Luke Muentner, PhD, MSW

PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021; MSW, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2020; BS, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2017

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CV: Attached

Luke Muentner, PhD, MSW, (he/him/his) is a current post-doctoral research fellow in the Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) program with the University of Minnesota Medical's Department of Pediatrics. He earned his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work in 2021 where he also obtained his Master of Social Work degree. His work centers on the collateral consequences that incarceration, community reentry, and justice reform have for children and families. For example, Luke's dissertation provided a rigorous mixed methods examination of family reunification and changes in children's well-being when incarcerated parents are released from prison. Besides his dissertation work, he has assisted on a number of relevant research projects including designing, implementing, and evaluating a community-based intervention for fathers recently released from jail and prison; analyzing the impact of COVID-19 in jails; and evaluating a trial of educational materials for young children with incarcerated parents. Currently, Luke is co-authoring a book using data and case studies from a multi-tiered observational study with jailed parents, non-incarcerated caregivers, and young children titled, "When are you coming? How young children cope when parents go to jail."

Luke has social work practice experience providing case management to men reintegrating into the community following their release from prison, facilitating individualized and group peer support sessions for men navigating reentry, supporting a youth advisory board made up of adolescents with incarcerated parents, and engaging in grassroots community organizing efforts for criminal justice reform. Additionally, he has two-years of experience independently teaching advanced-level undergraduate seminars on policy analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Luke's research, practice, and teaching involves a critical analysis of system disparities and risk factors while emphasizing individual, family, and community resilience. He brings to his work strong analytical skills, a consistent track record of productivity, and a dedicated focus on equity and social justice.

Interests: Mass incarceration, community reentry/reintegration, criminal justice reform/decarceration; family well-being, child development; social policy, poverty

Dissertation: Reentry and Family Reunification: Examining Children's Well-being when Incarcerated Parents are Released from Prison

Graduation: 2021, completion of post-doctoral fellowship anticipated 2023