

RACE AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

PRESENTATION FOR THE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR
RACE & FAMILIES: THE CRADLE-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

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Juvenile Court 101: Purpose of The Juvenile Court

To provide rehabilitation and treatment to youth to hold them accountable and maintain public safety, while recognizing fundamental differences between youth and adults.

Brain Development – Interrogation

- Research has indicated that youth are more likely to falsely confess (42% of youth versus 13% of adults)
- Interrogating youth can have negative impacts, including:
 - False confessions, which can lead to wrongful convictions and the real perpetrator remaining at large
 - Negative emotional and psychological impacts on youth, including a possible negative association with law enforcement or traumatization
 - Reputational harm
 - Costs to both police and taxpayers (settlements both against the city and individual officers)

IACP – Adolescent Development and Policing

- Approach youth calmly
- Establish rapport
- Be patient
- Model respect
- Age-appropriate language
- Repeat/paraphrase statements
- Nonverbal communication
- Model/praise calm confidence
- Empower through choices
- Serve as positive role model

Juvenile Justice Reforms: Goal

Moving toward a “right sized” system that ensures an individually tailored, evidence-based appropriate response for each youth designed put youth on the right path.

Negative Impacts of Juvenile Justice System Involvement

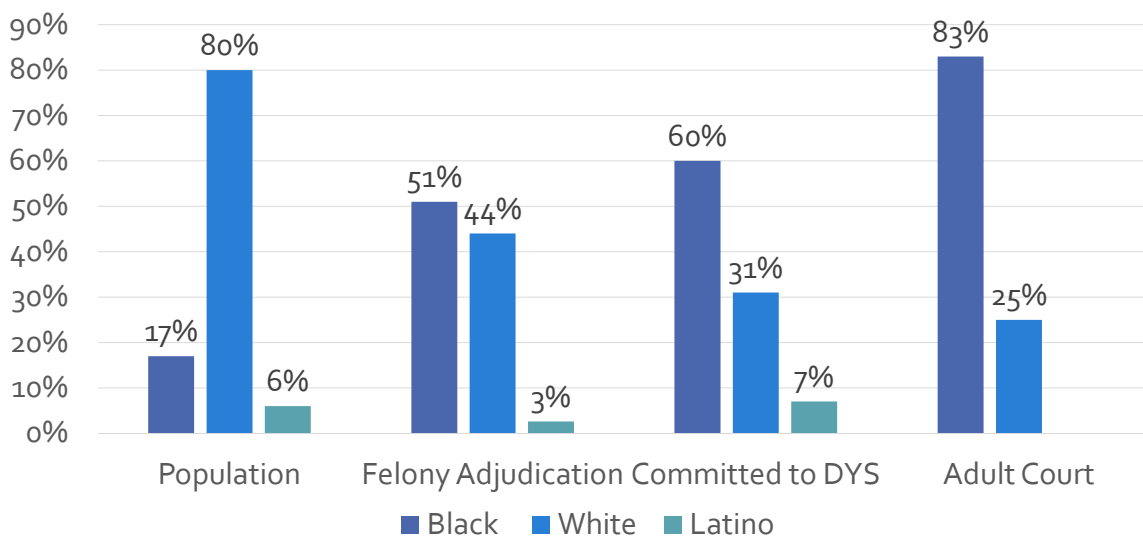
Overly punitive responses are:

- Expensive
- Ineffective and may actually reduce public safety
- Reduce youth’s ability to develop skills needed for positive adulthood
- Create collateral consequences for youth, including for employment

Negative Impacts - Detention

- Research shows that :
 - Detention is one best predictors of **recidivism**.
 - Youth who spend any amount of time in detention are **more likely to abuse substances, less likely to complete high school, less likely to find employment, and less likely to form stable families**.
 - Detention (\$60-\$136/day) is more **expensive** than community-based alternatives, like electronic monitoring and day reporting programs (\$3.75-\$50/day).

Race/Ethnicity in Ohio's JJ System



Relative Rate Index (RRI) Numbers

	White	Black	Hispanic
Arrest	1.0	3.12	0.31
Refer to Juvenile Court	1.0	1.11	1.97
Diversion	1.0	0.60	0.82
Detention	1.0	1.51	1.54
Petitioned	1.0	1.02	0.89
Delinquency	1.0	.97	0.97
Probation	1.0	.89	1.28
DYS	1.0	1.66	1.27
Adult Court	1.0	8.95	7.96

Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)

National Efforts:

- Federal law requires states to “address” disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system
- No “silver bullet”– successes have been **locally driven and purposeful** with:
 - Carefully selected leadership teams
 - Quality-driven data collection and analysis
 - Using objective screening and assessment instruments, and
 - Creating and monitoring plans to reduce RED.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)

Ohio Efforts:

- Since 2007, Ohio has devoted most of its federal funding to reducing RED
 - Focus on 14 counties that have 86% of the minority youth in the state
 - Each county has done an assessment led by DYS
 - Efforts have been targeted at African-American youth in prevention and early intervention programs
- Programs: Mentoring, life skills, diversion, truancy and school-based interventions