Disproportionate Minority Contact in Juvenile Justice System in Cook Co.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) describes the longstanding finding across the country that the percentage of youth of color involved in the juvenile justice system is larger than the percentage of the same youth in the population. DMC can occur at all points of contact in the juvenile justice system. These core “decision points” are: arrest, diversion, detention, referrals for prosecution, petitions filed, adjudications, probation, secure confinement and transfers to adult court.

**Juvenile Arrests**
- Despite Black youth account for about 30% of the Cook youth population, they account for over 70% of the arrested children in Cook County in CY2013.
- Almost half of the statewide arrests involved black youth in Cook County.

**Automatic Transfers**
- From 2010-2012, 257 children were automatically prosecuted as adults in Cook County. Only one of them was a white child.
- In 2013, there were only two white children out of 100 children automatically transferred. Eight were Hispanic and the rest were Black.

**Juvenile Detentions**
- Of 4267 admissions of children to Cook detention center, 85% were Black, 3% were white and 12% were Hispanic.

Prepared by Kanako Ishida (ki@justice.org), Policy Research Analyst at the Juvenile Justice Initiative.