Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

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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.

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**

![Bar graph showing percentage increase in mental health and behavioral problems due to paternal incarceration.](figure1)


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

![Bar graph showing percentage increase in homelessness and infant mortality risks due to paternal incarceration.](figure2)

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.
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*
Questions