



SCHOOL-TO-PRISON

PIPELINE



WHAT IS THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE?

✘ The trend where students are pushed out of schools and into the criminal justice system (American Civil Liberties Union)

- ✘ Key Components:
- Academic failure
 - Exclusionary Discipline Practices
 - Dropout

(Christle et al., 2005)



WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SAVE THIS ONE, BUT DON'T WORRY, SOMEONE WILL CATCH HIM.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

IPS SKATERBOARDING

WELFARE SYSTEM

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

GANGS

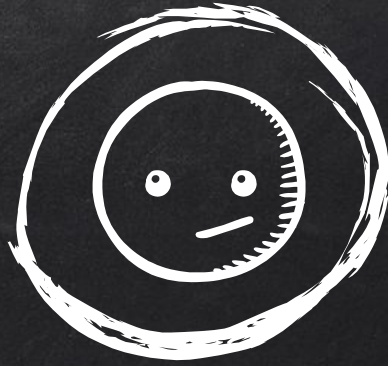
Gary Halliday
THE INDIVIDUAL IS KING



BRIEF HISTORY

- ✗ 1980s: “get tough on drugs and crime” policies; “War on drugs”
 - Schools began using these strategies in their own discipline codes
 - Zero-Tolerance
 - 3 Strikes
- ✗ 1990s – 2000s: Increase in police presence in schools
- ✗ Media construction of crime and criminals
 - Crime coverage increased despite decreasing crime rates
 - Overrepresentation of people of color, primarily Black and Hispanic

(Birkland & Lawrence, 2009; Frymer, 2009; Dorfman & Schiraldi, 2001)



CURRENT ISSUES

Zero-Tolerance, Disproportionality, the Effects of Incarceration



ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES

- ✘ Purpose: to remove students who threaten the safety or quality of education of others
- ✘ These policies target misconduct at school or school-related activities with predetermined disciplinary actions
 - Suspensions and expulsions
- ✘ The Big 5 Offenses:
 - Firearms, knives, selling drugs, sexual assault, explosives
 - If proven, public school student must be expelled**

(CDE)



REALITY OF ZERO-TOLERANCE

- ✘ The majority of schools in the United States have zero-tolerance policies
- ✘ Nonviolent offenses accounted for 95% of out-of-school suspensions
 - Defying school staff/disrespect
 - Committed obscenity, vulgarity, profanity
 - Possession of drugs
 - “Other dangerous object”
 - Truancy

(Boccanfuso & Kuhfeld, 2011)



DISPROPORTIONALITY

3x

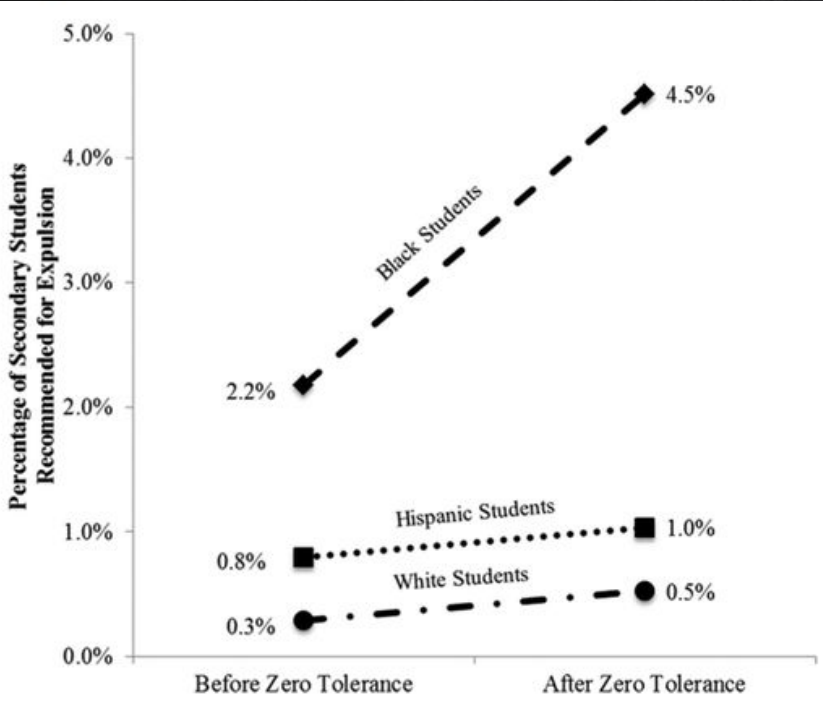
Black students are three times more likely to be suspended or expelled than white students

2x

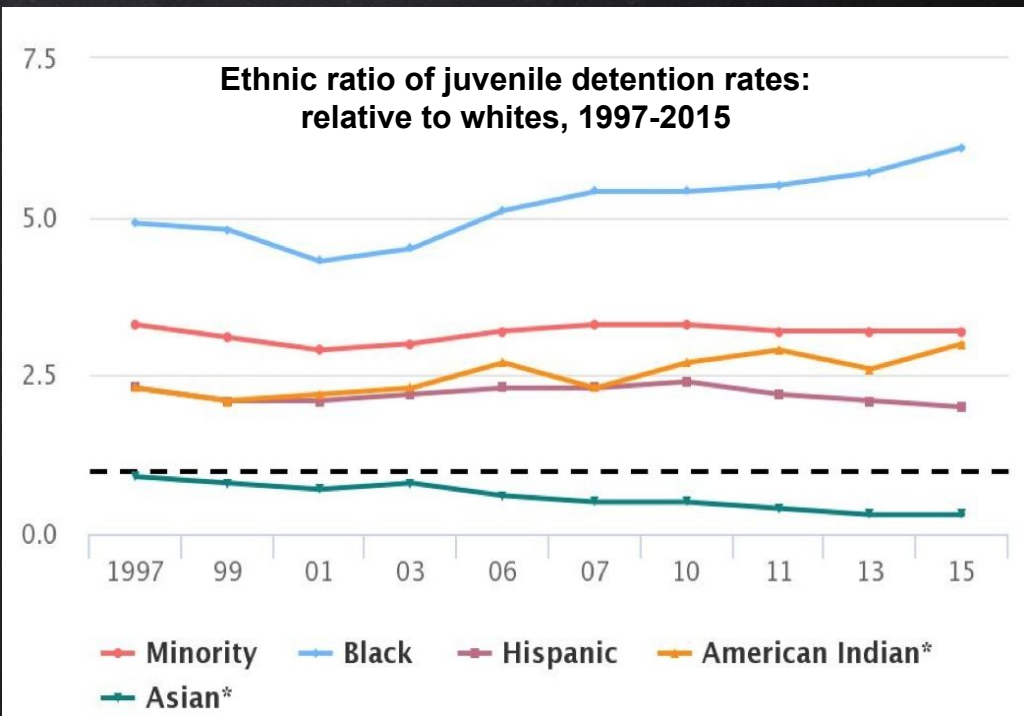
Students with disabilities are two times more likely to receive out-of-school suspensions

(U.S. Department of Education)

Students who identify as LGBTQ+ are at a higher risk for suspension and juvenile justice contact



(Hoffman, 2014)



(OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book)



EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON YOUTH

- ✘ Experiencing Abuse/Violence
 - 77.4% of youth reported some form of direct abuse
 - 95.2% of youth reported witnessing or being exposed to abuse
 - Youth who reported any exposure to abuse had higher levels of
 - Posttraumatic stress reactions
 - Depressive symptoms
 - Continued criminal-involvement

(Dierkhising et al., 2014)



EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON YOUTH

- X Psychosocial Maturity and Mental Health
 - o Youth who spent more time in prison reported:



Impulse Control
Responsibility



Physical and Verbal Aggression

Alcohol/Drug Use

Angry-Irritable

Depressed-Anxious

Somatic Complaints

Suicidal Ideation

Multiple psychiatric Disorders

(Dmitrieva et al., 2012; Anderson & Rancer, 2007; Cauffman, 2004; Domalanta et al., 2003)



EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON YOUTH

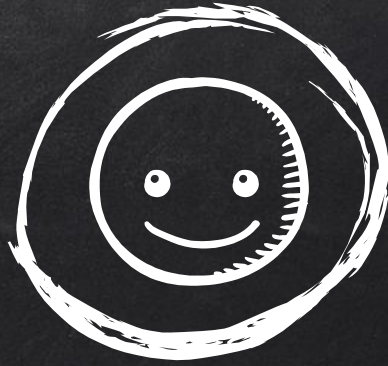
- ✘ Post-Release
 - 98% of offenders report criminal record discrimination by employers
 - Higher levels of psychological distress
- ✘ Recidivism
 - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
 - 80% chance of recidivating for youth

(Dierkhising et al., 2014)



“The average state cost for the secure confinement of a young person is now \$588 per day, or \$214,620 per year, a 44 percent increase from 2014.”

<http://www.justicepolicy.org/research/12928>



ALTERNATIVE DISCIPLINE

Restorative Justice



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- ✗ Views discipline as an opportunity to understand the misbehavior, mend relationships, and come to a resolution
- ✗ Crime is more than just breaking the law
 - It harms people, relationships, and communities
- ✗ 3 main goals of Restorative Justice:
 - Repair – crime causes harm and justice requires repairing that harm
 - Encounter – having parties decide together
 - Restorative circles, peer mediators
 - Transform – this can spark changes in people, relationships, school climate, and communities



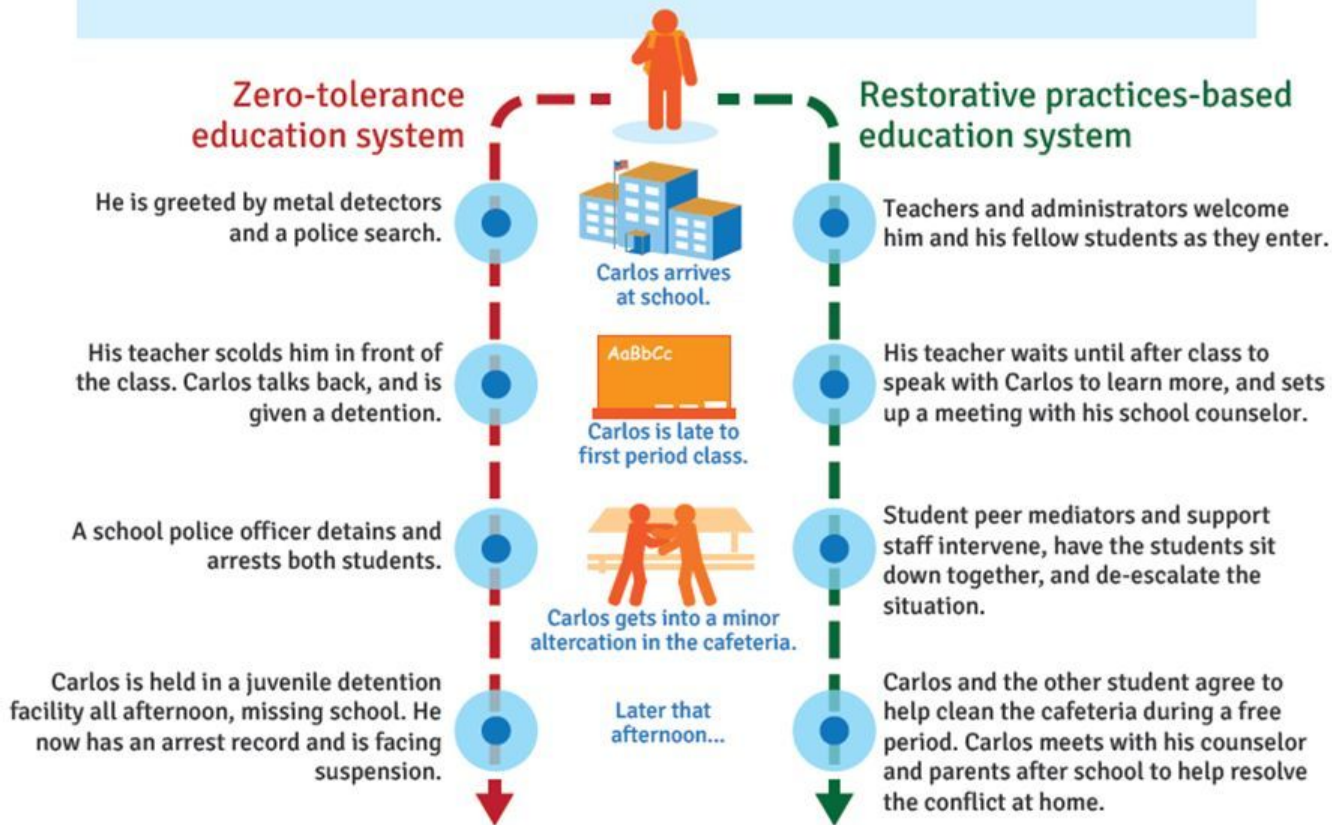
RESEARCH EFFICACY OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- ✘ Reducing out-of-school suspensions:
 - Increase of graduation rates by 20%
 - Decrease in student delinquency by 50%
- ✘ Implementing school-wide restorative justice:
 - Suspension rates dropped from 34% to 13%
 - Dropout rates reduced by 56%; graduation rates increased
 - Reading achievement rate increased by 128%
- ✘ RJ compared to traditional Juvenile Justice programs:
 - Youth who were in RJ remained offense-free for longer periods of time compared to those referred to traditional JJ programs

(Teske, 2011; Jain, Bassey, Brown, & Preety, 2014; Bergseth & Bouffard, 2012)

A Tale of Two Schools

Carlos had a heated argument with his parents before leaving for school, so he's running late. Let's see the difference that restorative policies and practices can make.





THANKS!

Any questions or comments?



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