**SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD STUDIES**

**PRESCHOOL REMOVALS: A Closer Look**

**PRESCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVING OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY**

ACCORDING TO 2011-2012 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS (USDOE OCR) DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Overall Enrollment</th>
<th>Out-of-school suspensions (single)</th>
<th>Out-of-school suspensions (multiple)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

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**2013-2014 USDOE OCR DATA**

SHOWS 2011-2012 DISPARITIES PERSIST.

BLACK CHILDREN MAKE UP 19% OF PUBLIC PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT, BUT 47% OF PUBLIC PRESCHOOL CHILDREN SUSPENDED MORE THAN ONCE.

BLACK PUBLIC PRESCHOOL CHILDREN ARE 3.6 TIMES AS LIKELY TO RECEIVE ONE OR MORE OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS AS WHITE PRESCHOOL CHILDREN USDOE OCR DATA SHOWS.

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**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BY DR. GILLIAM: Implicit Bias**

**DOES IMPLICIT BIAS AFFECT PRESCHOOL TEACHERS?**

Recent research suggests yes, showing that when teachers were primed to expect bad behavior, they watched the black children, particularly black boys (42%), more than the white children.

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Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC)

ARE THERE BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT TEACHERS AND REDUCE USE OF PRESCHOOL REMOVAL?

Results of a 2016 randomized-controlled study indicate yes, where “ECMHC offers a potentially promising intervention for decreasing the severity of behavioral challenges seen in early care and education programs.”
RESOURCES

- Ohio Preschool Expulsion Prevention Partnership at 1-844-678-ABCs (2227). A call to this number will link preschool and child care providers with a local early childhood consultant who can conduct an on-site consultation and offer recommendations for classroom strategies, professional development, and resources for students and families.

- Starting Point and Invest in Children: Special Needs Child Care Program helps parents find appropriate child care, trains teachers to understand a child’s specific needs and brings together a team of community agencies to help address specific challenges for a child.

- Cuyahoga County’s Invest in Children: Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program makes high quality early education available to families with sites in public preschools, Head Start programs, community child care centers and family child care homes.

- Pre4CLE is part of the Cleveland Plan to ensure all 3 and 4 year old children in Cleveland have access to high quality preschool.


POLICY AND BEST PRACTICE Recommendations

U.S. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATEMENT ON EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION POLICIES IN PRESCHOOL: RECOMMENDATIONS³

- Develop and clearly communicate preventive guidance and discipline practices for early childhood programs
- Develop and clearly communicate expulsion and suspension policies for early childhood programs
- Access technical assistance in workforce development to prevent expulsion and suspension for early childhood programs
- Set goals and analyze data to assess progress for early childhood programs
- Make use of resources to enhance staff training and strengthen family partnerships
- Establish and implement policies regarding program quality and develop and scale best practices at the state level

DR. GILLIAM’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING PRE-K EXPULSION⁴

- Rather than expel, assess child’s needs and determine behavioral supports necessary for the child to succeed in current or alternative program
- Access to early childhood mental health consultation to help teachers address challenging behaviors
- Enforce student-teacher ratios of no more than 10 preschoolers per teacher or less
- Ensure teachers work reasonable hours and have policies and services focused on teacher job stress
- Make funding available to track children expelled and implement and evaluate models for preventing expulsion
- Conduct further research on risk factors, preschool-home collaborations, teacher training, and early intervention services


