



Youth Voices Project

Non-CIP Initial Analysis

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The following are the demographics of those who submitted surveys:

- 42 surveys taken
 - 65% female, 35% male
 - 60% white, 30% Hispanic/Latino, 10% Black
 - Mean age: 30.5, (Female 28.2, Male 34.7)
 - Both Male and Female participants represent fair racial distribution consistent with the above demographic.
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Physical Manifestations possibly caused by parental incarceration.

- Exactly 24 participants (57%) **Disagree/Strongly Disagree** that CIP are more likely to suffer from **asthma**. (38% Unsure)
- 21 of those same participants **Disagree/Strongly Disagree** that CIP are more likely to suffer from **obesity**. (24% Unsure)
- 21 of the above 24 also **Disagree/Strongly Disagree** that CIP are more likely to have **language or speech problems**. (19% Unsure)

*Age, Gender, and Ethnicity of these participants represent entire survey

Discussion – The fact that there is such a commonality among this group can guide us into further research regarding public perception related to physical manifestations that may or may not be caused by parental incarceration. This group may represent the lack of knowledge that the public has regarding the effect that one’s socioeconomic situation can have on their physical well-being.

Mental Health Manifestations possibly caused by parental incarceration.

Non-CIP individuals who participated in this survey agree with an overwhelming majority that parental incarceration has a negative effect on the **mental health** of CIP. The statistic that represents this fact is that **93%** of those surveyed **Agree/Strongly Agree** that parental incarceration is a traumatic event, with **65%** that **Strongly Agree**. The following are reactions to the mental health issues being addressed:

- **93%** of Non-CIP **Agree/Strongly Agree** that CIP are more likely to suffer from **anxiety**.
- **90%** **Agree/Strongly Agree** that CIP are more likely to suffer from **depression**.
- **90%** **Agree/Strongly Agree** that CIP are likely to suffer from **guilt**, if the parent committed the crime for the benefit of the family.
- **71%** **Agree/Strongly Agree** that CIP are more likely to have **poor self-image**. (15% Unsure)
- **60%** **Agree/Strongly Agree** that CIP are more likely to suffer from **ADD or ADHD**. (19% Unsure)

Discussion – The demographics of the participants in this survey represent our society well. Therefore, this data tells us that there is a foundation of understanding that parental incarceration affects the mental health of CIP. If reaching more Non-CIP regarding the health and well-being of CIP is a goal of ours, these statistics tell us that we have a common ground on which to begin raising further awareness.

Separation and Removal of parent from home

Another fact becomes clear when reviewing the data from this survey. 34 of the 42 Non-CIP surveyed (**81%**), **Agree/Strongly Agree** that **separation** from a parent due to incarceration may negatively affect **developmental changes** in the brain of a CIP. This supports the above data regarding the perception of the mental health of CIP.

Data is somewhat inconclusive when Non-CIP were asked if CIP benefit from the **removal from home** or incarceration of a parent who has committed a crime. **31 %** of those surveyed **Disagree** that CIP would benefit from removal of the parent. **45%** stated they were **unsure** when posed with this question. This could mean many things; this writer believes that this is an area for further research to uncover supporting data.

CIP and Delinquent/Criminal Behavior

There are four questions on the survey addressing Non-CIP views on the tendencies and possible causes why CIP may or may not exhibit delinquent/criminal behaviors. Here are the findings:

- **69%** of those surveyed **Agree** that CIP tend to engage in delinquent/criminal behavior due to the **instability** surrounding their parent's incarceration. (19% Unsure)
- **66%** of those surveyed **Agree/Strongly Agree** that CIP tend to engage in delinquent/criminal behavior due to the **loss of parental attachment** because of their parent's incarceration. (19% Unsure)
- **50%** of those surveyed **Agree** that CIP tend to engage in delinquent/criminal behavior due to the **stigma they face from other children**. (24% Unsure)
- **48%** of those surveyed **Agree** that CIP tend to engage in delinquent/criminal behavior due to their **inherent behavioral traits** as the child of a person who has committed a crime. (29% Unsure)

Discussion – This data tells us that many Non-CIP believe that parental incarceration has a definitive influence on the behavior of CIP. These can prove to become expected behaviors and therefore the stigma has been generated by these beliefs. When talking about **instability** in the home, this is very much a social factor which can consist of many other factors such as loss of income, forced relocation, loss of transportation and other biopsychosocial strains forced on the environment of a CIP and their caregiver(s). When addressing **loss of parental attachment**, many Non-CIP may believe that losing the day-to-day guidance and care of the incarcerated parent can lead the CIP to engage in delinquent/criminal behavior. This may be perceived as a situation where the caregiver that is left behind cannot fill the role of the incarcerated parent and therefore can develop into a stigma. The most dangerous stigma that can be placed on these children would be that they tend to engage in illegal behavior due to **inherited behavioral traits**. This can become extremely detrimental if the CIP is categorized or expectations are lowered due the fact that they have an incarcerated parent.

How Non-CIP View the State of Mind of CIP

There are three questions on the survey that prove to be very revealing about how Non-CIP view the state of mind of CIP when exposed to parental incarceration. Most those who participated in the survey believe that CIP are not proud of their incarcerated parent, and that CIP are both angry with and ashamed of their incarcerated parent. The results of these question are as follows:

- **86%** of those surveyed believe that CIP are **angry** with their incarcerated parent. (12% Unsure)
- **63%** of those surveyed believe that CIP are **ashamed** of their incarcerated parent. (27% Unsure)
- Only **2%** of those surveyed believe that CIP are **proud** of their incarcerated parent. (26% Unsure)

Discussion – Upon future review of the surveys completed by CIP, there is a great chance that these statistics may reveal a great source of stigma towards CIP and the stigma that CIP place on themselves. If we live in society that believes that these children experience these feelings towards their incarcerated parent than these may prove to be the most compelling statistics. I believe that we will discover if in fact CIP are **angry, ashamed, and not proud** of their incarcerated parent.

Should CIP be advised to keep information about their incarcerated parent private, and is it best for caregiver(s) to hide the truth about their incarcerated parent from the CIP?

Children spend most of their time in school, in after-school programs, with coaches and teammates, at neighborhood centers, among many other extra-curricular activities. These experiences provide children with the opportunity to construct their own identity and personality. It would be a great disservice to the potential growth of CIP if they were advised to keep a secret such as having a parent who is incarcerated from the very people that could provide them with guidance. Asking a child to stifle feelings regarding this issue can have unimagined effects on them. This survey asks Non-CIP how they feel about this and the following data was collected:

- **90%** of those surveyed **disagree/strongly disagree** that CIP should be advised to keep the information about their incarcerated parent private from **counselors and nurses** at school.
- **83%** of those surveyed **disagree/strongly disagree** that CIP should be advised to keep the information about their incarcerated parent private from all other **administrators** at school.
- **83%** of those surveyed **disagree/strongly disagree** that CIP should be advised to keep the information about their incarcerated parent private from their **teachers** at school.
- **69%** of those surveyed **disagree/strongly disagree** that CIP should be advised to keep the information about their incarcerated parent private from **others in the community**.
- **68%** of those surveyed **disagree/strongly disagree** that CIP should be advised to keep the information about their incarcerated parent private from their **friends**.
- **83%** of those surveyed **disagree/strongly disagree** that it is best to hide the truth about the incarcerated parent from the child.

Discussion – This data shows in overwhelming fashion that Non-CIP our community believe that communication and possible intervention should be had when dealing with the welfare of CIP. These children interact on many levels with adults who have the opportunity to provide support and guidance to CIP. This project aims to reduce stigma and school staff, administrators, teachers, friends, and others in the community can play a vital role in de-stigmatizing CIP moving forward.

Miscellaneous Statistics

- **17%** of those surveyed **Agree/Strongly Agree** that CIP **do not want any contact** with their incarcerated parent. (48% Unsure)
- **33%** of those surveyed **Agree/Strongly Agree** that CIP **do not want others to know** about their incarcerated parent. (43% Unsure)
- **33%** of those surveyed **Agree/Strongly Agree** that visiting a parent in prison is **likely to cause more harm** than be good for the child.