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Cross-Over Youth: Working Across Systems & Preparing Teens for Adulthood

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Through the Eyes of a Child XIII and Model Court Day: Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect

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Attribution

- The portion of the presentation on crossover youth is predicated largely on the work done in the Causes and Correlates research conducted by David Huizinga, Ph.D. (Denver), Rolf Loeber, Ph.D. (Pittsburgh) and Terence P. Thornberry, Ph.D. (Rochester).
 - This research was sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the U.S. Department of Justice.
 - It was a longitudinal study conducted over two decades.
- The "Bridging Two Worlds: Youth Involved in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems" report commissioned by APhSA, Casey Family Programs, and Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (2008) also informs the crossover youth portion of this presentation.
- The portion of the presentation on disproportionality is based on the work done by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Burn's Institute, the Center for Children's Law and Policy, Chapin Hall, the Race Matters Consortium, the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the Center for the Study of Social Policy and individuals such as Dr. Robert Hill, Dr. Denise Herz and Dr. Joe Ryan who have all made significant contributions.
- The portion of the presentation on transitioning youth is based on the "Supporting Youth in Transition to Adulthood: Lessons Learned from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice" report (2009) commissioned by Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University with the support of the MacArthur Foundation, SAMHSA, and the Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health.

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CJJR's Mission

- The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform supports leadership development and advances a balanced, multi-systems approach to reducing juvenile delinquency that both holds youth accountable and promotes positive child and youth development.

The Ecological Model

- Families
- Communities
- Schools
- Peer groups
- Individual

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Today's Presentation

- Crossover youth have a discrete set of needs that we need to meet by working across systems of care.
- There are joint initiatives that can be undertaken that can help reduce disproportionality across juvenile justice and child welfare.
- Youth transitioning out of systems of care and into adulthood need additional supports beyond those required by young adults in normal circumstances.

Crossover Youth: Key Definitions

- Crossover Youth=Youth who have experienced maltreatment and engaged in delinquency.
- Dually-Involved Youth=A subgroup of crossover youth who are simultaneously receiving services, at any level, from both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- Dually-Adjudicated Youth=A subgroup of dually-involved youth, encompassing only those youth who are concurrently adjudicated by both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

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Risk and Protective Factors

- Risk factors are predictors of problem behaviors such as:
 - substance abuse
 - teen pregnancy
 - dropping out of school and youth violence
- Protective factors are predictors that counterbalance the effects of risk such as opportunities for pro-social activities and the influence of a positive adult to whom the child or youth has bonded.
- Risk and protective factors are related to the domains in which a child or youth lives their life - family, peer group, school, community and within their own individual characteristics.
- The body of research around risk and protective factors and their relationship to delinquency has greatly informed the work of the Causes and Correlates Study Group.

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The Pathway to Delinquency

- The average age at which juveniles took their first step toward delinquent behavior was approximately 7.
- Moderately serious behavior began at about age 9.5.
- Serious delinquency began at age 12.
- The average age at which youth first came in contact with the juvenile court was 14.5.
- This means that there is a seven year window of opportunity to intervene and interrupt their pathway to delinquency.
- So how do we take those first steps that many would call prevention or early intervention?

Source: Research from Causes and Correlates Study

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Prevalence of "Attacked to Hurt" by Number of Risk and Protective Factors

Risk Level	Protection Level 0	Protection Level 1	Protection Level 2	Protection Level 3	Protection Level 4
0	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
1	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%
2	10%	8%	8%	8%	8%
3	20%	15%	15%	15%	15%
4	50%	40%	40%	40%	40%

Source: Richard F. Catalano, Ph.D. The Knowledge Base for Prevention Science: The Knowledge Base for Prevention Science: Risk and Protective Factors Risk and Protective Factors, 5 October 2006.

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Application of Risk and Protective Factors in the Causes and Correlates Study

- The Study Group studied the impact of risk and protective factors on middle school age youth in their Rochester site.
- Youth were surveyed on both the risk and protective factors in their lives.
- Delinquency histories were tracked for the same youth. Based on study criteria:
 - Youth with 5 or more risk factors were "high risk."
 - Youth who had five or more risk factors and who had 5 or fewer protective factors offended at a rate of almost 80%.
 - High-risk youth with 9 or more protective factors offended at a rate of just over 22%.
 - The presence of these 4 additional protective factors reduced offending rates by 75%.

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Prevalence of Academic Success by Number of Risk and Protective Factors

Risk Level	Protection 0	Protection 1	Protection 2	Protection 3
0 to 1	90%	85%	80%	75%
2 to 3	80%	75%	70%	65%
4 to 5	70%	65%	60%	55%
6 to 7	60%	55%	50%	45%
8 to 9	50%	45%	40%	35%
10+	40%	35%	30%	25%

Source: Richard F. Catalano, Ph.D. The Knowledge Base for Prevention Science: The Knowledge Base for Prevention Science: Risk and Protective Factors Risk and Protective Factors, 5 October 2006.

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Application

- The Causes and Correlates Study found two key risk factors for delinquency:
 - Child abuse and neglect, and
 - Gang involvement
- In today's presentation, I will focus on child abuse and neglect.

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Brief Description of Covariates "Risk and Protective Factors"

- Placement Instability
 - Number of Placements: The more substitute care placement, the greater the risk for delinquency.
 - Type of Placements: Congregate care increased the risk more than foster care settings.
- Age at Time of Maltreatment
 - Maltreatment that begins and ends in childhood less problematic.
 - Persistent maltreatment and adolescent limited maltreatment is more problematic for a range of problem behaviors.
- Social Bonds
 - Attachment to positive adults can reduce the likelihood of delinquency.
 - Commitment to school and possibly religious organizations can reduce the likelihood of delinquency.

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Implications of Research Findings

- These findings suggest that developmental models that highlight the long-term consequences of early trauma may overestimate its impact and underestimate sources of resilience.
- These results do not suggest, in any way, that childhood maltreatment is not a serious problem. It is abhorrent and has many adverse consequences.
- Treatment and services must be provided.
- It is imperative that we focus on adolescents who experience maltreatment.

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Brief Description of Covariates

- Gender
 - There is an increased prevalence of females crossing into delinquency compared to the general population.
 - Females have an increased prevalence of mental health problems.
- Race
 - African-Americans are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system.
 - African-Americans are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system.
 - African-Americans are disproportionately represented to an even greater extent in the crossover population.

Movement Across Systems

- Studies have found that between 9% and 29% of child welfare involved youth have contact with the juvenile justice system.
- In a study done in New York state of youth released from juvenile correctional facilities, 65% of girls and 46% boys involved in the juvenile justice system had previously received child protective, preventative or foster care services. (Coleman, Han Kim, Mitchell-Herzfeld and Shady, 2008)
 - 9% of boys and 42% of girls were identified as a confirmed perpetrator of child maltreatment in at least one CPS report prior to age 28.
- Cusick, Goerge, and Bell (2009) found that 65% of youth correctional exits in Illinois had prior child welfare history before entering the correctional facility.

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Research Findings

- Most maltreated youth do not have official records and do not self report delinquency.
- Maltreatment that occurs only in childhood is not significantly related to adolescent delinquency and other problem behaviors in the Rochester study.
- Any adolescent maltreatment is causally linked to subsequent criminality, including serious and violent offending.

Characteristics of Crossover Youth

- Among crossover youth, there is a high prevalence of a family history of criminal behavior, mental health, and/or substance abuse problems.
- Between one-half and three-quarters of crossover youth have had previous contact with the juvenile justice system in some way (i.e., status offense, delinquency charge resulting in diversion or not resulting in processing).
- Crossover youth are often truant from school. When they do attend school, they often have poor academic performance and exhibit behavioral problems.

School/Education Characteristics

Characteristic	LA (N=581)	Alameda (N=63)
School Status		
Enrolled	76%	75%
Poor Attendance or Truant	45%	38%
Behavioral Problems at School	48%	40%
Poor Academic Performance	49%	46%
Experienced Irregular School Changes	66%*	43%
Needs or Is Eligible for an IEP	66%*	31%

*Los Angeles Data drawn from MDT Treatment Cases rather than 2004 241.1 Cases (N=50).

Source: Herz, Denise. Crossover Youth: What Do We Know? PowerPoint presentation presented at the 2009 Governor's Summit on DMC Issues, Portland, OR. 16 November 2009.

Problems leading to BHJJ services

	Females	Males
Conduct/delinquency-related problems	92.5% (n=480)	90.0% (n=439)
Substance use, abuse, dependence-related problems	40.1% (n=208)	36.1% (n=176)
Depression-related problems	42.8% (n=222)	22.5% (n=110)
School performance problems	40.8% (n=212)	30.5% (n=149)
Hyperactive and attention-related problems	20.0% (n=104)	22.3% (n=109)
Anxiety-related problems	18.7% (n=97)	10.2% (n=50)
Adjustment-related problems	20.4% (n=106)	6.4% (n=31)

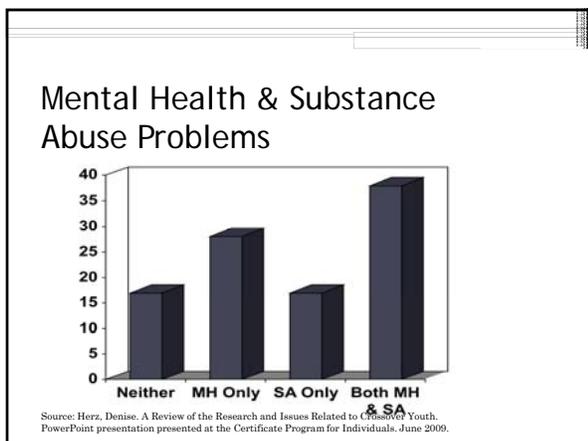
Source: Kretschmar, Jeff. The Evaluation of the Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice Initiative. PowerPoint presentation.

- ### Characteristics of Crossover Youth, Continued
- At least one-third of arrests for crossover youth are related to their placement, and most of these situations occur in a group home placement (this finding was specific to Herz & Ryan, 2008 and Saetern & Swain, 2009).
 - Between one-half and three-quarters of crossover youth have had previous contact with the juvenile justice system in some way (i.e., status offense, delinquency charge resulting in diversion or not resulting in processing).
 - Crossover youth have high rates of mental health and substance abuse problems—over three-quarters of these youth exhibit symptoms or have diagnoses for a mental health disorder and/or substance abuse.

Youth and Family History

	Females	Males
Has the child ever been physically abused?	22.2% (n=105)	17.6% (n=81)
Has the child ever been sexually abused?	31.7% (n = 148)	7.0% (n = 34)
Has the child ever lived in a household in which someone was convicted of a crime?	42.3% (n = 198)	37.8% (n = 172)
Has the child ever run away?	56.3% (n = 265)	32.0% (n = 145)
Has the child ever had a problem with substance abuse, including alcohol and/or drugs?	44.5% (n = 209)	40.3% (n = 183)
Has the child ever talked about committing suicide?	52.1% (n =247)	34.5% (n = 159)
Has the child ever attempted suicide?	25.6% (n = 119)	8.4% (n = 38)
Has the child ever been exposed to domestic violence or spousal abuse, of which the child was not the direct target?	49.1% (n = 233)	43.9% (n = 203)
Has anyone in the child's biological family ever been diagnosed with depression or shown signs of depression?	67.2% (n = 309)	58.1% (n = 262)
Has anyone in the child's biological family had a mental illness, other than depression?	43.1% (n = 202)	33.2% (n = 149)
Has anyone in the child's biological family had a drinking or drug problem?	52.8% (n = 248)	45.7% (n = 206)

Source: Kretschmar, Jeff. The Evaluation of the Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice Initiative. PowerPoint presentation.



- ### BHJJ Results
- 62% identified as successful completers (11% rejected services, 6% out of home placement, 5% moved, 4% withdrawn)
 - Average length of stay in BHJJ: 8 months
 - BH Results:
 - Problem Severity (e.g. arguing, fighting, alcohol/drug use, breaking rules) and Functioning scores (e.g. getting along with family/friends, controlling emotions, making good decisions, expressing feelings) significantly improved across all three raters
 - Significant improvements in Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC) subscale scores (Anger, Anxiety, Depression, Dissociation, PTSD, Sexual Concerns) from intake to termination
 - Significant reductions in the amount of youth in both the clinical and sub-clinical range at termination
 - Decreases in self-reported substance use for most commonly used substances
- Source: Kretschmar, Jeff. PowerPoint presentation delivered to the Ohio Department of Youth Services Leadership Meeting, May 5, 2010.

BHJJ Results

- Twelve months after termination from BHJJ:
 - 8.5% of youth under 18 were charged with a felony in JC
 - 6.5% of successful completers, 10.7% of unsuccessful completers
 - 26.8% of youth under 18 were adjudicated delinquent
 - 22.4% of successful completers, 35.7% of unsuccessful completers
- 15 youth have been sent to an ODYS facility subsequent to their enrollment in BHJJ (1.4%)
 - Of those 15 youth, 6 had a felony charge in the 12 months prior to their enrollment in BHJJ

Source: Kretschmar, Jeff. PowerPoint presentation delivered to the Ohio Department of Youth Services Leadership Meeting, May 5, 2010.

System Responses: Pre-Adjudication & Court Processing

- Pre-Adjudication: Identification of dual system involvement (Conger & Ross, 2001)
 - Inconsistent identification of dual involvement
 - Absence of integrated systems or protocol to direct identification
 - Absence of child welfare in assessing charge/situation
- Pre-Adjudication: Use of detention
 - No one to release youth to/social worker difficult to reach
 - Placements won't accept
 - Conger & Ross (2001): Crossover youth 10% more likely to be detained
- Court Processing (Taken from interviews with youth, foster parents, judges and child welfare administrators Morris & Freundlich, 2004):
 - Perception that crossover youth had less serious offenses but were more severely punished than non-foster care counterparts
 - Status altered perceptions of living arrangements and risk level
 - Youth often dissatisfied with representation

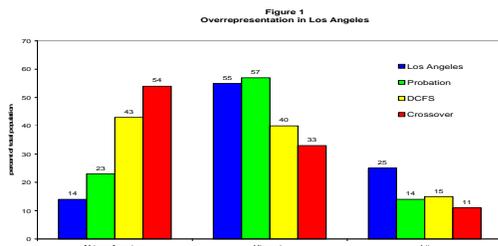
Characteristics of Crossover Youth, Continued

- Approximately one-third of crossover youth appear to be female, which exceeds the representation of females in general delinquency statistics.
- Overall, crossover youth appear to enter the system when they are young children and remain in the system into (and sometimes through) adolescence;
- African-American youth are overrepresented in the crossover numbers relative to the general population, child welfare referrals, and juvenile justice referrals (this finding was specific to Herz & Ryan, 2008 and Saetern & Swain, 2009).

Court Outcomes

- Ryan, Herz, Hernandez, & Marshall, 2007: Examined 69,009 first-time offenders entering the juvenile justice system in Los Angeles County between 2002 and 2005
- 7% of juvenile justice referrals came from child welfare; however, child welfare accounted for 14% of all new arrests of African Americans between 2002 and 2005.
- Compared to the non-child-welfare youth, youth entering from the child welfare system were:
 - Twice as likely to be African American (46% vs. 21%);
 - Significantly younger (median 15.0 years of age vs. 15.6);
 - More likely to be a female offender (37% vs. 24%); and
 - More likely to be associated with a violent offense (22% vs. 16%).
- Crossover youth were less likely to receive home on probation (58% vs. 73%) and more likely to receive "suitable placement" (i.e., placement in congregate care (21% vs. 11%))

Overrepresentation



Source: Ryan, Joseph. Investigating DMC in Juvenile Justice: The Role of Child Welfare. PowerPoint presentation, 16 March 2010.

The Role of the Dependency Attorney

- Herz, Ryan, & Bilchik (2009) examined what factors predicted better (less severe) dispositions for cases in the 2004 Los Angeles data
- Youths with a Children's Law Center dependency attorney were half as likely to be adjudicated as formal wards of the delinquency court compared to youths with a "panel" dependency attorney
- Why? We believe this occurs because CLC has a policy of writing a letter and/or appearing in court to provide more context of the youth's past experiences and current situation

Source: Herz, Denise. Crossover Youth: What Do We Know? PowerPoint presentation presented at the 2009 Governor's Summit on DMC Issues, Portland, OR, 16 November 2009.

Evaluation—Los Angeles MDT

- MDT=Joint assessment completed by Probation Officer, Social Worker, DMH Clinician, and Educational Rights Attorney
 - Study: 50 Treatment Cases and 44 Comparison Group Cases Matched on Key Characteristics
- Findings:
 - MDT increased the education information, number of strengths, and the number of recommendations for case planning in court reports
 - MDT reduced the number of youth becoming formal delinquency wards; however, 15% of the informal probation youth eventually became wards—this rate was statistically equivalent to the Non-MDT youth
 - MDT reduced recidivism by about 20% (percent change between groups); however, this difference was not statistically significant
 - MDT struggled with collaboration and improving access to appropriate placements and services—did not have an effective mechanism/structure to translate from assessment/planning to the field

Source: Herz, Denise. Crossover Youth: What Do We Know? PowerPoint presentation presented at the 2009 Governor's Summit on DMC Issues, Portland, OR. 16 November 2009.

Critical Issues to Address

- Understanding Crossover Youth Experiences and Moving Research Forward
 - Child welfare status appears to impact perceptions of risk and result in harsher disposition outcomes.
 - Anecdotal evidence combined with the growing amount of research underscores the important role that situational context may play in the lives of crossover youth and on how systems respond to crossover youth.
 - Although research is contributing to our knowledge in this area, each study prompts even more questions related to the reasons they cross over, their experiences within various systems, and how to improve their outcomes.

Reentry from Correctional Placements

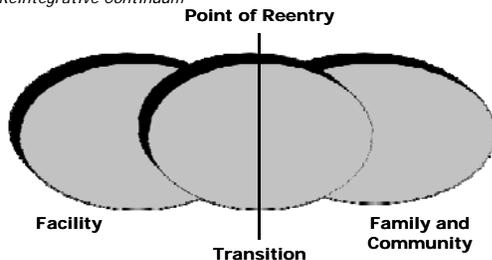
- Cusick, Goerge, & Bell (2009) examined eight cohorts of youth correctional exits (1996-2003) and found:
 - 65% of youth exits had prior child welfare history prior to entering the correctional facility
 - 9% of youth exits in Illinois and 11% of exits in Chicago were in an out-of-home placement in child welfare one year after exit
 - These youth exits had lower recidivism than all other groups of youth except non-involved youth 50%
- Although less than 1% of correctional exits had completed high school, only 36.5% of youth exits were enrolled in school after their release

Critical Issues to Address

- Implications for Systems
 - Interagency collaboration is not optional—it is necessary—at a minimum, there must be a nexus between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems
 - Interagency collaboration is not limited to child welfare and juvenile justice: Involvement of educational and behavioral health systems is essential
 - Collaboration also includes public defenders and prosecutors—working through confidentiality issues, for instance, requires partnerships characterized by trust
 - Collaborative practices and protocols should be built from both a bottom up approach and a top down approach

Reentry

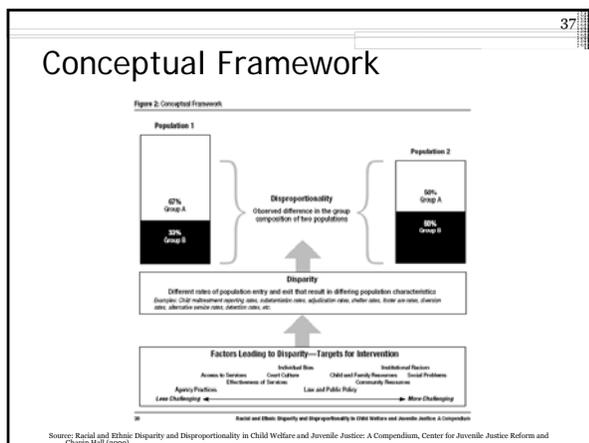
Reintegrative Continuum



Source: Altschuler, David and Shay Bilchik. 2010. Juvenile Reentry in Concept and Practice. PowerPoint Presentation, Council of State Governments Justice Center.

How to Address Disproportionality for Crossover Youth

Lessons Learned from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice in Reducing Disproportionality



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Findings from CSSP Study

- African American families fail to receive the necessary supports that could prevent or divert their involvement in child protective services.
- African American families experience the child welfare system as intrusive and not fair in assessing and valuing their strengths or exploring the least restrictive placement option.
- African American youth and families are negatively characterized or labeled by workers.
- Inadequate support for African American families and children in helping them to participate in, challenge and negotiate the system.
- Inadequate means for African American families and youth to hold the system accountable

Source: Race Equity Review and Findings from a Qualitative Analysis of Racial Disproportionality and Disparity for African American Children and Families in Michigan's Child Welfare System, The Center for the Study of Social Policy (2009)

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Disproportionality in the Child Welfare System

- Research confirms the disproportionate representation of African American children and families in this nation's child protective services systems.
- Disparate treatment
 - Higher rates of reporting and referral for investigation
 - Once involved with the system more likely to:
 - Be removed from their homes
 - Spend longer periods of time in out-of-home care
 - Have less access to relevant and helpful social services
 - Stay in care longer and be less likely to be reunified with their families
- Disproportionality is impacted by rates of entry and exit.

Source: Bob Hill (2006)

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Recommendations Based on CSSP Study

- Recommendations designed to create institutional change that would assure racial equity for children and families who come in contact with the child welfare system
 - Internal leadership capacity
 - Data driven management
 - Case practice model
 - Evaluation of policies
 - Use of risk assessment tools to avoid weighting/scoring bias
 - Fair and equitable provider services
 - External partnerships
 - Role of the Court/legal oversight
- Collaboration between child welfare and juvenile justice systems for dual ward youth

Source: Race Equity Review and Findings from a Qualitative Analysis of Racial Disproportionality and Disparity for African American Children and Families in Michigan's Child Welfare System, The Center for the Study of Social Policy (2009)

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Reasons for Disproportionality in the Child Welfare System

- CSSP conducted an analysis of policies and protocols that impact this problem in Michigan.
- The child welfare (and juvenile justice) system is challenged by beliefs that African American children may be better off away from their families.
- Family engagement and use of a strength-based approach is a significant challenge for these systems.
- The result is the reduction of the full and fair use of risk assessment tools and family group conferencing or team decision-making.

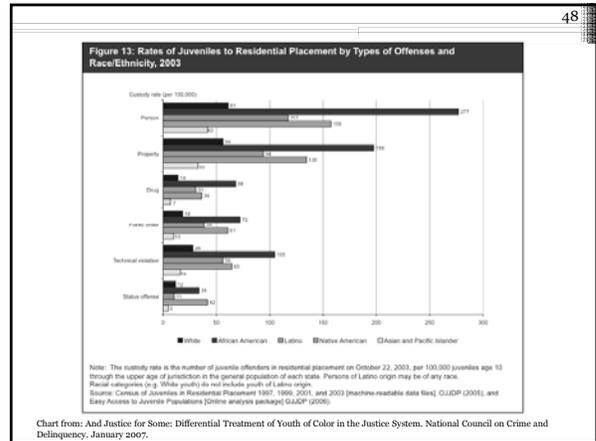
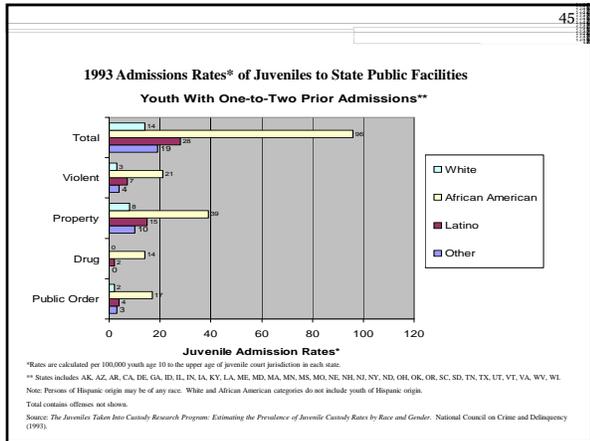
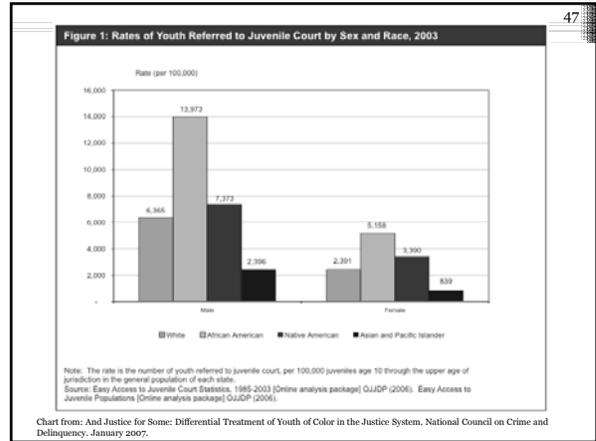
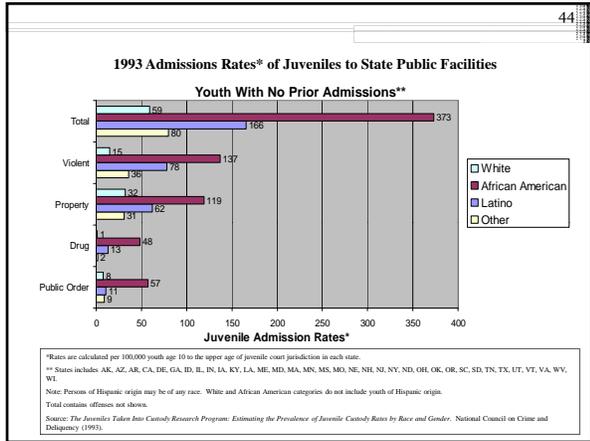
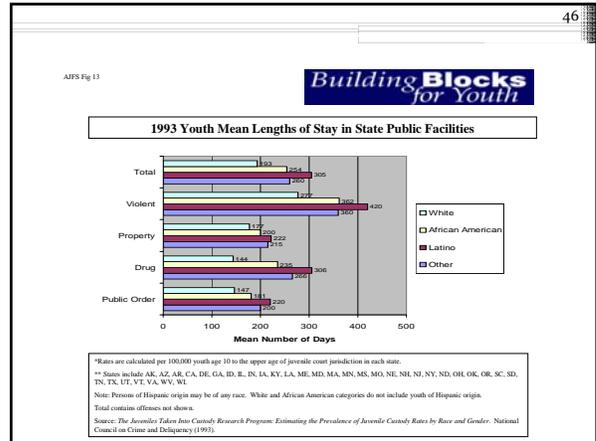
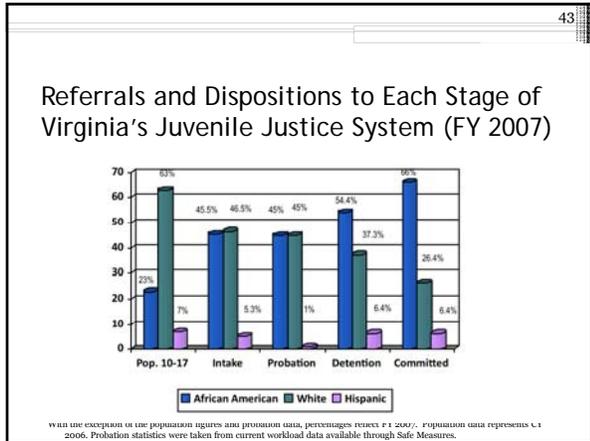
Source: Race Equity Review and Findings from a Qualitative Analysis of Racial Disproportionality and Disparity for African American Children and Families in Michigan's Child Welfare System, The Center for the Study of Social Policy (2009)

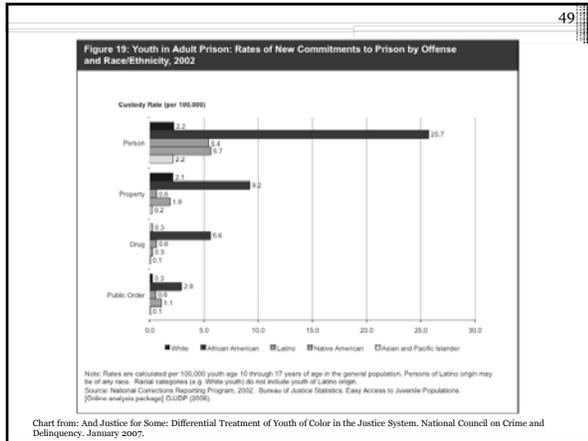
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Why Does Disproportionate Minority Contact Occur in the Juvenile Justice System?

- Structural inequalities and inequities in our society
- Differential offending rates
- Location of offenses
- Police responses to crime
- Juvenile justice policies that are fair on their face but have unintended negative consequences
- Conscious or unconscious use of racial/ethnic stereotypes
- Policy based on anecdote or "gut feeling"
- Failure to use data to drive decisions
- Failure to include all stakeholders in policy decisions

Material drawn from the Center for Children's Law and Policy and the W. Haywood Burns Institute





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Language Capability

- 11.7% (22 youth) needed a translator (either for themselves or for their parent)
- 13.3% (25 youth) had a parent who preferred Spanish
- 0.5% (1 youth) had Spanish forms on file

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Relative Rate Index

Allegheny County, 2000-2002

Summary of Black to White Relative Rate Ratios

The "relative rate index" (RRI) is a way to compare processing rates of youth of color to white youth. If the rate for youth of color is identical to that of white youth, the relative rate index is "1."

	Arrest	Referral	Informal	Detention	Petitioned	Adjudicated	Probation	Placement	Waiver
Both Genders									
For all offenses	2.8	5.5	0.8	1.8	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.7	--

"--" indicates that there were too few cases to calculate reliable rates.

The data analysis presented here was prepared by the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

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Recommendations Based on Juvenile Justice Practice Responses

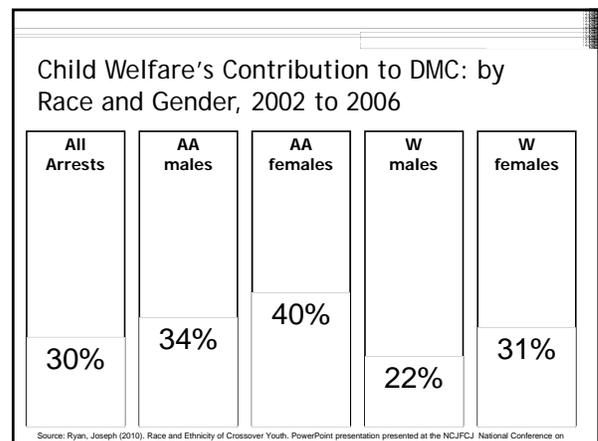
- W. Haywood Burns Model for System Change and Leadership
 - Develop oversight body of all stakeholders
 - Closely map juvenile justice process from first contact
 - Identify gaps in the data and improve data availability and accuracy
 - Analyze data at all stages of the juvenile justice system
 - Identify specific decision points where racial or ethnic disparities exist or there is unnecessary juvenile justice involvement
 - Create interventions to reduce disparities or unnecessary involvement
 - Monitor implementation
- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
 - Front "door"
 - Detention criteria
 - Detention alternatives
 - Case flow management
 - Data management

Source: Racial and Ethnic Disparity and Disproportionality in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice: A Compendium. Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and Chapin Hall (2009) & Burns Model extracted from powerpoint presentation by Mark Soler at Georgetown University

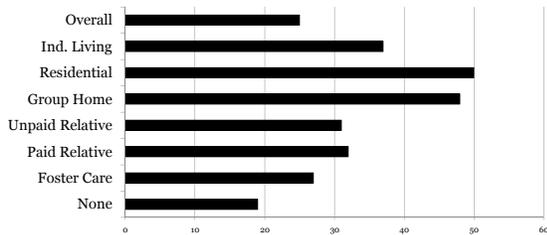
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Findings regarding Latino youth

- Latino youth are significantly overrepresented in the justice system
- Data collection mechanisms are inadequate
- Significant undercounting
- Failure to separate race from ethnicity
- Lack of adequate bilingual services
- Lack of culturally competent staff



The Likelihood of Arrest by Placement Type



Source: Ryan, Joseph (2010). Race and Ethnicity of Crossover Youth. PowerPoint presentation presented at the NCJFCJ National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law, March 18, Las Vegas, NV.

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Increasing Transparency

- Data Collection
- Management Information Systems
- Data Sharing

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Working Together to Reduce Disproportionality

- Increasing Transparency
 - Management information systems must be able to collect race and ethnicity information and they must be able to cross agency boundaries.
- Re-engineering Structures and Procedures
 - Processes and procedures should be reviewed on a routine basis to determine whether they contribute to disparities, and when they do, they should be re-designed.
- Mobilizing Political Leadership
 - Build awareness and consensus among the key decision makers in order to advance needed changes in policy and practice through their ownership of and leadership on the issue.
- Changing Organizational Culture
 - Influence the attitudes and values of agency staff in order to shape organizational culture in a way that may reduce disparate treatment and disproportionality.
- Partnering in Developing Family and Community Resources
 - Work at the community level to build better support systems for families.

Source: Racial and Ethnic Disparity and Disproportionality in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice: A Compendium, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and Chapin Hall (2009)

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Re-engineering Structures and Procedures

- Develop a vision statement
- Conduct ongoing reviews of agency structures
- Target key decision making stages to focus efforts
- Develop action goals
- Define and clarify language
- Collectively choose a starting point
- Creating sustainable change

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Stakeholder Collaborative

- A proactive, highly diversified local collaborative of stakeholders is needed as a foundation of this work.
- The collaborative must have:
 - A governance structure
 - A regular meeting schedule
 - A clear set of goals and objectives

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Mobilizing Political Leadership

- Assessing and utilizing the political capital of the collaborative to influence other groups, systems and citizens
- Informing and influencing other key leaders in the site to become champions of the effort
- Engaging the media
- Sharing data to strengthen the message
- Developing goals and timelines to address the problem within their area of leadership

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Changing Organizational Culture

- Cross agency vision
- Expanding partnerships
- Staff trainings
- Value the voice of families, youth and the community

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PDSAs (continued)

- Improve communication with placement agencies in an effort to prevent police involvement with youth in group homes (Los Angeles, CA).
- Reduce or eliminate the need for children to be taken to receiving/detention from a shelter care facility by improving interagency communication and scheduling a MDT staffing with the family (Sioux City, IA).
- Implement a diversion program with the prosecutor's office for dependency involved youth who commit a delinquent offense (Los Angeles, CA).

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Partnering in Developing Family and Community Resources

- Define community
- Improve services by listening to what community members have to say
- Conduct community forums
- Develop a profile of needs and strengths
- Develop a community profile of the community resources and supports
- Work with community members to strengthen partnership efforts
- Work with community members to develop community based and community driven resources

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PDSAs (continued)

- Assignment of "Parent Partners," who are parents who have experience dealing with both systems, to crossover families to engage them in the case planning process, increase family/youth involvement, improve case planning and overall family satisfaction (Baltimore, MD).
- Use a cultural broker to assist crossover youth and their families with navigating both systems and connecting with culturally competent services (Los Angeles, CA).
- Conduct a joint home study by DSS and DJJ for crossover youth (Georgetown County, SC).

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PDSAs

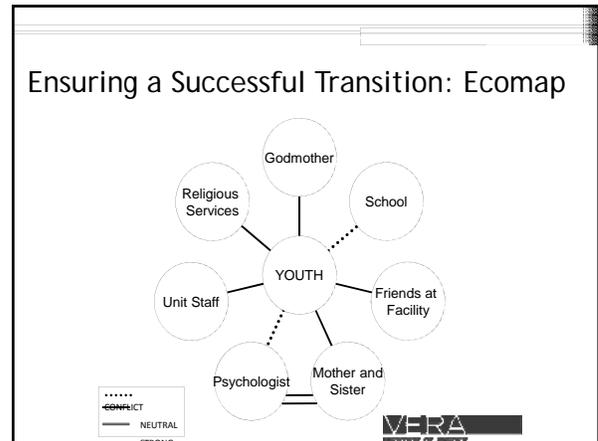
- An Alert (flag) has been added to the DJS ASSIST database to notify staff when a DJS youth is dually involved with DSS and provide the contact information for the DSS caseworker (Baltimore, MD).
- "Crossover Court" to ensure that a crossover youth's delinquency and CINA hearings will be heard by one judge at the same time (Baltimore, MD).
- Identify alternatives to detention/incarceration for crossover youth (Georgetown County, SC).

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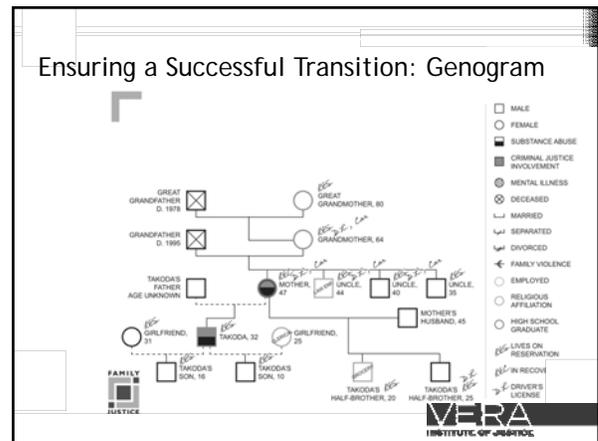
How Should We Define Success?

- Reduction of placement of children in out of home care because there are less intrusive options available.
- Reduction in disproportionality and disparate treatment so there is more proportionate representation in each system of care and in the access to and delivery of services

Transitioning Youth



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- ## Outcomes for Youth Transitioning Out of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
- In 2006, more than 26,500 youth aged out of the foster care system.
 - 1 in 5 will become homeless after age 18
 - Only 60% will finish high school by age 19
 - Less than 3% will earn a college degree by age 25
 - Risks of incarceration, early pregnancy and lack of employment are much higher than for the general population
 - Youth transitioning from the juvenile justice system also have poor outcomes.
 - Within 12 months of release, only 30% of youth were involved in school or employment
 - More likely to have substance abuse or mental health problems
 - In some areas, almost half return to the justice system.
 - Challenges facing youth known to both systems are greater and potentially more negative.
- Source: Supporting Youth in Transition to Adulthood: Lessons Learned from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. (2009)



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- ## Recommendations for Ensuring a Successful Transition
- Promote policies and practices that address family relationships and permanency.
 - Engage youth to work with their case managers in formulating a plan that includes the goals they wish to achieve by age 25.
 - Ensure that the services available to youth are developmentally appropriate.
 - Develop policies and practices that support prevention and development of the specific skills and competencies necessary for adulthood success.
 - Strengthen collaboration between the juvenile justice and child welfare systems to efficiently target service provision and improve outcomes for crossover youth.
 - Engage with the community to create broad support systems for transitioning youth.
- Source: Supporting Youth in Transition to Adulthood: Lessons Learned from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. (2009)



“A human being is a part of a whole, called by us ‘universe,’ a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separate from the rest – a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal decisions and affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole nature in its beauty.”

-Albert Einstein

Cross-Over Youth: Working Across Systems & Preparing Teens for Adulthood

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Through the Eyes of a Child XIII and Model Court Day: Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect

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