
Returning Hope to Kids of Incarcerated Parents:

*Understanding the Impact of Systemic
Inequality, Family Violence & the Criminal
Justice System on Our Kids*

Ana Burke, 3L

1 in 9 African American children have a parent in prison*

1 in 28 Latino children have a parent in prison*

Over **50%** of children who have an incarcerated parent are age 9 or younger*

1 in 57 Caucasian children have a parent in prison*

2.7 million children in the United States have an incarcerated parent*

In VT, **53%** of male inmates reported having children*

Approximately **6,000** children in VT have an incarcerated parent over the course of a year*

In VT, **64%** of female inmates reported having children*

* 2015 Report to the Vermont Legislature on the Rights of Children of Arrested and Incarcerated Parents:
<http://humanservices.vermont.gov/boards-committees/cfcpp/publications/other-reports/children-of-incarcerated-parents-act-168-report/view>



TRISTAN.
5 YEARS OLD

CHRISTINA.
8 YEARS OLD

- Solutions -

What are we doing?

&

How can we improve the system?

Public Awareness & Legislative Advocacy

Phase 1: Statewide Advocacy Campaign – *to educate the community & legislature on the impact of incarceration on children & the need for increased funding.*

- (1) Incorporate awareness campaigns similar to the **Echoes of Incarceration** (see video) to highlight the voices of youth of incarcerated parents in Vermont.
- (2) Host workshops/trainings in each county; the workshops/trainings will address the impact of incarceration on children and the need for an adequate systems response. The trainings will be held during selectboard and school board meetings and sponsored by the local state's attorney.
- (3) Schedule an Advocacy Day at the Legislature to reignite the efforts to introduce the Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights.

Capacity Building

Phase 2:

- (1) Implementation of National best practice protocols and toolkits with Vermont police.
 - (a) Adaptation of the Department of Justice Programs and International Association of Chiefs of Police's [checklist](#) from which officers can properly assess the situation and help alleviate any confusion and fear at the time of the parent's arrest.
- (2) Weave a training/workshop specific to the youth of incarcerated parents into the **Youth Thrive** training received by police cadets at the Vermont Police Academy.