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ModelsforChange
Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice
NETWORK PARTNER 2013

DMC Action Network

The DMC Action Network is a project of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's [Models for Change](#) initiative.

The Network aims to share knowledge and accelerate progress in the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

The Center for Children's Law and Policy, manages the DMC Action Network. For more information on the DMC Action

Comprehensive Training on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System

The Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP), in partnership with the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR), recently conducted the inaugural session of the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program. Teams representing eight jurisdictions from across the country took part in the Certificate Program held September 23-27 in Washington, DC. CCLP staff and guest speakers provided participants with information, strategies, and practices to be used in reducing racial and ethnic disparities at every major decision point in the juvenile justice system.

The Certificate Program began with an overview of important historical points and central goals in reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. CCLP Executive Director Mark Soler presented research on implicit bias and key indicators of bias in the juvenile justice system. Participants also learned about pathways into the system including the school-to-prison pipeline. The training zeroed in on how to reduce racial and ethnic disparities at arrest, detention, disposition, post-disposition, reentry and transfer decision points. Additionally, portions of the certificate program focused on dually-involved youth -- young people involved with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

CCLP emphasized the importance of a data-driven approach in reducing racial and ethnic disparities. Prior to the start of the Certificate Program, teams from each jurisdiction submitted data from key decision points and CCLP used those data to inform the curriculum and develop exercises for participants. Additional focuses throughout the program included cultural responsiveness and linguistic competence as well as valuing and involving families.

Each jurisdiction, with technical assistance from CJJR and CCLP, will now spend approximately one year developing and implementing a Capstone Project. Each project will focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities at one decision point in the jurisdiction's juvenile justice system. CCLP emphasized the importance of creating a Capstone Project using a data-driven approach with measurable outcomes.

Network, [visit our website](#).

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CCLP was able to develop the curriculum for the training thanks to support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The Certificate Program received very positive reviews from participants. Even after three and a half days, some participants said that the program should be longer and that they would have been open to extending the training days until after dinner to make the most of the time together.



Resources About Trauma-Informed Care

- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network recently released a series of briefs on developing a trauma-informed juvenile justice system. The authors explore [trauma-informed assessments and interventions](#), [the importance of family engagement](#), [cross-system collaborations](#), [the environment in juvenile facilities](#), and [racial disparities](#). Click [here](#) to download the briefs.
- [Ten Things Every Juvenile Court Judge Should Know About Trauma and Delinquency](#) is an informative technical assistance bulletin published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. It provides judges and other juvenile justice system stakeholders a guide to understanding the link between exposure to trauma and the risk of delinquency. The bulletin provides juvenile courts with specific practices to help officials work with youth in a trauma-informed way.
- [Healing Invisible Wounds: Why Investing in Trauma-Informed Care for Children Makes Sense](#) is a report that details the myriad ways that exposure to traumatic events can lead to juvenile justice system involvement. In addition to describing the indicators of exposure to trauma, the report makes recommendations on how to better recognize the impact of trauma on children and the types of programs and practices that can best address their needs.
- [The Importance of Trauma-Informed Care in Juvenile Justice](#) is a

video that provides a brief overview on the need for trauma-informed services and information on how to support children in the juvenile justice system. It notes that at least 75% of youth in the juvenile justice system have been exposed to some form of trauma. It discusses how creating a trauma-informed system results in cost savings to localities. You can view this video [here](#).

- [Think Trauma: A Training for Staff in Juvenile Justice Residential Settings](#) is a curriculum developed by the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress that provides training for staff in residential facilities to help them shift to a trauma-informed perspective. The training consists of four modules: (1) the relationship between trauma and delinquency; (2) the impact of traumatic stress on development; (3) survival coping strategies; and (4) organizational stress and vicarious trauma.
- [PTSD, Trauma, and Comorbid Psychiatric Disorder in Detained Youth](#) examines the findings of the Northwestern Juvenile Project (NJP). The NJP is a study of 1,829 youth arrested and detained between November 20, 1995 and June 14, 1998 in the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center in Chicago, IL. The study found that 92.5% of youth in detention experienced at least one trauma, 84% experienced more than one trauma, and 56.8% were exposed to six or more traumas. The report recommends collaborations between mental health professionals and the juvenile justice system so that children in residential facilities are not retraumatized while in custody. You can access this OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin [here](#).

The Latest DMC and Juvenile Justice Information

- OJJDP Administrator Robert L. Listenbee recently sat down for an interview with NPR. He discussed the effect of violence on children and efforts to close the school-to-prison-pipeline. Listenbee said, "We firmly believe that children should be kept in school and out of courts." [Click here to read the entire interview](#).
- The Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council of the National Academies released, [Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in the United States](#). The report contains research on responding to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking and responding to their needs. One recommendation is to support laws that redirect the victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking away from the criminal and juvenile justice systems and toward appropriate human services agencies. Click here to download the [report](#), [report brief](#), [fact sheet](#), [briefing slides](#) and [video](#).
- [Changing Course: Preventing Gang Membership](#) explores the consequences of gang membership and describes evidence-based principles that can prevent children from joining gangs. Chapter 10 of

the report, [Race and Ethnicity: What Are Their Roles in Gang Membership?](#), found that gangs are increasingly becoming racially and ethnically mixed. The report recommends the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program as an effective gang prevention program.

- The Sentencing Project's report, [Life Goes On: The Historic Rise in Life Sentences in America](#), analyzes the increasing numbers of prisoners serving life sentences. The population of prisoners serving life sentences has quadrupled since 1984. One of the key findings is that more than 10,000 life-sentenced inmates have been convicted of crimes that occurred before they turned 18, and nearly 1 in 4 of them was sentenced to life without parole.
- The Center for Youth Justice at the Vera Institute of Justice recently released, [Coming of Age with Stop and Frisk: Experiences, Self-Perceptions, and Public Safety Implications](#). This report explores how young people in New York City experience stop-and-frisk policies. One finding is that young people who have been stopped repeatedly by the police are less willing to cooperate with law enforcement. You can read the full report [here](#) and the summary report [here](#).
- The National Academy of Sciences just released [Improving the Health, Safety, and Well-Being of Young Adults: Workshop Summary](#). This report focuses on some the barriers young people face as they transition from childhood to adulthood. Chapter 4, "Safety- and Health-Related Behaviors," discusses how violent injury (excluding suicide) is the number one cause of death among African Americans ages 15-34, and that they often suffer from PTSD. Chapter 12, "The Justice System" highlights how most young people age out of delinquent behavior. You can download the entire report or individual chapters by clicking [here](#).
- The Campaign for Youth Justice released [State Trends: Legislative Victories from 2011-2013 Removing Youth from the Adult Criminal Justice System](#). This report notes that eight states removed youth from adult jails and prisons and five states made advances in keeping young people out of the criminal justice system. [You can download the entire report here.](#)

The *DMC eNews* reports on efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact in juvenile justice systems in the [DMC Action Network](#). The Center for Children's Law and Policy manages the DMC Action Network. For a PDF version of this newsletter, [click here](#). You can also contact us anytime with comments or suggestions at knash@cclp.org or 202-637-0377 x106.