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Parental Incarceration and the Costly Effects on Their Children

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Parental Incarceration and the Costly Effects on Their Children

by

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Dedications

To my family, especially my children, may you strive to be the best version of yourself and continue to put your education as a priority in your life. There is truly no limit in what you can pursue in life, so continue to dream as big as the sky and work towards those dreams to make them your own personal reality. Do not ever fear an opportunity for education, whether it be academically or through a daily task, as those opportunities in life mold you to become greater.

Abstract

The purpose of this project is to bring awareness to the silent victims associated with parental incarceration – their children. Throughout this project, the focus will be aimed towards promoting the education of the effects of parental incarceration and the impact it has on their children in a variety of capacities and how those settings influence incarceration amongst children of incarcerated parents. In addition, this paper will discuss parental incarceration in three different lens views: administrative, ethical, and legal. First, the administrative lens pertaining to leadership and evolution to successful leadership, especially the critical component of crisis communication strategy. Second, the importance of ethical principles and the application of principles within the correctional facilities and how the ethical framework contained in the Stewardship Principles of Ethics will apply within the correctional facility setting within the correlation between incarcerated individuals and the likelihood for their children to become offenders. Third, the legal lens pertaining to cognitive-behavioral interventions amongst offenders and the promotion of understanding this link as it relates to offenders, which agencies work with. Lastly, the discussion of personal philosophy about life as it relates to the influence of incarcerated parents and the likelihood of their children becoming incarcerated. Many of the values that factor into my personal philosophy stem from personal experience from this topic.

Keywords: Parental, incarceration, children, administrative, ethical, legal, legislative, leadership, cognitive, behavioral

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Parental Incarceration Background

In 2020, the United States (U.S.) saw an unprecedented decline in the total number of incarcerated individuals between 2019 and 2020. This drop was initiated by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the pressure associated from advocates to reduce incarceration, local jails initially drove the decline, although prisons also made restrictions (Kong-Brown et al., 2021, p. 1). This decline does not reflect the recent statistical data collected from previous years or the prediction that was associated with the rise in incarceration. As mentioned by Scommegna (2014, para. 6), “A majority of U.S. inmates have minor children and forty-five percent were living with their children before they were imprisoned, reports the Bureau of Justice Statistics.”

It is mentioned by The Marshall Project that there was a “8 percent decrease nationwide that is largely due to prohibitions stopping new prisoners from being accepted from local jails, parole officers sending fewer people back to prison for low-level violations, and court closures due to the coronavirus leading to fewer people being sentenced” (Sharma et al., 2020, para. 6). In addition to these considerations, the spread of the coronavirus within facilities across the country was another factor that contributed to individuals not fulfilling incarceration or undergoing sentencing for specific low-level crimes. The Marshall Project stated that, “More than 57,000 prisoners have tested positive for the coronavirus in facilities across the country since the outbreak began” (Sharma et al, 2020, para. 9). This data reflects those individuals incarcerated who have died, recovered, and included the number of staff members, who were also infected or died.

The Statista Research Department (2021, para. 2) states, “Roughly 2.12 million people were incarcerated in the U.S. in 2020.” Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, the number of

incarcerated people significantly decreased as different procedures, such as the above mentioned, were in place. In recent years, between 1991 and midyear 2007, “Parents of minor children held in the nation’s prisons increased by nearly 80 percent” (Glaze, L. E. & Maruschak, L. M., 2008, p. 1). Among this data, Glaze, L. E. & Maruschak, L. M (2008) discussed that the number of children under the age of 18 with a mother in prison more than doubled since 1991 (pg. 2). However, the Bureau of Justice Statistics findings suggest that even as incarceration increases amongst both men and women, there will be a much more significant percentage increase amongst female inmates versus the male inmates.

Demographics of Parental Incarceration

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (Glaze, L. E. & Maruschak, L. M., 2008, p. 1), an estimated 810,000 prisoners of the roughly 1,520,000 held in the nation’s prisons at midyear 2007 were parents of minor children or children under age 18. Parents held in the nation’s prisons – approximately 52% of state inmate and approximately 63% of federal inmates – reported having an estimated 1,710,000 minor children. This is accounting for approximately 2.3% of the United States resident population under age 18. These statistics reflect the findings of those who actually participated in the survey and provided accurate feedback. The findings do not reflect if an incarcerated individual did not participate in the survey. These statistical findings could suggest different findings with different participation and accurate information. As said by Scommegna (2014, para. 8), “The number of children with a parent in prison or jail grew five times between 1980 and 2012, growing from about 500,000 to 2.6 million, according to recent estimates by sociologists Bryan Sykes of University of California-Irvine and Becky Pettit of University of Texas-Austin.”

Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, *Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children*, found that, “Of the estimated 74 million children in the U.S. resident population who were under age 18 on July 1, 2007, 2.3% had a parent in prison (table 2). Black children (6.7%) were seven and half times more likely than white children (0.9%) to have a parent in prison. Hispanic children (2.4%) were more than two and a half times more likely than white children to have a parent in prison” (Glaze, L. E. & Maruschak, L. M., 2008, p. 3). Turney (2014, p.00) easily addressed a heavily concentrated population, which was a focal point in incarceration. Turney suggested that in these households some children were more likely to have an incarcerated parent than others. Scommegna (2008, para. 8) mentioned that, “Among black children whose fathers lacked a high school diploma in 2009, about sixty four percent will experience parental incarceration by age seventeen, compared with about fifteen percent of white children with similarly educated fathers, as reported by Sykes and Pettit (2015, p. 00).

Increase of Incarceration

As reported by Glaze, L. E. & Maruschak, L. M., “Drugs and public-order offenders in state and federal prisons were more likely than violent offenders to have children” (2018, p. 4). However, the different types of crimes amongst both female and male populations of incarcerated individuals differed tremendously. “Among male state prisoners, violent (47%) and property (48%) offenders were less likely to report having children than public-order (60%) and drug (59%) offenders (table 6). For women held in state prison, violent (57%) offenders were less likely than drug (63%), property (65%), and public-order (65%) offenders to be a mother” (2008, p. 4). Even though there is not much statistical data associated with individualized crime and the relation between parental incarceration and the effects of their children; the nature and degree of crime can have a powerful influence on children. This may ultimately effect a child’s perception

that committing such an act is a form of acceptable behavior and that it is an appropriate responses to problems faced within society.

Murray et al. (2012) mentioned that with the increase in parental incarceration, that children face a host of emotional and social difficulties that have long-lasting effects which may affect them later in life, such as with antisocial behavior, mental health problems, drug use, and low educational performance (p. 175). Shlafer et al. suggests that the impact of parental incarceration on children show an increased risk for physical health problems, and mental health problems such as internalizing and externalizing problems (2017, p. 2). In addition, Shlader et al. (2017, p. 2) examined a strong correlation between children of incarcerated fathers becoming more likely to experience grade retention then their peers who had not experienced parental incarceration and a strong correlation between maternal incarceration and their children exhibiting behavioral problems at school.

Overall, it is evident that there are many contributing factors associated with the success of children of parental incarceration and there are many different influences that impact a child. It is important when examining this topic to understand the importance of the overall success of children of parental incarceration can have to society and what the criminal justice system can do to promote success amongst these children. However, it is still important to have the contribution of those incarcerated parents to contribute to the overall health and well-being of their children, even if they are incarcerated. By examining the three different platforms - Crisis Communication and Response, Ethical Principles within the CJS, and the Thought-Behavior Link as it relates to parental incarceration. There will be an opportunity of growth to help aid in the creation of a brighter future for those silent victims of parental incarceration.

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

Crisis Communication and Response

Leadership has many unforeseen obstacles. Of these obstacles, many involve situations where crisis happens to be unavoidable. However, successful leadership tends to persevere through these unforeseen battles and as a result, strategy forms to help aid and mold successful leadership for the foreseeable future. A problem that often stems from crisis is communication strategy. The importance in improving crisis communication is through analyzing all aspects of communication, leadership response and the success of the crisis communication strategy within a crisis incident. It will also be discussed how crisis communication strategy is effective to those individuals who are incarcerated, and the benefits seen promoting success within their youth through crisis communication strategy.

The motivation behind the identified topic is to better serve the public when crisis is present and to promote overall safety for those responding and involved in crisis response. By promoting a more effective communication line, there is the potential of preserving lives and helping to aid in success for those experiencing crisis. Crisis communication strategy is not just present during a crisis, but also is seen as part of the aftermath recovery of a crisis.

Professionally, crisis communication strategy is important because there are many different incidents of crisis which a law enforcement officer is exposed to on a daily basis. As it is shown that law enforcement officers tend to be exposed to an array of crisis scenarios within their careers, it is often missed that those incarcerated have also experienced severe levels of crisis related incidents in their lives.

There is no specific historical origin as related to specifically where or how crisis communication strategy began. According to Go Crisis Intervention Training website (n.d.),

“Mental health contacts and intervention by law enforcement became part of the profession with the deinstitutionalization of nonviolent mentally ill patients in the 1960s” (para. 9). However, this does not reflect the work of criminal justice leaders prior to this change in history, which aided to the success of implementing this program. Within correctional facilities across the country, there have been implementations of Crisis Intervention Teams, which help to reduce crisis situations, improve safety, and promote healthier outcomes for individuals within the correctional systems who suffer from mental illness (“National Institute of Corrections,” n.d.). Ultimately, whether it be through law enforcement training within Crisis Intervention or by having Crisis Intervention Teams within correctional facilities, the history of crisis communication strategy as it pertains to incarcerated individuals has grown exponentially throughout the last sixty years. However, crisis prevention and crisis communication strategy are not new topics. The Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI), “CPI was established in the United States in 1980 for human service professionals to address the need for training in safe, respectful, non-invasive methods for managing disruptive and potentially aggressive behavior in a way that’s compatible with staff duty to provide the best possible care.” It is evident that society is continuing to mold with the growing concerns for crisis related responses and is expanding knowledge throughout many different professional fields.

As mentioned previously, criminal justice crisis communication strategy is relatively new and with new strategies comes strengths and weaknesses. Criminal justice crisis communication strategy is somewhat new and most likely will be revised as time goes on. It will allow this particular strategy to be more apparent to the model of policing used, which can be foreseen as a strength and a weakness. The strengths of this strategy thus far have aided in the success of helping those who are experiencing a mental health crisis’ and allowing criminal justice

professionals to have the tools to be able to respond effectively within any given situation as it relates to a mental health crisis. This has helped to decrease those offenders who need additional treatment or mental health resources from ending up in our correctional facilities and provide the adequate services they need.

There are several ways to analyze and best prepare for a crisis response, however, each organization should have their own specific plan in place for a crisis response. Each crisis response is different than the next, so it is best to continue to reevaluate responses to crisis related episodes to best serve the organization and the population it serves. According to Agnes (2018), there are five major pointers that build as a foundation for a crisis response. First, Agnes stated to fundamentally audit your agencies current crisis mindset and readiness. This can help prepare your agency to plan and be tactful for future crisis response scenarios. This may require your agency to re-evaluate your departments policies and procedures, which relate to crisis response to fully prepare for possible situations that may occur.

Second, Agnes stated to solicit what may be painful feedback on your agency's crisis response performance from your community. This feedback can help promote a more united community during crisis response and help aid to the success of preparation not only before an initial crisis but the recovery during the aftermath. In addition to the community's feedback, it is important to gather information and constructive criticism from members of your agency. By allowing members to participate, it encourages their preparedness for potential crisis and allows for them to contribute to the change, which they will partake in. In return, by allowing community and member participation it will ultimately help aid in the agency's efficiency and future success during crisis related responses and unify all members of the community.

Third, Agnes stated that the day after day, creatively build trust and credibility in ways; small and large. Agnes mentioned to do this strategically by preparing and thinking outside the normal scenarios for crisis response and your agency's ability to effectively prepare for potentially real-life scenarios. These different scenarios and preparation tactics should be documented and discussed in a group related setting within your agency to allow for proper feedback. The different creative scenarios should allow for others criticism and contribution to aid in thorough crisis response scenarios.

Fourth, Agnes stated realistically identify and analyze what specific crises you or your agency are most vulnerable too. An agency and their individual members should take careful consideration when evaluating what scenarios, they are most vulnerable too. It is important that there are procedures in place to address those vulnerable situations to help promote a positive outcome, and for the entire agency to be better prepared during those more vulnerable situations. During this phase of preparation, it may be best to address any types of additional training either individually or in a group compacity to promote any potential weakness and make an opportunity for improvement. This may help increase in areas of weakness and create a different future opportunity for growth.

Lastly, Agnes stated the design, test, and keep refreshed a multifaced battle plan for each high-risks scenario that will kick in immediately when trouble strikes. It is important to have a plan in place for each scenario that will likely be faced, and to have multiple options if one fails. Each phase of preparation will help prepare for this stage and likely through different avenues of preparation, your agencies may adapt to the changes in the specific crisis. It is best to allow for multiple plans in place to ensure that there are options when crisis is occurring.

There are many personal work-related experiences, which one can have to promote a thorough crisis response communication strategy. Some of these experiences can be utilized as a form of training for a crisis incident. These work experiences could consist of quarterly use of force trainings, including firearms, active short training, critical response training/under pressure training, simulation training versus live, controlled scenario training, and openly discussing effective protocols and procedures for a crisis response incident. In addition to training, departmental policy could be considered and be in place to help promote crisis intervention. It may not be a state law requiring crisis intervention training for all sworn police officers, but in the State of Minnesota this is a requirement. According to the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) (n.d.), “On January 25, 2018, the Minnesota POST Board approved learning objectives for training in crisis intervention, mental illness crises, conflict management and mediation and recognizing and valuing community diversity and cultural differences, to include implicit bias, as required by Minn. Stat. 626.8469. These objectives were developed through the board’s training committee with the assistance of subject matter experts and other interested parties and vetted against stated and national resources” (para. 3). The variety of experiences may allow officers and those who are similarly trained to make sound decisions and make effective communicative plans to aid in future crisis scenarios.

Some of these work-related experiences may not necessarily be a common thought to help aid in the overall success of incarcerated individuals, and to deter their children from committing crimes. However, each work-related experience promotes a better response in crisis related situations from all aspects of the criminal justice system, which include from the beginning at the initial point of contact by law enforcement, arrest, transportation, and the

incarceration. Each specific step along with the many others in the criminal justice field can help promote a healthy impact to both the incarcerated individual and their family members.

It is important that with any crisis response there is an effective communication plan in place for the overall success of the situation. There are three phases of an effective communication plan: pre-crisis, crisis response, and post crisis. Each phase helps to enhance the thoroughness of communication and to set forth a plan for the next phase of communication. First, the pre-crisis phase helps to establish a plan for effective communication and allows for evaluations to be made. This is the first initial phase where revisions are needed for the general readiness and situational awareness to all circumstances. The pre-crisis phase is designed as a platform to prepare everyone who is a part of the initial response or is involved in the process of the crisis response. Next, the initial crisis-response phase allows for those involved to execute the plan for effective communication. This phase allows those individuals apart of the crisis response to try to follow the set plan in place. If the set plan does not, it allows for leadership to see what other alternatives can benefit the overall response and outcome of the crisis. It is best to have a series of potential plans in place, if the first plan is not successful established in the pre-crisis phase. By waiting until the initial crisis response to establish more alternative ideas, it could become more harmful to help prevent the crisis. Lastly, the post-crisis phase allows for reflection and debrief to occur. In this phase, the crisis response is respectively closed and allows for individuals involved in the crisis response to collaborate on how to effectively mold the response for future crisis incidents. During this phase, leadership can establish new methods of training to help aid in the success of future responses and research new effective tools or approaches to future crisis response.

During a crisis response, it is important to have organization hierarchy and responsibility established. These types of roles and obligations should be created within the pre-crisis phase to prevent any confusion with designated assignments or the initial point of contact for organizational communication. It is important that the roles are established in the pre-crisis phase as waiting for the crisis situation can cause chaos and potentially have costly effects. For instance, the most senior individual in rank, such as a Chief of Police, would assume the organization's hierarchy and responsibility if they were to assume the role at the scene of the incident. It does not matter the size of the crisis or the number of individuals deployed in the response efforts, someone with the highest ranking would presume the role as the chain of command unless another individual arrives at the scene who is of a higher rank. However, the rank of the individual may assume different duties in a crisis response situation.

In any type of situation, leadership should have multiple strategies in place to allow for successful and effective communication to take place, not just in a crisis-related incident. According to Stephens et al., "The strongest and most lasting impressions may come from personal or family member contact with police officers and the stories they tell about the interaction" (n.d., p.00). This quote resonates with how detrimental thorough communication can be when interacting with anyone, including those individuals who are arrested and later incarcerated, and most importantly their family members. It is not always a positive experience to be arrested but allowing for a positive interaction in a negative situation could have a long-lasting effective outcome rather than a negative one.

It is evident that each individual citizen in society has their own expectations and beliefs of the different professions involved in the criminal justice system. Some of these viewpoints have stemmed from personal experience and others of what they have seen or heard, whether that

be through a family member, friend or the media. It is important to have strategies created for communication to promote a positive expectation of professionals within the criminal justice field. It is mentioned by Stephens et al., that even with the different viewpoints from different individuals within the public, the police must reach out to every member of the community if they expect to be successful in helping create and sustain a sense of safety (n.d., p.00). This statement resonates to those who have doubt or have experienced negative encounters with the criminal justice system. It shows a sense of unification to allow those community members who have been wronged or feel a specific way towards the criminal justice system to communicate those expectations, and in return, the hope is to see change come from the discussion. It has been shown that communication strategy has largely remained constant.

In every crisis incident it is best to be prepared, and to have strategies in place for the most tactical response, including communication. There are many strategies for tactical communication, especially strategies to help benefit and serve with a purpose during a critical incident. It is important to analyze the information you are going to present, prior to the presentation. By being prepared, it shows a level of organizational structure and thoroughness by being prepared for a crisis response. It is important to be factual and have organized collective thoughts when promoting tactical communication. In addition, it is important to make sure the information you are presenting is accurate. If information is not accurate, it sets a tone of disorganization and under preparedness for the given topic. It is important to utilize your resources to best prepare. Next, it is important as a leader to remain calm and professional when communicating. Your professionalism and composure set the tone and message to those who are aiding in your success during a crisis response. By failing to compose oneself, it could have lasting effects of individuals and create unnecessary chaos added to the situation. In addition, it

is important to be prompt when new information is available to provide it to those individuals aiding in your success. Communication is important not just to promote unity within the public, but also within your given agency and by withholding information to fellow coworkers it can create a divide amongst leadership and those frontline individuals. Lastly, it is importance to collaborate with others to successfully help one another. This particular strategy tends to be overlooked, but yet, the strategy itself can be the most effective when promoting successful tactical communication.

With successful communication, it is important to know the different between crisis communication theory and the real-world crisis situations that are presented. Situational Crisis Communication Theory (SCCT) “provided a evidence-based framework for understanding how to maximize the reputational protection afforded by post-crisis communication” (Coomb, 2007, p. 163). This does not mean a theory cannot exist in real life, but merely that a theory does not always reenact in real life situations. It can be very difficult to best prepare for a real-world crisis situation, because the preparation may not accurately reflect the situation itself. This is why it is important to train for all types of scenarios related to a crisis response and adapt when needed for a successful outcome. Real-world crisis situations tend to be the most accurate in regard to preparation; however, not all crisis situations are the same and can be prepared for the same outcome each time. As mentioned previously, it is best to have post-crisis reflection to be able establish future response options and accurately reflect on the changes that need to be implemented. It is still important to allow some theory-based crisis communication to be discussed as there is a potential for a theory to become reality.

In times of crisis, it is best to maintain a positive public image and promote an accurate reflection of that to the public. It is important to promote public image both externally and

internally through communication. The expectations given to those must reflect how both an agency and the public view that individual. It is not fair to expect less internally of an individual and more externally or vice versa. It is something to consider when maintaining positive public image that there is a potential to reach a wide range of an audience. It is important that by maintaining public image your agency consider different avenues for communication, especially since more communication has moved to different social media platforms. An agency may also need to consider if specific platforms of communication target specific age groups and if it is still best for your agency to promote public image through more traditional ways of communication, such as the newspaper, magazine, press conferences, and live news channels. In addition, it is always important that whoever is delivering the message is clear and direct. It should be discussed amongst the organization of how the organization wants to proceed with communication to populations in the demographic area that use English as a second language and how to successfully promote public image to that specific audience.

It is important to have both formal and informal communication established with your audience. It can be very important to create trusted relationships with your audience by allowing members of your organization to informally interact with them. It may allow an opportunity to create trusted relationships with the members of an organization. In addition, informal communication may open potential communication lines between your audience and your organization, which may aid in future successes for the community that organization serves. However, it may create a more formal opportunity to fix areas, which may need additional support or maintenance to bring forth a better, more well-rounded organization. Through open communication with your audience, your audience members may feel the need to bring forth concerns regarding your organization. This may be an opportunity to increase your organizations

positive public image by allowing a greater line of communication to occur and may establish greater trust in your organizations response efforts to increase a positive public image.

After establishing a clearer image of crisis communication strategy, there may not be anything related to one's own personal work-related experience that would aid to a "new way" of crisis communication strategy unless their work consisted of changing crisis communication strategy. However, as discussed there are many different valuable resources and strategies in place already to aid in successful crisis communication. The information presented has created a better understanding for this topic and how to successfully promote communication during crisis through preparation. It has helped many establish a clearer picture and better understanding of crisis communication as well as the responsibilities that go along with the process. It is evident that crisis communication strategies are not created overnight and take time and dedication to mold to the need of the organization and the audience it serves. In addition, the success of these strategies become most effective after failure to allow for reflection from a post-crisis incident.

As mentioned above, it is critical to have a systematic strategy in place for crisis related responses. Crisis response is not only is shown to have an impact on an agency or community, but also the members of the community who are facing a crisis. Furthermore, there is also a significance to have ethical principles established for those individuals within each criminal justice branch – legislative, executive and judicial to ensure an adequate response to their retribution, rehabilitation, and restoration within the criminal justice system. Within each branch, there is a considerable amount of ethical accountability that applies significantly to incarcerated individuals and the effects it has on their family members, especially their children. In return, this may increase the probability of those children becoming incarcerated themselves.

Ethical Principles in the CJS

According to Martin (2017), “Family members of incarcerated individuals are often referred to as ‘hidden victims’ – victims of the criminal justice system who are neither acknowledged nor given a platform to be heard” (p. 1). There is little to zero personal support given to these victims and they do not benefit to the systemic societal mechanisms, which are typically available to direct crime victims, despite their prevalence and their resemblances to victims of direct crime. The impact of parental incarceration on children can have an array of challenges and complications. It is significant the need of ethical principles within all aspects of the criminal justice system and the need for practicing ethical decision-making within a correctional institution. Furthermore, it is important to address how ethical accountability will be promoted within the correctional institution, not only amongst staff members but incarcerated individuals. Lastly, the Stewardship Principles will be applied and examined on how the ethical framework is contained through the criminal justice system.

There are many avenues for unethical behavior to be exhibited within correctional facilities amongst those incarcerated and have costly effects on those individuals’ children. According to Martin (2017), “Children whose parents are involved in the criminal justice system, in particular, face a host of challenges and difficulties: psychological strain, antisocial behavior, suspension or expulsion from school, economic hardship, and criminal activity” (p. 1). Children whose parents are incarcerated are an extremely vulnerable group and face a host of behavioral problems and physical and mental health conditions than their peers, reports Kristin Turney, a University of California-Irvine sociologist. “We know that poor people and racial minorities are incarcerated at higher rates than the rest of the population,” says Turney (2014, para. 2). “Incarceration is likely compounding the disadvantages their children face, setting them further

behind, and contributing to racial and social class inequalities in children's health" (Turney, 2014, para. 2). The effects of incarceration are crucial aspects of child development, which include parent-child relationships, school difficulties, and homelessness, says Paola Scommegna, a Population Reference Bureau senior writer. By promoting ethical principles throughout correctional facilities, there may be a likelihood to improve child development amongst those children with incarcerated parents.

Ethical principles contribute to the overall success for an incarcerated individual and holding them responsible for their behavior or actions. According to Pollock (2019), there are three types of ethical decision making: imperative principle, utilitarian principle, and generalization principle (p. 41). The imperative principle of ethics, which comes from sixteenth century German philosopher, Immanuel Kant, states that it is an ethical orientation that holds that one's actions should be undertaken as if they had the power to make them universally applicable (WPSU – Penn State Public Media, n.d.). This principle is about personal restraint for the good of society. In addition, utilitarian principle is the that holds that one's actions should foster happiness or pleasure and any opposing actions that cause unhappiness. Ultimately, this principle of ethics determines right from wrong by focusing on the outcomes. Utilitarian principle holds that the most ethical outcome is to provide happiness or pleasure to the greatest number of people within a group or society. Lastly, the generalization principle of ethics focuses on the reasons for one's actions and it being consistent with the assumption that everyone with the same reasons acts in the same way. These types of ethical decision making can both be applied to the incarcerated persons' ethical decision making prior to being incarcerated, during incarceration and after incarceration.

Prior to an individual's incarceration, the individual may be in the arraignment process and awaiting a judge's determination or trial. However, there are still ethical principles that should be applied by those individuals who uphold the law in the judicial process. According to Cornell Law School (n.d., para. 1), "Judicial ethics consists of the standards and norms that bear on judges and covers such matters as how to maintain independence, impartiality, and avoid impropriety." In the judicial process, it is important to reflect on the individual and the appropriate course of action to provide proper retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation, and restoration for the offender. There may be appropriate alternatives available for that offender to avoid incarceration that include fines, restitution, community service, and specialized treatment. These alternatives could reduce the rate of those incarcerated and promote an opportunity for a healthier parent-child relationship, and still be an appropriate response to the offender's action. If an offender is incarcerated, it is still equally important that ethical principles are still applied when serving an individual who may have committed an unethical act.

In a correctional setting, correctional officers should be held accountable for any and all unethical behavior, especially as it relates to working with incarcerated individuals. In situations, it is a possibility that the correctional officer may feel passionate towards a specific incarcerated individual's case or even a specific crime an individual is incarcerated for and reflect their behavior negatively accordingly to that information. If that scenario is existing in a correctional facility, it is important that the correctional officer is held accountable for letting personal motives and judgement impede their own ethical principles. It is important that the correctional facility have policies and procedures in place to accurately hold correctional officers accountable for their actions, because not only is it poor representation of a correctional institution and the correctional officer; but it may have a negative impact on those individuals incarcerated.

It is mentioned by the Correctional Officer website (n.d) that correctional officers adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct, which essentially is a set of standards pertaining to morals and the effective discharge of duties (n.d.). The core values are discipline, judiciousness, truthfulness, vigilance, respect for human rights, and sense of responsibility. Correctional officers should apply ethical principles to their everyday tasks, especially when interacting with inmates. By actively applying these ethical principles, it may have a strong impact on those incarcerated to learn from their actions, and to encourage them to change their current actions and to create a brighter future for themselves, while inspiring their offspring. As stated on the Correctional Officer website (n.d.), “Some of the rights of sentenced offenders are right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respects; right to privacy, due process, and initiate a grievance procedure; right to be informed of policy in the corrections facility; and right to healthcare and personal-development training” (para. 7).

These types of ethical principles can be applied to corrections by allowing those incarcerated to promote their own duty of respect and life choices by allowing them to grow from their decisions, while allowing others to promote such actions. This may entail correctional officers promoting interactive courses, which promote self-growth. It would be of importance that the correctional institution allows the inmates to partake in programs, such as chemical dependency courses, education advancement courses, faith-based courses, etc. In addition, if a correctional facility is wanting to promote a correctional aspect and to see a change of the individual incarcerated in society after release, it is important to have these types of programs available and be open to everyone as an equal opportunity. By allowing these opportunities for incarcerated individuals, it may help reduce recidivism amongst those incarcerated and provide more opportunity for success when released into society.

In addition, correctional staff are sought as leadership figures as it relates to the offender's rehabilitation process and it is imperative for correctional staff to correct unethical behavior amongst those incarcerated. It is also a responsibility of correctional staff to hold each other accountable for unethical actions. A similar array of consequences should follow, if an individual is not reporting or is aiding to unethical behavior of another staff member. These consequences could result suspension or termination from employment.

As a future formal leader within an organization, it is important ensure ethical expectations and behaviors in others. This may result to different training courses that are provided to not only correctional staff, but incarcerated individuals. It important that leadership is holding individuals accountable for their actions, and to establish a course of consequences associated with the violation of unethical behavior and apply the consequence best suited for the action. In addition, as a leader to ensure ethical employee behavior it may be necessary to watch recorded incidents and speak with incarcerated individuals regarding specific situations, especially incidents that result in the use of force. Depending on the correctional facility and the design of specialty units, there may be future need within the correctional facility to have a group of staff members oversee an internal investigation unit to ensure ethical accountability of staff members, if it has not already been established. It is important to emphasize the importance of ethical behavior prior to employment to ensure future staff is held to the highest of standards. Due to the growing use of body worn cameras, it may be something to consider for correctional staff to utilize to promote ethical decision making both relating to incarcerated individuals and to workplace conduct.

It is important to establish an action plan to promote an ethical and justice workplace, especially within the correctional system. First, as a future formal leader, the author would

establish a group of individuals within the workplace to process thorough background investigations of potential candidates of the correctional facility. It is important to the future leadership within the correctional facility demonstrates and embodies ethical principles to the workplace, and that as a future formal leader that I be a part of that process. In addition to the new employees, it is important to create expectations for current employees and have annual performance evaluations. This allows for the opportunity collaborate with staff members and have individual meetings employees on how to better serve not only staff members, but also those incarcerated. As mentioned previously, it is of the most importance to establish accountability for unethical behavior amongst correctional staff and incarcerated individuals. The concept of the Stewardship Principle of Ethics would apply to encourage fair, just, and equal treatment of employees and focus on the policies that work for the good of the entire organization and those apart of it. The ethical framework contained in the Stewardship Principles would apply by encouraging ethical behavior amongst all members of the organization and promote employees to be held to the highest of standards.

After incarceration, when the offender is released back into society it is important to have basic needs and support to aid in the success of the reentry. This might include reentry training and education while the individual is incarcerated, supervised released, and providing resources to find housing and employment. If there is no supervised release for that specific individual, it may be of importance to establish a program with the city of the correctional facility to provide opportunities for the individual for successful reentry and be a point of contact if resources are needed to avoid potential negative impacts, which may cause for the offender to recidivate. It may be impactful for community members and organizations to have a part in helping aid to the success of offender reentry and incorporate those significant to the offender in the process.

By providing this opportunity to community members, it may help aid in the success of community complaints regarding crime and help promote an opportunity for community members to have positive interactions with previous offenders. Through this opportunity, it may open opportunities for the city or county council to become involved in aiding in the successful reentry of former incarcerated individuals and create opportunity for funding or grants to help with this process. In addition, by promoting ethical principles it may deter organizational and community complaints within the correctional facilities and promote less encounters where civil rights may be violated.

As a criminal justice leader, specifically within a correctional facility setting, there is a significance to promoting ethical principles as it relates to incarcerated individuals. It is important that within these specific settings, individuals are treated fair and still respected even if their actions are not agreed upon by yourself. It is important that when interacting with incarcerated individuals, there is a potential that your specific interaction can promote positive change within that individual and their choices. Ultimately, it may have a positive effect on that incarcerated individual to be the change for themselves and be the guidance for a positive lifestyle for their children. It may promote a healthier child-parent relationship, even if the offender is incarcerated and is not physically present within the household.

This is important professionally as it is a reminder that one person's actions may or may not be critical for the success of an individual who is incarcerated, and that one person's actions are powerful enough to affect many people. It is important to embody ethical principles in every given task because failing could result in the individual's termination from an organization. Everyone that is a part of an organization is responsible to holding themselves to the standards of that specific organization, which includes ethically. It is also a responsibility to hold other staff

members accountable for their actions. Each organization should have policies and procedures in place to ensure adequate and fair services are provided, which do not violate an individual's civil rights.

Thought – Behavior Link

There are many other legal considerations that should be accounted for when dealing with individuals that may have a preconceived vocation towards individuals working in the criminal justice system. These vocations may have a negative effect on how that individual responds to professionals of the criminal justice system, and therefore, influencing similar behaviors amongst their children. As criminal justice professionals, it is important to understand the “thought-behavior link” and how to promote the change process within those individuals to encourage modification to their behavior. In addition to promoting this principle, it is important to understand what agencies are doing to promote these types of interactions amongst criminal justice system professionals and those incarcerated.

Dalphonse (2020, para. 2), “Behavior chains occur when a sequence of behaviors are strung together by reinforcing the sequence. By creating a task analysis to identify component skills, complex skills can be broken down into simple steps. Then the linking of discrete behaviors builds a repertoire of increasingly complex behaviors. Each step in the chain is the signal to begin the next step.” There is an increasingly large correlation between incarcerated parents and the likelihood of their children becoming incarcerated. There is also an even greater connection between specific socioeconomic characteristics and conditions, which increase an incarcerated individual's children's chances of becoming incarcerated much higher rate. Davis, L. & Shlafter, R. (2017, para. 4) mentioned, “Children and adolescents with incarcerated parents are thought to be at elevated risk for mental health problems, though research has produced

mixed results.” Additionally, Davis, L. & Shlafter, R. (2017, para. 5) stated, “Mental health problems in childhood have important implications for development across the lifespan.” Davis, L. & Shlafter, R. (2017) included findings from Zisook et al. (2007) that suggested, “Adults who experience the onset of depression in childhood or adolescence have more impaired social and occupational functioning and poorer quality of life than those whose depression first begins in adulthood.”

According to Scommegna (2014, para. 2), “Turney compared children under age 18 with similar socioeconomic characteristics and family backgrounds and found that having a parent in prison or jail was linked to a greater incidence of a variety of conditions, including poor health; attention deficit disorder/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD); behavioral or conduct problems; learning disabilities; anxiety; and developmental delays.” In addition, Scommegna mentioned “children with an incarcerated parent were more than three times more likely to have behavioral problems or depression than similar children without an imprisoned parent, and twice as likely to suffer from learning disabilities, ADD/ADHD, and anxiety” (2014, para. 2). These different varying conditions related to health and well-being have a substantial impact on children of incarcerated parents and may influence their “thought-behavior link” as it relates to the different branches of the criminal justice system. It may be easy to place blame on those more associated with parental incarceration, such as an arresting officer, an attorney, a judge or even correctional facility staff, which may have a negative vocation around an absent parental figure within a household. However, it is important to address that the “thought-behavior link” can be shown to other generations as a form of behavioral acceptance.

It important to emphasize with the “thought-behavior link” that each person is responsible for controlling their own thoughts, and in return, that person is responsible for

controlling their behavior. As mentioned previously, there are many associated mental health concerns with parental incarceration that may influence one's decision-making process, but that does ultimately control one's destiny. It is important to discuss with those individuals affected by parental incarceration that their actions are not associated with that of their parents and that they have their own journey in the course of life, which is influenced by their own life choices. It is important to instill the ideology that even if there are individual people within the criminal justice system that have a substantial amount of power or weight to a situation, their choices do not influence legal and legislative powers that already exist. It may seem that their decisions at times are the reflection of something negative, but in the "thought-behavior link" model, one must address that their thoughts and actions have repercussions if they are not controlled.

Based on the "thought-behavior link," it is important to keep in mind that some of the individuals who are impacted by the criminal justice system may have a difficult time restructuring their thinking and ultimately, having consequences towards impulsive negative behaviors. It may depend on availability or timing, but if the opportunity allows for Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBIs) to take place with these individuals it could help promote a well-rounded skillset when working through different impulsive thinking. There are two parts to Cognitive Behavioral Interventions – cognitive restructuring and cognitive skills. The main purpose for this type of intervention is to help promote that individual to remove risky thoughts, which could lead to risky behavior and providing them the necessary tools to help make more of an educated thought to reduce risky behavior.

By understanding the thought-behavior link, it may help aid to different practices within an agency and promote training in assisting individuals through a CBI. CBIs may not be effective on everyone or be available in every situation, but if the opportunity exists it may be a

practice that is performed. In addition, it may be beneficial in different group-based settings for educational purposes to have open discussions of situations where CBIs could be beneficial for individuals and how to approach individuals when discussing their cognitive behavior. By allowing individuals within an agency to participate in CBIs, there could be the potential to promote healthier alternatives for the individuals experiencing life-altering thoughts that have a significant impact on their behavior. This may help educate individuals that the negative actions that are made have costly effects not only on oneself, but it also impacts their families.

In addition, agencies can promote understanding of the thought-behavior link by providing additional resources for those experiencing a negative thought-behavior link and potentially provide a more self-participation course for criminal justice professionals to participate in, since thought-behavior link can still be associated with individuals of any profession. This would not be a mandatory requirement for those working in the criminal justice profession but be highly encouraged. This may not gain full participation, but services should be provided to those who want to seek more opportunity for growth and improvement. It should not be forced to meet a specific requirement.

According to Arvidson (n.d., p. 7), “We can think of a cognitive structure like an iceberg, what is above the water is what you can see. But danger of the iceberg lies beneath the surface. Cutting off the top won’t significantly alter the mass of the iceberg.” The Iceberg Analogy is similar to our thinking and behaviors, unless we control our thinking, the behaviors we cannot see, and it is difficult to change the actions that we can. It is best to address areas of concern, especially is it relates to the negative correlation of the thought-behavior link and promote self-awareness to better serve oneself to receive services designed for growth.

Author Personal Philosophy

Throughout life, there are many challenges, obstacles, and situations that have a significant impact on how someone may view life and ultimately, it may influence future thoughts, values, beliefs, concepts, or attitudes about how life is viewed to that person. These incidents may mold that individual to the person they are or aspire to be due to those experiences. Personally, there are many events that have happened in my life, which effect my philosophy as it relates to parental incarceration and the effects it has on their children committing crime. These different perspectives that I have may not be the same as yours, and that is okay.

This particular topic of parental incarceration and the likelihood of their children becoming offenders was not only an interest to me, but it relates heavily to me. A little background about myself; I am a daughter to a father who was incarcerated and was incarcerated when I was approximately seven years old. I lived in a lower income neighborhood and yet, my parents strived to make sure I was provided a good education and regularly practiced faith-based beliefs. These experiences have shaped me to value higher education and to strive in bettering myself. According to Sclafer et al. (2017) it is mentioned that several studies have found that parental incarceration is a risk factor for children's academic and school-based outcomes. It is important that even when adolescents are faced with parental incarceration and the absence of that parent(s) in the household, that they continue to receive support towards their education.

This may not be deemed feasible to some youth who are faced with providing for their families or family members, in place of a parent(s) absence from the household. However, I believe that it is not an excuse to not pursuing education and that education is necessary to promote stability and instill value within that individual person. According to the Crime Rates

Linked to Education Attainment report it projects the number of individual crimes that could be prevented by increasing male high school graduation rate by five percentage points finds that even with a slight increase in percentage points would decrease the overall annual incidences of multiple major crimes. It states the report projects an annual decrease in “Incidences of assault by nearly 60,000; larceny by more than 37,000; motor vehicle theft by more than 31,000; and burglaries by more than 17,000” (Crime Rates Linked to Educational Attainment, 2013, para. 4). This does not only positively effect society by promoting education, but statistics have shown that there are more individuals increased who have not obtained a high school diploma and it is continuing to increase over time.

In addition, I believe that it is important to have a set of standards or cultural beliefs, which help influence an individual’s decision making. I understand that there are many different beliefs and practices that are performed and recognized but understand that not everyone may have a belief in a higher power. However, I feel that there is a need for some type of support whether that be spiritual or mental, or a mixture of them both. By having the guidance or support to promote a healthier spiritual and mental health, it can affect the rate of crime. Marripedia stated (n.d, para. 1), “States with more religious populations tend to have fewer homicides and fewer suicides.” In addition, the website mentions that there is a “Fifty seven percent decrease in likelihood to deal drugs and a thirty nine percent decrease in likelihood to commit a crime among the young, black inner-city population if they attend a religious service regularly” (Marripedia, n.d., para. 1). This additional spiritual support may be the guidance to the youth struggling with getting physical support if there is a lack thereof. It is essential to have different avenues of support, especially for those youth facing the hardships due to parental incarceration.

Regardless of one's spiritual beliefs, it is important to have a strong foundation for healthy mental health. This is not a promotion to having someone with an incarcerated parent seek council services or even medicate to help increase healthier mental health, however, if that is an option that you are considering it is still supported. However, the idea to increase overall positive mental health can be found in any daily activity. I believe that those individuals who are struggling or may struggle with parental incarceration need their own personal time to enjoy things they like doing. This could be a physical activity, meditation, a hobby, gathering with friends or family, etc. It is specific and personalized to that individual person's needs, and what is needed to promote their mental health. It is stated that at least half of prisoners have some mental health concerns and approximately ten to twenty five percent of United States prisoners suffer from serious mental illness, such as major affective disorders or schizophrenia, as found in the report conducted by American Psychological Association (2014). I feel that the balance between poor mental health and the hardships faced with parental incarceration can have negative effects on an individual and ultimately, it is on that individual to seek needed treatment or activity to help aid in positive mental health.

According to June Tangney, PhD, a psychological professor at George Mason University who studies offender rehabilitation, "There is an enormous number of people who are suffering from a treatable mental illness who are not getting treatment and eventually end up getting caught in the criminal justice system rather than the mental health system." Tangney highlights a growing concern for many not just those who experience parental incarceration and the importance in getting the treatment or assistance needed. However, it is a personal belief that if an individual wants the help that they will have the willpower to receive it and you cannot physically force an individual to do something they do not want to partake in. If treatment or

assistance is forced, it may cause that individual not to take it seriously and actually receive the needed help for themselves.

It is similar to seeking help and making that choice for oneself, but it is also a choice to commit crime. Parental incarceration has a significant effect on the children of that incarcerated individual(s) and there is often an impression that is placed amongst those children that there is a strong correlation that they too will commit crimes as well. However, I would disagree parental incarceration is the primary influence that impacts that child's decision-making process on whether or not to commit a crime. Each person has their own set of thoughts, values, beliefs, concepts, and attitudes towards life and that of making decisions. It is evident that seeing an incarcerated parent is difficult and life-altering for a child, but it does not have the power to influence that child's decisions. I understand that every situation is different for each person and child involved, but the effects of parental incarceration should not be of the mindset that as a child you will be incarcerated like your parent(s), but that you will persevere and not be incarcerated.

The different components of thoughts, values, beliefs, concepts and attitudes towards life have the possibility to impact either a positive or negative outcome in one's life. Nevertheless, there are multiple opportunities to help create a positive impact on that individual and guide them towards successful outcomes but following a different path may result in consequences that can be life changing. It is important to keep in mind that as a child of an incarcerated parent(s) that you have the power to do something incredible for yourself and that having a parent who may not be physically present, or potentially present in other ways, should give you the drive to achieve greatness for yourself. According to Dwayne Johnson (2020, para. 11), "The road to success and greatness is always paved with consistent hard work. Outwork your competitors, be

authentic, and above all else, chase your greatness.” Lastly, strive to be the best version of you by working hard and not pushing down others to achieve your greatness.

Chapter 3: Implications, Recommendation, and Conclusions

Practical Implications for the Human Service Professional

Parental incarceration not only has a strong impact on the offender, but also their children. As Human Service Professionals, it is important to encourage those individuals incarcerated and their family members, especially their children to learn from their past mistakes and promote future accomplishments that can be obtained. The guidance of a Human Service Professional can help influence a positive interaction but may have the effect of creating a positive outcome. Through the three different platforms, Crisis Communication and Response, Ethical Principles within the CJS, and the Thought-Behavior Link each Human Service Professional can be given the basic understanding and skillset to help encourage a positive change for the future as it relates to parental incarceration. Ultimately, each lens creates a better alternative to instilling potential change.

First, Crisis Communication and Response allows for those individuals working as Human Service Professionals to not only become better equipped in communication during a crisis related incident, but to build on skillsets to help better serve individuals needing assistance in navigating through their own crisis-related episodes. The persistent determination amongst Human Service Professionals within an agency to promote beneficial changes may see positive outcomes as it relates to incarceration. It is not always an individual who may be in violation of the law that is in need of direct services, it can also be someone related to them. It is best to be open-minded and prepare oneself to handle each situation professionally and provide the

necessary services that promote stability and success within society. The services that are provided to someone may have effect to change their life choices.

Second, Ethical Principles within the CJS are important to hold each Human Service Professional accountable for unethical practices, but to also promote ethical practices amongst those incarcerated to set a standard for ethical behavior. It is important when encouraging children of parental incarceration to abide by high ethical standards that as Human Service Professionals we follow that same guidance. It is important that ethical standards are met throughout the CJS process for those incarcerated, but that those correctional employees promote ethical standards amongst individuals that are incarcerated. These set of ethical standards may have direct influence on the offender and how they build themselves towards a better future, especially how it relates to their children. This may promote these children to seek out different opportunities that aid towards bettering their futures.

Third, the Thought-Behavior Link associated with the understanding of promoting the idea that one's thoughts effect one's behaviors. As a Human Service Professional, it is important guide individuals, whether that be those incarcerated or not, to be aware that their own individualized thoughts contribute to their own behavior. It is easy to place blame on individuals or even specific situations in life for misfortune. However, with the guidance of a Human Service Professional the promotion of educational understanding relating to the Thought-Behavior Link may influence future change relating to one's own behavior. It is important with this response to be patient as individuals working through their own Thought-Behavior Link may need additional time process those individualized contemplations.

By utilizing these different methods and practices, there is a greater opportunity to encourage change amongst those individuals incarcerated and their children. These basic

fundamental building blocks for success allow of opportunities of adjustment and growth to be able to adapt to any given situation, since each situation is unique. Furthermore, it is important to apply these principles to help deter future incarceration and promote potential restoration of those incarcerated to confidently be contributing members of society.

Recommendations for Further Research

There are many recommendations for areas of future research that would be beneficial to help promote the success of children of parental incarceration and to encourage their overall future success of their children. An area that would be more beneficial to study is how often children have communication with their incarcerated parent and how that communication effects their behavior. As it related to communication, there may be a benefit on gathering more information on the exact information incarcerated parent(s) are sharing with their children. These different areas of research may help bring awareness to additional child behavior as it relates to their communication with their parent. In addition, by understanding the information that is shared with a child it may help understand more of the child's behavior as it relates to parental incarceration.

In addition, a recommendation for further research in what resources are currently being offered to children to promote their future successes. It would be beneficial to know what resources are being provided to those children within their educational institutions to help promote academic successes and the promotion for bettering their educations. It would be of importance to discover what resources are being provided within their current living situations to help promote the same stability. Lastly, the resources or support is being provided to the children from their incarcerated parents and their involvement on helping aid to their child's future achievements. Realistically, there may not be enough funding or resources available to promote

healthy relationships amongst incarcerated parents and their children within a correctional setting. However, it may be beneficial to understand what is exactly being provided to those parents to help promote a healthy relationship with their children and contribute to their successes.

However, there is still many different areas within parental incarceration that research can be utilized. There are many scarce scholarly sources available for this topic and even more limited information that is current and not outdated. Unfortunately, parental incarceration and the effects it has on their children will continue to be a topic of concern considering correctional facilities as part of rehabilitation and retribution methods are not changing anytime in the near future. The “silent victims” of parental incarceration need to be a focal point in addressing future changes within society.

Conclusion

In conclusion, there are many different contributing factors that influence undesirable effects on children relating to parental incarceration. It is important to educate individuals of these negative effects to help promote change within society and awareness to the victimization of these children. There are many ways to encourage change amongst these victims, starting with educating others of this growing concern. It is apparent that the effects of parental incarceration have countless harmful results their children face - both immediately and throughout the longevity of their lives. It is easy to dismiss these unforeseen victims due to the direct impact of their parents, however, these children need our support.

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Tables and Figures

Table 1. Estimated number of parents in state and federal prisons and their minor children

	Total	State	Federal ^a
Number of parents			
2007 ^b	809,800	686,000	123,800
2004 ^c	754,900	644,100	110,800
1999	721,500	642,300	79,200
1997	649,500	578,100	62,500
1991	452,500	413,100	39,400
Number of children			
2007 ^b	1,706,600	1,427,500	279,100
2004 ^c	1,590,100	1,340,300	249,800
1999 ^d	1,515,200	1,338,900	176,300
1997 ^d	1,362,900	1,223,800	139,100
1991 ^d	945,600	860,300	85,100

Note: See *Methodology* for details about estimation methods. See appendix table 1 for estimates by gender.

^aEstimates were based on the prisoner custody population in each year. The total custody population included inmates held in privately operated facilities and community corrections centers (30,379 in 2007; 24,768 in 2004; and 3,828 inmates in privately operated facilities in 1999). In 1991 and 1997, the number of inmates in these facilities was not known.

^bThe 2007 estimates were based on the distribution of parents from the 2004 SISFCF.

^cNumbers were estimated based on the custody population in state (1,241,034) and federal (176,156) prisons on June 30, 2004.

^dEstimates may not be comparable to previously published BJS reports.

Table 2. Minor children in the U.S. resident population with a parent in state or federal prison, by race and Hispanic origin, 2007

	Estimated number of minor children with a parent in prison	Percent of all minor children in the U.S. resident population
U.S. total*	1,706,600	2.3%
White, non-Hispanic	484,100	0.9%
Black, non-Hispanic	767,400	6.7
Hispanic	362,800	2.4

Note: Children were assumed to have the same race/ethnicity as the incarcerated parent. Percentages were calculated based on the U.S. resident population under age 18 as of July 1, 2007.

*Includes children of other races. Other races include American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and persons identifying two or more races.

Table 6. Percent of state inmates who were parents of minor children, by current offense and gender, 2004

Offense	Total	Male	Female
All inmates	51.9%	51.2%	61.7%
Violent	47.5%	47.1%	57.3%
Property	49.9	48.2	64.7
Drug	59.6	59.3	62.5
Public-order	59.9	59.6	65.0

Note: See appendix table 17 for estimated total counts.