CJCC found that males and Black youth are more likely to become involved in the District of Columbia's juvenile justice system. Additionally, the analysis found that homelessness, childhood maltreatment, and adverse educational experiences such as suspension, grade retention, enrollment instability, and unexcused absences increase the likelihood that a youth becomes involved in the juvenile justice system. Youth with externalizing mental health disorder diagnoses and internalizing-externalizing diagnoses are also more likely to become juvenile justice system involved.

Finally, the analysis confirms that community environment impacts youth. Living on one of the blocks with the highest number of gun violence incidences ("hot blocks") is statistically associated with a greater likelihood of justice system involvement.

Interviews and focus groups also identified peer influence, future uncertainty, and a lack of future expectations as having an important effect on whether youth engage in delinquent behavior.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. How do justice-involved youth differ from non-justice involved youth?
2. What factors affect the likelihood that youth become involved in the juvenile justice system?
3. How and why do these factors impact youth behavior?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

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