

Greater Boston Civil Rights Coalition

"Fighting the Good Fight Since 1979"

Monthly Meetings on the First Friday of the Month

To get on the GBCRC e-mail list, send a request to jeff@bostondialogues.org

THE SCHOOL-to-PRISON PIPELINE

Speakers & Discussion

- WHEN: Friday, February 1, 2008, 9:30-11:00am
- WHERE: JALSA, 18 Tremont Street, 3rd Floor, Boston MA,

"The School to Prison Pipeline describes the tragic journey that begins in segregated, impoverished schools and ends in juvenile halls and adult prisons for far too many children of color." – <http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org/Projects.aspx> (more quotes below)

Today's Guests:

=Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice=

- **Kaia Stern** - Project Director, Pathways Home from Prison Project
 - **Tami Wilson** - Coordinator, School-to-Prison Pipeline Project
- <http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org>

=The Youth Advocacy Project=

- **Julie Bowden** - Staff Attorney
 - **Duci Goncalves** - Staff Attorney
- <http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org/>

Quotes from the Web about the School-to-Prison Pipeline:

"...school officials and the criminal justice system are criminalizing children and teenagers all over the country, arresting them and throwing them in jail for behavior that in years past would never have led to the intervention of law enforcement."

"...school policies can drive students out before they have obtained the skills and credentials to advance in their lives, leading to devastating and permanent consequences, particularly on youths without other safety nets or supports to draw on."

"...disturbing national trend wherein children, disproportionately children of color, are being funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Many of these children are the most vulnerable, with learning disabilities or histories of poverty, abuse or neglect, and should receive additional educational services rather than isolation and punishment."

"...preliminary research indicates that jail is not the inevitable destiny for children trapped within this pipeline. Rather, their journey through the pipeline is accelerated by the convergence of ill-conceived policies and practices permeating both educational and juvenile justice systems, and by the failure of these two systems to work together to improve the life chances of at-risk youths."

Greater Boston Civil Rights Coalition

Co-Chairs:

- Barbara Dougan, *Families Against Mandatory Minimums*, www.famm.org
- Jeff Stone, *City-Wide Dialogues on Boston's Ethnic & Racial Diversity*, www.bostondialogues.org

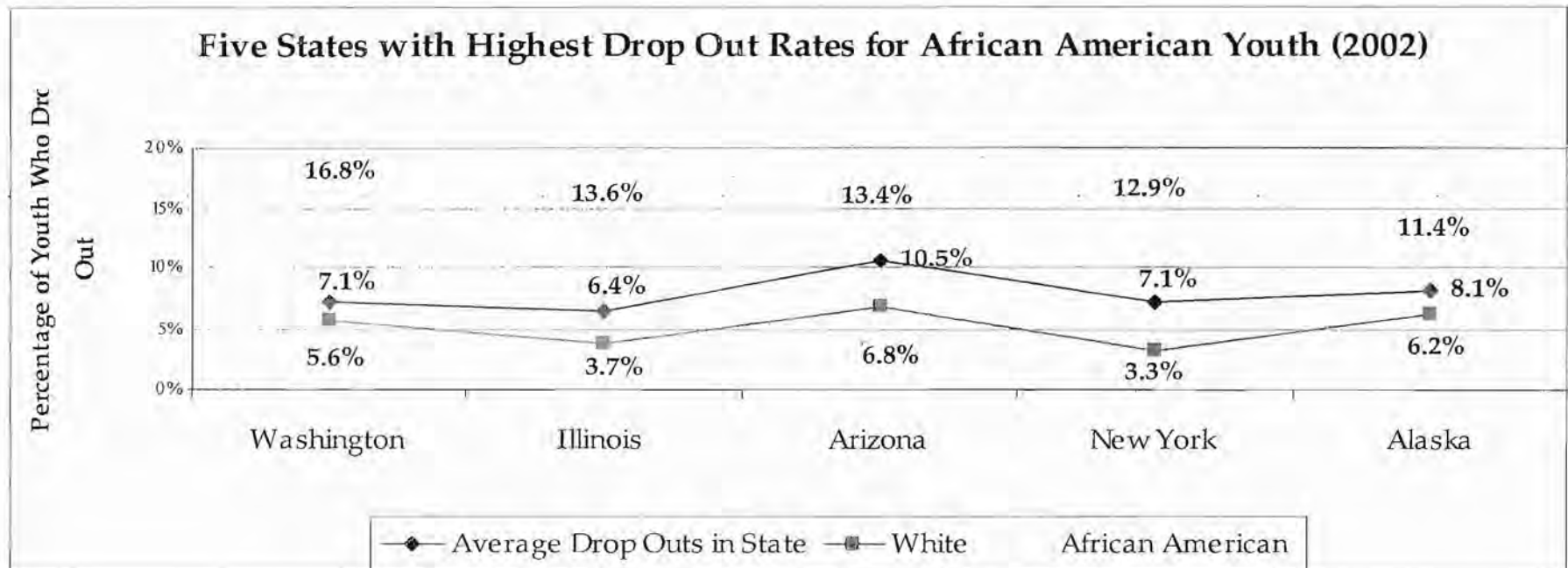
Deconstructing the School to Prison Pipeline

National Crisis for Black Youth

In every state in the Nation, Black youth are:

- Overrepresented in the juvenile justice system.
- More likely than their White counterparts to be detained in juvenile detention facilities. In some States, Black youth are as much as **40 times** as white youth to be in detention on any given day.
- More likely to have their cases waived to Adult Court.
- Less likely to graduate from High School. In some states Black youth are **7 times** as likely to drop out.

States with Highest Drop Out Rate For Black Youth



Massachusetts High School Graduation Rates

- **Massachusetts Averages**

- All Students: 72.1%
- Hispanic: 41.2%
- Black 53%
- White: 78.5%

- **Males:**

- All: 67.8%
- Hispanic 36.6%
- Black 43.5%
- White: 75.6%

- **National Averages:**

- All Students: 69.6%
- Hispanics: 55.6%
- Blacks: 51.3%
- Whites: 76.2%

- **Males:**

- All: 65.2%
- Hispanics: 50.1%
- Blacks 44.3%
- White: 72.4%

RACIAL IMPACT OF THE RISING USE OF SUSPENSION

Suspension Rates By Race

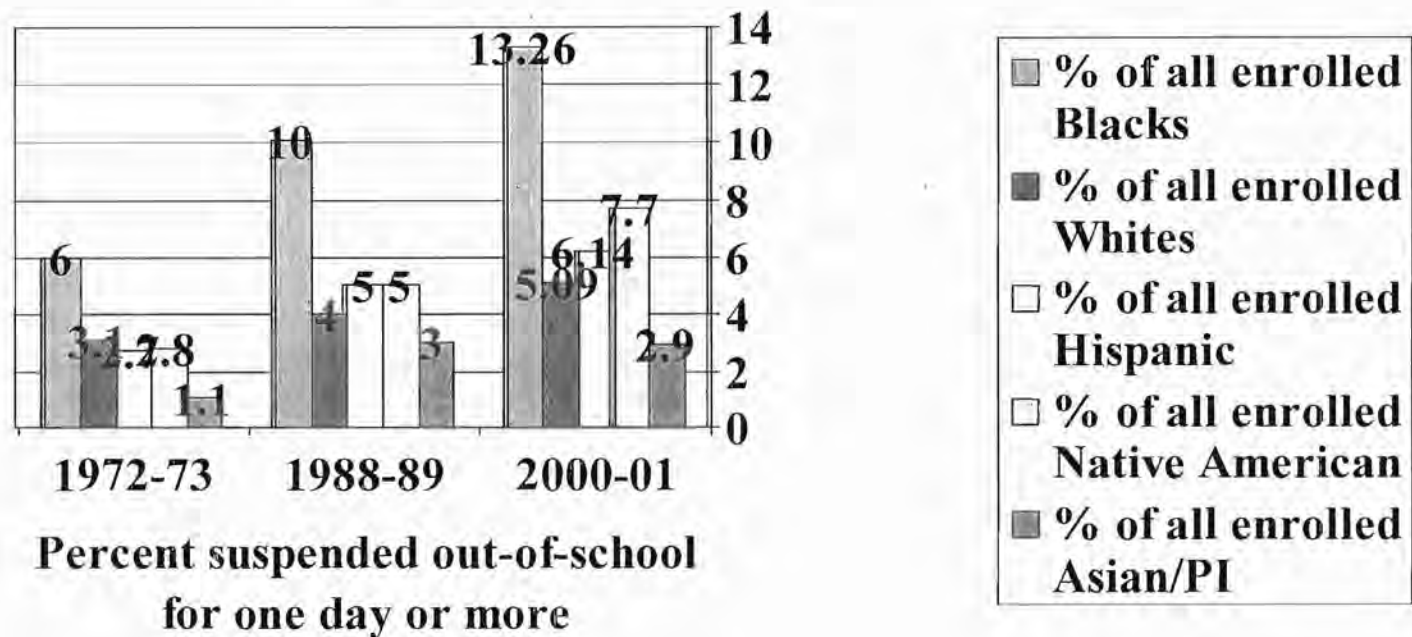
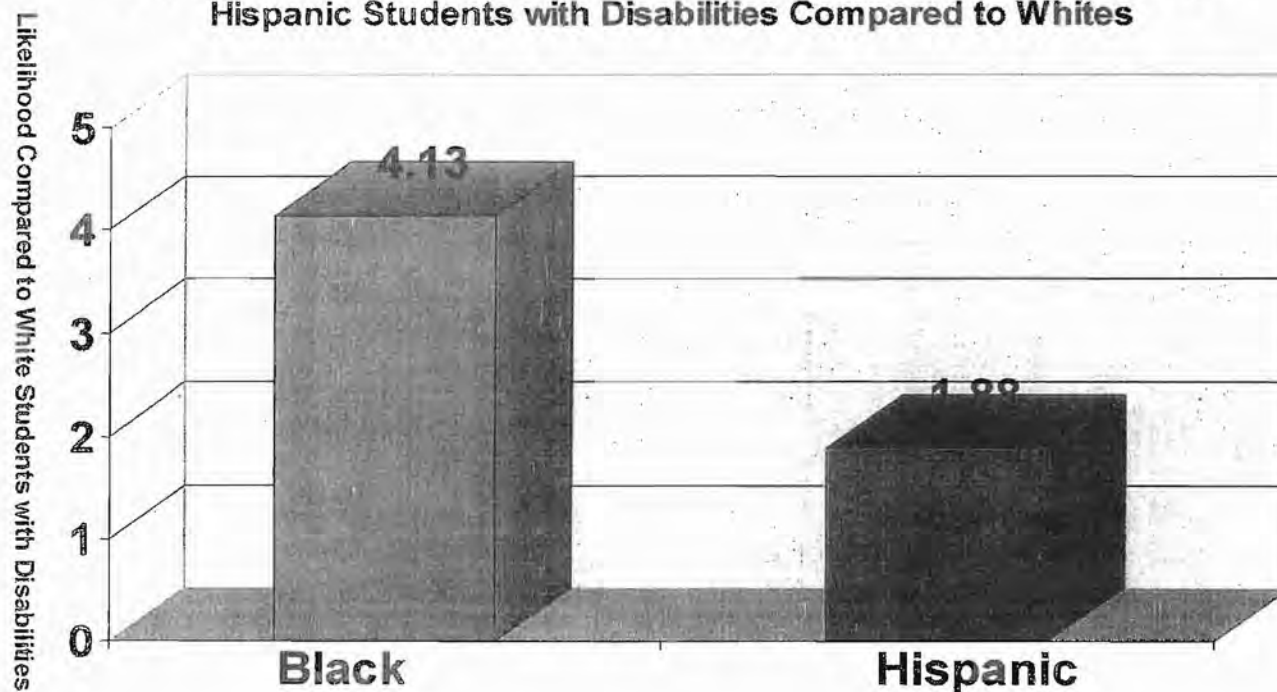


Chart #4

UNITED STATES

Likelihood of Placement in a Correctional Institution for Black and Hispanic Students with Disabilities Compared to Whites



Explanation: 2.0 means twice as likely, 1.0 means an equal likelihood, and .5 means half as likely as white students. Source: Data based on the December 1, 1999 count, updated as of August 30 2001. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS).

Retention in Grade as Contributing Factor....

- The rate at which students are being held back in ninth grade has more than doubled nationally between the late 1970s and the late 1990s.
- Being held back in ninth grade is a leading indicator of dropping out. Evidence from Texas indicates that 70 to 80 percent of students forced to repeat ninth grade do not graduate from high school.

Exclusionary Discipline and Dropout

- Definite correlations between dropout and suspension
 - Suspended students 3X more likely to drop out by 10th grade
 - Suspension among strongest predictors of dropout
- Reasons:
 - Relation between susp/exp, dropout, and feelings of rejection
 - Is it drop out or “pushout”?

Educational Histories of Youths in the Juvenile Justice System

- As many as 70% suffer from learning disabilities, many undiagnosed.
- In one study, 2/3 of incarcerated students were ninth graders, many repeating 9th grade for the second or third time.
- Most incarcerated youth lag two or more years behind their peers in basic academic skills.
- More than one-third of all juvenile offenders (median age 15.5 years) read below the fourth-grade level.
- Nine out of every ten of the 11,000 youth in adult facilities have, at best, a ninth-grade education

Dropouts to Incarceration

- Failure to graduate from high school triples the likelihood of being imprisoned.
- 68% of state prison inmates did not graduate from high school.
- Around 60 percent of black male h.s. dropouts born between 1965–69 had served time in prison by their early thirties.

Incarceration Rates

- Among the more than 1.4 million sentenced inmates at the end of 2003, an estimated 403,165 were black men between 20 and 39.
- At the end of 2003, 9.3 percent of black men 25 to 29 were in prison, compared with 2.6 percent of Hispanic men and 1.1 percent of white men in the same age group.
- In 11 states, there were increases in the prison population of at least 5 percent, led by North Dakota with an 11.4 percent rise.

Massachusetts Incarceration Rates by Race

White: 204 per 100,000 citizens
Black: 1,807 per 100,000 citizens
Hispanic: 1,435 per 100,000 citizens

Ratio: Black/White: 9: 1

Ratio: Hispanic/White: 7:1

Blacks make up 5.4% of state's population and 26.3% of incarcerated population

Hispanics make up 6.1% of state's population and 26.1% of incarcerated population