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SPEND THE MONEY BEFORE THEY GET TO US.
ISN'T AMERICA ABOUT GIVING PEOPLE A FAIR
SHOT? IF WE CAN MAKE SIGNIFICANT
INVESTMENTS IN KIDS TO REALLY GIVE THEM
A FAIR SHOT, WHY SHOULDN'T WE DO THAT?

- John Wetzel, Secretary,
PA Department of Corrections

OUTSIDE PRISON WALLS

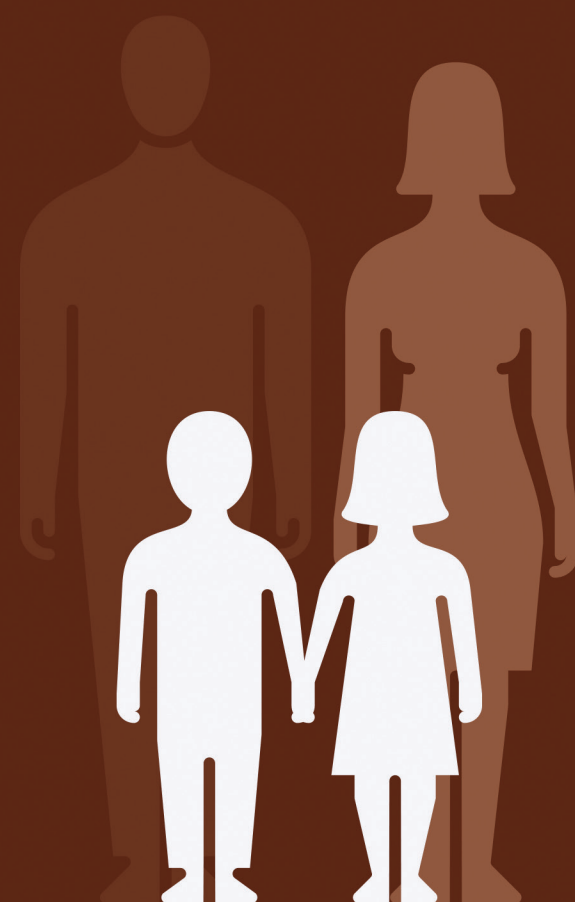
Understanding the impact on the
children of incarcerated parents.



THE CHALLENGE:

In Pennsylvania's prisons, tens of thousands of children live outside the walls. Few communities in the Commonwealth have been spared the crippling effects of fatherless and motherless homes. The astonishing numbers, combined with the impact on their lives, is a story that's only now beginning to be told.

A SNAPSHOT OF PENNSYLVANIA'S INMATES & THEIR CHILDREN



81,096

The number of children with a parent incarcerated in a PA state prison — 12,696 more than the seating capacity of Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

75,747

Children of incarcerated dads.

5,349

Children of incarcerated moms.

A HARSH REALITY: INCARCERATION'S LONG SHADOW

“The arrest and removal of a mother or father from a child's life forces that child to confront emotional, social and economic consequences that may trigger behavior problems, poor outcomes in school and a disruption or severance of the relationship with the incarcerated parent that may persist even after the parent is released from prison.” *(Hairston 2007)*

“Children with fathers who have been incarcerated are significantly more likely than other children to be expelled or suspended from school (23 percent compared with 4 percent).” *(Western)*

CREATING NEW REALITIES CREATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

- 1 **Expansion of Nurse Family Partnerships** — a one-stop prevention program for low-income, first-time parents and their children.
- 2 **Access Early Childhood Learning** — a broad range of education programs and environments for young children of incarcerated parents.
- 3 **Promotion of Personal Mentoring** — relationships that promote personal character develop and growth for children throughout a parent's incarceration.
- 4 **Encouraging Regular Family Visits** — restoring and maintaining the vital conversation between incarcerated parents and their children.