2018 NACo HEALTH & JUSTICE FORUM

JANUARY 17-19 | SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

FORUM ON THE INTERSECTIONS OF HEALTH & JUSTICE: LINKING SYSTEMS AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES
Children of Incarcerated Parents....

What is the County’s Role?
The Pair of ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Maternal Depression
- Physical & Emotional Neglect
- Emotional & Sexual Abuse
- Divorce
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Illness
- Domestic Violence
- Incarceration
- Homelessness

Adverse Community Environments

- Poverty
- Violence
- Discrimination
- Poor Housing
- Community Disruption
- Quality & Affordability
- Lack of Opportunity, Economic Mobility & Social Capital

Minnesota has 87 Counties
State Prison: Visitation and Doulas

Strengthening Families Affected By Incarceration
Visitation Policies and Environment
Jail Visitation Policies
A Survey of Minnesota

87 Counties
87 Jails
1 in 6 Minnesota Children Experience Parental Incarceration

10,000 Minnesota Children with Incarcerated Parents

Compared to their counterparts, children of incarcerated parents have more internalizing problems (e.g., anxiety and depression), externalizing problems (e.g., oppositional defiant disorder and conduct disorder), and long-term physical problems (e.g., asthma and migraines).

Visit Restrictions
- Yes: 35%
- No: 5%
- N/A: 60%

Visit Time Restrictions
- 15 minutes: 35%
- 20 minutes: 20%
- 25 minutes: 15%
- 30 minutes: 10%
- 30+ minutes: 5%
In partnership with the Association of Minnesota Counties and with support from the Minnesota Sheriff’s Association, researchers at the University of Minnesota conducted a study of parents in Minnesota jails and their children. On a single day in March 2017, 65 jails invited 3,201 inmates to participate in the survey. In total, 2,675 adults completed the survey.

The anonymous survey assessed:
- Key demographic information (age, race/ethnicity, sex)
- Parenting and pregnancy status
- Child characteristics (number and age of children)
- Parent characteristics (employment and residency pre-incarceration)

This report summarizes information about the number of parents held in Minnesota county correctional facilities. The data can be used to inform jail programs and policies aimed at supporting incarcerated parents and their families.

**AGE**

Adult parents ranged in age from 18 – 86 years, with an average age of 33 years.
ADULT FATHERS

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

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

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

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

NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN
Mothers reported having between 1 and 9 children under the age of 18, with an average of about 2 minor children.

RESIDENCY PRIOR TO ARREST
About 64 percent of mothers with minor children were living with their children before their arrest.
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Sesame Street are partnering to help families cope with traumatic experiences and foster nurturing connections between children and the caring adults in their lives.
Free Resource Available

English and Spanish DVD Books

Available on-line and with an app

www.seasemestreet.org/incarceration
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