

## African American Families & Incarceration: The Search for Solutions Tammy Henderson, PhD

### Racial Disparities in Incarceration

- Blacks compose approximately 1 million of the total 2.3 million incarcerated population
- Blacks are incarcerated at nearly six times the rate of Whites
- The combined total of Blacks and Latinos make up 58% of all prisoners in 2008; Blacks and Latinos comprise around ¼ of the U. S. population
- Nationwide, Blacks comprise 26% of juvenile arrests, 44% of detained youth, 46% of the youth adjudicated to the criminal court system, and 58% of the youth set state prisons (Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice as cited by the NAACP, n. d.).

### Videos to View In Advance of the Session:

- [Bryan Stevenson: We Need to Talk About an Injustice](#)
- [Bryan Stevenson: "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption"](#)
- [Writing My Wrongs - Shaka Senghor at TEDxMidwest](#)

### Read these documents:

- [Criminal Justice Fact Sheet](#)
- [Children and Families of The Incarcerated Fact Sheet](#)
- [Children's Defense Fund: Cradle to Prison Pipeline - Fact Sheet](#)

### Resources

- [Reducing Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System: A Manual for Practitioners and Policymakers](#)
- [Racial Disparities in Sentencing: Three Sources and Three Solutions](#)
- [Report of The Sentencing Project](#)

### Discussion Questions

1. What are effective approaches to address incarceration?
2. What are effective approaches to address racial disparities in incarcerations?
3. What are the next steps for each professional?
4. What are the collective next steps?
5. What are your thoughts?

### References

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. (n. d.) *Criminal Justice Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.naacp.org/criminal-justice-fact-sheet/>.
- Senghor, S. (2013, 2016). *Writing my Wrongs: Life, Death and Redemption in an American Prison*. New York, NY: Drop a Gem Publishing.
- Stevenson, B. (2015). *Just Mercy. A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York, NY: Penguin Random House LLC.