

A Cycle of Injustice: How Mass Incarceration Impacts Our Youth

The Corps Network Annual
National Conference

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Samaura Stone & Maria Duarte



American Youth
Policy Forum

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AYPF'S Mission

AYPF's mission is to educate, engage, and inform policymakers and practitioners about education, youth, and workforce policies to improve the lives and outcomes of traditionally underserved youth. We carry out this mission by providing research-based information and resources, first-hand learning experiences, convenings, and peer-to-peer networking exchanges to policymakers and youth-serving leaders at the national, state, and local levels.



What We've Learned

Three lessons that are critical to promoting pathways to postsecondary education, training, and careers for systems-involved youth:

- Leveraging authentic youth voice
- Providing youth with a diversity of comprehensive supports and transitional services
- Strategically aligning youth-serving systems and policies

We Have Also Learned...

That it is impossible to work towards improving education and workforce outcomes for youth without addressing mass incarceration.

“Criminal justice policy must be viewed as education policy since mass incarceration is a contributing factor to the racial achievement gap.”

-Economic Policy Institute



Video Clip: Mass Incarceration Visualized



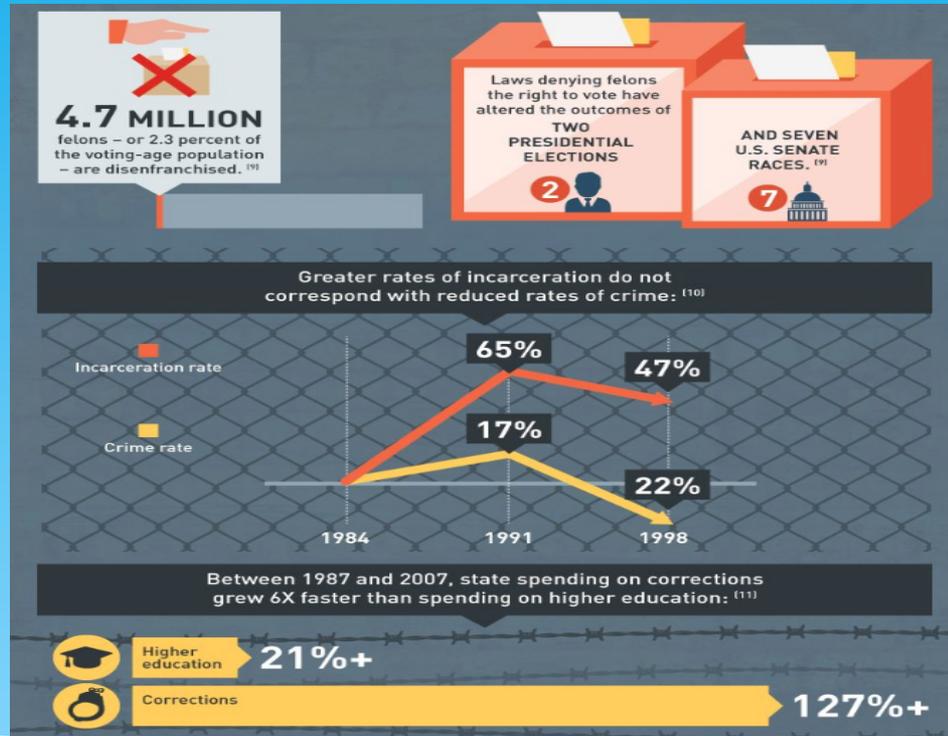
Introductions & Icebreaker

In pairs, introduce yourself and answer the following question:

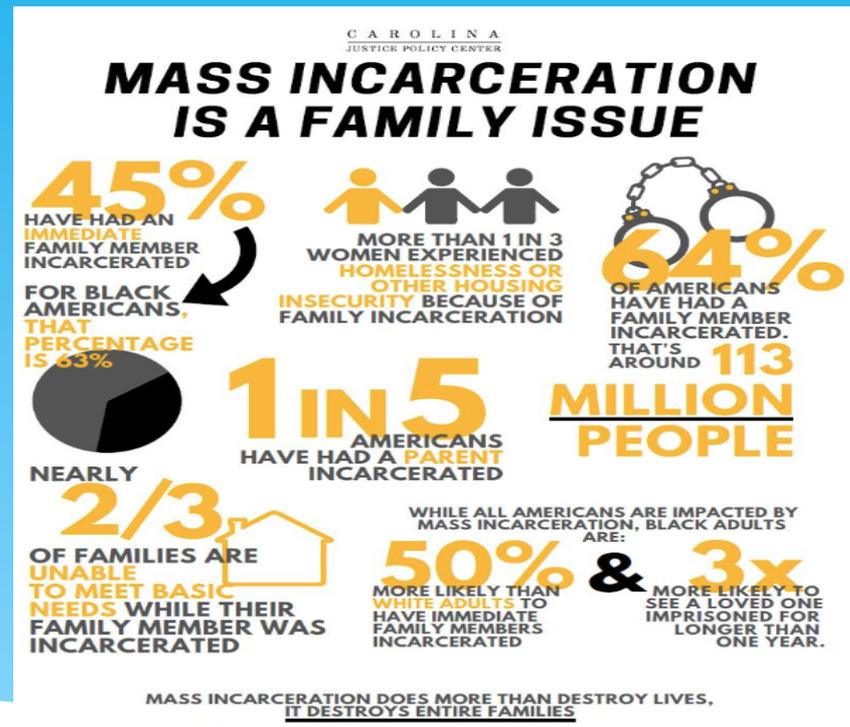
-How does mass incarceration impact you and/or the work that you do?



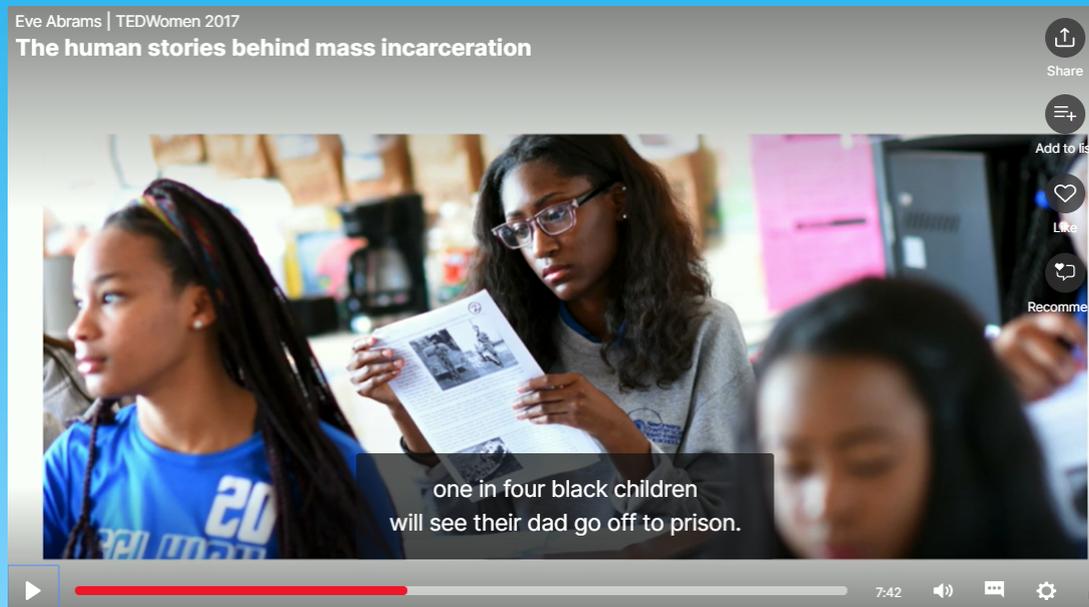
Impact on Society



How Mass Incarceration Destroys Families



Video Clip: The Human Stories Behind Mass Incarceration



Reflection Questions

- 1. Given the large number of young people impacted by incarceration, why do you think this group of youth are often ignored?**
- 2. What can we do to elevate more conversations about the families and children of incarcerated men and women?**

TRANSITION

Emerging Adults (ages 18-24) Involved in the Criminal Justice System



Play

RIGGED

A **choose-your-own-adventure** game designed to put participants in the position of young people trying to graduate from high school.



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Reflection Questions

In small groups of 2-3 people discuss what it was like to play the Rigged Game?

-You may refer to the guided questions in the handout



Which area should we be investing more resources into?



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YOU ARE WASTING YOUR TIME,
BUT IF YOU HAVE COME
BECAUSE YOUR LIBERATION
IS BOUND UP WITH MINE,
THEN LET US WORK TOGETHER.
++++LILLA WATSON