RACIAL DISPARITIES OF BLACK YOUTH
in Ramsey County, Minnesota

Calculating RRI
A Relative Rate Index (RRI) is a method for measuring and quantifying racial disparities.

Black Youth Rate (occurrences/population) divided by White Youth Rate (occurrences/population)

A RRI higher than 1 indicates that black youth are disproportionately over-represented at this decision point.
A RRI below 1 shows they are under-represented.
A RRI equal to 1 indicates no disproportional contact.

This RRI shows the rates of involvement of black youth compared with white youth across several juvenile justice system decision points. Each decision point has an impact on the points that follow.

The disparity at a specific decision point may be relatively small, but the cumulative impact and overrepresentation for black youth is large.

TOTAL POPULATION:
BLACK YOUTH: 9,891
White youth = 24,849

Juvenile Justice System Pathway:

Decision Point: Arrested
946
White youth = 535

Due to police contact...
Black youth are 4.44 times MORE likely to be arrested.
213

Decision Point: Admitted to Detention
564
White youth = 90

Once arrested...
Black youth are 3.54 times MORE likely to be admitted.
159

Continued on back
Adjudication
Stayed/Withheld

Decision Point:
Sent to Placement

Black youth are
1.07 times MORE likely
to be placed.

Black youth are
2.02 times MORE likely
to be adjudicated delinquent.

Black youth are
1.07 times MORE likely
to be placed.

Black youth are
.46 times LESS likely
to have their case diverted.

Black youth are
(1) Equally likely
to have their case withheld.

WHAT WOULD EQUITY LOOK LIKE?

ACTUAL NUMBERS

Once referred to CAO...

Black youth are
.46 times LESS likely
to have their case diverted.

Once in court...

Black youth are
(1) Equally likely
to have their case withheld.

Once on probation...

Black youth are
1.07 times MORE likely
to be placed.

Further exploration is needed to understand what factors are contributing to the disparities, let alone how to go about reducing them. We are committed to examining and changing our practices and polices to improve our juvenile justice system by keeping our community safe and helping all youth in Ramsey County thrive.

JDAI Tri-Chairs
Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Toni Carter - District 4
Community
Laura LaBlanc - In Equality
Justice System
Judge Jeffrey Bryan - Ramsey County District Court
Judge Robert Awsumb - Ramsey County District Court

This publication was created by the Deep End Juvenile Justice Reform Data Workgroup which includes stakeholders from Ramsey County Community Corrections, St. Paul Police Department, Ramsey County Attorney, 2nd Judicial District Court Administration.