

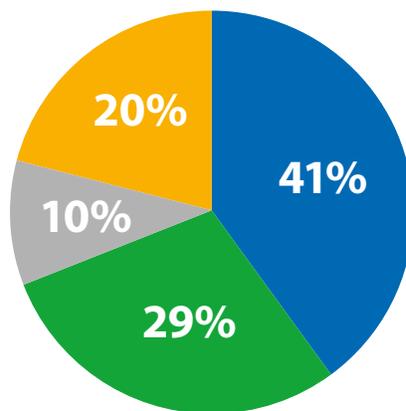
GROWING CHILD SUPPORT ARREARS SERIOUSLY HAMPER RE-ENTRY SUCCESS

OVER HALF OF ALL PRISONERS ARE PARENTS TO A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18

According to the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, of the roughly 1.5 million individuals incarcerated in federal and state prisons at the end of 2004, most (93%) were male and the majority of the federal and state prisoners are parents. In a special report that is now the cornerstone for understanding the impact of incarceration on children and families, the bureau of Justice Statistics found that **63 percent of federal prisoners and 56 percent of state prisoners in 1999 reported having one or more children under the age of 18.**

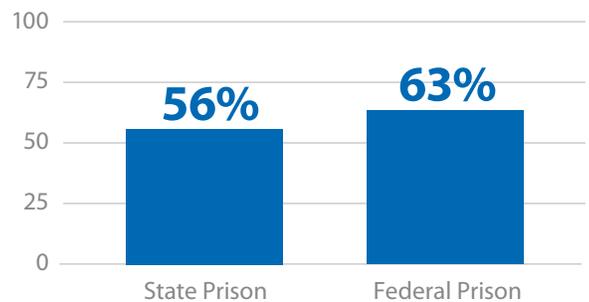
CHILD SUPPORT IS NEARLY HALF OF ALL PAYROLL OBLIGATIONS

- Child Support
- Federal Tax
- State Tax
- SS & Medicare



Assumes gross income of \$15,000 and 2013 Federal and New York State Tax

MAJORITY OF PRISONERS ARE PARENTS TO A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18



Child support enforcement is further complicated by a re-entry individual's ability to pay any portion of child support, much less keep up arrears that continue to accrue during incarceration. Child support is especially difficult to manage because it is a "supercreditor" debt that has special and broad enforcement provisions and any modifications usually requires legal assistance and approval by the court system. Without some support, re-entry individuals face herculean child support debts immediately upon release. Advocates recognize that we must balance the needs of these children with the realistic ability of re-entry individuals to pay down child support arrears. **The large debt imposes a psychological hurdle as prisoners wonder how, if at all, they will be able to pay down their debt.** This along with the impact that growing debt has on an individual's psyche can greatly hamper re-entry success.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Stop arrears and interest from accruing while individuals are in prison; and
- Create an Office of Child Support Enforcement administrative process without requiring a court petition to modify child support orders while individuals are in prison.



For more information email policy@thefinancialclinic.org

