

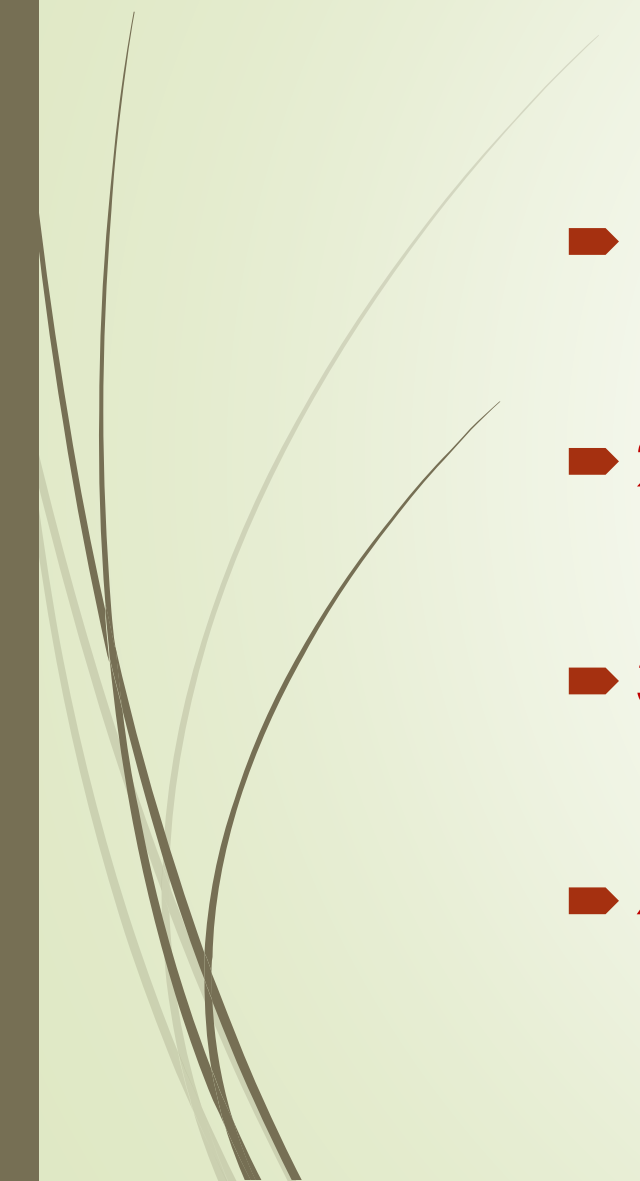


# Children of Incarcerated Parents

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# Today's Discussion:

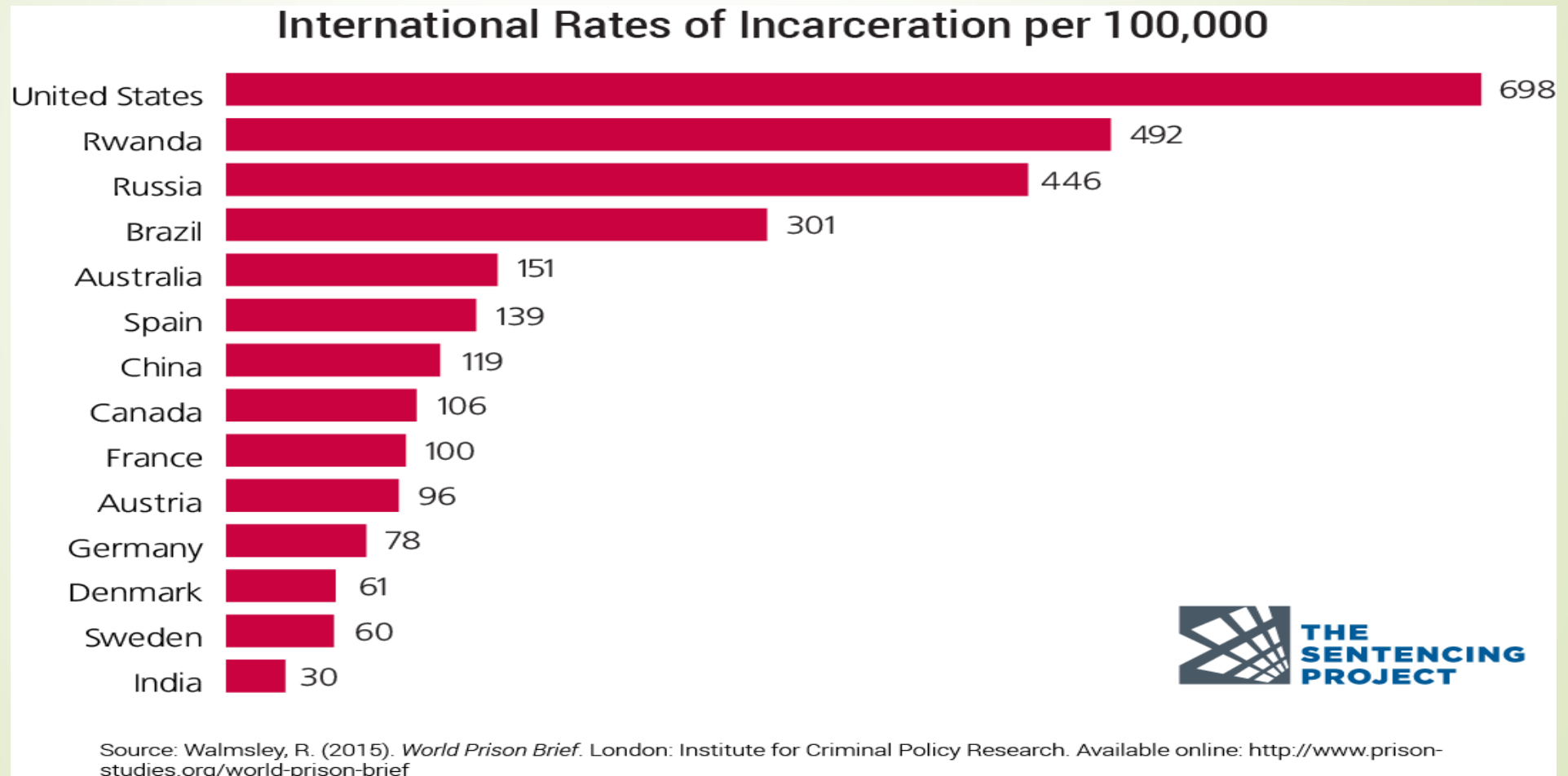
- 1. A Review: Incarceration in the United States
  - 2. Children of Incarcerated Parents: What To Know
  - 3. Children of Incarcerated Parents: What To Do
  - 4. Resources
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# 1. A Review: Incarceration in the U.S.



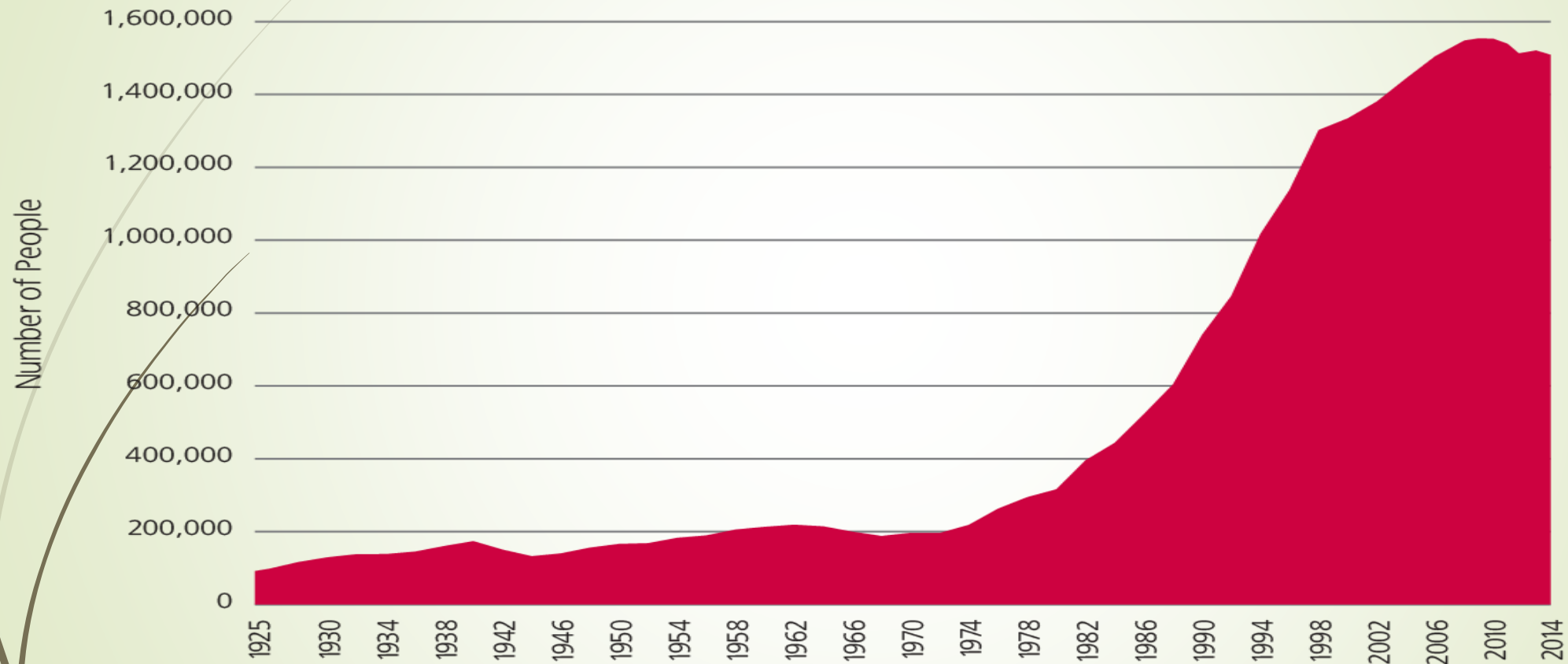
# The United States Incarcerates More Than Any Other Country

4.4 % of the world's population, the U.S. incarcerates 22% of the world's prisoners



2.2 million people are in prison and jail in the U.S.  
A 500% increase over the last 40 years

U.S. State and Federal Prison Population, 1925-2014



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prisoners Series*.

In 1980 we started sending more people to prison and jail for drug related activity and locking them up longer.

Number of People in Prisons and Jails for Drug Offenses, 1980 and 2014



Sources: Carson, E.A. (2015). *Prisoners in 2014*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Mauer, M. and King, R. (2007). *A 25-Year Quagmire: The War on Drugs and its Impact on American Society*. Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project; Glaze, L. E. and Herberman, E.J. (2014). *Correctional Populations in the United States, 2013*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.





## Other numbers continue to tell the story

- People of color make up approximately 30% of US population but account for 60% of those who are incarcerated
- 7 million Americans are currently on probation or parole
- 5.8 million Americans cannot vote because they have a felony conviction
- The majority of people in prison are parents

## 2. Children of Incarcerated Parents: What To Know



**2.7 M**

**10 M**

**1 / 12-24**

**1 / 4 Black**

**1/10 Latino**

**1/11 are White**

Poor children are **3X more likely** to experience the incarceration of a resident parent



**Most people in prison are parents**

**75%** of women

**65%** of men




**72%** of mothers lived with their children before incarceration

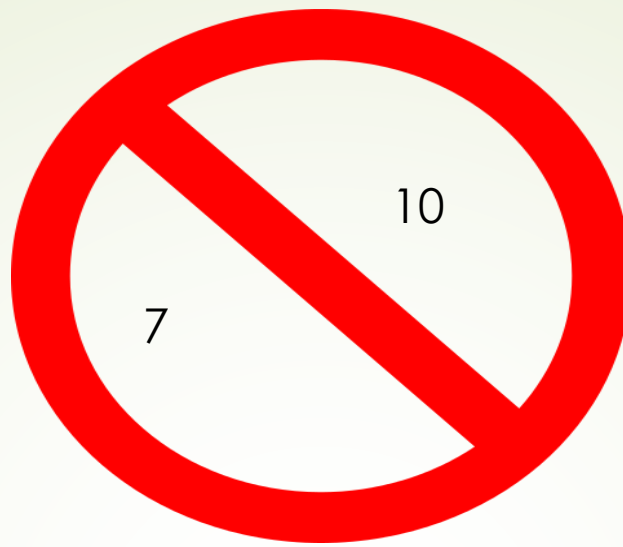


About **36%** lived with their children



From 1990-2007  
**# of CIP rose**  
**77% for fathers and**  
**131% for mothers**

- 
- CIP have an increased risk of poverty, housing & food insecurity, mental health concerns, criminal justice involvement, academic difficulties, feelings of stigma; stressed families
  - There is no direct link between parental incarceration and every one of these outcomes
  - Parental incarceration is now an adverse childhood experience, or a traumatic experience in a person's life occurring before the age of 18 and that is remembered as an adult



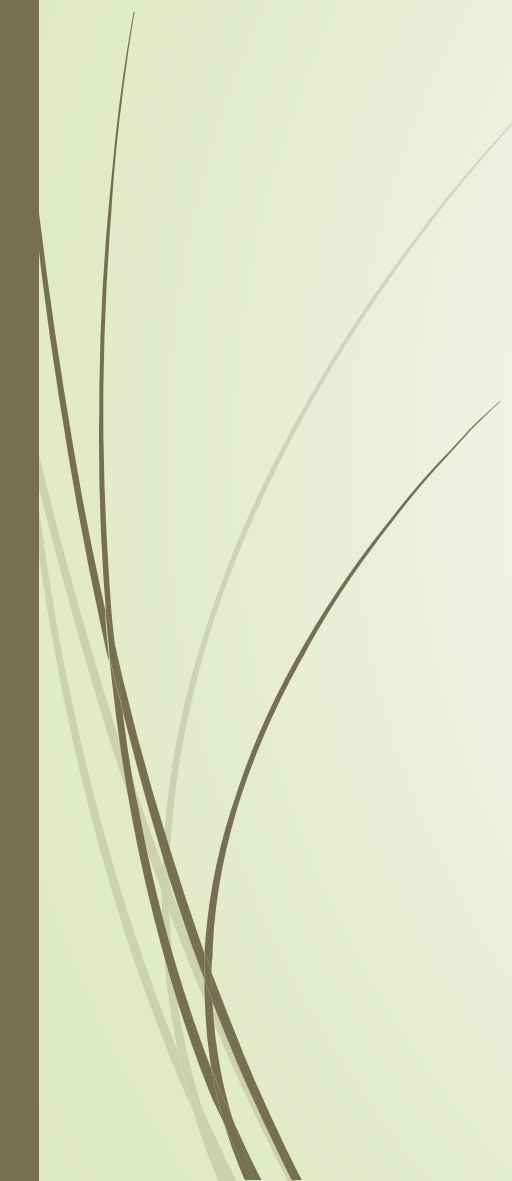
- Some CIP will themselves become criminally justice involved, but this risk is not as large as is often reported. **CIP are about 30% more likely than children without CIP to become justice involved.**
- Most of what we know about the academic access and needs of children is not from direct study and is related to behavior



- One study found that CIP may have cognitive differences, but we do not know if this is due to social and emotional health and learning
- Most studies focus on behavior and not academic outcomes
- Most studies ask for self, family, or teacher reports
- Seems clear that children may be stigmatized (by teachers and classmates)



### 3. What We Can All Do: ASK

- **A**cknowledge the possibility, ascertain safety and ask parents
  - **S**upport Caregivers
  - **K**now What You Don't Know
- 

# What Specific Practitioners Can Do : Be Aware

- Incarcerated parents lose their parental rights at a disproportionate rate due to the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) which set strict timelines for initiating Termination of Parental Rights (placement cannot exceed 15 of previous 22 months (Rutgers University Fact Sheet)
- Public assistance programs, including TANF, were not designed with relative caregivers in mind. Grandparents especially are reluctant to seek support for fear of losing their children to the child welfare system (RU Fact Sheet)
- According to Rutgers University 2% of incarcerated fathers and 8-10% of incarcerated mothers have children in foster care and that about 15-20% of children entering this system have an incarcerated parent
- According to Rutgers University a 1998 study found children who have witnessed the arrest of a household member were 57% more likely to have elevated post traumatic stress symptoms compared to children who did not witness an arrest



# What Families and Caregivers Can Do (and how we can support them)

- Answer questions honestly
- Share age appropriate information
- Consider communication with parent
- Find organizations to help you
- Learn what you need to know about visiting

## 4. Resources

- ❑ Osborne Association and the New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents <http://www.osborneny.org>  
<http://www.osborneny.org/programs/strengthening-communities/new-york-initiative-for-children-of-incarcerated-parents/identifying-and-supporting-children-of-incarcerated-parents-in-child-welfare/>
- ❑ <http://ctcip.org/> Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative at CCSU
  - <http://ctcip.org/services/cip-specific/> Specific services for CT
  - <http://ctcip.org/adults/ways-to-support-children/> For CT adults who help children
- Child Welfare Information Gateway (2015). Child welfare practice with families affected by parental incarceration Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau. Retrieved from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/parental-incarceration>
- Guide for Incarcerated Parents Who Have Children in the Child Welfare System. Washington D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Justice, and Federal Bureau of Prisons, August 2015 <http://youth.gov/feature-article/guide-incarcerated-parents-child-welfare-system>
- Rutgers University, National Resource Center on Children & Families of the Incarcerated <https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/>



# Select Bibliography

<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/factsheets/pdfs/Factsheet4-YoungDads.pdf>

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411616\\_incarcerated\\_parents.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411616_incarcerated_parents.pdf)

(<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc322d.pdf>)

<http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues/racial-disparity/>

Johnston and Sullivan, Co-editors. Parental Incarceration: Personal Accounts and Developmental Impact. Routledge, 2016.

# Shameless Self Promotion

