



The Impact of Trauma on the School to Prison Pipeline

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Man this school sh*t is a Joke!
The same people
who control the school system
control the prison system
and the whole social system
Ever Since Slavery...
Nawsayin?

- Dead Prez
(Hip-Hop Duo)

Defining the School to Prison Pipeline

The policies and practices that are directly and indirectly pushing students out of school and on a pathway to prison.

- American Civil Liberties Union



The Consequences of the School to Prison Pipeline

- ▶ Increased drop-out rates and/or risk of falling further behind in school
- ▶ Exposure to trauma/abuse in facilities by staff or peers
- ▶ Separation from family and community
- ▶ Transfer to adult court and extended incarceration

The Color of the Pipeline

**Black youth comprise of 17% of all juveniles...
But 31% of all arrests.**

► Black youth are

- More likely to be referred to a juvenile court than are white youth
- More likely to be processed (less likely to be diverted).
- More likely to be sent to secure confinement.
- More likely to be transferred to adult facilities.

The disparities grow at almost every step.

What Contributes to the School to Prison Pipeline?



What is a potentially traumatic event?

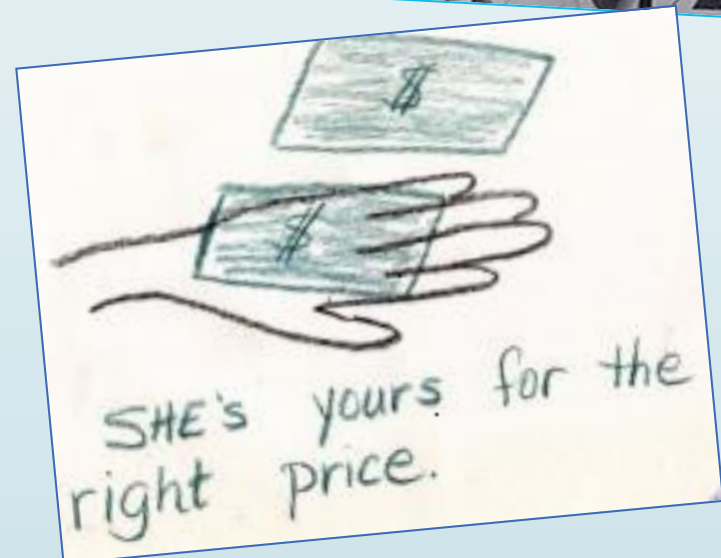
The experience of exposure to actual or threatened death, serious injury or sexual violation



Types of Traumatic Events

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- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- Community violence and victimization
- Abandonment and neglect
- Domestic violence
- Traumatic loss
- Prostitution/Sex trafficking
- Serious accident
- Medical trauma, injury, illness
- Natural disaster



The Impact of Community Violence

Repeated exposure to images and stories of trauma in students' communities or in news coverage can impact a student's emotional, psychological, behavioral, and physical functioning.



Complex Trauma

Exposure to multiple or prolonged traumatic events that is chronic. Typically begins in early childhood



Rates of Trauma in JJ Youth

Percentage of Trauma in JJ System

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70-90% of
juvenile
offenders
report past
trauma



Average
number of
traumas types
experienced
is 6+



30-50%
develop
Posttraumatic
Stress Disorder
(PTSD)

Posttraumatic Stress (PTSD)

- Reexperiencing/Reenactment
- Hyperarousal/Reactivity
- Avoidance/Numbing
- Negative Thoughts/Mood
- Dissociation



Hyperarousal/Reactivity

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- Irritable
- Aggressive outbursts
- Hypervigilance
- Reckless behavior
- Self-destructive behavior
- Quick to startle
- Poor sleep
- Poor concentration

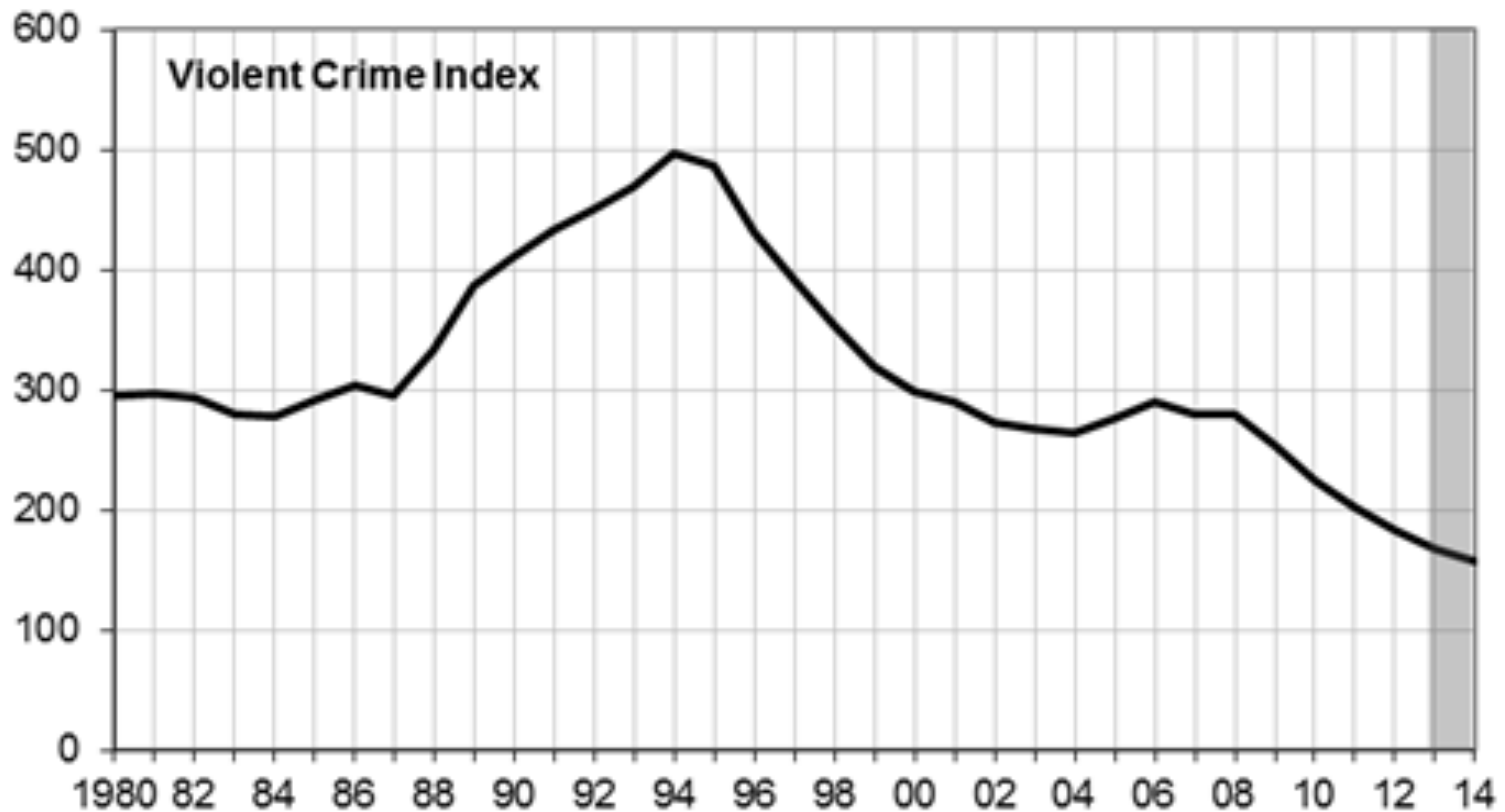


School Discipline

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- ➔ Juvenile crime rates are plummeting, and the number of youth in juvenile detention centers has dropped.

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10-17, 1980-2014



School Discipline

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But school discipline policies are moving in the opposite direction: out-of-school suspensions have increased about 10 percent since 2000.



School Discipline

- 3.3 Million suspended and more than 100,000 expulsions each year (NCES, 2015)
- Most likely consequence of suspension is additional suspension (NASP, 2016)
- There has yet to be a research study identifying a direct correlation between zero tolerance policies and safe schools

Problems with Suspension

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- Loss of instructional time.
- Lower achievement.
- Three fold increase in risk of dropping out.
- **A leading indicator of future incarceration.**



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Reversing the Pipeline

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Reversing the Pipeline

- ▶ Commitment to Change
- ▶ Prevention
- ▶ Intervention



Commitment To Change

► Policy and Procedure Changes

- Make zero tolerance approach unlawful
- Require that long-term suspensions be restricted to serious violations of board policy
- Encourage use of alternatives to suspension



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Prevention of STPP



► Training for all staff

- Understanding Trauma
- Trauma informed approaches in the classroom
- Evidence based interventions for traumatized youth

Prevention of STPP



Universal Trauma Screenings

Universal screening is a proactive approach of using brief and efficient measures to identify students at risk for future difficulties

Interventions

- Student support teams
- Mentoring & counseling
- Social work services
- Personal Education Plans
- Effective IEPs for students with disabilities



Resources

The Association of Black Psychologists

www.ABPsi.org & www.NJABPsi.org

National Child Traumatic Stress Network

www.NCTSN.org

National Association of School Psychologists

www.NASPOnline.org

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