ABSTRACT
Children of incarcerated mothers and fathers are at a high risk of developing emotional, psychological, and behavioral problems (Dallaire, 2006; Lotze, Ravindran, & Myers, 2010; Nurse, 2004). The literature review conducted for this study noted several problematic behaviors. Some children were at a high risk for delinquency and criminal activity. Others experienced severe home displacements which led to foster care or grand parenting responsibilities (Belknap, 2006). Further, mental health issues and school behavior problems were directly linked to parental incarceration (Arditti, 2012). Four main problems in children were identified, which included aggression, anxiety, poor concentration, and social withdrawal. Some children of incarcerated parents demonstrated destructive attributes such as depression, predictive behaviors related to unsuccessful school achievement, and social withdrawal.

METHODOLOGY
• For the purpose of this research project, this study was selected to discuss the emotional, psychological, and behavioral issues in relation to parental imprisonment. Participants in the current study were inmates of state and federal correctional facilities who self-identified as a parent of at least one child. Of the 18,326 total participants who identified as being a parent, 7,245 participants were used in a survey.
• The research design was a comparative analysis of the similarities and differences of maternal incarceration and paternal incarceration, family incarceration, and living situation for the children of incarcerated parents. The author’s hypothesis was a mother’s incarceration was a greater risk factor for children to also become incarcerated. Guiding questions for this research were as follows: Do mothers and fathers report a history of family incarceration and other risk factors? Do mothers and fathers report that their adult children have been through the penal system? Are there different predictors of risk for the mothers and for the fathers? Is there a link between high risk and high incarceration rates? How do minor children’s living situations differ?

RESULTS
Intergenerational incarceration was another finding from this research. Incarceration had become a common part of families’ lives. There was a high probability that there will be generations of parent and child incarceration. In this study 8.5% of incarcerated fathers reported that their adult children was incarcerated, compared to the 21% of incarcerated mothers that reported their children was incarcerated. Four or more risk factors were identified for two-thirds of these mothers and three-fourths of the fathers. According to the chart, adult children of incarcerated mothers had a much higher percentage rate of adult children who were incarcerated.

CONCLUSION OR FURTHER RESULTS
• This study examined the emotional, psychological, and behavioral characteristics of the children with incarcerated parents to provide a better understanding of the family dynamics of incarcerated parents from a human service perspective. Although they are exposed to multiple risk factors, little attention has been given to this issue, yet it has affected many generations of people. Programs that address relationships between incarcerated parents and their children can increase a better understanding of the emotional, psychological, and behavioral issues and lessen the shame and stigma of being a child with an incarcerated parent.
• More research is needed in the area of parent-child visitations to keep the lines of communication open, help reduce anxiety in children, and reduce stress in the mother. Studies tend to be limited by small convenient samples, cross sectional and short term designs.

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