

Cradle to Prison Pipeline in Idaho

Involving Idaho's Offenders and Idaho's Children

Children of offenders are five times more likely than their peers to end up in prison.

One in ten of these children will be incarcerated before reaching adulthood.

Our survey of offenders incarcerated with the IDOC in December 2009 gave us the information that 8570 children in Idaho are affected by incarceration with the Department of Correction. In February 2011, out of 325 juveniles incarcerated with the Idaho Dept of Juvenile Corrections, 19 had at least parent who was currently incarcerated and 36 had at least one parent on supervision (probation or parole).

We do not have the exact figures on how many children are affected by parental incarceration in local jails or who have a parent on felony or misdemeanor supervision. For the IDOC survey in December 2009, there were 7,270 offenders incarcerated and each averaged 1.8 children. If we use that same calculation and look at the number of offenders on felony supervision (13,944 times an average of 1.8 children) we find an additional 25,099 children who are affected by their parents involvement with the criminal justice system.

When a child is impacted by parental incarceration or supervision in the community, the neighborhood, the schools, our children and the community can be affected.

We can use the Five Protective Factors to positively affect families, encourage good parenting skills in offenders and get children safe when they are threatened by chaos when their parents make bad choices.

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