



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MULTI-SITE FAMILY STUDY ON INCARCERATION, PARENTING AND PARTNERING

PUBLIC-USE DATASET DESCRIPTION

The [Multi-site Family Study on Incarceration, Parenting and Partnering \(MFS-IP\)](#) evaluated federally-funded family strengthening programs for incarcerated and reentering fathers and their partners. MFS-IP followed roughly 1,500 couples for up to three years, beginning during the male partner's incarceration and typically continuing through his reentry into the community. The study's [longitudinal, couples-based dataset](#) is available for public use through the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

The public use files contain longitudinal interview data for 1,991 men and 1,482 intimate and co-parenting female partners. Couples were first interviewed during the male partner's incarceration (baseline) and then interviewed again nine and 18 months after baseline. An additional 34-month follow-up interview was conducted in the two largest sites. At each wave, both members of each study couple were invited to complete survey about their personal and family experiences in the context of the male partner's involvement with the criminal justice system.

The topics covered in the data include: demographics, personal characteristics and attitudes, criminal history and behavior, incarceration experiences (including family contact during incarceration), program and service receipt, expectations for release, family structure and functioning, intimate relationship quality, parenting and co-parenting quality, child well-being, employment, housing, substance use, and experiences with reentry.

All documentation for the dataset is available on the ICPSR website. A descriptive report on the baseline data is available on the [MFS-IP study website](#).

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