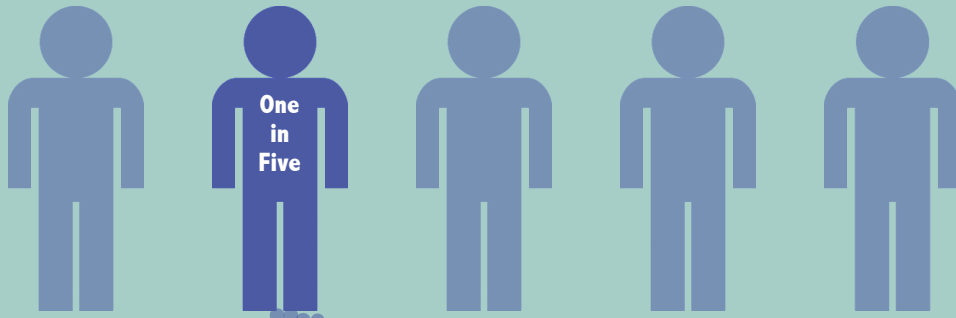


The Harms of Juvenile Detention

Youth in detention are removed from settings that matter: their homes, schools, and communities. Without those supports, children develop higher rates of depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions, and they lose access to educational opportunities. Once released, youth who spent time behind bars are more likely to disengage from school and become system-involved in the future.

More than 1 in 5 children awaiting adjudication spend time in pre-trial detention.¹



Increased involvement in the justice system

Lack of access to education

Poor mental health outcomes



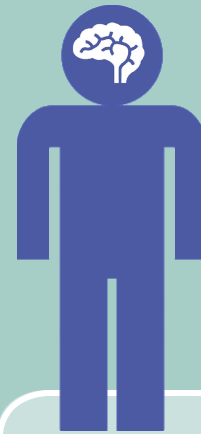
8.5% more likely to be found guilty²

2x more likely to reoffend than non-detained youth³



60% do not return to school or drop out within five months⁴

Less special education services
Fewer hours of instruction⁵



1 in 3

detained youth who are diagnosed with depression developed the condition after placement in detention⁶



Parents are often charged with detention fees, which can total over \$600 in some states⁷

DAYS
22

Average length of stay in pre-trial detention⁸

1.5x

Youth of color are detained 1.5 times more than white youth⁹

Sources

- ¹ MELISSA SICKMUND, ANTHONY SLADKY, AND WEI KANG, NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE, EASY ACCESS TO JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS: 1985-2013 (2015), <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezajcs/> (census data from 2010 – 2013 shows 20.5% of children were detained when awaiting disposition).
- ² THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUND., JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE, 2014 PROGRESS REPORT 5, <http://cms.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2014JDAIProgressReport-2014.pdf>.
- ³ JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE, THE DANGERS OF DETENTION 6 (2006), http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/06-11_rep_dangersofdetention_jj.pdf.
- ⁴ *Id.* at 9.
- ⁵ KAREEM L. JORDAN, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PROGRAM, PREVENTIVE DETENTION AND OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT: A PROPENSITY SCORE MATCHING AND MULTILEVEL MODELING APPROACH (Fall 2012).
- ⁶ JUSTICE POLICY INST., *supra* note 3, at 8.
- ⁷ See, e.g., BERKELEY LAW POLICY ADVOCACY CLINIC, HIGH PAIN, NO GAIN: HOW JUVENILE ADMINISTRATIVE FEES HARM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (March 2016) (in California, the average total cost families pay for detention is \$607).
- ⁸ U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PROGRAM, STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK (2013), <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/corrections/qa08405asp?qaDate=2013>.
- ⁹ Julie Griggs, *The Effect of Race on Pretrial Detention in the Juvenile Justice System: A Meta-Analysis*, DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS, PAPER 401 (May 21, 2014).



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The National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting justice for all children by ensuring excellence in juvenile defense. NJDC provides support to public defenders, appointed counsel, law school clinical programs, and non-profit law centers to ensure quality representation in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas. NJDC also offers a wide range of integrated services to juvenile defenders, including training, technical assistance, advocacy, networking, collaboration, capacity building, and coordination. To learn more about NJDC, please visit www.njdc.info.

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