Predictors of imprisoned fathers' resettlement and families' adjustment

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Outline

- Empirical evidence on prisoners' resettlement and their families' adjustment
- Findings from our study:
  1) Fathers
  2) Mothers
  3) Children
- Conclusions
- Future research

Factors that may impact families' resettlement and adjustment

Family and relationship factors:

- Quality of relationships

- Contact during imprisonment

- Child attachment

- Parenting and care giving

- Formal and informal support

Factors that may impact families' resettlement and adjustment

Economic factors:

- Accommodation

- Education

- Employment and finances

Health and well-being:

- Mental health

- Alcohol and drug misuse

- Resilience

- Stigma

Offence related factors:

- Sentence factors

- Participation in offending behaviour programmes

Our study

- Longitudinal design (interviews during imprisonment and after release)

- Triangulated data (fathers, mothers and children)

- Systematic measurement (e.g. repeated measurement, use of standardised measures)

Findings: Fathers' resettlement

Time 1 predictors:
1. Quality of relationship with mother
2. Involvement with children
3. Frequency of contact
4. Support from family and friends
5. Material resources
6. Involvement with criminal justice system (CJS)

Time 2 outcomes:
1. Family relationships
2. Well-being and substance use
3. Material and economic outcomes
4. Criminal activity

Outcome 1: Family relationships (F)

Time 2 outcomes:	Relationship with mother	Relationship with children
Time 1 predictors:		
	r	*r*
Quality of relationship with mother	.50***	.59***
Involvement with children before prison	.23	.25
Frequency of contact	.44***	.50***
Support from family and friends	.41***	.29*
Material resources	.42***	.30*
Involvement with CJS	-.26	-.30*
	R^2 = .51***	R^2 = .52***

*p <.10, **p < .05, *** p < .01

Outcome 2: Well-being and substance use(F)

Time 2 outcomes:	Stigma	Resilience	Alcohol units	Difficulty with drug use
Time 1 predictors:				
	r	*r*	*r*	*r*
Quality of relationship with mother	.05	.45***	-.51***	-.40**
Involvement with children before prison	-.16	.49***	-.10	-.21
Frequency of contact	-.16	.69***	-.48***	-.15
Support from family and friends	-.05	.17	-.26	-.49***
Material resources	-.30*	.06	-.19	-.33
Involvement with CJS	.16	-.26	.39**	.45**
	R^2 = .19	R^2 =. 59***	R^2 = .43**	R^2 =. 44**

*p <.10, **p < .05, *** p < .01

Outcome 3: Material and economic circumstances (F)

Time 2 outcomes:	Difficulty with finding employment	Difficulty with money	Difficulty with finding accommodation
Time 1 predictors:			
	r	*r*	*r*
Quality of relationship with mother	.09	-.17	-.63***
Involvement with children before prison	-.08	-.31	-.15
Frequency of contact	.14	.05	-.53***
Support from family and friends	-.09	-.14	.44***
Material resources	.43**	-.56***	-.40**
Involvement with CJS	.14	.34**	.38**
	R^2 = .32	R^2 =. 55***	R^2 = .66***

*p <.10, **p < .05, *** p < .01

Outcome 4: Criminal activity (F)

Time 2 outcomes:	Father in prison (Y/N)	Difficulty with avoiding criminal activity
Time 1 predictors:		
	r	r
Quality of relationship with mother	-.44***	-.34**
Fathers involvement with children before prison	-.19	-.05
Frequency of contact	-.23	-.13
Support from family and friends	-.34**	-.23
Material resources	-.01	-.28*
Involvement with CJS	.14	.46***
	R^2 = .32-.59**	R^2 =. 51**

*p <.10, **p < .05, *** p < .01

Findings: Mothers' adjustment

Time 1 predictors:
1. Quality of relationship with father
2. Fathers' involvement with children
3. Frequency of contact
4. Support from family and friends
5. Material stability
6. Fathers' involvement with CJS (fathers' report)

Time 2 outcomes:
1. Family relationships
2. Well-being
3. Material stability

Outcome 1: Family relationships (M)

Time 2 outcomes:	Relationship with father	Relationship with children
Time 1 predictors:		
	r	*r*
Quality of relationship with father	.77***	.27
Fathers involvement with children before prison	.53***	.34**
Frequency of contact	.61***	.21
Support from family and friends	.17	.05
Material stability	.23	-.09
Involvement with CJS	-.14	-.26
	$R^2 = .64$***	$R^2 = .17$

*$p < .10$, **$p < .05$, *** $p < .01$

Outcome 2: Well being and substance use (M)

Time 2 outcomes:	General Health problems	Alcohol units	Stigma	Resilience
Time 1 predictors:				
	r	*r*	*r*	*r*
Quality of relationship with father	-.40**	-.40**	-.28*	.17
Fathers involvement with children before prison	-.27*	-.36**	-.16	.19
Frequency of contact	-.31*	-.44***	-.21	-.22
Support from family and friends	-.11	.03	.16	-.14
Material stability	.04	.14	-.16	-.08
Involvement with CJS	.28*	-.02	-.08	-.10
	$R^2 = .32*$	$R^2 = .20$	$R^2 = .18$	$R^2 = .16$

*p <.10, **p < .05, *** p < .01

Outcome 3: Material stability (M)

Time 2 outcomes:	Income	Stable accommodation (same as Time 1)
Time 1 predictors:		
	r	*r*
Quality of relationship with father	.21	.17
Fathers involvement with children before prison	-.02	.14
Frequency of contact	.18	.25
Support from family and friends	.17	.37**
Material stability	-.07	.18
Involvement with CJS	-.07	-.09
	$R^2 = .05$	$R^2 = -.29$

*p <.10, **p < .05, *** p < .01

Findings: Children's adjustment

Time 1 predictors (parents' combined reports):

1. Parents' quality of relationship
2. Fathers' involvement with children
3. Frequency of contact
4. Parents' support from family and friends
5. Parents' material resources/stability
6. Fathers' involvement with CJS

Time 2 outcomes (parents' combined reports):

1. Adjustment

Findings: Children's adjustment

	Time 2 outcomes:	Children's Adjustment
Time 1 predictors:		
	r	
Quality of father-mother relationship	.65***	
Father's involvement with children before prison	.48***	
Frequency of contact	.63***	
Support from family and friends	.51***	
Material resources/circumstances	.43***	
Involvement with CJS	-.13	
	R^2 = .70***	

*p <.10, **p < .05, *** p < .01

Conclusions (1)

Findings
- Many relatively strong relationships between Time 1 & Time 2
- Mostly in accordance with expectations

Most consistent predictors of positive adjustment and desirable resettlement outcomes for fathers, mothers and children:

- high quality of family relationships;

- high frequency of contact between the father and family during imprisonment;

- For mothers, higher involvement of fathers with children

- social support from family and friends;

- less involvement of the father with crime and the criminal justice system; and

- higher levels of fathers' material resources.

Conclusion (2)

Study strengths:

- Prospective longitudinal design
- Multiple informants
- Broad range of quantitative and qualitative data

Study limitations:

- Sample size moderate
- Self-selection possible
- Short-term follow up

Future research

Perspectives:

- Analysis of interactions between variables
- *Processes* in resettlement
- Data before imprisonment & longer follow up (not in our study)