

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Parents in MN Prisons

Men

66% Fathers

Women

77% Mothers

On any given day, an estimated 16,069 children under the age of 18 have a parent currently incarcerated in a Minnesota State Prison.

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Fathers in MN Prisons

Men

66% Fathers

- More than half (55%) lived with their children before arrest
- About one-third (35%) had young children (less than 4 years old)
- Most (68%) were interested in a parenting class

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Mothers in MN Prisons

- Most (66%) lived with their children before arrest
- 23% had young children (less than 4 years old)
- Most (77%) were interested in a parenting class

77% Mothers

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Parents in MN Jails

ADULT PARENTS

69% PARENT OF MINOR CHILD

AGE
Parents ranged in age from 18 to 86 years, with an average age of 33 years. Nearly 80% of parents with minor children were under the age of 40.

18%	26%	22%	15%	19%
Age in Years: 18 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	41 and older

RACE
Although most incarcerated parents in Minnesota are white, parents from racial and ethnic minority groups are disproportionately represented. 16% identified as Hispanic / Latino.

53%	21%	14%	3%	1%	9%
White	Black / African American	American Indian / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	Multiracial

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ADULT FATHERS

61% EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO ARREST
Over 60 percent of fathers with minor children reported being employed in the month before their arrest.

65% RESIDENCY PRIOR TO ARREST
Approximately 65 percent of fathers with minor children were living with one or more of their children before their arrest.

78% INTEREST IN PARENTING CLASS
A majority of fathers with minor children were interested in participating in a parenting class during their incarceration.

NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN
Fathers reported having between 1 and 14 children under the age of 18, with an average of about 2 minor children.

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PREGNANCY STATUS OF PARTNER
About 1 in 12 incarcerated fathers reported that they had a partner who was pregnant. Another 6% said they didn't know whether or not their partner was pregnant.

9% Pregnant
85% Partner is not pregnant
6% Don't know

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ADULT MOTHERS

32% EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO ARREST
Over 30 percent of mothers with minor children reported being employed in the month before their arrest.

64% RESIDENCY PRIOR TO ARREST
About 64 percent of mothers with minor children were living with their children before their arrest.

85% INTEREST IN PARENTING CLASS
Most mothers with minor children were interested in participating in a parenting class during incarceration.

NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN
Mothers reported having between 1 and 14 children under the age of 18, with an average of about 2 minor children.

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PREGNANCY STATUS
About 1 in 17 incarcerated mothers reported that they were pregnant. Another 5% said they didn't know whether or not they were pregnant.

6% Pregnant
89% Not pregnant
5% Don't know

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From these data, on any given day, an estimated **9,898 children** under the age of 18 have a parent currently incarcerated in a county correctional facility in Minnesota.

AGES OF MINOR CHILDREN
Among all minor children of parents in jail, about 37% of children were between 0 and 5 years old, 42% were between the ages of 6 and 12, and the remaining 21% of children were between 13 and 17 years old.

Age of children in years: 0 - 5 6 - 12 13 - 17

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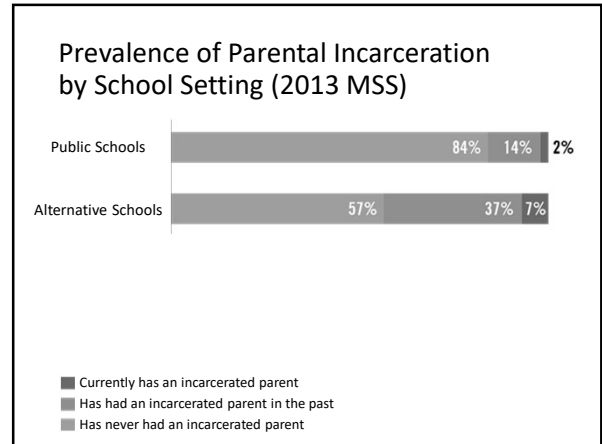
Minnesota Student Survey (MSS)

- Background, School, Health, Out of School Activities, (At-risk) Behaviors
- 164,310 total students surveyed
- Administered every 3 years
- In 2013, new question added regarding parental incarceration:
"Have any of your parents or guardians ever been in jail or prison?"

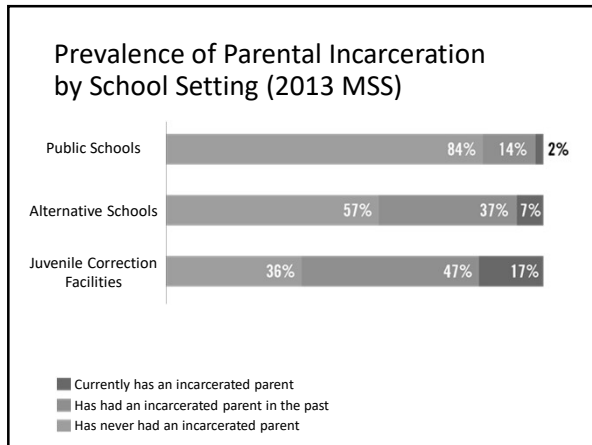
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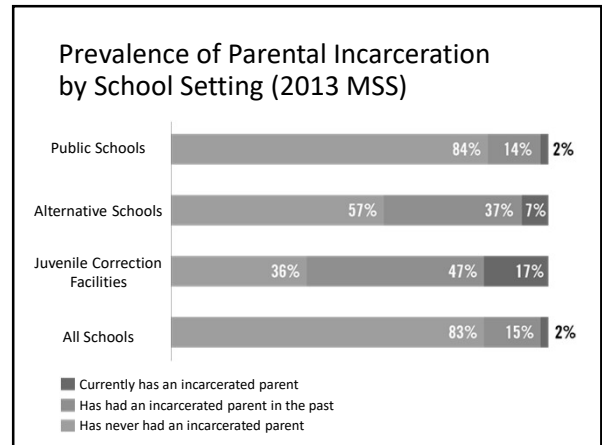
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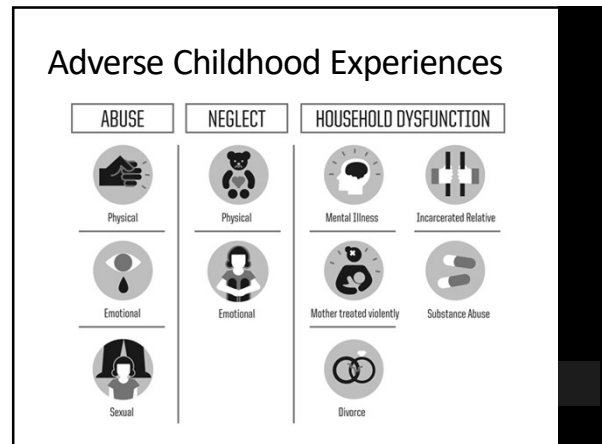
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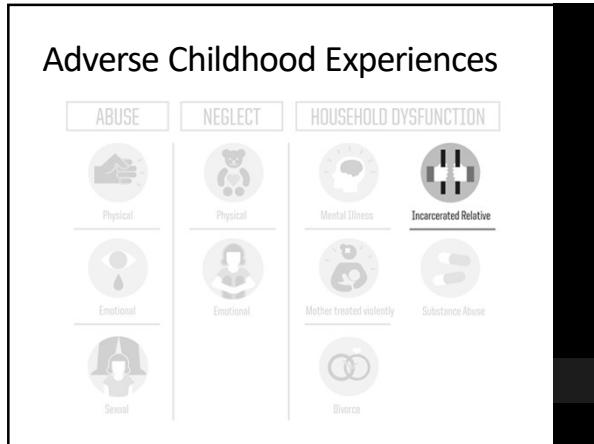
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Adverse Childhood Experiences:
A framework for understanding incarceration's impact on children

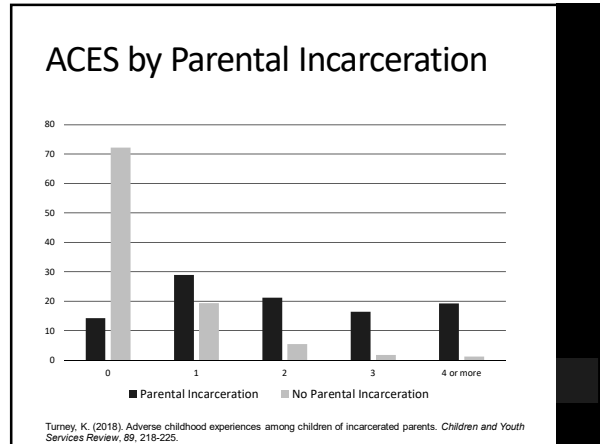
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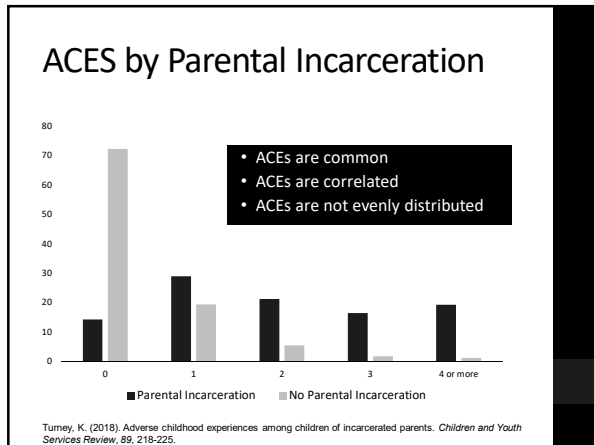
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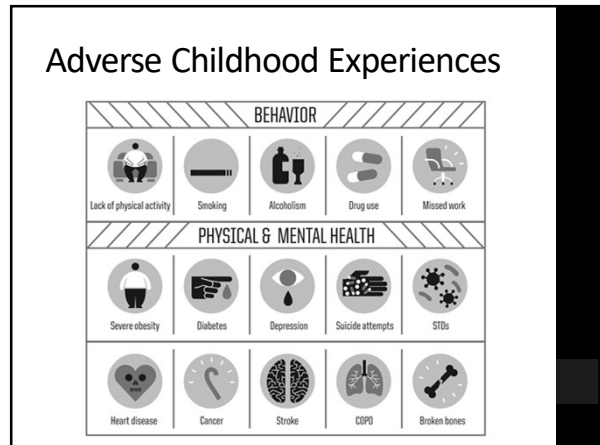
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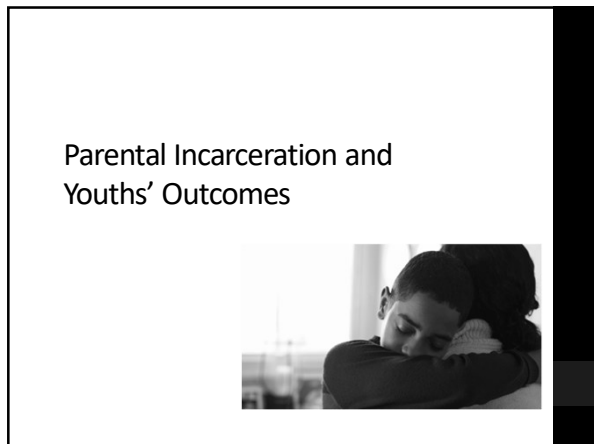
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↑ Unexcused absences
 ↓ Grades
 ↑ Discipline
 ↓ School connectedness
 ↓ School engagement

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↑ Unexcused absences
 ↓ Grades
 ↑ Discipline
 ↓ School connectedness
 ↓ School engagement

↑ Internalizing symptoms
 ↑ Self-injury
 ↑ Suicide ideation
 ↑ Suicide attempt

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↑ Unexcused absences
 ↓ Grades
 ↑ Discipline
 ↓ School connectedness
 ↓ School engagement

↑ Internalizing symptoms
 ↑ Self-injury
 ↑ Suicide ideation
 ↑ Suicide attempt

↑ Alcohol use
 ↑ Tobacco use
 ↑ Use of other drugs
 ↑ Consequences of use

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↑ Unexcused absences
 ↓ Grades
 ↑ Discipline
 ↓ School connectedness
 ↓ School engagement

↑ Damage to property
 ↑ Physical fighting
 ↑ Theft
 ↑ Bullying others
 ↑ Lying

↑ Internalizing symptoms
 ↑ Self-injury
 ↑ Suicide ideation
 ↑ Suicide attempt

↑ Alcohol use
 ↑ Tobacco use
 ↑ Use of other drugs
 ↑ Consequences of use

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↑ Unexcused absences
 ↓ Grades
 ↑ Discipline
 ↓ School connectedness
 ↓ School engagement

↑ Damage to property
 ↑ Physical fighting
 ↑ Theft
 ↑ Bullying others
 ↑ Lying

↑ Internalizing symptoms
 ↑ Self-injury
 ↑ Suicide ideation
 ↑ Suicide attempt

↓ Overall health
 ↓ Physical activity
 ↓ Fruit/vegetable consumption
 ↑ Fast food consumption
 ↓ Sleep

↑ Alcohol use
 ↑ Tobacco use
 ↑ Use of other drugs
 ↑ Consequences of use

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Summary of Findings

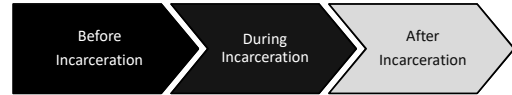
- On any given day in MN, more than 25,000 children are currently impacted by a parent's incarceration
- Across every indicator examined, youth with a history of parental incarceration fare worse than their peers
- Youth with a *currently* incarcerated parent, generally fare worse than their peers who experienced parental incarceration in the *past*
- These findings hold, even after controlling for important sociodemographic characteristics
- Evidence of early-onset risk behaviors have consequences for future health and development

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To treat the health issues that come from parental incarceration, “Total [annual] costs were estimated at **\$22.5 billion for adults** and **\$346 million for children.**”

Provencher, A., & Conway, J.M. (2019). Health effects of family member incarceration in the United States: A meta-analysis and cost study. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 103, 87-99.

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Questions?



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