

How To Get Involved?

Contact your local juvenile office for more information on DMC and how to Get Involved.

Words from a “Team Player”



Sylvester Williams, on tackling DMC states, “I am very supportive of DMC efforts in Missouri. Coming from an underprivileged environment and overcoming several obstacles to reach my dreams, I know the need for communities to: resolve barriers that prevent underserved youth from succeeding, talk about racial inequality and to ensure that each kid has an unbiased opportunity to achieve” (2015)

Sylvester Williams #92
Nose Tackle
Denver Broncos

Sylvester Williams, born in St. Louis, played one year of football starting only one game for Jefferson City High School in Missouri. He was not recruited by a college football program, so he went to work assembling semi-truck parts. A year later, he decided to walk-on to a junior college football team. With support from others, hardwork and dedication, He would become an All-American at the University of North Carolina and a 1st round draft pick for the Denver Broncos.

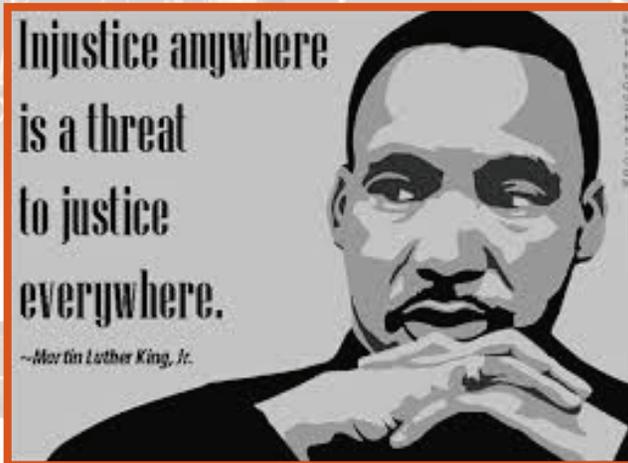


The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association

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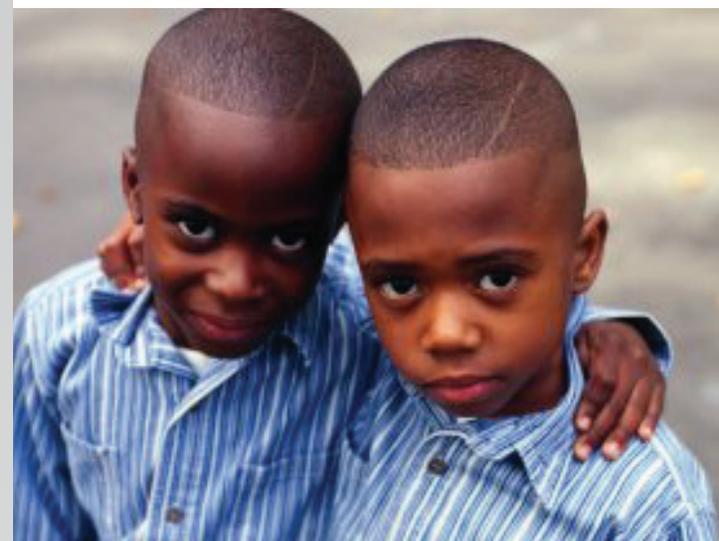
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Promoting Justice for Children, Youth & Families



The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) is a statewide, not for profit 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is dedicated to promoting justice for children, youth and families within Missouri. Funds are made available for this project through the Missouri Department of Public Safety and the Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group from funding provided by the U.S Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Missouri: Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)



As we strive to improve our system and find the most effective way to respond to the unique circumstance and situations our children, youth and families encounter today, we are asking **YOU** and **YOUR Community** to help make a difference.

Ed Morris, *JJAG Chair*



Missouri: DMC Mission Statement

“Ensuring Justice for ALL Missouri Youth regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socioeconomic status, or nationality”

What is Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)?

DMC is the overrepresentation of minority youth at a particular decision or contact point throughout the juvenile justice system.

Why does DMC Exist in Missouri?

There is no single contributing factor of DMC.

Causation factors include:

- Selective enforcement of delinquent behavior
- Differential opportunities for treatment
- Institutional racism
- Indirect effects of socioeconomic factors
- Differential offending
- Biased risk assessment instruments
- Differential administrative practices
- Unequal access to effective legal counsel
- Legislative policies that disparately impact youth of color

How Does DMC Effect Missouri?

In Missouri, youth of color are overrepresented at all contact points in the juvenile justice system. Black Youth are over TWICE as likely to be referred to the juvenile justice system, even though the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, conducted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on nationwide high school students, suggests youth misbehave in similar ways at similar rates across all race & ethnicities.



Some DMC Facts:

- In certain counties, Black Youth are over 6 to 8 times more likely to be referred to the juvenile court
- Black Youth receive harsher punishments for similar misbehavior and are more likely to receive school expulsions and suspensions than White Youth
- Studies suggest that any contact with the juvenile court can have long lasting negative outcomes for youth
- Evidence shows that community-based diversions and interventions are effective at holding youth accountable and building competency
- Holding youth in secure detention is ineffective at redirecting youth behavior

Effectively reducing DMC will take committed policy makers, community members and agencies working together in a focused, data-driven process to ensure that appropriate interventions can be implemented and sustained.

How does Missouri address DMC?

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG), Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS), Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA), and the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) developed a statewide DMC work plan with the focus on establishing and assisting local DMC Collaborative Teams, composed of juvenile court, school district, law enforcement, and community organization personal, to address DMC by:

- Data review and decision-point mapping
- Supporting and implementing community-based detention alternatives
- Supporting and implementing community-based diversion programs
- Removing decision-making subjectivity
- Reducing barriers to family involvement
- Increasing statewide DMC reduction efforts through public education, staff training, and system improvement
- Cultivating state leadership to legislate system level change



“Missouri is dedicated to providing an equitable system response to youth misbehavior and committed to ensuring that youth are given a fair opportunity to learn from their mistakes . . . getting them back on a productive track”

DMC State Coordinator