DMC and the School to Prison Pipeline

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Schools are perceived to be increasingly dangerous
Data from the U.S. Department of Education, however, shows that schools are safe, when compared to spaces outside of school.
Disciplinary policies at school are increasingly modeled after those of the criminal justice corrections systems
“Why did my son miss half of his algebra class today because I guess someone was smoking in one of the bathrooms, so they made everyone take their jackets off in the classrooms, and they brought in drug sniffing dogs to check the jackets. Thank God and the ancestors that I did not have to negotiate my youth through this police state. Really Bryan ISD - drug sniffing dogs?? It can't possibly be that serious.” Wendy Moore PhD. Posted on her Facebook status on 02/03/14
Theories of Overrepresentation?

1. **Differential Involvement** - Higher crime rates committed by minority youth are the result of individual traits or choices either 1) independent of social problems or 2) attributable as a result of social problems.

2. **Differential Treatment** - which suggests that minorities receive disproportionate punishment for crime
What Causes DMC?

Differential Involvement

Differential Treatment

- [X]
- [X]
- [X]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Lawton</th>
<th>Tulsa</th>
<th>Oklahoma City</th>
<th>Combined</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N=6,063</td>
<td>N=20,352</td>
<td>N=33,932</td>
<td>N=60,347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>2.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>2.50</td>
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<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.30</td>
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<td>Other/Don't Know</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>1.84</td>
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</table>

NOTE: Numbers are odds ratios comparing the odds of being arrested versus cited compared to Whites. Models are adjusted by gender and age.
What explanation do law enforcement, juvenile probation, juvenile court judges and attorneys offer for minority overrepresentation?
• ...the Hispanic culture that is from here, they have a different, in many cases they have a different set of morals than those coming here...I still believe that it comes from the parents not caring and not taking responsibility.
...if parents had more of an idea of what their child is doing ...if they were more involved in their kids life...
Family differences, especially less involvement of Black, Hispanic and Native American fathers was the most common explanation...mentioned by almost all of those interviewed...
Being An Involved Dad With Kids Under Age 5
(Father Living With Kids)

- Fed or ate meals with their children daily
- Bathed, diapered or dressed children daily
- Played with children daily
- Read to children daily

Source: National Center for Health Statistics
Being An Involved Dad With Kids Under Age 5
(Father Not Living With Kids)

Source: National Center for Health Statistics
Being An Involved Dad With Kids Ages 5-18
(Father Living With Kids)

Ate meals with children daily
Took children to or from activities daily
Talked to children about their day daily
Helped with or checked homework daily

Latino  | White  | Black

Source: National Center for Health Statistics
Being An Involved Dad With Kids Ages 5-18
(Father Not Living With Kids)

Ate meals with children daily
Took children to or from activities daily
Talked to children about their day daily
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- Took children to or from activities daily
- Talked to children about their day daily
- Helped with or checked homework daily

Latino  White  Black
We conducted an anonymous survey of high school students in 2013
Characteristics of the Sample (n=188)
Gender

Female

Male
DMC in Oklahoma

Age

- Less than 18
- 18 and Older
Socioeconomic Status (Free Lunch Enrollment)

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
Race

White: 96
Nonwhite: 92
Criminal Activity
DMC in Oklahoma

Criminal Activity

- Crime against persons
- Drug crime
- Weapon crime
- Crime against property
- Crime against the public order
- Gang member
DMC in Oklahoma

Criminal Activity by Race

- Crime against persons
- Drug crime
- Weapon crime
- Crime against property
- Crime against the public order
- Gang member

Nonwhite | White
---|---


DMC in Oklahoma

Odds of Whites Committing Offense Compared to Nonwhites (controlling for geographic location, living arrangement, gender, age, SES)
DMC in Oklahoma

Odds of Whites Committing Offense Compared to Nonwhites (controlling for geographic location, living arrangement, gender, age, SES)

No Statistical Difference in Odds of Committing Various Offenses
Recommendations:

1) Measure

2) If necessary, develop an objective, anonymous program for discipline