



# RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT NOTE

DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES  
MARYLAND ▪ GENERAL ▪ ASSEMBLY

2023 Session  
HB0358

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## Department of Juvenile Services - Juvenile Felony Database

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### Bill Summary

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts, to develop, maintain, regularly update, and publish a searchable database of all offenses involving juveniles that would be a felony if committed by an adult. The database must include specified information regarding the offense but may not include specified identifying information regarding a juvenile. The bill establishes that provisions of law regarding the confidentiality of police and court records concerning a child do not prohibit the publication of, or access to or use of, the information described in the bill for purposes of the database.

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### Racial Equity Impact Statement

The bill could be meaningful for juvenile justice data collection to the extent it provides open data to facilitate research, improve equity analysis, and inform future policy decisions. However, given the bill's requirement that an offending juvenile's race may not be included in the database, data showing racial and ethnic inequities in the juvenile system would not be identified, tracked, or considered.

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### Analysis

Under existing law, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services maintains an online database dashboard of all juveniles charged as adults for various crimes. This bill requires DJS, in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts, to develop and maintain a similar searchable database of offenses committed by juveniles who are *not* charged as an adult although the offense would be considered a felony if committed by an adult. The database would include data on offense descriptions, dates, locations, judicial actions and outcomes, and

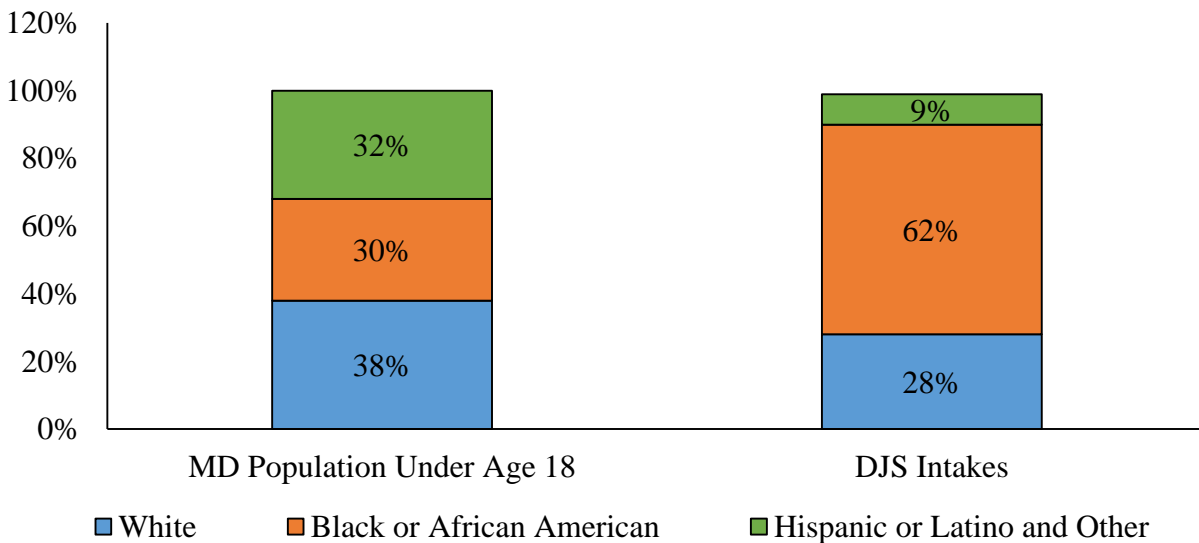
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prior offenses of the juvenile involved but specifically exclude reporting the race or ethnicity of the juveniles involved.

As shown in **Exhibit 1**, according to fiscal 2022 DJS intake data, 62% of total juvenile intakes were Black or African American youth, although they account for only 30% of the State population under 18 years of age. White youth constitute 38% of the State population under 18 years of age but encompass only 28% of DJS intakes. Hispanic or Latino youth and youth of other races comprised 9% of intakes compared to their 32% share of the State’s under age 18 population.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**DJS Intake Population in Maryland**  
**2022**



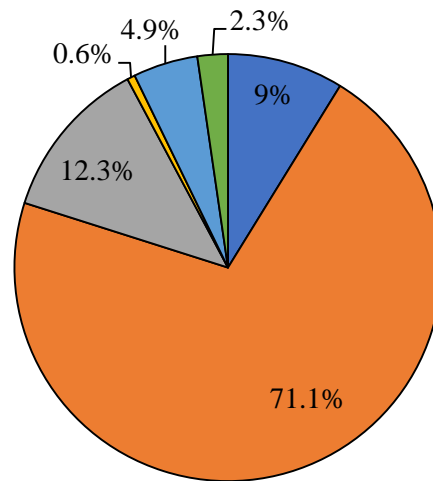
Source: U.S. Census (2020); Department of Juvenile Services; Department of Legislative Services

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Under the bill, the database would only track a relatively small percentage of overall juvenile intakes. Out of a total of 10,782 intakes in fiscal 2022, 8.8% were for felonies and 12.3% were for crimes of violence (including felonies). Accordingly, the database under the bill is likely to track a much smaller number of cases as only 31.4% of intakes, or 3,390, were ultimately formalized and adjudicated. **Exhibit 2** displays the breakdown of overall intakes for various types of offenses by category.

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**Exhibit 2**  
**Intake Offenses by Category**  
**2022**



■ Felony ■ Misdemeanor ■ Crime of Violence ■ Ordinance Offenses ■ Citations ■ CINS

CINS: children in need of supervision

Source: Department of Juvenile Services

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Racial minority groups are overrepresented in many aspects of the juvenile justice system. Public availability of data promotes transparency and accountability and allows important equity research to be conducted. This research often leads to more informed solutions for complex policy issues involving disparities. With the appropriate privacy safeguards, collecting and reporting data on race can help pinpoint disproportionate minority contact indicators across various decision points in the juvenile justice system.

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## Conclusion

The bill's provisions would further the transparency and accessibility of felonious juvenile justice data generally, but not reporting demographic data as part of the database would limit the availability of equity analytics to analyze policy initiatives that could impact juveniles within the juvenile justice system.

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**Information Sources:** Department of Juvenile Services; Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; Department of Legislative Services.

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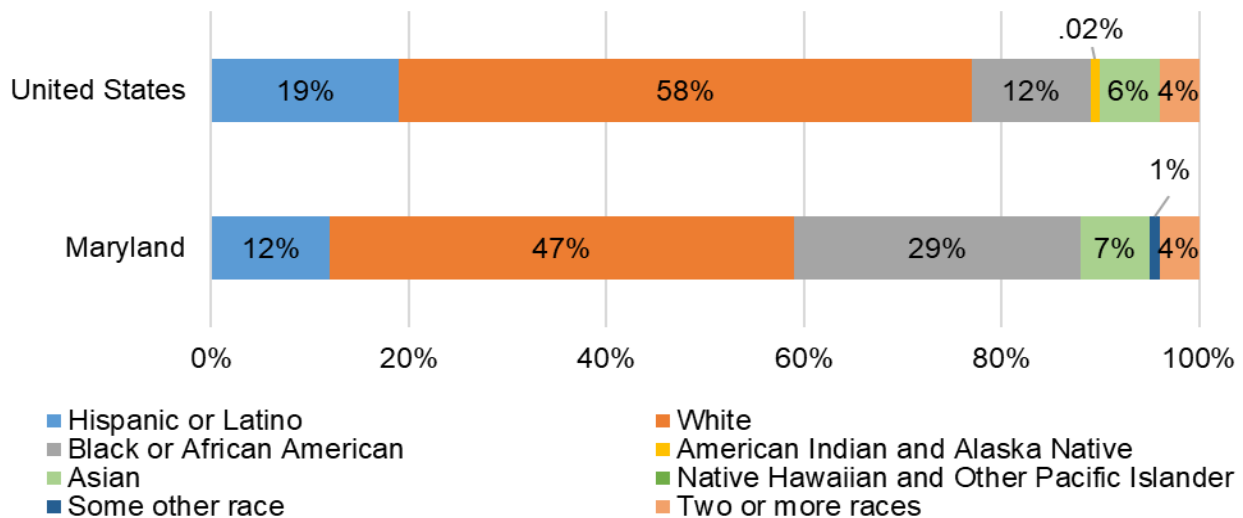
## Appendix – Maryland Demographics

### *Race and Ethnicity of the Maryland Population*

Maryland’s 2020 census population is 6,177,244, a 7% increase from the 2010 census count and approximately 2% higher than the 2019 census population estimates. In addition to an increase in population, Maryland’s racial demographics have become more diverse. Maryland is now a state in which racial minorities make up a majority of its total population. Notable changes relevant to this shift are the increase in groups who identify as “other” and “multiracial” (*i.e.*, two or more racial identities), which total 5% of the State’s population. Additionally, the change in demographics is due to the decrease in the number of individuals who only report “white” as their racial group. Despite this decrease, non-Hispanic whites remain the largest single race demographic group in the State of Maryland comprising 47% of the State’s population.

Compared to the U.S. population overall, Maryland’s population of individuals who identify as a single race is more diverse. Maryland is ranked as the fourth most diverse state by the U.S. Census Bureau’s [Diversity Index](#). As shown in **Exhibit 1**, in Maryland, 47% identify as white alone compared to 58% of the national population. Similarly, 51% of the population identify as non-white or multi-racial compared to 38% of the national population. In both the State and national population, the largest shares of the non-white population are individuals who are Black or African American, with 29% of the State population identifying only as Black or African American and another 2.5% identifying as Black in combination with some other race. Maryland’s Asian population is 7%, which is slightly higher than the Asian share of the national population of 6%. The State’s overall population by ethnicity, however, is slightly less diverse than the U.S. population; 12% of the State’s population identified as Hispanic or Latino compared to 19% of the U.S. population.

**Exhibit 1**  
**U.S. and Maryland Population by Race and Ethnicity**  
**2020**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171), Table ID P2, HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE.