



Trauma Informed Care: Services in Support of Families Before, During and After Incarceration

Statistics

- On Any given Day est. 2.7 million children have a parent incarcerated in state or federal prison (1 in 28)
- 10 million children are living with a parent who has come under some form of criminal justice supervision
- Since 1990 the number of female prisoners has grown by 50% compared to 34% of men. Of those women ¾ are mothers, and 2/3 have children under 18
- Avg age is 8 years old/22% under 5 years of age

Cited from Stacy M. Bouchee, PhD; Annie E. Casey Foundation Report

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Statistics

- 1 in 9 African American, 1 in 28 Hispanic 1 in 57 Caucasian
- 59% fathers and 58% mothers had no visits with children while incarcerated
- 62% parents in state prison, and 84% in federal prison are over 100 miles from home
- In 2010 93% federal prisoners were non violent crimes, 48% were drug related and 11% immigration
- In 2010 47% state prisoners were non violent, 17% drug related, 18% property, 13% public order

Cited from Rutgers University study

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What difference does it make:

- 2% of fathers and 8-10% mothers have kids in foster care, this does not include children with kinship placements
- 25% live with father when mom is incarcerated
- 90% with mother when father is incarcerated
- 50% live with grandparent when mother is incarcerated
- Incarcerated parents lose parental rights as a result of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (cannot be placed more than 15 of 22 months)

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXQ2eRHkIDc>

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Let's talk about FAMILY!

- How many of you work with children & families
- Has anyone experienced a family member being incarcerated
- Who is likely to care for children of incarcerated parents
- What is it like having a family member in prison
- How does a person being incarcerated affect his/her friends and family financially or socially
- How does incarceration affect families
- How does incarceration affect the mental health of family members
- Does incarceration create trauma?
- How does a parent being incarcerated affect children

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What's the impact of parental incarceration on Children?

- No Warning
- Emotional Trauma
- Worry About The Parent
- Sudden Financial Crisis
- School Work Suffers
- Separation By Distance To Prison
- Fear
- Worry
- Confusion
- Sadness
- Guilt
- Isolation
- Embarrassment
- Anger

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Currently:

- Lack of public awareness/stigma/legal
- Drug sentencing is strict
- Parental rights and quick termination
- Developing partnerships is tough
- Address entry point to begin services

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In the end:

- Risk factors are high given the extend of mental health challenges parents face
- Maintenance of contact is difficult when incarcerated
- Instability
- Finances
- School problems
- Shame and stigma
- Inconclusive on long term impacts
- Families, foster system are overwhelmed

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What to do:

- Policy change
- Increase resources
- Support for families
- Make family the central focus of incarcerated individual
- Increase visitation/communication
- System supports for children
- Age appropriate interventions include all members of system in healing
- Data collection and research

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What to do:

- Provide comprehensive services/funding
- Must deliver culturally competent services
- Fear of accessing services, shame stigma
- Immigration status

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What to do:

- Address child/caregiver relationship/system
- National repository of effective practices, programs and available service deliveries
- Professional development for professionals, peer learning, technical assistance
- Public education
- Address practices in corrections that make communication difficult
- Use untapped resources in county and state levels

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EXAMPLE

Services in Support of Families Before, During and After
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Recap

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Questions/wrap up