

The University of Southern Mississippi
Mississippi Statistical Analysis Center

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT IN MISSISSIPPI



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MISSION

The Mississippi Statistical Analysis Center was created by executive order of Governor Ronnie Musgrove in October 2000. The mission of the MS-SAC is to provide sound statistical information in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the state's criminal justice system.

This project was conducted by the Mississippi Statistical Analysis Center with financial assistance from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Grant # 2007-BJ-CX-K045.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Mississippi Statistical Analysis Center would like to thank all participating law enforcement agencies and youth courts for their time and effort. Additionally, we would like to thank Kendra DeVaughn for her assistance in our data collection efforts.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, disparities among racial minorities at various stages in the criminal justice system have garnered increasing attention from researchers and practitioners. Much, if not most, of the existing research has been focused primarily on highly publicized issues, such as racial profiling and increased sentences for offenses commonly associated with minorities (i.e. selling crack cocaine). Recently, attention has shifted toward examining these issues as they pertain to juvenile offenders. This shift is indeed appropriate, in that the majority of crime-related research has shown that juvenile delinquency is a substantial predictor of adult criminal behavior.

Historically, research regarding race and delinquent juvenile populations was focused on detention and confinement or offense categories (i.e. status offenses versus criminal offenses). As efforts to study juvenile offenders progressed, it was evident that there was a need to focus research efforts on instances of disproportionate confinement among members of racial minorities.

Initial research concerning minority juveniles was triggered by the 1988 reauthorization of the *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act* of 1974,¹ which required states to collect data and annually report the number of incarcerated juveniles using *disproportionate representation indexes* (DRIs), which compared incarcerated minority juvenile offenders to their respective at-risk populations. This index was used to assess whether minority juveniles were overrepresented in the context of secure detention (including training schools) – in short, this index assessed instances of *disproportionate minority confinement* (the “old” DMC).

Revisions to the *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act* in 2002 included provisions that increased the scope of investigation regarding disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system as well as strengthened statistical methods for detecting disparities among individual racial and ethnic categories. Currently, DMC estimates are focused on youths age 10-17 and limited to those offenders who

¹ For complete text, see 42 U.S.C. §5601 et seq.

committed delinquent acts rather than status offenses. Revisions to the JJDP Act also mandated investigation regarding instances of contact rather than confinement – focusing on key individual points within the juvenile justice system. As a result, rates of contact can be compared at each stage of the juvenile justice process, from arrest to adjudication. Comparisons are made using the *relative rate index* (RRI), which compares proportionate instances of occurrences between Caucasian and minority juveniles, based on the size of their respective at-risk populations. Hence, instances of *disproportionate minority contact* (the “new” DMC) can be assessed at each individual stage of the juvenile justice process.

GOALS OF DMC RESEARCH (OJJDP)

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), is responsible for guiding DMC policy and solicits various external agencies to assist in their efforts to collect data. Specifically, OJJDP outlines five goals² for DMC research:

1. **Identification** – to determine the extent of DMC
2. **Assessment** – to determine the reason for DMC
3. **Intervention** – to develop and implement strategies to address DMC
4. **Evaluation** – to determine the effectiveness of intervention strategies
5. **Monitoring** – to observe DMC trends and adjust strategies accordingly

In short, the provisions of DMC legislation are meant to ensure equal and fair treatment for every youth in the juvenile justice system, regardless of race and ethnicity.

THE RELATIVE RATE INDEX

The relative rate index (RRI) is a coefficient calculated using four numbers:

1. Instances of contact with Caucasian juveniles
2. Population of at-risk Caucasian youths
3. Instances of contact with minority juveniles
4. Population of at-risk minority youths

² Information regarding DMC definitions, policies, and procedures was obtained from the OJJDP website (<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/dmc/index.html>).

The RRI illustrates the magnitude of representation of minority youths in comparison to Caucasian youths at any given point of contact, based on the number of youths at each contact point per 1,000 youths in the population. For example, assume that a county has an at-risk youth population of 15,000 Caucasian juveniles, 4,000 African-American juveniles, and 1,000 Asian juveniles. Last year, law enforcement officers arrested 1,000 Caucasian juveniles, 350 African-American juveniles, and 20 Asian juveniles. Initial assessment of this data (not using the RRI) would indicate the arrest rates for youths in this county would be:

Caucasian Youth		African-American Youth		Asian Youth		Minority Youth	
$\frac{1,000}{15,000}$	6.0%	$\frac{350}{4,000}$	8.8%	$\frac{20}{1,000}$	2.0%	$\frac{370}{5,000}$	7.4%

Cursory examination of these figures would seem to indicate that although minority juveniles do exhibit higher percentages of arrests than Caucasian juveniles, the gap is hardly indicative of disparity. As mentioned previously, RRI calculations are based on contacts per 1,000 youths in the at risk population. To begin, calculate each group's individual rate of contact per 1,000:

Caucasian Youth		African-American Youth		Asian Youth		Minority Youth	
$\frac{1,000}{15}$	66.6	$\frac{350}{4}$	87.5	$\frac{20}{1}$	20.0	$\frac{370}{5}$	74.0

After calculating individual rates, relative rates can be examined which compare each minority group to the Caucasian group as well as an aggregated group including all minorities to the Caucasian group. These rates are interpreted by their relative position. Rates greater than 1.0 indicate some degree of disparity with regards to minorities at a given point of contact. RRI coefficients that exhibit significant departures from 1.0 likely

indicate the need for immediate investigation. RRI calculations for the previously mentioned population of youth are presented below:

<i>African-American Youth</i> (RRI)		<i>Asian Youth</i> (RRI)		<i>Minority Youth</i> (RRI)	
$\frac{87.5}{66.6}$	1.31	$\frac{20}{66.6}$	0.30	$\frac{74}{66.6}$	1.11

RRI coefficients can best be understood by interpreting them as a proportion. For example, the RRI for African-American youths is 1.31, which can be interpreted as “nearly one and one-third African-American youths are arrested for every Caucasian youth arrested,” or, “four African-American youths are arrested for every three Caucasian youths arrested.”

There are many advantages to using the RRI to compare instances of DMC. As mentioned previously, instances of DMC can be assessed at each point of contact. This allows policy makers to implement or adjust policy on a much narrower level. Additionally, the RRI allows comparisons between each defined racial or ethnic group and Caucasian youths. In this manner, individual minority groups (as well as an aggregate “minority” group) can be examined for instances of DMC. Finally, the RRI provides a method for comparing instances of DMC among many jurisdictions.

POINTS OF CONTACT

OJJDP has identified nine specific points of contact within the scope of the juvenile justice process. Comparisons of RRI coefficients between Caucasian and minority juveniles among each point of contact allow for clear assessment of disparities at each stage of progression through the juvenile justice process. Using points of contact rather than specific instances of confinement to assess disproportionate minority representation is advantageous, in that all agencies connected to the juvenile justice system can be monitored for instances of DMC. As mentioned previously, this allows policy-makers to focus their efforts on problematic areas in the juvenile justice system

rather than implementing overly-broad changes that may adversely affect the system as a whole. OJJDP provides specific definitions³ for each point of contact:

1. **Arrest:** Youth are considered to be arrested when law enforcement agencies apprehend, stop, or otherwise contact them and suspect them of having committed a delinquent act. Delinquent acts are those that, if an adult commits them, would be criminal, including crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, and crimes against the public order.
2. **Referral:** Referral is when a potentially delinquent youth is sent forward for legal processing and received by a juvenile or family court or juvenile intake agency, either as a result of law enforcement action or upon a complaint by a citizen or school.
3. **Diversion:** Youth referred to juvenile court for delinquent acts are often screened by an intake department (either within or outside the court). The intake department may decide to dismiss the case for lack of legal sufficiency, resolve the matter informally (without the filing of charges), or resolve it formally (with the filing of charges). The diversion population includes all youth referred for legal processing but handled without the filing of formal charges.
4. **Detention:** Detention refers to youth held in secure detention facilities at some point during court processing of delinquency cases (i.e., prior to disposition). In some jurisdictions, the detention population may also include youth held in secure detention to await placement following a court disposition. For the purposes of DMC, detention may also include youth held in jails and lockups. Detention should not include youth held in shelters, group homes, or other nonsecure facilities.
5. **Petitioned/charges filed:** Formally charged (petitioned) delinquency cases are those that appear on a court calendar in response to the filing of a petition, complaint, or other legal instrument requesting the court to adjudicate a youth as a delinquent or status offender or to waive jurisdiction and transfer a youth to criminal court. Petitioning occurs when a juvenile court intake officer, prosecutor,

³ See Chapter 1 (Table 1), DMC Technical Assistance Manual, 3rd Ed. (http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/dmc_ta_manual/index.html).

or other official determines that a case should be handled formally. In contrast, informal handling is voluntary and does not include the filing of charges.

6. ***Delinquent findings:*** Youth are judged or found to be delinquent during adjudicatory hearings in juvenile court. Being found (or adjudicated) delinquent is roughly equivalent to being convicted in criminal court. It is a formal legal finding of responsibility. If found to be delinquent, youth normally proceed to disposition hearings where they may be placed on probation, committed to residential facilities, ordered to perform community service, or various other sanctions.
7. ***Probation:*** Probation cases are those in which a youth is placed on formal or court-ordered supervision following a juvenile court disposition. Note: youth on “probation” under voluntary agreements without adjudication should not be counted here but should be part of the diverted population instead.
8. ***Confinement in secure correctional facilities:*** Confined cases are those in which, following a court disposition, youth are placed in secure residential or correctional facilities for delinquent offenders. The confinement population should not include all youth placed in any form of out-of-home placement. Group homes, shelter homes, and mental health treatment facilities, for example, would usually not be considered confinement. Every jurisdiction collecting DMC data must specify which forms of placement do and do not qualify as confinement.
9. ***Transferred to adult court:*** Waived cases are those in which a youth is transferred to criminal court as a result of a judicial finding in juvenile court. During a waiver hearing, the juvenile court usually files a petition asking the juvenile court judge to waive jurisdiction over the case. The juvenile court judge decides whether the case merits criminal prosecution. When a waiver request is denied, the matter is usually scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing in the juvenile court. If the request is granted, the juvenile is judicially waived to criminal court for further action. Juveniles may be transferred to criminal court through a variety of other methods, but most of these methods are difficult or impossible to track from within the juvenile justice system, including prosecutor discretion or concurrent jurisdiction, legislative exclusion, and the variety of blended sentencing laws.

THE CURRENT PROJECT

Following the review and analysis by OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention), Mississippi was found not to be compliant with Section 223(a)(22) of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act, which requires states to address juvenile delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce the disproportionate number of juvenile members of minority groups who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. In addition, Mississippi did not submit a plan for reducing DMC. In such plans, states are required to (1) provide DMC Relative Rate Index (RRI) spreadsheets for three counties with the largest minority concentration or counties with targeted DMC-reduction efforts and (2) document specific DMC-reduction activities conducted in the previous year as well as identify any planned activities for the upcoming year.

Mississippi is now in its fifth consecutive year of non-compliance with the DMC provisions of the JJDP Act and is required to submit data and information which would demonstrate DMC compliance. The *Compliance Plan* must include RRI estimates for three counties with the highest minority concentrations as well as concrete DMC reduction plans. There is a pressing need to develop and implement data collection strategies to provide information regarding DMC in Mississippi. The following project seeks to meet this need in the interest of providing an empirical understanding of DMC in Mississippi, thereby enhancing Mississippi's ability to prepare a plan to combat DMC and work towards achieving compliance with the JJDP Act.

DMC ASSESSMENT BY COUNTY

Methods

Analysts from the MS-SAC collected data from law enforcement agencies and youth courts in DeSoto, Hinds, and Harrison counties. Chiefs of police, sheriffs, and youth court judges were initially contacted by mail with a letter informing them of the scope and purpose of the current project (Appendix A). Following the initial mailing, analysts from the MS-SAC attempted to contact each agency to schedule a brief meeting to

discuss the project and data collection strategies. Although every effort was made to meet with a representative from each agency, the MS-SAC was not able to initiate contact with every agency.

The MS-SAC aimed to collect data regarding each point of contact for 2005, 2006, and 2007. Data regarding juvenile arrests were collected from law enforcement agencies. Police departments in each municipality in each county were contacted, as well as county sheriff's departments. Data for each subsequent point of contact were collected from county Youth Courts or Youth Services divisions. Overall, most agencies agreed to participate. Agencies that did not participate are noted in each county assessment section.

Data from each agency was collected by a variety of methods. In most cases, agencies were able to provide analysts with comprehensive data for each year of interest. In some instances, agencies were only able to provide the MS-SAC with uncompiled data. In these cases, totals for each point of contact were tallied by MS-SAC analysts. Due to differences in the data management capabilities of each agency, the MS-SAC made every effort to standardize the results of this project. However, totals in this report may not reflect absolute accuracy of juvenile contact, due to missing data and differences in agency-specific methods of categorizing race. Moreover, several law enforcement agencies did not provide data as requested by the MS-SAC.

Information for each county is provided by tables indicating instances of contact at each point in the juvenile justice system, and illustrates raw data provided by each agency for each year. Subsequent tables depict DMC analysis using RRI estimates, and were calculated using the DMC spreadsheet. Data which were unavailable are indicated as such, and do not necessarily reflect agency nonparticipation.

DeSoto County

Data collection efforts in DeSoto County were mostly successful. In all, three out of five law enforcement agencies participated in data collection. Horn Lake Police Department was able to provide the MS-SAC with complete juvenile arrest data for 2005, 2006, and 2007. Olive Branch Police Department provided complete arrest data for 2007 and partial data for 2006. Hernando Police Department provided partial arrest data for 2007. DeSoto County Youth Services and Youth Court provided data for subsequent points of contact for 2006 and 2007.

De Soto County

Juvenile Arrests

Sheriff's Dept.		DATA NOT AVAILABLE				
Hernando P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic		
2007	104	54	48	2		
2006	DATA NOT AVAILABLE					
2005	DATA NOT AVAILABLE					
Horn Lake P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic	Other	
2007	409	143	246	18	2	
2006	549	252	275	21	1	
2005	165	62	99	0	4	
Olive Branch P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American			
2007	187	73	114			
2006	112	57	55			
2005	DATA NOT AVAILABLE					
Southhaven P.D.		DATA NOT AVAILABLE				
Juvenile Arrest Totals	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic	Other	
2007	700	270	408	20	2	
2006	661	309	330	21	1	
2005	165	62	99	0	4	

De Soto County

Youth Court

2007	Total	Caucasian	African- American	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Other
Referrals	1077	562	484	21	9	1	0
Diversion	747	393	328	16	9	1	0
Detention	DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Petition/Charges Filed	258	125	129	4	0	0	0
Delinquent Findings	258	125	129	4	0	0	0
Probation	227	115	109	3	0	0	0
Secure Confinement	30	9	20	1	0	0	0
Transferred	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Missing or Unknown	72	44	27	1	0	0	0

2006	Total	Caucasian	African- American	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Other
Referrals	1242	758	453	28	2	0	1
Diversion	981	581	373	25	1	0	1
Detention	DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Petition/Charges Filed	213	144	65	3	1	0	0
Delinquent Findings	213	144	65	3	1	0	0
Probation	199	136	59	3	1	0	0
Secure Confinement	14	8	6	0	0	0	0
Transferred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing or Unknown	48	33	15	0	0	0	0

2005

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

Totals for each point of contact in DeSoto County were entered in the DMC spreadsheet. This tool calculates the RRI estimates for each race category that meets the *one percent rule*, meaning that individual RRI estimates are only calculated for those races whose proportion in the at-risk population meets or exceeds one percent. As such, results of RRI estimate calculations are presented only for races meeting the *one percent rule*. For DeSoto County, African-American, Hispanic, and Asian juvenile at-risk populations qualified for individual DMC analysis. Estimates for the total population of at-risk juveniles were obtained from the OJJDP *Statistical Briefing Book*.⁴ Due to the fact that at-risk population estimates for 2007 are not yet available, the MS-SAC used the averages of the 2005 and 2006 estimates to calculate a proxy at-risk

⁴ <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/default.asp>

juvenile population for 2007. Insufficient information precluded calculating RRI estimates for 2005. Results from the RRI spreadsheet calculations are presented below.

2007

DMC Table 1A: DeSoto County – 2007 (African-American Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	20.28	107.17	5.28
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	208.15	118.63	0.57
4. Cases Diverted	69.93	67.77	0.97
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.00	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	22.24	26.65	1.20
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	100.00	100.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	92.00	84.50	0.92
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	7.20	15.50	2.15
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.80	0.00	**

Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 1A presents DMC results for African-American DeSoto County juveniles in 2007. RRI estimates indicate that African-American youth were arrested at a rate of five-to-one over Caucasian youth. Additionally, African-American youth were placed in secure confinement facilities at a rate of two-to-one over Caucasian youths. Conversely, Caucasian youth were referred to juvenile court at a rate of two-to-one over African-American youth. All other points of contact indicated little to no disparity between Caucasian and African-American youth.

DMC Table 1B: DeSoto County – 2007 (Hispanic Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	20.28	28.45	1.40
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	208.15	105.00	**
4. Cases Diverted	69.93	76.19	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.00	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	22.24	19.05	**
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	100.00	100.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	92.00	75.00	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	7.20	25.00	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.80	0.00	**

Key:

Statistically significant results:

Bold font

Results that are not statistically significant

Regular font

Group is less than 1% of the youth population

*

Insufficient number of cases for analysis

**

Missing data for some element of calculation

Table 1B provides DMC results for Hispanic DeSoto County juveniles in 2007. Juvenile arrest was the only point of contact that contained enough data for analysis. Although Hispanic youths were arrested at a rate of 1.4-to-one over Caucasian youths, there was no statistically significant evidence of disparity.

DMC Table 1C: DeSoto County – 2007 (Asian Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	20.28	0.00	**
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	208.15	0.00	**
4. Cases Diverted	69.93	100.00	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.00	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	22.24	0.00	**
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	100.00	0.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	92.00	0.00	--
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	7.20	0.00	--
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.80	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 1C presents DMC results for Asian DeSoto county juveniles in 2007. Although there were enough Asian juveniles in the at-risk population to meet the *one percent rule*, there were insufficient instances of contact with Asian youth for analysis.

DMC Table 1D: DeSoto County – 2007 (All Minorities)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	20.28	90.62	4.47
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	208.15	119.77	0.58
4. Cases Diverted	69.93	68.74	0.98
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.00	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	22.24	25.83	1.16
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	100.00	100.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	92.00	84.21	0.92
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	7.20	15.79	2.19
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.80	0.00	**
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 1D provides DMC results for all minority DeSoto County youth in 2007. RRI estimates indicate that minority youths, as a group, were arrested at a rate of more than four-to-one compared to Caucasian youths. Additionally, minority youths were placed in secure confinement facilities at a rate of two-to-one over Caucasian youths. In contrast, Caucasian youths were referred to juvenile court at nearly twice the rate of minority youths.

2006

DMC Table 2A: DeSoto County – 2006 (African-American Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	22.95	81.66	3.56
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	245.31	137.27	0.56
4. Cases Diverted	76.65	82.34	1.07
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.00	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	19.00	14.35	0.76
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	100.00	100.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	94.44	90.77	0.96
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	5.56	9.23	1.66
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 2A provides DMC results for African-American DeSoto County juveniles in 2006. Juvenile arrest was the only point of contact which exhibited some degree of disparity regarding minorities. In 2006, African-American youths were arrested at a rate of more than three-to-one as compared to Caucasian youths. Although there was a statistically significant estimate for cases which were diverted, there was no meaningful departure from a normal RRI estimate (1.0). Similar to 2007, Caucasian youths were referred to juvenile court nearly twice as much as African-American youths. Additionally, Caucasian youths were more likely to have their cases petitioned than African-American youths.

DMC Table 2B: DeSoto County – 2006 (Hispanic Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	22.95	27.74	1.21
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	245.31	133.33	**
4. Cases Diverted	76.65	89.29	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.00	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	19.00	10.71	**
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	100.00	100.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	94.44	100.00	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	5.56	0.00	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--

Key:

Statistically significant results:

Bold font

Results that are not statistically significant

Regular font

Group is less than 1% of the youth population

*

Insufficient number of cases for analysis

**

Missing data for some element of calculation

Table 2B provides DMC results for Hispanic youths in DeSoto County during 2006. Again, although Hispanics met the *one percent rule*, only one point of contact, arrest, had sufficient data to conduct analysis. Results of RRI estimation indicate no significant disparity between Hispanic youths and Caucasian youths.

DMC Table 2C: DeSoto County – 2006 (Asian Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	22.95	0.00	**
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	245.31	0.00	**
4. Cases Diverted	76.65	50.00	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.00	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	19.00	50.00	**
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	100.00	100.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	94.44	100.00	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	5.56	0.00	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 2C presents DMC results for Asian youths in DeSoto County for 2006. As in 2007, there were insufficient instances of contact with Asian juveniles to calculate RRI estimates.

DMC Table 2D: DeSoto County – 2006 (All Minorities)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	22.95	69.50	3.03
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	245.31	137.89	0.56
4. Cases Diverted	76.65	82.64	1.08
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.00	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	19.00	14.26	0.75
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	100.00	100.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	94.44	91.30	0.97
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	5.56	8.70	1.57
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 2D provides DMC results for all minority youths in DeSoto County during 2006. RRI estimates indicate a significant departure occurred at the arrest point of contact, and that minority youths (as a group) were arrested at a rate of three-to-one over Caucasian youths. Conversely, Caucasian youths were referred to juvenile court more at nearly twice the rate of minorities. Additionally, Caucasian youth were more likely to have their cases petitioned than minority youths. Although the RRI estimate for cases diverted is statistically significant and greater than one, the magnitude of departure is small and is not indicative of disparity between minority youths and Caucasian youths.

Discussion

Instances of DMC in DeSoto County seemed to be concentrated at the arrest point of contact. In 2006 and 2007, African-American youths were arrested at an alarmingly high rate compared to Caucasian youths, and arrests for minority youths occurred at a rate of approximately four-to-one over Caucasian youths. Subsequent points of contact did not exhibit any obvious instances of DMC, and, in fact, demonstrated a degree of disproportionately high rates for Caucasian youths. One notable exception to this trend was the secure confinement point of contact, where African-American youths were sentenced at a rate of two-to-one over Caucasian youths in 2007.

Results of the analyses for DeSoto County must be interpreted with caution, for a variety of reasons. First, statistically significant RRI estimates do not mean meaningfully different RRI estimates. Some RRI estimates exhibited large departures from one (1.0), yet were not statistically significant. Other RRI estimates were nearly equal to one. This is due to the fact that statistical tests are based not only on the magnitude of differences between groups, but the number of observations for each group. As a result, RRI estimates should be used as a tool for identifying areas for investigation, and not as a means of specifically identifying instances of DMC. Second, there were several DeSoto County law enforcement agencies that did not participate in this project, one of which was the Sheriff's Department. Excluding an agency with such broad jurisdiction has likely impacted the analyses for DeSoto County. Although there is no way to tell if the addition of their arrest data would have altered RRI estimates for DeSoto County, the omission of their juvenile arrests decreases the confidence in the results of DMC analyses.

Harrison County

Data collection efforts in Harrison County were extremely successful. Every agency contacted by the MS-SAC agreed to participate in this project. Considering the impact and devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, it was surprising that each agency in Harrison County managed to recover nearly 100% of their data. Exceptions were the Pass Christian Police Department and Harrison County Sheriff's Department, who, understandably, could not provide data for 2005. The Harrison County Juvenile Detention Center was able to provide the MS-SAC with data regarding detention.

Harrison County

Juvenile Arrests

Sheriff's Dept.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Other
2007	6516	5423	1018	412	75	0	0
2006	6703	5594	1044	337	62	3	0
2005	DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Biloxi P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Other
2007	392	191	172	14	13	0	16
2006	254	135	111	3	5	0	3
2005	434	237	176	5	11	0	10
Gulfport P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Other
2007	956	266	681	143	9	0	0
2006	849	232	614	194	3	0	0
2005	928	288	635	101	5	0	0
Long Beach P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Other
2007	127	90	32	0	5	0	0
2006	128	94	34	0	0	0	0
2005	121	79	40	1	2	0	0
Pass Christian P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Other
2007	32	12	19	0	0	0	1
2006	17	7	10	0	0	0	0
2005	DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Juvenile Arrest Totals	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Other
2007	8022	5982	1922	569	102	0	16
2006	7951	6062	1813	534	70	3	3
2005	1483	604	851	107	18	0	10

Harrison County

Youth Court

2007	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Asian	Indian	Other
Referrals	1881	756	1047	28	0	50
Diversion	8	5	2	0	0	1
Detention	1053	373	632	0	0	48
Petition/Charges Filed	1873	751	1045	28	0	49
Delinquent Findings	542	190	329	8	1	14
Probation	334	127	192	4	1	10
Secure Confinement	84	15	65	2	0	2
Transferred	1	0	1	0	0	0

2006	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Asian	Indian	Other
Referrals	1702	748	890	18	4	42
Diversion	12	3	9	0	0	0
Detention	968	368	503	0	0	97
Petition/Charges Filed	1690	745	881	18	4	42
Delinquent Findings	335	125	203	3	0	4
Probation	178	80	93	2	0	3
Secure Confinement	54	9	45	0	0	0
Transferred	5	0	5	0	0	0

2005	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Asian	Indian	Other
Referrals	563	232	304	10	1	16
Diversion	4	2	1	0	1	0
Detention	889	389	460	0	0	40
Petition/Charges Filed	560	231	302	10	1	16
Delinquent Findings	64	26	36	1	1	0
Probation	24	10	14	0	0	0
Secure Confinement	17	3	14	0	0	0
Transferred	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals for each point of contact in Harrison County were entered into the DMC spreadsheet to calculate RRI estimates and identify race categories meeting the *one percent rule*. Results of RRI estimate calculations are presented only for races meeting the *one percent rule*. For Harrison County, African-American, Hispanic, and Asian juvenile at-risk populations qualified for individual DMC analysis. Again, estimates for 2007 are not yet available, and the MS-SAC used the averages of the 2005 and 2006 estimates to calculate a proxy at-risk juvenile population for 2007. Results from the RRI spreadsheet calculations are presented below.

2007

DMC Table 3A: Harrison County – 2007 (African-American Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	426.22	306.29	0.72
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	12.64	54.47	4.31
4. Cases Diverted	0.66	0.19	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	49.34	60.36	1.22
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.34	99.81	1.00
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	25.30	31.48	1.24
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	66.84	58.36	0.87
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	4.74	13.68	2.89
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.10	**
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 3A provides DMC results for African-American youths in Harrison County for 2007. RRI estimates indicate some degree of disparity toward African-American youths at the referral and secure confinement points of contact. African-American youths were referred to juvenile court at a rate of four-to-one over Caucasian youths. Additionally, African-American youths were sentenced to secure confinement at nearly three times the rate of Caucasian youths. The remaining statistically significant RRI estimates are not of sufficient magnitude to indicate any disparity toward African-American youths in Harrison County.

DMC Table 3B: Harrison County – 2007 (Hispanic Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	426.22	803.67	1.89
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	12.64	0.00	**
4. Cases Diverted	0.66	0.00	--
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	49.34	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.34	0.00	--
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	25.30	0.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	66.84	0.00	--
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	4.74	0.00	--
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--

Key:

Statistically significant results:

Bold font

Results that are not statistically significant

Regular font

Group is less than 1% of the youth population

*

Insufficient number of cases for analysis

**

Missing data for some element of calculation

Table 3B presents DMC results for Hispanic youths in Harrison County for 2007. Only one point of contact, arrest, contained sufficient data for analysis. The RRI estimate for arrests indicates that Hispanic youths were arrested at a rate of almost two-to-one over Caucasian youths.

DMC Table 3C: Harrison County – 2007 (Asian Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	426.22	121.14	0.28
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	12.64	27.45	2.17
4. Cases Diverted	0.66	0.00	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	49.34	0.00	**
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.34	100.00	**
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	25.30	28.57	**
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	66.84	50.00	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	4.74	0.00	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 3C provides DMC results for Asian youths in Harrison County during 2007. RRI estimates indicate that disparity toward Asians existed at only one point of contact: referral. Asian youths were referred to juvenile court at a rate of two-to-one over Caucasian youths. Conversely, Caucasian youths were four times more likely to be arrested than Asian youths. There was an insufficient presence of Asian youth to calculate RRI estimates for subsequent points of contact.

DMC Table 3D: Harrison County – 2007 (All Minorities)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	426.22	327.43	0.77
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	12.64	43.12	3.41
4. Cases Diverted	0.66	0.27	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	49.34	60.44	1.23
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.34	99.73	1.00
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	25.30	31.37	1.24
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	66.84	58.81	0.88
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	4.74	12.78	2.70
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.09	**
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 3D provides DMC results for all minority Harrison County youths in 2007. RRI estimates indicate that some degree of disparity existed at both the referral and secure confinement points of contact. Minority youths were referred to juvenile court at a rate exceeding three-to-one compared to Caucasian youths. Additionally, minority youths were sentenced to secure confinement facilities at a rate nearly three times that of Caucasian youths. The departures of remaining RRI estimates, including those which were statistically significant, were not of sufficient magnitude to suggest any disparity toward minority youths in Harrison County.

2006

DMC Table 4A: Harrison County – 2006 (African-American Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	457.68	303.79	0.66
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	12.34	49.09	3.98
4. Cases Diverted	0.40	1.01	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	49.20	56.52	1.15
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.60	98.99	0.99
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	16.78	23.04	1.37
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	64.00	45.81	0.72
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	7.20	22.17	3.08
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.57	**
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 4A provides DMC results for African-American Harrison County youths in 2006. RRI estimates indicate that African-American youths were referred to juvenile court at nearly four times the rate of Caucasian youths. Moreover, African-American youths were sentenced to secure confinement facilities at a rate of three-to-one over Caucasian youths. Conversely, Caucasian youths were more likely to be arrested than African-American youths. Other RRI estimates did not indicate any noteworthy departure from expected RRI values.

DMC Table 4B: Harrison County – 2006 (Hispanic Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	457.68	791.11	1.73
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	12.34	0.00	**
4. Cases Diverted	0.40	0.00	--
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	49.20	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.60	0.00	--
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	16.78	0.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	64.00	0.00	--
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	7.20	0.00	--
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--

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Key:

Statistically significant results:

Bold font

Results that are not statistically significant

Regular font

Group is less than 1% of the youth population

*

Insufficient number of cases for analysis

**

Missing data for some element of calculation

Table 4B illustrates DMC results for Hispanic Harrison County youths in 2006. Due to the fact that Hispanic ethnicity was only identified by law enforcement agencies, arrest was the only point of contact available for analysis. The RRI estimate for arrest indicates that Hispanic youths were arrested at nearly twice the rate of Caucasian youths.

DMC Table 4C: Harrison County – 2006 (Asian Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	457.68	86.74	0.19
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	12.34	25.71	2.08
4. Cases Diverted	0.40	0.00	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	49.20	0.00	**
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.60	100.00	**
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	16.78	16.67	**
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	64.00	66.67	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	7.20	0.00	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 4C provides DMC results for Asian youths in Harrison County for 2006. Although Asian youths were twice as likely to be referred to juvenile court as Caucasian youths, Caucasian youths were arrested at nearly four times the rate of Asian youths. There were insufficient instances of contact with Asian youth to proceed with further analysis.

DMC Table 4D: Harrison County – 2006 (All Minorities)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	457.68	319.24	0.70
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	12.34	39.37	3.19
4. Cases Diverted	0.40	0.94	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	49.20	62.89	1.28
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.60	99.06	0.99
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	16.78	22.22	1.32
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	64.00	46.67	0.73
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	7.20	21.43	2.98
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.53	**

Key:

Statistically significant results:

Bold font

Results that are not statistically significant

Regular font

Group is less than 1% of the youth population

*

Insufficient number of cases for analysis

**

Missing data for some element of calculation

Table 4D depicts DMC results for minority Harrison County youths in 2006. RRI estimates indicate some degree of disproportional minority representation at the referral and secure confinement stages. Minority youths were (on average) three times as likely as Caucasian youths to be referred to juvenile court and sentenced to a secure confinement facility. RRI estimates for the remaining points of contact do not indicate any noteworthy instances of disparate contact with minority youths.

2005

DMC Table 5A: Harrison County – 2005 (African-American Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	40.74	129.29	3.17
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	38.41	35.72	0.93
4. Cases Diverted	0.86	0.33	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	167.67	151.32	0.90
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.57	99.34	1.00
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	11.26	11.92	1.06
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	38.46	38.89	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	11.54	38.89	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 5A presents DMC results for African-American Harrison County youths in 2005. Only one point of contact, arrest, exhibited an RRI estimate indicative of disparity. Although African-American youths were arrested at a rate of three-to-one compared to Caucasian youths, other points of contact appear to have equal representation of Caucasian and African-American youths. Results of this analysis should be interpreted with caution, however, due to the fact that two law enforcement agencies were unable to provide arrest data for 2005, one of which (the Sheriff's Department) accounted for a substantial portion of arrests for 2006 and 2007.

DMC Table 5B: Harrison County – 2005 (Hispanic Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	40.74	144.59	3.55
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	38.41	0.00	**
4. Cases Diverted	0.86	0.00	--
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	167.67	0.00	--
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.57	0.00	--
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	11.26	0.00	--
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	38.46	0.00	--
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	11.54	0.00	--
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--

Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 5B provides DMC results for Hispanic youths in Harrison County for 2005. As mentioned previously, data regarding Hispanic youths in Harrison County were only available at the arrest stage. The RRI estimate for arrest indicates that Hispanic youths were arrested at over three times the rate of Caucasian youths.

DMC Table 5C: Harrison County – 2005 (Asian Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	40.74	20.52	0.50
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	38.41	55.56	**
4. Cases Diverted	0.86	0.00	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	167.67	0.00	**
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.57	100.00	**
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	11.26	10.00	**
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	38.46	0.00	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	11.54	0.00	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 5C illustrates DMC results for Asian youths in Harrison County during 2005. As depicted by the RRI estimate, Asian youths were half as likely as Caucasian youths to be arrested. Subsequent RRI estimates were not calculated due to limited contact with Asian youths after the arrest stage.

DMC Table 5D: Harrison County – 2005 (All Minorities)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	40.74	118.17	2.90
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	38.41	33.57	0.87
4. Cases Diverted	0.86	0.60	**
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	167.67	151.06	0.90
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	99.57	99.40	1.00
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	11.26	11.55	1.03
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	38.46	36.84	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	11.54	36.84	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 5D provides DMC results for minority Harrison youths in 2005. The RRI estimate for arrest indicates that minority youths were nearly three times more likely to be arrested than Caucasian youths. Remaining RRI estimates illustrate relatively equal representation of minority and Caucasian youths at subsequent points of contact. Again, these results do not include a substantial portion of arrest data, and may be unreliable.

Discussion

Harrison County RRI estimates are consistently elevated for minority youths at two points of contact: referral to juvenile court and sentencing to secure confinement facilities. Although arrest estimates were high for 2005, their accuracy is debatable due to the substantial portion of data from the Sheriff's Department that was lost during Hurricane Katrina. Referrals to juvenile court in 2006 and 2007 were extremely frequent among minority youths, averaging a rate nearly four times higher than Caucasian youths. Moreover, minority youths were three times more likely to be sentenced to a secure confinement facility in 2006 and 2007. Other RRI estimates indicated a relatively similar representation of minority and Caucasian youths at all other points of contact.

Results of the DMC analysis for Harrison County are reasonably reliable. Patterns in RRI estimates were consistent across years, and instances of disproportionate contact were relatively obvious. That being said, results of this analysis should also be interpreted with caution. RRI estimates for 2005 were not consistent with other years, and accuracy of analysis was likely affected by the absence of arrest data from the Sheriff's Department. Additionally, the Harrison County Youth Court does not identify Hispanic as a separate race or ethnicity. Therefore, Hispanic youths could have appeared in any other race category. Due to this omission, actual contacts for each point in the juvenile court system may have been overestimated (i.e., Hispanic youths appearing in the Caucasian or other category will inflate the number of contacts). Furthermore, Hispanic youths were the third largest group in the arrest stage. Failure to separate and specifically identify the Hispanic ethnicity category may have masked valuable data.

Hinds County

Data collection in Hinds County was somewhat problematic. In all, only four out of eight law enforcement agencies agreed to submit arrest data to MS-SAC analysts. Reasons for nonparticipation varied among law enforcement agencies. Clinton Police Department, Raymond Police Department, and Terry Police Department provided data for 2005, 2006, and 2007. Jackson Police Department provided data for 2007. Unfortunately, arrest data from the Hinds County Sheriff's Department was not available. This greatly decreases the confidence in DMC analysis, in that the Sheriff's Department is responsible for a significant number of arrests in Hinds County.

Hinds County

Juvenile Arrests

Sheriff's Dept.		DATA NOT AVAILABLE		
Bolton P.D.		DATA NOT AVAILABLE		
Clinton P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Other
2007	73	14	59	0
2006	45	3	41	1
2005	29	5	21	3
Edwards P.D.		DATA NOT AVAILABLE		
Jackson P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	
2007	1671	35	1635	
2006		DATA NOT AVAILABLE		
2005		DATA NOT AVAILABLE		
Raymond P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	
2007	0	0	0	
2006	1	0	1	
2005	1	1	0	
Terry P.D.	Total	Caucasian	African-American	
2007	2	0	2	
2006	4	1	3	
2005	3	2	1	
Utica P.D.		DATA NOT AVAILABLE		

Juvenile Arrest Totals	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Other
2007	1746	49	1696	0
2006	50	4	45	1
2005	33	8	22	3

Hinds County

Youth Court

2007	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Asian	Other
Referrals	1206	62	1144	0	0
Diversion	889	85	800	4	0
Detention	370	55	315	0	0
Petition/Charges Filed	1096	126	661	0	0
Delinquent Findings	720	72	648	0	0
Probation	180	5	175	0	0
Secure Confinement	8	0	8	0	0
Transferred	3	0	3	0	0

2006	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Asian	Other
Referrals	1992	74	1914	0	4
Diversion	703	35	668	0	0
Detention	7	1	6	0	0
Petition/Charges Filed	1695	169	1526	0	0
Delinquent Findings	268	18	250	0	0
Probation	99	9	89	1	0
Secure Confinement	19	3	16	0	0
Transferred	0	0	0	0	0

2005	Total	Caucasian	African-American	Asian	Other
Referrals	1872	117	1754	1	0
Diversion	774	193	581	0	0
Detention	5	0	5	0	0
Petition/Charges Filed	1105	132	973	0	0
Delinquent Findings	185	13	172	0	0
Probation	61	7	53	1	0
Secure Confinement	20	2	18	0	0
Transferred	0	0	0	0	0

Totals for each point of contact in Hinds County were entered in the DMC spreadsheet to calculate RRI estimates and identify race categories meeting the *one percent rule*. For Hinds County, African-American and Hispanic youths qualified for individual DMC analysis. However, no data regarding Hispanic ethnicity was collected by any Hinds

County agency; as such, only African-American youths could be analyzed as a separate group. Extremely low frequencies of other minority categories precluded analysis beyond African-American youths.

2007

DMC Table 6: Hinds County – 2007 (African-American Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	7.13	71.72	10.05
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	126.53	67.45	0.53
4. Cases Diverted	137.10	69.93	0.51
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	88.71	27.53	0.31
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	203.23	57.78	0.28
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	57.14	98.03	1.72
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	6.94	27.01	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	0.00	1.23	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.45	**
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 6 illustrates DMC results for African-American youths in Hinds County during 2007. As mentioned previously, RRI estimates for Hinds County arrests are not considered reliable due to the magnitude of missing data. Curiously, Caucasian youths are disproportionately represented in referrals, diversions, secure detention, and cases petitioned. African-American youths, however, were almost twice as likely to be found delinquent as Caucasian youth.

2006

DMC Table 7: Hinds County – 2006 (African-American Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	0.60	1.89	**
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	1,850.00	4,253.33	**
4. Cases Diverted	47.30	34.90	0.74
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	1.35	0.31	**
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	228.38	79.73	0.35
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	10.65	16.38	1.54
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	50.00	35.60	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	16.67	6.40	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--
Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 7 depicts DMC results for African-American Hinds County youths in 2006. RRI estimates indicate no disparate minority representation at any point of contact. Although the RRI estimate for delinquent findings is greater than one (1.0), it is not statistically significant. As observed in earlier stages of analysis, Caucasian youths seem to be slightly overrepresented at contact points of diversion and cases petitioned.

2005

DMC Table 8: Hinds County – 2005 (African-American Youth)

Data Items	Rate of Occurrence - Caucasian Youth	Rate of Occurrence - Minority Youth	Relative Rate Index
1. Population at risk (age 10 through 17)			
2. Juvenile Arrests	1.13	0.94	0.82
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	1,462.50	7,972.73	**
4. Cases Diverted	164.96	33.12	0.20
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.00	0.29	**
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	112.82	55.47	0.49
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	9.85	17.68	1.79
8. Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	53.85	30.81	**
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	15.38	10.47	**
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	--

Key:			
Statistically significant results:	Bold font		
Results that are not statistically significant	Regular font		
Group is less than 1% of the youth population	*		
Insufficient number of cases for analysis	**		
Missing data for some element of calculation	---		

Table 8 illustrates DMC results for African-American youths in Hinds County for 2005. Only one point of contact, delinquent findings, exhibited an RRI estimate of concern, indicating that African-American youths were found delinquent at almost twice the rate of Caucasian youths. Conversely, Caucasian youths were diverted at a rate of five-to-one over African-American youths. All other RRI estimates indicated relatively equal dispersion of African-American and Caucasian youths.

Discussion

The lack of available data for Hinds County law enforcement agencies precludes any confidence in analysis of DMC at the arrest point of contact. Although RRI estimates for points of contact within the Hinds County Youth Court were reasonably consistent and did not exhibit any considerable departures from proportionality, some results were troubling. RRI estimates for every year indicated that African-American youths were almost twice as likely to be found delinquent (although the RRI from 2006 was not statistically significant). Conversely, Caucasian youths were more likely to have cases diverted than African-American youths by five-to-one in 2005, three-to-four in 2006, and two-to-one in 2007. Although this pattern is not necessarily indicative of DMC, it certainly warrants further investigation.

Overall, results of the analysis for Hinds County are unreliable and at best are only useful as benchmarks for improvement. Lack of arrest data, uncooperative law enforcement agencies, inconsistent data collection practices, and staff turnover at the Hinds County Youth Court were detrimental to this analysis. However, it should be noted that Judge William Skinner,⁵ who was elected in January of 2007, has put forth a tremendous effort to improve court operations and increase staff awareness regarding data management. As of January, 2008 Hinds County Youth Court began using the MYCIDS⁶ case management system, which not only eases day-to-day operations for the court but also allows easy access to data over the Internet.

⁵ We are especially grateful to Judge Skinner and his administrator, Angela Cook, for their efforts in expediting data collection in Hinds County.

⁶ Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System, discussed later in this report.

Summary of Trends and Graphic Analysis

As mentioned previously, RRI estimates are used to identify DMC trends. Examination of each point of contact by year allows each county to determine if high (or low) RRI estimates are consistent, and if so, determine which point(s) of contact warrant further attention. The following table and figures provide an overview of RRI estimates for each county at each point of contact during 2005, 2006, and 2007.

DMC Table 9: All Counties – 2005, 2006, and 2007 (All Minorities)

	RRI Estimates for Minorities								
	DeSoto County			Harrison County			Hinds County*		
	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Arrest	4.47	3.03	--	0.77	0.70	2.9	10.05	**	0.82
Referral	0.58	0.56	--	3.41	3.19	0.87	0.53	**	**
Diversion	0.98	1.08	--	**	**	**	0.51	0.74	0.2
Detention	--	--	--	1.23	1.28	0.9	0.31	**	**
Petitioned (Charge Filed)	1.16	0.75	--	1.00	0.99	1	0.28	0.35	0.49
Delinquent Findings	--	--	--	1.24	1.32	1.03	1.72	1.54	1.79
Probation	0.92	0.97	--	0.88	0.73	**	**	**	**
Secure Confinement	2.19	1.57	--	2.70	2.98	**	**	**	**
Transfers (Waivers)	**	--	--	**	**	--	**	--	--

* Due to insufficient data, Hinds County RRI estimates only include African-American Youth

As seen in Table 9, RRI estimates for each year remain remarkably consistent across points of contact. For DeSoto County, minority youths were overrepresented at points of arrest and secure confinement. Secure confinement and referral were points of disparity in Harrison County. Although minority youths appear to be severely overrepresented at arrest in Hinds County, insufficient data prevents making a confident assertion that DMC exists at that specific point of contact.

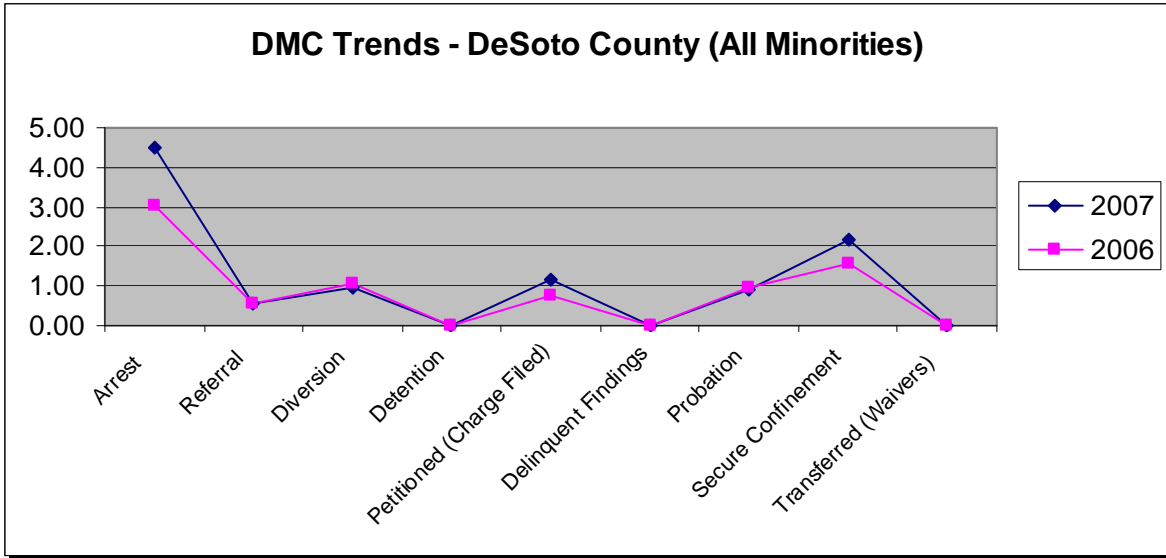


Figure 1.

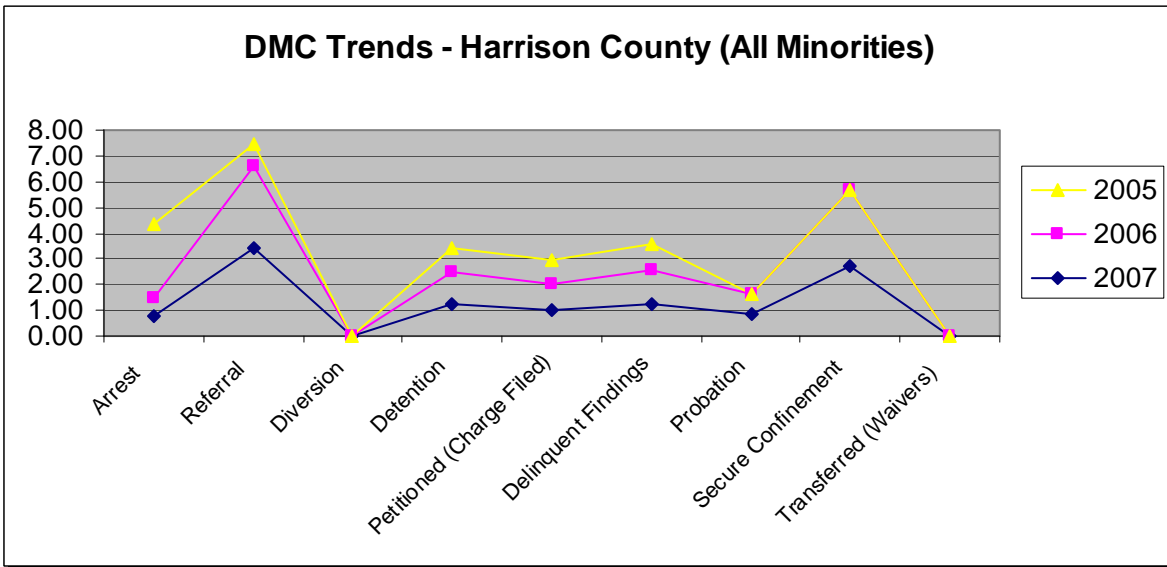


Figure 2.

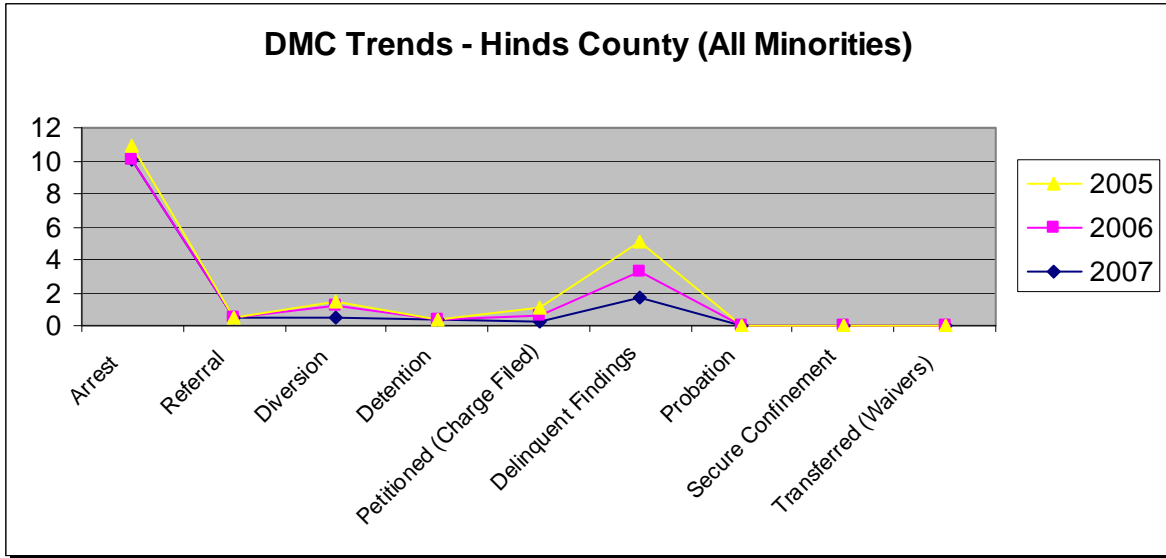


Figure 3.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 allow a visual assessment of RRI trends for each year at each point of contact. Examining graphic representations of RRI estimates is often easier when investigating individual points of contact. Comparing RRI estimates by year provides some measure of consistency with regards to individual agencies. Additionally, this method of analysis allows points of contact to be ranked in order of importance when considering policy adjustments to combat DMC.

Analysis & Conclusions

Typically, the most difficult part of any research project is to synthesize results of various analyses and formulate conclusions based on limited information. For this project, however, data collection was the most difficult task. Although there were several methodological issues which likely affected the accuracy of RRI estimates, several conclusions can be confidently made regarding DMC in Mississippi:

- ***Disproportionate representation does not equate to discrimination.*** It is important to understand that disproportionate minority contact is not directly indicative of prejudice or racism. The purpose of examining instances of DMC is to evaluate each stage of the juvenile justice process and determine if any patterns of DMC exist, and if so, investigate why.
- ***Data collection strategies were vulnerable to repeat offenders.*** Due to the manner in which agencies maintained official records, one juvenile arrested six times over the period of one year would appear as six separate contacts for that year. Currently, there is no way to account for offenders with multiple appearances in the juvenile justice system.
- ***There are stages that warrant further investigation.*** Arrest, referral, and secure confinement are points of contact which exhibited relatively high RRI estimates in the observed counties, specifically those for African-American youths.
- ***RRI estimates were lower than expected.*** Although each county exhibited elevated RRI estimates, no consistent pattern of disparate treatment emerged so as to indicate abusive practices within any agency.
- ***The phrase “statistically significant” is not translated as “meaningful difference.”*** RRI estimates are based on the chi-square distribution. For a number of reasons, most of which are beyond the scope of this report, accepting an RRI estimate based on statistical significance alone is not wise. In this case, sample size (total number of juvenile contacts per year) can affect statistical significance just as easily as disproportionate representation of a minority group at a point of contact. Put simply, RRI estimates should be used to gauge trends and should not be treated as hard evidence of discrimination.

- **Both law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies are not practicing consistent data collection strategies.** Few agencies utilized a database software package beyond that which came with their computer. One agency had a MYCIDS workstation, but had yet to receive training – and therefore could not use it. Other agencies simply did not have the technological resources to submit the data as requested, and resorted to manual calculations using hard-copy records.

Recommendations

- **Develop accountability measures for law enforcement agencies.** Some type of agreement must be reached between the state and each law enforcement agency so that their arrest data is reported on a regular basis and available upon request from any authorized agency. Although most law enforcement agencies had advanced data management systems, many were unwilling or unable to provide data.
- **Institute standardized racial and ethnic categories.** Every agency had different standards of race classification. Most agencies did not specify Hispanic as its own category. Some reported Hispanic youths in the “Other” category, while others simply did not separate them at all.
- **Develop a DMC tracking instrument.** Using a standardized instrument to collect data would be far more efficient, accurate, and cost-effective than current methods. Although the usefulness of “one more form in a file” is likely to be debated among juvenile justice practitioners, this instrument could be modeled on the information collected through MYCIDS and serve as the paper trail for every juvenile entered in the MYCIDS system.
- **Expedite the MYCIDS installation process and training schedule.** Put simply, a great deal of time and money could have been saved if every youth court had utilized MYCIDS software. The following passage was taken directly from the Mississippi Supreme Court 2007 Annual Report:

The Supreme Court continues to disseminate the Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System (MYCIDS) to the youth courts in the various counties. At this writing, the system is being used in twenty counties, is being installed in four more, and additional 24 youth courts have requested it. The only limitation on the Court's ability to distribute the system statewide is the personnel available to the Court's Information Technology Department to perform the installation and train the youth court personnel in its use. This most successful case management system is highly regarded nationally.⁷

- ***Institute a permanent DMC research team.*** The current DMC project only targeted three counties out of 82 in Mississippi. Consideration should be given to the establishment of a research team (or teams) that could collect and analyze data for multiple counties on a continual basis. As mentioned previously, RRI estimates are best viewed as trends, and establishing a consistent research agenda would assist the State in identifying which instances of DMC are isolated and which are indicative of problematic agency operations, customs, or practices.
- ***Investigate the aforementioned points of contact.*** Although the disparity may be a result of error, skewed data, or poor reporting, RRI estimates for minorities in general were consistently high at the points of arrest and secure confinement. Moreover, the point of referral also exhibited elevated RRI estimates. The State would do well to task the DMC subcommittee with the following steps:
 1. Facilitate a dialogue with representatives from each point of contact in each county, thereby increasing communication concerning DMC data collection and reporting procedures.
 2. Systematically observe operations and personnel at agencies which refused to or were unable to provide DMC data and assess ways in which to increase cooperation and/or data management capabilities.
 3. Continue data collection for identified points of contact (arrest, referral, and secure confinement) in order to assess the actual (if any) presence of DMC.

⁷ http://www.mssc.state.ms.us/reports/sct_annrep_2007.pdf

APPENDIX A – Initial Letter to Agencies (January 2008)

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Lisa S. Nored. I currently serve as the Director of the Mississippi Statistical Analysis Center which is funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and is housed within the Department of Administration of Justice at The University of Southern Mississippi. The mission of the MS-SAC is to provide Mississippi justice agencies and the public with sound statistical information in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system.

In coordination with Mississippi Department Public Safety, Division of Public Safety Planning, the MS-SAC will collect and analyze data regarding the issue of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in Mississippi. This project is being undertaken in an collaborative effort to ensure that Mississippi is in compliance with the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act Section 223 (a)(22) and thus receives all federal dollars to which we are entitled. These funds allow the State to fund state and local programs designed to strengthen and improve our juvenile justice system and to reduce DMC.

Three counties have been chosen as data collection sites for this project. These counties include DeSoto, Harrison and Hinds. In order to successfully complete our project and provide a complete and accurate report to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, data must be collected from the following entities within each jurisdiction: law enforcement agencies, juvenile detention facilities and circuit and youth courts. Data regarding the following contact points is necessary to the project: arrest, referrals, diversion, detention, petition/charges filed, adjudication, probation, confinement in secure facilities and transfers to adult court. Augmentation of existing data will allow a thorough examination of DMC in these three target counties, and will therefore facilitate the ability of Mississippi to prepare a plan to combat DMC and work towards achieving compliance with the JJDP.

Approximately one week from the date of this letter, a representative from the Mississippi Statistical Analysis Center will be in contact with your office to answer any questions you may have regarding this project or the agencies involved with the same. Prior to that call, please feel free to contact our office with any questions you may have. We look forward to working with your office in order to successfully complete this project and will forward a copy of the final project report to you upon completion. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa S. Nored, J.D., Ph.D.
Director, MS-SAC
MS Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group
DMC Sub-Committee Co-Chair

APPENDIX B – Reminder Letter to Agencies (May 2008)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for your cooperation in the collection of statistical data regarding Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in Mississippi. Much progress has been made in the three counties originally identified for data collection. However, in order to bring Mississippi into compliance with the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act Section 223 (a)(22) complete information from agencies within those counties is required.

Approximately one week from the date of this letter, a representative from the Mississippi Statistical Analysis Center will be in contact with your office to verify the receipt of all data as well as to answer any questions you may still have regarding this project or the agencies involved with the same. Prior to that call, please feel free to contact our office with any questions you may have.

If your department has not provided data, please do so before May 31, 2008. Agencies who have not provided data will be identified as such. If your department is missing data or does not have access to DMC data, please advise the analyst when they contact you. This will ensure that agencies are classified appropriately.

We look forward to working with your office in order to successfully complete this project and will forward a copy of the final project report to you upon completion. Again, thank you for your continued assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

Lisa S. Nored, J.D., Ph.D.
Director, MS-SAC
Mississippi Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group
DMC Sub-Committee Co-Chair