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The Effect of Race in Juvenile Sentencing
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Research Question
Does the race of a juvenile affect the sentence they receive within the juvenile court system in Southwest Ohio?

Abstract
This study seeks to explore the effects a juvenile's race will have on adjudication and dispositional sentencing. This study will be comprised of content analyses comparing case level data from southwest Ohio. This study will investigate and interrogate how European American (white) juveniles and African American (black) juveniles are sentenced when they come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Data Collection
This study contacted nine juvenile county courts in Ohio for statistical data. These counties included: Clark, Clinton, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Warren.

Results
The necessary data to answer the research question was unable to be collected within the time frame of the study due to court processing. As such, the data collected was analyzed but can not be generalized to southwestern Ohio. The available data did not show racial disparity until compared with population estimates of the juvenile population from the corresponding county.

Method
This study used content analysis of statistical data in annual reports released by juvenile courts. Data gathered from the annual reports from each county and analyzed using SPSS. Crosstabs and Chi Square values were run for the variables of sex and race. Percentages of population were also calculated.

Issues
- No standardized form of data publication across counties
- Not all counties provide data
- Research question unanswered

Future Research
- Proposal to standardize juvenile justice annual reports across the counties within the state
- Continue to follow up with juvenile courts in the nine counties studied
- Continue work in juvenile justice statistics research

References
