

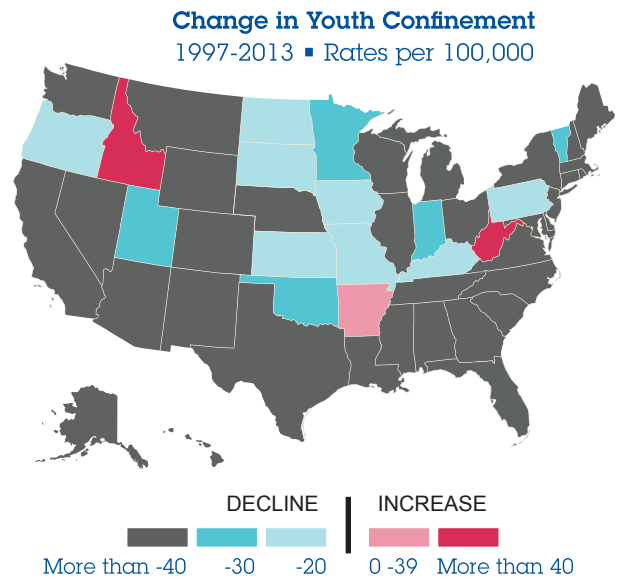
Reforming Youth Incarceration in West Virginia

Safer Communities, Reduced Costs, and a Better Future for Troubled Youth

While the rest of the country is experiencing sharp declines in youth confined to correctional facilities, West Virginia confines a higher share of its youth than almost any state in the nation. Keeping children out of confinement and in their communities can not only save West Virginia millions of dollars in short and long-term costs, but it can lead to a better future for kids and the state - including fewer kids going back into confinement, safer communities, and higher high school graduation rates.

Youth Incarceration Rates Have Grown in West Virginia While Declining in Almost Every State

In 2013, West Virginia had 510 juveniles in confinement -- the second highest youth incarceration rate among the 50 states. Massachusetts, which has almost four times the juvenile population of West Virginia, had just 393 youth in confinement. Over the last sixteen years, youth confinement has declined in almost every state and the District of Columbia. Yet West Virginia is one of only three states to have experienced an increase in the rate of young people confined from 1997 to 2013. While most states have cut their youth confinement rate by more than half, West Virginia's confinement rate has grown by almost 50 percent.

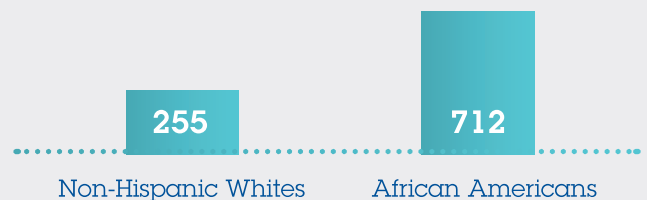


West Virginia has Large Disparities in Youth Confinement By Race

While the rate of African American youth in confinement has declined (from 1,218 per 100,000 juveniles to 712 from 1997 to 2013), African American youth in West Virginia are still nearly three times as likely to be confined as their white counterparts. West Virginia's youth confinement rate for African Americans was 1.5 times higher than the national average (464 per 100,000) in 2013.

African American youth in West Virginia are nearly three times as likely to be confined as their white counterparts

Rate per 100,000 juveniles ■ 2013



Most Youth Confined for Non-Violent Offenses in West Virginia

Less than 13 percent of youth confined in West Virginia are held for violent offenses, while nationally more than one-quarter are held for violent offenses.

A majority of confined youth are incarcerated for non-violent offenses. 62 percent of juvenile commitments in West Virginia are due to technical violations of probation, low-level property offenses, drug possession, public order offenses (e.g. weapon possession, disorderly conduct, liquor law violation) and status offenses (activities not considered crimes as adults, such as truancy or possession of alcohol).

IN 2013 ONLY 1 OF EVERY 8 committed youth in West Virginia was locked up based on a Violent Crime Index offense (homicide, aggravated assault, robbery or sexual assault)



62% are committed for non-violent offenses

Community-Based Interventions and Services Protect Public Safety & Reduce Costs

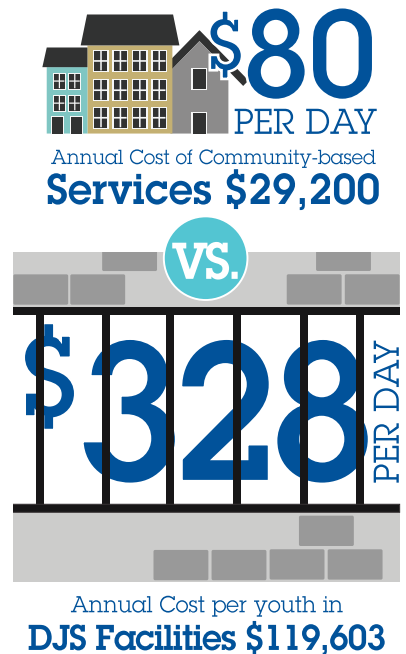
Community-based interventions are more effective than correctional facilities at reducing youth crime and promoting youth development. Effective community-based programs that provide evidence-based programming (including therapy, case management, skill development, etc.) cost a small fraction of the amount it takes to incarcerate youth, averaging \$80 per day per youth compared to \$328 per day per youth in a Division of Juvenile Service facility (2013).

In 2013, there were on average 301 youth incarcerated in facilities run by the Division of Juvenile Services (DJS). If half of these youth were given intensive sanctions and supervision in the community instead of being sent to DJS facilities it would have saved West Virginia \$13.6 million. This money could be invested in other priorities like our schools, roads, or universities.

States that have realigned their juvenile justice system away from confinement and toward community-based alternatives have experienced substantial savings and reductions in youth incarceration. For example, Illinois saved \$40 million between 2005 and 2010 by reducing youth incarceration by 51 percent through its Redeploy Illinois program that provided grants to counties to establish community-based alternatives. In 2014 alone, Redeploy saved the state of Illinois nearly \$15 million in unnecessary incarceration by locking up 296 fewer youth.



DJS Correctional Facilities Cost 4 Times as Much as Community-Based Services:

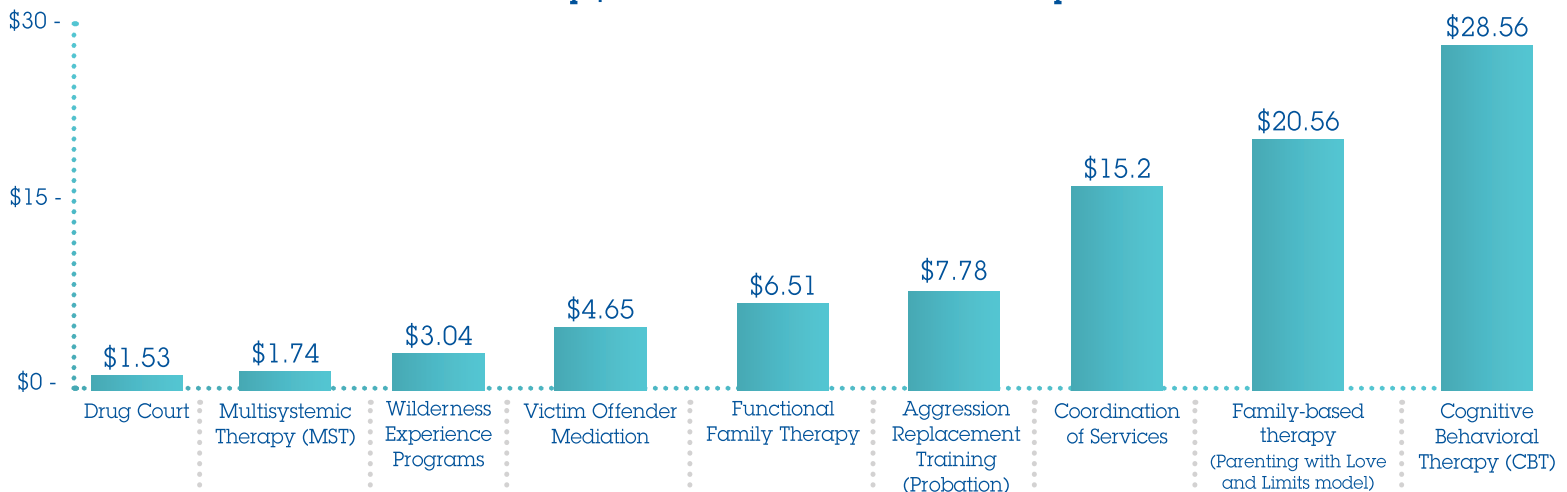


Community-Based Alternatives Can Provide A Large Return on Investment (ROI)

Evidence-based programs that use intervention and prevention strategies in community-based settings to reduce youth delinquent behavior and nurture positive youth development and skills have been shown to not only pay for themselves and reduce recidivism but also produce a positive

return on investment. For example, the Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) program, which has been adapted as a juvenile offender diversion and aftercare treatment program that provides family-based therapy, has been shown to have a return on investment (ROI) of \$20.56 for every \$1 invested.

Return on Investment for Every \$1 Invested in Evidence-Based Options for Juvenile Justice



Sources:

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West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services data from West Virginia Executive Budget Fiscal Year 2015, Volume 2 (Budget Operating Detail). P. 446. <http://www.budget.wv.gov/executivebudget/archives/Documents/VIIOD2015.pdf>

"Better Returns for a Safer Florida: Aligning Taxpayer Investments in the Juvenile Justice System with Strategies Proven to Increase Public Safety," The James Madison Institute, March 2014. <http://www.jamesmadison.org/publications/detail/2014-policy-brief-better-returns-for-a-safer-florida>

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