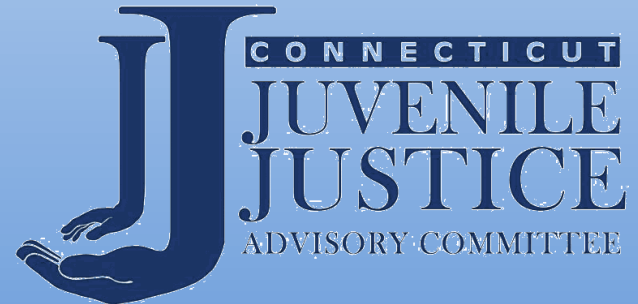


# The Color of Justice

Welcome to the search for solutions



# Why we're here

Learn and talk about  
**racial and ethnic disparities**  
in and beyond the justice system,  
**implicit bias,**  
and  
**the things we can do to make  
a positive difference.**

# *But why?*

“We need to face racism head-on  
in order to have healthy communities  
and a strong country.”

“Talking about race has been **an essential part  
of our progress**, and it *remains* urgent... as a  
critical step in creating the revolution of  
values that Dr. King called for 50 years ago.”

-Everyday Democracy

# Ground rules

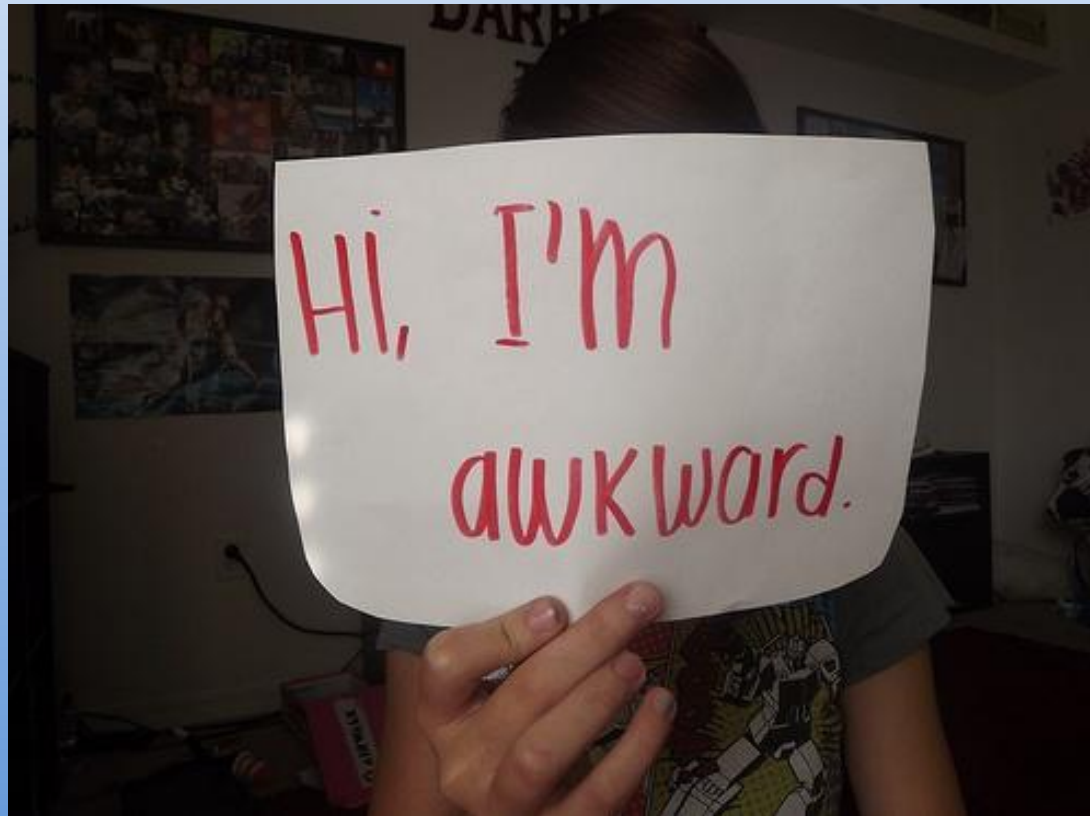


- Be civil, respectful
- Limit acronyms
- Let everyone speak
- Be brave – “ouch” and “oops”
- Speak from your own experience – “I statements”

# What to expect

- *The Color of Justice*  
documentary
- Action ideas
- Discussion

# It's OK to be uncomfortable



# Comedy Central's The Daily Show with Jon Stewart: The "R" Word



<http://thedailyshow.cc.com/videos/g65t3j/the-r-word>

**Typical assumptions why  
kids of color disproportionately  
end up in juvenile justice...**

***“They commit more crime!”***

***“They’re poor!”***

***“They live in cities!”***

**(Spoiler alert: None are true.)**



**Kids of color are treated more harshly...**

**NOT because of their actions.**

In national surveys where youth report on their own behavior, we find that kids engage in **very similar behaviors** at **very similar rates.**

**Children of color do the same things white kids do, but we treat kids of color more harshly.**

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011 National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, sample size 15,425 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders from 50 U.S. states. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Kids of color are treated more harshly...**

**NOT because of poverty.**

Connecticut studies weighed how coming from a low-income neighborhood affects treatment.

**Poverty is a disadvantage, but it does not account for the difference in treatment.**

Source: A Second Reassessment of Disproportionate Minority Contact in Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System, OPM and Spectrum Associates, 2009

**Kids of color are treated more harshly...**

**NOT because of where they live.**

The rates of kids of different races entering the system are disproportionate in Connecticut's cities, and are **even worse in our suburban and rural communities.**

Source: A Second Reassessment of Disproportionate Minority Contact in Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System, OPM and Spectrum Associates, 2009

# *The Color of Justice*

- Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) production looking at the role race plays in our juvenile justice system.
- Jot down thoughts and ideas for discussion.

# We each experience our world very differently.

- Most white Americans see America as colorblind.
- Nearly 80 percent of African-Americans don't. (Source: NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll)





**Careful  
judging a book  
by its cover.**



**Acting on the  
wrong  
assumption  
can hurt future  
success.**



**We can hold  
kids  
accountable  
for minor  
misbehavior  
outside of the  
justice  
system.\***



**\*More successfully & less expensively**

***“But I’m not racist.”***

**Why and how does  
discrimination  
happen?**

Systems have bias,  
and individuals do too.



# Individual bias

- *Explicit bias* is conscious discrimination (like joining a hate group).
- *Implicit bias* is an unconscious judgment - positive or negative – towards a person, thing, or group.
  - We all have it.
  - We can each learn what our implicit bias is, and make conscious choices that help us act with fairness.

# System bias

Policies and practices that result in certain social groups being advantaged and others disadvantaged or devalued. It isn't necessarily conscious prejudice; the majority may be following existing rules or norms.

- Racial profiling in traffic stops
- Stop and frisk
- Job application check-the-box
- Voter ID laws

# What can I do?

## Search my own implicit bias.

- To be human is to have bias. Make sure my bias does not negatively impact how I treat others.
- Continue to reflect on my biases. We're all figuring this out together.

# What can I do?

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# What can I do?

## Continue the conversation.

- Be brave: Ouch and Oops
- Learn more, get trained
- Host a forum, show the film, create a discussion group
- Share Color of Justice resources

**Twitter @CTJJA**

**Facebook.com/CTJJA**

# **What can I do?**

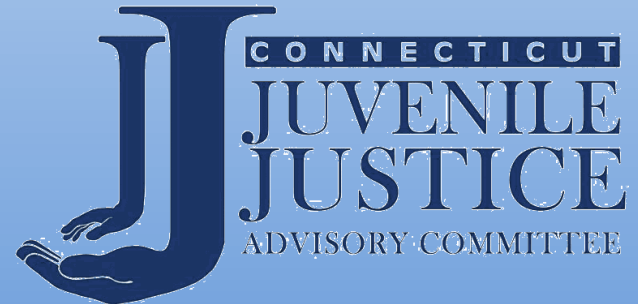
## **Advocate for kids.**

- Investments in positive youth development
- Services that address kids' needs early
- Statewide policy reform

**Thoughts?**  
**Comments? Discussion**

# The Color of Justice

[www.CTJJA.org/ColorOfJustice](http://www.CTJJA.org/ColorOfJustice)





# **Extra Juvenile Justice / Data Slides**

[www.CTJJA.org/ColorOfJustice](http://www.CTJJA.org/ColorOfJustice)

# Unequal treatment

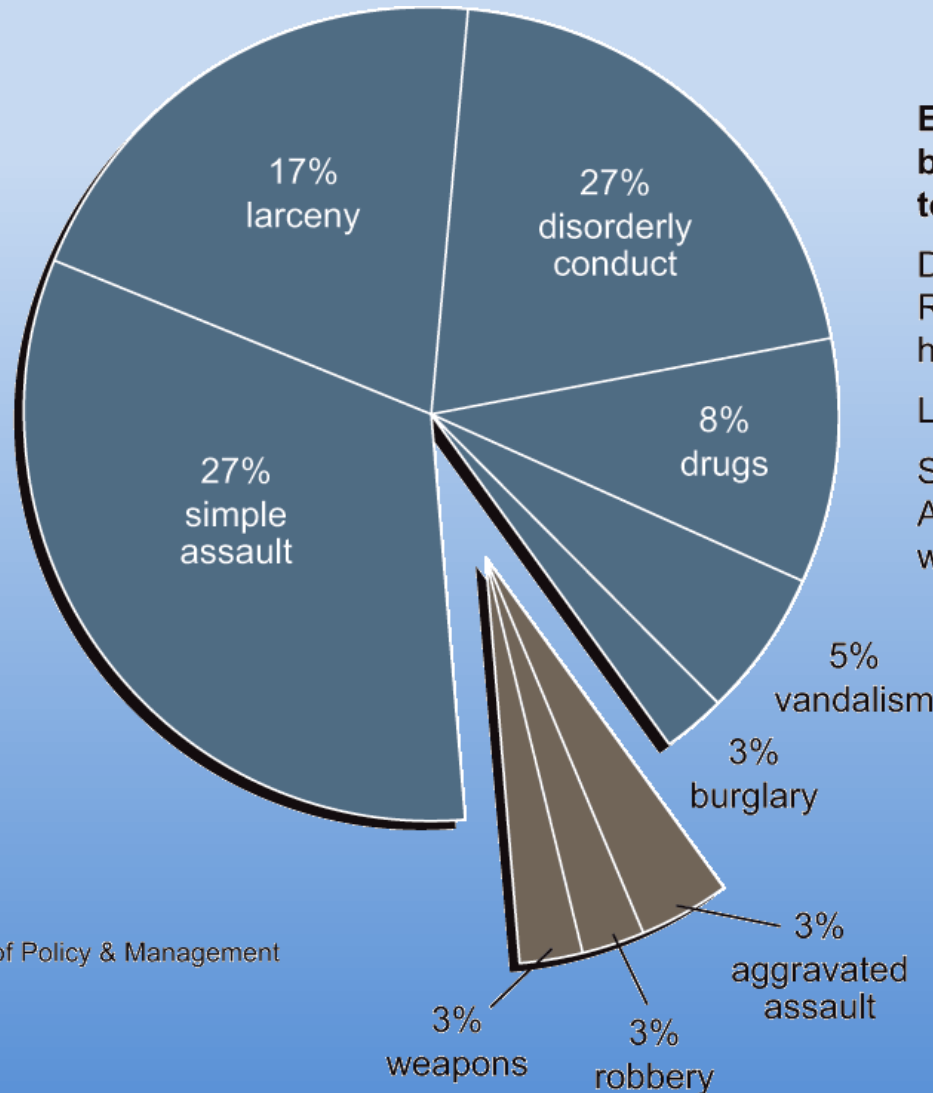
During the 2013 school year in Connecticut ...



Source: Connecticut Voices for Children

# Most kids in the juvenile justice system are **NOT** violent.

Less than 10 percent of juvenile arrests involve the threat of serious harm to another person.



Examples of the behavior that leads to the charge

Disorderly conduct — Refusing to remove a hat in school

Larceny — Shoplifting

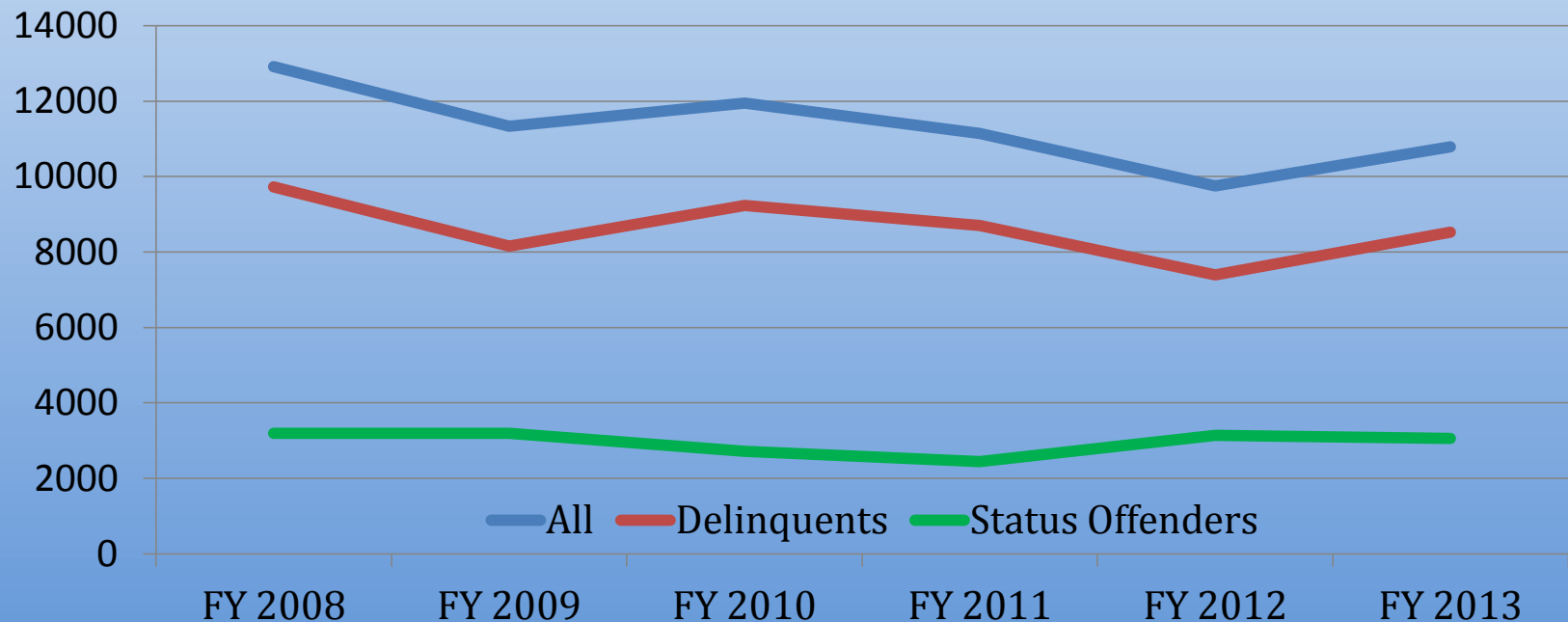
Simple assault — A shoving match in which no one is hurt

Source: Connecticut Office of Policy & Management

# One final myth: There's no youth crime wave.

More kids are getting cheaper and more effective services in the community. That's better for kids and for taxpayers.

## Juvenile Court Intake FY 2008-2013



Source: Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division (CSSD)