

School-to-Prison Pipeline

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Why focus on violence within schools?

- Schools
 - Foundation of Education
 - Institution of Socialization
 - Mechanism of Social Stratification and Reproduction
 - Site of Americanization
- Violence, Injustice, and Inequality
 - Climate, Environment, Disorder, and Securitization
 - Engagement in Misbehavior, Deviance, and Delinquency
 - Bullying, Harassment, Sexual Assault, and Victimization
 - Discrimination, Prejudice, and Biased Treatment
 - Fear, Social Isolation, and Avoidance
 - Juvenile Arrests, Waivers, and School Punishment/Discipline
- Social, Psychological, Educational, and Economic Consequences
- Violence at School is a Mechanism of Stratification, Reproduction, and Marginalization



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What is the school-to-prison pipeline?

- The “school-to-prison pipeline” refers to the discipline, punishment, and social control policies that push out youth from schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.
- Although the “school-to-prison pipeline” has primarily focused on the effect of school discipline, emerging research are broadening the scope of the educational and schooling mechanisms that could facilitate educational failure and pathways into the juvenile and criminal justice system



Demographic disparities associated with the school-to-prison pipeline

- School location
- Socioeconomic status
- Social status
- Family structure
- Gender identity and expression
- Sexual orientation
- Race and ethnicity
- Immigration
- Religion
- Special education and tracking/grouping



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How is school environment significant?

- Safety
 - rules and norms; school securitization; physical safety; social-emotional safety; bullying programs/policies
- Relationships
 - respect for diversity; school connectedness-engagement; social support—adults; social support—students; leadership
- Teaching and Learning
 - social, emotional, ethical and civic learning; support for learning; educational resources; professional relationships; measure of progress and success
- Institutional Environment
 - physical surrounding; community violence; law enforcement practices



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Why this matters

- Schools as a site educational progress and success; however, can also be an institution that reproduces inequality.
- The school-to-prison pipeline is marginalizing schools, communities, and families by derailing the educational success and progress by excluding youth from the labor market, and promoting the continuation of the historical sense of mistrust and resentment toward authority, the criminal justice system, and all forms of social control, particularly minority, marginalized, and vulnerable youth.
- As the U.S. becomes increasingly immersed in a global competitive market, addressing a school system fraught with inequities, such as the school-to-prison pipeline, becomes imperative. Insuring and improving educational achievement and attainment of this nation's progress and growth.



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Towards progress

- Increasing federal, state, and local attention
 - President Obama’s “My Brother's Keeper” initiatives
 - Increasing funding
 - Increasing research and policy interventions
 - Increasing media, community, family, and administrative scrutiny
- Increasing implementation of non-punitive school policies
 - Communal schools
 - Communal school organization, a more specific perspective of school climate, refers to the organization of schools as communities as indicated by supportive relationships between and among members of the school, a common set of goals and norms, and a sense of collaboration and individual involvement.
 - Restorative justice
 - Restorative justice is a philosophy based on a set of principles that guide the response to conflict and harm. Restorative justice emphasizes values of empathy, respect, honesty, acceptance, responsibility, and accountability.



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Appreciation extended to the:

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Gillings School of Global Public Health

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

Community members and stakeholders



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