Defining Disproportionate Discipline
Understanding Common Measures

Risk ("Risk Index")
Percentage of children in a specific group who have at least one incident

15 African American children enrolled in a program

# of African American children who received at least 1 BIR

# of African American children enrolled in the program

African American children who received at least 1 BIR

33%

African American children’s risk for receiving a BIR

Risk Ratio
Risk of one group compared to the risk of another group; Best single measure to summarize a group’s risk
At least 15 children are needed in the target & comparison groups in order for the risk ratio to be stable and meaningful.

15 African American children enrolled in a program

“All Other” children, 10 with at least 1 incident

5

15

African American children who received at least 1 BIR

African American children enrolled in the program

All Other children who received at least 1 BIR

10

30

All Other children enrolled in the program

33%

African American children’s risk for receiving a BIR

33%

All Other children’s risk for receiving a BIR

1.0

African American children’s risk ratio for BIRs

Adapted from:
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Ratio Value</th>
<th>Level of Disproportionality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Equal risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>25% higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>50% higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Two times higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>2.5 times higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3 times higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;3.00</td>
<td>Yikes!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Check for small n if your ration exceeds 7.0

Composition
Percentage of children who receive BIRs who belong to a specific group

15 children with at least 1 BIR

5 are African American

# of African American children who received at least 1 BIR

Total # of children who received at least 1 BIR

African American children who received at least 1 BIR

5

15

33%

of children who receive BIRs are African American

Adapted from:
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BIR Composition ("Comparison Reports")
Percentage of BIRs generated by a specific group; Impacted by children who receive multiple BIRs

30 BIRs total, 15 children with at least 1 BIR

Total Reports per Child
Average BIRs per child in a specific group; Impacted by children who receive multiple BIRs

Adapted from:
E-Formula
Designed for “small-n” scenarios; Standard error for Composition (the percent of children who received a BIR who belong to a specific racial/ethnic group)

- The “upper bounds” for a specific racial/ethnic group’s composition given the size of their population and the total number of children who received a BIR.
- If a group’s Composition is greater than or the E-Formula value, disproportionality is indicated

\[
E = A + \sqrt{\frac{A \times (100 - A)}{N}}
\]

E = Upper bounds of what is expected given the proportionality

A = % of children in a category (i.e., race/ethnicity, gender, IEP status)

N = Total number in the classification (i.e., total incidents, suspension events, dismissal events)

Adapted from: