

# INEQUALITY in the JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Our criminal justice system ends up being a pipeline from underfunded, inadequate schools to overcrowded jails.

— PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA 2015

of preschool children with more than one suspension are black

Source

JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE

48%

DISPARITY STARTS YOUNG



DISPARITY CONTINUES...



35%



20%



15%



For grades 7-12, 35% of black children were suspended or expelled at some point compared to 20% of Hispanic and 15% of white children.

Source: NAACP CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACT SHEET

## During the 2009-2010 academic year, African Americans...

were 3.5x more likely to be suspended or expelled than white students

3.5x

made up 46% of students suspended more than once

46%

comprised only 18% of enrolled U.S. students, but accounted for 39% of all expulsions

18%

Source: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## SUSPENSIONS MATTER

49% of entering high-school students with 3 suspensions drop out

Source

Each high-school DROPOUT costs society about \$200,000 over a lifetime

Source

The American justice system remains particularly skewed by race and by wealth.

— PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, 2015

"SENT HOME AND PUT OFF TRACK"

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Even though African American juveniles comprise 16 percent of the youth population, they represent

26%

of juvenile arrests

44%

of those detained

46%

of youth sent to criminal court

58%

of youth admitted to state prisons

Source

CENTER ON JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

2013 ARREST RATES

for every 1,000 people arrested ages 10 to 17

10 to 17

32.2 WHITE ARREST RATE

73.8 BLACK ARREST RATE

Source: OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

Of the 55,000 youth incarcerated in 2013, 87 percent were in for non-violent offenses

Source: BURNS INSTITUTE FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE FAIRNESS & EQUITY

African American youth have higher rates of juvenile incarceration and are more likely to be sentenced to adult prison... 37% of African American juvenile cases are moved to criminal court 58% of those youths are sent to adult prisons

Source: THE SENTENCING PROJECT

## DISPARITY IS NOT ONLY ON RACIAL LINES

A SEPTEMBER 2015 STUDY UNCOVERED A STARTLING GENDER AND RACIAL DISPARITY IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

over the last 20 years while overall juvenile arrests and detentions declined...

female arrests increased 45%

girls constituted 40% of court caseloads

detentions jumped 40%

disparity was found in the way females were treated as opposed to males...

35% of detained girls were locked up for status offenses or technical violations, versus 25% of boys

21% of girls were detained for weaponless, simple assault and public-order offenses, versus 12% of boys

there is inequality across racial and ethnic lines...

black girls were 20% more likely to be detained than white girls

American Indian/Alaska Native girls were 50% more likely to be detained

## WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE LOCKED UP?

Youth offenders serving life without parole are imprisoned in conditions that violate fundamental international human rights. — "AGAINST ALL ODDS" Human Rights Watch Report, 2012

Incarcerated youth commit suicide at a rate two to three times higher than the general population. — OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

A study revealed that for one-third of incarcerated youth diagnosed with depression, the depression occurred after the start of their incarceration. — JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE

## THE COST OF INCARCERATING JUVENILES

Source: JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE

IS \$8 TO \$21 BILLION A YEAR INCLUDING RUNNING DETENTION FACILITIES, LOST FUTURE EARNINGS, LOST TAX REVENUE AND OTHER NEGATIVE EFFECTS.

THE COST FOR LOCKING UP JUVENILES AND ADULTS IS \$80,000,000,000

Source: PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, 2015

that money could...

Provide universal preschool for every 3-year-old and 4-year-old in America

Finance new roads, bridges and airports; job-training programs; research and development

Double the salary of every high-school teacher in America

Eliminate tuition at every U.S. public college and university

MST® is an intensive family- and community-based therapy that targets adolescents engaging in risky and antisocial behavior. MST works with youth in their natural settings—home, school and neighborhood—to promote positive social behavior and decrease delinquency. MST is often used as an alternative to placing a youth outside the home.

The primary goals of MST are to reduce youth criminal activity and other types of undesirable behavior (e.g., drug abuse) and to achieve these outcomes at a cost savings by decreasing rates of incarceration and out-of-home placements.

MST has proven treatment models that work with the following populations and their families.

- Juvenile offenders
- Abused and neglected youth
- Substance-abusing youth
- Incarcerated juvenile offenders
- Juvenile sex offenders
- Young people with psychiatric needs

More adaptations are being studied.