

2016

# RACIAL DISPARITIES OF YOUTH OF COLOR

in Ramsey County, Minnesota

## Calculating RRI

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

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

A RRI **higher than 1** indicates that youth of color 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 youth of color 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 youth of color is large.*

TOTAL POPULATION:  
**YOUTH OF COLOR: 26,928**  
 White youth = 24,849



### Juvenile Justice System Pathway:

#### ACTUAL NUMBERS

#### WHAT WOULD EQUITY LOOK LIKE?

Decision Point:

**Arrested**

White youth = 535

**1,284**

Due to police contact...

Youth of color are **2.21 times MORE** likely to be arrested.

**580**

Decision Point:

**Admitted to Detention**

White youth = 90

**779**

Once arrested...

Youth of color are **3.61 times MORE** likely to be admitted.

**216**

Continued on back →

## ACTUAL NUMBERS

## WHAT WOULD EQUITY LOOK LIKE?

Decision Point:  
**Diverted by  
County Attorney**

White youth = 114

**260**

Once referred to CAO...

Youth of color are  
**.55 times LESS** likely  
to have their case diverted.

**469**

**Adjudication  
Stayed/Withheld**

White youth = 85

**531**

Once in court...

Youth of color are  
**(1.01) Equally likely**  
to have their case withheld.

**525**

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

**Adjudicated  
Delinquent**

White youth = 9

**114**

Youth of color are  
**2.05 times MORE** likely  
to be adjudicated delinquent.

**56**

Decision Point:  
**Sent to  
Placement**

White youth = 33

**162**

Once on probation...

Youth of color are  
**(.99) Equally likely**  
to be placed.

**163**

### 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.