



**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FOR FOSTER CARE
& PERMANENCY PLANNING**

at the Hunter College
School of Social Work

INFORMATION PACKET: *Children of Incarcerated Parents*

By Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin

May 2003

129 East 79th Street • New York, NY 10021
TEL 212/452-7053 • FAX 212/452-7051
www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcp

A service of the
Children's Bureau/ACF/DHHS

Summary

Across the country, an estimated 1.5 million children have a parent behind bars -- an increase of more than half a million since 1991, according to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics. No one knows the exact number, because in virtually every jurisdiction nationwide, no official body -- not police, courts, or prisons -- is responsible for even asking if prisoners have children.

Researchers believe that over 10 million kids have experienced the incarceration of a parent at some point in their lives. Made virtual orphans by the drug war and other "tough on crime" measures that have sent the prison population skyrocketing to a record 2 million, many children of prisoners grow up in foster care, with grandparents or other relatives, or bouncing among an array of temporary caretakers. According to studies by the Los Angeles-based Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents, a research and service organization, as many as 90 percent of children in long-term foster care have a parent who has been arrested or incarcerated.

Exactly how many families are affected by the adoption act is unclear: Most children of male prisoners live with their mothers, and most children of female prisoners stay with other relatives. As many as 10 percent of women prisoners, however, have kids in foster care -- which is where the adoption deadlines come into play. And the number of those children is likely to continue growing: Over the past decade, the war on drugs and tougher sentencing laws have put ever more mothers behind bars. From 1989 to 1999, the number of female inmates in state and federal prison leapt from about 40,000 to almost 91,000. Approximately 70 percent of that total were mothers, and most of them were single parents. Based on those numbers, it's estimated that several thousand women have had their parental rights terminated as a result of relatively minor offenses.

Designed to move children from foster care into permanent homes, the law called for parental rights to be terminated if the parents didn't retrieve the children after a certain period -- typically between 15 and 22 months. What no one considered at the time of the act's passage, advocates say, is that even a short jail term could cause a parent to miss that deadline and permanently lose his or her children. "The fear," says Myrna Raeder, a professor at Los Angeles' Southwestern University School of Law who studies child custody issues, "is that we're creating a class of orphans who are the children of women offenders."

General Fact Sheet

Incarcerated Parents and Their Children

Present data from the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities concerning inmates with minor children. Numeric tables present data on the percent of inmates with children under the age of 18, whether or not inmates lived with their children prior to admission, and the children's current care givers. Tables also present 1999 estimates of the number of parents in State and Federal prisons, as well as the number of minor children and households affected by the imprisonment of a parent. Information on inmates' frequency and type of contact with their children is provided. Characteristics of incarcerated parents are detailed in tables which present data on current offenses, criminal histories, and sentence lengths. This BJS Special Report also presents data on incarcerated parents' reports of prior drug and alcohol abuse, and mental health services, as well as various socioeconomic data, including employment and income at time of arrest, and prior experiences of homelessness.

Highlights include the following:

- 1 In 1999 an estimated 721,500 State and Federal prisoners were parents to 1,498,800 children under age 18.
- 2 22% of all minor children with a parent in prison were under 5 years old.
- 3 Prior to admission, less than half of the parents in State prison reported living with their children -- 44% of fathers, 64% of mothers.

Two percent of the nation's 72 million children--1.5 million youngsters--had a parent in prison in 1999. Most of those children were younger than 10; the average age was 8.

The bureau also found that:

* 57 percent of imprisoned fathers and 54 percent of imprisoned mothers said they'd never had a personal visit with their children since entering prison.

* The percentage of black children with an imprisoned parent was nearly nine times greater than that of white children; the percentage for Hispanic children was about three times greater than that of white children.

- * 60 percent of parents in state prisons said they'd used drugs in the month before arrest.
- * 14 percent of parents in prison said they had a mental illness.
- * 70 percent of incarcerated parents didn't have a high school diploma.
- * 18 percent of imprisoned mothers and 8 percent of fathers were homeless before entering prison.

2001 FACT SHEET (from the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents)

HOW MANY CHILDREN OF PRISONERS ARE THERE?

- 1 The number of minor children in the U.S. who have experienced parental incarceration is unknown but estimated by the Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents to be at least 10 million.
- 2 About three quarters of all female prisoners and two thirds of all male prisoners are parents with an average of 2.4 and 2.0 children each, respectively.
- 3 On any given day in the U.S., there are over 2 million minor children with an incarcerated parent.
- 4 A significant but unknown proportion of the children of incarcerated mothers also have an incarcerated father.

WHERE DO CHILDREN OF PRISONERS LIVE DURING PARENTAL INCARCERATION?

- 1 Most prisoners' children live with single and/or elderly women.
- 2 The great majority of children of male prisoners live with their natural mothers; a majority of the children of female prisoners live with their maternal grandmothers.

CHILDREN OF PRISONERS AND FOSTER CARE

- 1 Only a small proportion (<3%) of prisoners' children are reported to be living in foster homes or agencies. It is likely that this number does not include at least some prisoners' children in foster care who are in kinship placements.
- 2 About 15-20% of children entering the child welfare system have incarcerated parents.
- 3 A majority of children in long-term foster care have experienced parental incarceration.

ARE CHILDREN OF PRISONERS IN CONTACT WITH THEIR PARENTS?

- 1 Over half of all children of prisoners never visit their incarcerated parents.
- 2 Only about 13% of prisoners' children in long-term foster care visit their incarcerated mothers; an even smaller group (~5%) visit their incarcerated fathers.

More than 10% of prisoners' children never have any type of contact---including letters or

telephone calls---with their incarcerated mothers or fathers during parental incarceration. According to Houck, K. D. & Loper, A. B. (2001). *The Relationship of Parenting Stress to Adjustment Among Mothers in Prison*. Manuscript submitted for publication. This study investigated how parenting stress experienced by incarcerated women is related to psychological and behavioral adjustment in prison. Stress was measured by two subscales from the Parenting Stress Index (Abidin, 1995) that evaluated sense of competence as a parent and degree of attachment to children. In addition, two other scales were developed concerning incarceration-specific parenting stress associated with limited contact with children and stress associated with conditions of visitation. Heightened stress associated with limited contact with children was related to higher anxiety, depression, and somatization, as measured by the Brief Symptom Inventory (Derogatis, 1993).

Stress concerning prison visitation was significantly related to anxiety. Stress concerning competence as a parent was associated with elevated anxiety and depressive symptoms as well as with institutional misconduct. No relationships between parent stress concerning attachment issues and adjustment measures were obtained. These results indicate that incarcerated women experience considerable distress related to their forced separation from children, and that this stress is manifest in their own psychological and behavioral adjustment.

References

- Beck et al, (1992)"Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991," Bureau of Justice Statistics (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, p. 10).
- Beck et al. (1992).
- Correctional Populations in the United States, 1995, Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin. (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, June 1997).
- Gilliard D, & Beck A (1997), "Prisoners in 1997," Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin. (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, August 1998).
- Gillard, D (1998), "Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear" Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin. (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, March 1999).
- Greenfield, L. (1999), "Women Offenders," Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, December 1999).
- Hairston, C.F. (1995) "Fathers in Prison," in K. Gabel & D. Johnston (Eds.), Children of Incarcerated Parents (Pasadena, CA: Pacific Oaks Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents, 1995), pp. 31-40.
- Johnston D, & Gabel, K. (Eds.), (1995), "Incarcerated Parents," in Children of Incarcerated Parents (Pasadena, California: Pacific Oaks Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents, pp. 3-20.
- Snell, T. (1992) "Women in Prison," Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice).

Present Challenges & Potential Solutions

“From 1985 to 1997, the U.S. female inmate population tripled. According to 1997 figures from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, the most recent available, on any given day more than 100,000 women are held in U.S. prisons or jails. The overwhelming majority of them have committed drug-related or non-violent property crimes.

The female prison population has more than doubled since 1990 from 44,065 to 94,336 in 2001 (BJS, 2002). Females accounted for 6.7% of all prisoners nationwide at mid-year 2001, up from 4.1% in 1980 and 5.7% in 1990 (BJS, 2002). Men’s incarceration rate is still 15 times higher than for women. Men are much more likely to be serving sentences for longer than a year. Out of 100,000 citizens, 900 males and 59 females are serving sentences longer than 1 year. (BJS, 2002). In 2000, 22% of arrests were of women. (BJS, 2000). Women account for approximately 14% of violent offenders -- an annual average of 2.1 million violent female offenders (BJS, 2000). As is the case with men, African-American and other minority women are disproportionately represented among the prison population (BJS, 2002). An estimated 28% of violent female offenders are juveniles (BJS, 2000).

An estimated 200,000 children have an incarcerated mother and more than 1.6 million have a father in prison, according to the Child Welfare League of America. But many experts believe the number of children with incarcerated mothers is actually much higher, especially as law-enforcement agencies are not required to gather specific information on prisoners’ children and because many women, fearing they may lose their children to the child welfare system, do not disclose that they’ve left children behind in the care of relatives and friends.”

“But not all women have such a safety net. Since incarcerated mothers tend to be their family’s sole caregiver, many of their children do end up in foster care, bouncing chaotically from one home to another. Some children are transported out of state, where they have little or no opportunity to visit their mothers in prison. Ripped away from all that is familiar, they experience separation anxiety, low self-esteem and a range of other negative consequences, according to the Child Welfare League.

Most experts view the Adoption and Safe Families Act as a laudable attempt to establish needed stability for foster children. Promoted by then-first lady Hillary Clinton, the law

amended the Adoptions Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, which provided financial incentives for states to make "reasonable efforts" to prevent foster care. The 1997 legislation goes farther by putting permanent placement on a fast track. This, added to the 1996 changes in federal welfare laws that barred felons for the first time from receiving federal welfare payments and food stamps, made a bad situation worse, critics say.

Foremost, the federal adoption law requires states to begin terminating a parent's right to her child after the child has been in foster care for 15 of the last 22 months. Many incarcerated women are serving prison terms longer than that. Exceptions allow caseworkers to examine individual cases for compelling reasons not to file.

Martha Raimon, director of the Incarcerated Mothers Law Project of the Women's Prison Association and Home, Inc. in New York, says however, "Many caseworkers have used the time limit as a bright line: Fifteen months and you're out."

The exceptions for when a state may choose not to file termination proceedings include when a relative is caring for the child, when the foster care agency has not provided appropriate services or when the agency documents that termination would not be in the child's best interests. But for an incarcerated mother to make a persuasive case for reunification, she must have regular contact with her caseworker, frequent visits with her child and access to a judge".

Warren(2000) found that "*the relationship of psychiatric symptomatology, character pathology and history of victimization to violent behavior among incarcerated women.* Manuscript submitted for publication.

The past decade has been characterized by a radical increase in the number of women being incarcerated for various types of felony offenses. Female offenders currently represent 16% of the correctional population and 14% of the felons processed by state and federal courts for violent crime. Despite this demonstration of non-random and often victim-specific behavior, little is still known about the factors that predispose women to act in impulsive and aggressive ways. The current study examines the relationship between psychiatric symptomatology (Brief Symptom Inventory), personality factors (SCID-II Screen), childhood sexual and physical victimization (Victimization Survey) and violent behavior as demonstrated by the instant offense and current adaptation within the prison environment (Prison Violence Inventory). Controlling for minority status and age, a series of multiple regression analyses conducted with 311 inmates, indicated that

the BSI Global Severity Index, positive screening for Antisocial and Histrionic Personality Disorder, and early sexual abuse were each significantly related to institutional violence. A logistic regression analysis of a second sample of inmates (N = 152) indicate that age and positive screening for antisocial personality disorder accurately classified high violence and low violence women with 72.2% specificity and 71.2% sensitivity. Presence of a positive screen for antisocial personality and age under 32 years each tripled the odds that a woman would be classified into the high violence group. The analyses demonstrated no relationship between the self-report psychiatric and historical factors and current incarceration for a violent offense including murder, robbery, assault and rape. These results highlight the impact of self-report psychiatric distress and childhood victimization as well as the potential significance of personality symptomatology in the prediction of institutional violence among incarcerated women”.

Model Programs and Contacts

The Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System of the London Family Court Clinic is a non-profit agency in London, Ontario, Canada, which advocates for the special needs of children and families involved in the justice system. We share with the community, governments and the legal system a responsibility and an opportunity to..

- 1 support victims of violence and express our collective abhorrence of abuse
- 2 redress wrongs and achieve a balance for people injured by breaches of trust and authority
- 3 foster public safety by addressing the needs of youth who have broken the law
- 4 find the best interests of children when separated parents disagree on custody
- 5 help children, teenagers and families who need support through difficult times

We are committed to encouraging the legal, education, social service, health, mental health and political systems to be more sensitive and responsive to the needs of children and families in crisis because of crime and violence. We strive to accomplish this goal by undertaking clinical assessment, intervention, consultation, training, collaboration, program development, public education, research and advocacy.

The Centre has seven core areas:

- 1 Child Witness Project
- 2 Clinical Supports Program
- 3 Counseling Services
- 4 Custody and Access Project
- 5 Research Services
- 6 Young Offender Services
- 7 Violence Prevention Services
- 8

Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System
London Family Court Clinic
254 Pall Mall St., Suite 200
London, Ontario N6A 5P6 CANADA
PHONE: (519) 679-7250
FAX: (519) 675-7772
info@lfcc.on.ca

AIM is the only program of its kind in Alabama. There are a limited number of organizations across the country, which provide services for women and their children. These organizations have various focuses and provide a myriad of services including visitations, training, advocacy, and legal services.

Alabama

AIM (Aid to Inmate Mothers)

<http://www.inmatemoms.org/index.htm>

Committee for Prisoner Support

P.O. Box 12152, Birmingham, AL 35202-2152

Arkansas

MIWATCH

224 Main St., Little Rock, AR 72206

California

The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents
P.O. Box 41-286, Eagle Rock, CA 90041
626-449-8796

Centerforce Programs
64 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94604

Legal Services for Prisoners w/Children
lspc@iqc.apc.org

Families in Crisis, Inc.
families.in.crisis@snet.net

Florida

Project Re-Connect
<http://www.dc.state.fl.us/originfo/reconnect/index.html>

Tampa Crossroads
<http://www.tampa-crossroads.com/>

Georgia

AIM (Aid to Imprisoned Mothers)
524 Larkin St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30313-1210

Illinois

CLAIM (Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers)
205 Randolph #830, Chicago, IL

New York

Incarcerated Mothers Program
1968 Second Ave, New York, NY 10039

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Prison Society
2000 Spring Garden St., Philadelphia, PA 19130-3805

The Program for Female Offenders, Inc.
1515 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-238-9950

Virginia

Prison Family Support
<http://www.pfss.org/>

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), passed in 1997, places a premium on swift adoption of children who are in foster care. This law permits accelerated termination of parental rights. IMLP educates women about their rights and responsibilities with respect to the legal relationships with their children. These women are coached on how to advocate for themselves and for their children in court, with foster care agencies, and within the correctional facilities where they reside.

IMLP provides educational workshops on family law to groups of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women. Volunteer lawyers, recruited by VOLS, assist mothers in maintaining their families and in making important decisions about the care of their children.

* PRISON-BASED SERVICES

At least once a month, a team of IMLP lawyers visit three women's correctional facilities: Taconic in Westchester County, Bayview in Manhattan, and the Rose M. Singer Center at Rikers Island. Group presentations alternate with one-on-one sessions with women. Group workshops focus on issues of custody, visitation, the rights and responsibilities of parents with children in foster care, termination of parental rights, and adoption. Lawyers provide advocacy for women by helping them contact foster care caseworkers, by facilitating visitation schedules with relative caretakers or, in some instances, by representing women in visitation proceedings in Family Court.

* COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

This component of the IMLP empowers formerly incarcerated mothers to preserve family relationships and make informed decisions about their children. Services are offered jointly by the IMLP and South Brooklyn Legal Services (SBLS) at community-based programs in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Attorneys conduct educational sessions on issues such as foster care, termination of parental rights, and adoption. Where appropriate, clients may be referred to SBLS for ongoing services. IMLP also provides training on the child welfare system for staff of other community-based organizations, government departments and other interested groups.

Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers

524 Larkin Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30313-1210
(tel) 404-221-0092

This organization provides regular and services to children of incarcerated women, their mothers and their caregivers.

Centerforce

P.O. Box 336
San Quentin, CA 94964
(tel) 415-456-9980
(fax) 415-721-4902

<http://www.caps.ucsf.edu>

Operates a network of visitors' centers at California prisons. Provides information, referrals, emergency services, transportation and child care to visitors.

Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM)

205 W. Randolph, Ste. 830
Chicago, IL 60606
(tel) 312-332-5537

(fax) 312-332-2570

<http://www.c-l-a-i-m.org>

CLAIM provides a variety of legal and education services to help imprisoned mothers preserve their families.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

714 West California Blvd.

Pasadena, CA 91105

(tel) 818-397-1378

(fax) 818-397-1304

Families With a Future

100 McAllister Street

San Francisco, CA 94102

(tel) 415-255-7036 or 510-663-6750

(fax) 415-552-3150

<http://www.fwaf.net>

Families With a Future (FWAF) is a network of advocates dedicated to keeping incarcerated women united with their children. FWAF helps arrange visits between children and their incarcerated mothers.

To purchase a video copy of WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS, contact Filmmakers Library, by email: info@filmmakers.com or phone: 212-808-4980.

Websites:

Child Welfare League of America: Children with Incarcerated Parents:

<http://www.cwla.org/programs/incarcerated/>

This section of CWLA's site has a plethora of facts about children of incarcerated parents, including selected caselaws, a recommended reading list for kids and workbooks for incarcerated parents.

Family and Corrections Network: <http://www.fcnetwork.org>

The self-dubbed "gateway to practice, policy and research on families of offenders," this site offers education on all aspects of family life for prisoners, including education about children of prisoners, programs for incarcerated parents, locating an imprisoned family member and more.

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children: <http://www.prisonerswithchildren.org>

LSPC advocates for the civil rights and empowerment of incarcerated parents and children. The site has publications including the invaluable *Incarcerated Parents Manual*, which addresses various aspects of family law for imprisoned parents, including child custody, foster care, paternity and child support.

Amnesty International: Women in Custody:

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/rightsforall/women/>

Amnesty's report describes violations of the internationally guaranteed human rights of women incarcerated in the United States. The website includes personal stories from incarcerated women, fact sheets, related links and a study on the impact on children of women in prison.

California Coalition for Women Prisoners <http://www.prisonactivist.org/ccwp/>

This grassroots organization fights for the rights of incarcerated women; publishes *The Fire Inside*, a bimonthly newsletter by and about women prisoners.

JusticeWorks's Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis Campaign

<http://www.justiceworks.org/html/mothers.html-ssi>

This national campaign advocates for alternatives to incarceration, such as community service work, restitution, employment/job training assistance, alcohol and substance abuse treatment as the sentencing standard for mothers.

360 Degrees: Perspectives on the U.S. Justice System <http://www.360degrees.org>

This innovative site developed by artists, journalists, scholars and activists aims to challenge people's perceptions about prisoners and to facilitate lively discussion and debate about the modern prison system. The site features personal stories, essays and interactive elements, including quizzes and community maps, moderated round table discussions and bulletin boards.

Families Against Mandatory Minimums <http://www.famm.org>

A national organization working to reform federal and state mandatory sentencing laws, FAMM's website explains mandatory minimum sentences and the tells the stories of people serving excessive sentences for nonviolent offenses.

Women Coping in Prison <<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/prisonstudy/home.html>>

A joint project of the University of Virginia and the Fluvanna Correctional Facility, this site describes current research projects on incarcerated women, extensive links to governmental sites and facts and resources on women in prison.

Aid To Inmate Mothers, Inc. <http://www.inmatemoms.org>

Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM) works to preserve family relationships between incarcerated women and their children by promoting visitations. Additional services offer reading and creative writing projects and skills for succeeding outside prison walls.

Friends of WRRN <http://community.cleveland.com/cc/friendsofwrrn/>

Helping Women's Re-Entry Resources Network creates housing for formerly incarcerated women and promoting advocacy and community education about incarcerated women and their families. Includes *Women and Criminal Justice*, an informational fact book on alternatives to incarceration for mothers.

Review of Policies and Legislation

Number of Children Affected by Law Unknown

"While no organization tracks how many parents have been affected by the law, or how they've been affected (one goal of the National Network for Women in Prison is further research on incarcerated women), Gail Smith, executive director of Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers, says she knows of women whose rights have been severed even when there is no adoptive parent on the horizon. "We are creating a pool of legal orphans," Smith says. "Many of these foster children are not babies; they are not at an age when they're likely to be adopted. So instead of permanency it creates more foster care drift." Once parental rights are terminated, the decision is usually final. "After that," says Raimon, "there is no contact permitted between the birth mother and child. No phone calls. No letters. No visits. And it's rarely appealable." Spruill can attest to the enormous difficulty this poses for the birth mother.

Adoption and Safe Families Act Leading To Increase in Parental Rights Relinquishment for Mothers in Prison, Center on Fathers, Families, and Public Policy, Policy Briefing, June 2002.

Farmer (2002), Women's ENews "makes several points regarding the shortened time frame and increased pressure to relinquish parental rights that is being placed on incarcerated mothers as a result of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. The Act requires states to begin terminating a parent's right to her child after the child has been in foster care for just 15 months. Once parental rights are terminated, the decision is usually final and no contact is permitted between the birth mother and child. The article points out that:

- Since incarcerated mothers tend to have been the child's sole custodial parent, their children are likely to end up in foster care during their period of incarceration.

- Incarcerated mothers have little control over the actions needed to make a persuasive case for reunification: regular contact with her caseworker, frequent visits with her child and access to a judge.
- One advocate is quoted in the article who has known incarcerated mothers who have lost parental rights even when there is no adoptive parent for the child” .

CLINTON, NJ. – The number of women imprisoned, especially for drug-related offenses, has tripled during the last decade. Ninety percent of children who live in orphanages or foster care “have at least one parent that has been, or is currently, incarcerated,” according to a study presented by the Forum for the Aid to Children of Incarcerated Parents and conducted at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility in Clinton.

The study was commissioned by Assemblywoman Mary Previte (D-Camden) with the support of experts, legislators, politicians, and community leaders “to examine possible solutions to the serious problem of children of incarcerated mothers and fathers.”

Investigators for the study found that half of adolescents who are currently serving time at Edna Mahan are children of prisoners or former prisoners, and that children of jailed parents are at high risk for juvenile delinquency. The absence of the incarcerated parent often forces the child into foster or orphan care, increasing the likelihood of pregnancy or experimentation with drugs and alcohol. Some of the study’s participants disagreed with this notion of “manifest destiny;” however, they found the data both relevant and worrisome.

The study also addressed the Rockefeller Law and 1980s-era anti-drug legislation passed during intensification of the war on drugs. These laws impose harsh and lengthy

sentences on first-time and nonviolent offenders without anticipating the possible effects on the children of these offenders.

“As a consequence of these laws and policies, the number of imprisoned mothers has tripled,” remarked Previte. “Two thirds of incarcerated mothers have children under age 18, many with children under the age of 10. When these laws were passed, no one took into consideration the repercussions they would have on the children of those incarcerated. Laws that were passed to protect our society are now, in fact, creating other problems, the worst of which is putting children in danger.”

The Forum concluded that the country can no longer afford, economically or socially, to continue to ignore the fact that politics within the judicial system generate conditions that put children of incarcerated parents at risk for delinquency themselves. The abandonment, often involuntarily, of these children can severely and irrevocably damage the children’s relationships with their families and communities.

Finally, the Forum advocated that the government work towards a system which helps save children who must suffer the errors of their parents. They called for the reexamination of sentences for nonviolent offenders, more family visits and more just custody laws, and the institution of rehabilitation programs for incarcerated parents to ease the transition into family life”.

References

- Barry, E. (ed.) (1990). Custody issues for incarcerated parents: A practitioner's guide. San Francisco: Legal Services for prisoners with children.
- Barry, E. (1985). Reunification difficult for incarcerated parents and their children. Youth Law News, July-August, 14-16
- Beck, A., Karberg, J., & Harrison, P. (2002). Prison and jail inmates at midyear 2001. Washington D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- Beckerman, A. (1994). Mothers in prison: Meeting the prerequisite conditions for permanency planning. Social Work, 39. 9-14
- Bloom, B. & Steinhart, D. (1993). *Why punish the children? A reappraisal of the children of incarcerated mothers in America*. San Francisco, CA: National Council on Crime and Delinquency.
- Boudouris, J. (1996). Parents in prison: Addressing the needs of families. American Correctional Association.
- Browne, D.C.H. (1989). Incarcerated mothers and parenting. Journal of Family Violence, 4, 211-221
- Chesney-Lind, M. (1998). Women in prison: from partial justice to vengeful equity. *Corrections Today*, 60, 66-73.
- Ditton, P. (1999). Mental health and treatment of inmates and probationers. Washington D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- Doleschal E. (1970) The Female Offender, A Guide to Published Materials, Crime and Delinquency Literature, Vol. 1 Cumalitive Subject Index (New York: National Council on Crime and Delinquency 1970).
- Dresser, M. (Ed.) (1996). Buddhist Women on the Edge: Contemporary Perspectives from the Western Frontier. Berkeley: North Atlantic Books.
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the United States, (1977).
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the United States. (1973), Uniform Crime Reports (Washington D.C. : United States Department of Justice, U.S. Government Printing Office, (1973).
- Fogel, C.I. (1993). Hard time: The stressful nature of incarceration for women. Issues in Mental Health and Nursing, 14.367-377
- Gabel, K. & Johnston, D. (1995). Children of incarcerated parents. New York: Lexington Books.

Gaudin, J.M. & Sutphen, R. (1993). Foster care vs. extended family care for children of incarcerated mothers. *Journal of Offender rehabilitation*, 19, 129-147

Greenfield, L. & Snell, T. (2000). *Women Offenders*. Washington D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Hairston, C.F. (1988). Family ties during imprisonment: Do they influence future criminal activity? *Federal Probation*, 52, 48-52

Hairston, C.F. (1989). Men in prison: Family characteristics and family views. *Journal of Offender Counseling, Services and Rehabilitation*, 14, 23-30

Harm, N.J (1992). Social policy on women prisoners: A historical analysis. *Affilia*, 7, 90-108

Houck, K. D. & Loper, A.B. (2001). *The Relationship of Parenting Stress to Adjustment Among Mothers In Prison*.

Kumpfer, K. (1993). *Strengthening America's families: Promising parenting strategies for delinquency prevention: User's guide*. Washington, D.C. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice

McGowan B. & Blumental K.L.,(1978). Why Punish the Children? National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Rodriguez, L. (2002). *For Prisoner's Children, A Life of Tragedy*.

Thompson, P.J & Harm, N.J. (1995). Parent education for mothers in prison. *Pediatric Nursing*, 21, 552-555

Uniform Crime Reports (1997). *Crime in the United States*. Washington D.C.: Federal Bureau of Investigation.

U.S. Department of Justice (1998). Women in the criminal justice system: A twenty year update. www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reports/98_guides/wcjs98/

Warren, J.I. Hurt, S. , Loper, A. B., Bale, R., & Friend, R.(2000). The relationship of psychiatric symptomatology, character pathology and history of victimization to violent behavior among incarcerated women.

Website references:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/iptc.htm>

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/state/oct00/mama30102900a.asp>

A two-part series in Women's E-news (<http://www.womensenews.org> "*Mothers in Prison Losing All Parental Rights*,
<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/947/context/archive>" 06/21/02

Family and Corrections Network
<http://www.fcnetwork.org>

US Department of Justice: Bureau of Justice
<http://www.ojlp.usdoj.gov>

Arkansas Crime Information Center
<http://www.acic@acic.org>

The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents
<http://www.e-ccip.org>

AR Kids Count
<http://www.aradvocates.org/kidscount>

Center for Juvenile and Criminal Justice
<http://www.cjcj.org>

Soros Foundation-Center on Crime, Communities, and Culture
<http://www.soros.org>

The Fortune Society
<http://www.fortunesociety.org>

Vera Institute of Justice
<http://www.vera.org>

American Corrections Association
<http://www.corrections.com>

Federal Bureau of Prisons
<http://www.bop.gov>

National Institute of Corrections
<http://www.nicic.org>

Angel Tree
<http://www.christianity.com>

Child Welfare League of America
<http://www.cwla.org>

Claim
<http://www.c-l-a-l-m.org>

Families Against Mandatory Minimums Foundation

<http://www.famm.org>