



# **A Life Course Framework for Improving the Lives of Boys and Men of Color**

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**Arnold Chandler | Forward Change**

1. **Part I: Structural Changes** have produced **intergenerational cycles of disadvantage** that operate **gender-specifically**
2. **Part II: A Life Course Framework for Improving the Lives of Disadvantaged Populations: Problem Framing Heuristic for Analysis and Intervention**

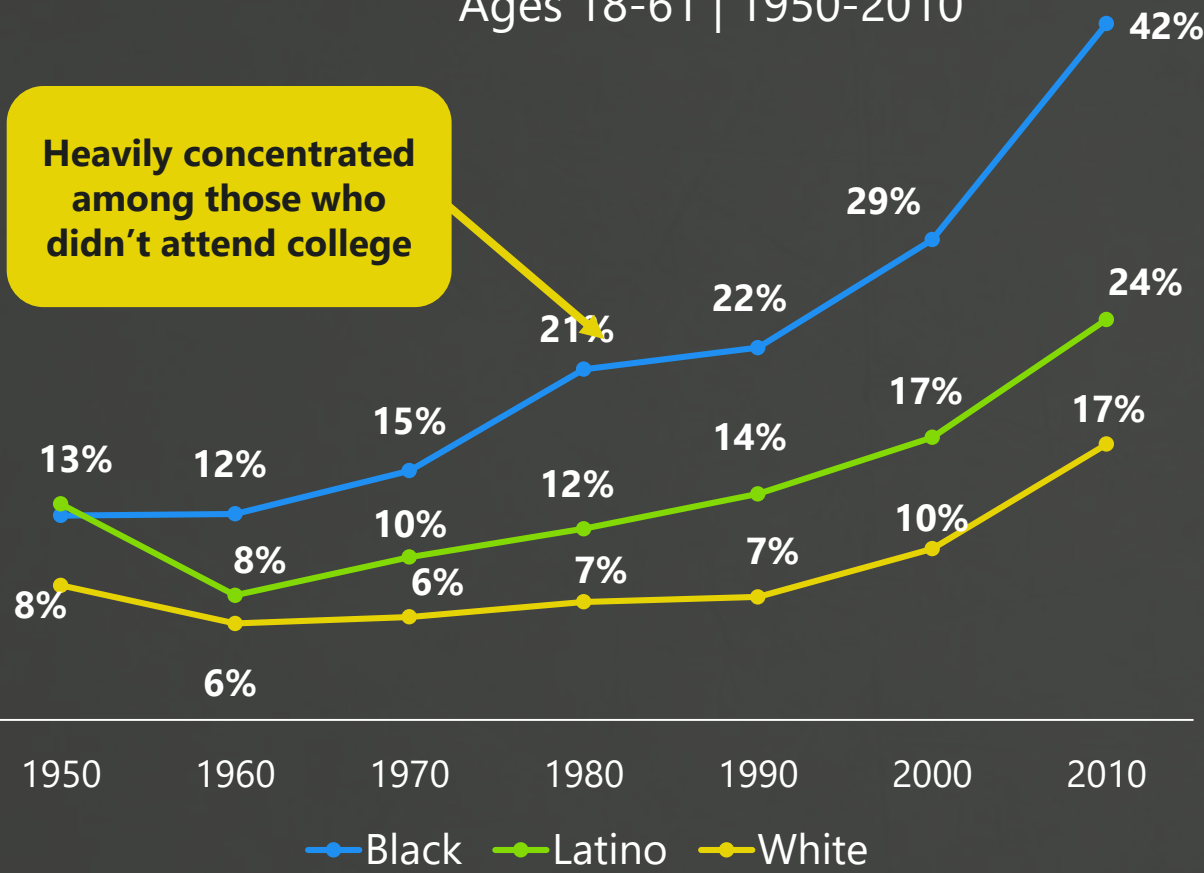
# Rise of Male Joblessness and Declining Earnings

# Declining Male Employment

## Joblessness Among Native-Born Males

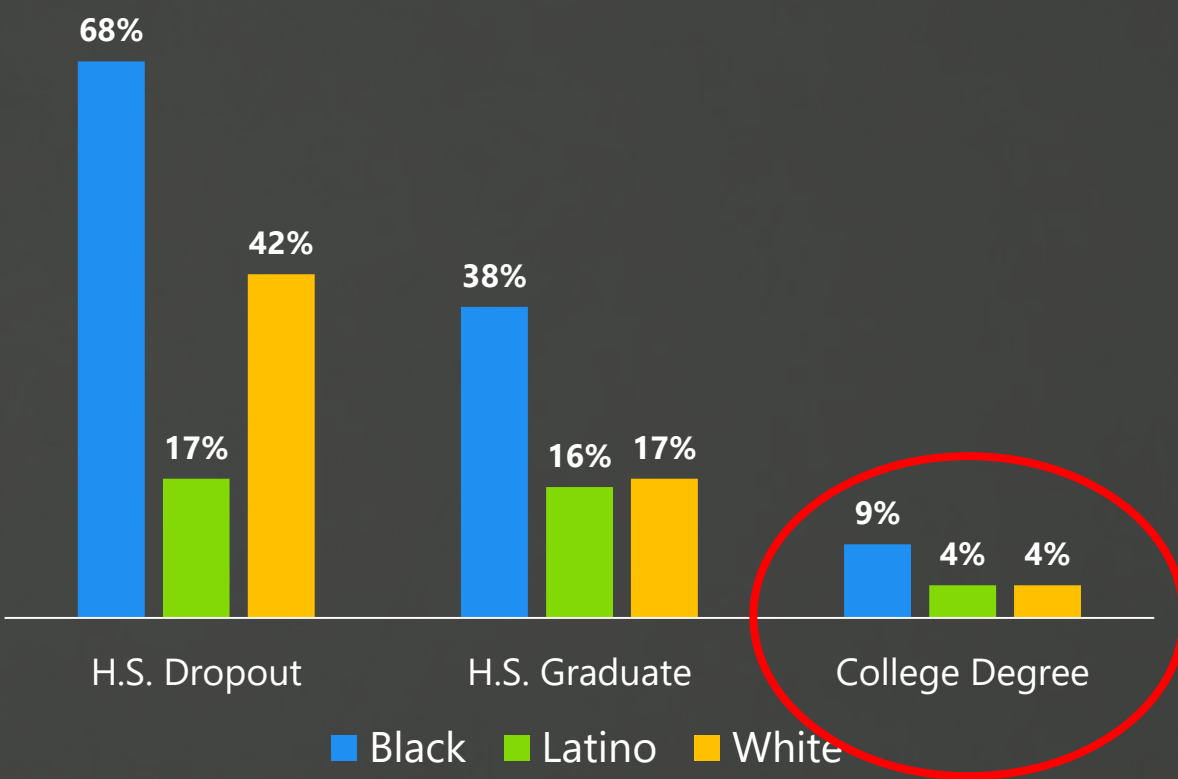
Ages 18-61 | 1950-2010

Heavily concentrated among those who didn't attend college



## Joblessness by Education Level

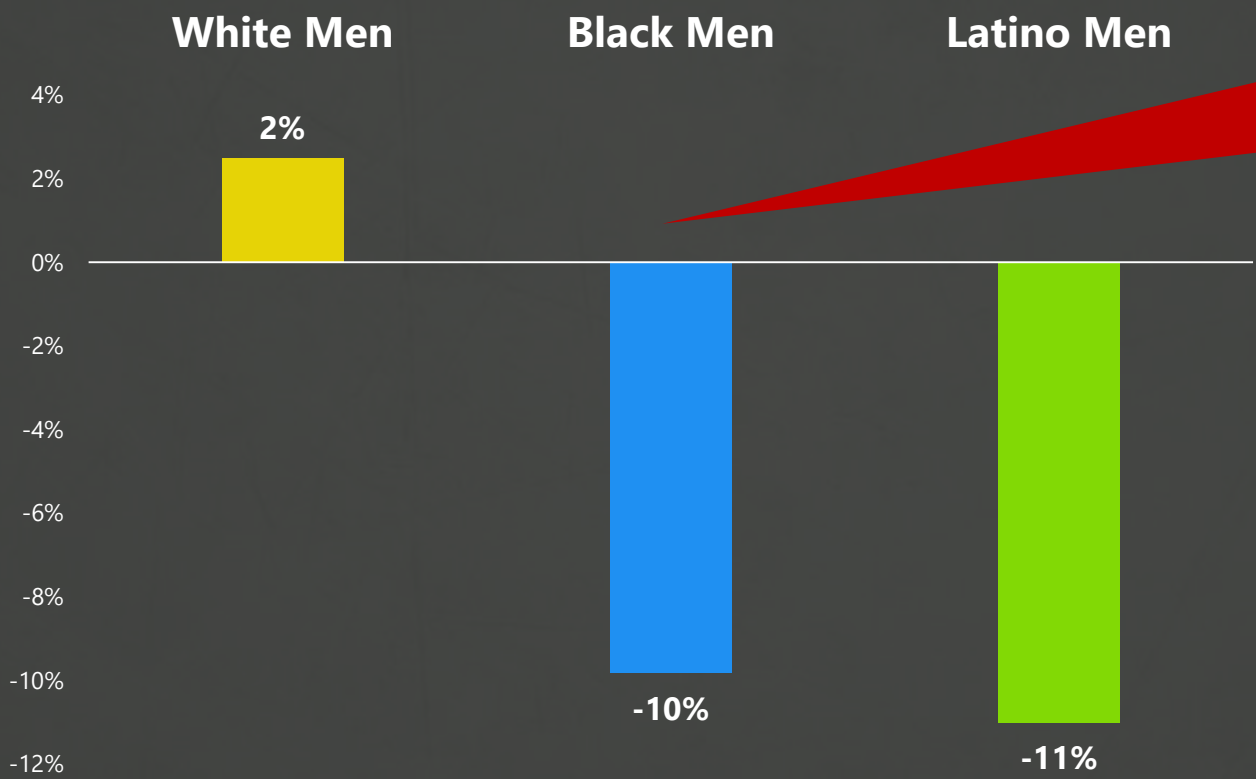
Ages 40-44 | 2010



Winters and Hirsch, 2012

# Declining Male Earnings

Change in Median Earnings (1979-2017)

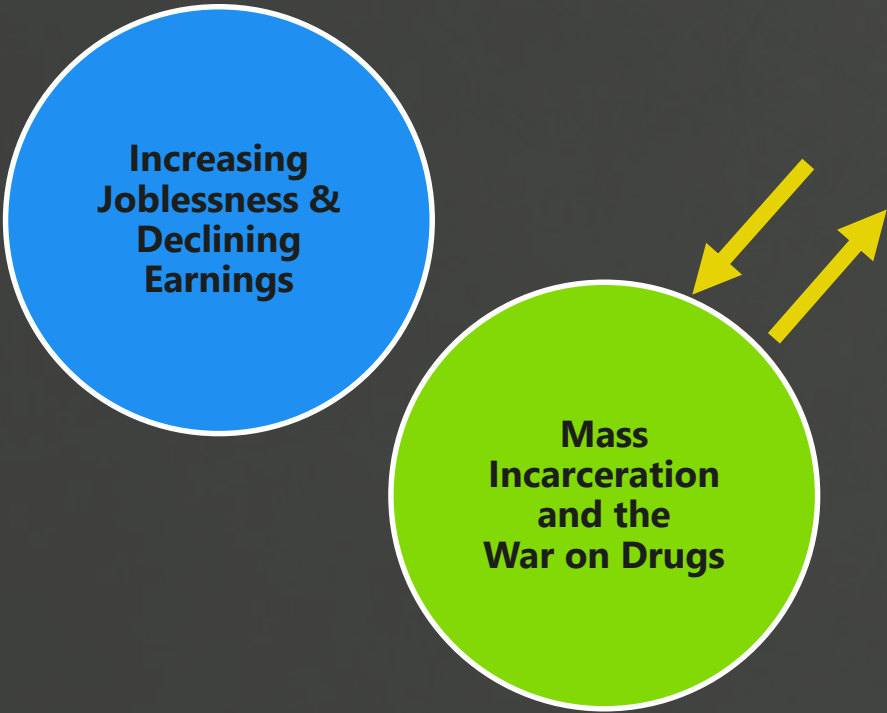


Black men's real median earnings in 2010 were lower than they were in 1950

Winters and Hirsch, 2012

# Rise of Mass Incarceration

# Mass Incarceration

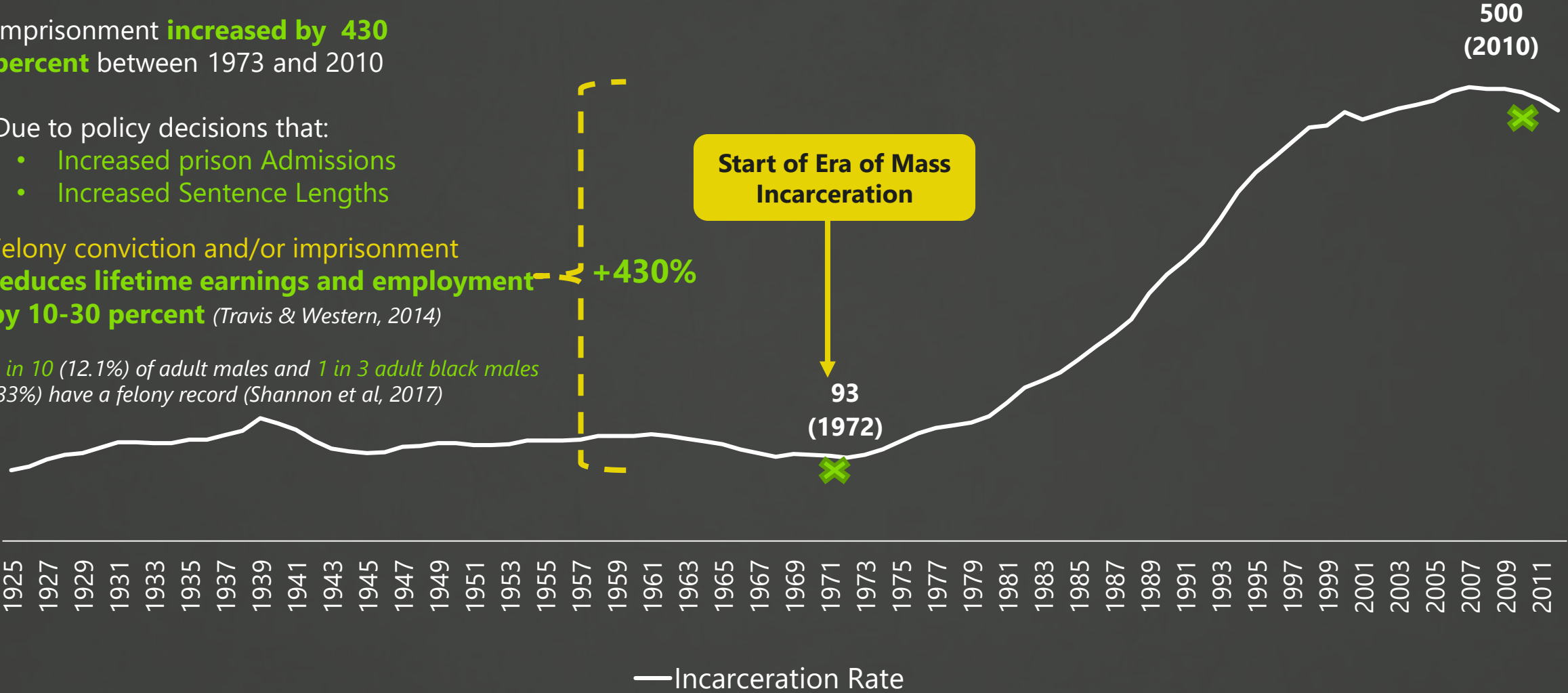


# Historical Incarceration Rates (1925-2012)

(State and Federal Prisoners per 100K Population)

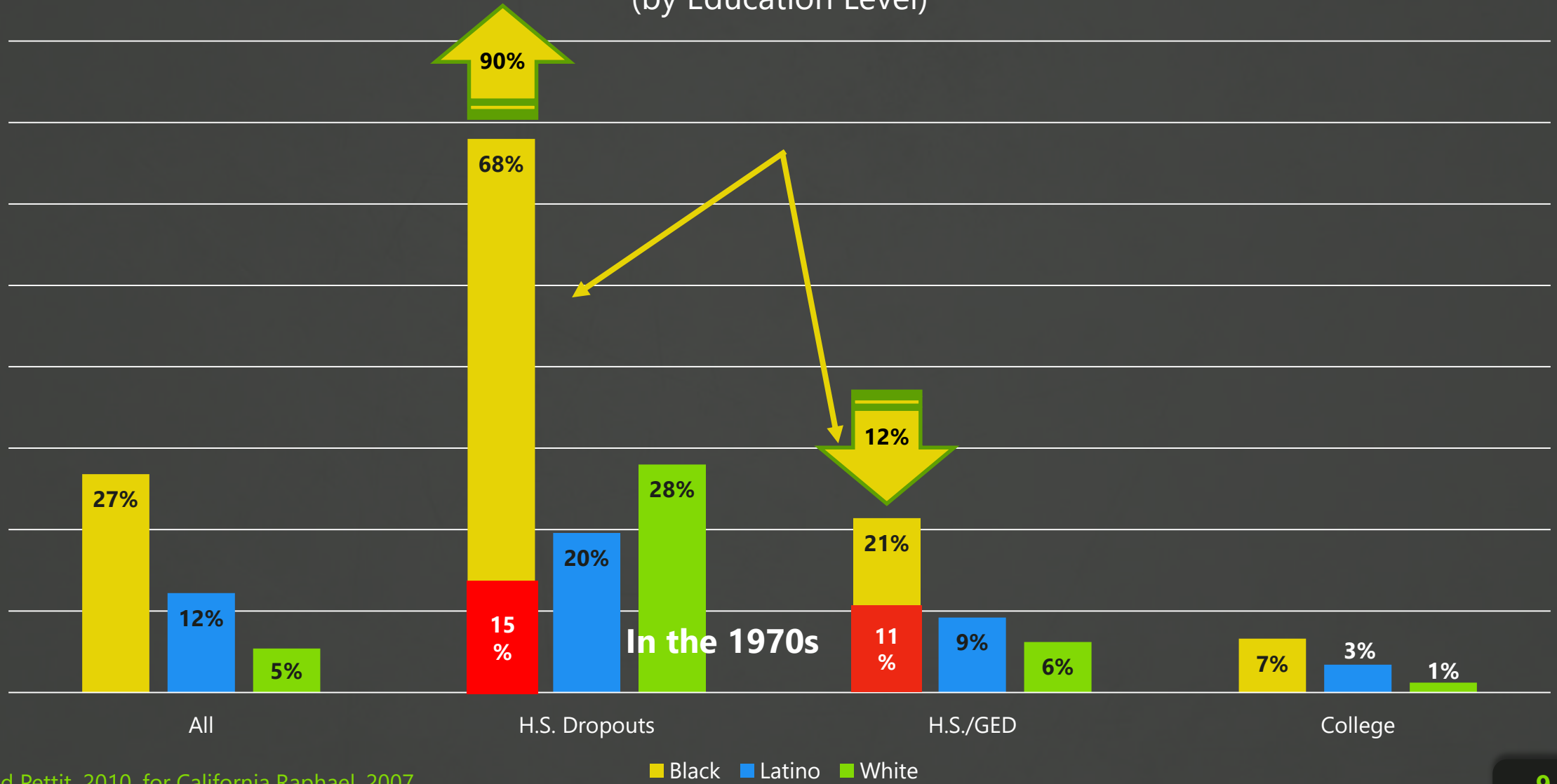
2.3 million in prisons or jails (2012) BJS

- Imprisonment **increased by 430 percent** between 1973 and 2010
- Due to policy decisions that:
  - Increased prison Admissions
  - Increased Sentence Lengths
- Felony conviction and/or imprisonment **reduces lifetime earnings and employment by 10-30 percent** (Travis & Western, 2014)
- *1 in 10 (12.1%) of adult males and 1 in 3 adult black males (33%) have a felony record (Shannon et al, 2017)*





## Lifetime Risk of Imprisonment by Age 35 for Males in 2010 (by Education Level)



# Rise of Disadvantaged Families

# ▶▶▶ The Rise of Disadvantaged Families

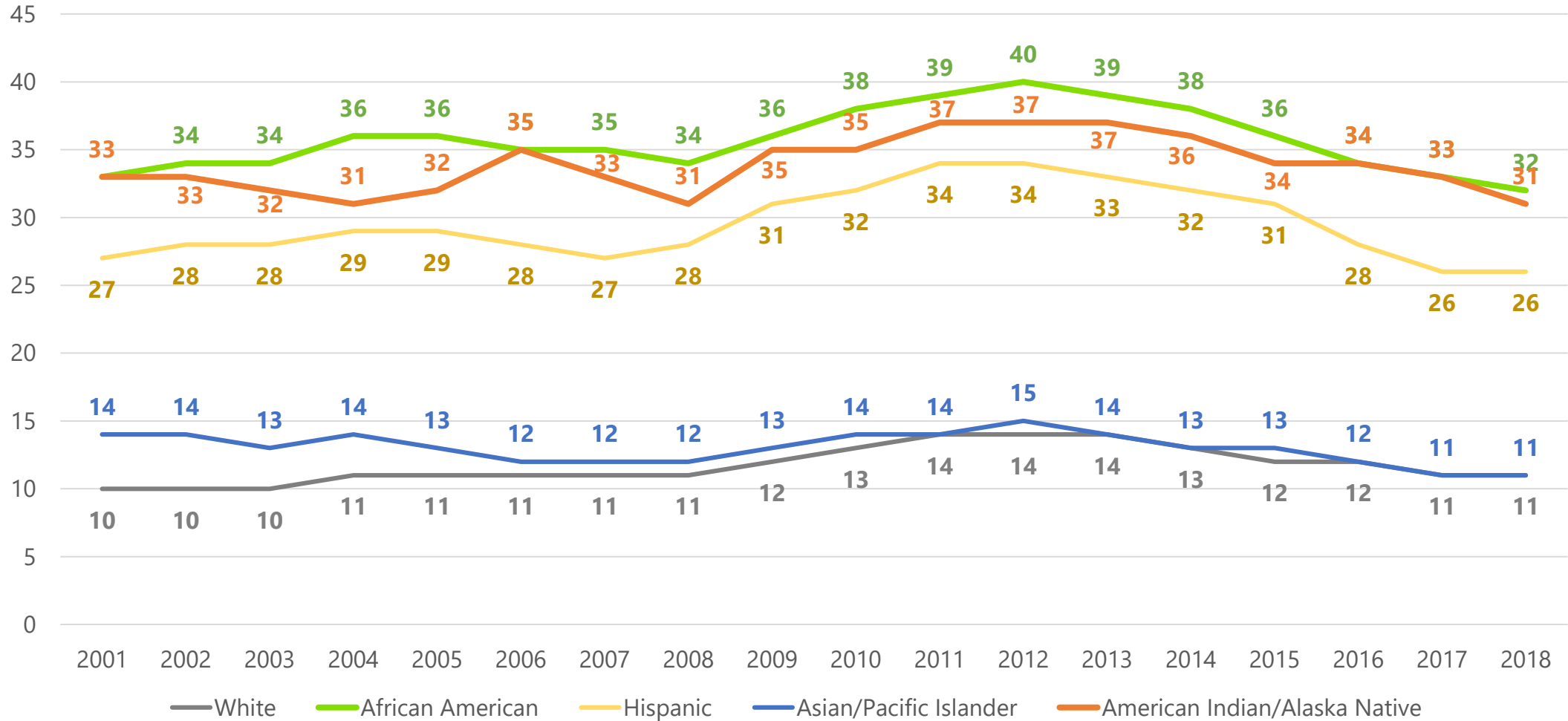


Joblessness, Mass Incarceration and Male Mortality have produced a sharp increase in single-parent families since the 1970s

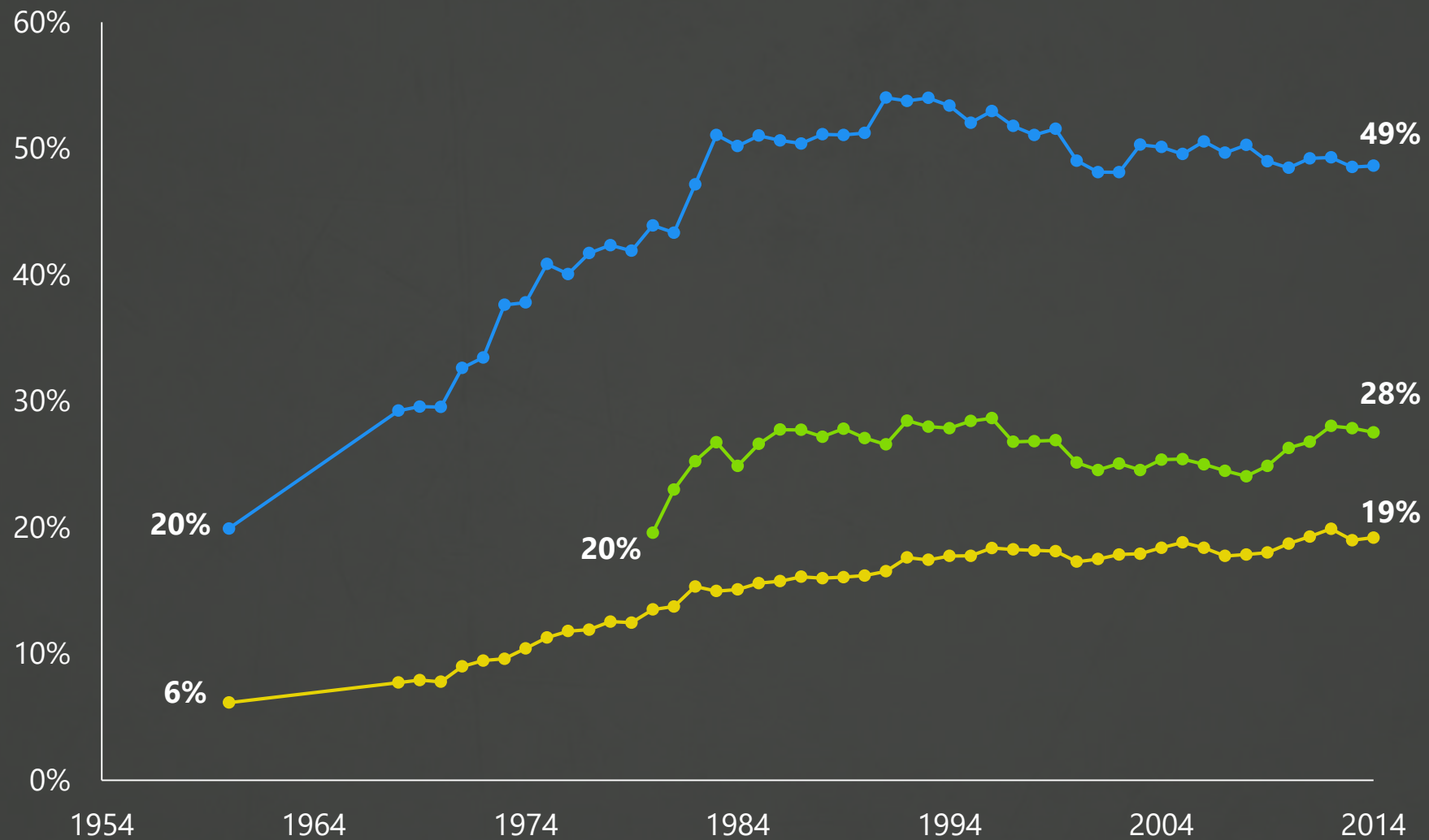
# CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

U.S. (2001- 2018)

Percentage of children living in families with incomes below the poverty line (2001-15)



# Percentage of Children Living in Single Parent Families (1960-2014)

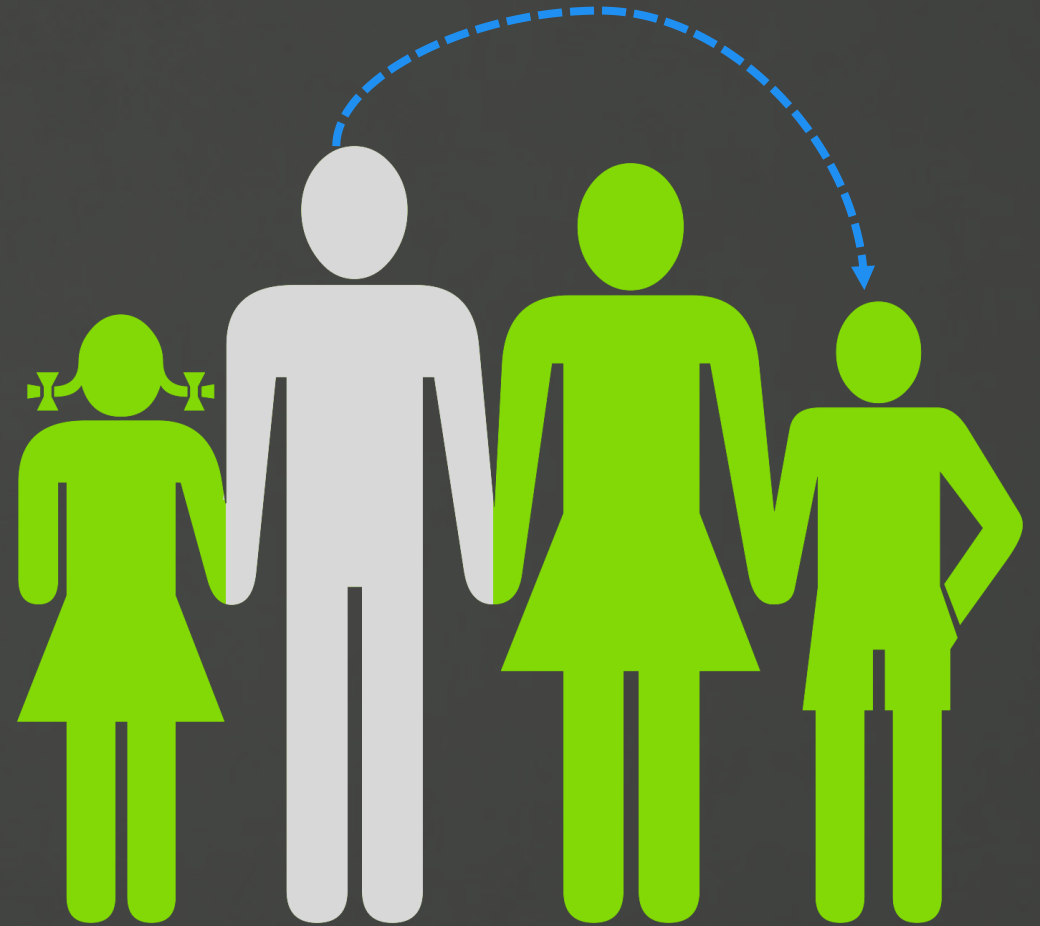


# The Gendered Effects of Family Disadvantage on Educational Outcomes

# Gender-Specific Effects of **Family Disadvantage** on Behavioral and Educational Outcomes

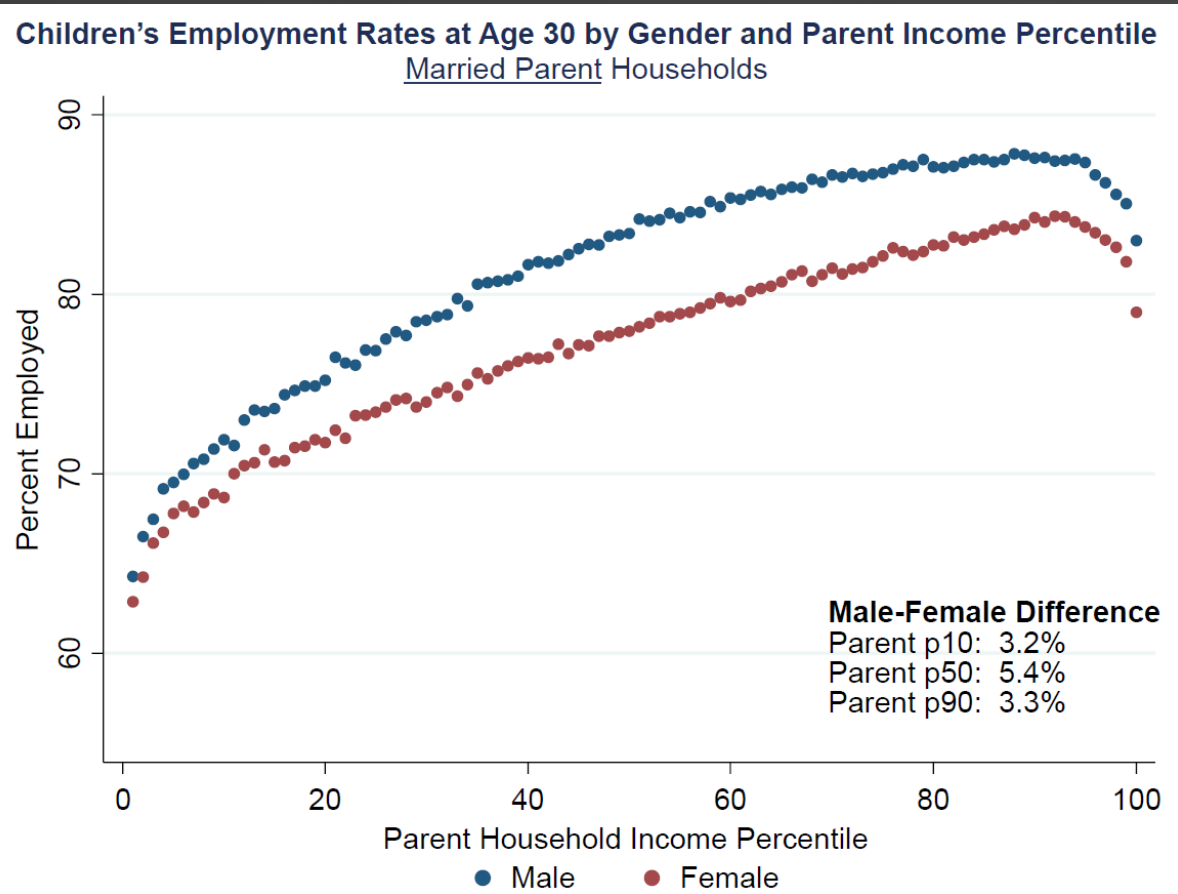
## Growing up in a single-parent family is associated with:

- Reduced college attendance for boys, but not for girls (*Jacob, 2002*)
- Increased juvenile delinquency among boys, but not girls (*Cobb-Clark, 2011*)
- Significantly increased behavior problems for boys compared to girls (*Bertrand and Pan, 2011*)
- With an incarcerated father is associated with increased behavioral problems much more among boys than girls (*Wakefield and Wildeman, 2013*)
- A divergence in academic outcomes between boys and girls starting in Kindergarten: Based on a sample of 1 million Florida kids (*Autor, 2015*)

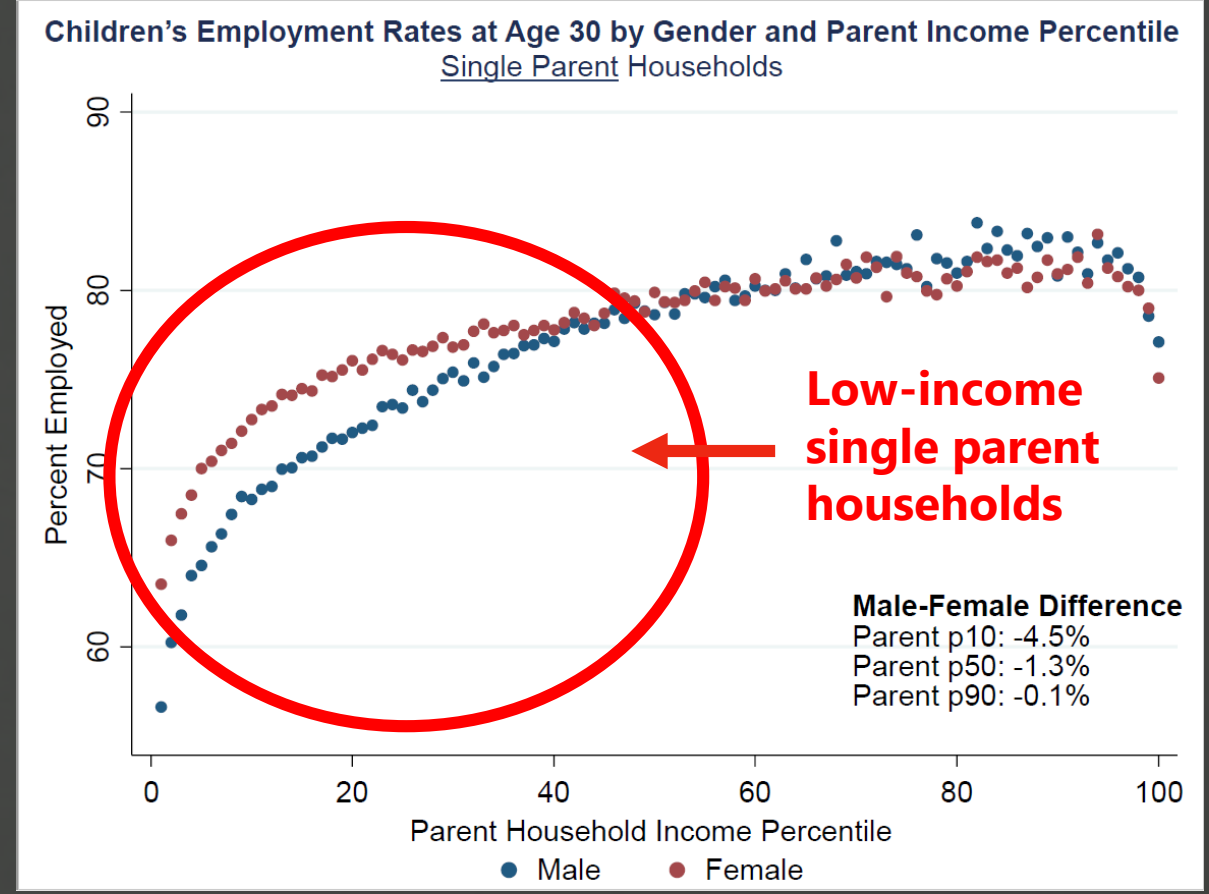


# Adult Employment Based on Childhood Family Structure

## Children Raised in Married Parent Households



## Children Raised in Single Parent Households

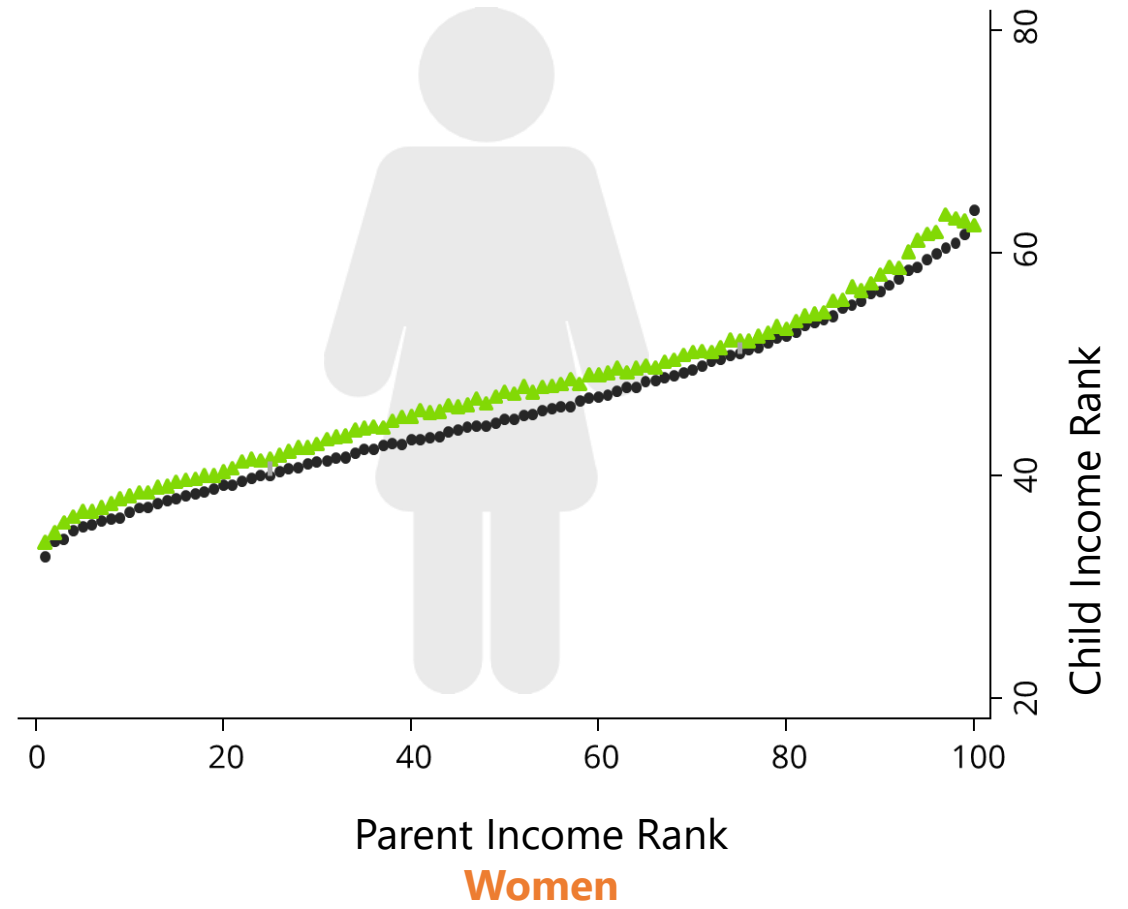
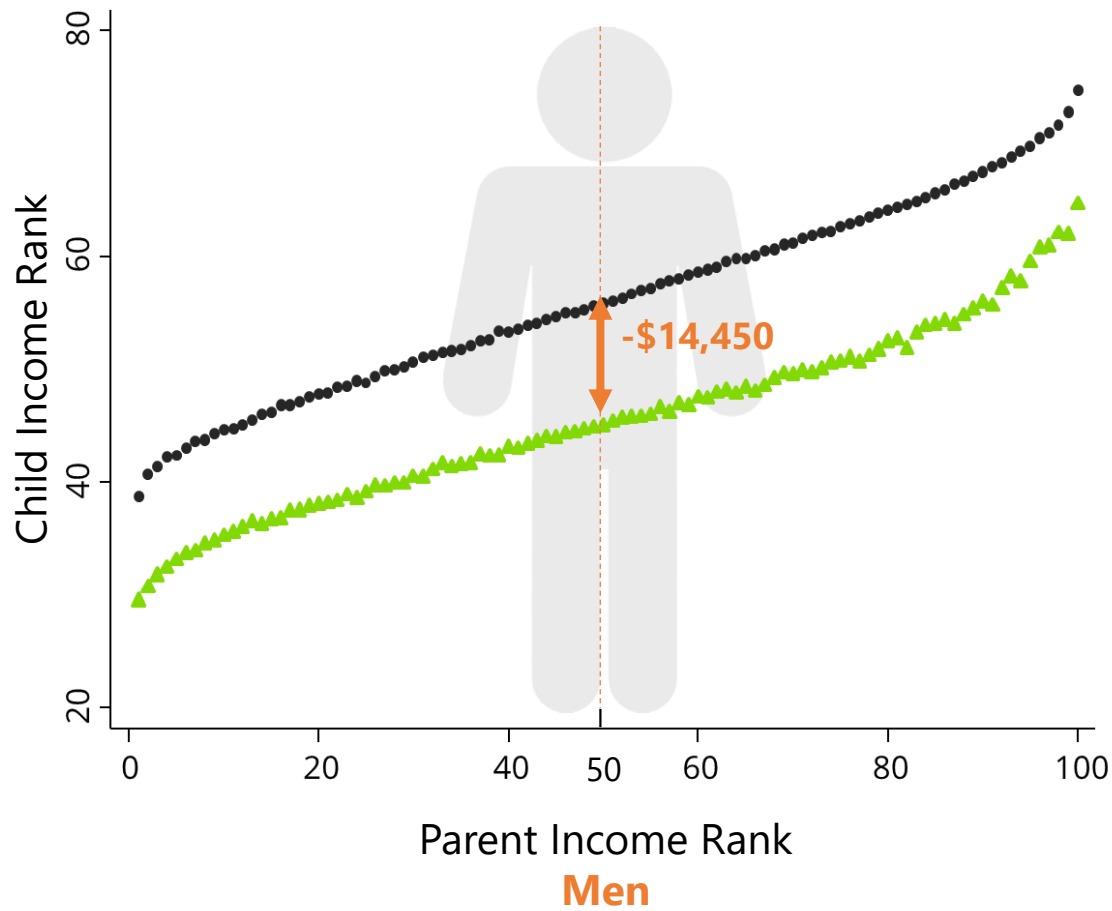


All U.S. Children Born from 1980-1982, N=10 million children claimed as dependents on IRS Forms



# The Black-White Gap in Intergenerational Mobility is **Driven by Males**

● White    ▲ Black



All U.S. Children Born from 1978-1983, N=20 million children claimed as dependents on IRS Forms (94% of child cohort) matched to census data  
*Chetty et al (2018) Race and Economic Opportunity in the United States: An Intergenerational Perspective*

# The Black-White Gap in Intergenerational Mobility: Explanations

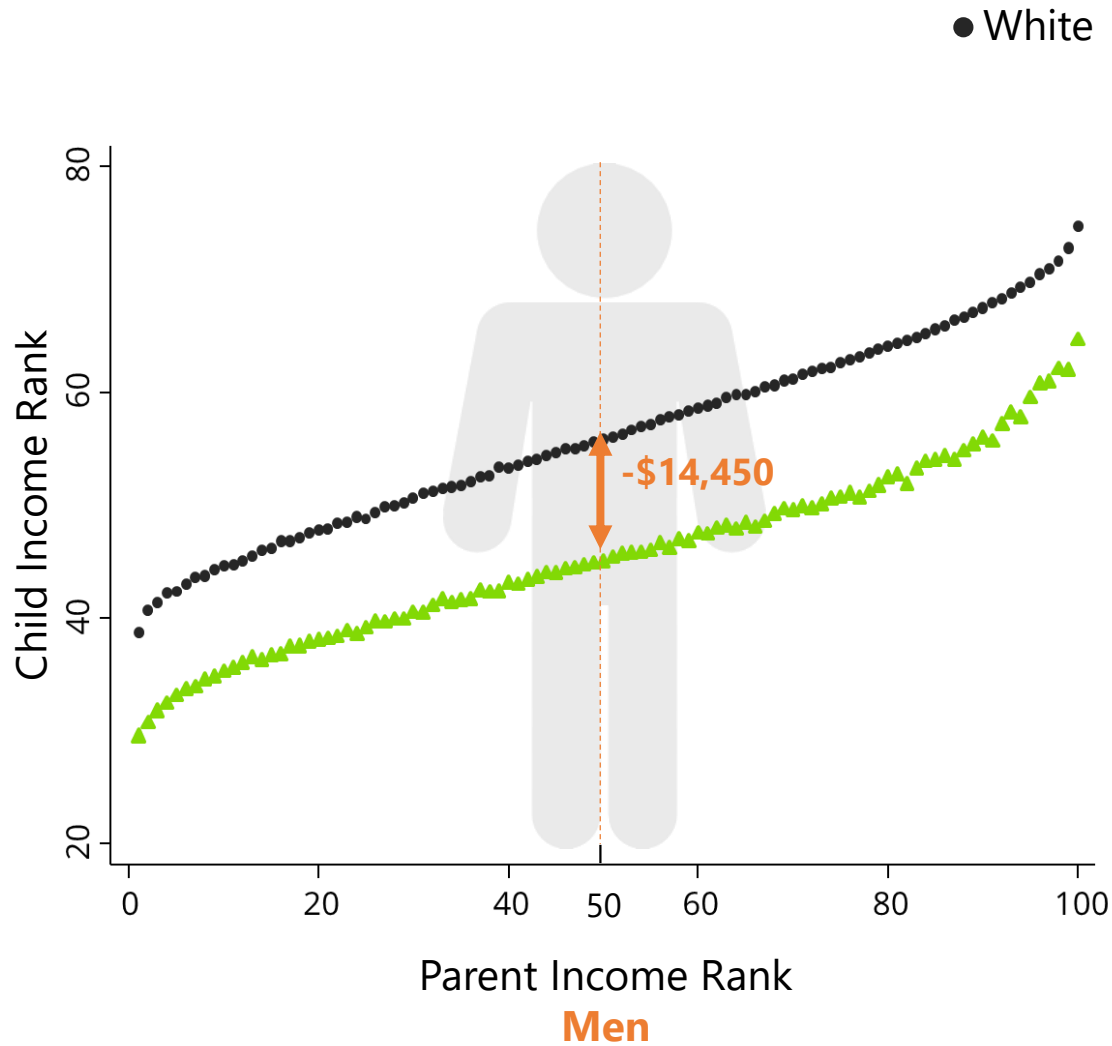


- For poor black boys, **growing up in single parent families** **DOES NOT** explain the black-white mobility gap
- **Neither** does **parental education** or **parent wealth**

All U.S. Children Born from 1978-1983, N=20 million children claimed as dependents on IRS Forms (94% of child cohort)

Chetty et al (2018) *Race and Economic Opportunity in the United States: An Intergenerational Perspective*

# The Black-White Gap in Intergenerational Mobility: Explanations



- For poor black boys, **growing up in single parent families DOES NOT** explain the black-white mobility gap
- **Neither** does **parental education** or **parent wealth**
- One of the **strongest correlated factors** with the gap is the **percentage of two-parent households at the neighborhood level**

Along with other neighborhood factors:

- Neighborhood income
- Neighborhood poverty
- Neighborhood high school graduation rates
- County-level racial bias

All U.S. Children Born from 1978-1983, N=20 million children claimed as dependents on IRS Forms (94% of child cohort)

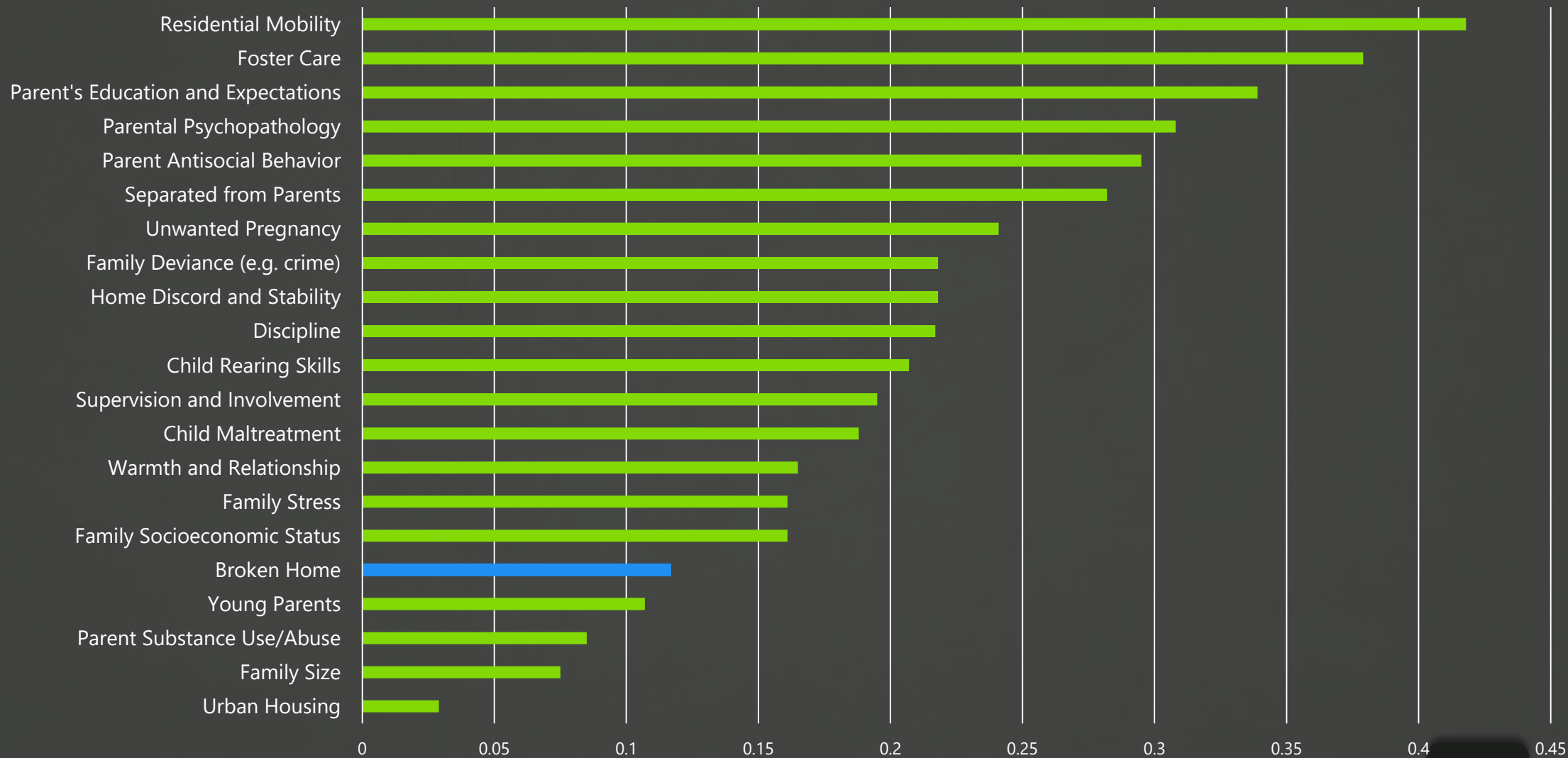
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# Family Factors Associated with Behavior Problems

## Problem Behavior

Based on 119  
Longitudinal  
Studies



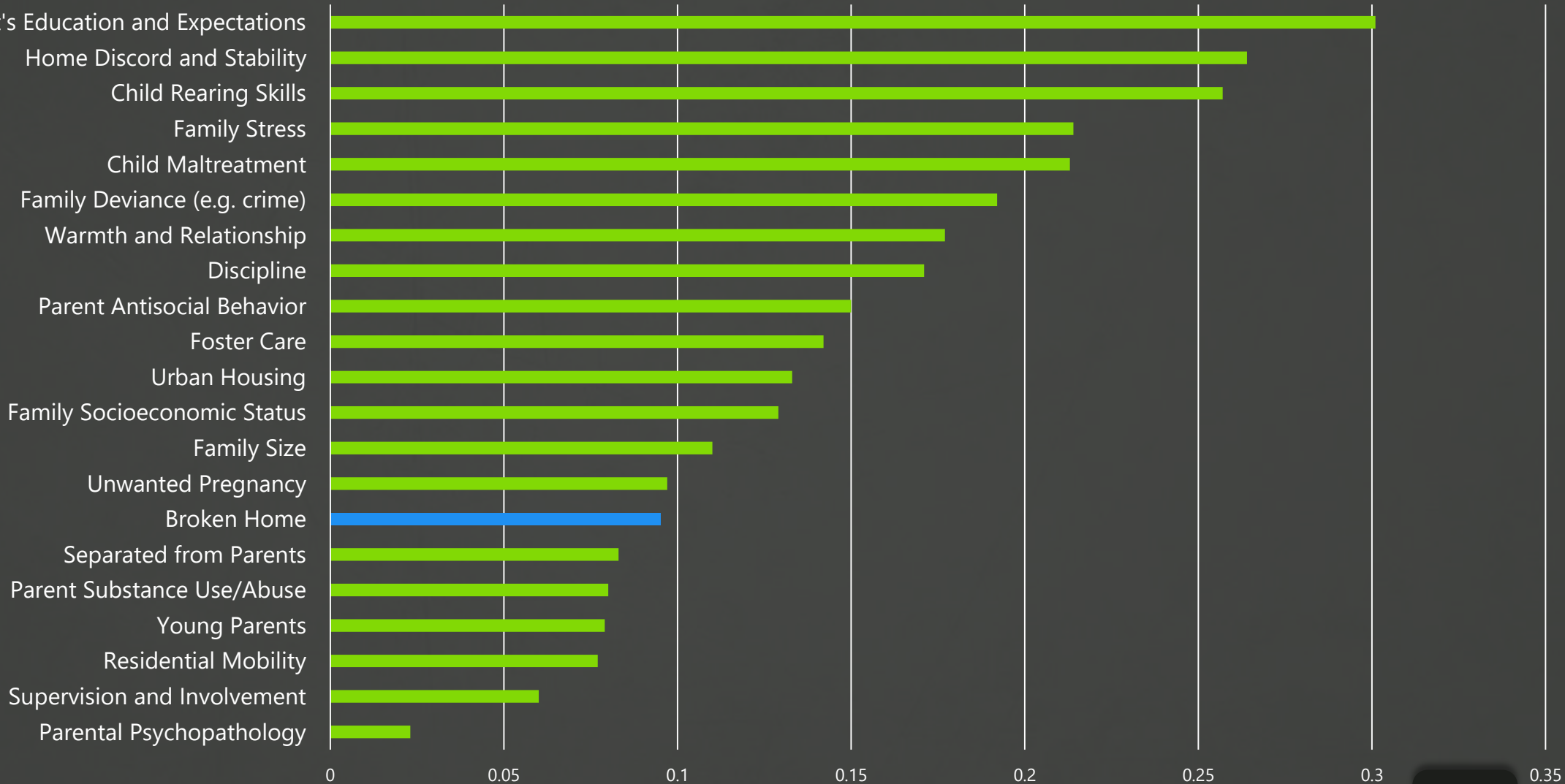
Derzon (2010) "The correspondence of family features with problem, aggressive, criminal, and violent behavior: a meta-analysis"



# Family Factors Associated with Criminal Behavior

## Criminal Behavior

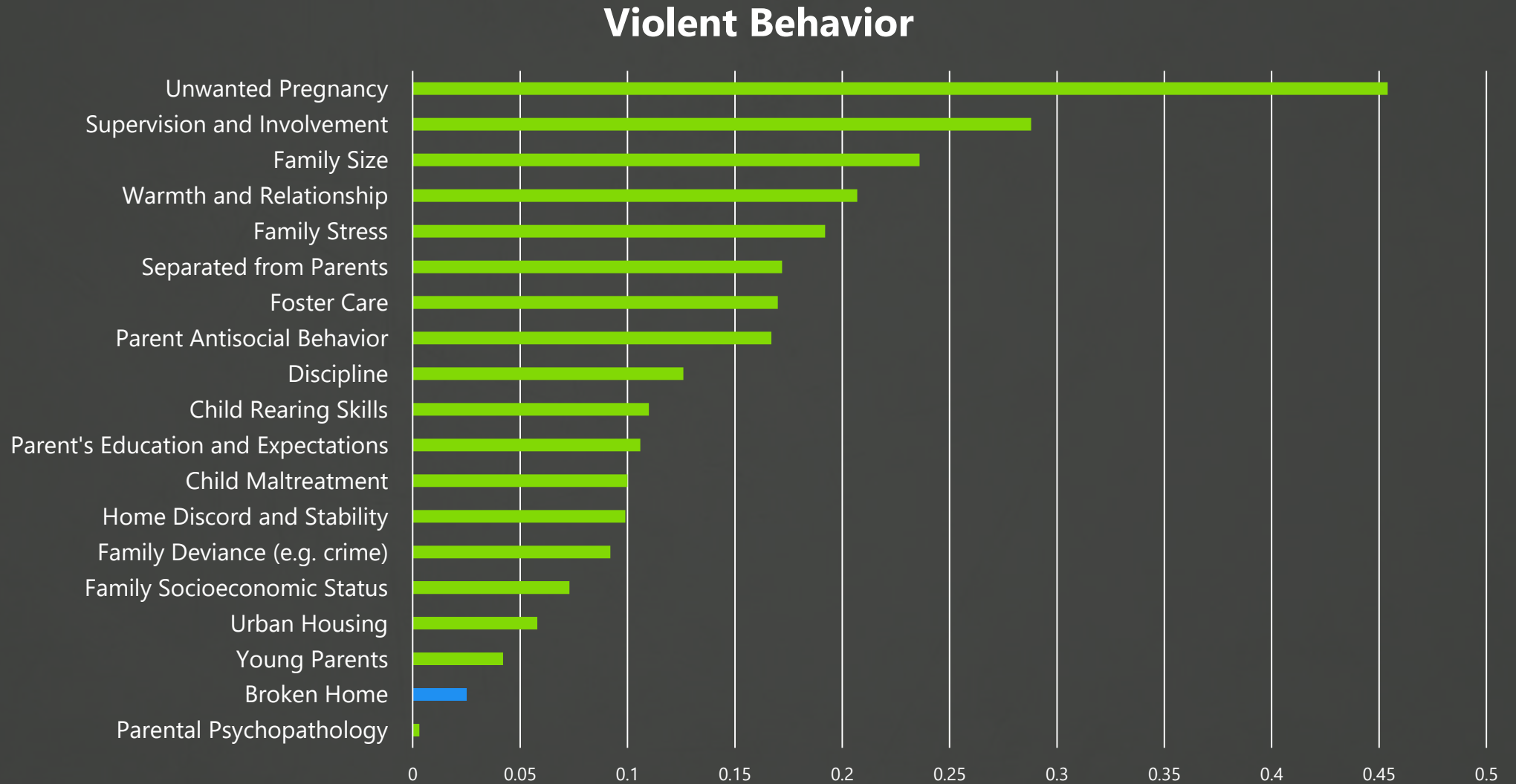
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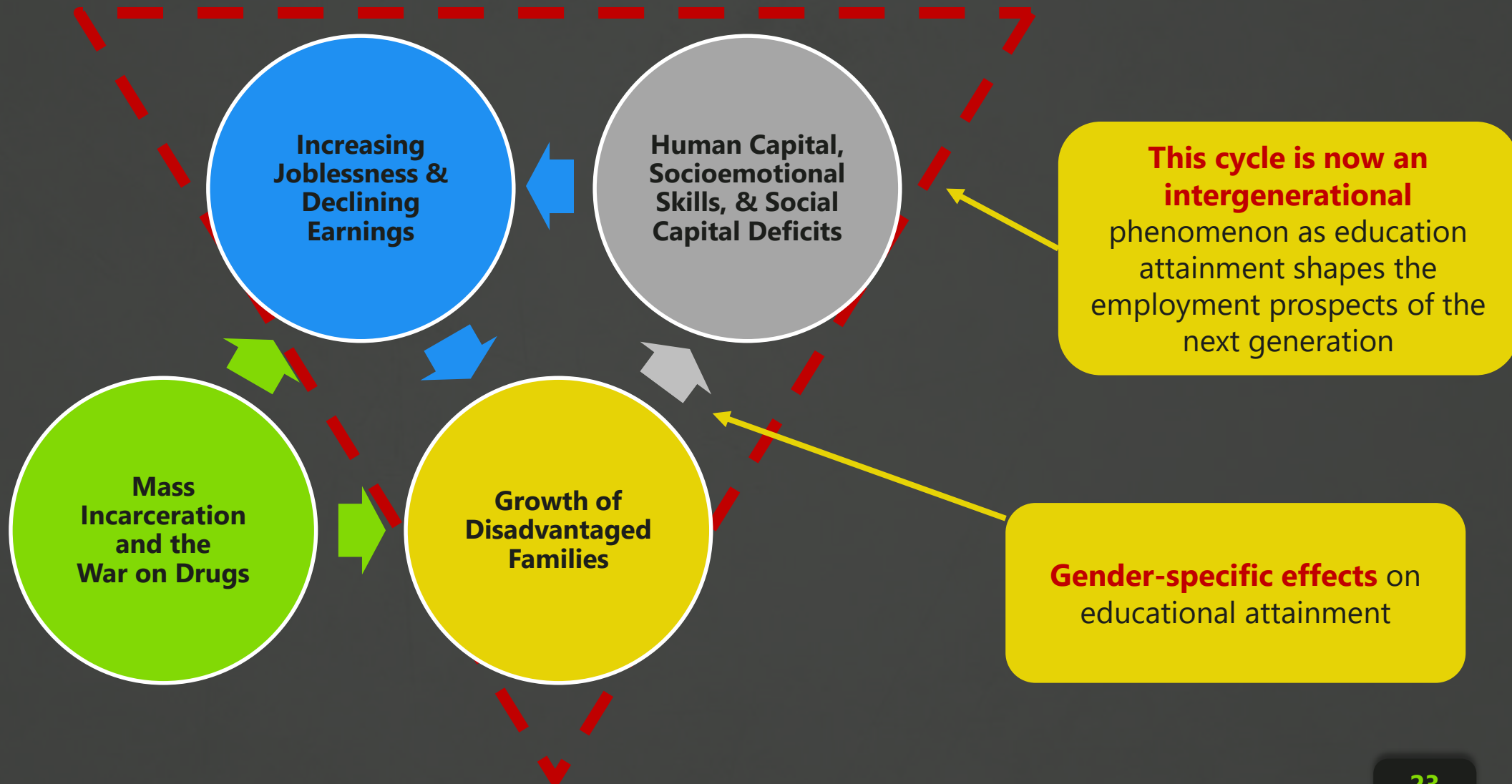
Derzon (2010) "The correspondence of family features with problem, aggressive, criminal, and violent behavior: a meta-analysis"

# Family Factors Associated with Violent Behavior

Based on 119  
Longitudinal  
Studies



# >>> A Vicious Cycle of Intergenerational Disadvantage





Oakland, CA

Rise of concentrated disadvantage

- Poor neighborhoods are **over-policed** through aggressive drug enforcement and order-maintenance policing and **under-protected** from violence due to reduced "police legitimacy" and police effectiveness with regard to violent crime

- Mass incarceration also concentrated** (Clear, 2007)

Mass Criminalization (War on Drugs and Incarceration)

Mass Incarceration and the War on Drugs

War on Drugs has led to the incarceration of more than 2 million individuals, many of whom are living in US Neighborhoods

(Shannon et al, 2017)

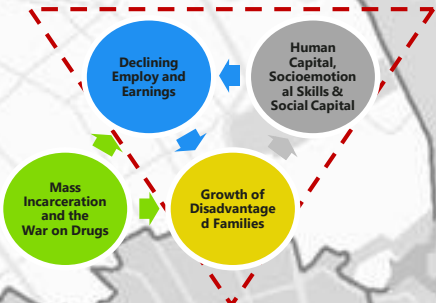
Increasing Joblessness & Declining Earnings

Human Capital, Socioemotional Skills, & Social Capital Deficits

Growth of Disadvantaged Families

Incarceration and War on Drugs

Growth of Disadvantaged Families



- The rise of **concentrated poverty and jobless ghettos** since the early 1970s due to **economic decline, disinvestment and racial & economic segregation** (Wilson, 1996)

- Concentration of factors associated with poverty** like crime, **violence**, poor school quality, drugs, disinvestment (Massey, 2007)

- Concentration of single parent and poor families**





# Contact

**Arnold Chandler | [Arnold@arnoldchandler.com](mailto:Arnold@arnoldchandler.com)**

[www.forwardchangeconsulting.com](http://www.forwardchangeconsulting.com)



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