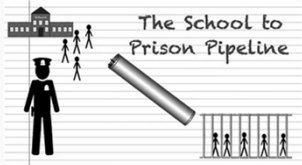


The School-to-Prison-Pipeline

Race in the Courts: 4.7.16
Professor Tamar Birkhead, UNC School of Law
Birkhead@unc.edu

What is the STPP?

- Risk Factors
- Federal data
- Impact on students
- Proposals for reform



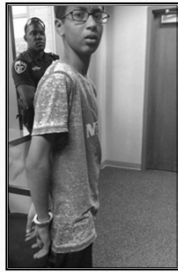
What does the School-to-Prison Pipeline look like?

A four-year-old in a pre-K classroom in Greene County, Virginia



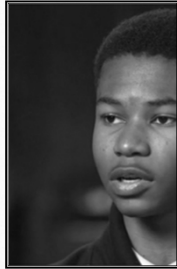
What does the School-to-Prison Pipeline look like?

A fourteen-year-old in Irving, Texas, named Ahmed Mohamed



What does the School-to-Prison Pipeline look like?

A sixteen-year-old in Raleigh, North Carolina, named Jahbriel Morris



Schools + Police = Court Involvement



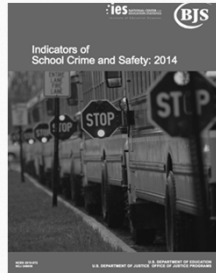
Risk Factors for School-to-Prison Pipeline



- Failing Public Schools
- High Stakes Testing
- Zero Tolerance policies

Federal Data on armed security staff in schools

- Large schools – over 1000 students
- Schools with at least half or more students of color
- High poverty schools – at least 75% free/reduced lunch



The Trend of Police in Schools is Growing

- 1950s in Flint, Michigan
- 1990s Age of the “Superpredator”
- 1999 Columbine
- 1999-2005: USDOJ gives \$750 million
- 2012 Sandy Hook



Impact of Police in Schools?

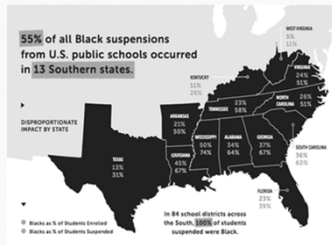


- Increases suspension/expulsion rates
- Pushes students into disciplinary alternative schools
- Increases drop-out rates
- Leads to unnecessary arrests
- Increases court involvement

Disproportionately Disciplined: Black Student Suspension Rates in American South

Edward J. Smith & Shaun R. Harper

Graduate School of Education University of Pennsylvania August, 2015



Proposals for Reform



- Remove police/SROs from schools
- End zero tolerance policies
- Keep SROs out of routine disciplinary issues
- Improve training for SROs and school administrators

*McDougle Middle School, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Questions? Comments?