

Children of Incarcerated Parents

Since 1991, the number of [children with parents in prison has increased by more than 50 percent](#). Most of these children have an incarcerated father, but a growing number—currently 8 percent—have an incarcerated mother.

1.1 million incarcerated persons are [parents to an estimated 2.3 million children](#), Bureau of Justice Statistics

More than [7 million children have a parent under some form of correctional supervision](#), Bureau of Justice Statistics

Children of incarcerated parents will spend an average of [6 years 8 months separated from them](#), Aid to Children of Incarcerated Mothers, Inc.

Ten percent of children with [incarcerated mothers will be placed in foster care](#) compared to only 2 percent of those with incarcerated fathers, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Children of incarcerated parents are [6 to 10 times more likely to the end up in prison](#) than the average for young people, New York Amsterdam News (Jones, D. (2006). *Saving the children of prisoners*. New York Amsterdam News, Vol. 97(19), 5-5)

Among parents incarcerated in [New Mexico](#) state prison, [32% of mothers](#) and [26% of fathers](#) indicated that [their children witnessed their arrest](#).