

As the powerpoint stated Incarceration is a level three stressor event meaning it is almost impossible to overcome. One stress is that the incarceration of a parent leads to disenfranchised grief because it is not seen as socially significant. Many have describe the ambiguous loss of a family member being incarcerated as “a funeral no one attends.” Research shows that 2.4 million children in American have a parent in prison. Some effects of children having incarcerated parents includes who will care for the child during their parents absence, the length of their parents incarceration and economic support they will receive during their parents absence. The main effects children experience because of incarcerated parents are parent-child separation, enduring traumatic stress, and inadequate quality of care.

One stress children experience during their middle ages is that they lose their father or mother during a significant time in their development. For instance, if a pre-teen girl mother is arrested she will not have a role model to teach and train her into becoming a young lady. Another effect is that children are often traumatized by their parents' incarceration because they are often present at the time of the arrest and have to witness their parents being taken away. During the arrest process police officers do not take into account children, so most children are either taken away to foster care or left to fend for themselves. Lastly, another stress that children of incarcerated parents experience is the hardships and trauma of visitation. Some prisons are very far from the city/suburbs so families have to travel far to visit their loved ones. In some prisons parents and children are not allowed to have any contact which can be difficult for children to understand.

I believe the most important social policy change needed to reduce stress and trauma for children is making visitation easier for family members. I believe this change should be prioritized because family members should not have to travel long distances and wait in long lines just to see their family members for a limited amount of time with no contact. I think providing transportation for families and finding a way to cut down on long wait times will be very beneficial. Also, I believe more family rooms should be developed in prisons so that children can spend time with their parents without a glass separating them. It is important that these changes be made so that children are not being pushed for their parents' mistakes.