



Rutgers Camden:

Creating Bridges for Camden Youth: Juvenile Justice Concerns and Local Solutions

March 24, 2015

Our country's reliance on confinement has proven to be a failed strategy for combating youth crime

DANGEROUS

INEFFECTIVE

UNNECESSARY

OBSOLETE

EXPENSIVE

INADEQUATE

JUVENILE CONFINEMENT IS:

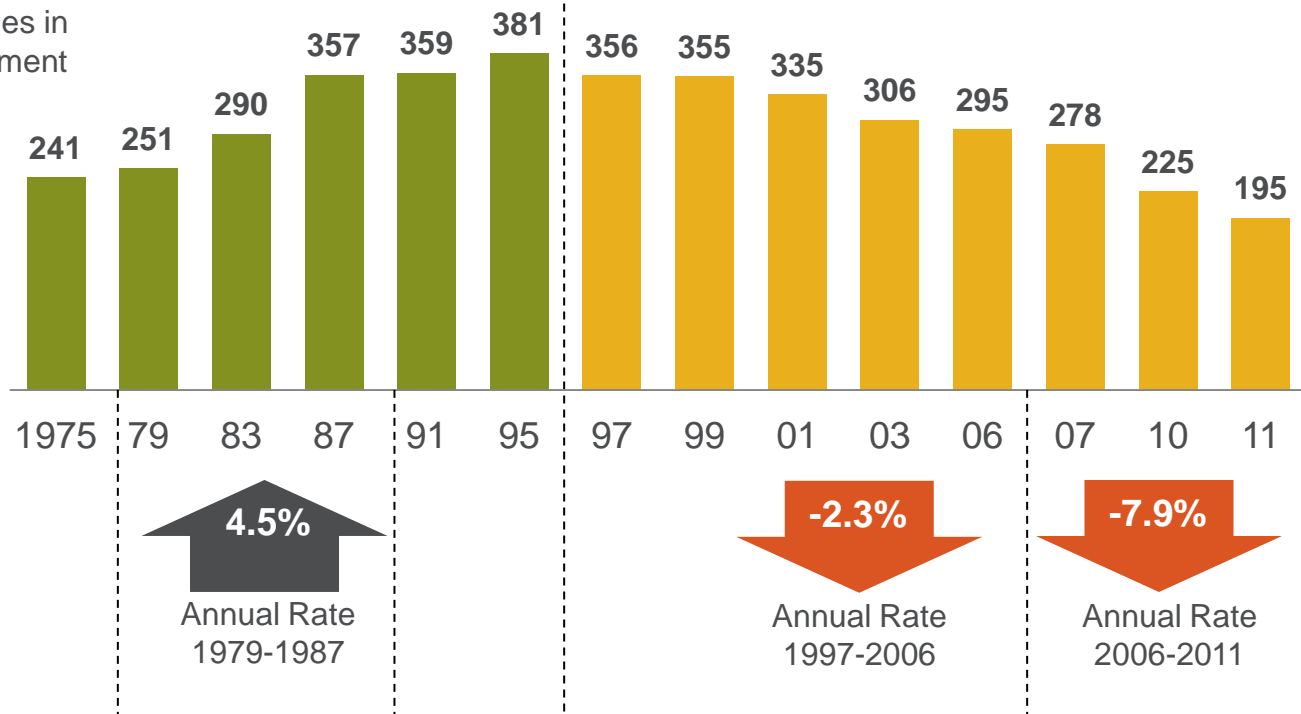
- America's juvenile corrections institutions subject confined youth to intolerable levels of violence, abuse, and other forms of maltreatment.
- The outcomes of correctional confinement are poor. Recidivism rates are almost uniformly high, and incarceration in juvenile facilities depresses youths' future success in education and employment.
- A substantial percentage of youth confined in youth corrections facilities pose minimal risk to public safety.
- Scholars have identified a number of interventions that consistently reduce recidivism without the use of incarceration.
 - States are spending vast sums of taxpayer money on correctional institutions, when non-residential programs deliver equal or better results for a fraction of the cost.
- Despite the cost, most correctional facilities are ill-prepared to address the needs of many confined youth. Often, they fail to provide even the minimum services appropriate for care and rehabilitation.

The use of detention and post-dispositional residential placement has fallen substantially in recent years

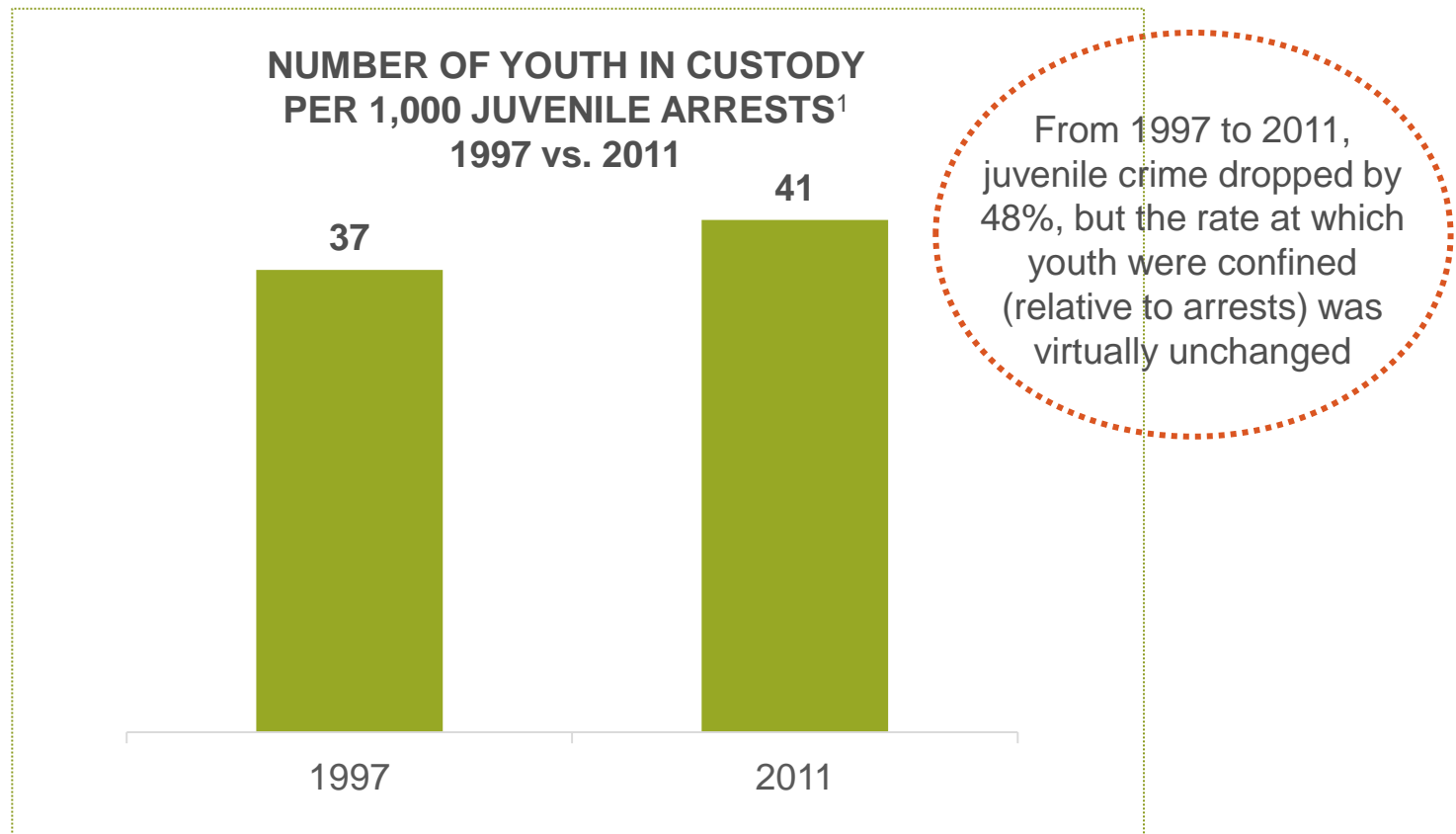
RATE OF YOUTH IN CONFINEMENT per 100,000 youth (1975-2011)

■ Children in Custody
Survey

■ Census of Juveniles in
Residential Placement



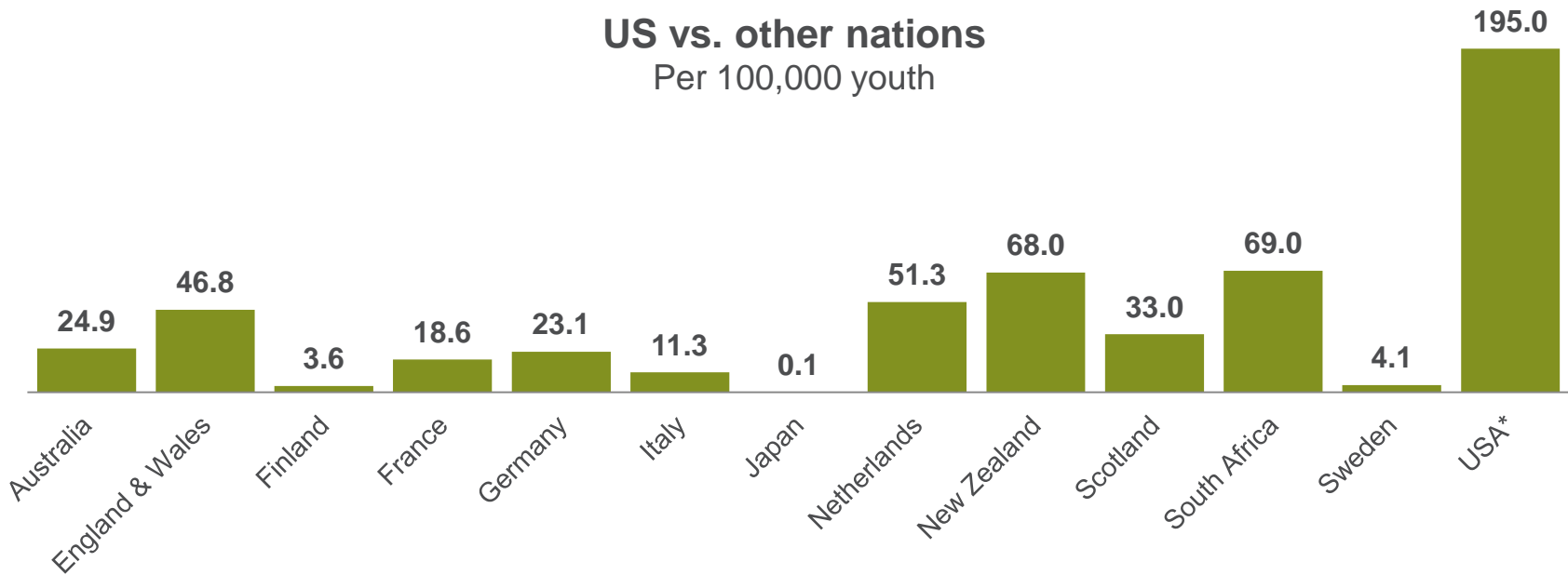
But while juvenile confinement has declined significantly, there is still much more work to be done



¹ Confinement data from: Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzzanchera, C. (2013). "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." Available: <http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/> ; arrest data from: Puzzanchera, C. and Kang, W. (2014). "Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics 1994-2011" Online. Available: <http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaucr>

And even after recent reductions, our use of incarceration for young people sets us apart from other nations

**JUVENILE INCARCERATION RATE:
US vs. other nations**
Per 100,000 youth



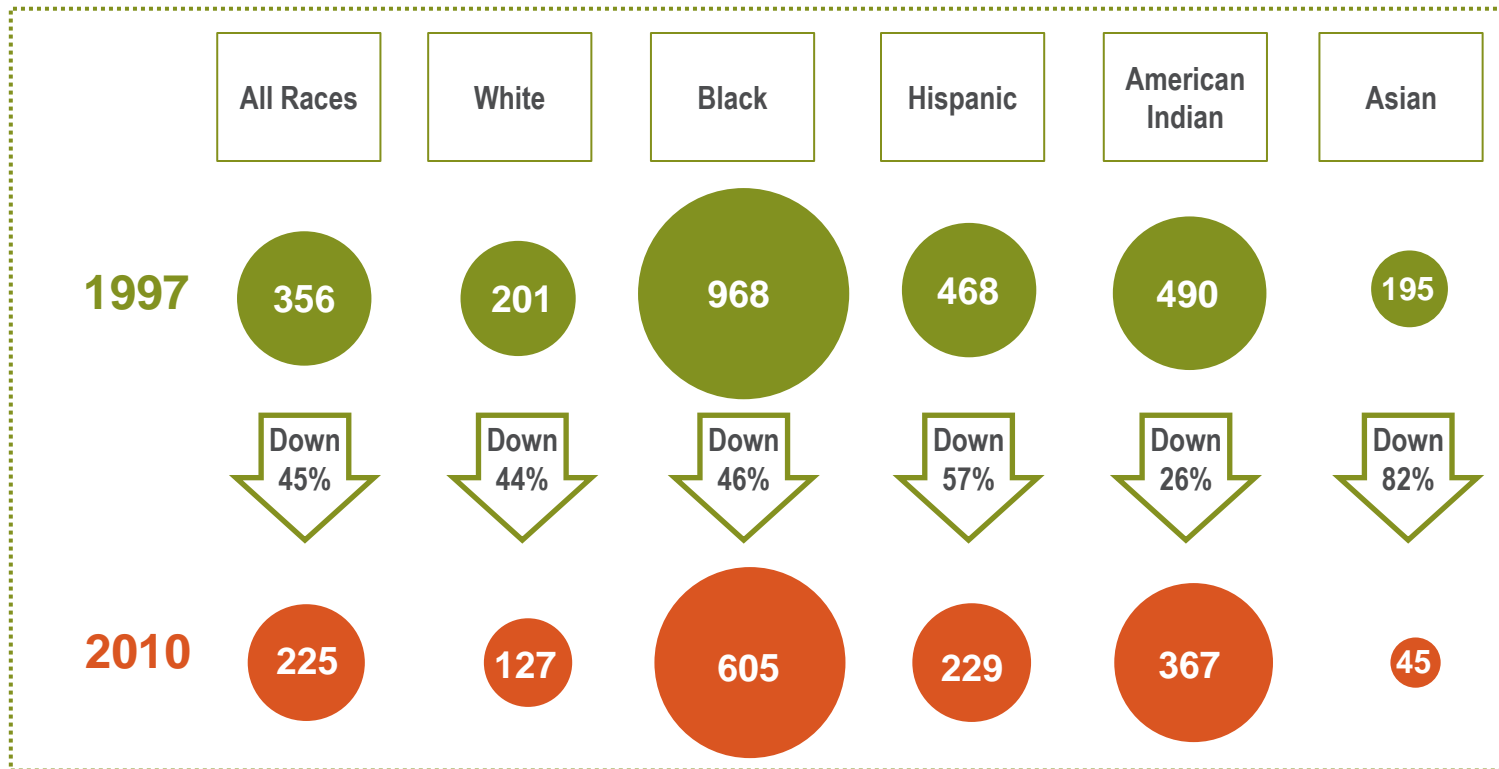
The mass confinement of children in the United States is a distinctively American practice, unmatched in any other Western democracy

SOURCE: Hazel, Neal, Cross-National Comparison of Youth Justice (London: Youth Justice Board, 2008).

*Note that the USA rate is updated to reflect the most recent national data, while other rates are based on the 2008 study

Furthermore, this is an inherently unfair system, with youth of color bearing the brunt of our reliance on confinement

DISPARITIES IN CONFINEMENT (rate per 100,000)



African American youth are nearly five times as likely to be confined as their white peers. Latino and American Indian youth are between two and three times as likely to be confined.



**\$TICKER
\$HOCK**

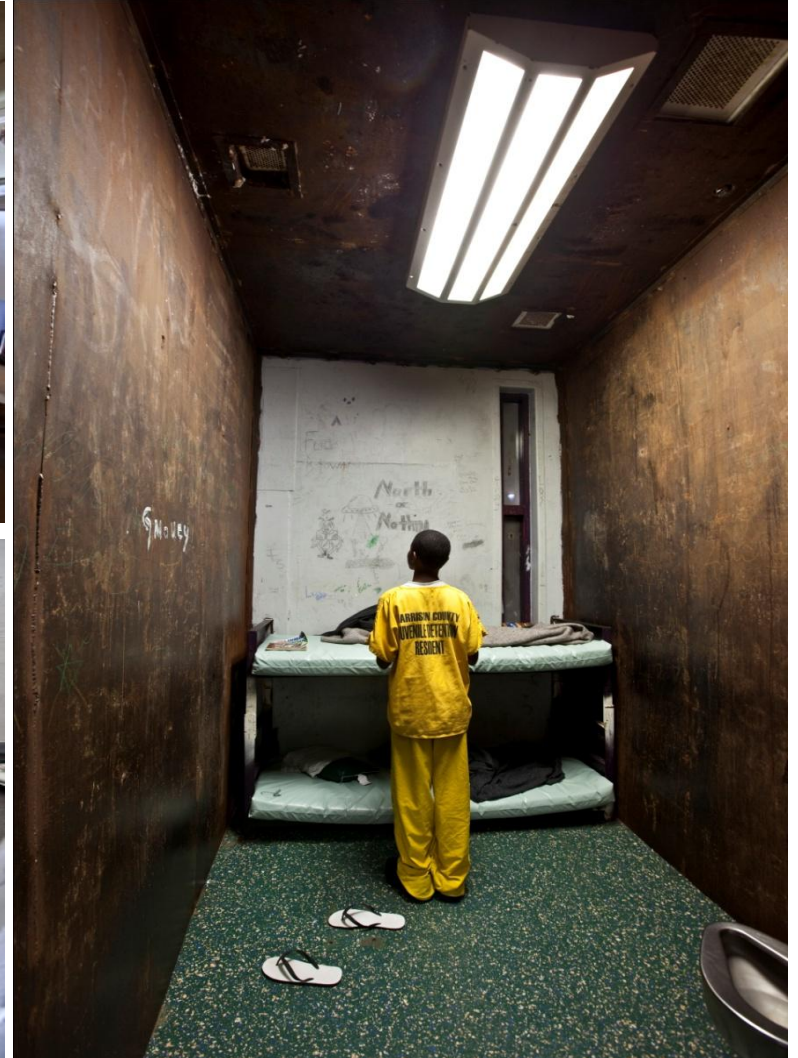
CALCULATING THE FULL PRICE TAG FOR YOUTH INCARCERATION

JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE | DECEMBER 2014

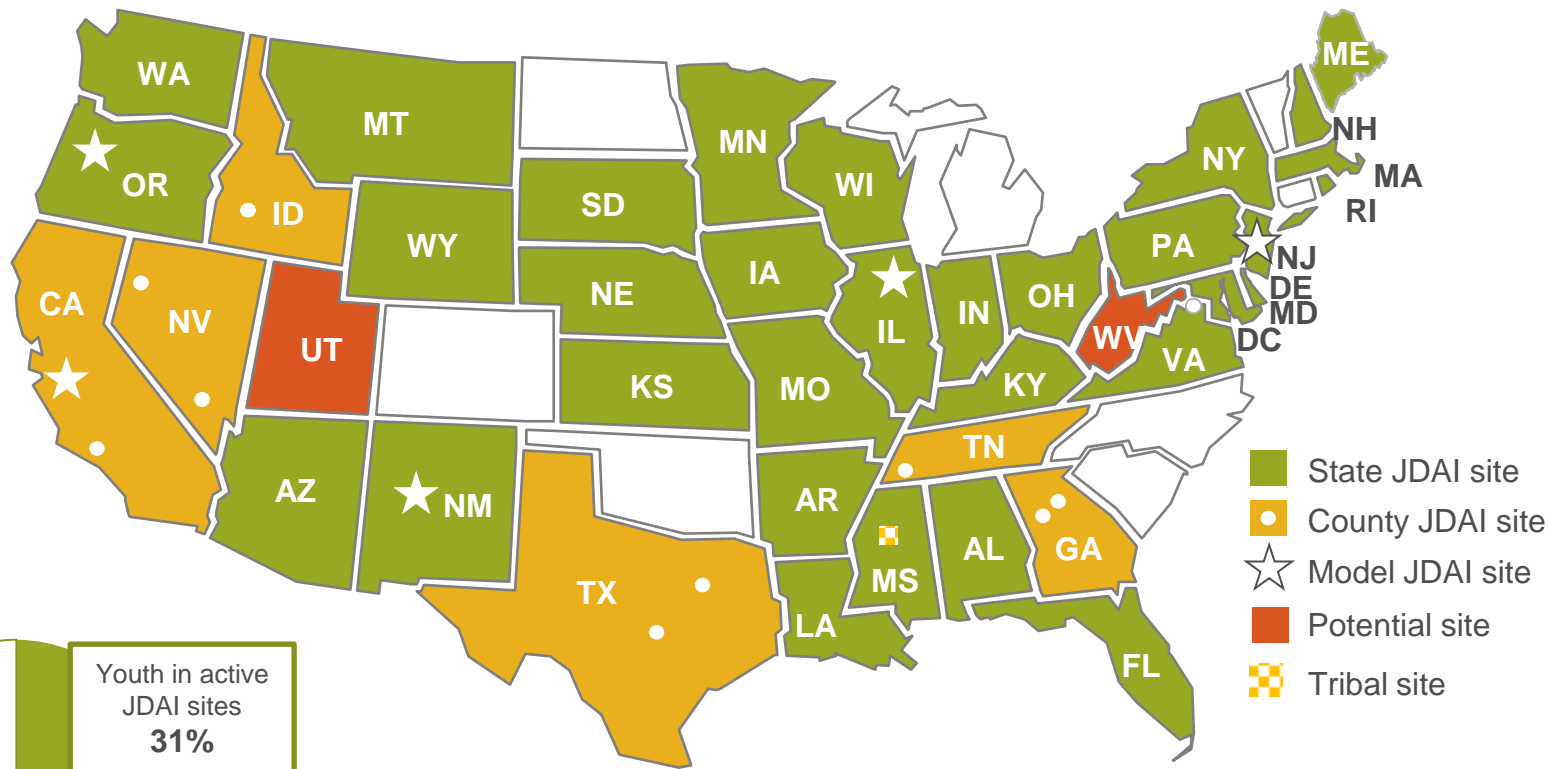
New Jersey: Cost to incarcerate 1 youth for 1 year

\$196,133

And for those youth who are still confined, the facilities that hold them have changed very little, if at all



Our partnerships with sites who have taken on deep end reform are built on the foundations laid by JDAI



Youth in non-JDAI sites or states
37%

Youth in active JDAI sites
31%

Other youth in states scaling up JDAI
32%

