The school-to-prison pipeline is a metaphor used by researchers and educators describing the relationship between school punishment and incarceration. Suspended students have higher odds of juvenile justice contact even when controlling for a host of demographic and contextual variables (Fabelo et al. 2011; Mowen and Brent 2016; Mittleman 2018; Nicholson-Crotty, Birchmeier, and Valentine 2009). However, little is known about how the timing of suspension is associated with risk of juvenile justice contact.

**Data and Methods**

**Data:**
Matched data juvenile justice data from a large urban school district in a southern county in the United States.

Total students: 258,460

Grades: 6-12

Years: 2007-2008 through 2015-2016 School Year

**Methods:**
Time: Survival Analysis

Predicted Odds: Logistic Regression

**Variables**

Suspension Timing: Grade in which student received earliest In-School or Out of School Suspension

Juvenile Justice Contact: Grade in which student received first Juvenile Justice Contact

Main Independent Variable

Control Variables

Sex, Special Education Status, Economic Disadvantage, Limited English Proficiency, Gifted/Talented Status

**Data**

**Methods**

**Variables**

**RQ1:** In which grade are students most at risk of receiving a first suspension, and does it vary by race?

9th Grade Most Hazardous For Receiving 1st Suspension

Black Students face Highest Risk of Suspension

Compared to white students, the estimated hazard ratio of suspension for black students are 2.39 times higher. Latinx students estimated hazard rate is .692 times higher than white students.

**RQ2:** In which grade are students most at risk of first juvenile justice contact, and does it vary by race?

9th Grade Most Hazardous For Receiving 1st Juvenile Justice Contact

Black Students face Highest Risk of Juvenile Justice Contact

Compared to white students, the estimated hazard ratio of juvenile justice contact for black students are 2.25 times higher. Latinx students estimated hazard rate is .27 times higher than white students.

**Conclusion**

- Suspension and juvenile justice contact patterns are similar, with 9th grade being particularly hazardous.
- Grade and race important factors associated with suspension and juvenile justice contact.
- Association between suspension grade and juvenile justice contact support evidence of school-to-prison pipeline.
- Black Students have the most risk of suspensions and juvenile justice contact and have the highest odds of receiving juvenile justice contact in all grades.
- Receiving a suspension in earlier grades is more predictive of juvenile justice contact than a first suspension in later grades.

**References**


