



RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT NOTE

DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
MARYLAND ▪ GENERAL ▪ ASSEMBLY

2022 Session
HB1142

Department of Juvenile Services - Juvenile Offense Database

Summary

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts, to develop, maintain, regularly update, and publish a searchable database of all offenses involving juveniles on its website. The database must include specified information regarding the offense but may not include specified identifying information regarding a juvenile. The bill establishes that provisions of law regarding the confidentiality of police and court records concerning a child do not prohibit the publication of, or access to or use of, the information described in the bill for purposes of the database.

Maryland Demographics

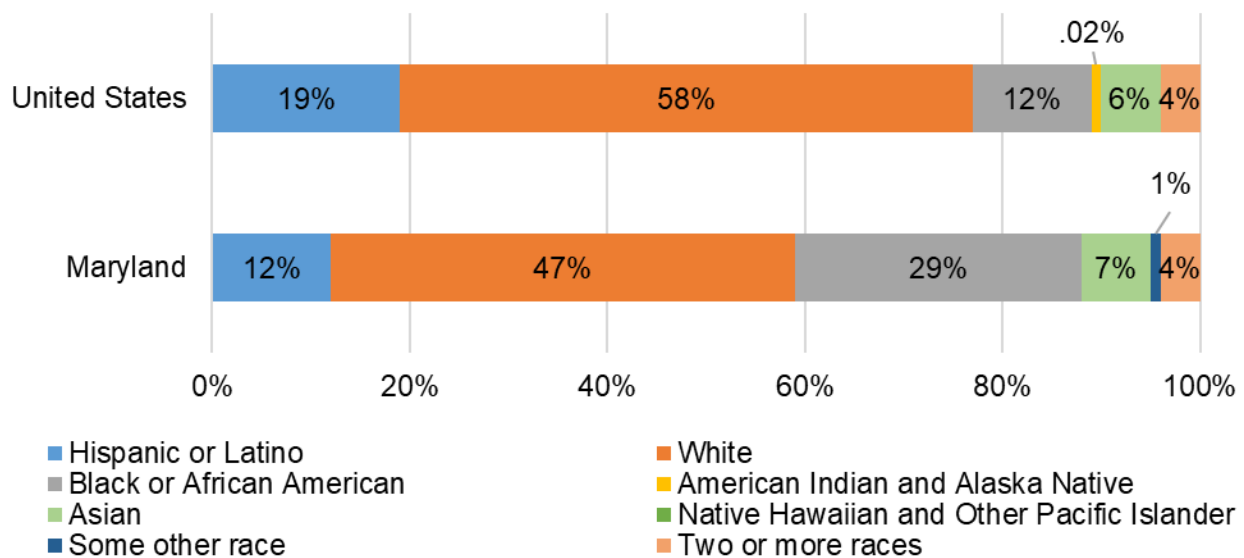
Race and Ethnicity of the Maryland Population

Maryland's 2020 census population is 6,177,244, a 7% increase from the 2010 census count and approximately 2% higher than the 2019 census population estimates. In addition to an increase in population, Maryland's racial demographics have become more diverse. Maryland is now a state in which racial minorities make up a majority of its total population. Notable changes relevant to this shift are the increase in groups who identify as "other" and "multiracial" (*i.e.*, two or more racial identities), which total 5% of the State's population. Additionally, the change in demographics is due to the decrease in the number of individuals who only report "White" as their racial group. Despite this decrease, non-Hispanic Whites remain the largest single race demographic group in the State of Maryland comprising 47% of the State's population.

Compared to the U.S. population overall, Maryland's population of individuals who identify as a single race is more diverse. Maryland is ranked as the fourth most diverse state by the U.S. Census Bureau's [Diversity Index](#). As shown in **Exhibit 1**, in Maryland, 47% identify as White alone compared to 58% of the national population. Similarly, 51% of the population identify as non-White or multi-racial compared to 38% of the national population. In both the State and

national population, the largest shares of the non-White population are individuals who are Black or African American, with 29% of the State population identifying only as Black or African American and another 2.5% identifying as Black in combination with some other race. Maryland's Asian population is 7%, which is slightly higher than the Asian share of the national population of 6%. The State's overall population by ethnicity, however, is slightly less diverse than the U.S. population; 12% of the State's population identified as Hispanic or Latino compared to 19% of the U.S. population.

Exhibit 1
U.S. and Maryland Population by Race and Ethnicity
2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171), Table ID P2, HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE.

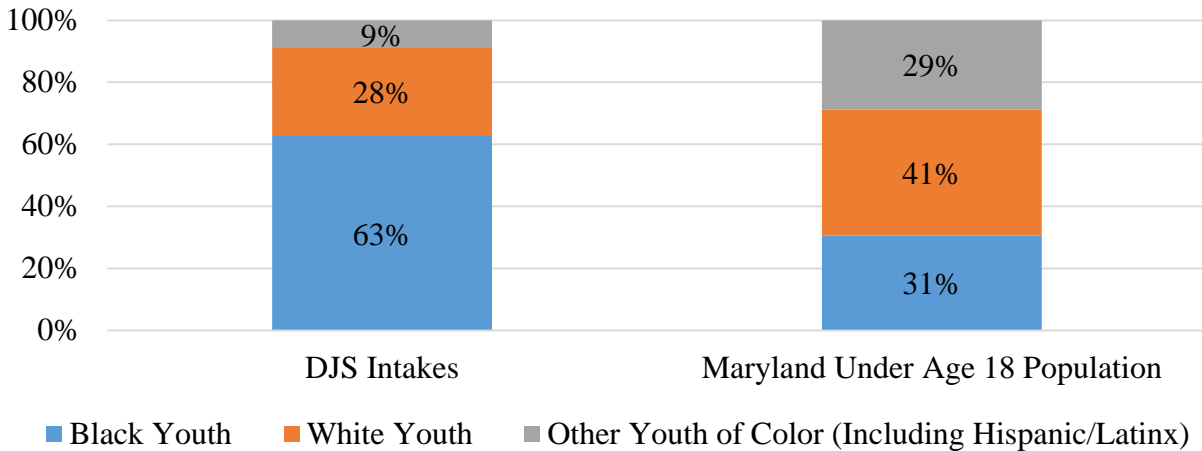
Racial Equity Impact Statement

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts, to develop, maintain, update, and publish a searchable database of information regarding all juvenile offenses on its website. The database would include data on offense descriptions, dates, locations, judicial actions and outcomes, and prior offenses of the juvenile involved. The bill specifically excludes reporting the race of juveniles involved.

Annual data reported by DJS shows that youth of color are overrepresented in many aspects of the juvenile justice system, including arrests, intakes, and adjudication. As shown in **Exhibit 2**, 63% of DJS intakes are African American or youth identified as Black, although they account for only

31% of the State population under 18 years of age. White youth constitute 41% of the State population under 18 years of age but encompass only 28% of DJS intakes.

Exhibit 2
DJS Intake Population in Maryland
2020



DJS: Department of Juvenile Services

Source: U.S. Census (2020); Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

Public availability of data promotes transparency and accountability and allows important equity research to be conducted. This research often leads to more informed solutions for complex policy issues involving disparities. With the appropriate privacy safeguards, collecting and reporting data on race can help pinpoint disproportionate minority contact indicators across various decision points in the juvenile justice system.

Conclusion

The bill's provisions would further the transparency and accessibility of juvenile justice data generally, but not reporting demographic data as part of the database would limit the availability of equity analytics to analyze policy initiatives that could impact juveniles within the juvenile justice system.

Information Sources: U.S. Census (2020); Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

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