

Disproportionate Discipline Practices in Schools

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In alarming numbers, children are being disciplined in schools at disproportionate rates based on race/ethnicity, disability status, gender, and age. This includes the suspension, expulsion, arrest, and referral to law enforcement of children as young as three years old. The criminalization of the behavior of millions of children requires educators and other related professionals to examine their practices. Importantly, many of these children live in impoverished communities and/or may have experienced some form of trauma, emphasizing the need for appropriate intervention. School districts across the country utilize discipline policies that push students out of the classroom and into the criminal justice system. This causes many students to become accustomed to a criminalistic lifestyle because if when not in school, they have a higher chance of engaging in negative behaviors. In this poster, school discipline practices will be presented in an effort to unpack the term “school-to-prison pipeline”. Infographics, data charts, and written text will display current Georgia discipline practice data compared to national rates. The poster will also include a review of existing policies and recommendations for addressing disproportionate discipline practices in school.