



**SINGAPORE
PRISON SERVICE**

Family Intervention

for Incarcerated Parents and their Children

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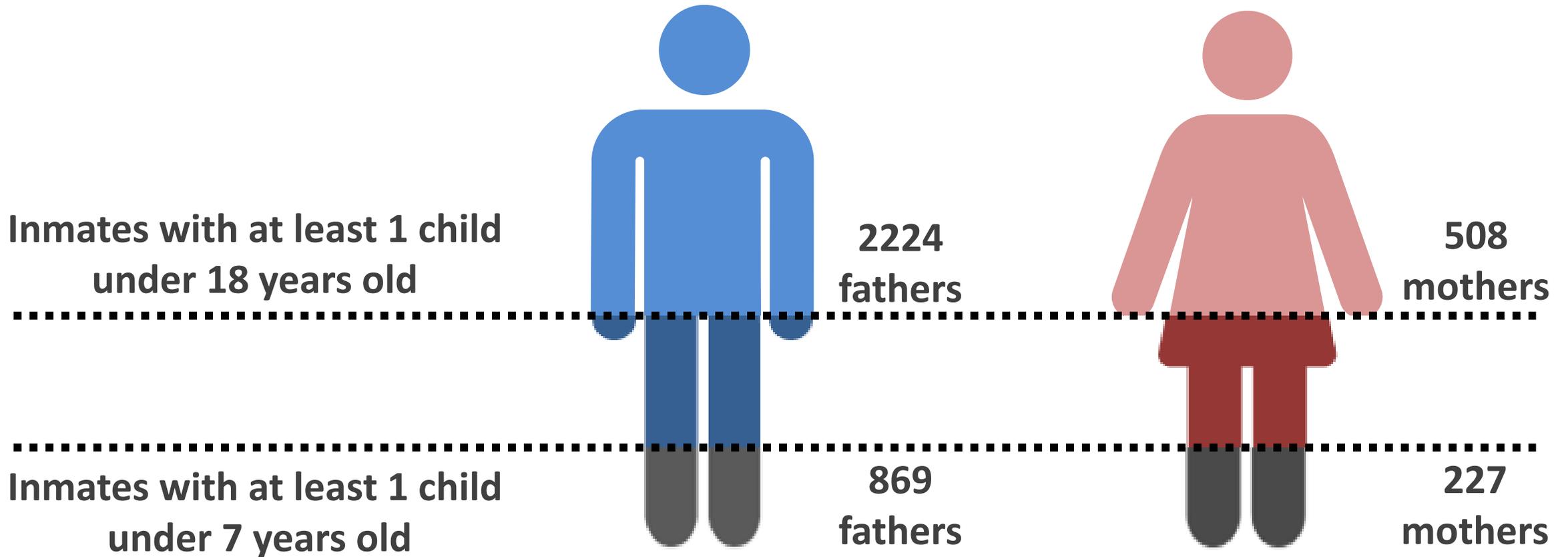
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Background Demographics

Male inmates: 9204

Female inmates: 1162



* Accurate as of 31 Dec 2020

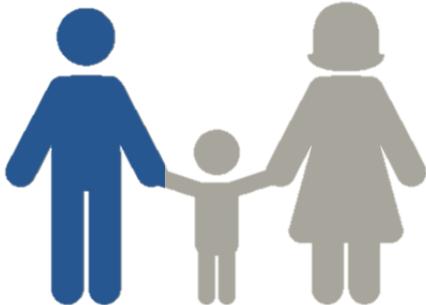
Intergenerational Transmission of Offending from Drug-Abusing Parents*



21.6%

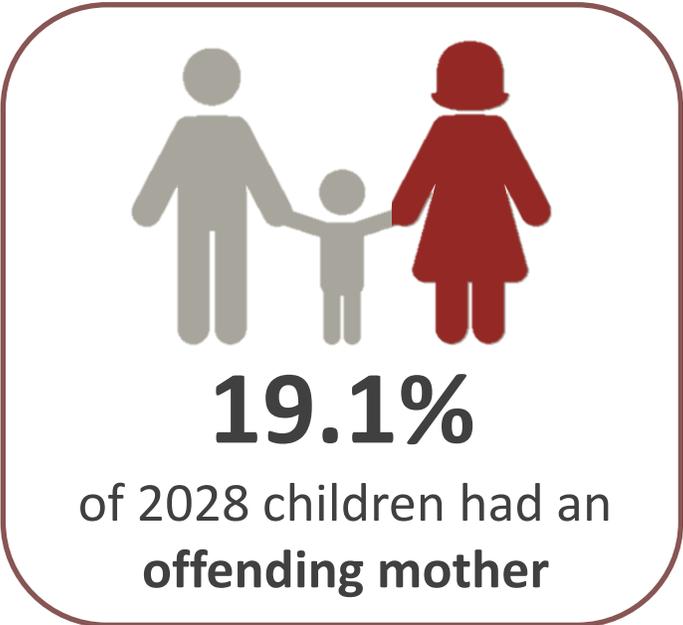
of 5,564 inmates from 2007-2018 have at least a child aged 12 years and above who had offended (JH/ Probation/ RTC/ DRC/ INA/ SS)

Proportion of Offending Children



13.3%

of 8063 children had an **offending father**



19.1%

of 2028 children had an **offending mother**



15.3%

of 653 children had both **offending parents**

* SPS Study (Home Team Journal, Jan 2020)

Intergenerational Transmission of Offending from Drug-Abusing Parents*



Protective Factors

- ✓ Strong prosocial support
- ✓ Parental control & supervision from residual parent
- ✓ Constructive use of time in prosocial activities



Risk Factors

- × Poor parenting practices
- × Lack of parental presence & supervision
- × Antisocial environment
- × Unmet desire to connect with offending parent

* Findings from SPS Study (Home Team Journal, Jan 2020)

Objectives & Overview of Family Intervention in SPS



RESPOND

Needs identification & referral services:

- SPS' Family Resource Centres & Yellow Ribbon Community Project
- Regular inmate engagement by prison officers



REBUILD

Empowerment of offenders with prosocial skills and identity:

- Family skills programmes & counselling
- Parenting support groups

**Promoting
Desistance
&
Mitigating
Intergenerational
Offending**



RESTORE

Improvement of familial ties & preparation for reintegration:

- Family reintegration programmes
- Casework, counseling & family conferences
- Technology use to enhance family engagement



RESOURCE

Collaborate with community partners:

- Case management & family work services
- Activities, workshops & family bonding programmes

SPS Family Intervention: Case Management

► Early referrals to FSCs for family case management

- **Enhanced screening** of newly admitted inmates by SPS, to systematically identify families with young children for referral to FSCs for intervention and support
- **Improved coordination of referrals** involving vulnerable families to minimise cases falling through the cracks
- **Strengthened exchange of information** between SPS and FSCs to aid in the development and delivery of interventions and support plans to better meet the offender and family's goals

Areas of support provided that inmates and families found useful:



Basic
Needs



Education &
Employment



Improve
Family
Relationship



Manage
Family
Crisis



Improve
Mental
Well-being



Share
Community
Resources



Coordinate with
Government
Agencies



Navigate
Prison
Processes

SPS Family Intervention and Reintegration Initiatives

Increasing Contact



1. Phone/ Video Calls
2. Extra Letter Form/ Cards
3. Extra Face-to-face Visit Time

Building Skills



1. Support Groups
2. Parenting & Marital Workshops
3. Caregiver & Inmate Info-Handbooks

Practising Platforms



1. Structured Open Visits
2. Family Conferences
3. Storybook Writing & Audio/Video Recordings
4. Virtual Family Programmes & Visits during COVID

Feedback from Inmates and Families on Structured Open Visits

*The blindfolded obstacle course allowed me to see a different view of my daughter. **It's a great bonding session for building mutual trust and respect.** The minute my daughter recognised my voice shouting "I love you", my tears nearly drop. This made me realise how important I am in her life. My daughter is an inseparable figure in my life.*

Daniel (pseudonym),
Inmate



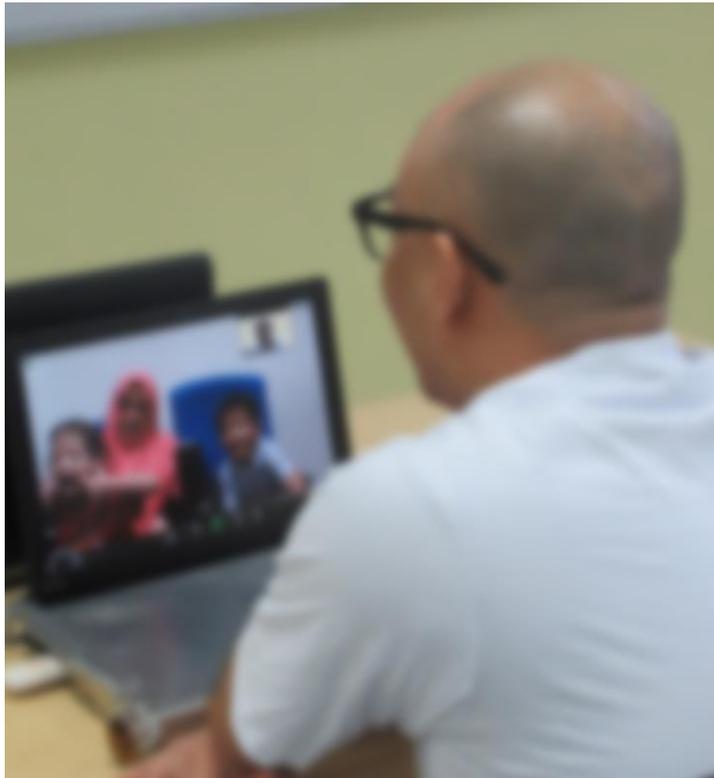
*I feel that **my relationship with my mum has improved when we spend quality time together.** I feel good that my mum wants to change and be a better person. I hope that I can spend more time with her and my dad.*

Matthew (pseudonym),
Son of incarcerated mother

Feedback from Inmates and Families on Video Conferencing (VC)

▶ VC collaborations with schools and community partners

- Increase parent-child touchpoints and strengthen parental involvement and identity
- Provide school-going children with the opportunity to interact with their incarcerated parents



"I get to talk to my father more and tell him what I cannot get to tell him during tele-visit. It (VC) is very helpful cos I can still bond with him."

*Charmaine (pseudonym),
Daughter of incarcerated
father*

5 TIPS TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR CHILDREN

"Hi, I'm a DRC 2 inmate and mother of 7 beautiful children. I used to have problems communicating with my teenage boys but having multiple video calls with them was helpful and I'm thankful to prison for giving me this chance. I hope to share 5 tips on how to better engage with your children so that it may encourage you parents to face any challenges in connecting with your kids."

- 01** Be mindful with your words, have some sensitivity
 - Know that your kids have not seen you in a while and they may be feeling emotional during the visit. Be patient and kind in the things you say to them.
- 02** Be open to share your thoughts and feelings with your children
 - This will encourage your kids to open up and share more with you as well



Sharing by an incarcerated mother

Key Takeaways

- ▶ **Parental incarceration significantly affects children’s development and risk of offending**
- ▶ **Poor parenting, limited supervision and a lack of structured contact with the offending parent may increase the risk of intergenerational offending**
- ▶ **To promote desistance and mitigate intergenerational offending:**
 1. **RESPOND** – Stabilise the offender and their families via case management
 2. **REBUILD** – Equip the incarcerated parent with skills to shape a prosocial identity
 3. **RESTORE** – Strengthen familial ties and prepare for reintegration
 4. **RESOURCE** – Establish partnerships with community stakeholders

Closing Words

*The greatest satisfaction that one could have was to witness a strained relationship improving. **Family interventions had definitely benefitted not only the inmates, but had also created a positive ripple effect on the inmates' family members as well.***

Mr Abdul Hafiz

Senior Personal Supervisor, Cluster A

THANK YOU!