

Key data on incarcerated parents with children

- In 2007, there were 73 million children under 18 in the U.S.
 - 19 million of them, or 26%, were not living with their father.
 - In 8% of those cases (1.6 million out of the 19 million children), the father was incarcerated.
- In 2007, there were 1.5 million men and women incarcerated in federal and state prisons.
 - Nearly half of them — about 740,000 — were fathers (and about 70,000 were mothers).

Prepared by the Guttmacher Institute, December 2008.

Contact: Larry Finer, lfiner@guttmacher.org, (212) 248-1111 x2270

Sources:

Glaze LE and Maruschak LM, "Parents in Prison and their Minor Children," Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 2008, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf>.

U.S. Census Bureau, "Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years Old: 1960 to Present," July 2008, <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/ch1.xls>.



Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

August 2008, NCJ 222984

Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children

Lauren E. Glaze
and Laura M. Maruschak
BJS Statisticians

An estimated 809,800 prisoners of the 1,518,535 held in the nation's prisons at midyear 2007 were parents of minor children, or children under age 18. Parents held in the nation's prisons—52% of state inmates and 63% of federal inmates—reported having an estimated 1,706,600 minor children, accounting for 2.3% of the U.S. resident population under age 18. Unless otherwise specified in this report, the word *parent* refers to state and federal prisoners who reported having minor children. The word *children* refers to youth under age 18.

Between 1991 and midyear 2007, parents held in state and federal prisons increased by 79% (357,300 parents). Children of incarcerated parents increased by 80% (761,000 children), during this period (figure 1). The most rapid growth in the number of parents held in the nation's prisons and their children occurred between 1991 and 1997 (both up 44%). From 1997 to midyear 2007, the number of parents and children continued to grow, but at a slower pace (both up 25%).

The findings in this report are based on the latest data collected through personal interviews with prisoners participating in the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) 2004 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (SISFCF), which is comprised of two separate surveys. One survey is conducted in state adult correctional facilities and the other is conducted in federal correctional facilities. Estimates presented in this report may not be comparable to previously published reports. See *Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children* at <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/iptc.htm>>.

Estimated number of parents in state and federal prisons and their minor children

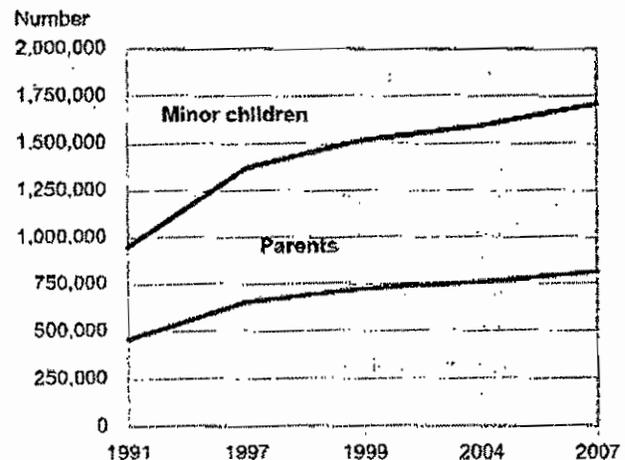


Figure 1

Parents of minor children held in the nation's prisons increased by 79% between 1991 and midyear 2007

Growth in the number of parents held in state and federal prisons was outpaced by the growth in the nation's prison population between 1991 and midyear 2007. Parents incarcerated in state and federal prisons increased by 79% during this period while the custody population grew by 92%.

Detailed information is available in appendix tables in the online version of this report on the BJS Website at <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pttmc.pdf>>.

Parents held in state prison increased from 413,100 in 1991 to 686,000 at midyear 2007 (table 1). Children of parents in state prison increased from 860,300 to 1,427,500 during this period. The largest growth in the number of parents (up 40%) held in state prison and their children (up 42%) occurred between 1991 and 1997, compared to a 19% increase for parents and a 17% increase for their children between 1997 and midyear 2007.

The number of children under age 18 with a mother in prison more than doubled since 1991

The nation's prisons held approximately 744,200 fathers and 65,600 mothers at midyear 2007 (appendix table 1). Fathers in prison reported having 1,559,200 children; mothers reported 147,400.

Since 1991, the number of children with a mother in prison has more than doubled, up 131%. The number of children with a father in prison has grown by 77%. This finding reflects a faster rate of growth in the number of mothers held in state and federal prisons (up 122%), compared to the number of fathers (up 76%) between 1991 and midyear 2007.

Of the estimated 74 million children in the U.S. resident population who were under age 18 on July 1, 2007, 2.3% had a parent in prison (table 2). Black children (6.7%) were seven and a half times more likely than white children (0.9%) to have a parent in prison. Hispanic children (2.4%) were more than two and a half times more likely than white children to have a parent in prison.

Table 1. Estimated number of parents in state and federal prisons and their minor children

	Total	State	Federal ^a
Number of parents			
2007 ^b	809,800	686,000	123,800
2004 ^c	754,900	644,100	110,800
1999	721,500	642,300	79,200
1997	649,500	578,100	62,500
1991	452,500	413,100	39,400
Number of children			
2007 ^b	1,706,600	1,427,500	279,100
2004 ^c	1,590,100	1,340,300	249,800
1999 ^d	1,515,200	1,338,900	176,300
1997 ^d	1,362,900	1,223,800	139,100
1991 ^d	945,600	860,300	85,100

Note: See *Methodology* for details about estimation methods. See appendix table 1 for estimates by gender.

^aEstimates were based on the prisoner custody population in each year. The total custody population included inmates held in privately operated facilities and community corrections centers (30,378 in 2007; 24,768 in 2004; and 3,828 inmates in privately operated facilities in 1999). In 1991 and 1997, the number of inmates in these facilities was not known.

^bThe 2007 estimates were based on the distribution of parents from the 2004 SISFCF.

^cNumbers were estimated based on the custody population in state (1,241,034) and federal (176,156) prisons on June 30, 2004.

^dEstimates may not be comparable to previously published BJS reports.

More than 4 in 10 fathers in state or federal prisons were black; almost 5 in 10 mothers were white

Similar to men in the general prison population (93%), parents held in the nation's prisons at midyear 2007 were mostly male (92%) (not shown in table). More than 4 in 10 fathers were black, about 3 in 10 were white, and about 2 in 10 were Hispanic (appendix table 2). An estimated 1,559,200 children had a father in prison at midyear 2007; nearly half (46%) were children of black fathers.

Almost half (46%) of all mothers held in the nation's prisons at midyear 2007 were white, 28% were black, and 17% were Hispanic. Of the estimated 147,400 children with a mother in prison, about 45% had a white mother. A smaller percentage of the children had a black (30%) or Hispanic (19%) mother.

The majority of prisoners reported having a minor child, a quarter of which were age 4 or younger

When interviewed during the 2004 survey, the majority of state (52%) and federal (63%) inmates reported having at least one child under age 18 (appendix table 3). Women in state prison (62%) were more likely than men (51%) to report being a parent. Among federal inmates, 63% of male inmates and 56% of female inmates reported being a parent.

Nearly 1 in 4 state (23%) and federal (24%) inmates reported having one child. Federal inmates (39%) were more likely than state inmates (29%) to report having multiple children. Women (41%) in state prison were more likely than men (29%) to report having more than one child. Similar percentages of women (36%) and men (39%) held in federal prison reported having multiple children. Parents in state and federal prisons reported having two children, on average (not shown in table).

Table 2. Minor children in the U.S. resident population with a parent in state or federal prison, by race and Hispanic origin, 2007

	Estimated number of minor children with a parent in prison	Percent of all minor children in the U.S. resident population
U.S. total^a	1,706,600	2.3%
White, non-Hispanic	484,100	0.9%
Black, non-Hispanic	767,400	6.7
Hispanic	362,800	2.4

Note: Children were assumed to have the same race/ethnicity as the incarcerated parent. Percentages were calculated based on the U.S. resident population under age 18 as of July 1, 2007.

^aIncludes children of other races. Other races include American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and persons identifying two or more races.

denote

Twenty-two percent of the children of state inmates and 16% of the children of federal inmates were age 4 or younger (table 3). For both state (53%) and federal (50%) inmates, about half their children were age 9 or younger. Children of female state inmates were slightly older than children reported by male state inmates. More than half (53%) of the children reported by women were between age 10 and 17, compared to 47% of the children reported by men.

More than a third of minor children will reach age 18 while their parent is incarcerated

Based on the number of adult children reported during the 2004 survey, the total number of children affected by an incarcerated parent can be calculated by subtracting the amount of time served by the parent from their adult child's age. Using this method, parents in prison had nearly 1.9 million children at the time of admission (table 4). Of those children, an estimated 715,600 will reach age 18 while their parent is incarcerated.

Incarcerated parents of minor children most likely to be age 25 to 34

State inmates age 25 to 34 (64%) interviewed during the 2004 survey were most likely to be parents of minor children, followed by inmates age 35 to 44 and inmates age 24 or younger (table 5). Thirty-one percent of inmates age 45

Table 3. Percent of minor children of parents in state and federal prisons at time of interview, by gender, 2004

Age of minor child	Percent of minor children among parents in state prison			Percent of minor children among parents in federal prison		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Less than 1 year	2.4%	2.5%	1.6%	0.7%	0.7%	1.1%
1-4 years	20.0	20.3	16.7	15.1	15.3	12.6
5-9 years	30.2	30.3	29.1	33.8	34.0	30.1
10-14 years	31.6	31.4	33.8	35.1	35.0	35.8
15-17 years	15.8	15.5	18.8	15.3	15.0	20.4

Table 4. Estimated number of minor children of state and federal inmates at time of admission, at interview, and at expected release, by gender, 2004

	Estimated number of minor children of parents in state prison			Estimated number of minor children of parents in federal prison		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
At admission	1,596,100	1,463,400	132,700	282,600	265,900	16,700
At interview	1,340,300	1,223,700	116,600	249,800	235,200	14,600
At expected release	1,000,500	905,600	94,900	162,800	151,000	11,600

*Does not include children of parents in prison who did not report time served or time expected to be served.

Table 5. Percent of state and federal inmates who were parents of minor children, by age and gender, 2004

Age of inmates who were parents of minor children	Percent of parents in state prison			Percent of parents in federal prison		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All inmates	51.9%	51.2%	61.7%	62.9%	63.4%	55.9%
24 or younger	44.1%	43.5%	55.4%	45.8%	45.7%	47.5%
25-34	64.4	63.3	80.7	74.1	74.1	74.5
35-44	58.9	58.3	65.7	71.9	72.1	68.2
45-54	31.0	31.4	25.8	47.0	48.3	31.2
55 or older	12.8	12.9	^	23.8	25.3	^

Note: See appendix table 16 for estimated total counts.
 ^Estimate not reported. Sample size too small (10 or fewer) to provide reliable data.

to 54 reported being a parent. The likelihood of being a parent in state prison was lowest among inmates age 55 or older (13%). Among state prisoners in all age categories except age 45 to 54, women were more likely than men to report being a parent. There was no difference in the prevalence of being a parent between men and women age 45 to 54.

Federal inmates age 25 to 34 (74%) and age 35 to 44 (72%) were more likely to report being a parent, compared to inmates in all other age categories. Forty-seven percent of inmates age 45 to 54 and 46% of inmates age 24 or younger reported being a parent. Federal inmates age 55 or older were least likely to report that they had minor children.

For men held in state prison, the likelihood of being a parent varied across racial categories (appendix table 4). Hispanic (57%) and black (54%) men were more likely than white (45%) men to report being a parent. Findings were similar for men held in federal prison. White men (48%) in federal prison were the least likely of all male inmates to report having children. Black (70%) and Hispanic (69%) men were equally likely to be parents. The likelihood of being a parent for white, black, and Hispanic women held in state prison did not vary by race. In federal prison, Hispanic women (63%) were more likely than white women (47%) to report being a parent.

In state prison, the likelihood of being a parent was most common among married inmates (71%), compared to inmates who were separated (64%), divorced (55%), never married (45%), or widowed (36%). Among federal inmates, married inmates were more likely to report being a parent than inmates in all marital statuses except those inmates who were separated from their spouse. There was no difference in the prevalence of being a parent between married federal inmates and separated federal inmates. The likelihood of being a parent varied little by education for both state and federal inmates.

Drug and public-order offenders in state and federal prisons were more likely than violent offenders to have children

Among male state prisoners, violent (47%) and property (48%) offenders were less likely to report having children than public-order (60%) and drug (59%) offenders (table 6). For women held in state prison, violent (57%) offenders were less likely than drug (63%), property (65%), and public-order (65%) offenders to be a mother.

The prevalence of being a parent differed by gender and offense for inmates held in state and federal prisons. For state inmates, female (65%) property offenders were more likely to be a parent than male (48%) property offenders. In federal prison, male (69%) drug offenders were more likely than female (55%) drug offenders to report having children.

Among men held in federal prison, drug offenders (69%) were more likely than property (54%) and violent (50%) offenders to report having children (appendix table 5). Public-order offenders (62%) were also more likely than violent offenders to report having children. For women in federal prison, the likelihood of being a mother did not differ by offense.

Inmates in state and federal prisons with a criminal history were more likely to be parents of minor children than those with no criminal history

The likelihood of being a parent in prison varied slightly based on criminal history, including prior probation, parole, and incarceration sentences. Prisoners with a criminal history were more likely to report being a parent than prisoners with no criminal history. In state prison, 53% of inmates with a criminal history reported having children, compared to 48% with no criminal history. Sixty-six percent of parents held in federal prison reported having a criminal history, compared to 57% of parents with no criminal history.

In state prison, drug recidivists (62%)—offenders with a prior drug offense—had a higher likelihood of being a parent than violent (52%) and other (54%) recidivists. For women in state prison, and both men and women in federal prison, the likelihood of being a parent did not vary by type of recidivist (appendix table 6).

Male (50%) and female (61%) inmates in state prison who reported no prior incarceration sentences were equally likely to be a parent as male (53%) and female (65%) inmates with 10 or more prior incarcerations. In federal prison, findings were similar for men while women with no prior incarceration sentences (54%) were less likely to be a mother than women who reported they had 10 or more prior incarcerations (81%).

Fewer than half of parents in state prison lived with their minor children either in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration

Thirty-seven percent of parents held in state prison reported living with at least one of their children in the month before arrest, 44% reported just prior to incarceration, and 48% reported at either time (table 7). Mothers were more likely than fathers to report living with at least one child. More than half of mothers held in state prison reported living with at least one of their children in the month before arrest, compared to 36% of fathers. More than 6 in 10 mothers reported living with their children just prior to incarceration or at either time, compared to less than half of fathers.

Parents held in federal prison were more likely than those held in state prison to report living with a child in the month before arrest, just prior to incarceration, or at either time (appendix table 7). Mothers in federal prison were more likely than fathers to report living with a child.

Table 6. Percent of state inmates who were parents of minor children, by current offense and gender, 2004

Offense	Total	Male	Female
All inmates	51.9%	51.2%	61.7%
Violent	47.5%	47.1%	57.3%
Property	49.9	48.2	64.7
Drug	59.6	59.3	62.5
Public-order	59.9	59.6	65.0

Note: See appendix table 17 for estimated total counts.

Table 7. Parents in state prison who reported living with their minor children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration, by gender, 2004

Lived with their minor children	Total	Male	Female
In month before arrest	37.1%	35.5%	55.3%
In two-parent household	17.9	18.3	13.6
In single-parent household	19.2	17.2	41.7
Prior to incarceration	43.8%	42.4%	60.6%
Either in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration	47.9%	48.5%	64.2%
Estimated number of parents in state prison	636,300	585,200	51,100

More than 4 in 10 mothers in state prison who had minor children were living in single-parent households in the month before arrest

Parents held in state prison were equally likely to report living with their children in a single-parent household (19%) as they were to report living with their children in a two-parent household (18%) in the month before arrest. Mothers were three times more likely to report living in a single-parent household (42%) than in a two-parent household (14%). Fathers reported similar percentages of living in single or two-parent households in the month before their arrest.

Parents held in federal prison were more likely overall to report having lived in two-parent versus single-parent households in the month before arrest. Mothers (52%) were more than two and a half times more likely than fathers (19%) to have lived in single-parent households.

Fathers living with their minor child relied heavily on someone to provide daily care

Mothers and fathers in state prison responded differently when asked who provided most of the daily care for their minor children. Among parents in state prison who had lived with their minor children just prior to incarceration, mothers (77%) were almost three times more likely than fathers (26%) to report that they had provided most of the daily care for their children (appendix table 8). Sixty-three percent of fathers reported sharing the daily care, compared to 18% of mothers. About 1 in 10 fathers relied on someone to provide daily care for their children, compared to 1 in 20 mothers. Similar results were found for mothers and fathers in federal prison.

Fathers most commonly reported the child's mother as current caregiver of their children, while mothers most commonly reported the child's grandparents

The other parent (84%) was the most commonly reported caregiver for children of parents in state prison, followed by grandparents (15%), and other relatives (6%) (table 8). Three percent reported that their children were in the care of a foster home, agency, or institution.

Mothers and fathers in state prison provided different responses about their children's current caregivers. Eighty-eight percent of fathers reported that at least one of their children was in the care of the child's mother, compared to 37% of mothers who reported the father as the child's current caregiver.

Mothers in state prison most commonly identified the child's grandmother (42%) as the current caregiver. Nearly a quarter (23%) identified other relatives as the current caregivers of their children. The percentage of fathers in prison who reported that their children were in the care of a grandmother (12%) or other relative (5%) was much smaller. Mothers (11%) were 5 times more likely than fathers (2%) to report that their children were in the care of a foster home, agency, or institution.

About half of parents in state prison provided the primary financial support for their minor children

Mothers (52%) and fathers (54%) in state prison were equally likely to report that they provided primary financial support for their minor children prior to their incarceration (appendix table 9). Three-quarters (75%) reported employment in the month prior to their arrest. Parents who supported their children financially were more likely to have been employed (80%) in the month prior to arrest and to report wages or salary (76%) as income.

Of parents with minor children who did not provide primary financial support, 68% reported employment in the month before their arrest and 64% reported wages or salary as income. More than a third (36%) of mothers in state prison reported government transfers such as welfare, Social Security, or compensation payment as income. Mothers were more likely than fathers to report receiving government transfers regardless of who provided the primary financial support for their children. The findings were similar for parents held in federal prison.

Table 8. Current caregiver of minor children of parents in state prison, by gender, 2004

Children's current caregiver ^a	Total	Male	Female
Other parent	84.2%	88.4%	37.0%
Grandparent	15.1%	12.5%	44.9%
Grandmother	14.0	11.6	42.1
Grandfather	4.3	3.6	12.0
Other relatives	6.2%	4.7%	22.8%
Foster home or agency	2.9%	2.2%	10.9%
Friends, others ^b	2.9%	2.4%	7.8%
Estimated number of parents in state prison	636,300	585,200	51,100

^aIncludes all parents with minor children. Detail may sum to more than 100% because some prisoners had multiple minor children living with multiple caregivers.

^bIncludes inmate's friends, friends of the inmate's children, cases where the parent reported that the child now lived alone, and others.

Appendix Table 2. Selected measures reflecting characteristics of respondents' relationship with their baby's father and the father's characteristics, by age, race/ethnicity and county of residence. UNWEIGHTED.

Measure	State-weighted Total (N=187)	Age		Race/ethnicity*			County			
		Unweighted Total (N=187)	15-16 (N=90)	17-18 (N=97)	Hispanic U.S.-born (N=66)	Hispanic Foreign (N=54)	Black (N=46)	Alameda (N=78)	Santa Clara (N=53)	Santa Cruz/Monterey (N=56)
PERCENTAGES										
Relationship with the father										
Dating/engaged before pregnancy	97.7	96.8	95.6	97.9	93.9	100.0	95.7	97.4	94.3	96.2
Only steady relationship ever	48.5	50.8	50.0	51.5	50.0	63.5	39.1	53.9	47.2	50.0
Living together at time of interview	38.0	32.6	26.7	38.1	34.8	51.9	8.7	23.1	30.2	48.2
Think marriage is "very likely" in next few years	53.3	50.3	46.7	53.6	51.5	63.0	34.8	50.0	47.2	53.6
Reasons for first sex with the father										
Planned to marry him	57.5	55.1	44.4	64.9	48.5	74.1	47.8	56.4	43.4	64.3
Wanted baby	24.8	25.7	21.1	29.9	19.7	57.4	6.5	17.9	17.0	44.6
Father's background characteristics										
Employed	71.5	67.4	69.0	74.7	75.8	86.3	40.9	56.0	68.6	82.7
H.S. graduate	47.6	44.6	37.8	50.6	40.0	31.3	58.7	50.0	49.0	31.3
Has other children	16.9	19.6	21.6	17.7	15.4	3.8	43.5	26.9	13.2	15.1
Father's intention status at conception										
Intended	52.1	54.1	55.1	53.1	53.8	61.1	52.2	59.2	50.9	50.0
Did not care	22.6	20.5	19.1	21.9	18.5	25.9	17.4	18.4	13.2	30.4
Did not intend	25.2	25.4	25.8	25.0	27.7	13.0	30.4	22.4	35.8	19.6
MEANS										
Mos. dating before conception	13.6	14.5	11.9	16.9	12.6	13.2	19.8	16.5	13.2	12.7
Father's age	20.5	20.3	19.4	21.0	20.0	21.1	19.9	20.6	19.9	20.1
Age difference between partners (in years)	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.9	4.3	3.1	3.9	3.5	3.7

* Note: Non-Hispanic white and Asian respondents are excluded here, due to small sample size.

Appendix Table 5. Percentage of respondents, by selected measures related to pregnancy decision-making, according to age, race/ethnicity and county of residence. UNWEIGHTED.

Measure	State-weighted Total (N=187)	Age		Race/ethnicity*				County		
		Unweighted Total (N=187)	15-16 (N=90)	17-18 (N=97)	Hispanic U.S.-born (N=56)	Hispanic Foreign (N=54)	Black (N=46)	Alameda (N=78)	Santa Clara (N=53)	Santa Cruz/ Monterey (N=56)
Initial reaction										
Was sure about keeping baby	64.2	62.0	61.1	62.9	65.2	72.2	50.0	55.1	62.3	71.4
Needed time to think about what to do	35.8	38.0	38.9	37.1	34.8	27.8	50.0	44.9	37.7	28.6
Reasons for wanting to keep the baby										
Wants/accepts having baby only	46.2	46.7	47.2	46.2	47.7	67.3	29.5	42.9	46.2	52.8
She wants a baby*	47.4	46.5	46.7	46.4	48.5	63.0	28.3	39.7	50.9	51.8
Wants to take responsibility*	12.8	14.4	17.8	11.3	25.8	7.4	10.9	9.0	18.9	17.9
Had support, could handle keeping*	6.4	6.4	3.3	9.3	3.0	5.6	13.0	10.3	1.9	5.4
Against having an abortion/adoption only	31.5	31.3	32.6	30.1	24.5	21.2	50.0	37.7	28.8	24.5
Doesn't want abortion*	45.0	45.5	46.7	44.3	47.0	25.9	63.0	48.7	47.2	39.3
Doesn't want adoption*	19.5	13.4	11.1	15.5	18.2	7.4	6.5	10.3	17.0	14.3
Wants/accepts baby and against abortion/adoption	19.0	18.1	15.7	20.4	26.2	9.6	15.9	13.0	23.1	20.8
Baby's dad or others want baby only	3.3	3.8	4.5	3.2	1.5	1.9	4.5	6.5	1.9	1.9
Baby's dad/others want baby*	12.3	13.9	12.2	15.5	9.1	20.4	13.0	17.9	11.3	10.7
Option respondent favored most at first										
Birth and marry or live with father	50.6	46.5	42.2	50.5	47.0	66.7	26.1	44.9	50.9	44.6
Birth and live with family or on own	40.0	42.8	44.4	41.2	42.4	33.3	54.3	43.6	41.5	42.9
Abortion	4.9	8.6	11.1	6.2	8.1	0.0	17.4	10.3	7.5	7.1
Adoption	2.4	1.6	2.2	1.0	1.5	0.0	2.2	1.3	0.0	3.6
No preference	2.0	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Option baby's father favored most at first										
Birth and marry or live with him	70.9	67.4	70.9	64.5	64.5	78.0	57.1	66.2	61.5	75.5
Birth and live with her family or on own	14.7	16.9	16.5	17.2	17.7	14.0	21.4	23.9	13.5	10.2
Abortion	13.0	14.5	11.4	17.2	14.5	8.0	21.4	9.9	23.1	12.2
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
No preference	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	2.0
Who helped most with decision to continue pregnancy										
Baby's Father	33.6	35.1	35.6	34.7	34.8	39.6	35.6	32.1	35.8	38.9
Respondent made the decision herself	23.1	22.7	25.6	20.0	27.3	17.0	22.2	20.5	22.6	25.9
Respondent's mother	20.1	18.9	15.6	22.1	18.2	17.0	20.0	23.1	20.8	11.1
Other Relative	14.5	15.1	14.4	15.8	7.6	18.9	17.8	19.2	11.3	13.0
Clinic/church/school staff	5.1	4.9	5.6	4.2	6.1	3.8	4.4	2.6	5.7	7.4
Friends	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.2	6.1	3.8	0.0	2.6	3.8	3.7

* Note: Non-Hispanic white and Asian respondents are excluded here, due to small sample size.

* Any mention of the specific reason

Appendix Table 7. Percentage of respondents by selected questionnaire items, according to pregnancy intention at conception, age, race/ethnicity and county of residence. Unweighted.

Questionnaire item	State weighted total	Un-weighted total	Pregnancy intention		Age		Race/ethnicity*			County			
			Intended pregnancy	Did not intend pregnancy	15-16	17-18	U.S. born	Hispanic Foreign	Black	Alameda	Santa Clara	Santa Cruz Monterey	
C1. Mean months at residence % at residence <6 months % at residence 6-12 months	31.9 40.8 23.5	30.3 41.2 20.9	21.1 41.7 27.1	31.9 44.4 14.8	34.4 38.8 21.2	30.0 38.9 24.4	30.5 43.3 17.5	39.1 39.4 21.2	15.8 57.4 14.8	37.3 26.1 21.7	31.8 33.3 23.1	33.8 37.7 24.5	24.7 55.4 14.3
C2. Why moved in last year: pregnancy reasons personal reasons family-related reasons housing conditions	31.9 40.8 39.8 17.1	31.9 31.9 38.8 24.1	30.3 36.4 39.4 18.2	28.1 37.5 34.4 31.3	35.3 25.5 41.2 23.5	33.3 22.8 36.8 29.8	30.5 40.7 40.7 18.6	30.0 35.0 37.5 22.5	35.9 43.6 28.2 30.8	27.3 9.1 50.0 27.3	27.3 31.8 36.4 27.3	42.4 27.3 38.4 18.2	28.2 35.9 41.0 25.6
C3. Mean number of people R lives with Who R lives with: Mother-biological Father-biological Baby's father Baby's father's parents if not living with biological mother:	3.9 44.8 21.9 37.9 14.5	4.1 51.9 21.4 32.6 13.9	4.1 45.8 20.8 54.2 20.8	4.3 50.0 22.2 37.0 16.7	4.0 56.5 17.6 8.2	4.6 60.0 26.7 13.3	3.7 44.3 22.7 38.1 14.4	4.6 53.0 22.7 34.8 13.6	4.7 42.6 24.1 51.9 24.1	3.0 60.9 17.4 8.7 4.3	3.4 56.4 16.7 23.1 10.3	4.5 49.1 28.3 30.2 15.1	4.5 48.2 21.4 48.2 17.9
C4. Mean months without mother: pregnancy personal relationship mother's faults mother unavailable other family reasons	50.9 8.9 46.0 9.8 35.7 12.8	39.5 12.2 46.7 8.9 30.0 13.3	44.5 0.0 46.2 7.7 42.3 15.4	35.2 7.4 59.3 7.4 25.9 3.7	39.2 24.3 37.8 10.9 24.3 18.9	33.6 13.9 50.0 8.3 19.4 13.9	43.5 11.1 44.4 4.0 37.0 13.0	31.3 12.9 61.3 9.7 19.4 16.1	22.5 16.1 46.4 0.0 41.9 6.5	52.9 11.1 27.8 16.7 22.2 16.7	42.8 8.8 50.0 5.8 29.4 5.9	52.0 14.8 29.6 18.5 22.2 18.5	24.1 13.8 58.6 37.9 17.2
C9. if not living with biological father: C10. Mean months without father: Reasons not with father: pregnancy personal relationship father's faults father unavailable other family reasons: Family relationships: Mom questions for biological mom R has no mom/mom figure Dad questions for biological dad Dad questions for dad figure R has no dad/dad figure	83.3 5.6 30.8 7.1 27.3 24.8	80.2 6.8 26.5 6.1 25.9 25.2	70.5 5.3 36.8 2.6 31.6 26.3	82.8 7.1 35.7 4.8 26.2 16.7	105.9 7.5 14.9 9.0 22.4 29.9	99.4 6.9 23.6 8.3 20.8 23.6	81.3 8.7 29.3 4.0 30.7 26.7	107.1 3.9 29.4 2.0 15.7 27.5	45.9 17.1 31.7 0.0 41.5 22.0	110.8 2.6 15.9 10.5 21.1 26.3	93.2 3.1 20.0 7.7 27.7 24.6	103.9 13.2 31.6 5.3 10.5 15.8	73.9 6.8 31.8 4.5 36.4 34.1
C14. Closeness to mother/mother figure: very close somewhat close not very/not at all close C15. Discusses problems with mom/figure: all the time very often once in awhile never	82.2 12.7 5.1 55.8 21.4 21.7	86.1 10.2 3.7 55.6 21.4 23.0	81.3 14.6 4.2 56.3 18.8 25.0	83.3 11.1 5.6 64.8 14.8 20.4	90.6 7.1 2.4 49.4 27.1 23.5	88.9 8.9 2.2 54.4 25.6 20.0	83.5 11.3 5.2 56.7 17.5 25.8	87.9 9.1 3.0 50.0 30.3 19.7	85.2 9.3 5.8 61.1 13.0 25.9	89.1 8.7 2.2 58.7 19.0 29.3	89.7 9.0 1.3 52.6 16.7 30.8	79.2 18.9 1.9 60.4 22.6 17.0	87.5 3.6 8.8 55.4 26.8 17.9
C15. Discusses problems with mom/figure: all the time very often once in awhile never	80.5 27.2 12.4 30.7 19.5 35.6 14.2	59.2 33.0 7.8 27.9 39.7 10.1	55.6 35.5 8.9 22.2 44.4 11.1	62.7 33.3 3.9 23.5 21.6 47.1 7.8	59.0 31.3 9.6 32.5 24.1 32.5 10.8	60.2 34.1 5.6 22.0 22.7 36.6 5.7	58.2 31.9 9.9 22.0 23.1 40.7 14.3	59.4 34.4 6.2 31.3 26.6 51.0 10.9	58.6 31.4 9.8 17.6 23.5 51.0 7.8	60.0 35.6 4.4 26.7 20.0 44.4 8.9	62.3 35.1 2.8 28.6 14.3 49.4 7.8	51.0 37.3 11.9 27.5 29.4 31.4 11.8	62.7 25.5 11.7 25.5 29.4 33.3 11.8

R=respondent, BD=baby's dad
*Non-Hispanic white and Asian respondents are not shown separately due to small sample size

Drug and public-order offenders in state and federal prisons were more likely than violent offenders to have children

Among male state prisoners, violent (47%) and property (48%) offenders were less likely to report having children than public-order (60%) and drug (59%) offenders (table 6). For women held in state prison, violent (57%) offenders were less likely than drug (63%), property (65%), and public-order (65%) offenders to be a mother.

The prevalence of being a parent differed by gender and offense for inmates held in state and federal prisons. For state inmates, female (65%) property offenders were more likely to be a parent than male (48%) property offenders. In federal prison, male (69%) drug offenders were more likely than female (55%) drug offenders to report having children.

Among men held in federal prison, drug offenders (69%) were more likely than property (54%) and violent (50%) offenders to report having children (appendix table 5). Public-order offenders (62%) were also more likely than violent offenders to report having children. For women in federal prison, the likelihood of being a mother did not differ by offense.

Inmates in state and federal prisons with a criminal history were more likely to be parents of minor children than those with no criminal history

The likelihood of being a parent in prison varied slightly based on criminal history, including prior probation, parole, and incarceration sentences. Prisoners with a criminal history were more likely to report being a parent than prisoners with no criminal history. In state prison, 53% of inmates with a criminal history reported having children, compared to 48% with no criminal history. Sixty-six percent of parents held in federal prison reported having a criminal history, compared to 57% of parents with no criminal history.

In state prison, drug recidivists (62%)—offenders with a prior drug offense—had a higher likelihood of being a parent than violent (52%) and other (54%) recidivists. For women in state prison, and both men and women in federal prison, the likelihood of being a parent did not vary by type of recidivist (appendix table 6).

Male (50%) and female (61%) inmates in state prison who reported no prior incarceration sentences were equally likely to be a parent as male (53%) and female (65%) inmates with 10 or more prior incarcerations. In federal prison, findings were similar for men while women with no prior incarceration sentences (54%) were less likely to be a mother than women who reported they had 10 or more prior incarcerations (81%).

Fewer than half of parents in state prison lived with their minor children either in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration

Thirty-seven percent of parents held in state prison reported living with at least one of their children in the month before arrest, 44% reported just prior to incarceration, and 48% reported at either time (table 7). Mothers were more likely than fathers to report living with at least one child. More than half of mothers held in state prison reported living with at least one of their children in the month before arrest, compared to 36% of fathers. More than 6 in 10 mothers reported living with their children just prior to incarceration or at either time, compared to less than half of fathers.

Parents held in federal prison were more likely than those held in state prison to report living with a child in the month before arrest, just prior to incarceration, or at either time (appendix table 7). Mothers in federal prison were more likely than fathers to report living with a child.

Table 6. Percent of state inmates who were parents of minor children, by current offense and gender, 2004

Offense	Total	Male	Female
All inmates	51.9%	51.2%	61.7%
Violent	47.5%	47.1%	57.3%
Property	49.9	48.2	64.7
Drug	59.6	59.3	62.5
Public-order	59.9	59.6	65.0

Note: See appendix table 17 for estimated total counts.

Table 7. Parents in state prison who reported living with their minor children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration, by gender, 2004

Lived with their minor children	Total	Male	Female
In month before arrest	37.1%	35.5%	55.3%
In two-parent household	17.9	18.3	13.6
In single-parent household	19.2	17.2	41.7
Prior to incarceration	43.8%	42.4%	60.6%
Either in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration	47.8%	46.5%	64.2%
Estimated number of parents in state prison	635,300	585,200	51,100

Parents in state prison who provided primary financial support were more likely to report that they lived with their children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration (table 9). Among parents in state prison who provided the primary financial support to their children, mothers (89%) were more likely than fathers (67%) to report that they had lived with their children.

More than three-quarters of state prison inmates who were parents of minor children reported that they had some contact with their children since admission

Seventy percent of parents in state prison reported exchanging letters with their children, 53% had spoken with their children over the telephone, and 42% had a personal visit since admission (appendix table 10).¹ Mothers were more likely than fathers to report having had any contact with their children. Mothers and fathers were equally likely

¹ Question was asked about contact with any child, which could include children 18 years of age or older.

to report having had personal visits with their children. A higher percentage of parents in federal prison reported contact with their children. In federal prison, 85% reported telephone contact, 84% had exchanged letters, and 55% reported having had personal visits.

More than three-quarters of state prison inmates who were parents of minor children reported that they had some contact with their children since admission (table 10). Thirty-nine percent of fathers and 56% of mothers in state prison had at least weekly contact with their children since admission. Parents (86%) in state prison who reported living with their minor children in the month before arrest or just before incarceration were more likely to report having contact with their children than parents (72%) who had not lived with their children. Mothers (62%) and fathers (49%) who had lived with their children were more likely to report they had at least weekly contact with their children than mothers (44%) and fathers (30%) who had not lived with their children.

While the percent of parents in state prison who reported contact with their children varied little by expected release date, those having less time to serve reported more frequent contact with their children. About half (47%) of parents who expected to be released within six months reported at least weekly contact with their children, compared to 39% who expected to be released in 12 to 59 months; and 32% in 60 or more months. Among parents who did not expect to be released, 22% reported at least weekly contact with their children.

Table 9. Financial support of minor children provided by parents in state prison prior to their incarceration, by gender, 2004

	Total	Male	Female
Provided primary financial support	54.0%	54.1%	51.9%
Lived with minor child in the month before arrest or prior to incarceration	68.6%	66.9%	88.6%
Did not provide primary financial support	46.0%	45.9%	48.1%
Lived with minor child in the month before arrest or prior to incarceration	23.3%	22.0%	37.6%
Estimated number of parents in state prison	636,300	585,200	51,100

Table 10. Frequency of contact with adult or minor children among state inmates who were parents of minor children, by gender, 2004

	Any contact			Weekly or more			Monthly or less		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All parents in state prison	78.6%	78.1%	85.0%	39.9%	38.5%	55.7%	38.8%	39.6%	29.3%
Lived with minor children*									
Yes	96.0%	85.5%	89.7%	50.1%	48.6%	62.3%	35.9%	36.8%	27.4%
No	72.1	71.9	76.5	30.9	30.2	44.2	41.2	41.7	32.3
Time expected to serve until release									
Less than 6 months	78.5%	77.7%	84.8%	47.3%	45.9%	56.9%	31.2%	31.7%	27.9%
6-11 months	79.1	78.4	84.8	42.8	41.3	55.9	36.2	37.1	28.9
12-59 months	79.0	78.5	86.7	39.4	38.4	54.9	39.6	40.1	31.8
60 or more months	78.6	78.5	80.6	32.3	31.7	47.9	46.3	46.8	32.8
No release expected	74.0	74.0	74.8	22.4	21.3	^	51.6	52.7	^

Note: See appendix table 18 for estimated total counts. The contact question included in the 2004 SISFCF asked about contact with any child, which could include children age 18 or older.

*Inmate lived with minor children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration.

^Estimate not reported. Sample size too small (10 or fewer) to provide reliable data.

Half of parents in state prison reported that they had a family member who had been incarcerated

Mothers in state prison (58%) were more likely than fathers (49%) to report having a family member who had also been incarcerated (table 11). Parents in state prison most commonly reported a brother (34%), followed by a father (19%). Among mothers in state prison, 13% reported a sister and 8% reported a spouse. Six percent of fathers reported having a sister who had also been incarcerated; 2%, a spouse.

While growing up, 40% of parents in state prison reported living in a household that received public assistance, 14% reported living in a foster home, agency, or institution at some time during their youth, and 43% reported living with both parents most of the time (appendix table 11). Mothers (17%) held in state prison were more likely than fathers (14%) to report living in a foster home, agency, or institution at some time during their youth. Parents in federal prison reported lower percentages of growing up in a household that received public assistance (31%) or living in a foster home, agency, or institution (7%). These characteristics varied little by gender for parents held in federal prison.

More than a third (34%) of parents in state prison reported that during their youth, their parents or guardians had abused alcohol or drugs. Mothers in state prison (43%) were more likely than fathers (33%) to have had this experience. Fewer parents (27%) in federal prison reported having a parent or a guardian who had abused alcohol or drugs.

Table 11. Family incarceration of state inmates who were parents of minor children, by gender, 2004

	Total	Male	Female
Family member ever incarcerated	49.6%	48.9%	58.4%
Mother	6.4	6.1	10.4
Father	18.8	18.6	20.7
Brother	34.4	34.2	36.8
Sister	6.5	6.0	13.0
Child	2.0	1.7	5.2
Spouse	1.9	1.5	7.5
Estimated number of parents in state prison	636,300	585,200	51,100

Mothers in state prison more likely than fathers to report homelessness, past physical or sexual abuse, and medical and mental health problems

Among parents in state prison, 9% reported homelessness in the year before arrest, 20% had a history of physical or sexual abuse, and 41% reported a current medical problem. Fifty-seven percent of parents in state prison met the criteria for a mental health problem and 67% met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse (appendix table 12).² In comparison, parents in federal prison reported lower percentages of homelessness (4%) in the year before arrest, past physical or sexual abuse (11%), current medical problems (36%), mental health problems (43%), and substance dependence or abuse (56%).

Mothers in state prison were two times more likely than fathers to report homelessness in the year before arrest, four times more likely to report past physical or sexual abuse, and almost one and half times more likely to have either a current medical or mental health problem. The comparison by gender among parents held in federal prison was similar to those held in state prison, with the exception of homelessness in the year before arrest. Both male and female parents held in federal prison had similar rates (4.0%) of homelessness in the year before arrest.

Reports from fathers in state prison that showed past physical or sexual abuse, current medical problems, mental health problems, and substance dependence or abuse did not vary overall by living arrangement (table 12). However, fathers who had not lived with their children were three times more likely than those who had lived with their children to report homelessness in the year prior to arrest.

²Inmates met the criteria for a mental health problem if they had a recent history of a mental health problem in the year before arrest or since admission, or if they experienced, in the 12 months prior to the interview, symptoms of mental health disorders. See *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates*, <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/mhppji.htm>>.

Table 12. Homelessness, physical/sexual abuse, medical/mental health problems, or substance dependence/abuse problems among state inmates who were parents of minor children, by living arrangement and gender, 2004

	All parents in state prison	Lived with minor children*		Did not live with minor children*	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Homelessness in year before arrest	8.9%	4.0%	8.5%	12.0%	28.7%
Ever physical/sexual abuse	19.9	16.1	59.7	15.7	72.4
Current medical problem	40.8	39.7	50.0	39.8	57.8
Any mental health problem	56.5	54.5	72.8	55.2	75.3
Any substance dependence/abuse	67.4	65.0	63.6	68.8	81.5
Estimated number of parents in state prison	636,300	272,200	32,800	313,000	18,300

Note: Measures of substance dependence or abuse and mental health problems were based on criteria specified in the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders," fourth edition (DSM-IV). For details, see *Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004*, <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/dudsfp04.htm>> and *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates*, <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/mhppji.htm>>.

*Inmate lived with minor children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration.

Mothers held in state prison who had not lived with their children were three times more likely to report homelessness (29%) than those who had lived with their children (9%). Mothers who had not lived with their children were also more likely to report past physical and sexual abuse, current medical problems, and substance dependence or abuse than those who had lived with their children.

More than 4 in 10 parents in the nation's prisons who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse had received treatment since admission

About 4 in 10 parents in state prison who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse reported ever receiving treatment for drug or alcohol abuse; 56% reported participating in other drug or alcohol abuse programs (appendix table 13). Forty-three percent of parents who met the criteria reported treatment since admission. For fathers (10%) and mothers (14%), placement in a residential facility or unit for drug or alcohol abuse was the most common treatment since admission. Parents held in federal prison who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse reported similar percentages of alcohol or drug treatment and program participation.

Of parents in state prison who had a mental health problem, 46% reported ever receiving treatment. About a third (31%) had been treated since admission. Prescription medication was the most common treatment for both those who had reported ever having treatment (38%) and for those who had received treatment since admission (25%).

About a third (33%) of parents in state prison with a mental health problem reported that they had ever received therapy and 18% reported they had ever had an overnight hospital stay. A fifth (21%) of parents with a mental health problem reported that they had received therapy since admission; 5% had an overnight hospital stay.

Mothers were more likely than fathers to report treatment for mental health problems either before or after admission to a state prison. In state prison, prescribed medication was the most common treatment for parents with a mental health problem.

While parents in federal prison were less likely than those in state prison to report mental health treatment, the patterns by gender were similar for both. Participation in alcohol, drug, or mental health treatment did not vary by whether parents had lived with their children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration (table 13).

Table 13. Alcohol or drug and mental health treatment history of inmates in state prison who were parents of minor children and who had an alcohol or drug or mental health problem, by living arrangement and gender, 2004

	All parents in state prison	Lived with minor children ^a		Did not live with minor children ^a	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Alcohol or drug treatment^b					
Ever any treatment or programs	69.8%	66.9%	74.3%	69.6%	77.2%
Received treatment since admission	42.9	41.7	46.4	43.0	49.8
Estimated number of parents who had an alcohol or drug problem	428,800	177,900	20,900	215,000	14,800
Mental health treatment^c					
Ever any treatment	46.4%	42.2%	70.4%	44.1%	77.3%
Received treatment since admission	30.9	25.6	52.4	29.7	57.8
Estimated number of parents who had a mental health problem	359,200	148,700	23,900	172,900	13,700

^aInmate lived with minor children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration.

^bBased on parents in state prison who had an alcohol or drug problem.

^cBased on parents in state prison who had a mental health problem.

*** Among parents in state prison, two-thirds reported they had a work assignment; over half had attended self-help or improvement classes since admissions**

In state prison, about 7 in 10 mothers (70%) and fathers (67%) reported participating in work assignments since admission (appendix table 14). About two-thirds (65%) of mothers and more than half (57%) of fathers had attended self-help or improvement classes. While mothers and fathers were equally likely to report participating in employment and educational programming, mothers (27%) were about two and a half times more likely than fathers (11%) to attend parenting or childrearing classes. Mothers and fathers (both 62%) were equally likely to report having a high school diploma or GED at admission.

Parents held in federal prison reported participating in work assignments and self-help programs and having a high school diploma or GED more frequently than parents in state prison. More than 9 in 10 parents in federal prison reported participating in a work assignment. Since admission, more than 7 in 10 had attended self-help or improvement classes. About 7 in 10 reported having a high school diploma or GED upon admission.

Similar percentages of participation in self-help or improvement classes were found between mothers and fathers in state prison who had lived with their children and those who had not lived with their children prior to arrest or incarceration (table 14). Mothers who had lived with their children prior to arrest or incarceration (72%) were more likely than mothers who had not lived with their children (67%) to participate in work assignments.

Table 14. Work assignments, program participation, and education among state inmates who were parents of minor children, by living arrangement and gender, 2004

	All parents in state prison	Lived with minor children ^a		Did not live with minor children ^a	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Work assignments^b	66.8%	67.9%	72.2%	65.7%	66.6%
Self-help or improvement classes since admission	57.2%	57.4%	65.4%	55.8%	63.4%
Parenting or childrearing classes	11.9	12.1	29.7	9.3	22.5
Employment programs	30.4	30.6	33.2	30.1	26.9
Vocational or job-training program	26.5	26.2	27.0	26.8	22.2
Employment counseling	9.4	9.6	12.4	8.8	11.3
Education programs ^c	30.3	29.4	33.2	30.8	31.5
Other pre-release programs ^d	31.2	32.0	39.3	29.3	39.4
Had GED or high school diploma upon admission	62.4%	63.0%	65.5%	62.2%	56.4%
Estimated number of parents in state prison	636,300	272,200	32,800	313,000	18,300

^aInmate lived with their minor children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration.

^bIncludes work assignments both inside and outside the prison.

^cExcludes vocational training. Includes basic classes up to 9th grade, high school diploma or GED classes, college level classes, or English as a second language.

^dIncludes inmate assistance/counseling groups, inmate self-help/personal improvement groups, including parent awareness groups, life skills/community adjustment classes, and other pre-release programs.

Mothers in prison had served less time at time of interview and expected to be released in a shorter amount of time than fathers

Over half (52%) of parents in state prison had served between 12 and 59 months at the time of their interview (appendix table 15). A quarter (26%) had been in prison 60 months or more. Mothers and fathers were equally likely to have been in prison for 12 to 59 months. For longer lengths of stay, mothers (13%) were less likely than fathers (27%) to have been in prison for 60 or more months.

About 4 in 10 mothers in state prison expected to be released within 6 months. An additional 21% expected to be released in 6 to 11 months. Among fathers in state prison, a quarter expected to be released in less than 6

months and 15% percent expected to be released in 6 to 11 months. Compared to mothers in federal prison, fathers had served more of their sentence at the time of their interviews and expected to have a longer time remaining until their release.

Time served and time expected until release varied little for fathers by whether they had lived with their children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration while differences were found among women (table 15). Compared to mothers who had not lived with their children in the month before arrest or just prior incarceration (46%), mothers who had lived with their children (39%) were less likely to expect to be released in less than 6 months.

Table 15. Time served since admission and time to be served until expected release among state inmates who were parents of minor children, by gender, 2004

	All parents in state prison	Lived with minor children ^a		Did not live with minor children ^a	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Time served since admission^b					
Less than 6 months	9.4%	8.4%	17.9%	8.8%	17.8%
6-11 months	13.1	11.7	19.9	13.3	19.4
12-59 months	51.9	52.5	47.8	51.8	53.8
60+ months	25.5	27.4	14.5	26.1	9.0
Time left to be served on current sentence^c					
Less than 6 months	26.7%	25.4%	39.0%	25.4%	46.0%
6-11 months	15.4	15.0	20.5	14.8	20.3
12-59 months	37.9	37.6	30.2	39.8	26.4
60+ months	17.8	19.6	9.1	17.7	6.4
No release expected	2.3	2.4	1.2	2.3	0.9
Estimated number of parents in state prison	636,300	272,200	32,800	313,000	18,300

^aEstimate not reported. Sample size too small (10 or fewer) to provide reliable data.

^bInmate lived with minor children in the month before arrest or just prior to incarceration.

^cBased on time served from admission until time of interview.

^dBased on time from interview to expected date of release.

Appendix table 1. Estimated number of parents in state and federal prisons and their minor children, by inmate's gender

	Total	Parents in state prison			Parents in federal prison ^a		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Number of parents							
2007	809,800	686,000	627,800	58,200	123,800	116,400	7,400
2004 ^b	754,900	644,100	592,300	51,800	110,800	104,200	6,600
1999	721,500	642,300	593,800	48,500	79,200	74,100	5,100
1997	649,500	587,000	544,100	42,900	62,500	58,500	4,000
1991	452,500	413,100	366,500	26,600	39,400	36,500	2,900
Number of minor children							
2007	1,706,600	1,427,500	1,296,500	131,000	279,100	262,700	16,400
2004 ^b	1,590,100	1,340,300	1,223,700	116,600	249,800	235,200	14,600
1999 ^c	1,515,200	1,338,900	1,223,400	115,500	176,300	165,700	10,600
1997 ^c	1,362,900	1,223,800	1,121,400	102,400	139,100	130,800	8,300
1991 ^c	945,600	860,300	802,300	58,000	85,100	79,200	5,900

Note: See *Methodology* for details about estimation methods.

^aEstimates were based on the prisoner custody population in each year. The total custody population included inmates held in privately operated facilities and community corrections centers (30,379 in 2007; 24,768 in 2004; and 3,828 inmates in privately operated facilities in 1999). In 1991 and 1997, the number of inmates in these facilities was not known.

^bNumbers were estimated based on the June 30, 2004, custody population in state (1,241,034) and federal (176,156) prisons.

^cEstimates may not be comparable to previously published BJS reports. See *Methodology* for more detail.

Appendix table 2. Estimated number of parents in state and federal prisons and their minor children, by inmate's gender, race, and Hispanic origin, 2004 and 2007

	Male				Female			
	Total ^a	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic	Total ^a	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic
State inmates								
Number of parents								
2007	627,800	197,800	262,400	127,600	58,200	29,000	16,100	8,800
2004 ^c	592,300	189,800	279,500	113,100	51,800	23,300	19,000	8,200
Number of children								
2007	1,296,500	373,400	577,900	263,500	131,000	60,000	39,600	22,900
2004 ^c	1,223,700	358,000	611,600	233,000	116,600	47,900	45,700	21,000
Federal inmates								
Number of parents								
2007	116,400	25,900	57,000	32,500	7,400	2,700	2,200	2,300
2004 ^c	104,200	20,900	49,300	31,000	6,600	2,000	2,100	2,200
Number of children								
2007	262,700	45,100	144,800	71,200	16,400	5,600	5,100	5,200
2004 ^c	235,200	36,300	125,400	67,800	14,600	4,200	4,900	4,900

Note: See *Methodology* for estimation methods.

^aIncludes other races. Other races include American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and persons identifying two or more races.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin.

^cNumbers were estimated based on the June 30, 2004 custody population in state (1,241,034) and federal (176,156) prisons.

Appendix table 10. Frequency of telephone, mail, and personal contacts with adult or minor children among state and federal inmates who were parents of minor children, by gender, 2004

Frequency and type of contact with minor children	Parents in state prison			Parents in federal prison		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Any type of contact						
Daily or almost daily	9.1%	8.7%	14.1%	18.8%	18.3%	26.9%
At least once a week	30.8	29.8	41.6	46.1	45.9	48.2
At least once a month	22.3	22.7	18.1	17.0	17.1	14.7
Less than once a month	16.5	16.9	11.2	9.4	9.6	6.2
Never	21.4	21.9	15.0	8.8	9.1	3.9
Telephone						
Daily or almost daily	5.3%	5.0%	8.6%	16.9%	16.5%	23.4%
At least once a week	17.5	17.1	22.4	40.9	40.7	43.7
At least once a month	15.6	15.6	15.7	17.2	17.2	16.9
Less than once a month	15.0	15.3	12.4	10.1	10.2	7.4
Never	46.6	47.1	40.9	14.9	15.4	8.5
Mail						
Daily or almost daily	4.5%	4.3%	6.9%	4.2%	4.0%	7.7%
At least once a week	24.0	23.0	35.3	29.0	28.3	40.4
At least once a month	23.2	23.3	22.5	31.0	31.2	28.2
Less than once a month	17.9	18.3	13.0	19.8	20.2	12.9
Never	30.4	31.1	22.3	16.0	16.3	10.7
Personal visits						
Daily or almost daily	0.6%	0.6%	^A %	^A %	^A %	^A %
At least once a week	5.9	5.7	7.7	4.6	4.4	7.6
At least once a month	12.5	12.3	14.6	14.7	14.7	15.5
Less than once a month	22.5	22.7	19.7	35.6	35.9	31.5
Never	58.5	58.6	57.7	44.7	44.7	44.6
Estimated number of parents	636,300	585,200	51,100	81,300	76,200	5,100

Note: The contact question included in the 2004 SISFCF asked about contact with any child, which could include children age 18 or older.

^AEstimate not reported. Sample size too small (10 or fewer) to provide reliable data.

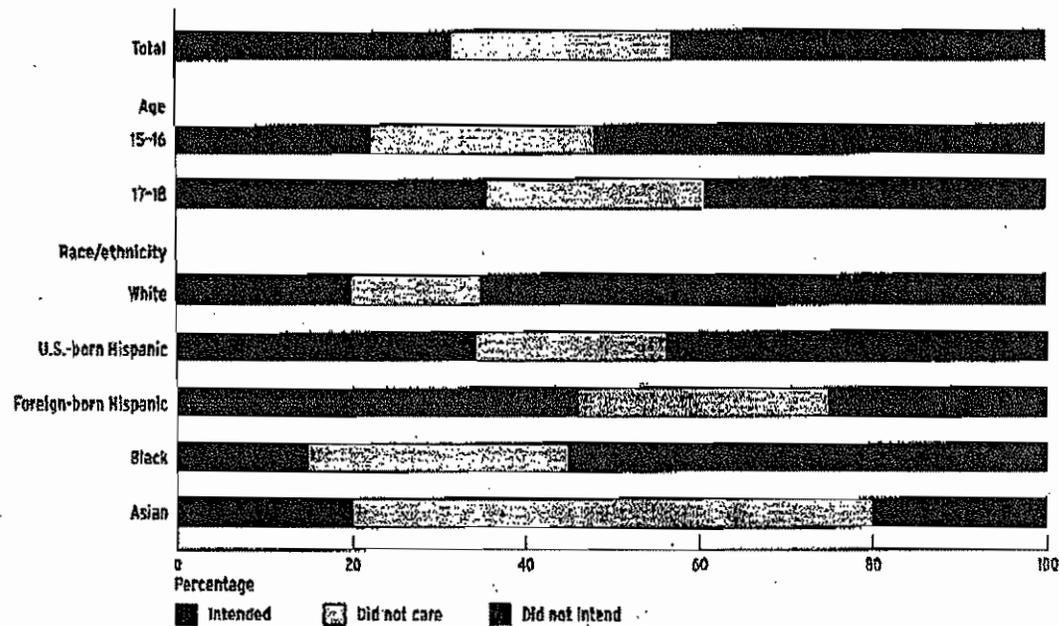
Appendix table 11. Family background of state and federal inmates who were parents of minor children, by gender, 2004

	Parents in state prison			Parents in federal prison		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
While growing up, parent—						
Ever received public assistance	39.9%	39.8%	41.3%	31.2%	31.2%	31.7%
Ever lived in foster home, agency, or institution	14.0%	13.7%	17.3%	7.0	6.9	7.6
Lived most of the time with—						
Both parents	43.1%	43.2%	41.1%	45.5%	45.2%	50.8%
One parent	43.5	43.7	42.0	41.2	41.6	34.3
Someone else*	11.5	11.2	14.0	12.6	12.5	14.1
Foster home, agency, or institution	1.9	1.8	3.0	0.7	0.7	^A
Parents or guardians of inmate ever abused alcohol or drugs—						
Alcohol only	33.7%	32.9%	43.0%	27.2%	27.0%	31.4%
Drugs only	19.6	19.3	23.6	19.2	19.4	17.3
Both alcohol and drugs	3.1	3.0	3.7	2.2	2.0	5.3
None	11.0	10.6	15.7	5.8	5.6	8.8
None	68.3	67.1	57.0	72.8	73.0	68.6
Estimated number of parents	636,300	585,200	51,100	81,300	76,200	5,100

^AEstimate not reported. Sample size too small (10 or fewer) to provide reliable data.

*Includes grandparents, other relatives, friends, and others.

Figure 2. Percentage distribution of respondents, by pregnancy intention at conception, according to age and race/ethnicity



Moreover, young women who had intended pregnancy had greater social and economic disadvantage than those who had not. For example, at the time they conceived, they were less likely to be living with a biological parent (49% vs. 70%), more likely to have dropped out of school (54% vs. 35%) and less likely to have recently been employed (62% vs. 78%). They also had lower expectations for their education and life plans. Only 33% of those who had intended to conceive had had high aspirations, compared with 72% of those who had not intended to become pregnant; 44% and 15%, respectively, had had no life plans. Finally, compared with participants who had not planned to become pregnant, those who had intended to conceive were more likely to have no close friends, to have a sister who had been a teenage mother (but not to have a friend in that situation) and to have been in a relationship with a controlling or abusive partner.

How Women Explain Their Pregnancy Intention
 Of those who had wanted to become pregnant, more than half gave reasons that reflected their desire for a baby—e.g., “I like babies, having something that’s mine,” “I like children a lot, and at least with that, I will entertain myself” and “It’s weird, but something or someone is telling me to have a baby. My mom can’t take care of me, so I will have one to be a better mom and show her how to take care of her kids.” Nearly a

third gave reasons related to the desires or perceived desires of the baby’s father (e.g., “He wanted me to get pregnant, and I was willing”), and nearly one in four said that the “time was right” to begin their family.

The majority (62%) of those who had not intended to become pregnant said simply that they had not wanted or were not ready to have a baby; others explained that they had felt a baby would interfere with their goals or that their life or financial situation was too unstable to support a baby.

Those who had not cared about becoming pregnant could not provide clear reasons for that feeling. Some said that they had had mixed feelings about becoming pregnant or that they had wanted to become pregnant, but not yet. Others responded that they considered pregnancy inevitable, it just did not matter either way, they did not know what they wanted or they had never thought about it. One young woman commented, “It just happened. I didn’t think about it, he didn’t think about it. It’s not like we cared a lot.... We’ve been together two years, and I haven’t gotten pregnant and we’ve had unprotected sex.”

Many assumed that they would not get pregnant because they had not become pregnant during past unprotected sex. They combined their belief (and fear) that they might be infertile with a fatalistic view about life and pregnancy—and, in this way, rationalized their pregnancy and childbearing as something that was “meant to be.”

Observed and Anticipated Benefits of Childbearing

To explore the motivations associated with different pregnancy intentions, we asked the women what they observed and expected to be the advantages of youthful childbearing. Nearly half of those with friends who were parents mentioned that young mothers were forced to become more mature and stable. For example, one woman replied, "The best thing [for my friend] was she stopped doing the bad stuff, like drugs and gang-banging." About one respondent in 10 anticipated gaining maturity and stability after giving birth. Reported benefits of youthful childbearing also included family, love, responsibility and a better relationship with the baby's father.

Native-born Hispanic and black women were more likely than other women to mention maturity and stability as observed or anticipated advantages of youthful childbearing, while foreign-born Hispanic adolescents were more likely than others to mention love, family and a better relationship with the baby's father.

Relationship with the Baby's Father

At the time they conceived, 98% of these young women were in steady dating relationships with or were engaged to their baby's father (Table 3). On average, they had been dating for more than a year and were about three and a half years younger than the father.

Although only one-third of the young women had wanted to become pregnant, about half reported that their partner had wanted them to conceive. Roughly one in four thought that their partner had not wanted them to become pregnant, and a similar proportion thought that he had not cared. In all, 27% of respondents reported that both they and their partner had wanted to get pregnant, 19% reported that neither had wanted the pregnancy and the rest reported mixed or ambivalent intentions (mostly that the baby's father had the greater preference for having a baby—not shown).

Compared with young women who had not intended to become pregnant, those who had wanted a pregnancy had older partners (on average, 22 vs. 20 years) and reported a greater age difference between themselves and their partners (five years vs. three). They also were more likely to be living with their baby's father at the time of the interview (56% vs. 20%), to think that they are "very likely" to marry in the next few years (73%

vs. 39%) and to report that their partner had intended the pregnancy (84% vs. 28%).

Multivariate Analysis to Predict Intention Status

The multinomial regression analysis assessed the influence of a variety of characteristics on women's risk of having intended to become pregnant vs. having not intended to conceive and their risk of having intended pregnancy vs. having not cared (Table 4). Two sets of results are reported—one including and one excluding the effects of the father's pregnancy intentions. Because of the small sample size and exploratory nature of this analysis, significance is reported for relative risk ratios up to the .10 level.

When father's pregnancy intentions were excluded, the analysis comparing young women who had intend-

Table 3. Selected measures reflecting characteristics of respondents' relationship with their baby's father and the father's characteristics, by pregnancy intention at conception

Measure	Total	Intended	Did not care	Did not intend
PERCENTAGES				
Relationship with the father				
Dating/engaged before pregnancy	97.7	99.4	100.0	95.1
Only steady relationship ever	48.5	48.7	57.3	43.3
Living together at the time of interview	38.0	55.9	47.3	19.8***
Think marriage is "very likely" in next few years	54.3	73.4	56.3	39.0***
Reasons for first sex with the father				
Planned to marry him	57.5	71.3	66.9	42.0***
Wanted baby	24.8	51.2	25.1	5.3***
Father's background characteristics				
Employed	71.5	70.9	77.7	68.2
H.S. graduate	47.6	39.1	50.5	51.8
Has other children	16.9	17.0	6.5	23.0
Father's pregnancy intention at conception				
Intended	52.1	84.3	53.0	27.8***
Did not care	22.6	9.0	29.6	28.8**
Did not intend	25.2	6.6	17.4	43.4***
MEANS				
Mos. of dating before conception	13.5†	13.6	16.7	11.6
Father's age	20.5‡	21.7	20.2	19.8***
Age difference between partners (yrs.)	3.6‡	4.6	3.4	3.1**

***Difference between those who intended the pregnancy and those who did not intend the pregnancy is significant at p<.01. **Difference between those who intended the pregnancy and those who did not intend the pregnancy is significant at p<.001. †Standard deviation is 12.5 months. ‡Standard deviation is 3.0 years. Note: Percentages are weighted by statewide age and race/ethnicity distribution.

Table 4. Relative risk ratios from multinomial regressions showing the likelihood that women intended to become pregnant versus had other intentions, by selected characteristics

Characteristic	Model I		Model II	
	Intended vs. did not intend	Intended vs. did not care	Intended vs. did not intend	Intended vs. did not care
Age				
15-16	rc	rc	rc	rc
17-18	2.09	1.94	1.97	1.73
Race/ethnicity/nativity				
White/Asian	rc	rc	rc	rc
U.S.-born Hispanic	2.81†	2.19	2.64	2.19
Foreign-born Hispanic	6.65**	2.29	7.23**	2.72
Black	1.49	0.98	1.34	1.0
Lived with a parent prior to pregnancy				
Yes	rc	rc	rc	rc
No	2.21†	1.45	2.23†	1.39
Has any close friends				
Yes	rc	rc	rc	rc
No	2.11	4.83†	3.26	6.13*
Articulated any life plans				
Yes	rc	rc	rc	rc
No	5.52***	5.28**	4.18**	4.38**
Ever in controlling/abusive relationship				
Yes	2.76*	2.86*	3.50*	3.53*
No	rc	rc	rc	rc
Age of baby's father				
15-19	rc	rc	rc	rc
≥20	2.63*	2.24†	1.95	1.85
Father's pregnancy intentions				
Did not want/care	na	na	rc	rc
Wanted	na	na	14.72***	5.83***
χ^2	56.5		91.1	
Log likelihood	-168.163		-50.873	
R ²	0.144		0.232	

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. †p<.10. Notes: rc=reference category, na=not applicable.

ed pregnancy with those who had not revealed that foreign-born Hispanic teenagers were nearly seven times as likely as their white and Asian counterparts to have wanted the pregnancy (risk ratio, 6.7). The likelihood of having intended the pregnancy was also elevated among women who had had no plans for their life (risk ratio, 5.5), women who had ever been in a controlling or abusive relationship (2.8) and those whose baby's father was aged 20 or older (2.6).

- Risk ratios associated with having had no life plans and having been in an abusive relationship changed little when young women who had intended pregnancy were compared with those who had not cared. In this comparison, the ratio associated with having a partner who was at least 20 years old diminished slightly and was only marginally significant; race and ethnicity had

no independent association with intention status.

In the analyses including the father's intentions, young women who reported that their partner had wanted them to get pregnant were nearly 15 times as likely as others to have intended the pregnancy (as opposed to having not intended it). The effects of foreign-born Hispanic ethnicity, having had no life plans and having ever been in an abusive relationship remained strong and significant, but partner's age was no longer associated with intention status.

The effect of partner's pregnancy intentions on young women intending pregnancy compared with those who had not cared was significant, but not nearly as strong as in the prior comparison. Additionally, young women with no close friends had an elevated likelihood of having intended the pregnancy.

Table 7. Percentage distribution of respondents, by selected measures related to pregnancy decision-making, according to pregnancy intention at conception

Measure	Total	Intended	Did not care	Did not intend
Initial reaction				
Was sure about keeping baby	64.2	84.6	77.8	41.2***
Needed time to decide what to do	35.8	15.3	22.9	58.8***
Reasons for wanting to keep the baby				
Wanted/accepted having baby	46.2	71.2	51.1	25.0***
Against abortion/adoption	31.5	10.2	24.4	51.3***
Wanted/accepted baby and against abortion/adoption	19.0	15.3	20.0	21.3
Baby's father/others wanted baby	3.3	3.4	4.4	2.5
Option respondent favored most at first				
Birth and marry/live with father	50.6	77.8	63.9	22.9***
Birth and live with family/on own	40.0	21.3	34.3	57.1***
Abortion	4.9	0.0	1.8	10.4**
Adoption	2.4	0.8	0.0	5.0
No preference	2.0	0.0	0.0	4.6
Option baby's father favored most at first				
Birth and marry/live with him	70.9	80.4	71.4	62.6*
Birth and live with her family/on own	14.7	13.7	12.2	17.1
Abortion	13.0	6.0	12.0	19.6*
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
No preference	1.4	0.0	4.3	0.7
Who helped most with decision to continue				
Baby's father	33.6	40.8	45.1	21.5**
Respondent made the decision herself	23.1	15.2	23.1	28.9*
Respondent's mother	20.1	17.2	10.4	27.9
Other relative	14.5	15.3	17.3	12.3
Clinic/church/school staff	5.1	9.7	0.0	4.7
Friends	3.6	1.8	4.2	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Difference between those who intended the pregnancy and those who did not intend the pregnancy is significant at $p < .05$. **Difference between those who intended the pregnancy and those who did not intend the pregnancy is significant at $p < .01$. ***Difference between those who intended the pregnancy and those who did not intend the pregnancy is significant at $p < .001$. Note: Percentages are weighted by statewide age and race/ethnicity distribution.

pregnant daughters.

In general, fathers both were expected to have and had more negative reactions to their daughters' pregnancies than mothers.* However, 31% of fathers had more positive reactions than the young women expected, and 62% were reportedly very supportive at the time of the interview.

Teenagers who had wanted to become pregnant

were much more likely than those whose pregnancy had been unintended to report expecting and receiving a positive reaction from both their mothers (31% vs. 9%) and their fathers (20% vs. 1%).

Overall, 12% of women said that both of their parents and the baby's father had reacted positively when told about the pregnancy. A majority reported positive reactions from either the baby's father alone (35%) or the baby's father and one parent (24%). Some 17% reported no positive reactions from either of their parents or their baby's father; 23% of those with an unintended pregnancy gave this response, compared with 8% of those who had wanted to conceive.

Seventy-six percent of respondents had felt comfortable telling their friends about their pregnancy; however, 28% said that it had negatively affected their relationship with one or more friends. Those who had desired pregnancy were more likely than those whose pregnancy had been unintended to have felt comfortable telling their friends about it (87% vs. 65%).

Decision-Making

*** Choosing to give birth.** When they first learned that they were pregnant, 64% of respondents were "very sure about wanting to keep the baby"; 36% "needed some time to think about what...to do" (Table 7). Only 15% of those who had intended the pregnancy responded that they needed time to think about whether they would keep the baby, compared with 59% of those who had not intended to become pregnant.

When asked why they had decided to keep the baby, 46% reported only reasons related to wanting or accepting motherhood (i.e., they wanted a baby, wanted to take responsibility or had support for keeping the baby), 32% reported that they were keeping the baby only because they were against abortion or adoption, 19% reported both wanting the baby and being against abortion and adoption, and 3% reported that they were keeping the baby only because others wanted them to.

Nearly three out of four adolescents who had intend-

*Respondents who did not live with or have regular contact with their fathers were asked if they had an alternative "father figure." Fifty-six percent of respondents referred to their biological fathers, and 23% to "father figures"; 22% had neither a father nor a "father figure" and are excluded from these calculations.