

Criminal behavior generational, study says

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- A recent survey of prison populations in the United States suggested almost half of all inmates in state prisons have relatives in the prison system. Analysts said familial influence could be a key factor in determining future criminal behavior as 48 percent of state prisoners report the incarceration of immediate family members, USA Today reported Tuesday. One psychologist involved in the analysis of the issue, Mark Eddy, said "the numbers are amazing" and the government officials said roughly 2 million children with incarcerated parents face a risk of generational crime patterns. A U.S. Justice Department report said at least 20 percent of inmates had mothers with a history of incarceration and at least 50 percent had fathers in the prison system. "If you want to break the cycle, the current generation (of family members) has to be linked with education and jobs," Eddy told USA Today.

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