Parental incarceration and homelessness intersect in ways that intensify youths' physical and mental health problems.

Poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, and mental health problems are all associated with increased risk for parental incarceration and family homelessness. Parental incarceration and homelessness increase youths' risks for poor outcomes, including physical and behavioral health problems, substance use, and difficulties in school.

Characteristics of youth who have experienced parental incarceration (PI) and homelessness/high mobility (HHM)

**Region**

Youth in greater Minnesota are 1.2 times more likely to have experienced parental incarceration and homelessness than youth from the 7-County Metro.

**Poverty**

Youth with a history of parental incarceration and homelessness are 3.7 times more likely to be living in poverty than youth who have not experienced either.

**Foster care**

Youth with a history of parental incarceration and homelessness are 16 times more likely to have lived in foster care within the past year than youth who have not experienced either.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Youth experiencing parental incarceration and a history of homelessness had 4.5 times more ACEs than their peers who hadn't experienced either parental incarceration or homelessness.

Adults experiencing homelessness were significantly younger when they first became homeless if they experienced parental incarceration during childhood.

Average age of first episode of homelessness for adults who (as a child)...

- had a parent who served time in prison
- did not have a parent who served time in prison

<table>
<thead>
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<th>19</th>
<th>28</th>
<th>30</th>
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<td>1.2x more</td>
<td>average for all homeless adults</td>
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Health indicators

Compared to youth with no history of PI or HHM, youth experiencing both were more likely to face worse health outcomes across the following indicators:

- **61%** had not seen a dentist in the past year.
- **46%** had been treated for mental or emotional problems.
- **26%** reported a physical disability or long-term health problem.
- **25%** reported having asthma.
- **17%** have been treated for alcohol/drug problem.
- **9%** reported having an allergy.
- **9%** reported having diabetes or pre-diabetes.

For more information

Part 5 of a series of graphics on the impacts of parental incarceration on Minnesota youth.

www.wilder.org/wilder-research/research-library/strengthening-families-affected-incarceration

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Systemic racial disparities

People of color are disproportionally represented in the criminal justice system. Research points to many causes, including inequitable distribution of resources and bias within policies and practices, indicating that systemic issues play an important role in intergenerational cycles of incarceration and homelessness.

1 in 6 MINNESOTA YOUTH has experienced PARENTAL INCARCERATION

These findings were revealed in the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS), a reflection of the overall well-being of our youth. The MSS is administered every three years to Minnesota students and covers a broad array of topics, including academics, school and community, substance use, mental health, and more. These data are reflective of the aggregate responses of 8th, 9th, and 11th-grade students.

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