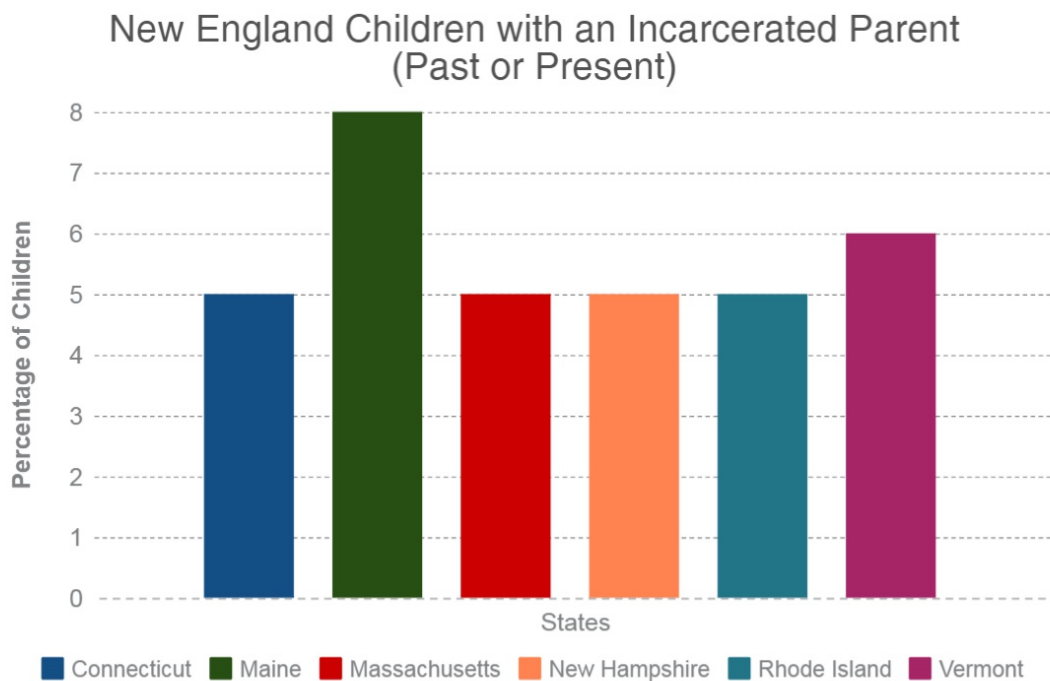


# PARENTAL INCARCERATION IN MAINE

## THE NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

*More than 20,000 Maine children have a parent who has served time.*



8

At 8 percent, Maine has the highest percentage of children with incarcerated parents in New England.

7

Maine's rate of incarcerated parents is slightly higher than the national average of 7 percent.

13

Only 13 other states had higher parent incarceration rates than Maine.

# THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

*We need to prioritize the psychological, emotional and economic needs of Maine children when sentencing parents.*



## Psychological

Incarceration destabilizes children's lives and severs their connection to a parent, which can negatively affect a child's well-being and development.



## Economic

Parent incarceration can push families over the edge who are already teetering on the brink of financial disaster. It can leave families unable to pay for necessities such as food, utilities, rent and medical care for their children.



## Emotional

Having a parent incarcerated is a traumatic experience of the same magnitude as abuse, domestic violence and divorce.

# A SHARED SENTENCE

*MCA joins the Casey foundation in calling for policies and practices that prioritize the needs of children of incarcerated individuals.*

A new report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, *A Shared Sentence: The Devastating Toll of Parental Incarceration on Kids, Families and Communities*, provides recommendations to mitigate the damage parent incarceration causes children, their families and communities.

More details can be found in the policy report at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).

## Policy Recommendations:

1. Ensure children are supported while parents are incarcerated and after they return.
2. Connect parents who have returned to the community with pathways to employment.
3. Strengthen communities, particularly those disproportionately affected by incarceration and reentry, to promote family stability and opportunity.



***Parental incarceration has a damaging ripple effect on children, families and communities. Maine must ensure that children in families with incarcerated parents can still reach their potential.***