



SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

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WHAT IS THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE?

The policies and practices that are directly and indirectly pushing students out of school and on a pathway to prison



ZERO TOLERANCE POLICES

Zero tolerance policies, aggressive school policing, and extreme school discipline practices lead to high rates of suspension, expulsion, and even arrest for youth.

CRIMINALIZATION OF NORMATIVE ADOLESCENT BEHAVIOR

Pushing & Shoving



“Battery”

Swiping headphones



“Theft” or “Robbery”

Talking Back



“Disorderly Conduct”

SEVERE RACIAL DISPARITIES IN SCHOOL DISCIPLINE



Racial Disparities in School Discipline

Black students are 3-4 times more likely than their white peers to be expelled or face multiple suspensions from school.

Risk of Being Expelled

Black

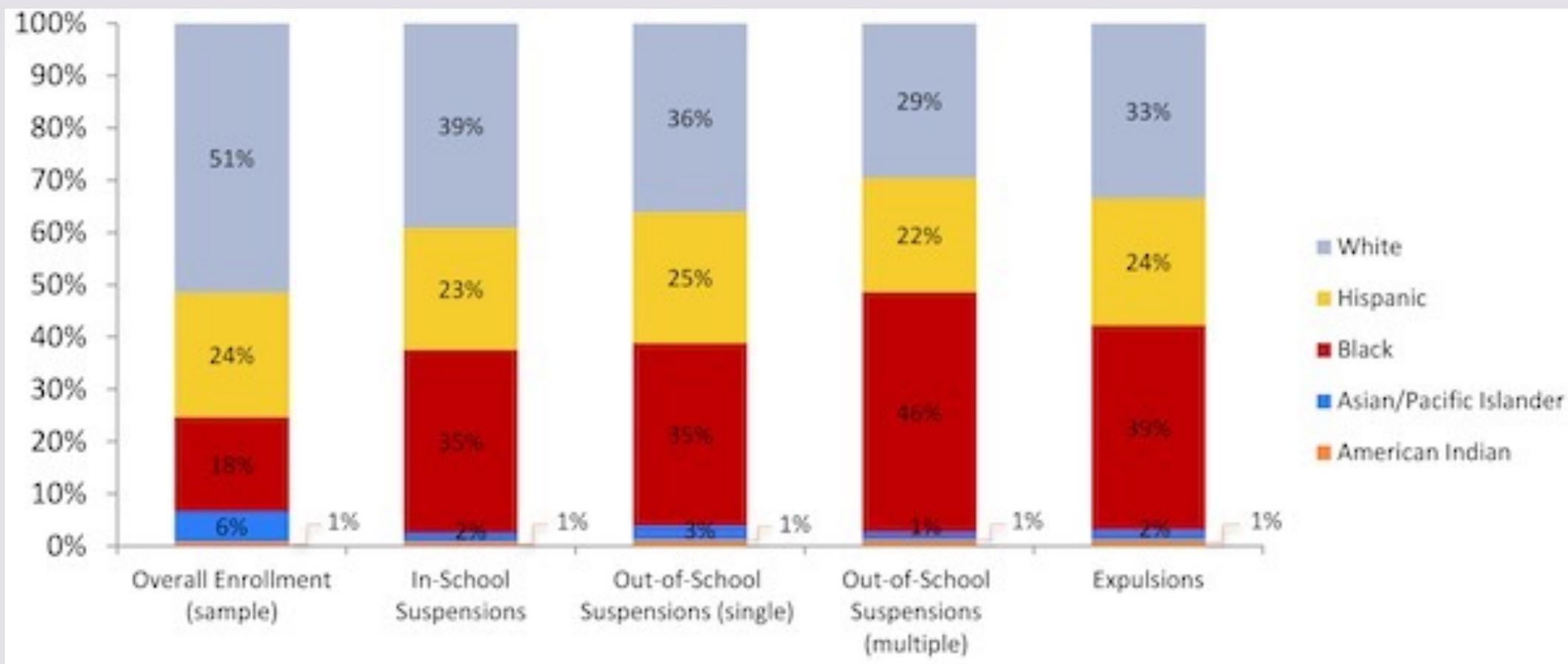


White

Risk of Facing Multiple
Suspensions



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Civil Rights Data Collection, 2009-10



How does this impact Black girls?

Black girls are frequently marginalized and criminalized by schools.

- Referrals to juvenile justice in Allegheny County are down over the past 15 years, but racial disproportionality in referrals is up. Black girls are 10 times more likely than White girls to be referred to the Juvenile Justice system.

Some examples of the harms to Black girls

- **Dress code policies targeting specific body types**
- **Grooming standards failing to recognize and appreciate different hair types**
- **Adultification of Black girls**

A perspective view of a school hallway. On the left, there is a long row of orange lockers. Above the lockers, a round analog clock is mounted on the wall. Further down the hallway, there are several doors, some with blue signs above them that say "Classroom". In the center of the hallway, there is a whiteboard with the word "INFORMATION" written on it. On the right side, there are more orange lockers. The ceiling is a grid of white acoustic tiles with several long, recessed fluorescent light fixtures. The floor is made of large, light-colored square tiles. The overall atmosphere is clean and well-lit.

POLICING IN SCHOOLS

MAJOR TRENDS

Police presence in schools has been on the rise, especially in the last 15 years.

More types of incidents now require police notification.

State and federal funding for cops in schools has expanded.

Many Zero Tolerance policies have broadened the definition of “weapon.”



WHAT IS A
SOLUTION TO
POLICING IN
SCHOOLS?

DO WE NEED POLICE IN SCHOOLS?

Many studies suggest that police presence in schools is causing more harm than good.

ENDING THE PIPELINE

- Schools can improve their code of conduct to hold students accountable for minor misbehavior without excluding them from school
- Examine the root causes of racial disparities and make a commitment to end them
- Limit the role of law enforcement to serious crimes
- Increase culturally responsive counseling and community intervention resources
- Give youth and parents a real voice in creating and implementing positive school discipline
- Ensuring that Black girls with disabilities have access to culturally affirming and appropriate special education supports and services that include school-based mental health supports

What can make a difference?

- Culturally affirming and responsive mental health supports and services
- Interactive and culturally appropriate curriculum
- Positive behavioral interventions