

Michigan Power to Thrive: Pre-K Suspensions and Expulsions

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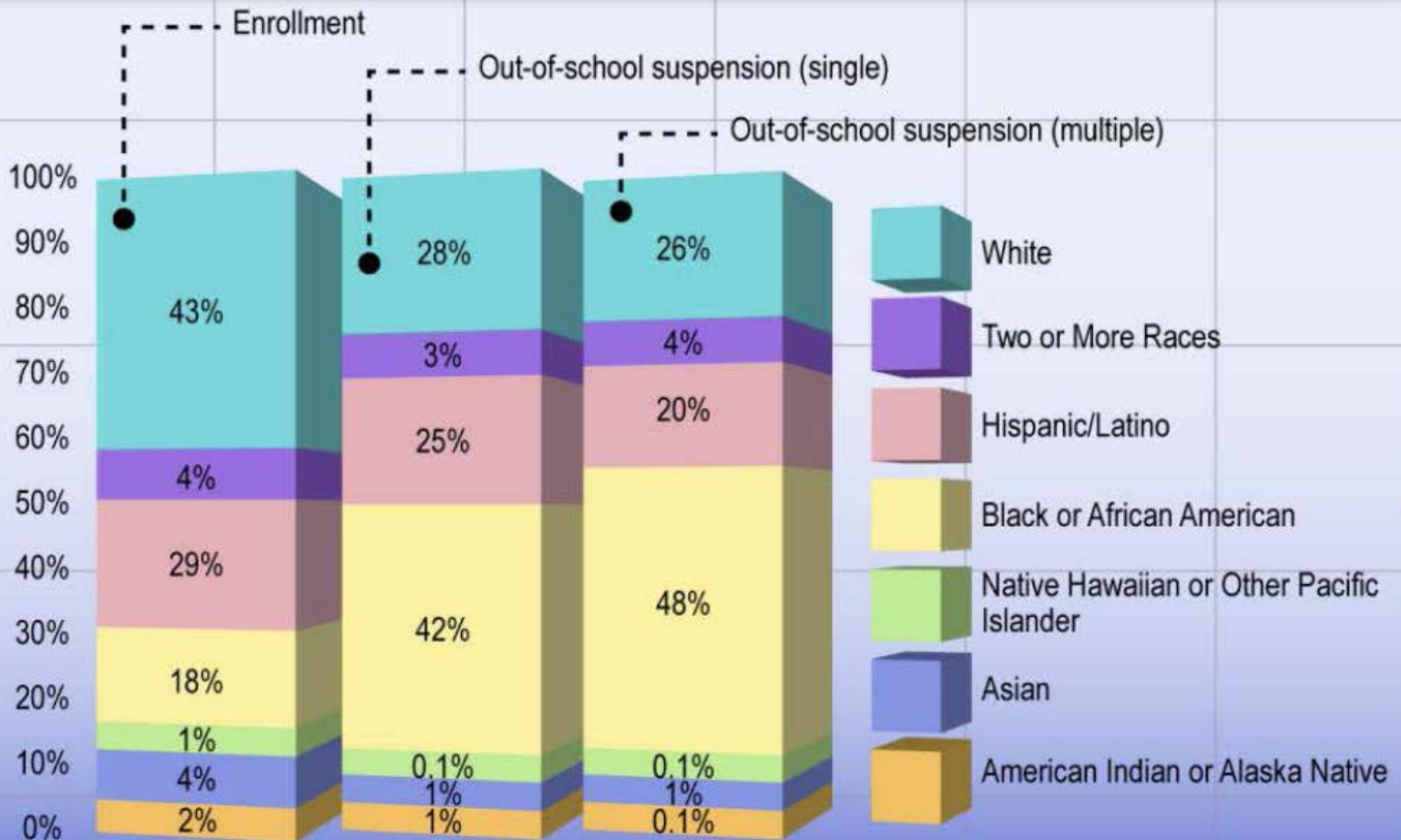
Learning Objectives

- Describe the mission of Michigan Power to Thrive and relate it to the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Explain the public health implications of the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Give examples of promising policy or practice changes aimed at normalizing alternatives to suspension and expulsion in early learning and care settings.
- Explore innovative strategies to improve access to the social determinants of health in the pursuit of health equity.

What is Michigan Power to Thrive?

We intend Michigan Power to Thrive to be a network of people who seek to align the resources of public health and the resources of community organizers in Michigan to change conditions that adversely affect the quality of life in our communities.

Preschool students receiving suspensions, by race and ethnicity



SOURCE: US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Civil Rights Data Collection, 2011-12

Social Determinants of Health

- The circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: **economics, social policies, and politics.**
- The social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to the overall health of individuals and communities.

~65%

**Proportion of Michigan children under
age 6 require child care services**

Out-of-school suspensions of students in Michigan gender and by race/ethnicity: 2011-12

	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino of any race	Two or more races	White
BOYS							
UNITED STATES	13%	3%	7%	20%	9%	11%	6%
Michigan	15%	4%	6%	26%	12%	13%	8%
GIRLS							
UNITED STATES	7%	1%	3%	12%	4%	5%	2%
Michigan	8%	2%	3%	16%	6%	7%	3%

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Civil Rights Data Collection, 2011-12.

Expulsion is (mainly) an Adult, not a Child Problem

- Child's actual behavioral problems
- Child's perceived behavioral problems
- Poor classroom management
- Negative/unsupportive adult-child interactions
- Poor communication with families about behavioral norms and expectations
- Deficits in cultural competence

What are the immediate impacts of Pre-K Suspensions and Expulsions?

Safety and Practicality: Michigan Families

Survey of 1,003 parents statewide with children 8 and younger:

- Extended family is a key source of information on parenting and child care choices
- Looking for practical, transactional information on how to find quality care
- Perceive high quality care options are limited

Safety and Practicality: National Samples

Literature Review conducted by Child Trends:

- Families choose options that are affordable
- High quality options perceived to be limited among low-income families
- Most low-income families learn about options from family members, friends, and neighbors
- Many low-income families make child care decisions quickly

41% chose within 1 day.

Michigan State Board of Ed Guidance

Michigan State Board of Education Guidance

- Clear communication
- Developmentally appropriate, strengths-based, culturally responsive practices
- Use data from family conversations, observations, screening tools, child assessments, program assessments, etc.
- Due process for families

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