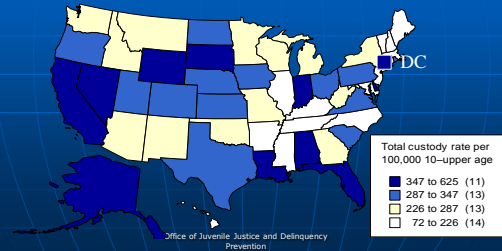


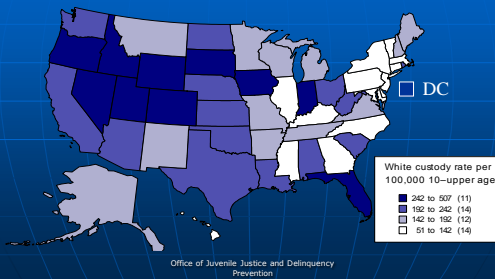
Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System: An Emerging Issue for Missouri's Latino Youth

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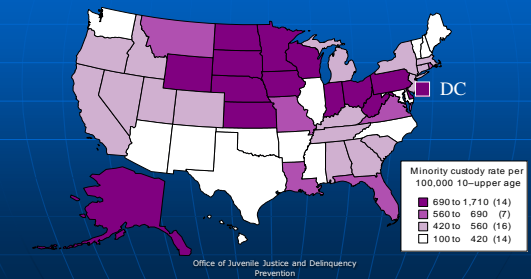
On a typical day in 2003, 307 of every 100,000 juveniles were in custody



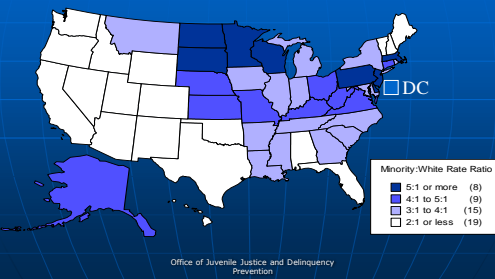
On a typical day in 2003, 190 of every 100,000 white juveniles were in custody



On a typical day in 2003, 502 of every 100,000 minority juveniles were in custody



In 17 States in 2003, the minority rate was at least 4 times the white rate



Differential Offending Do minorities commit more crimes?

In the last 12 months did you	Caucasian	African-Am	Latino
Carry a handgun	10%	8%	8%
Destroy property	21%	18%	17%
Steal over \$50	7%	7%	8%
Assault someone	15%	21%	13%

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997

Missouri Juvenile Court Referrals, CY05

	Frequency	Percent of all referrals
Caucasian	37,880	65%
African-American	18,557	32%
Latino	873	1.5%

Source: MO Office of State Courts Administrator

Of those referred, how many in each group end up in detention?

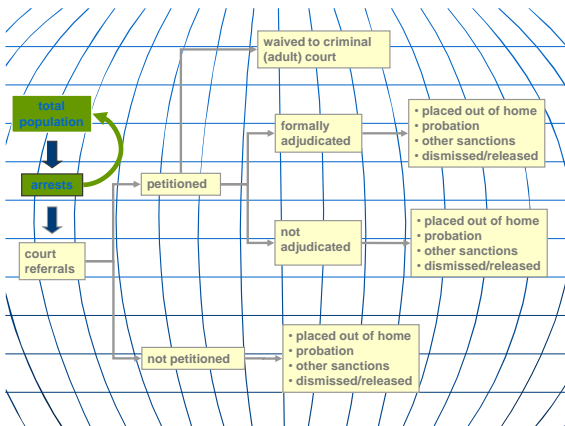
Caucasian	8%
African-American	15%
Latino	13%

Within each group, how many were formally processed?

Caucasian	24%
African-American	51%
Latino	32%

Of those formally processed, how many were placed out of home?

Caucasian	22%
African-American	20%
Latino	27%



The DMC Initiative

- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act re-authorized in 1988
- Amended to require all states to address efforts to reduce DMConfinement
- 1994 new funds allotted to address issue
- Ensure equal and fair treatment of every youth in the juvenile justice system regardless of race or ethnicity

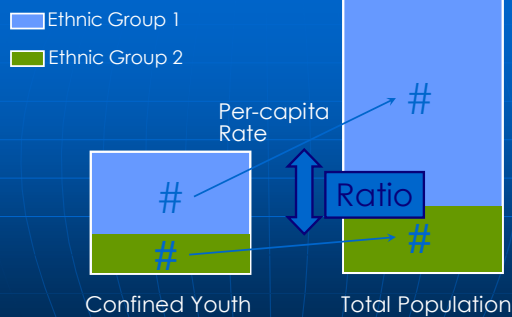
Goal of the DMC Initiative

- Priority: improve juvenile justice practices by increasing compliance with the core requirement regarding DMC
- Core requir.-reduce the number of minority youth in secure facilities where proportion minority youth exceeds proportion in general population
- Presence of DMC suggests that selection bias may be operating in the juvenile justice system.

Identifying disparities at the community level

- RRI (Relative Rate Index) The rate per 1000 of each minority group is compared to the rate per 1000 of Caucasian incidents.
- A ratio of 1.00 shows proportionality.
- Overrepresentation is denoted by numbers greater than 1.00
- while underrepresentation is denoted by numbers less than 1.00.

New Method (RRI)



Source: Feyerherm & Butts 2003, OJJDP

AREA REPORTED		Data Entry Section											
State: Test State		Reporting Period: Jan / 2002 (Month / Year)											
County: Sample		through Dec / 2002 (Month / Year)											
		Total		Black or African-American		Hispanic or Latino		Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders		American Indian or Alaska Native		Other/Mixed	
Block in Figure 1		Youth	White										
A	1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)	118,722	39,117	6,460	52,433	19,750						972	
B	2. Juvenile Arrests	13,585	3,058	2,055	7,220	1,091						29	132
C	3. Refer to Juvenile Court												
D	4. Cases Diverted	306	113	28	136	19						0	10
E	5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	2,314	401	354	1,300	243						8	8
F	6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	5,859	1,000	901	3,113	523						16	36
G	7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	4,058	555	894	2,195	384						15	15
H	8. Cases resulting in Probation Placement	2,501	585	362	1,330	201						13	10
	9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	1,629	284	241	908	189						3	4

State: XXXXXX
 County: YYYYYY

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence White Youth	Rate of Occurrence Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age YY through XX)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	78.18	318.11	4.07
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	0.00	0.00	-
4. Cases Diverted	3.70	1.36	0.37
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	13.11	17.23	1.31
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	32.70	43.84	1.34
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	55.50	99.22	1.79
8. Cases resulting in Probation Placement	105.41	40.49	0.38
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	51.17	26.96	0.53

Why DMC is a concern- Social costs

- Social costs of mass incarceration in minority neighborhoods
- "Exposure to incarceration is a defining experience in influencing how people feel about public and private social control (Rose, Clear & Ryder 2001)."
- Disrupts social networks, civic participation, and collective efficacy (Roberts 2006).

Why DMC is a concern- Economic Costs

- Have not been analyzed empirically
- Economic implications for the justice system: costs of law enforcement, court administration, treatment, physical facilities
- Economic implications for the system-involved youth: income earning capacity, educational achievement, ability to avoid future incarceration

Legal Compliance Costs

- Reducing DMC is the law
- The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act reauthorization mandates that states address prevention and system improvement to reduce DMC at every critical contact point within the juvenile justice system.
- States that are not in compliance will lose federal funds.

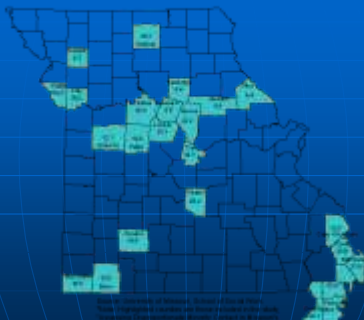
Missouri's Response

- Jackson County, St. Louis City, St. Louis County have had programs to address DMC.
- A statewide coordinator regularly sends reports to the federal government.
- OJJDP's website on DMC www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dmc
- Public Safety sponsored statewide project

The Public Safety Study

- *Numbers only tell part of the story*
- Assessed court contact data by race/ethnicity for all study counties
- Conducted youth focus groups
- Interviewed court personnel
- Collected data from child welfare and education systems
- Held key stakeholder meetings to present findings

Percent Minority Population Ages 10 to 17, 2005*



RRIs for Latino youth court contacts 2004

	Sullivan	Greene	McDonald
Juv.arrests	Over	Under	Over
Court referral	Over		Over
Diverted	Equal	Equal	
Detention		Under	Under
Petition	Under	Over	Under
Delinquen t	Equal		Equal
Probation			Over

Possible Sources of DMC

Risk Factors negatively impacting the well-being of children

- Individual level factors: low IQ, impulsiveness
- Family level factors: poverty, single parent household, ineffective parenting, substance abuse
- Community level factors: high crime rates, high number dysfunctional families, high number of low income households, high number of school dropouts

Source: Howell 2003

Socioeconomic Indicators of Differential Risk Exposure

Social Indicator	Caucasian	African-American	Latino
Children living in poverty, 2000	13.5%	33.1%	30.3%
Female headed HH in poverty, 2000	19.8%	41%	40.7%
Homicides/100,000 1997	3.9	26.6	12.4(1996)

Source: Roberts 2006.

Out-of-Home Placement

- Number in foster care/1,000 children
 - African American 21
 - Native American 16
 - Latino 7
 - Caucasian 5

Source: Roberts 2006

Special Education System

- Once labeled as disabled, minority students are disproportionately excluded from mainstream classrooms
- Minority students with disabilities face harsher discipline than other disabled or minority students.

Source: Children's Defense Fund, 2004, Fact Sheet

Latino Students in Special Education, CY04

	Special Ed students who are Latino
Barry	7% (62)
Clay	5% (211)
McDonald	13% (54)
Sullivan	10% (18)

Source: MO Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education

School Experience and Outcomes

- Ineffective school discipline practices (ex. Out of school suspension) increase the chances of dropping out.

study counties(n=9) reporting school discipline RRI's over 1.0 for Latino, 2004

Out of school suspension	5
Alternative school	5
Violent act reported	6
Expulsion	3

Source: MO Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education, CORE Data

Latino drop out rates in study counties with significant Latino youth population, 2004

Barry	6%
McDonald	4%
Sullivan	3%

Source: MO Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education
State average Latino drop out rate: 5.3%

Latino drop out rates in study counties with significant Af-Am/Latino youth population, 2004

Clay	3%
Johnson	29%
Pettis	3%
Platte	1%
Pulaski	2%
Saline	5%

Consequences for drop outs

- Those who drop out are 3.5x as likely to be arrested.
- In 2001 50% of Af-Am & 53% of Latino students graduated from High School. Once a youth drops out, their future prospects decline substantially.
- Missouri drop outs have an unemployment rate of 20% (compared to 4.4% for high school graduates.)
- Of those who are employed, they earn on average \$10,000 less per year than a graduate.

Source: Child Trends, 2004, Fact Sheet

- And, of particular relevance to this study, Missouri high school drop outs are twice as likely to be incarcerated as are those who graduate.

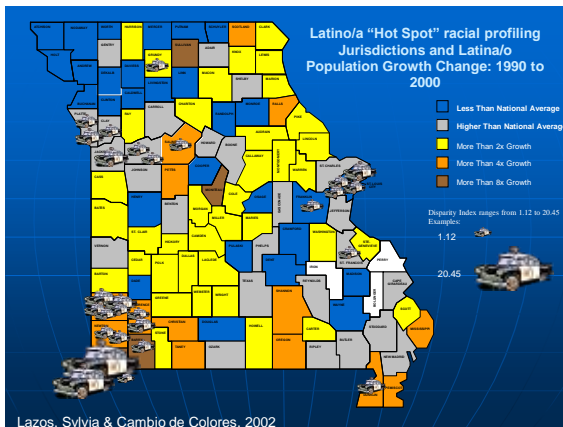
Conclusion from risk studies

Differential exposure to risk throughout childhood leads to greater accumulated risks for minority children and greater likelihood of being involved with the juvenile justice system.

Another Source of DMC: Bias

- Overt, blatant –racial profiling for traffic stops
- Subtle-
 - Individual level- making decisions based on an individual's dress, demeanor, or family situation
 - Institutional level- policies and procedures that disadvantage certain groups (case processing decision criteria or lack thereof)

Source: Lieber 2005



Sources of Bias- Myths

- Super predator myth (Dilulio 1995)
 - Children with no father, no job and no God.
- Crime Bomb myth (Fox 1996)
 - Growing number of minority teens flooding the streets.



Assumptions behind the myths

- The proportion of serious, violent offenders is growing. (yes, increased 4%)
- Offenders are younger. (not substantiated)
- Juveniles are committing more serious crimes (not substantiated).

Source: Snyder 1998

Crime wave never happened

- Drops outs found jobs in robust economy
- Demographic shift- increase in Latinos in central cities (more intact families, higher religious participation) Blumstein & Wallman 2006
- Overall decrease in violent youth crime through 2004
- Since 2005 more violent crimes have been committed by youth (under age

Concerns about a new crime wave are emerging

- In 2004, 49% of gang members were Latino
- The most common law violations relate to violent crime: weapons violations, homicide, and aggravated assault.

Source: Snyder & Sickmund 2006

Media Portrayal of Minorities, Delinquency, and Crime

- "Hispanic Family Values", Heather McDonald, Manhattan Institute, *City Journal*
- Concluded "the Hispanic baby boom is certain to produce more delinquents"
- Research on other groups showed a relationship between out-of-wedlock births and social and behavioral problems, including crime.

Reinforcing labels and bias thru exclusion

- Brochure promoting a Missouri town with a significant minority population



Summary: Status of Latino Youth in Missouri

- Not appearing in juvenile justice system in significant numbers
- Disproportionately represented at the entry point, arrest
- And once in the system, more likely to be detained, adjudicated, placed in out of home care

What factors indicate reasons for future justice system involvement?

- More likely to live in poverty, single parent home, low income neighborhood
- Special education
- Disproportionately represented in out-of-school suspension, expulsion, alternative school, and reported violent acts
- Media coverage of Latino issues-bias, myths

What can be done?

- Record and report more statistics based on ethnicity (child abuse/neglect, arrest)
- Monitor the status indicators for early warning signs and system involvement
- Address community climate through data
- Work with gatekeepers (school resource officers, law enforcement, juvenile officers) to develop understanding of Latino youth and their families

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