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The "Down the Road" Impacts of Incarceration

Strengthening Prevention Efforts
for your DEC Alliance

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General Trends in Corrections

TREND #1:
In the US, the number of incarcerated persons is rising.

*The United States has the **highest rate of incarceration** and the **highest number in prison or jail** than any other country.*



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General Trends in Corrections

TREND #1:
In the US, the number of incarcerated persons is rising.

*We are incarcerating more, and it is costing more.
... but the trend is slowing.*



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What the Trends Mean

TREND #1:
In the US, the number of incarcerated persons is rising.

- More people in jail or prison means **more children under the care** of other family members or foster care.
- Most incarcerated parents in state or federal institutions **are over 100 miles away** from their residence.
- Having a parent in prison **creates hardships** on the caregivers at home.

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General Trends in Corrections

TREND #2:
The demographics of incarcerated persons

An overview of race, gender, and number of children per inmate.



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What the Trends Mean

TREND #2:
The demographics of incarcerated persons

There is a higher number of African Americans who are incarcerated.

- In general, African American families face disproportionate struggles including higher rates of children born to single mothers, living with single parents, or living in poverty.

More women in prison oftentimes shifts the burden to outside of the immediate family.

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General Trends in Corrections

□ **TREND #3:**
Reentering the community continues to be challenging

Legal Health
Family ? Public Perception
Transportation Employment

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What the Trends Mean

TREND #3:
Reentering the community continues to be challenging

- > **Reconnecting with family** is one of the biggest burdens when an ex-offender returns back home.
- > Strong **transitional services** in the community can go a long way toward steering the ex-offender toward a path of recovery and healing.

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Impacts on Children and Families

A word about the children...



 **Impacts on Children and Families**

Children of incarcerated parents are **70% more likely** to become involved with the criminal justice system.

.... without effective intervention.

 **Impacts on Children and Families**

- ____ million children **with parent in jail or prison**
(1.7)
- ____ million with parent **who is or was** under some form of supervision
(10)
- 1 in 15 black children has a parent in prison compared to 1 in ____ Latino or ____ white
(1 in 42 Latino or 111 white)

 **Impacts on Children and Families**

- Approximately 50% of these children are **under 10 years old**
- 1 in 5 demonstrate clinically significant **internalizing** problems
- 1 in 3 demonstrate clinically significant **externalizing** problems



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Impacts on Children and Families

Some of the impacts to children include:

- Symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Poor school performance
- Addiction issues
- Negative perceptions of police and other authority figures

Caregivers impacts:

- Increased burden: financial, physical, emotional
- Public assistance is not designed for caregivers
- Prisons are not accessible to visit



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Interventions and Supports

- Mentoring and after school programs
- Sources of parent, child, and family support:
 - ▣ Family resources centers
 - ▣ Faith-based organizations
 - ▣ Community-based agencies
- Advocacy groups
- Training and technical assistance
 - ▣ National Drug Endangered Children
 - ▣ National Resource Center on Children and Family of the Incarcerated



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A Model Program

Roderick Miles
African American Partnership Manager
Big Brothers Big Sisters



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List of Sources

Organization	Website
Bureau of Justice Statistics	http://bjj-ojp.usdoj.gov
The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated at Family & Corrections Network	http://fnetwork.org
Pew Center on the State	www.pewcenteronthestates.org
The Sentencing Project	www.sentencingproject.org
International Centre for Prison Studies, King's College London	http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/law/research/icps
African American Healthy Marriage Initiative	www.aahmi.net
The Urban Institute	www.urban.org
US Courts	www.uscourts.gov
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	www.hhs.gov

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Thank You!

“We can’t build a future for our youth,
but we can build our youth
for the future”
- Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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Thank You!

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