

## The DMC Corporation

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to expand the forums and the related Pennsylvania DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Curriculum© to additional regions. By opening the dialogue between youth & officers, our hope is to:

**Reduce the number of volatile interactions between youth and officers on the street, to decrease arrests of minority youth, and to diminish the chance of injuries to officers and youth on the street.**

Our forums provide an opportunity for youth and officers to be heard and to consider each other's views without endorsing either side as completely right or wrong.

**"Just because a kid wears a hoodie, it doesn't mean they're a juvenile delinquent."**

-Pennsylvania Police Officer

**At the end of each forum, officers and youth have said that they have developed a new understanding of each other.**

The discussions were used to develop a series of policy recommendations designed to change the system.

**One primary recommendation was the creation of a training program for officers relating to youth development & culture.**

In 2007, with the support of the State DMC Subcommittee and the MacArthur Foundation DMC Action Network, a curriculum was created.

**Over 2,500+ officers have been trained throughout Pennsylvania using the PA DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Curriculum©.**

## What Can You Do About DMC?

**Learn More**— You can learn more about DMC by visiting these websites:

The Pennsylvania DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Corporation  
[www.padmcc.org](http://www.padmcc.org)

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency  
[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention  
[www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dmc](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dmc)

**Take Responsibility**— Examine your role, and the role of your group or agency in the DMC issue.

**Speak Up**— Talk about DMC with other concerned stakeholders, citizens, and leaders.

**Take Action**— Join, or help create a local DMC reduction initiative.



For more info and details about DMC involvement and details please contact:

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# The Pennsylvania DMC Youth/ Law Enforcement Corporation

**In a nation that is based on the notion of fairness and equality...**

The realization that our laws and justice system are often administered in a way that has a **disproportionately harsh impact on youth of color** is extremely troubling.



## Our Mission:

To eliminate the overrepresentation of youth of color in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system by advocating strategies for policy changes, education programs, funding and technical assistance at the local and state levels.

**Committed to strengthening the relationship between youth and law enforcement.**

Funding is made possible by:



## Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

Describes the higher rate of involvement of youth of color at a particular decision point in the juvenile justice system when compared with the previous decision point and when compared to the rate at which non-Hispanic White youth appear at the same decision points.



## Why Do We Have DMC?

There is no single cause of DMC- there are multiple causes, including:

- Minority youth may have less access to prevention and treatment services.
- Minority families may have fewer education and job opportunities.
- Lack of understanding between minority youth and law enforcement may lead to increased juvenile justice system involvement.
- Communities may have inadequate resources for serving minority youth.
- Agencies may use decision-making criteria with unintended DMC impact.
- Governments may pass laws with unintended DMC impact.

## How Does DMC Impact Youth In Pennsylvania?

In PA, minority youth are disproportionately represented at many levels of the juvenile justice system:

- African American youth are arrested at a rate of more than 3.78 times that of white youth.
- Latino and Hispanic American youth are arrested at a rate of 1.47 times that of white youth.
- African American and Latino & Hispanic American youth are less likely to be diverted than white youth.
- Minority youth are placed on formal probation at a rate of 0.82 times that of white youth.
- Minority youth are placed in long-term secure placements at a rate of 1.80 times that of white youth.



**African American and Latino & Hispanic American youth are more likely to be arrested for certain types of offenses than white youth and are also more likely to be detained prior to trial and subsequently placed in secure state-run residential placement than their white counterparts.**

\*\*\*According to statistics from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research\*\*\*

## The Pennsylvania Story

In **1986**, the disproportionate treatment of youth of color (DMC) was identified as an action issue in PA.

In **1987**, the PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) began funding activities to decrease DMC.

In **1988**, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) mandated that all states that receive federal JJDP funds must assess and address the issue of DMC.

In **1990**, the State DMC Subcommittee was created by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of PCCD:

**To ensure equal and fair treatment for every youth in the juvenile justice system regardless of race and ethnicity.**

The State DMC Subcommittee took early and aggressive action, earning a national reputation for innovation by examining the issue of race in PA juvenile justice practices.

With the support of the State DMC Subcommittee, DMC Working Groups consisting of local community stakeholders were put in place across 5 regions:

**Harrisburg-- Reading—Lancaster  
Philadelphia-- Pittsburgh**

To enhance minority youth and law enforcement relationships:

**Minority Youth/ Law Enforcement forums were created to bring officers and minority youth together to talk frankly and openly about the problems on the street and the troubled relationships between the two groups.**