
The Influence of Incarceration on Children
by Parental Gender and Race/Ethnicity: A
Focus on Child Living Arrangements

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Incarceration, Race, and Class

- Incarceration, Race/ Ethnicity and Social Class (Pettit & Western, 2004)
 - Parental Imprisonment by Race/Ethnicity (Glaze & Maruschak, 2008)
 - Parental Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Social Class (Wildeman, 2009)
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Incarceration and Intersectionality

- *Intersectionality*: race and gender combine to create distinctive opportunities and experiences for all groups (Browne & Misra, 2003).
- Mass Incarceration and Intersectionality (Christian & Thomas, 2009)



Intersectionality and Parental Incarceration

- ❑ The influence of incarceration on children is contingent upon parental gender and race/ethnicity.
 - ❑ Investigate living arrangements of children during incarceration with attention to parental gender and race/ethnicity.
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Children's Living Arrangements: Gender

■ Parental Gender:

- ❑ Children of incarcerated fathers live with other parent during imprisonment
 - ❑ Children of incarcerated mothers live with grandparents and other relatives (Mumola, 2000; Glaze & Marushack, 2008)
 - ❑ Disruption greater in lives of children of incarcerated mothers than fathers (Koban, 1983)
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Children's Living Arrangements: Race and Gender

- Incarcerated Mothers (Enos, 2001; Ruiz 2002):
 - African American and Hispanic children are more likely to live with grandparents than are children of non-Hispanic Whites.
 - Children of non-Hispanic Whites more likely to live with other parent during incarceration than African American and Hispanic children.
 - Incarcerated Fathers: less work by race/ethnicity
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Explanatory Factors

- Economic Resources
 - Family Disadvantages and child living arrangements (Johnson & Waldfogel, 2004)
 - Does income explain race and ethnic differences in living arrangements among children of incarcerated women and men?
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Data & Methods

- Sample of male and female inmates in Texas in 1998-99.
 - Analytic sample includes all parents living with minor children on arrest (n=889).
 - n=539 women and n=350 men
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Sample Characteristics

- Women: 32 years, Men: 31 years of age
 - Women's income lower than men's
 - Race/ethnicity:
 - Women: 47% African American, 15% Hispanic, 2% other race/ethnicity
 - Men: 38% African American, 34% Hispanic, 2% other race/ethnicity
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Figure 1. Percentage of Females and Males With Minor Children Living With Other Parent During Incarceration (n=889)

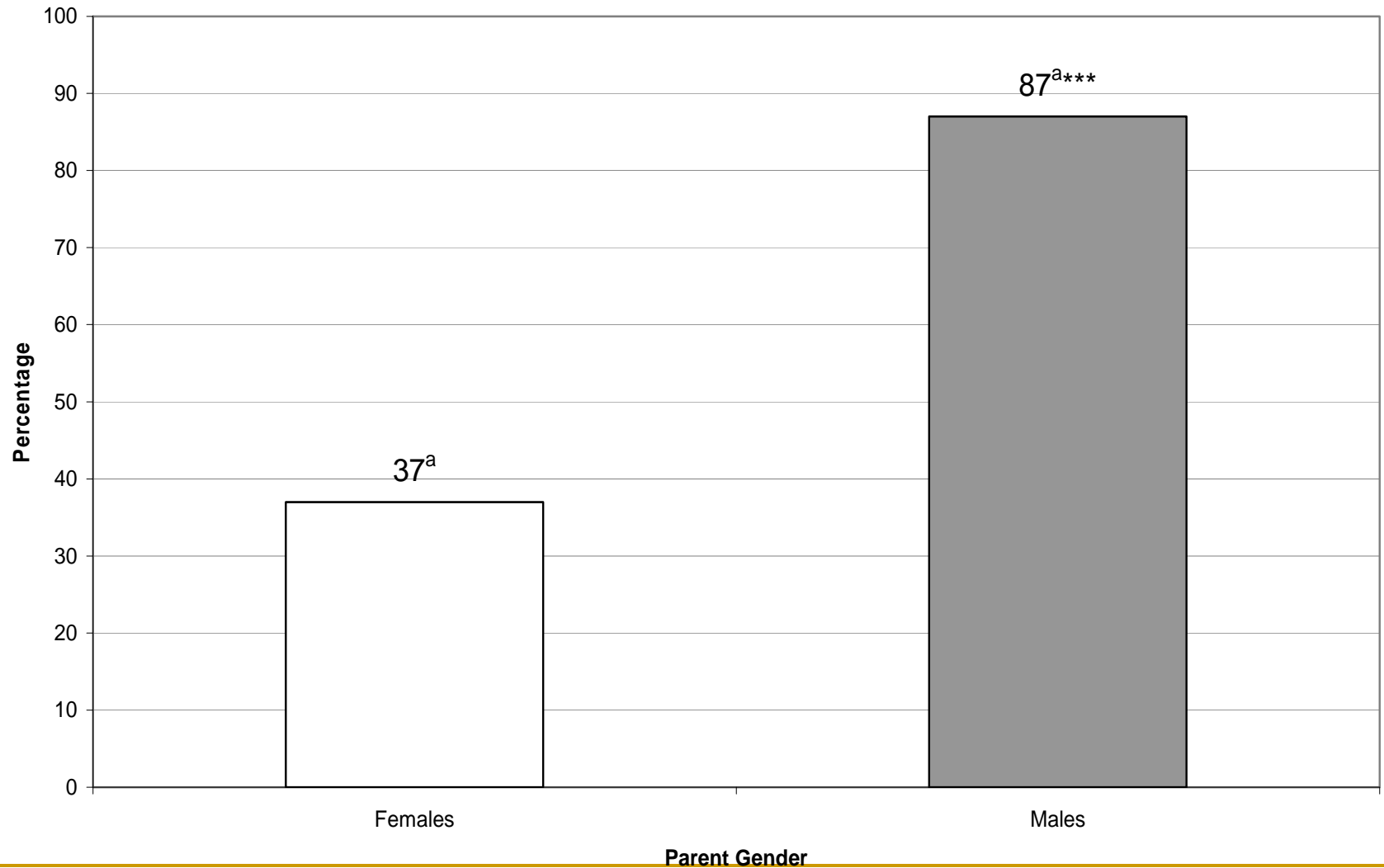


Figure 2. Percentage of Mothers and Fathers With Minor Children Living With Other Parent During Incarceration by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (n=889)

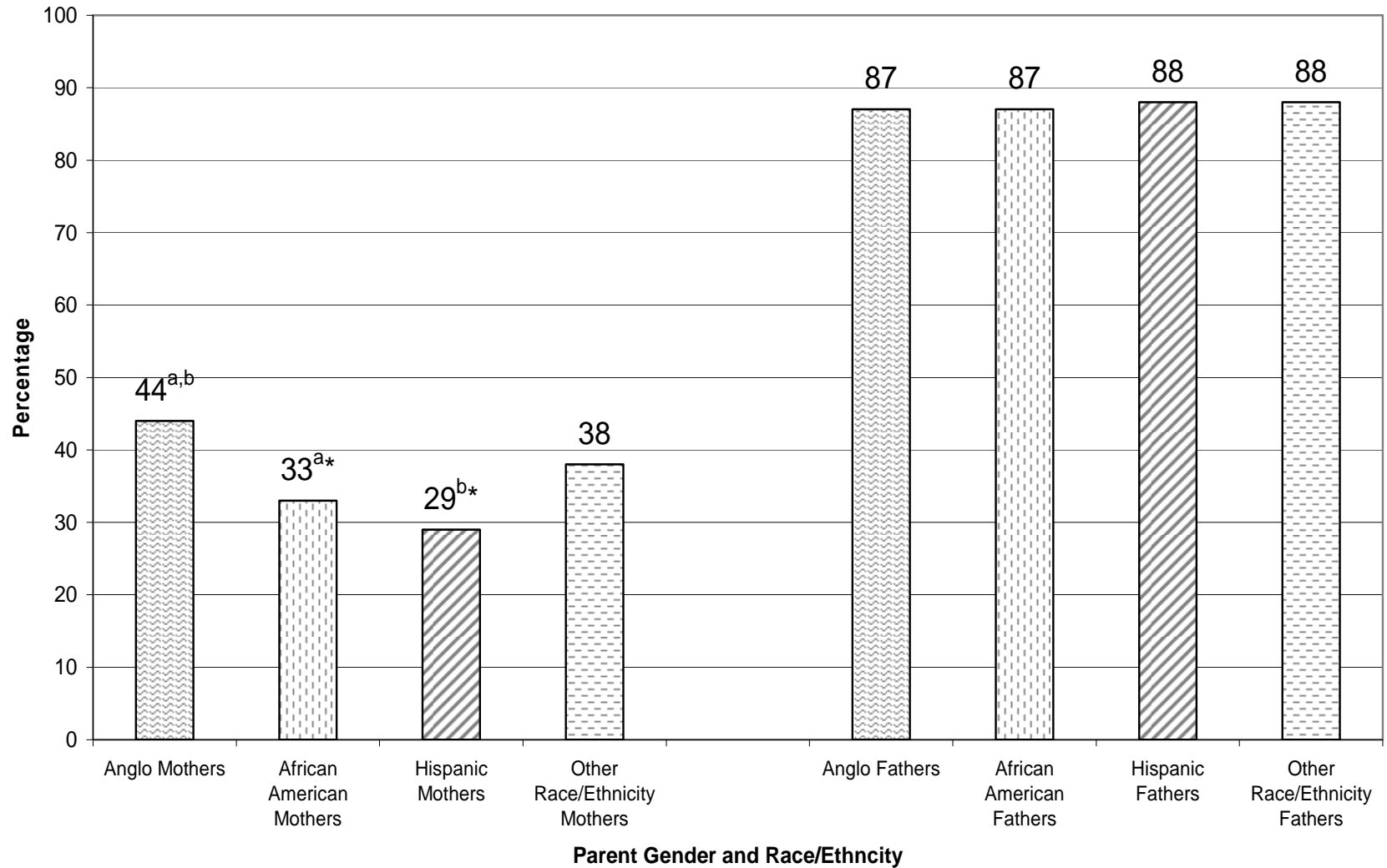


Figure 3. Predicted Probabilities of Living with the Other Parent During Incarceration from Multivariate Models: Explanatory Effects of Income by Maternal Race/ethnicity

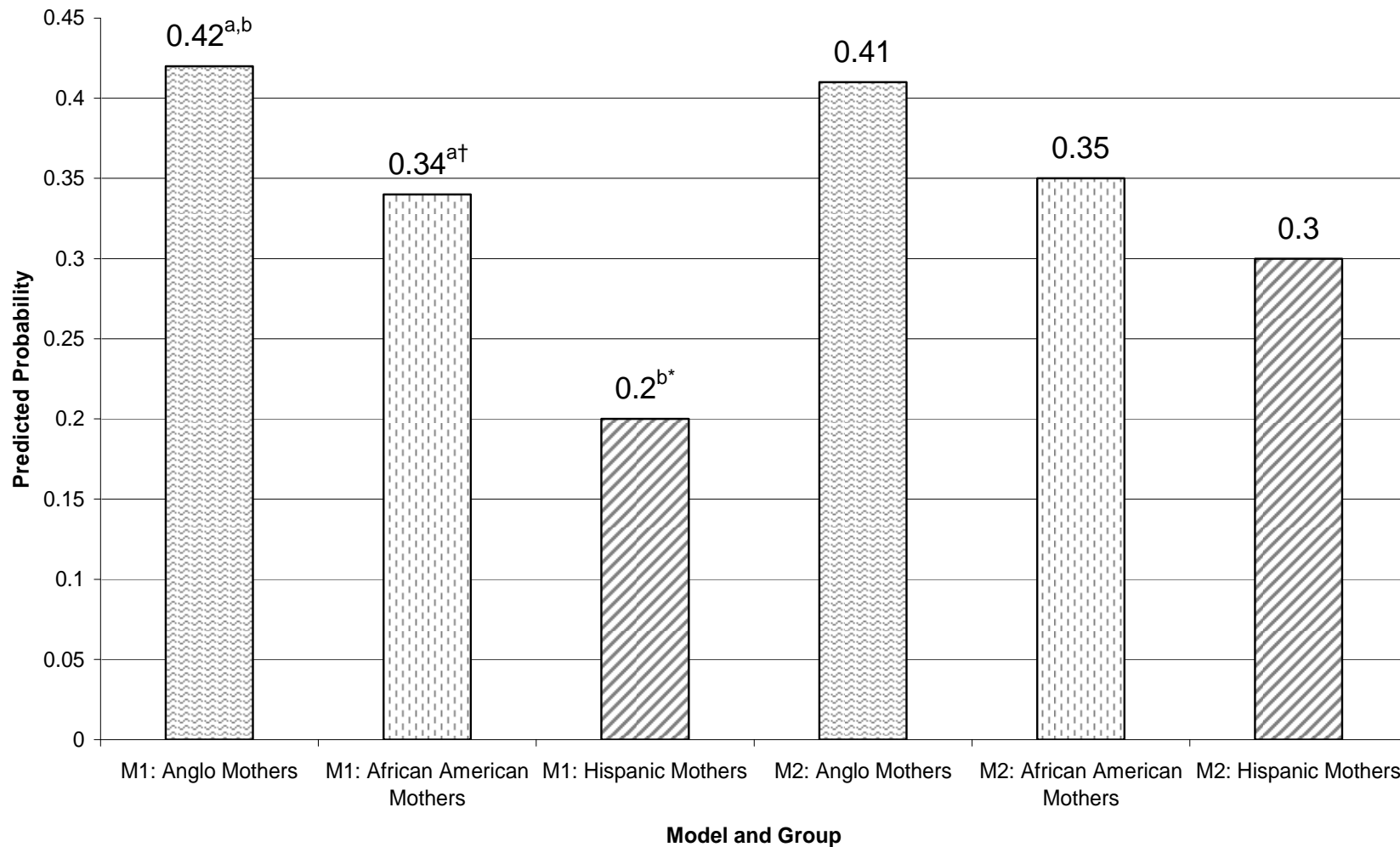
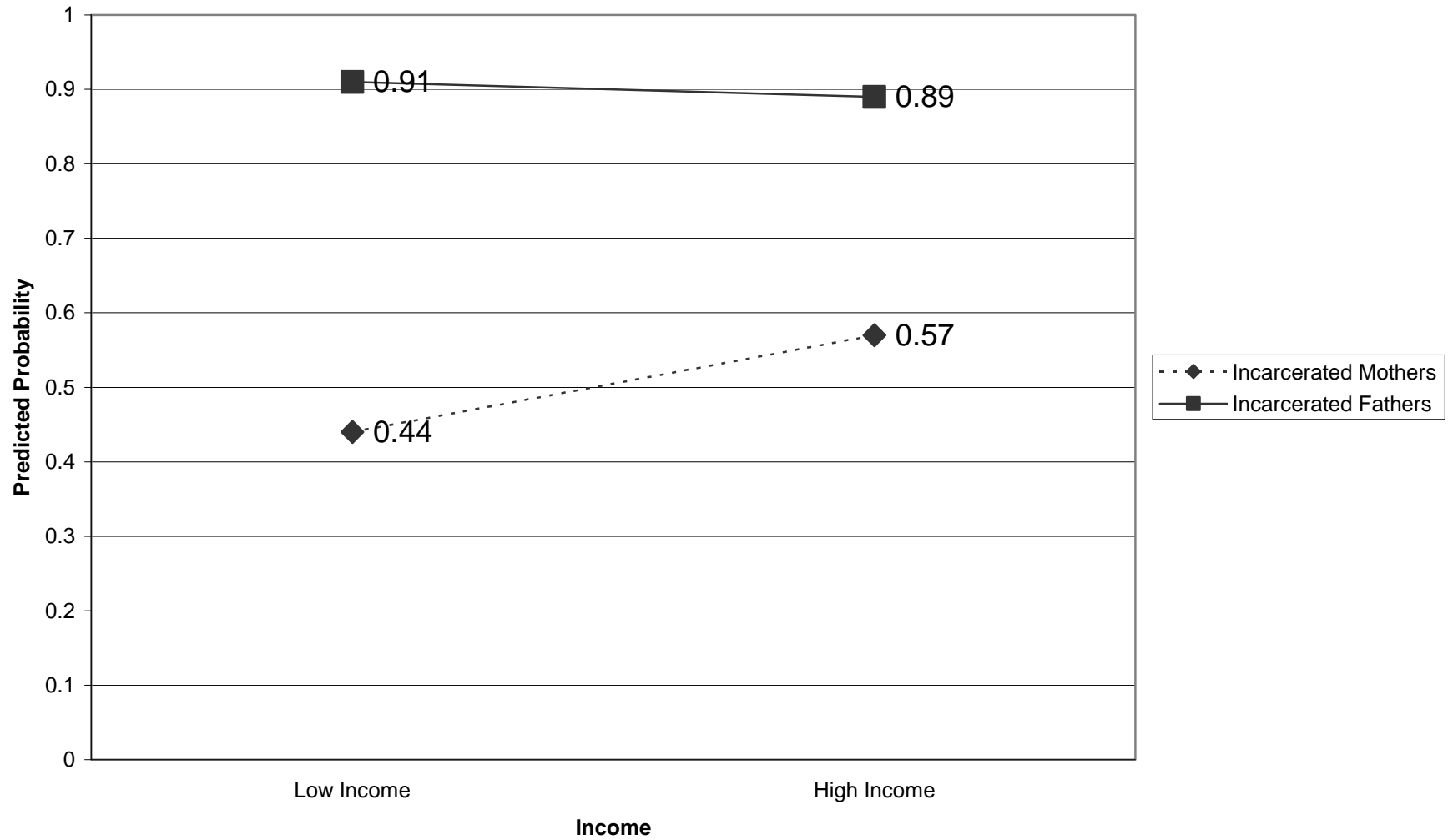


Figure 4. Predicted Probabilities of Living with the Other Parent from Multivariate Models shown by Parental Gender at Low and High Levels of Income



Policy Implications

- Children of Anglo mothers were most likely to live with their other parent during incarceration with lower levels found among African American and Hispanic mothers.
 - No race and ethnic differences among men.
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Policy Implications

- Children of African American and Hispanic mothers may therefore be more likely to face disruption in daily routines when mothers are incarcerated.
 - Further, economically privileged groups are more likely to have children living with other parent during incarceration, they may experience less disruption in living arrangements.
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Policy Implications

- Reductions in income disparities by race/ethnicity may help to minimize disruption in child living arrangements among children of incarcerated mothers.
 - Differences in child living arrangements during incarceration by gender and race/ethnicity should be considered.
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Policy Implications

- Policies aimed at minimizing disruption or assisting children with the disruption around maternal imprisonment may facilitate their well-being.
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