



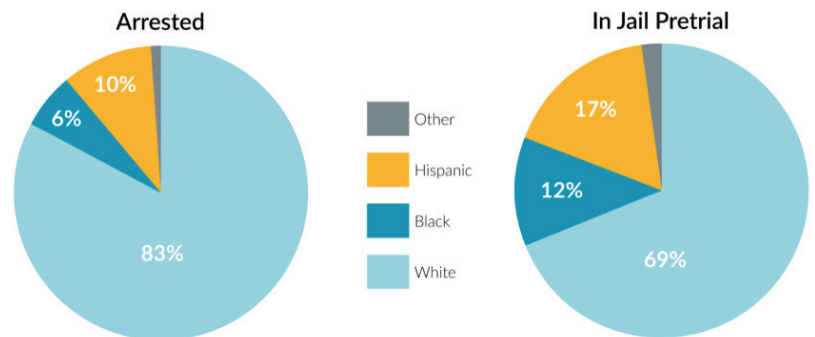
# Get the Facts - Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice

Symposium on Race & Equity in NH | October 16, 2017 | Concord, New Hampshire

## Definition

Criminal Justice is a system of institutions and practices aimed at upholding social order, deterring, investigating and mitigating crime, and/or sanctioning those who violate laws with criminal penalties or rehabilitation efforts. In the U.S. there are numerous criminal justice systems that differ by jurisdiction.<sup>i</sup>

## Drug Crimes in Hillsborough County, 2014<sup>ii</sup>



Jail data are averages from four Hillsborough County jail censuses, taken at six-month intervals on 9/1/2014, 3/21/2015, 9/1/2015 and 3/21/2016. The number of people incarcerated for drug offenses ranges from 52 to 80 each day.

Pretrial detention can have devastating consequences including job loss, eviction, or loss of child custody. Jail data from four Hillsborough County jail censuses (between 9/1/2014 to 3/21/16) show that people of color are disproportionately held in jail pre-trial.

## Numbers at a Glance

- In the US, blacks are 3.5 times more likely to be in jail than whites, in NH 5 times more likely<sup>iii</sup>
- NH ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the US for referring students to law enforcement from schools. Black students are nearly twice as likely as white students to be referred.<sup>iv</sup>

## Case Example

Across the United States, young people of color are more likely to have contact with the juvenile justice system than white youth; this is known as Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). In NH, the rate of arrests of black/African American youth was more than three times higher than that for white non-Hispanic youth in 2013.

To address this problem, NH has a DMC Coordinator working to improve the relationships between youth and law enforcement. More than 275 of NH's police officers have participated in Effective Police Interactions with Youth, a training specifically designed to help officers understand youth development and juvenile behavior, as well as the increasing diversity of New Hampshire. In addition, NH's DMC Coordinator designed a training specifically for youth that "mirrors" the training for officers. Called The Mirror Project, this training helps youth better understand what they can expect should they find themselves in an encounter with law enforcement. More than 3,000 juveniles in Manchester and Nashua have participated in The Mirror Project.



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### Selected Resources

#### Readings:

- Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*: <http://newjimcrow.com/>
- Emily Corwin Special Series: A Question of Justice In N.H.'s Biggest Jail, NH Public Radio, March 2017: <http://nhpr.org/post/special-series-question-justice-nh-s-biggest-jail#stream/0>
- Disproportionate Minority Contact Identification in NH, NH Center for Public Policy Studies, June 2013: [www.nhpolicy.org/report/disproportionate-minority-contact-identification-in-nh](http://www.nhpolicy.org/report/disproportionate-minority-contact-identification-in-nh)
- NH Health and Equity Partnership, *Understanding and Addressing DMC in New Hampshire: A Positive Platform for Change*: [www.healthynh.com/images/nhhhep/DMCinNH.pdf](http://www.healthynh.com/images/nhhhep/DMCinNH.pdf)
- The Sentencing Project, *Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System*, 2014 [www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Disproportionate-Minority-Contact-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf](http://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Disproportionate-Minority-Contact-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf)
- Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, New York, NY: Spiegel & Grau, 2014 <http://bryanstevenson.com/the-book/>

#### Websites:

- The Innocence Project: [www.innocenceproject.org](http://www.innocenceproject.org)
- The Equal Justice Initiative: [www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org)
- The Sentencing Project: [www.sentencingproject.org/](http://www.sentencingproject.org/)
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: [www.ojjdp.gov/dmc/about.html](http://www.ojjdp.gov/dmc/about.html)

#### Videos:

- "We Need to Talk About an Injustice", TED Talk by Bryan Stevenson, February 2012, [www.ted.com/talks/bryan\\_stevenson\\_we\\_need\\_to\\_talk\\_about\\_an\\_injustice](http://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice)
- 13th, a documentary film by Ava DuVernay: [www.avaduvernay.com/13th/](http://www.avaduvernay.com/13th/)

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<sup>i</sup> National Center for Victims of Crime, *The Criminal Justice System*, As of September 24, 2017:

<http://victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/the-criminal-justice-system>

<sup>ii</sup> Emily Corwin, *Special Series: A Question of Justice in N.H.'s Biggest Jail*, NH Public Radio, March 7, 2017:

<http://nhpr.org/post/special-series-question-justice-nh-s-biggest-jail#stream/0>

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iv</sup> Center for Public Integrity, *A state-by-state look at students referred to law enforcement*, 2015, As of October 4, 2017: <https://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/04/10/17074/state-state-look-students-referred-law-enforcement>