



## Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents

FEBRUARY 2010

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Report 11.138v2

# Use of Social and Health Services By Children of Incarcerated Parents

Briefing prepared for

## CFIP Statewide Advisory Committee

By

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Planning, Performance and Accountability  
Research and Data Analysis Division  
Olympia, Washington

### ABOUT THESE FINDINGS

This is the **second of a series** of analyses prepared to satisfy reporting requirements under E2SHB 1422 which requires the Department of Social and Health Services to “gather information and data on the recipients of assistance who are the children and families of inmates incarcerated at department of corrections facilities.

Findings represent preliminary analyses from the initial round of matching of **DSHS client data, DOC facility data, DOC visitation data, DSHS Child Support data, and birth certificate records**. The numbers of children with DOC parents have increased since our September 2008 report was released, because new sources (DOC visitation and DSHS Child Support) allowed more parent-child matches.

The age range of children involved is birth through age 17.

Future analyses will be refined to include:

- Information from linkages to data in other systems (for example, school outcomes)
- More information about the timing of incarceration and service events in relation to outcomes for children and families



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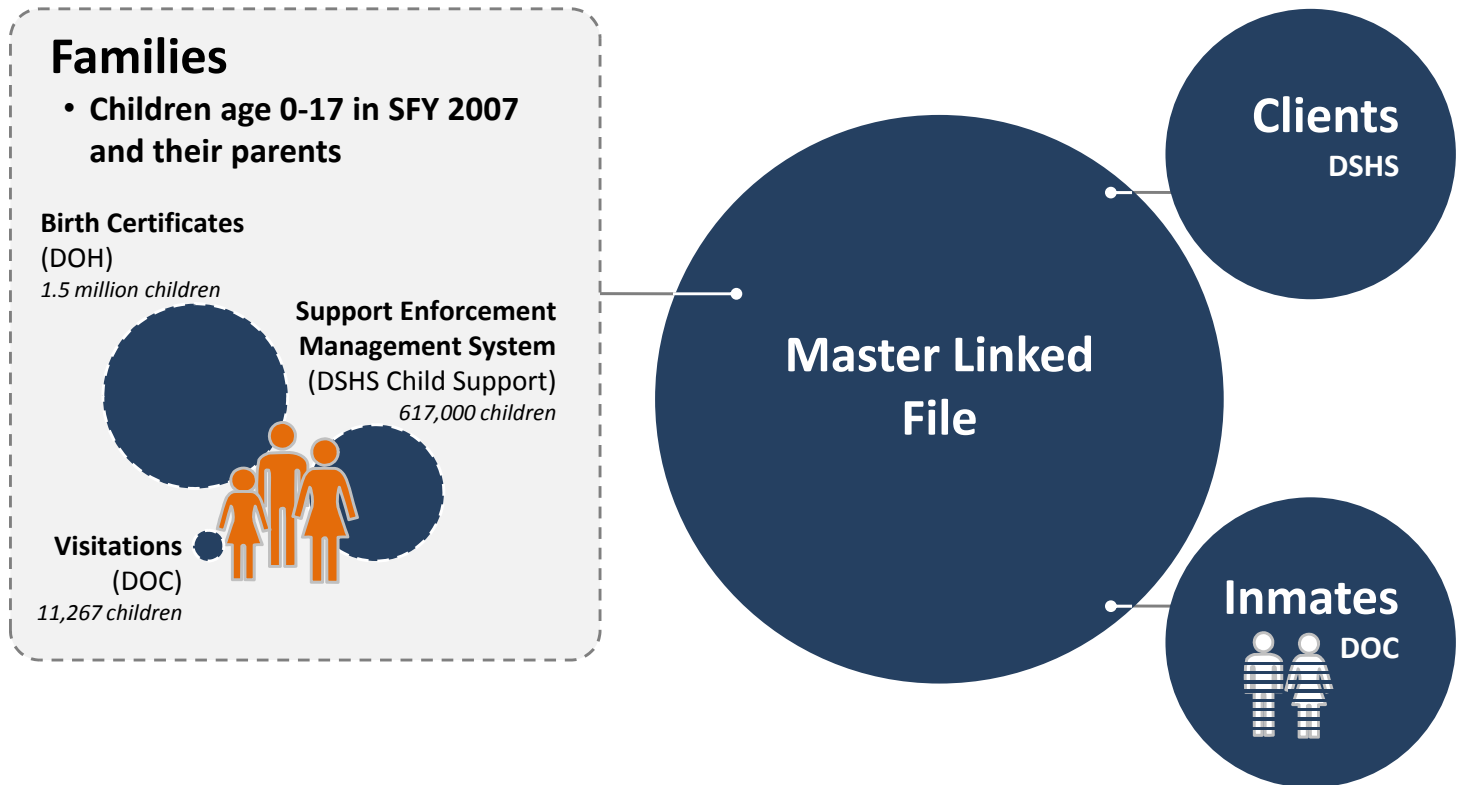
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# Overview

Families are constructed, inmates are identified, and client histories are examined:

- **Families** (DOH, DOC, DSHS)— 1989-2007 Birth Certificates supplemented by DSHS Child Support and DOC Visitation data
- **DOC Inmates**—Several decades prior to October 2007
- **DSHS Clients**—SFY 2007

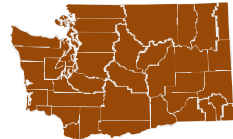
Analyses focus people linked across all the systems:



# About the Department of Corrections (DOC)

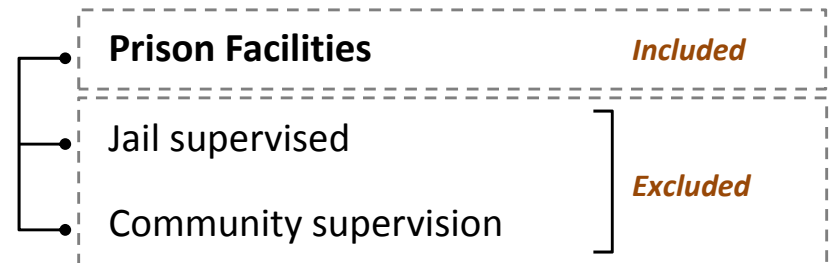
The Department of Corrections is responsible for administering adult corrections programs operated by the state of Washington. This includes state correctional institutions and programs for offenders supervised in the community. The confinement population consists of over 18,000 inmates a month who reside at any one of 15 institutions throughout the state.

For the following analyses, records were available for persons confined at DOC facilities only. Information about time spent under community supervision, housed in a local jail, in federal prison, or another state correctional or jail facility was not available.

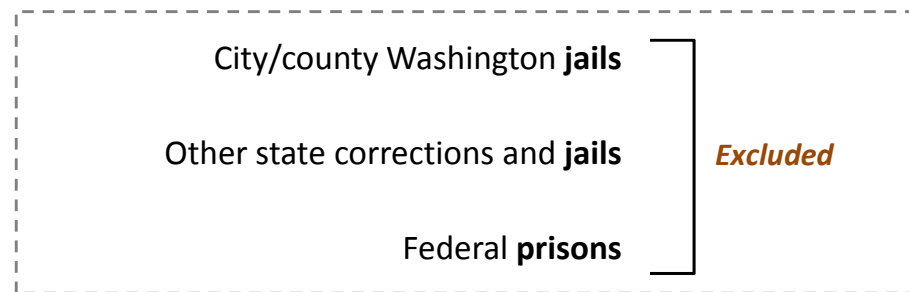


## The Universe of Placement Options

Washington State Department of Corrections



Other facilities:



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# About the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)



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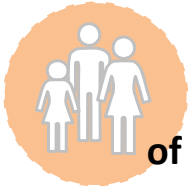
### ACRONYMNS

CA	Children's Administration
BH-AOD	Behavioral Health, Alcohol/Drug Treatment
DD	Division of Developmental Disabilities
ESA	Economic Services Administration
JRA	Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration
MA	Medical Assistance
BH-MH	Behavioral Health, Mental Health

DSHS is Washington State's umbrella agency for people who turn for help in times of need. The Department serves over 2 million people a year—one third of the state's population. DSHS' major service areas are:

- 1. Children's Administration**—Seeks to ensure the safety and protection of children who are abused or neglected by their caregivers. Promotes family reconciliation.
- 2. Behavioral Health (Alcohol/Drug Treatment)**—Alcohol- and drug-related prevention, intervention, treatment, and aftercare services to low-income persons.
- 3. Division of Developmental Disabilities**—Provides support services and opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities resulting from mental retardation, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, or similar neurological conditions originating before adulthood.
- 4. Economic Services Administration**—Provides cash assistance, work-focused services, food benefits, and social services to help low-income individuals and families meet their basic needs and achieve economic independence. Also manages court ordered child support enforcement.
- 5. Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration**—Serves youth who have been adjudicated in Juvenile Court and sentenced for a minimum and maximum term in state facilities.
- 6. Medical Assistance**—Assures necessary medical care is available to persons on income assistance and other eligible low-income persons.
- 7. Behavioral Health (Mental Health)**—Treatment services for adults and children who are severely and/or chronically mentally ill.
- 8. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation\***—Serves individuals who want to work but have difficulty with employment due to a physical, sensory, cognitive, or mental disability.
- 9. Aging and Adult Services\***—Serves frail elderly persons, as well as functionally disabled people over 17 years of age.

*\* These two programs were excluded from the subsequent findings because relatively few children or families of incarcerated parents were found to be in need of these services.*



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# Key Findings

- 1. In SFY 2007, there were 61,276 young people under the age of 18 with a parent identified in available data sources with at least one parent who served time in a state prison operated by DOC**
- 2. 75 percent of the youth born to DOC ever-incarcerated parents used services from DSHS during SFY 2007 (46,217 out of 61,276)**
- 3. African-American and American Indian children are far more likely to have a parent who has been incarcerated, compared to Asian, Hispanic and White children**
- 4. The 46,217 children of ever-DOC-incarcerated parents served by DSHS in SFY 2007 were more likely to use services suggesting family difficulties and personal problems. These include 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*
  - Economic services such as food stamps, TANF funds, and subsidized child-care*
  - Medical assistance services*
  - Alcohol/drug treatment services*
  - Juvenile rehabilitation services*
  - Highest service use rates were found among those youth where both parents have a DOC incarceration history*



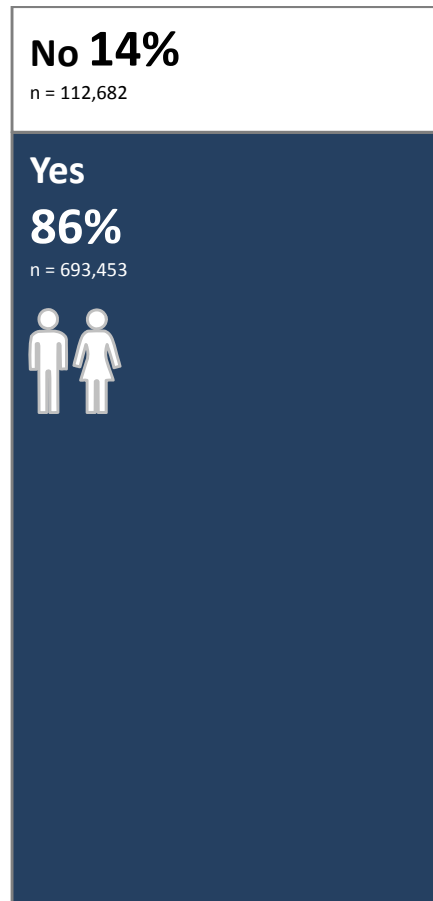
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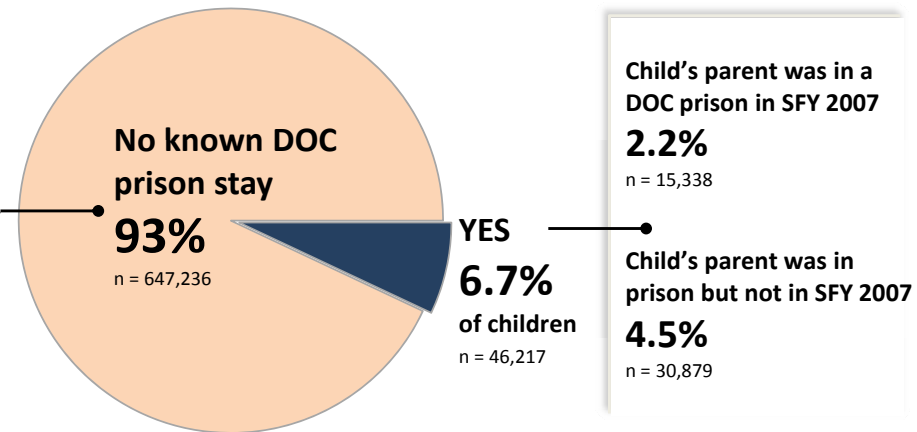
## 6.7% of children (46,217 total) under 18 with an identified parent and served by DSHS in SFY 2007 have a parent who has been in a DOC prison

### Child served by DSHS has a parent identified?



Total children under 18 served by DSHS in SFY 2007 = 806,135

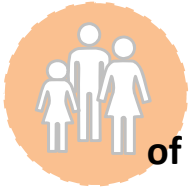
### Child has at least one PARENT who has been in a DOC PRISON?



Total number of children served by DSHS with an identified parent = 693,453

By comparison, only 3% of non-DSHS children under 18 are estimated to have had a parent incarcerated in a DOC prison

SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons  
• SFY 2007 • Washington State •  
Children under 18



## Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents

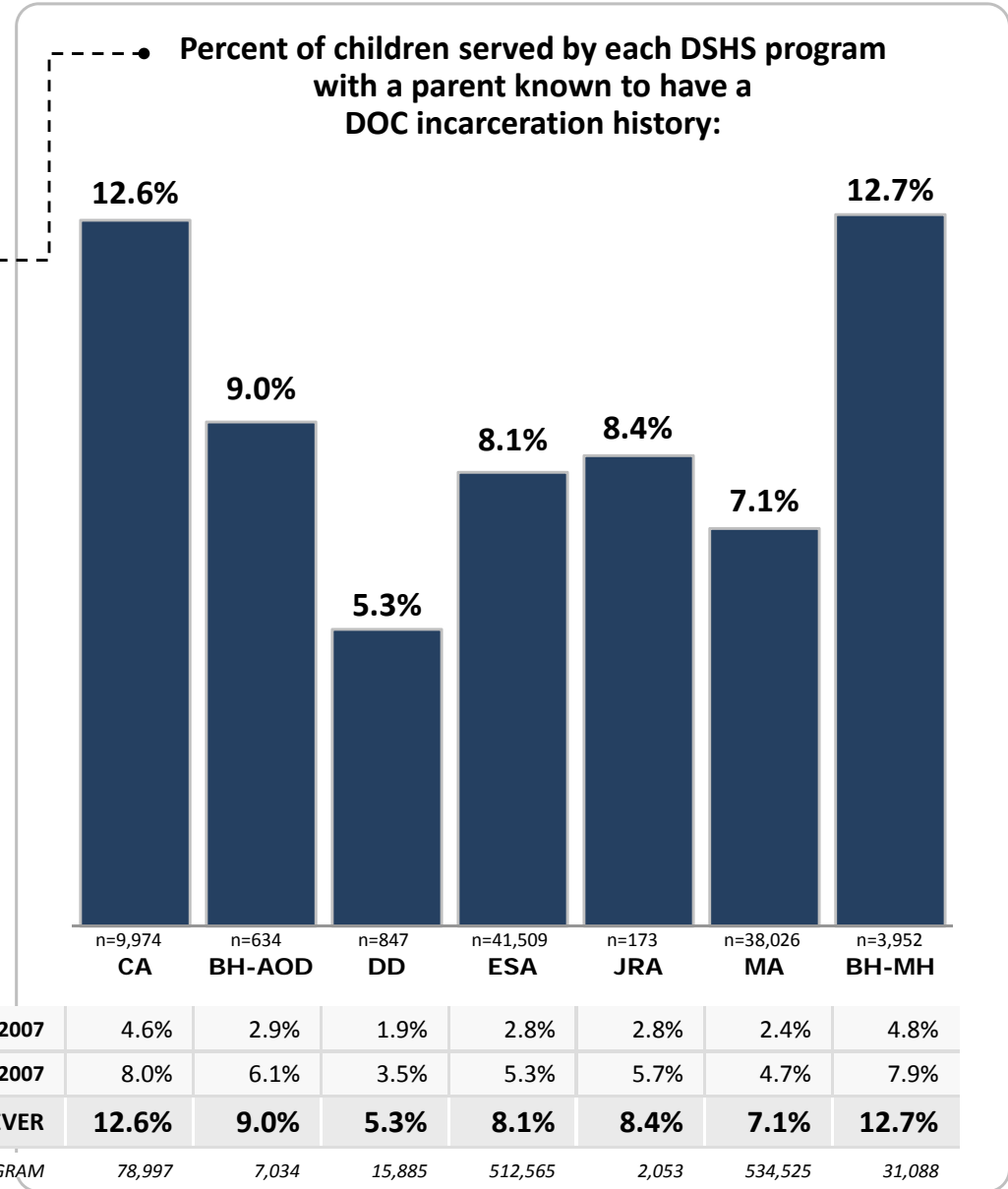
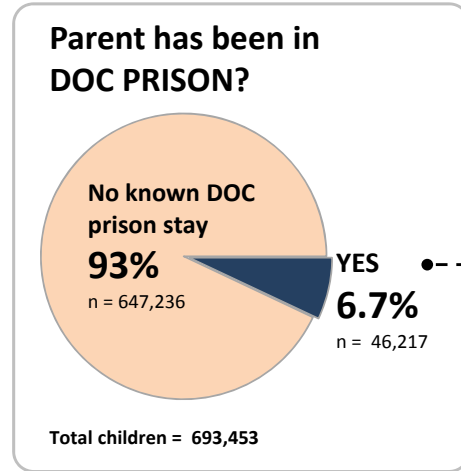
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- JRA Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration
- MA Medical Assistance
- BH-MH Behavioral Health, Mental Health

# DSHS children under 18 with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents have greatly increased use rates of mental health, child welfare, alcohol/drug, and juvenile rehabilitation services



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons  
• SFY 2007 • Washington State • Children under 18

# 1.4% of children under 18 with an identified mother and served by DSHS in SFY 2007 have a MOM who has been in a DOC prison

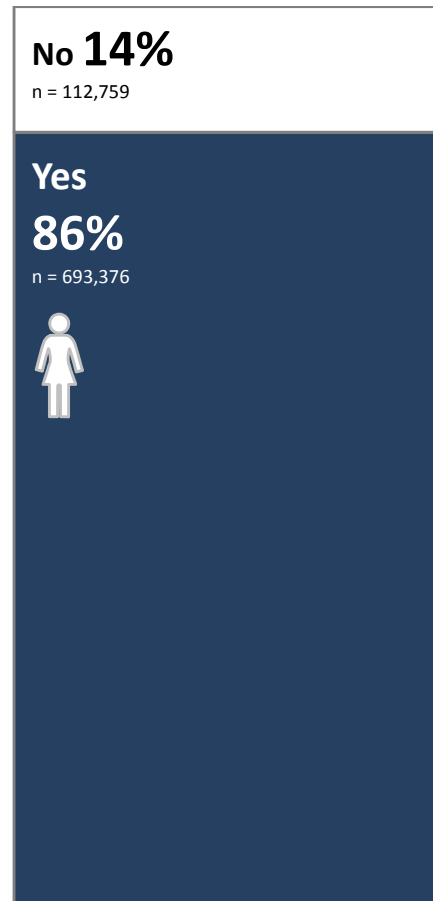


## Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents

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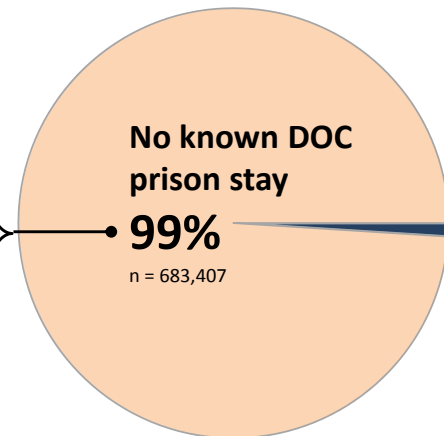
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Child served by DSHS has a mother identified?

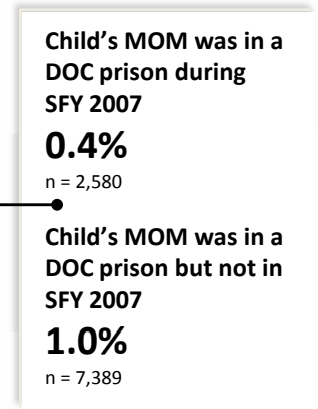


Total children under 18 served by DSHS in SFY 2007 = 806,135

Child has a MOM who has been in a DOC PRISON?



Total number of children served by DSHS with an identified mother = 693,376



By comparison, only 0.5% of non-DSHS children under 18 are estimated to have had a mother incarcerated in a DOC prison

SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons  
• SFY 2007 • Washington State •  
Children under 18





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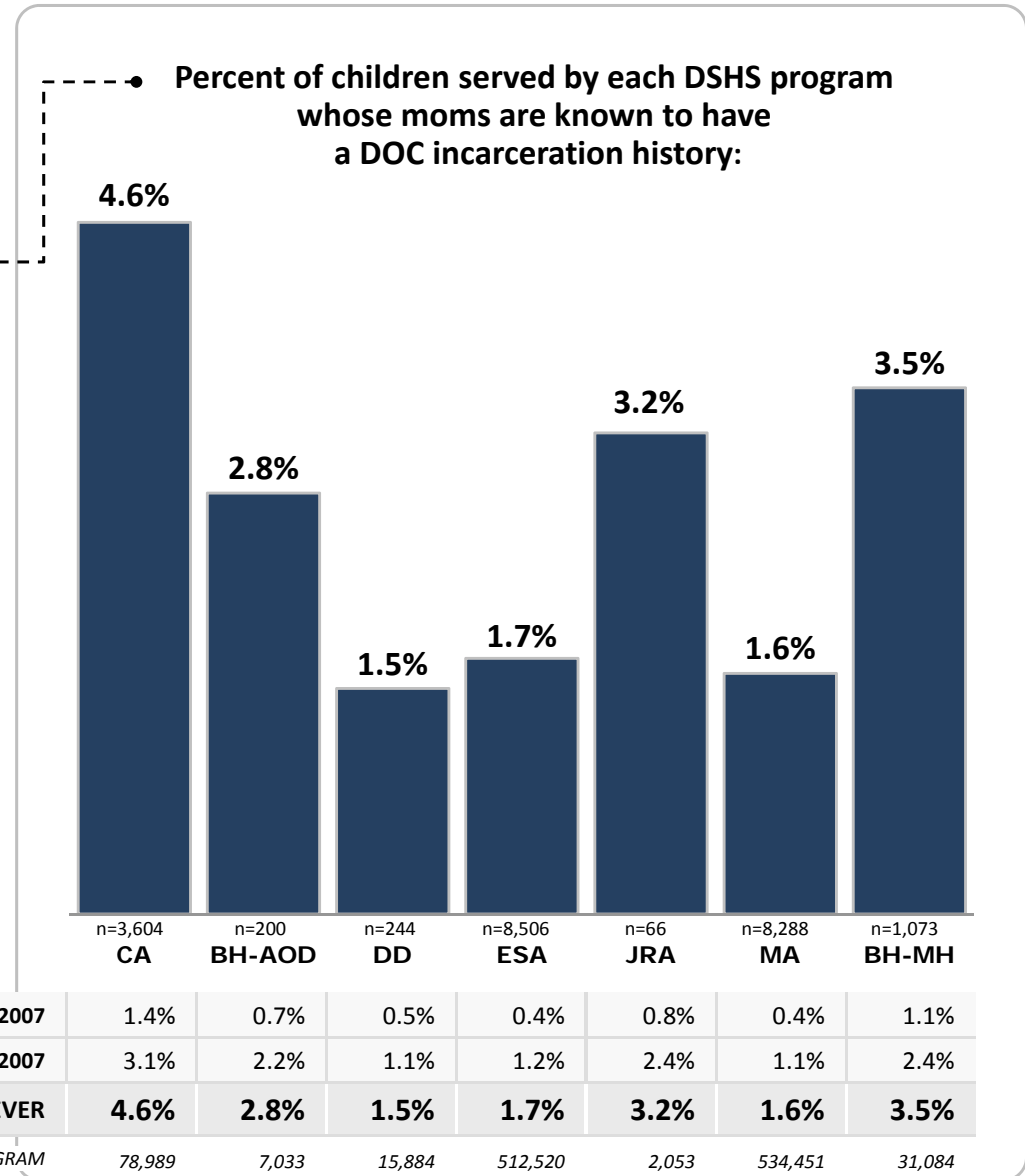
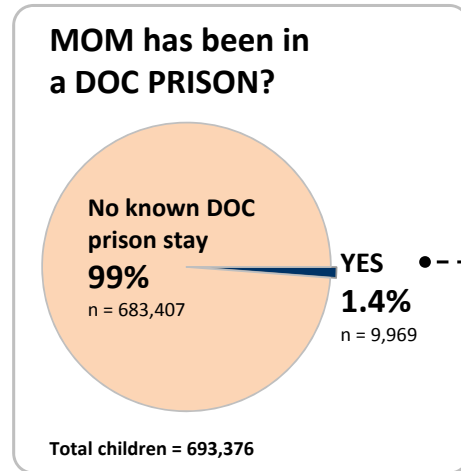
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# DSHS children under 18 with ever-DOC-incarcerated mothers have greatly increased use rates of **child welfare, mental health, alcohol/drug, and juvenile rehabilitation services**



**Percent of children served by this program whose mom was known to be in a Washington State DOC prison:**

	CA	BH-AOD	DD	ESA	JRA	MA	BH-MH
... during SFY 2007	1.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.8%	0.4%	1.1%
... other than SFY 2007	3.1%	2.2%	1.1%	1.2%	2.4%	1.1%	2.4%
<b>EVER</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
TOTAL BORN IN WA SERVED BY PROGRAM	78,989	7,033	15,884	512,520	2,053	534,451	31,084

SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons  
• SFY 2007 • Washington State •  
Children under 18



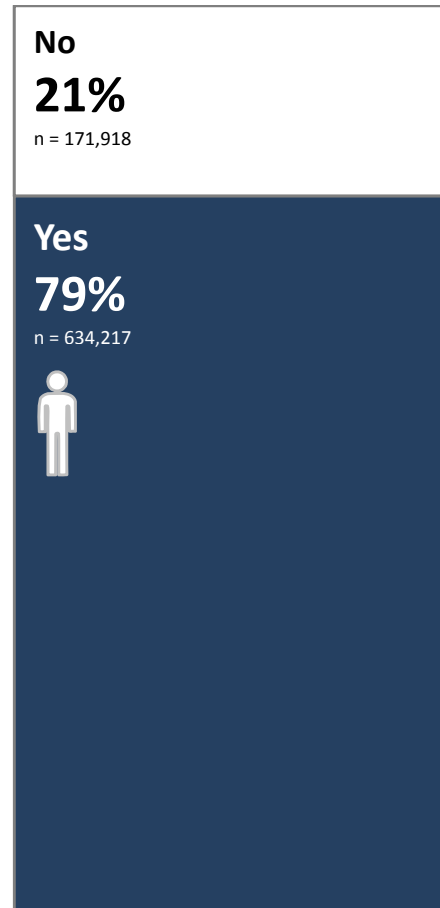
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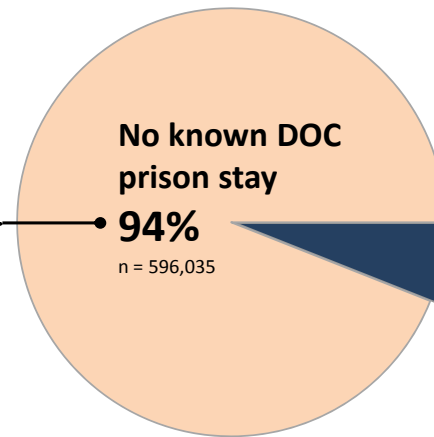
## 6.0% of children under 18 with an identified father and served by DSHS in SFY 2007 have a **DAD who has been in prison**

### Child served by DSHS has a father identified?

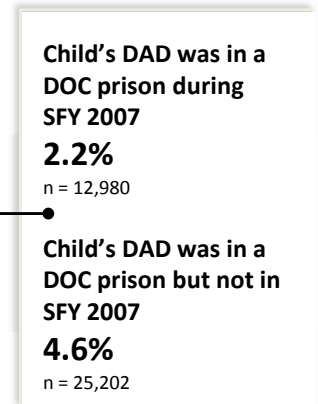


Total children under 18 served by DSHS in SFY 2007 = 806,135

### Child has a DAD who has been in a DOC PRISON?



Total number of children served by DSHS with an identified father = 634,217



By comparison, only 3% of non-DSHS children under 18 are estimated to have had a father incarcerated in a DOC prison

SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons  
• SFY 2007 • Washington State • Children under 18

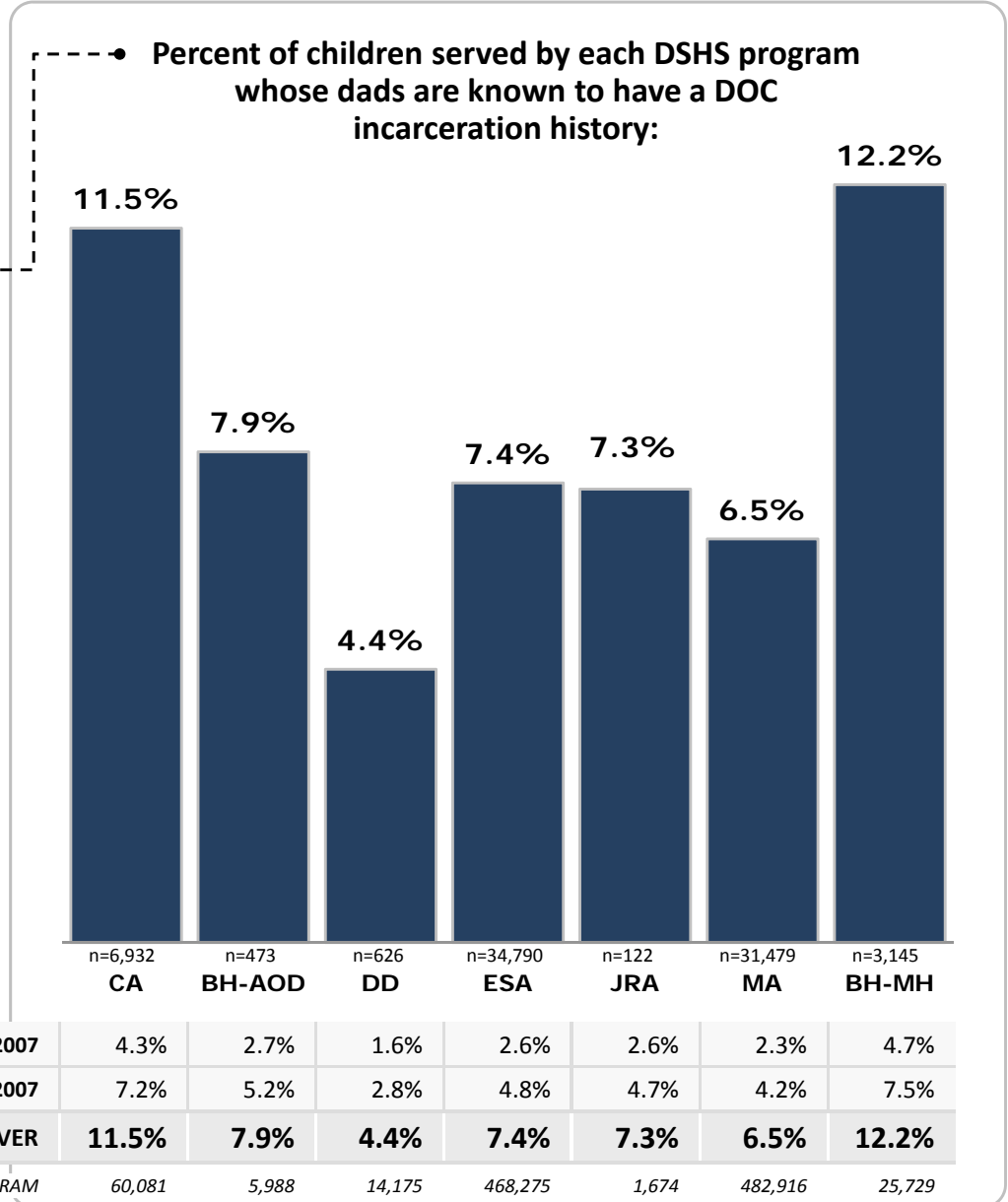
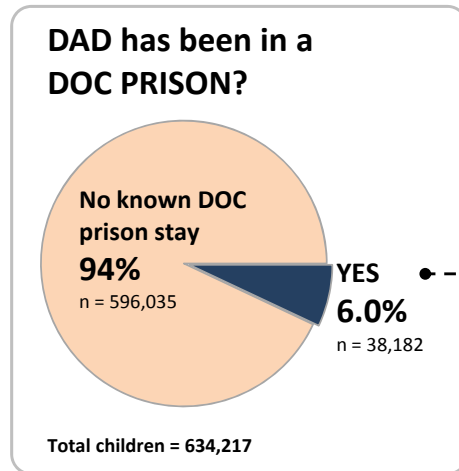
# DSHS children under 18 with ever-DOC-incarcerated fathers have greatly increased use rates of mental health, child welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, and alcohol/drug services.



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SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons  
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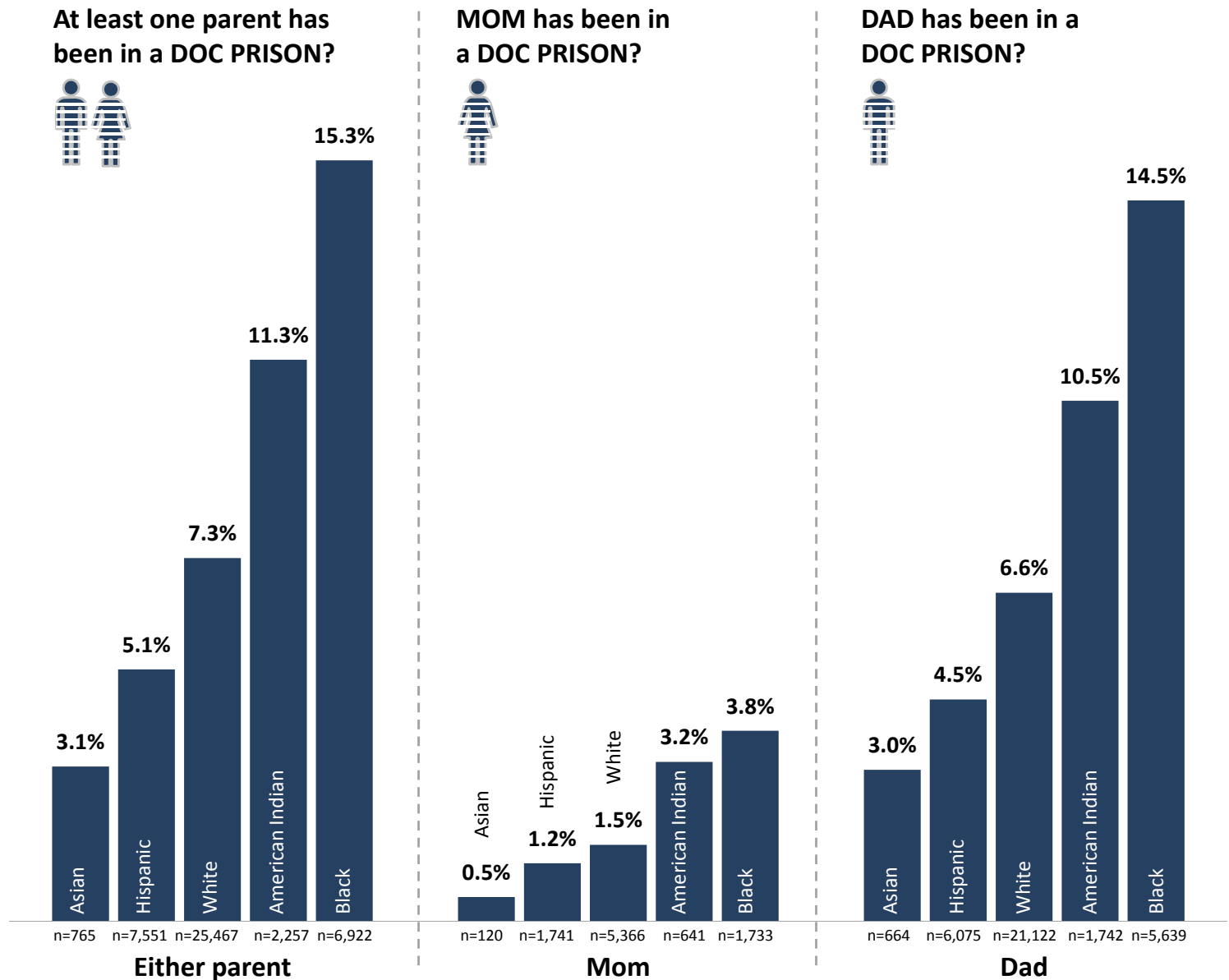
# There is significant racial disproportionality in the likelihood that a child has a parent who has been incarcerated



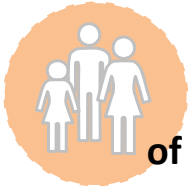
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SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons  
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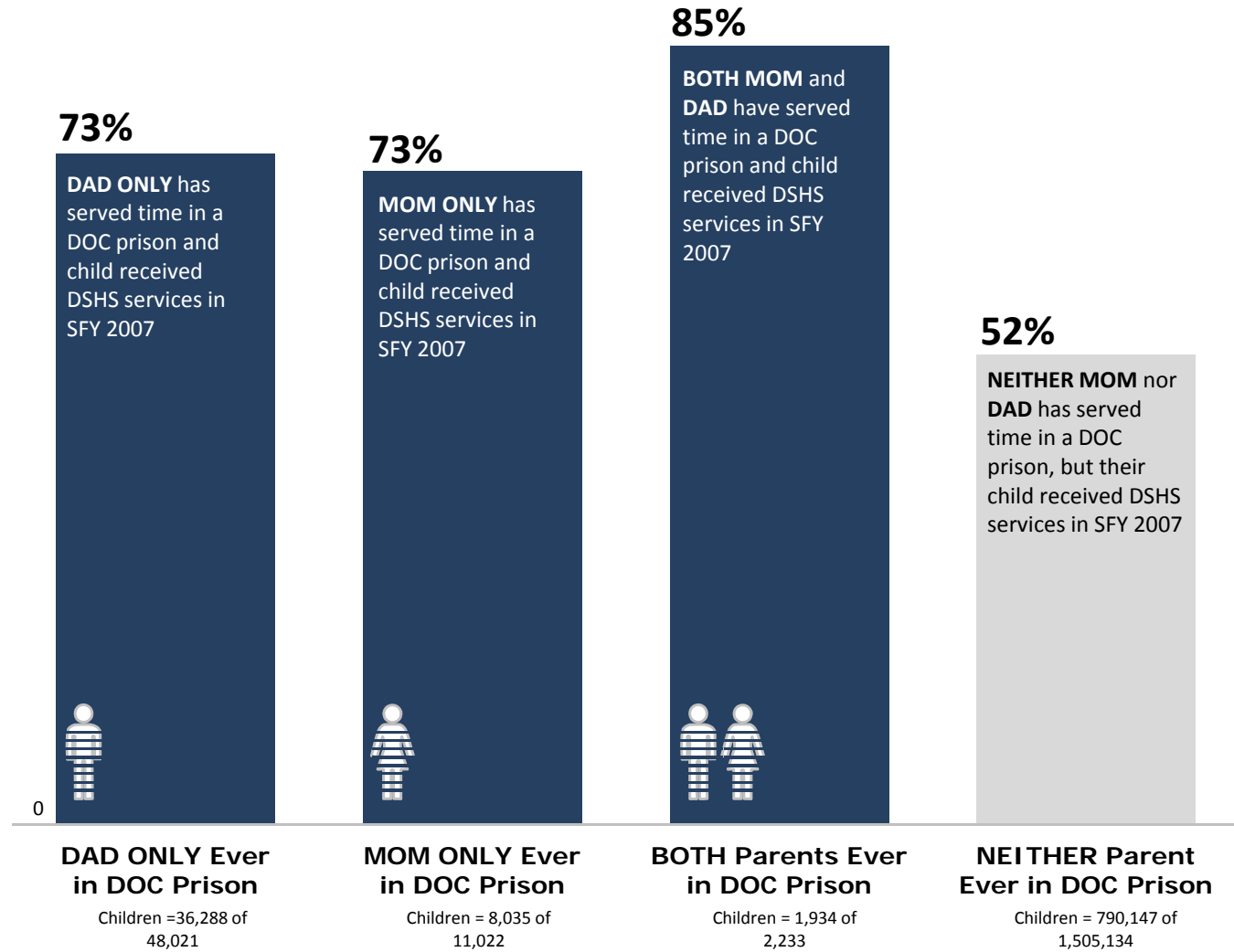
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# Among children under 18 with an identified parent, those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are **more likely than** to be **DSHS clients in SFY 2007**

Of all the children in Washington State with a parent who has ever served time in a DOC prison, what percent received DSHS services in SFY 2008?



SOURCE: DSHS service use comparisons  
• SFY 2007 • Washington State •  
Children under 18




Among children under 18 with an identified parent, **those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be . . .**



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	DAD ONLY Ever in DOC Prison 	MOM ONLY Ever in DOC Prison 	BOTH Parents Ever in DOC Prison 	NEITHER Parent Ever in DOC Prison
<b>Part of a CPS case management case</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Using child welfare services</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>In foster care placement</b> <i>Excluding relative care and group care</i>	<b>2%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Using community mental health services</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>2%</b>




Among children under 18 with an identified parent, **those with ever-DOC-incarcerated parents are more likely to be . . .**



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	DAD ONLY Ever in DOC Prison 	MOM ONLY Ever in DOC Prison 	BOTH Parents Ever in DOC Prison 	NEITHER Parent Ever in DOC Prison
Receiving TANF cash grants	27%	26%	49%	9%
Receiving subsidized child care	19%	11%	21%	7%
Receiving food assistance	44%	32%	51%	20%
Part of a child support case	56%	51%	69%	23%
Enrolled in Medicaid	61%	59%	78%	39%



## **Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents**

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## **Subsequent analyses could:**

- 1. Create profiles of randomly selected children and families that will tell us more about their life experiences**
- 2. Examine the timing of DOC incarceration and DSHS service events in relation to outcomes for children and families to make inferences about causal relationships**





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Participants of the **Children and Families of Incarcerated Parents (CFIP) Statewide Advisory Committee**, include:

- **Department of Commerce** (convener)
- **Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)**
- **Department of Corrections (DOC)**
- **Department of Early Learning (DEL)**
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)**
- **Non-profit, community and governmental partners**

This briefing is available from DSHS' Research and Data Analysis Division in Olympia, Washington <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/RDA/> or by calling 360.902.0701.

Please request report number 11.138v2.

The briefing and a guide can also be found on DSHS' website for families of the incarcerated at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/incarcerated>.