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The Effects of Parental Incarceration on Children and Adolescents

TCHATT

**(Texas Child Health Through
Telemedicine)**

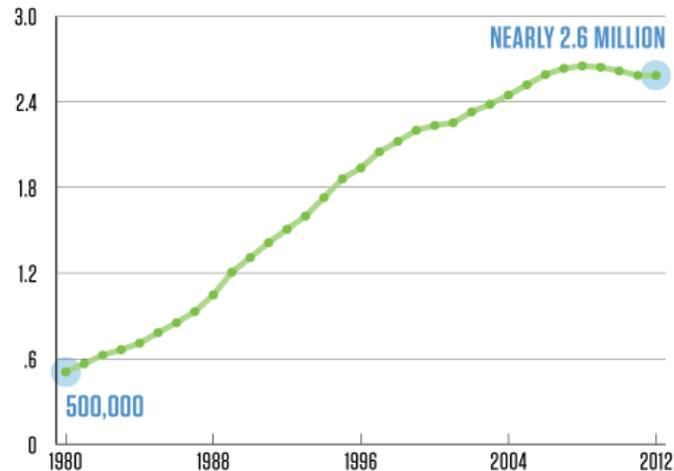


Parental Incarceration

- As the rate of parental incarcerations continue to rise, children experience multiple hardships that may contribute to their academic performance.

THE NUMBER OF U.S. CHILDREN WITH AN INCARCERATED PARENT GREW FIVE TIMES FROM 1980 TO 2012.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 (IN MILLIONS)



1 IN 25
U.S. CHILDREN HAD
A PARENT BEHIND
BARS IN 2012.

A MAJORITY OF
U.S. PRISONERS
HAVE MINOR
CHILDREN.

Source: Bryan Sykes and Becky Pettit, "Mass Incarceration, Family Complexity, and the Reproduction of Childhood Disadvantage," *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 654, no. 1 (2014): 127-49.

Risks From Parental Incarceration

➤ Mental Illness

- Acute Stress Disorder
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Major Depressive Disorder
- Anxiety Disorders
- Issues with Anger Management
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Conduct Disorders
- Homelessness

➤ Behaviors

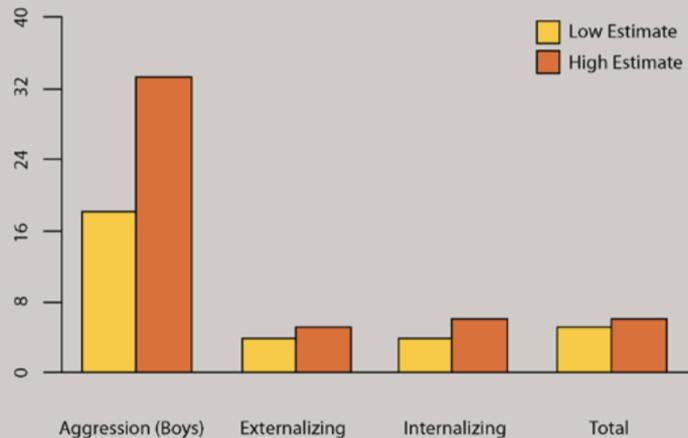
- Eloping from Class or School (Excuses to leave class, truancy)
- Attention Seeking (Interruptions, Teasing/Antagonizing Peers, Exaggerating and Embellishing Stories to Gain Praise or Sympathy, Seeking Compliments and Validation from Teachers or Staff)
- Physical Aggression
- Verbal Aggression
- Suspension/Detention
- Juvenile/Prison





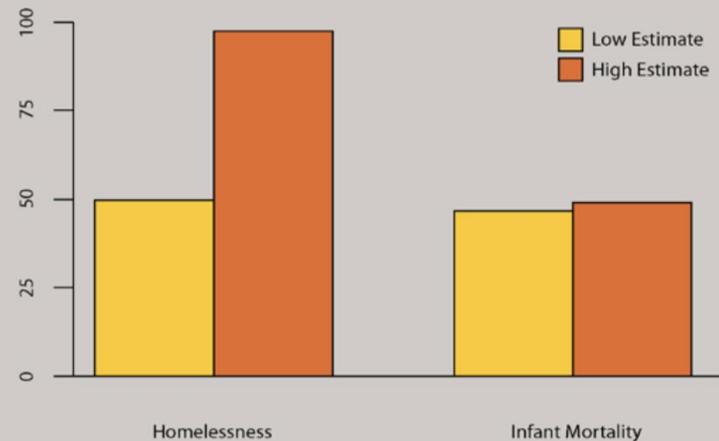
Effects from Incarceration Continued

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS DUE TO PATERNAL INCARCERATION



Note. Low and high estimates refer to the lower and upper bounds of causal effects estimated with a variety of statistical models. From *Children of the Prison Boom: Mass Incarceration and the Future of American Inequality*, by S. Wakefield & C. Wildeman, 2013, New York: Oxford University Press, p. 138.

FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RISKS OF HOMELESSNESS AND INFANT MORTALITY DUE TO PATERNAL INCARCERATION



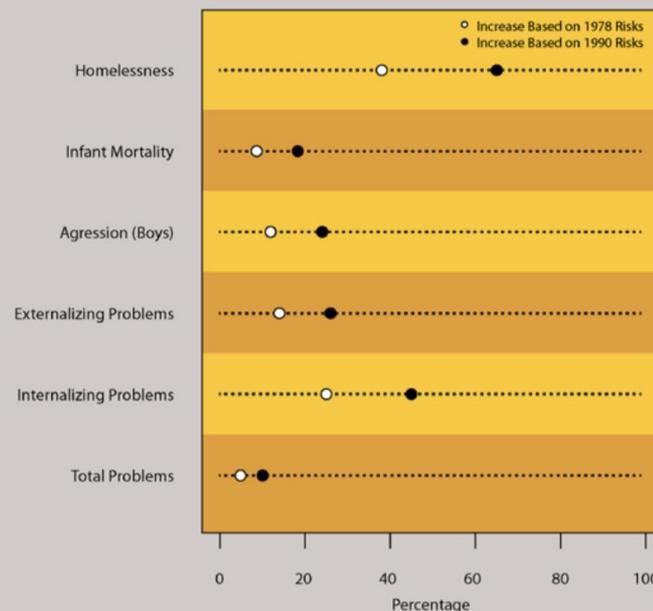
Note. Low and high estimates refer to the lower and upper bounds of causal effects estimated with a variety of statistical models. From *Children of the Prison Boom: Mass Incarceration and the Future of American Inequality*, by S. Wakefield & C. Wildeman, 2013, New York: Oxford University Press, p. 139.



Disadvantaged Populations

- Minority Populations face a high risk in racial disparities, risks, and childhood disadvantages.

FIGURE 3. PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN BLACK–WHITE DISPARITIES IN CHILD WELL-BEING DUE TO INCARCERATION, BASED ON PATERNAL INCARCERATION RISKS FOR CHILDREN IN 1978 AND 1990



Note. From *Children of the Prison Boom: Mass Incarceration and the Future of American Inequality*, by S. Wakefield & C. Wildeman, 2013, New York: Oxford University Press, p. 141.



Treatment

- Individual Counseling or Marriage and Family Therapy are the most common forms of treatment.
- Play Therapy, Art Therapy, Group Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy.
- Treatment should address other possible mental disorders.



Resources

- [National Council on Family Relations](#)
- [Population Reference Bureau](#)
- Murray (J)., Bijeveld (C)., Farrington, (D)., Loeber, (R). (2014) *Effects of Parental Incarceration on Children. American Psychological Association*



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Questions