

School Discipline and Security, and Mass Incarceration

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Recent Changes in Schools

- Police (School resource officers)
- Surveillance cameras
- Zero-tolerance policies
- Metal detectors
- Mandatory reporting



Consequences

- Observed:
 - Increased racial inequality
 - School-to-prison pipeline
 - Dropout/pushout;
- Hypothesized:
 - Decreasing civic participation
 - Increasing misbehavior;



Causes?

- These policies are a result of a carceral regime
- A way of governing that prioritizes incarceration:
 - Risk managed through criminal law
 - Warehouse offenders, not treat
 - Shapes multiple policy arenas and has unquestioned legitimacy



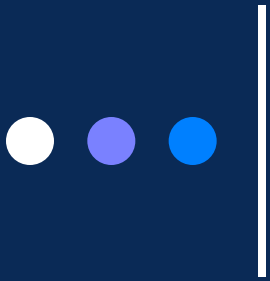
Carceral Regime in Schools

- Fear leads to punitive responses, not problem-solving
- E.g., “One death in school is too many” as a way to justify police in schools
 - Assumes effectiveness
 - Excludes other solutions
 - Closes off discourse with emotional appeal



Carceral Regime in Schools

- We punish, not treat
- We don't listen to students
- Punishment is an end onto itself



- The success of mass incarceration fuels the legitimacy of school discipline and provides direction;
- Need to include schools when considering consequences of mass incarceration



Undoing?

- Schools decoupled from the justice system
 - SROs
 - Mandatory arrests, reporting
- More democratic governance:
 - Parent and student participation
- Recognition of students' needs and problems