

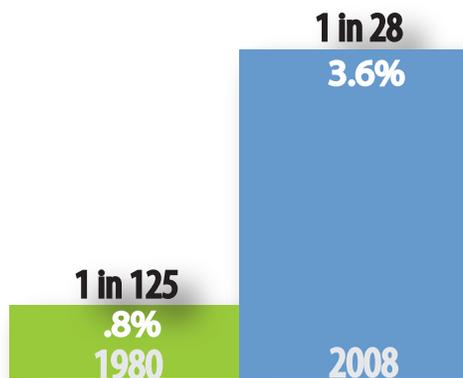
# CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS:

## The **IMPACT** of Incarceration

In 2008 an estimated 2.7 million children, or 3.6%, had a parent in prison at that moment in time (including non-residential parents.) This was up from .8% in 1980.<sup>1</sup>

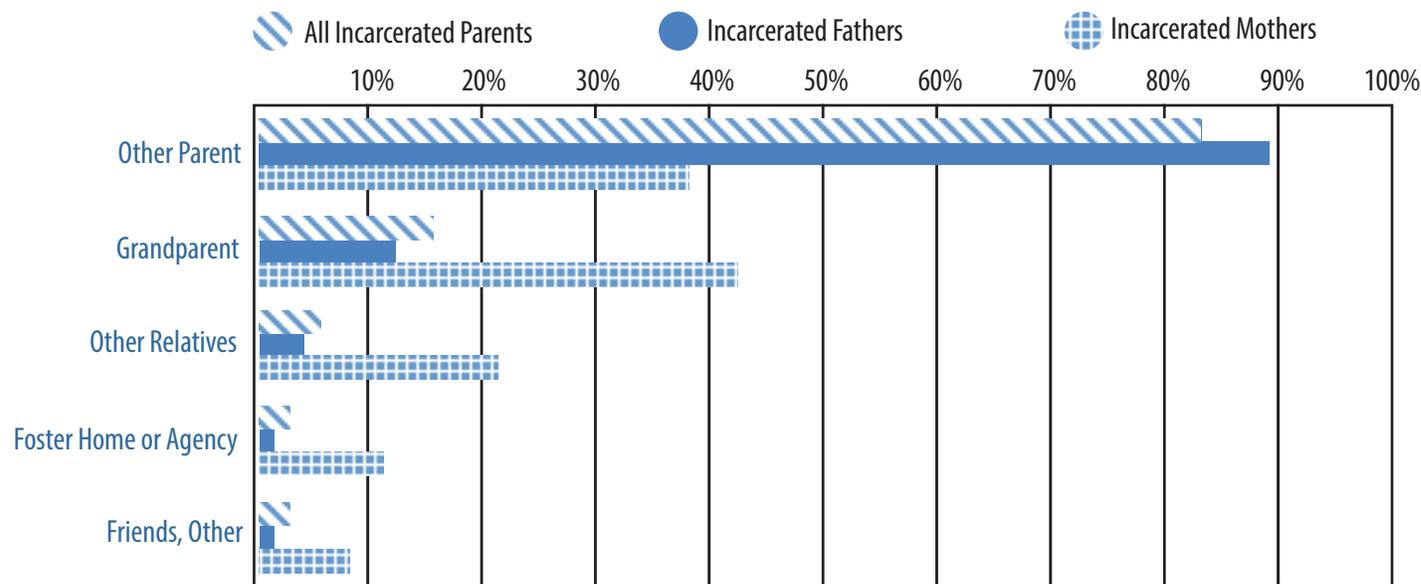
**7%**

of all children under 18 - that is **more than 5 million children** - have lived with a parent who went to jail or prison.



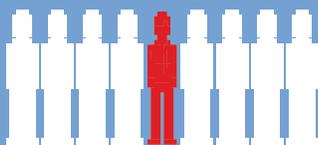
**During a father's incarceration, most children live with their mother while during a mother's incarceration, most children live with a grandparent.**

Caregivers for Children During Parent's Incarceration<sup>3</sup>

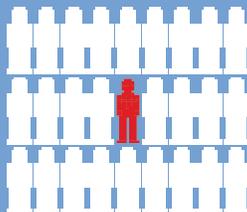


Detail may sum to more than 100% because some incarcerated parents had multiple minor children living with multiple caregivers.

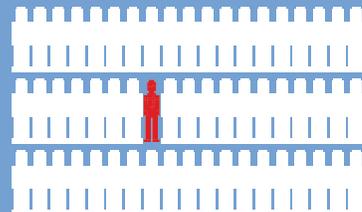
### Children Who Have an Incarcerated Parent, by Race and Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>



1 in 9 Black Children



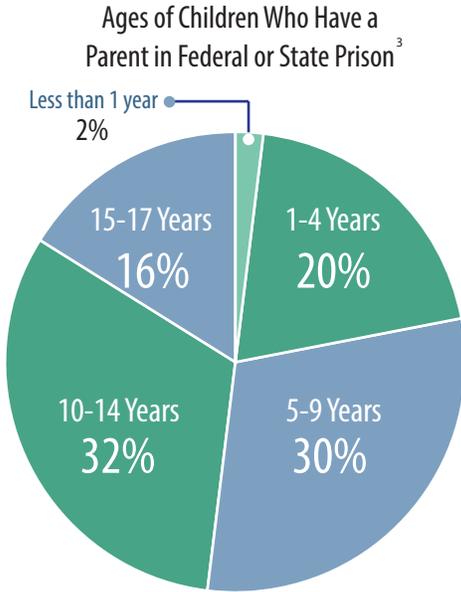
1 in 28 Hispanic Children



1 in 57 White Children

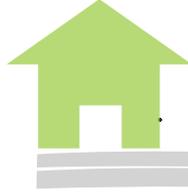
Parental incarceration is recognized as an adverse childhood experience (ACE). It is distinguished from other ACEs by the unique combination of trauma, shame, and stigma. Parental incarceration increases the risk of a child living in poverty or experiencing household instability, independent of any other factors present in that child's life.<sup>5,6</sup>

## Over 50% of children who have an incarcerated parent are age 9 or younger.



Over half of the 2.3 million people incarcerated in state and federal prisons are parents with children under the age of 18, including 1.1 million fathers and 120,000 mothers. Two-thirds of incarcerated parents<sup>3</sup> are convicted of non-violent crimes.<sup>1</sup>

Long distances can separate children from their incarcerated parents. Men are housed in prisons an average of 100 miles away from their children while women are an average 160 miles away.<sup>2</sup>



## FINANCIAL IMPACT

**In a recent survey of families impacted by incarceration, 2 in 3 families had difficulty meeting basic financial needs as a direct result of incarceration. 70% of these families had children under the age of 18.<sup>5</sup>**

64.2% of mothers and 46.5% of fathers lived with their children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration. Over half of incarcerated parents were the primary source of financial support for their children prior to incarceration.<sup>3</sup>

Research shows the importance of maintaining strong family connections when a parent is incarcerated, but the cost of sustaining contact is high. In a recent survey of families impacted by incarceration, 1 in 3 families were in debt due to the extraordinary cost of phone calls and visits alone.<sup>5</sup>

**When a father is incarcerated, his family's income falls 22%. After release, family income is 15% lower than it was the year before his incarceration.<sup>1</sup>**



1. The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2010. Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effect on Economic Mobility. The Pew Charitable Trusts. Available online at: [http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pes\\_assets/2010/CollateralCosts1pdf.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pes_assets/2010/CollateralCosts1pdf.pdf)

2. Travis, J., et al., 2003. Families Left Behind: The Hidden Costs of Incarceration and Reentry. The Urban Institute Justice Policy Center. Available online at: <http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/310882-Families-Left-Behind.PDF>

3. Glaze, L., and Maruschak, L., 2008. Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available online at: <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf>

4. Felitti, V. J., et al., 1998. Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 14(4), pp 245-258. Available online at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9635069>

5. deVuono-Powell, S., et al., 2015. Who Pays? The True Cost of Incarceration on Families. Ella Baker Center, Forward Together, Research Action Design. Available online at: <http://whopaysreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Who-Pays-FINAL.pdf>

6. Murphey, D., and Cooper, P., 2015. Parents Behind Bars: What Happens to Their Children? Child Trends. Available online at: <http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015-42ParentsBehindBars.pdf>