

Resources for Pastoral Ministers Serving Families with Incarcerated Parents



Summary

In 2008, BJS (The Bureau of Justice Statistics, a division of the US Department of Justice) studies estimated that more than 1.7 million children under 18 had a parent in prison as of mid-2007. Pope Benedict XVI, when meeting with the under secretary general of the UN on June 24, 2009, reflected on the role all of us have to play "to defend the child victims of violence and arms, I am thinking of all the children of the world, especially those who suffer fear, abandonment, hunger, abuses, sickness and death. The Pope remains close to all these young victims and always remembers them in his prayers".

Those children whose parents are incarcerated are victims of violence and crime as well. Powerless to change their situation, they may face sociological stigma, stress, often economic hardship and strained familial relationships.

Links on Supporting Children with Incarcerated Parents



Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, USCCB, 2000
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/crime-and-criminal-justice.cfm>

Women in Prison; is the seventh in a series of eight pastoral statements by Catholic Bishops of the South on the Criminal Justice process and a gospel response.

http://www.glenmary.org/site/epage/109427_919.htm
For those who minister to children whose parents are incarcerated

Working with Children with Parents in Prison, Children's Services Practice Notes, North Carolina's Division of Social Services and the Family and Children's Resource Program
http://www.practicenotes.org/vol7_no1.htm

Broken Bonds Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Children with Incarcerated Parents from the Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center
<http://www.urban.org/publications/411616.html>

Ensuring success for children with incarcerated Parents: Discussion Guide Series, Association of Small Foundations
<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Other/E/EnsuringSuccessforChildrenwithIncarceratedPar/incarceratedparents.pdf>

Punishment of innocents: children of parents behind bars; Psychologists are gathering data and developing programs to bring families closer together and curb what can become a family cycle of imprisonment. <https://www.apa.org/monitor/may01/punish.aspx>

A Bill of Rights for Children of Prisoners, Child Welfare League, Children's Voice Article, September/October, 2004 <http://www.cwla.org/articles/cv0409cop.htm>

Parents in Prison Adapted from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Handouts, Mary Kay Hafer <http://cpcs.k12.ny.us/wpm/counseling/2009/02/26/parents-in-prison/>

Statistics and Fact Sheets

Children of Incarcerated Parents Fact Sheet; This fact sheet includes data on incarceration of adults, its affects on children and families left behind, and how it affects children and youth with respect to foster care. <http://fcnetwork.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/fact-sheet.pdf>

Incarcerated Parents and their Children: Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=981>

Children and families with incarcerated parents not only face the trauma of loss, but also a range of economic and social conditions that result from incarceration. <http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Topics/Child%20Welfare%20Permanence/Permanence/ChildrenandFamilieswithIncarceratedParentsExp/Children%20and%20families%20with%20incarcerated%20parents.pdf>

Children with Incarcerated Parents: A List of Selected Resources; This resource guide, last updated in June 2008, lists selected citations of documents and resources in four categories: general, research, program and practice, and policy and state/local level activity. http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Topics/Child%20Welfare%20Permanence/Permanence/ChildrenWithIncarceratedParentsAListOfSelecte/resource_list_619.pdf

Focus on Children with Incarcerated parents: An Overview of the Research Literature; This report provides an overview of major research findings on children whose parents are incarcerated as a means of further informing this developing area of research, practice, and policy. <http://www.f2f.ca.gov/res/pdf/FocusOnChildrenWith.pdf>

Bringing Families In: Recommendations of the Incarceration, Reentry and the Family Roundtables, Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice & The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice <http://www.njisj.org/assets/documents/FinalRecommendations.pdf>

Family and Corrections Network / Children of Prisoners Library
PAMPHLET LIST / <http://www.fcnetwork.org/cpl/cplindex.html>

Facts and Issues

[101: Introduction to Children of Prisoners](#)

[102: Why Maintain Relationships?](#)

[103: Conversations - Questions Children Ask](#)

[104: Risk and Protection](#)

- [105: Visiting Mom or Dad](#)
- [106: Jail and Prison Procedures](#)
- [107: Communication Tips for Families](#)

Materials For Caregivers

- [201: Caring for Children of Prisoners](#)
- [202: Questions from Caregivers](#)
- [203: What Do Children of Prisoners Need?](#)
- [204: Tips from Caregivers for Caregivers](#)

Materials for Health Care Providers

- [301: Impact of Parental Incarceration](#)
- [302: Challenges for Health Care Providers](#)
- [303: Common Stress Points](#)
- [304: Different Children/ Different Behaviors](#)
- [305: Strategies for Intervention](#)
- [306: Tips for Fostering Trust & Safety](#)
- [307: The Caregiver's Situation](#)

Resource Section

- [901: Resources: Agencies, Book List, Glossary, Incarcerated Fathers Library, Links, Reading & References, Videos](#)

Baltimore Prisoners' Experiences Returning Home, Urban Institute
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310946_BaltimorePrisoners.pdf

Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children, Bureau of Justice Statistics
<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf>

Magazine Articles

America Magazine, Prison Nation, March 9, 2009
<http://americamagazine.org/node/149216>

Heartbreaking art helps kids with inmate parents: CNN article, August 2009
<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/LIVING/07/27/bia.children.of.inmates/index.html>

Mothers Behind Bars: What Happens to the Children?, National Geographic
http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/06/0613_030613_prisonkids.html

Children (3-7 year old) With A Parent in Prison: What do Teachers need to know? Sydney Gurewitz Clemens. <http://www.eceteacher.org/cip.htm>