Juvenile Justice Reform: The Connecticut Experience

Presentation by William H. Carbone
National League of Cities and CYSA Conference
April 20th, 2015

Presentation Outline

1. Connecticut Juvenile Justice System "Before" Reform
2. Connecticut Juvenile Justice System "After" Reform
3. How Did We Get There?
4. Continuing Challenges and Opportunities for Local Officials

University *of* New Haven

Tow Youth Justice Institute

Connecticut Juvenile Justice "Before" Reform

- High Court Intake
- High Detention Admissions
- Emily J. Lawsuit (1993-2007) on Detention
  - Conditions of Confinement
  - Lack of Services
  - Long stays
- Status Offense Violators in Detention

Connecticut Juvenile Justice "Before" Reform

- High Number of Commitments to Out of Home Placement
- "Non Evidence-Based Programs"
- Legislative Study Found Programs "Ineffective at Reducing Recidivism"
- "Better to do nothing!!!"

Connecticut Juvenile Justice "Before" Reform

- Few Customized Services for Special Populations
  - Girls, mental health, and young children
- 10,000 16 and 17 Year Olds in Adult System
  - Low Program Completion Rate
  - High Recidivism Rate

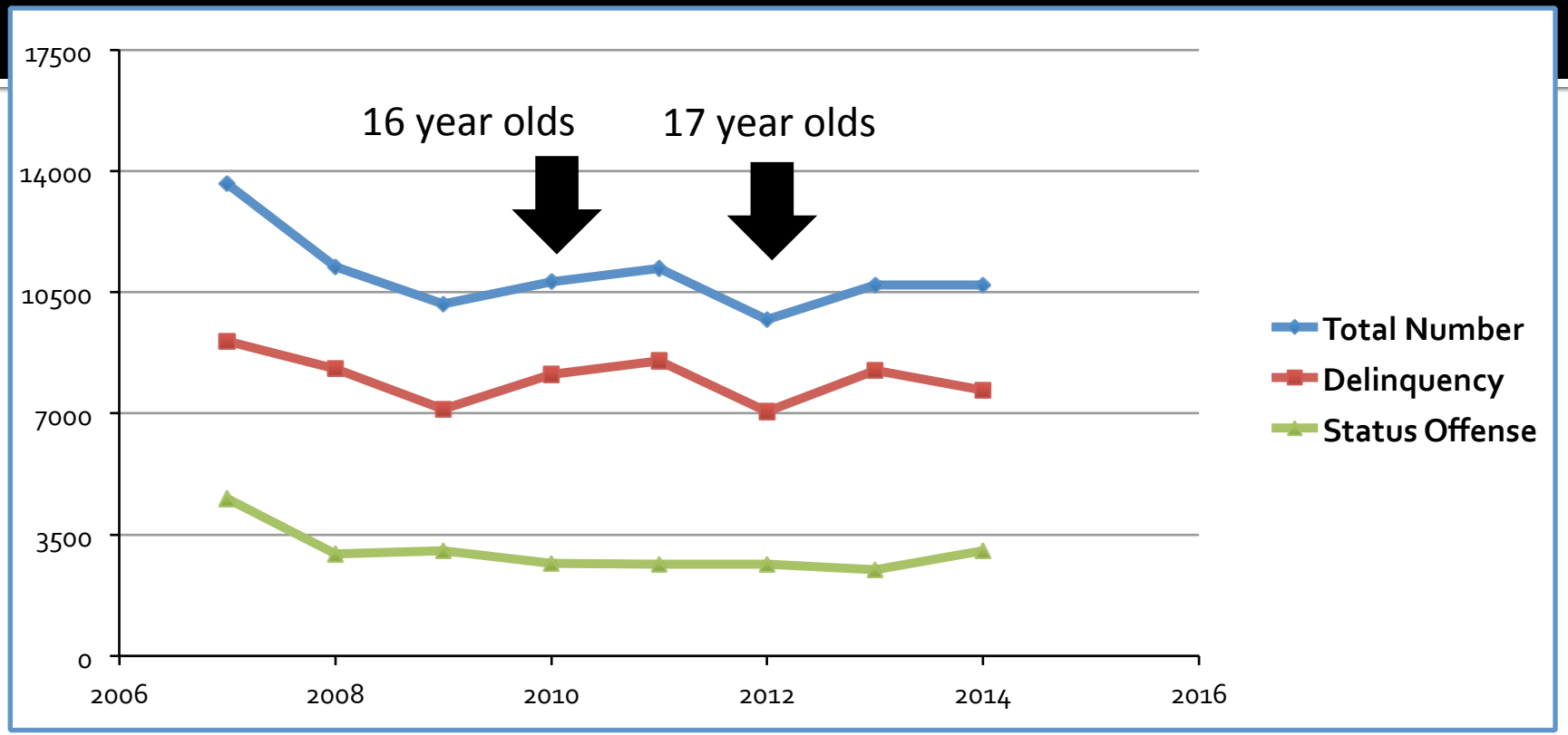
Connecticut Juvenile Justice "After" Reform

- Court intake
- Detention intake
- Placement Waits in Detention
- Commitment to "Out of Home"
- Juvenile Crime Rates
- Probation Recidivism
- No Status Offenders in Detention

16 and 17 Year olds in the Juvenile Justice System

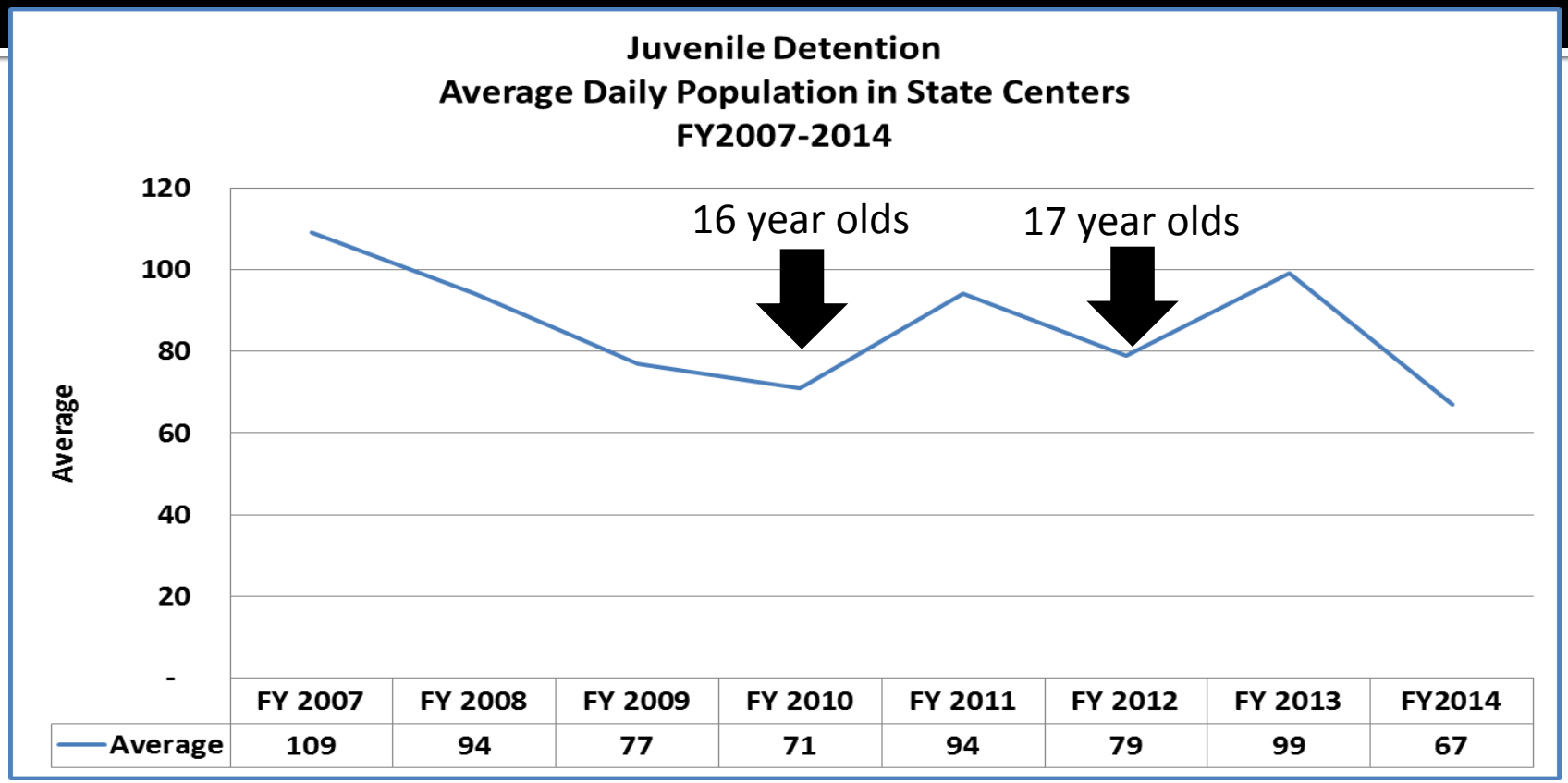
University of New Haven
Tow Youth Justice Institute

Court Intake Reduction



- The number of juveniles referred to the court is down 21.3% since 2007, despite full implementation of Raise the Age.
- The "anticipated" doubling of the court intake did not happen.

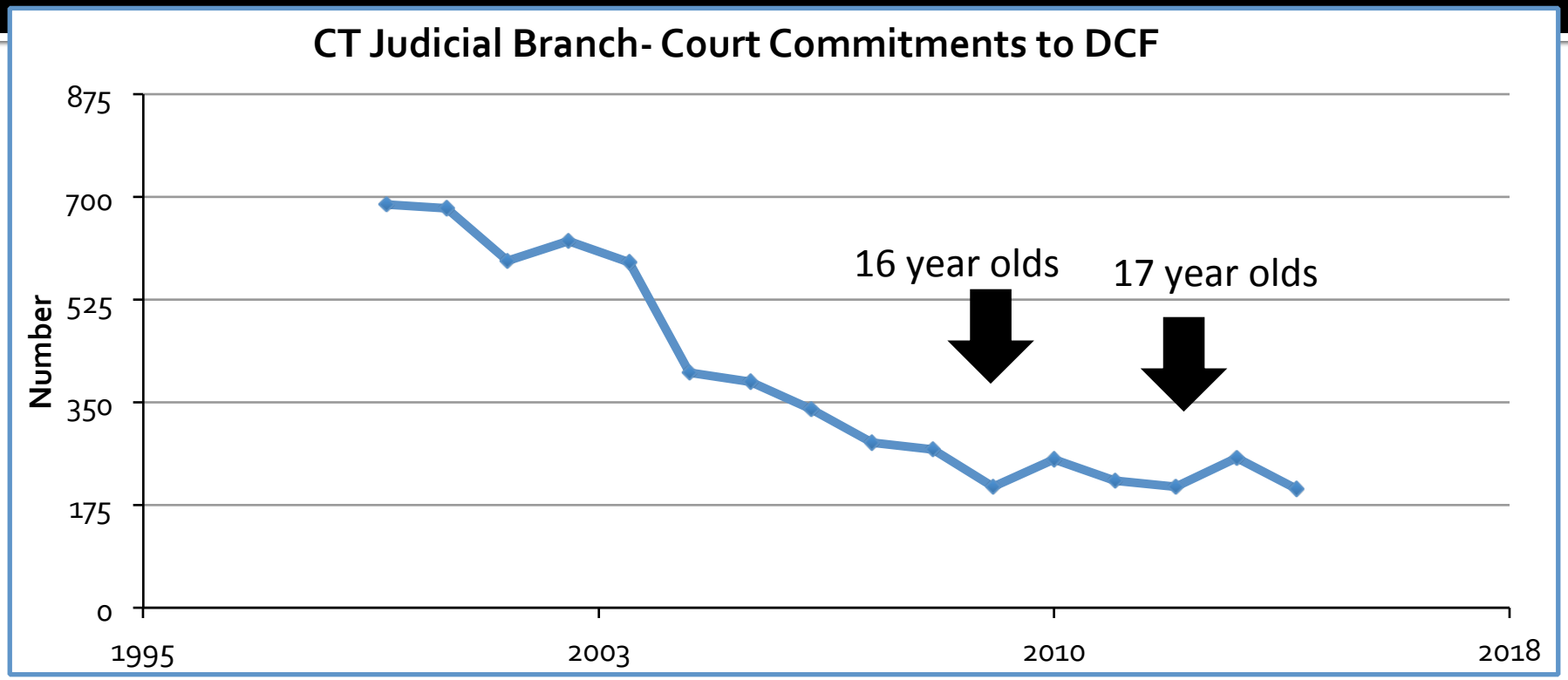
Detention Population Reduction



	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY2014
Average	109	94	77	71	94	79	99	67

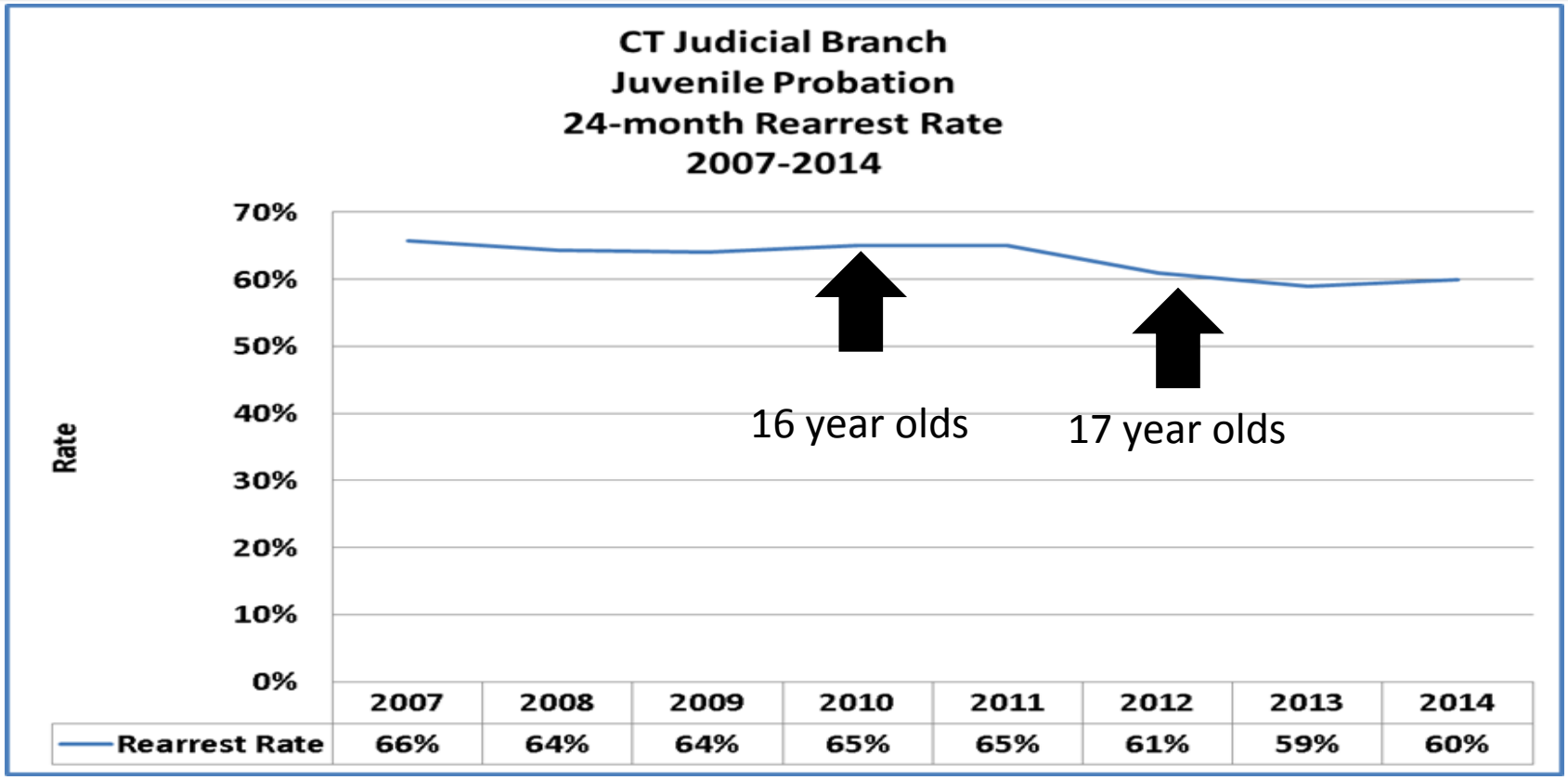
There was a 38.5% decrease in average daily population of State Centers from 2007 to 2014

Reduction in Out of Home Commitments



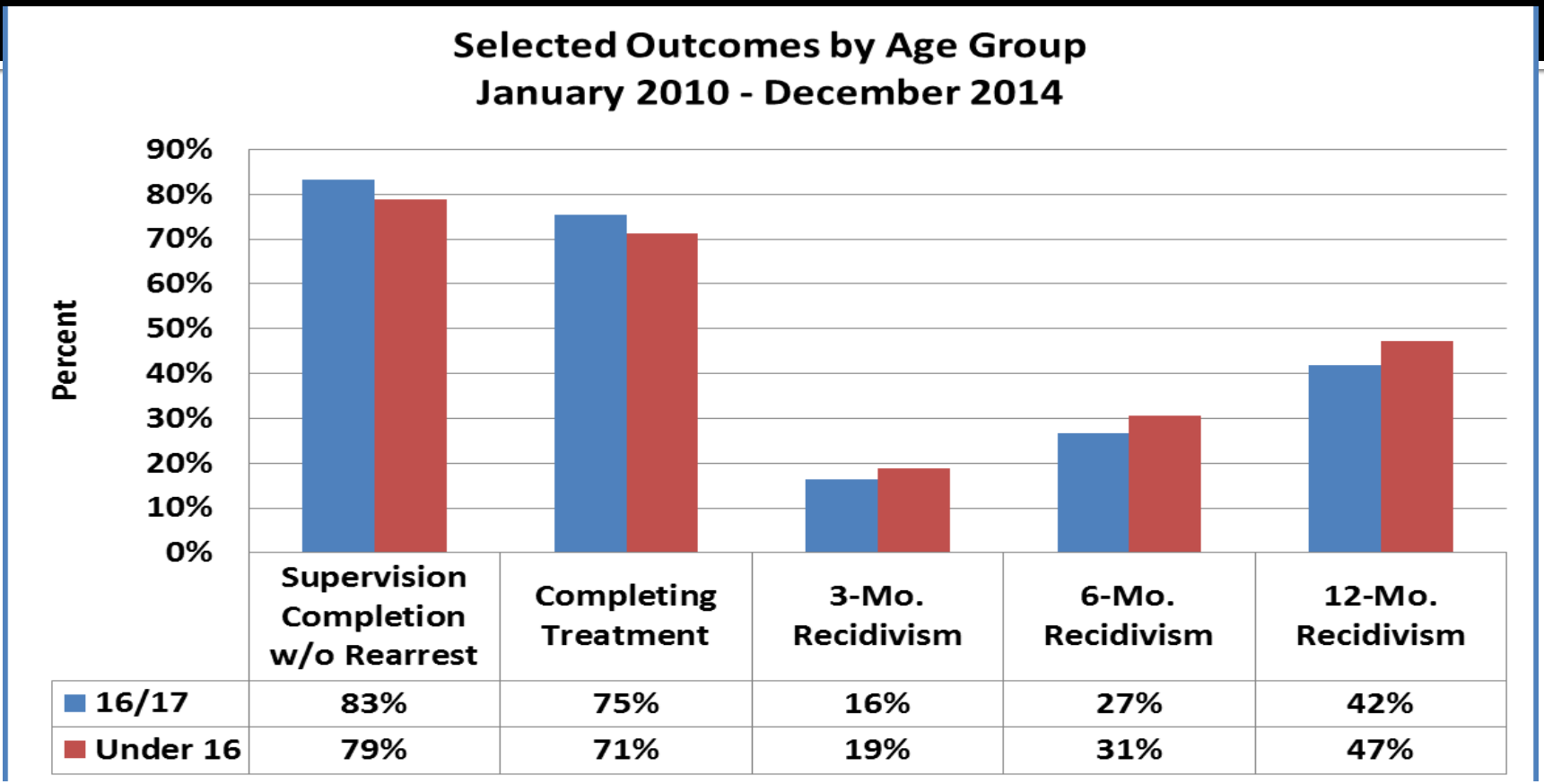
There is a 71% decrease from 1999 to 2014 in the number of court commitments to DCF- the largest decrease in juvenile incarceration in the U.S.

Juvenile Probation
Reduction in Recidivism



There was a 11% percentage deduction from 2007 to 2014 in rearrests

Probation Outcomes by Age Group



	Supervision Completion w/o Rearrest	Completing Treatment	3-Mo. Recidivism	6-Mo. Recidivism	12-Mo. Recidivism
16/17	83%	75%	16%	27%	42%
Under 16	79%	71%	19%	31%	47%

National research comparing juvenile and adult processing of similar adolescents find better outcomes in juvenile court. Here is proof in CT

How Did We Get There

1. Collaboration
2. Diversion
3. Reduce Detention
4. Evidence Based Practices and Programming
5. Accountability Systems

Opportunities for Local Reform

- Police Departments and the use of discretion
- Schools-based arrests, suspensions, expulsions
- Disproportionate Minority Contact
- Family Engagement
- Vocational Opportunities
- Information sharing

Questions?

William H. Carbone, Senior Lecturer,
Director of Experiential Education
Director, Tow Youth Justice Institute
Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science
University of New Haven
300 Orange Avenue
West Haven, CT
203 479 4227
wcarbone@newhaven.edu