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English Comp. I
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Summary of "Mom's in Prison:
Where Are the Kids?"
Cause and Effect Essay
Revision

In her essay, Virginia A. Huie acknowledges the cruel consequences that children have to endure when their parents go to jail.

She starts her essay by describing how Jennifer Anderson went to jail, and how Tommy, her son, had to be separated from his mother.

The author continues her story on a larger scale, informing the reader about the similar situation of millions of other children. They are all the "innocent victims of their parents' crimes" (151). Some people and organizations have started to acknowledge these children's present situation, and they are trying to do something about it. "These kids are really a forgotten population...They haven't done anything wrong.... It's very likely that they could end up with very serious problems in the school system, possibly end up in jail themselves as juveniles" (151).

The author talks about the increasing number of women who are going to jail these days. As a consequence, their children are deprived of one of the most important things in a child's development: affection. As a result, those children have the potential to develop a non-trusting behavior. "The children who fail to bond have a much higher risk of growing up without conscience," warns a marriage, family and child therapist (152).

Some programs take in consideration the fact that is very important for the children to stay in touch with their parents. These programs are trying to facilitate the bonding between mother and child. In this way, the child's emotional distress is minimized.

In the cases of mothers who were imprisoned for non-violent crimes, some states allow them to go to correctional halfway houses. These halfway houses seem to be the optimal solution for mothers and their children; it's also cost effective.

The author's closing paragraph ends citing the words of Elizabeth Fry, "a Quaker who led the prison reform movement in the early Nineteenth Century" (153). At the time she wrote, "When thee builds a prison thee had better build with the thought ever in thy mind that thee and thy children may occupy the cells" (153).

Her essay leaves the reader with a bitter taste. The reality is too hard to digest sometimes: Crimes are affecting innocent children. How can some parents forget about the responsibility they have for their children? These children should not be sacrificed in the names of revenge and selfishness.

Works Cited

Huie, Virginia A.. "Mom's in Prison: Where Are the Kids?" *Connections: A Multicultural Reader for Writers*. Editor Judith A. Stanford. California: Mayfield, 1997. 150-153.