



Youth Voices Project



CIP Initial Analysis

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The following are the demographics of those who submitted surveys:

- 21 surveys taken
 - 50% female, 50% male
 - 43% Hispanic or Latino, 30% Black, 13% White, 3% Native American, 10% Other
 - Mean age: 14.6 yrs. old
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Being a bad person, doing something bad

- **5%** of CIP think that they might **do something bad** because their parent did something bad.
- **5%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that their friends think they are a **bad person** because their parent is in prison.

Discussion – A small percentage of those surveyed identify as having a bad character which others may perceive their parent to have. I would dare speculate that CIP, at least the age group represented in this study, know that it was not them who did something wrong.

Visiting/Seeing parent in prison

- **14%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **do not want to visit/see** their parent who is in prison.
- **40%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **feel happy** if they visit/see their parent who is in prison. (35% Unsure)
- **25%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **feel sad** if they visit/see their parent who is in prison.
- **16%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **feel scared** if they visit/see their parent who is in prison.

Discussion – The statistics on this topic are not overwhelming but it is clear that CIP are not scared and are willing to visit their parent in prison. The discussion can be had about how CIP feel about visiting/seeing their parent in prison. As an objective observer, I offer the idea that individual circumstances may dictate whether a CIP is happy or sad about visiting/seeing their parent. Many factors contribute to the quality of the visiting experience for CIP: state of mind of caregiver, distance traveled to the prison, positive/negative interaction with prison staff, etc. The fact that 40% agree that they are happy offers hope. In addition, the fact that 35% are unsure may provide a point of future inquiry into this topic.

Writing to Parent, or Receiving a Letter from Parent

- **25%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **do not want to write to or receive a letter** from their parent who is in prison.
- **52%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **feel happy** if they **write to or receive a letter** from their parent who is in prison.

- **15%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **feel sad** if they **write to or receive a letter** from their parent who is in prison.
- **5%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **feel scared** if they **write to or receive a letter** from their parent who is in prison.

Discussion – At a nearly 3:1 ratio CIP declare that they want to write or receive letters from their parent in prison. It is clear from the information gathered from these surveys that CIP are much more happy than sad to write or receive a letter from their parent in prison. We can draw the conclusion that the overwhelming majority of CIP are not scared to write or receive a letter from their parent in prison.

Speaking on Phone

- **21%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **do not want to speak on the phone** with their parent who is in prison.
- **57%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **feel happy** if they **talk on the phone** with their parent who is in prison.
- **35%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **feel sad** if they **talk on the phone** with their parent who is in prison.
- **0%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **feel scared** if they **talk on the phone** with their parent who is in prison.

Discussion – Speaking on the phone is the forum where much of the communication takes place between an incarcerated parent and their child at home. Again, many factors can contribute to the experience CIP have on the phone with their incarcerated parent. The majority of those who participated in this survey agree that they do want to speak on the phone with their incarcerated parent. The fact that not one CIP surveyed declared that they were scared to talk on the phone with their parent in prison makes it clear that they welcome the idea. I believe with further meta-analysis of the research done on this project would reveal value qualitative data to inform a more thorough understanding of CIP as a population.

CIP Feelings: Self vs. Incarcerated Parent

- **16%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that the situation at home makes them **upset**.
- **5%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they feel it is **their fault** that their parent is in prison.
- **29%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they **often think** about the day their parent was taken away.
- **29%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they sometimes **feel ashamed** of their parent who is in prison.
- **33%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they are **angry** at their parent who is in prison.
- **48%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they are **sad** about my parent who is in prison.
- **32%** of CIP **agree/strongly agree** that they wish their parent at home **told them more** about their parent who is in prison.

Discussion – This group of information offers some insight into how CIP feel about themselves and what types of feelings they have toward their incarcerated parent.

Mental Health Questions

The table below provides an overview of how CIP responded to each idea presented to them. The numbers represent how many CIP selected each response relative to the corresponding inquiry. This data has not been analyzed by the researcher. This data stands in its objective form.

CIP Mental Health Questions (not analyzed)	Not at all	Once in awhile	Half the time	Almost always
Having upsetting thoughts or images about your parent going to prison/being in prison that came into your head when you didn't want them to.	9	5	2	3
Having bad dreams or nightmares	9	5	2	3
Acting or feeling like you did when the incarceration first happened (hearing something or seeing a picture about it and feeling as if I am there again)	7	7	2	1
Feeling upset when you think about it or hear about your parent going to prison/being in prison (for example, feeling scared, angry, sad, guilty, etc.)	7	4	4	4
Having feelings in your body when you think about or hear about your parent going to prison/being in prison (breaking into a sweat, heart beating fast)	12	7	0	0
Trying not to think about, talk about, or have feelings about your parent going to prison/being in prison.	6	7	3	3
Trying to avoid activities, people, or places that remind you of your parent going to prison/being in prison.	12	2	4	1
Not being able to remember an important part of your parent going to prison/being in prison.	10	4	3	1
Having much less interest or doing things you used to do.	6	8	4	1
Not feeling close to people around you.	8	6	2	3
Not being able to have strong feelings (for example, being unable to cry or unable to feel happy)	10	3	1	5
Feeling as if your future plans or hopes will not come true (for example, you will not have a job or get married or have kids)	14	2	4	1
Having trouble falling or staying asleep.	7	6	5	3
Feeling irritable or having fits of anger.	4	9	6	2
Having trouble concentrating (for example, losing track of a story on TV, forgetting what you read, not paying attention in class.	7	2	10	2
Being overly careful (for example, checking to see who is around you and what is around you)	7	1	7	6
Being jumpy or easily startled (for example, when someone walks up behind you.	9	5	3	4

Media Analysis

The following is quantitative data regarding the behavior of CIP as it pertains to what types of media outlets they get their information from.

When you see, hear, or read things in the media about children who have parents in prison, what kinds of things do the media say? Based on the media, people think CIP are (4 most common responses):

- Angry (13)
- Violent (12)
- Angry towards their parent (11)
- Troublemakers (10)

If you have questions about your health, which of the following do you use? (3 most common responses):

- Health provider (doctor, nurse, health professional) (14)
- Internet/website (11)
- Family (11)

If you use the television, list 1 or more channels that you view regularly.

- Netflix
- Disney
- Nickelodeon

If you use the internet/websites (not websites where you connect with friends), list 1 or more websites that you view regularly.

- Facebook
- YouTube

If you use the internet/websites where you connect with friends, such as Facebook, list 1 or more of such social websites that you view regularly.

- Instagram
- Snapchat
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Kik

If you use the radio, list 1 or more channels that you listen to regularly

- 93.7
- 95.7

If you use print newspapers.....

- Only 1 CIP responded, Connecticut Post

If you use print magazines.....

- Only 1 CIP responded, Seventeen

Which of the following do you mainly use on a daily basis for entertainment?

- Television (15)
- Internet/Social networking websites (13)
- Internet/website (11)
- Radio (7)

If you use the internet/websites (not websites where you connect with friends) list 1 or more.....

- Data in inconclusive, many who responded said Facebook, which is social media.
- 2 CIP stated they use YouTube

Which of the following do you mainly use on a daily basis for general information seeking?

- Television (12)
 - Internet/website (12)
 - Internet/Social networking websites (10)
 - Radio (5)
-

Do you know about any people (other than family members or friends) you can call if you are upset about any problems you have? (some may have misunderstood the question)

- Therapist, Uncle, Grandma, Uncle, girlfriend, Aunt, boyfriend, Uncle, Grandma, Dad, Friend, Cousin, Aunt, Mom, Aunt, Cousin, Aunt, Grandma, Shannon Schaffer

Do you know about any organizations/groups (other than family members or friends) you can call if you are upset about any problems you have?

- 14 CIP answered "No" to this question.
- (Other responses): Rushford, Friend, social workers, My sisters, neighbors, best friend

Do you have any place you go to regularly to share stories and feelings about your parent in prison?

- 10% (2) said YES, friend's house, cousin
- 90% (19) said NO

If NO, would you like to have such a place you can go to regularly to share stories and feelings about your parents in prison?

- Only 1 CIP responded YES to this question.