

2019 Youth Summit

Catalysts for Equity and Change



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Juvenile Justice 101: Setting the Stage

If you are 12 years old, you can't be tried in an adult in court.

False

A few states permit any minor who has committed a serious crime like homicide to be tried as an adult, regardless of age.

Minors can be locked up for running away or missing school.

True

Nearly half of all states permit young people to be incarcerated for status offense behaviors — things that are illegal only because the person engaging in the behavior is not 18.

Young people were arrested more than 1 million times in 2014.

True

There were 1,024,000 arrests of people younger than 18 in 2014. That number is down significantly and now closer to 800,000.

Youth arrests have gone up since 2006.

false

Arrests of people under 18 decreased by 56 percent between 2006 and 2015.

Incarcerating young people is cheaper than sending them to college.

False

On average, it costs nearly \$149,000 to incarcerate a child for a year. Some states are even more expensive than this.

The U.S. government requires states to record and monitor how much contact minority youth have with the juvenile justice system.

True

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) requires states to monitor racial disparities within the juvenile justice system. The JJDPA is one of the only federal laws that recognizes and addresses racial disparities.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act



Four Core Requirements

States can not lock up youth for running away, skipping school, and other "status offenses." Exception: violation of prior judicial order.

States cannot place young people in adult jails or lockups.

States must provide sight and sound separation between adults and youth.

States must address and correct racial and ethnic disparities within their systems.

