

# MAHONING COUNTY, OHIO



## Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Court Division

**Judge Theresa Dellick**  
**DMC Officer Tonya Jones**  
**Fr. James Barkett**  
**Dr. Tammy A. King**

# WELCOME



- **Workshop's Learning Objectives**

- Participants will have a clearer understanding of the impact of racial disparity and poverty and how these two things impact quality of life for youth of color, their families, and the community
- Participants will review the goals of DMC initiatives and review a program that has seen positive results at low costs . How the program was funded, criteria for participation, problems experienced during implementation and during the first year and a half of operation, and modifications will be presented and discussed.
- Participants will review resources that are available for law enforcement, juvenile courts, and school officials to use in an effort to assist youth of color and their families; how “traditional” resources can be altered to assist with DMC issues will be discussed

# Workshop Format



- **Presentation**
- **Group Activity**
  - What are the DMC issues similar and unique to your communities?
  - What are your communities doing to provide assistance to their residents, at a low or no cost to them?
  - Can services/resources be modified to aide in the DMC initiatives? How?
- **Groups Report Out**
  - Information will be sent to participants via e-mail

# Mahoning County, Ohio



- **Estimated population 251,026** (U.S. Census Bureau)
- **21.7% are under the age of 18 years old**
- **14.3% of all persons live below the poverty level**
- **It is estimated that 20% of the county's children live below the poverty level**



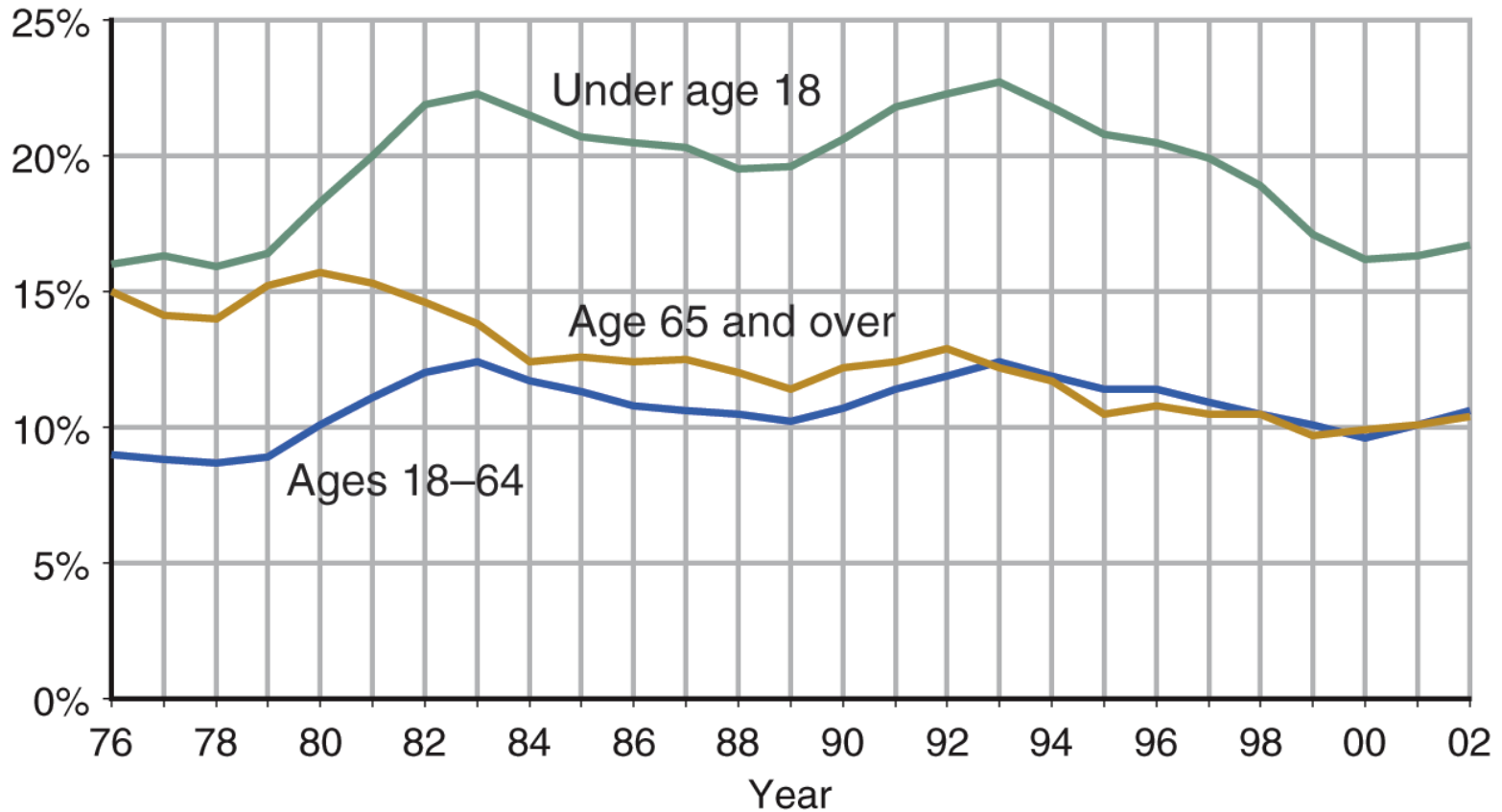
# Race and Ethnicity for Children Ages 10 - 17 (2005) by ODYS



<b>Race / Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	19,422	71.47%
Black/ African-American	6,278	23.10%
Native American/Alaska Native	58	0.21%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	163	0.60%
Hispanic	1,255	4.62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,176</b>	<b>100%</b>

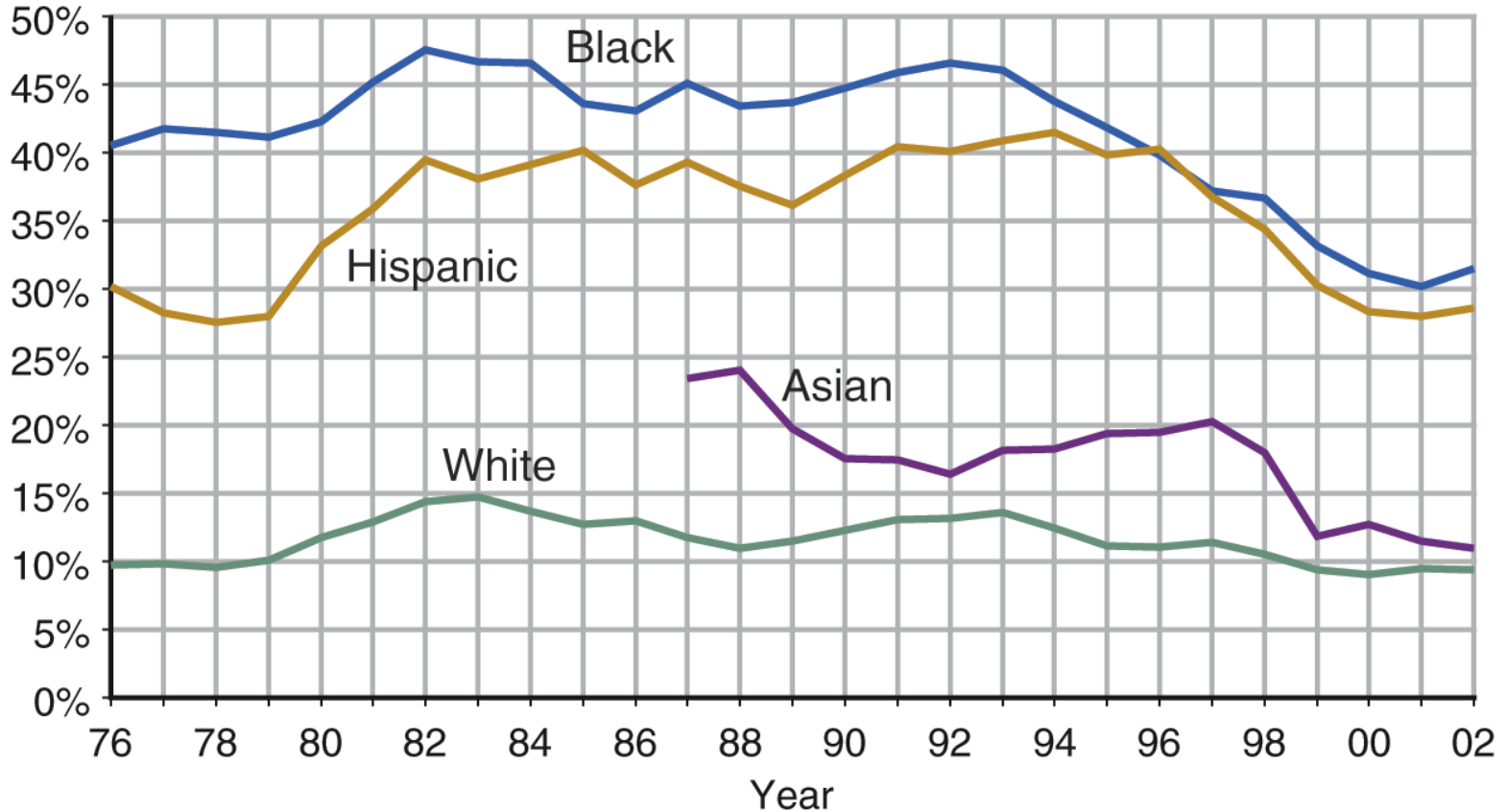
# Although the proportion of juveniles living below the poverty level has declined substantially from its 1993 peak, it is still considerably larger than that of older Americans

Percent in poverty

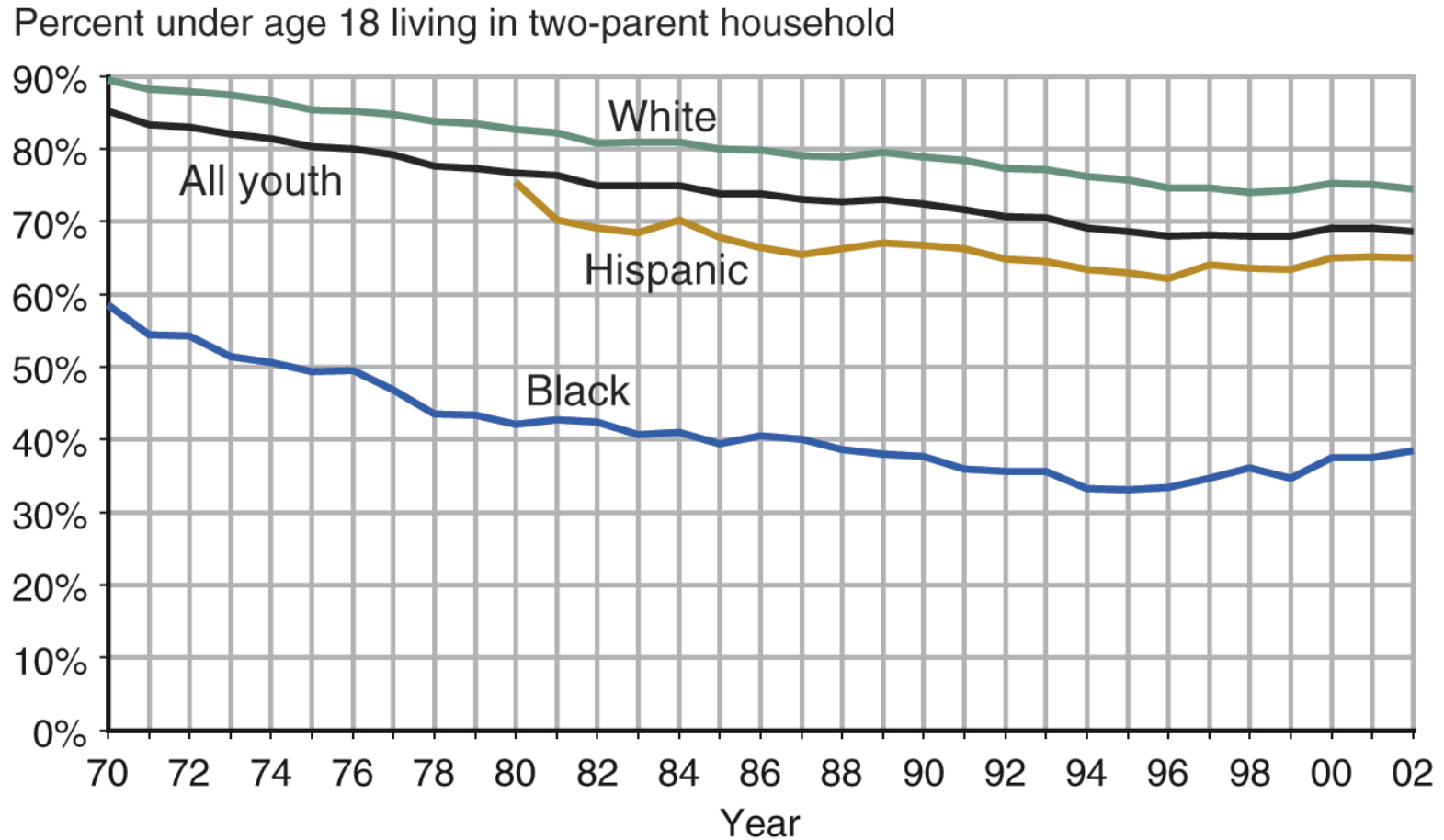


# In 2002, black juveniles and Hispanic juveniles were more than 3 times as likely to live in poverty as non-Hispanic white juveniles

Percent under age 18 in poverty

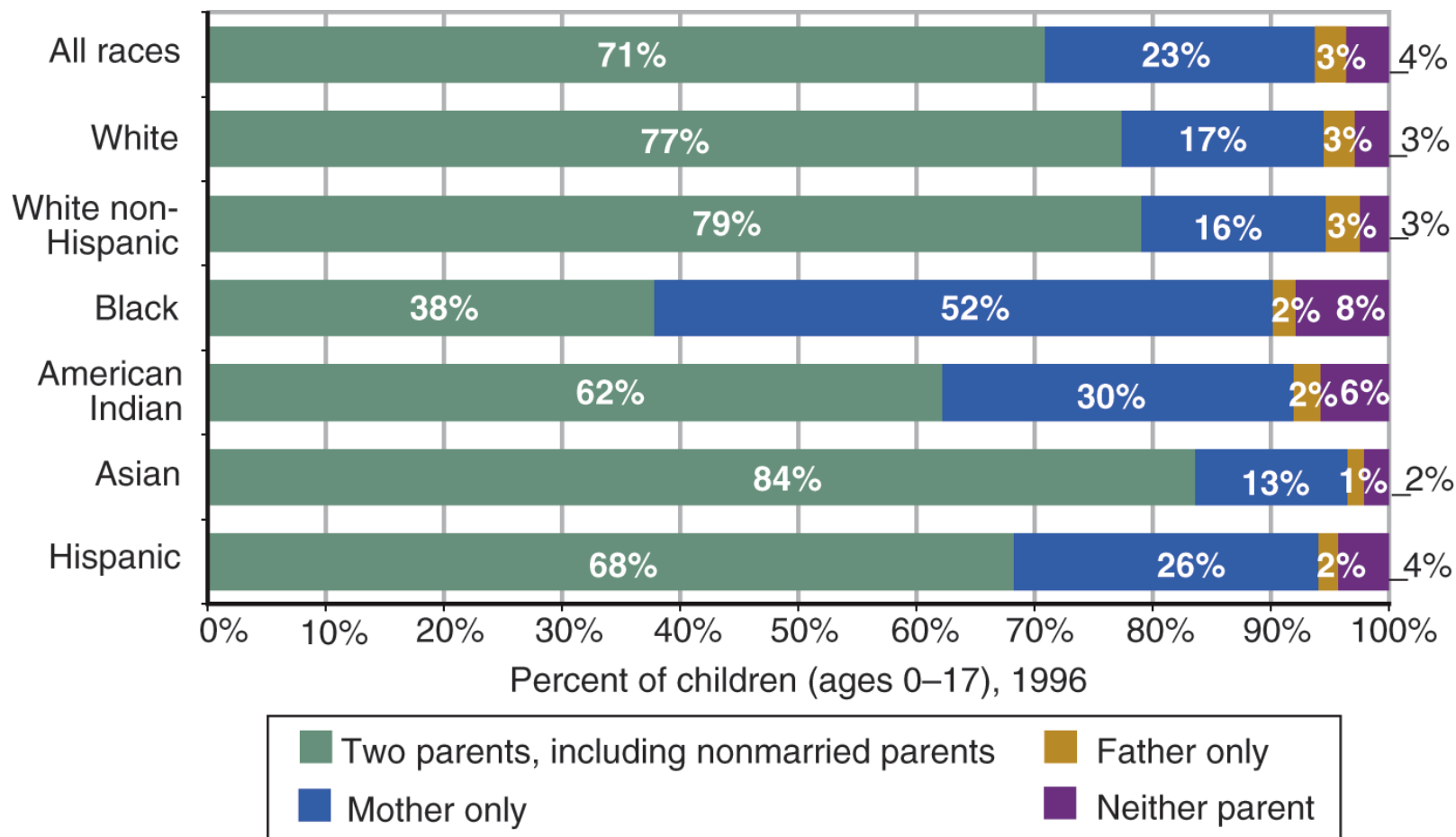


# The proportion of children under age 18 living in two-parent households declined between 1970 and 2002, regardless of race



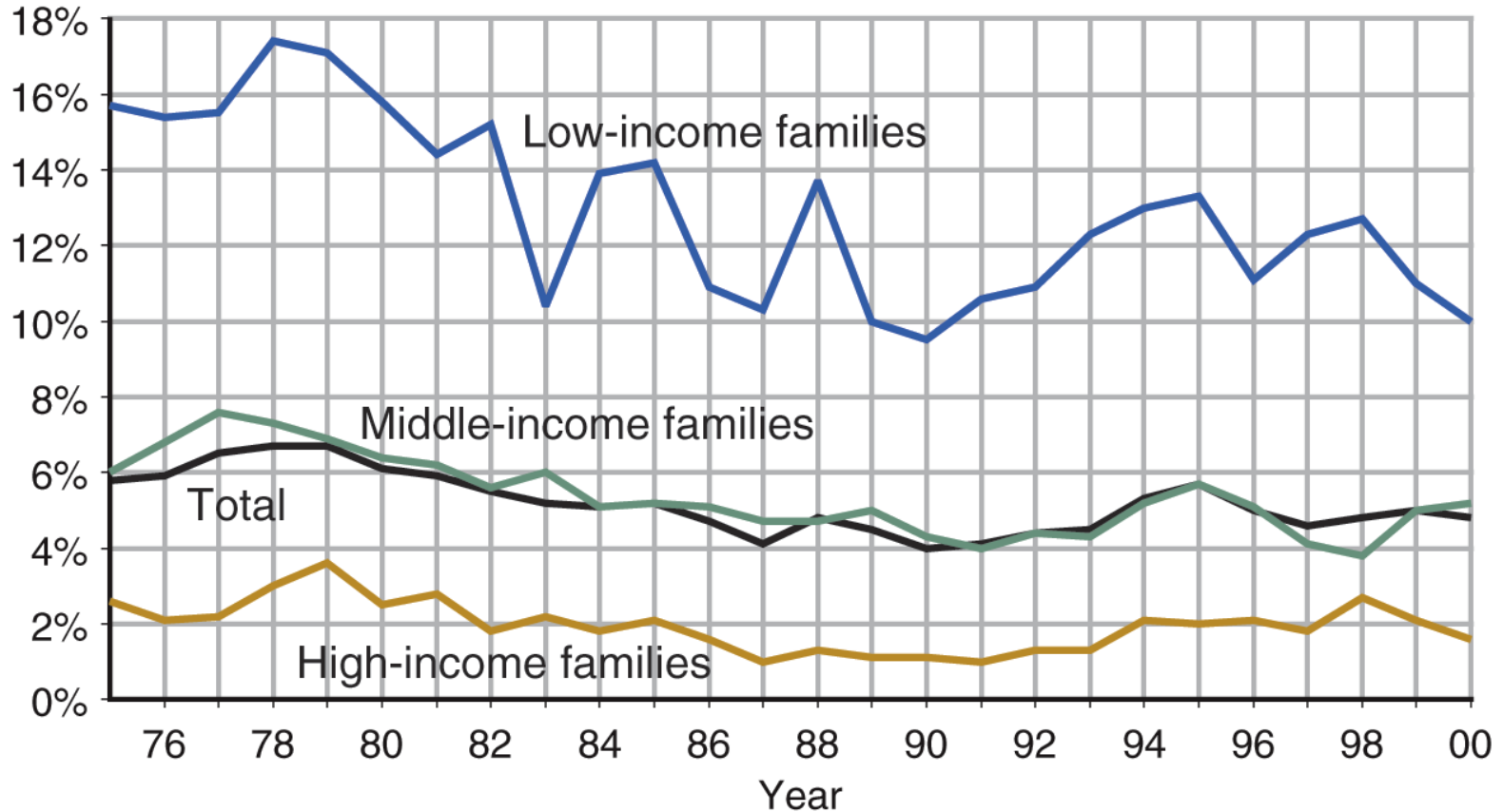


## Black children were the least likely to live with both parents—regardless of the marital status of the parents



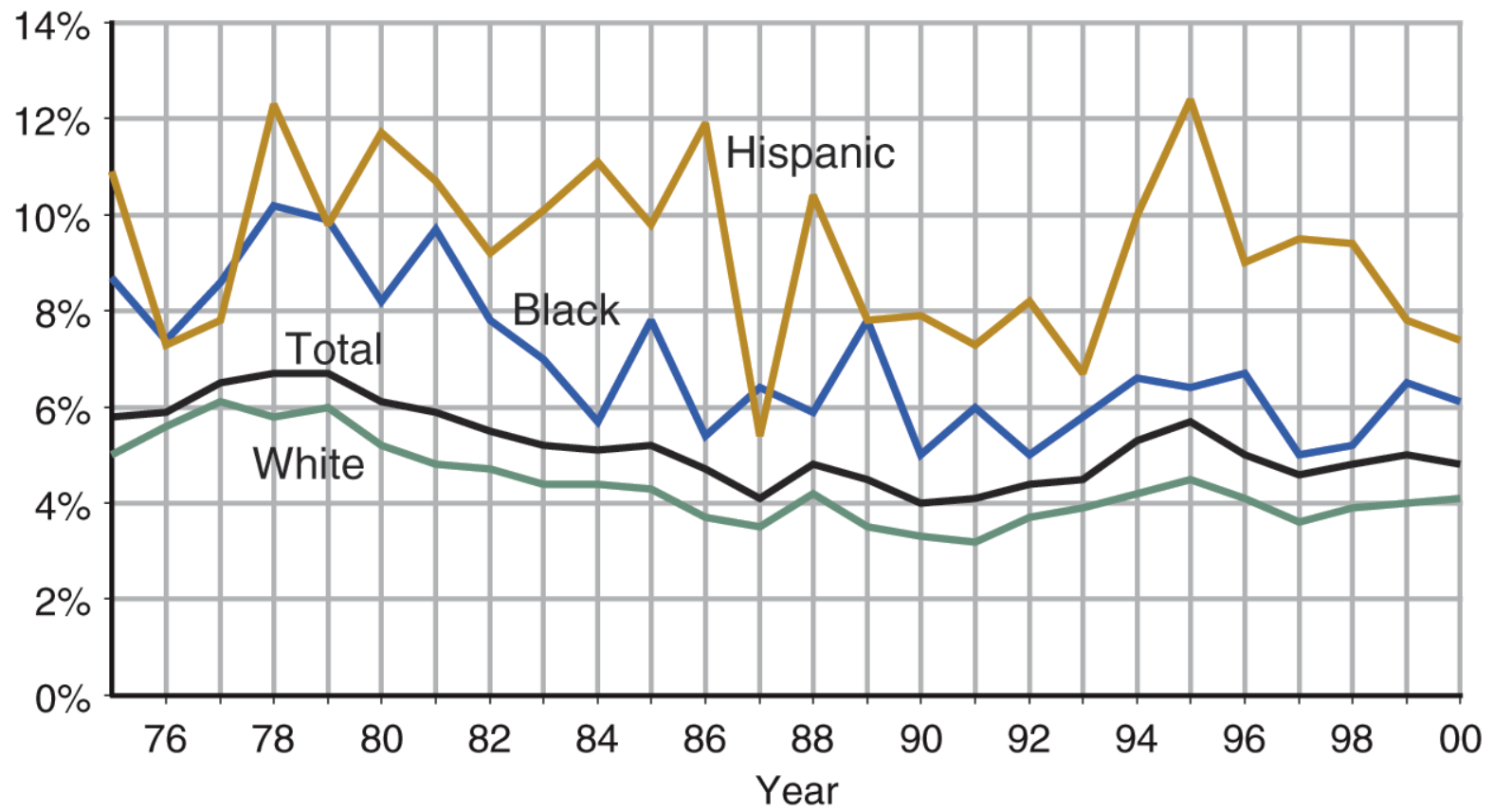
# The annual proportion of students in grades 10–12 who left school without completing a high school program was lower in the 1990s than in the 1970s

Percent of youth who dropped out of grades 10–12 in the preceding 12 months



# Dropout rates for white youth have remained below the rates for other racial/ethnic groups

Percent of youth who dropped out of grades 10–12 in the preceding 12 months



# Impact of Racial Disparity and Poverty



- **Impact on Quality of Life**
- **Service Available**
- **Opportunities for Growth**
- **Exposure to Crime and Violence**
- **Sense of Helplessness and Despair**

# Ohio's Efforts to Deal with DMC



- The Governor's Council
- OSU and Center for Learning Excellence
- Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
- August 2007



















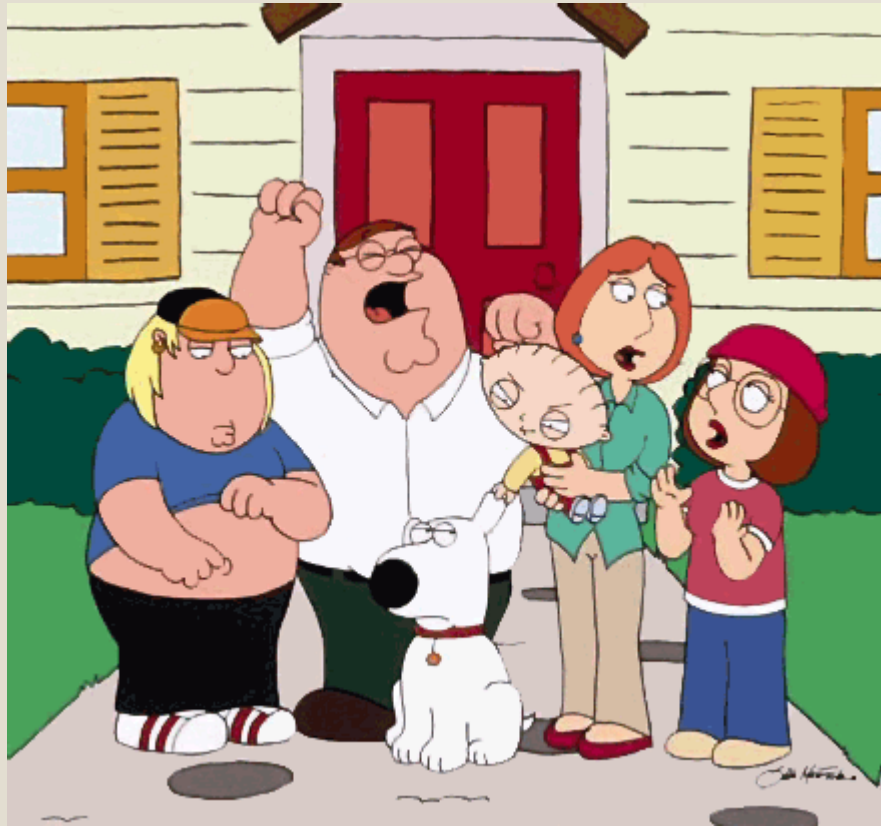
# Martin P. Joyce Juvenile Justice Center



The Court's primary consideration is the best interest and welfare of the child.



The objective of the Court is to rehabilitate rather than punish, whenever appropriate.



# Assessment Method



- **Data Sources**
  - Fourteen (14) Court side data sets
    - ✦ what data should be collected
  - Several Detention Facility data sets
    - ✦ what data should be collected
  - Police Chiefs
    - ✦ what data should be collected



# ARREST: DMC Decision Point 1



- Black youths accounted for 57% of all juveniles arrested
- White youths accounted for 43%

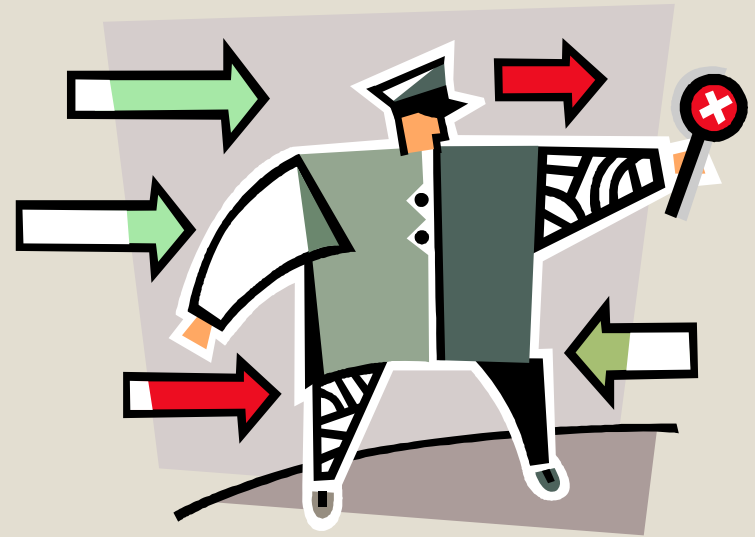




# REFERRAL: DMC Decision Point 2



- In 2007 there were 2,117 intake cases processed
- Offenses



# DIVERSION: DMC Decision Point 3



- Significant differences were found between the various reasons for referrals and the race of the youths
  - What are the factors?
- Number of prior offenses and cooperation of participants needed  
Why a factor?



# DETENTION: DMC Decision Point 4



- The percentage of youths in Detention, based on race, was close to the percent of youths that were found to be delinquent in court proceedings



# CHARGES FILED: DMC Decision Point 5



## Referred for Official Filing by Race

<b>Complaint Charge</b>	<b>Blacks</b>	<b>Whites</b>
Theft	17%	25%
Assault	64%	54%
Unruly	19%	20%
Curfew	100%	96%
Domestic Violence	50%	40%
Disorderly Conduct	85%	71%
Order of Apprehension	1%	4%
Criminal Damaging	25%	29%
Drug Abuse/Possession	58%	27%
Consume/Possess Alcohol	67%	25%



# DELINQUENCY FINDING: DMC Decision Point 6



- In 2007, of the 972 cases referred for official filling, a finding of delinquency was handed down for 285 juveniles



# PROBATION: DMC Decision Point 7



- Of the cases that were referred to the Intake Department, 6% of the juveniles were placed on probation



# SECURE CONFINEMENT: DMC Decision Point 8



- Based on the offense committed, aggravating circumstances, prior referrals to intake, and arrest history
- No disparity found
- on dispositions
- OYAS



# TRANSFER TO ADULT COURT: DMC Decision 9



- The Number of youth transferred to the adult court system is extremely low





# Major Findings



- A disproportionate number of minority youths enter the juvenile justice system in Mahoning County
- The Decision Points that needs to be addressed are:
  - Education
  - Arrest

# Plan of Action



- MC-JJC develop a juvenile diversion programs
- Juveniles were first referred to MC-JJC when they committed a delinquent act

# Funding



- **Grants**

**Contributions from the Court  
list - options**

**By limiting the front door activity –  
you limit the back door exits**

**Chinese Character**

# Implementation



**TONYA JONES**

**DMC DIVERSION OFFICER**

# Final Thoughts

what research needs to be done



areas to focus

collaboration partners

assistance with funding

Can't do it alone

# Goals for the DMC Initiative



- **First goal**
  - Divert minority youthful offenders
  
- **Second goal**
  - Eliminate destructive behaviors
  - Empower parents/guardians
  - Maintain juveniles in their local

# Qualifications



- **Minority juveniles**
- **Ages 10-17**
- **Cannot have any formal charges**
- **Police report filed**
- **Parents/Guardians must agree to cooperate**

# Process



- A police report must be filed
- A release **must** be signed
- Provide records
- The DMC Diversion Officer will review referrals and police reports



# Process Cont...



- **Cooperation is vital to the success of the program.**
  - **Parents/Guardians**
  - **Youth**

# Requirements



- **Formulate case plan**

# Assistance from the Community



- **“Traditional” Resources altered to assist with DMC**
- **Assistance from the Juvenile Court**

# Outcomes



- ***Successful***
- ***Unsuccessful***

# Modifications to Program



- **Increased to a six month period**
- **Efforts to improve parental participation**

# Sources



- **Juvenile Offender and Victims: 2006 National Report (NCJJ / OJJDP)**
- **Mahoning County Juvenile Justice, Annual Report (2009)**
- **U.S. Census Bureau**