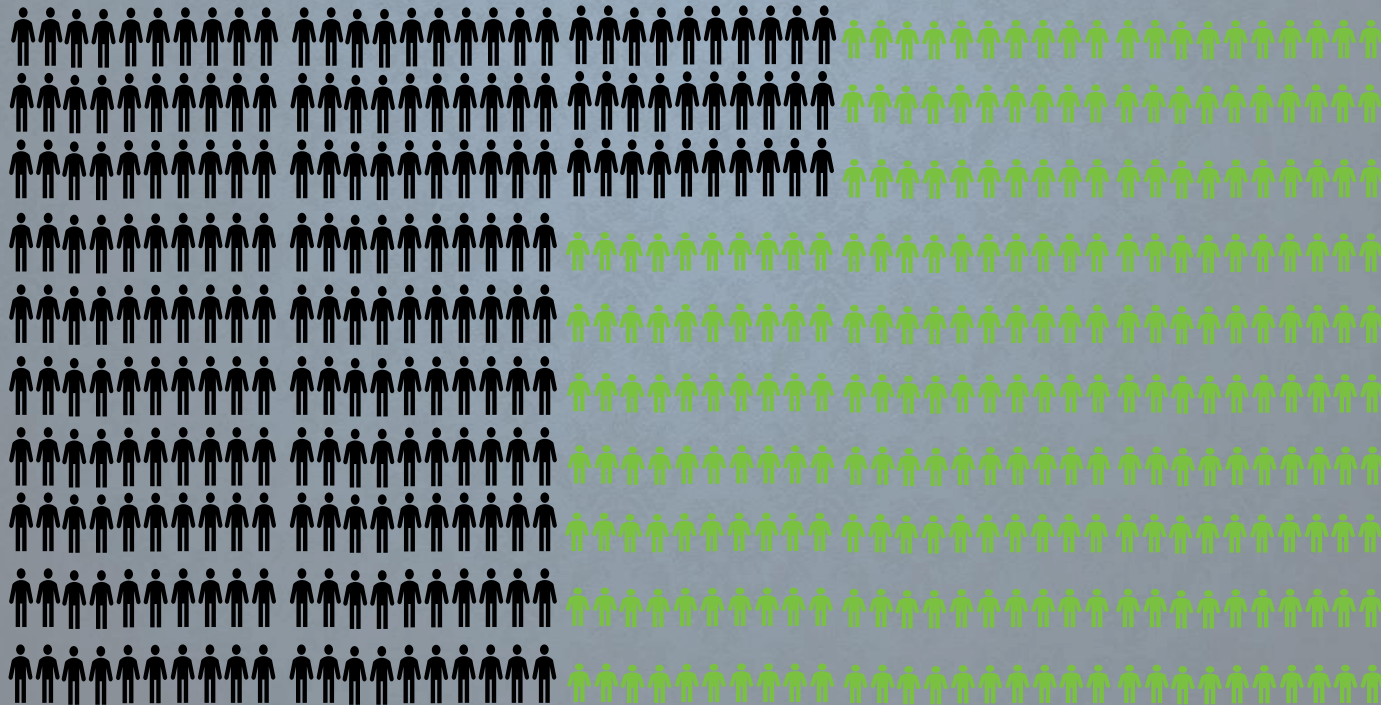


Tiffani Arsenault, MS
Administrator of the Family
Connections Center



2.3M PEOPLE INCARCERATED; 2.7M CHILDREN AFFECTED BY PARENTAL INCARCERATION



New Hampshire State Prisons



Total Population

- Men: 1,630
- Women: 110

Parents of Minors

- 532 men have 889 children
- 63 women have 119 children

ACE: CHILDREN WITH A PARENT INCARCERATED

Average 2.7
additional ACEs

1/3rd witnessed
violence between
parents

1/3rd witnessed
or experienced
violence in their
neighborhood

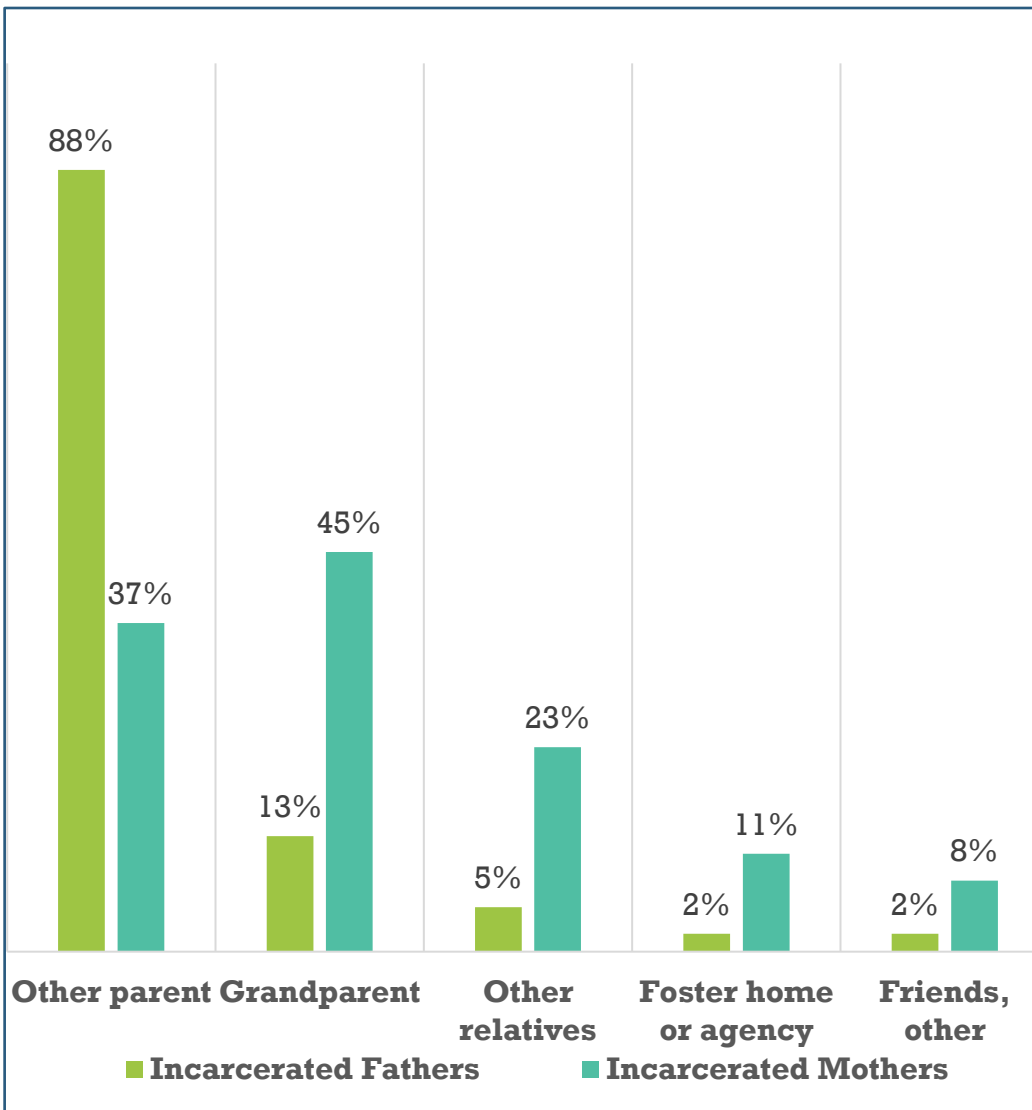
1 in 10
experienced the
death of a parent

50% + lived with
someone who
had a substance
abuse problem

25% + lived with
someone who
had mental health
diagnoses

3 in 5
experienced
parental divorce

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CHILD WHEN A PARENT BECOMES INCARCERATED?



Source: Glaze, L.E. & L.M. Maruschak. (2008). *Parents in Prison and their Minor Children*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf>.

INTERGENERATIONAL CYCLE OF CRIME

FCC Fathers

- **27%** father incarcerated
- **13%** mother incarcerated
- **37%** other immediate family incarcerated
- **47%** other extended family incarcerated
- **21%** of child's mother incarcerated

17% were in foster
care as a child

FCC Mothers

- **34%** father incarcerated
- **20%** mother incarcerated
- **35%** other immediate family incarcerated
- **59%** other extended family incarcerated
- **66%** of child's father incarcerated

25% were in foster
care as a child



FCC on NH Chronicle

April 2017:

<https://www.wmur.com/article/tuesday-april-18th-nh-prison-family-connections/9276808>



March 2022 follow up:

<https://www.wmur.com/article/nh-chronicle-parenting-while-in-prison/39355139>

THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS CENTER

- Established in 1998 by Kristina Toth and UNH Cooperative Extension.
- A Family Resource Center (FRC) located within the NH State Prisons
- Provides parenting and relationship education and support, along with relevant case management (i.e., child support, child protection, collaborating with schools, family courts, etc.)
- Provides opportunities to connect (video visits with parent coaching, Family Fun Day, Children of Incarcerated Parent Summer Camp, audiobooks).

FUNDING SOURCES

State of NH, Dept of Corrections

- Staff and space

Linden Foundation

- Part-time, contracted staff
- Supplies for activities and events
- Training

OJJDP SCA Grant (expires 9/30/2024)

- Part-time, contracted staff
- Supplies for activities and events
- Stipends for families engaging in activities
- Subcontracts: consultants, universities, local family resource centers

DHHS – Parental Assistance and DCYF

- Contracted staff
- Supplies for events and activities
- Resources

NH Children's Trust (effective 10/1/2024)

- Will provide funding to UNH Marriage and Family Therapy Center to accept Family Ties Counseling clients

The Family Connections Center at the NH Department of Corrections



Are you a parent of a minor child?

If yes, you may be eligible for the FCC Parenting Program, which includes:*

Parenting Education

- 18-hour Parenting Class
- 10-hour Healthy Relationships Class
- Weekly support groups
- Various seminars
- Refresher for Reentry (R4R)

Opportunities to Connect

- Audiobooks
- Weekly video visits
- Family Ties**
- Family Reentry Planning**
- Family Fun Day
- Children of Incarcerated Parent (CIP) Camp
- Cards/Activity

Family Case Management

- NH Family Court
 - First Appearance
 - NH Child Impact Program
- DCYF
- NH Bureau of Child Support Services
- School contact
- FRC Referrals

If not, then you may attend/participate in:

- Healthy Relationships
- Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF)

*eligibility for the FCC Parenting Program is based on crime and some of the connection opportunities are based on legal parenting status. Talk with staff to learn more.

18 – hour Parenting Class

- Created with UNH Cooperative Ext.

10 - hour Healthy Relationships Class

- Evidence-based, Love Notes 3.0 from Dibble Institute

Weekly Support Groups

- Incarcerated Parents
- Incarcerated Grandparents

Various seminars

- Positive Solutions for Families
- Mind in the Making: 7 Essential Life Skills
- CLiF Literacy Seminars
- NH Humanities Council
- Parent Information Center of NH

PARENT EDUCATION & SUPPORT

Opportunities for Connection

- Video Visits via Skype with Parent Coaching
- Family Ties Counseling
- Audiobook Projects
- Family Fun Days



COURT/LEGAL RELATED SERVICES

NH Bureau of Child Support, Review and Modification Unit

- Established a Prison Outreach Program so that residents with child support needs or questions may utilize FCC to connect.

NH First Appearance Session via Video

- Required when entering the Family Court system, they can complete this at FCC.

NH Child Impact Program

- The 4-hour co-parenting after separation/divorce course is offered to incarcerated parents.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



- **Family Ties Inside Out (FTIO) Referrals***

Incoming resident, to jail or prison, is given the opportunity to make a referral for their child/family. These go through the FTIO Program Coordinator and are handed to the family resource center in the child/family's area.
- **Family Ties Counseling***

An opportunity for the incarcerated parent, jail or prison, to engage in counseling with their child and the caregiver.
- **FTIO Support Groups***

Offered via Zoom for children and caregivers. Anybody with the link can attend.
- **Monthly Newsletter**

Provided to residents electronically and in print, posted to the FCC Facebook page

REENTRY SERVICES

Refresher for Reentry (R4R)



Support Groups at TWC and THUs



Community-based FRC Referrals



Parents on Parole Support Groups
(June 2023)

2021 FCC Participation

01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

2,503 Support Groups attended by **177** residents.

162 Seminars completed by **83** residents

65 Audiobook projects completed by **31** residents

74 Residents engaged in **2,115** video visits

1,149 Total Child Contacts*

01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

2021 Recidivism Rates

01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 Releases

Total Released: **1015**

1st year (1/2022-12/2022) - 256 Returned

2nd year (1/2023- 12/2023) - 107 Returned

3rd year (1/2024 - 12/2024) - 18 Returned

Of the **1015 male and female** residents that were released in calendar year 2021 - **503** had FCC participation where **188 HAVE** returned to incarceration since being released and **315** have **NOT** returned to incarceration.

FEMALES



MALES



*Total Child Contact includes all children with relationship type of son/daughter.

RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

NH ED Office of Social And Emotional Wellness Toolkit: Students with Incarcerated Parents & Caregivers

- [OSEW Toolkits: OSEW Support for Districts and Educators \(instructure.com\)](https://www.instructure.com)

Sesame Street, Little People Big Challenges

- <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/incarceration/>

[Youth.gov Resources](#)

- [Children of Incarcerated Parents | Youth.gov](#)

Family Support NH (NH Network of Family Resource Centers)

- <https://www.fsnh.org/>

Annie E. Casey Foundation

- [Focus on Children of Incarcerated Parents - The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\) \(2007\)](#)
- [Children and Families with Incarcerated Parents - The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\) \(2008\)](#)
- [Children of Incarcerated Parents, a Shared Sentence - The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\) \(2016\)](#)