

FAMILY SUPPORT FOR RETURNING CITIZENS

The United States incarcerates more of its citizens than any other country in the world. With only 5% of the world's population the U.S. incarcerates 25% of the world's prisoners. Forgotten in the persistent growth of the nation's mass incarceration are the millions of children and countless family members and friends traumatized by a loved one's incarceration.

Unfortunately, history tells us that as many as 70% of children of prisoners will one day become prisoners themselves and at least 65% of prisoners returning to our communities will recidivate within 3 years after being released from prison. These unacceptable and tragic facts diminish the quality of life and safety of our communities for all of us and call for effective resolution.

Credible research finds that strong family support during and following a loved one's incarceration is crucial to the prisoner's successful community reentry and family reunification.



- Children of inmates have a 70% chance of ending up in prison themselves!
- 78% of inmates claim to have had a relative in prison.
- 1 in 28 Americans are in prison, jail or probation/parole.
- 1 in 10 American children (8.3 million children) have a parent who is under correctional supervision—either incarcerated, jail, on probation, or parole.
- Over 50% of the children who have a parent in prison NEVER visit their parent in prison.
- If recent incarceration rates remain unchanged, an estimated 1 of 15 persons (6.6%) will serve time in a prison during their lifetime.
- At least 95% of all State prisoners will be released from prison at some point.

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