

## About the Conference

The U.S. incarceration rate has tripled since 1980. Approximately two-million Americans are in local jails or state or federal prisons. At the end of 1999, 6.5 million people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole, 3.1% of all U.S. adult residents.

These numbers tell a story far beyond mere confinement. The repercussions of our criminal justice policies extend to the labor market, the stability of neighborhoods, the operation of democracy, and the well-being of families, which is the focus of this conference. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that a majority of state (55%) and federal (63%) prisoners have children under age 18, and that 2.1% of all minor children and 7% of black children had a parent in prison in 1999. This conference brings together academics, practitioners, and activists to share empirical research, theories, and experiences from service delivery and policy advocacy in an effort to understand the costs and consequences of this high level of imprisonment.

### Institute for Policy Research

2040 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, IL 60208-4100  
[www.nwu.edu/IPR](http://www.nwu.edu/IPR)

### Conference Organizers

*Mary Pattillo-McCoy, IPR-African-American Studies and Sociology, Northwestern, Chair*  
*Joseph Altonji, IPR-Economics, Northwestern*  
*Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, IPR-Education and Social Policy, Northwestern*  
*Fay Lomax Cook, IPR-Education and Social Policy, Northwestern*  
*Thomas D. Cook, IPR-Sociology, Northwestern*  
*Greg Duncan, IPR-Education and Social Policy, Northwestern*  
*Dorothy Roberts, IPR-Law, Northwestern*

A Conference presented by the Program on Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies,  
Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

# THE EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Saturday, May 5, 2001, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Norris Center, Ohio State Room, Northwestern University, Evanston Campus  
1999 S. Campus Drive (off Sheridan Road at the lake)

**Conference on The Effects of Incarceration on Children and Families**  
**Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University**  
**May 5, 2001**

**SCHEDULE**

- 8:30 REGISTRATION (*Ohio State Room, First Floor, Norris Center, Northwestern University, Evanston Campus*)
- 8:45 Welcome **Fay Lomax Cook** , Director, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University
- 8.50 Panel I: The Scope of the Problem: Numbers and Theories  
Speakers: **Thomas D. Cook** , Department of Sociology, Northwestern University  
**Christopher J. Mumola** , Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice
- 9:30 Panel II: Incarceration of Women and Effects on Parenting  
Moderator: **Dorothy Roberts** , School of Law, Northwestern University  
Speakers: **Paula C. Johnson** , Syracuse University College of Law  
*"A Qualitative Study of the Relationships Between African-American Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children"*  
**Denise Johnston** , The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents  
*"Incarceration of Women and Effects on Parenting"*  
Commentator: **Brenda Smith** , Washington College of Law, American University
- 11:00 BREAK
- 11:15 Panel III: The Labor Market Link Between Incarceration and Families  
Moderator: **Joseph Altonji** , Department of Economics, Northwestern University  
Speakers: **James H. Johnson** , Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
*"Building Bridges to the Economic Mainstream for African-American Male Ex-Offenders: A Preliminary Assessment of an Inmate Education and Re-entry Program"*  
**Steven Raphael** , Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley  
*"Perceived Criminality, Criminal Background Checks, and the Racial Hiring Practices of Employers," by Harry J. Holzer, Steven Raphael, and Michael A. Stoll*  
Commentator: **Jeffrey T. Grogger** , School of Public Policy and Social Research, UCLA

12:45 LUNCH

2:00 Panel IV: Effects of Male Imprisonment on Marriage and Families

Moderator: **Greg Duncan** , School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University

Speakers: **Kathryn Edin** , Department of Sociology, Northwestern University  
*"Fatherhood and Incarceration as Potential Turning Points in the Criminal Careers of Unskilled Men,"* by Kathryn Edin, Timothy J. Nelson, and Rechelle Paranal

**Anne Nurse** , Department of Sociology, College of Wooster  
*"Coming Home to Strangers: Newly Paroled Juvenile Fathers and Their Children"*

Commentator:  
**Ronit Dinovitzer** , American Bar Foundation

3:30 BREAK

3:45 Panel V: What We Need to Know: Setting a Policy and Research Agenda for the Future

Moderator: **Mary Pattillo-McCoy** , Department of African-American Studies/Sociology, Northwestern University

Panelists: **Ellen Barry** , Legal Services for Prisoners with Children,  
**Joyce Dixson** , Sons and Daughters of the Incarcerated  
**Steven Levitt** , Department of Economics, University of Chicago  
**Tracey L. Meares** , University of Chicago Law School

5:00 ADJOURN