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Report: In Nine States, Fewer Incarcerated Youth After Policy Reform

By: **STAFF** | June 19, 2013



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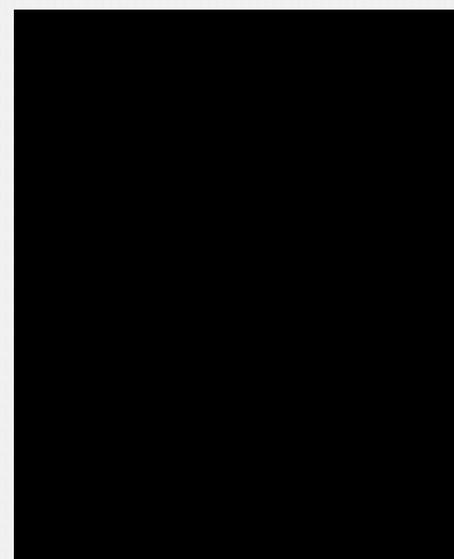


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NEW FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE RESOURCE HUB



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Ryan Schill / JJIE

Editor's note: JJIE is a partner with NJJN in producing the Juvenile

Justice Resource Hub.

Nine states that saw dramatic reductions in the number of kids they put behind bars are given a close look in a new report issued by the **National Juvenile Justice Network** (NJJN) and the **Texas Public Policy Foundation**.

The states evaluated in the report — California, Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin — all saw their juvenile incarceration rates decline between 2001 and 2010 after moving to community-based alternatives and enacting policies to keep youth out of detention centers if they are charged with only minor offenses.

“Since the year 2000, those nine states have not only greatly reduced the number of youth that are unnecessarily imprisoned or placed in detention centers, but they have also adopted policies that can pave the way for continued and safe reductions in secure confinement,” the report reads. “In other words, for these nine states, it took only a decade after the turn of the century to more than reverse the 15-year increase in the number of youth

The **Juvenile Justice Resource Hub** is a comprehensive source of information on cutting-edge juvenile justice issues and reform trends put together by JJIE and NJJN, with support from Models for Change and The MacArthur Foundation.

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Are Juvenile Correctional Facilities Safe?

There have been numerous lawsuits and federal investigations over dangerous conditions of confinement at state juvenile correctional facilities throughout the country. See [this](#) chart from the Annie E. Casey Foundation with information on lawsuits from 1970 – 2010.

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incarcerated in public facilities.”

The authors of the report, “**The Comeback States: Reducing Youth Incarceration in the United States**,” chose the nine states because each used at least four of six techniques thought to reduce incarceration rates, including downsizing facilities and addressing policies that lead to a school-to-prison pipeline. Each state surpassed the national average for reduction of juvenile incarceration rates during the assessment period. The nine states also saw decreases in youth arrests.

Combined, the states saw their total juvenile incarceration levels fall approximately 38 percent from 2001 to 2010, beating the national average by some 6 percent.



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RECENT STORIES ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

DSM-5 Changes to Autism, ADHD Definitions Could Impact Millions of Children



A new edition of the psychiatric "bible" will be released May 17, arriving on a

wave of controversy that may have a profound influence on children's mental health care in the United States, particularly around the diagnosis and treatment of autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

At OJJDP Experts Address Best Ways To Tackle Issue of Underage Drinking



“I don't need to tell you that alcohol use by young people is dangerous,” said

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Administrator Robert Listenbee at a webinar held this week by the Interagency Coordination Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD.) In a recorded message, Listenbee said alcohol is the most

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Griselda, 17, was arrested when she was 14. In this audio piece she talks about bad influences in her neighborhood, and how exalt helped her get her life back on track.

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commonly used and abused drug in the United States, stating that it played prominently in the nation’s youth homicide, suicide and violent crime rates.

Long Wait for Mental Health Services for Youth in Nation’s Capital



A Children’s Law Center report released last week finds that young people in Washington, D.C. are not receiving speedy assistance from the District’s mental health services.

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OP-ED: President's Budget Includes Crucial Funding for Juvenile Justice

This year, President Barack Obama's budget reflects more of the juvenile justice field's priorities than ever before. These funding proposals will be crucial in advancing juvenile justice reforms in a number of ways.



Public Kid vs. Private Kid Divide in One New York Community Turns Dangerous

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. -- On the evening of April 23, the members of the East Ramapo Central School

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District's board passed, with a unanimous vote and a barely audible mumble of approval, next year's budget. Frustrated parents shook their heads, with weary looks of resignation.

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