The Impact of Incarceration on Children, Families, Children, and the Community

Gwendolyn L. Woods | 03/20/2024
Social Determinants of Health

Collateral Sanctions and Consequences

- Transportation
- Housing
- Education/School
- Family
- Volunteerism
- Voting
Employment
“Why Is It Important?”

- IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY
- IMPACT ON THE FAMILY
- IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

Mechanism which (ACEs) influence health and well-being throughout the lifespan

The Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Initiative began in SFY18 through funding provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) to the Mansfield Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADOP) on behalf of the Federation of UMADOPs, and to Ohio University’s Voinovich School for Leadership and Public Service for evaluation, to support integration of best practice prevention approaches into Ohio’s reentry system. The CIP Initiative began by strategically building the reentry workforce capacity through a series of trainings that certified reentry professionals across the state in the evidence-based prevention intervention. Creating Lasting Family Connections (CLFC). CLFC is a cognitive behavioral program. Such programs implemented in prisons, with follow-through in the community after release, have been shown to be particularly effective in reducing substance abuse and recidivism. The CIP Initiative continues to build capacity through trainings and provides support to organizations implementing the program through a variety of technical assistance opportunities.

129 Participants completed a pre- and post-survey evaluation

414 Estimated number of children impacted

Participation in the CLFC program promotes healthy family reintegration, improves the quality of family relationships, and provides opportunities for positive development of youth with previously incarcerated parents.

According to the surveys completed by program participants, a quarter (25%) reported having their first child between ages 14 and 18. This, combined with factors such as income, employment challenges, etc., shows the potential vulnerability of participants and their children. The relationship skills that participants gain in the program have the potential to impact relationships with at least 414 children based on survey items that asked about the number of children they had in the home (211) and outside the home (203) prior to incarceration.

Demographics of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The survey instrument is a standard evaluation instrument for the CLFC. The survey consists of 71 items inquiring about relationship skills acquired through participation in the program. These items form nine scales assessing relationship skills.

Our evaluation shows statistically significant improvement in 9 different relationship skills.

- Communication Skills*
- Conflict Resolution Skills*
- Intrapersonal Skills*
- Interpersonal Skills*
- Emotional Awareness Skills*
- Relationship Management Skills*
- Emotional Expression Skills*
- Relationship Satisfaction*
- Relationship Commitment*

*p < 0.01

For more information on the Ohio CIP Initiative or to find a training or host a training for your organization, visit ohioodp.org.
Changing Lives
Thank You!

Gwendolyn L. Woods
(614) 835-6418
gwoods@mansfieldumadaop.com