

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
Families and Children Affected By Incarceration

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The goal of this literature review was to examine the current state of knowledge regarding the general topic, Families and Children Affected by Incarceration. We focused on articles and reports published after 1999, and searched the following databases: Social Work Abstracts, PsychINFO, Criminal Justice Periodicals, CSA Social Service Abstracts, Google Scholar, CBCA Reference, Canadian Research Index, First Nations Periodical Index, and Indigenous Studies Portal. Additional relevant publications were found by perusing the reference lists of articles found during initial searches and on the websites of various governmental and non-profit organizations. Search terms included different combinations of the following key words: families, criminal justice, mothers, fathers, parents, arrest, kinship care, relative care, foster care, surrogate care, incarceration, imprisonment, jail, prison, treatment, program, probation, reentry, reintegration, parole, and community supervision. A summary is provided for each article or report included in the bibliography, and the 78 summaries are placed in alphabetical order by the first author's last name. At the end of the bibliography, a short list of directly relevant book titles is also included; this list does not represent a thorough search.

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Arditti, J.A., & Few, A.L. (2006). Mothers' reentry into family life following incarceration. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 17(1), 103-123. doi:10.1177/0887403405282450

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Mixed methods, descriptive

Sampling: Criterion sample (N=28) of mothers re-entering the community after a period of at least two months incarceration. Referred by probation and parole offices in two cities during 2003 and 2004.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional; data collected through interviews, using standardized measures (e.g., depression, parenting stress) and open-ended questions regarding family relationships during incarceration and after release.

Key Questions: What are the primary risk factors for reentering mothers? How do incarceration and reentry influence moms' perceptions of their parenting roles and their relationships with their children? What protective factors are helpful for mothers during reentry? How do mothers use community resources and what are their perceptions of community and family response?

Key Findings: There was a high incidence of clinical depression, addiction and family violence among the sample of mothers. The majority of mothers found family members and friends supportive and helpful during reentry. Community programs were also helpful, but 1/3 of the women did not receive any community services. Most mothers perceived themselves as good parents after release. Shifts in family configuration did occur from pre- to post-incarceration, with an increase in divorce.

Conclusions: Mothers face multiple challenges upon reentry. The "triple threat" of addiction, family violence, and mental health problems are some of these significant challenges, and attending to family violence and mental health issues during drug/alcohol treatment might be one way to address this, because assistance with addiction is often sought upon reentry. Recommendations are provided for probation officers. This study provides "a glimpse of mothers' experiences related to incarceration and reentry..." (p. 120).

Arditti, J.A., Lambert-Shute, J., & Joest, K. (2003). Saturday morning at the jail: Implications of incarceration for families and children. *Family Relations*, 52(3), 195-204.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: A convenience sample of caregivers visiting family members at a county jail in a mid-Atlantic state. Any caregiver bringing a child for the visit was allowed for inclusion in this study. Participants were given a coupon for a Happy Meal at McDonald's for their participation in the study. The authors stopped taking new interviews when the interviewers reached a point of saturation. The saturation point was defined as a lack of new information and a lack of new individuals to interview. The interview process took place on Saturday mornings from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (the only time during the week when children are allowed to visit inmates) over a 10 week period and resulted in a total of 56 caregiver interviews.

Design of Study: Interview

Key Questions: What are the implications of criminal sanctions on families and children of incarcerated individuals?

Key Findings: In terms of financial risk, families in this study were already at risk at the time of the family member's incarceration. For several of the families interviewed, this risk is exacerbated by the incarceration incident. Nearly half of the caregivers and over a quarter of the children were reported to have had declining health since the incarceration of the family member they were visiting. Seventy-nine percent of the respondent caregivers reported some sort of problems related to the incarceration. Key themes among these problems were emotional stress, parenting strain, work-family conflict, and concerns about children.

Conclusion: In light of the analysis, the authors recommend alternatives to incarceration, particularly for non-violent offenders.

Arditti, J.A., Smock, S.A., & Parkman, T.S. (2005). "It's been hard to be a father": A qualitative exploration of incarcerated fatherhood. *Fathering*, 3(3), 267-288.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative, content analysis of coded text

Sampling: Correctional staff distributed announcements to a list of potential participants who met eligibility requirements: father of at least one child under 18 years and to be released from prison in about a month. Men were selected from two minimum security facilities in Oregon and Utah. 89% response rate is estimated. N=51.

Design of Study: Designed to be a counterpart to the U.K. study by Clarke et al. (2005), published in this same issue of the journal (jointly U.S./UK funded studies). Day, Acock, Bahr, & Arditti (2005, also this issue of the journal) describe an aspect of this same U.S. study as well. Interviews took place in 2003-2004 in the U.S. The analyses described here are from the first wave of interviews, and represent cross-sectional data.

Key Questions: What are the perspectives of incarcerated fathers of their fathering experience and family relationships as they approach release from prison? How has incarceration influenced their fathering identity and father involvement?

Key Findings: 51% of fathers reported no visits from their children. 33% reported no phone contact with their children. Fathers felt helpless as fathers: in many cases they were unable to have contact, help families or children, were "out-of-the-loop" with information on their families, and could not protect, support, guide, discipline, or financially provide for their children. Fathers perceived that mothers of children often hindered father contact and involvement, except for in a few cases, and are very influential in mediating fathers' involvement.

Conclusions: Incarceration is a dormant period of fatherhood and release is seen as a rebirth, or new opportunity. Feeling helpless and lacking control as an incarcerated father is part of a prisonized paternal identity. Incarcerated fathers are at high risk given their nonresidence status and the prison context and their lack of personal agency as fathers.

Bales, W.D., & Mears, D.P. (2008). Inmate social ties and the transition to society: Does visitation reduce recidivism? *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 45(3), 287-321. doi:10.1177/0022427808317574

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Criterion sample; 7000 inmates released by the Florida State Department of Corrections from November 2001 to March 2002, who had served at least 12 months, were followed for 24 months.

Design of Study: All data gathered from Florida's Offender-Based Information System. Logistic regression and Cox proportional-hazards regression analyses used to predict probabilities.

Key Questions: Is there a visitation – recidivism association? What is the influence of visitation on two-year recidivism outcomes? (Recidivism defined as new felony conviction within 2 year follow-up period.) Eight hypotheses related to this primary question were examined having to do with type of visits, frequency, timing, and the age, gender, race, type of offense, and extent of prison history of offenders.

Key Findings: 58% of inmates received no visitors in the year prior to release. For inmates who were visited, their odds of recidivating were 31% less. For each additional visit received, the odds of recidivating were reduced by 3.8%. There was no statistically significant association between recidivism and child visitation, and more frequent child visitation was associated with an increased risk of recidivism.

Conclusions: The analyses largely support the notion that visitation reduces recidivism. Ways should be found to increase visitation for incarcerated persons and solidify ties to families, friends, and communities. Understanding the causal mechanisms behind visitation and recidivism is a next step.

Berry, M., Johnson, T., Severson, M., & Postmus, J.L. (2009). Wives and mothers at risk: The role of marital and maternal status in criminal activity and incarceration. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*, 90(3), 293-300. doi:10.1606/1044-3894.3891

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: N=423 from 5 counties within one state, including 157 incarcerated women, 157 women recruited from domestic violence and sexual assault services, and 109 other community women. Recruitment occurred through flyers, community referrals, and open invitation in the women's state prison (it appears).

Design of Study: Cross-sectional, retrospective, data collected through one hour long interviews.

Key Questions: How do mothers and nonmothers compare on criminal activity (economic, drug-related, violent)? How do married, partnered (but not married), and single women compare on criminal activity? Data on several descriptors were collected and analyzed as well (e.g., victimization of participants, number of children, education level, economic supports, previous arrest/incarceration).

Key Findings: Women who were less educated and had children at a younger age had the poorest outcomes. Motherhood and level of education (whether married or not) were strong predictors of illegal economic activities and arrests. Multiple regression model predicting number of illegal economic activities reported indicated that higher number of drugs used, higher number of children under 18, higher physical intimate partner violence score, and lower number of years of education were predictive ($R^2=.34$, $F=29.9$, $p<.001$).

Conclusions: Services and policies that enhance women's ability to economically care for their children (as opposed to a focus on solely improving parenting) or achieve economic self-sufficiency may help reduce illegal acts. Enhancing educational opportunities are part of this approach.

Brazzell, D., & La Vigne, N. (2008, September). *Mapping community data on children of prisoners: Strategies and insights* (Reentry Mapping Brief). Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Justice Policy Center.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual, description of mapping community data

Purpose of Brief: To provide information on community mapping to local organizations

Description of Mapping: Mapping, in this context, provides a visual display of the distribution of the children of inmates within a specific geographic region. Communities can use this information to address community problems. When data across multiple sources are merged, a more complete picture of families affected by incarceration results. The Reentry Mapping Network (RMN) is a partnership between the Urban Institute and community-based organizations in 15 jurisdictions that analyze and map local data on prisoner reentry and related topics. For example, in one area, a partner was able to analyze the foster care experiences of children with incarcerated mothers and the timing of the mothers' jail bookings in relation to foster care placement. It is also possible with mapping efforts to see the extent of public assistance use or single-headed households, along with the number of families experiencing incarceration within a community.

Other Information: The authors discuss the typical sources of data on children of incarcerated parents. Rhode Island Department of Corrections (DOC) has begun asking questions at prisoner intake about inmates' children. This is quite unusual for DOCs.

Bui, H.N., & Morash, M. (2010). *The impact of network relationships, prison experiences, and internal transformation on women's success after prison release. Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, 49(1), 1-22. doi:10.1080/10509670903435381*

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: Women were recruited from a parole program in a mid-sized southern city in the United States. Women had spent at least one year in prison and had successfully participated in their parole programs for at least one year at the time of the study. The selection criteria were proposed to select women who 1) had been incarcerated long enough to receive some level of rehabilitation, and 2) had been on parole long enough to have achieved some level of success. The second rationale is based on the fact that half of parolees will be incarcerated within a year of release. Thirty-eight women met the selection criteria and 20 agreed to participate in the study.

Design of Study: Interview

Key Question: What is the combined value of prison rehabilitation programming and support network relationships on inmates' rehabilitation success?

Key Findings: Of relevance to the current bibliography, the women interviewed in this study reported that negative romantic relationships (e.g. marriages or other long-term partners) typically dissolved during their incarceration and that romantic relationships they established post-incarceration were more positive. A similar pattern was reported with regard to familial relationships. Prior to their incarceration, women reported that their familial relationships were negative; either as a result of the offender's primary relationships only existing with negative elements of her family or due to alienation of the offender by positive elements of her family due to the offender's criminal activity. Offenders generally noted that relationships with positive elements of family members improved post-incarceration. Offenders attributed positive changes to their isolation from drugs, abusive relationships, and criminal activity.

Conclusion: The authors conclude that more efforts are needed to coordinate with family members of offenders with mental disorders at all phases of the criminal justice process.

Christian, J. (2005). Riding the bus: Barriers to prison visitation and family management strategies. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 21(1), 31-48.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: Observations during 5 bus rides from NYC to two men's prisons in NY, each occurring over a 24 hour period (distance to each prison 250-300 miles). 19 interviews with (adult) family members of male prisoners while on the way to visit or waiting to visit. Individuals riding the bus were asked if they would be willing to be interviewed.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional, part of a larger ethnographic study of how families' lives are affected by incarceration.

Key Questions: What are the barriers to prison visiting? How do families manage this process?

Key Findings: Staying connected requires considerable money, time, and energy. Families do so partially because they want to keep an eye on the prison, show moral support for their prisoner, and because they have hope in a better future. One consequence of the bus rides is that family members develop ties and friendships to each other, and this too provides them with some support.

One prison had a visitor center operated by a non-profit organization. It provided a comfortable place for visitors to wait and get ready for visits. This is much nicer than the typical waiting places in prisons, which may sometimes even be outside.

Conclusions: Families' visiting patterns ebb and flow, and cross-sectional research does not do justice to a thorough understanding of families' efforts and desires to stay connected to prisoners. Longitudinal research is needed in this area.

Christian, J., Mellow, J., & Thomas, S. (2006). Social and economic implications of family connections to prisoners. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 34, 443-452. doi:10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2006.05.010

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: 200 hours of observations were conducted at prison family support group meetings, attendance at activities for prison families, on 5 bus rides, each over 24 hour periods, to 2 New York men's prisons. Also, 19 interviews with (adult) family members of male prisoners were done.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional, part of a larger study on prisoners' families and how social capital development in families and communities is affected by incarceration.

Key Questions: What are the social and economic benefits and costs to families of maintaining a relationship with an incarcerated person?

Key Findings: Social capital costs to families occur partially through the trade-off of giving time to visit the offender and thus not engage in other social activities within their families, neighborhoods and communities. Financial costs to families were estimated with the use of census data in one high incarceration neighborhood. Perhaps 15-35% of the family's monthly income goes toward prisoner support and maintaining ties; this comes out of already impoverished families' budgets.

Conclusions: Families are in a double-bind and must negotiate what they are willing to do and what they are not. They sometimes limit their involvement with the prisoner in order to maintain the family's other needs.

Chui, W.H. (2010). 'Pains of imprisonment': Narratives of the women partners and children of the incarcerated. *Child and Family Social Work*, 15(2), 196-205. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2206.2009.00659.x

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: The study used a purposive sampling technique in which ten partners of ex-prisoners were recruited. The sample was recruited from a community organization serving families of prisoners and ex-prisoners. All families lived in Hong Kong.

Design of Study: Interview

Key Question: What is the experience of Chinese children whose parents are incarcerated?

Key Findings: Three major themes were identified in this study: The perceived impact of imprisonment, coping with the effects of imprisonment, and ways of maintaining ties with the incarcerated. Regarding the first theme, families indicated that incarceration had a negative impact on their children's emotional well-being and the financial well-being of the family as a whole. Financial problems were particularly poignant in families where the father was the incarcerated parent. The interviews revealed large variance in the perceived value of maintaining ties with incarcerated family members. The authors suggest that, at

least for Chinese families, the perceived value of maintaining ties is related to the quality of the family relationship pre-incarceration. Children who did have contact with their incarcerated parents indicated a desire to visit more frequently. However, the lack of family-friendly visiting environments inhibited frequent visitation.

Conclusions: Efforts should be made to increase opportunities for contact between Chinese children and their incarcerated parents. The Chinese government should also implement programs to provide additional financial support to these families.

Clarke, L., O'Brien, M., Godwin, H., Hemmings, J., Day, R.D., Connolly, J., & Van Lesson, T. (2005). Fathering behind bars in English prisons: Imprisoned fathers' identify and contact with their children. *Fathering*, 3(3), 221-241.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Mixed method

Sampling: Men serving sentences in three English prisons, two closed and one open, were invited to participate if they met the criteria that they: wanted "to contact and have some responsibility" for a dependent child on a regular basis after release and were 6-8 weeks within release (p. 222). N=43 male prisoners; 21 of their partners were also interviewed by phone within the following three months. Interviews took place in 2004.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional. Designed to be a counterpart to the U.S. study by Day, Acock, Bahr, & Arditti (2005) also published in this same issue of the journal (jointly U.S./UK funded studies). Within the article, the context of English prisons are described in brief including that, as in the U.S., formal statistics are not collected on the parental status of prisoners. The average distance from home to prison is about 53 miles (Social Exclusion Unit as cited here). Also, English prisons are focusing more on family preservation and the importance of family relationships.

Key Questions: What are men's perceptions of fatherhood behind bars? How are the father's family relationships influenced by incarceration? How do the characteristics of prison shape fathering, especially contact with children?

Key Findings: 25% of the men had lived with the target child for 5 or more years. Only 5 men were married to the target child's mother. Just less than half of the men had families that lived more than 100 miles from the prison.

Fathering is something that takes place "out there" and "not inside" (p. 229). For some men, prison undermined their sense of being able to be a responsible father. For other men, being in prison gave them space to reappraise their lives and the meaning of fatherhood to them. Family visits were viewed very positively, but were also difficult due to institutional constraints. The men's rating of their relationship with their child was not related to whether the child visited or not. Men's rating of the couple relationship was related to whether or not the child visited.

Conclusions: Understanding fathering from prison is important in understanding the contemporary experience of fathering in families, because prison is part of that experience for families. The prison context seems to overwhelm responsible and active fathering. Mothers are central to the facilitation of visitation and contact with children, and the nature of the couple relationship may be more important in continuing prisoner-child contact than the prisoner's relationship with the child. This couple relationship has its roots in pre-prison family life.

Comfort, M. (2007). Punishment beyond the legal offender. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 3, 271-296. doi:10.1146/annurev.lawsocsci.3.081806.112829

Type of Investigation: Conceptual

Key Question: What are the full impacts of penal sanctions, specifically beyond the individual offender to families, friends, and neighbors?

Key Findings: By our governmental policies and practices we profoundly affect people legally outside the purview of our legal sanctions. For example, when children and family members visit incarcerated parents, they take on “quasi-inmate” status (p. 277). Arrest and incarceration also have major effects on the mental and physical health of children and partners. The diminishing of economic opportunities and resources brought about by incarceration also affect prisoners’ children and non-incarcerated family members both during and after incarceration (e.g., cost of phone calls and travel to the facility, inability to find employment upon release).

Conclusions: Punishment beyond the offender must be considered in order to understand the full effects of our social policies. Jails and prisons have become our substitute social services within the context of confining a large number of citizens (e.g., provision of health care, shelter). This practice may paradoxically benefit families while offenders are incarcerated.

Cunningham, A., & Baker, L. (2003). *Waiting for Mommy* (ISBN: 1-895953-24-3). London, Ontario: Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Mixed method, exploratory, cross-sectional

Sampling: Surveys were distributed in 3 detention centers by a social worker or through Elizabeth Fry Societies in Ontario, Canada, to women with children under the age of 18. N=45 (40 in prison and 5 recently after release). A major component of the study was intended to be interviews with children and adolescents of incarcerated mothers, but it was very difficult to find families willing to participate. Interviews were done with 6 children, ages 5-12, and 1 adolescent. Researchers attempted to locate families through distribution of pamphlets, posters, and an ad in the Pennysaver, and women were told about the study at the time of release.

Design of Study: Survey. Survey instruments available at: www.lfcc.on.ca/cimp.html

Key Questions: What are the practical and emotional impacts of maternal incarceration on children and adolescents? In addition, a literature review, a review of program models, a resource list at the back of the report, brief descriptions of The Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System and the work of the Elizabeth Fry Societies, and a possible developmental model of how children and adolescents are affected by the absences associated with maternal incarceration are included in the report.

Key Findings: Based on their review of materials, surveys and interviews, the authors concluded that: 1) parental separation because of incarceration is different than other types of parental separation, 2) maternal incarceration is more destabilizing than paternal incarceration for children, 3) the challenges created by maternal incarceration often occur within already challenged family systems, 4) children of incarcerated parents are more vulnerable to their own criminal behavior, 5) emotional and practical

impacts of the separation vary depending on the age of the child and other factors, and 6) aspects of the criminal justice system exacerbate the negative impact on kids.

Conclusions: The authors speculate that the following factors mediate or moderate the relationship between maternal incarceration and child outcomes: 1) child's predisposition, 2) situational factors such as age, birth order, 3) characteristics of the parent-child bond, 4) parenting skill, 5) characteristics of the absence (e.g., length, suddenness, ability to contact mom), and 6) quality of care provided in mother's absence.

The authors state that Canada is further behind than the U.S. in research development in this area, and Canadian mothers may have very different experiences than U.S. mothers because of the impact of the war on drugs in the U.S.

Dallaire, D.H. (2007). Children with incarcerated mothers: Developmental outcomes, special challenges and recommendations. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 28(1), 15-24.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual

Key Question: What are the special needs associated with the children of incarcerated mothers?

Key Findings: Separation from mothers is traumatic for children of all ages although problems associated with the separation will vary by the developmental stage of the child. Separation in the context of incarceration is a unique situation which presents challenges unlike other forms of separation (e.g., the child may have been present during the mother's criminal activity or arrest).

Conclusions: Further research is needed in this area. Such research should be collaborative, across disciplines, and should focus on methodological improvements to better measure child outcomes as the result of maternal incarceration.

Dallaire, D.H. (2007). Incarcerated mothers and fathers: A comparison of risks for children and families. *Family Relations*, 56(5), 440-453. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3729.2007.00472.x

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Participants were selected from a population of 18,326 inmates in state and federal correctional facilities. Of this population, 7,249 were identified as parents (4 of these were dropped from the analyses for a total of 7,245). The sample was further reduced to ensure that participants had only adult *or* only minor children. This results in a total sample size of 6,146 parents (5,132 male and 1,014 female).

Design of Study: Cross-sectional. Secondary data analysis using data originally collected through computer assisted interviews with inmates in 1997 by Bureau of the Census personnel.

Key Questions: What are the risks associated with parental incarceration and how does this differ by the role of the parent (i.e. mother vs. father) and the age of the child (i.e. minor vs. adult).

Key Findings: The adult children of incarcerated mothers were 2.5 times more likely to be incarcerated than the adult children of incarcerated fathers. Drug use appears to contribute to this risk for the adult

children of incarcerated mothers. Incarcerated mothers of adults and minors are more likely to have a familial history of incarceration (i.e. incarcerated uncles, grandparents) than incarcerated fathers. The minor children of incarcerated mothers were also more likely to be placed in non-familial living arrangements (e.g., foster care).

Conclusions: Children of incarcerated mothers are at risk for a greater number of negative outcomes than the children of incarcerated fathers. Services for incarcerated mothers and their children should be focused on decreasing recidivism and assisting mothers with reintegration into society. Services should also focus on support for caregivers.

Davies, E., Brazzell, D., La Vigne, N.G., & Shollenberger, T. (2008). *Understanding the experiences and needs of children of incarcerated parents: Views from mentors (Research Report)*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Justice Policy Center.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative, exploratory, cross-sectional

Sampling: Volunteers from Big Brothers/Big Sisters organizations in Baltimore, MD, Milwaukee, WI, and Washington, D.C. were recruited to participate in focus groups. The adult volunteers were mentors of at least six months for children with a formerly or currently incarcerated parent.

Design of Study: Seven focus groups were convened in 2007 with the mentors.

Key Questions: What are the experiences and needs of children with incarcerated parents? How do these needs differ from those of other at-risk children?

Key Findings: Nine themes were identified, representing the topics most discussed and widely agreed upon. Children with incarcerated mothers typically experience more upheaval in their lives than children with incarcerated fathers, because children were more likely to have lived with their mothers prior to incarceration. They are also more likely to remain strongly attached to their mothers, assisting communication during incarceration but also resulting in more emotional distress. Because of the absence of fathers in boys' lives, supportive male role models are especially desired by boys. Children with a parent serving a long sentence fare better than those whose parents continue to cycle in and out of incarceration; they do not experience as much inconsistency and repeated traumatization.

Stigma and shame are one way that the experience of children with incarcerated parents differs from that of other children with absent parents. The time of release and reintegration is especially stressful, with promises and expectations not always being met.

Conclusions: Much of what was learned in the focus groups is supported in the research literature. Children need reliable and consistent adults in their lives, and the children of incarcerated parents could especially benefit from such adults.

Day, R.D., Acock, A.C., Bahr, S.J., & Arditto, J.A. (2005). Incarcerated fathers returning home to children and families: Introduction to the special issue and a primer on doing research with men in prison. *Fathering*, 3(3), 183-200.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Mixed method

Sampling: Flyers were handed out and men recruited in two U.S. prisons (one in Utah, one in Oregon). Participants must be fathers and expecting release within 3-6 weeks. Estimated 89% response rate. N=51.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional. Designed to be a counterpart to the U.K. study by Clarke et al. (2005) also published in this same issue of the journal (jointly U.S./UK funded studies). Interviews took place in 2003-2004.

Key Question: What are the beliefs and attitudes of incarcerated fathers about to be released and returned to family life?

The researchers ideally wanted to compare the fathers' responses with their partners' attitudes and beliefs about families and the men's upcoming release. They also wanted to do a follow-up interview with the fathers to see how the reconnections with partner and child and the transition went. Researchers were not able to conduct interviews with partners or follow-up interviews with fathers for a number of reasons. Participants could not be located, tracking them down was time consuming and costly, partners were not interested in being interviewed, etc. (The parallel U.K. study had better success with partner interviews.) In addition, the authors, in this article, provide an introduction to this special issue of *Fathering* and discuss several methodological difficulties that they encountered related to studying the issue of family life and prisoners.

Key Findings: 65% of the men reported no visits from target partners while in prison. Only 5 men reported being married. 33% received no visit from a target child while in prison. Many men claimed a close or very close relationship with the target child even after years of incarceration and little contact. 18 months after the interview period, 40% of the men were back in prison in Utah or Oregon.

Conclusions: Men willingly talked about their relationships in the interviews, but the researchers were unable to compare the men's perceptions with their partner's or with the men's own perceptions after release. This type of research is doable but difficult.

Drake, E.K., Aos, S., & Miller, M.G. (2009). Evidence-based public policy options to reduce crime and criminal justice costs: Implications in Washington State. *Victims and Offenders*, 4, 170-196. doi:10.1080/15564880802612615

Type of Investigation: Meta-analysis and Benefit-cost analysis

Type of Research Design: Quantitative, systematic review of evaluation studies

Sampling: Evaluation studies since 1970, published in English, in the areas of adult corrections, juvenile corrections, and prevention programs, that had a crime-related outcome measure and included a control or comparison groups were included in the meta-analysis. N=545 studies. Work done in 2006.

Key Questions: What programs work to reduce crime? What programs are cost-effective? Purpose was to inform Washington State in its use of programs intended to reduce crime.

Key Findings: Some programs work and some do not to reduce crime. Some are also more cost-effective than others. Some have not had sufficient evaluation studies with which to make a conclusion. Of note, among adult corrections programs, no specifically family focused programs are included in the meta-analysis (based on types of programs listed). Among juvenile corrections programs, functional family therapy on probation and family integrated transitions are included (both reduce crime). Among prevention programs, nurse family partnership is included, and this program reduces crime outcomes for both mothers and their children later.

Conclusions: There are programs that are both cost-effective and effective in reducing crime in all three areas: adult corrections, juvenile corrections, and prevention. WA State should invest its resources wisely in programs that have these qualities.

Eddy, B.A., Powell, M.J., Szubka, M.H., McCool, M.L., & Kuntz, S. (2001). Challenges in research with incarcerated parents and importance in violence prevention. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 20(1S), 56-62.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative, program evaluation

Sampling: Inmates in a county jail were invited to participate if they had a child aged 3 to 10 years, drug and alcohol or mental health concerns, and at least monthly contact with the child. N=152 completed baseline interviews, including standardized measures, about 42% of referrals. Baseline interviews were also done with a child of the inmate and the child's primary caregiver, and standardized measures completed to assess child behavior problems.

Design of Study: A prospective comparison group design with repeated measures was underway at the time the article was written to evaluate a parenting program for inmates. Participants were randomly assigned to one of two treatment groups. In addition to receiving the training manual, half of the participants received classroom training in parenting skills, communication, and child development. Follow-up interviews were intended with the inmate, child, and primary caregiver at 12 months post-baseline.

Key Questions: Follow-up interviews assess violence by the parent, caregiver, and child, parenting behavior, substance abuse, and family dynamics in the past 6 months.

Key Findings: Numerous problems occurred when implementing the program, including mental impairment and difficulty reading that affected the inmates' abilities to comprehend the lessons and slow acceptance of the program by both correctional staff and inmates. Follow-up interviews also were met with numerous complications including transience of the subjects, changing nature of family relationships and structure, and post-release instability. Research was still underway at the time of writing, but the authors estimate a follow-up rate of less than 40%.

Conclusions: Research on this topic with this population will need to deal with numerous implementation and follow-up challenges. Suggestions are offered to address some of these, including focusing on families that have relatively long-standing relationships and collecting contact information for several contact persons who may know where to find the released inmate.

Eddy, J.M., Martinez, C.R., Schiffmann, T. Newton, R., Olin, L., Leve, L., Foney, D.M., & Shortt, J.W. (2008). Development of a multisystemic parent management training intervention for incarcerated parents, their children and families. *Clinical Psychologist, 12(3)*, 86-98. doi:10.1080/13284200802495461

Type of Program: A multisystemic intervention for incarcerated parents, their children, and the children's caregivers in Oregon, called Parenting Inside Out. This prison-based program has been greatly expanded to develop an intervention support system and a coordinated set of interventions in the community and in other sectors of the criminal justice system (e.g., jail, probation/parole). The Children's Justice Alliance is the independent and advocacy organization around which the intervention development work continued.

Purpose: The goal was to deliver an evidence-informed parenting program in prison to assist incarcerated parents, and also their families, to develop and maintain positive family relationships.

Program Description: To initially develop the program and curriculum for prison delivery, a collaborative working group conducted a literature review, gathered program lists, searched websites, contacted each Oregon State correctional institution and asked if they had a parenting program, interviewed program instructors, did site visits, conducted focus groups with prisoners, caregivers, and parenting instructors, and conducted two state-wide surveys of inmates. Families most wanted help with how to guide and set limits for their children, how to negotiate the transition back to the family from prison, and how to overcome difficult relationships with caregivers during and after prison.

The resulting program consists of 36 sessions over 12 weeks and includes components on effective communication, parenting knowledge and skills building, positive norm setting, parenting from a distance, and preparing for the transition home. It has a structured curriculum, and is taught using hands-on learning experiences and exercises. There is also a weekly open support group for parents and a therapeutic visitation program for graduates of the program.

Evaluation: Data collection for a formal program evaluation using a randomized design was completed in 2008. The authors write that they are working on conducting outcome analyses.

Ehrensaft, M., Khashu, A., Ross, T., & Wamsley, M. (2003). *Patterns of criminal conviction and incarceration among mothers of children in foster care in New York City*. New York: Vera Institute of Justice.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Two different groups were examined in this study: a group of biological parents of New York foster children from 1991 and a group from 1996. The 1991 group included all biological mothers for children entering foster care in the 1991 calendar year. Out of 13,920 entries (some children had multiple entries) only 11,349 of the mothers had associated data in the New York State foster care data system. Based on available data, the final group contained 8,897 parents including 7,657 biological mothers. Using a nearly identical process, a group of 7,128 biological mothers was selected for foster care entries in calendar year 1996.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional; secondary data analysis using child welfare and criminal justice records.

Key Question: What is the pattern of criminal convictions and incarceration among the mothers of foster children in New York City?

Key Findings: 35 to 39% of the biological mothers of foster children in both of the identified groups had been arrested during their adult lives. The majority of the arrest charges were non-violent misdemeanors (e.g. prostitution, drug possession). In both identified groups, less than five percent of the mothers had been arrested in the month prior to placement. The authors take this to suggest that only a small proportion of maternal arrests directly contribute to foster placement. Of the 20% of mothers who had been incarcerated in their adult lives, less than half of the women served time in an actual prison (i.e. the women were incarcerated in a jail or detention facility). 10 - 12% of the mothers were incarcerated during their child's stay in foster care. However, over half of these incarcerations took place after the child's initial placement into out-of-home care.

Conclusions: The results of this study suggest that maternal arrest and incarceration contributes to only a small number of placements in New York City. The authors note that the effects of paternal incarceration are not examined by this study and may have a more significant role in a child's placement in out-of-home care.

Ferraro, K.J., & Moe, A.M. (2003). Mothering, crime, and incarceration. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 32(1), 9-40. doi:10.1177/0891241602238937

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: Correctional staff recruited volunteers for interviews, with no apparent eligibility criteria, at one county jail for women in Arizona. N=30. Sample is racially diverse.

Design of Study: Topical life history narratives were gathered through interviews ranging from 40 minutes to 4 hours. Data collected in 2000.

Key Questions: What are women's experiences of mothering, crime and incarceration? What are the relationships between women's experiences of violent victimization and incarceration?

Key Findings: 90% of the women had children. 80% were addicted to drugs or alcohol. Themes that emerged from the qualitative analysis included: 1) taking care of children often related to offending for the women with children (and not for those without children), to meet the economic needs of children. 2) Jail, for some women, was a retreat, a respite from the demands of mothering, male violence, and street life (through the provision of basic health and nutrition). None of the women had male partners they could rely on for child care. 3) For some, drug and alcohol addiction worsened after rights to their children were severed. These addictive behaviors then led to incarceration. Other women felt powerless to stop their addictions even when they knew they were at risk of losing their children. 4) Women's children were very important to women's identities, even if their children were deceased or were lost to them. Children gave them hope for the future, but also made incarceration a difficult time because of the separation and the challenges of mothering from inside.

Conclusions: Mothering makes poor women's lives very difficult, but also gives them a reason to challenge structural and individual sources of oppression. Complex problems (addiction, violence, poverty, mental health problems) face low-income women, and these problems cannot be resolved by programs for the children of incarcerated mothers or even through revised sentencing policies.

**Gharaibeh, F.A. (2008). The effects upon children in Jordan of the imprisonment of their fathers: A social work perspective. *International Social Work*, 51(2), 233-246.
doi:10.1177/0020872807085861**

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: With support from the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development, the authors identified 26 wives, representing 74 children, to participate in this study. All families were citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Design of Study: Interview

Key Question: What is the experience of Jordanian children whose fathers are incarcerated?

Key Findings: Mothers report that their children feel upset, depressed, and “deprived” as the result of their father’s incarceration. Mothers noted specific behavioral changes such as increased crying and enuresis. Enuresis is a common problem for the children in this study and was noted to cause relational problems between the enuretic child and their siblings and is also noted to cause attendance problems at school. The eldest son in the interviewed families is also noted to be particularly affected as he will often take on paternal roles in order to compensate for his father’s absence. The compensation will sometimes include leaving school in order to financially support the family.

Conclusions: The authors assess that, for the Jordanian population, the most pressing implication of their study is to decrease the social stigma associated with the imprisonment of a family member in the country. This is assessed as a possible causal factor for many of the identified family problems.

Glaze, L.E., & Maruschak, L.M. (2008). *Parents in prison and their minor children* (NCJ 222984). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Findings in this report are based on data collected through interviews with prisoners in the Bureau of Justice Statistics 2004 Survey of Inmates in State and Correctional Facilities, using a nationally representative sample.

Design of Study: Integrated Administrative Data

Key Question: What is the status of incarcerated parents and their minor children in the U.S.?

Key Findings: Summary statistics are provided describing the growth in parents of minor children held in U.S. prisons. These statistics are further analyzed in terms of various demographic indicators for the parents and the children. Where available, statistics are differentiated between State and Federal facilities. Limited information is provided regarding the types of treatment provided in these facilities. Information is provided regarding methodology and the availability of more detailed information online.

Conclusions: The number of parents in U.S. prisons has increased substantially since the early 1990s. This trend has slowed somewhat in recent years. No specific conclusions are drawn in this analysis.

Greenberg, R. (2006). Children and families: Mothers who are incarcerated. *Women & Therapy*, 29(3-4), 165-179. doi:10.1300/J015v29n03_09

Type of Investigation: Conceptual

Key Question: What are the special needs associated with the children of incarcerated mothers?

Key Findings: The number of incarcerated parents grew substantially during the latter part of the twentieth century. Children separated from a parent due to incarceration are almost always traumatized. This trauma can have long-term developmental impacts on children. Despite these problems, several options are available to help families with incarcerated parents.

Conclusions: The authors provide a summary of suggested ways to engage families of incarcerated parents (and the incarcerated parents themselves). The suggestions are as follows: encouraging detention facilities and associated systems to enforce a Bill of Rights for incarcerated parents and their children, the use of bibliotherapy (the use of age appropriate books to address relevant life issues through story) with children, encouraging visitation between children and their incarcerated parent, and providing mental health support to incarcerated mothers and families.

Hairston, C.F. (2007, October). *Focus on children with incarcerated parents: An overview of the research literature*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Type of Investigation: Review of the research literature

Purpose of the Review: To provide an overview of the existing research and knowledge related to children with incarcerated parents, with a focus on the children. Included research published in the last 20 years within the U.S.

Organization of the Report: There are six parts: five of the chapters review the research on a specific topic and present findings in that area, and the sixth chapter presents key findings and policy suggestions. The specific topics include 1) a statistical profile of incarcerated parents, 2) parent-child contact during incarceration, 3) economic, emotional and social consequences to children of parental incarceration, 4) reuniting when incarcerated parents return home, and 5) programs and services for children and their parents.

Key Findings: Clear, causal relationships between parental incarceration and children's problems have not yet been established. The effects of factors such as pre-incarceration parenting, other domestic characteristics, and parental incarceration have not been isolated from each other. Incarceration does seem to lead to the severance of family ties in many cases.

There are four main types of programs for children with incarcerated parents: parenting classes (most common), parent-child visiting services, mentoring for the children, and support groups for the children. Most of these programs have not been formally evaluated and run on few resources.

Conclusions: There is too little research to determine best practices at this time. Most incarcerated parents do want to have relationships with their children. Some children, weathering parental incarceration, do not experience permanent damage as a result, even though many do experience adverse outcomes. There is no solid evidence that parental incarceration predicts incarceration among parents' children later. The majority of children are not delinquent or anti-social but do need help succeeding in school. More resources must be directed to the evaluation of existing programs.

Hairston, C.F., & Lockett, P.W. (2003). Parents in prison: New directions for social services. In O. Harris, & R.R. Miller (Eds.), *Impacts of incarceration on the African American family* (pp. 181-186). New Jersey: Transaction Pub.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual

Purpose of Brief: To provide information on a parenting education program.

Description of Program: Parents in Prison is an innovative program focusing on parenting education for fathers in the Tennessee prison system. The program seeks to focus on strengthening families rather than focus on the father's reason for incarceration. The program is run, in large part, by the inmates themselves which allows them to develop positive leadership skills in a prison setting. The program is based on traditional parenting education protocol and can thus be used in a community setting as well. Inmates complete "homework" as well as formal instruction during the program. Much of the instruction in the program is performed by community volunteers which also makes the program cost-effective.

Hanlon, T.E., Carswell, S.B., & Rose, M. (2007). Research on the caretaking of children of incarcerated parents: Findings and their service delivery implications. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 29(3), 348-362. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2006.09.001

Type of Investigation: Conceptual

Key Question: What is the current state of research regarding the care of children of incarcerated parents?

Key Findings: The number of incarcerated parents grew substantially during the latter part of the twentieth century. This has resulted in a large number of kinship or relative caregivers, particularly in the African American community where problems with parental incarceration tend to be intergenerational. Even with kinship caregiving arrangements, efforts should be made to preserve the parent-child bond with the incarcerated parent. Children have special needs which may develop as the result of their parent's incarceration, particularly if they are placed in foster care. Community-based programming can be implemented to help meet the needs of this population.

Conclusions: Efforts should be made to implement effective services. Services should be prioritized with the goal of stopping intergenerational cycles of criminal behavior.

Houck, K.D.F., & Loper, A.B. (2002). The relationship of parenting stress to adjustment among mothers in prison. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 72(4), 548-558. doi:10.1037//0002-9432.72.4.548

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Women in a maximum security prison were invited to participate. The participants are part of a larger, longitudinal study about the long-term psychological adjustment of incarcerated women. N=362 incarcerated mothers for the analyses reported here.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional. Standardized measures were administered in group settings, and included measures of psychological symptoms, parenting stress, and parent attachment. Instruments were

created to assess experiences/perceptions related to maintaining contact with children and the visitation process specific to incarcerated women. Official institutional records were used to measure misconduct.

Key Questions: Is parenting stress related to anxiety, depression, somatization, and institutional misconduct in incarcerated women?

Key Findings: 76% of women had day-to-day responsibilities for their child's care prior to incarceration. 84% intend to resume custody after release, although 24% of these women realize that will be difficult. There is a high level of general emotional distress with 40% in the clinical range on the anxiety scale, 51% in the clinical range on the depression scale, and 33% in the clinical range on the somatization scale. Nonminority mothers reported significantly more emotional and physical distress.

Parenting stress related to the amount of contact, visitation, and sense of competence as a parent were associated with increased anxiety. Parenting stress related to contact and sense of competence were associated with increased depression. Parenting stress related to contact was associated with somatization symptoms. Parenting stress related to attachment was not related to any psychological adjustment measures. Parenting stress related to sense of competence as a parent was related to the severity of institutional infractions, beyond the influence of age and minority status.

Conclusions: Incarcerated women have considerable distress related to parenting, and this shows itself in psychological and behavioral adjustment problems. It may be easier for incarcerated mothers to see themselves as loving (attached) than as responsible (competent) parents. Facilities for women should acknowledge the importance of parenting for incarcerated mothers and work with them around the difficulties related to maintaining contact and visitation.

Huebner, B.M., & Gustafson, R. (2007). The effect of maternal incarceration on adult offspring involvement in the criminal justice system. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 35(3), 283-296.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Data is sampled from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79). Data were originally collected to be nationally representative of children between the ages of 14 and 22 in 1978. Data have been continually added to this original base to include children born to women aged 14 to 21 in 1979. The current study focused on 1,697 children who were between the ages of 18 and 24 in 2000.

Design of Study: Cohort; secondary data analysis.

Key Question: How does a mother's incarceration affect her children's involvement in the criminal justice system as an adult?

Key Findings: Controlling for demographic variables of the adult children, maternal incarceration appears to be significantly associated with criminal justice involvement. The results also show that maternal incarceration does not have any substantive effects on home environment, juvenile delinquency, and peer pressure. This is suggestive of an independent effect of maternal incarceration on adult criminal justice system involvement.

Conclusions: There is a need to examine the costs and benefits associated with maternal incarceration. Consideration of community-based alternatives is required in order to improve the outcomes of families involved in the criminal justice system.

Hughes, M.J., & Harrison-Thompson, J. (2002). Prison parenting programs: A national survey. *The Social Policy Journal*, 1(1), 57-74.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: 745 state prison facilities (almost all of them) were invited to participate by returning the survey. Response rate 42%; NYS declined to participate (third largest correctional population in the U.S.). N=313 useable surveys.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional survey, descriptive study, instrument designed by researchers.

Key Questions: What are the demographics of inmates, including parental status? Which prisons (how many) offer parenting programs? What are the components of such programs? What parent-child visitation regulations and accommodations are in place in such programs?

Key Findings: 48% of prisons returning useable surveys had parenting programs: 90% of women's facilities and 40% of men's. Parenting education classes were the most common component of parenting programs: in 97% of women's programs and 92% of men's. 81% of women's parenting programs had a visitation component; 39% of men's had this component. 76% of women's parenting programs had a child development class component; 51% of men's. Almost all women's visitation programs and 67% of men's attempted to include foster care and Child Protective Services children in visitation.

Conclusions: There is quite a bit of variation in parenting programs across facilities and between men's and women's prisons. Incarcerated fathers are ignored to a larger extent in program and policy arenas, as compared to incarcerated mothers relative to parenting issues. There is a need for a standard tracking system, to gather data on the number of incarcerated parents and the number of affected children. This could be shared by child welfare and corrections organizations.

Jeffries, J.M., Menghraj, S., & Hairston, C.F. (2001, February). *Serving incarcerated and ex-offender fathers and their families: A review of the field*. New York: Vera Institute of Justice.

Type of Programs: Programs for incarcerated and ex-offender fathers

Purpose: The report discusses "the design, objectives, history, policy contexts, and other operating environments of programs designed for incarcerated and low-income fathers" (p. 5), with the purpose of highlighting policies and practices that affect fathers. Best practices are not identified; the authors believe that would be premature. Longitudinal analyses and formal program evaluations have not been conducted to support best practice conclusions.

Selection of Programs: Program materials were gathered from many sources including the literature, site visits and phone calls to programs, informal conversations with program participants, practitioners, two regional policy meetings relevant to the topic, materials disseminated by programs, surveys mailed to over 50 programs chosen from directories, etc. The resulting list of included programs is not comprehensive and does describe a variety of approaches. The included programs are relevant to incarcerated or ex-offender fathers or they provide note-worthy services to their families.

Other Information: The report discusses the history of programs for incarcerated fathers, comparisons with the policy context of programs for incarcerated mothers, reasons for providing programs for fathers, and the relationship of responsible fatherhood policies to men involved with the criminal justice system. A summary chart of 14 programs is on page 42. Each individual program is also individually described in the report. Funding and contact information are also included. Tables and maps of the geographic locations of a much larger number of programs across the United States are included.

Evaluation: Formal program evaluation or research is not a standard feature of these programs. Factors such as longevity of the program, anecdotal reports, publicity, pre- and post-knowledge differences, and program completion are considered.

Johnson, E.I., & Waldfogel, J. (2002). Parental incarceration: Recent trends and implications for child welfare. *Social Service Review*, 76(3), 460-479.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Prisoners were selected from U.S. Census Bureau inmate surveys for 1986, 1991, and 1997. A stratified, two-stage selection process was utilized, first selecting prisons and then selecting inmates who had at least one child under the age of 18. The sample of mothers for each year ranged from 1,865 to 1,967. The sample of fathers ranged from 5,769 to 6,179.

Design of Study: Secondary data analysis

Key Question: What are the trends in parental incarceration over 11 years?

Key Findings: Summary statistics are provided describing the sampled parents and their children. In addition to demographic details of the sample, information is provided outlining the extent of contact between the parents and their children as well as the living arrangements of the children. Parental history of drug use is also included in the summary. The article specifically indicates that a growing proportion of the foster care system includes children of incarcerated parents.

Conclusions: Children of incarcerated parents are a group with special needs that are occupying a growing proportion of the U.S. foster care population. Coordinated efforts are required to effectively serve these children and their caregivers.

Johnson, H.D., & Young, D.S. (2002). Addiction, abuse, and family relationships: Childhood experiences of five incarcerated African American women. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*, 1(4), 29-47.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: The five interviews explored in this analysis come from a larger study on criminal behavior, drug addiction, and recurrent imprisonment among African American women. Women in two prisons who met the criteria of being at least 40 years old, African American, with extensive drug use histories, and with 3 or more incarcerations were invited to participate. All 7 eligible women agreed to participate in an individual interview, to tell about their lives. A common theme of childhood sexual abuse emerged

in 5 of the 7 women's stories, and this article focuses on the early life experiences of the women who reported a history of early sexual abuse. N=5.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional, retrospective

Key Questions: What are the similarities and differences in the early life experiences of the women who specifically reported a history of early sexual abuse?

Key Findings: The women's lives were characterized by alcohol and drug use, for three of them at an early age, extensive childhood sexual abuse by male family members or close family friends, and mother-child relationships that were abusive, detached, or absent. None of the women described mutually empathic relationships with any individuals during their childhood and preadolescence.

Conclusions: "Normal" families were perceived by the women as characterized by early alcohol and drug use, child sexual abuse, and an absence of empathic and supportive relationships. Relational theory provides a useful framework for understanding the life experiences and needs of many incarcerated women.

Johnston, D. (2006). The wrong road: Efforts to understand the effects of parental crime and incarceration (Reaction Essay). *Criminology & Public Policy*, 5(4), 703-720.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual, reaction essay

Purpose: Denise Johnston, Co-Founding Director of the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents (1989) in California, responds to previous research/publications related to the children of incarcerated parents and the Phillips, Erklani, Keeler, Costello, & Angold (2006) research study. Ten recommendations for approaches to research, policy, and practice are provided within this context.

Findings: In summary (see page 710-11), empirical research finds that many incarcerated parents and their children did not live together prior to parental arrest. Only a minority of mothers were actually primary caregivers for their children prior to incarceration. Incarcerated parents do not know a lot about their children's lives, do not receive visits, and are not very involved in their children's lives. Most prisoners have their children by different partners, so that full reunification is not possible. High recidivism rates suggest that parent-child reunifications will be transitory. In contrast to these findings, publications about children of prisoners imply that incarcerated parents are active in their children's lives prior to incarceration. Policy suggestions are made for the reentry of fathers and typically are made as if most families were not in dissolution.

Conclusions: Children, sampled from the community, should be the index subjects of research in this area, to avoid the current "prison-centric focus" (p. 711). Phillips et al. (2006, Disentangling the risks...) make a good start in helping us to disentangle the family and parent risks that were already evident prior to incarceration (e.g., substance abuse, mental illness). Prison is not the cause or the solution to parent-child or to family problems for children with incarcerated parents.

La Vigne, N.G., Naser, R.L., Brooks, L.E., & Castro, J.L. (2005). Examining the effect of incarceration and in-prison family contact on prisoners' family relationships. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 21(4), 314-335. doi:10.1177/1043986205281727

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Male prisoners were recruited from 5 facilities in Illinois through a pre-release program that most prisoners participate in in IL. N=233 male prisoners who did both a pre-release and post-release interview (post-release interviews were done at 2 and 6 months after release), returning to Chicago, age 18 or older, and had been sentenced to at least 1 year in prison. 88% of the sample was black; 36% lived with at least 1 minor child prior to prison.

Design of Study: The data used for this analysis is part of the Returning Home: Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry Study, a four-state longitudinal study involving interviews with prisoners before and after their release. Several standardized measures are done in the larger study, including those that assess family relationships before, during, and after release from prison. The analyses described in this article used the Returning Home Illinois data. Data are based on self-report.

Key Questions: Do incarceration and in-prison contacts with family members affect prisoners' perceptions of the quality of family relationships and the level of family support after release?

Key Findings: Generally high ratings of family relationship quality and expectations of support, both direct and emotional, were given by prisoners. Family relationship quality increased from pre-release to post-release time (statistically significant difference). In prison, in-person visits were relatively few, with 13% seeing family or children and 29% seeing intimate partners at least once. The majority of prisoners had at least one mail or telephone contact with family members (92%), partners (81%), and children (53%).

The level of family support and quality of relationships are relatively consistent over time and not greatly affected by incarceration. Contact with family does help to improve the quality of relationships and level of family support after release. Contact with intimate partners, however, only helps with post-release support and relationship if the relationship was strong prior to prison. Contact with children does not predict family relationship quality or support, but it does predict attachment to and involvement with children after release.

Conclusions: The broad category of "family" for analysis may not get at the differences between different types of relationships, such as intimate partner, children, or one's own parents. It appears that relationships with intimate partners and children are more tenuous and may not be affected in the same ways by a family member's incarceration. This study considered male prisoners only and future research should consider the role of gender, because female prisoners' experiences with family may be quite different.

La Vigne, N.G., Davies, E., & Brazzell, D. (2008, February). *Broken bonds: Understanding and addressing the needs of children with incarcerated parents* (Research Report). Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Justice Policy Center.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual, review of empirical research

Purpose of the Report: To provide recommendations to those involved in research, policy development, and service delivery for children of incarcerated parents.

Organization of the Report: This brief research report covers: 1) the scope of the problem, 2) changes that children encounter when parents are incarcerated in the areas of living arrangements, financial circumstances, and parent-child relationships, 3) the emotional and behavioral correlates of having an incarcerated parent, 4) what may help in the way of protective factors and programs, and 5) recommendations for those serving this population of children.

Key Findings: Children of incarcerated parents face significant risks as a group, but individual experiences vary widely. Protective factors include the closeness of the parent and child relationship prior to incarceration and support from other family members, caregivers, and community members. The closeness of the parent-child relationship may make the initial separation more difficult, but may assist with continuing contact throughout incarceration and with the re-entry experience.

Conclusions: More research is needed to understand the variation among this group of at-risk children. We do not know much about the effects of parental incarceration on different ages or genders of children.

Lange, S.M. (2000). *The challenges confronting children of incarcerated parents. Journal of Family Psychotherapy, 11(4), 61-68.*

Type of Investigation: Conceptual

Key Question: What are the therapeutic needs of the children of incarcerated parents?

Key Findings: Having a parent incarcerated can be an emotionally traumatic experience for a child. In addition to the loss, the child also struggles with conflicting feelings (e.g., embarrassment over the situation). Psychotherapy with this population requires key tasks in order to meet the child's needs.

Conclusions: The key tasks for the psychotherapist of the child of an incarcerated parent are as follows: 1) assessment, 2) encouraging appropriate disclosure, 3) facilitating grief and mourning, 4) facilitating communication, 5) exploring options, and 6) achieving integration.

Leschied, A., Chiodo, D., Nowicki, E., & Rodger, S. (2008). *Childhood predictors of adult criminality: A meta-analysis drawn from the prospective longitudinal literature. Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 50(4), 435-467. doi:10.1353/ccj.0.0027*

Type of Investigation: Meta-analysis of prospective, longitudinal studies

Sampling: Dates of publication 1994-2004 were searched in major electronic databases. 38 studies met inclusion criteria, reflecting 66,647 total participants from Scandinavian countries, United States, Denmark, Australia and New Zealand, Holland, and the UK.

Key Questions: What are the major predictors of criminogenic risk for youths up to age 18? Predictor variables were assigned to one of two major categories: family factors and child factors, and youths were classified by age (early, mid or late childhood/adolescence).

Key Findings: Effect sizes (ES) were measured as the impact of the IV (e.g., behavioral predictor) on the DV (e.g., official conviction). 274 ES measurements were generated. Child factors have a modest effect in predicting adult correctional outcomes (overall ES = .29, $p < .001$). Family factors also have modest effect (overall ES = .25, $p < .001$). Individual predictors vary in strength of effect size, however. Parent management that is coercive, inconsistent or lacking in supervision during mid-childhood (ES=.41, $p < .001$) and family structure measured in adolescence such as child involvement in child welfare system, parental separation, and parents' marital status (ES=.67, $p < .01$) yielded larger effect sizes, suggesting they are stronger predictors of adult criminal behavior.

Conclusion: Considering risk factors based on developmental age of child aids prevention efforts.

Lewis, C.E., Garfinkel, I., & Gao, Q. (2007). Incarceration and unwed fathers in fragile families. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 34(3), 77-94.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Sample from the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study which tracks children born between 1998 and 2000 in 20 large cities in the United States. Baseline data include 4,898 completed mother interviews and 3,830 completed father interviews. The one-year follow-up interviews include 4,365 mother interviews and 3,367 father interviews. The full 20-city sample data set was used for this study and analysis was restricted to unwed fathers to increase data homogeneity. (Roughly three-quarters of the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study is based on children born to unmarried parents.)

Design of Study: Cohort

Key Question: How does a father's incarceration affect his employment subsequent to his incarceration?

Key Findings: Based on odds ratios, fathers who had been incarcerated are between 34% (using mother-reported data) and 57% (using father reported data) as likely to be employed in the past week as fathers who had not been incarcerated. Depression and race are also associated with employment. In terms of wages, there is no significant difference in the hourly wage between previously incarcerated fathers and those who have never been incarcerated.

Conclusions : The study provides evidence that incarceration is associated with poor economic outcomes for unwed fathers. The authors provide suggestions for future research as well as possible alternatives to incarceration which could mitigate these effects (e.g., clemency for released first-time offenders).

Linsk, N., Mason, S., Fendrich, M., Bass, M., Prubhughate, P., & Brown, A. (2009). “No matter what I do they still want their family”: Stressors for African American grandparents and other relatives. *Journal of Family Social Work, 12(1), 25-43.* doi:10.1080/10522150802661547

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: This study utilized a convenience sample of individuals caring for at least one relative child whose mother had a history of substance abuse and was involved with the criminal justice system. Caregivers were identified through community agencies that served families with substance abuse/HIV issues or through agencies that provided services to individuals involved with the criminal justice system. A sample of 25 African American women caregivers was identified.

Design of Study: Interview

Key Question: How does the incarceration of mothers affect the individuals caring for the offenders' children?

Key Findings: Caregivers experience a number of different stressors associated with caring for the children of incarcerated mothers. The stressors reported by the caregivers were grouped into four different categories: caregiver issues (e.g., multiple responsibilities), child issues (e.g., child behavior problems), caregiving issues (e.g., concern about the child's future), and criminal justice involvement of the mothers (e.g., desire to keep the child from the mother). As a group, the caregivers scored in the moderate to significant range of depressive symptoms. Higher scores on the depressive scale were positively associated with caregiver age and the number of children being cared for by the caregiver. Grandmothers also reported more depressive symptoms than other relative caregivers (e.g., sisters, aunts).

Conclusion: Future research should examine the potential relationship between depression and caring for the children of incarcerated parents.

Loper, A.B., Carlson, L.W., Levitt, L., & Scheffel, K. (2009). Parenting stress, alliance, child contact, and adjustment of imprisoned mothers and fathers. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, 48(6), 483-503.* doi:10.1080/10509670903081300

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: N=111 men and 100 women incarcerated in one of 11 prisons in Texas or Ohio. Participants are a subset of a larger sample of 471 inmates selected for a study examining criminal history and perceptions of prison life. The 471 inmates were selected based on a random sampling of 100 inmates from each of the populations in the aforementioned 11 prisons. Of this initial pool, 471 inmates agreed to participate in the larger study. Inmates for the subset in the current study were selected based on their agreement to participate in the study, their indication that they had at least one child under the age of 21, and their completion of measures associated with the study.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional, using interviews and standardized measures.

Key Questions: Do incarcerated mothers and fathers experience parental stress differently? Do incarcerated mothers and fathers have qualitatively different relationships with their children? Does alliance with a child's caregiver effect parenting stress for incarcerated mothers and fathers?

Key Findings: Compared to mothers, fathers had less contact with their children both before and during their incarceration. Fathers also report lower levels of caregiver alliance. Overall, incarcerated fathers reported higher levels of parenting stress than incarcerated mothers. Mothers who maintained regular contact with their children during their incarceration have lower rates of parenting stress; no such relationship exists for fathers in this study. Also for mothers, parenting stress is positively associated with depressive symptoms. For both mothers and fathers, increased parenting stress is associated with poor adjustment to the prison environment.

Conclusions: The authors note that parenting programming is often offered to inmates in conjunction with their release from custody and suggest that these findings support a need for parenting programming throughout an individual's incarceration. Such programming should focus on letter-writing and phone calls, but should also improve access to quality visitation.

Loper, A.B., & Tuerk, E.H. (2006). Parenting programs for incarcerated parents: Current research and future directions. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 17(4), 407-427. doi:10.1177/0887403406292692

Type of Investigation: Literature review of peer-reviewed articles that describe specific parent-training interventions for prison inmates.

Sampling: 17 studies/descriptions were located, with the published dates of these articles ranging from 1983 through 2003. A table of the programs is provided.

Key Questions: What do these interventions look like? What are the commonalities among them? What practices are most effective? What do we still need to learn about effective parent-training interventions?

Key Findings: Most programs have not had sufficiently rigorous evaluations for conclusions regarding their effectiveness. Most studies look at outcomes related to parent self-esteem, institutional adjustment, or parenting attitudes.

Conclusions: The difficulties related to accessing the children of incarcerated parents in order to assess child outcomes and the lack of opportunities to practice new knowledge gained by parents during parent-training programs has resulted in limited knowledge regarding programs' effectiveness. There is a paucity of literature/studies in this area. Parent training provided within prisons must take into consideration the unique constraints and context within which these interventions occur.

Lopez, V., Katsulis, Y., & Robillard, A. (2009, April). Drug use with parents as a relational strategy for incarcerated female adolescents. *Family Relations*, 58, 135-147.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: Convenience sample (N=18) of 14-17 year old girls incarcerated in one juvenile correctional facility. All reported parental and personal drug use.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional, retrospective; data collection conducted through individual interviews.

Key Questions: How do incarcerated girls make meaning of their parents' drug use? How has knowledge of and experience with parental drug use shaped their relationships with their parents? How do their perceptions of their parents' use fit with their own drug use?

Key Findings: Girls shared drug use with their parents as a way to get close to them and to spend time with them (8 of the girls). Very early memories include parental drug use. The girls took on adult roles at a young age, and they also felt abandoned or rejected by parents.

Conclusions: From an attachment perspective, sharing drug use with parents was an adaptive strategy. Fathers should be included in prevention efforts, as well as other caregivers when parents are not responsive.

Mackintosh, V.H., Myers, B.J., & Kennon, S.S. (2006). Children of incarcerated mothers and their caregivers: Factors affecting the quality of their relationship. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 15(5), 581-596. doi:10.1007/s10826-006-9030-4

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Sample is 69 boys and girls, age 6-12, attending a residential summer camp for children of incarcerated mothers. 25 primary caregivers, caring for 34 of the children, were interviewed by telephone as well. Information about the study was included with camp registration packages to caregivers, with an invitation to participate.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional. Standardized measures were used. Children were individually interviewed.

Key Questions: Researchers hypothesized that characteristics of the children (internalizing and externalizing behaviors and number of life stressors) and characteristics of the caregivers (amount of parenting stress and perceptions of the children's behaviors) would impact the quality of the caregiver-child relationship. The level of acceptance and warmth vs. rejection children felt from caregivers and that caregivers felt toward children were examined.

Key Findings: Grandmothers were caring for 49 of the 69 children; fathers were caring for 8 of the children. Girls scored significantly higher than boys on internalizing behaviors, and boys scored significantly higher than girls on externalizing behaviors. 29% of the caregivers reported stress levels in the clinical range. In general, children and caregivers felt high acceptance and low rejection from the other. 24% of the children felt high rejection and low acceptance from caregivers.

Caregivers whose children had more behavioral problems experienced more parenting stress. Caregivers felt more warmth and less rejection for the children if the children had fewer problems behaviors. Children with fewer life stressors and who felt more accepted by caregivers had fewer externalizing and internalizing behaviors.

36% of caregivers said financial strain was one of their most difficult problems in caring for the children. Concern about the children's behavior was the second most mentioned problem (32%). The most positive experience mentioned by caregivers in relation to caring for the children was the love for and from the children. Children's views and their own caregivers views did not necessarily match up in relation to problem behaviors.

Conclusions: Causal relationships need to be sorted out between parenting stress, children's problem behaviors, and feelings of warmth/acceptance. This study can only establish correlations.

Margolies, J.K., & Kraft-Stolar, T. (2006, February). *When "free" means losing your mother: The collision of child welfare and the incarceration of women in New York State*. New York: Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual; report from the Women in Prison Project

Purpose of Report: To examine the combined impact of child welfare legislation, especially the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and maternal incarceration in the state of New York.

Description: A section on the legal rights and responsibilities of parents with children in foster care and an explanation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act are included. Interviews were conducted with caregivers, foster care caseworkers, friends or relatives who bring children to visit, children and incarcerated mothers (all considered stakeholders). Excerpts from these interviews are provided.

Key Findings: Being freed for adoption can mean losing your mother if mom has been incarcerated. Average sentences are longer than the time allotted to child welfare agencies to find a permanent plan for the child in foster care. Maintaining contact between mom and child when mom is incarcerated is extremely difficult, and child welfare agencies and correctional facilities have not created policies to make this feasible.

Conclusions: Recommendations are offered for several systems: Child Welfare system, State Department of Corrections, Legal system, NY State and City budgets.

Martin, J.S., Hanrahan, K., & Bowers, J.H., Jr. (2009). *Offenders' perceptions of house arrest and electronic monitoring*. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 48(6), 547-570. doi:10.1080/10509670903081359

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Mixed method

Sampling: Sixty-one offenders who had experienced a house arrest (HA) or electronic monitoring (EM) program in Western Pennsylvania responded to a survey sent by postal mail. The 61 respondents were the result of a total of 191 initial mailings. Twelve of the 61 respondents were further interviewed in a qualitative manner.

Design of Study: Self-administered questionnaire and a smaller number of follow-up interviews.

Key Questions: What is the perception of HA/EM programs on the home-lives of offenders and their families?

Key Findings: Two questions from the survey addressed the perceived effects on family. Specifically, 22% of respondents felt that HA/EM "turned the home into a prison for everyone who lives there," and 34% believed that HA/EM "punishes family members as much or more than the offender" (p. 64). The 12 qualitative interviews addressed the effects of HA/EM on family members (as perceived by the offenders). The results indicate that some of the offenders perceive themselves to be a burden on family

members, although all offenders indicated that their family members were pleased to have them in the home.

Conclusions: Although HA/EM programs are perceived as less restrictive, they are still perceived as a punitive measure. These programs are also perceived, by the offenders, as punishing non-offending family members.

Mazza, C. (2001, Fall). Teaching parenting skills to incarcerated fathers. Retrieved from: <http://fcnetwork.org/resources/library/incarcerated-fathers-library>

Type of Investigation: Author's personal reflections on his experiences teaching a Basic Parenting course to male prisoners over the past five years.

Course Description: A full semester long course (16 weeks) is taught under the auspices of a non-profit social welfare agency. The course uses lecture, role plays, discussion, and heavy use of writing reflection papers to engage the students in opening up to their feelings, becoming more insightful, and in the end, coming to understand the experiences of their own children.

Conclusions: Narratives are a powerful and successful way to help the students "recognize their inner strengths to begin to struggle with hurts and issues that have plagued them most of their lives..." (p. 12).

Mazza, C. (2002). And then the world fell apart: The children of incarcerated fathers. *Families in Society*, 83(5-6), 521-529.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual

Key Questions: What types of interventions are required to meet the needs of the children of incarcerated fathers? What are the roles of social workers with these families?

Key Findings: The growth in the number of incarcerated parents has been most prevalent in communities of color. Most detention facilities do not provide services to fathers. From the time of arrest, paternal incarceration is difficult and potentially traumatic for children, especially if the child was present for the arrest. In the case of custodial fathers, the sudden change in the household can further add to the trauma. Prison rules and regulations surrounding visitation as well as written and telephone contact can seem arbitrary and unfair to children.

Conclusions: Social workers need to be cognizant of the pain that is potentially experienced by the children of incarcerated fathers. In spite of the potential for pain, social workers need to recognize the benefit in maintaining contact between the child and the incarcerated father. It is the role of the social worker to facilitate this contact.

Miller, K.M. (2006). The impact of parental incarceration on children: An emerging need for effective interventions. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 23(4), 472-486. doi:10.1007/s10560-006-0065-6

Type of Investigation: Conceptual

Key Question: What types of interventions are needed for the children of incarcerated parents?

Key Findings: The causes for the increase in the number of incarcerated parents during the latter part of the twentieth century are not entirely clear. The demographics of the incarcerated parent are also

changing. Females are becoming incarcerated at a higher rate, regardless of whether or not they have any children. Regular visitation between incarcerated parents and their children is important. Children may suffer from a variety of mental health disorders or other conditions as a result of their parent's incarceration, particularly if they are present for the actual arrest. Several prison programs exist throughout the United States to help maintain contact between children and incarcerated parents.

Conclusions: There is an ongoing need to collect more data related to this problem and to develop interventions based on this data to assist children and parents involved with the U. S. prison system.

Murray, J., & Farrington, D.P. (2005). Parental imprisonment: Effects on boys' antisocial behavior and delinquency through the life-course. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 46(12), 1269-1278. doi:10.1111/j.1469-7610.2005.01433.x

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: 411 boys and their parents from inner London are included. The sample is 97% white and of British origin.

For these analyses, the boys were categorized into five mutually exclusive groups:

Experimental n=23, parent was imprisoned within first 10 years of boy's life;

Control n=227, no parent-child separation in first 10 years, no parental imprisonment up to age 18;

Control n=77, parent not imprisoned, but separated from either parent in first 10 years by death or hospitalization;

Control n=61, parent not imprisoned, but separated from either parent in first 10 years for reason other than death or hospitalization (usually disharmony);

Control n=17, parent imprisoned before boy's birth, but not again between birth and age 18.

Design of Study: The analyses reported here are part of a prospective, longitudinal study, the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development, begun in 1961-1962, to look at the long-term effects of parental imprisonment on the development of offending and antisocial behavior in males from inner London. All boys 8-9 years old and on the registers of 6 state primary schools within a 1 mile radius of the research office and their parents were included. 1953 was the most common year of birth of the boys. Several standardized measures were applied to the children, their parents, teachers, social workers, psychologists, and information was also drawn from official criminal records.

Key Questions: Four hypotheses were tested: 1) Separation because of parental imprisonment predicts boys' own antisocial and delinquent outcomes through the life-course. 2) Separation because of parental imprisonment predicts worse outcomes for boys than other forms of parent-child separation, and worse outcomes than parental imprisonment before the boy's birth. 3) Parental imprisonment is associated with many other childhood risk factors for delinquency (demonstrating that parental imprisonment is a risk marker). 4) Parental imprisonment still predicts boys' antisocial-delinquent outcomes after controlling for parental convictions, and after controlling for other childhood risk factors (demonstrating that parental imprisonment is a risk mechanism in and of itself). (p. 1271)

Key Findings: Separation because of parental imprisonment was a strong predictor of antisocial and delinquent outcomes of boys through the life-course and conferred more risk on boys than separation for other reasons or than for boys whose parents were imprisoned only prior to their boy's birth. 71% of boys with parental imprisonment had antisocial and delinquent personalities at age 32, as compared to 19% of boys who were not separated from their parents prior to age 10 and whose parents never went to

prison. Parental imprisonment is also a risk marker; boys with parental imprisonment before age 10 had, on average, more risk factors out of 12 than any other control group. Even when controlling for number of parental convictions and independently predictive children's risk factors, parental imprisonment still predicted several adverse outcomes for the boys at ages 14, 18, and 32.

Conclusions: Parental imprisonment is a risk marker and a risk mechanism. Male children of prisoners are a very vulnerable group. More work needs to be done examining these relationships with more diverse samples (females, non-white persons) to see if these relationships hold. This study provides some support for the intergenerational transmission of criminality, but the mechanisms for that transmission are not clear.

Naser, R.L., & Visher, C.A. (2006). Family members' experiences with incarceration and reentry. *Western Criminology Review* 7(2), 20-31.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Family members of male prisoners in IL were identified by the prisoners for inclusion. N=247 adult family members who participated in a phone interview about 3 months after the prisoner's release. Male prisoners were returning to Chicago, age 18 or older, and had been sentenced to at least 1 year in prison. Family members were 90% black, 87% female, and 74% reported living with the released family member at least part of the year prior to their relative going to prison. 4% had no contact with the prisoner since his release.

Design of Study: The data used for this analysis is part of the Returning Home: Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry Study, a four-state longitudinal study involving interviews with prisoners before and after their release and of a family member about three months after release. Several standardized measures are included in the larger study. The analyses described in this article used the Returning Home Illinois data. Data are based on self-report. A similar article by Shollenberger (2009) reports on interviews with family members from the Returning Home Texas study.

Key Questions: What are consequences of incarceration and reentry for families? When an incarcerated family member comes home, what types of support does his family provide? What challenges do families of returning prisoners face? What support systems and coping mechanisms do family members utilize?

Key Findings: Family members provided lots of support, both tangible and emotional, after release. This was not without its challenges, however, with 30% of family members reporting financial hardship and 10% reporting increased anxiety. There was a high level of spirituality and religious support reported by family members. The kind of assistance most commonly cited as needed was job training or help getting a job for their released relative (43%). Substance use or re-arrest had already been a problem for 18% of released prisoners (only 3 months since release).

67% of family members never visited their relative in prison. Intimate partners had more contact with prisoners, via mail, phone, and in-person visits in prison. The top challenges to staying in touch while their relative was in prison were distance to the prison and the costs and logistical problems associated with visiting.

Conclusions: Interviews with family members were done after prisoners had only been out 3 months and they were giving considerable support; how do these family members hold up after longer periods of time?

Nesmith, A., & Ruhland, E. (2008). Children of incarcerated parents: Challenges and resiliency, in their own words. *Children and Youth Services Review, 30(10), 1119-1130.* doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2008.02.006

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: The study included interviews with 24 children (from an original sample of 34 children). Criteria for inclusion in the study included an age of 8 to 17 at the study start, at least one parent in prison at the time of the study start, and a willingness to participate on the part of both the parent and caregiver.

Design of Study: Interview

Key Question: What is the experience of children whose parents are incarcerated?

Key Findings: The majority of children respondents in this study were aware of the specific crime which had resulted in their parent's incarceration. Many of the children had experienced negative social consequences as the result of their parent's incarceration. For instance, some of the respondents had sought new groups of friends once their friends learned of their parent's incarceration. Among the children interviewed, most had not visited their parent in prison. Another issue revealed by the interviews is the level of stress endured by caregivers (either surrogate caregivers or the non-incarcerated parents) and perceived by the children respondents in the study. Not only is caregiver stress perceived, children appear to be affected by the stress of the caregivers.

Conclusions: In most cases, regular access to a child's incarcerated parents is beneficial to the child and should be encouraged. The authors also argue that increased support for caregivers is necessary.

Nieto, M. (2002). *In danger of falling through the cracks: Children of arrested parents (CRB 02-009)*. Sacramento, CA: California Research Bureau, California State Library.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Surveys were sent to 350 law enforcement agencies, 58 sheriff's departments, and 58 county welfare offices for a total of 466 recipients. Surveys were returned from 191 law enforcement agencies, 34 sheriff's departments, and 47 of the welfare offices (i.e. child protective services [CPS] offices).

Design of Study: Cross-sectional. Survey instruments are included in the Appendix of the article.

Key Question: How are children dealt with when parents are arrested?

Key Findings: At the time of this study, California appeared to have a "de facto don't ask and don't tell policy" (p. 1). Only a small percentage of law enforcement agencies (13%) reported asking whether or not an individual has children at the time of the arrest. Less than half (42%) of the responding law enforcement agencies indicated that they would ask about the care of children when children are present at the time of the arrest. Only 11% of the CPS offices indicated that they "respond well" to the children of arrestees. The study also finds that, given the termination timelines in the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), parents have a disincentive to self-report information to law enforcement about their children.

Conclusions: There is a need for the development of written protocols for law enforcement personnel responding to incidents where children are involved. Such protocols should include the role of CPS. The report also suggests that more should be done to strengthen communities and reduce crimes which are strongly associated with poverty. Such efforts could eliminate the need for law enforcement intervention in some families.

Pearson, J., & Davis, L. (2003). Serving fathers who leave prison. *Family Court Review*, 41(3), 307-320. doi:10.1177/1531244503254604

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: 350 male and female ex-offenders with minor children and an open child support case, voluntarily served at a Work and Family Center (WFC) from 1999-2001. Intake forms and agency records (child support, Department of Correction, Department of Labor) for all 350; 100 telephone interviews 6 months after initial visit to the WFC (29% response rate). Participants had been out of prison varying amounts of time.

Design of Study: Program evaluation of the John Inman Work and Family Center (WFC) in Denver, CO. No comparison/control group. While in the program, ex-offenders met with case managers who offered assistance with employment and child support issues. Also, ex-offenders were offered the opportunity to meet with a family law attorney related to custody and visitation issues and a therapist for counseling.

Key Questions: What are the characteristics, service experiences, and outcomes for the program participants?

Key Findings: The level of contact with children was far lower at the time of visiting WFC than prior to incarceration. One-third of participants lived in halfway house and 8% in shelter. 41% were unemployed. 69% owed child support for at least one child and had significant financial obligations in owed money to the state for welfare or for child support. After visiting WFC, clients paid more of their child support obligation (18% of obligation paid prior to WFC visit; 39% at 6 months after visit). Employment was at about 72% during the first two quarters, but dropped to 57% by the third. WFC clients returned to prison at lower rates than all DOC inmates (29% vs. 40%).

Conclusions: Child support obligations must be considered when providing reintegration services, given that so many have this obligation and owe so much in arrears. Sustained interventions may be needed to assist re-entering ex-offenders over longer periods of time.

Phillips, S.D., Burns, B.J., Wagner, H.R., & Barth, R.P. (2004). Parental arrest and children involved with child welfare services agencies. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 74(2), 174-186.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Data are from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being (NSCAW), which involves a stratified two-stage sample. Sample consists of 5,504 sampled from CPS investigations that were received and closed from 1999 to 2000.

Design of Study: Cohort Study

Key Questions: How prevalent is arrest history among Child Protective Services (CPS) clients? Does parental arrest lead to difficulty in meeting the needs of a family?

Key Findings: Approximately 1 in 8 cases of alleged child maltreatment involves the recent arrest of a parent. However, this trend varies by race, with 1 in 5 African American children having a recently arrested parent and 1 in 20 Hispanic children having a recently arrested parent. Furthermore, 2 out of 5 children over the age of 2 with a recently arrested parent suffer from some sort of mental health disorder. Only 1 in 10 of these same children receive any services for their mental health problems.

Conclusions: Increases in arrest rates require child welfare services (CWS) workers to be educated as to the needs of incarcerated parents and their family members. CWS workers also need to be more readily accessible to law enforcement for the purpose of preventing unnecessary placements or placements away from family members.

Phillips, S.D., Dettlaff, A.J., & Baldwin, M.J. (2010). An exploratory study of the range of implications of families' criminal justice system involvement in child welfare cases. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 32(4), 544-550. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2009.11.008

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Systematic random sample of 113 cases of child maltreatment investigated between May of 2006 and April of 2007 which resulted in the removal of children from their home in one county in Texas.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional; secondary data analysis.

Key Question: How does the criminal justice system overlap with the child welfare system?

Key Findings: Four broad categories were developed regarding the overlap between the criminal justice system and the selected cases: Category I – Parental arrest coincided with the investigation of maltreatment (19.2% of the cases), Category II – Parental criminal history appeared to be considered in the investigator's decision to remove the children from the parent's care (74.2%), Category III – Relative criminal history was reviewed in placement decisions (24.8%), and Category IV – Child Protective Services (CPS) became involved with a family as the result of the parent's incarceration (15.6%).

Conclusions: Results are exploratory and the authors advise that they should be viewed in this light. Care should be taken to consider the context of parental and relative arrest history in CPS cases (e.g., policies preventing the placement of children in the care of relatives with certain criminal histories).

Phillips, S.D., & Erkanli, A. (2008). Differences in patterns of maternal arrest and the parent, family, and child problems encountered in working with families. *Children and Youth Services Review, 30*, 157-172. doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2007.09.003

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Two-stage nationally representative sample of children who were subjects of reports of maltreatment. Data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being. Children selected from lists of closed investigations (age 0-14). Biological moms who were primary caregivers of in-home care with arrest histories (N=959). Biological moms as above but with no arrest histories (N=2,428) used as comparison.

Design of Study: Data gathered through interviews, case records.

Key Questions: What are the arrest histories of mothers that Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies come into contact with? Do mothers with different arrest histories vary in terms of children's demographic characteristics, parent and family problems (maltreatment, parental substance abuse, parental mental health problems, domestic violence, extreme poverty, cumulative risk), and child outcomes (emotional and behavioral problems and arrest, for children 11 and older)? Are differences in mothers' arrest histories associated with differences in problems that CPS workers might encounter when working with families?

Key Findings: Mothers arrested fell into three general categories: those with dated arrest histories, protracted arrest histories, and older onset of arrest (generally at least 25 years). This latter group accounted for 74% of mothers with arrest histories, caring for 20% of all children in in-home settings. Substance abuse was much more common in mothers with arrest histories, as compared to those with no arrest history. Moms with protracted arrest histories had substance abuse and domestic violence as the two most common problems, and also had the highest level of cumulative risk. Their children (11 and older) also had the most frequent occurrence of behavioral and emotional problems. Among mothers with dated arrest histories, about 25% of their children 11 and older reported an arrest in the past 6 months. Mothers with older onset of arrest had high prevalence of extreme poverty (45%).

Conclusions: Differences in arrest histories matter and are associated with differences in the problems that child welfare workers need to be prepared to address when working with families. Knowing that a mother has an arrest history should be a flag to workers to do a thorough assessment.

Phillips, S.D., Erkanli, A., Costello, E.J., & Angold, A. (2006). Differences among children whose mothers have been in contact with the criminal justice system. *Women & Criminal Justice, 17*(2), 43-61.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Participants were selected from the The Great Smoky Mountains Study (GSMS) cohort; a longitudinal study of 11 counties in North Carolina. A multistage, overlapping cohorts design was used in which 4,500 of the children aged 9, 11, and 13 years in the identified area were randomly selected for screening for psychiatric symptoms. A total of 1,073 children were selected in the first wave along with

an oversampling of identically aged children from a Native American school district, adding 347 children to the study. The current study uses a subset of this cohort whose mothers had contact with the criminal justice system. A total of 306 cohort members met this criterion.

Design of Study: Cohort

Key Question: What are the special needs of the children of incarcerated mothers?

Key Findings: Familial poverty and maternal mental health problems were identified as the two primary problems facing youth in this study. However, cluster analysis revealed four distinct groups among this cohort which further clarify this general problem. The four identified groups were as follows: The “isolated risk group” (which represents over half of the sample) in which the maternal criminal history appears to be an isolated incident and no other risk factors exist, the “history of abuse” group in which the majority of children had experienced an incident of sexual or physical abuse, the “maternal mental health group” in which several of the children’s mothers and the vast majority of their fathers had a mental health problem, and the “economic deprivation and single-parent household” group in which children were identified as living with only one parent with economic hardship.

Conclusions: Children of incarcerated mothers are a heterogeneous population. As such, future programs should work to ensure that they are meeting the unique needs of the various sub-populations which are apparently present among these children.

Phillips, S.D., Erkanli, A., Keeler, G.P., Costello, E.J., & Angold, A. (2006). Disentangling the risks: Parent criminal justice involvement and children’s exposure to family risks. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 5(4), 677-702.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: Two-stage sample, utilizing random selection at first stage of youth from 11 counties in North Carolina. Youth were 9, 11, or 13 at beginning of the study. N=1,420 children.

Design of Study: Longitudinal study, using data from the Great Smoky Mountains Study. Children and a parent were interviewed at baseline and annually until children were 16 years old.

Key Hypothesis: Parent criminal justice system (CJS) involvement mediates the effect of parent risks on children’s exposure to family risks.

Parent/parent figure CJS involvement included arrest and incarceration. Parent/parent figure risk factors were substance abuse, mental health problems, and low educational attainment. Family risks included several measures for each of the following: family structure, household economic strain, inadequate care, and family instability.

Key Findings: 47% of youths had at least one parental figure involved with the CJS. This varied greatly by race, however: 72% of African American youths, 58% of American Indian youths, and 44% of white youths. *In addition to* parent risk factors and race, incarceration was a significant predictor of economic strain (e.g., income below federal poverty level) and any CJS involvement was a significant predictor of family instability (e.g., 4+ moves in 5 year period, new parent figure entered household). CJS involvement did not significantly affect care children received (e.g., sexual abuse) or family structure

(e.g., single caregiver household). These outcomes are perhaps better explained by parental substance abuse or mental health problems. Odds ratios are provided in article.

Conclusions: Parental substance abuse and mental health problems were the most pervasive risks for children with histories of parental arrest in the sample, but society does not place a priority on offender rehabilitation programs that would address these. Parent training/education programs, as helpful as they might be in addressing the emotional/psychological needs of children whose parents have CJS involvement, will not be able to address the problem of intergenerational crime if society does not also address the affects of CJS involvement on economic strain and family instability.

Poehlmann, J. (2005). Representations of attachment relationships in children of incarcerated mothers. *Child Development, 76(3), 679-696.*

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Mixed method

Sampling: Mothers were recruited from a state prison in the Midwest who had at least one child from 2.5 – 7.5 years old, had been the primary caregiver for some time prior to incarceration, whose child was with a relative, and who retained legal rights to the child. N=60 (all analyses include 54) mothers, along with the relative caregiver, and a child for each mother.

Design of Study: This is part of a larger study on the impact of maternal incarceration on families. Data were collected through interviews, standardized assessments, questionnaires, and coded videotapes of story stem enactments from mothers, caregivers, and children.

Key Questions: What is the quality of children's representations of relationships with mothers and caregivers? What emotional and behavioral reactions do children exhibit when moms go to prison? It was hypothesized that children's representations of positive, secure relationships would be associated with a stable caregiving situation, telling children about the mother's imprisonment in an appropriate manner, visiting the mother, and low caregiver depression, controlling for children's age, verbal skills, number of previous separations, and length of current separation.

Key Findings: 68% of children were cared for by a grandparent and 22% by fathers. 35% of caregivers told children incorrect explanations for the mother's absence or did not say anything about the mother's incarceration. 40% of children had more than 1 caregiver since mom's incarceration, and 30% of these had changed caregivers 4 or more times. 42% of caregivers were in the clinical range on depression.

Children's reactions to separation were: 83% sadness/crying; 52% confusion; 40% anger/acting out; 33% acted detached/indifferent; 32% sleep problems; 22% developmental regressions (e.g., toileting); and 18% fear reactions.

54% of children were classified as insecure-negative for both mother and caregiver representations based on 4 story-stem enactments. 28% of children were classified as secure-positive for both mother and caregiver representations. Children were significantly more likely to have secure relationships with mothers when children were older and did not react initially with anger. Children were significantly more likely to have secure relationships with caregivers when children lived in a stable caregiving situation, were older, and when they reacted initially with sadness.

Conclusions: Younger children may be especially vulnerable. Support to families may be especially beneficial shortly after separation, including helping caregivers to find ways to explain absences to children. The stability of the caregiving situation is important for the child.

Poehlmann, J., Schlafer, R.J., Maes, E., & Hanneman, A. (2008). Factors associated with young children's opportunities for maintaining family relationships during maternal incarceration. *Family Relations*, 57(3), 267-280.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative primarily

Sampling: N=96 incarcerated mothers chosen from a medium-security state prison in the Midwest. Participants were a subset of a larger sample of inmates selected based on (a) the mother having at least one child between 2.5 and 7.5 years of age, (b) the mother was the primary caretaker for the child(ren) prior to incarceration, (c) the mother still had legal rights to the child, (d) the child was never placed in foster care due to the mother's maltreatment, (e) the mother was incarcerated for at least 2 months, (f) the child was in relative care, and (g) the caregiver and child were in the state of the mother's incarceration. 92 of these cases were analyzed in the current study.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional; interviews with incarcerated mothers

Key Question: What factors are associated with children's family relationships during maternal incarceration (i.e. placement stability)?

Key Findings: Positive relationships between the mother and the caregiver were associated with the child's placement stability. The relationship between the mother and caregiver was also positively associated with mother-child contact during incarceration. Placement stability was also associated with the mother's preference for the caregiver being honored. Placements with fathers were also noted to be stable. Sibling separation was associated with the mother's history of substance abuse.

Conclusions: Children and families may benefit from efforts to stabilize placements during parental incarceration. Future research should focus on the long-term relationship quality between children and caregivers in the context of parental incarceration.

Pollock, J.M. (2002). Parenting programs in women's prisons. *Women & Criminal Justice*, 14(1), 131-154.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: In 1998, letters were sent to all state Departments of Correction (DOC) in the U.S. The letter was followed by phone call to conduct the survey. 40 states participated.

Design of Study: Survey. Copy of the instrument is in the Appendix. Questions are primarily closed-ended.

Key Questions: Purpose for the survey was to provide a descriptive profile of parenting programs in women's prisons in the U.S. as well as a profile of incarcerated mothers and their children.

Key Findings: 90% of women's prisons have parenting classes, but they differ greatly in the time allotted for them and in their level of comprehensiveness. 73% have special visiting areas, 35% describe community facilities where mothers are allowed to live with children while serving part of their sentence, and 7% mention prison nurseries (NY, CA, SD – Nebraska did not respond to the survey).

Conclusions: Prisons do not gather information on where incarcerated mothers' children are, who takes care of them, how they are adjusting, or mothers' plans to reunify upon release. Thus, this descriptive profile is not available. Some prisons have programs "on paper," but in reality do not utilize them to any great extent. For the most part, comprehensive programs are not available to most incarcerated women. Many corrections facilities view the children as outside their scope of concern, thus do not feel obligated to attend to this area. A few hours of parenting education may do little to enhance a mother-child bond or allow a mother to practice what she has learned.

Prinsloo, C. (2007). Strengthening the father-child bond: Using groups to improve the fatherhood skills of incarcerated fathers. *Groupwork*, 17(3), 25-42. doi:10.1921/19632

Type of Investigation: Program development, implementation, and informal evaluation

Type of Research Design: NA

Program Participant Selection: 49 fathers in a prison in Pretoria, South Africa were selected for program participation based on screening interviews, their positive in-prison behavior, and willingness to rehabilitate. Across the 49 fathers, they had 82 children.

Program Purpose: To strengthen family ties between incarcerated fathers and their children by improving the fathering skills of the fathers.

Program Description: Groupwork was the primary approach, and 7 closed groups of 7 fathers each were formed. 10 total sessions, with 90-120 minutes each week. Topics included: communication with mother of child, developmental stages of children, self-image as fathers, communication with child, and influence of family of origin on parenting styles. In addition, fathers read stories to children on tape and created cards to give to them. The program concluded with a father-child-day, involving visitation and activities together.

Evaluation: No formal evaluation was done. Fathers filled out evaluation forms and much positive feedback was given. The project continued beyond the initial groups.

Conclusions: More of these kinds of programs are needed, and social workers could implement them. (This particular project was implemented with the assistance of social work students.)

Puddlefoot, G., & Foster, L.K. (2007). *Keeping children safe when their parents are arrested: Local approaches that work* (CRB 07-006). Sacramento, CA: California Research Bureau.

Type of Programs: Collaborative approaches between law enforcement agencies, child welfare services and other public and community-based agencies. Focuses on programs in California primarily.

Purpose: This report provides a model protocol for a local collaboration between law enforcement and child welfare and other agencies that seeks to offer a comprehensive and concise set of guidelines for keeping children safe at the time of parental arrest. In addition to the model protocol, specific examples of local collaborations are provided (San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Jose/Santa Clara County, New Haven, Connecticut).

Other Information: Law enforcement and child welfare responsibilities for children when parents are arrested, benefits to both law enforcement and child welfare organizations when working together, and the impact of parental arrest on children are discussed in the report.

Evaluation: No evaluations are described. Some statistics are provided regarding reductions in formal child placement in the state system. Focus of the report is on implementation.

Roy, K.M., & Dyson, O.L. (2005). Gatekeeping in context: Babymama drama and the involvement of incarcerated fathers. *Fathering*, 3(3), 289-310.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: Fathers in a work release program were invited to participate from workshops offered at the facility on life after incarceration. N=40.

Design of Study: Life history interviews were conducted as well as participant observation, although the analyses described here focus on the interview data. Men were asked to discuss turning points in their lives, and during the course of this conversation were asked to consider how relationships with current or former partners helped shape their involvement as fathers while incarcerated.

Key Questions: How do incarcerated fathers and the mothers of their children negotiate the process of fathers' roles while confined?

Key Findings: Men described examples of both encouragement (74%) and discouragement (48%) from mothers regarding the men's involvement in their children's lives. Sometimes mothers actively created opportunities for fathers to be involved with their children. 26% of the men described both encouragement and discouragement from the same mothers. Maternal gatekeeping, called "babymama drama" by the fathers in the sample is a process of negotiation of men's roles as fathers, and requires balancing conflict and support. Men have little negotiating power in the process and expectations of the fathers are often unresolved.

Conclusions: Identity work as a father is challenging in the context of babymama drama, and is often a confusing, complex process.

Saez-Betacourt, A., Lam, B.T., & Nguyen, T. (2008). The meaning of being incarcerated on a domestic violence charge and its impact on self and family among Latino immigrant batterers. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 17(2), 130-156. doi:10.1080/15313200801941614

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: The study was based on a convenience sample of 15 male participants in a domestic violence batterers' intervention program in a metropolitan California city.

Design of Study: Interview

Key Question: What are the effects of domestic violence-related incarceration for Hispanic men and their families?

Key Findings: In addition to anger and lack of control, respondents in the study attribute the Latin American notion of “machismo” as causal factors related to their domestic violence incident(s). Respondents reported financial difficulties and concern over their children’s well-being among the effects of their incarceration on their families. The majority of respondents noted that reintegrating to their home life post-incarceration was difficult although some found it to be a “happy” experience. The majority of respondents indicated that they had been previously unaware of domestic violence support and interventions in the community. All respondents indicated that the batterers’ intervention program was helpful.

Conclusions: Efforts should be made to communicate the availability of domestic violence prevention programs to the Hispanic community. Also, domestic violence programs serving Hispanic communities should consider the effects of cultural nuances such as “machismo” in their programming.

Shollenberger, T.L. (2009, May). *When relatives return: Interviews with family members of returning prisoners in Houston, Texas (Research Report)*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Justice Policy Center.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Linked to larger, longitudinal study of returning male and female prisoners – Returning Home-Texas.

Sampling: Family member participants in this part of the study were identified by the soon-to-be re-integrating prisoner as the family member they felt closest to, other than a minor child. One family member per prisoner was included. N=427.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional. Family members were interviewed one time between 2 and 5 months after the prisoner’s release from a Texas state correctional facility and returning to the Houston area.

Key Questions: Who are these family members? What challenges of incarceration and reentry do they face in supporting their relatives? The goal was to gain the perspectives of family members on the outside.

Key Findings: Of the family members identified, 77% were women and 61% were black. 44% were parents or grandparents. The majority of family members had personal or other family experiences with incarceration or arrest. 89% kept in touch with relatives during incarceration.

The most commonly reported obstacle to keeping in touch during incarceration was distance to the prison (59%). The two most common forms of support provided after re-entry were housing (68%) and financial support (65%). The resources/support that family members most often mentioned they would like to have were: financial support, counseling, and job placement for returning relatives. Only 20% of family members had access to services designed for family members of returning prisoners.

For prisoners with minor children, 45% saw their children daily prior to incarceration and 25% provided daily financial support. After prison, 45% of parents saw their children daily and 17% provided daily financial support. (These percentages vary by parent’s gender and the above are averages.) According to family members, the greatest difficulty faced by returning parents was paying child support (68%) and getting custody of children (43%). 66% of family members believed the effect of parents’ return on

minor children was positive, 12% negative, and 22% of no effect. These percentages also vary by gender of parent, with 21% of mothers' returns having a negative effect on minor children and 9% of fathers' returns having a negative effect.

Conclusions: Family members provided lots of support, both tangible and intangible to incarcerated and re-entering relatives. Many family members reported involvement with religious organizations, and this might be one way to reach out to and assist family members with incarcerated and returning relatives. One reason that mothers' returns may have more negative effects on minor children than fathers' returns may have to do with more frequent moves or changes in caregiving arrangements.

Smith, A., Krisman, K., Strozier, A.L., & Marley, M.A. (2004). Breaking through the bars: Exploring the experiences of addicted incarcerated parents whose children are cared for by relatives. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*, 85(2), 187-195.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: Parents of dependent children, involved in a substance abuse program, and with at least one child cared for by relatives, were invited to participate in the study after being informed about the research project during substance abuse classes in a county jail. N=25. 5 men and 20 women participated.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional, based on individual interviews with the incarcerated parent. Parents were asked questions regarding their perceived relationships with their children and the impact of their drug use and incarceration on their families.

Key Questions: What issues do incarcerated parents, their children, and their relative caregivers encounter? What recommendations should be made for a multi-disciplinary, wraparound service approach for families during and after incarceration?

Key Findings: 60% of parents stated that the caregivers began care before they went to jail, and 76% provided continuous care for their children. One-third of the children had been in kinship care for 6-10 years. 72% of the parents had not seen their children since being in jail. Parents reported that 26% of the children's other parents were also incarcerated.

Themes that emerged during the open-ended interviews included: almost all parents were grateful for the caregiver's care of their children and recognized the stress and financial burden imposed; parents believe their drug use and incarceration negatively impact their children; they would like more in-person contact with their children; and they are apprehensive about how things will be when they get out of jail. Parents offered many similarities when describing their hopes for themselves and for their children (e.g., staying out of jail, being drug free, being happy).

Conclusions: Extended families are involved in assisting their families. It may be beneficial for kinship care programs to offer drug abuse prevention and early intervention programs since so many children enter kinship care because of substance-using parents.

Smith, C.J., & Young, D.S. (2003). The multiple impacts of TANF, ASFA, and mandatory drug sentencing for families affected by maternal incarceration. *Children and Youth Services Review, 25(7), 535-552.*

Type of Investigation: Conceptual, policy analysis

Purpose of Policy Analysis: To examine the impact of mandatory sentencing policies for nonviolent drug offenses, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA), and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) welfare reform legislation of 1996 on women and their families in the U.S. Focus is on the combined impact of the three policies.

Description: Each policy is described including: the social issue it attempts to address, its goals, aspects of its implementation, the populations particularly affected by the policy, its intended impact, and negative unintended effects. Policy recommendations are given in light of the combined and negative impacts on mothers who are drug offenders and their families.

Snyder, Z.K., Carlo, T.A., & Coats Mullins, M.M. (2001). Parenting from prison: An examination of a children's visitation program at a women's correctional facility. *Marriage & Family Review, 32(3/4), 33-61.*

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Mixed method; interviews included both open- and close-ended questions with an interview guide.

Sampling: Participants of the Mother-Child Visitation Program (MCVP) in one Midwestern prison were invited to participate as well as the mothers on the waiting list for participation. N=58: 31 MCVP mothers and 27 from the waitlist.

Design of Study: Individual interviews were conducted with female prisoners participating in a specialized children's visitation program and parenting class or on the waitlist to participate in the program. The waitlist group served as the comparison group.

Key Questions: What are the perceptions of imprisoned mothers about their relationships with their children? How do these mothers perceive that the MCVP program affects the mother-child bond? Researchers hypothesized that MCVP mothers would have more frequent contact with their children, would perceive more positive relationships with their children, would believe that their children had fewer negative consequences because of their incarceration, and would have more realistic post-release plans when compared to mothers on the waiting list.

Key Findings: MCVP mothers had more mail and phone contact with their children than waitlisted mothers. MCVP mothers perceived a bit better relationship with their children than waitlisted mothers. There were no statistically significant differences between the two groups on the negative effects of incarceration for their children or on the nature of their post-release plans. Quite a lengthy list of negative child outcomes was reported by the mothers.

Conclusions: The MCVP mothers believed the program helped them maintain or improve their mother-child bonds and appreciated the in-person contact with their children.

Swann, C.A., & Sylvester, M.S. (2006). The foster care crisis: What caused caseloads to grow? *Demography*, 43(2), 209-335.

Type of Investigation: Secondary analysis of quantitative data

Design of Study: Variables are constructed from several reporting systems. Full list is provided in Appendix Table A1 of the article.

Key Questions: What are the causes of the growth in foster care caseloads in the U.S. between 1985 and 2000? How do state-level foster care caseloads relate to state-specific policies? Several variables were considered as causes including: HIV/AIDS epidemic, crack cocaine epidemic, parental incarceration, cash welfare benefit level, state economic conditions, etc.

Key Findings: Foster care caseloads approximately doubled from 1985 to 2000. The largest contributor to the increase in foster care caseload was the higher rate of female incarceration during this period. This variable accounted for 31% of the observed growth in foster care caseloads. The second contributor was the decrease in welfare benefits, accounting for 15% of the observed growth in foster care caseloads.

Conclusions: Specific out-of-home placement policies for the children of incarcerated parents should be developed. The increase in the number of incarcerated women, the increase in average sentence length, and the decrease in the number of months to achieve permanency planning for children in foster care require that special thought be given to how to handle this overlap in policies.

Travis, J., McBride, E.C., & Solomon, A.L. (2003, revised 2005, June). *Families left behind: The hidden costs of incarceration and reentry*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Justice Policy Center.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual, policy brief

Purpose of Report: To focus attention on hidden costs of criminal justice policies related to the incarceration of parents.

Description of the Report: Prisoner parents are described on key demographic characteristics. Children's developmental stages are briefly described with the effects of separation at each stage identified. The challenges of maintaining contact while the parent is confined as well as challenges during reintegration are described. The focus of this report is on the effects of policies in relation to this population of families. For example, parents face significant employment barriers when released from prison, on top of child support obligations that have continued to accrue during incarceration in many jurisdictions.

Other Information: A list of national resource centers with websites is provided on page 12.

Travis, J., Solomon, A.L., & Waul, M. (2001, June). *From prison to home: The dimensions and consequences of prisoner reentry*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual, monograph

Purpose of Report: To inform policy discussions related to prisoner reentry with the hope of improving outcomes.

Description of the Report: Four chapters and a conclusion are included: 1) an overview of reentry, 2) the reentry process, 3) challenges for prisoner reentry (e.g., substance abuse, health, employability, housing), and 4) the implications of reentry for families and communities. The effects of incarceration and release on families in the areas of child care, custody and parental rights, child welfare, and the children's future criminality are explored.

Conclusions: With 1600 men and women leaving prison every day, we need to re-think the mission of our correctional agencies and the availability and quality of services for prisoners and their families. The goal of improving reentry outcomes should be shared by state governments and local organizations.

Tripp, B. (2001). Incarcerated African American fathers: Exploring changes in family relationships and the father identity. *Journal of African American Men*, 6(1), 13-29.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Qualitative

Sampling: Incarcerated fathers enrolled in the Life Skills Program (only non-violent offenders) held in a jail in Gainesville, Florida were invited to participate. Of the 16 who did, 12 were African American, and this analysis focuses on them.

Design of Study: During the 6 week program that focuses on parent-child communication and interaction, focus groups of 8 men were held as well as entrance and exit individual interviews. Most of the data result from the entrance and exit interviews.

Key Question: What is the impact of paternal incarceration on African American families?

Key Findings: Significant themes included the men's identity as fathers, their perceptions regarding their absence from their children's lives, and conflict within the family. As to identity, being incarcerated was part of the perception that they were "bad" fathers, because they could not be there to provide financially, provide structure/discipline, or support. As to their absence, they tended to further distance themselves as fathers in response to their incarceration. A lot of conflict was reported with spouses, former partners, and with children.

Conclusions: The disproportionate representation of African American men among the incarcerated means that many black families are affected. For the most part, they are ignored in program and policy decisions. These families should receive greater consideration.

Tuerk, E.H., & Loper, A.B. (2006). Contact between incarcerated mothers and their children. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 43(1), 23-43.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative

Sampling: 357 mothers incarcerated in a Virginia maximum-security prison. Participants were a subset of a larger study examining baseline mental illness among incarcerated women which included 714 participants. The 357 participants were mothers who had at least one child under the age of 21 and who agreed to complete the Parenting Stress Index for Incarcerated Women.

Design of Study: Cross-sectional

Key Questions: What are the causes of contact between incarcerated mothers and their children? What are the effects of contact between mothers and their children? Does the level of prior or current contact with a child predict parental and visitation stress during incarceration?

Key Findings: Mothers who had regular contact with their children prior to their incarceration were more likely to maintain contact while they were incarcerated. Specifically, mothers in this category were more likely to write multiple letters to their children every week, speak on the telephone to their children at least weekly, and have face to face contact with their children at least four times per year. Regardless of the level of prior contact, mothers who maintain regular contact with their children during their incarceration have lower rates of parenting stress related to attachment and parental competence. There was no relationship between the mother's level of prior or current contact with their child and levels of visitation stress.

Conclusions: Contact between mothers and their children should be encouraged. Particular focus should be made to enhance the frequency and quality of written contact. Suggestions were made to promote the use of technology toward this goal (e.g., email, instant messaging).

Wildeman, C. (2009). Parental imprisonment, the prison boom, and the concentration of childhood disadvantage. *Demography*, 46(2), 265-280.

Type of Investigation: Empirical

Type of Research Design: Quantitative. Used life-table methods to calculate cumulative probabilities of risk. Utilized criminal justice datasets and other large youth surveys. Included checks for robustness and employed means of reducing error.

Key Questions: What is the risk of parental imprisonment to age 14 for black and white children born in 1978 and 1990? What is the risk of parental imprisonment for black and white children whose parents did not complete high school, completed high school only, or attended college?

Key Findings: By 1990, the risk of parental imprisonment for black children was 25%; for white children 4%. Among black children born in 1990 to high school dropouts, more than 50% had a parent in prison. Risk was also estimated for children at age 5, and by age 5, almost 40% of black children of high school dropouts had their fathers incarcerated (includes jail, unlike the above estimates). For white children, this risk was almost 16%.

Conclusions: Parental imprisonment has become a uniquely American childhood risk, concentrated among black children and all children of low-education parents. This childhood disadvantage has population level consequences that reach into the affected children's adulthoods.

Young, D.S., & Smith, C.J. (2000). When moms are incarcerated: The needs of children, mothers, and caregivers. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services*, 81(2), 130-141.

Type of Investigation: Conceptual, review of evaluation studies conducted to assess the effectiveness of programs for incarcerated mothers and their children.

Description of Program Review: Six programs are included, found in a search of the corrections and social service literatures, with a table of information on the name/location of the correctional facility, a brief program description, the research design used to evaluate the program, and key findings.

Other Information: The article also includes information on: the extent of maternal incarceration, a consideration of the problem from an ecological theoretical perspective, a description of challenges faced by incarcerated mothers, their children, and kinship caregivers, and examples of intervention components that are viewed as helpful approaches.

BOOKS

Bernstein, N. (2005). *All alone in the world: Children of the incarcerated*. New York: New Press.

Braman, D. (2004). *Doing time on the outside: Incarceration and family life in urban America*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

Enos, S. (2001). *Mothering from the inside: Parenting in a women's prison*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Travis, J., & Waul, M. (Eds.). (2003). *Prisoners once removed: The impact of incarceration and reentry on children, families, and communities*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute Press.