

STOP JIM CROW JUVENILE JUSTICE



Black families face barriers that were created by bias and unjust systems, meant to disenfranchise and de-fund Black communities. That leads to a higher share of Black children growing up in neighborhoods and communities that struggle to provide the resources that every young person needs to thrive.

School-to-prison pipeline

- + Insufficient funding for school-based supports such as school counselors
- + Racial bias that leads to Black youth being seen as older and more threatening than White youth

Too many young Black Virginians getting pushed out of school and into contact with law enforcement

Black youth get pushed further into the deep end of the system.

21% of youth ages 15-17 in Virginia are Black, yet make up

57% of young people suspended from school

49% of young people reported to juvenile courts by school authorities

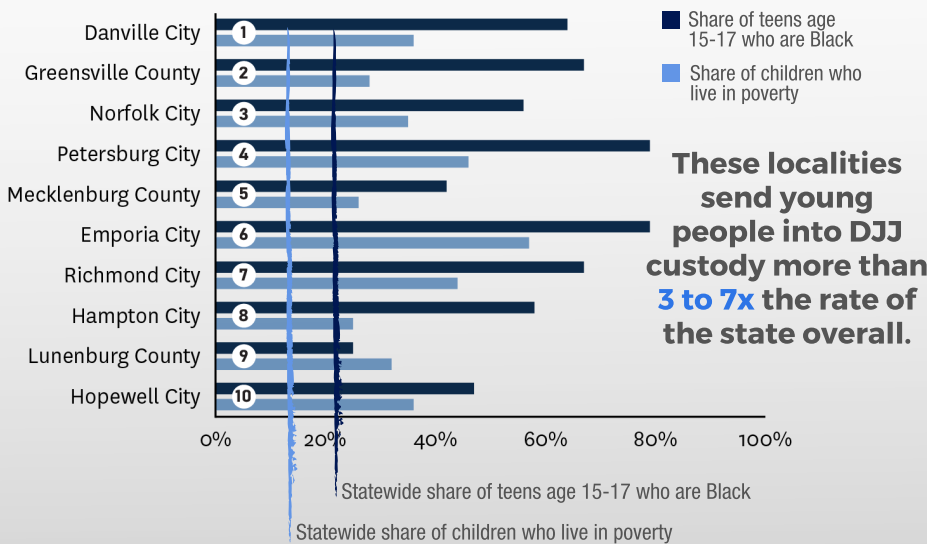
42% of young people reported to juvenile intake officers

54% of young people detained in local youth jails

72% of young people sent to the custody of the DJJ

Bias and lack of resources leads to DJJ involvement

It's no coincidence that every Virginia locality in the top 10 in the rate of sending young people to the custody of the DJJ has a child poverty rate above the state average and a higher-than-average share of teenagers who are Black.



With increased focus on stopping the reliance on incarceration to rehabilitate youth, the latest data shows that **Virginia courts committed 20% fewer White young people to direct care** in 2018 compared to fiscal year 2017. Yet in that same time, **Virginia courts increased the number of Black young people committed to direct care by 3%.**

SHIFT THE PARADIGM

Sources: The Commonwealth Institute analysis based on DJJ and Census data; Legal Aid Justice Center, Suspended Progress, Oct. 2018

#ParadigmShiftVA