



Statistics



According to information from the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), 24 million U.S. children (34 percent) live absent their biological father. Additionally, 20 million U.S. children (27 percent) live in single-parent homes, and 1.7 million U.S. children have an incarcerated parent. Research has shown that children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience educational, emotional, health, and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse, to become teen parents, and to engage in criminal behavior than their peers who live with their married, biological or adoptive parents.

In contrast, children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity compared to children who have uninvolved fathers.

According to a 2009 study from the Urban Institute, men who were married or living as married prior to incarceration had a 12 percent lower rate of committing a new crime, relative to unmarried ex-offenders, and a 2 percent lower rate of illegal drug use / intoxication. Researchers believe that "the findings suggest that in-prison programs that strengthen the quality of married relationships may improve recidivism and substance use outcomes after release."



For more information,
please contact:

Rev. Stephen T. Hall, D.Min.
Director, Religious Services

Indiana Department of Correction,
Room E334
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

phone: (317) 233.5236
email: sthall@idoc.in.gov

Improving Re-Entry Outcomes by Strengthening Families



Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage Program



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



The Indiana Department of Correction's Response to These Facts

The Department's Approach:

- Promote responsible fatherhood through parenting education and opportunities for meaningful involvement with children
- Strengthen the relationship of incarcerated fathers with their wives/partners through relationship skills training
- Address multiple risks factors through a faith and character based re-entry program



Promoting Responsible Fatherhood

Fatherhood Education is available at all Indiana adult male facilities, four of which also have dedicated Children's Visitation Centers. The Responsible Fatherhood program includes such nationally recognized curriculum as "Inside Out Dads", "Dr. Dad", and "24/7 Dad". Through the "Read to Me, Dad" program, the child receives a DVD recording of his or her father reading a children's book, and a copy of the book so the child can read along with Dad.



Since the program was implemented in 2007, 4,251 fathers have completed the "Inside Out Dad" curriculum and 6,457 children have been served through December 2010.

Promoting Healthy Marriages of Incarcerated Fathers

The Healthy Marriage program utilizes the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) Curriculum, both through 12 hours in the classroom for individuals and in PREP Marriage Strengthening Weekends provided to couples over a 2 day period.

Since the program was implemented in 2007, twelve hours of Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) curriculum has been provided to over 2,500 incarcerated fathers. As of fall 2010, approximately 900 couples have participated in Marriage Strengthening Weekend Seminars.

Indiana's Faith and Character-Based Initiative

What is the PLUS Program?

PLUS stands for Purposeful Living Units Serve. PLUS units are faith- and character-based housing units where offenders who are serious about working on their character and behavior can live in a supportive community with each other. PLUS core values include: Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, and Tolerance. The PLUS program addresses multiple risk factors, and includes four critical components to success:

- Cultural change through participation in positive peer community
- Cognitive change through effective curriculum
- Behavioral change through pro-social modeling and encouragement of mentors and volunteers
- Attitudinal change through service to community

Indiana has PLUS units at 15 facilities across the state. Since June, 2005, participants have donated over 2,233,621 hours of community service, and have donated over \$82,320 to charities. The recidivism rate for PLUS graduates is 16% compared to 37% for the state of Indiana overall, and 67% for the national average.

