

Memorandum I 12/12/2025 | D'Adre Cunningham
Bibliography of Research, Reports, Law Reviews, & Articles

WA STATE RESEARCH

- Children of DOC incarcerated parents use DSHS at very high rates – WA Dept. of Social & Health Services (2008) – [Research](#)

This is the first of a series of analyses prepared to satisfy reporting requirements under E2SHB 1422 which requires the Department of Social and Health Services to “gather information and data on the recipients of assistance who are the children and families of inmates incarcerated at department of corrections facilities.

OTHER RESEARCH

- Broken Bonds - The Urban Institute - LaVigne (2008) – [Research](#)

Over 1.5 million children in this country currently have one or both of their parents incarcerated. In addition to the trauma of this loss, these children face tremendous uncertainty in their living arrangements, relationships with loved ones, and family financial stability. Short-term coping responses and heavy stigma are common, both of which may lead to long-term emotional and behavioral challenges. This report reviews the current research on children with incarcerated parents and offers recommendations on how to reduce the negative impact of parental incarceration, with particular attention to the role of supportive relationships with the incarcerated parent and other adults.

- Children of Incarcerated Parents: Cumulative risk and children's living arrangements - Johnson (2002) – [Research](#)

This paper examines risk factors that exist in the lives of incarcerated parents and their children, focusing on the living arrangements of the children. It uses data from the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities to address three issues: risk factors present in the lives of incarcerated parents and their children, how children in some living arrangements might be more vulnerable than others, and whether these risk factors predict where a child is placed during the parent's incarceration.

- Development of a multisystemic parent management training intervention for incarcerated parents, their children and families - J Mark Eddy, Charles R Martinez Jr, Tracy Schiffmann, Rex Newton, Laura Olin, Leslie Leve, Dana M Foney, Joann Wu Shortt (2008) - [Research](#)

Work on other components designed for justice-involved parents, children and for caregivers during reunification from prison is ongoing. Program development has occurred within the context of strong support from the State department of corrections and other key governmental and non-profit sector groups, and support systems have been established to help maintain the interventions as well as to develop complementary interventions, policies and procedures.

- Hard Data on Hard Times - Ross (2004) – [Research](#)

The rising incarceration rates among women have raised concerns in many quarters, including child welfare. While social service laws and child welfare agency regulations require caseworkers to arrange visits between foster children and their incarcerated mothers in most circumstances, hard data that inform this issue are almost non-existent. Child welfare agencies do not know how often the mothers of foster children are incarcerated, how long maternal incarceration spells overlap in foster care placements, or why the mothers of foster children are incarcerated. At the request of New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Vera researchers examined the criminal histories of the biological mothers of foster children.

- Inmate Social Ties and the Transition to Society – Bales and Mears (2008) – [Research](#)

The authors focused on a neglected but potentially critical factor, inmate visitation that may reduce recidivism. The expectation of such an effect stems from prominent crime theories and an increasing body of work that stresses the importance of social ties to the reentry process. Using data from the Florida Department of Corrections, the authors tested hypotheses about the effects of visitation on recidivism. The measures of visitation included whether any visits occurred, the frequency and recency of visitation, and the type of visitor received (e.g., family member, friend). The authors also examined whether visitation effects varied by age, sex, race, type of instant offense, and prior incarceration.

- [Jail Incarceration and Birth Outcomes](#) by Janice F Bell, Frederick J Zimmerman, Mary Lawrence Cawthon, Colleen E Huebner, Deborah H Ward, Carole A Schroeder, 81 Journal of Urban Health 4, 630-644 (2004)

This study examined the relationships between jail incarceration during pregnancy and infant birth weight, preterm birth, and fetal growth restriction. Relative to controls, women incarcerated during pregnancy had progressively higher odds of low birth weight and preterm birth through age 39 years; conversely, jail detainees older than 39 years were less likely than controls to experience low birth weight or preterm birth. For women in jail at all ages, post-release maternity case management was associated with decreased odds of low birth weight, whereas prenatal care was associated with decreased odds of preterm birth. Local jails are important sites for public health intervention.

- [Making Visits Better: The Perspectives of Parents, Foster Parents, and Child Welfare Workers](#) by Wendy L Haight 1, James E Black, Sarah Mangelsdorf, Grace Giorgio, Lakshmi Tata, Sarah J Schoppe, Margaret Szewczyk, 81 Child Welfare 2, 173-202 (2002) - Research

Link to Abstract Only, Full Article In Files: In this article, implications of understanding mothers', foster mothers', and child welfare workers' perspectives on enhancing the quality of visits with young children are discussed.

REPORTS

- [Focus on Children with Incarcerated Parents](#) – The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2007) – Report

How parental incarceration affects kids, caregivers and prisoners themselves is just beginning to get studied, and the effects aren't good. While research is scarce, the results are very consistent. From parental profiles to keeping in touch to prison policies, they all play a part in future family bonding.

- [Out of the Shadows](#) - Brooks (2008)- Report

Child welfare has mandated responsibilities to families in which children are in foster care and a parent is incarcerated. Children have the right to regular contact with their incarcerated parents, and incarcerated parents have the right to continue to parent their children, yet accommodating these rights can be a real challenge for child welfare workers and foster parents. This practice bulletin is dedicated to providing information to help child welfare workers better understand and address this difficult issue

- [Partnerships Between Corrections and Child Welfare](#) – The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2001) – Policy Report

This report outlines the Family to Family Initiative's development of a needs assessment tool to assess how systems can be more efficient and work collaboratively when serving children, incarcerated parents, and their families. The report provides information to aid a reader in assessing practices in a jurisdiction and in shifting breakdowns into opportunities for change.

- [Socioemotional Effects of Fathers' Incarceration on Low-Income, Urban, School-Aged Children](#) by MaryAnn B. Wilbur, Jodi E. Marani, ME, Danielle Appugliese, MPH, Ryan Woods, MPH, Jane A. Siegel, PhD, Howard J. Cabral, PhD, and Deborah A. Frank, MD, 120 Pediatrics 3, e678–e685 (2007)

The goal of this study was to evaluate whether children of incarcerated fathers are more likely to report or exhibit behavioral symptoms than their equally disadvantaged peers without an incarcerated father. Findings include that children of incarcerated fathers reported more depressive symptoms and their teachers noted more externalizing behaviors, after controlling for other biopsychosocial risks.

- [Visitation with Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care](#) - Smariga (2007) – Policy Report

This practice and policy brief is addressed to judges and attorneys on what they need to know when assessing and designing visitation plans for infants and toddlers in foster care and their parents.

- [Visiting Between Children in Care and Their Families](#) – Hess (2003) – Policy Report

This report provides detailed information regarding the study findings, excerpts from the responding states' policies that provide illustrations of clear and specific policy statement or that illustrate differing ways of addressing a content area, and recommendations concerning enhancement of the states' visiting policies.

- Visitation/Family Access Guidelines: A Practice Model for Social Workers – Minnesota Community Services Department Child and Family Services Division (2005) - [Report](#)