

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT WITH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

How is disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the juvenile justice system determined?

There are ten (10) measures:

1. Juvenile resident population
2. Juvenile arrests
3. Referrals to juvenile court
4. Diversions from juvenile court
5. Pre-disposition detention
6. Petitions
7. Adjudications
8. Adjudications that result in probation
9. Adjudications that result in secure placement, and
10. Transfer/waiver to criminal court.

Who is effected by disproportionate minority contact with the Juvenile Justice System?

- African American youth
- Latino/a Youth
- Native American Youth

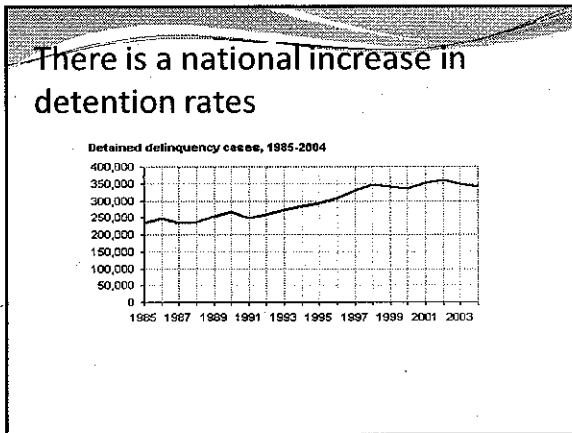
The effects of race can be felt at various decision points, they may be direct or indirect and may accumulate as the youth go through the system.

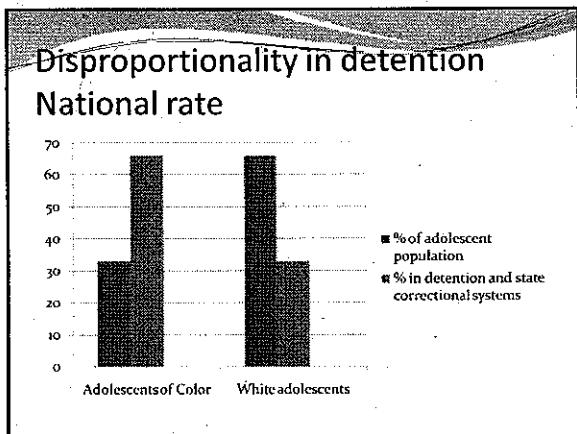
What causes disproportionate minority contact?

- Poverty
- Resource allocation that prioritizes incarceration
- Statutory biases
- Spatial segregation and its link to police and juvenile system practices
- Differential access to counsel
- Racial stereotyping and discrimination
- Cultural indifference

What effect does disproportionate minority contact have?

- Disproportionality in detention
- Vulnerability to arrest in disinvested neighborhoods
- Inequitable link between behaviors and their consequences
- Accumulated disadvantage for youth of color
- Confinement
- Transfer to adult court





Michigan: Sex by Race Population Estimates, 2006

Selecting :
age= 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17

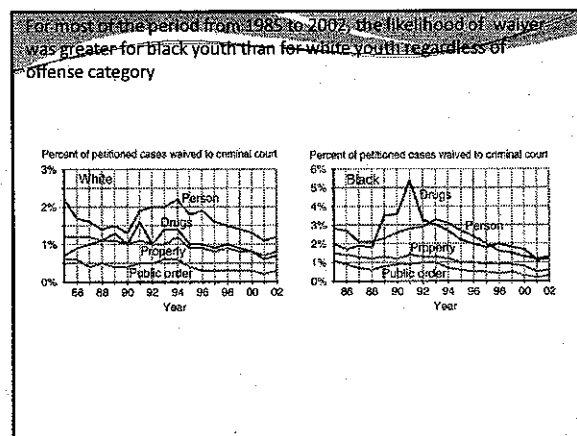
Count	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Total
Male	477,590	115,161	5,209	14,991	602,684
Female	441,598	113,091	5,213	15,186	573,308
Total	908,788	229,282	10,442	30,166	1,175,997

Michigan residential placements

Age	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian	Asian	Other
Total	7,760	4,799	1,592	11	33	9	59
12>	57	27	24	3	0	0	3
13	138	57	72	3	0	0	3
14	245	156	156	15	0	0	12
15	560	388	318	27	0	0	19
16	912	390	423	36	15	0	45
17	1,486	291	440	21	6	0	15
18<	1,655	90	53	5	0	0	3

The largest disparities can be found in drug arrests and imprisonment

- According to a recent study among youths aged 12 to 17 the rate of illicit drug use was 11.1% among white, and 9.3% among African Americans. The same survey found that white youths age 12 to 17 were more than a third more likely to have sold drugs than African American youths.
- However, African American youths are arrested for drug offenses at about twice the rate of whites (314 per 100,000 African Americans, 175 per 100,000 whites)



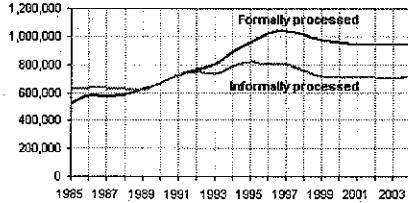
Why is it important to address this issue?

- Despite a decline in violent youth crime many states are making it easier to try youths as adults and to impose stricter penalties. The consequences are being imposed on youth of color more than Whites, even when they commit the same offenses.
- The end result will be that these youth will have difficulty obtain the education which will help them as adults. They will have difficulty obtaining sustainable employment and will be vulnerable to re-arrest.

Manner of handling cases:

Nationally there is a move to process cases formally

Delinquency cases by manner of handling, 1985-2004



Where do we go from here?

- Prevention is the beginning- The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) reauthorization mandates that states address prevention and system improvements to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact.
- Racial equity impact analyses- Existing and pending legislation should be monitored for their differential impact on racial-ethnic and language groups.
- Assessment tools that minimize bias
- Change practices that contribute to disproportionality
- Cultural competence
- Systemic change