**RESEARCHING DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT (DMC) IN MAINE**

**OVERVIEW**

**GOAL**

To reduce the over-representation of minority youth at various stages in the juvenile justice system.

**HOW**

Through a systematic approach based on DMC identification and assessment development of targeted interventions and evaluation of outcomes to monitor progress. Five research phases guide DMC reduction activities.

**DMC RESEARCH PHASES**

1. **Identification**
2. **Assessment/Diagnosis**
3. **Intervention**
4. **Evaluation**
5. **Monitoring**

Ongoing DMC Reduction Activities
**Phase 1: DMC Identification** identifies if disparity is present using the Relative Rate Index (RRI), which is a comparison of rates of contact with the juvenile justice system.

- The rate is based on 1,000 youth or 100 youth, depending on decision point.
- The RRI is calculated at each decision points, where sufficient numbers exist (base population >30, number of contacts >5).
- Rolling average used: The RRI based on three year averages in order to stabilize data and make trends more easily seen.

**DMC Decision Points in Maine’s Juvenile Justice System**

![DMC Decision Points Diagram]

**RRI** = Rate of Minority Youth Contact
Rate of White Youth Contact
**RESEARCHING DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT (DMC) IN MAINE**

**OVERVIEW**

**PHASE 2: DMC Assessment/Diagnosis** – *Assess, explore and diagnose the possible factors contributing to DMC.*

**Six Maine Counties** *have sufficient minority youth populations (10 – 17 years old) to enable statistically significant DMC Analysis in the following categories?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Populations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Androscoggin</td>
<td>All Minorities, Black/African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>All Minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>All Minorities, Black/African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennebec</td>
<td>All Minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penobscot</td>
<td>All Minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>All Minorities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESEARCHING DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT (DMC) IN MAINE

OVERVIEW

ROLLING AVERAGE ANALYSIS – Findings

Key Findings

- Where disparity is present, it is often in early decision points, e.g. referral, diversion
  - Minorities referred at higher rates (2005 - 2009)
  - Minorities diverted at lower rates (2005 – 2009)
- Black/African American contact rates were higher than overall rates of minority contact and were much higher than rates of white youth for arrest and referral decision points.

FMI: Disproportionate Minority Contact in Maine (2010): DMC Assessment and Identification

---

1 Only counties that had statistically significant findings in 3 of four years are reported here
Maine Statistical Analysis Center, USM Muskie School of Public Service