## Preschool Removals: A Closer Look

**Preschool Students Receiving Out-of-School Suspensions by Race and Ethnicity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Enrollment</th>
<th>Out-of-school suspensions (single)</th>
<th>Out-of-school suspensions (multiple)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

## Research Highlights by Dr. Gilliam: Implicit Bias

**Does Implicit Bias Affect Preschool Teachers?**

Recent research suggests yes, showing that when teachers were primed to expect bad behavior, they watched the black children, particularly black boys (42%), more than the white children.³

## 2013-2014 USDOE OCR Data

- **Overall Enrollment:**
  - Black children make up 19% of public preschool enrollment, but
  - 47% of public preschool children suspended more than once.

- **Out-of-School Suspensions (multiple):**
  - Black public preschool children are 3.6 times as likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions as white preschool children, USDOE OCR data shows.²

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**Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC):**

- **Are there best practices to support teachers and reduce use of preschool removal?**

Results of a 2016 randomized-controlled study indicate yes, where "ECMHC offers a potentially promising intervention for decreasing the severity of behavioral challenges seen in early care and education programs."
**RESOURCES**

- Ohio Preschool Expulsion Prevention Partnership at 1-844-678-ABCs (2227). A call to this number will link preschool and child care providers with a local early childhood consultant who can conduct an on-site consultation and offer recommendations for classroom strategies, professional development, and resources for students and families.

- Starting Point and Invest in Children: Special Needs Child Care Program helps parents find appropriate child care, trains teachers to understand a child's specific needs and brings together a team of community agencies to help address specific challenges for a child.

- Cuyahoga County's Invest in Children: Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program makes high quality early education available to families with sites in public preschools, Head Start programs, community child care centers and family child care homes.

- Pre4CLE is part of the Cleveland Plan to ensure all 3 and 4 year old children in Cleveland have access to high quality preschool.

- U.S. Department of Education Office of Early Learning Preschool Development Grants help states build or enhance preschool program infrastructure.

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**POLICY AND BEST PRACTICE Recommendations**

**U.S. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATEMENT ON EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION POLICIES IN PRESCHOOL: RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Develop and clearly communicate preventive guidance and discipline practices for early childhood programs.

- Develop and clearly communicate expulsion and suspension policies for early childhood programs.

- Access technical assistance in workforce development to prevent expulsion and suspension for early childhood programs.

- Set goals and analyze data to assess progress for early childhood programs.

- Make use of resources to enhance staff training and strengthen family partnerships.

- Establish and implement policies regarding program quality and develop and scale best practices at the state level.

**DR. GILLIAM’S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING PRE-K EXPULSION**

- Rather than expel, assess child's needs and determine behavioral supports necessary for the child to succeed in current or alternative program.

- Access to early childhood mental health consultation to help teachers address challenging behaviors.

- Enforce student-teacher ratios of no more than 10 preschoolers per teacher or less.

- Ensure teachers work reasonable hours and have policies and services focused on teacher job stress.

- Make funding available to track children expelled and implement and evaluate models for preventing expulsion.

- Conduct further research on risk factors, preschool-home collaborations, teacher training, and early intervention services.

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