

Interim Study on Children of Incarcerated Parents

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Reasons to be interested

- Impact on children
- Impact on taxpayers

Frameworks for reform

- Incarceration-sensitive policies and practices
- Incarceration-specific policies and practices
- Intensive multi-system reforms targeting highest risk youth, families, and communities

Reason 1. Impact on Children

Emotional and behavioral problems

- anxiety
- grief
- trouble forming relationships
- post-traumatic stress
- anger

School failure

- Diminished academic performance
- Attention problems
- Behavior problems and truancy

Neglect and maltreatment

- Higher rates of OOH placement

Delinquency

- 10% higher than children whose parents have never been incarcerated

Why?

Problems parents have that are associated with incarceration

- Inadequate education
- Unemployment
- Extreme poverty
- Mental illness
- Addiction

***Cumulative risk – greater total number of problems**

Experiences related to parents involvement in the criminal justice system

- Witnessing arrests – elevated PTSD
- Separation from parent – grief, withdrawal, attachment disorder
- Instability in caregiving arrangements
- Stigma – “you’ll be just like your parents”
- Chronic poverty

Service System Silos

“Individual results will vary”

- which parent is incarcerated,
- prior living arrangements,
- quality of parent–child relationships before the incarceration,
- child’s age at the time of incarceration,
- the nature and length of the sentence,
- alternative care arrangements,
- contact with the incarcerated parent,
- how other family members cope with the event,
- and the wider social context

Reason 2. Impact on Taxpayers




Washington State

80 percent of the youth born to DOC ever-incarcerated parents used services from DSHS during FY2006

Were more likely than the average DSHS client of the same age to have high use of:

- Mental health services, provided to persons who are seriously, chronically or acutely mentally ill
- Child-protective services, including foster care and other abuse-neglect related services
- Alcohol/drug treatment services
- Juvenile rehabilitation services

Among children under 16 born to Washington residents, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be . . .

	DAD ONLY Ever in DOC Prison 	MOM ONLY Ever in DOC Prison 	BOTH Parents Ever in DOC Prison 	NEITHER Parent Ever in DOC Prison
Part of a CPS case management case	10%	13%	15%	3%
Using child welfare services	5%	11%	16%	1%
In foster care placement <i>Excluding relative care and group care</i>	2%	5%	8%	<i>Less than one-half of 1%</i>
Using community mental health services	6%	7%	12%	1%

Cross-sectional vs Longitudinal

- Ricocheting Families

Lifetime Overlap

Mothers in prison in IL over a 12-year period

...no evidence of CW contact	70%
...at least one child <i>ever</i> in foster care	30%
...child concurrently in foster care	17%

Jung, LaLonde, & Varghese (2009), *Incarcerated mothers, their children's placements into foster care and its consequences for reentry and labor market outcomes*, Chicago: The University of Chicago

Jail or prison histories of moms of children in foster care NYC

...history of incarceration	1 in 5
...incarceration overlapped w/FC	1 in 10
...overlapped by 30 days	1 in 20
...overlapped by 90 days	1 in 25

Ross, T., Khashu, A. & Wamsley, M. (2004). *Hard data on hard time: An empirical analysis of maternal incarceration, foster care, and visitation*. NY: Vera Institute of Justice

Ricocheting

Incarceration

- 75% of parents in prison have prior conviction¹
- 50% were incarcerated 1 or more times before²
- 50% are likely to return to prison within 3 years (not specific to parents)³

Child Welfare

- 1 in 8 children who are subjects of reports of maltreatment have recently arrested parents¹
- 68% with arrest history had prior report of maltreatment compared to 48% of others¹
- 25-43% subsequent substantiated referral within 3 1/2 to 5 years (not specific to CHIP)²

Ricocheting Families

Parents incarcerated in DOC only (2010)

Men 15,000 * 44% = 6,600

Women 1,100 * 64% = 700

Total parents = 7,200

Cost of prison (Vera Institute)

\$24,391 per year

average time served 2.5 years = \$61,000 per parent

$\$61,000 * 7,200 =$ **\$439,200,000**

Parents currently in DOC custody **\$439,200,000**

50% previously incarcerated

$\$439,200,000 + \$219,600,000 =$ **\$658,800,000**

50% re-incarcerated

$\$658,800,000 + \$219,600,000 =$ **\$847,400,000**

2.9% of 6,600 dads = 191

10.9% of 700 moms = 70

Total = 261

Foster care payment

~\$450 per month = \$5,400 per year

\$5,400 * 261 = \$1,409,400 per year

Assumes only 1 child per parent

Assumes only 1 year of foster care

Does not include group homes

Does not include relative caregivers

Incarceration-Specific

Arrest

- Training for law enforcement
- Phone calls for parents

Sentencing

- Diversion to mental health and substance abuse (health care reform will help)

Incarceration

- PARENT
 - Parent education – 24% had participated nationally
 - Drug treatment -- 43% had received treatment nationally
 - Mental health – 31% had received treatment nationally
- CHILDREN
 - Opportunities for contact with parents
- CAREGIVERS
 - Economic support
 - Social support

Release

- Jobs
- Treatment
- Housing
- Renegotiate parenting

Limited Breadth and Depth

Parents in one family, caregivers in another, children in another

Only fraction of children and families that might benefit

Incarceration-Sensitive

Institutionalized training for all professionals working with children

Opportunities for collaborative learning

- Illinois pilot study

Typically haphazard

Intensive Spatially Targeted Services

Cumulative Risk

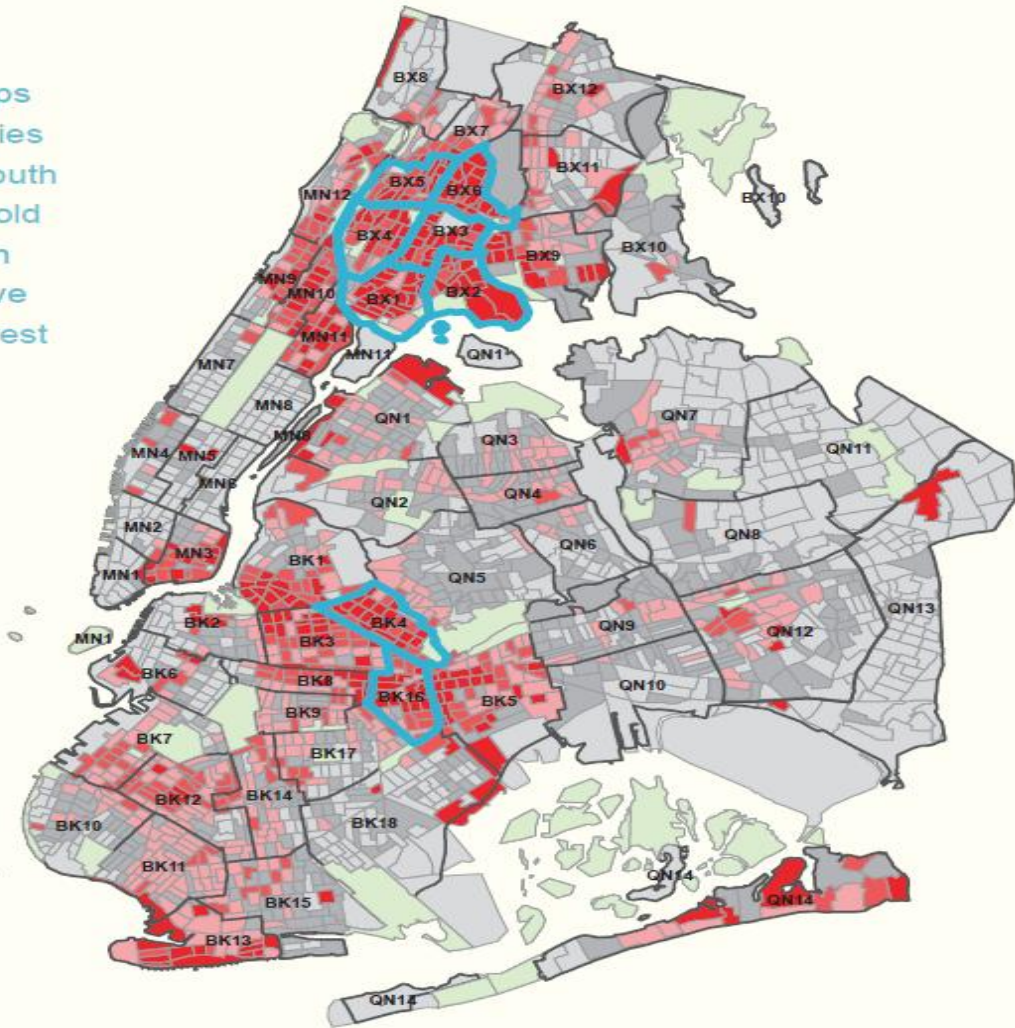
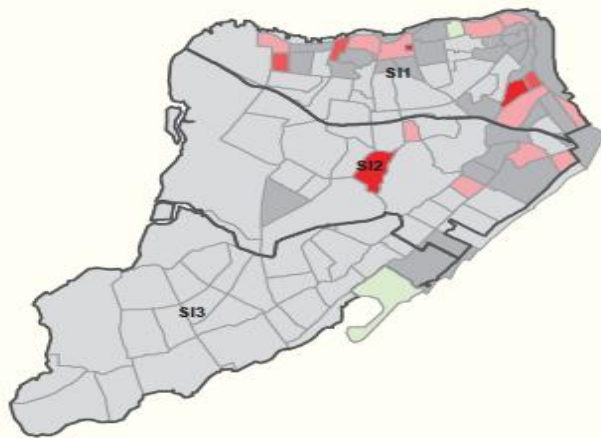
Similar environmental conditions are associated with

- Adult crime
- Juvenile crime
- Child maltreatment

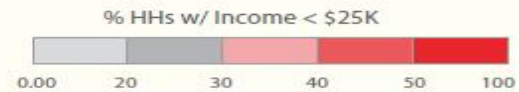
Higher than average social problems

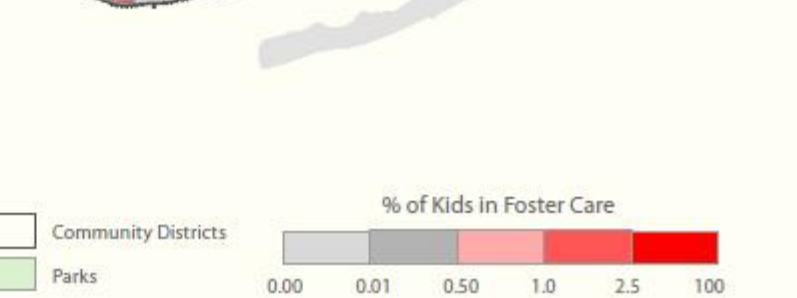
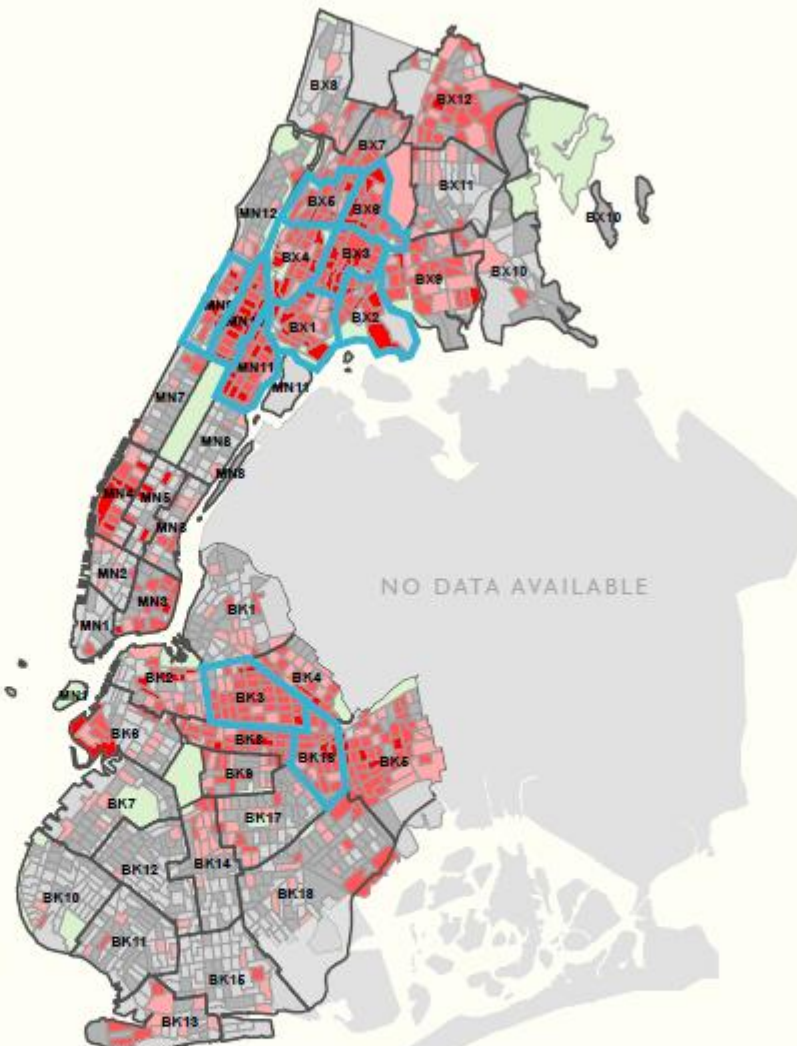
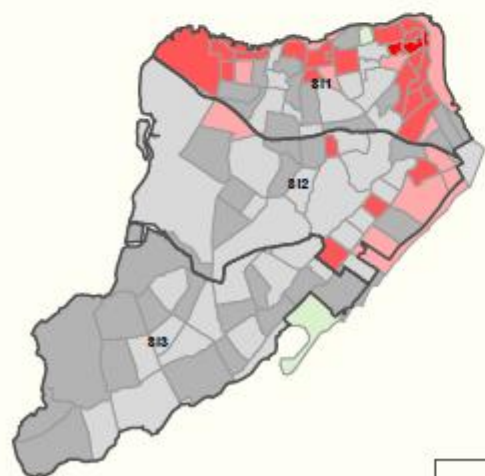
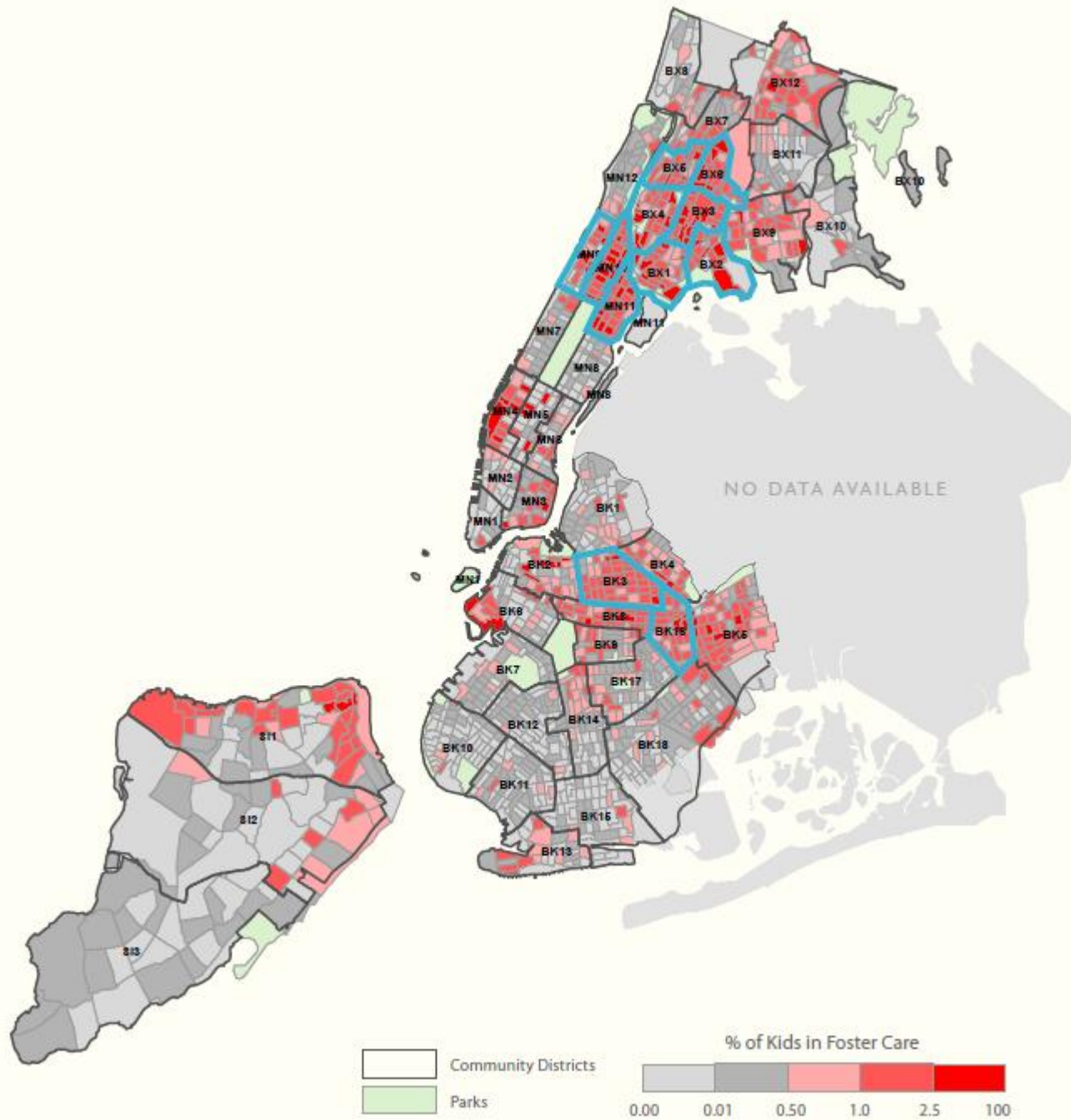
- High school dropouts
- Unemployment/poverty
- Single-parent households
- Transience
- Weak community ties

Chart 1 on the left and Map 1 on the right identify significant overlaps between New York City communities with the highest percentages of youth and those with the lowest household income. Six community districts in the Bronx and two in Brooklyn have the highest rates of youth and lowest household income in the City.

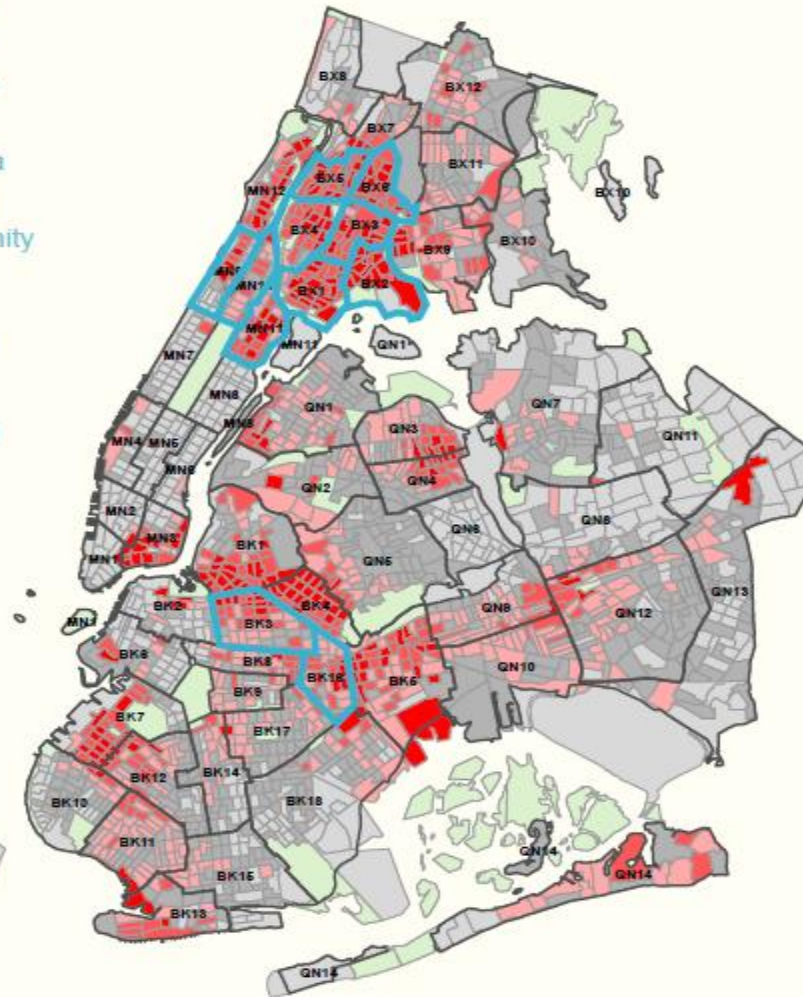
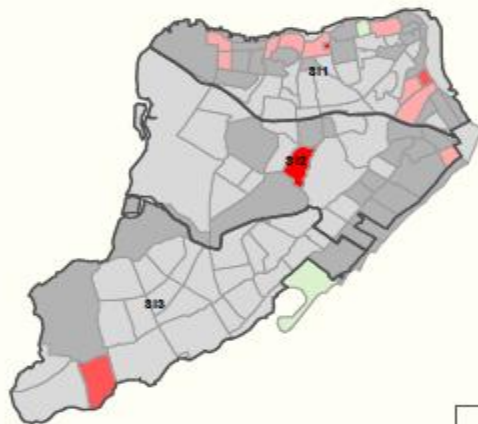


Community Districts
Parks

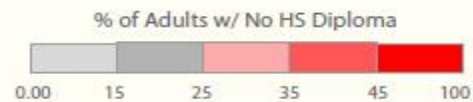




Map 2 on the left and Map 3 on the right reveal the most concentrated pockets of Foster Care placements (over 1.5% of children) and families with the highest proportions of adults lacking a high school diploma (over 30% of residents 25 or older) overlapping in the same 11 community districts. For example, over two percent of children in Community District 2 in the Bronx were placed in Foster Care, and 50% of adult residents do not have a high school diploma.



Community Districts
Parks



- Million dollar blocks
 - Spatially targeted
 - Multi-tiered
 - Integration of interventions for children, adults, community improvement
 - Trans-systemic
 - Service sectors with shared responsibility for improving outcomes