

# Youth of Color Are Disproportionately Impacted by These Policies

Trying youth as adults has negative consequences for all youth, but communities of color are particularly harmed by these policies. To document the ways that these laws impact different communities, the Campaign wrote a series of policy briefs examining racial and ethnic disparities and found that while youth of color are over-represented at all stages in the juvenile justice system, the disparities are most severe for youth tried as adults.

- While African-American youth represent only 17% of the overall youth population, they make up 30% of those arrested and an astounding 62% of those prosecuted in the adult criminal system. They are also nine times more likely than white youth to receive an adult prison sentence.<sup>1</sup>
- Latino children are 43% more likely than white youth to be waived to the adult system and 40% more likely to be admitted to adult prison.<sup>2</sup>
- Native youth are 1.5 times more likely than white youth to be waived to the adult criminal system and 1.84 times more likely to be committed to an adult prison.<sup>3</sup>

All policymakers should be concerned that our system of justice is not being applied fairly.

- 1 Arya, N. & Augarten, I. *Critical Condition: African-American Youth in the Justice System*. (2008, September) Washington, DC: Campaign for Youth Justice.
- 2 Arya, N., Villarruel, F., Villanueva, C., & Augarten, I. *America's Invisible Children: Latino Youth and the Failure of Justice*. (2009, May) Washington, DC: Campaign for Youth Justice.
- 3 Arya, N., & Rolnick, A. *A Tangled Web of Justice: American Indian and Alaska Native Youth in Federal, State, and Tribal Justice Systems*. (2008, May) Washington, DC: Campaign for Youth Justice.

