

*Parental imprisonment:
Effects on children's delinquency
through the life-course
in England and Sweden*

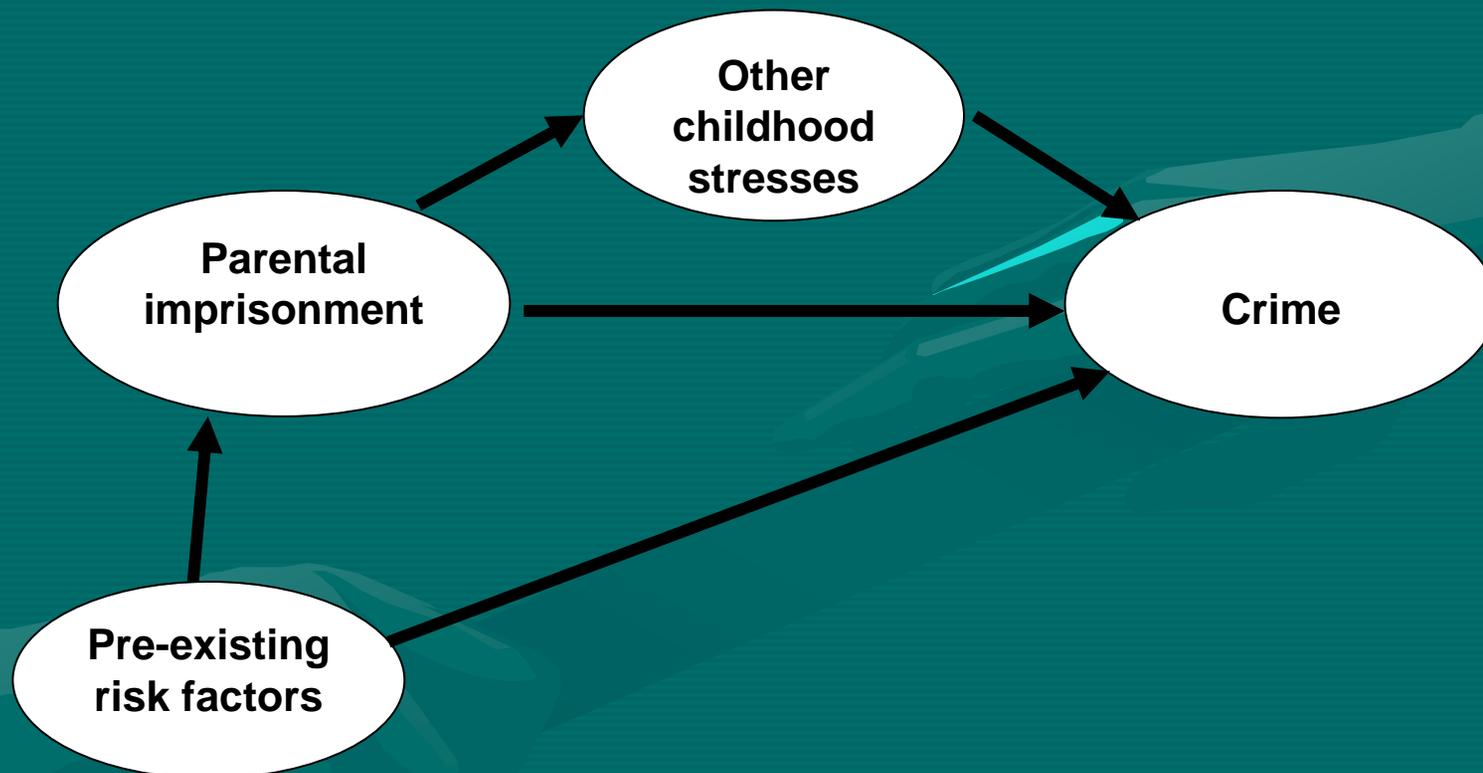
**National Institute on Drug Abuse meeting
November 6, 2006**

Dr. Joseph Murray
Institute of Criminology
University of Cambridge, England

Overview of 4 studies

Study	Bedford Prison Study	Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development	Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development	Project Metropolitan
Child Outcome	Numbers/ living circumstances	Mental Health	Delinquency	Delinquency
Method	150 male prisoners. Survey	411 boys. Longitudinal study	411 boys. Longitudinal study	15,117 children. Longitudinal Study
Paper	Murray (in press) Criminology and Criminal Justice	Murray & Farrington (in press) Development & Psychopathology	Murray & Farrington (2005) Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry	Murray, Janson, & Farrington (in press) Criminal Justice & Behavior

Effects of parental imprisonment



Cambridge Study (England)

- 411 boys, working-class, born 1953
- Main interview ages: 8-10, 14, 18, 32, 48
- Parents, Teachers, Boys, Official Records
- **Ages 8-10:** IQ, daring, school attainment, poor parenting, mental health parents, poor marital relations, family size, family SES, family income & **parental convictions and imprisonment**

Cambridge Study

Ten antisocial-delinquent outcomes

- Antisocial personality (14, 18, 32)
- Self reported delinquency (18, 32)
- Convicted (10-16, 17-25, 26-40)
- Poor life success (32)
- Imprisoned (by 40)

Aims

- Risk compared to other forms separation
- After controlling for other risks

Cambridge Study

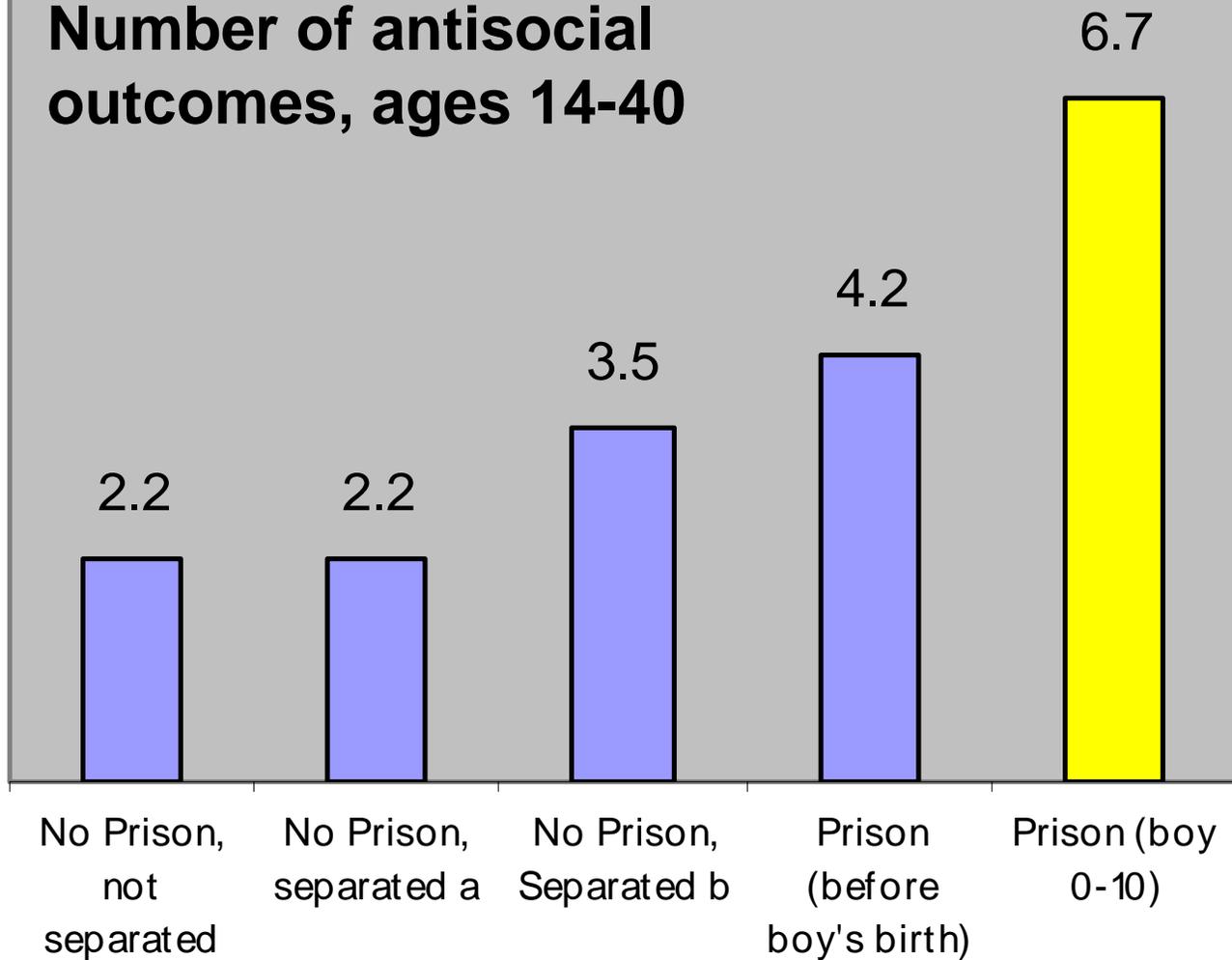
Method

<u>23</u>	<u>Separated parental imprisonment</u>
227	No separation
77	Separated hospital/ death
61	Separated other reasons
17	Parents imprisoned only before boys' births

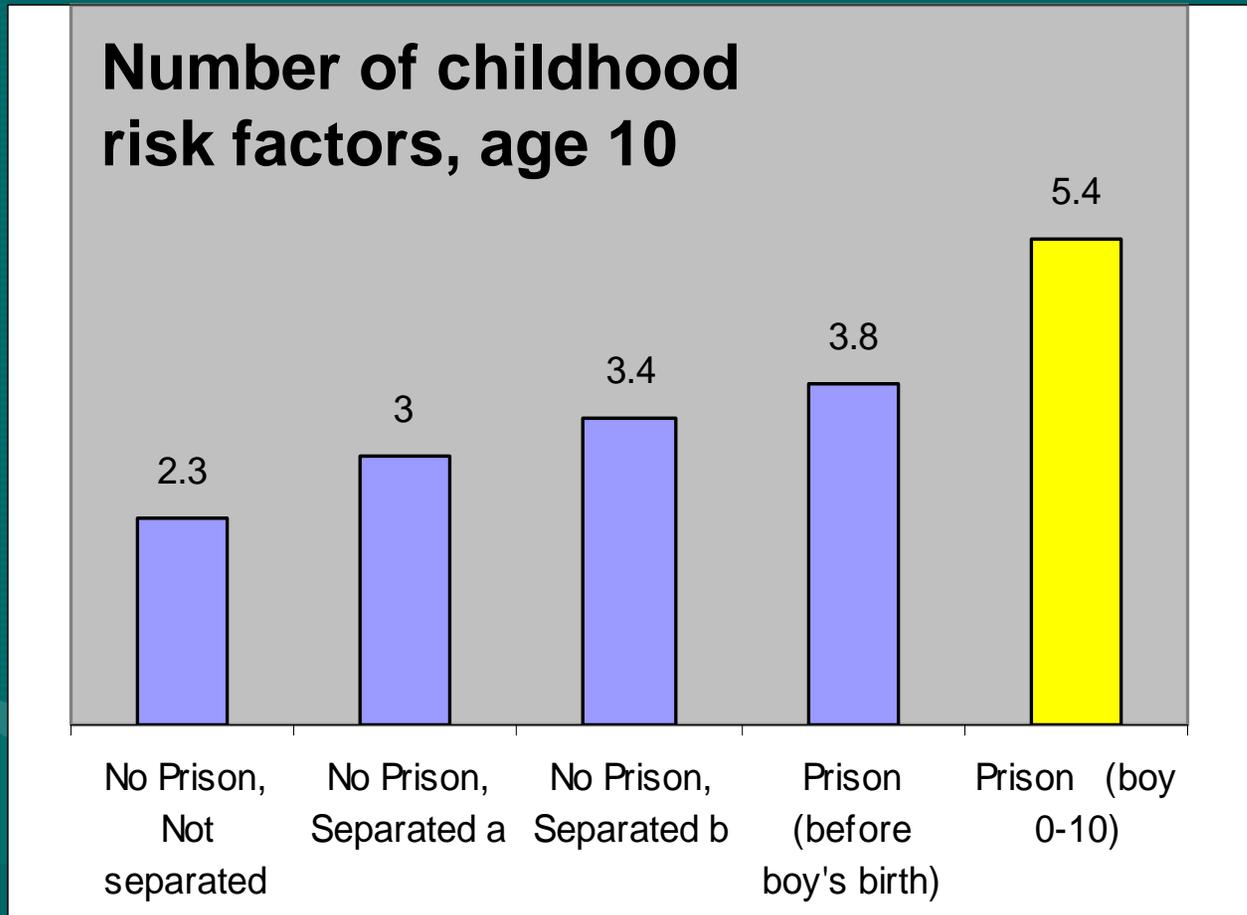
Statistically control for background childhood adversities

Cambridge Study: Antisocial outcomes

**Number of antisocial
outcomes, ages 14-40**



Cambridge Study: Other Childhood Risks



Parental imprisonment (0-10) still predicts even after controlling for other childhood adversities

Project Metropolitan (Sweden)

- 15,117 children, born 1953, Stockholm, Sweden
- Official records until age 30
- Criminal records of children
- Criminal records of parents

Project Metropolitan

Aims

- Replication
- Girls
- Middle-upper class
- Different social context

Outcome

- Criminal records of children from ages 19 to 30

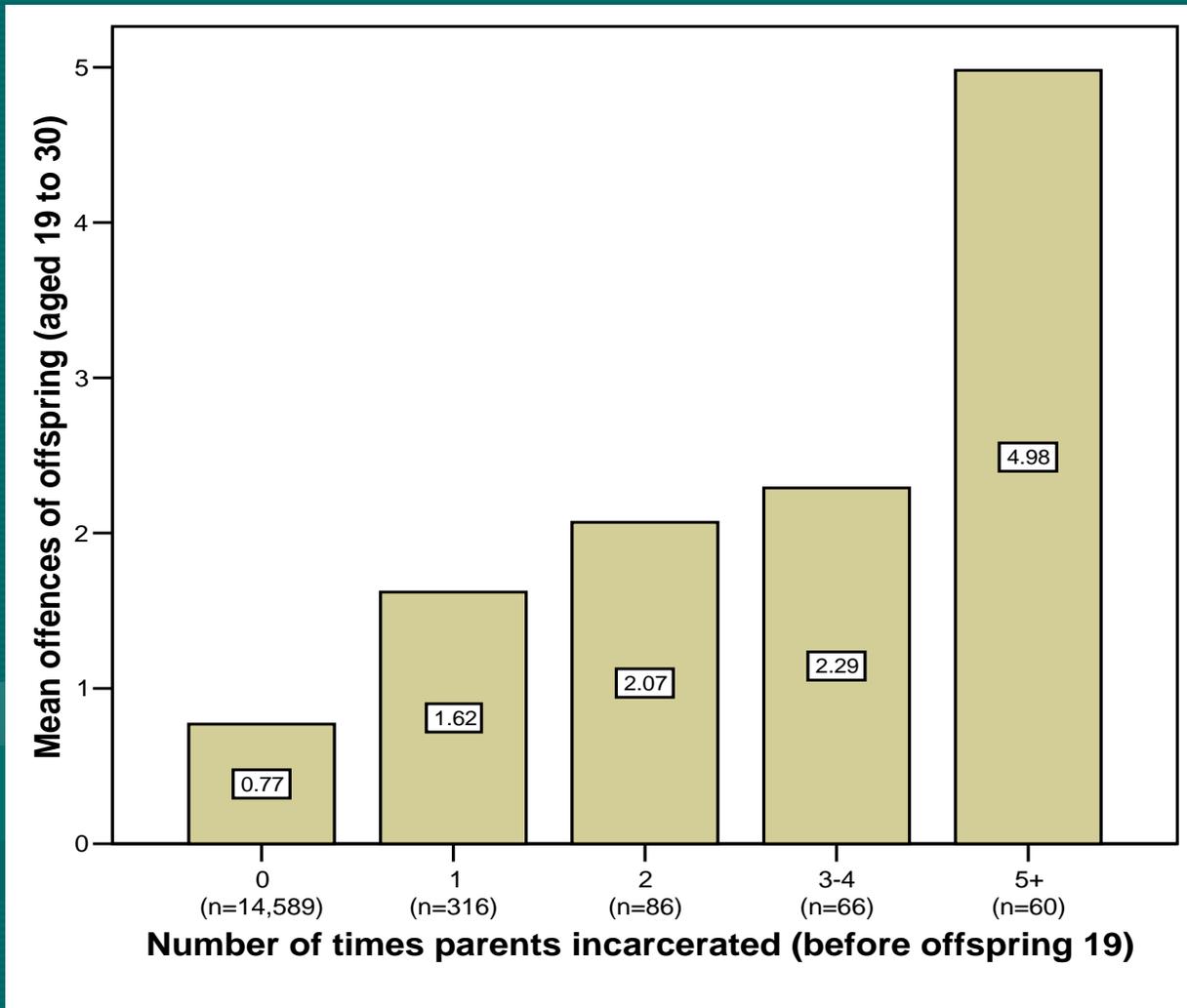
Project Metropolitan

Method

<u>283</u>	<u>Children of imprisoned parents (0 to 19)</u>
14,589	Children of unconvicted parents
245	Children of imprisoned parents (before child's birth)

Statistically control for background parental criminality

Project Metropolitan: Dose-response relationship

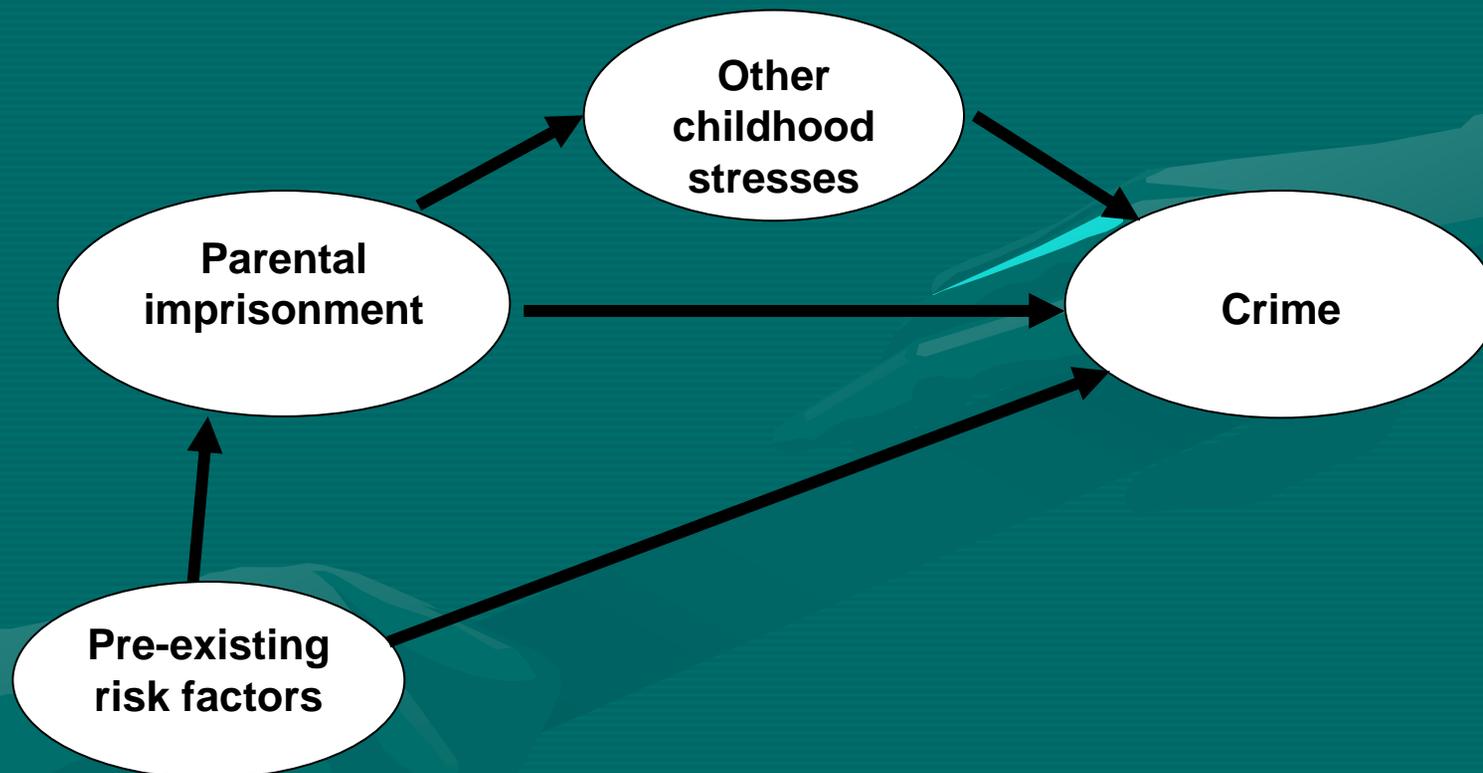


Results: Delinquency in Sweden

- Parental imprisonment predicted girls' and boys' delinquency
- Predicts different types of crime with similar strength
- No differences by social class of child

Controlling for parental criminality, effects of parental imprisonment disappear!

Effects of parental imprisonment



Parental crime/ antisocial behaviour

Close comparison of samples

	ENGLAND	SWEDEN
Children:		
Year of birth	1953	1953
Residency	London (capital)	Stockholm (capital)
Sex	Male	Male
Social class	Working-class	Working-class
Outcome	Crime 19-30	Crime 19-30
Parental imprisonment		
<u>Boy aged 0 to 19</u>	<u>$n = 29$</u>	<u>$n = 92$</u>
versus before boy's birth	$n = 17$	$n = 72$
Parental criminality		
Parental convictions	up to boy 19	up to boy 19

Comparing England & Sweden: Crime

	ENGLAND		SWEDEN	
	(controlling for parental criminality)		(controlling for parental criminality)	
	Odds ratio	Partial odds ratio	Odds ratio	Partial Odds ratio
Crime 19 to 30	4.1**	3.2*	1.3	1.3

Odds ratio = comparing boys with imprisoned parent (0 – 19) and boys whose parents were imprisoned only before boy's birth.

Partial odds ratio = after controlling for parental criminality

* $p < .10$, ** $p < .05$

Social context

ENGLAND

SWEDEN

Average length of prison sentences

Longer

Shorter

Prison policies

Less family friendly prison policies

More open prisons, home leave, conjugal visits

Juvenile Justice

Similar to adult criminal courts

Child welfare committees

Social support systems

Developing welfare state

“Cradle to grave” social/financial support

Punitive attitudes

Less liberal

Liberal: “Swedish prisoner remains a citizen”

Main conclusions

- Parental imprisonment strongly predictive of crime in later life in England and Sweden
- In England parental imprisonment = possible cause of criminal behavior
- In Sweden parental imprisonment \neq cause of criminal behavior

Parental imprisonment across 3 generations

- Cambridge Study: Future research
 - 500 brothers
 - 519 sisters
 - 600 children
- Compare with similar study in the Netherlands
- Replicate among siblings in 1950s
- Replicate among children in contemporary England
- Compare between England and the Netherlands