RESPONDING IN EDUCATION: PROGRAM, POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION

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Quick Check Poll: Assume Beliefs and Attitudes

1. Children of incarcerated parents need ____________________________
2. Incarcerated parents need ____________________________
3. Incarcerated parents should ____________________________
4. The best thing that could happen to the children of incarcerated parents is ____________________________
5. The worst thing that could happen to children of incarcerated parents is ____________________________

What We Know: Using Different Numbers

Estimates indicate that as many as 2.7 million children (1.7 not including jails) have a parent behind bars. That is 1 in 28. Over 5 million -1 in 14 have ever had an incarcerated parent. And, over 10 million have had parents under some form of CJ supervision.
What We Know: Ages

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

Ages of Children who have a Parent in Federal or State Prison

Less than 1 year: 2%
1-4 years: 20%
5-9 years: 30%
10-14 years: 32%
15-17 years: 16%


70% of children with incarcerated parents are children of color. Compared with their white peers, African-American and Latino kids are over seven and two times more likely, respectively, to have a parent incarcerated.

Annie E. Casey Foundation 2017
A Cycle of Trauma

Children of the Incarcerated are “all at once like all others, like some others and like no others.”

Adapted from Emmanuel Lartey

What We Know

- Experience
- “Figured World”
- Story Quote
Meet Marquis

Parental Incarceration Stages

- Arrest
- Pre-Trial/Trial
- Sentencing
- Incarceration
- Family Reunification

*Ann Adalist-Estrin, The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated

National School Climate Data

- Suspension & Disproportionality
- Bullying Reports

Figure 1: National Overview (2015–16): Impact on Instruction Due to Out-of-School Suspensions by Race and, Separately, for Students With Disabilities for K–12, Elementary, and Secondary Levels

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Civil Rights Data Collection, 2015-16.
Meeting Basic Needs

- Love & Belonging
- Fun
- Freedom
- Safety
- Power

*William Glasser, The Choice Theory

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A Bill of Rights

Home & School Collaboration!

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What We Know: Education Rights of Children Impacted by Parental Incarceration

- Due process in school discipline hearings (i.e. suspension and expulsion)
- Rights to accommodations and services for students with disabilities
  - Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
  - 504 Plans