

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.

$$\frac{\text{Black Youth Rate (occurrences/population)}}{\text{White Youth Rate (occurrences/population)}}$$

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:

ACTUAL NUMBERS

WHAT WOULD EQUITY LOOK LIKE?

Decision Point:

Arrested

White youth = 535

946

Due to police contact...

Black youth are **4.44 times MORE** likely to be arrested.

213

Decision Point:

Admitted to Detention

White youth = 90

564

Once arrested...

Black youth are **3.54 times MORE** likely to be admitted.

159

Continued on back →

ACTUAL NUMBERS

WHAT WOULD EQUITY LOOK LIKE?

Decision Point:
**Diverted by
County Attorney**

White youth = 114

178

Once referred to CAO...

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

384

**Adjudication
Stayed/Withheld**

White youth = 85

383

Once in court...

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

384

Decision Point:
**Initial Disposition
Imposed by the Court:**

**Adjudicated
Delinquent**

White youth = 9

82

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

41

Decision Point:
**Sent to
Placement**

White youth = 33

125

Once on probation...

Black youth are
1.07 times MORE likely
to be placed.

117

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

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 policies to improve our juvenile justice system by keeping our community safe and helping all youth in Ramsey County thrive.

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.