



THE COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

TAKE ACTION ON HEALTH HARMS OF INCARCERATION

LEARN

Watch a short video on public health and mass incarceration:
hspop.uw.edu/public-health-solutions-for-mass-incarceration

Explore Wash data on incarceration:
www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/WA.html

Learn how “mass incarceration is on the ballot”:
www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2024/09/11/on_the_ballot

Read how incarceration is a social determinant of health on:
odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/incarceration

SHARE



Tell three people one thing you learned in today's conversation.



Post a fact or statistic about mass incarceration in Washington on social media.



Subscribe to and share newsletters (e.g. from League of Women Voters, Prison Policy Initiative) covering relevant issues impacting incarceration in the state.

RESOURCES

The American Public Health Association (APHA): Advancing Public Health Interventions to Address the Harms of the Carceral System.

www.apha.org/policy-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-briefs/policy-database/2022/01/07/advancing-public-health-interventions-to-address-the-harms-of-the-carceral-system

- **Incarcerated people have a higher prevalence of acute and chronic health conditions than the general U.S. population. This includes higher rates of:**
 - Infectious diseases
 - Mental health diagnoses and substance use disorders
 - Traumatic brain injuries and stroke
 - Chronic disease (e.g. Hypertension, heart-related problems, diabetes, asthma)
 - Cancer
 - Violence (self-directed, interpersonal, by the state)
 - Overall lower life expectancy
- **Incarceration creates public health harms for families and communities due to family separation and disruption of community cohesion. Parental/caregiver incarceration is associated with:**
 - Food insecurity during childhood
 - A greater risk of living with mental health issues in childhood and adolescence
 - Economic strain (e.g., household income loss and paying for fees and fines, housing instability)
 - “Spillover” effects on non-incarcerated community members including: preterm birth, depression, and anxiety
- **APHA urges federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments and agencies to take action across 15 evidence-based action steps.**

Healthy People 2030: Incarceration as a social determinant of health.

odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/incarceration

- **An incarcerated individual’s family is negatively affected by their incarceration:**
 - Children of incarcerated parents may be more likely to live in poverty and be homeless, more likely to witness domestic violence or substance abuse
 - Children of incarcerated parents often have higher rates of learning disabilities, developmental delays, speech/language problems, and attention disorders
 - Children of incarcerated parents have been found to be up to 5 times more likely to enter the criminal justice system than children of non-incarcerated parents
- **People without high school diplomas or GEDs have a greater likelihood of being incarcerated than their more educated peers.**
- **Women with a history of incarceration are more likely to have experienced childhood trauma and physical and sexual abuse.**
- **In one study, researchers found that within the two weeks following release, people who were formerly incarcerated:**
 - Were 40 times more likely to die of an opioid overdose



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