

The Trauma of Parental Incarceration: Influences on Relational Aggression

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Examples of Traumatic Situations in Schools

- Traumatic Scenarios:
 - Bullying
 - Coming Out (choice vs. no choice)
 - Murder in school
 - Kidnapping & murder of a high school couple
 - Death of terminally ill student (Faculty)
 - Parental incarceration
 - Traumatic separation
 - Difficulties with childcare arrangements
 - Stained Parenting
 - SES issues/associated problems

New Orleans Public Schools Demographics

Race/Ethnicity	OPSB Average
Black	72.6%
White	15.0%
Asian & Other	6.3%
Hispanic, of any race	6.0%

New Orleans Public Schools Demographics

Gender	OPSB Average
Male	48.9%
Female	51.1%

Student Demographics	OPSB Average
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	70.5%
Students w/ Identified Disabilities	7.0%
Gifted/Talented	13.4%
ELL	5.3%

New Orleans Prison & Jail Statistics

- Louisiana (LA) is #1 in Incarceration (Pew Institute)
 - As of 12/31/15, the prison population in LA was 36,377
 - 12 state institutions
 - Annual budget for an adult institution: \$354,000,000
 - Children in LA who have had a parent incarcerated: 8%
 - Men/women in LA state prisons who said they were parents: 65%
- City Jails (2011 with ½ of Pre-Katrina Pop.)
 - 9.3% per 1,000 (National Avg. 2.5/1000)
 - New Jail opened in 9/2016 (Implications...?)
 - LA imprisons so many people that 40% sentenced to state facilities serve their time in local parish jails (NOLA.com/The Times-Picayne)
 - Educational and vocational programs are typically ONLY offered in state institutions

Associations with Aggression

PROMINENCE OF PARENTAL INCARCERATION

Parental Incarceration Statistics

- More than 2.7 million children in the US have an incarcerated parent, and approximately 10 million children have experienced parental incarceration at some point in their lives
 - 2/3 of the 2.7 million children's parents are incarcerated for a nonviolent offense.
 - 54% of prison inmates are parents with a minor child (ages 0-17)
 - 120,000 are mothers and 1.1 million are fathers
- 1 in 9 African American children, 1 in 28 Latin American children, and 1 in 57 European American children have an incarcerated parent
- Parental incarceration increases the risk of children living in poverty or experiencing household instability (i.e. transiency)
(“The PEW Charitable’, 2010)

Parental Incarceration Statistics: A Sample Population

N=191

Gender	49.7% Male	50.3% Female		
Ethnicity	72.8% African American	12.6% Latin American	6.8% European American	1% Asian American
Grade	55% 9 th Grade	24.1% 10 th Grade	11.5% 11 th Grade	9.4% 12 th Grade

Parental Incarceration Statistics: A Sample Population

N=191

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • 48.7% Parent Arrested | • 35.6% Students Expelled |
| • 30% Parent Incarcerated | • 19.9% Students Arrested |
| • 60.2% Parent Aggressive | • 22% Students Retained |
| • 61.8% Student Suspended | • 7.9% Students SPED |
| • 59% Free Lunch | |

Trauma Types

- Type I (Acute)
 - These experiences usually call forth overwhelming feelings of terror, horror, or helplessness.
 - Parental Arrest
 - School shootings
 - Neighborhood violence
 - Natural disasters (for example, earthquakes, floods, or hurricanes)
 - Serious accidents (for example, car or motorcycle crashes)
 - Sudden or violent loss of a loved one
 - Physical or sexual assault (for example, being beaten, shot, or raped)

Trauma Types

- Type II (Chronic)
 - These experiences call forth a range of responses, including intense feelings of fear, loss of trust in others, decreased sense of personal safety, guilt, and shame.
 - Parental Incarceration
 - Removal from parents/guardians
 - Some forms of physical abuse
 - Long-standing sexual abuse
 - Domestic violence
 - Neighborhood violence
 - Wars and other forms of political violence

Trauma Types

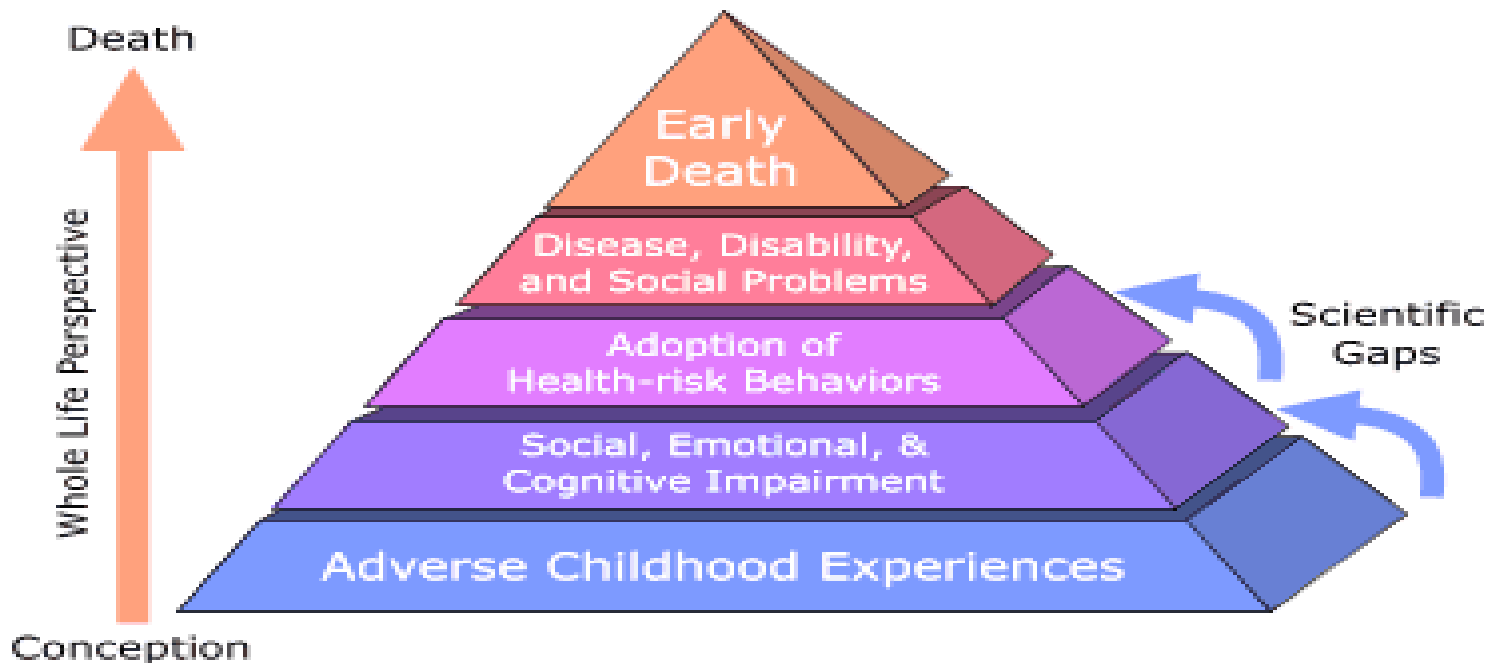
- Complex Trauma...trauma is cumulative
 - Exposure to multiple or prolonged traumatic events and the impact of this exposure on youth's development.
 - This may include simultaneous or sequential occurrence of psychological maltreatment, neglect, physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence...that are chronic and begin in early childhood
 - Chronic trauma can result in executive functioning deficits impacting goal setting, organizing, planning, distorted inner representations of the world, poor relationships, etc.
 - Affects: impaired concentration & memory, intrusive thoughts, interrupted sleep & nightmares, moodiness, frustration, anger, social withdrawal, etc.

EFFECTS OF PARENTAL INCARCERATION

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Students with Incarcerated Parents

- “Living with someone who has been incarcerated has been defined as an adverse childhood experience (ACE); hence, parental incarceration has the potential to be traumatic and a potential pathway for social, emotional, and cognitive impairment” (Arditti & Salva, 2015, p. 551).



Adverse Childhood Experiences

- An A.C.E. is parental incarceration
 - A student may become very angry (especially during times that parental involvement is requested at the school)
 - This anger may be expressed as aggression
 - This aggression can be relational, verbal, or physical
 - This aggression can lead to the display of anti-social behavior
 - Bullying, stealing, habitual fighting, setting fires, destruction of property
 - School-to-Prison-Pipeline
 - This ACE can lead to experiences with the juvenile justice system...REPEATING THE CYCLE

Effects of Parental Incarceration

- Spillover effects: the tendency of one person's emotion to affect how other people around them feel (and behave)... (Hagan & Foster, 2012)
 - Student spillover effects of parental incarceration & school spillover effects of parental incarceration
 - Because having a parent go to prison is now so common for poor, minority children and so negatively affects them, the authors argue that mass imprisonment may increase future racial and class inequality—and may even lead to more crime in the long term
 - socioeconomic consequences of imprisonment,
 - intergenerational transmission of crime
 - both parental criminality and incarceration influence children's criminality

Effects of Parental Incarceration

- Common Post-traumatic Reactions: There are four major categories/clusters of reactions...
 1. Re-experiencing: flashbacks...visualize the trauma and feel as if it is happening again
 2. Purposeful Avoidance: conscious and purposeful avoidance of situations, places, and people that remind a victim of the traumatic event
 3. Dissociation: the structured separation of normally integrated functions of memory, emotion, consciousness, and identity (“It didn’t seem real”); numbing of responsiveness
 4. Hyperarousal and Anxiety: difficulty sleeping, an increased startle reflex, jumpiness or a sense of being “keyed up”

Effects of Parental Incarceration

- Academic:
 - Organizational issues, comprehension issues, memory issues, language and communication skills, & engagement in learning
- Classroom:
 - Difficulties dealing/adjusting to the structure of the classroom & difficulties adjusting to certain classroom management styles; development of coping mechanisms (i.e. acting out in class to be removed)
 - Children with fathers who have been incarcerated are significantly more likely than other children to be suspended or expelled from school
 - 23% compared to 4%
- Social Relationships:
 - Traumatic experiences in a child's relationships (at home/community) can affect their relationships in school with their peers and adults; may develop unhealthy relationships; difficulty with social skills

...Exacerbates the Problem

BULLYING/AGGRESSION

Trauma Correlates

- Anger is an emotion that is often expressed by many trauma-affected students, and this emotion is often accompanied by physical aggression (Perry, 2006).
 - Bullying is the most prominent form of aggression displayed in schools
- The trauma of parental incarceration may also be associated with anti-social behavior
 - The sub-factors of anti-social behavior are physical aggression, rule breaking, and as of late, relational aggression (Tackett, Daoud, DeBolle, & Burt 2013).

Bullying Subtypes

- Beal (2001) has identified four types of bullies:
 1. The physical bully uses pushing, hitting, or kicking to harm their victim;
 2. The verbal bully uses words to inflict harm or humiliate their victim;
 3. The reactive bully appears to be the victim after taunting a peer until the peer reacts with verbal or physical aggression. The reactive bully then claims the peer was the cause of the problem.
 4. The relational bully uses social isolation and rejection to harm their victim.
- Research has found that 46% of males and 26% of females in a student population have been involved in physical fights as a result of being bullied

THE AGGRESSION HIERARCHY

PHYSICAL AGGRESSION

Muffling

Kicking

Throwing

Spitting

Hitting

Slapping



VERBAL AGGRESSION

Charging up

Confronting

Cursing out

Threats



RELATIONSHIP AGGRESSION

Social isolation

Joking/scoring

Rumors

Stealing dating partner

Mean-mugging

Trauma-Informed Schools

POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS?