



OVERVIEW: THE MAKINGS OF A PIPELINE

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What Is the School-to-Prison Pipeline?

It refers to:

(a) the trend of directly referring students to law enforcement for committing certain offenses at school; or

(b) conditions at school under which students are more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system.

U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection

During the 2009-2010 school year:

- schools referred approximately 247,000 students to law enforcement
- approximately 94,000 students were subject to a school-based arrest
- approximately 3.4 million students were suspended at least one time
- approximately 112,000 were expelled

Impact of Incarceration

- Empirical research demonstrates that incarcerating youth leads to:
 - Reinforcement of violent attitudes
 - Mental health concerns
 - More limited educational, employment, military, and housing opportunities
 - Increased likelihood of not graduating from high school
 - Increased vulnerability to negative influences, especially negative peer pressure
 - Increased involvement in the criminal justice system
- Incarceration is perhaps is the LEAST effective way to rehabilitate youth.
- It costs on average \$148,767 to incarcerate one youth per year

Anne M. Hobbs, Timbre Lee Wulf-Ludden, & Jenna Strawhun, *Assessing Youth Early in the Juvenile Justice System*, 3 *Journal of Juvenile Justice* (2013).

Impact of Arrest

- Even if a student is not convicted and detained, the consequences are severe:
 - School may refuse to readmit student
 - Students suffer emotional trauma, stigma, and embarrassment.
 - More closely monitored by school officials, teachers, and SROs.
 - Have lower test scores (trauma, missed school, unfocused)
 - Less likely to graduate
 - More likely to become involved in the justice system later

Impact of Exclusion from School

- Students lose valuable instruction time
- Decreases the odds that a student will graduate
- Not graduating increases the odds for:
 - unemployment
 - poverty
 - bad health
 - immediate involvement in the juvenile justice system
 - future involvement in the justice system

Two Primary Causes

1. Academic Underachievement
 - More likely that students will not graduate, obtain skills, etc.
 - Underachievement is linked to behavioral problems in school
2. Over-Disciplining Students
 - Suspension
 - Expulsion
 - Referral to law enforcement
 - School-based arrest

Why Are Schools Over-Disciplining Students?

- Over-disciplining emerged parallel to a larger “tough on crime” movement
- Series of high-profile incidents of school violence
 - This led to zero-tolerance policies and statutes mandating referral of students to law enforcement for certain offenses
- Schools lack resources to effectively deal with students with great needs
- Over-disciplining is correlated with student race
 - Explicit bias
 - Implicit bias
- High-stakes testing

Other Contributing Factors

- Legislative bodies have provided funding for strict security measures and police officers in schools (SROs)
- Courts have weakened students' Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights

Disproportionate Impact on Students of Color

Several empirical studies show that disparities are not explained by more frequent or more serious misbehavior by minority students

Discipline Disparities:
A Research-to-Practice Collaborative

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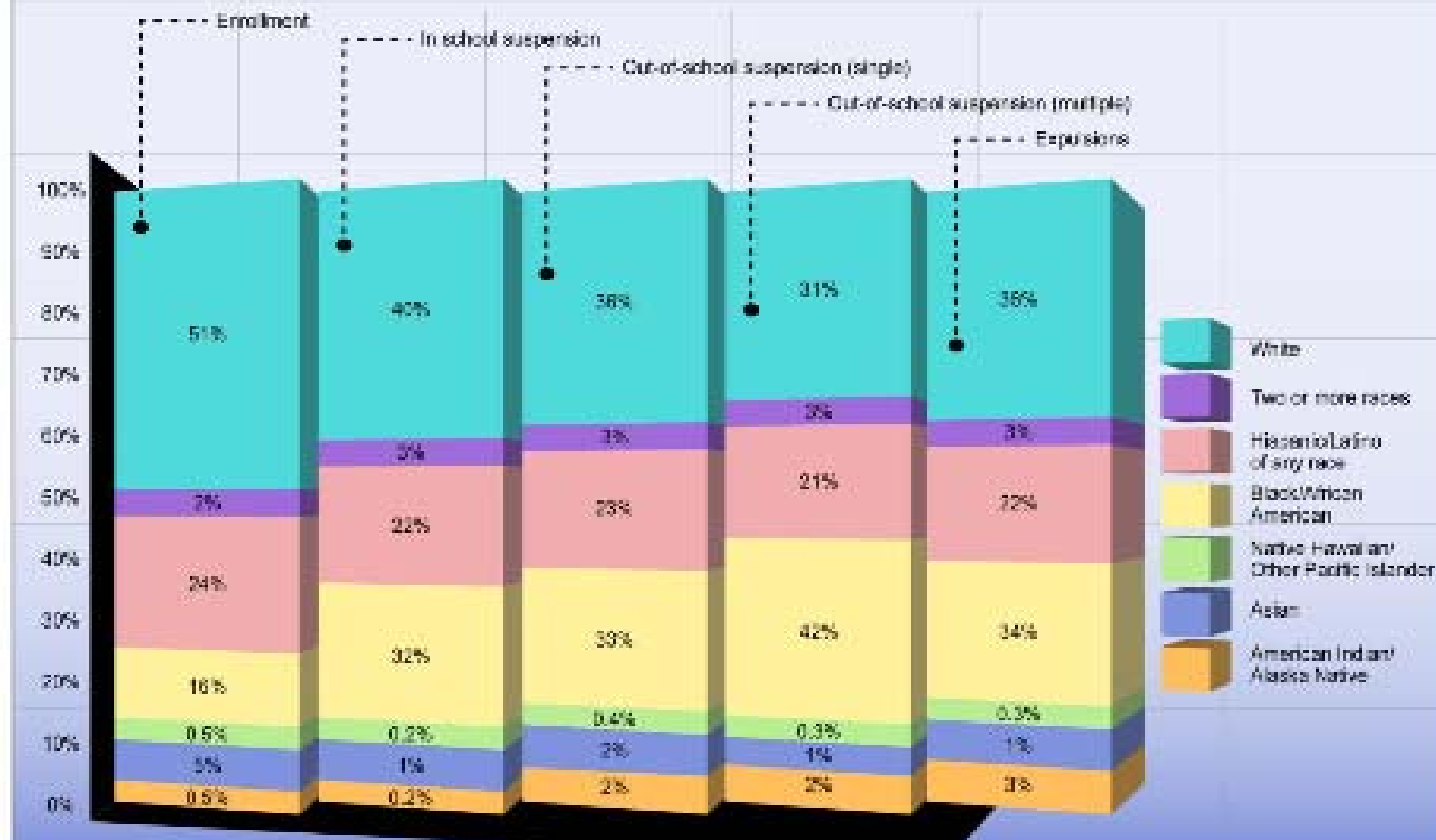
BREAKING SCHOOLS' RULES:
A Statewide Study of How School Discipline Relates to Students' Success and Juvenile Justice Involvement

Race and Discipline in Ohio Schools
What the Data Say
KIRWAN INSTITUTE SPECIAL REPORT • May 2014

ARRESTED FUTURES
The Criminalization of School Discipline in Massachusetts' Three Largest School Districts
Principal Author: Nathan L. Drilling
SPRING 2012

Case Studies of Minority Student Placement in Special Education
Beth Harry, Janette Klingner, and Elizabeth Cramer
with Beth M. Thurgood and Robert J. M. Lewis

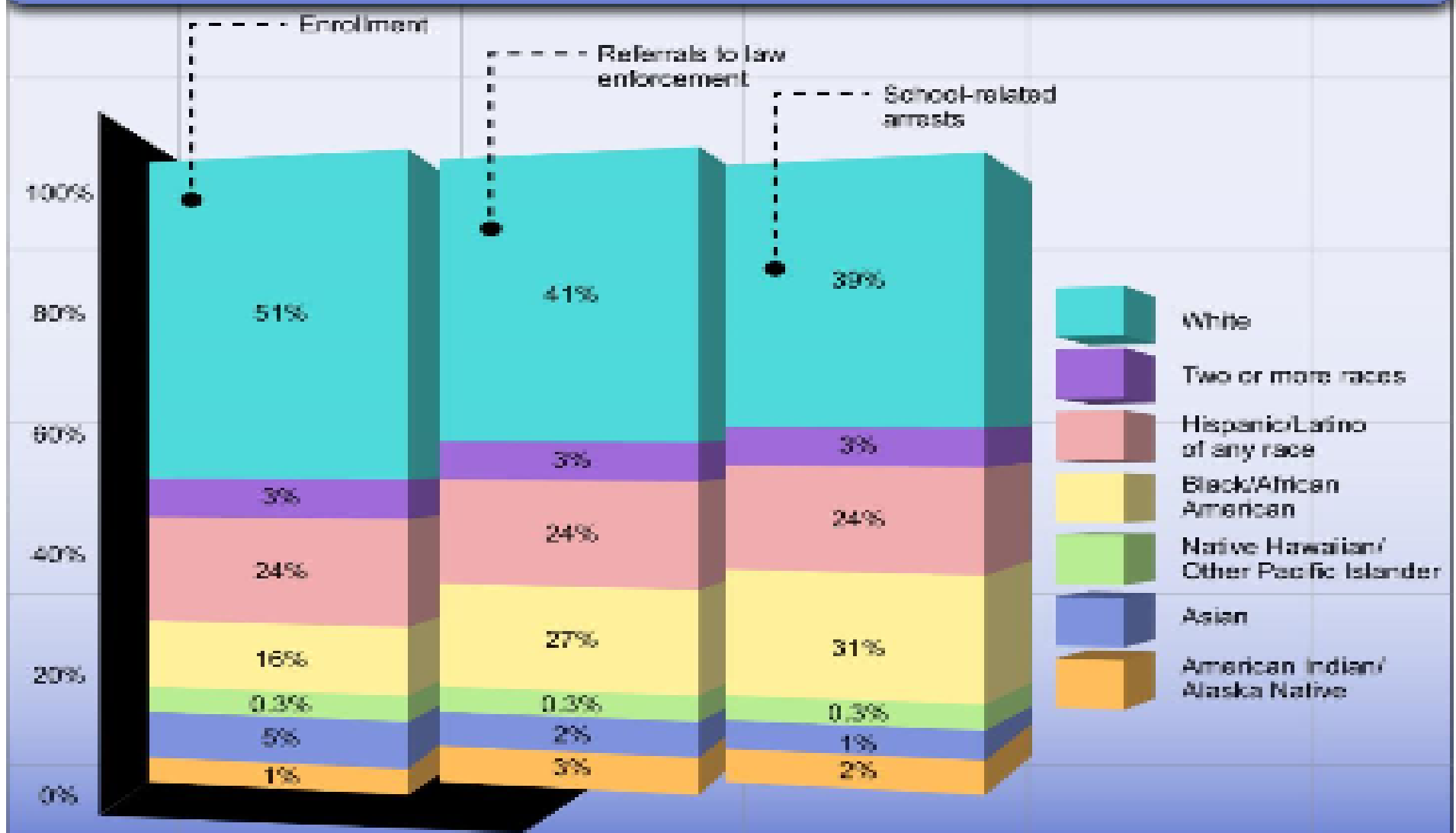
Students receiving suspensions and expulsions, by race and ethnicity



NOTE: Detail may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Totals: Enrollment is 49 million students, in-school suspension is 3.5 million students, single out-of-school suspension is 1.9 million students, multiple out-of-school suspension is 1.55 million students, and expulsion is 130,000 students. Data reported in this figure represents 99% of responding schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Civil Rights Data Collection, 2011-12.

Students subjected to referrals to law enforcement or school-related arrests, by race and ethnicity



NOTE: Detail may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Totals are 49 million students for overall enrollment, 260,000 students referred to law enforcement, and 92,000 students subject to school-related arrests. Data on referrals to law enforcement represents 98% of schools and data on school related arrests represents 94% of schools in the CRDC universe.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Civil Rights Data Collection, 2011-12.

Relative Rate of Involvement in JJ



OJJDP, Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement for 2011, OJJDP, Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook, Placement Status Detail by Race, Age 12 or younger, 13, 14

In 2007, a black youth with no prior admissions is 6x more likely to be incarcerated than a white youth with the same background for the same offense

U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights Statement

“In our investigations we have found cases where African-American students were disciplined more harshly and more frequently because of their race than similarly situated white students. In short, racial discrimination in school discipline is a real problem.” Dear Colleagues Letter at 3.