



The time has come to **close**
every youth prison in the
country and **replace** them with
a **community-based system**.

- Abundant evidence of failure
- Effective alternatives
- Powerful alignment of interests

Inherently Flawed

- Training schools started in the 1840s
- Adult-style prisons aren't built for kids
- They are a mismatch to everything kids need – **socially, emotionally, neurologically, educationally**



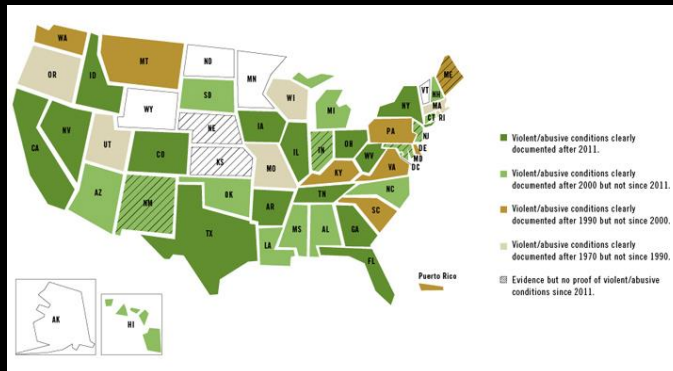
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Decades of Proof

- Poor Results
 - Recidivism rates of 70 to 80 percent and evidence that incarceration may *increase* recidivism
- High Costs
 - Average \$146,302/year per youth
- Lifelong consequences
 - Unready for higher education or employment, ill-prepared to raise a family

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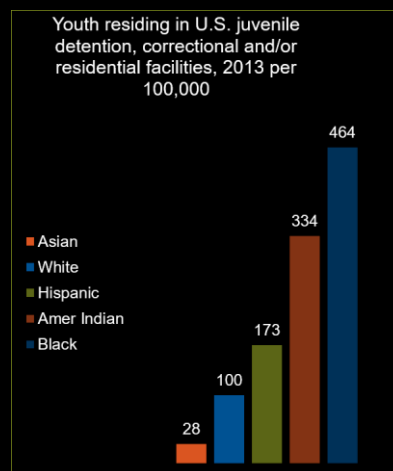
Abuse is Endemic



4

Confinement in Youth Prison is Racially Unfair

- African-American youth are **4.6 times more likely** to be incarcerated than white youth
- Effects are **cumulative and worsening**
- Study finds probation officers **ascribe delinquency differently by race**:
 - black youth = attitudinal/personality traits
 - white youth = external issues beyond their control



5

The Evidence of Failure is Clear

- They fail at **protecting the community**
- They fail at **turning young lives around**
- They are unconscionably **expensive**
- They are **prone to abuse**
- They **defy reform**



6

The Institution Trumps Reformers



"Reformers come and reformers go. State **institutions carry on**. Nothing in their history suggests they can sustain reform, no matter what money, what staff, and programs are pumped into them. The same crises that have plagued them for 150 years intrude today. **Though the cast may change, the players go on producing failure.**"

—Jerome G. Miller, Former Massachusetts Secretary of the Department of Youth Services

7

We have a **choice**

Here's How: the 4Rs

- **Reduce**: We can safely reduce the pipeline into youth prisons by at least half
- **Reform**: We should reform the culture that wrongly assumes locking up kids makes us safer
- **Replace**: We must replace youth prisons with a range of programs that will really help kids
- **Reinvest**: When we stop spending money on what doesn't work we can reinvest in what does

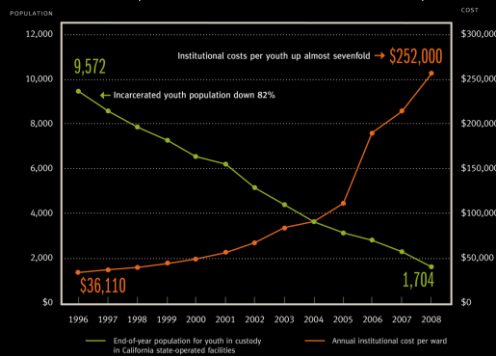
Reduce:

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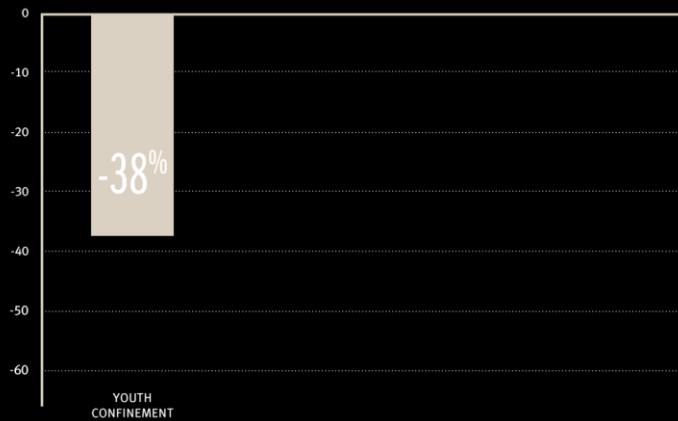
Closing Facilities is Essential

Youth in California State-Operated Facilities and Annual Institutional Cost per Ward, 1996 to 2008



Less Incarceration, More Safety

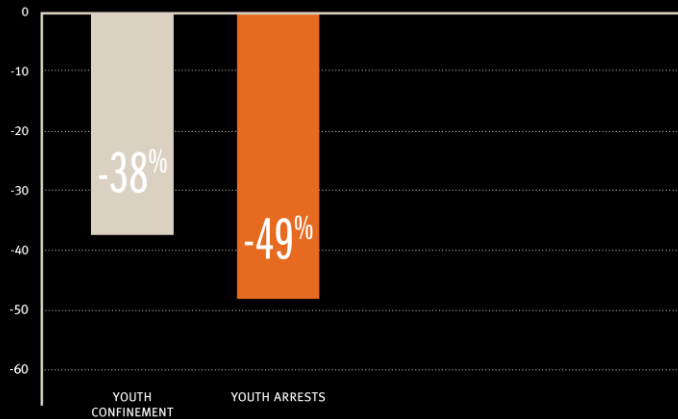
Percentage Change in Adult and Youth Incarceration and Arrests
Texas, 2007-2013



12

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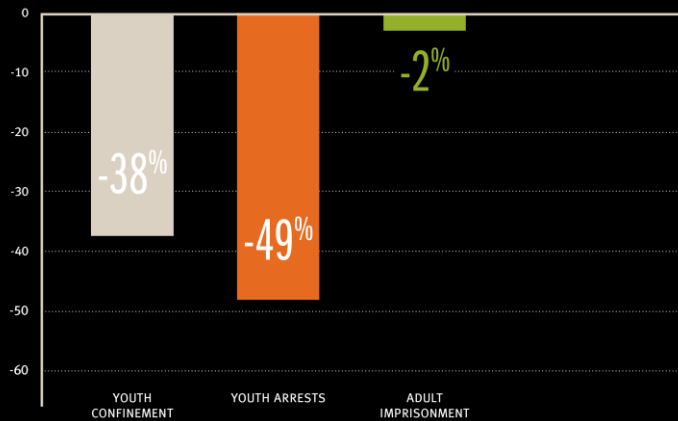
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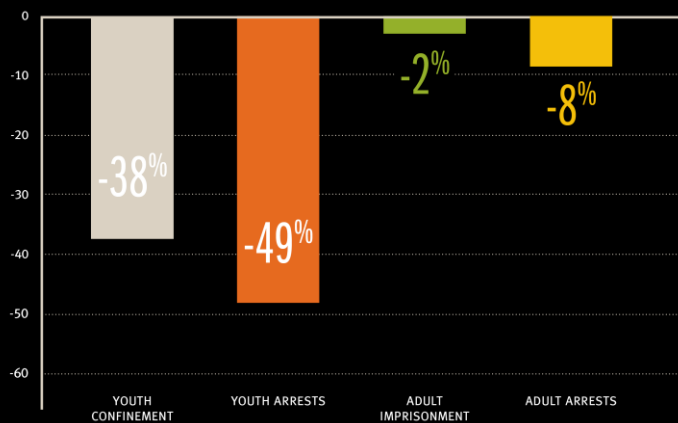
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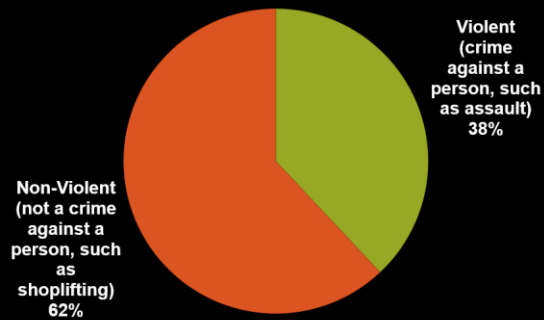
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15

Most Youth are Incarcerated for Nonviolent Offenses



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2015

Reform:

We should reform the culture that wrongly assumes locking up kids makes us safer



Reform



"Anything from sneaking an extra cookie to initiating a fistfight may result in a full prone restraint with handcuffs. This one-size-fits-all control approach has, not surprisingly, led to an alarming number of serious injuries to youth, including **concussions**, broken or **knocked-out teeth** and **spiral fractures**."

- U.S. Department of Justice (2009)
Investigation of the Lansing Residential Center
[emphasis added]

18



Replace:

We must replace youth prisons with a range of programs that will really help kids



Replace

- Smaller, non-correctional programs
- Caring, trained staff implement programming to boost development
- Missouri model
 - Replaced prisons with smaller, local treatment-oriented programs
 - Shifted from correctional system management to social services oversight
 - Achieved recidivism rate of 6.6 percent to juvenile justice system



20

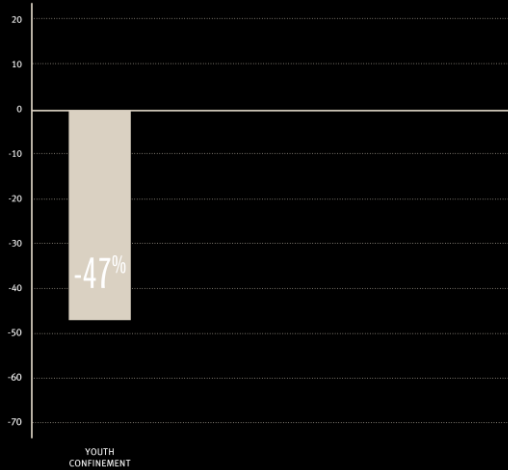
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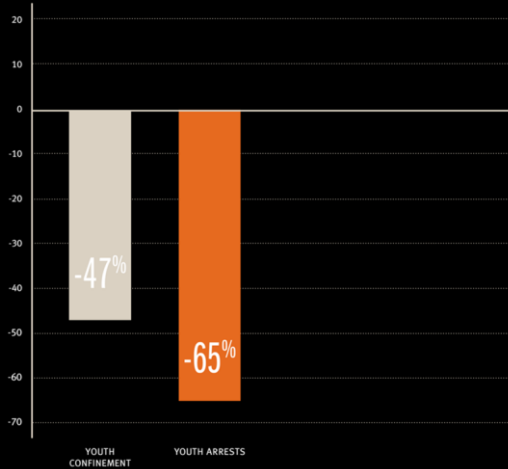
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BJS Prisoners in 1997, 2013; OJJDP

Less Incarceration, More Safety

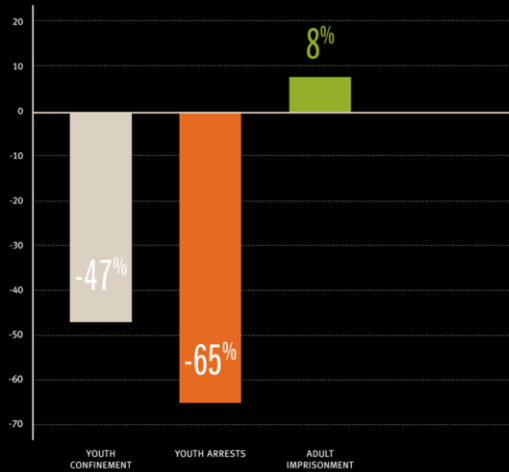
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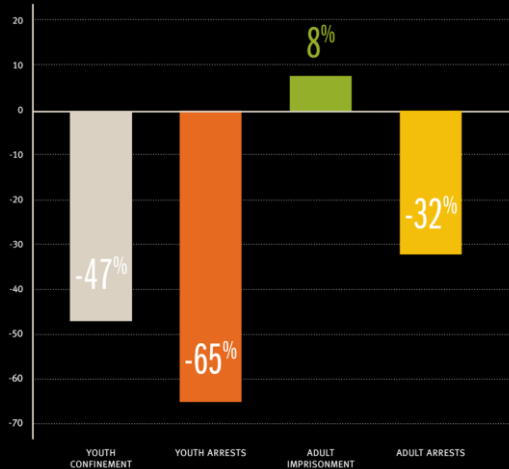
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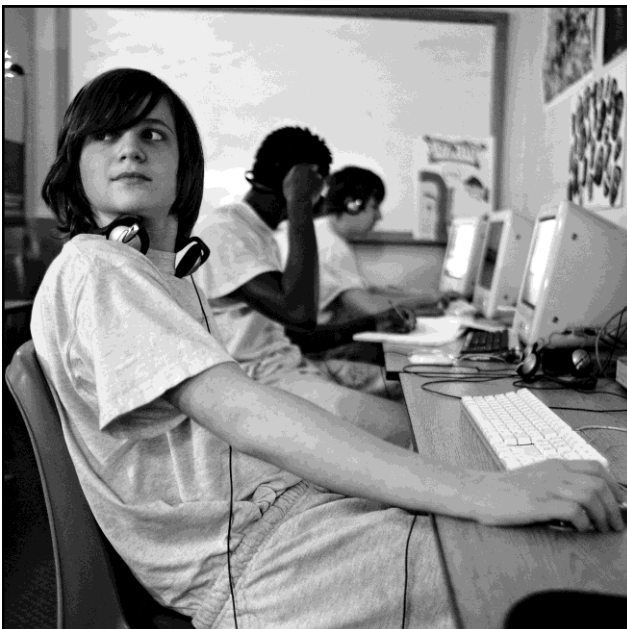
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THE FUTURE OF YOUTH JUSTICE

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