



CHILDHOOD RISK

ACE: Jailed Parent or Guardian

INDICATOR

Percent of children whose parent or guardian was jailed.

Numerator Number of children who experienced the ACE

Denominator Children aged 0-17

DESCRIPTION

This is a proxy measure for toxic stress and is included as an Adverse Childhood Experience. This question asks parents, "**Did [child's name] ever live with a parent or guardian who served time in jail or prison after [he/she] was born?**"

IMPORTANCE

The number of children whose parents are in state or federal prisons has been steadily increasing across the US since the 1980s (Glaze, 2008). There is a well-documented link between parent criminality and youth behavioral and social problems, specifically conduct disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (Phillips, 2002). Research suggests that these outcomes are in response to stresses related to single-parenthood, or absence of a consistent second parent; economic disadvantage; or family conflict and instability (Amato, 1991). Additionally, having a parent removed from the home places children at risk of experiencing a severed parent-child bond, which may have profound implications for the child's social and emotional development (Bowlby, 2012; Hess, 1991).

LIMITATIONS

- The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) is completed by the parent or caregiver, who may choose not to disclose a history of incarceration.
- This metric does not include incarceration of a non-custodial parent.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Wisconsin Analyses

Federal Poverty Level

Data not available.

National Analyses

Federal Poverty Level % of Children with a Jailed Parent

Under 100% FPL	15.7%
100-200% FPL	10.6%
200-400% FPL	6.6%
Over 400% FPL	2.6%

SOURCE

Amato, P. R., & Keith, B. (1991). Parental divorce and the well-being of children: a meta-analysis. *Psychological Bulletin*, 110(1), 26.
Bowlby, John. (2012.) *The making and breaking of affectional bonds*. Routledge.
Glaze, Lauren E., and Laura M. Maruschak. *Parents in prison and their minor children*. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, 2008.
Hess, P. M., & Folaron, G. (1991). *Ambivalences: A challenge to permanency for*

children. Child Welfare: Journal of Policy, Practice, and Program.
National Survey of Children's Health. (2016). Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved from www.childhealthdata.org.
Phillips, S. D., Burns, B. J., Wagner, H. R., Kramer, T. L., & Robbins, J. M. (2002). Parental incarceration among adolescents receiving mental health services. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 11(4), 385-399.