

Reading Unites Families (RUF)

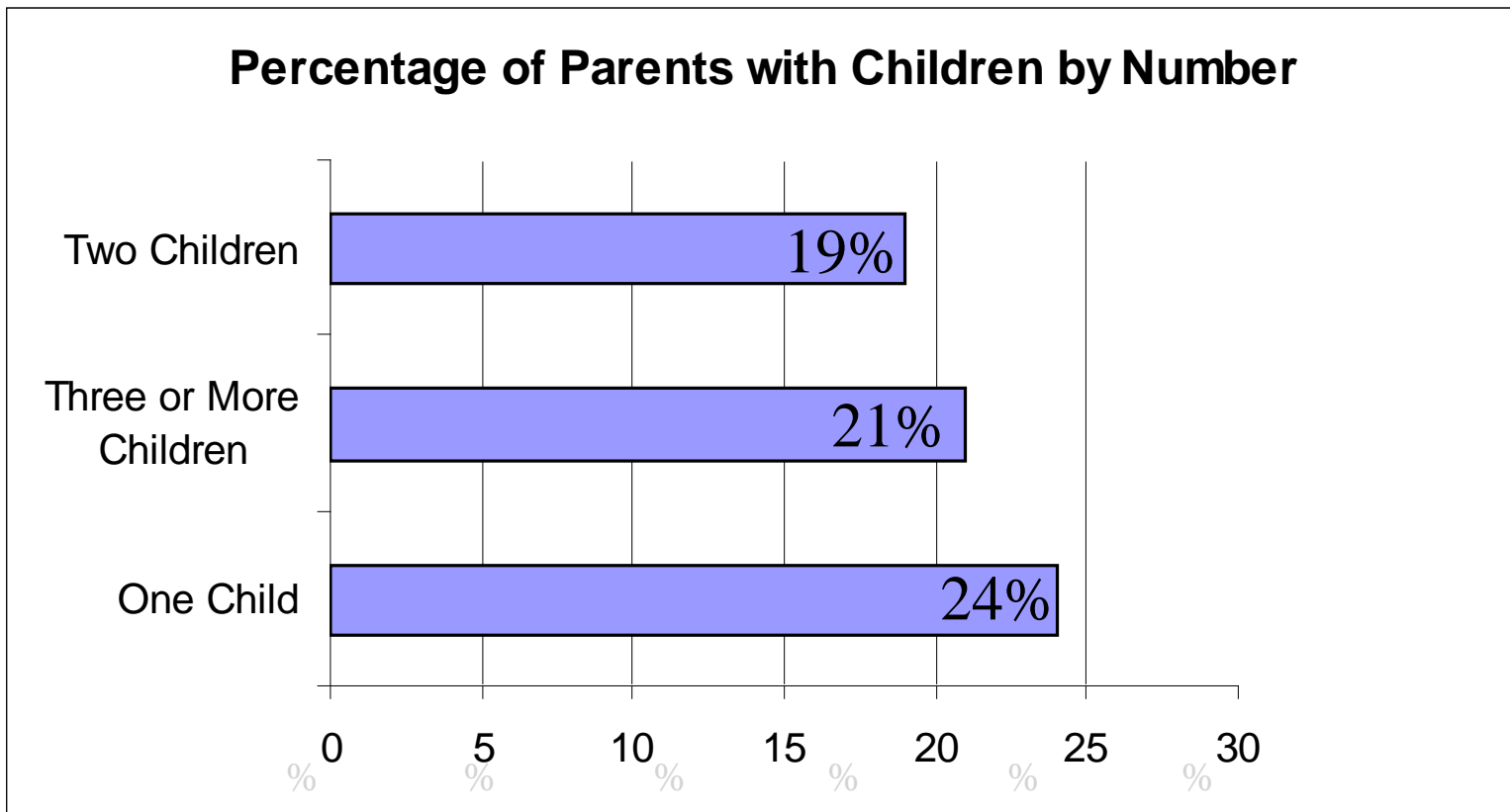


- A program of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
- “Connecting Fathers and Their Children through Literature
- July 11, 2012 at the N&D Summer Conference

Children of Incarcerated Parents

- More than 1 in every 100 adults in America are in jail or prison. (Pew Charitable Trust 2008)
- Over 1.7 million children have a parent in a state or federal prison! (The Sentencing Project, 2009)

Number of Children Per Parent



Age of Children of Incarcerated Parents

- 2.1 % Less than one year of age
- 20.4% 1-4 years
- 35.1% 5-9 years
- 28.0% 10-14 years
- 14.5% 15-17 years

- Mean: **8 years of age**

Length of Sentence of Parents

	<u>State</u>	<u>Federal</u>
■ Fathers	6.8 years*	8.5 years*
■ Mothers	4.1 years*	5.5 years*
■ 10 years	18%	30%
■ Life/Death	5%	5%

* Average

Risk Factors of Children of Incarcerated Parents

- These children are at greater risk of:
 - Poor **Academic Performance** (70% of parents do not have a high school diploma)
 - Living in **Poverty** (80%)
 - **Foster Care** Placement (4 times more likely to be in foster care than other children – Length of stay 3.9 years)
 - **Dropping Out** of School (10 times)
 - **Incarceration** as a Juvenile or Adult (6 times greater risk)
 - Symptoms of **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

Today's Program:

Reading Unites Families

- **Joint effort** between Maryland DLLR Correctional Education and MD DPSCS
- **Purpose**
 - To *connect* fathers and their children together through literature
 - To *stabilize/mend* the family unit
- **Components**
 - Reading Together
 - Social Skill or Child Issue Activity
 - Meal Together

Today's Program:

Reading Unites Families

- Beatrice Gallop, Basic Skills Teacher
- Jewel Kesler, Literacy Lab Teacher, Retired
- Major Edward Burl, DPSCS – MCIJ
- Captain Marion Wenn, DPSCS – MCIJ
- Jaelin Streeter-Mitchell, Child Participant
- Lety Barrios, Parent of a Child in Program
- Diondrea Roberts, Ex-Offender