



DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT

What is Disproportionate Minority Contact?

- Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) refers to the overrepresentation of minority youth at every stage of the juvenile justice system, from arrest and detention to probation and commitment.
- Overrepresentation exists when the percentage of minority youth present at various stages of the juvenile justice system exceeds their proportion in the general population.

Why does DMC matter?

- Public perception of racial bias in the juvenile justice system undermines public confidence in the ability of the system to conduct the fair administration of justice.
- Juveniles detained at arraignment are more likely to be committed at disposition.
- Time spent in detention increases the likelihood of the child being a repeat offender.
- Detention increases negative peer interactions and disrupts positive connections in the community.
- Juveniles in detention often receive poorer educational, medical, mental health, and recreational services.
- Juveniles in detention suffer more instances of assault, suicide, illness and psychological trauma than those not held in detention.

For more information, please contact:

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