The Influence of Incarceration on Children by Parental Gender and Race/Ethnicity: A Focus on Child Living Arrangements

Holly Foster
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Incarceration, Race, and Class

- Incarceration, Race/ Ethnicity and Social Class (Pettit & Western, 2004)
- Parental Imprisonment by Race/Ethnicity (Glaze & Maruschak, 2008)
- Parental Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Social Class (Wildeman, 2009)
Incarceration and Intersectionality

- *Intersectionality*: race and gender combine to create distinctive opportunities and experiences for all groups (Browne & Misra, 2003).

- Mass Incarceration and Intersectionality (Christian & Thomas, 2009)
Intersectionality and Parental Incarceration

- The influence of incarceration on children is contingent upon parental gender and race/ethnicity.

- Investigate living arrangements of children during incarceration with attention to parental gender and race/ethnicity.
Children’s Living Arrangements: Gender

- **Parental Gender:**
  - Children of incarcerated fathers live with other parent during imprisonment
  - Children of incarcerated mothers live with grandparents and other relatives (Mumola, 2000; Glaze & Marushack, 2008)
  - Disruption greater in lives of children of incarcerated mothers than fathers (Koban, 1983)
Children’s Living Arrangements: Race and Gender

- **Incarcerated Mothers (Enos, 2001: Ruiz 2002):**
  - African American and Hispanic children are more likely to live with grandparents than are children of non-Hispanic Whites.
  - Children of non-Hispanic Whites more likely to live with other parent during incarceration than African American and Hispanic children.

- **Incarcerated Fathers: less work by race/ethnicity**
Explanatory Factors

- Economic Resources

- Family Disadvantages and child living arrangements (Johnson & Waldfogel, 2004)

- Does income explain race and ethnic differences in living arrangements among children of incarcerated women and men?
Data & Methods


- Analytic sample includes all parents living with minor children on arrest (n=889).
  - n=539 women and n=350 men
Sample Characteristics

- Women: 32 years, Men: 31 years of age
- Women’s income lower than men’s
- Race/ethnicity:
  - Women: 47% African American, 15% Hispanic, 2% other race/ethnicity
  - Men: 38% African American, 34% Hispanic, 2% other race/ethnicity
Figure 1. Percentage of Females and Males With Minor Children Living With Other Parent During Incarceration (n=889)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>37\textsuperscript{a}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>87\textsuperscript{a***}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Figure 2. Percentage of Mothers and Fathers With Minor Children Living With Other Parent During Incarceration by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (n=889)
Figure 3. Predicted Probabilities of Living with the Other Parent During Incarceration from Multivariate Models: Explanatory Effects of Income by Maternal Race/ethnicity
Figure 4. Predicted Probabilities of Living with the Other Parent from Multivariate Models shown by Parental Gender at Low and High Levels of Income.
Children of Anglo mothers were most likely to live with their other parent during incarceration with lower levels found among African American and Hispanic mothers.

No race and ethnic differences among men.
Policy Implications

- Children of African American and Hispanic mothers may therefore be more likely to face disruption in daily routines when mothers are incarcerated.

- Further, economically privileged groups are more likely to have children living with other parent during incarceration, they may experience less disruption in living arrangements.
Policy Implications

- Reductions in income disparities by race/ethnicity may help to minimize disruption in child living arrangements among children of incarcerated mothers.

- Differences in child living arrangements during incarceration by gender and race/ethnicity should be considered.
Policy Implications

- Policies aimed at minimizing disruption or assisting children with the disruption around maternal imprisonment may facilitate their well-being.