What are the societal forces that drive racial disparities in victimization and criminal justice system involvement?

What are a few of the societal forces that drive racial disparities in victimization and criminal justice system involvement?

Racial Disparities

Resist looking at the issue through an ahistorical lens.

Racial Disparities

What societal and institutional processes sustain the racial power structure that was part of the founding of this country in the present, and perpetuate that power structure into the future?

Victimization Through the Lens of Development and Trauma

Interpersonal victimization is learned behavior.

There are racial group differences in exposure to the contexts that create and reinforce the intergenerational transmission victimization.

Perpetuation of Historical Trauma Through Racial Disparities in Present-day Ecological Factors

Historical and Contemporary Social Policies and Practices

Colonization, slavery, Jim Crow

Housing segregation, economic discrimination, disproportionate incarceration

Popularization of negative stereotypes through mainstream media

Disrupted cultural transmission of history and heritage

Community

Exposure to daily neighborhood activities and social interactions that increase risk

Experiencing and/or witnessing chronic violence and assault

Unconcealed alcohol and drug abuse

Low levels of social capital and social cohesion

Quality of public institutions, from school to healthcare, that promote healthy development, and buffer against abuse and neglect at home

School

High concentration of socioeconomically disadvantaged peers

Lower per-pupil spending and less experienced teachers

Increased behavioral sanctioning with harsh and exclusionary discipline

Lower levels of safety at school

Family

Poverty and associated housing and food insecurity

Alcohol and other substance abuse

Parental incarceration

Low or lack of emotional bonding among family members

Chronic or episodic family violence

Child abuse and neglect

Selective Recognition of the Role of Victimization

Gang members or "child soldiers"

Freedom of choice and the neurobiological underpinnings of planful decision-making among youth placed at highest risk for gang membership are severely impaired by their developmental context (exposure to abuse, neglect, and other traumas).

The U.S. identifies children and youth recruited into armed resistance groups in other countries as child soldiers and responds to them based on that victimization status.

In the U.S. White Supremacy Guides Perceptions of Victimization

"[He] was pretty much fed up and kind of at the end of his rope" and Tuesday "was a really bad day for him, and this is what he did." What are the most promising theories, policies, and interventions for advancing racial equity by mitigating factors that place children and youth on the pathways to criminal justice system involvement?

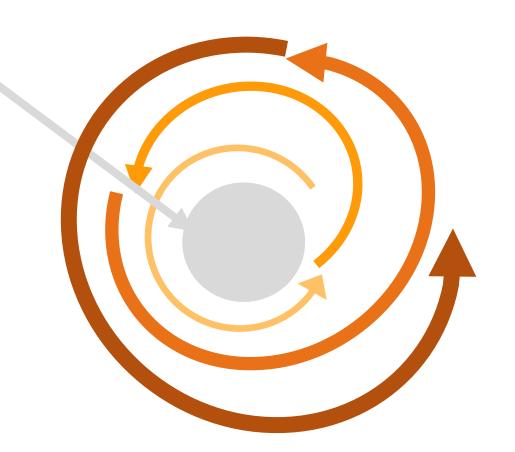
Educational Systems Interventions

Schools are the place where we either intensify or disrupt ecologically constructed developmental challenges.

Where do bidirectional relationships exist between schools and criminal justice system involvement?

Criminalization of developmental and mental health challenges

>60% of detained male and female youth meet diagnostic criteria and had diagnosis-specific impairment for one or more psychiatric disorders; excluding conduct disorder.



Maintenance of population level differences in Violence and victimization

Schools serving higher percentages of racial and ethnic minority children are significantly more likely to respond to emotional and behavioral dysregulation with punitive discipline vs mental health support.

What research is needed?

Implementation Research

School safety policies and practices that reduce rather than exacerbate the initial underlying developmental challenges.

Implementation Research

School safety policies and practices that reduce rather than exacerbate the initial underlying developmental challenges, especially in the absence of meaningful changes in exposure to household and neighborhood disadvantage.