
The Pride Justice Resource Center Newsletter



THE PRIDE JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER

The National Resource Center on Justice-Involved LGBTQ2S+ Youth

The Resource Center on Justice-Involved LGBTQ2S+ youth is a hub of information and resources to address the specific challenges faced by justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth. The Pride Justice Resource Center and its collaborators provide professionals working in the juvenile justice system with the skills to collect data, assess their practices, reform the courts, and affirm the sexual orientation and gender identity of LGBTQ2S+ youth, along with increasing the ease of accessibility to evidence-based practices and current data. The Pride Justice Resource Center advocates for the fair and equitable treatment of LGBTQ2S+ youth arrested and referred to juvenile justice agencies.

For training and technical assistance requests, [contact us](#).

Why are Black children more likely to be susceptible to adultification bias?

The theory of adultification of Black children is deeply rooted in the history of slavery. Black children were thrust into labor at very tender ages, stripped of their innocence and freedom for playtime (Epstein, et al., 2017). This perception persists today, manifesting in two primary forms: socialization that forces children into premature maturity due to their environment, particularly prevalent in low-resource communities, and the influence of social or cultural stereotypes shaping how adults perceive children (Epstein, et al., 2017).

Black girls, in particular, bear the brunt of the adultification, facing disproportionate rates of school discipline and referrals to the juvenile justice system, contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline (Childhood Lost: The Adultification of African American Girls, 2020). Society often views black girls as less innocent and more adult-like, perceiving them as needing less nurturing and more knowledgeable of adult topics such as sex (Epstein, et al., 2017). This bias also extends to LGBTQ

youth of color, who are represented in detention facilities and stereotyped as aggressive or defiant (Conron & Wilson, 2019).

Furthermore, cognitive communication disorders among Black girls are frequently unaddressed, with limited access to essential educational services (Stanford, 2019). Trauma can also profoundly affect behavior, with Black girls' actions often misinterpreted as aggression rather than a response to trauma (Stanford, 2019).

To address these systemic issues, experts advocate for trauma-informed strategies that recognize so-called "problem behaviors" as potential trauma responses requiring support rather than punishment (Davis, 2020). Providing supportive adult figures, such as attorneys, teachers, and social workers can help guide each girl through challenging times (Davis, 2020). Investing in education programs like the National Black Women's Justice Institute's EMERGE program are crucial for creating pathways for young girls (Davis, 2020). Legislative changes are necessary to revisit mandatory sentencing guidelines and expand community-based alternatives to incarceration, including drug treatment and mental health programs (Center for American Progress et al., 2017). These efforts aim to dismantle systemic biases and provide Black children with the childhood they deserve, empowering them to thrive within a society that recognizes their inherent worth and potential.

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Upcoming Events

Webinar:

***Safe and Affirming Data Collection About Justice-Involved
LGBTQ2S+ Youth Part 2***

October 24, 2024

90-minute duration

9:00 a.m. PDT / 10:00 a.m. MDT / 11:00 a.m. CDT / 12:00 p.m.
EDT

Youth who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system and have unique needs and challenges, yet many juvenile justice professionals are unsure of whether there are any LGBTQ2S+ youth in their system. Ensuring all youth in the juvenile justice system feel safe, affirmed, and supported requires juvenile justice professionals to ask youth about all aspects of their identity. This webinar will share with programs what data points they should be collecting along with how to effectively use that data to improve their programming and yield better outcomes for the youth that they serve.

[Register Here](#)

Webinar:

***Race/Ethnicity and LGBTQ2S+ Youth Part 2: Discussion of
Black Girls***

December 11, 2024

90-minute duration

9:00 a.m. PDT / 10:00 a.m. MDT / 11:00 a.m. CDT / 12:00 p.m.
EDT

Participants will develop a comprehensive understanding of the unique challenges and experiences faced by LGBTQ2S+ youth from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. They will learn about the specific ways in which race, ethnicity, and gender intersect with LGBTQ2S+ identity, and how these intersections impact the lives of LGBTQ2S+ youth. Participants will gain knowledge about the specific barriers and disparities that LGBTQ2S+ girls of color face in various aspects of their lives, including juvenile justice systems. They will explore the root causes of these disparities and learn strategies to address and mitigate them. Participants will focus on the experiences and needs of LGBTQ2S+ girls of color. They will learn about the unique challenges faced by this group, such as double discrimination based on both race/ethnicity and sexual orientation/gender identity. Through case studies and interactive discussions, participants will develop practical strategies to create inclusive and supportive environments for LGBTQ2S+ girls of color, both in juvenile justice systems and community settings.

[Register Here](#)



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