Focus: Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

Concern: Overrepresentation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system

Nationally African American youth are:
♦ 16% of the U.S. population
♦ 38% of the youth in residential placement
♦ 58% of the youth admitted to state adult prison

In Ohio, minority (including African American, Hispanic, Asian) youth are:
♦ 20% of the state's population
♦ 61% of the DYS commitments in 2006
♦ 25% of the youth in RECLAIM-funded community programs or community correctional facilities

Ohio’s Plan: Following a process created by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the 14 Ohio counties with the highest minority youth populations will be asked to participate in a guided initiative that will help them identify and assess the issue of DMC, develop a response, and monitor and evaluate their results.

Data will be collected on the following areas:
♦ Arrest
♦ Diversion
♦ Detention
♦ Probation
♦ Confinement
♦ Court referral
♦ Charges filed
♦ Adjudications
♦ Transfer to adult court

The Action: Based on the data collected, the Ohio State University Center for Learning Excellence, will work with county representatives, the Ohio DMC committee, juvenile court judges and other stakeholders to develop strategies to address local DMC areas of overrepresentation.