

# Meeting the Needs of Youth Charged with Crime

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Children's  
Law *and* Policy

# Underidentified and Undermet Needs

- **Education:**
  - By second grade, 45 percent of children who subsequently became delinquents were delayed in reading and 36 percent were delayed in writing. (Meltzer et al., 1984)
  - At least 35% of incarcerated youth are eligible for special education services (Quinn, et al., 2005)
- **Mental Health and Trauma:**
  - 70% of youth in juvenile justice met criteria for a mental health disorder (Shufelt & Coccozza, 2006)
  - 27% of youth had severe disorder (Id.)
  - 3-50% of juvenile justice youth estimated to have PTSD (Wolpaw & Ford, 2004)

# Undermet needs, cont.

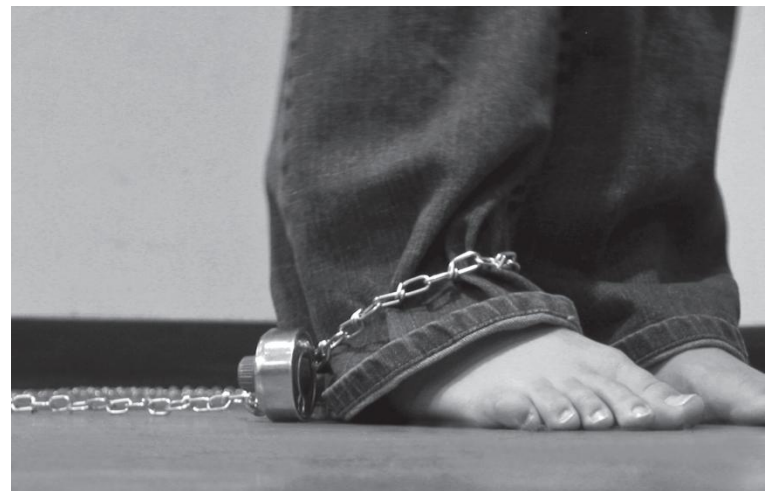
- Developmental/intellectual disabilities:
  - Nearly 3.5 percent of the incarcerated juvenile population vs. 87 percent of public school students (Quinn et al., 2005)
- Child welfare:
  - child abuse and/or neglect increases the risk of arrest as a juvenile by 55% and the risk of committing a violent crime by 96% (Widom, 1989)
  - In Los Angeles, African-American youth are 14% of the population but 54% of the youth who transition from the child welfare system to juvenile justice (Ryan, et al, 2007)

# Undermet needs, cont.

- Community safety
- Limited access to mental health and other services in communities of poverty

# Problem of the Slippery Slope

- Youth get into trouble
- We want to fix all their problems
- Failure to comply with daunting requirements
- Violations of Probation, “Failure to Adjust”



# Racial and Ethnic Disparities at Every Stage of the System



# Cumulative effects

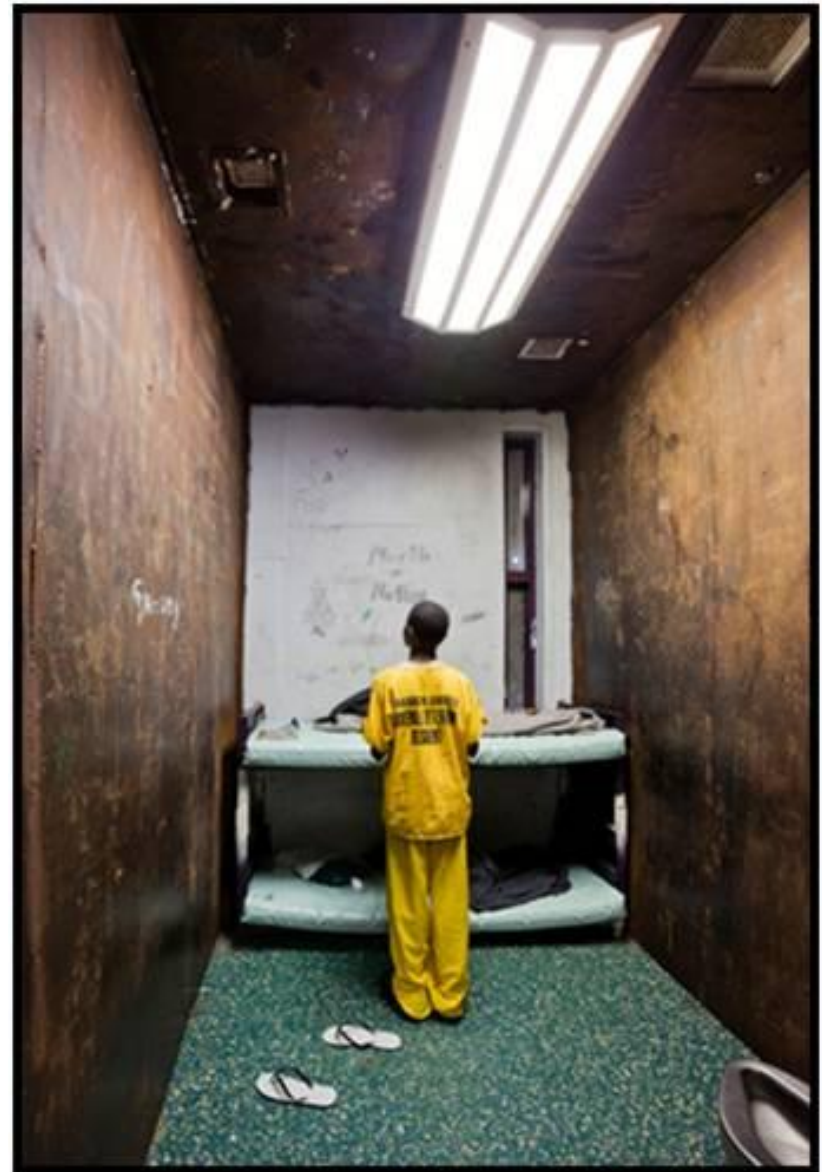
- African-American youth are:
  - 16% of the adolescent population in the US
  - 28% of juvenile arrests
  - 30% of referrals to juvenile court
  - 37% of youth in secure detention
  - 38% of youth in residential placement
  - 35% of youth transferred to adult court by judicial waiver
  - 58% of youth admitted to state adult prisons

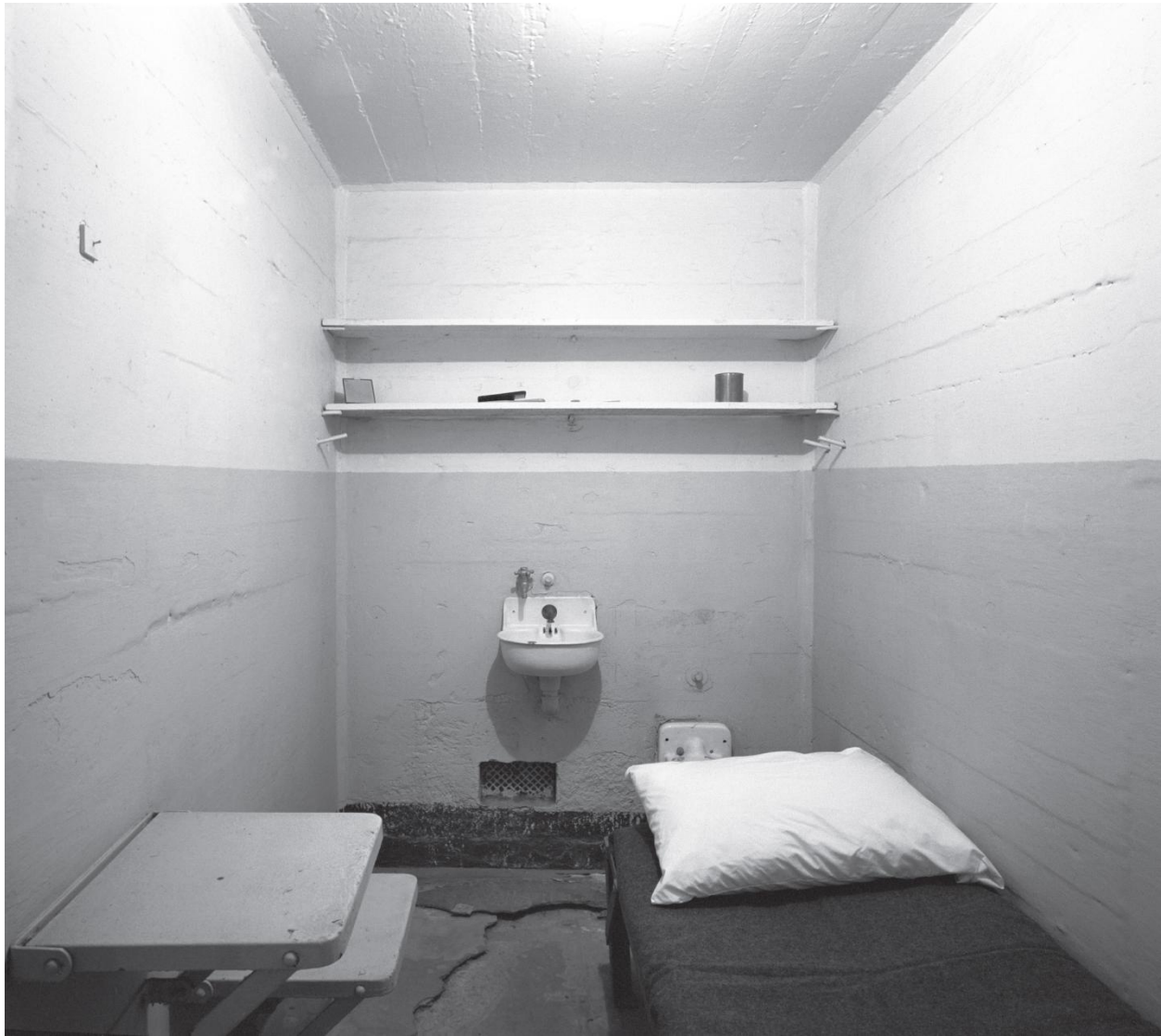
# Disproportionate Minority Contact: The Facts

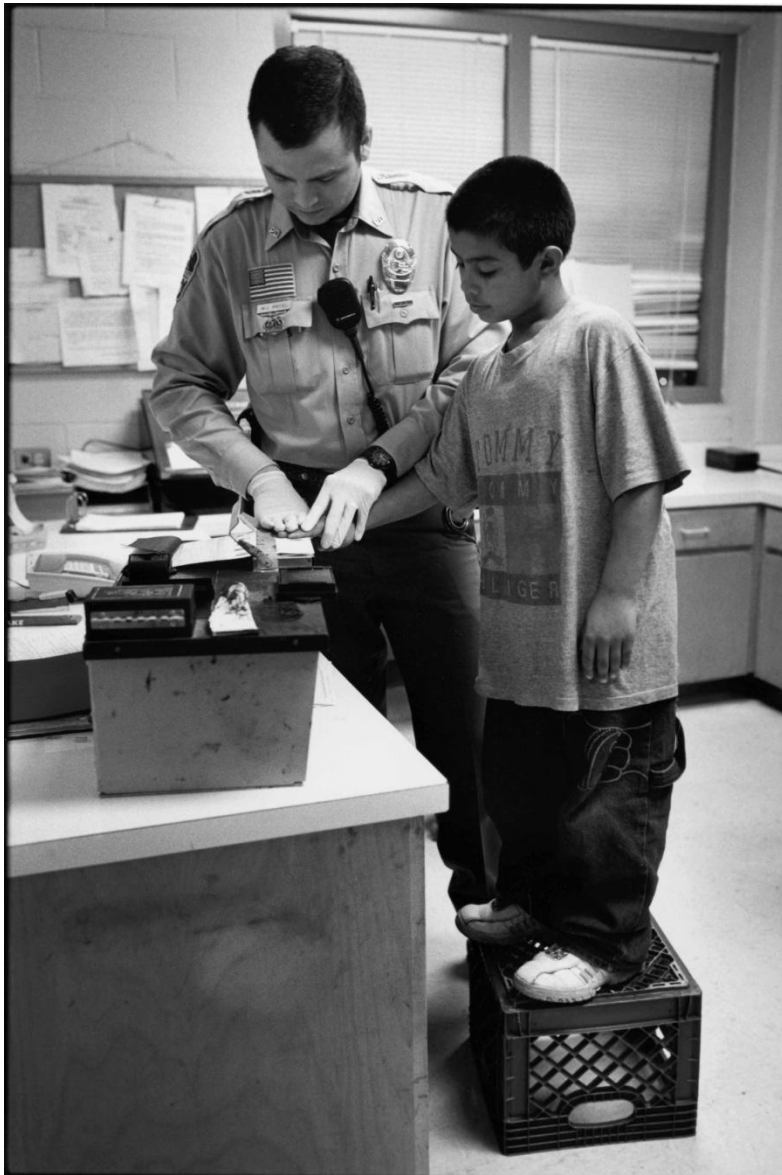
- African- American Youth
  - 16% of adolescent population, but 38% of incarcerated youth
  - Twice as likely to be detained in locked facilities away from home for drug offenses as white youth
  - Spent an average of 30% more time incarcerated than white youth charged with similar offenses
- Latino Youth
  - 41% more likely to be put in placement than White youth
  - Sentences are twice as long for drug offenses as those of white youth
  - 1.5 times more likely to be sent to adult jail than white youth



# Rehabilitation in Correctional Facilities?







In states  
without age  
limits,

Eight, nine, ten,  
eleven year olds  
end up in  
detention

# Peer contagion

- Adolescents placed in juvenile correction settings:
  - develop friendships and networks conducive to learning new forms of crime and strategies for manipulating law enforcement (Andrews 1980, Bayer et al. 2004, Clarke-McLean 1996).
- Analysis of random assignment to treatment foster care as opposed to group residential treatment:
  - treatment foster care associated with reductions in problem behavior, group residential treatment associated with increases in problem behavior (Leve & Chamberlain 2005).

In the name of safety and  
“institutional order”....



From *Out of Control*



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# Rehabilitation in Correctional Facilities?

- Mental health and suicide
  - 16% of detained youth who needed mental health services received them (Teplin, 2005)
  - 50% of incarcerated youth who completed suicide were on room confinement status (Hayes, 2004)
- Sexual victimization
  - 12% of incarcerated youth had been victimized in the previous year, mostly by staff
  - LGBT youth twice as likely to be victimized (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010)
- Limited educational resources, school discontinuity
- Far from families
- Regimentation

What messages do we send to youth about who they are and what they can become?



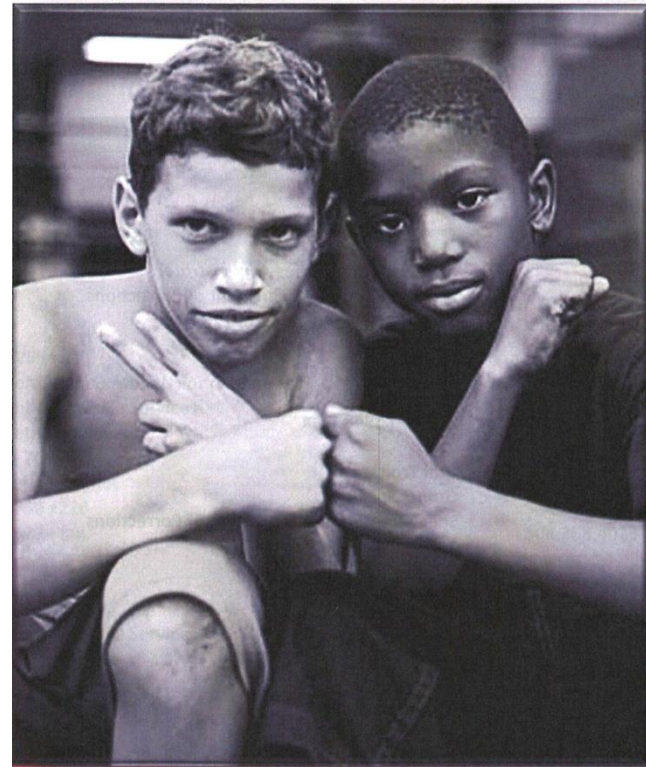


# Limiting Use of Secure Confinement

- Evidence-based practices with higher rates of success: See Blueprints for Violence Prevention  
<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/modelprograms.html>
- Movement toward closer to home – CA, TX, NY  
See: Bringing Youth Home  
[http://njjn.org/uploads/digital\\_library/Bringing%20Youth%20Home%20FINAL,%208.9.11.pdf](http://njjn.org/uploads/digital_library/Bringing%20Youth%20Home%20FINAL,%208.9.11.pdf)  
and No Place for Kids – JDAI publication in handouts

# Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Data-driven
- Targeted at particular decision points
- Intentional focus on race and ethnicity
- Collaborative, involving traditional and nontraditional stakeholders





# Work to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- DMC Action Network/Models for Change:  
See <http://www.cclp.org/DMC.php>
- W. Haywood Burns Institute:  
See <http://burnsinstitute.org/>
- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative:  
See  
<http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org/SitePages/reducingracialdisparities.aspx>
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: See  
<http://www.ojjdp.gov/dmc/about.html>

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