



# CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND INCARCERATION

*Descriptive Overview of Data from Alameda and San Francisco County Jails*

## **ABSTRACT**

In Fall 2014, the Alameda County Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (ACCIPP) and the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP) worked with their respective Sheriffs' Departments to survey more than 2,000 individuals incarcerated within the local county jails. The focus of the survey was to identify whom within the jails is a parent, their perceptions of how their incarceration affects their children, and what types of resources are needed for children to maintain contact and relationships with their parents during their parents' incarceration and after release. This report presents the findings from these surveys.

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**Cover Photo**

From Sense and Sensibility Blog: *“Collateral Damage: Children and Prison Reform in California,”* written by Karin Drucker, January 20, 2012.

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## Executive Summary

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One in every 28 American children—2.7 million—has a parent behind bars. More than twice that number have parents under some other form of criminal justice supervision (e.g. probation, parole), and more than half (54%) of individuals incarcerated in U.S. prisons are parents to a child or children under the age of 17.<sup>1</sup> The story for each child affected by his/her parent’s incarceration can vary greatly and depend on diverse factors, including the quality of the parent-child relationship prior to incarceration, the degree of household stability both



**1 in every 28**

***U.S. children has a parent behind bars.***

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before and following incarceration, and the child’s age, developmental level, and individual personality. Yet, parent’s incarceration is generally more complicated than other forms of parental loss (such as death or divorce), because of the stigma, ambiguity, and lack of social support and compassion that accompanies it.

State or federal level data is often used to estimate the number of children of incarcerated parents at the local level but rarely, if ever, has there been an effort to collect this information on a large scale through local criminal justice agencies. Yet information collected within local criminal justice

agencies provides the opportunity to identify how many children are impacted by incarceration of parents in local jails and what unique needs, assets and challenges they might have that may vary among communities, especially those communities more disproportionately impacted by high rates of incarceration. ***This vital information can help to promote data driven culture change and justify the need for increased resources within local government services systems.***

### Project Overview

In Fall 2014, The Alameda County Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (ACCIPP) and the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP) worked with their respective Sheriff’s Departments to develop, distribute, collect and analyze a brief survey about issues related to children of incarcerated. The survey was structured to gather information to inform program and policy decisions in consideration of the children’s well-being when their parents become incarcerated in local jails and focused on the following four key outcomes:

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<sup>1</sup> The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2010. Collateral Costs: Incarceration’s Effect on Economic Mobility. Washington, DC; The Pew Charitable Trusts.

- ▶ Identify who within the Alameda and San Francisco County Jail Systems is a parent of children 25 years old or younger;
- ▶ Gather basic information about locally incarcerated parents and their child(ren);
- ▶ Better understand how children are affected by their parents' incarceration;
- ▶ Identify what types of resources families might need for children and parents to maintain contact and/or relationships during their parents' incarceration and after release.

The survey was administered at all adult county run jail facilities within Alameda and San Francisco Counties. This included jail facilities housing adult male, female and transgender individuals and at all security levels. Surveys were administered over a series of multiple days in October and November 2014. Times for survey distribution were selected based on when the majority of incarcerated individuals would be in their housing units. Individuals housed in solitary confinement, disciplinary housing units and/or housing units for individuals with severe mental illness were not eligible to participate. All individuals who were present in the approved housing units on the day and time of the survey distribution were eligible to participate. Participants were given a consent information sheet with a survey in either English or Spanish. The survey was completed anonymously with no identifying information collected from individual participants. Any individual who completed and returned a survey received a small snack, a resource list of in-jail and community services, and a “tips for incarcerated parents” information sheet. The following is a summary of survey collection efforts.

Summary of Survey Collection by County				
	Alameda County		San Francisco	
Total Number of People Offered Survey*	2,007		991	
Total Number of People Completed Survey	1,134		907	
Survey Completion Rate**	57%		91%	
Distribution of Surveys Per Jail	Santa Rita Jail	88%	County Jail #2	18%
	Glen Dyer Jail	12%	County Jail #4	32%
			County Jail #5	50%
Total Number of Parents/Primary Caregivers for Children ≤ 25 years	878		536	
Percent (%) of Individuals Surveyed Who are Parents for Children ≤ 25 Years	77%		59%	
Total Number of Children Identified Age ≤ 25 Years	1,781		1,110	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGE ≤ 25 YEARS</b>	<b>2,891</b>			

\*Total number of people in housing units on day and time of survey distribution.

\*\*In Alameda County, survey participation was ‘opt-in’ where individuals had to actively choose to take the survey. In San Francisco, survey participation was ‘opt-out’ where individuals had to actively choose to not take the survey.

## Key Findings

***The majority of incarcerated individuals in San Francisco and Alameda County jails are parents or caregivers and are disproportionately people of color.*** Overall, **69%** of survey participants reported that they were a parent or primary caregiver for at least one child 25 years old or younger. Almost half (49%) of participants identified as African American followed by Latino (18%), Caucasian (14%), multi-racial or other race (11%), Asian or Pacific Islander (7%), and American Indian/Alaska Native (1%).

***There are thousands of Bay Area children on any given day who have a parent incarcerated in an Alameda County or San Francisco County jail.*** Alameda County participants reported being a parent or primary caregiver for a total of 1,781 children aged 25 years or younger. San Francisco participants reported being a parent or primary caregiver to a total of 1,110 children aged 25 years or younger. Considering the individuals who were not surveyed in these jails for various reasons (not present in the housing unit during survey or in units not offered the survey), it can be conservatively estimated that, ***on any given day, there are more than 3,000 children aged 25 years or younger with parents in Alameda or San Francisco County Jails.***

***Children experience multiple cycles of parental incarceration that may exacerbate the isolation, stigma and disruptions that occur in their lives.*** 36% of parents or caregivers reporting being incarcerated 6 or more times since becoming a parent. Older children were more heavily affected by multiple parental incarcerations. 49% of parents with first or eldest children who were 11-18 years old and 58% of parents with first or eldest children 19-25 years old reported being incarcerated 6 or more times. Yet younger children with parents in jail also experienced multiple parental incarcerations; **32% of parents with first or eldest child who were 6-10 years old, and 13% of parents with first or eldest child who were 0-5 years old reported being incarcerated 6 or more times since becoming a parent.**

***Children live in the counties where their parents are incarcerated providing important opportunities to maintain family relationships – yet there are barriers to maintain contact.*** The vast majority (74%) of children live in either the same county where their parents are in jail or in a close neighboring county and nearly three quarters (73%) of parents reported having some type of current contact with their children. **Yet many parents reported barriers to**

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**Over 3,000**



**children**

***under the age of 25 have parents in Alameda and San Francisco County Jails on any given day.***  
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contact including the high cost of phone calls (43%) and the high costs of visiting (35%). Only 35% of incarcerated parents or caregivers reported having jail visits with at least one of their children, and **81% of these visits were “non-contact”** meaning they were held behind glass windows where children and parents had no physical contact with each other.

***Children feel the burden of significant disruptions when their parents become incarcerated including changes in residences, schools and family income.*** 27% of parents reported that their children had to change residence at least once because of their parents’ incarceration. 16% of parents reported that their children had to change schools because their parents went to jail. And, 63% of parents reported that their family had lost income because of their incarceration.

***For children who are involved in both the child welfare system and have an incarcerated parent, the disruptions in their lives can be even more complicated.*** Children with CPS involvement were significantly more likely to have a change in their living arrangement (47% vs. 27%,  $p < 0.0001$ ) and to have a change in their school placement (34% vs. 15%,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Children with CPS involvement also experienced significantly higher rates of repetitive parental incarceration, i.e., a parent who had been incarcerated 11+ times (47% vs. 34%,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Furthermore, children of parents or caregivers whose other parent was (also) currently in custody were three times more likely to be involved with Child Welfare or CPS compared to those whose other parent was not in custody (23% v. 8%,  $p < 0.0001$ ).

***Parents intend to be a part of their children’s lives after incarceration – thus it is important to support children and their parents to help ensure a healthy reconnection.***

The vast majority (95%) of incarcerated parents and caregivers reported that they plan to reconnect with at least one child after their release from jail. When asked what additional support incarcerated parents and caregivers thought their children would benefit from both while they were incarcerated and after they were released, the most common answers were **positive family activities (56%), recreational activities (49%), support for basic life needs (43%), counseling/ therapy (38%), and homework/tutoring (37%).**



***95% of parents plan to reconnect with at least one child after their release from jail.***

## Introduction

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### Overview of Issues, Needs and Assets

There are more than 2.7 million children in the United States who have an incarcerated parent and approximately 10 million children who have experienced parental incarceration at some point in their lives.<sup>1</sup> Nearly half of all U.S. children have a parent with a criminal record.<sup>2</sup> The story for each child affected by his/her parent's incarceration can vary greatly and depend on diverse factors, including the quality of the parent-child relationship prior to incarceration, the

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**Nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all**

**U.S. children have a  
parent with a criminal record.**

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An important note regarding the ACE study is that it examines life issues through the lens of child maltreatment and not by adult risk factors. Thus, "when we talk about a child losing a parent to incarceration and we interpret the ACES literature only through a child maltreatment lens, the meaning that gets made (intentionally or not) is that children of incarcerated parents are maltreated children, harmed by their parents and thus better off without them. If however, the parents who are in prison or jail are seen as potential supports for their children, as buffers from the toxicity of stress, then a different meaning is made of the loss. It becomes more profound and less dismissible."<sup>7</sup>

Furthermore, while separation due to a parent's incarceration can be as painful as other forms of parental loss (such as death or divorce), it can be even more complicated because of the stigma, ambiguity, and lack of social support and compassion that accompanies it.<sup>8,9</sup> Visits between parents and their children during incarceration (in most cases) can help to heal the

degree of household stability both before and following incarceration, and the child's age, developmental level, and individual personality.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, while many of the risk factors children of incarcerated parents experience may be related to parental substance use, mental health, inadequate education, or other challenges associated with incarceration, having an incarcerated parent increases the risk of children living in poverty or experiencing household instability independent of these other challenges.<sup>4</sup> In fact, the ACE Study, or Adverse Childhood Experiences, recognizes an incarcerated relative as one of the 10 key traumatic childhood experiences that can have an effect on a child's developing brain and body with lasting impacts on a person's health throughout his/her lifespan.<sup>5,6</sup>

pain of the loss and are critical to children’s well-being.<sup>10</sup> There is also a misperception that children of incarcerated parents are six times more likely to be incarcerated than their peers, and are predisposed to criminal activity; yet there is little basis for this conclusion in existing research.<sup>11,12</sup> In fact the data that have been cited to support this misconception are based on two small studies, one with a sample size of 20 participants and the other examining a subset of children involved in the juvenile justice system.<sup>13</sup>

## Increased Interest in Children of Incarcerated Parents

There has been a significant increased interest in the issues, needs and assets of children of incarcerated parents throughout the country. Nationally, the White House has led efforts to bring attention to these children through its “Champions for Change” ceremony honoring 12 individuals throughout the country for their efforts to improve the lives of children of incarcerated parents.<sup>14</sup> In addition, in August 2013, the White House, along with the American Bar Foundation and the National Science Foundation, hosted the conference “Parental Incarceration in the United States: Bringing Together Research and Policy to Reduce Collateral Costs to Children.”<sup>15</sup> Researchers, practitioners, and policymakers across the country came together to review the current research,

identify programs and best practices, and develop recommendations to improve outcomes for children with parental involvement in the criminal justice system.

Also of national significance is Sesame Street’s outreach campaign and toolkit, “Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration.”<sup>16</sup>

Along with adding a new “puppet” whose father is in prison, the Sesame Street toolkit aims to provide resources and information for families with young children as they encounter the difficult changes and transitions that come with a parent's incarceration.

While the level of interest at the national level on the issues and needs of children of

incarcerated parents is encouraging and brings much needed attention to this issue, there is still a void in reliable local data on how many children are impacted by incarceration and what unique needs, assets and challenges they might have that may vary among communities, especially those communities more disproportionately impacted by high rates of incarceration. It is also important to consider if impacts of parental incarceration are different for children when the parent is incarcerated at a local jail versus a state or federal prison. When in jail, the



*“She may be too young to understand or know what jail is, but she understands daddy is not there!”*

parent's length of stay may be shorter and visits may be more accessible due to the potential closer proximity of the correctional facility but the incarceration may be more sudden and unpredictable in the eyes of the child. Often, state or federal level data are used to estimate the number of children of incarcerated parents at the local level but rarely have there been efforts to collect this information on a large scale through local criminal justice agencies.

***This vital information can help to promote data driven culture change and justify the need for increased resources within local government services systems. These additional resources can lead to improved programs and policies for these children and their families in order to strengthen connections during incarceration and ensure healthy family systems after release.***

## Project Overview

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In Fall 2014, the Alameda County Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (ACCIPP) partnered with the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) to develop, distribute, collect and analyze a brief survey about issues related to children of incarcerated parents to all individuals incarcerated within the adult county jail system. Based on the successful efforts of ACCIPP to gain approval for this ground breaking data collection, the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP) approached the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department (SFSD) and successfully gained approval to conduct the survey throughout this neighboring adult jail system as well. By gaining permission to work with two neighboring jail systems, and given that children of incarcerated parents do not necessarily live in the counties in which their parents are incarcerated, this project was in the unique position to gather more comprehensive information and work across local county government and service systems. It is these local government and service agencies that are best positioned to provide a continuous system of support for children both during and after their parents’ incarceration. ***This extensive data collection effort gathered some of the most comprehensive local level information about children of incarcerated parents ever collected in the United States.***

The survey was structured to gather information to inform program and policy decisions in consideration of the children’s well-being when their parents become incarcerated in local jails. Survey methods and content were developed through a collaborative process that included the creation of two project advisory boards, one from each county. The project advisory boards included: (1) members of ACCIPP and SFCIPP; (2) staff from ACSO and SFSD; (3) other subject matter experts, and (4) formerly incarcerated mothers and fathers from Alameda and San Francisco Counties. A sample of the survey can be found in Appendix 1. Table 1 presents the main outcomes of the survey.

**Table 1: Survey Outcomes**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ▶ Identify who within the Alameda and San Francisco County Jail Systems is a parent of children 25 years old or younger*;                                                       |
| ▶ Gather basic information about locally incarcerated parents and their child(ren);                                                                                             |
| ▶ Better understand how children are affected by their parents’ incarceration;                                                                                                  |
| ▶ Identify what types of resources families might need for children and parents to maintain contact and/or relationships during their parents’ incarceration and after release. |

\*Project advisory board determined to include children up to 25 year old in the survey because of the increased number of young adults (age 19-25) living with their parents and considered dependents.

## Project Staff

The survey project was conducted by a designated study team and a group of volunteers. The study team comprised a Principal Investigator/Project Director and two project leads, one for each county. All of the study team members were trained and certified in Human Subjects Protections as required by the Interval Review Board (IRB). The study team members were responsible for all recruitment and consent procedures at each of the jail facilities. The study volunteers were members of ACCIPP and/or SFCIPP who were staff from local community based agencies working within each of the jail facilities. They helped to distribute and collect surveys, answer questions related to survey questions, provide language or literacy support as needed for survey participants, and conduct data input. There was also a data manager who was primarily responsible for data cleaning and analysis.

## Jail Facilities

The survey was administered at all adult county run jail facilities within Alameda and San Francisco Counties. This included jail facilities housing adult men, women, and transgender individuals and at all security levels. Table 2 provides a brief description of each jail facility.

<b>Table 2: Jail Facilities</b>		
<b>Alameda County</b>		
<b>Jail</b>	<b>Population*</b>	<b>Average Daily Population<sup>17</sup></b>
Santa Rita	Men, Women, Transgender	2,395
Glen Dyer	Men, Transgender	430
<b>San Francisco City &amp; County</b>		
<b>Jail</b>	<b>Population*</b>	<b>Average Daily Population<sup>17</sup></b>
County Jail #2	Men, Women, Transgender	243
County Jail #4	Men, Transgender	293
County Jail #5	Men, Transgender	651

\*Both counties have designated “male and female” facilities. Both jail systems also identify some individuals as transgender. However, it is believed that additional transgender individuals are housed throughout the jail facilities; for this reason, transgender individuals are identified as a possible population in all facilities surveyed.

It is important to note that the survey was conducted in jail facilities and not prison facilities. Incarceration in jail can be more sudden and have unpredictable and/or shorter lengths of stay than incarceration in prison. These variables should be considered when reviewing the data and consideration of effects of parental incarceration on children.

## Survey Collection Methodology

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### Jail Staff Preparation

In the weeks prior to survey collection, jail custody staff were briefed on the project by both survey study team members and Sheriff Department staff. The brief included presentations on recruitment and survey collection methods conducted at the daily staff “roll calls” in each of the jails surveyed. Roll calls are typically short daily briefs conducted by jail custody leadership staff with all custody staff at the beginning of each work shift to take attendance, give updates and provide announcements for the day.

### Recruitment & Consent

Surveys were administered over a series of days in each county jail in October and November 2014. Times for survey distribution were selected based on when the majority of incarcerated individuals would be in their housing units. Individuals housed in solitary confinement, disciplinary housing units and/or housing units for individuals with severe mental illness were not eligible to participate in the survey. All individuals who were present in the approved housing units on the day and time of the survey distribution were eligible to participate.

On the day of survey distribution, the study team and volunteers visited each approved housing unit within the jail. Upon entering the housing unit, a member of the study team made a verbal announcement and provided a brief project overview for everyone in the unit. The announcement was made in both English and Spanish. All individuals interested in learning more about the survey were invited to meet with the study team in a predetermined area of the housing unit such as a program room or at the common tables within the housing unit.

All individuals that indicated they wanted to participate in the survey were given a consent information sheet with a survey in either English or Spanish, depending on their preference. Individuals were given the opportunity to review the consent information sheet and ask one-on-one questions with anyone from the study team. Individuals were given the option of keeping the consent information sheet or returning it with their survey. The survey was completed anonymously with no identifying information collected from individual participants. The study team and volunteers were available to help with language and literacy barriers while participants completed the survey. After participants completed the survey, they were instructed to return the survey by placing it in a large envelope to further ensure their anonymity. Any individual who completed and returned a survey received a small snack, a resource list of in-jail and community services, and a “tips for incarcerated parents” information sheet. Additional resources lists and tips sheets were left in the housing units. The study

received IRB approval from Ethical and Independent Review Services in July 2014 (Kramer, Principal Investigator) and approval by both Sheriffs prior to its administration.

## Survey Structure

Every person responding to the survey, whether they were a parent or not, completed the first question: “Are you a parent or primary caregiver for any child(ren) who is 25 years or younger?” If they answered “no,” they were instructed that they had completed the survey. If they answered “yes,” participants were prompted to complete the rest of the survey. The double-sided, one-page survey was structured in four sections (*See Appendix 1 for Sample Survey*). The following are the four sections of the survey.

Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participant demographic information and incarceration history</li></ul>
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child specific information related to demographics, living situation, and child welfare and juvenile justice involvement</li></ul>
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information about parents’ perceived effects of incarceration on their children including child presence at time of arrest, impacts on living, education and economic arrangement</li></ul>
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information about parents’ connectivity with their children, intentions to reconnect with children after release, and recommendations for types of support services for children</li></ul>



## Overview of Survey Results

On the days of survey collection, a total of 2,998 people were present in the housing units at time of survey distribution and offered the opportunity to participate. Of this number, a total of 2,045 individuals (68%) completed surveys within five Alameda and San Francisco County jails. Of the surveys collected, 2,041 were included in the analysis. Four participants were administratively dropped due to inability to participate. Of those included in the analysis, 1,134 participants (56%) were from Alameda County jails and 907 participants (44%) were from San Francisco County jails. 95% of the surveys were completed in English and 5% were completed in Spanish. Table 3 provides an overview of survey collection by county.

**2,045 surveys were completed within 5 county jails.**

**Table 3: Survey Collection Summary by County**

	Alameda County		San Francisco	
Total Number of People Offered Survey*	2,007		991	
Total Number of People Completed Survey	1,134		907	
Survey Completion Rate**	57%		91%	
Distribution of Surveys Per Jail	Santa Rita Jail	88%	County Jail #2	18%
	Glen Dyer Jail	12%	County Jail #4	32%
			County Jail #5	50%

\*Total number of people in housing units on day and time of survey distribution.

\*\*In Alameda County, survey participation was 'opt-in' where individuals had to actively choose to take the survey. In San Francisco, survey participation was 'opt-out' where individuals had to actively choose to not take survey.

## Data Analysis

Participant demographic characteristics and survey responses were summarized with frequencies and averages for the two counties combined and for each county separately. All data points were assessed for male and female participants combined and separately to assess differences by participant gender. A special note on gender; participants were asked to self-identify their gender as female, male, trans-male or trans-female. The number of individuals who self-identified as trans-male (N=6) or trans-female (N=7) were too low to be representative or have significance and thus were excluded from gender difference analysis but were included in all other analyses. Specific data points were also assessed both for child age groups combined and separately to assess differences by age. Finally, specific data points were also assessed combined and separately for racial ethnic groups to assess differences by racial/ethnic group. Summaries of all data collected in each county can be found in Appendix 2 (Alameda County) and Appendix 3 (San Francisco).

## Prevalence of Parents with Children ≤ 25 years old

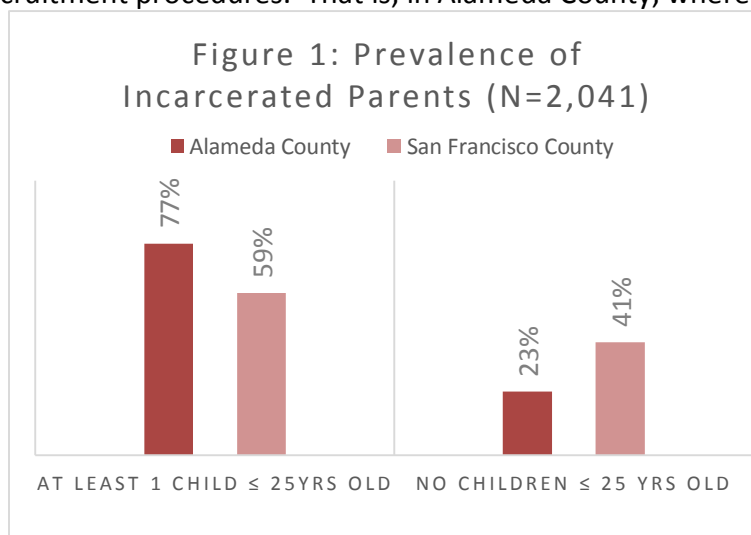
**69% of participants**  
reported being a **parent or primary caregiver** for at least one child 25 years old or younger



The question of “are you a parent or primary caregiver for any child(ren) who is 25 years or younger?” served as the threshold question for the survey and responses varied between the two counties. **Overall, 69% of survey participants reported that they were a parent or primary caregiver for at least one child 25 years old or younger.** Among all survey participants in **Alameda County**, over three quarters of participants (77%) reported that they are a parent or primary caregiver of at least one child 25 years or younger, with an average of 2 children (range: 1-10+). Among all

survey participants in **San Francisco**, over half of participants (59%) reported that they are a parent or primary caregiver of at least one child 25 years or younger, also with an average of 2 children (range: 1-10+). Figure 1 provides a side by side comparison of parents with children 25 years old or younger between the two jail systems.

One explanation of the difference in number of incarcerated parents by county may be the variation in opt-out versus opt-in recruitment procedures. That is, in Alameda County, where participants had to actively volunteer to participate, being a parent may have been a motivator toward participation and thus an explanation for the higher prevalence of parents among those surveyed. Or, there might be a higher percentage of incarcerated parents in Alameda County.



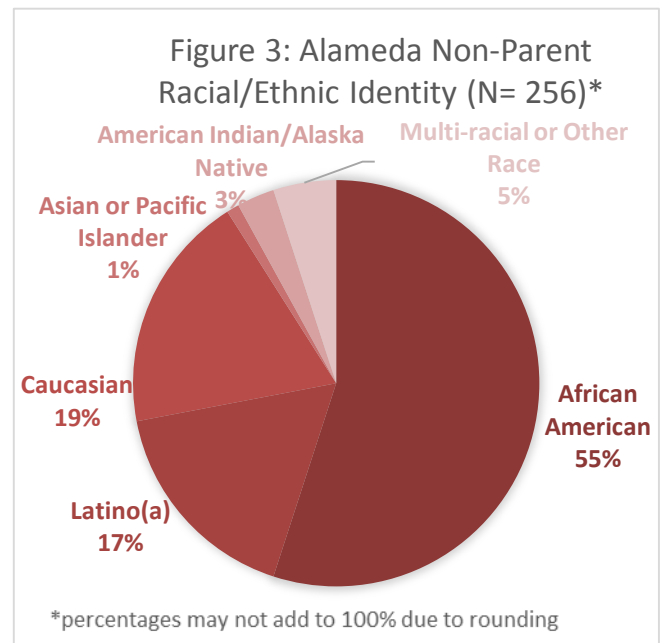
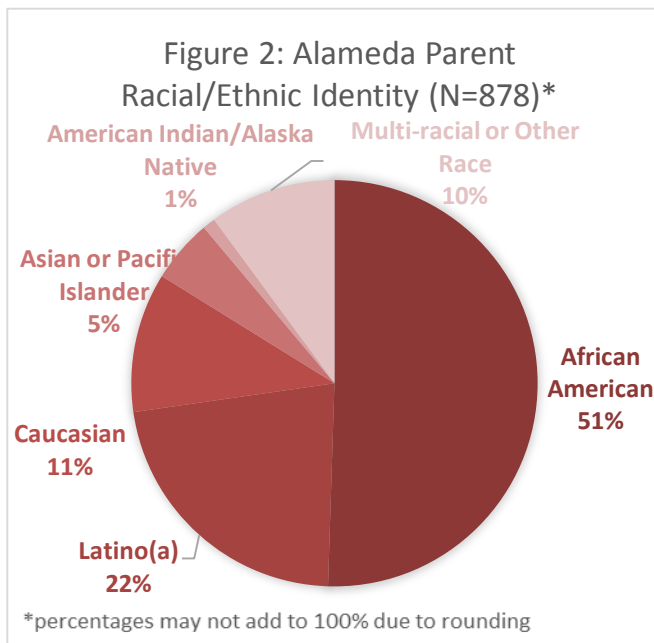
## Parent Demographics

### Alameda County

The following is a brief description of all parents or caregivers of children ≤ 25 years old who responded to the survey in Alameda County jails.

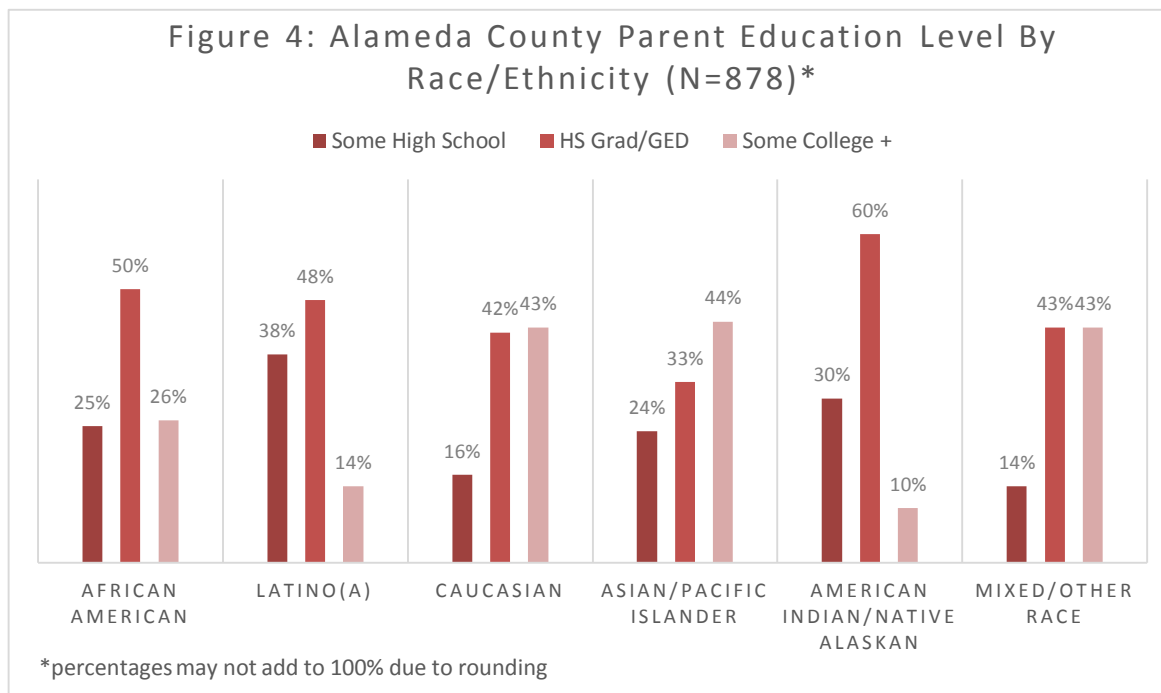
#### Age, Gender and Racial/Ethnic Identify

The average age of Alameda County parents or caregivers was 31 years and 90% were male. When asked what languages they spoke (check all that apply), a majority (93%) of participants reported speaking English and 17% of participants reported speaking Spanish. A substantial majority of parent participants reported a racial or ethnic minority identity. Half (51%) of participants identified as African American followed by Latino (22%), Caucasian (11%), Asian or Pacific Islander (5%), American Indian/Alaska Native (1%) and multi-racial or other race (10%). There were no significant differences in racial and ethnic identities reported by the parent participants in Alameda County compared to non-parent participants. Figures 2 and 3 provide a comparison of racial/ethnic identify as reported by parents/caregivers vs. non parents participating in the survey in Alameda County Jails.



## Education Level

In regards to highest education level achieved to date, 26% of Alameda County parents or caregivers reported some high school or less, 47% reported having a high school degree or GED, and 27% reported that they had at least some college education (some college, college degree, or post-graduate degree). Figure 4 presents educational level across racial/ethnic identity.



A summary of demographic information for Alameda County parents and caregivers of children ≤ 25 years old is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Parent Participant Demographics – Alameda County (N=878)*			
Median age of parents and caregivers			31 years
Gender	%	Languages Spoken	%
Male	90%	English	93%
Female	9%	Spanish	17%
Transgender	1%	Mandarin/Cantonese	1%
		Other	6%
Ethnicity	%	Education Level	%
African American	51%	Some high school or less	26%
Latino	22%	High school graduate/GED	47%
Caucasian	11%	Some college or more	27%
Asian or Pacific Islander	5%		
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%		
Multi-racial/Other	10%		

\*percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

## San Francisco

The following is a brief description of parents or caregivers participating in the survey in San Francisco County Jails.

### Age, Gender and Racial/Ethnic Identify

The average age of San Francisco parents and caregivers was 34 years and 87% were male. When asked what languages they spoke, a majority (94%) of participants reported speaking English and 14% reported speaking Spanish. As in Alameda County, a substantial majority of San Francisco participants reported a racial or ethnic minority identity. Half (50%) of participants identified as African American followed by Latino (14%), Caucasian (13%), Asian or Pacific Islander (9%), American Indian/Alaska Native (1%), and multi-racial or other race (13%). Unlike in Alameda County, there were significant differences ( $p=0.002$ ) in racial and ethnic identities reported by the parent participants in San Francisco compared to non-parent participants. Figures 5 and 6 provide a comparison of racial/ethnic identify as reported by parents/caregivers vs. non-parents participating in the survey in San Francisco County Jails.

Figure 5: San Francisco parent Racial/Ethnic Identity (N=536)

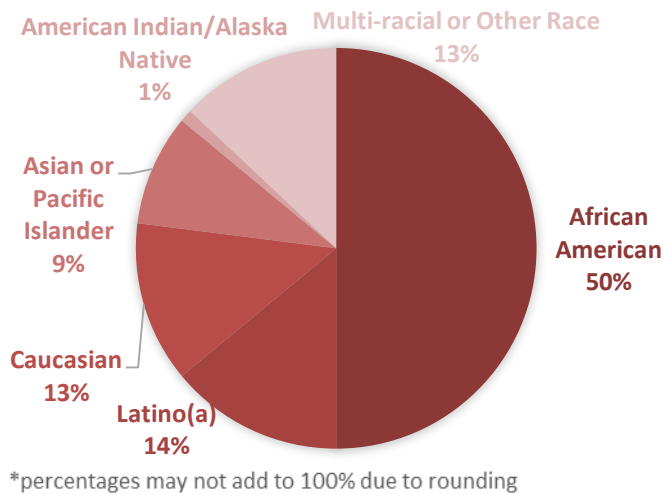
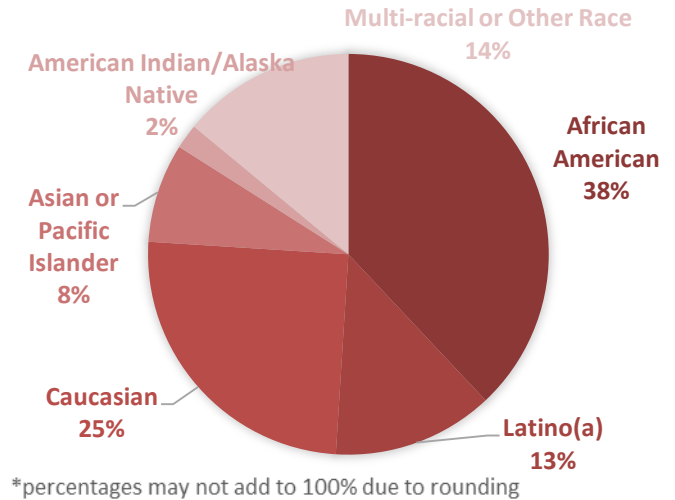
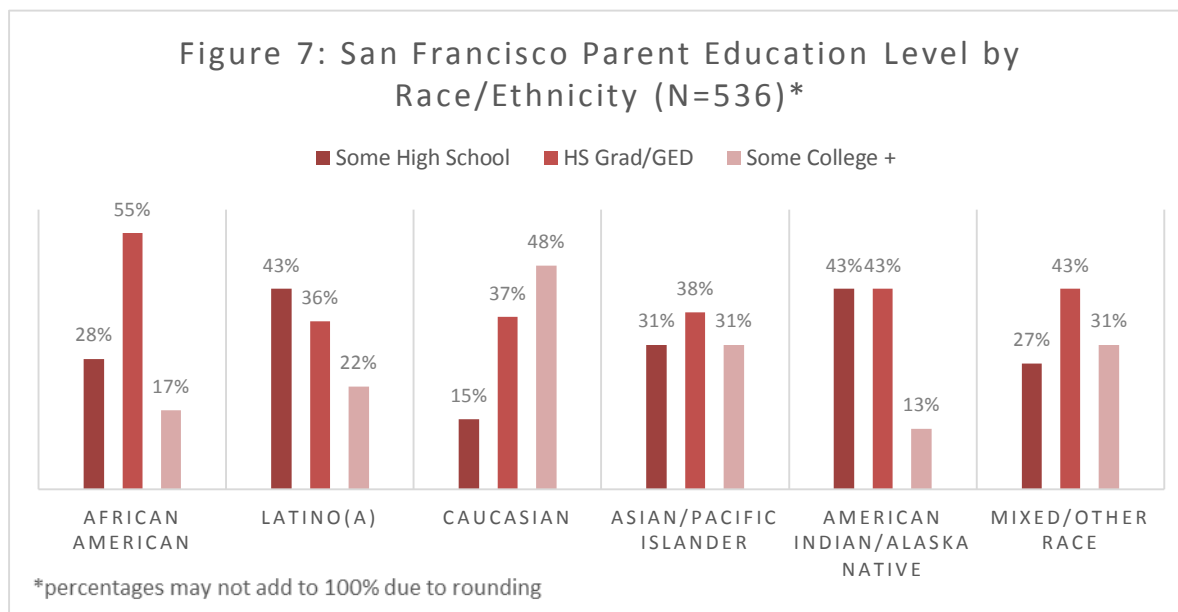


Figure 6: San Francisco Non-parent Racial/Ethnic Identity (N=371)



## Education Level

In regards to highest education level achieved to date, 29% of San Francisco parents and caregivers reported some high school or less, 47% reported having a high school degree or GED, and 25% reported that they had at least some college education (some college, college degree, or postgraduate degree). Figure 7 presents educational level across racial/ethnic identity.



A summary of demographic information for San Francisco parents and caregivers of children ≤ 25 years old is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Parent Participant Demographics – San Francisco (N=536)*			
Median age of parents and caregivers			34 years
Gender	%	Languages Spoken	%
Male	87%	English	94%
Female	13%	Spanish	14%
Transgender	1%	Mandarin/Cantonese	2%
		Other	5%
Ethnicity	%	Education Level	%
African American	50%	Some high school or less	29%
Latino	14%	High school graduate/GED	47%
Caucasian	13%	Some college or more	25%
Asian or Pacific Islander	9%		
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%		
Multi-racial/Other	13%		

\*percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

## Parental Incarceration

Overall, participants in both counties reported repeated incarceration rates with **36% of parents or caregivers reporting being incarcerated 6 or more times since becoming a parent.**

### Alameda County

For Alameda County parents and caregivers, the average age at first incarceration was 18 years old, and 40% of participants were younger than 18 years when they were first incarcerated. **The age range at first incarceration was 8 to 63 years old.**

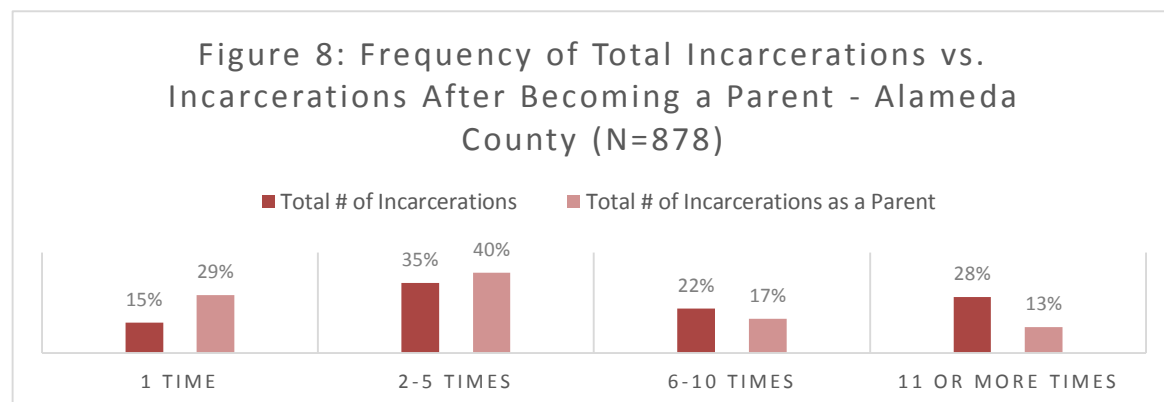
Additionally, 43% of all parents and caregivers of children  $\leq 25$  years old reported that one of their own parents had been incarcerated. Of note, 58% of participants whose first incarceration occurred before they were 18 reported that at least one of their own parents had been incarcerated compared to 34% of individuals whose first incarceration occurred after age 18 reporting that their own parent had been incarcerated ( $p < 0.0001$ ).

Half (50%) of Alameda County parents and caregivers reported being incarcerated more than five times with 28% of participants reporting being incarcerated 11 times or more. After becoming a parent/caregiver, 29% of participants reported being incarcerated one time, 40% reported being incarcerated two to five times, and 30% reported being incarcerated more than five times. Figure 8 compares incarceration history for Alameda County parent and caregiver survey participants prior to and after becoming a parent or caregiver.



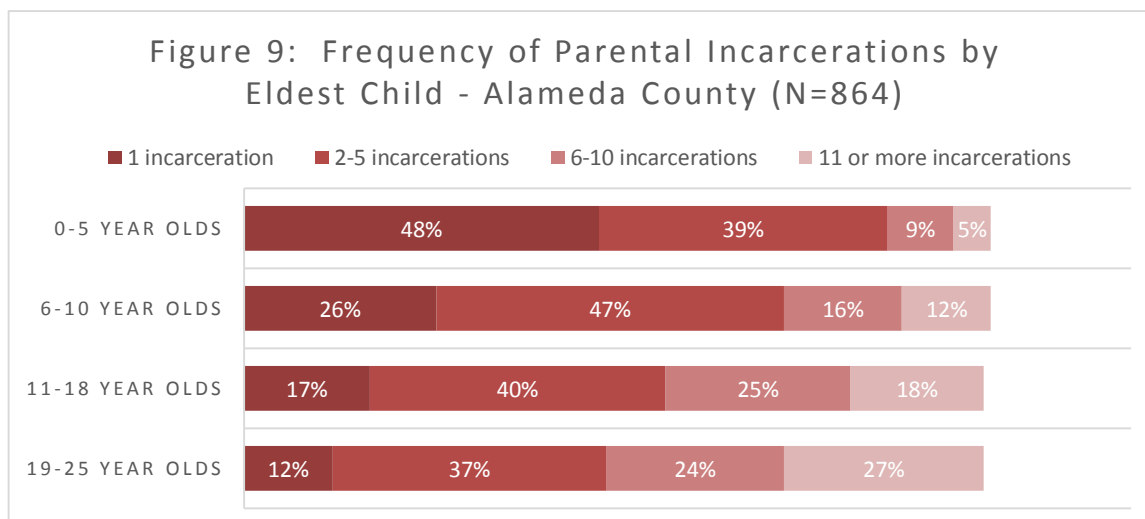
**36% of parents have been incarcerated 6 or more times since becoming a parent.**

Figure 8: Frequency of Total Incarcerations vs. Incarcerations After Becoming a Parent - Alameda County (N=878)



### Parental Incarceration History by Child’s Age – Alameda County

When examining the number of parental incarcerations by age of first child, older children were more heavily affected by multiple parental incarcerations. 43% of parents with eldest children 11-18 years old and 51% of parents with eldest children 19-25 years old reported being incarcerated 6 or more times. **Yet younger children with parents in Alameda County jails had also experienced multiple parental incarcerations; 28% of families in which the eldest child in the home was 6-10 years old, and 14% of families in which the eldest child in the home was 0-5 years old had experienced 6 or more parental incarcerations.** Figure 9 provides a comparison of frequency of parental incarcerations across age groups of the eldest child in the household for Alameda County survey participants.



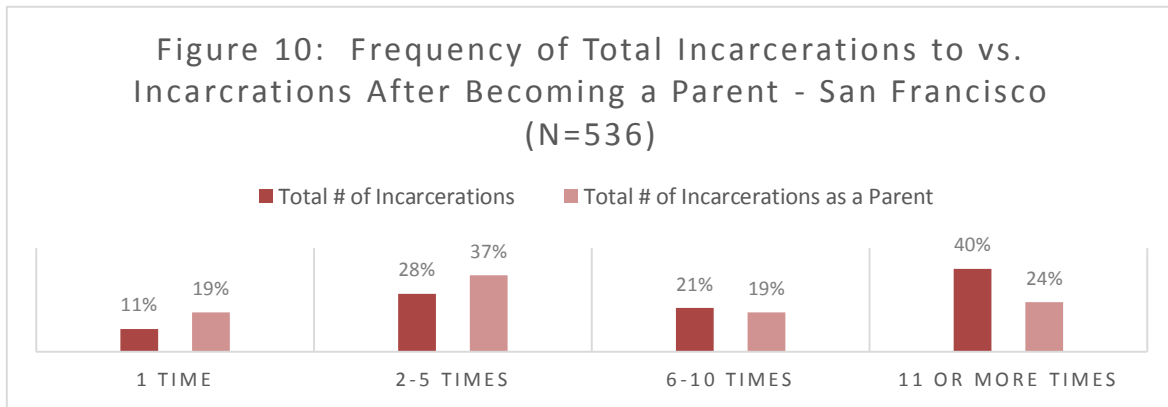
### San Francisco

Similar to Alameda County, the average age at first incarceration for San Francisco parents/caregivers was 18 year olds, and 48% of participants were younger than 18 years when they were first incarcerated. **The age range at first incarceration was 8 to 63 years old.** Additionally, 46% of parents and caregivers reported that one of their own parents had been incarcerated. Similar to Alameda County, 57% of participants whose first incarceration occurred before age 18 reported that at least one of their own parents had been incarcerated compared to 36% of individuals whose first incarceration occurred after age 18 reporting that their own parent had been incarcerated ( $p < 0.0001$ )

Parent and caregiver survey participants in San Francisco reported a slightly higher level of multiple incarcerations than parent and caregiver survey participants in Alameda County. 61% of San Francisco parents and caregivers reported being incarcerated more than five times with 40% of these participants reporting being incarcerated 11 times or more. Less than half of San Francisco participants (39%) reported being incarcerated five times or less. After becoming a

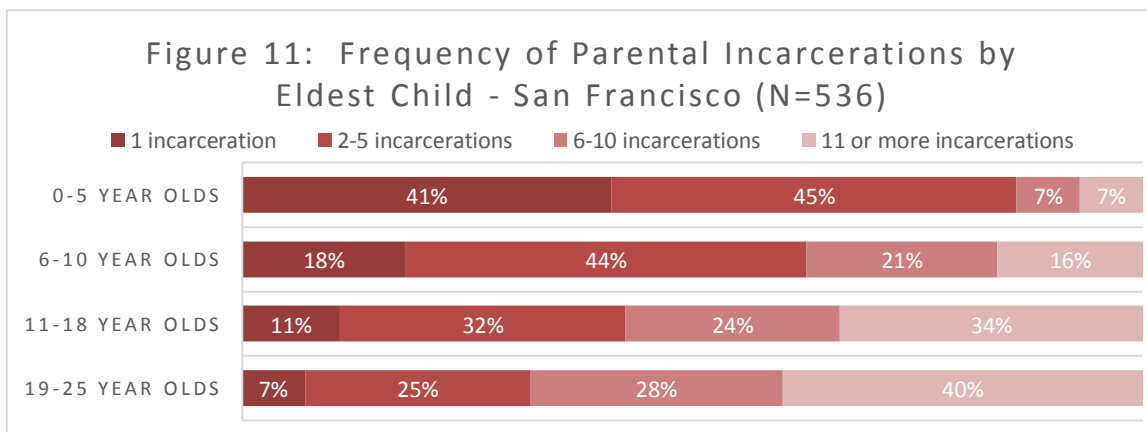


parent or caregiver, 19% of participants reported being incarcerated one time, 37% reported being incarcerated two to five times, and 43% reported being incarcerated more than five times. Figure 10 compares incarceration history for San Francisco parent and caregiver survey participants prior to and after becoming a parent or caregiver.



### Parental Incarceration History by Child’s Age – San Francisco

When examining number of parental incarcerations by age of first child, as in Alameda County, older children with parents in San Francisco County jails were more heavily affected by multiple parental incarcerations. 58% of parents with first or eldest children who were 11-18 years old and 68% of parents with first or eldest children 19-25 years old reported being incarcerated 6 or more times. **Yet like in Alameda County, younger children with parents in San Francisco County jails had also experienced multiple parental incarcerations; 37% of families in which the eldest child in the home was 6-10 years old, and 14% of families in which the eldest child in the home was 0-5 years old had experienced 6 or more parental incarcerations.** Figure 11 provides a comparison of frequency of parental incarcerations across age groups of the eldest child in the household for San Francisco survey participants.



## Child Demographics

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**Alameda County** participants reported being a parent or primary caregiver for a total of 1,781 children aged 25 years or younger. **San Francisco** participants reported being a parent or primary caregiver to a total of 1,110 children aged 25 years or younger. If considerations are made for the individuals who were not surveyed in these jails for various reasons (not present in the housing unit during survey due to court appearance, medical appointment, lawyer visit, family visit or in units not offered the survey), it can be conservatively estimated that, ***on any given day, there are more than 3,000 children aged 25 years or younger with parents in Alameda or San Francisco County Jails.*** It is important to note, that this number does not include children of young parents incarcerated in local juvenile detention facilities.

In **Alameda County**, the average age of children was 8 with an age distribution as follows: 39% were 0-5 years old, 23% were 6-10 years old, 25% were 11-18 years old and 13% were 19-25 years old. 45% of children were African American, followed by Multi-racial or other race (22%), Latino (20%), Caucasian (10%), and Asian or Pacific Islander (4%). The primary language for a majority (92%) of children aged 2 years or older was English with 7% primarily speaking Spanish, less than 1% primarily speaking Mandarin or Cantonese, and 2% primarily speaking an 'other' language.

In **San Francisco**, the average age of children was 9 years with an age distribution as follows: 32% were 0-5 years old, 24% were 6-10 years old, 28% were 11-18 years old and 15% were 19-25 years old. 47% of children were African American followed by Multi-racial or other race (22%), Latino (12%), Caucasian (10%), and Asian or Pacific Islander (8%). The primary language of a majority (94%) for children aged 2 years or older was English with 5% primarily speaking Spanish and 1% primarily speaking Mandarin, Cantonese, or an 'other' language.

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**Over 3,000**



**children**

***under the age of 25 have parents in Alameda and San Francisco County Jails ON any given day.***

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Table 6 provides a comparison of child demographics between the two counties.

<b>Table 6: Demographics for Children ≤ 25 Years Old*</b>		
	<b>Alameda County (N=1,781)</b>	<b>San Francisco (N=1,110)</b>
<b>Average age of children (range)</b>	<b>8 yrs (0-25yrs)</b>	<b>9 yrs (0-25 yrs)</b>
0-5 years old	39%	32%
6-10 years old	23%	24%
11-18 years old	25%	28%
19-25 years old	13%	15%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	51%	52%
Female	49%	48%
Transgender	0%	0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
African American	45%	47%
Latino	20%	12%
Caucasian	10%	10%
Asian or Pacific Islander	4%	8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.8%	0.2%
Multi-racial/Other	21%	22%
<b>Primary Language**</b>		
English	92%	94%
Spanish	7%	5%
Other	2%	1%

\*percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

\*\*children 2 years or older

## Children’s Caregivers and Living Situation

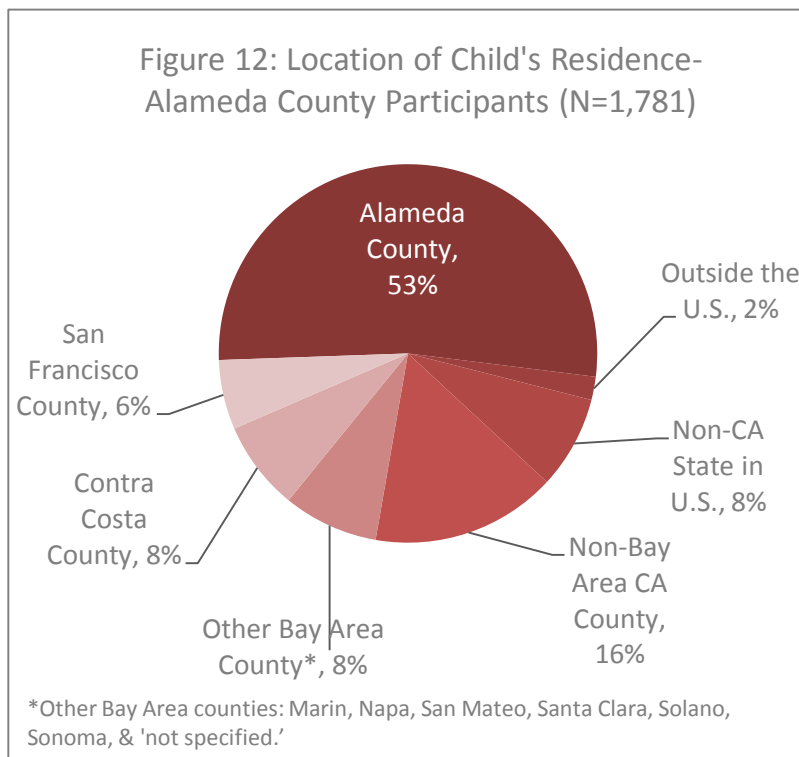
**Overall, the vast majority (74%) of children live in either the same county where their parents are in jail or in a close neighboring county.** These data are particularly important when discussing opportunities to help children and parents maintain ties while parents are incarcerated as discussed later in this report. The following provides a detailed breakdown by county on data collected about the children’s current residence and primary “outside” caregiver while their parent is incarcerated.

**74% of children live in the same county as location of jail or close neighboring Bay Area County.**

### Alameda County

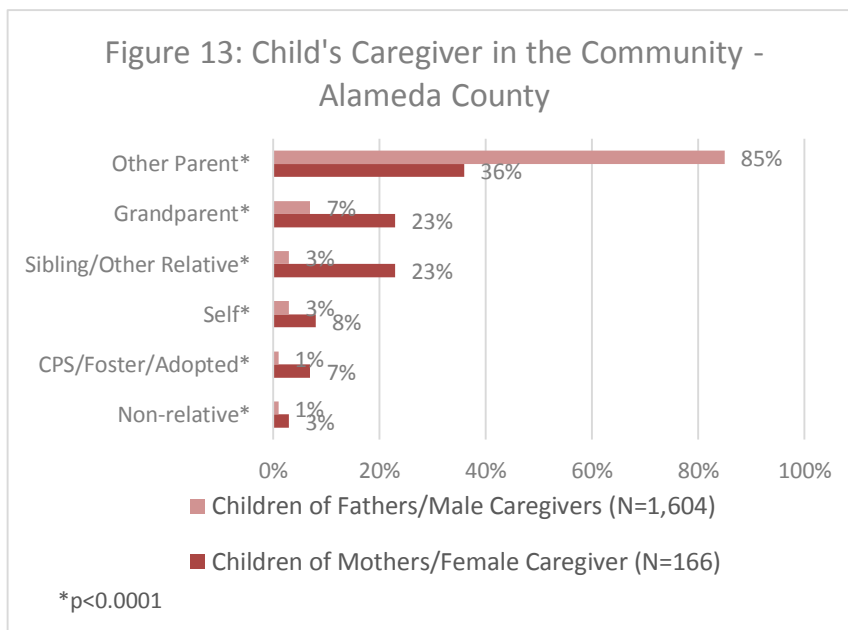
#### Child’s County of Residence

A majority (74%) of children with parents or caregivers in Alameda County Jails lived in the Bay Area with **53% living in Alameda County, the same county as the parent or caregiver’s jail location.** The distribution of location of the children’s current residence is presented in Figure 12. A full list of children’s locations throughout California can be found in Appendix 4.



## Child's Current Caregiver

**When asked with whom their children were currently living, a majority of children (80%) lived with their other parent.** In addition, 8% of children lived with a grandparent, 5% lived with a sibling or other relative, 4% lived on their own, and 3% lived with a non-relative such as a family friend, CPS/foster care, or were adopted. This information varied between male and female participants. There was a statistically significant difference ( $p < 0.0001$ ) regarding the person whom the children lived with between incarcerated fathers and mothers in Alameda County. A majority of the children of incarcerated male parents or caregivers (85%) lived with their other parent compared to only one-third of the children of incarcerated female parents or caregivers (36%). Also, a higher percentage of children of incarcerated female parents or caregivers lived with a grandparent (23%) or with siblings or other relative (23%) compared to incarcerated male parents or caregivers (7% and 3% respectively). Differences in child's "outside" caregiver in the community by gender of incarcerated parent or caregiver are shown in Figure 13.

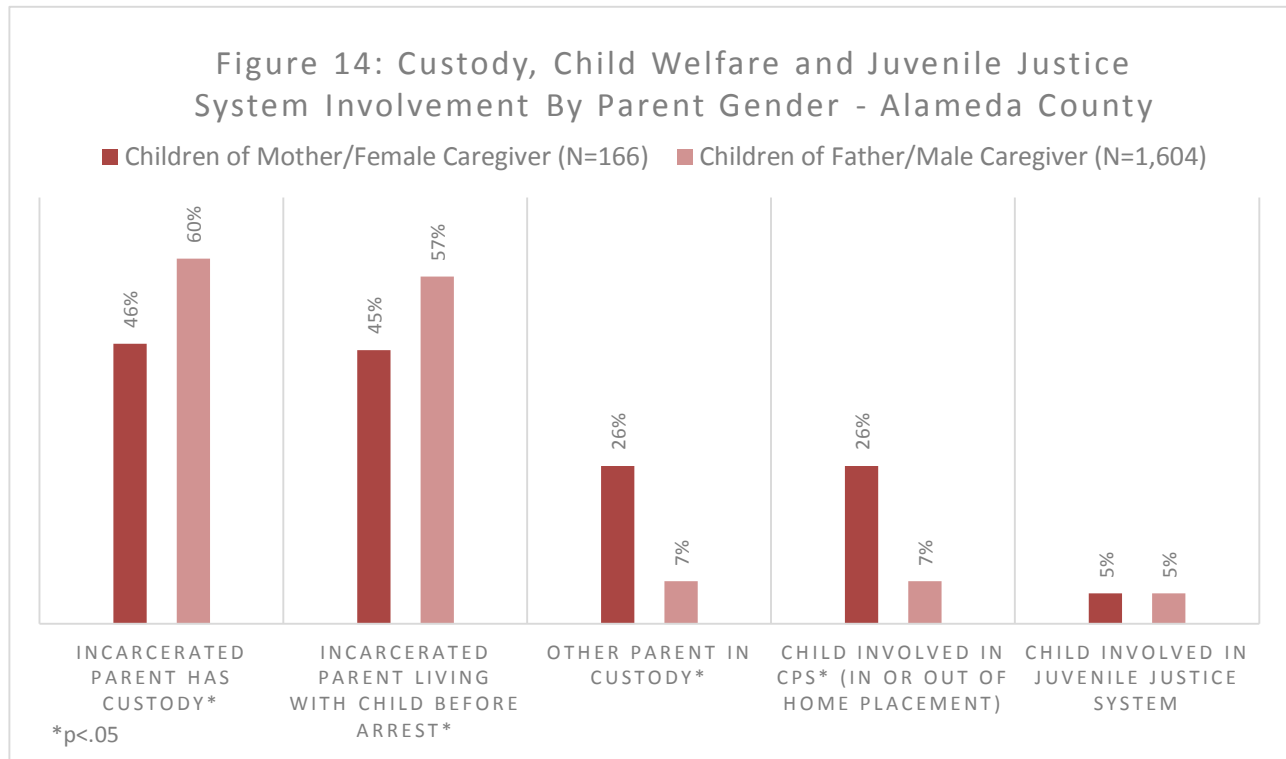


## Custody, Child Welfare Department and Juvenile Justice System Involvement

Alameda County incarcerated parents and caregivers participating in the survey reported having custody of more than half of the children (58%), and 56% of the children were living with them before their arrest. 9% of the children's other parent were currently incarcerated and 8% of the children were reportedly involved in the Child Welfare/Child Protective Services (CPS) system. Child Welfare system involvement was defined as any formal court ordered involvement with the system including both in-home and out-of-home placements. Finally, among children aged 7 years or older, 3% were currently or had been involved in the juvenile justice system.

For many of these variables, there were statistically significant differences between male and female parents or caregiver survey participants in Alameda County including: 1) parent custody, 2) if the child(ren) were living with their parent at time of arrest, 3) if the child's other parent was currently incarcerated, and 4) if the child had Child Welfare/CPS involvement. There was no statistical difference by parent gender for child's involvement in the juvenile justice system with both fathers and mothers reporting very low rates of child juvenile justice involvement. Male parents/caregivers (60%) reported more often some level of parental custody of their

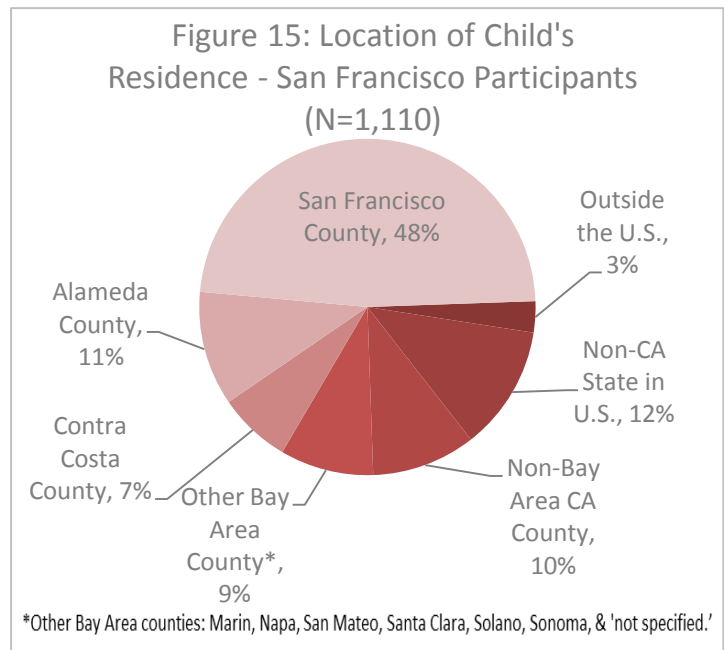
children than did female parents/caregivers (46%,  $p=0.001$ ). As well, a higher percentage of children of male parents/caregivers (57%) were living with the participant before the participant's arrest compared to female parents/caregivers (45%,  $p=0.003$ ). **Almost four times as many children of female parents or caregivers (26%) had their other parent in custody compared to children of male parents or caregivers (7%,  $p<0.0001$ ).** Also, Child Welfare or CPS was involved in more than three times as many children of female parents or caregivers (26%) compared to children of male parents or caregivers (7%,  $p<0.0001$ ). Figure 14 provides an overview of differences between incarcerated mothers and fathers on each of these variables.



## San Francisco

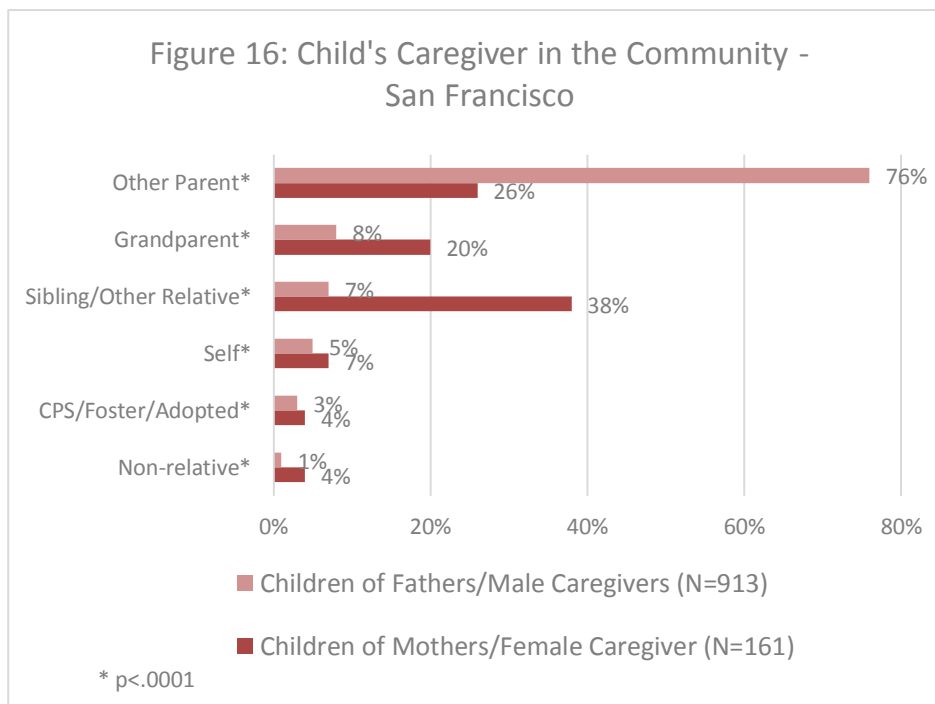
### Child's County of Residence

A majority (75%) of the children with parents or caregivers in San Francisco County Jails lived in the Bay Area with **48% living in San Francisco, the same county as the parent or caregiver's jail location.** The distribution of location of the children's current residence is presented in Figure 15. A full list of children's locations throughout CA can be found in Appendix 4.



### Child's Current Caregiver in the Community

Similar to Alameda County, a majority of the children of San Francisco incarcerated parents lived with the other parent (68% compared to 80% in Alameda County). More children in San Francisco compared to Alameda County (11% vs. 5%) lived with a sibling or other relative or with a grandparent (10% vs. 8%). Similar to Alameda County, 5% of children lived on their own, and 5% lived with a non-relative such as a family friend, CPS/foster care, or were adopted.



Differences in child's "outside" caregiver in the community by gender of incarcerated parent or caregiver are shown in Figure 16.

There was a statistically significant difference regarding the person whom the children lived with between male and female San Francisco parents or caregivers. A majority of the children of male

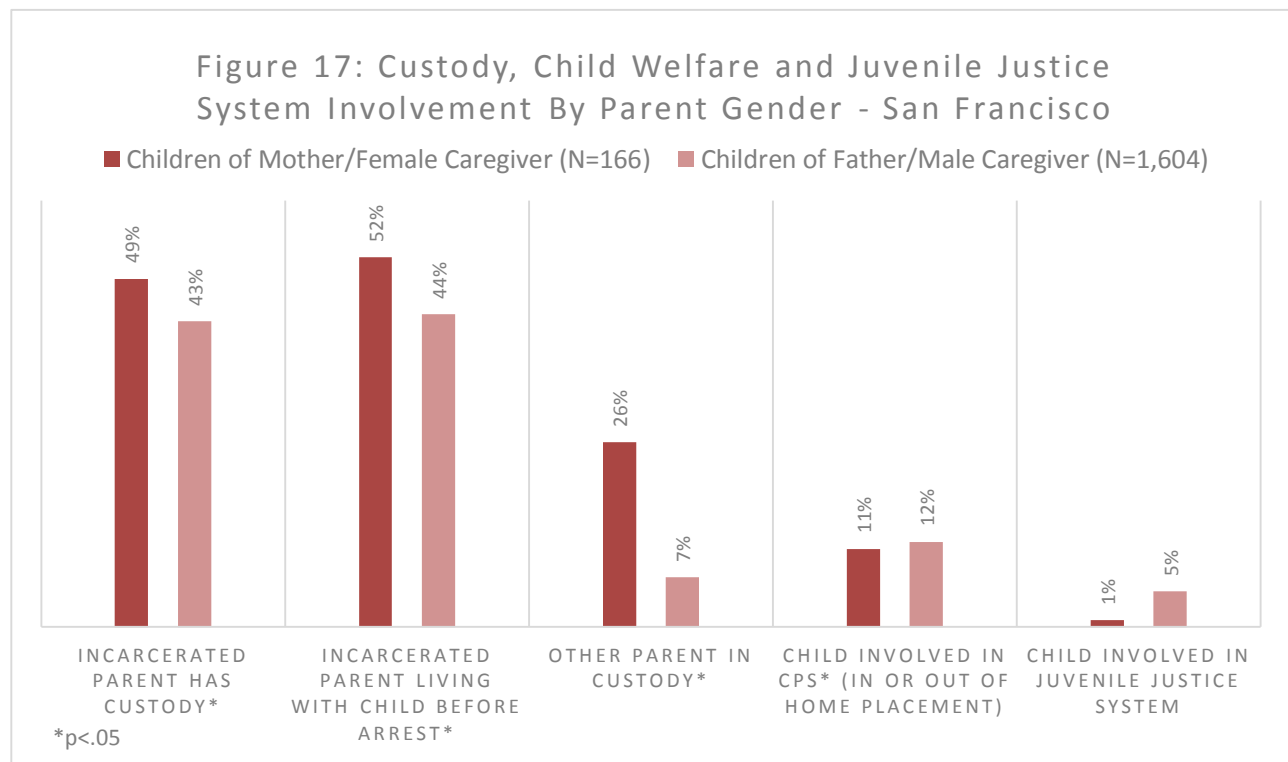
parents or caregivers (76%) lived with their other parent compared to only one-quarter of the children of female parents or caregivers (26%). Also, a higher percentage of children of female

parents or caregivers lived with a grandparent (20%) or with siblings or other relative (38%) compared to male parents or caregivers (8% and 7% respectively).

### Custody, Child Welfare Department and Juvenile Justice System Involvement

San Francisco incarcerated parents or caregivers had custody of close to half of the children (45%), and 46% of the children were living with them before the parent’s arrest. Similar to Alameda County, 9% of San Francisco’s children’s other parent was currently incarcerated. Overall, San Francisco parents reported a higher percentage of children (13% vs. 8% in Alameda County) involved in the child welfare/CPS system; **however, children of incarcerated mothers in San Francisco are half as likely as children of incarcerated mothers in Alameda to be involved in the child welfare system (12% v. 26%)**. Among children aged 7 years or older, 5% were currently or had been involved in the juvenile justice system.

Unlike Alameda County, there was only one variable that demonstrated a statistically significant difference between incarcerated male and female parents or caregivers in San Francisco: if the child’s other parent was currently in custody. **As in Alameda County, almost four times as many children of female parents or caregivers (26%) had their other parent in custody compared to children of male parents or caregivers (7%,  $p < 0.0001$ )**. Figure 17 provides an overview of differences between incarcerated mothers and fathers on each of these important variables.

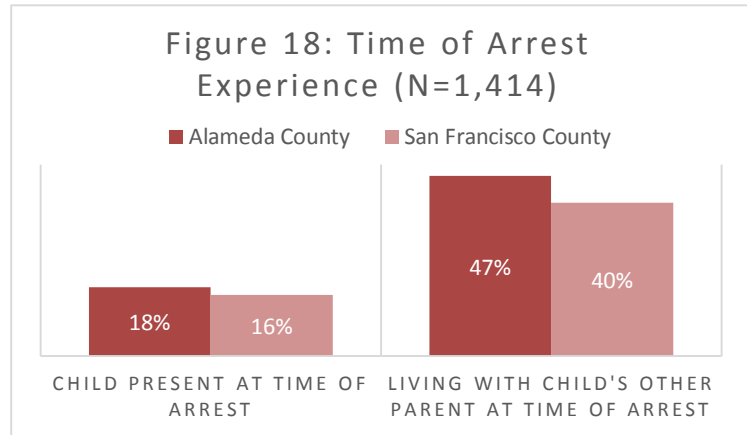




## Children’s Experience at Parent’s Time of Arrest

Most incarcerated parents or caregivers reported that their children aged 25 years or less, were not present at the time the parent was arrested. 18% of parents in Alameda County compared with 16% of parents in San Francisco identified that their children were present.

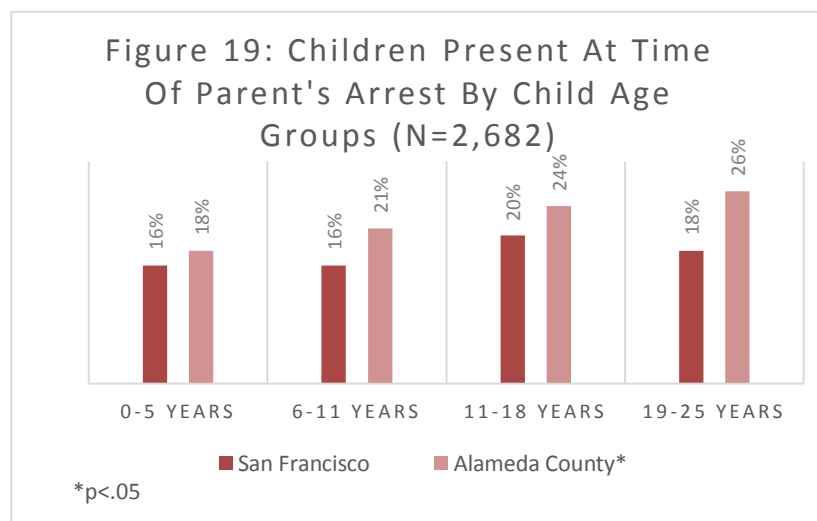
Close to half of Alameda County parents/caregivers (47%) reported that they were living with their child(ren)’s other parent when they were arrested. A statistically higher percentage of incarcerated fathers/male caregivers reported living with their child(ren)’s other parent (49%) compared to incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (28%,  $p=0.001$ ).



Less than half of San Francisco incarcerated parents/caregivers (40%) reported living with their child(ren)’s other parent when they were arrested. A statistically higher percentage of incarcerated fathers or male caregivers were living with their child(ren)’s other parent (42%) compared to incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (25%,  $p=0.002$ ). Figure 18 presents data related to the parent’s time of arrest.

### Time of Arrest by Children’s Ages

When looking at the presence of children at time of their parent’s arrest, the results varied among children’s age groups. There were significant differences, with older children and/or at least one of their siblings more likely to be present when their parents were arrested. In Alameda County, a statistically higher percent of older children, aged 19-25 year (26%) and 11-18 year (24%) and/or at least one of their siblings were present when their parent(s) were arrested, compared to 0-5 year olds (18%,  $p=0.049$ ). In San Francisco, there was less variance among ages of children present when their parents were arrested. Figure 19 presents the percentage of children present across each child’s age group.

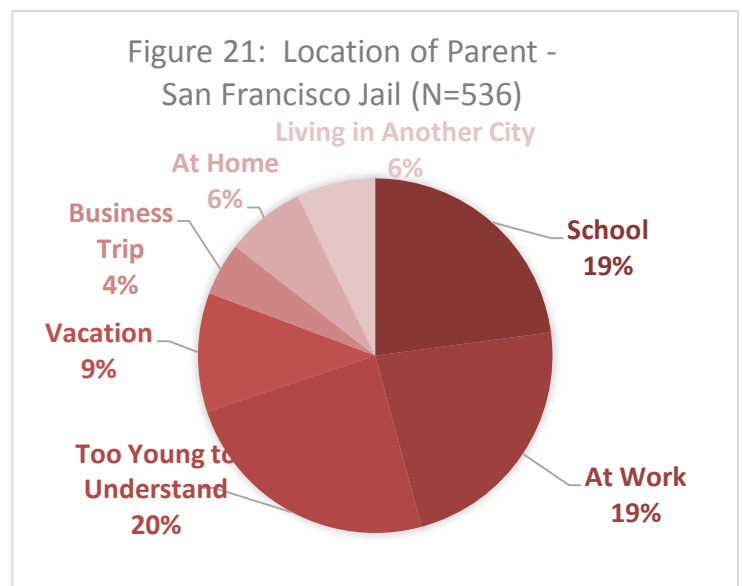
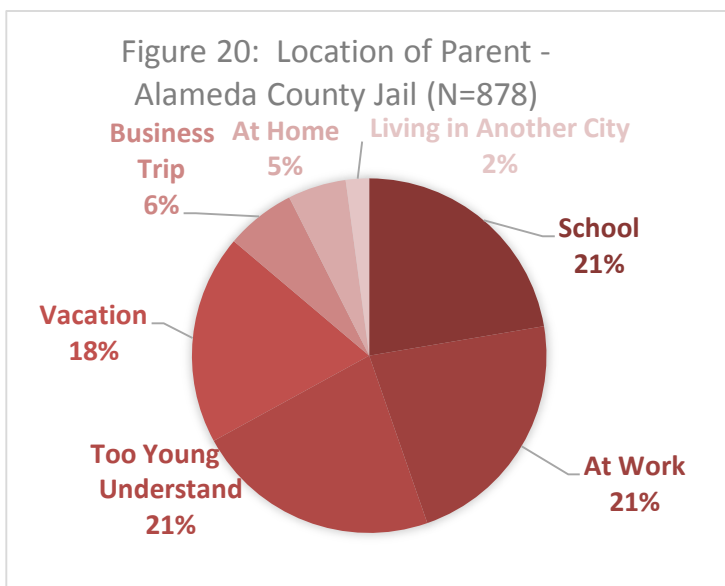


## Children’s Understanding of Parent’s Location

While many believe it is better for children to know the truth about their parent’s incarceration status, incarcerated parents and/or “outside” caregivers may decide not to tell children about their parent’s current incarceration in an effort to protect the children from the truth. Most (60%) parents in the jail survey reported that their children knew they were incarcerated, yet **30% of parents reported that their children did not know they were in jail right now and another 11% of parents stated they did not know if their children knew they were in jail.**

**One-third of Alameda County parents/caregivers (32%) reported that their child(ren) did not know they were in jail.** Among the participants whose child(ren) did not know they were in jail, 24% reported that their child(ren) thought they were out of town (vacation, business trip, etc.), 21% at school, 21% at work, 21% reported that their child(ren) were too young to understand, and 20% reported an ‘other’ location or ‘don’t know.’ The ‘other’ locations included at home, living in another city, time out/school for misbehavior, hospital/doctor, on the streets/running around, with family, camping or at war.

**One-fourth of San Francisco parents/caregivers (26%) reported that their child(ren) did not know they were in jail.** Among the participants whose child(ren) did not know they were in jail, 20% reported that their child(ren) were too young to understand, 19% at school, 19% at work, 13% reported out of town (vacation, business trip, etc.), and 36% reported an ‘other’ location or ‘don’t know.’ ‘Other’ locations included at home, living in another city, on the streets/running around, with family, and in rehabilitation. Figures 20 and 21 give a comparison by county of parent location information the child does not know their parent is currently in jail.



## Changes in Residence, School and Family Income

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### Changes in Residence

There are many ways in which children are affected when their parents go to jail. Potentially one of the most disruptive changes in a child's life is if he/she has to change residence or move because of his/her parent's incarceration. In total, **27% of parents from both counties reported that their children had to change their residence at least once because of their parents' incarceration.**

**Approximately one-fourth of Alameda County parents or caregivers (28%) reported that their child(ren) had ever changed residences because they went to jail.** About half of the children (54%)

moved one time, 41% moved two to five times, and 5% moved six times or more.

**Approximately one-fourth of San Francisco parents or caregivers (26%) reported that their child(ren) had ever changed residences because they went to jail.** More than half (57%) moved one time, 34% moved two to five times, and 10% moved six times or more.

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**27%** of parents reported



that their **children** had to **change homes** because their parents went to jail.

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### Changes in School

Parents also reported on whether their children had to change schools because of their parents' incarceration. When looking at parents of school aged children only (children 4 years and older), **16% of parents from both counties reported that their children had to change their**



**16%** of parents report that their **children** had to **change schools** because their parents went to jail.

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**school at least once because of their parents' incarceration. 17% of Alameda County parents or caregivers reported that their children had ever changed schools because they went to jail.**

About half (52%) of these children changed schools one time, 42% changed schools two to five times, and 6% changed schools six times or more. **In San Francisco, 16% of parents or caregivers of school aged children reported that their children had ever changed schools because they went to jail.** More than half (62%) changed schools one time, 28% changed schools two to five times, and 11% changed schools six times or more.

## Changes in Family Income

Loss of family income was one of the most reported impacts to the family when a parent became incarcerated. Overall, **63% of parents reported that their family had lost income because of their incarceration.**

Two-thirds of Alameda County parents or caregivers (66%) reported that their family lost income because they went to jail. More than half of parents or caregivers (57%) in San Francisco reported that their family lost income because they went to jail.

There was a statistically significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) between male and female parents or caregivers from both counties regarding the loss of family income because the parent went to jail. That is, there was a higher percentage of incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (69% in Alameda County and 60% in San Francisco) whose families lost income because they went to jail, compared to female parents or caregivers from both counties (38%).

Figures 22 and 23 present a county comparison in changes to residence, schools and family income.



**63% of families**

**lost family income because a parent went to jail.**

Figure 22: Changes In Residence, School & Income - Alameda County

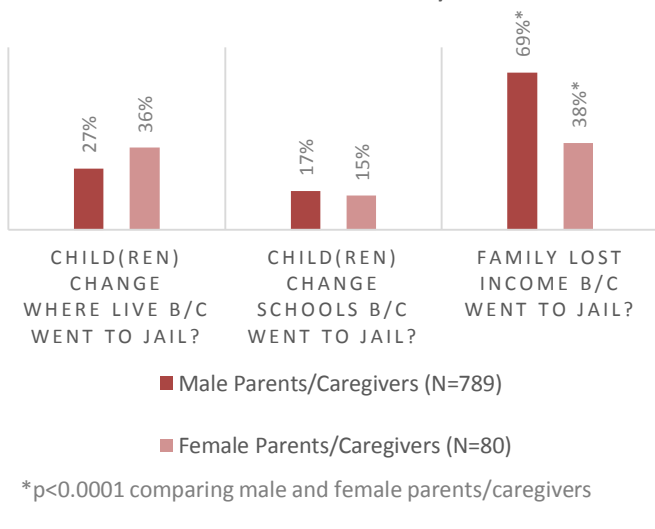
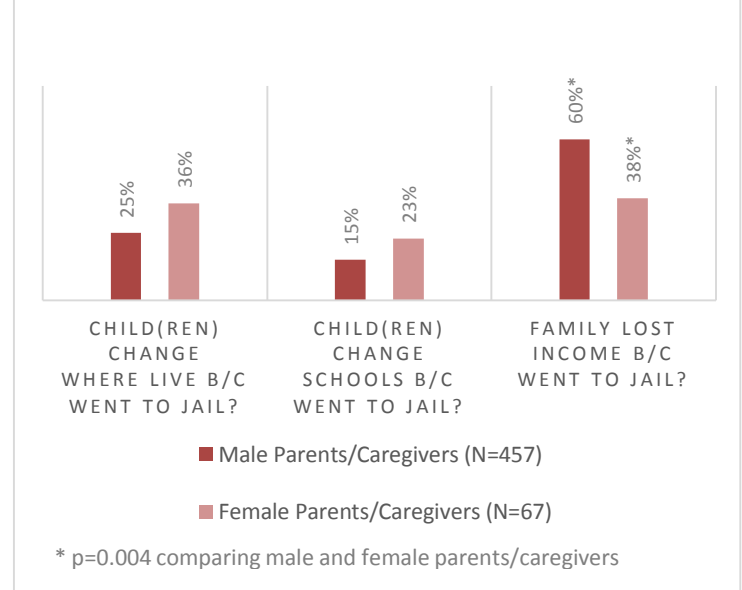
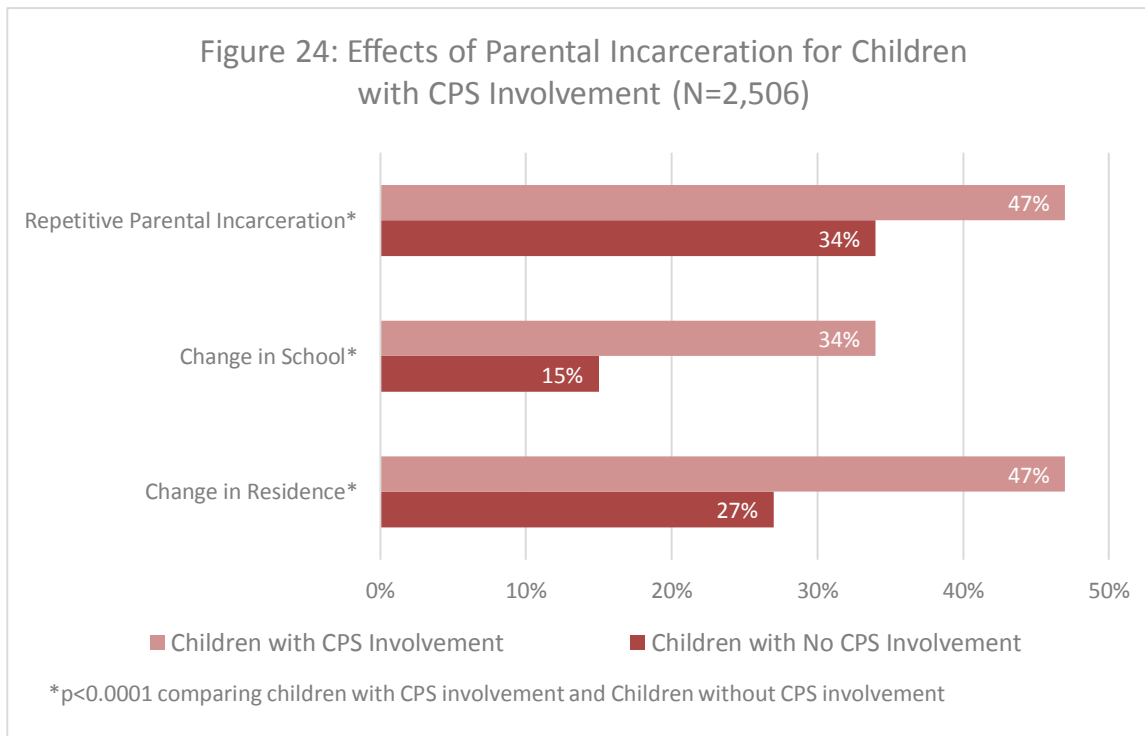


Figure 23: Changes In Residence, School & Income - San Francisco



## Children with Child Welfare/CPS Involvement

While most of the incarcerated parents or caregivers did not report Child Welfare or CPS involvement with their children, for the participants who did, the intersect between parental incarceration and child welfare involvement indicated even deeper disruptions for children. Children with CPS involvement were significantly more likely to have a change in their living arrangement (47% vs. 27%,  $p < 0.0001$ ) and to have a change in their school placement (34% vs. 15%,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Children with CPS involvement also experienced significantly higher rates of repetitive parental incarceration, i.e., a parent who had been incarcerated 11+ times (47% vs. 34%,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Figure 24 provides a comparison of effects of parental incarceration between children with Child Welfare/CPS involvement versus children without Child Welfare/CPS involvement.



Furthermore, children of parents or caregivers whose other parent was (also) currently in custody were three times more likely to be involved with Child Welfare or CPS compared to those whose other parent was not in custody (23% v. 8%,  $p < 0.0001$ ).

## Contact Between Parent and Child

There is a growing body of evidence that indicates better outcomes for both parents and their children if they have some level of contact (visits, phone calls, letters, pictures etc.) during the parent's incarceration.<sup>18</sup> Results from this survey indicate that nearly three quarters or **73% of parents had some type of current contact with their children.**

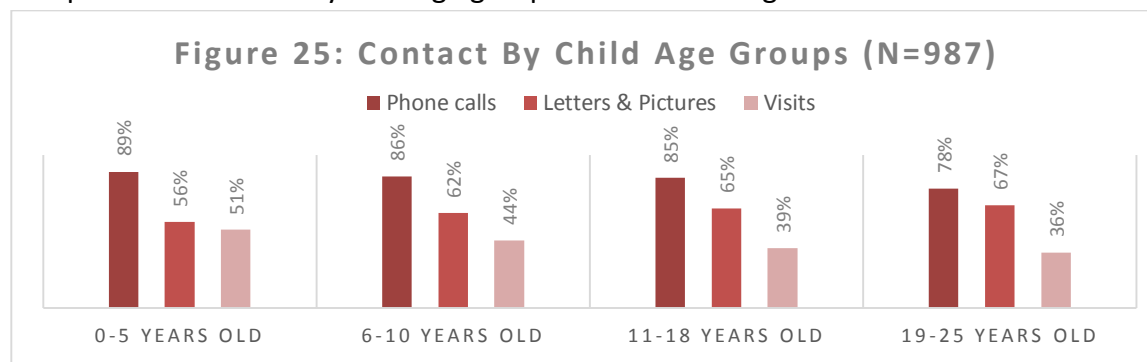
**A majority of Alameda County incarcerated parents or caregivers (73%) reported currently having some contact with at least one child.** Of those with contact, 86% contacted their child(ren)

through phone calls, 60% through letters and/or pictures, 46% through visits, and 2% through 'other' contact such as court appearances. There were no significant differences by participant gender regarding contact type.

**A majority of San Francisco incarcerated parents or caregivers (74%) reported currently having some contact with at least one of their children.** Of those with contact, 82% contacted their child(ren) through phone calls, 55% through letters and/or pictures, 44% through visits, and 2% through 'other' contact such as court appearances. Again, there were no significant differences by participant gender regarding contact type.

### Contact by Child Age Groups

Somewhat unsurprising, children of different ages had different types of contact with their parents. While young children, ages 0-5 years old were less likely to exchange letters or pictures (56%) compared with older children 11-18 years old (65%), they were more likely to have visits (51%) than older children 11-18 years old (39%). Both groups of children were likely to have similarly high rates of phone calls; 0-5 year olds (89%) and 11-18 years old (85%). A comparison of contact by child age groups are shown in Figure 25.



**73% of parents**



**had some type of current contact with at least one child.**

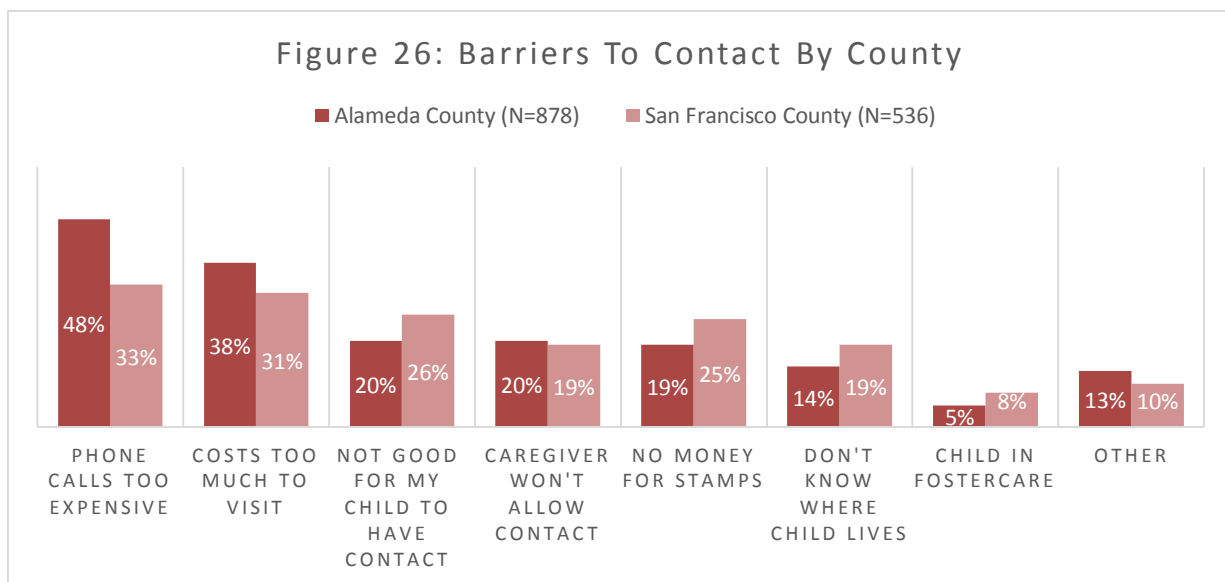
## Barriers to Parent/Child Contact

**The most commonly reported barrier to having contact with their child(ren) by Alameda County incarcerated parents or caregivers was that phone calls were too expensive (48%) followed by the high costs of visiting (38%).** Participants also reported that they did not think it was good for their child(ren) to have contact with them in jail (20%), the child(ren)'s "outside" caregiver would not allow contact or there was a conflict with their child(ren)'s "outside" caregiver (20%), and lack of money for stamps (19%). 14% reported that they did not know where their child(ren) lived and 5% reported that their child(ren) being in foster care was a barrier. 13% reported 'other' barriers such as the jail or justice system policies, lack of contact information or phone numbers changing, and their child(ren) living too far away or lack of transportation.

***"I don't want my daughter to see me in a cage."***

***-Incarcerated Father***

**As in Alameda County, in San Francisco, the most commonly reported barrier to having contact with their child(ren) was that phone calls were too expensive (33%) followed by the high costs of visiting (31%).** Participants in San Francisco also reported thinking it was not good for their child(ren) to have contact with them in jail (26%), lack of money for stamps (25%), and the child(ren)'s "outside" caregiver not allowing contact or conflict with their child(ren)'s "outside" caregiver (19%). 19% reported that they did not know where their child(ren) lived and 8% reported that their child(ren) being in foster care was a barrier. 10% reported 'other' barriers such as the jail or justice system policies, lack of contact information or phone numbers changing, and their child(ren) living too far away or lack of transportation. A comparison of barriers to contact by county are shown in Figure 26.



## Differences in Contact Barriers Between Fathers and Mothers and Parents with Young Children (0-5 years old)

There were statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) between male and female parents or caregivers in Alameda County regarding specific barriers to contact. There was a higher percentage of incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (39%) who reported that the cost of visits was a barrier compared to incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (20%). Also, a higher percentage of incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (34%) reported that their child(ren)'s "outside" caregiver won't allow contact compared to incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (18%). Finally, more incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (29%) reported 'other' barriers compared to incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (11%). Unlike in Alameda County, there were no statistically significant differences to specific barriers between male and female parents or caregivers in San Francisco.

In both counties there was a statistical difference ( $p = .002$ ) across age groups of participants who reported that "it was not good for my child to have contact with me in jail." Parents of very young children (0-5 years old), were more likely to report that they did not feel it was good for their child to have contact (26%) compared to parents of children 6-10 (22%), children 11-18 years old (21%) or children 19-25 years old (10%). While this finding is not surprising, it is of concern given the importance of parent/child bonding at the critical early childhood years.

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**26% of young** 

**children (0-5 years old) had**

**parents report that it was not**

**good for their children to have contact**

**with them in jail.**

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## Jail Visits

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**Overall, 35% of all incarcerated parents or caregivers surveyed reported having jail visits with at least one of their children. 81% of these visits were “non-contact” visits behind glass windows where the parents and children had no physical contact.**

In Alameda County, 35% of parents or caregivers reported having visits with at least one of their children at the jail. There were statistically more incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (37%) who had visits compared to incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (19%,  $p=0.0002$ ). **Of those having visits in Alameda County, 94% were having non-contact visits**, 8% were having contact visits, and 1% were having video visits via the newly piloted video conferencing program at the jail. Of those who reported visits, half (50%) had them at least weekly, 30% monthly, and 21% several times a year or rarely.

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**81% of visits**



**happened behind glass**

**windows with no contact between parent and child.**

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In San Francisco, similarly 34% of parents or caregivers reported having visits with at least one of their children at the jail. **One major difference from Alameda County, is that 56% of those having visits in a San Francisco County jail, reported having contact visits where children can touch and hug their parents.** Parents also reported having non-contact visits (59%) and video visits (1%). There were statistically more incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (61%) in San

Francisco having non-contact visits compared to incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (33%) ( $p=0.044$ ). More than half of participants (57%) reported having visits at least weekly, 19% reported having visits monthly, and 25% reported having visits several times a year or less.

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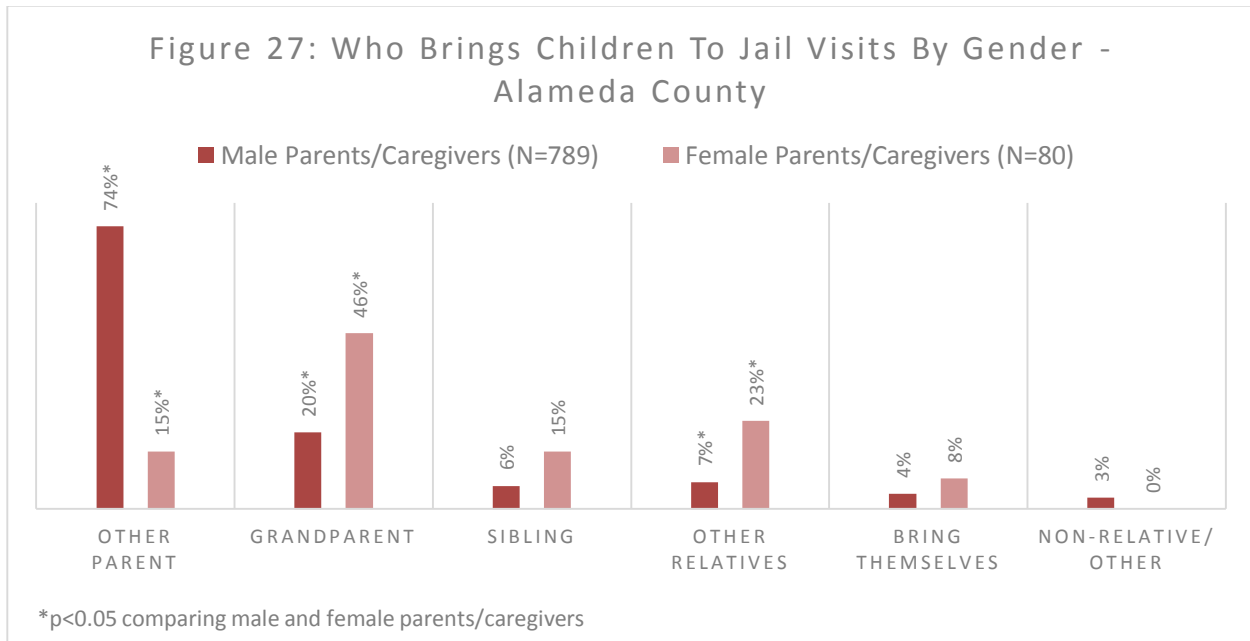
**“I tell my kids that this is a hospital so that my children are at ease when they come to visit”**

**- Incarcerated Mother**

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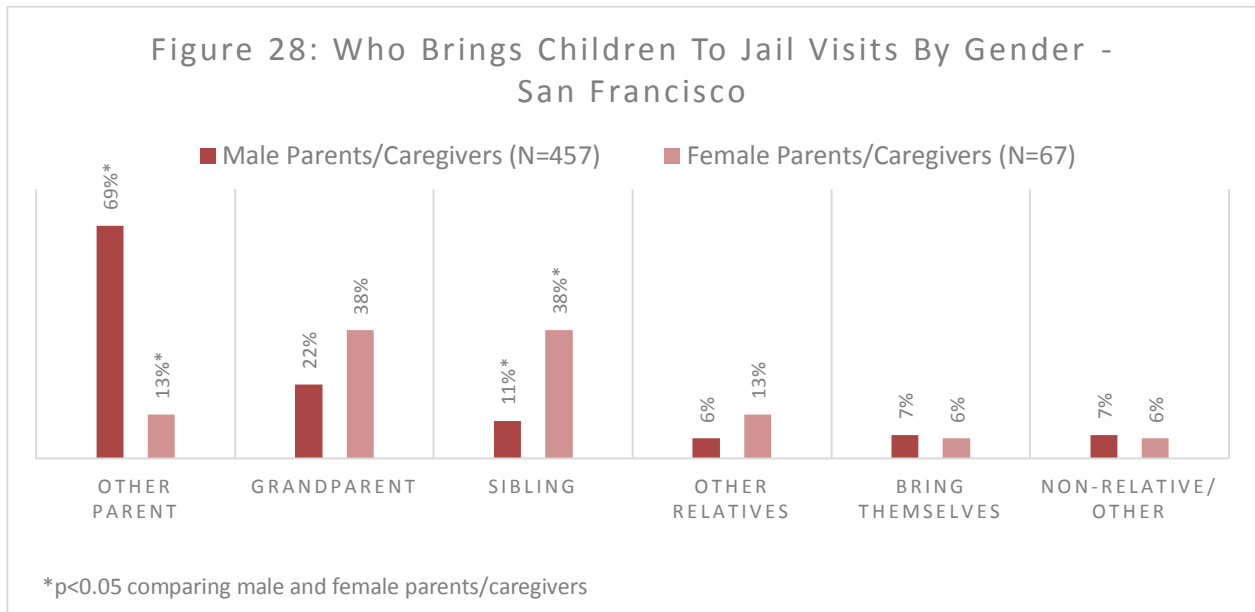
## Transportation to Jail Visits

**For children under 18 years old, a majority of Alameda County incarcerated parents or caregivers (71%) reported that the child(ren)'s other parent brings them for jail visits.** 21% of participants reported that a grandparent brings the children, 14% reported that a sibling or other relative brings them, and 7% reported a non-relative brings them or they drive themselves. There were statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) between male and female parents or caregivers regarding who brings child(ren) younger than 18 years to visit. There was a higher percentage of incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (74%) who reported that the child(ren)'s other parent brings them compared to incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (15%). A higher percentage of incarcerated mothers or female caregivers reported that a grandparent (46%) or other relative (23%) brings them compared to incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (20% and 7% respectively). Figure 27: presents differences by gender of who brings children <18 years to jail visits for Alameda County participants.



**For children under 18 years old, a majority of San Francisco incarcerated parents or caregivers (63%) reported that the child(ren)'s other parent brings them for jail visits.** 23% of participants reported that a grandparent brings them, 21% reported that a sibling or other relative brings them, and 14% reported a non-relative brings them or they drive themselves. Similar to Alameda County, there were statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) between male and female San Francisco parents or caregivers regarding who brings child(ren) younger than 18 years to visit. There was a higher percentage of incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (69%) who reported that the child(ren)'s other parent brings them compared to incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (13%). On the contrary, a higher percentage of incarcerated

mothers or female caregivers (38%) reported that a sibling of the child brings them to jail visits compared to incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (11%). Figure 28 presents differences by gender of who brings children <18 years to jail visits for San Francisco participants.



## Improvements to Jail Visiting

***In Alameda County, the overwhelming number one recommended improvement to jail visiting was to increase contact visits (65%).*** Additional requests were longer visits or more visiting days and times (23%), help with transportation (5%), help navigating the visiting system and policies (5%), and ‘other’ desires such as improving the visiting environment (friendlier environment, quieter rooms or single booths, etc.), child/parent classes or counseling, and new toys and activities (5%).

***In San Francisco, when asked what can be done to better support their visits, 33% of parents or caregivers reported that they wanted longer visits or more days and times for visiting, 28% wanted more contact visits, 10% wanted help navigating the visiting system and policies, 9% wanted help with transportation, and 15% reported an ‘other’ desire such as improving the visiting environment (friendlier environment, quieter rooms or single booths, etc.), new toys and activities, taking pictures, and food.***

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***“Contact visits are so important. A hug means the world, especially when you don’t know what is going to happen [during court or in sentencing]”***

***- Incarcerated Father***

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## Family Reconnecting and Barriers after Release

*Overall, the vast majority (95%) of incarcerated parents and caregivers reported that they plan to reconnect with at least one child after their release from jail.*

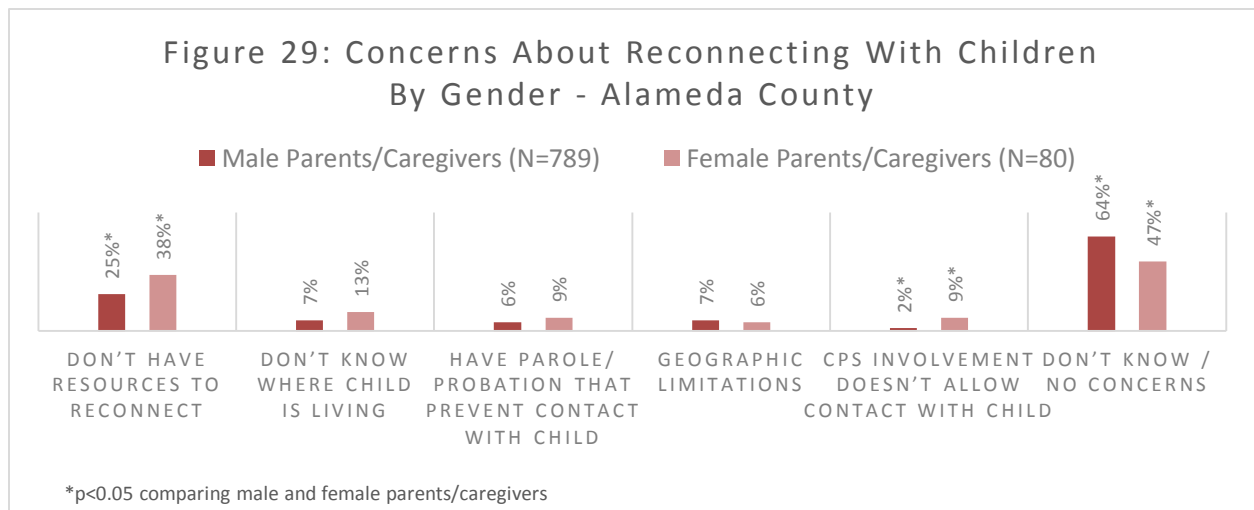
However, participants identified a number of concerns or barriers toward successful reconnection after release.

In **Alameda County**, participants expressed the following concerns about reconnecting with children after release: 26% of participants reported that they didn't have enough resources to reconnect, 7% reported that they didn't know where their child(ren) live, 7% reported that their parole/probation conditions prevent contact with their child(ren), 7% reported geographical limitations, 3% reported that CPS involvement does not allow contact with child(ren), and 62% reported no concerns. There were statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) between male and female parents or caregivers regarding specific concerns about reconnecting with their child(ren). A higher percentage of incarcerated mothers or female caregivers reported that they didn't have the resources to reconnect (38%) and that Child Welfare/CPS involvement doesn't allow them contact with their child(ren) (9%), compared to incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (25% and 2% respectively). Also, more incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (64%) reported having no concerns compared to incarcerated mothers or female caregivers (47%). Concerns about reconnecting with child(ren) by participant gender for Alameda County are shown in Figure 29.

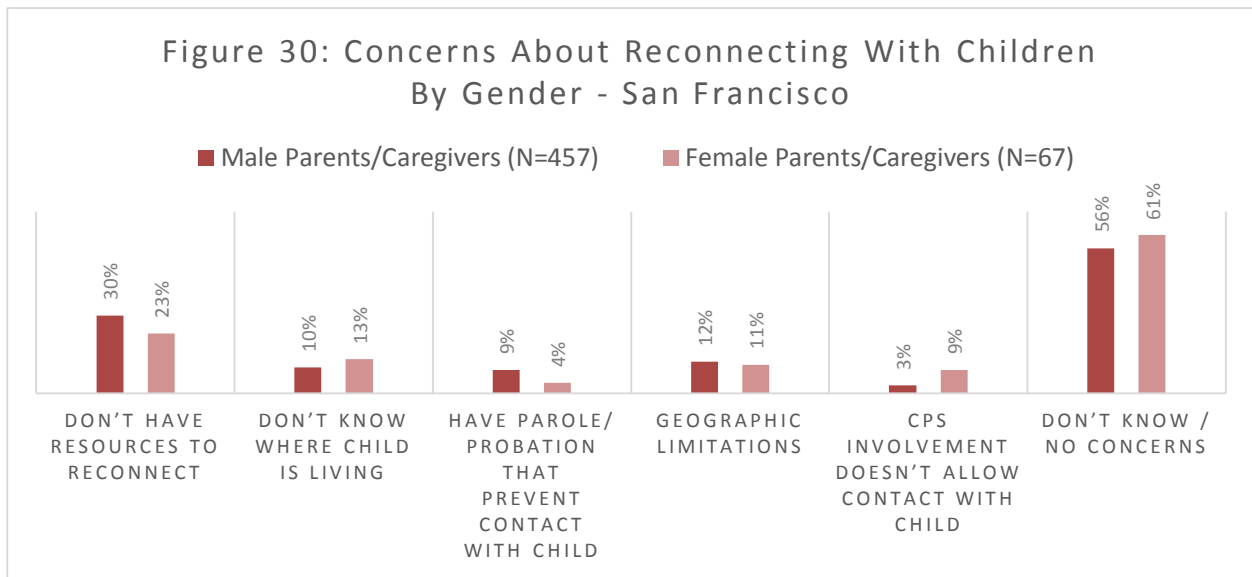


**95% of parents**

**plan to reconnect with at least one child after their release from jail.**



In **San Francisco**, similar concerns were reported regarding reconnecting with children after release; 30% reported that they didn't have enough resources to reconnect, 12% reported geographical limitations, 10% reported that they didn't know where their child(ren) live, 8% reported that their parole or probation conditions prohibit contact with their child(ren), 4% reported that Child Welfare/CPS involvement prohibits contact with child(ren), and 56% reported no concerns. There were no statistically significant differences between male and female San Francisco parents or caregivers regarding specific concerns about reconnecting with their child(ren). Concerns about reconnecting with child(ren) by participant gender for San Francisco are shown in Figure 30.



## Supports for Children

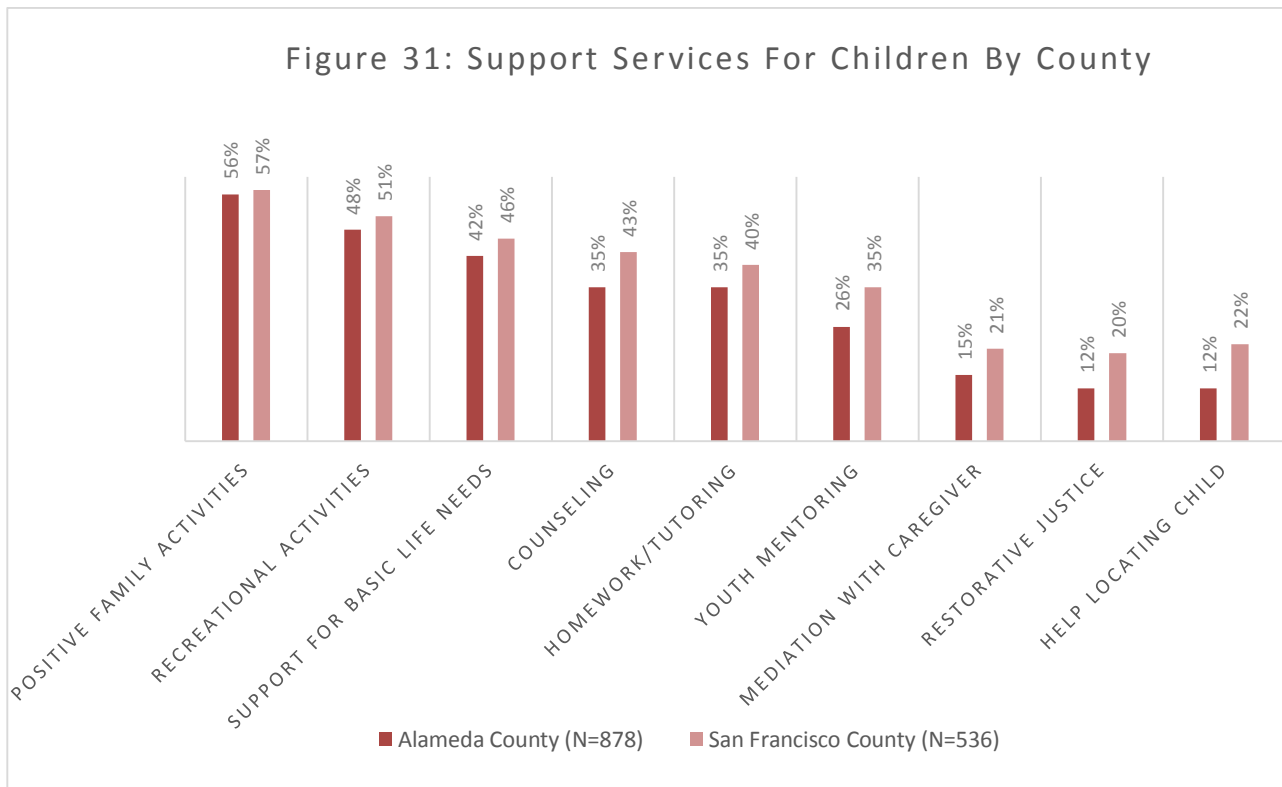
The survey concluded with a question for participants to identify what additional supports incarcerated parents and caregivers thought their children would benefit from both while they were incarcerated and after they were released from jail.

The most common answers among **Alameda County and San Francisco** incarcerated parents and caregivers, respectively, was positive family activities (56%, 57%) followed by recreational activities (48%, 51%), support for basic life needs (42%, 46%), counseling/therapy (35%, 43%), and homework/tutoring (35%, 40%). Responses to support services for children by county are shown in Figure 31.

**56% of parents**



**identified positive family activities as the number one support for children during and after their parent's incarceration.**



There were statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) between male and female Alameda County parents or caregivers regarding additional support for their child(ren). A higher percentage of incarcerated mothers or female caregivers reported that their children would benefit from counseling/therapy, mediation between incarcerated parent and “outside caregiver,” restorative justice work, and help with locating child(ren) compared to incarcerated fathers or male caregivers.

Similarly, there were statistically significant differences between male and female San Francisco parents or caregivers regarding additional support for their child(ren). A higher percentage of



incarcerated mothers or female caregivers reported that their children would benefit from counseling/therapy (71%) compared to incarcerated fathers or male caregivers (39%).

***“At the end of the day, we all want to do better for our kids...even us dads in jail.”***

***- Incarcerated Father***

## Conclusion and Recommendations

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This survey project was a major step in gathering local system-wide information about the number and nature of children with locally incarcerated parents, and the effects of parental incarceration on them. Yet without action, gathering information does nothing to improve the lives of children when their parents go to jail. The following are data driven recommendations of changes in policies and practices to strengthen the level of support and connectivity for children of incarcerated parents that help to ensure healthy family systems after release.

### Policy Recommendations

- 1. Include the voice of children and youth of all ages, including youth involved in the criminal justice system, when gathering information and making policy and programmatic decisions related to the effects of parental involvement in the criminal justice system;***
- 2. Include the voice of caregivers, as well as incarcerated and formerly incarcerated parents, when gathering information and making policy and programmatic decisions related to the effects of parental involvement in the criminal justice system;***
- 3. Examine strategies and opportunities to increase contact visiting between children and their parents at local jails that give children the opportunity to touch and hug their parents;***
- 4. Decrease the cost of phone calls between incarcerated parents and their children;***
- 5. Provide transportation support or public transportation vouchers (if applicable) for children and “outside” community caregivers to decrease the financial burden on the families associated with jail visits;***
- 6. Work with local police districts and other arresting agencies to develop and implement time of arrest protocols that, whenever possible, decreases the level of trauma for children who may be present during their parent’s arrest;***
- 7. Create funding streams to support preventive and treatment services for those children most impacted by incarceration;***
- 8. Ensure that family issues are assessed and addressed during jail or prison intake and during reentry planning processes throughout a parent’s involvement in the criminal justice system;***
- 9. Ensure that data points related to parental incarceration are added to intake and service planning assessments for all child and youth-based service delivery systems;***



## Program Recommendations

- 1. Develop more reentry programs and/or integrate strategies into existing reentry programs that specifically address healthy reconnection strategies for both parents and their children as parents return to the community and into the lives of their children after incarceration;*
- 2. Provide more support for “outside” community caregivers within the children’s homes so they can better support their children;*
- 3. Recognize the differential effects of incarceration for children with incarcerated mothers vs incarcerated fathers and develop differing policies and practices that address their unique needs;*
- 4. Develop age appropriate programs to provide psycho-social support for children at different development ages while parents are involved in the criminal justice system;*
- 5. Provide support and education for incarcerated parents to help them parent their children while incarcerated and prepare for reunification after their release including the distribution of family-focused community resources.*

## Training Recommendations

- 1. Provide training for local service providers on trauma and stigma as they relate specifically to children with criminal justice involved parents.*
- 2. Work with local child welfare departments to improve their understanding of the compounding effects of both parental incarceration and child welfare involvement;*
- 3. Work with local service and law enforcement systems to improve their understanding of the unique needs, challenges and assets of children of incarcerated parents and encourage them to assess existing policies and practices to better support children throughout their parents’ involvement in the criminal justice system including:*
  - Schools districts*
  - Reentry service agencies*
  - Government social service departments*
  - Health departments*
  - Park and recreation departments*
  - Probation departments*
  - Sheriff departments*
  - Police departments*

## Appendices

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1. Survey Tool
2. Data Summary – Alameda County
3. Data Summary – San Francisco
4. Location of Children Aged 25 Years or Younger

**Appendix 1. Survey Tool**

**Alameda & San Francisco County Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnerships – Parent Survey**

1. Are you a parent or primary caregiver for any child(ren) who is 25 years or younger?

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ → If **yes**, please continue with question #2 below.
- No \_\_\_\_\_ → If **no**, this completes your survey. *Thank you for your time!*



**Section I: Information about YOU**

2. Are you:  Female  Male  Trans-male  Trans-female

3. Your Age: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you identify as (*check all that apply*):

- African-American or Black  Caucasian / White  Multi-racial / mixed race
- American Indian / Alaska Native  Latina/o or Hispanic  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Asian / Pacific Islander  Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander

5. The highest level of education you have completed so far:

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade or less  Some college  Post graduate degree (e.g. Masters or Doctorate)
- Some high school  Associates degree
- High school graduate, GED or equivalent  Bachelor's degree

6. What language (or languages) do you speak? (you can check more than one)

- English  Mandarin  Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Cantonese  Spanish

7. How many total times have you been incarcerated (as an adult and youth)?

- 1 time  2-5 times  6-10 times  11-20 times  More than 20 times

8. What was your age at your 1<sup>st</sup> incarceration? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Since you became a parent, how many times have you been incarcerated?

- 1 time  2-5 times  6-10 times  11-20 times  More than 20 times

10. Have either of your parents ever been incarcerated?  Yes  No  Don't know

**Section II: Information about YOUR CHILD(REN)**

11. How many children do you have who are 25 years old or younger? \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the chart below for each of your children who are 25 years old or younger. If you have more than 5 children who are 25 years old or younger, please fill out the chart for your 5 youngest children (see key below).

Child	Age	*Gender	*Ethnicity	*Primary language child speaks	Do you have any custody? (Yes or No)	Child was living with you before your arrest? (Yes or No)	*Person or caregiver child lives with now?	City child lives in now?	Child CPS involvement? (Yes or No)	Child involved in justice system (jail, prison, probation, etc)? (Yes or No)	Child's other parent in custody right now? (Yes or No)
# 1											
# 2											
# 3											
# 4											
# 5											

**\*KEY**

**Gender:** Female, Male, Trans-male, Trans-female  
**Ethnicity:** African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/PI, Caucasian / White, Latina/O Or Hispanic, Native Hawaiian, Multi-Racial / Mixed Race, Other (specify).

**Language:** English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Other (specify)  
**Caregiver:** Other parent, Family friend, Grandmother/father, Other relatives (aunt, uncle, cousin, etc.), Sibling, Foster home, Other (specify).

**Section III: Information about YOUR CHILD(REN)'S EXPERIENCE**

- 12. Were any of your child(ren) present when you were arrested?  Yes  No  Don't know
- 13. Were you living with your child(ren)'s other parent when you were arrested?  Yes  No  Don't know
- 14. Does your child(ren) know you are in jail?  Yes  No  Don't know  
→ If no (14.a), where do they think you are right now?

- 15. Has your child(ren) ever had to change where they live because you went to jail or prison?  Yes  No  Don't know  
→ If yes (15.a), approx. how many times:  1 time  2-5 times  6-10 times  11-20 times  More than 20 times
- 16. Has your child(ren) ever had to change schools because you went to jail or prison?  Yes  No  Don't know  
→ If yes (16.a), approx. how many times:  1 time  2-5 times  6-10 times  11-20 times  More than 20 times
- 17. Has your family ever lost income due to you going to jail or prison?  Yes  No  Don't know

**Section IV: Information about CONTACT WITH YOUR CHILD(REN)**

- 18. Do you have any type of contact with any of your child(ren) right now?  Yes  No  
→ If yes (18.a), what type of contact (*check all that apply*):  Phone calls  Letters  Visits  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
→ If no (18.b), what are the barriers to you having contact with your child(ren) right now (*check all that apply*):  

<input type="checkbox"/> Costs too much to visit (gas, tolls, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know where my child(ren) currently live
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone calls are too expensive	<input type="checkbox"/> Child(ren) is in foster care system
<input type="checkbox"/> I don't have money for stamps	<input type="checkbox"/> It's not good for my child(ren) to have contact with me in jail
<input type="checkbox"/> Child(ren)'s caregiver won't allow contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
- 19. Do you have visits with any of your child(ren) at the jail?  Yes  No (*skip to Question #21*)  
→ If yes (19.a), what type of visits (*check all that apply*):  Contact  Non-contact (in person)  Video visiting  
→ If yes (19.b), how often do you have visits with your child(ren)?  

<input type="checkbox"/> More than once a week	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Several times a year	<input type="checkbox"/> Rarely
------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------

  
→ If yes (19.c), who brings your child(ren) under 18 to visit you? (*check all that apply*)  

<input type="checkbox"/> Other parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother/father	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring themselves	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> A family friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Sibling	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relatives (aunt, uncle, cousin, etc.)	

- 20. If you have visits, can we do anything differently to support your visits?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 21. Do you plan to reconnect with at least one of your child(ren) after you are released?  Yes  No  Don't know
- 22. Do you have barriers or concerns about reconnecting with your child(ren) after your release (*check all that apply*):  
 I don't have the resources in my life so that I can reconnect with my child(ren) (i.e. housing, job, money, etc.)  
 I don't know where my child(ren) are living right now  
 I have parole or probation conditions or other court orders that prevent contact with my child(ren)  
 My child(ren) have CPS involvement that doesn't allow me to have contact with my child(ren)  
 There are territorial or geographic boundaries that limit my ability to see my child(ren)  
 I don't know  
 No concerns

23. Do you think your child(ren) would benefit from additional support while you are incarcerated or after you are released with any of the following (*check all that apply*):

- |                                                     |                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling/therapy         | <input type="checkbox"/> Support for basic life needs (e.g. toiletries, school supplies, diapers, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth mentoring            | <input type="checkbox"/> Help locating child(ren)                                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Positive family activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation with child(ren)'s current caregiver                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restorative justice work   | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational activities (sports, camps, clubs, etc.)                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homework / tutoring        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other types of support: _____                                                  |

***Thank you for your time!***

## Appendix 2: Data Summary – Alameda County

<b>Table 1: Parent Participant Demographics – Alameda County (N=878)</b>			
<b>Total number of people who completed the survey</b>		<b>1,134</b>	
<b>Total number of parents or primary caregivers for children ≤ 25 years</b>		<b>878</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Total number of children age ≤ 25 years</b>		<b>1,781</b>	<b>Avg = 2</b>
<b>Median age of parents</b>		<b>31 years</b>	
<b>Gender</b>		<b>Languages Spoken</b>	
	<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>
Male	90%	English	93%
Female	9%	Spanish	17%
Transgender	1%	Mandarin/Cantonese	0.6%
		Other	6%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		<b>Education Level</b>	
	<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>
African American	51%	Some high school or less	26%
Latino	22%	High school graduate/GED	47%
Caucasian	11%	Some college or more	27%
Asian or Pacific Islander	5%		
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%		
Multi-racial/Other	10%		
<b>Total # of Incarcerations</b>		<b>Total # of Incarcerations as Parent</b>	
	<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>
1 time	15%	1 time	29%
2-5 times	35%	2-5 times	40%
6-10 times	22%	6-10 times	17%
11 times or more	28%	11 times or more	13%
<b>Average Age at 1<sup>st</sup> Incarceration</b>		<b>Had Parent Incarcerated</b>	
	<b>18yrs</b>		<b>43%</b>
Range of age at 1 <sup>st</sup> incarceration	8-63yrs		

<b>Table 2: Child Demographics – Alameda County (N=1,781)</b>			
<b>Average age of children</b>			<b>8 yrs</b>
Age range of children			0-25 yrs
<b>Gender</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Primary Language</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	51%	English	92%
Female	49%	Spanish	7%
Transgender	0%	Multi-lingual/Other	2%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Currently Living With</b>	<b>%</b>
African American	45%	Other parent	80%
Latino	20%	Grandparent	8%
Caucasian	10%	Other relative	5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	4%	Self (independent)	4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.8%	Other	3%
Multi-racial/Other	21%		
<b>County of Residence</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Other Important Parent/Child Demographics (N=878)</b>	<b>%</b>
Alameda	53%	At least 1 child living with parent before incarceration	66%
Contra Costa	8%	At least 1 child involved in CPS	10%
San Francisco	6%	At least 1 child involved in justice system	3%
Other Bay Area County	8%	At least 1 child has other parent currently in custody (jail/prison)	10%
Non Bay Area CA County	16%	Incarcerated parent has custody of at least 1 child	63%
Outside CA in US	8%		
Outside US	2%		
<b>Child lives in same county as parent's jail location</b>	<b>53%</b>		

<b>Table 3: Child’s Experience with Parental Incarceration – Alameda County (N=878)</b>			
Child(ren) present at time of arrest			18%
Child(ren) don’t know their parent is currently in jail ( <i>school, work, out of town, or “too young to understand” are most common places children think parents are</i> )			32%
Child(ren) have had to <u>change where they live</u> at least once because of parent’s incarceration			28%
Child(ren) have had to <u>change schools</u> at least once because of parent’s incarceration			17%
Family household has lost income because of parent’s incarceration			66%
<b>Currently have any contact with children</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>Barriers to Contact</b>	<b>%</b>
Through phone calls	86%	Phones calls too expensive	48%
Through letters	60%	Cost too much to visit	38%
Through jail visits	46%	Conflict with caregiver	20%
		Not good for child to have contact	20%
<b>Currently have jail visits with child(ren)</b>	<b>35%</b>	No money for stamps	19%
Noncontact visits	94%	Don’t know where child(ren) lives	14%
Contact visits	8%	Child(ren) in foster care	5%
Video visits	0.8%		
<b>Frequency of jail visits</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who brings child(ren) for visits</b>	<b>%</b>
At least weekly	50%	Other parent	71%
Monthly	30%	Grandparent	21%
Several times a year or rarely	21%	Other relative	14%
		Self (independent)	4%
<b>How to better support visits</b>	<b>%</b>	Non-relative	3%
Allow more contact visits	65%		
Extend visiting hours and/or add more days	23%		
Transportation support	5%		
Help with navigating visiting system/policies	5%		
Improve visiting environment	2%		
<b>Barriers/Concerns about reconnecting with children after release</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Resources/additional support to help reconnect</b>	<b>%</b>
Not enough resources to reconnect	26%	Positive family activities	56%
Don’t know where child lives	7%	Recreational activities	48%
Parole/probation conditions that prevent contact with child	7%	Support for basic life needs	42%
Geographic limitations	7%	Counseling/therapy	35%
CPS involvement that doesn’t allow contact with child	3%	Homework/tutoring support	35%
		Youth mentoring	26%
		Mediation with child’s caregiver	15%
		Restorative justice work	12%
		Help locating child(ren)	12%



**Appendix 3: Data Summary – San Francisco**

<b>Table 1: Parent Participant Demographics – San Francisco (N=536)</b>			
<b>Total number of people who completed the survey</b>		<b>907</b>	
<b>Total number of parents or primary caregivers for children ≤ 25 years of those who completed survey</b>		<b>536</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Total number of children age ≤ 25 years</b>		<b>1,110</b>	<b>Avg = 2</b>
<b>Median age of parents</b>		<b>34 years</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Languages Spoken</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	87%	English	94%
Female	13%	Spanish	14%
Transgender	1%	Mandarin/Cantonese	2%
		Other	5%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>%</b>		
African American	50%	<b>Education Level</b>	<b>%</b>
Latino	14%	Some high school or less	29%
Caucasian	13%	High school graduate/GED	47%
Asian or Pacific Islander	9%	Some college or more	25%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%		
Multi-racial/Other	13%		
<b>Total # of Incarcerations</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total # of Incarcerations as Parent</b>	
1 time	11%	1 time	19%
2-5 times	28%	2-5 times	37%
6-10 times	21%	6-10 times	19%
11 times or more	40%	11 times or more	24%
<b>Average Age at 1<sup>st</sup> Incarceration</b>	<b>18yrs</b>	<b>Had Parent Incarcerated</b>	<b>46%</b>
Range of age at 1 <sup>st</sup> incarceration	8-63yrs		

<b>Table 2: Child Demographics – San Francisco (N=1,110)</b>			
<b>Average age of children</b>			<b>9 yrs</b>
Age range of children			0-25 yrs
<b>Gender</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Primary Language</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	52%	English	94%
Female	48%	Spanish	5%
Transgender	0%	Multi-lingual/Other	1%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Currently Living With</b>	<b>%</b>
African American	47%	Other parent	68%
Latino	12%	Grandparent	10%
Caucasian	10%	Other relative	11%
Asian or Pacific Islander	8%	Self (independent)	5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.2%	Other	5%
Multi-racial/Other	22%		
<b>County of Residence</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Other Important Parent/Child Demographics (N=536)</b>	<b>%</b>
San Francisco	48%	At least 1 child living with parent before incarceration	54%
Alameda	11%	At least 1 child involved in CPS	14%
Contra Costa	7%	At least 1 child involved in justice system	4%
Other Bay Area County	9%	At least 1 child has other parent currently in custody (jail/prison)	10%
Non Bay Area CA County	10%	Incarcerated parent has custody of at least 1 child	49%
Outside CA in US	12%		
Outside US	3%		
<b>Child lives in same county as parent's jail location</b>	<b>48%</b>		

<b>Table 3: Child’s Experience with Parental Incarceration – San Francisco (N=536)</b>			
Child(ren) present at time of arrest			16%
Child(ren) don’t know their parent is currently in jail ( <i>school, work, or “too young to understand” are most common places children think parents are</i> )			26%
Child(ren) have had to <u>change where they live</u> at least once because of parent’s incarceration			26%
Child(ren) have had to <u>change schools</u> at least once because of parent’s incarceration			16%
Family household has lost income because of parent’s incarceration			57%
<b>Currently have any contact with children</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>Barriers to Contact</b>	<b>%</b>
Through phone calls	82%	Phones calls too expensive	33%
Through letters	55%	Cost too much to visit	31%
Through jail visits	44%	Not good for child to have contact	26%
		No money for stamps	25%
<b>Currently have jail visits with child(ren)</b>	<b>34%</b>	Conflict with caregiver	19%
Noncontact visits	59%	Don’t know where child(ren) lives	19%
Contact visits	56%	Child(ren) in foster care	8%
Video visits	0.7%		
<b>Frequency of jail visits</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Who brings child(ren) for visits</b>	<b>%</b>
At least weekly	57%	Other parent	63%
Monthly	19%	Grandparent	23%
Several times a year or rarely	25%	Other relative	21%
		Self (independent)	7%
		Non-relative	7%
<b>How to better support visits</b>	<b>%</b>		
Extend visiting hours and/or add more days	33%		
Allow more contact visits	28%		
Help with navigating visiting system/policies	10%		
Transportation support	9%		
Improve visiting environment	5%		
<b>Barriers/Concerns about reconnecting with children after release</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Resources/additional support to help reconnect</b>	<b>%</b>
Not enough resources to reconnect	30%	Positive family activities	57%
Geographic limitations	12%	Recreational activities	51%
Don’t know where child lives	10%	Support for basic life needs	46%
Parole/probation conditions that prevent contact with child	8%	Counseling/therapy	43%
CPS involvement that doesn’t allow contact with child	4%	Homework/tutoring support	40%
		Youth mentoring	35%
		Help locating child(ren)	22%
		Mediation with child’s caregiver	21%
		Restorative justice work	20%

**Appendix 4. Location of Children Aged 25 Years or Younger**

	<b>Children of Alameda County Participants (N=1,781)</b>	<b>Children of San Francisco Participants (N=1,110)</b>
Major Bay Area Counties	(N, %)	(N, %)
Alameda	873 (52.6%)	89 (10.8%)
San Francisco	93 (5.6%)	395 (48.0%)
Contra Costa	134 (8.1%)	56 (6.8%)
Other Bay Area (Total)	129 (7.7%)	74 (9.0%)
Marin	7 (0.4%)	3 (0.4%)
Napa	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
San Mateo	22 (1.3%)	23 (2.8%)
Santa Clara	36 (2.2%)	6 (0.7%)
Solano	30 (1.8%)	37 (4.5%)
Sonoma	28 (1.7%)	5 (0.6%)
Not specified	4 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)
<b>BAY AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>1229 (74.0%)</b>	<b>614 (74.6%)</b>
Other California County (Total)	271 (16.2%)	81 (9.7%)
Butte	3 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Del Norte	5 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)
Fresno	2 (0.1%)	6 (0.7%)
Humboldt	5 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)
Kern	3 (0.2%)	3 (0.4%)
Lake	3 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Los Angeles	24 (1.4%)	2 (0.2%)
Madera	3 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Mendocino	3 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)
Merced	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Monterey	33 (2.0%)	3 (0.4%)
Nevada	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Orange	3 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)
Placer	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Riverside	13 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Sacramento	46 (2.8%)	33 (4.0%)
San Bernardino	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
San Diego	4 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)
San Joaquin	75 (4.5%)	13 (1.6%)
Santa Barbara	4 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)
Santa Cruz	4 (0.2%)	4 (0.5%)
Shasta	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)

Stanislaus	25 (1.5%)	6 (0.7%)
Yolo	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Not specified	1 (0.1%)	3 (0.4%)
<b>CALIFORNIA TOTAL</b>	<b>1500 (90.4%)</b>	<b>695 (84.4%)</b>
Outside California		
Non-CA in U.S.	126 (7.6%)	101 (12.3%)
Non-U.S.	34 (2.0%)	27 (3.3%)

Excludes missing data. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## Endnotes

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- <sup>9</sup> Arditti, J.A., Parental Incarceration and the Family Psychological and Social Effects of Imprisonment on Children, Parents, and Caregivers, NYU Press, 2012.
- <sup>10</sup> Video Visiting in Corrections: Benefits, Limitations and Implementation Considerations, US Department of Justice, Nation Institute of Corrections, January 2014.
- <sup>11</sup> Raimon, M., Lee, A., & Genty, P. (2009). Sometimes Good Intentions Yield Bad Results: ASFA’s Effect on Incarcerated Parents and Their Children.
- <sup>12</sup> Adalist-Estrin, A. (2014), Children and Families of the Incarcerated Fact Sheet, National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated, Rutgers University, <https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/files/nrccfi-fact-sheet-2014.pdf>.
- <sup>13</sup> Conway, J.M., Jones, E. (2015). Seven Out of Ten? Not Even Close: A Review of Research on the Likelihood of Children with Incarcerated Parents Becoming Justice-Involved, Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, Children With Incarcerated Parents Initiative, Central Connecticut State University.
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- <sup>15</sup> [http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/White\\_House\\_Parental\\_Incarceration\\_Workshop0.html](http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/White_House_Parental_Incarceration_Workshop0.html)
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