

The ESEA, Graduation Rates and Early Warnings

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Balfanz Study of Incarcerated Youth

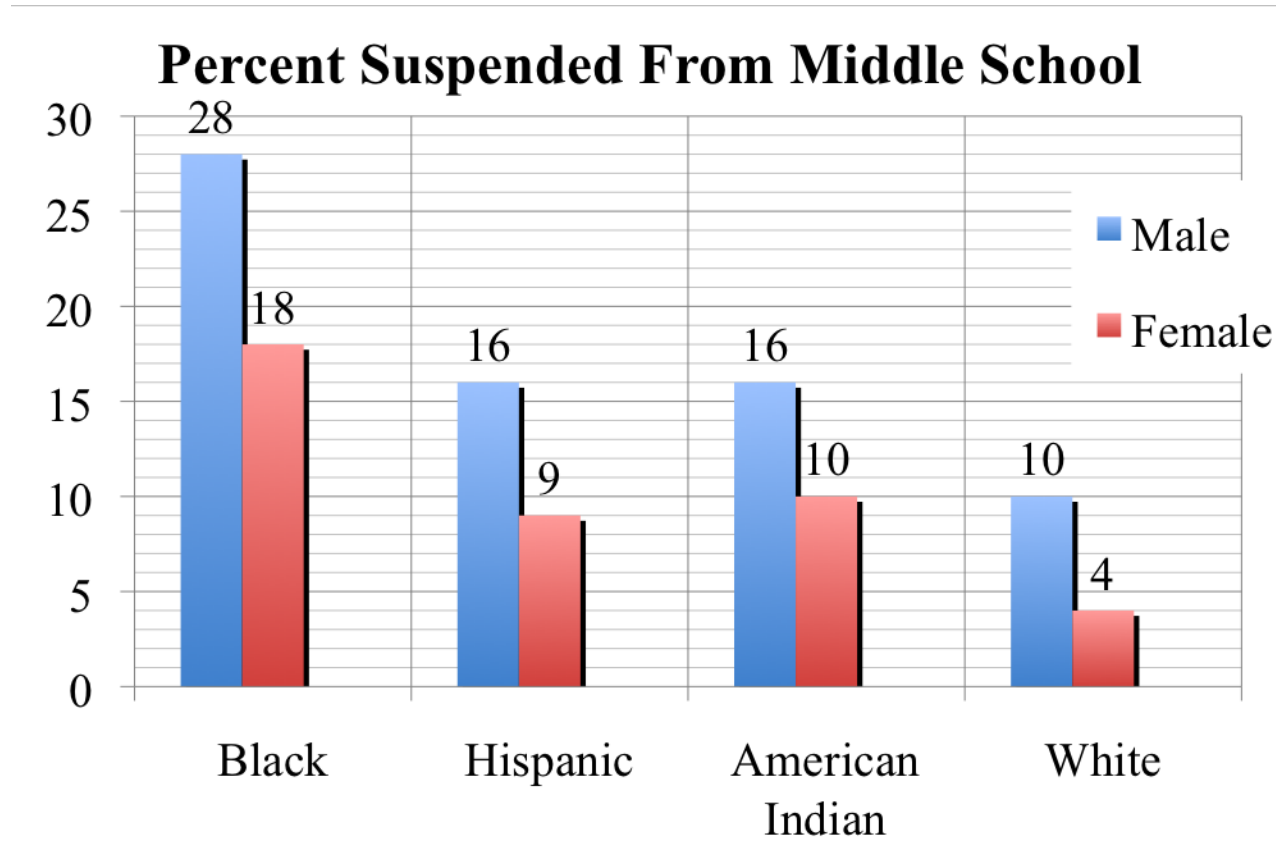
- According to Balfanz's research, the typical ninth grader who went to prison attended school only 58% of the time, failed at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of their classes, and read at a sixth grade level at the end of 8th grade. $\frac{2}{3}$ had been suspended at least once in eighth grade.

Close the Dropout Factories?

- 33% of all dropouts are 9th Graders.
- Many dropouts spend less than one year in high school.
- What middle schools are feeding these factories?
- If the high-school is the end of the production line, then earlier supports and responses are also necessary to address the crisis.

Suspension Rates Disaggregated by Race with Gender in Middle Schools in U.S. (Data

Source: CRDC 2006)



Several Large Districts (of the 18 studied) Suspended About 50% of Their Black Males

- Des Moines 46%
- Milwaukee 51%
- Palm Beach County 53%

From Losen and Skiba, *Suspended Education: Urban Middle Schools in Crisis*

Across 18 Districts...

- **179 middle schools suspended one third or more Black males**
- **57 middle schools suspended one third of more White males**
- **43 ...one third or more Hispanic males**
- **95 ...one third or more Black females**
- **29 ...one third or more White females**
- **14 ...one third or more Hispanic females**

Legislative Change

- **When dropout factories are identified and slated for possible intervention:**
- **Also look at the middle schools that feed the factories.**
- **Look at rates of suspension, grade retention and other predictors of dropping out.**
- **The improvement plan should include the middle school analysis and interventions as necessary.**
- **The ESEA should ensure that states and districts provide technical assistance to address the particular middle school needs.**

Legislative Change

- Annual reporting of school discipline data
- Disaggregated
- Cross tabulated with gender
- Publicly reported at district and school level to the extent permitted by privacy limitations.
- Much of this is already required under the IDEA

No ESEA Information on Use of Suspension

- No regular reporting of suspension data required in current law.
- School discipline data are not a regular part of NCLB's school evaluation.
- Perverse push out incentives exist to raise test scores on backs of exiting low achievers.
- Invisible children: We only count those whom we care about....

The End

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New Report: Losen and Skiba, Suspended
Education: Urban Middle Schools in Crisis

New Book: Kim, Losen and Hewitt, The School
to Prison Pipeline: Structuring Legal Reform,
NYU Press. Call 800-996-6987

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