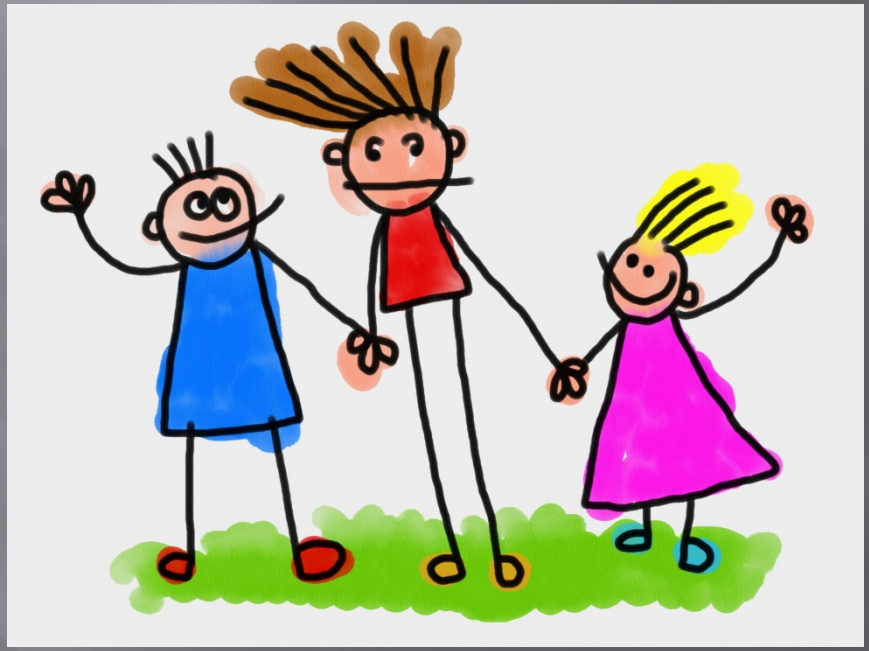
MN DOC CHILD SUPPORT LIAISON
LORI LOFRANO



TWO AGENCIES/SAME CLIENTS

DHS Child Support Enforcement and Department of Corrections shared position, started in Aug 2007

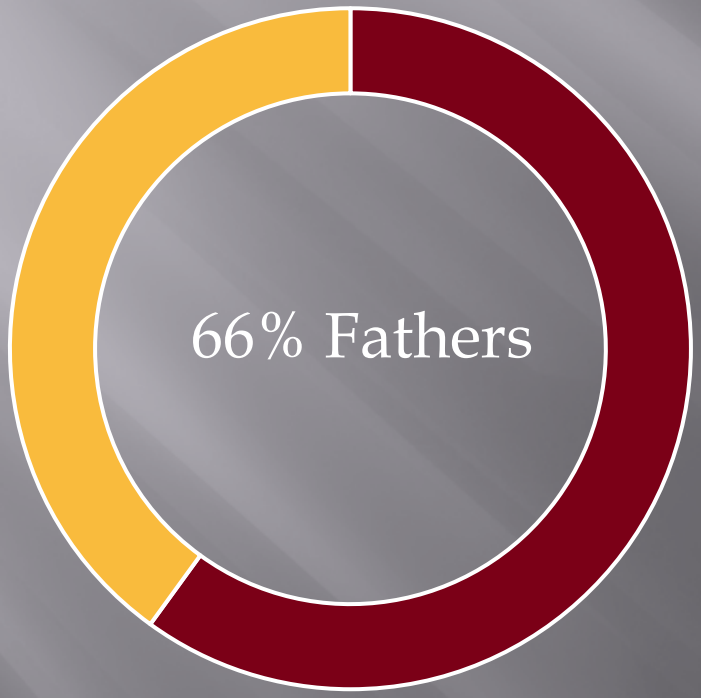
WHO, WHAT, WHERE AND WHY?

- Who are our clients in common?
- What can we do to forge a path to success?
- Where they are now and more importantly, where are they going?
- Why is this work so important- to the fathers and mothers, caretakers, children, county offices, DOC, communities?

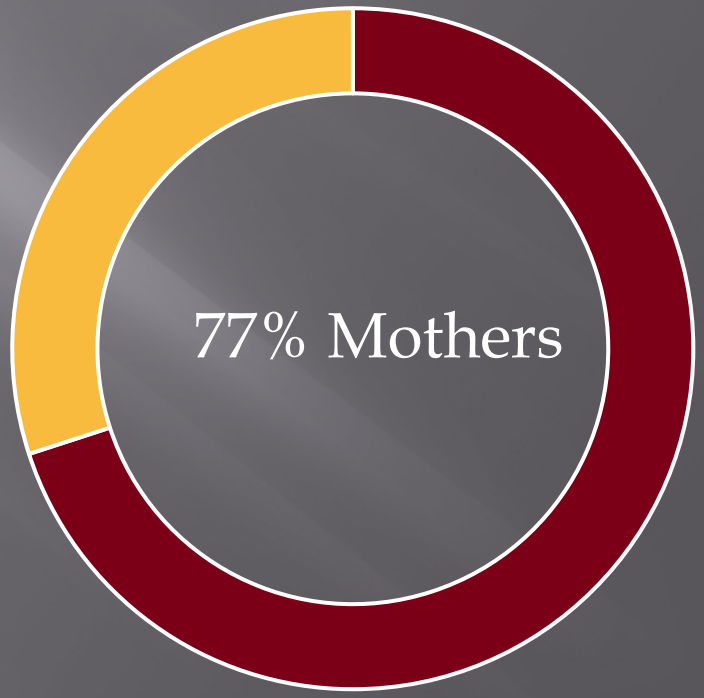
WHO is incarcerated in MN

Parents in MN Prisons

Men

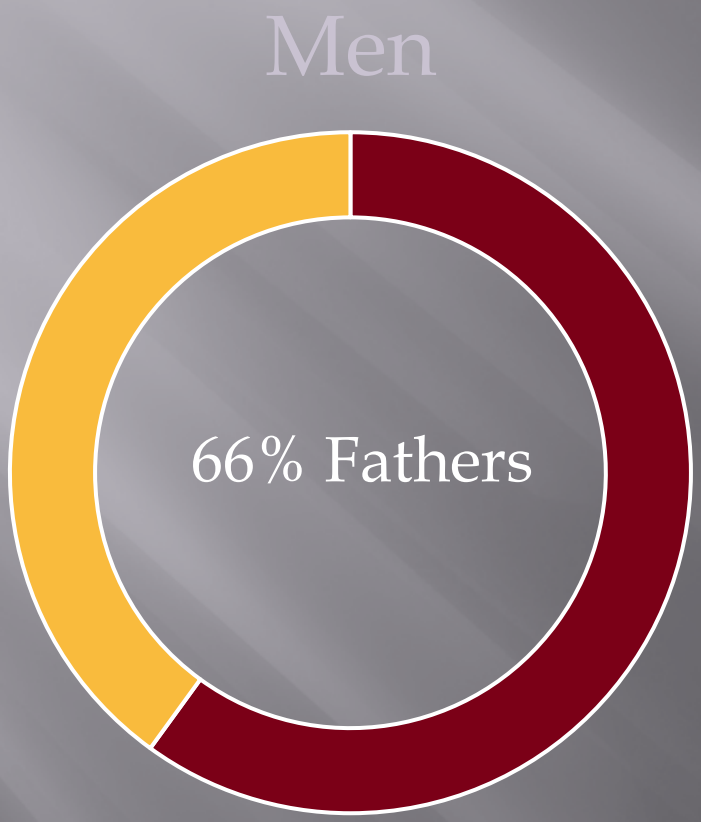


Women



On any given day, an estimated 16,069 children under the age of 18 have a parent currently incarcerated in a Minnesota State Prison.

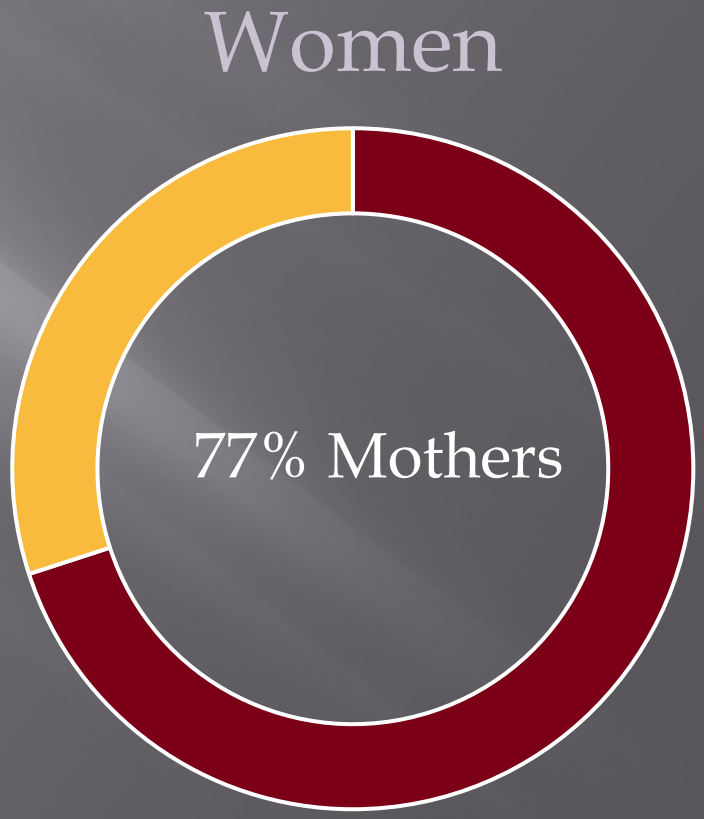
Fathers in MN Prisons



- More than half (55%) lived with their children before arrest
- About one-third (35%) had young children (less than 4 years old)
- Most (68%) were interested in a parenting class

Mothers in MN Prisons

- Most (66%) lived with their children before arrest
- 23% had young children (less than 4 years old)
- Most (77%) were interested in a parenting class



Parents in MN Jails

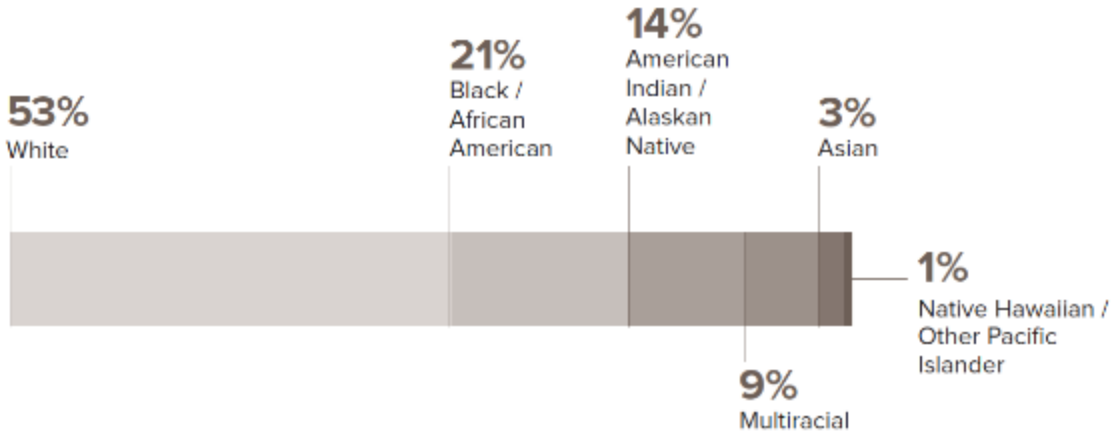
AGE

Parents ranged in age from 18 to 86 years, with an average age of 33 years. Nearly 80% of parents with minor children were under the age of 40.

	18%	26%	22%	15%	19%
Age in Years:	18 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	41 and older

RACE

Although most incarcerated parents in Minnesota are white, parents from racial and ethnic minority groups are disproportionally represented. 16% identified as Hispanic / Latino.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AS FAR AS CHILD SUPPORT AND PATERNITY

Areas of Focus

- Modification
- Arrears management
- Detainers/warrants
- Driver's license
- Paternity establishment
- COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Intake

- Automatic Interface for MN cases on PRISM
- Orientation at all facilities
- Reaching out to case managers and child support officers

Modifications

- Counties take the action
- Generally if over six months left on the sentence
- Incarcerated modification process
- County child support has been amazing
- Cases in other states/interstate cases

Child Support Communication and Seminars

- Pre Release
- Sign up seminars
- Transition Fairs
- Kites

Education

- Child Support Professionals
- Case Managers
- Agents
- Community events
- Conferences
- Transition Coalitions
- Collaborative Ventures

And WHY?????????

- Person Centered Approach
- Caregiver supports
- Child Outcomes
- Healthy Communities

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