

OJJDP: Serving Children, Families, and Communities Presentation by

Marilyn Roberts, Deputy Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

OJJDP Vision Statement

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention envisions a nation where our children are healthy, educated, and free from violence. If they come into contact with the juvenile justice system, the contact should be rare, fair, and beneficial to them.

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Incarceration Rates for Youth (per 100,000)

United States – 336

South Africa – 69.0

England & Wales – 46.8

Australia – 24.9

Germany – 23.1

France – 18.6

Italy – 11.3

Japan – 0.1

*Hazel, Neal. Cross-National Comparison of Youth Justice. London Youth Justice Board, 2008.

** Various collated figures from national statistics, including Cavardino, M. and Dignan, P. (2006) Penal Systems: A Comparative Approach. London: Sage

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Race/Ethnicity for U.S. Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2011

Rate per 100,000 juveniles

Race/Ethnicity	Rate per 100,000 juveniles
All Groups	196
White	112
Black	521
Hispanic	202
American Indian	361
Asian	36

Sickmund, M., Skelly, T.J., Kang, W., and Pizzarcheri, C. (2013) "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement"

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High Rates of Trauma Among Detained Youth

- Trauma includes physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, addiction in the home, incarceration of a parent, witnessing lethal violence.
- More than 56 percent of detained youth in Northwestern Juvenile Project study were found to have been exposed to trauma 6 or more times.
- Mental health needs of youth in detention go largely untreated.



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Incarceration Does NOT Promote Healthy Development

Most important components of healthy psychological development for adolescents:

- 1) Involvement of a supportive adult authority figure.
- 2) Association with pro-social peers.
- 3) Activities that encourage autonomous decision-making.

These three essential elements are often missing in facilities that confine youth.




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Incarceration Does NOT Reduce Recidivism

- Longer stays in juvenile institutions do not reduce recidivism.
- In the period after incarceration, community-based supervision is effective for youth who have committed serious offenses.
- Youth who received community-based services were more likely to attend school, go to work, and avoid further offending.






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A Justice Department Priority: Reducing Children's Exposure to Violence

- OJJDP's Safe Start Initiative 
- OJJDP's National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence 
- Defending Childhood Initiative 


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Ending School-to-Prison Pipeline



- Harsh and exclusionary school discipline practices are needlessly pushing kids out of school and into the juvenile justice system.
- African American, Hispanic, and Native youth and children with disabilities are disproportionately impacted.
- The Supportive School Discipline Initiative is disseminating resources nationwide to assist jurisdictions in creating safe and positive school climates.

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A Justice Department Priority: Evidence-Based Approaches

- Evidence Integration Initiative
 - Crime Solutions.gov
- OJJDP's Model Programs Guide
 - Diagnostic Center

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Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRI)

- Uses Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP), a research-based decisionmaking tool as a platform to inform system improvements and service delivery.
- SPEP assesses how well current program practice matches the profile of programs with research evidence for effectiveness.
- JJRI piloted in: Milwaukee County, WI; Iowa; Delaware

Source: Adapted from Center for Juvenile Justice Reform Diagram

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Juvenile Justice System Improvements

The flowchart illustrates the process of juvenile justice system improvements. It starts with 'PREVENTION' on the left, leading to 'JJ Entry'. This is followed by 'Risk Assessment', 'Level of Supervision Options', 'Needs Assessment', and 'Effective Program Options'. Arrows labeled 'Match' connect 'Risk Assessment' to 'Level of Supervision Options' and 'Needs Assessment' to 'Effective Program Options'. Below these steps, a box lists 'Re-offense Rate, Incarceration Rate, Mental Health outcomes, etc.'. This leads to two decision points: 'Achieving desired outcomes? Done' and 'Unsatisfactory outcomes? Program and System Improvement'.

Source: Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

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Jurisdictions Are Successfully Reforming Their Juvenile Justice Systems

- Using evidence-based alternatives to incarceration.
- Establishing policies and program options that divert youth from secure detention.
- Closing state-run facilities.
- Engaging in statewide realignment and reinvestment strategies.

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Connecticut

- Reduced residential commitments from 680 in 2000 to 216 in 2011—nearly 70 percent.
- Expanded its investment in evidence-based, family-focused adolescent treatment programs with proven success in reducing problem behaviors from \$300,000 in 2000 to \$39 million in 2009.
- Reduced judicial processing (formal petition) of status offender referrals from 50 percent of those filed in 2006–2007 to just 4.5 percent in 2010 and 2011.

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Ohio

- RECLAIM Ohio is a funding initiative that encourages juvenile courts to use community-based options. By diverting youth from Ohio's Department of Youth Services institutions, courts can increase the level of funds available for these community-based options.
- For every dollar spent on the RECLAIM Ohio program, the state saves from \$11 to \$45 in commitment and processing costs.

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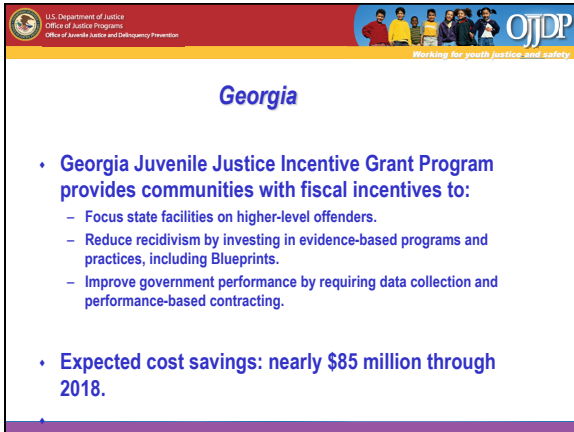
Illinois

- Redeploy Illinois modeled its fiscal incentives for juvenile justice reform after those of RECLAIM Ohio, emphasizing reinvestment in community-based options.
- Preliminary results of a cost-effectiveness study among four Redeploy sites point to a 14.2 percent re-incarceration rate for Redeploy Illinois participants, compared to 57.4 percent among nonparticipants.

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Georgia

- Georgia Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program provides communities with fiscal incentives to:
 - Focus state facilities on higher-level offenders.
 - Reduce recidivism by investing in evidence-based programs and practices, including Blueprints.
 - Improve government performance by requiring data collection and performance-based contracting.
- Expected cost savings: nearly \$85 million through 2018.



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Keys to Future Progress

- Continue integrating research and evidence into practice.
- Expand on progress made by individuals and jurisdictions.
- Advance knowledge about what works and why.
- Use a balanced, multidisciplinary, and nuanced strategy in applying evidence.
