Chicago School-to-Prison Pipeline

LGBTQ Youth in the Pipeline

Non-heterosexual adolescents suffer disproportionate punishments by schools and the criminal justice system.

AT SCHOOL

LGBTQ students are:

1.4x more likely to be expelled & between 1.25x and 3x more likely to experience institutional sanctions than their heterosexual peers

Approximately one-third of LGBTQ teens have skipped at least one day of school because of safety concerns.¹

IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

LGBTQ teens are:

2x more likely to land in a cell before adjudication for nonviolent offenses & 12x more likely to report being sexually assaulted by a fellow inmate than their heterosexual peers.³

Nationally, LGBTQ teens make up 5-7% of the total youth population but represent upwards of 15% of young people involved with the nation’s juvenile justice system.²

Education, Not Incarceration: Costs and Alternatives

COST OF INCARCERATING A YOUTH IN JUVENILE PRISON FOR ONE YEAR:

$90,000

AVERAGE K-12 PER-PUPIL COST PER YEAR

$6,119

COST PER DAY TO:

detain a youth at the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center

$600

educate a student in the Chicago Public Schools

$75

In the community areas where 50 public schools were closed in 2013, the amount spent on schools since 2000 was $2.2 billion and the amount spent on incarceration in that same time frame was $2.7 billion.¹

Fenger High School

2010-2011

306 students received restorative justice services 1,103 suspension days were prevented

59% misconduct cases

69% arrests

COST PER CPS SCHOOL FOR 1 YEAR OF restorative justice services 2 full-time CPD police officers

$65,000 $150,000³

¹: GLSEN National Climate Study
²: Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research Policy and Practice (2011)
³: "I was scared to sleep: LGBT youth face violence behind bars,” The Nation, June 21, 2010

Project NIA, September 2013

¹: Chicago Reporter
³: This number may actually be higher. “Chicago Public Schools Could Cut Cops in Budget Crisis,” Huffington Post, 7/5/2011