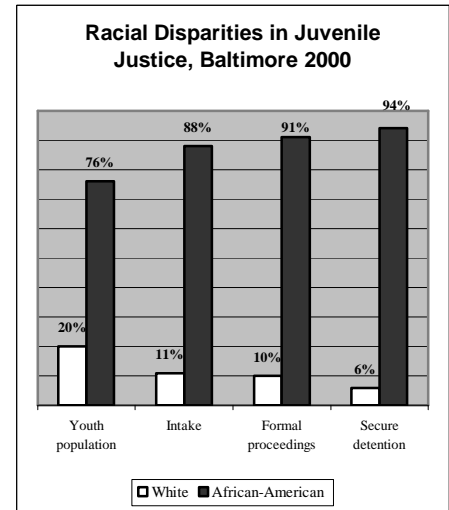


The Inequities Facing Baltimore's African-American Youth

Statistics Show that African-American Youth Are:

- **SUSPENDED MORE OFTEN:** During the 2000-01 school year, 1 in 6 African-American students was suspended in Baltimore City schools. African-Americans from Baltimore alone account for almost 20% of the state's suspensions.
- **ARRESTED MORE OFTEN:** 76% of Baltimore's children are African-American and are 20% White. But African-American youth make up 88% of Baltimore's juvenile arrests, while white youth account for only 11% of juvenile arrests.
- **PUNISHED MORE OFTEN:** Once Baltimore youth are arrested, formal proceedings are commenced against African-Americans (91%) more often than Whites (10%).
- **PUNISHED MORE HARSHLY:** Of Baltimore's youth sent to secure detention facilities, African-Americans make up 94%, and White youth constitute only 6%.



- **INCARCERATED MORE OFTEN:** Maryland has one of the nation's highest rates of racial disparity in incarceration. More than 5.6% of the state's African-American men were incarcerated in 2000.

More than 9 out of 10 youth charged as adults in Baltimore City are African American, they are almost twice as likely to go to prison as white youth.

An African-American man in Maryland is 10.2 times more likely to be incarcerated than a White male.

Maryland locks up a disproportionate number of African-American youth:

African-American youth are 32 % of the Maryland's youth population, but represent 64 % of detained youth, and 72 % of youth committed to Maryland state facilities after adjudication.

African-American youth represent the overwhelming majority of youth at the Cheltenham youth facility (82%).

Nationally, as well as here in Maryland, recidivism rates for institutions are abysmal: 8 out of 10 youth will be re-arrested following release from an institution. Only 20 percent of all youth remain arrest free. And yet Maryland commits 70 percent of its \$200 million dollar juvenile justice budget to institutional and residential programming.

Sources:

1. *Suspension, Expulsions, and Health Related Exclusions, Maryland Public Schools, 2000-2001*, by the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Planning, Results, and Information Management (January 1, 2002).
2. *Annual Statistical Report, Fiscal Year 2000*, by the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice, March 2002.
3. *Hobbling a Generation: Young African American Males in the Criminal Justice System of America's Cities: Baltimore, Maryland*, by Jerome G. Miller, National Center for Institutions and Alternatives, September 1992.
4. *Punishment and Prejudice*, by Human Rights Watch, 2000.
5. *Youth Crime/Adult Time: Is Justice Served?* Prepared for the Building Blocks for Youth initiative by Jolanta Juskiewicz, Pretrial Services Resource Center, October 2000.
6. *And Justice for Some*. Prepared for the Building Blocks for Youth initiative by Eileen Poe-Yamagata and Michael Jones, April, 2000.
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Baltimore Youth & the Juvenile Justice System

In 2001, there were 10,000 juvenile arrests by Baltimore City Police. Of those arrested 3400 were detained and 6,500 were released to their parents.

In 2002, Baltimore City is expected to open a new 144-bed detention facility and adjoining Juvenile Court House downtown at Fallsway and Gay. This represents 70 beds more than Baltimore City needs.

Yet juvenile justice theory and practice dictates if you build them they will come. Nationwide detention beds - if built - do not remain empty. The rare exceptions are predicated on the diligence of juvenile justice professionals intentionally keeping youth out of detention by funding and promoting a range of small secure programs and staff-intensive alternatives to large institutions.

The Good News: The rate of non-violent crime among juveniles has fallen significantly in Baltimore. The non-violent arrest rate fell 56% in Baltimore City and 25% statewide. At the beginning of the decade the Baltimore City rate was nearly twice that of the state but now the rates are comparable.

The rate of juvenile violent crime arrests in Baltimore City fell 34% in the year between 1997 and 1998. In addition it held at the lower rate in 1999. Overall juvenile violent crime arrests fell 30% from 1990 to 1999. The rate for the state as a whole declined only 6% and the disparity between the city and the state went from 3:1 to 2:1, over the decade.

The Bad News: Between 1993 and 1999 the rate of violent deaths among youth rose by five percent in Baltimore City but fell by nearly 17% in the state. Overall this rate has been on a downward trend at the state level while in Baltimore City this rate has been more volatile, but generally on an upward trend. The magnitude of the difference between these rates has also increased. In 1993 the Baltimore City rate was nearly twice that of the Maryland rate. By 1999 the difference had grown: Baltimore City youth are 2.5 more likely to die due to a violent accident, homicide or suicide than youth around the State.

Baltimore City Youth are Out of School and Out of Work: Just under 72,500 Maryland youth (16-24) were out of school and out of work in 1999 - 2000. This state pool was evenly divided between the Baltimore Metropolitan area (35,900 youth out of school and work) and the balance of the state (36,600).

76% of African American males do not finish high school in Baltimore City. Only half of the Baltimore area youth lacking a high school diploma were able to find any job in 1999 - 2000.

In 2001, 14,000 Baltimore City students were suspended (15%) including 88 kindergartners and 126 first graders. The overwhelming cause for these suspensions was physical aggression against others. (700 students were suspended five times or more.)

More than 50% of Baltimore ninth graders drop out of school. More than 11% of Baltimore City seniors drop out of school. That is three times the rate of MD. In 2001, 22% of all students in Baltimore City were absent (truant) more than 20 days in 2001. That is almost double the state rate of 12%

Sources:

1. Baltimore City Police Department
2. Maryland State Police Uniform Crime Report
3. Maryland KIDCOUNT Factbook
4. Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; U.S. Census
5. Maryland State Department of Education

6. Labor Market Conditions Among 16-24 Year-Old Young Adults in Maryland and the Baltimore Area. The Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University