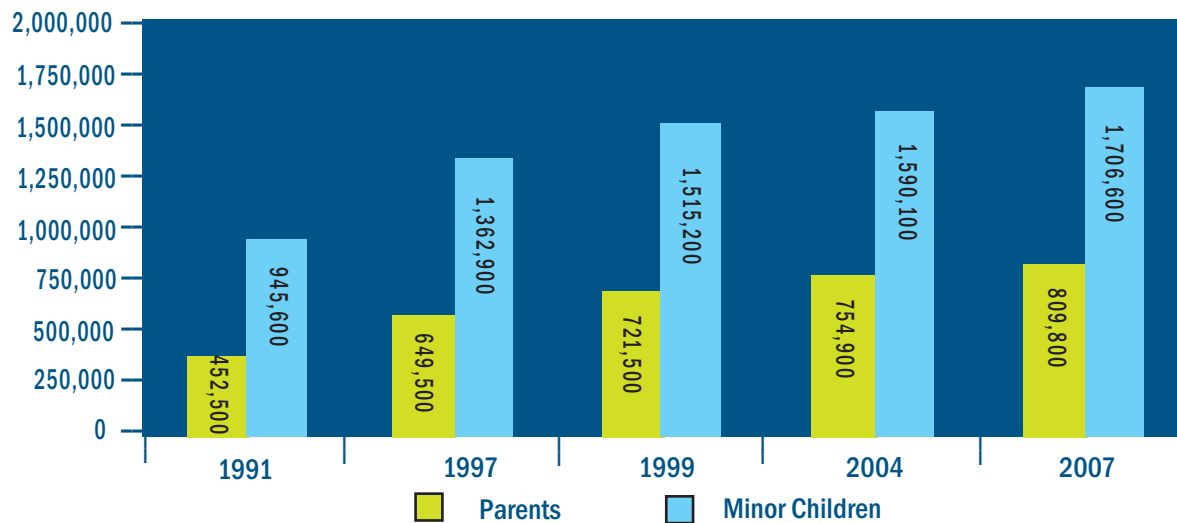




## Majority of Prisoners Are Parents, Number of Children with Incarcerated Parents Continues to Grow

According to a 2008 Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, a majority of prisoners in 2007 reported being a parent to at least one minor<sup>1</sup> child (52% in state prisons and 63% in federal prisons). The number of both imprisoned parents and children with imprisoned parents grew substantially between 1991 and 2007. The number of imprisoned parents increased by 79% (from 452,500 to 809,800), and the number of children with an incarcerated parent increased by 80% (from 945,600 to 1,706,600). The most rapid period of growth for these groups occurred between 1991 and 1997, when both increased by 44%. Additionally, African-American children were more than seven times as likely to have a parent in prison as White children in 2007, and Hispanic children were more than twice as likely (6.7% of African-American children and 2.4% of Hispanic children vs. 0.9% of White children).

Estimated Numbers of Parents in State and Federal Prison and Their Minor Children, 1991-2007



**Source:** Glaze, L. E. and Maruschak, L. M. (2008). "Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children." *Special Report*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs. Retrieved July 27, 2009, from <http://ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf>.

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Children under the age of 18.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at [www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org).

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