

Can Restorative Justice Disrupt the School to Prison Pipeline?

Schiff, M. (2018). Can restorative justice disrupt the 'school-to-prison pipeline?'. *Contemporary Justice Review*, 21(2), 121-139.

What is the study about?

This study is about the effectiveness of restorative justice practices in reducing the amount of exclusionary discipline practices that are used on students of color.

What did they find?

The study found that in the United States using restorative justice practices has helped to reduce the use of exclusionary practices such as suspensions and expulsions. The research that has been done is mainly from book chapters and non-peer reviewed articles rather than rigorous academic research. The study also found that there are schools in the United States that have implemented these practices and that exclusionary discipline practices were used less than before specifically on students of color. The study also looked at how these programs can run effectively and determined it has to be done through support from leadership. The entire school has to be structured in a way that restorative justice practices are embedded in the fabric of the school in order for the use of restorative justice to be effective.

Why is the Study Important?

- Black students are suspended and expelled 3 times more than their white peers
- Black girls are being suspended at higher rates than all girls and non-black boys
- The more often a student is disciplined the less likely they will be engaged in school
- The study shows that there is success in using restorative practices when dealing with discipline

What can School Social Workers Do?

- Provide workshops to teachers about trauma informed instruction
- Be apart of the MTSS team that implements interventions to be proactive in providing support to students
- Progress monitor interventions to show their effectiveness