The Impact of Parental Incarceration

On October 22nd, KIDS COUNT in Delaware made a presentation before the Committee on Fairness in the Criminal Justice System of the Delaware Access to Justice Commission. Our own Janice Barlow spoke about the effects of parental incarceration on Delaware’s youth. According to Child Trends, at least 5 million children have ever had a parent living with them go to jail or prison. Having one or both parents incarcerated has severe negative effects on a child’s social and economic well-being, including childhood health problems, behavioral problems, grade retention, and a greater likelihood to experience other major, traumatic life events. Read more on this topic here.

Delaware’s LGBT Youth

During the past month, National Coming Out Day as well as Ally Week were celebrated to support LGBT youth. These events advocate for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) youth in America, who face higher rates of experiences with violence, including bullying, teasing, harassment, physical assault, and suicide. According to the CDC, an accepting and positive climate fostered by parents, teachers, and classmates reduces violence against LGBT youth. In Delaware, the Wilmington Chapter of Parents, Families & Friends Of Lesbians & Gays meets on the 2nd Thursday every month at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, in Wilmington, DE and is open to all.

No Safe Amount of Alcohol During Pregnancy

A recent CDC study found that 10% of pregnant women consume alcohol and 3% engage in binge drinking. According to the American Association of Pediatrics, there is no safe amount of alcohol to consume while pregnant. Drinking alcohol often or in higher amounts while pregnant also increases the risk for the baby to have alcohol-related damage and for the damage to be more severe. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are 100% avoidable by abstaining from alcohol while pregnant or trying to become pregnant. For more information on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, see the FASD Toolkit here.

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