

# Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice

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National  
**Benevolent**  
Association

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



# Presenters



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# Questions and Conversation

**You are invited to ask questions of our presenters using the chat function in Fuze!**





# SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

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# Overview

- DEFINITION
- SYSTEM REVIEWS
- BREAKING THE PIPELINE
- QUESTIONS



# What is the School-to-Prison Pipeline?





- An epidemic that is plaguing schools and family court systems across the nation.
- Students are suspended, expelled or even arrested for minor offenses that provide them entry into the juvenile justice system, and some to the adult prison system.
- Statistics reflect that these policies disproportionately target students of color and those with a history of abuse, neglect, poverty or learning disabilities.

# ARE OUR CHILDREN BEING PUSHED INTO PRISON?

**THE PIPELINE TO PRISON:** THE U.S. HAS THE HIGHEST INCARCERATION RATE IN THE WORLD, AND ITS PRISONS AND JAILS ARE OVERWHELMINGLY FILLED WITH AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LATINOS. THE PATHS TO PRISON FOR YOUNG AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND LATINO MEN ARE MANY, BUT THE STARTING POINTS ARE OFTEN THE SCHOOL AND FOSTER CARE SYSTEMS.

## FROM SCHOOL TO PRISON

STUDENTS OF COLOR FACE HARSHER DISCIPLINE AND ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE PUSHED OUT OF SCHOOL THAN WHITES.

- 40%**  OF STUDENTS **EXPELLED** FROM U.S. SCHOOLS EACH YEAR ARE BLACK.
- 70%**  OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN "IN-SCHOOL" **ARRESTS** OR REFERRED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE BLACK OR LATINO.
- 3.5 X**  BLACK STUDENTS ARE THREE AND A HALF TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE **SUSPENDED** THAN WHITES.
- 2 X**  BLACK AND LATINO STUDENTS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO **NOT GRADUATE** HIGH SCHOOL AS WHITES.

**68%** OF ALL MALES IN STATE AND FEDERAL **PRISON** DO NOT HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL **DIPLOMA.**

## FROM FOSTER CARE TO PRISON

YOUTH OF COLOR ARE MORE LIKELY THAN WHITES TO BE PLACED IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, A BREEDING GROUND FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

- 50%**  OF CHILDREN IN THE **FOSTER CARE SYSTEM** ARE BLACK OR LATINO.
- 30%**  OF FOSTER CARE YOUTH ENTERING THE **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM** ARE PLACEMENT-RELATED BEHAVIORAL CASES (e.g., RUNNING AWAY FROM A GROUP HOME).
- 25%**  OF YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING FOSTER CARE WILL BE **INCARCERATED** WITHIN A FEW YEARS AFTER TURNING 18.
- 50%**  OF YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING FOSTER CARE WILL BE **UNEMPLOYED** WITHIN A FEW YEARS AFTER TURNING 18.

**70%** OF INMATES IN CALIFORNIA **STATE PRISON** ARE FORMER **FOSTER CARE** YOUTH.

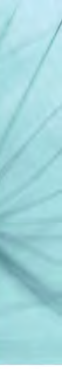


## THE COLOR OF MASS INCARCERATION



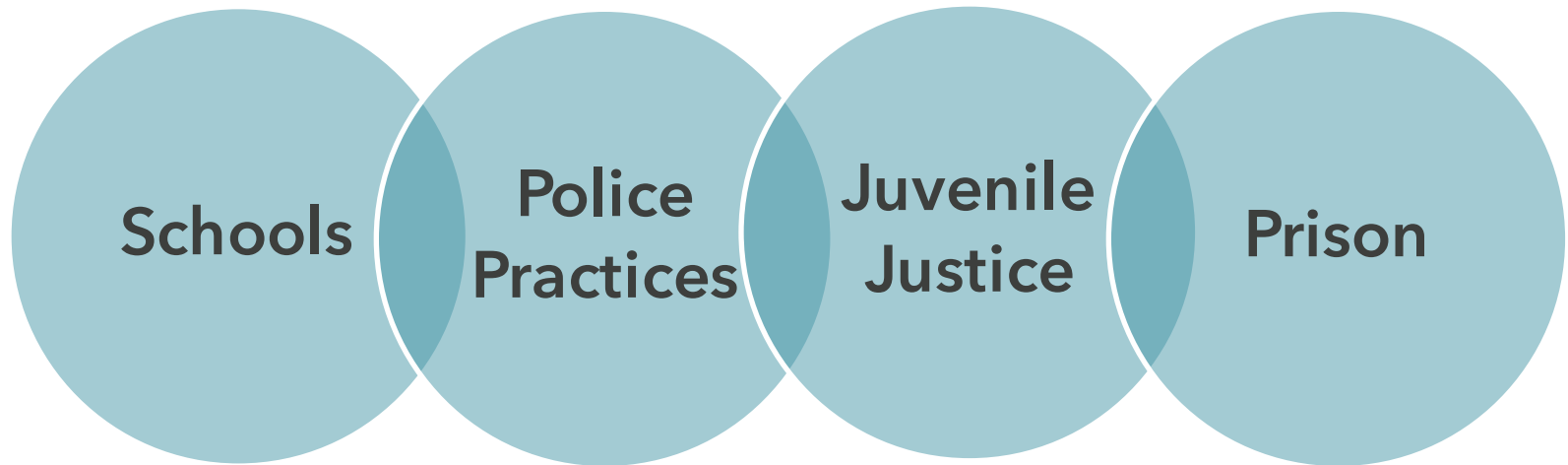
# What does it mean to break the pipeline?

To dismantle systems that cooperate in the criminalization and incarceration of youth of color by organizing reforms in school, policing, and the juvenile justice system.





# Feeds to the Pipeline



# Video: School Resource Officer



<https://youtu.be/dqtnnxmAmY>

# Schools



# Police Practices



# Juvenile Courts



# Disrupting the Pipeline: Schools

- Address the unconscious racial/other biases that influence decisions in these systems
- Implementation of school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS)
- Moratorium on school suspensions; replace with parent conferencing, counseling, incentives, community service
- Consider Community School Models that bring wrap-around services into schools
- Implement Community Discipline Councils
- Create alternatives for after school
- Get rid of zero-tolerance policies
- Safe Schools Act modification

# Disrupting the Pipeline: Policing

- Reducing school referrals to juvenile justice system from School Resource Officers (SROs)
- Address juveniles in discussion about racial profiling and policing practices
- Prohibit police interrogations unless child's attorney is present
- Collect data on search, seizure, patrol and pedestrian juvenile stops
- Advocate for community-based model policing
- Increase accountability with Civilian Oversight Board and training
- Include officers on community/school discipline boards

# Disrupting the Pipeline: Juvenile Detention and Courts

- Reducing school referrals to juvenile justice system
- Reform standards for confinement; replace with community-based services
- Reform juvenile representation policies
- Reform programs for gender specific needs
- Support "Raise the Age" legislation in your state
- Create dual jurisdiction programs
- Scrutinize and evaluate detainment instruments
- Create reentry programs for juveniles returning from juvenile detention facilities
- Address the unconscious racial/other biases that influence decisions in these systems with data



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# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

# Restorative justice involves three parties:



the  
**victim**

or the individual  
harmed



the  
**offender**

or the individual who  
caused the harm



the  
**community**

the place where the  
harm was committed

# Practices and programs reflecting restorative purposes will respond to crime by:

1. Identifying and taking steps to repair harm
2. Involving all stakeholders
3. Transforming the traditional relationship between communities and their governments in responding to crime.

# Three principles form the foundation for restorative justice:

1. Justice requires that we work to restore those who have been injured.
2. Those most directly involved and affected by crime should have the opportunity to participate fully in the response if they wish.
3. Government's role is to preserve a just public order, and the community's role is to build and maintain a just peace.

# Restorative programs are characterized by four key values:

1. **Encounter:** Create opportunities for victims, offenders, and community members who want to do so to meet to discuss the crime and its aftermath.
2. **Amends:** Expect offenders to take steps to repair the harm they have caused.
3. **Reintegration:** Seek to restore victims and offenders to whole, contributing members of society.
4. **Inclusion:** Provide opportunities for parties with a stake in a specific crime to participate in its resolution.

# Programs and outcomes include:

- Victim offender mediation
- Conferencing
- Circles of accountability
- Ex-offender assistance
- Restitution
- Community service



# Restorative Justice Louisville

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**(502) 574-6869**

- **Restorative Justice Louisville (RJL)** provides a holistic and restorative approach to the traditional criminal justice system by bringing together the offender, victim and community to make things right.
- Through facilitated conferences, all parties involved collectively identify harm and determine a way forward that is centered on healing for everyone.
- Using the restorative justice approach ensures that compassion and restitution are integral parts of the judicial process.



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# Resources

- **NBA Prison & Jail Ministries:**  
<http://www.nbacares.org/prison-and-jail>
- **Reconciliation Ministry:**  
<http://reconciliationministry.org/resources/school-to-prison/>

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Thank you!



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