



W. Haywood Burns Institute



**The New Science of Adolescent Development**

*Beyond the Bench*  
2013

Improving Life Opportunities for Youth, Families, and Communities of Color



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Ja'eisha Akins Age 5  
Temper Tantrum Pre-School

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THE earlyShow CBS

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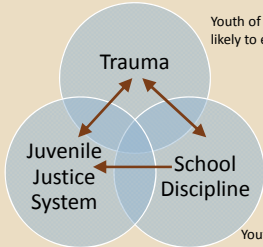
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Intersecting Forces

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Youth of Color are more likely to experience **Trauma**

Youth of Color are more likely to become **Justice System** Involved

Youth of Color are more likely to experience **School Discipline**

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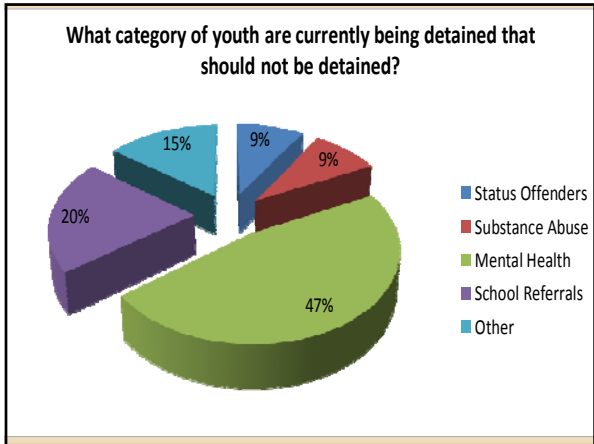
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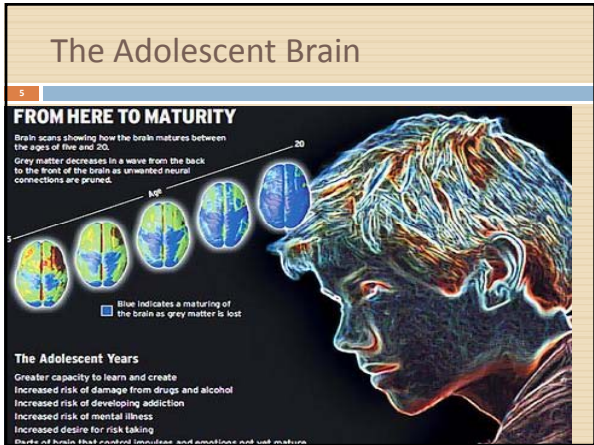
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**Adolescent Brain Development**

- **Graham v. Florida (2010)**
  - Developments in psychology and brain science continue to show fundamental differences between juvenile and adult minds. For example, parts of the brain involved in behavior control continue to mature throughout late adolescence. Juveniles are more capable of change than are adults.
- **Miller v. Alabama (2012)**
  - Chronological age and its hallmark features—among them, immaturity, impetuosity, and failure to appreciate risks and consequences

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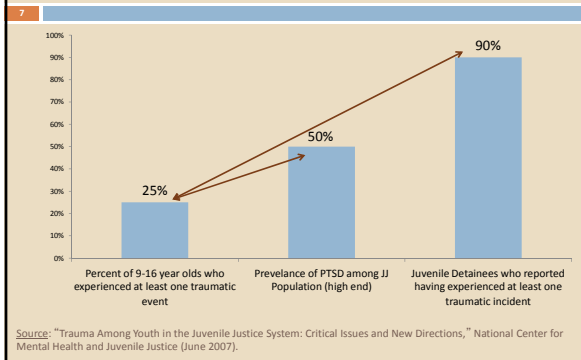
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## Prevalence of Trauma for Youth in Justice System




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## Youth of Color and Trauma

- African-American youth are nearly three times as likely to witness a shooting, bombing or riot than white youth
- Latino youth are more than two times as likely to witness a shooting, bombing or riot than white youth
- In CA, youth color are two times as likely to have witnessed domestic and other forms of violence than white youth

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## Challenges of Implementing Trauma Informed Care in Juvenile Justice Systems

Core Principles of Trauma-Informed Care	Challenges in Juvenile Justice Settings
Emphasize Strength over Pathology	Focus on Misbehaviors
Safety (physical and emotional)	Dangerous, Unknown Environment
Trustworthiness	Boundary Violations
Choice	Lack of Control
Collaboration	Hierarchy
Empowerment	Coercion
Recovery	Punishment

Justice Must Address at Each Point

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## A Trauma Informed/Responsive System vs. Trauma Specific Services

- **Trauma informed/responsive system**
  - New way of doing business: Major culture shift!
  - Avoids triggering trauma reactions and/or traumatizing the individual
    - Maschi/Swalbe Probation Practices Assessment Survey
    - Safe Referrals
  - Universal precautions benefit everyone & no one thinks twice once practices have changed (HIV precautions in the 80s, curb cuts)
- **Trauma-specific services**
  - Easier—providing services to treat or respond to trauma but don't change the way of doing business

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## National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)

- 2004: NCJFCJ and NCTSN establish partnership to explore "trauma-informed care" in juvenile justice system
- 2005 and 2007: Focus Groups at NCJFCJ annual Conferences to:
  - Understand judges knowledge of trauma
  - Identify ways to collaborate to promote education
- Findings:
  - 53% of judges had not received training about the assessment and treatment of child trauma prior to focus groups.
  - Issues identified by Judges:
    - Overwhelmed by level of trauma
    - Placement concerns
    - Lack of resources and understanding
  - Request for Resources
    - 64.3% of judges want a document that describes effects of trauma (immediate and long term)
    - 76.9% of judges get most of their information from judicial journals (only 23% reported getting information from psychology journals).

Source: Judges and Child Trauma: Findings from NCTSN/NCJFCJ Focus Groups (2008)

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