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Running Head: Higher Female Incarceration Rate

Higher Female Incarceration Rate

and its Impact on Society

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Abstract

The number of females being incarcerated is rising, and more and more women are being separated from their families. The main cause of this high increase in the female incarceration rate is due to the previous anti-drug acts and laws. Because a larger female population is behind bars, many more people are feeling a growing number of effects. The higher female incarceration rate places a larger burden on taxpayers and the family, particularly the children, of the inmate. Because of these impacts, remedies, such as appropriate treatment and changes in the sentencing guidelines, are needed to combat the problem of women disappearing into prison. This paper looked into past studies, mostly quantitative, that have focused on this phenomenon of higher female incarceration rates, its impacts, and its possible solutions.

Higher Female Incarceration Rates and its Impact on Society

Introduction

Currently in the United States, there are 111,403 females under the jurisdiction of a state or federal prison. That number is a 4.8% increase from a year ago. The number of men only increased 2.7% (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006). While the male prison population has also grown and continues to grow, it is at a much slower rate than the female's rate. In fact, from 1985 to 1999 there has been a 256% increase in the number of females incarcerated (Ruiz, 2002). More and more women are ending up in prison, and it, thus, has led to an epidemic that has many dire consequences. Several of the consequences range from lack of prison facilities to accommodate for the increase in numbers, increased number of children having to be raised by someone other than their mother, increased financial and psychological burdens on relatives, and increased financial burden on society to accommodate for building, along with maintaining, new prison facilities and the children of incarcerated mothers. The problem regarding the astonishing growth of female inmates not only affects the immediate family of the woman prisoner but also affects everyone else in the general population.

Although most government authorities, as well as the general public, are aware of this problem, little has been done to reverse the rate of female incarceration. In response to the high rates of incarceration, people and politicians either take one of two stances. The first position believes that building more prisons and incarcerating more

people is the rightful punishment for the crimes, and it will then discourage further lawbreaking (Platt, 1995). The War on Drugs policies and the minimum sentencing guidelines were adapted in accordance with this utilitarian and retributionist approach. The second position believes that imprisonment is not the solution to every crime. They believe imprisonment should not be viewed as punishment but as rehabilitation making the individual a contributing and good member of society (Shichor, 1992). According to the first camp, having more females incarcerated will, in the long run, minimize the number of offenders. The second camp would believe that increasing the number of female inmates only leads to more offenders. Treatment and rehabilitation, whether out of prison or in, will minimize the number of offenders. Regardless of the position taken, studies and research are necessary to determine what are the right actions the government must take to diminish the population growth of prisoners, especially female prisoners, due to the serious impact their incarceration brings on many.

Thus, the purpose of this study is to explore high female incarceration rates in the United States by reviewing research from various sources of information. This study also sought after the possible explanations for the vast increase of female incarcerations, the effects of the increase, and the possible solutions to the increase.

Method

The procedure chosen to conduct this study is to search for information regarding high female incarceration rates through the online literature databases provided by two libraries. The two libraries used were the Forsyth Library at Fort Hays

State University in Hays, Kansas and Tulsa (Oklahoma) City-County Library. The Forsyth Library is an academic library that requires a student or faculty identification to be able to use its services. The Tulsa City-County Library is a public library that simply requires a library card that is issued only to its residents to use its services. Both libraries' resource databases were fully accessible through the Internet.

The databases used in the research from the Forsyth Library were Proquest, the Sage Full-Text Collection, Thomson Gale, and the Wilson-Web databases. The database used from the Tulsa City-County Library was the Ebscohost Research database. All the databases searched were suggested by qualified librarians from the individual libraries as appropriate databases to acquire information regarding the topic of female incarcerations.

Because the study of incarceration and prison is highly popular by government agencies and researchers, an abundant amount of general information was available in the various online databases researched. The amount of information was further reduced by selecting only information that was available in full-text. The initial search was also filtered to only peer-reviewed information. The search terms used were *female incarceration, women incarceration, female imprisonment, and women imprisonment*. After analyzing the initial information, the topics were further researched by using the search terms *cause of high female incarceration rate, impact of high female incarceration rate, effects of high female incarceration rate, treatment for high female incarceration rate, and programs for high female incarceration rate*.

Also, one of the sources used in this study was acquired from the personal library of the researcher. That source consists of the qualitative study performed by Sommers (1996). It also coincided with the search terms listed above.

Lastly, the latest findings from the Bureau of Justice prison statistics were sought and acquired directly from their website. These statistics provided the most up-to-date information regarding the female incarceration rate.

Discussion of Research Methods

Studies on female incarceration seem to focus their attention by approaching the topic in three different ways. The first approach taken by several of the studies focuses on the cause of the steep increase in the female incarceration rate. This approach investigates possible reasons why more females are being incarcerated (Bloom, 1997; Bush-Baskette, 2000; Curry, 2000; Gaskins, 2004; Heitfield & Simon, 2002; Rolison, Bates, Poole & Jacob, 2002; Sandhu, Al-Mosleh & Chown, 1994). The second approach taken by some of the studies is to examine the effects caused by there being more women incarcerated. These studies investigate the impact the imprisonment of women has on society (Bush-Baskette, 2000; Curry, 2001; Gaskins, 2004; Ruiz, 2002; Swann & Sylvester, 2006). The third approach used by studies is to investigate ways the high female incarceration rate can be lowered. These studies research the possible solutions that can help minimize the number of females in prison (Alemagno, 2001; Covington, 2001; McClellan, 2002; Sommers, 1995; Wells & Bright, 2005; Wilson & Anderson, 1997).

Regardless of the approach taken, these different studies are all used to examine the facts regarding the higher female incarceration rate. The evidence all seems to indicate that the “get tough on crime” policies are the main cause for the problem of increased incarceration rates while rehabilitative programs are part of the solution, and lastly, it seems to indicate that having more females in prison is having permanent negative results on the public and families.

While it is noted that there are a several studies that mention the effects of higher female incarceration rates, there are only a few number of studies that completely focus on the impact they are having on society. Also, there are numerous studies regarding effective rehabilitative programs for female inmates, but a meta-analysis study is needed to combine all the information available regarding the different programs and to then determine which program is the most effective.

As it is noted, different studies on the high incarceration have been conducted—all with noteworthy results. A study is needed to provide an overview of these results in a concise and complete manner so as to provide the public and legislators with the proper information to use when forming an opinion regarding the high female incarceration rates. Only by being provided with the proper information regarding the facts, cause, impact, and possible solutions can an individual come to the right conclusions about the most promising response to the problem of having an escalating number of females in prison.

The method chosen to study the higher female incarceration rates was to research various online databases for information regarding the field of female

incarceration. Depending on the direction of the individual studies, the studies regarding female incarceration are mostly placed in the sociology, criminology, or penology areas of the databases. Regardless of the specific area, the topic of female incarceration is in the social science division. As stated by Crawford in his module 20 of "Information Literacy" presentations (2002), social science inquiry has come to rely heavily on quantitative research methods, especially on the use of survey research. Most of the research in female incarceration has followed this norm and have derived their information on the demographic information provided by the United States' Bureau of Justice Statistics through their numerous correctional institutions' censuses. The demographic information is acquired when processing the inmate through the system. However, other researchers, such as Alemagno (2001), have also retrieved other demographic information regarding the inmates through separate self-reporting surveys and interviews. In her study, a total of 165 volunteered women held in a county jail were asked about their demographics, services used in the past year, and their general history. Qualitative studies in the field of female incarceration are used when the focus of the study is to inquire deeply into the subjects of the study. For example, Sommers (1995) did a qualitative study that followed 14 women through a series of interviews during their stay in prison. Although highly informative and useful, qualitative studies that focus on female incarceration are the minority.

Literature Review

Upon conducting the procedure, various studies and research acquired were critically analyzed and reviewed. Although they were from various researchers and

publications, four general themes emerged regarding the topic of higher female incarcerations. They were as followed: the description of the higher female incarceration rate, the cause of the higher female incarceration rate, the effects of the higher female incarceration rate, and the possible solutions to lowering the female incarceration rate.

Description

The studies under this theme merely relayed that the rate of women in prison was on the rise. All stated that the female rate was rising faster than that of men. Although the number of men in prison is much higher, the number of females was growing much quicker than that of men. As of the most recent findings taken on June 20, 2006, "the number of women under the jurisdiction of State or Federal prison authorities increased 4.8% from midyear 2005, reaching 111,403 and the number of men rose 2.7% totaling 1,445,115" (Bureau of Justice, 2007).

To expand the significance of the numbers, several studies cited that the number of female inmates have blown up in the last decades. Bloom (1997) reports that the number of women in prison has "increased five-fold between 1980 (13,420) and June 30, 1996" (73,607). Bloom also reports that the female prison population has grown "10.2 percent annually since 1985" while the male inmate population has only "grown annually by 6.1 percent".

The other important finding is the description of the offenses committed by the increased number of female inmates. The type of offenses that women are mostly incarcerated for are drug-related offenses. In 1998, seven percent of women in federal

prison were incarcerated for violent offenses, twelve percent for property offenses, and seventy-two percent for drug offenses (Bush-Baskette, 2000). Also, more than half (50.7%) of the women in prison in 1991 had prior sentences or had been on probation (Bloom, 1997).

Most of the women incarcerated are black. Although black females account for only 3.8% of the total general population, they account for 40% of the female prison admissions (Sandhu et al., 1994). More shocking is that the number of black women incarcerated has increased 828% between 1986 and 1991 (Rolison et al., 2002). Also, regardless of race, the majority of women in prison have a low income prior to incarceration. Thirty-seven percent of women in state prisons stated they had an income of less than \$600 a month (Rolison et al., 2002). Additionally, more than 40% percent of the female inmates had been physically or sexually abused prior to their incarceration (Bloom, 1997). Lastly, about eight out of every ten women in a correctional facility have children (Ruiz, 2002).

Cause

While the causes to the increase in the number of females being incarcerated are diverse, four main causes were found amongst the studies. Those are the War on Drugs, minimum sentencing laws, recidivism, and women's advances in education, labor and social status.

First, and most commonly professed, the War on Drugs first declared in 1972 by President Richard Nixon, and later re-declared 10 years later by President Ronald Reagan, is seen by most researchers as the main cause in the rise of incarcerations in

general (Bush-Baskette, 2000). The War on Drugs, glorified due to the media's vast coverage of the horrors of crack-cocaine, focused on declining drug use by severely punishing the offender (Rolison et al., 2002). However, it mostly had another effect—the increase of number of people in prisons. Women, who are more likely to use drugs for self-medication to cope with their own personal traumas, such as rape, incest, sexual abuse, physical abuse, low self-esteem, economic pressures, mental abuse, and other forms of devaluation, were merely the prime group that fell victim to the War on Drugs (Bush-Baskette, 2000). “Women were being charged in the 1990s for offenses that they were not charged with in earlier years—drug and alcohol use” (Curry, 2001). As mentioned earlier, there was a large increase of females convicted on drug charges. The number of women in prison due to drug offenses rose from 1 in 10 in 1979 to 1 in 3 in 1991 (Bush-Baskette, 2000). The number of females in prison due to drug offenses nearly doubled from 1990 to 1997 (Curry, 2001).

Caused by the War on Drugs, specifically written into the Anti-Drug Abuse Acts of 1986 and 1998, mandatory minimum sentencing standards were enacted to curb drug abuse and continuous reoffending. Thus, this has also greatly caused the spike in female incarcerations. Although these mandatory minimums were enacted to “reduce judicial sentencing discretion and unwarranted sentencing disparities—specifically pertaining to race, gender and class discrimination”, they have taken away the ability for judges to assess the facts of the crime and weigh mitigating factors that would normally reduce sentences for less responsible offenders (Gaskins, 2004). Judges are forced to sentence a woman to a longer sentence even if her involvement in a crime

was very small. These women of circumstance fall victim to a long sentence, regardless of their role, predetermined by the quantity of drugs and the size of the conspiracy. Thus, in 1994, 42.3% of federal drug offenders were made up of drug couriers or those who had a marginal role in drug trafficking, most whom are serving mandatory minimum sentences (Gaskins, 2004).

The third cause mentioned in the studies that has led to the rise in the number of women in prison is the fact that most of the women are recidivists. A recidivist is a repeat offender who returns to prison under a new conviction after being released from their first conviction. Of the females in prison in the United States, more than two thirds are recidivists (Wilson & Anderson, 1997). These women do not successfully reintegrate back into their community. This is due to them experiencing more reentry and financial problems than male offenders. Females must reestablish relationships with their children and other family members, perform dual roles of breadwinner and parent, and cope with more negative societal attitudes toward female offenders than toward male offenders (Wilson & Anderson, 1997). If the female doesn't overcome these problems, she is at a larger risk of reoffending, returning to prison, and increasing the number of females in prison.

Lastly, women's advances in education, labor and social status are seen as another cause to the rise of female incarcerations. In the 1970s, sociologists Rita Simon and Freda Adler stated that females' criminal behavior would change so it would be more like that of males. "This change in women's behavior, they argued, would result from the women's liberation movement. Women's new emancipation and

assertiveness, women's expanded economic opportunities, women's new social roles, would lead to their more frequent and serious criminality" (McClellan, 2002). This emancipation movement that would grant women equal opportunities in education and work would also give women more opportunities to commit workplace and property crimes (Heitfield & Simon, 2002). Between 1979 and 1986, there was a 4.5% increase in the number of female prisoners convicted in property crimes. The findings in Heitfield and Simon's 2002 study that looked at the world's female prison population revealed that in nations that women have advanced the greatest with regards to education, labor, and social status were also the nations with the highest percentage of women in prison. Therefore, the advancements in economy and status for women have led to rising incarceration rates for them.

Effects

Having more females incarcerated affects everyone in the United States. The impacts affect taxpayers and, more importantly, the families of the incarcerated woman. The effects discussed in these studies are the financial burdens to taxpayers associated with the building of more prisons and the cost of raising the children of women prisoners and the emotional burdens to the children of female prisoners and the family raising the children.

As a result of the increase of female inmates, prisons and jails are facing serious crowding issues. The prison population grew throughout the 1970s, by almost 100,000, and at an even faster rate in the 1980s. To deal with this increase, the United States built seventeen new women's prisons in the 1970s and twenty-four additional women's

prisons in the 1980s (Heitfield & Simon, 2002). Not only are the costs of building the prison worrisome but so are the costs of maintaining the facilities. In 1995, the United States criminal justice system employed more than 1.7 million police, guards, and other functionaries, which cost taxpayers about \$74 billion (Platt, 1995). Also that year, Congress had just passed a \$30.2 billion crime bill that would fund 100,000 new police and \$8.8 billion in prison construction. Lastly, the healthcare provided to female inmates is unique due to pregnancies and other factors. The prevalence of HIV among female inmates is 50% higher than that of male inmates, and women are twice as likely to have a mental illness than men. Also, one in every 20 female inmates is pregnant at the time of being admitted to the prison (Curry, 2001). To pay for these extra costs in policing and prison institutions, the budget for public education, health care, and welfare have been drastically cut. For example, in California, more money is spent on its prisons than it does to educate students in all of its 20 state universities and 107 community colleges combined (Platt, 1995).

More importantly, the most harmful impact caused by the higher number of female incarcerations is that more children are being separated from their mothers. About 70% of women in a correctional institution have children under the age of 18 (Ruiz, 2002). Nearly 1.5 million minor children have a mother or father in prison, and the percentage of black children with incarcerated parents was nearly nine times higher than that of white children (Curry, 2001). This large number of children is greatly affected when their parent is incarcerated. The impact of a mother's arrest is usually more painful because she is often the only caregiver and provider the children have.

The children may suffer from multiple psychological problems, including trauma, anxiety, guilt, shame, and fear. Negative behavioral manifestations can include sadness, withdrawal, low self-esteem, decline in school performance, truancy and use of drugs or alcohol and aggression...the long-term effects can range from the questioning of parental authority, negative perceptions of police and the legal system, and increased dependency or maturational regression to impaired ability to cope with future stress or trauma, disruption of development and intergenerational patterns of criminal behavior. (Gaskins, 2004)

This emotional toll caused by the separation from the mother has numerous serious effects on the children that can persist throughout their lifetime. Children of incarcerated mothers have a greater chance of being involved in the juvenile justice system, having substance abuse problems, being a member of a gang, and being incarcerated as adults (Bush-Baskette, 2000). And even if the separation process is attempted to be mended through numerous visitations to the prison to visit the mother, most of the time it is impossible because most female prisons are in rural areas, well over a hundred miles away from the children. Over half of the children never visit their mothers during their stay in prison (Bloom, 1997).

Because their mothers are in prison, the children must be taken care of by someone else. The burden then rests on another family member or the state through the foster care system. Most of the burden of raising the children of incarcerated mothers rests on the grandmother. About 53% of the children are cared for by the grandmothers (Ruiz, 2002). Since 1970, the number of households maintained by

grandparents has increased by 77%. Problems the grandmother caretakers begin with are financial problems due to many of them being on fixed incomes because of their low paying jobs, little retirement benefits, and little government support. Next they may develop "health problems, such as depression, insomnia, hypertension, back pain, stomach pain, and other pains associated with the physical and emotional demands of childcare" (Ruiz, 2002).

When family members can't step in and take care of the children of incarcerated women, the foster care system must step in. From 1985 to 2000, the foster care caseloads more than doubled (Swan & Sylvester, 2006). The increases were mostly the effect of higher rates of female incarceration. Also, after being released from prison, many times the female inmate cannot regain custody of her children. This also contributes to the rise of foster care cases. Besides requiring more money from the taxpayer to pay for the increase of caseloads, another ramification exists. More foster care cases results in larger workloads for individual caseworkers and the possible overlooking of the mistreatment of the foster children (Swann & Sylvester, 2006).

Solutions

With the increased number of females behind bars and the serious effects it has on society, it is no wonder that it has become a problem that needs correcting. Various studies have offered possible solutions to decreasing the number of females in prison.

One of the possible solutions to minimizing the number of women in prison is to change the way non-violent offenders and drug offenders are sentenced and treated by the law. Lawmakers could greatly reduce the number of female prisoners by offering

more drug treatment and revising criminal sentencing laws (Harry, 2003). By revising criminal sentencing laws, the War on Drug policies would be revised, as well as the mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines. Judges should not be deprived of their ability to consider all of the factors that go into determining a just sentence (Gaskins, 2004). When talking about the mandatory minimum sentences, Honorable United States District Judge of California, J. Spencer Letts, reaffirmed the importance of disposing of the draconian sentences.

Statutory mandatory minimum sentences create injustice because the sentence is determined without looking at the particular defendant... It can make no difference whether he is a lifetime criminal or a first-time offender. Indeed, under this sledgehammer approach, it could make no difference if the day before making this one slip in an otherwise unblemished life the defendant had rescued 15 children from a burning building or had won the Congressional Medal of Honor while defending his country. (Gaskins, 2004)

These unjust mandatory minimum sentences do not deter crime or reduce drug consumption; they only lead to more people, especially females, in prison.

Incarceration needs to be seen as the last resort because there is no proven relationship between incarceration and crime rates (Bloom, 1997). Prison is not the answer.

Another way to decrease the number of females incarcerated is to deter them from committing another crime. Providing female inmates with the proper treatment, rehabilitation, and programs is essential in preventing them from returning to prison.

Besides providing substance abuse treatment, correctional institutions need to provide females the proper treatment that corresponds to their unique needs. Unfortunately, these programs are not usually available for women, and when they are available, they are usually inadequate (Covington, 2001). Female inmates have physical, emotional, and social needs that are different from men (Wells & Bright, 2005). Thus, "effective programs for substance-abuse women must address physical concerns, psychological issues, vocational preparation, family issues, child care issues, and educational needs" (Alemagno, 2001). One manner of addressing these needs is to create a gender-responsive treatment that creates "an environment through site selection, staff selection, program development and content that reflects an understanding of the realities in women's lives and is responsive to the participants' issues" (Covington, 2001). Counseling and therapy need to be done through a feminist rather than a masculine perspective (Sommers, 1995). These programs must help empower female inmates to take control over their lives and develop self-sufficiency (McClellan2002). The women must be free of the burden of victimization caused by the physical, sexual, and psychological abuse that many female inmates experienced (Sommers, 1995). In addition, parenting, child, and family programs are needed to assist in family reunification (Koons et al., 1997). Programs should also prepare female inmates to enter the world through education and work skills that can help reduce the usual financial problems they encounter. Female inmates need to acquire basic education skills along with skills that are needed for jobs in the community that will allow female offenders to support their families (Wilson & Anderson, 1997). These skills will also

offer them social independence that will separate them from codependent relationships and other circumstances that contribute to their criminal lifestyle (Koons et al., 1997). Lastly, a drug abuse program must extend beyond the institution to the communities to help out in the prevention of addiction and criminal activity (Sandhu et al., 1994). The drug treatment must go beyond substance abuse treatment in order to help these women adjust to their communities when released. Treatment programs need to identify a woman's needs before she leaves prison and then provide aftercare that connects the female to community-based programs that offer the needed services (Wells & Bright, 2005). They need help locating resources who can assist in their housing, medical care, education, mental health, family support, and parenting needs (Alemagno, 2001). By addressing all the specific needs of a women and providing assistance after being released, these studies indicate females will be less inclined to reoffend and, thus, leading to a less amount of females in prison.

Conclusions

The studies presented in this research all contribute to the fact that more and more women are ending up in prison. The numbers are quite alarming, but it is interesting to note that compared to men, the numbers are still minimal. With the female incarceration rates increasing at a faster rate than men's, perhaps eventually there will be no difference.

The causes for such an uprising, however, vary to a certain degree. Most studies view the increased female incarceration as a result of the changes the federal and state government enacted to combat the increase in violent crimes and drug crimes.

However, there is no direct connection with crime rates and incarceration rates. Tougher sentencing guidelines are not “scaring” away offenders from committing crimes. They are merely only increasing the number of people in the correctional facilities. This is especially affecting women. Women are still using drugs to deal with depression and trauma. Women are still selling drugs to make more money. Women are still stealing money to pay for drug habits or for their children’s food. It’s saddening that the thought of ending up in prison for many years, away from the people they love is not deterring females from going down the wrong path. However, it’s a fact that must be acknowledged. The mandatory sentencing guidelines and the War on Drugs are not deterring crime; they’re merely putting women that need help, whether it is economical or drug abuse, into the shadows of a prison cell.

Also, Heitfield and Simon’s theory regarding female incarceration rates appears contradicting. Their theory regarding female incarceration rates states that in countries where women have made the most advancements—socially, economically, and educationally—will be the countries with higher female incarceration rates. The contradiction comes about when studies about the proper treatment and programs needed to keep women from coming back to prison recommend women reach these empowering achievements. Most women that are in prison are poor and with low educational achievements. The women that have a higher social status, more financial security, and better education are not the ones that are contributing to the high incarceration rate. Education, itself, is seen to lead to a more civilized society. A more civilized society does not equal more people in prison, but it does equal more

expectations and demands. People are expected to abide by a larger amount of laws, and they are demanded to pay more money to live. Unfortunately, women who are not able to empower themselves are placed in prison to suffer due to their inability to comply with society's expectations and demands.

Not only is the woman suffering due to her "disposal" in a prison but so is every taxpayer in the United States. The more women that are placed in prison equals more needed prison cells to house them. The building of a prison facility is costly and maintaining it is even costlier. The budget for the correction's department is already at an all-time high. Taxpayers have to fund this budget. Worse yet, to fund this budget, educational funds that benefit the children of this country are being cut.

Not only is the digression of funds towards women's prisons impacting our children, the fact that many of these women are mothers is having a lasting and negative effect on thousands of children. Children need a secure and stable environment to properly grow and mature, and with a mother going to prison, the security and stability ceases to exist. Because of the lack of security and stability, the child will have a greater chance of having emotional, psychological, and financial problems. By having these problems, there is a higher probability that the child will also end up in prison and contribute to the higher incarceration rates. It is a vicious cycle that needs to be stopped before thousands more children become victims to it.

To end the cycle, it is important that the mothers and female inmates who are released from prison never return to it. Therefore, these mothers can repair their family ties and provide a loving, secure, and stable environment for their children.

Programs and treatment that empower women financially, empower women to separate from criminal activity, and empower women to end their dependence on drugs are all essential and necessary. In addition, to ensure the success of these females, these programs must extend beyond the women's stay in prison. Making it in the real world is very different from saying they'll make it in the real world. Numerous obstacles exist for women upon being released from prison, and these aftercare programs are necessary to assist in this transition and to continue to provide tools to deal and overcome these obstacles.

As mentioned earlier, more research is needed to focus on all the effects the higher female incarceration rate is having on society. Also, a critical examination of all the rehabilitative programs is needed to identify successful programs that need to be duplicated throughout the United States. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on this epidemic. Besides more attention, the problem needs actions and results from our legislators and prison authorities. They all need to see the importance of drug prevention, resources for single mothers, and programs in prison to end recidivism. They need to see that incarceration is not the solution. While prevention and treatment programs seem costly to enact, they will in the long run save everyone money and, more importantly, save the lives of both thousands of women and their children from disappearing into a life of crime and prison.

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