

**Arkansas Department of Human Services
Data Request regarding Children of Incarcerated Parents**

As of February 1, 2012, a review of each division within the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) resulted in the following information pertaining to Interim Study Proposal 2011-178. This review included: 1) figures on the number of children with an incarcerated parent or caregiver receiving services from any DHS Division; 2) a description of any services or benefits provided; 3) available demographics data; and 4) costs estimates of any services or benefits provided.

Division of Children and Family Service (DCFS)

The Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) does not provide services specifically designated for children of incarcerated parents or their caregivers.

DCFS investigates, along with the State Police, all reports of child maltreatment and provides foster care services if a child is unable to remain in the home. DCFS does document the reason for placing a child in foster care including children placed in foster care due to parent incarceration. Data from a five-year period is summarized in the chart below as reported in the Arkansas DHS Annual Statistical Report.

**Children Placed in Foster Care due to Parent Incarceration by Age
SFY 2006 – SFY 2011**

Year	Age of Child						Total	% of Total Foster Care Placements
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+		
2006	257	395	401	233	53	-	1,339	11%
2007	260	366	387	220	63	-	1,296	10%
2008	277	400	414	223	66	1	1,381	11%
2009	300	410	422	255	76	1	1,464	11%
2010	306	414	449	247	73	-	1,489	11%
Total	1,400	1,985	2,073	1,178	331	2	6,969	11%

A summary of data from this time period (SFY 06 – 11) includes:

- A total of 6,969 children were placed in foster care due to parent incarceration which represents 11 percent of the total number of foster care placements.
- Approximately 30 percent of the children placed in foster care due to parent incarceration were 6 to 11 years old.
- Parent incarceration was the third most common reason for a child to be placed in foster care.

DCFS does not collect additional demographic information on these children and their caregivers. Also, the reporting system does not currently allow DCFS to approximate the costs of services and benefits provided to these children.

Division of Youth Services (DYS)

The Division of Youth services (DYS) does not provide programs or services specifically designated for children of incarcerated parents or their caregivers. DHS also does not currently collect data on children served that have incarcerated parents and the current reporting system does not enable DHS to approximate the costs of services and benefits for these children.

Division of Medical Services (DMS)

The Division of Medical Services (DMS) does not provide programs or services specifically designated for children of incarcerated parents or their caregivers. However, through a collaborative agreement with the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC), DMS provides Medicaid coverage for Medicaid eligible pregnant women when admitted into an inpatient hospital, which began on January 1, 2011. As of December 31, 2011, approximately 40 individuals in the custody of ADC were determined to be Medicaid eligible, and DMS had processed \$24,181.30 in claims. DMS also does not currently collect any additional data on children served that have incarcerated parents and the current system does not allow DMS to approximate the costs of additional services and benefits for these children.