



Juvenile Justice Facts That Should Help To Inform Our Reentry Decisions

In 2006, 92,854 youth were held in public and private detention facilities (Sickmund, Sladky, & Kang, 2008). The typical length of stay is 4–6 months, with some confinements extending for years (Snyder & Sickmund, 2006).

The vast majority of juvenile offenders are nonviolent:

- 34% are held for person-related offenses
- 25% are held for property-related offenses
- 9% are held for drug-related offenses
- 11% are held for public order offenses
- 16% are held for technical violations of probation
- 5% are held for status offenses (Sickmund, Sladky, & Kang, 2008)

Youth of color are disproportionately affected at all levels of the juvenile justice system:

- 25% of youth in residential placement are White
- 40% are African American
- 20% are Latino (Sickmund, Sladky, & Kang, 2008)

One study found that neglect and child abuse increase the risk of any arrest of a juvenile by 55% and the risk of committing a violent crime by 96% (Windom, 1989).

More than one-half of the youth detained have not completed grade 8 (Roy-Stevens, 2004).

Research also shows that many delinquent youth are developmentally behind their peers and more likely to have learning disabilities (Quinn, Rutherford, Leone, Osher, & Poirier, 2005).

Some researchers estimate that as many as 79% of youth involved in the juvenile justice system have an educational disability (Leone, 1995).

The presence of learning disabilities has been established as a correlate of juvenile delinquency, but little attention has been paid to the additional challenges that learning-disabled youth face upon reentry. When they reenter their communities from secure confinement, these youth face associated challenges in addition to typical barriers (Chung, 2005).

References

Note: All references are from [Back on Track: Supporting Youth Reentry From Out-of-Home Placement to the Community](#), prepared by the Youth Reentry Task Force, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition, Fall 2009:

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