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Racial Diversity among Juvenile Offenders

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Racial Diversity of Juvenile Delinquents: Causes and Characteristics of Reoffending Youths

Sociology 3053 Research Methods



Abstract

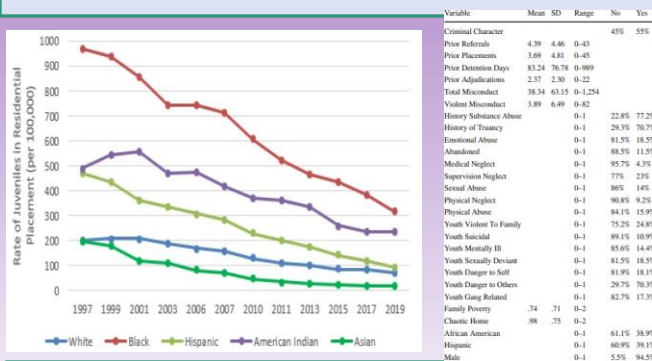
Through many years juvenile delinquency has been something that tends to radar and becomes less relevant in the criminal justice world. Though there has been a substantial amount of research in juvenile prevention efforts as well as locating the highest number of offenders based on racial background. My research explores the difference in characteristics among different racial offenders as well as why specific races are more present in corrections.

Hypothesis

I hypothesize while statistics may show certain racial groups as overrepresented in juvenile offender populations, this doesn't imply inherent criminality within these communities. Rather, it reflects complex social and systemic issues that contribute to differential treatment and outcomes.

Methods

I used secondary research as my main form of methodology. Through various research databases I accumulated eight unique research articles that covers a vast variety of general ideas based on differences in racial backgrounds as well as specifics like aggressive behaviors, statistical outcomes, and high offense crimes. Some types of data that I included in my research was hidden social patterns, demographic data, economic data, and personal/psychological traits. Much of the literature ranges from 2005-current.



| | Spanish | Eastern European | Latin American | African |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|----------|
| Crimes against persons | 51.5% (156) | 27.8% (10) | 71% (22) | 60% (15) |
| Standardized residual | 0 | -2 | 1.5 | 0.6 |
| Crimes against property | 48.5% (147) | 72.2% (26) | 29% (9) | 40% (10) |
| Standardized residual | 0 | 2 | -1.6 | -0.6 |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Results

Based off of my findings, results show Racial diversity among juvenile offenders varies by region and population demographics. In the United States, for instance, African American and Hispanic youth are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system compared to their white counterparts. This overrepresentation is often attributed to factors such as socioeconomic inequality, systemic biases in law enforcement and the legal system, and disparities in access to resources and opportunities. Efforts to address these disparities often involve reforms in law enforcement practices, juvenile justice policies, community-based interventions, and broader societal initiatives aimed at promoting equity and reducing inequality.

Conclusion

Before my research, most of the data out there really focuses on the idea of bias and equality represented in the juvenile justice system, specifically toward African Americans and Hispanics. Although this may be true to an extent, there is still a gap in identifying the root problem. Efforts need to be pushed in resolving poverty ridden areas and rural demographics that in turn produce kids that are unconfident with low self esteem and fall into crime because of family members or affiliates.

References

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