



## Youth Incarceration – Ohio Facts & Figures

**Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio. DYS operates eight correctional and rehabilitation facilities. DYS also funds nearly 100% of the operational costs of 12 Community Correctional Facilities (CCFs) which are run by counties and used to treat lower-level felony delinquent youth who otherwise would be committed to a DYS facility.**

**During 2006, 1,880 Ohio youth were committed to juvenile detention facilities:**

| Gender |       |
|--------|-------|
| Male   | 92.2% |
| Female | 7.8%  |

| Race     |       |
|----------|-------|
| White    | 40.7% |
| Black    | 53.2% |
| Biracial | 3.4%  |
| Hispanic | 2.3%  |
| Asian    | 0.1%  |
| Other    | 0.4%  |

| Offense Type |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Homicide     | 1.1%  |
| Sex          | 12%   |
| Person       | 28.9% |
| Property     | 37.8% |
| Drug         | 9.9%  |
| Other        | 10.3% |

- Average stay in prison = 10.3 months
- Statistics predict that within one year of release 30% of DYS youths will be recommitted to a DYS facility or be committed to an adult correctional facility. After three years the number increases to 50%.

**The DYS population is very needy:**

- Nearly half require special education services
- On average DYS youth are four years behind in their reading level
- One-third are in need of mental health services
- One-fourth have committed sex offenses

**A 2005 Survey conducted by Ohio Criminal Justice Services reported that family and faith-based resources are considered the best resources for dealing with juvenile crime.**

### The Impact of Incarceration on Children

- **58% of DYS youths have had or currently have a family member incarcerated**
- Breaking the cycle of incarceration depends heavily on family intervention which can support the needs of these children.
- Each year one or both parents of more than 11,000 Ohio youth are sent to prison
- Each year one or both parents of more than 13,000 Ohio youth are released from prison
- More than 100,000 Ohio youth have had one or both parents in prison (parents in community control/probation)
- About 50 percent of Ohio's incarcerated adults have minor children at home – nearly 50,000 children.
- Over the last decade the number of female prisoners has dramatically increased which has significantly increased the number of children affected by incarceration.
- Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to exhibit low self-esteem, depression, emotional withdrawal from friends and family, and inappropriate or disruptive behavior at home and in school.
- Research shows that unless someone steps in to help, these children will inevitably follow in their parents' example and end up in prison.



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### Risk and Protective Factors for Chronic Juvenile Offenders

Researchers have identified multiple interacting risk factors for chronic juvenile offenders that can be grouped into four domains: community, school, family, and individual. Research shows that reducing these risk factors can reduce the incidence and severity of juvenile crime.

|                    | Risk Factors   | Protective Factors  |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Community          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability and use of drugs</li> <li>• Availability of firearms</li> <li>• Laws and norms favorable toward drug use</li> <li>• Media portrayal of violence</li> <li>• Transitions and mobility</li> <li>• Low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization</li> <li>• Extreme economic and social deprivation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear and consistent standards for prosocial behavior that are widely and frequently communicated</li> </ul>   |
| School             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic failure beginning in elementary school</li> <li>• Lack of commitment to school</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proactive behavior management</b></li> <li>• <b>Conflict resolution</b> and violence prevention curriculums</li> <li>• Bullying prevention programs</li> <li>• Programs to improve academic achievement</li> <li>• <b>Mentoring programs</b></li> </ul>                         |
| Family             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family history of problem behavior</li> <li>• Family management problems</li> <li>• Family conflict</li> <li>• Favorable parental attitudes regarding involvement in problem behaviors</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy beliefs</li> <li>• Clear and consistent standards for prosocial behavior</li> </ul>  |
| Individual or Peer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early and persistent Anti-Social behavior</li> <li>• Friends who engage in problem behavior</li> <li>• Alienation and rebelliousness</li> <li>• Favorable attitudes toward problem behavior</li> <li>• Early initiation of problem behavior</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prosocial bonding with family members, adults outside the family, and low-risk peers</b></li> <li>• <b>Opportunities for meaningful involvement in positive activities</b></li> <li>• <b>Skill-building activities</b></li> <li>• Rewards for positive contributions</li> </ul> |

Note: Protective factors shown in color are addressed through programs provided by Opening Doors<sup>®</sup> of Ohio, Inc.

“Approximately 70% (of children with an incarcerated parent) will end up in jail themselves unless a mentor or another caring adult intervenes in their lives.”

– Ed Cohn, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Central Ohio