Maternal and Paternal Imprisonment and Children’s Social Exclusion in Adulthood

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National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)

Add Health Research Design
Waves I-IV

Study Design (Add Health)

**Longitudinal Design**

- **In-School Administration**
  - Wave I: 1994-1995
    - Students: 90,118
    - School Admin: 144

- **School Admin**: 128

- **In-Home Administration**
  - Wave I: Adolescents in grades 7-12 (20,745)
    - Parent: 17,670
  - Wave II: Adolescents in grades 8-12 (14,738)
  - Wave III: Partners 1,507
  - Wave IV: Young Adults Aged 18-26* (15,197)
  - Wave IV: Adults Aged 24-32** (15,500)

* 24 respondents were 27-28 years old. **52 respondents were 33-34 years old.

Measuring Parental Imprisonment in Add Health

- Wave III: In-Home Sample
  - “Has your biological father ever served time in jail or prison?” (1 = yes).
  - 14.7% biological father incarcerated

- Wave IV: In-home Sample
  - “Has/did your biological father ever (spend/spent) time in jail or prison?” (1 = yes).
  - 15.6% biological father incarcerated

- Wave IV: In-home Sample
  - “Has/did your biological mother ever (spend/spent) time in jail or prison?” (1 = yes).
  - 4.2% biological mother incarcerated
Effects of Paternal Imprisonment

- Social Exclusion (Foster and Hagan, 2007; Murray 2007);
- Disconnection of Adolescents from Social Institutions
  - Health Care Uninsuredness
  - Homelessness
  - Political Disengagement
- Investigated effects of paternal incarceration
- Works through education levels in adolescence
Effects of Maternal and Paternal Imprisonment

- Extend literature on maternal and paternal incarceration influences to social exclusion outcomes.

- Include measures of social exclusion over the life course
  - Earnings, Perceived SES, Powerlessness

- Include macro-imprisonment effects
Figure 1. Hypotheses of Maternal and Paternal Influences on Children’s Adult Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Depressive Symptoms</th>
<th>Substance Role Problems</th>
<th>Social Exclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Imprisonment</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paternal Imprisonment</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Gendered Parental Loss: A and D
2. Intergenerational Parental Stress Influences: A, B, C, D, E, F
3. Same-Sex Role Model: Maternal effects reflected in Cells A, B, E are stronger for females than males. Paternal effects reflected in Cells C, D, F will be stronger for males than females.
4. Maternal Salience: A, B, E > C, D, F
5. Paternal Salience: C, D, F > A, B, E

Table 1. Summary Table of Parental Imprisonment Effects on Children’s Adult Social Exclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Personal Earnings (W4)</th>
<th>Household Earnings (W4)</th>
<th>Perceived Socio-economic Status (W4)</th>
<th>Powerlessness (W4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father Imprisonment (L1)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother Imprisonment (L1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Paternal Imprisonment (L2)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Maternal Imprisonment (L2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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X= significant effect at p<.05 , net of control variables
Table 2. Summary Table of Parental Imprisonment Effects on Children’s Adult Social Exclusion with College Completion Added to Models.

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<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

X= significant effect at p<.05, net of mediator of college completion and control variables.
Policy Implications

- Both maternal and paternal imprisonment influence children’s young adult social exclusion (Intergenerational Stress Hypothesis).
- These effects are mediated by college completion highlighting role of education in social exclusion from parental imprisonment.
- Net of college completion, evidence for paternal salience on household earnings in young adulthood.
- New evidence of social exclusion stemming from parental imprisonment over the life course (Paternal Salience Hypothesis).
Add Health data:

- This research uses data from Add Health, a program project directed by Kathleen Mullan Harris and designed by J. Richard Udry, Peter S. Bearman, and Kathleen Mullan Harris at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and funded by grant P01-HD31921 from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, with cooperative funding from 23 other federal agencies and foundations. Special acknowledgment is due Ronald R. Rindfuss and Barbara Entwisle for assistance in the original design. Information on how to obtain the Add Health data files is available on the Add Health website (http://www.cpc.unc.edu/addhealth). No direct support was received from grant P01-HD31921 for this analysis.