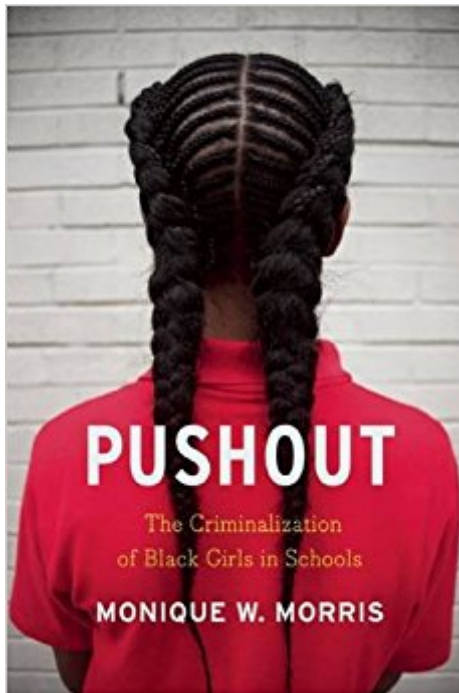




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# Pushout: The Criminalization Of Black Girls In Schools



## Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Diamond stopped going to school the day she was expelled for lashing out at peers who constantly harassed and teased her for something everyone on the staff had missed: she was being trafficked for sex. After months on the run, she was arrested and sent to a detention center for violating a court order to attend school. Just 16 percent of female students, Black girls make up more than one-third of all girls with a school-related arrest. The first trade book to tell these untold stories, *Pushout* exposes a world of confined potential and supports the growing movement to address the policies, practices, and cultural illiteracy that push countless students out of school and into unhealthy, unstable, and often unsafe futures. For four years Monique W. Morris, author of *Black Stats*, chronicled the experiences of black girls across the country whose intricate lives are misunderstood, highly judged—by teachers, administrators, and the justice system—and degraded by the very institutions charged with helping them flourish. Morris shows how, despite obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes, and despair, black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities, and beyond.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for *Pushout*: "Pushout is for everyone who cares about children, especially teachers, school administrators and policymakers, whose decisions - big and small - shape how black girls learn and live."—[Washington Post](#); "The personal stories at the heart of the author's discussion create a compelling study that puts a human face on both suffering and

statistics&#133;Morris's book offers both educators and those interested in social justice issues an excellent starting point for much-needed change. A powerful and thought-provoking book of social science.

Kirkus "Morris's work, buttressed by appalling statistics and scholarly studies, is supplemented by two useful appendices&#133;and a list of community resources.

Publishers Weekly "A thoughtful appendix offers numerous questions and answers for girls and young women, parents, the community, and educators. Timely and important.

Booklist "A powerful indictment of the cultural beliefs, policies, and practices that criminalize and dehumanize Black girls in America, coupled with thoughtful analysis and critique of the justice work that must be done at the intersection of race and gender."

Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow* "If you ever doubted that Supremacy Crimes&#151;those devoted to maintaining hierarchy&#151;are rooted in both sex and race, read *Pushout*. Monique Morris tells us exactly how schools are crushing the spirit and talent that this country needs."

Gloria Steinem "This book is imperative reading, not only for educators and those in the justice system but&#151;perhaps especially&#151;for anyone who loves and sleeps down the hall from a young, developing African American woman."

Lisa Delpit, author of *Multiplication Is for White People* and *Other People's Children* "A dynamic call to action. Black girls' exposure to being pushed out of school and set on paths to incarceration, physical and economic insecurity, and social marginality is so movingly set forth by Morris that it can no longer be ignored. *Pushout* is essential reading for all who believe that Black lives matter."

Kimberly Crenshaw, co-editor of *Critical Race Theory* and co-author of the reports *Say Her Name* and *Black Girls Matter* "At a moment when footage of institutional assaults on young Black men emerges with a horrifying regularity comes a timely and indispensable look at the often invisible oppression of girls of color. *Pushout* blazes with the voices of young women fighting for their dignity, safety, and the fundamental right to a future."

Nell Bernstein, author of *Burning Down the House* and *All Alone in the World* "Despite increased attention to the mass and over-incarceration of Black men, the plight of criminalized Black women and girls is overlooked, underreported, and underanalyzed. Finally, a compelling narrative that tells us the heartrending story of how schools are culpable in re-victimizing some of our most vulnerable citizens. This is a must-read for educators, juvenile justice officials, parents, and the entire community."

Gloria Ladson-Billings, Kellner Family Distinguished Chair in Urban Education, University of Wisconsin&#150;Madison "Morris's sharp analysis and the compassionate way she contextualizes these stories will surely compel readers to take action against the injustices that Black girls experience in schools and beyond."

Beth E.

Richie, author of *Arrested Justice* Praise for Monique Morris: "Monique Morris is a fearless and brilliant intellectual. Her groundbreaking work illuminates the pernicious challenges at the intersection of race and gender for African American girls in our education and criminal justice systems, and speaks directly and powerfully into the current moment."—Sherrilyn Ifill, President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and author of *On the Courthouse Lawn* Praise for *Black Stats*: "&#147;Thank you Monique Morris for this gift of knowledge.~çâ –Â•&#151;Susan L. Taylor, editor in chief emeritus of Essence magazine "Black Stats has become my go-to source&#133;"&#151;Patrick Henry Bass, Essence Magazine "Morris carries forward the best of the Du Boisian social science and progressive tradition."&#151;Khalil Gibran Muhammad, from the introduction to *Black Stats* "Black Stats disallows for lingering inequalities to be camouflaged&#133;"&#151;Utne

Monique W. Morris is the co-founder of the National Black Women's Justice Institute and writes a monthly column on black women and girls for Ebony.com. She is the author of Black Stats (The New Press) and lives in Oakland, CA with her husband and two daughters.

Monique E. Morris's account of the over-policing and criminalization of black girls is powerful and informative. She describes the way black girls have been subjected to narratives that impact the way they view school as less of a priority and themselves as not capable of thriving in an academic environment. She focuses on the full impact of zero tolerance policies and the ways in which an over-reliance on punishment can effectively push black girls out of the school system. She addresses the ways that female bodies are shamed and affected by dress code policies, that emphasize the responsibility of black girls to prevent sexual violence and victimization and take away the accountability from the perpetrators. I learned a lot in Morris's ideas for solutions to the unsuccessful correctional facilities and how black girls could be more supported by their educational institutions. The book showed Morris's ability to both be both realistic and un-sugar-coated, but hopeful that it is possible to combat school pushout and the criminalization of black girls if community members, parents, educators, and others are personally invested.

Ms. Morris has touched on a subject no one wants to talk about. We've long known how and why the law enforcement community discriminately target young black boys, and black men in particular. Now they're targeting our young black girls. Who's next?

This is extraordinary literary work! Author Monique Morris provides the reader with a comprehensive understanding of the gender experience of black girls and how this experience impacts black girls on an individual level, an interpersonal level, a community level and a policy/societal level. This also increases the visibility of intersectionality scholarship, and elevates the voices of African-American girls.

This is one of my favorites! I ordered this book for my 12 year old after attending the authors event at the Marriott in Portland Oregon. My daughter has read this book Non-Stop . THE PUSH OUT has happened to her in the PPS sytem, so she can relate to the book. This is happening to many young girls all across the United States. The push out is true and systematic. it's very interesting worth reading. Anyone who has a child , grandchild etc... of color should purchase and read this book.....

Excellent book on the issues many Black female students face in the school system. A must read for understanding, analysis and preventative measures.

I think Pushout is a must-read for educators and administrators. It paints a clear picture of the process by which black girls are funneled into juvenile detention facilities and prisons, a process which starts with black girls being labeled as “disruptive” in the classroom. Pushout demonstrates how the same rule, applied across the board, can have a disproportionate negative effect on black girls. Likewise, it demonstrates how the same rule, such as a dress code, can be applied differently across the board, to the detriment of black girls.

A must read for all school professionals--teachers, administrators, staff, school social workers, counselors. It underscores the need for trauma-informed practices and policies in schools. It centers the experiences of marginalized youth. It is overdue.

Thanks for the quick delivery. Started reading and have loved each page so far. Well written and truth telling.

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