

Health and Health Care Utilization Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness and Parental Incarceration in Minnesota



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

7-County Metro
Greater MN

1.2x more

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

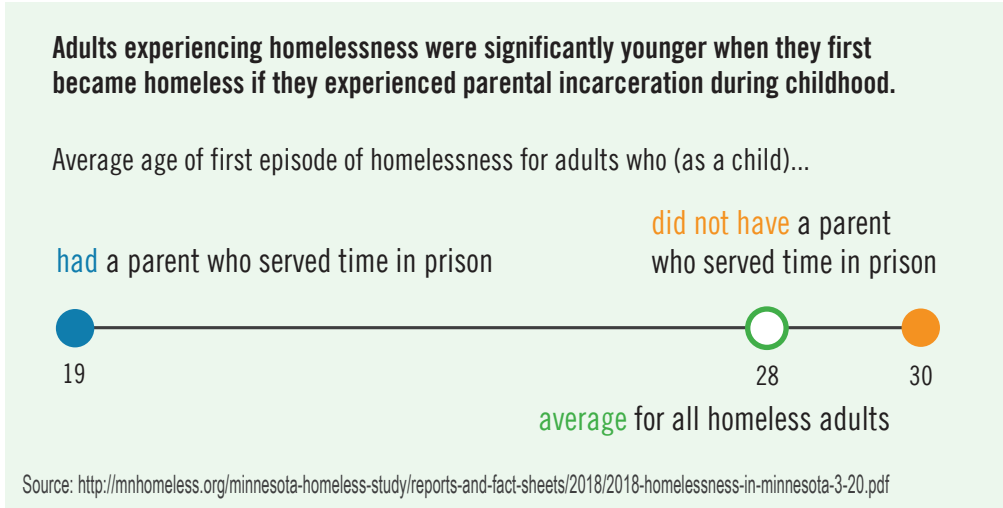
Youth with a history of parental incarceration and homelessness are 3.7 times more likely to be living in poverty than youth who have not experienced either.

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.



YOUTH OF COLOR ARE 2x as likely to have experienced

PARENTAL INCARCERATION AND HHM

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 .7 times more than youth with no PI/HHM
- 46% had been treated for mental or emotional problems 2.3 times more than youth with no PI/HHM
- 26% reported a physical disability or long-term health problem 1.8 times more than youth with no PI/HHM
- 25% reported having asthma 1.7 times more than youth with no PI/HHM
- 17% have been treated for alcohol/drug problem 21 times more than youth with no PI/HHM
- 9% reported having an allergy 5.5 times more than youth with no PI/HHM
- 9% reported having diabetes or pre-diabetes 2.1 times more than youth with no PI/HHM

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
Authors:
Rebecca J. Shlafer, Ph.D., University of Minnesota
Julie K. Atella, M.A., Wilder Research

Systemic racial disparities

People of color are disproportionately 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