

Parental Incarceration and Its Impact on Academic Achievement

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Introduction

With the nation's growing prison population children have become collateral damage. There are risk factors when an incarcerated parent is no longer present in a child's life. The incarcerated parent and the child relationship ultimately suffer which exacerbates the risk factors. Of these risk factors this study will look at the impact of when a child has a parent incarcerated. The child is susceptible to risk factors from financially to emotionally stability to living arrangements all factors that could influence a child's academic achievements. These factors can be as devastating and have the same impact as a child being abused. Having a parent incarcerated for extended periods of time can leave a family desperate in an attempt to cover basic needs. One of the basic needs is education. Children suffer when a parent is incarcerated that void is a contributing factor to those risk factors especially if that void is for extended periods of time. The absence of a parent due to incarceration produces negative consequences and has a destabilizing effect on the child. Parental incarceration has adverse effects in the form of coping. Considering all the potential problems that could evolve from a child who parent is incarcerated they need attention and support.

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A survey will be conducted to understand if having a parent incarcerated affected their academic achievement and whether there was a support mechanism in place.

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