

# Academic Outcomes Among Youth with Incarcerated Parents IN MINNESOTA



Students who have experienced parental incarceration self-report . . .

**Lower attendance<sup>1</sup>**

than their peers.



**2.1x**



**2.9x**

More unexcused absences than students who have never had an incarcerated parent

**More discipline issues<sup>2</sup>**

than their peers.



**2.6x**



**4.1x**

More discipline issues than students who have never had an incarcerated parent

**Lower grades<sup>3</sup>**

than their peers.



**1.2x**



**1.7x**

Fewer As and Bs than students who have never had an incarcerated parent



**Less school connectedness<sup>4</sup>**

than their peers.



**Less school engagement<sup>5</sup>**

than their peers.

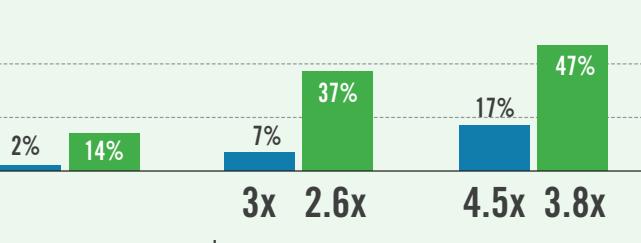
- Currently has an incarcerated parent
- Has had a parent incarcerated in the past

## History of parental incarceration by school setting . . .

**Public Schools**

**Alternative Schools**

**Juvenile Correction Facilities**



This infographic is brought to you by Minnesota's Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration Collaborative's Evaluation Sub-Committee which includes representatives from Wilder Research, University of Minnesota, Council on Crime and Justice, MN Department of Corrections, MN Department of Human Services, MN Department of Education, and MN Department of Public Safety. Staff time for the production of this infographic was provided by Wilder Research. This is part 2 of a series of graphics on the impacts of having an incarcerated parent.

## For more information

Visit <http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Research-Areas/Pages/Incarceration.aspx>

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# Academic Outcomes

## Attendance



1 Unexcused absences were assessed with two items: "During the last 30 days, how many times have you skipped school or cut classes, but NOT a full day of school, without being excused?" and "During the last 30 days, how many times have you skipped or cut a FULL day of school or classes without being excused?" Youth self-reporting no unexcused absences were compared to youth self-reporting one or more unexcused absences.

## Discipline



2 Discipline was assessed with three items: 1) "During the last 30 days, how many times have you been sent to the office for discipline?" 2) "During the last 30 days, how many times have you had in-school suspension (ISS)?" and 3) "During the last 30 days, how many times have you been suspended from school (out-of-school suspension/OSS)?" Youth self-reporting no discipline were compared to youth self-reporting one or more disciplinary actions.

## Grades



3 Grades were assessed with one item: "How would you describe your grades this school year?" Youth self-reporting mostly As and Bs were compared to youth self-reporting all other responses.

## School Connectedness



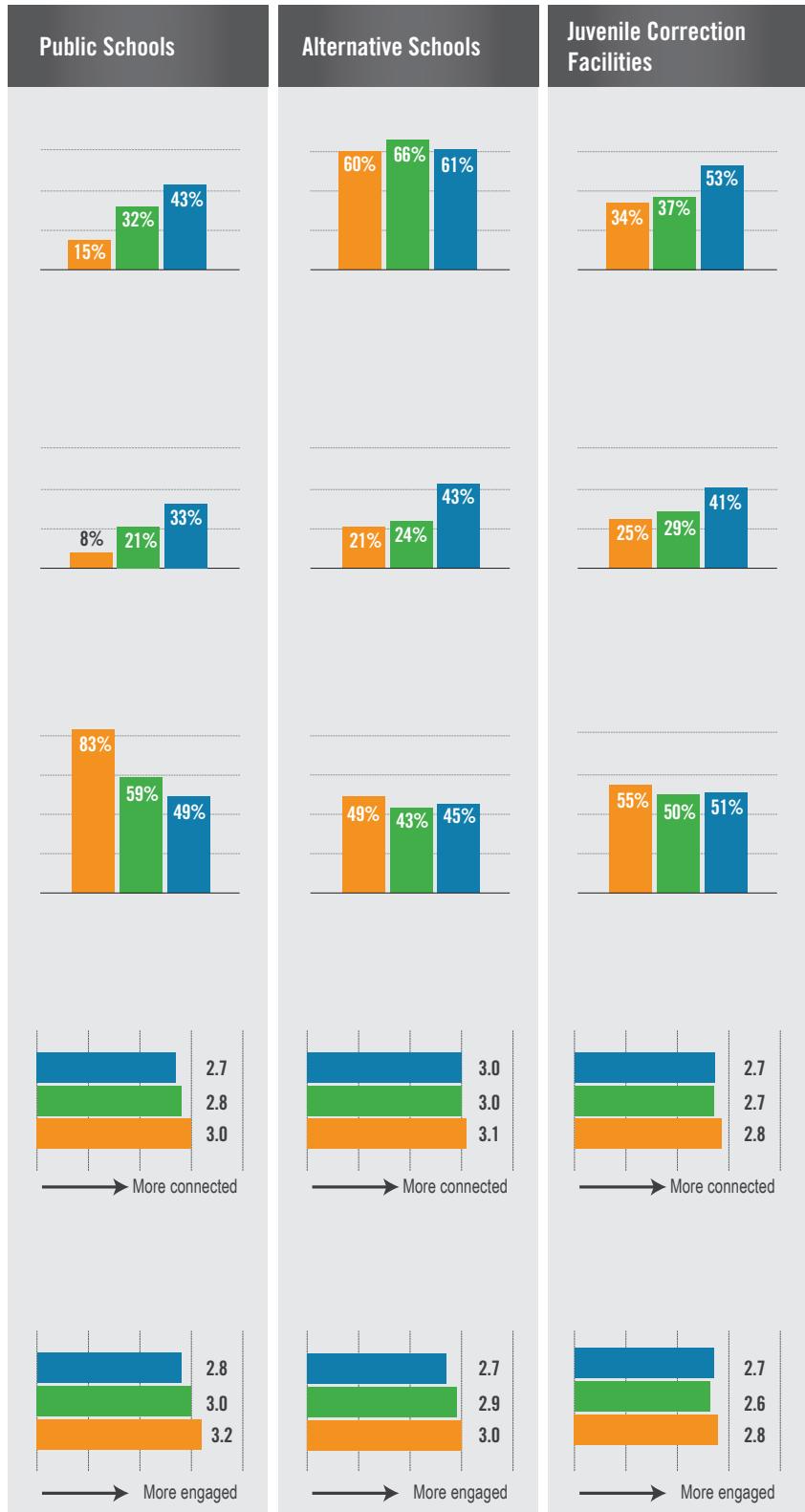
4 Five items were used to assess school connectedness. For each item, youth were asked: "How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?" These five statements followed: 1) "Overall, adults at my school treat students fairly." 2) "Adults at my school listen to the students." 3) "The school rules are fair." 4) "At my school, teachers care about students." and 5) "Most teachers at my school are interested in me as a person." Youth rated all five items on a 4-point scale. Scores were averaged and higher scores indicated more school connectedness.

## Student Engagement



5 A student engagement scale was created using two items: "How often do you care about doing well in school?" and "How often do you pay attention in class?" Youth rated both questions on a 4-point scale. Scores were averaged and higher scores indicated self-reporting of higher student engagement.

Currently has an incarcerated parent  
Has had an incarcerated parent in the past  
Has never had an incarcerated parent



These findings were found in the analysis of 2013 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS), a reflection of the overall well-being of youth through self-reporting. The MSS is administered every three years to Minnesota students and covers a broad array of topics, including academics, school and community, substance use, mental health, and more. This MSS does not include data from the Duluth, Minneapolis, or Rochester School Districts. These data are reflective of the aggregate responses of 9th grade students, with the exception of Alternative Schools and Juvenile Correctional Facilities data which are not separated by grade.

# WHO HAS An Incarcerated Parent

IN MINNESOTA?



On any given day, more than  
**1.75 million CHILDREN**  
under the age of 18

HAVE A PARENT IN PRISON IN THE U.S.

Millions of additional children have a parent incarcerated in a county jail or on probation or parole.

Incarceration often creates challenges for children and families at home, in school, and in their communities.

Children may experience:

- Financial and material hardship
- Unpredictability in family relationships and structure
- Difficulty with school relationships and performance
- Struggles with mental and physical health
- Social and institutional stigma

Although Minnesota does not yet systematically collect information about incarcerated parents and their children, it is estimated that at least 10,000 children in Minnesota have a parent currently in prison or jail.

## Systemic racial disparities

Young people of color are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. Research points to many causes, including inequitable distribution of resources, and bias within policies and practices, indicating that systemic issues play an important role in intergenerational cycles of incarceration.

## Join the discussion

Upcoming forums will be held to continue the conversation about youth affected by parental incarceration, including:

- School setting (Fall 2014)
- Mental health (Winter 2015)
- Chemical health (Spring 2015)

## For more information

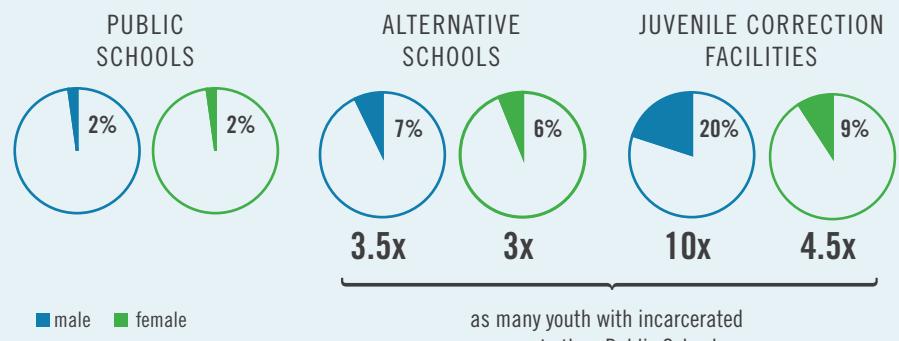
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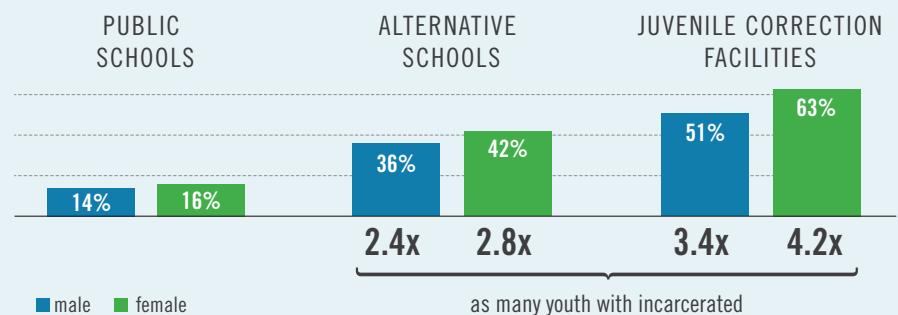
## SCHOOL SETTING

Students who currently have an incarcerated parent



as many youth with incarcerated parents than Public Schools

Students who have had an incarcerated parent in the past

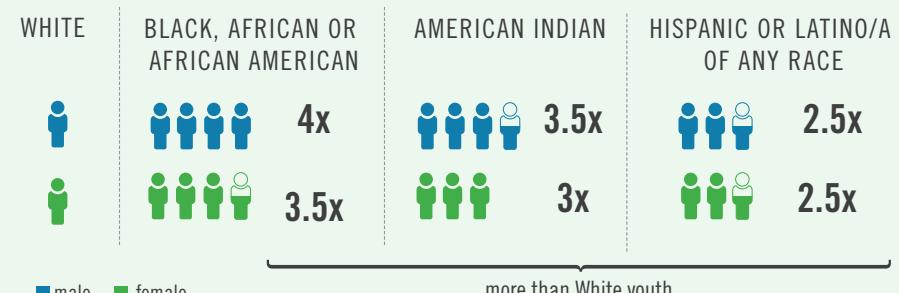


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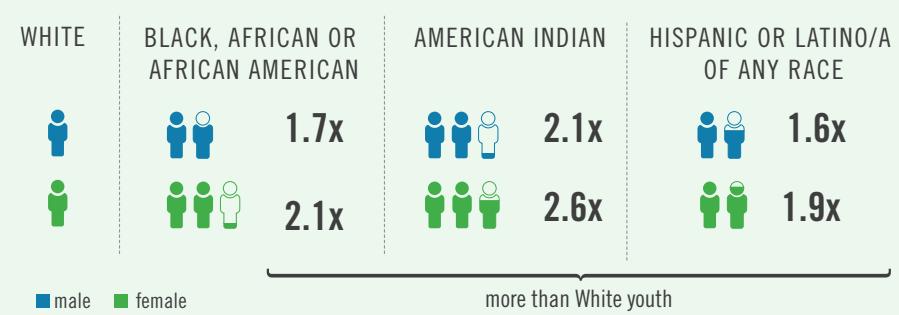
## RACE

Asian youth report similar parental incarceration to White youth. Youth from multiple racial backgrounds also report INCREASED RATES of parental incarceration compared to White and Asian youth.

Students who currently have an incarcerated parent



Students who have had an incarcerated parent in the past



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These findings were revealed in the 2013 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS), a reflection of the overall well-being of our youth. The MSS is administered every three years to Minnesota students and covers a broad array of topics, including academics, school and community, substance use, mental health, and more. This MSS does not include data from the Duluth, Minneapolis, or Rochester School Districts. These data are reflective of the aggregate responses of 9th grade students, with the exception of Alternative Schools and Juvenile Correctional Facilities data which are not separated by grade.

## COLLABORATIVE INFORMATION



THE COLLABORATIVE'S work is organized to address these aspects of the problem:

- Advocacy
- Communications and Training
- Data and Research
- Family Engagement

THE COLLABORATIVE meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Minnesota Department of Corrections. New agencies and organizations are always welcome!

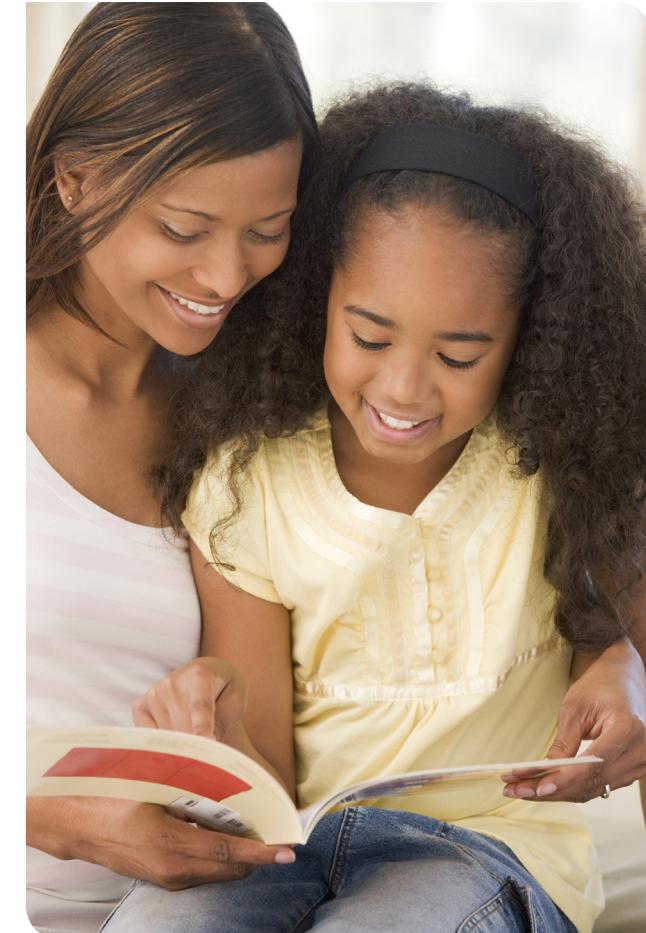


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Created by: Rebecca Shlafer & Allie Siu, University of Minnesota, Prevention Research Center and Wilder Research

## Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration Collaborative



*Advocating for and impacting change in Minnesota*

## THE PROBLEM

*On any given day, more than 1.75 million children UNDER THE AGE OF 18 have a *parent* IN PRISON in the U.S.*

Millions of additional children have a parent incarcerated in a county jail or on probation or parole.

Incarceration often creates challenges for children and families at home, in school, and in their communities. Children may experience:

- Financial and material hardship
- Unpredictability in family relationships and structure
- Difficulty with school relationships and performance
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## OUR RESPONSE

In response to this issue, we have formed a collaborative of experts from public and private agencies to address the strengths and needs of families affected by incarceration in our state.

### Participating Agencies & Organizations

Big Brother/Big Sisters	Initiative Foundation
Bridge Builders for Kids	Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Council on Crime & Justice	Minnesota Fathers and Families Network
Hennepin County Library	Parenting with Purpose
Minnesota Department of Corrections	Ramsey County Child Support
Minnesota Department of Education	Restorative Parenting
Minnesota Department of Health	University of Minnesota
Minnesota Department of Human Services	Volunteers of America – Minnesota
Minnesota Department of Public Safety	Volunteers of America – National
Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota	Wilder Research

## OUR VISION

All public and private agencies' and organizations' efforts are coordinated, appropriate, and effective to ensure child well-being, family stability, and community connectedness.

## OUR MISSION

To inform and improve practices and policies that address the needs of children, caregivers, and incarcerated parents at the point of connection with the corrections system, by communicating best practices, advocating, and impacting change within the community and organizations.

## OUR GOALS

- 1) Collect, analyze, and explore additional data needs and collection methodologies.
- 2) Create and implement a communication and training plan.
- 3) Develop recommendations for policies and practices as they relate to improved family engagement.
- 4) Map policies and practices that need change and develop recommendations.