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**INCARCERATED MEN AND THEIR CHILDREN;
STUDY REPORT**

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FINAL REPORT

Approved By: *G. Mendez*

Date: 2/14/01

INCARCERATED MEN AND THEIR CHILDREN; STUDY REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION:

Imprisonment is a big enterprise in the United States. More than one and a half million are locked up on any one-day. ¹ Over ten million Americans will see the inside of a prison or jail in any one-year. ² It is also a growing enterprise. In 1996 there were more than three times as many prisoners as there were in 1980.³

In the December issue of Atlantic Monthly magazine incarceration was referred to as the 'Prison/Industrial Complex'.⁴ The article focuses upon the huge amount of money that is involved in incarceration outside of the departments of correction themselves. Such diverse industries as telephone companies to architectural firms have a vested interest in the continued growth of incarceration in America.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of prisons in the United States is the racial composition of the population. Six percent (6%) of the population of the United States is black (African-American) and male. Almost half of all the men in prison are African-American. African-American men are imprisoned at a rate nearly six times higher than white men. Out of every 100,000 white Americans, 306 are in prison. The figure for African-Americans is 1947 per 100,000.⁵

According to the Sentencing Project, on an average day in America one out of every three African-American men aged twenty to twenty-nine is in prison or on parole.⁶ A national study conducted in 1990, showed that more than four out of every ten African-American men aged eighteen to thirty-five were in prison, on probation, on parole, on bail or being sought by the police with a warrant.⁷ Official statistics suggest that nearly three out of ten black men face the prospect of going to prison during their lifetime. This figure does not include the likelihood of going to jail.⁸

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1996*, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C., 1997, p.2.

² Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Lifetime Likelihood of Going to State or Federal Prison*, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C., 1997, p.6.

³ Kathleen Maguire and Ann L. Pastore (eds.), *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1995*, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, D.C., 1996, p.548.

⁴ Schlosser, Eric, *The Prison-Industrial Complex*. *Atlantic Monthly*, December, 1998, Volume 282, No. 6, p 51-77.

⁵ Donziger, Steven R. (ed.), *The Real War On Crime*, HarperPerennial, New York, 1996, p. 102.

⁶ Marc Mauer and Tracy Huling, "Young Black Americans and the Criminal Justice System: Five Years Later", The Sentencing Project, Washington, D.C., 1995, p. 1.

⁷ Marc Mauer, *Young Black men and the Criminal Justice System: A Growing National Problem*. The Sentencing Project, Washington, D.C. 1990.

⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Lifetime Likelihood of Going to State or Federal Prison*, 1997.

Many of the social problems confronted by the African-American community have been attributed to the lack of fathers in the daily family setting. In response to this problem a number of African-American male responsibility programs and networks have been established across the country. These programs focus on such areas as parenting, mentoring, role-modeling and the general development of positive relationships between African-American men and their families.

Dr. Jeffery Johnson, Director of the National Center for Strategic Nonprofit Planning and Community Leadership, an organization that addresses the needs of "Fragile Families", indicates that the problem is absent fathers and that these fathers are absent for a variety of reasons that are never really examined. Instead, it is simply assumed that the fathers are irresponsible and they are categorized as "deadbeat" dads.

The discussion around absent fathers has given little attention to the absent father who is incarcerated. The organizations that have developed programs to prepare men to be more responsible note that they have ex-offenders in their programs but they do not work with the men until they are released. Furthermore, they make no special effort to seek out ex-offenders to motivate and mobilize to become responsible fathers.

The role of incarcerated men, regarding responsibility and fatherhood, has been overlooked by correctional program staff around the country. The relationships between children and parents have been viewed as a mother/child issue with little concern given to the relationship between the children and their fathers.

In the late 1970's, Dr. Velma LaPointe began examining the issue of "The Impact of Incarceration on Families".⁸ This work, although perhaps not intended, seems to have set the stage for defining the issue of parenting in prison as an issue for mothers and not for fathers.

Although it is recognized that there is a need for parenting, despite the problem of incarceration, it is also recognized that it is just as important that incarcerated men assume their role in the parenting process. To date this has been viewed as a problem that needs to be addressed by focusing upon incarcerated women.

There are approximately 75,000 women incarcerated in the United States as opposed to 1.8 million men.⁹ It is estimated that over sixty percent of these men have at least one child¹⁰, which means that at a minimum there are at least 600,000 children whose fathers are incarcerated in the United States. If the multitude of social problems of the inner-city communities, and specifically the youth, are related to absent fathers, then it would seem that attention should be given to assuring that incarcerated fathers be assisted in assuming their responsibility of parenting their children.

⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1998*. U.S. Department of Justice, August 1999

¹⁰ C.S. Lanier, "Incarcerated Fathers: A Research Agenda". *Forum on Corrections Research*, 7(2), p. 34-36

It has been assumed that because incarcerated men have been involved in criminal behavior they have not been "good" fathers, and do not care about their children and their families. Consequently, when policymakers and administrators plan programs for the incarcerated they completely overlook the possibility that incarcerated men should or would care to be a part of the development of their children. However, as more attention is given to the issue of responsible parenting and fatherhood it would seem that programs would emerge in prisons. As those programs emerge there are several areas of concern that should be reviewed, such as:

- Attitudes and perceptions of incarcerated men towards fatherhood and parenting.
- Geographic isolation of institutions.
- Post-release linkages.
- Cost of programs.
- Community involvement.
- Effects on prison conduct and behavior.
- Technology and other communication resources.

Although all of these areas warrant study and examination the most critical issue revolves around understanding the attitudes and perceptions of the men towards fathering and parenting their children. There must be a baseline understanding of the men and their attitudes in order for interventions to be designed that will effectively address the issue of incarcerated men and their relationship with their families, especially their children.

Do incarcerated men care about their family and children and if so can we develop programs that will allow them to assume this responsibility while they are incarcerated?

There are two schools of thought as to what is the purpose of prisons. Are prisons for correction or rehabilitation? The Random House College Dictionary shows a fine distinction between these two terms; however, prisons; prisoners and society note a very clear distinction between the two. Correction is synonymous with punishment and rehabilitation with liberal "coddling" of prisoners. The advocates for corrections have argued that programs of any sort are a reward for individuals who have broken the law and advocates for rehabilitation have argued that programs will help assure that the men do not return to prison.

In this study an attempt will be made to determine the attitudes of the men towards responsible fatherhood and parenting with the intent of moving towards building stronger communities and reducing the flow of individuals into the corrections system. If in fact we are able to reduce the flow we can move the discussion from corrections versus rehabilitation to what is best for the outside community.

Statement of the Problem:

Many inner-city communities are suffering multiple problems as a result of "absent fathers". A large and growing number of these absences are the result of incarceration. In realizing this, the responsible fatherhood programs will seek to expand their programs by making a conscious effort to include ex-offenders in their current work.

There is reason to believe that they will want to address the huge problem of the growth of prisons, prison reform and all of the related issues. While the prison reform issues are being debated there are thousands of children in need of fathers right away. Therefore; it is critical to ascertain whether or not absent fathers, in prison, can become responsible for their children while they are incarcerated.

In order to make this determination we must first understand the attitudes and perceptions of incarcerated men towards fathering and parenting their children. Once this is established programs can be developed that either address these attitudes or build upon them. This study attempts to focus on accessing these attitudes and perceptions with the intent of assisting in the development of future programs.

II. Methodology:

Hypotheses

This study is designed to test and examine the attitudes and perceptions of incarcerated men towards childcare and raising children.

The main hypotheses of the study are:

H1: Incarcerated fathers are interested in their children and families.

A standard training exercise that is used by the National Trust with its work around the country is to ask groups to list adjective that best describe African-American men. Inevitably, regardless of the audience, the list will consist of all negative descriptors. The response transcends race, gender, age, SES or current situation of the people responding. The image of an African-American male is negative and none seem to escape its impact.

As a result of these perceptions when community problems such as families are addressed most interventions tend to focus on supporting the "strong" African-American woman without including the men. Instead of working with the fathers the focus has centered on mentoring and role modeling. The assumption is that the men simply do not care and will not assume responsibility for their family and children.

This perception is further exacerbated by the problem of incarceration. In the case of incarceration it is automatically concluded that the inmate could not be a good father because he is in prison. This suggests that the act of committing a crime make a person less concerned or loving in the family construct. Little if anything is known about the

concerns or interests of the men before they are incarcerated and once they are incarcerated no one seems to care. This inquiry will attempt to learn about and understand the attitudes of incarcerated men and their families.

H2: Incarcerated fathers would like to assist in child rearing.

Much attention has been given to the issue of failure to pay child support and in many cases this has surfaced as the true indicator of how responsible and concerned the fathers are about their child's welfare.

According to Dr. Jeffery Johnson, from Fragile Families, there are any number of reasons why fathers do not make support payments and they are not related to concern or love of the child. He indicates that in many cases the men do not have the money or they do not pay because they are not given access to the children. However, the key point is that failure to provide money does not mean lack of concern, interest or love.

In the situation with incarcerated men they have no control over having access to their children, it is completely in the hands of the person who has custody of the child or children. Furthermore, it might be unclear to both the inmate and the family as to the role that the father may play in the family given his situation.

H3: Incarcerated fathers would participate in a program to help understand how to assist in raising children.

If in fact inmates have not been responsible fathers in the past it seems that now that they are incarcerated there is an opportunity to work towards making them responsible fathers in the future. For this to happen they would need help in developing the necessary skills to assume the role of a responsible father and family member. There is no need to wait until the man returns to the community for him to assume his responsibilities.

A willingness to participate in a structured program to assist him in changing his previous behavior would serve both his family and the community. This discussion is presented to suggest that the issue of responsible fatherhood may be more convoluted than simply determining that the father does not care about his children and family.

Data must be gathered and analyzed in hopes of getting a clearer understanding of what is happening with these men. The data may help in determining how best to approach this growing social problem.

Potentially Confounding Factors

Although the general attitudes and perceptions of incarcerated men towards the raising of children is generally not known, within that question are some factors that might further refine the inquiry. They are defined as confounding because they may be hidden in the broad inquiry but when separated they may shed additional light upon the issue.

In this study those factors are:

- a. Race
- b. Martial status
- c. Education level
- d. Length of incarceration
- e. Age

Race

Race has a seemingly overriding effect on many issues within this society and the fact that the respondents are incarcerated would not suggest that race is neutral. In fact in many respects the prison setting is often more segregated than the outside community. Although the majority of the inmates in the New York State Department of Corrections are African-American it is not clear that the remainder of the prison population shares their attitudes.

The question that emerges is whether there is a relationship between race and attitudes of incarcerated men towards raising their children?

Incarcerated men are viewed by the society as poor fathers with little or no interest in their children. Furthermore, in the case of African-American men much has been assumed about their lack of concern for their children and their absence from the home. This has led to a proliferation of fatherhood programs across the country with a special emphasis upon African-American men. The basic perception about African-American men suggests that this issue be examined in the study.

Marital Status

It is often difficult for incarcerated men to maintain a relationship with their family once they are sentenced and transferred from the local jail to a correctional facility away from their home. In the case of prisoners in New York State they are often imprisoned in facilities far from their homes. The vast majority of the men come from New York City and the metropolitan area and most initial placements are upstate in rural communities that may be as far away as four hundred miles. No public transportation is usually available, therefore it is extremely difficult for families to visit and maintain the traditional family ties.

The men attempt to maintain the ties through collect telephone calls to the family. Although the families accept the collect calls the cost is a heavy drain on an often limited, at best, budget. The men desire to maintain the connection; however, the economic situation could cause stress upon the relationship.

It should also be noted that the collect calls are at the highest rate that the telephone companies are allowed to charge and the money is paid by the least able families in the society.

Given this situation the question generated is: Is there a relationship between marital status and attitudes towards incarcerated men raising their children?

Education Level

A general assumption is often made that people with higher levels of education usually do a better job of parenting and raising their children. The men in the survey had different levels of education; therefore, the question that is generated is: Whether there is a relationship between level of education and attitudes of incarcerated men towards raising their children?

Length of Incarceration

The intent of the prison is to punish inmates for violating the law. In the course of this punishment an effort is made to alter the behavior of the men. This study did not attempt to measure different attitudes based on program involvement and other aspects of prison life. Instead data was collected only on the length of time the men had served to date on their current sentence. Perhaps the amount of time alone would alter the behavior of the men. Following this line of thinking perhaps the length of time served would also effect the inmates attitude towards raising their children.

The question that emerges is: Whether there is a relationship between length of time served and attitudes towards child raising of incarcerated men?

Age

The final confounding factor is age. As men mature they sometimes are more able to understand and assume their role as fathers in the family. If this is true then is this also the case with incarcerated men?

The question that is generated by age is: Whether the age of the men is related to their attitudes towards raising their children?

Sampling Process

The individuals included in the study as in most of the prisons in New York State tended to be from large metropolitan or urban areas with the majority coming from New York City and the surrounding suburbs.

Initially it was thought that all of the participants would be selected from Green Haven prison because the National Trust was known in that prison. Since the prison was familiar with the organization it would be easier to work both with the administration and the inmates. The plan was to use the men who were members of the Green Haven Trust to encourage the other inmates to participate in the study. It was anticipated that this process would yield hundreds of men in Green Haven alone.

Fishkill and Mid-Orange would serve as additional sites because several inmates who were members of the Green Haven Trust had been transferred to those two prisons. Since there were plans to expand the program into each of these facilities the men believed that they would be able to convince the inmates to join the study. It was decided to pursue this approach and a request was made to the administration at each of these facilities to allow the National Trust to conduct the survey.

In all cases the administration agreed to allow the study to be conducted but the process would have to be worked out with each because all prisons operate in their own manner. It was emphasized that the participants in the study would have to be volunteers and it would be the responsibility of the National Trust to conduct the study because the prisons did not have the manpower to handle the task.

The original plan was to have the men in the National Trust inform the population that the study was going to be conducted and men were encouraged to participate. A list of names would be collected and those men would be taken to an area where the survey would be completed. The questions would be read aloud to make sure that men who had difficulty reading could still participate. The Trust inmates also identified Spanish speaking inmates who would function as interpreters for men who either did not understand English, or had some problems with the language.

A visit was made to each of the facilities to train the Trust inmate volunteers on how to assist in conducting the survey because with the logistics of conducting the survey the Trust survey team would need the assistance of the men. The major concern that they raised by the Trust volunteers was the forty-five minute time it took to complete the survey. With the reading level of the population it was thought that they would take longer than the projected time despite the fact that we had field tested the survey at another facility.

It should be noted that inmates generally will not participate in studies because they are suspicious how the data will be used and by whom. The Trust was warned by all three administrations that the men probably would not complete the surveys and that they would not in anyway get involved in convincing them to do so. Each facility presented the investigators with a different series of problems in getting participants and conducting the survey.

Green Haven:

The men in the Trust program informed the population of the dates that the survey was to be conducted and arrangements were made for the team to begin work. The first group was individuals who attended the computer literacy program conducted by the Trust participants.

The principal investigator was taken to areas of the prison where large numbers of men were present and he was allowed to explain the study to the men and ask them to

participate. Although large numbers of men would agree, they were not allowed to do the survey at that point because it would interfere with the normal operation of the prison. Anyone wishing to participate would have to sign up at another time and make arrangements to do the survey on their own. They could not be brought together in any other way because of security concerns.

The next strategy was to go to the school area where the men are in classes and try to convince them to complete the survey. The teachers had been instructed to allow anyone who desired, the time to do the survey. For security reasons this had to be completed during the regular class time because the men would have to return to their cells for the count.

With the use of the Trust inmates, a number of surveys were completed in this manner, but due to the time constraints most of the men took the surveys back to their cells and for the most part they were never completed. Finally it was decided that surveys would have to be distributed on an individual basis and the Trust team would have to stay on the men to return them.

Obviously, this seriously reduced the responses by the men. Over 1500 surveys were distributed to the men and we were able to get two hundred and seventy-eight men to respond, but the prison security issues made it impossible to get as many response as were anticipated.

Mid-Orange:

Mid-Orange is a medium security prison and has a much more relaxed environment. The initial step to get participants was to have the two Trust members who had been transferred from Green Haven talk to the population about the study. The administration arranged for men to sign up to participate, and dates for conducting the survey by the National Trust team were established.

Upon arrival at the facility it was noted that approximately twenty men had signed up to be included in the study. Those men had been notified to come to the school area and complete the survey. At the scheduled time none of the men came to the designated room.

It was decided that the Trust team should visit the various areas of the prison and encourage the men to participate in the study. The team moved from one area to another distributing Trust materials and explaining not only the nature of the study but the nature and purpose of the organization.

The two Trust members from Green Haven had established a committee that would spend the balance of the next day and one-half encouraging the men to participate. As in the case of Green Haven they identified several Spanish speaking men to act as interpreters for any men who had difficulty with English.

The Trust survey team was set up in one room that accommodated approximately twenty-five men at a time. In another room the principal investigator spoke with potential participants encouraging them to be part of the study. Members of the committee moved around the facility and encourage the men to come in and listen to the principal investigator explain the nature of the study and its intended purpose.

The main concern that was expressed was that the New York State Department of Corrections hired us and that the study was a method of getting more information to be used against them. Despite this concern two hundred men completed the survey at Mid-Orange.

Fishkill:

As in the other two prisons it was left to the five Trust members, who had participated in the program, to begin talking to the men concerning their becoming respondents to the survey. They posted notices in various sections of the prison and they moved through the population using various opportunities to talk with men about the Trust and the work that had been done at Green Haven.

However, as the men stated, they were new to Fishkill and although Fishkill was classified as a medium security prison they had rules that were often more restrictive than in Green Haven which is a maximum security prison. The staff explained that although it was officially a medium there were some special units on the grounds that required a more strict security approach.

The sign up process produced only nineteen men on the list. We suggested to the administration that experience had told us that signing up the men would not be the best method of getting men to be part of the study. We requested that the principal investigator be allowed speak to the men and try to persuade them to participate. It was decided that one day would be set aside for anyone who desired to do so to take the survey and it would be done in the school area because that would provide access to the most men.

The men were to come to their normal classes or program activities in the education area and the principal investigator would be allowed to talk to them and try to get them to volunteer for the study.

There were approximately ten classrooms with a total number of at least three hundred men in the area. The plan was to explain the study and have the volunteers complete the survey after the presentation. A number of the men agreed to complete the survey, but the majority opted to leave once they found that not only was it optional but they could leave the area and use the time as free time. It was considered a day off from school and they decided to leave the school.

The same process was followed with the afternoon classes but by then the word had spread that they did not have to come to the area so the turn out was vastly reduced.

Furthermore, some inmates were spreading the word that the study was going to be used by the Trust in a negative manner. It was decided that the Trust men would approach other prison organizations and ask them to participate in the study. Using this technique over a thousand surveys were distributed to the population and three hundred and fifty-eight surveys were completed and returned to the Trust.

Normal sampling methods are difficult to apply in the prison situation and researchers are usually forced to rely upon volunteer participation, which has all the accompanying selection problems; however, under the circumstances this is the best that could be done. It should be noted that the racial breakdown for respondents was sixty-two percent African-American, twenty percent Latino, five percent white and six percent other. This is similar to the racial breakdown of the prison population of New York State prisons.

Measures:

Three survey instruments were utilized to gather information on the men.

1. The National Trust/Resurrection Study Group Questionnaire. The inmates in cooperation with the Trust staff developed this questionnaire. It was designed to gather data on incarcerated men and their involvement with their families. The instrument contains questions related to family background, family relations, child support/custody and personal demographics. (see appendix 2)
2. Questionnaire on Family and Parental Experience. This instrument was designed by Crystal McClendon, National Trust Research Assistant and doctoral student at University of Maryland, based on information gathered in focus groups of incarcerated men conducted by the Trust. (see appendix 3)
3. Questionnaire of Parental Attitudes. This instrument was designed by Wendy Goldberg and Ann Easterbrook and has been used to gather data on parents' attitudes towards raising their children. It should be noted that the instrument has primarily been used with women. (see appendix 4)
4. Both the instruments were divided into major categories. The categories for the Family and Parental Experience were; Fatherhood Experience, Need, Fatherhood Participation and Communication, Fatherhood Self-Identity, and Family Interaction. The Parental Attitude survey had the following categories, Warmth, Encouragement, Discipline and Aggressive Behavior.

The Trust/Resurrection survey was used to obtain background information on the men and was constructed by the inmates after numerous conversations with other men who are incarcerated. The intent was to gather the data that the men thought was most important to understanding the issue of attitudes and perceptions of incarcerated men.

It seems that attitude surveys concerning parental responsibility have focused upon women as opposed to men, especially not incarcerated men. This was viewed as an opportunity to have the subjects themselves define the issues.

III. Results:

The following hypotheses guided this study:

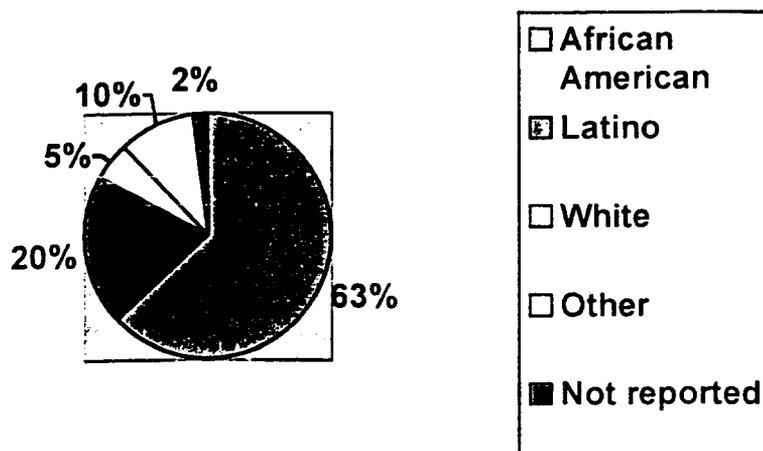
- Prison inmates are interested in their children and families.
- Prison inmates would like to assist in the parenting of their children and the maintenance of family livelihood.
- Prison inmates would participate in a program designed to address these issues, specifically with regard to parenting.

To address these hypotheses, the following analysis of the data was conducted. There were a total of 838 participants in the study. Approximately eighty two percent (82%) of the total population identified themselves in the "father" role or claimed responsibility (financial or otherwise) for at least one minor child. This section will highlight significant findings, which will address the hypotheses proposed in this study. Descriptive information, taken from the Demographic Survey will be presented first, followed by the means, ANOVAs, and Post Hoc analyses for the Questionnaire on Family and Parental Experience (QFPE) and Questionnaire on Parental Attitudes (QPA).

Demographic Survey

A total of eight hundred and thirty-eight (838) men participated in the study. All of the men are currently inmates in three correctional facilities in New York State, Green Haven, Fishkill and Mid-Orange.

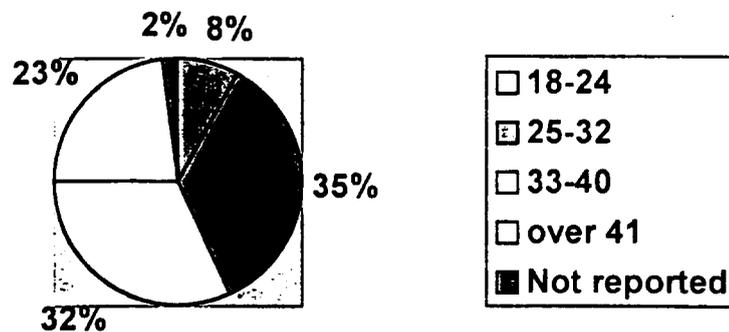
Ethnicity



Sixty-two percent (62%) of the study participants are African-American, twenty percent (20%) are Latino, five percent (5%) white and six percent (6%) other. The other category

was created by collapsing Asian American, Native-American and mixed race because the numbers were so small in each of the categories when they stand-alone. Although the participants were volunteers this is the approximate racial breakdown of the prison population in New York State; therefore, this response pattern suggests that the participants are representative of the prison population of the state. This is potentially significant when the issue of sampling is addressed, because it is very difficult to conduct a study in the prison setting in a random manner due to the nature of prisons and their policy of protecting the rights of the inmates.

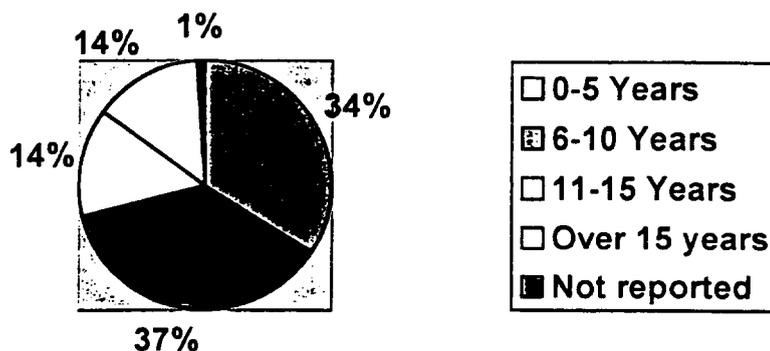
Age



Thirty-five percent (35%) of the participants were between the ages of twenty-five percent (25%) and thirty-two (32) years of age and represented the largest age group in the study.

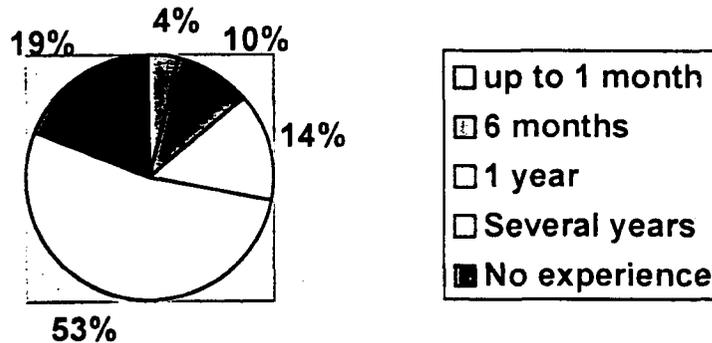
Thirty-two percent (32%) of the participants were between the ages of thirty-three (33) and forty (40) and twenty-three percent (23%) of the participants were forty-one (41) years or older.

Length of Incarceration



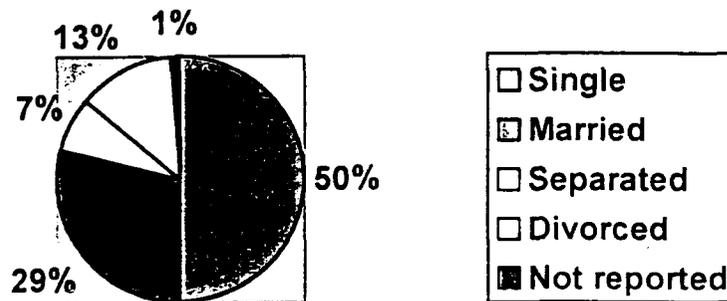
Thirty-seven percent (37%) of the respondents have been incarcerated for between six (6) and ten (10) years, while thirty-four percent (34%) having been incarcerated for five (5) years or less. Fourteen percent (14%) have been in prison for between eleven (11) and fifteen (15) years and another fourteen percent (14%) having been incarcerated for fifteen (15) years or more.

Previous Work Experience



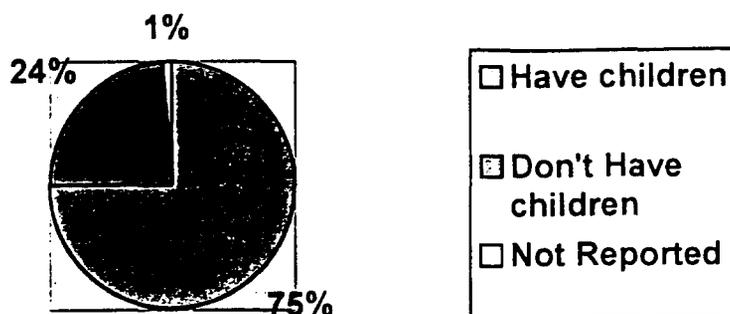
Eighty percent (80%) of the men reported that they had worked prior to their incarceration. Furthermore, sixty-six percent (67%) indicated that they had worked for at least a year or more before they came to prison.

Marital Status



Twenty-nine percent (29%) of the men are married, fifty percent (50%) are single and thirteen percent (13%) are divorced or separated.

Children



Despite the fact that only twenty-nine percent (29%) of the participants reported that they were married seventy-five percent (75%) of the men have children. Within that percentage, twenty-two percent (22%) have one child, twenty-two percent (22%) have two children and twenty-nine percent (29%) have three children or more.

Interestingly enough, despite their incarceration thirty-three percent (33%) of the men reported that they contributed financially to their children's well being.

In response to the question as to their child's knowledge of their current state of incarceration seventy-five percent (75%) of the men indicated that their children knew that they were in prison. Furthermore, in thirty-nine percent (39%) of the cases the men themselves told their children that they were in prison.

To the question how do your children feel about your incarceration fifty-six percent (56%) answered that the children felt saddened, thirteen percent (13%) responded ashamed and another thirteen percent (13%) responded abandoned.

Seventy percent (70%) of the respondents reported that they wrote to their children and of that number sixty-seven percent (67%) indicated that they did so at least once a month.

Fifty-six percent (56%) indicated that they spoke to their children at least once a month. When asked about how they could strengthen their relationship with their children forty percent (40%) said through writing and thirty-six percent (36%) said through visits.

In conjunction with these responses fifty-three percent (53%) of the men indicated that their children's mother or guardian encouraged the children to write to the fathers.

All of these responses suggest that despite the men's incarceration the families make an effort to stay together. This effort is important to note when attempting to determine how and what should be done to maintain family and community ties and support. Research has indicated that men succeed when they return home if they have a strong support system including the family, these data seem to indicate that the potential support system might be stronger than originally assumed.

As shown in Table 1, ninety-nine point six percent (99.6%) of the men responded that they wanted to improve their relationship between themselves and their children. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the men indicated that they would be interested in participating in a program designed specifically to improve the relationship between themselves and their children.



Table 1.

Participation in Program Aimed to Improve Relationships with Family

		<u>Ethnicity.</u>									
		<u>Other</u>		<u>White</u>		<u>Latino</u>		<u>African-Am</u>		<u>Total</u>	
		<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>
Want to improve	No	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(2)	0.2	(1)	0.4	(3)
Relationship	Yes	100	(77)	100	(38)	99	(150)	99.8	(490)	99.6	(755)
Would participate	No	0	(0)	9	(3)	4	(6)	3	(16)	3	(25)
in program	Yes	100	(73)	91	(30)	96	(141)	97	(472)	97	(716)
Have ever	No	80.5	(62)	95	(35)	89.5	(137)	84	(424)	85	(658)
participated	Yes	19.5	(15)	5	(2)	10.5	(16)	16	(82)	15	(115)
Before											

Table 2.

Expected Family Participation in Program Aimed to Improve Relationships

		<u>Ethnicity.</u>									
		<u>Other</u>		<u>White</u>		<u>Latino</u>		<u>African-Am</u>		<u>Total</u>	
		<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>
Would mother	IDK	51.6	(33)	33.3	(9)	50	(64)	33.3	(139)	38.5	(245)
approve child's	No	4.7	(3)	11.1	(3)	3.9	(5)	4.6	(19)	4.7	(30)
participation	Yes	43.8	(28)	55.6	(15)	46.1	(59)	62.1	(259)	56.8	(361)
Would mother	IDK	62.1	(41)	28.6	(8)	64.3	(83)	53.4	(221)	55.4	(353)
participate	No	7.6	(5)	21.4	(6)	5.4	(7)	4.8	(20)	6.0	(38)
	Yes	30.3	(20)	50.0	(14)	30.2	(39)	41.8	(173)	38.6	(246)

Eighty five percent (85%) responded that they had never participated in a program on parenting or family issues.

These last three responses seem to support the three main hypotheses of the study:

H1: Incarcerated fathers are interested in their children and families.

H2: Incarcerated fathers would like to assist in child rearing.

H3: Incarcerated fathers would participate in a program to help understand how to assist in raising their children.

However, it should be noted that when the men were asked if the mother or guardian of their children would be willing to participate in a program to improve the relationships within the family, thirty-nine percent (39%) indicated that the mother or guardian would participate, and fifty-five percent (55%) responded that they did not know. Only six percent (6%) indicated that the mother or guardian would not participate. (See table 2)

A similar response was given on the question of would the mother or guardian approve of the children participating in a program. Fifty-seven percent (57%) responded yes and thirty-nine percent (39%) said that they did not know. Again only five percent (5%) responded no to this question.

These responses again seem to indicate that there is willingness on the part of the families to maintain a relationship with the incarcerated men. It is critical that these attitudes be taken into consideration and built upon when intervention strategies are designed for addressing the absent father problem in the inner-city communities.

Questionnaire on Family and Parental Experience

The survey questions were distributed into five broad categories:

- 1. Fatherhood Experience**
- 2. Family Need**
- 3. Fatherhood Participation and Communication**
- 4. Fatherhood Self Identity**
- 5. Family Interaction Patterns.**

The following is a report on responses that the researchers thought was of particular interest.

Fatherhood Experience:

Many problems of inner city youth have been attributed to either the absence of a father or poor fathering, yet sixty-five (65%) of the men indicated that they respect their father. Forty-two (42%) responded that their father was not a bad example of what a father

should be. Clearly these men do not share the same attitude towards their fathers as society does and they do not seem to blame their situation on lack of proper fathering. Ninety percent (90%) of the respondents indicated that they love their family, eighty-eight percent (88%) said that they needed their family and seventy-six percent (76%) responded that they trusted their family.

Family Need:

Ninety-one percent (91%) of the men responded that their family wanted them back home and seventy-three percent (73%) indicated that their families forgave them for their actions in the past.

If this is true then it might be appropriate to include the family more in the plan for the men to make a successful return and adjustment to the outside community when they are released.

Family Participation and Communication:

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the men indicated that they were responsible for raising their children and sixty-eight percent (68%) responded that they were responsible for facilitating the education of their children. Because the men feel this way already, it would seem that incarcerated men could benefit from and are ready to participate in programs that would assist them in accomplishing both of these tasks.

Eighty-five percent (85%) of the men indicated that they share their feelings with their family and eighty five percent (85%) feel guilty about their separation from the family. Both of these responses seem to put into question the assumption that incarcerated men have no feelings for their families and loved ones. Furthermore, it also suggests that interventions might be developed to build from these attitudes through the family connection.

Approximately forty-four percent (44%) of the men indicated that they provide financial support to their families. This seem to reinforce the response that the men gave on the earlier survey that inquired about financial support that they provided to their home. Obviously, the men are limited in the financial support opportunities that they have at their disposal; however, they seem to be making an effort to meet their provider responsibilities. Again, these responses suggest that the men are far more responsible then previously thought.

Fatherhood Self Identity

In response to the question as to their importance to their family, seventy percent (70%) of the men indicated that they strongly agreed that they were important and sixteen percent (16%) indicated that they were somewhat important. This means that eighty-six percent (86%) of the men feel that they have a measure of importance in the family despite in spite of their current situation. The men know that their incarceration has had

an impact on the family. Eighty-two percent (82%), [sixty-two percent (62%) strongly and twenty percent (20%) somewhat], reported that they hurt their family. Furthermore, eighty-eight percent (88%), seventy-six percent (76%) strongly and twelve percent (12%) somewhat, reported that their absence has caused their families a lot of pain. They seem to have an understanding of how they have effected the family with their past actions.

Additional support for this understanding might be found in their response to the question regarding "did they worry about how their children were doing emotionally". Seventy percent (70%) stated that they were strongly concerned about the emotional state of their children and another ten percent (10%) reported that they were somewhat concerned. The combination of hurt and concern seems to indicate that there are strong fatherhood issues at work with the men.

Family Interaction Patterns:

Eighty-two percent (82%) of the men strongly agreed with the statement that their families needed them. Eighty-three percent (83%) of the men, [sixty-seven percent (67%) strongly and sixteen percent (16%) somewhat], that their families gave them support. Eighty-two percent (82%), [sixty-three percent (63%) strongly and nineteen percent (19%) somewhat], that their families trusted them. The men feel that their families need, support, and trust them while they are incarcerated.

Although not as strongly, forty-four percent (44%) strongly and thirty-two percent (32%) somewhat, agreed that their families listened to them.

In response to the question "I am angry with my family." Sixty-four percent (64%) strongly disagreed. They understand that their current situation is not the fault of the family but instead it is their fault. Much has been said about fathering and how that has caused so many young men to go to prison yet the respondents to this questionnaire did no seem to agree with this assumption.

When asked about dealing with separation from their families, eighty-three percent (83%) of the men have developed methods of dealing with their separation from their families, [fifty-eight percent (58%) strong and twenty-five percent (25%) somewhat] on this issue. In addition, sixty-two percent (62%) have good relationships with the people who care for their children, [forty-nine percent (49%) strong and thirteen percent (13%) somewhat]. These responses seem to indicate that the men are actively participating in the family structure while they are incarcerated, which again reinforces the idea that these men still function as part of the family structure.

ANOVAs

One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVAs) was conducted on each of the fifty-three item questionnaire items by the variables of race, marital status, length of incarceration and education and age. ANOVAs were also conducted on each of five scales that were created to investigate how subjects responded to specific family and parental variables. These scales are fatherhood experience (12 items), need (6 items), fatherhood participation (8 items) fatherhood and self-identity (10 items), and family interaction patterns (19 items)

Analysis of Scales:

Overall the mean scores for “fatherhood experience” is 3.98, which indicates that for the collective group response is a little under somewhat agree with these questions. For, “family need” the mean score is 4.19, which is a little above the somewhat agree for the respondents. For “family participation” the mean is 4.38, which is moving closer to the strongly agree response. For “fatherhood self-identity” the overall score is 4.11, which is slightly above the somewhat agree response. Finally the “family interaction patterns” mean score is 3.91 or just under the somewhat agree score.

The analysis of variance test was conducted to ascertain whether the confounding variables of race, marital status, education, length of incarceration or age effect the responses of the men on the five scales defined above.

Race:

In the test for differences by race for the five scale items the only significant difference was between white respondents and the category of other. The white respondents were more towards agree than the group other. Although this difference should be noted it should also be noted that these two groups made up less than eleven percent of the total population studied.

Table 3.Agreement with Family and Parental Experience by Ethnicity

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Type of Issue</u>				
	<u>Family Experience</u>	<u>Family Need</u>	<u>Family Participation</u>	<u>Fatherhood Self Identity</u>	<u>Family Interaction</u>
African-Am	4.00 (.56)	4.19 (.74)	4.37 (.67)	4.09 (.56)	3.92 (.57)
White	3.86 (.55)	4.31 (.77)	4.62 (.65)	4.33 (.58)	3.89 (.59)
Latino	4.02 (.55)	4.26 (.75)	4.38 (.69)	4.19 (.56)	3.98 (.58)
Other	3.83 (.47)	4.06 (.81)	4.43 (.71)	4.05 (.58)	3.79 (.59)
Total Mean	3.98 (.55)	4.20 (.75)	4.39 (.68)	4.12 (.56)	3.91 (.57)

Note. Standard deviations are in parenthesis. Scores represent means on a 5 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree.

Marital Status:

In the test by marital status the only difference was found between single men and divorced men where divorced men scored significantly higher on family interaction patterns. This might be expected because divorced men would be more likely to have children and maintain some contact with the family unit as opposed to single men who are less likely to have this type of a relationship.

Table 4.

Agreement with Family and Parental Experience by Marital Status

<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>Type of Issue</u>				
	<u>Family Experience</u>	<u>Family Need</u>	<u>Family Participation</u>	<u>Fatherhood Self Identity</u>	<u>Family Interaction</u>
Separated	4.06 (.64)	4.11 (.85)	4.36 (.64)	4.09 (.56)	4.01 (.64)
Divorced	3.94 (.60)	4.16 (.85)	4.30 (.68)	4.05 (.57)	3.78 (.62)
Single	3.96 (.56)	4.24 (.74)	4.44 (.72)	4.17 (.61)	3.96 (.59)
Married	4.00 (.51)	4.15 (.71)	4.35 (.65)	4.06 (.47)	3.88 (.51)
Total Mean	3.98 (.56)	4.20 (.75)	4.39 (.69)	4.12 (.56)	3.92 (.58)

Note. Standard deviations are in parenthesis. Scores represent means on a 5 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree.

Education:

The test revealed significant differences in three of the five scales for this variable. In each case there was a difference between men with an eighth grade education and others with more education.

In the area of need there was a difference between men who had an eighth grade education and those with a high school education.

For fatherhood self-identity there was a significant difference between men with an eighth grade education and all of the other groups. The test indicated a linear pattern with the mean score going down at each educational increment.

This same pattern was true with the test for family interaction and communication, with the eighth grade men scoring the highest mean and the others declining with increased education.

Table 5.

Agreement with Family and Parental Experience by Level of Education Attained

<u>Education Level</u>	<u>Type of Issue</u>				
	<u>Family Experience</u>	<u>Family Need</u>	<u>Family Participation</u>	<u>Fatherhood Self Identity</u>	<u>Family Interaction</u>
8 th grade	4.12 (.52)	4.39 (.75)	4.55 (.63)	4.35 (.53)	4.11 (.58)
12 th grade	3.97 (.51)	4.23 (.72)	4.38 (.73)	4.15 (.54)	3.95 (.55)
High School	3.98 (.64)	4.12 (.76)	4.34 (.65)	4.05 (.58)	3.89 (.62)
Associate's	3.89 (.52)	4.21 (.77)	4.38 (.76)	3.98 (.63)	3.78 (.58)
Bachelor's	3.92 (.43)	4.03 (.85)	4.41 (.65)	4.10 (.45)	3.78 (.46)
Graduate	4.11 (.46)	4.27 (.83)	4.55 (.38)	4.09 (.40)	3.94 (.49)

Total Mean	3.98	4.19	4.39	4.12	3.92
	(.55)	(.75)	(.69)	(.56)	(.58)

Note. Standard deviations are in parenthesis. Scores represent means on a 5 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree.

Length of Incarceration:

This test did not produce any significant differences between the groups.

Table 6.

Agreement with Family and Parental Experience by Length of Incarceration

Incarceration	Type of Issue				
	<u>Family Experience</u>	<u>Family Need</u>	<u>Family Participation</u>	<u>Fatherhood Self Identity</u>	<u>Family Interaction</u>
0-5 years	4.01 (.59)	4.16 (.76)	4.38 (.66)	4.13 (.60)	3.94 (.58)
5-10 years	3.96 (.56)	4.18 (.77)	4.35 (.72)	4.09 (.55)	3.87 (.60)
10-15 years	3.99 (.52)	4.23 (.70)	4.40 (.73)	4.15 (.51)	3.92 (.57)
Over 15 years	3.95 (.47)	4.28 (.72)	4.49 (.61)	4.14 (.55)	3.96 (.48)
Total Mean	3.98 (.55)	4.19 (.75)	4.39 (.69)	4.12 (.56)	3.91 (.57)

Note. Scores represent means on a 5 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. Standard deviations are in parenthesis.

Age:

The test by age indicated that there was a significant difference between the youngest age group, men eighteen to twenty-four and men thirty-three and older by fatherhood self identity. The younger men score higher on this variable than the older men and the difference was in a linear downward direction.

Table 7.

Agreement with Family and Parental Experience by Age

Age	Type of Issue				
	<u>Family Experience</u>	<u>Family Need</u>	<u>Family Participation</u>	<u>Fatherhood Self Identity</u>	<u>Family Interaction</u>
18-24	3.94 (.50)	4.28 (.70)	4.49 (.59)	4.29 (.54)	4.10 (.57)
25-32	3.95 (.52)	4.21 (.77)	4.39 (.71)	4.13 (.57)	3.94 (.60)
33- 40	4.00 (.57)	4.18 (.71)	4.40 (.62)	4.07 (.52)	3.88 (.52)
Over 40	4.00 (.61)	4.16 (.80)	4.32 (.74)	4.08 (.62)	3.89 (.61)
Total Mean	3.98 (.55)	4.20 (.75)	4.39 (.68)	4.11 (.57)	3.92 (.58)

Note. Standard deviations are in parenthesis. Scores represent means on a 5 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree.

In summary, this analysis seems to indicate that these confounding variables have little impact on the overall hypotheses of the study.

Questionnaire on Parental Attitudes

Frequency Results:

The third set of questions focused upon the "Parental Attitudes" of the men in regards to raising children. The statements used represent matters of interest and concern to parents. Obviously, not all parents feel the same about all of these statements but the responses will provide insight into incarcerated men and their attitudes.

The responses were clustered into general categories in an effort to report in a more organized method. The categories that were attitudes concerning **warmth, encouragement, strictness or discipline and aggressive behavior.**

Warmth:

Seventy-six percent (76%) of the men strongly agreed that their child should be given comfort and understanding when he/she is scared and upset.

Seventy-two percent (72%) of the men strongly agreed that they express affection by hugging, kissing and holding their child.

On the statement concerning "I am easy going and relaxed with my child", forty-nine percent (49%) indicated that they strongly agree and eighteen percent (18%) responded that they moderately agree.

Seventy percent (70%) of the men strongly agreed with the statement "I joke and play with my child".

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the men strongly agree with the statement "I find some of my greatest satisfaction in my child". An additional nine percent (9%) moderately agreed with the statement.

All of these responses seem to indicate that these men feel and are affectionate with their children which would contradict the common perception that incarcerated men are not warm and loving with their children and families.

Although the men have limited access and sometimes no access to their children forty-three percent (43%) of the men report that they strongly agree with the statement "my child and I have warm intimate times together", and sixteen percent (16%) indicated that they moderately agree with this statement.

It should be noted that the men have no control over access to their children. The access is determined by the spouse or guardian and that is often predicated upon the economic ability of the spouse or guardian to make the trip.

The participants in this study are all incarcerated in prisons that are at least a two hour drive from the New York City metropolitan area which is the home of the majority of the men in the New York State Correctional System.

There is no public transportation to any of these prisons which makes it difficult for the families to make the visits and maintain a situation whereby the men can have intimate times with their children.

In response to the statement, "I find it interesting and educational to be with my child for long periods of time", sixty-one percent (61%) strongly agreed and fifteen percent (15%) moderately agreed.

Again their ability to participate in interactions of this nature is not under their control; furthermore, a visit to the prison is limited to several hours and it is conducted in a large visiting area with many other inmates and their families and under the eyes of the security. Intimacy in the prison setting arouses a number of security concerns, real or imagined, for the security personnel of the prison.

Fifty-five percent (55%) of the men responded that they strongly agree with the statement "I worry about the bad and sad things that can happen to my child as he/she grows up". Fifteen percent (15%) moderately agree with the statement.

Although the statement did not identify specific bad things, one of the issues for incarcerated men is the problem of their children following them to prison. Children of incarcerated men are considered "high risk" of becoming incarcerated and the men talk of this matter in various discussion groups. In fact, in a recent situation, the men were asked to build maximum-security cells for a prison expansion program and many declined because "they were not going to build cells for their children".

Seventy-one percent (71%) of the men strongly agree with the statement "I worry about the health of my child. It seems that the men have indicated that they worry about the health and welfare of their children while they are incarcerated.

Encouragement:

In response to the statement "I encourage my child always to do his/her best", eighty-one percent (81%) of the men strongly agreed.

Fifty-six percent (56%) of the men responded that they strongly agree with the statement "I encourage my child to be curious, to explore and question things".

Another seventeen percent (17%) moderately agreed with the statement.

Seventy-four percent (74%) strongly agreed with the statement "I make sure my child knows that I appreciate what he/she tries to accomplish".

Strictness and Discipline:

These statements seem to indicate that the men encourage and support their children as they attempt to grow and develop into adults. The issue of spanking and other methods of physical punishment is an ongoing discussion in this society. For the most part the discussion tends to portray poor people in favor of physical punishment and middle income people opposed to this method of discipline. The responses of the men are interesting and seem to challenge the notion of how poor people feel about physical punishment.

In response to the statement "I believe physical punishment to be the best way of disciplining my child", sixty-five percent (65%) of the men strongly disagreed and only three percent (3%) of the men strongly agreed.

Forty-nine percent (49%) of the men strongly agreed with the statement "I believe in praising my child when he/she is good and think it gets better results than punishing when he/she is bad". Another sixteen percent (16%) moderately agree and only three percent (3%) strongly disagree.

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the men strongly agreed with the statement "I give my child extra privileges when he/she behaves well". Another twenty-one percent (21%) indicated that they moderately agreed with the statement. Only four percent (4%) strongly disagreed with the statement.

Fifty-eight percent of the men strongly agree with the statement "I trust my child to behave as he/she should even when I am not with him/her".

Fifty-three percent (53%) percent of the men strongly agree and seventeen percent (17%) moderately agree with the statement "I make sure I know where my child is and what he/she is doing".

Aggressive Behavior:

The prison community can often be one where problems are resolved through the use of violence and many of the men come from communities that are often highly violent; therefore, the responses to the following questions are interesting and unexpected.

Seventy-two percent (72%) of the men strongly agree with the statement "I encourage my child to talk about his/her troubles.

Fifty-nine percent (59%) strongly agreed and another sixteen percent (16%) moderately agreed with the statement "I talk it over with my child when he/she misbehaves.

Forty-two percent (42%) strongly agreed and seventeen percent (17%) moderately agreed with the statement "I try to keep my child from fighting". Only four percent (4%) strongly disagreed with the statement.

Parental Attitudes Analysis of Variance

The next step in the analysis was an attempt to ascertain whether the confounding variables in any way affected the findings in the four categories.

Warmth:

There was a significant difference ($p= .001$) between men who had been incarcerated for zero to five years ($N= 245$) as opposed to men who were incarcerated for fifteen years or more ($N= 102$) in their response to the statement, "I feel my child should be given comfort and understanding when he/she is scared or upset." The men who were incarcerated for the shorter period agreed more strongly with the statement

This may be accounted for by the fact that the children of the older men are more likely to be grown and have moved on and the fathers have less of a tie to them.

There was a significant difference ($p=.008$) between African-Americans ($N=455$) and men who identified themselves as other ($N=47$) to the statement, "I express affection by hugging, kissing and holding my child". African-American men respond that they more strongly agree with this than the other group.

In response to the statement "I joke and play with my child". There was a significant difference ($p= .032$) between men thirty-three to forty ($N=238$) and men over forty-one ($N=162$).

In response to the statement, "My child and I have warm intimate times together," there was a significant difference ($p = .024$) between men who have achieved an Associates degree ($N=71$) and men who had completed a graduate degree ($N=14$). The same was true of men who had completed a bachelor's degree ($.034$), ($N=42$) and men who had completed a graduate degree.

Although this appears to mean that intimate times with the children is reduced as the inmates become educated it is more likely that men with advanced degrees in prison have spent longer periods of time in prison. If this is the case they are removed from their children and also their children may have grown into adult, hence less time together.

A significant difference ($p=.015$) between Latino men ($N=136$) and white men ($N=35$) in their response to the statement, "I worry about the bad and sad things that can happen to my child as he/she grows up". The Latino respondents are more worried about this issue than the white respondents. This might be explained by the fact that the risk factor for becoming incarcerated is higher for Latino youth than for white youth.

There was also a significant difference ($p=.018$) between men ages 25-32 ($N=244$) and men forty-one and over ($N=162$) on the same statement.

Again this might be a function of the children of the older men are adults and the direction that they will follow has been determined and they are less of a responsibility of their fathers.

Encouragement:

There were no significant differences between the groups in this category.

Strictness and Discipline:

To the statement, "I believe that my child should be seen and not heard", there was a significant difference ($p=.024$) between men who have been incarcerated for five year or less ($N=61$) and men who had been incarcerated for six to ten years ($N=235$). The men in the later group disagreed with this statement more strongly than the former group. Neither group agreed with the statement.

Two other responses were also different based upon length of incarceration. In response to the statement, "I punish my child by taking away a privilege he/she otherwise would have had". There was a significant difference ($p=.005$) between men who had been incarcerated for five years or less ($N=237$) and men who were incarcerated for eleven to fifteen years ($N=96$); also between the shortest time of incarceration and men incarcerated for fifteen years or more ($N=97$) ($p=.000$).

The men with the shortest time of incarceration more strongly agreed with the statement. This test also revealed a significant difference (.012) between men who had been incarcerated for fifteen years or more (N=97) and men who had been incarcerated for six to ten years (N=256). The men with the shorter length of incarceration agreed more with the statement than the men who were incarcerated for the longer period.

Similar results appears with the statement "I give my child extra privileges when he/she behaves well." The men who have been incarcerated for less than five years (N= 239) respond significantly different (p=.025) than men who have been incarcerated for six to ten years (N=256). They also respond significantly different (.051) than men who have been incarcerated for fifteen years or more (N=96). In both cases the men who have been incarcerated for the shorter period agree more strongly with the statement than the longer-term men.

Age also revealed a significant difference between the groups on the same two statements above. The men who were between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-two (N=238) and men who were forty-one or older (N=159). The younger group agreed more with the statement, "I punish my child by taking away a privilege he/she otherwise would have had".(p=.007)

All three groups differed significantly with men who were forty-one and older on the statement, "I give my child extra privileges when he/she behaves well (p=.029, p=.007, p=.051).

These differences may be explained by the fact that the older men have been incarcerated for so long that they are removed from the younger child relationship, which is associated with these statements. If they have maintained their relationship with their children it is likely to be as an adult to an adult, which obviously alters the interaction.

Aggressive Behavior:

There was a significant difference (p=.002) between Latino respondents (N=136) and African-Americans (N=446) to the statement, "I try to keep my child from fighting." The Latino men more strongly agreed with this statement than the African-American men.

The test also revealed a significant difference (p=.050) between men who had completed an Associate degree (N=74) and men who had some high school education (N=274). The men who had completed some high school agreed more strongly with the statement than the men who had achieved an Associate degree.

SUMMARY:

The analysis revealed that in examining the attitudes of incarcerated men towards their children and families their responses seem to support the three main hypotheses of the study. One, incarcerated fathers are interested in their children and families; two, incarcerated fathers would assist in child rearing and three, incarcerated fathers would participate in a program to help understand how to assist in raising children. Furthermore, their responses seem to be fair consistent with the confounding variables of race, marital status, education, length of incarceration and age having little if any effect on the responses.

Summary of Major Findings:

This study was conducted at three correctional facilities in New York State, Green Haven (maximum security), Fishkill (medium security) and Mid-Orange (medium security). The purpose of the study was to determine the attitudes of incarcerated men towards their families and children. Special concern was directed at whether or not they would be interested in and participate in programs in the prison that would assist them in improving their relationship with their families

In addition to this main question, tests were conducted that sought to determine what effect if any the variables, race, marital status, education, length of incarceration and age might have upon the attitudes of the men.

Hypothesis I:

Incarcerated fathers *are* interested in their children and families.

The common thought on this is that incarcerated men do not care about their children and families. The children of incarcerated parents have been viewed as a problem for the mother with little attention given to the father. This carries over into the prison community where parenting has again focused upon the responsibility of the mother despite her situation. The children are the women's responsibility regardless of the circumstances.

Despite the concern about the absence of fathers in urban communities few if any programs are directed at absent fathers who are incarcerated; yet ninety-two percent (92%) of the men in this study indicated that they wanted to improve the relationship between themselves and their children.

In our enlightened society children of incarcerated parents are still considered the responsibility of the mother regardless of which parent is incarcerated. It should be noted that although only twenty-nine percent (29%) of the men indicated that they were married seventy-five percent (75%) indicated that they had children. Furthermore, fifty-one percent (51%) indicated that they had three or more children. This raises the question of how many children are we talking about when we raise the problem of children of incarcerated men. This also raises the issue of how many spouses and families are we talking about.

The men indicated that they were still an important part of the family despite their incarceration. Furthermore, they also indicated that they felt guilty about their separation from the family. Although the men feel guilty it is unknown at this point how much of a positive contribution they were making to the family before they were incarcerated. However, both of these responses would seem to indicate that intervention programs could be built that utilize the feeling of guilt and perceived family importance to motivate the men.

It should be noted; however, that the families might not see the men as important to the family as the men see themselves. Or stated another way their perceived importance to the family may be driven by the families attempt to assist them when they are incarcerated as opposed to one of need on the part of the family. There may be willingness on the part of the men to play a greater role in the family but there are usually issues within the family that the men have to address to "normalize" the relationship.

Men who have been in prison for long periods of time such as the men in this study often develop a memory that tends to exclude many of the problems that they have brought to their family. Family members, especially mothers, continue to support them while they are incarcerated but this does not mean that prior to incarceration they were positive contributors to the family. In fact either directly or indirectly they have victimized their families as they have victimized their communities.

Further indication as to the interest of the men in their children is reflected in the finding that sixty-nine percent (69%) of the men write to their children at least once a month. In addition fifty-six percent (56%) of the men speak to their children at least once a month on the telephone.

It could be argued that the men have time to write; therefore, they write to their children. The fact still remains that they are trying to maintain contact with their children.

Although the data is not available as to whether the children respond, it seems that the men would discontinue writing if their children did not respond. In either event the men make the effort on their own.

With the telephone calls the situation changes. All calls from prison are collect. The men have a limited number of people that they are allowed to call and they are allowed a specific number of calls per month. It is totally up to the person receiving the call as to whether the inmate can make the contact. In other words the access is controlled by the family not the inmate, yet over half of the men speak to their children at least once a month. The spouses or guardians control the contact; however, it is clear that they agree to have the men interact with their children.

There are other factors that should be considered in the telephone access issue. The first is the cost of collect calls from prisons in New York State. The charge is three dollars and thirty-three cents for the first minute and thirty-three cents for each additional minute. These charges are not the same as those charged to citizens who are not involved with incarceration and they are charged to a segment of the population that can least afford the cost. This means that families have to make financial sacrifices to maintain telephone contact between the children and the fathers.

The other factor that may also mask the true number of telephone contacts that are made is the absence of telephones in many inner-city poor family homes. According to the U. S. Department of Commerce, telephone penetration in the United States is ninety-eight percent (98%) It is not known whether this penetration holds true in inner cities or rural communities

Although the phone contact is fairly high these two factors might have some effect on what the contact might be if the situation were more normal. The combination of the men writing and the families accepting collect calls at the current rate suggests that the families are attempting to maintain a relationship between the men and their children.

There is a third method by which the men can maintain contact with their children and that is through visits; however, a question about visits was not included in the study because visits are completely controlled by the family and are a real financial hardship on them. The three prisons in this study are fairly close to the New York metropolitan area where most of the men lived before their incarceration. Yet a trip to any of the prisons is at least two hours each way and there is no public transportation to any of the three.

There are several private businesses that have emerged that charge people to transport them to the prisons in the state and in some situations it requires that families travel from the early hours of the morning to the late hours of the night. Some prisons are as far away as eight hours from the New York metropolitan area.

Because of this situation visits to the prison become extremely expensive and time consuming; therefore, this method of contact has far greater limitations than writing and telephone contact.

In spite of these access issues the men reported that they still maintain warm and intimate relations with their children and they had affectionate feelings toward their children. This seems to contradict the perception that because the men are incarcerated they are uncaring and lack fatherly feelings.

In addition, seventy percent (70%) of the men indicated that they were strongly concerned about how their children are doing emotionally. This seems like another indicator that the men may be ready for an intervention that helps them address the emotional condition of their children.

Hypothesis II

Incarcerated fathers would *like to* assist in child rearing.

As reported in the previous hypothesis the men indicated that they wanted to improve their relationship with their families but they also indicated that they would like to assist in the parenting of their children.

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the men indicated that they were responsible for the raising of their children in spite of their incarceration and that same percent indicated that they were responsible for the education of their children.

Both of these responses are of special interest because so much has been said about inner-city men not taking responsibility for their children. In this case we have incarcerated men indicating that they are not only responsible for the children in general but specifically for their education. For many years education has been considered the method by which poor people can elevate themselves out of poverty and these men feel that they have the responsibility for assuring that this happens.

Given their circumstances it would be easy for the men to take the position that they can neither be responsible for the raising nor the education of their children; however, they have said just the opposite. This would seem to indicate that incarcerated men have a different attitude than might be expected towards their children and their responsibility.

Furthermore, over eighty percent (80%) of the men encourage their children to do their best. Again this seems to reflect an older school of thought in the African-American community that argued that you have to do your best regardless of racism or other outside forces. In actuality they advocated for doing better than others because of the race issue.

Child raising in the society has begun to be viewed as the responsibility of both the mother and the father with the more progressive minds discussing the roles and circumstances that guide who is responsible for what within the family. A noted exception to this thinking is with incarcerated people.

It has been said that the men were not responsible before they were incarcerated; therefore, they would not assume any responsibility while they are locked up. There are two ways that this might be viewed, one it can be accepted that the men were not good fathers and the other is that they may not have been good but since they are now incarcerated we should make them better fathers.

The assumption that they were not good fathers is made simply because they are in prison, yet we really know very little about these men and their fathering role. The circumstances surrounding their fathering roles is unknown and presumed.

On the other hand if they were not good fathers their current situation gives the society the ability to create good fathers in the prison setting. They are under the control of the state and they also have the time to reflect upon themselves and their role in the family. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the men indicated that they respected their father and another forty-two percent (42%) strongly disagreed with the statement that their fathers were bad examples. This seems to indicate that although society and perhaps even their spouses' thought of the men as bad and contributing to the anti-social behavior of their children, the majority of the men in this study disagree.

In the group sessions that the National Trust conducts in the prison, it has been noted that the men often report that their incarceration has nothing to do with their parents or family but instead reflects choices that they have made on their own. Their parents taught them right from wrong but they also never knew what they were doing because they hid the behavior from their parents.

Further support for this is reflected in the number of times after a young man is killed in the community the mothers come forth and claim that their sons never did anything wrong. Yet, the entire neighborhood would have been aware of the criminal behavior of the young man in question. Parents come to the prison and question their sons about how can they be involved with the criminals who are in the prison. They see their sons as different than the other men in the prison.

This suggests that the heavy focus on painting the males as negative fathers may be open to question and at least is not perceived as such by the incarcerated men in this study. The study also revealed that thirty-three percent (33%) of the men contributed money to the family. Obviously, this cannot amount to what they would be expected to contribute if they were in the outside community because they are limited in how much they are able to earn while they are incarcerated. The normal inmate earns about five dollars a week. Some men are employed in prison industry, which allows them to earn as much as two thousand dollars in a year, however these jobs are limited. The point to emphasize is that the men are willing to send some of their limited income to their family.

Because of the limitations these contributions might be considered symbolic but the men seem to be making a statement. They are willing to assist in the raising of their children to the point of sacrificing their limited income that they must use to purchase personal items from the commissary. It should be noted that their ability to purchase items from the commissary is critical for men who are incarcerated. It is a means for them to get items that are above the normal prison fare although they may not be highly sought outside of the prison setting. Again this seems to dispel the notion that these men would not like to assist in the raising of their children.

Ninety-one percent (91%) of the men reported that their families want them to come back home and seventy-three percent (73%) indicated that their family forgave them for their passed behavior. These responses seem to indicate that the men would be able to play a role in the raising of their children despite their having been incarcerated. It would also suggest that it is important to get the family involved in the plans that the state makes for working with the men while they are incarcerated and when they return to the community.

In addition, the men also report that their families trust them and listen to them to some degree. If this is in fact true, then working with the men and their fathering role could potentially have an impact upon the family and community. Skills and attitudes developed in a program within the prison would easily be transferred to the family, thus creating a situation where the children have the advantage of a father with skills.

With over fifty percent (50%) of the children's mothers and guardians encouraging them to write to their fathers it would seem that the communication structure is in play for the fathers to assume their role.

Hypothesis III

Incarcerated fathers *would* participate in a program to help understand how to assist in raising children.

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the men indicated that they would like to participate in a program that would assist them in improving the relationship between their children and themselves.

The society has identified the absence of fathers in the family as the primary reason for the breakdown of the African-American family, yet as mentioned above, they have virtually ignored the 1.8 million men who are incarcerated when they think of saving the family.

In spite of this attitude the large majority want to be involved with the children and will participate in a program. Furthermore, as also mentioned they have demonstrated that they are attempting to assume the role of the father with limited to no existing formal support.

Eighty-three percent (83%) reported that their families support them and continue to maintain contact and support. Although society may have written these men off this is not the case with the families or the children. It seems that we have the men and their often-impoverished families trying to maintain the family structure with all the constraints of an incarcerated father who is at least two hours away by car.

As reported sixty-two percent (62%) of the men have a good relationship with the people who are raising their children including the mother of the children. As also mentioned earlier, the custodial party also has encouraged the children to write to their fathers.

Although the men are willing to participate in a program, when asked about the family participating forty-three percent (43%) indicated that their spouses or guardians would not and the same forty-three percent (43%) indicated that the spouses or guardians would not allow the children to participate. Only five percent (5%) indicate that the spouses and children would definitely participate.

Neither of these responses is unexpected and it might be attributed to the fact that the men realize that the program would primarily be conducted in the prison and as mentioned travel to the prison is an additional hardship on the family. Another explanation might be that although the families support the men there are still some issues that need to be addressed by the men with their spouses before they can participate. It must be understood that in many cases the men have brought a great deal of hardship and stress on the families and those issues are not resolved.

From the inmate's perspective he might be ready to move into the father role but the family still have a memory of his behavior before he was incarcerated. Any program designed to develop these fathers would have to take that into consideration as it is refined. When men go to prison they often make claims about how they have changed and when they return to the community they return to old habits. There may be any number of reasons for this return to former behavior; however, regardless of the reason it comes back to haunt the family.

With the ever-growing concern about violence in the community special note should be paid to the attitude of the men towards violence and their children. When asked about disciplining their children sixty-five percent (65%) strongly opposed the use of physical punishment. Over half of the men indicated that rewards and praise are better than punishment if you want to get children to behave.

They also reported that they expect their children to behave when they are away from their parents. These attitudes are of particular interest because of the popular misconception that poor people especially poor African-American and Latino parents are physically abusive of their children. The thinking is that these groups rely upon spankings as the primary method of controlling children for improper behavior.

However, in this study we have a collection of men who have been incarcerated for many kinds of crimes including many for murder, yet they believe that physical punishment is inappropriate for disciplining their children.

Continuing along this line seventy-two percent (72%) of the men reported that they encouraged their children to resolve problems by talking rather than resorting to violence. The men also modeled this behavior in that they reported that they talk things over with their children when they misbehave. Obviously, they are unable to conduct physical punishment in their current situation but we have no reason to question if they handled the situation in this manner when they were in the community.

These attitudes would seem to be building blocks for a program that helps the men understand how to improve the relationship between them, their families, and community. These findings seem to indicate incarcerated men are concerned about their children and families and would participate in a program that would help them in improving their relationships with them.

The findings also seem to indicate the attitudes of the men concerning warmth; discipline, encouragement and aggressive behavior are similar to those that would be expected of individuals in the general society.

IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Incarcerated men have been basically overlooked as being able to assume a major role in the raising of their children; however the findings from this study suggest that the following recommendations should be considered by the major stakeholders involved in the future of incarcerated men and their families:

1. Programs that teach incarcerated men how to participate in the raising of their children should be required of all of the men. Just as school is mandatory, human development classes that include fatherhood, parenting and social development should also be mandatory.

Training should be mandatory because as was found in this study seventy-five percent (75%) of the men had children and all of them have the potential to do so regardless of whether they are married or not. Society cannot afford to allow these men return to the community without educating them about their responsibilities to their children and their families.

2. The families of the men continue to maintain contact with them over the years; therefore, programs that are designed should attempt to include the mother of the children and the children involved in the training that the men receive. The focus should be on family counseling as opposed to marriage counseling because the focus of the work should primarily be directed towards developing the children and when appropriate the saving of a husband/wife relationship between the parents.
3. Incarceration rates are so high in African-American communities that there is a danger that incarceration will become a part of the culture. Because this is the case it is recommended that partnerships be developed between correctional facilities and the African-American community. These partnerships would be designed to create a cooperative working relationship between corrections and community. The community has a vested interest in having the men return to the community as productive citizens and the prison could use the influence of the community to assist in minimizing conflict between the inmate population and the staff. In other words the family and community would function as a stabilizing force in the prison setting.
4. Connecting the men to their children or to children in their communities has the potential for reaching "at risk" children. It has been stated that the children of incarcerated men are the most "at risk" youth for getting involved in crime. By bringing the families together to work on issues the men will be able to begin working with their children and hopefully reduce their risk of incarceration. In other words there would be an expectation that the men participate in the breaking of the cycle of young people getting involved with the criminal justice system.

5. The measure for appropriate or acceptable fatherhood has centered upon the issue of child support. Although financial support is important, it is clear that incarcerated men are quite limited in their ability to provide much in this area. The issue of fatherhood is becoming clarified in the society. It is becoming clear that nurturing and emotional support of the children is just as critical. Incarcerated men can be taught to provide this nurturing and emotional support through telephone communication, written communication and with regular family visits.

6. Building upon the interest of the men to father their children it is recommended that they formally establish paternity for all of their children. In doing so they will assure their children of any benefits that have accrued or will accrue in life. Furthermore, the children will have access to the father's side of the family that is critical for such items as health records. The historical health records of the family are important for the maintenance of a health program for the children.

APPENDIX 1

Table 8

Agreement with Parental Attitudes by Ethnicity

<u>Ethnicity</u>	<u>Attitude Toward Children</u>			
	<u>Warmth</u>	<u>Encourage</u>	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Aggressive</u>
African-Am	4.88 (.62)	4.46 (.58)	3.65 (.63)	3.61 (.66)
White	4.71 (1.10)	4.47 (.93)	3.54 (.93)	3.58 (.84)
Latino	4.90 (.68)	4.60 (.79)	3.81 (.74)	3.84 (.70)
Other	4.87 (.73)	4.40 (.63)	3.70 (.65)	3.50 (.60)
Total	4.87 (.68)	4.48 (.66)	3.68 (.68)	3.64 (.68)

Note. Standard deviations are in parenthesis. Scores represent means on a 6 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 6 = strongly agree.

Table 9.

Agreement with Parental Attitudes by Marital Status

<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>Attitude Toward Children</u>			
	<u>Warmth</u>	<u>Encourage</u>	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Aggressive</u>
Separated	4.89 (.69)	4.56 (.72)	3.63 (.75)	3.82 (.77)
Divorced	4.91 (.50)	4.64 (.56)	3.66 (.74)	3.69 (.76)
Single	4.82 (.76)	4.44 (.68)	3.67 (.67)	3.64 (.65)
Married	4.90 (.64)	4.45 (.67)	3.70 (.66)	3.57 (.67)
Total Mean	4.86 (.69)	4.48 (.67)	3.68 (.68)	3.64 (.68)

Note. Standard deviations are in parenthesis. Scores represent means on a 6 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 6 = strongly agree.

Table 10

Agreement with Parental Attitudes by Level of Education

<u>Educational Level</u>	<u>Attitude Toward Children</u>			
	<u>Warmth</u>	<u>Encourage</u>	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Aggressive</u>
8 th Grade	4.87 (.88)	4.54 (.88)	3.82 (.74)	3.83 (.79)
12 th Grade	4.89 (.72)	4.47 (.72)	3.75 (.71)	3.71 (.70)
High School	4.91 (.52)	4.43 (.56)	3.65 (.60)	3.58 (.61)
Associate's	4.75 (.71)	4.48 (.55)	3.51 (.66)	3.48 (.58)
Bachelor's	4.76 (.81)	4.54 (.80)	3.54 (.64)	3.45 (.75)
Graduate	4.80 (.55)	4.67 (.34)	3.49 (.82)	3.87 (.64)
Total Mean	4.87 (.68)	4.47 (.67)	3.68 (.67)	3.64 (.67)

Note. Standard deviations are in parenthesis. Scores represent means on a 6 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 6 = strongly agree.

Table 11

Agreement with Parental Attitudes by Length of Incarceration

<u>Incarceration</u>	<u>Attitude Toward Children</u>			
	Warmth	Encourage	Discipline	Aggressive
0-5 years	4.97 (.66)	4.48 (.65)	3.83 (.65)	3.73 (.65)
6-10 years	4.86 (.61)	4.46 (.59)	3.66 (.61)	3.61 (.66)
11-15 years	4.75 (.69)	4.49 (.77)	3.50 (.75)	3.57 (.68)
Over 15 years	4.76 (.80)	4.53 (.71)	3.53 (.73)	3.61 (.74)
Total Mean	4.87 (.68)	4.48 (.65)	3.68 (.67)	3.64 (.67)

Note. Standard deviations are in parenthesis. Scores represent means on a 6 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 6 = strongly agree.

Table 12

Agreement with Parental Attitudes by Age

<u>Age</u>	<u>Attitude Toward Children</u>			
	<u>Warmth</u>	<u>Encourage</u>	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Aggressive</u>
18-24	5.00	4.40	3.73	3.50
	(.65)	(.63)	(.61)	(.56)
25-32	4.90	4.42	3.72	3.68
	(.68)	(.63)	(.62)	(.61)
33-40	4.90	4.52	3.72	3.68
	(.53)	(.59)	(.59)	(.60)
Over 40	4.73	4.50	3.53	3.56
	(.90)	(.80)	(.84)	(.87)
Total	4.86	4.50	3.70	3.64
	(.69)	(.66)	(.67)	(.68)

Note. Standard deviations are in parenthesis. Scores represent means on a 6 point scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 6 = strongly agree.

APPENDIX 2

NATIONAL TRUST/RESURRECTION STUDY GROUP

QUESTIONNAIRE: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This questionnaire is being given by The National Trust for the Development of African-American Men.

The purpose of the questionnaire is to ascertain the need for a prison program that addresses the strains of which incarceration places on the family structure and stability.

NOTE: You DO NOT have to write your name on this questionnaire

ALL INFORMATION HEREIN IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Personal Data

1. What age group are you in? 18-24___ 25-32___ 33-40___ 41+___
2. What is your ethnic status? (check one)
 African/African-American___
 Latino___
 White___
 Asian___
 American Indian___
 Multi-Racial/Ethnic: Explain: _____
 Other___ Explain: _____
3. What is your marital status:
 Married___ Single___ Divorce___ Separated___
4. How many years of schooling have you completed prior to your incarceration? 8th grade___ 9th-12th___ H.S./GED___
 College: Associate's___ Bachelor's___ Master's___ PhD._____
5. How long have you been incarcerated?
 0-5 yrs. ___ 6-10 yrs. ___ 11-15 yrs. ___ 15+ yrs. ___
6. Did you work prior to your incarceration? Yes___ No___
 If so, how long?
 week___ month___ 6 months___ year___ several years___

Family Data

7. Do you have any children? Yes___ No___
If "Yes," how many? 1___ 2___ 3___ 4___ 5+___
8. If "Yes," what gender(s) and how many? Male___ Female___
9. What are their age groups? 0-5___ 6-10___ 11-16___ 17+___
10. If you answered "No" to question #7, Do you have nieces, nephews, etc. that respond to you as if you were their father?
Yes___ No___
11. How much time did you spend daily with your child(ren) while on the outside?
0-1 hour ___ 2-4 hrs. ___ 6-9 hrs. ___ 10 hrs. or more ___

Family Relations

12. How often do you get to speak to your child(ren)?
Daily___ Weekly___ Monthly___ Other_____
13. Do you write your child(ren)? Yes___ No___
If "Yes," how often?
Daily___ Weekly___ Monthly___ Other_____
14. Do your child(ren) know where you are? Yes___ No___
If so, who informed them?
You___ Mother___ Guardian___ Other_____
15. To your knowledge, how does your child(ren) or nieces/nephews feel about your incarceration?
Ashamed___ Saddened___ Abandoned___ Other___ If other,
please explain: _____

16. How has your incarceration affected your relationship with your child(ren) or, in the case of a niece/nephew, your relationship with them?
Positively___ Negatively___ Please explain: _____

17. What do you feel can most likely strengthen the relationship between you and your child(ren) while incarcerated?

Correspondence___ Visits___ Phone___ Other_____

18. Would you like to improve the relationship between you and your child(ren)/nieces/nephews? Yes___ No___

19. If there existed a prison program designed specifically to improve the relationship between you and your child(ren) would you be interested in participating?
Yes___ No___

20. Have you ever been involved in such a program?
Yes___ No___

21. If the National Trust developed a program to improve the relationship between a you and your child(ren), would your child(ren) be willing to participate in it?
Yes___ No___ Don't Know___

Child Support/Custody

22. Do you contribute to the financial well-being of your children? Yes___ No___

If so, in what way? _____

23. Are you still with the mother of your child(ren)?
Yes___ No___

24. If you are still with the mother of your child(ren), does she visit you? Yes___ No___

25. Who currently has custody of your child(ren)?
Mother___ Guardian___ State/City Agency___

26. If a guardian has custody of your child(ren), what is the guardian's relationship to the child(ren)?

Maternal grandmother___ Paternal grandmother___ Other___

27. If other, who: _____

If a state/city agency has custody of your child(ren), do you get to see them? Yes___ No___ If "Yes," how often?

Daily___ Weekly___ Monthly___ Other_____

28. If you are not with the mother of your child(ren), what kind of relationship do you have with the guardian, if any?
Favorable___ Unfavorable___ None___
29. Does the mother or guardian of your child(ren) encourage them to communicate with you? Yes___ No___
If yes, how often? Daily___ Weekly___ Monthly___ Annually___
30. Would the mother/guardian of your child(ren) approve of them participating in a program to improve their relationship relationship you? Yes___ No___ Don't Know___
31. Would the mother/guardian of your child be willing to participate in such a program? Yes___ No___ Don't Know___

Thank you for your participation. The National Trust.

APPENDIX 3

Subject # _____

Date _____

Questionnaire on Family & Parental Experience

The following statements represent matters of interest and concern to men who are separated from their families. Not all men share the same experiences. Read each statement carefully and circle the number at the left which most closely reflects YOUR degree of agreement or disagreement. *Child/children refers to any young person in your family who may or may not be biologically related to you, i.e. nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, stepchildren, etc.

Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Does not Apply
1	2	3	4	5	N/A

CIRCLE ONE

- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 1. I am responsible for facilitating the raising of my child(ren).
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 2. I am responsible for facilitating the education of my child(ren).
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 3. My mother and father shared equally in raising me.
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 4. I provide financially for my family.
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 5. My family gives me support.
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 6. I was protected and loved by my father when I was little.
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 7. My father is a significant part of my life.
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 8. My family is involved in the life of my child(ren).
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 9. I worry that my child(ren) will go to prison.
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 10. I worry that someone in my family will go to prison.
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 11. I worry about how my children are doing emotionally.
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 12. I feel good about myself as a father.
- 1 2 3 4 5 N/A 13. I am satisfied with the way my child(ren) is (are) being raised.

Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Does not Apply
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1	2	3	4	5	N/A
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1 2 3 4 5 N/A 14. I respect my father.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 15. I love my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 16. I have a good relationship with those who are caring for my child.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 17. I have ways of dealing with my feelings about being separated from my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 18. I talk to or visit with my family and children at least once a month.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 19. I am doing the best I can in raising my child.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 20. My family listens to me.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 21. My child(ren) listen to me.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 22. I blame my father for alot of bad things that have happened in my life.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 23. I am angry with my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 24. My family thinks that I am a good person.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 25. My children will not talk to me.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 26. My absence causes my family alot of pain.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 27. My family expects too much from me.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 28. I need forgiveness from my family.

Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Does not Apply
1	2	3	4	5	N/A

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 29. I have hurt my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 30. My family has forgiven me for the bad things that I have done.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 31. I trust my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 32. My family trusts me.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 33. My family blames me for the problems they have at home.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 34. My family needs me.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 35. I need my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 36. My children have a "father figure" in their life who spends time with them on a regular basis.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 37. My family wants me to come home.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 38. I share my feelings with my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 39. I am a friend to my children.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 40. My family understands that I have changed.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 41. My father is a bad example of what a father should be.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 42. I am not as close to my child(ren) as I used to be.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 43. I am an important member of my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 44. I feel guilty that I am separated from my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 45. My family knows that I care about them.

Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Does not Apply
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1	2	3	4	5	N/A
---	---	---	---	---	-----

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 46. I am closer to my children and family now than I was before.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 47. There is a great deal of conflict between my family and me.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 48. I talk with my children about their school and school-related matters.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 49. I am ready to return to my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 50. My childhood was a happy one.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 51. My father was a good role model.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 52. I am close to the women in my family.

1 2 3 4 5 N/A 53. I am close to the men in my family.

APPENDIX 4

QUESTIONNAIRE OF PARENTAL ATTITUDES

The following statements represent matters of interest and concern to parents. Not all parents feel the same way about them. Read each statement carefully and circle the number at the left which most closely reflects YOUR degree of agreement or disagreement. If you have more than one child answer according to the child of kindergarten age.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Moderately Agree	Strongly Agree

(Circle One)

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (1) I respect my child's opinions and encourage him/her to express them. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (2) I encourage my child always to do his/her best. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (3) I put the wishes of my mate before the wishes of my child. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (4) I help my child when he/she is being teased by his/her friends. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (5) I often feel angry with my child. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (6) I punish my child by putting him/her off somewhere by him/herself for a while. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (7) I watch closely what my child eats and when he/she eats. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (8) I wish my spouse was more interested in our children. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (9) I feel my child should be given comfort and understanding when he/she is scared or upset. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (10) I try to keep my child away from children or families who have different ideas or values from our own. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (11) I try to stop my child from playing rough games or doing things where he/she might get hurt. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (12) I believe physical punishment to be the best way of disciplining my child. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (13) I believe that my child should be seen and not heard. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (14) I sometimes forget the promises I have made to my child. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (15) I express affection by hugging, kissing and holding my child. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (16) I find some of my greatest satisfaction in my child. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (17) I prefer that my child not try things if there is a chance he/she will fail. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | (18) I wish my child did not have to grow up so fast. |

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Moderately Agree	Strongly Agree

(Circle One)

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (19) I feel my child should have time to think, daydream and even loaf sometimes.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (20) I find it difficult to punish my child.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (21) I let my child make many decisions for him/herself.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (22) I worry about the bad and sad things that can happen to my child as he/she grows up.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (23) I do not allow my child to get angry with me.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (24) I feel my child is a bit of a disappointment to me.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (25) I expect a great deal of my child.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (26) I am easy going and relaxed with my child.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (27) I give up some of my interest because of my child.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (28) I tend to spoil my child.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (29) I talk it over and reason with my child when he/she misbehaves.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (30) I trust my child to behave as he/she should even when I am not with him/her.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (31) I joke and play with my child.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (32) I give my child a good many duties and family responsibilities.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (33) My child and I have warm, intimate times together.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (34) I have strict, well-established rules for my child.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (35) I think I should let my child take many chances as he/she grows up and tries new things.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (36) I encourage my child to be curious, to explore and question things.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (37) I sometimes feel that I am too involved with my child.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (38) I threaten to punish more often than I actually give it.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (39) I believe in praising my child when he/she is good and think it gets better results than punishing when he/she is bad.
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 (40) I make sure my child knows that I appreciate what he/she tries to accomplish.

Subject # _____

Date _____

1
Strongly
Disagree

2
Moderately
Disagree

3
Slightly
Disagree

4
Slightly
Agree

5
Moderately
Agree

6
Strongly
Agree

(Circle One)

1 2 3 4 5 6

(41) I encourage my child to talk about his/her troubles.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(42) I teach my child to keep control of his/her feelings at all times.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(43) I try to keep my child from fighting.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(44) I dread answering my child's questions about sex.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(45) When I am angry with my child, I let him/her know it.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(46) I punish my child by taking away a privilege he/she otherwise would have had.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(47) I give my child extra privileges when he/she behaves well.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(48) I enjoy having the house full of children.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(49) I believe that too much affection and tenderness can harm or weaken my child.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(50) I believe that scolding and criticism makes my child improve.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(51) I believe my child should be aware of how much I sacrifice for him/her.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(52) I worry about the health of my child.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(53) I feel that there is a good deal of conflict between my child and me.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(54) I do not allow my child to question my decisions.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(55) I like to have some time to myself, away from my child.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(56) I let my child know how ashamed and disappointed I am when he/she misbehaves.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(57) I encourage my child to be independent of me.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(58) I make sure I know where my child is and what he/she is doing.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(59) I find it interesting and educational to be with my child for long periods.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(60) I instruct my child not to get dirty while he/she is playing.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(61) I think jealousy and quarreling between my children should be punished.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(62) I think my child must learn early not to cry.

1 2 3 4 5 6

(63) I control my child by warning him/her about the bad things that can happen to him/her.

1 Strongly Disagree 2 Moderately Disagree 3 Slightly Disagree 4 Slightly Agree 5 Moderately Agree 6 Strongly Agree

(Circle One)

1 2 3 4 5 6 (64) I don't think my child should be given sexual information before he /she can understand everything.

1 2 3 4 5 6 (65) I believe it is unwise to let my children play a lot by themselves without supervision from grown-ups.

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