Unequal Justice
Race, Class and the Criminal Justice System

Tim Ready
Director
Walker Institute
for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations
Western Michigan University
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www.wmich.edu/walkerinstitute
America’s Incarceration Rate Is the Highest in the World
FIGURE 2-2 Incarceration rates per 100,000 population of European and selected common law countries.

The Number of Persons Under the Control of The Criminal Justice System Has Increased Enormously, Beginning In the Early 1970s
FIGURE 2-4  Total adult correctional population, including state and federal prison, local jail, and probation and parole populations, 1972 to 2010.
SOURCE: See Appendix B.

Lifetime Risk of Imprisonment Is Highly Racialized:

White Men  1 in 17
Latino Men  1 in 6
Black Men  1 in 3

FIGURE 2-11 State and federal prison admission rates, 1926 to 1986, and state and federal imprisonment rates, 1980 to 2010, for blacks and whites.

Kalamazoo...

...We Have a Problem
Arrest Rates by Race in Kalamazoo County, 2013

Black-White Ratio
5.8 to 1
Arrest Rate per 1,000 Juveniles, 2012
Kalamazoo and Statewide

Source: Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice
Michigancommitteeonjuvenilejustice.com
A Look at Risk of Involvement in the Criminal Justice System through the Lens of Primary Prevention

The Role of Poverty And Inequality of Opportunity
Kalamazoo’s child poverty rate is higher than all but 10% of U.S. cities of at least 65,000 people.

Walker Institute tabulation based on American Community Survey data for cities of at least 65,000 people, 2010-12
Child Poverty Rate in City of Kalamazoo, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010-2012

- Hispanic: 57%
- White: 28%
- Black: 63%
- Other: 37%
- Total: 44%

*Source: American Community Survey, 2010-12*
## Does Poverty Really Matter?...Yes, It Does.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult outcomes by poverty status between the prenatal year and age five</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income below the official U.S. poverty line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean or %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed schooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings ($10,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual work hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food stamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrested (men only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmarital birth (women only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Earnings and food stamp values are in 2005 dollars.
Kalamazoo County has a higher rate of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect than all other urban counties in Michigan.
Confirmed Cases* of Abuse and/or Neglect, Ages 0 to 8, for Michigan Urban Counties, 2013

* Rate per 1,000
Source: Child Protective Services, Michigan Dept. of Human Services, as reported by Michigan League for Public Policy
Unequal Opportunity Related to Poverty and Race Decreases Chances for Success in School, and Increases Risk of Involvement in the Criminal Justice System
Third Graders in Kalamazoo and Statewide who Are Proficient in Reading by Economic Status, *
2010 to 2014

• In 2013-14, 74% of KPS third graders * were economically disadvantaged, compared to 51% statewide.

• Walker Institute tabulation based on data from: Michigan Department of Education  https://mischooldata.org
Percent of 9th Grade Cohort for Kalamazoo Public School’s Graduating Class of 2007 that Attained a Post-Secondary Degree within Six Years, by Race, Ethnicity

- Black: 11% (6% Attained Bachelor’s Degree)
- White: 37% (33% Attained Bachelor’s Degree)
- Other: 18% (15% Attained Bachelor’s Degree)
- Total: 23% (18% Attained Bachelor’s Degree)

Blue = Any Credential  
Orange = Bachelor’s Degree

Walker Institute tabulation based on data from the Kalamazoo Promise and Michigan Department of Education  
https://mischooldata.org
A Look at Risk of Involvement in the Criminal Justice System through the Lens of Secondary Prevention
Black to White Ratio of Involvement at Different Stages of Juvenile Justice System, in Kalamazoo County, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of Process</th>
<th>Black to White Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refer to Juvenile Court</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases Diverted</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases Involving Secure Detention</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases Petitioned</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases resulting in Delinquent Findings</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases resulting in Probation</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases Resulting in Confinement</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice

Arrested Black youth are less likely to have their cases diverted or to receive probation.

Arrested Black youth are more likely to have charges filed against them and be detained in a secure facility.
Crime Has Decreased a Lot in Kalamazoo, but Criminal Cases Have Decreased Only a Little
Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 in City of Kalamazoo: 1985 - 2012

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, as provided by Kalamazoo Department Of Public Safety
Property Crime Rate per 100,000 in City of Kalamazoo: 1985 - 2012

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, as provided by Kalamazoo Department Of Public Safety
Criminal Caseload of Kalamazoo Courts, 2003 to 2013

Source: Annual Report, Kalamazoo County Courts, 2013
Unequal Justice: 
Race, Class and the Criminal Justice System

March 30    7pm      James Forman, Jr.      From Fear and Vengeance to Mercy and Forgiveness, Fetzer Center
April 14    7pm      Juvenile Justice: Disrupting the Pipeline to Prison           Kalamazoo Juvenile Home
April 28    7pm      Challenges Facing Ex-Offenders,                                           Bethany Reformed Church
May 12      7pm      Re-Imagining Kalamazoo with Justice for All Mt. Zion Baptist Church

For More Information:  www.wmich.edu/walkerinstitute

April 30  7pm      Richard Reeves,     The Opportunity Ecosystem

Mr. Reeves will explore the following questions

• Are we providing an equal chance for success for all our children?
• What makes some communities more successful than others at promoting social mobility?
• What more can Kalamazoo do to make equal opportunity for all a reality?

This is the Inaugural Event of Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo, a new initiative launched by the Kalamazoo City Commission to promote:

• Increased access to well-paying jobs
• Strong, economically secure families
• Healthy growth, development and learning of all our kids

For More Information: www.kalamazoocity.org