



**National Center for Mental
Health and Juvenile Justice**

NCMHJJ

Annotated Bibliography

Youth of Color

April 2008

Books and journal articles listed herein are available from your local library or through inter-library loan. Unless otherwise noted, all other materials are available from the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice.

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Resource #: 011082 (Newsletter Article: 2 pages)

Citation: **Portland Successfully Reduces Racial Disparity in Juvenile Detention.** Juvenile Justice Update 7(7):5-6, 2002.

Abstract: According to a new analysis of Multnomah County (Portland, Oregon) data completed by the Washington, DC based Justice Policy Institute (JPI), racial disparities in Multnomah's juvenile detention center declined sharply through the 1990s as the result of concerted efforts to bring them down. This article discusses the findings of a report entitled "Reducing Disproportionate Minority Confinement: The Multnomah County Oregon Success Story and its Implications," and how this community attacked a problem that is serious nearly everywhere in the country.

Resource #: 013329 (Journal Article: 21 pages)

Citation: Brown Ray, K., Alarid, L. **Examining Racial Disparity of Male Property Offenders in the Missouri Juvenile Justice System.** Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice 2(2): 107-128, 2004.

Abstract: This study used juvenile court data to examine to what extent racial disparity and discrimination existed for male property offenders within six counties in Missouri. Logistic regression analyses tested probabilities of juveniles being processed in the system at four decision-making points; referral, detention, adjudication, and disposition when available legal factors and county type were controlled. The authors found evidence of contextual racial discrimination in some jurisdictions during selected decision points in the juvenile justice system. In all counties combined, black youth were more likely to be formally referred and detained before adjudication, whereas white youth were more likely to be adjudicated. (authors)

Resource #: 015730 (Report: 92 Pages)

Citation: Building Blocks for Youth Initiative. **No Turning Back: Promising Approaches to Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Affecting Youth of Color in the Justice System.** Washington DC: Building Blocks for Youth Initiative, 2005.

Abstract: No Turning Back, a project of the Building Blocks for Youth Initiative, provides promising approaches to reduce racial and ethnic disparities that affect youth of color in the justice system and promote fair juvenile justice polices. This report documents the efforts made by the advocates of BBY as well as strategies, ideas, and models that will promote the project's goals.

Available from: Youth Law Center, 1010 Vermont Avenue NW Suite 310, Washington DC 20005, (202)-637-0377, <http://www.buildingblocksforyouth.org>.

Resource #: 015763 (Paper: 11 Pages)

Citation: Center for Children's Law and Policy **Potential for Change: Public Attitudes and Policy Preferences for Juvenile Justice Systems Reform.** Washington DC: Center for Children's Law and Policy, 2008.

Abstract: New polling data on Americans' attitudes about youth, race and crime reveal strong support for juvenile justice reforms that focus on rehabilitating youthful offenders rather than locking them up in adult prisons. The public also believes that African American and poor youth receive less favorable treatment than those who are white or middle class (authors).

Available from: The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, 140 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago IL 60603-5285, (312)726-8000, www.macfound.org.

Resource #: 012326 (Report: 25 pages)

Citation: Dahlberg, R. **Disproportionate Minority Confinement in Massachusetts: Failures in Assessing and Addressing the Overrepresentation of Minorities in the Massachusetts Juvenile Justice System.** New York, NY: American Civil Liberties Union, 2003.

Abstract: For this report, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) obtained relevant documents from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Massachusetts state agency

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responsible for administering federal and state-funded criminal justice grants. These documents revealed that, for at least the last ten years, Massachusetts' youth of color have been overrepresented at every decision-making point in the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system. Although OJJDP audits repeatedly have found Massachusetts to be in compliance with the Delinquency Prevention Act's mandate, the Commonwealth appears to have taken no meaningful steps to address racial disparities. This report concludes with recommendations on ways to improve the current disproportionate minority confinement situation in the Massachusetts juvenile justice system.

Resource #: 010373 (Bulletin: 12)

Citation: Devine, P., Coolbaugh, K., Jenkins, S. **Disproportionate Minority Confinement: Lessons Learned From Five States.** Washington, DC:Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, December 1998.

Abstract: In 1991, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) established its Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) initiative to assist states in their efforts to address DMC issues, as provided by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Subsequently, OJJDP awarded funds to five states (Arizona, Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, and Oregon) to test various approaches for addressing DMC. This bulletin describes how the pilot states assessed the extent to which minority juveniles were disproportionately confined by their juvenile justice systems, designed comprehensive DMC strategies, and implemented intervention to address identified problems.

Available from: www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

Resource #: 015548 (Journal Article: 12 pages)

Citation: Freedenthal, S. **Racial Disparities in Mental Health Service Use by Adolescents Who Thought About or Attempted Suicide.** *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior* 37(1): 22-34, 2007.

Abstract: Differences in rates and predictors of mental health service use among 2,226 Black, Hispanic, and White adolescents (ages 12-17) who reported recent suicidal thoughts or an attempts were examined. Black adolescents were 65% (OR=.65, $p<.05$), and Hispanic adolescents were 55% (OR=.55, $p<.001$), as likely as White adolescents to report service use, even when controlling for need for care and ability to secure services. Suicide attempt and psychiatric symptoms each interacted with race to increase the odds of service use uniquely for White, adolescents. Results indicate that racial disparities characterize adolescents' mental health service use even when suicide risk increases (authors).

Resource #: 011398 (Report: 79 pages)

Citation: Hoytt, E., Schiraldi, V., Smith, B., Ziedenberg, J. **Reducing Racial Disparities in Juvenile Detention.** Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2002.

Abstract: Since 1989, federal mandates have provided that states should do something about disproportionate minority confinement, but there has been little progress. In fact, racial disparities in juvenile justice deepened throughout the 1990s. In December 1992, the Annie E. Casey Foundation launched a multi-year, multi-site project known as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Its purpose was to demonstrate that jurisdictions can establish more effective and efficient systems to accomplish the purposes of juvenile detention. Participating sites pursued a set of strategies to change detention policies and practices. Two counties, Multnomah and Santa Cruz, demonstrated empirically that jurisdictions can not only reduce the number of youth behind bars, but also the odds that kids of color will be detained. This has resulted in emerging models for a fairer justice system for juveniles.

Available from: www.aecf.org

Resource #: 013938 (Report: 42 pages)

Citation: Hsia, H., Bridges, G., McHale, R. **Disproportionate Minority Confinement: 2002 Update.** Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2004.

Abstract: This summary provides an overview of recent disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) -

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related developments. It begins with a brief review of the data, followed by an outline of national efforts during the past five years to address this challenge. It then summarizes state activities, providing an update on DMC compliance, presenting findings from assessment studies, documenting efforts to reduce DMC, and identifying remaining challenges. As an example of a comprehensive approach to DMC, the summary describes Washington State's three-pronged approach - research, legislative reform, and programmatic and administrative initiatives at the state and county levels - which has brought some important reductions in disproportionality at most stages of the juvenile justice process (authors).

Resource #: 011021 (Report: 17 pages)

Citation: Justice Policy Institute. **Reducing Disproportionate Minority Confinement: The Multnomah County, Oregon Success Story and its Implications.** Washington, DC: Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, 2002.

Abstract: This policy brief will review the work done in one jurisdiction that has succeeded in reducing the number of minority youth detained pre-trial, summarize the lessons learned from innovations in Multnomah County, Oregon, and highlight their national significance. Multnomah County's success story provides inspiration for communities looking to create a more efficient and fairer juvenile justice system.

Available from: Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, <http://www.cjcj.org>.

Resource #: 011792 (Newsletter: 7 pages)

Citation: Leiber, M. **State Responses to Disproportionate Minority Youth Confinement.** Iowa City, IA: National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice, 2002.

Abstract: Beginning with Fiscal Year 1994 funds, states participating in the Federal Formula Grants Program were required to determine whether disproportionate minority confinement exists, identify the causes, and develop and implement corrective strategies. States failing to make progress, or at least show a good-faith effort toward this endeavor, risked losing one-fourth of their Formula Grant funds for the year and the remaining three-fourths had to be directed toward achieving compliance. The main objective of the present research is to examine the DMC mandate: identification of the extent of minority overrepresentation in states' juvenile justice systems and assessment of the causes of DMC. The discussion centers on the politics and practical limitations that surround and hinder the implementation of the DMC requirement.

Resource #: 015592 (Report: 38 pages)

Citation: National Council on Crime and Delinquency **And Justice for Some: Differential Treatment of Youth of Color in the Justice System.** Oakland CA: National Council on Crime and Delinquency, 2007.

Abstract: The disproportionate representation of racial or ethnic minorities is found in all stages of the juvenile justice system. The overrepresentation is often a product of actions that occur at earlier points in the juvenile justice system. Youth of color are more likely than others to become involved with the juvenile justice system. Racial or ethnic differences tend to accumulate as youth are processed through the system. This report documents a juvenile justice system that is separate and unequal (authors).

Available from: National Council on Crime and Delinquency, 1970 Broadway, Suite 500, Oakland CA 94612, (510) 208-0500, www.nccd-crc.org.

Resource #: 011084 (Report: 30 pages)

Citation: Poe-Yamagata, E., Jones, M. **And Justice for Some.** Washington, DC: Building Blocks for Youth, 2002.

Abstract: This report examines the issue of disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) as defined by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which refers to a situation in which the minority proportion of juveniles detained or confined in secure detention facilities, secure correctional facilities, jails, and lockups exceeds the proportion of such groups in the general population. Studies suggest that

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processing decisions in many states and local juvenile justice systems are not racially neutral. Minority youth are more likely than white youth to become involved in the system with their overrepresentation increasing at each stage of the process. This report calls for a nationwide effort to identify the causes of this differential treatment of minority youth and a concerted campaign to provide a fair and equal justice system for all youth.

Available from: www.buildingblocksforyouth.org/justiceforsome/jfs.html

Resource #: 011579 (Literature Review: 43 pages)

Citation: Pope, C., Lovell, R., Hsia, H. **Disproportionate Minority Confinement: A Review of the Research Literature from 1989 through 2001.** Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2002.

Abstract: In the past decade, national attention has been directed to the impact of race on juvenile justice decisionmaking. The purpose of this bulletin is to extend earlier analysis of disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) by examining research found in professional academic journals and edited books during the subsequent 12-year period. Conference papers or presentations are excluded from the current review, as are unpublished State studies or plans, except when portions of these may have formed the basis for a journal publication. The review sought to answer the question of what the existing periodical research tells us about the processing of minority youth through the juvenile justice system. This bulletin details the results of this analysis, offers guidelines for future DMC research, and outlines considerations for a national policy agenda regarding such research.

Available from: www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

Resource #: 011426 (Journal Article: 24 pages)

Citation: Wilson, S., Lipsey, M., Soydan, H. **Are Mainstream Programs for Juvenile Delinquency Less Effective with Minority Youth than Majority Youth?** *Research on Social Work Practice* 13(1): 3-26, 2003.

Abstract: A meta-analysis was undertaken to synthesize research results about the effectiveness of mainstream service programs for minority juvenile delinquents relative to white delinquents. The analysis addresses the questions of whether mainstream interventions that are not culturally tailored for minority youth have positive outcomes on their subsequent antisocial behavior, academic performance, peer relations, behavior problems, and other outcomes. In addition outcomes were compared with those for white samples receiving the same interventions to identify any differences in the responsiveness of minority and majority youth. Overall, service programs were equally effective for minority and white delinquents. While there were slight differences in effectiveness for different service types between minority and majority youth, none of these differences was statistically significant. The use of mainstream service programs for ethnic minority juvenile delinquents without cultural tailoring is supported by these findings.

Resource #: 015492 (Journal Article: 41 pages)

Citation: Yasui, M., Dishion, T. **The Ethnic Context of Child and Adolescent Problem Behavior: Implications for Child and Family Interventions.** *Clinical Child and Family Psychology* 10(2): 137-179, 2007.

Abstract: This article links the empirical literature on race and ethnicity in developmental psychopathology with interventions designed to reduce adolescent problem behavior. We present a conceptual framework in which culture is endogenous to the socialization of youth and the development of specific self-regulatory strategies. The importance of cultural influence is identified at three levels: (a) intrapersonal developmental processes (e.g., ethnic identity development, development of coping modifies mechanisms and self-regulatory mechanisms), (b) family socialization processes (e.g., racial and ethnic socialization), and (c) interaction with larger societal contexts (e.g., maintenance of bicultural competence in adapting to mainstream and ethnic cultures). We discuss limitations of current assessment

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and intervention practices that focus on reducing adolescent problem behavior with respect to the cultural issues identified above. We propose that empirically supported adaptive and tailored interventions for adolescent problem behavior are optimal for serving multicultural children and families. To empower such interventions to better serve children and families of color, it is essential that assessments that guide the adaptation and tailoring process include culturally salient dynamics such as ethnic identity, racial socialization, and culturally informed parenting practices (authors).