

## JUVENILE JUSTICE FACT SHEET

### **From 2002 to 2004, African Americans were:**

- 16% of youth population in the U.S.
- 28% of juvenile arrests
- 58% of youth admitted to state adult prison

◇ Nationwide, youth of color were overrepresented in the detained population at 3.1 times the rate of White youth.

◇ Overall, custody rates were 4 times greater for African American youth than for White youth. Custody rates for Latino and Native American youth were 1.8 and 2.6 times the custody rate of White youth, respectively.

◇ A 1995 study found that African American and Latino youth had higher incarceration rates in state public facilities than White youth when controlling for current offense and prior admissions.

- When White youth and African American youth were charged with the same offenses, African American youth with no prior admissions were six times more likely to be incarcerated in public facilities than White youth with the same background. Latino youth were three times more likely than White youth to be incarcerated.

- Admission rates to public facilities were seven times greater among African American youth with one or two prior admissions than among White youth in 1993. The admission rate for Latino youth was twice the rate of White youth.

- African American youth were confined on average for 61 days longer than White youth, and Latino youth were confined 112 days longer than White youth.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE FACT SHEET

### **Detention**

- Although White youth made up a majority of the juvenile court referral population, nationwide, in every offense category—person, property, drug, public order—African American youth were disproportionately detained.

### **Formal Processing**

- African American youth were more likely than White youth to be formally charged in juvenile court, even when referred for the same type of offense.
- Although just over half of drug cases involving White youth resulted in formal processing, over three-quarters of drug cases involving African American youth result in formal processing.

### **Waiver to Adult Court**

- An estimated 6,735 petitioned delinquency cases were waived from juvenile to adult court in 2003.
- African American youth were somewhat more likely to be waived to adult criminal court than White youth. This varied to a degree by offense category.
- For drug cases, White youth were 69% of cases petitioned but only 58% of cases waived to adult court. African American youth charged with drug offenses were 29% of cases petitioned but 41% of cases waived to adult court. Thus, among drug offense cases referred to juvenile court, White youth enjoy an 11% “waiver advantage,” while African American youth carry a 12% “waiver disadvantage.”

### **Disposition**

- African American youth were overrepresented among cases receiving a disposition of out-of-home placement (commitment to a locked institution). This was true in all offense categories and was most pronounced among drug offense cases.
- Conversely, White youth were more likely than African American youth to be placed on probation.

### **Incarceration in Adult Prisons**

- In 2002, an estimated 4,100 new admissions to adult prisons involved youth under the age of 18. Three out of four of these youths were youth of color. African American youth accounted for 58% of total admission to adult prisons.
- Overrepresentation of youth of color and underrepresentation of White youth were reported by nearly every state reporting admissions of youth under age 18 to adult prisons in 2002.

*Source: National Council on Crime and Delinquency “And Justice for Some: Differential Treatment of Youth of Color in the Justice System” (January 2007)*

# JUVENILE JUSTICE FACT SHEET

## Likelihood of Imprisonment

Approximately 1 in 17 African American males will be incarcerated across the nation before reaching the age of 18. This is compared to 1 in 45 Latino males and 1 in 91 White males.

### State Examples:

There were large differences by state, race and gender. For example, in South Carolina, the estimated prevalence rate for African-American males was 1 in 3 would be taken into state custody before age 18 and in Ohio, 1 in 9 African-American males would be incarcerated before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. At the same time less than 1% of the juveniles in Vermont would be incarcerated in their juvenile lifetime.

Source: Juvenile Justice Coalition. *“Disproportionate confinement of minorities in juvenile justice”* (2006).

## Youth in Adult Prison

<b>Youth in Adult Prison: Rates of New Prison Commitments by State and Race/Ethnicity (per 100,000), 2002</b>		
	<b>White</b>	<b>African American</b>
<b>United States</b>	5	44.1
Alabama	8.5	41.5
Alaska	15.5	73
Arizona	0	0
Arkansas	11.4	59.9
California	1.5	19.3
Colorado	3.6	46.1
Connecticut	0	0
Delaware	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0
Florida	8	67.6
Georgia	7.6	32.5
Hawaii	0	0
Idaho	0	0
Illinois	7.6	74.7
Indiana	0	0
Iowa	13	81
Kansas	0	0
Kentucky	0	2.3
Louisiana	5.6	33.2
Maine	.7	0

## JUVENILE JUSTICE FACT SHEET

Maryland	3.6	53.7
Massachusetts	0	0
Michigan	6.7	46.8
Minnesota	1.6	20.4
Mississippi	18.1	59.6
Missouri	14.5	40.3
Montana	0	0
Nebraska	5.2	49.7
Nevada	6.4	8.5
New Hampshire	2.1	0
New Jersey	.5	14.5
New Mexico	0	0
New York	2.2	41.2
North Carolina	16.5	100.5
North Dakota	0	0
Ohio	4.9	42.1
Oklahoma	4	14.5
Oregon	16.3	142.6
Pennsylvania	1	19.6
Rhode Island	0	0
South Carolina	30	100.7
South Dakota	2.6	96.5
Tennessee	2.7	17.3
Texas	4.2	29.3
Utah	3.4	0
Vermont	0	0
Virginia	1.3	25.6
Washington	5.8	60.7
West Virginia	0	0
Wisconsin	8.1	154.6
Wyoming	0	0

Table adapted from *National Council on Crime and Delinquency "And Justice for Some: Differential Treatment of Youth of Color in the Justice System" (January 2007)*

# JUVENILE JUSTICE FACT SHEET

## Risk Factors Related to Delinquency

Juvenile justice research has linked risk factors to delinquency; some research has noted a multiplicative effect if several risk factors are present. For example, a 10-year-old exposed to six or more risk factors is 10 times as likely to commit a violent act by age 18 as a 10-year-old exposed to only one risk factor.

Risk Factors by Domain		
Risk Factors		
Domain	Early Onset (age 6-11)	Late Onset (age 12-14)
Individual	General offenses Substance use Being male Aggression * Hyperactivity Problem (Antisocial) behavior Exposure to TV violence Medical, physical problems Low IQ Antisocial attitudes, beliefs Dishonesty *	General offenses Restlessness Difficulty concentrating * Risk taking Aggression * Being males Physical violence Antisocial attitudes, beliefs Crimes against persons Problem (antisocial) behavior Low IQ Substance use
Family	Low socioeconomic status/poverty Antisocial parents Poor parent-child relationship Harsh, lax, or inconsistent discipline Broken home Separation from parents Abusive parents Neglect	Poor parent-child relationship Harsh, lax, or inconsistent discipline Poor monitoring, supervision Low parental involvement Antisocial parents Broken home Low socioeconomic status/poverty Abusive parents Family conflict *
School	Poor attitude, performance	Poor attitude, performance Academic failure
Peer Group	Weak social ties Antisocial peers	Weak social ties Antisocial, delinquent peers Gang membership
Community		Neighborhood crime, drugs Neighborhood disorganization

\* Males only

Source: Table adapted from Michael Shader. "Risk factors for delinquency: An overview," US Department of Justice: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (2003).