

La Cultura Cura: Working within the Cultural Space of Latino Youth

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

CYFAR Webinar

Reclaiming Sacredness!
Ollin Girls – Movement Girls



NOXTIN: Equal Justice for All

Reclaiming Girls

ELDERS BLESSINGS – OUR SACRED GIRLS



Flor y Canto

POETRY FOR NOXTIN

IN LAK'ECH

Tú eres mi otro yo.
You are my other me.
Si te hago daño a ti,
If I do harm to you,
Me hago daño a mi mismo.
I do harm to myself.
Si te amo y respeto,
If I love and respect you,
Me amo y respeto yo.
I love and respect myself

L.Valdez and D. Paredes



La Cultura Cura: Working within the Cultural Space of Latino Youth! Reclaiming Sacredness: Ollin Girls – Movement Girls

- 1. Brief Demographics**
- 2. Introduction to Ollin Girls**
 - Youth Justice Transformation Leaders – beyond the binary
 - Changing institutional policies, practices for equity
- 3. NOXTIN: Equal Justice for All**
- 4. Role of La Cultura Cura - in healing, leadership and change**

Demographics

- Nearly half of U.S. born Latinos are under 18 years – 17.9 million
- Latinos are the nations youngest major racial/ethnic group
- Young Latinos are overwhelmingly U.S. born – 94 % of young Latinos under 18 are U.S. born
- Seven in ten of Latino youth under 18 years are of Mexican origin, followed by Caribbean, Central and South American.
- **One in five women in nation are Latina; of school aged youth, one in four is Latina = 12,500,000**

What is Ollin Girls – “Movement” Girls?

The Ollin Girls focuses on preparing Chicanx/Latinx youth to become Youth Justice Transformation leaders with:

- a culturally-based healing perspective,
- formal/informal knowledge about the Juvenile Justice system
- leadership and advocacy skills

Inequity Across Institutions: The Impact on Latinx Girls and Youth of Color

- Impact of how we see and treat vulnerable youth.
- Impact of policies across institutions (detention, schools, etc.) settle on the lives of Chicanx/Latinx girls, boys and youth of color.
- Draws our focus onto individual youth rather than focus on inequities of systems and lived-legacies of violence, racism, classism and sexism.

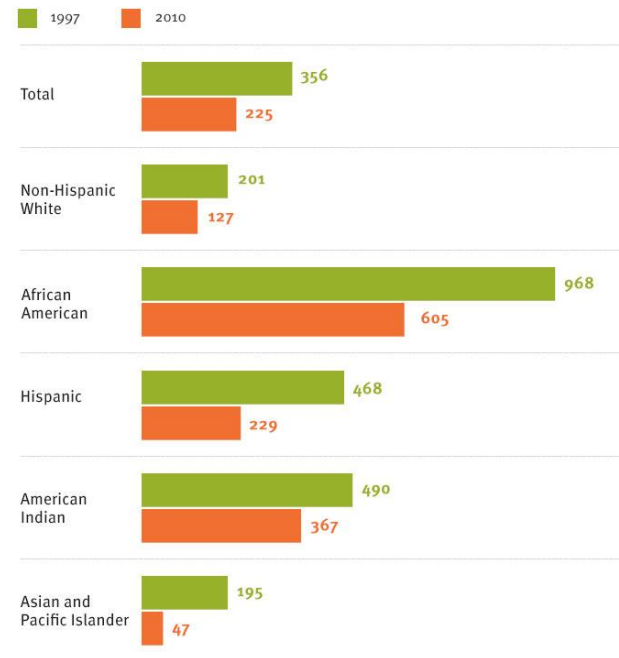
Juvenile Justice Disparities in the United States: Detention

Compared to White youth:

- Black youth are **5 times** more likely to be detained
- Hispanic/Latino youth are **more than twice** as likely to be detained.
- Native American youth are **3 times** as likely to be detained.

Youth in Confinement by Race (rate per 100,000)

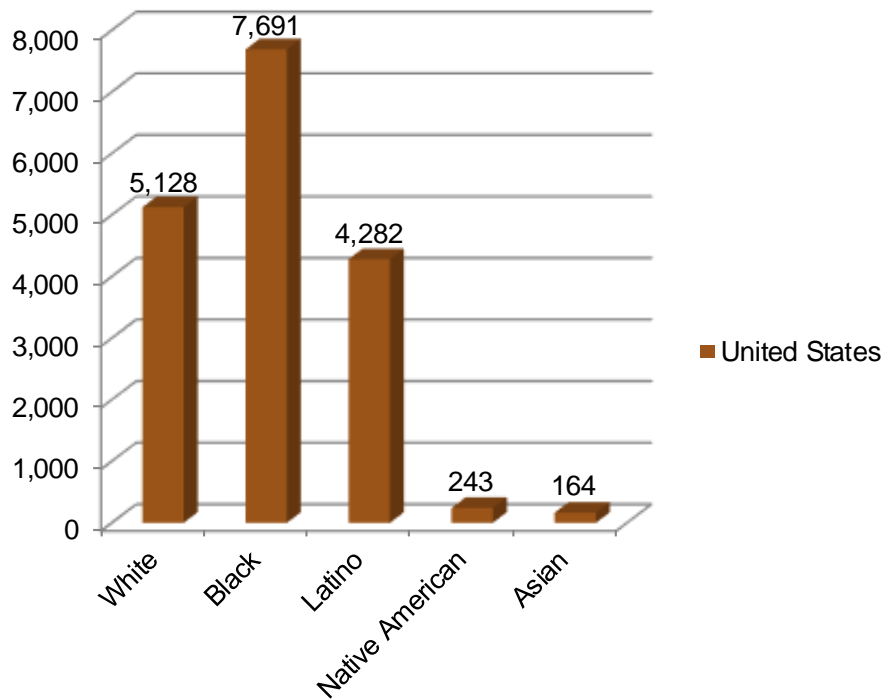
The decline in youth confinement has occurred across all five largest racial groups, but large disparities remain in youth confinement rates by race.



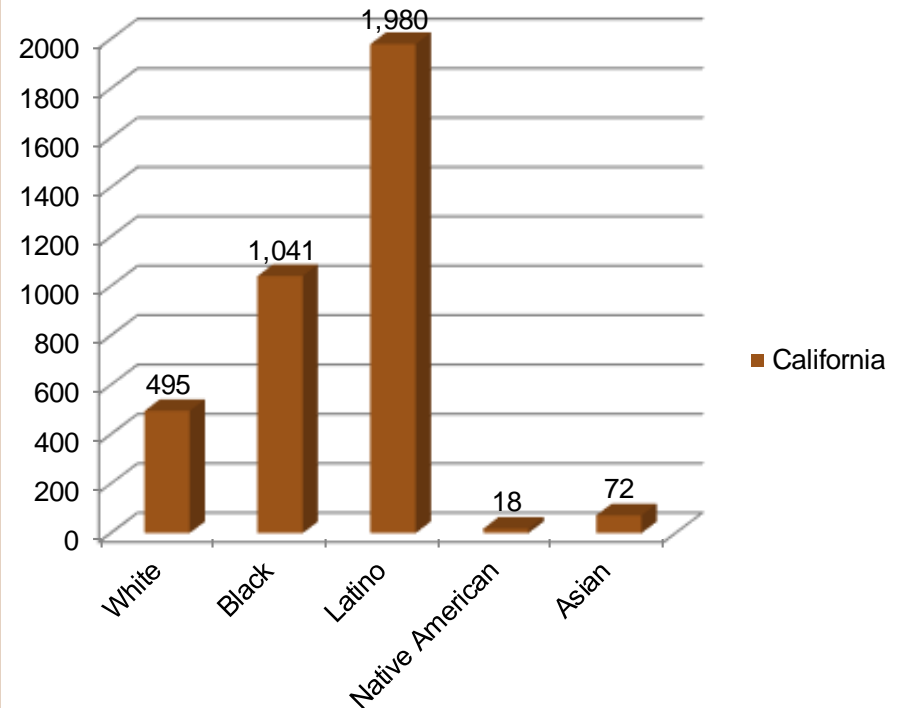
Source: Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., and Pazzanchera, C. (2011) "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/

2013 Youth Detained (raw numbers)

United States 2013 DATA



California 2013 DATA



Current Juvenile Justice Disparities

- Youth of color are disproportionately represented in juvenile justice systems across the country... and the rates of overrepresentation increase as youth go through the system.
- Youth of color are one third of the U.S. youth population but two thirds of the youth in detention and secure placement.



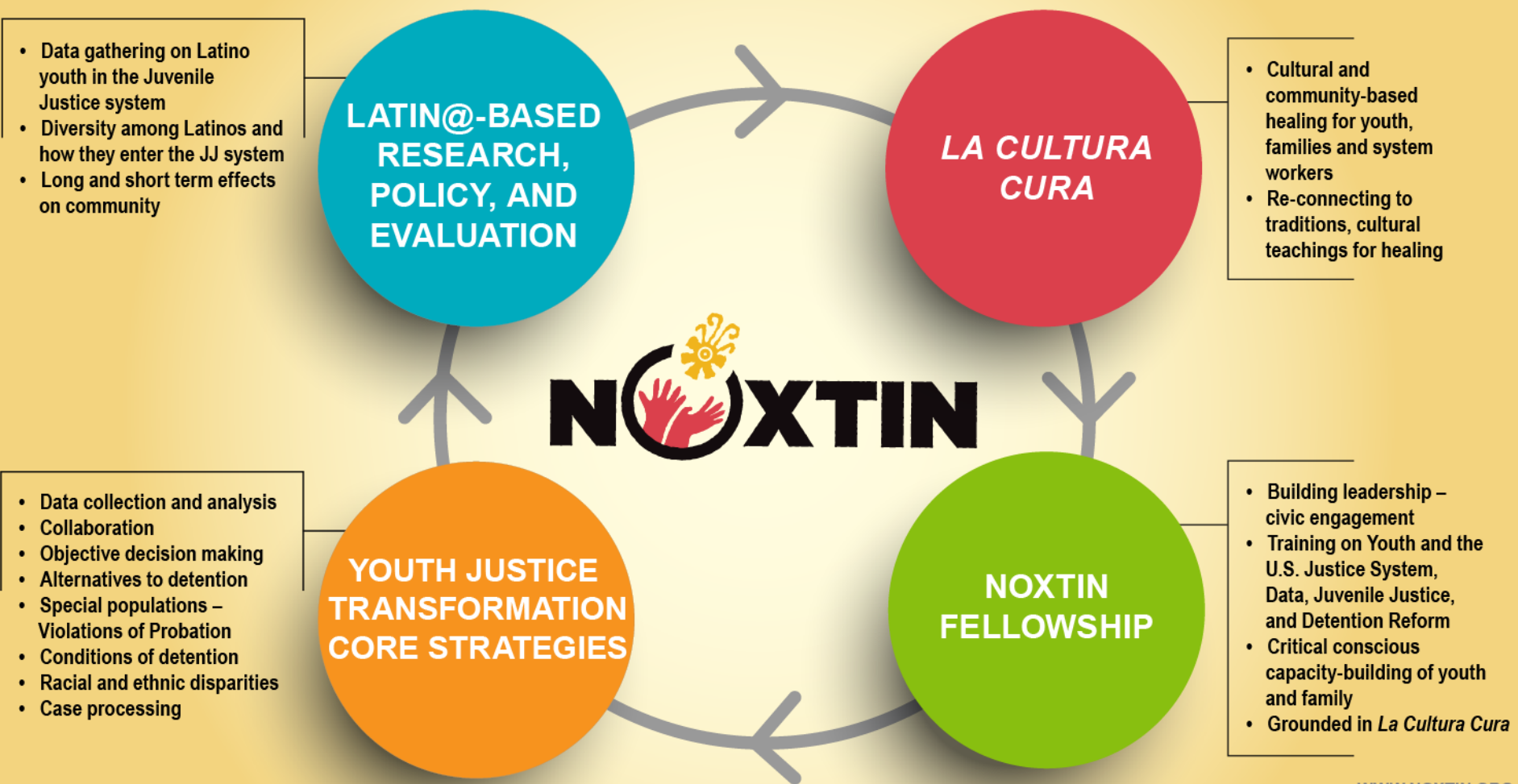
School to Prison Pipeline

Zero-Tolerance Discipline Policies Lead to Increased Latinx in JJ System

Latino students are 1.5 times more likely to be suspended and 2x's as likely to be expelled than their white peers.

On any given day, approx 18,000 Latinx youth are incarcerated in America. Mostly for non-violent offenses.

NOXTIN: Equal Justice for All



La Cultura Cura

RECONNECTING TO CULTURAL TRADITIONS FOR HEALING



Tribal Maps of Indigenous Peoples of Americas pre-1500's

TRIBAL NATIONS MAP

TRADITIONAL NAMES & LOCATIONS



Created by R. C. Ogilby, the names of 1,000 indigenous nations listed in this map were taken from a variety of sources. It is the most comprehensive map of the Americas that is available to date. We seek to honor all Nations, by including the largest, well-known ones as well as many that did not survive the effects of European arrival and incursions. Most of the tribal names are the correct names used to call themselves in their own languages. The only exceptions are for those tribes whose languages were never documented. It is a special reminder of who called this land home for tens of thousands of years before any European set foot, creating a sense of pride for modern day Native peoples as well as educating the non-Native public. To Native people, this land will always be our ancestral homeland.

R. C. Ogilby
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TRIBAL NATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

TRADITIONAL NAMES & LOCATIONS



Contained within this map are the names of 900 Indigenous Nations and sub-tribes from the Southern Western Hemisphere. It is the most comprehensive map of Southern Western Hemisphere Tribal Homelands to date. We seek to honor all Nations, by including the largest, well-known ones as well as many that did not survive the effects of European arrival and incursions. Most of the tribal names are the correct names used to call themselves in their own languages. The only exceptions are for those tribes whose languages were never documented. It is a special reminder of who called this land home for tens of thousands of years before any European set foot, creating a sense of pride for modern day Native peoples as well as educating the non-Native public. To Native people, this land will always be our ancestral homeland.

We welcome any suggestions that will help improve our information for future editions, and updates to our map.
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OUR HISTORY

INDIGENOUS YOUTH RESPONSIBILITY IN ANAHUAC



- ❖ *Los Viejos Abuelos*, our elder ancestors provided discipline with love
- ❖ Children were named with positive beautiful names; in *Nahuatl* there are no bad words
- ❖ Children were raised with discipline and love; life, environment full of teachings
- ❖ *Palo de enseñanza* – teaching branch analogous to tree growing sideways, has a upright branch tied to it to help it grow healthy
- ❖ No crime existed, only minor offenses

Our History: Indigenous youth responsibility in Anahuac

- **Ometeotl** = spark of life, balance and duality
- To be in balance, one must control the positive and negative forces within
- Self-discipline should be cultivated in children starting very early in life
- The foundation of self-discipline is respect - respect for oneself
- The parents' responsibility is to instill in the child self-discipline and social responsibility
- True self-discipline cannot be imposed from outside; it must be nurtured from within

Our History: Indigenous youth responsibility in Anahuac

*Not with envy,
Not with a twisted heart,
Shall you feel superior,
Shall you go about boasting.
Rather in goodness shall you make true
Your song and your word.
And thus you shall be highly regarded,
And you shall be able to live with others.*

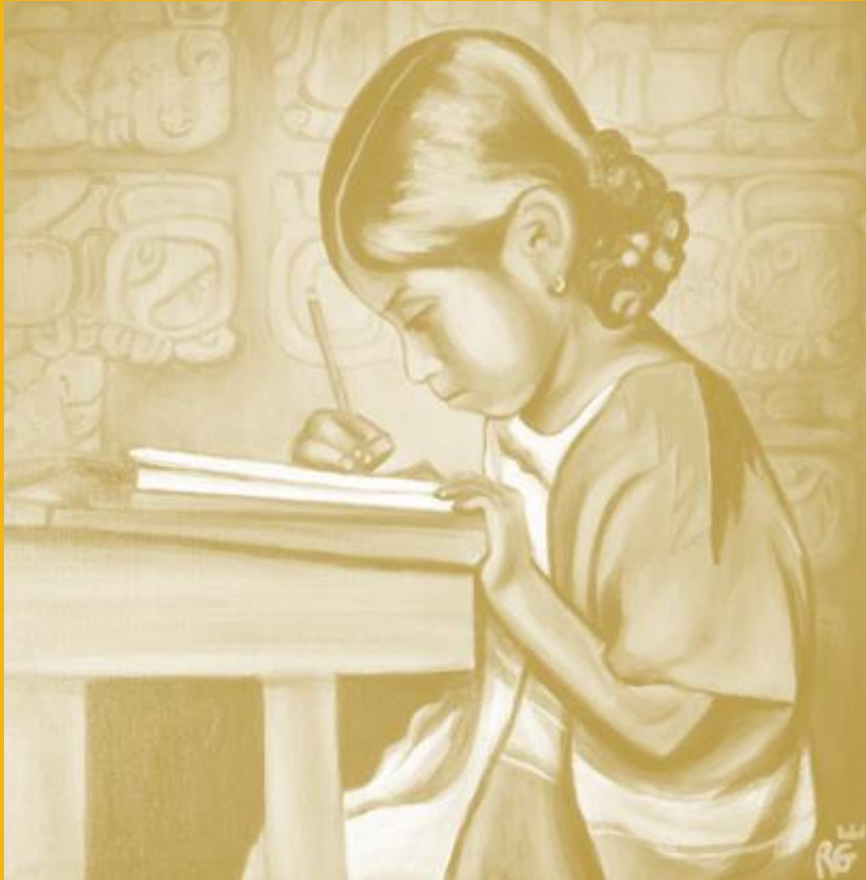
-Mexico poem, source: M. León-Portilla

Before the Juvenile Justice system...

Up till the 1500's in the Americas youth were held accountable to youth misbehavior by:

- Elders circle or councils
- Making amends, working paying restitution – restorative justice
- Rites of passages
- Sent on journeys for quest for vision
- Severe response was banishment from the tribe

Latinx Girl Voices to Change the Disparities



- Data important to know what works and what doesn't work and for whom
- Testimony of previously system impacted girls
- Interviews – qualitative data
- Focus groups
- Youth Participatory Outreach



Circulo

Palabra

Noxtin Nomecayotzin

