

Disproportionate Minority Contact in Washington State Juvenile Courts

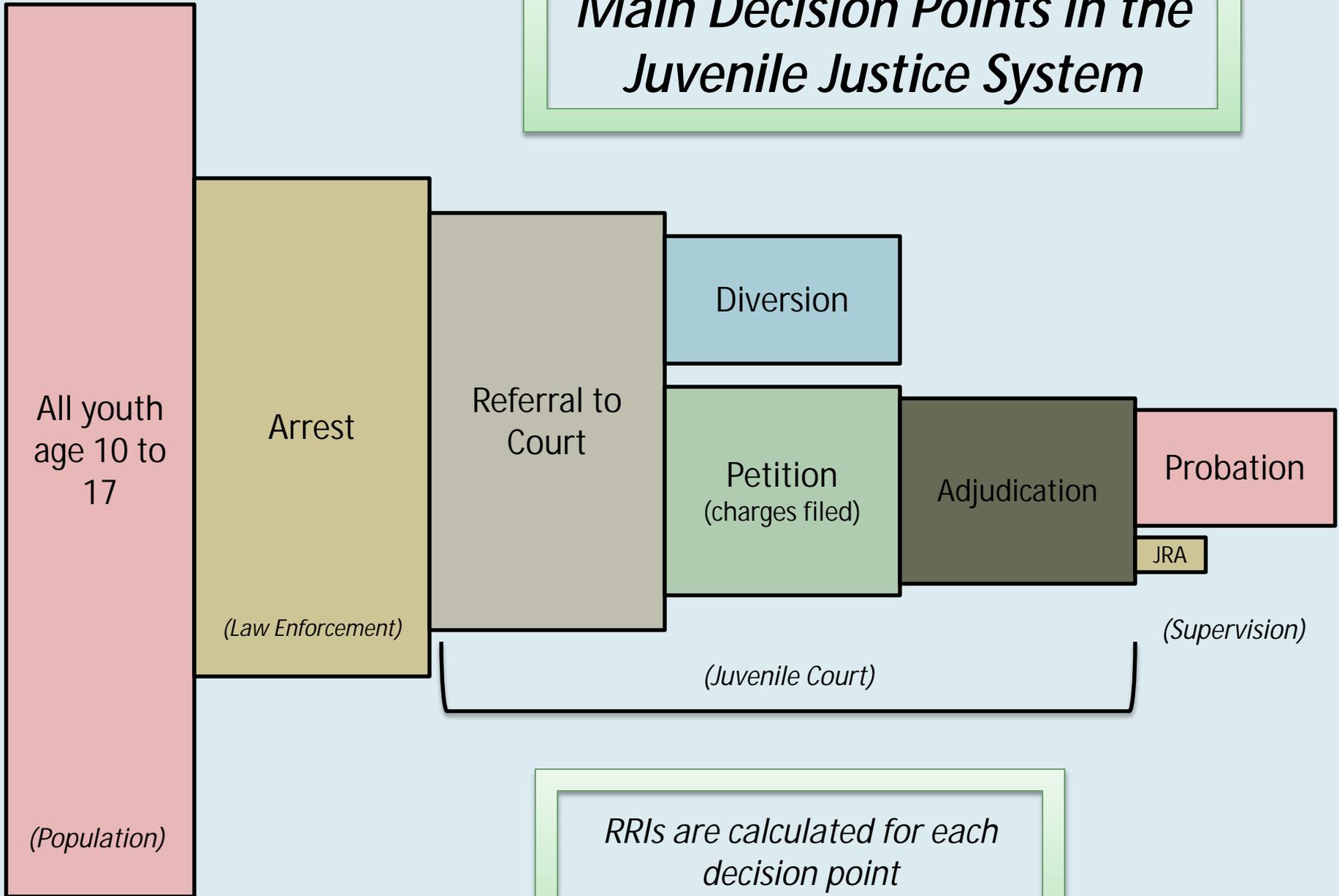
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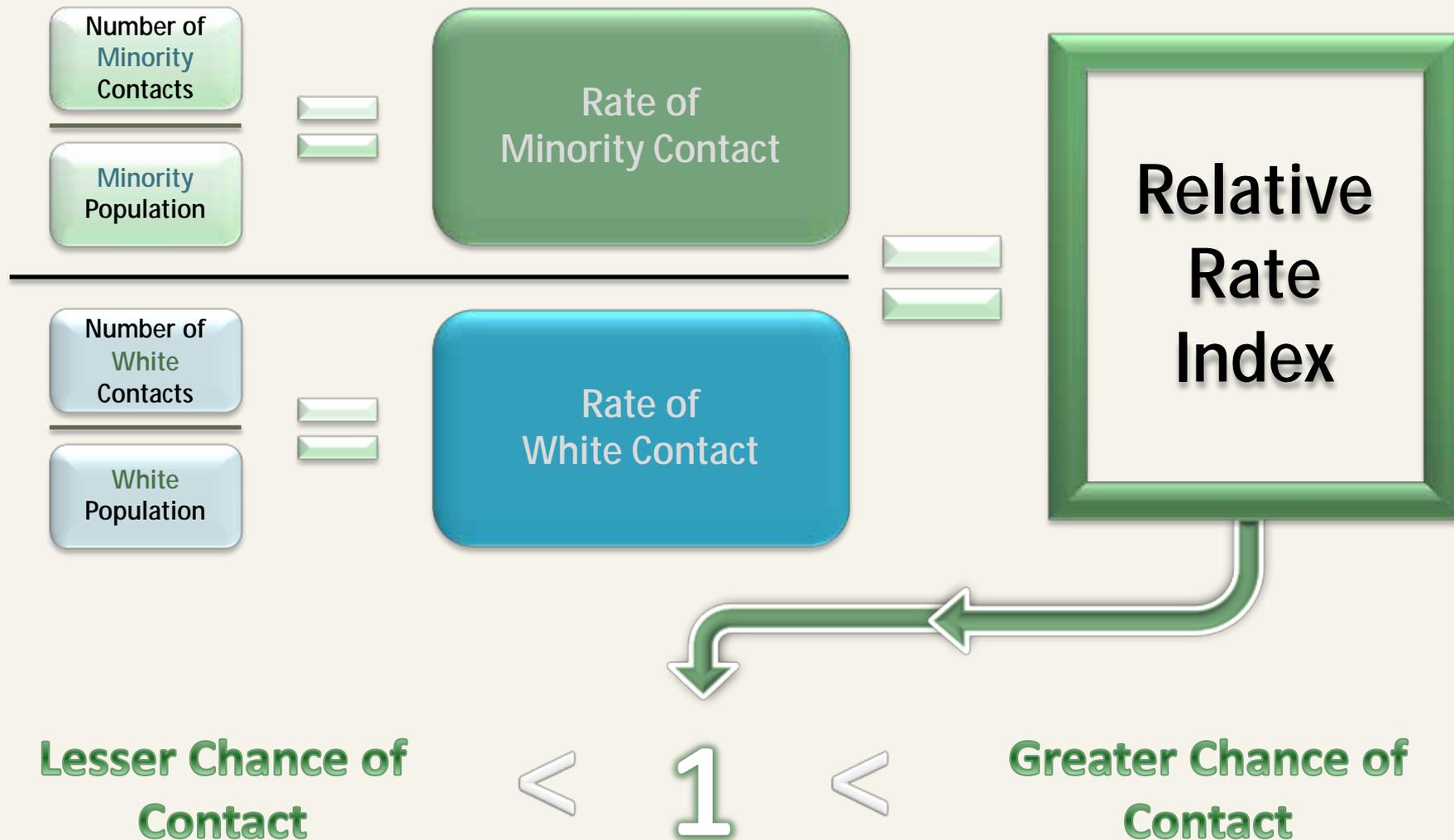
March 1, 2013

Main Decision Points in the Juvenile Justice System



RRIs are calculated for each decision point

What is a Relative Rate Index (RRI)?



Statewide Release of DMC Indicators 2007-2011

Summary: Relative Rate Index Compared with White Juveniles

Data with imputed race/ethnicity

Data displayed for Washington
Calendar year 2011

	Number of cases	Relative Rates				
		Black, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Asian or Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	American Indian or Alaska Native, non-Hispanic	All Minorities ¹
Juvenile Arrests ²	23,004	1.80	**	0.32	0.94	0.94
Referrals to Juvenile Court	32,446	2.48	1.16	0.43	1.88	1.24
<i>with a Disposition Offense Category B+ or higher</i>	1,566	1.69	1.09	0.79	1.09	1.27
<i>with a Diversion Agreement Signed</i>	11,392	0.64	0.83	1.20	0.70	0.78
Cases Filed (petitioned referrals)	16,292	1.18	1.20	0.83	1.38	1.18
Cases Adjudicated (guilty and deferred dispositions)	10,780	1.05	0.99	1.02	0.95	1.01
<i>with JRA dispositions</i>	852	1.57	0.80	0.47	0.96	1.07
Cases transferred to Adult Court	169	3.95	4.79	X	X	3.98

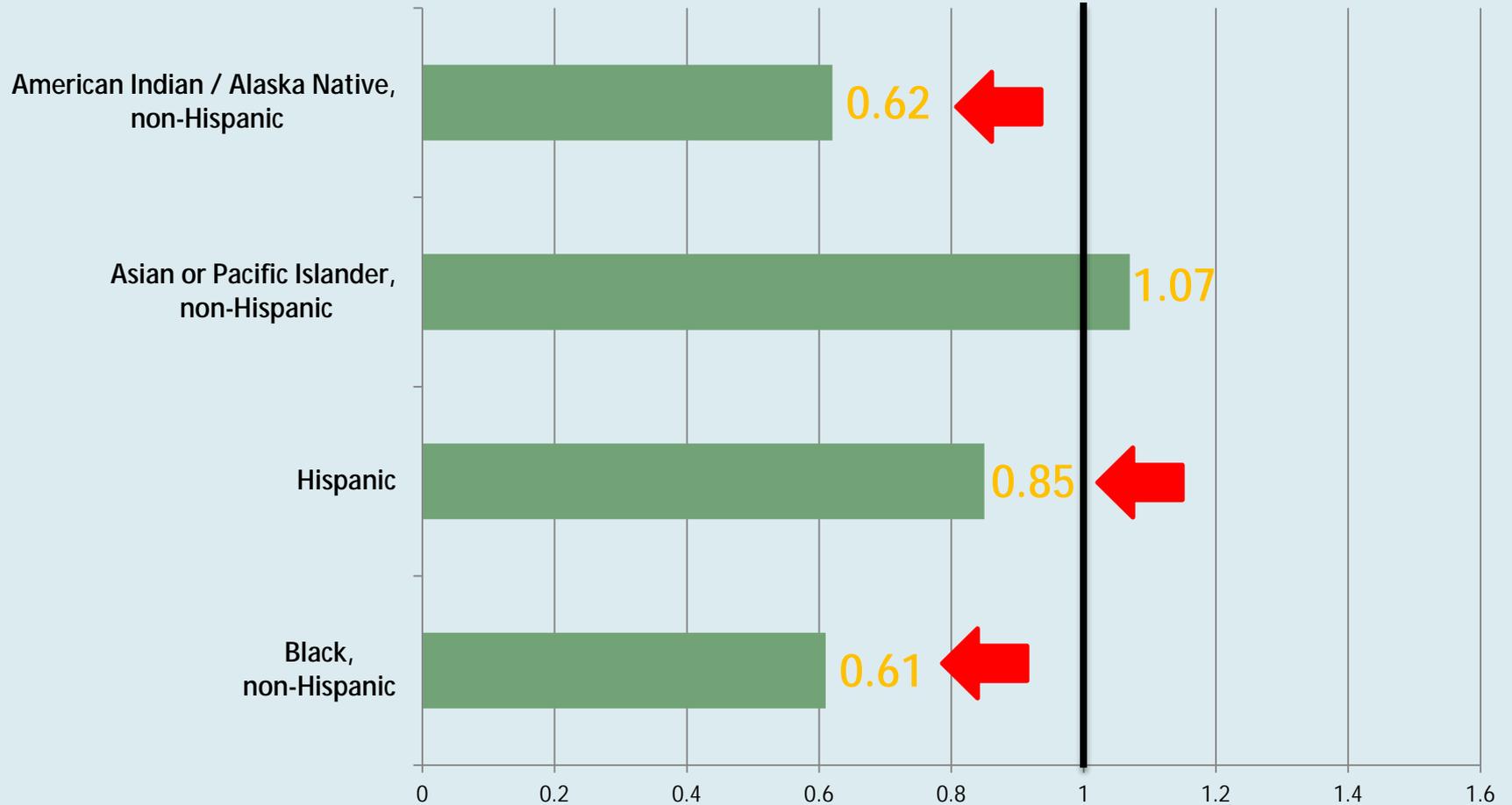
Black and American Indian Youth More Than 2X as Likely To Be Referred to Court

Referrals to Juvenile Court



Most Populations of Color are Less Likely to Receive Diversion

Cases diverted



Similar Rates of Adjudication Across Populations (Guilty and Deferred Dispositions)

Adjudicated cases



County Level Reporting

2007-2011
five-year averages
at each of 8
decision points

2007 to 2011 Summary of RRI's: Minority youth compared to white, non-Hispanic youth
Decision point: Referrals to Juvenile Court

Data with imputed race/ethnicity

	Black, non- Hispanic	Hispanic	Asian or Pacific Islander, non- Hispanic	American Indian or Alaska Native, non-Hispanic	<i>All Minorities</i>
Washington	2.46	1.09	0.45	1.81	1.22
Adams	X	1.20	X	X	1.17
Asotin-Garfield	1.36	0.30	X	0.95	0.60
Benton-Franklin	2.08	1.11	0.35	0.51	1.11
Chelan	1.57	1.08	X	1.69	1.08
Clallam	1.73	0.50	X	1.18	0.84
Clark	2.59	0.57	0.43	0.59	0.90
Cowlitz	2.00	1.07	0.95	1.17	1.17
Douglas	2.17	1.01	X	1.05	1.02
Ferry-PO-Stevens	1.61	0.24	0.49	0.97	0.77
Grant	2.45	0.90	0.34	2.42	0.96
Grays Harbor	1.24	0.43	0.57	0.71	0.59
Island	1.41	0.77	0.69	1.17	0.92
Jefferson	0.65	0.51	0.49	0.39	0.49
King	4.56	1.27	0.68	2.43	1.87
Kitsap	2.28	0.96	0.66	1.39	1.18
Kittitas	2.94	0.67	X	1.05	0.84
Klickitat	1.90	0.54	X	2.72	0.90
Lewis	1.78	0.84	0.39	0.59	0.88
Lincoln	X	X	X	2.18	0.92
Mason	1.00	0.43	0.85	1.15	0.71
Okanogan	1.26	0.87	0.67	2.95	1.56
Pacific-Wahkiakum	1.49	0.41	1.04	0.49	0.59
Pierce	2.62	0.70	0.73	1.07	1.36
San Juan	X	0.67	X	X	0.56
Skagit	1.59	1.70	0.54	1.18	1.57
Skamania	1.60	1.13	X	1.67	1.32
Snohomish	2.22	0.76	0.39	1.93	0.91
Spokane	3.17	0.57	0.42	3.49	1.55
Thurston	1.73	0.73	0.67	1.76	1.01
Walla Walla-Columbia	1.82	1.31	0.28	0.97	1.28
Whatcom	2.43	1.21	0.55	2.16	1.37
Whitman	1.96	0.46	X	1.17	0.69
Yakima	3.35	1.04	0.25	1.67	1.11

X too few cases to calculate a reliable rate

Suggested citation:

Puzzanchera, C., Hurst, H., Zipoy, J., and Veele, S. (2012). Washington DMC Databook: 2005-2012. Developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice with the Washington State Center for Court Research.

Local and National Media Attention

The Seattle Times

Winner of Nine Pulitzer Prizes

Local News

Originally published Sunday, January 20, 2013 at 8:51 PM

Study: Minority youth more often in state courts than whites

Minority youth are more often arrested and in Washington state's court system than their white counterparts, according to a recent study.

By Manuel Valdes

The Associated Press

Minority youth are arrested and in the Washington state court system more often than their white counterparts, a recent study commissioned by the state Supreme Court shows. But researchers said that counties aren't keeping complete data on ethnicity and that the gap between minority and white youth is larger.

Between 2007 and 2011, African-American youth were nearly 250 percent more likely to be referred to juvenile court for prosecution than their white counterparts. They are followed by Native-American youth, who are 80 percent more likely to be referred. Overall, minority youth are 22 percent more likely to be referred.

"Increasing the quality of data collected by courts is key to fully understanding how and where racial and ethnic inequality arises," Chief Justice Barbara Madsen said.

How WSCCR's work is unique

- County level reports of decision points
- Courts are provided drill-down information to verify the RRI numbers
- County level reports on missing data on race and/or ethnicity

Next Steps

- Develop best practices for collection of DMC data
- Add analysis of DMC decision points that statistically controls for offense history, charge type, and charge severity
- Catalog statewide DMC reduction efforts
- Modify data collection systems to more accurately record race and ethnicity

QUESTIONS?

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