



TULSA CITY COUNCIL EQUALITY INDICATORS SPECIAL MEETING: JUNE 26, 2019

Theme 4 Justice: Topic 1 Arrests Indicator 28: Race & Juvenile Arrests

The Tulsa City Council held a panel discussion to address racial disparities in youth arrests and discuss current practices to improve outcomes. The panelists clarified the sources of Equality Indicators data, cited related national statistics, and answered questions on the themes summarized below.

INDICATOR 28 Race & Juvenile Arrests			
DEFINITION	Ratio of arrest rates for Black to White juveniles per 1,000 population under age 18		
REPORT YEAR	2018	2019	CHANGE SCORE
STATIC SCORE	33	32	-1
RESULTS	Black: 22.3 White: 7.1 Ratio: 3.153	Black: 21.9 White: 6.6 Ratio: 3.327	
DATA SOURCE	Tulsa Police Department (by request); U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 & 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates		
NOTE	The comparison of Blacks to Whites was intentionally selected to reflect popular discourse surrounding this specific indicator.		

THE EQUALITY INDICATORS DATA

The Equality Indicators numbers are from the Tulsa Police Department (TPD) and only account for custodial arrests. In calculating the number of arrests, only the individual people were counted, not the total number of charges.

NATIONAL TRENDS AND ADDITIONAL DATA ON RACE AND JUVENILE ARRESTS:

Nationally: Youthful delinquent behaviors are similar across races; Black and White youth are equally likely to offend. Specifically, Black youth are *two times* as likely to be arrested as White youth, *three times* more likely to be searched, *twice* as likely to be arrested after a search, *more likely* to have their case referred to court, *less likely* to receive a deferred sentence, and receive longer sentences. Differential policing due to higher reports of crime places minority offenders at an increased risk of detention and potential arrests as a result of contact with police. Education and early entry into the justice system also play an important role in future incarceration rates.

TPD noted that across the country there is *more disparity* in violent crimes and *more disparity* in charges where an officer has discretion. TPD panelists cite research that states poverty and favorable/unfavorable parental involvement are two of the highest factors contributing to juvenile delinquency. Factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency are compounding.

Additional Data Collection: Councilors noted the need for more data in the following areas:

- Types of arrests with the largest disparities
- Arrest data from Tulsa Public Schools
- How juvenile arrests are initiated
- Racial disparities in type, number and severity of charges filed
- Discretionary arrests versus arrests for victim-reported crimes

PANEL DISCUSSION THEMES - CURRENT PRACTICES AND RELEVANT DATA:

Youth Engagement: TPD described the following programs to engage youth:

- Tulsa Police Activities League (TPAL)
- Project Trust
- Community Policing Model (61st and Peoria)
- MPACC Youth Forums
- Tulsa Housing Authority Mentoring Program

Measuring Engagement and Outreach: TPD has historically not measured the impacts of youth engagement activities. This year, TPD produced the first annual report for TPAL and has identified areas for data collection improvements in the report. TPD panelists were unaware if TPD tracked data on the engagement needs of different ethnic communities, but potentially has data on needs of specific neighborhoods.

Best Practices: No specific programs from other cities or best practices for youth engagement were noted by panelists.

Youth Enforcement and Detention Procedures:

Current TPD Training: TPD provides training at the academy directed towards understanding youth behavior and practical strategies for interacting with young people in positive ways. Through its de-escalation training, TPD teaches that children are present-oriented thinkers and reviews strategies to slow down conversations with youth.

Policies and Practices: Panel discussions also included the following as they relate to juvenile arrests:

- Departmental Policy for Officer Discretion
- Handcuffing Youth – Including a discussion of training, discretion, and remedial action if improperly used
- Parental notification policy for detained youth

Role of the Community Intervention Center (CIC): When a child is taken into custody, either because of a bench warrant is issued or because of suspicion of a felony, they go through CIC. The Juvenile Bureau has data for children entering through CIC. In 2018, 898 children were brought into CIC, only 26.7% were for felonies and 42% of children entering were Black. Juveniles categorized as “youthful offenders” (Robberies, attempted homicides, etc.) are taken to David L. Moss and are not included in the Bureau’s statistics.

- Detention: Detention-eligible offenses are regulated by State Law and must meet the following requirements: 1) Certain felonies, 2) Age Requirements, 3) Health Requirements. First-time misdemeanors are not allowed.

Mental Health: For justice-involved youth, 60-75% have a mental health diagnosis; panelists noted the important role of mental health including the need for funding.

Current TPD Training: CLEET requires 4 hours of mental health training. The TPD academy requires 32 hours of training in the academy with an additional 2 hours every year. One-hundred sixty officers are Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained. Officers are trained on how to identify individuals with autism, but not ADHD or Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD).

Unconscious Bias:

Current TPD Training: TPD is currently in its first year of training. A 4-hour training block is required for all officers and TPD will develop future training for subsequent years. TPD utilizes the train-the-trainer model to conduct this training.

Measuring Effectiveness: TPD measures the effectiveness of this training through conducting pre and post-assessments on a control group.

Traumatic and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): In general, 90% of incarcerated juveniles report experiencing at least one traumatic event, and 75% reported they were exposed to or the subject of victimization. Juvenile justice youth experience three times more ACEs, compared to the general population.

Current TPD Training: TPD’s training on youth includes curriculum on ACEs, including a discussion of identifying an officer’s own ACEs.

Trust and Transparency: Panelists noted the importance of trust and transparency, including the need for a proactive, community-involved approach to building trust.

Measuring and Reporting: Panel experts recommend that the City of Tulsa continues to measure trust through the Gallup Citivoice Index and other longitudinal studies such as the Equality Indicators Reports. The Anti-Bias Policing Policy requires citizen concerns to be reported; this is done through the annual Internal Affairs Report.

SUGGESTED FUTURE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS RACIAL DISPARITIES IN YOUTH ARRESTS:

Generally, the following recommendations were made for law enforcement to continue to address youth disparities:

- Train to be aware of Individual Implicit Bias
- Be aware of adolescent brain development and resulting behaviors
- Identify and appropriately respond to youth experiencing trauma or a mental health condition
- Be cognizant of an officer’s own individual trauma
- Learn de-escalation techniques to avoid use of force or threat of force with confrontational juveniles
- Become highly trained in communication techniques with youth and speak to them congruent with their intellectual abilities

Community Recommended Solutions:

- First Priority: Law enforcement agencies in City of Tulsa should move from a “warrior” to “guardian” mentality by 1) implementing implicit bias training, 2) eliminating ticket and arrest data as an evaluation tool, and 3) increasing transparency and accountability around problem officers.
- Second Priority: TPD, TCSO, and Tulsa County Courts should partner with TPS to create a parent-student advisory board to address issues of juvenile arrests.
- Additional recommendations: Implement intensive and measurable community policing in the Gilcrease Division.

Legislation:

- **Juvenile Justice Reform Act:** Federal Legislation enacted in 2018 which requires states to collect data on racial and ethnic disparities to determine which points create disparities and to establish measures to address the same. States have up to three years to comply. This legislation includes: 1) a focus on juvenile detention requirements, 2) more money for diversion services, and 3) a requirement for evidence-based or promising practices.