THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

The pathway to incarceration often starts early, with many scholars today pointing to school discipline policies as a significant contributor. Race also plays a major role, with disparities mirrored in data from the school system to the juvenile justice system.

**Allegheny County Suspensions**

In the 2015-16 school year, 70% of school suspensions in Allegheny County were for non-violent conduct.

- **41/100**
  - That year, 41 per 100 black students were suspended.
- **5.6/100**
  - That same year, 5.6 per every 100 non-black students were suspended.
  - Black students were 7.3 times more likely to be suspended than white students.

Overall, **37 out of 51** school districts in Allegheny County have suspension rates for black students that are at least double the rate of their non-black peers.

**Pennsylvania Student Arrests**

In 2015-16, Pennsylvania had the third highest student arrest rate in the nation and ranked:

- **3rd** in the country for black and Latino student arrests
- **2nd** in the country for disabled student arrests

In 2015, 3,328 students were referred to the juvenile probation system in Allegheny County.

- **74%** were young men
- **69%** were black
- **25%** were white
- **6%** were another race

Of that number, **3,328** students were referred:

**Source:** University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems Report — Just Discipline and the School-to-Prison Pipeline in Greater Pittsburgh: Local Challenges and Promising Solutions

**Source:** The Pittsburgh Foundation, “A Qualitative Study of Youth and the Juvenile Justice System”