



## Concordance Institute *for* Advancing Social Justice

GEORGE WARREN BROWN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

### Impact of Incarceration – Key Points

#### National and Missouri Statistics

##### Scope

##### ***Nationally***

- ❖ An estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal history
- ❖ 1 in 35 adults or approximately 7 million adults, were under some form of correctional supervision at yearend 2013 (probation, parole, jail, prison)
- ❖ About 70% of the incarcerated population is housed in a state or federal prison, versus 30% held in local jails.
- ❖ Approximately 1.6 million people are in a state or federal prison on any given day
- ❖ More than 95% of state and federal prisoners eventually release to communities. Over 600,000 people release to communities from prison each year.
- ❖ Approximately 855,000 people are actively on parole on any given day
- ❖ Women make up 7% of the prison population
- ❖ Within 3 years of release from prison, about 69% of men and 58% of women will be re-arrested at least once. Within 5 years of release from prison, about 78% of men and 68% of females will have been rearrested at least once. The recidivism rate among men is consistently 10 percentage points higher than women.
- ❖ Although the daily prison population is around 1.5 million, the daily jail census of 700,000 is not an accurate depiction of the 11.5 million individuals involved in the jail system each year. Every year, 13 million adults (or 1 in 20) in the United States are incarcerated. (BJS, 2014; Vera, 2015).

##### ***Missouri***

- ❖ Nearly 32,000 people were incarcerated in Missouri's state prison on any given day in 2014.
- ❖ Missouri is the 10<sup>th</sup> highest incarcerating state in the country
- ❖ Women make up 10% of the prison population

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Washington University in St. Louis

- ❖ The average prison sentence length for St Louis City/County and St Charles residents is 7-10 years.
- ❖ On any given day, nearly 65,000 Missourians are under correctional supervision (23% are women) in the community, of these about 16,200 are on parole (15% women).
- ❖ In 2014 alone, nearly 4,100 people released from prison to return to St. Louis City, County, and St. Charles County. Of these 4,100, approximately 2,700 were on parole (parolees are the Academy population). Of these 2700, 42% reside in St. Louis City, nearly 42% in St. Louis County, and 17% in St. Charles County
- ❖ Among all people released from prison approximately 24% returned to prison in 1 year (the rate is 33% for parolees which is the academy target population); 38% in 2 years (48% for parolees); 45% in 3 years (55% for parolees); and 51% in 5 years (61% for parolees)

## **Children**

### ***Nationally***

- ❖ The experience of parental incarceration has become so pervasive that Sesame Street runs episodes on having a parent in prison.
- ❖ Parental incarceration is a new phenomenon – just 25 years ago 1 in 125 children had a parent in prison, compared to 1 in 28 today.
- ❖ On any given day, over 2.7 million, or 1 in 28 children in the United States have a parent in prison.
- ❖ 82% of fathers had regular visitation with their children prior to incarceration (42% lived with their children; 40% had regular contact) and 60% of mothers lived with their children prior to incarceration.
- ❖ At no fault of their own, children with incarcerated parents fare worse than their counterparts.
  - ✓ Children with an incarcerated parent are more likely to experience depression, anxiety, poor academic performance, school absenteeism/drop out, poverty, un-or under-insured, homelessness, difficulty transitioning to basic adult roles, and physical health problems including migraines, asthma, and high cholesterol.
  - ✓ Children with an incarcerated father are 4 times more likely to have contact with the child welfare system
    - More than 14,000 children with an incarcerated parent enter the foster care system each year as a result of parental incarceration and their average stay in foster care nearly 4 years.
  - ✓ When fathers are incarcerated, the average child's family income falls 22% and continues to remain 15% below pre-incarceration levels.
  - ✓ Children with an incarcerated father have a 46% higher rate of delinquency than children without an incarcerated father

- ✓ Children with incarcerated parents are 6 to 9 times more likely to become incarcerated themselves.
- ❖ 42 states have policies banning people with felony convictions from receiving food stamps. This means that innocent children of parents with felony convictions go hungry for doing nothing more than having been born to a person that engaged in crime.

***Missouri***

- ❖ Nearly 48,000 children in Missouri have a parent in prison – thus the population of children with incarceration parents in Missouri is equivalent to the population of Chesterfield.

**Mental Health**

***National***

- ❖ 14-25% of people in prisons have a serious mental illness which is double the percentage in the general population.
- ❖ This means, up to 375,000 people with serious mental illnesses are incarcerated in prisons on any given day
- ❖ As many as 90% of male and female prisoners have significant trauma histories
- ❖ General mental health problems are highly prevalent, with 73% of female prisoners experiencing mental health problems and 55% of male inmates in state prisons.

***Missouri***

- ❖ 15% of the total population, 29% of women and 13% of men were considered mentally ill upon admission into a Missouri state prison.

**Substance Abuse**

***Nationally***

- ❖ Between 65% and 75% of state prisoners have substance abuse problems, yet only about 11% receive any type of substance abuse treatment while incarcerated.
- ❖ Prisoners with substance abuse problems have more extensive criminal histories. Over half of prisoners with substance use disorders report 3 or more prior incarcerations compared to 25% of those without substance use disorders.

***Missouri***

- ❖ 87% of all state prisoners required substance abuse treatment upon admission in 2014.
- ❖ 88% of female and 86% of male parolees needed substance abuse treatment upon release. Of these approximately 44% needed at least 6 months of treatment and 11% needed a year or more of treatment.

## **Employment**

### ***Nationally***

- ❖ Between one-third and two-thirds of prisoners report a monthly income of less than \$1000 at admission to prison.
- ❖ Approximately 17% of state prisoners are unemployed (meaning that 83% of state prisoners lose their jobs upon incarceration)
- ❖ After incarceration, annual earnings decrease by 40%. This is problematic because as wages increase after incarceration, the likelihood of reincarceration decreases significantly.
- ❖ Unemployment rates are nearly 7 times higher among former prisoners compared to the general population.

### ***Missouri***

- ❖ 46% of all persons under community supervision (probation and parole) were unemployed during a 3 month reporting period in 2014.
- ❖ Unemployment is risky because 72% of former prisoners who never had full time employment post prison returned to prison after two years.

## **Education**

### ***Nationally***

- ❖ Two-thirds of state prisoners report less than a high school education compared to 18% of the general population
- ❖ Prisoners without high school education have re-incarceration rates 9 percentage points higher than those with a high school education.

### ***Missouri***

- ❖ 68% of prisoners in 2014 had a high school degree or equivalent at admission
- ❖ 48% of prisoners who leave without a high school degree or GED, return to prison within 2 years

## **Homelessness**

### ***National***

- ❖ Homelessness among formerly incarcerated individuals is 4 to 6 times the rate of the general population
- ❖ Between 10%-20% of homeless persons have been incarcerated previously

### ***Missouri***

- ❖ 16% of male parolees and 5% of female parolees in Missouri are in need of housing

## **Costs etc**

### ***National***

- ❖ Ex-prisoners arrest rates for crime are 30 to 45 times higher than the general population.
  - 26 ex-prisoners to every 1 general population person commits a violent crime (ratio = 26:1)
  - 18 ex-prisoners to every 1 gen pop person commits a property crime (18:1)
  - 23 ex-prisoners to every 1 gen pop person commits a drug crime (23:1)
- ❖ \$52 billion annually is spent on correctional supervision alone. Costs external to supervision alone (e.g., courts, etc) is an additional \$5.2 billion
- ❖ Average inmate costs \$31,300 annually per inmate
- ❖ Likelihood of getting married drops by up to 50% after experiencing incarceration and risks of divorce is 50% within a few years of incarceration
- ❖ History of incarceration limits civic participation such as voting – 1 in 40 adults cannot vote due to a current or previous felony conviction

### ***Missouri***

- ❖ 2013 budget was Missouri Department of Corrections budget was \$677 million
- ❖ Average annual cost per inmate is nearly \$22,500

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