

Chemical Use Among Youth with Incarcerated Parents IN MINNESOTA



Youth with parents who are or have been incarcerated face more chemical health concerns than students who have not experienced parental incarceration.

Recent analysis indicate at least 1 in 6 Minnesota youth has a parent who is or who has been incarcerated in the past (Shlafer, Reedy, & Atella, 2014). Substance use and abuse in children of incarcerated parents is an issue of health equity. Children of incarcerated parents are often referred to as “hidden victims” (Cunningham & Baker, 2003). This Infographic examines students' self-reported use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and other indicators of their chemical health.

1 in 6 MINNESOTA YOUTH has experienced PARENTAL INCARCERATION



SUBSTANCE USE BY TYPE

- Has never had an incarcerated parent
- Has had an incarcerated parent in the past
- Currently has an incarcerated parent

Alcohol



TRIED ALCOHOL BY AGE 12



HAD AT LEAST ONE DRINK IN THE LAST 30 DAYS



REPORTED FREQUENT BINGE DRINKING^a



^a typically drank 5 or more drinks at a time and drank on 10 or more occasions during the past year

72% of youth who have a parent currently incarcerated reported trying alcohol, compared to 43% of youth who do not have an incarcerated parent.

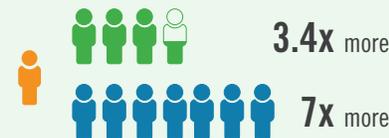
Tobacco Use



USED TOBACCO AT LEAST ONCE IN THE LAST 30 DAYS



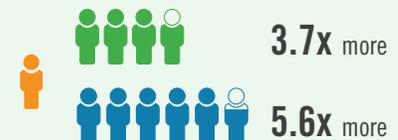
REPORTED FREQUENT USE IN THE LAST 30 DAYS (20+ DAYS)



Prescription Drug Use



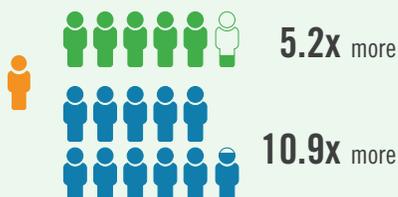
USED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ILLEGALLY AT LEAST ONCE IN THE LAST 30 DAYS



Marijuana Use



TRIED MARIJUANA (POT, WEED) OR HASHISH (HASH, HASH OIL)



USED MARIJUANA AT LEAST ONCE IN THE LAST 30 DAYS



Other Drug Use



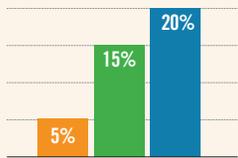
USED OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS (e.g., meth, cocaine, heroin) AT LEAST ONCE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



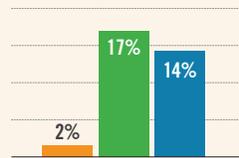
1 in 5 youth who has a parent currently incarcerated reported trying marijuana before the age of 12.

CONSEQUENCES OF SUBSTANCE USE OR ABUSE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

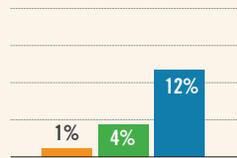
The youth spent one or more days using alcohol or drugs, or getting over their effects



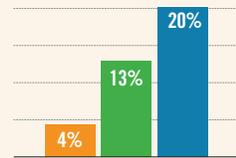
The youth missed work or school, or neglected other major responsibilities because of alcohol or drug use



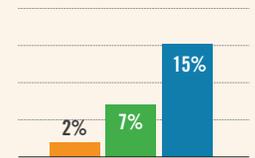
The youth hit someone or became violent while using alcohol or drugs



Alcohol or drug use left the youth feeling depressed, agitated, paranoid, or unable to concentrate



Alcohol or drug use caused the youth problems with the law



1 in 10 youth with an incarcerated parent who has used alcohol or other drugs, reported becoming or acting violently while they were intoxicated (versus 1 in 100 youth who has not had an incarcerated parent).

- Has never had an incarcerated parent
- Has had an incarcerated parent in the past
- Currently has an incarcerated parent

TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE OR ABUSE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS



4x more



almost 11x more

Systemic racial disparities lead to inequities

Young people of color are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system.

Incarceration and the effects of incarceration on the health of families does not occur at random. People of color and poor people are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. Research points to many causes, including inequitable distribution of resources and bias within policies and practices, and indicate that systemic issues play an important role in intergenerational cycles of incarceration.

Many incarcerated parents report a history of substance use or abuse. Parental substance use can compromise parenting quality and increase children's risks for physical, behavioral, social, and emotional problems, including their own use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Combined, a parent's substance abuse and incarceration may increase youths' risk and may contribute to intergenerational patterns of substance use and incarceration.

This infographic is brought to you by Minnesota's Strengthening Families Affected by Incarceration Collaborative's Evaluation sub-committee which includes representatives from Wilder Research, University of Minnesota, Council on Crime and Justice, MN Department of Corrections, MN Department of Human Services, MN Department of Education, and MN Department of Public Safety. Staff time for the production of this infographic was provided by Wilder Research.

Part 3 of a series of graphics on the impacts of having an incarcerated parent.

Sources: Cunningham, A, Baker, L. *Waiting for Mommy: Giving a Voice to the Hidden Victims of Imprisonment*. Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System (2003).
Shlafer, Rebecca, Tyler Reedy, and Julie Atella. *Who has an incarcerated parent in Minnesota*. Infographic. n.p. Print. (2014).

For more information

website: familiesaffectedbyincarceration.org

E: @MNSFAI

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Authors

Laurel Davis, M.A., University of Minnesota
Rebecca J. Shlafer, Ph.D., University of Minnesota
Julie K. Atella, M.A., Wilder Research

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Research**

Information. Insight. Impact.

451 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-280-2700
www.wilderresearch.org

These findings were revealed in the 2013 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS), a reflection of the overall well-being of our youth. The MSS is administered every three years to Minnesota students and covers a broad array of topics, including academics, school and community, substance use, mental health, and more. This MSS does not include data from the Duluth, Minneapolis, or Rochester School Districts. These data are reflective of the aggregate responses of 9th grade students, with the exception of Alternative Schools and Juvenile Correctional Facilities data which are not separated by grade.

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