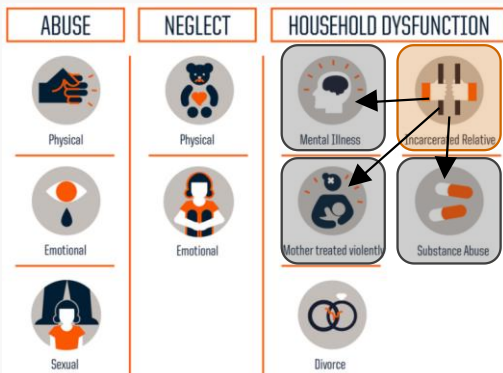
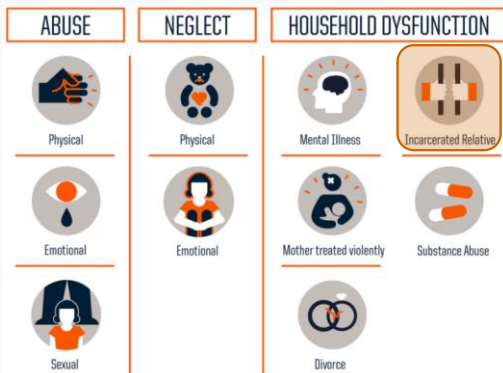
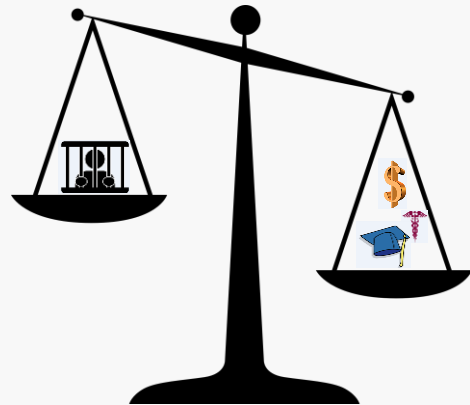
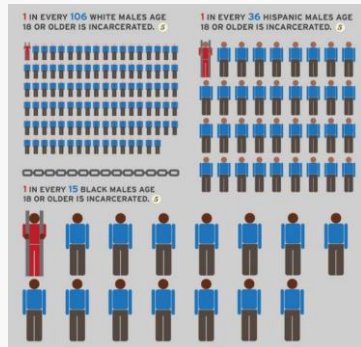
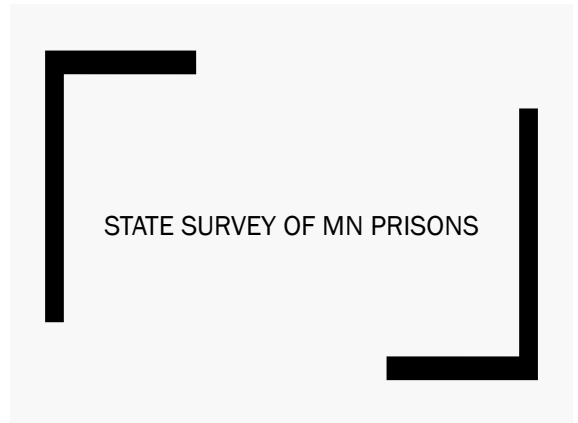
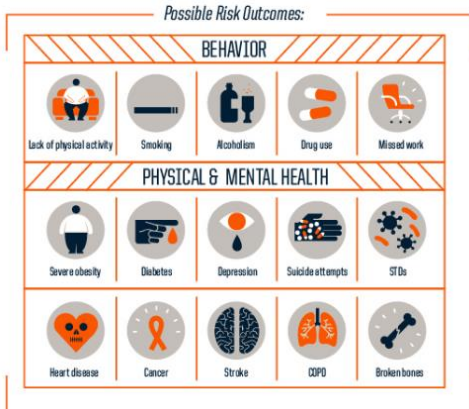
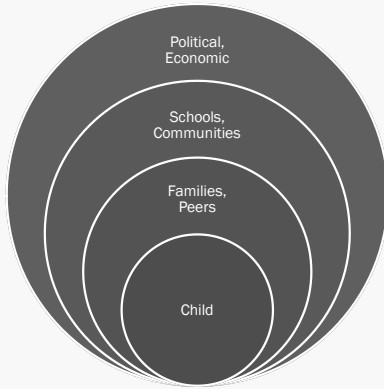


# INCARCERATED PARENTS IN MN: FINDINGS FROM STATE SURVEYS OF PARENTS AND YOUTH

Kathryn Hiolski, MPH, Laurel Davis, PhD,  
& Rebecca Shlafer, PhD

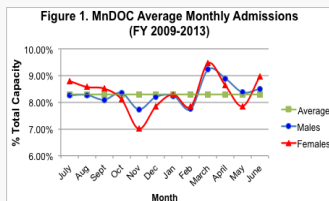
Black Men Healing Conference  
June 15, 2017





## State Survey of MN Prisons

- All new admissions to MCF-Shakopee and MCF-St. Cloud between July 1-December 31, 2014



## Methods

- Dr. Rebecca Shlafer, University of Minnesota
- All new admissions to MCF-Shakopee and MCF-St. Cloud between July 1-December 31, 2014
- Offenders were surveyed during R&O
- All surveys were completely anonymous
- Offenders were provided verbal instructions about opting out

**MCF-St. Cloud Parenting Survey**

We would like to know about other areas of your life that may be affected by your incarceration. For the following questions, we'd like for you to consider any biological children or other children (step, adopted, or foster) that you are a parent to.

Are you a father? (circle one)      Yes      No

If yes, please answer the following questions:

How many children (under 18 years old) do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

How old are each of your children? Please list their ages. \_\_\_\_\_

In the month before your arrest, how many of your children did you live with? \_\_\_\_\_

If parenting classes were available to you during your incarceration, would you be interested in participating? (circle one)      Yes      No

**MCF-Shakopee Parenting Survey**

We would like to know about other areas of your life that may be affected by your incarceration. For the following questions, we'd like for you to consider any biological children or other children (step, adopted, or foster) that you are a parent to.

Are you a mother? (circle one)      Yes      No

If yes, please answer the following questions:

How many children (under 18 years old) do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

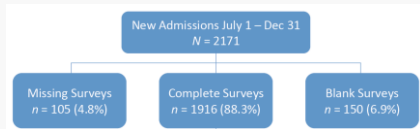
How old are each of your children? Please list their ages. \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently pregnant?      Yes      No

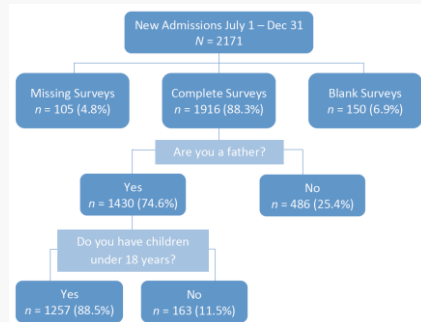
In the month before your arrest, how many of your children did you live with? \_\_\_\_\_

If parenting classes were available to you during your incarceration, would you be interested in participating? (circle one)      Yes      No

### Incarcerated Men



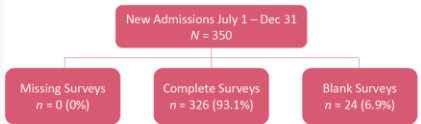
### Incarcerated Men



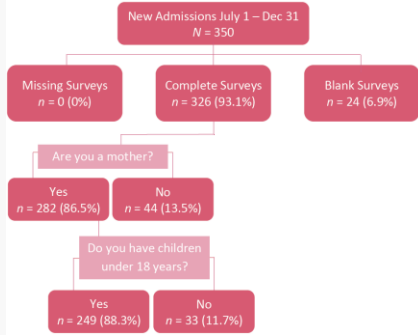
### Incarcerated Fathers

- 1,257 fathers, with 3,059 minor children
- Number of children:  $M = 2.43$ ,  $Range = 1-17$
- Age of children:  $M = 7.20$  years ( $SD = 4.29$ )
- 55.5% of fathers lived with their minor children before arrest
- 73.3% of fathers with minor children were interested in a parenting class

### Incarcerated Women



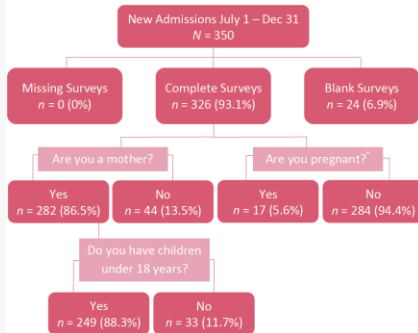
## Incarcerated Women



## Incarcerated Mothers

- 282 mothers, with 590 minor children
- Number of children:  $M = 2.37$ , Range = 1-7
- Age of children:  $M = 8.74$  years ( $SD = 4.22$ )
- 66.1% of mothers lived with their minor children before arrest
- 84.7% of mothers with minor children were interested in a parenting class

## Incarcerated Women



**Minnesota Exceeds National Rates**

Minnesota has a higher proportion of prisoners who report being parents and living with their children than national estimates.\*

|                                      |     |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Incarcerated Men with Children       | 66% | 51% |
| Living with Children Prior to Arrest | 56% | 36% |
| Incarcerated Women with Children     | 77% | 62% |
| Living with Children Prior to Arrest | 66% | 55% |

**Significant Number of Minnesota Children Affected**

The number of Minnesota children with an incarcerated parent exceeds the entire population of children in Shakopee or St. Cloud.

Children with an Imprisoned Parent **16,248**

## Implications

- Research
  - Descriptive
- Programming
  - During Incarceration
  - At re-entry
  - Community-based
- Policy
  - Facility
  - Department
  - State



## BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF PHYSICAL HEALTH AMONG YOUTH WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

## Minnesota Student Survey

- Administered every three years to all 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders in the state of Minnesota
- Asks about experiences, activities, and behaviors
- 85% of school districts
- 119,029 students completed the survey in 2016



## Incarceration

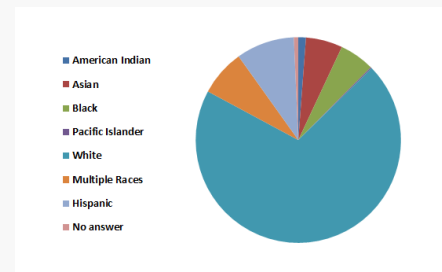
“Have any of your parents or guardians ever been in jail or prison? (*Mark ALL that apply*)”

- None of my parents or guardians has ever been in jail or prison.
- Yes, I have a parent or guardian in jail or prison right now.
- Yes, I have had a parent or guardian in jail or prison in the past.

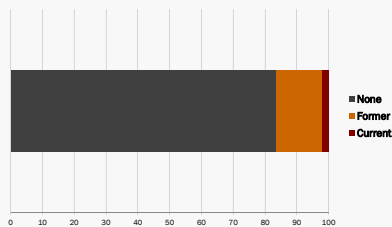
## Age and Gender

- On average, students were 14.8 years old
  - Range: 12 to 20
- Evenly split between boys and girls
  - 49.5% male, 50.2% female, 0.2% didn't answer

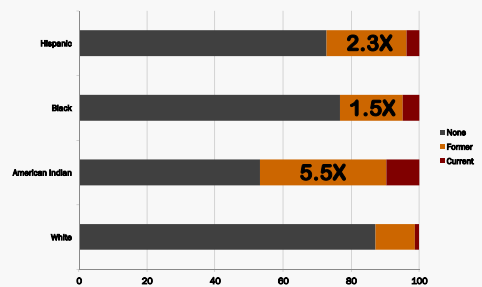
## Race



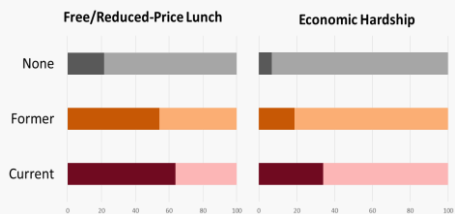
## Incarcerated Parents



## Incarceration and Race



## Poverty Status



## Physical Health

- Decline in health
- Increased cardiovascular health conditions
- Access

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- Decline in health
- Increased cardiovascular health conditions
- Access

### Physical health behaviors

- Affect overall health and well-being
- Protective against disease and premature mortality

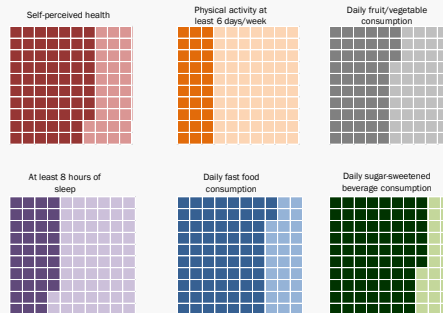
## Behaviors

- Physical activity
- Fruit/vegetable consumption
- Fast food consumption
- Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption
- Sleep
- Self-perceived health

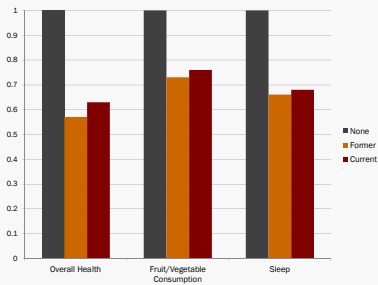
## Potential Confounders

- Sex
- Age
- Race/ethnicity
- Free/reduced-price lunch
- Economic hardship

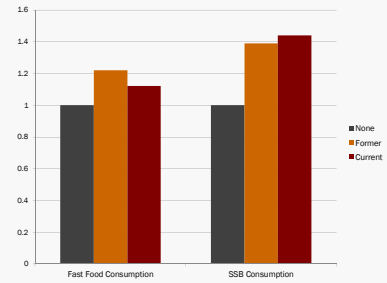
## Rates of Behaviors



## Results



## Results



## Discussion

Parental incarceration was significantly associated with lower levels of healthy behaviors and higher levels of unhealthy behaviors

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Parental incarceration was significantly associated with lower levels of healthy behaviors and higher levels of unhealthy behaviors

- Parenting strain
- Disrupted routines
- Mental health
- Stigma

## Discussion

In most outcomes, youth with currently incarcerated parents did not differ significantly from youth with formerly incarcerated parents

- Continuation of stress after release
- Different types of behaviors

## Limitations

- Relied exclusively on self-reported data
- One item on parental incarceration
- Cross-sectional dataset

## Implications

- Increased (culturally-competent) programming for youth with incarcerated parents
- Making sure basic needs are met during transition from prison → home
- Correctional policies
- Further research on parental incarceration

## Questions?