

New Mexico Youth Justice Listening Tour: Improving public safety and youth outcomes

November 19-21, 2024

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About the CSG Justice Center

A national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, representing all three branches of state government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities

We explicitly focus on improving public safety and outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.

July 2014

Measuring and Using Juvenile Recidivism Data to Inform Policy, Practice, and Resource Allocation

BACKGROUND

Juvenile arrest rates, including for violent crimes, fell by approximately 50 percent from 1997 to 2011, to their lowest level in more than 50 years.¹ In combination with this sharp drop in arrests, state and local reforms have had an extraordinary impact: from 1997 to 2011, youth confinement rates declined by almost half.² The juvenile justice field deservedly celebrates this success and continues to push for further reductions in confinement rates. Many states are also striving to ensure that youth who have been diverted from confinement, as well as those returning home after time spent in a facility, receive supervision and services that reduce recidivism and improve other youth outcomes. As such, policymakers are eager to know more about what happens to youth after they have been in contact with the juvenile justice system. What are their nearest and reincarceration rates? How do they fare in terms of education, employment, and other important outcome measures while they are under juvenile justice supervision and afterward? To understand to what extent states currently track recidivism data for youth involved in the juvenile justice system and use that information to inform policy and funding decisions, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, The Pew Charitable Trusts' Public Safety Performance Project,³ and the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators surveyed juvenile correctional agencies in all 50 states.⁴ This issue brief highlights the key findings of the survey and provides state and local policymakers with five recommendations for improving their approach to the measurement, analysis, collection, reporting, and use of recidivism data for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. In addition, examples are provided of how select states have translated these recommendations into policy and practice.

The Importance of Measuring Outcomes beyond Recidivism for Youth Involved with the Juvenile Justice System

Juvenile justice systems can use a number of metrics to track outcomes for youth under system supervision, including educational attainment, behavioral health improvements, or skill development and employment, all of which are critical to ensuring a youth's long-term success. The survey focused primarily on the measurement of recidivism, and the recommendations presented here reflect that focus. The survey results did, however, indicate that only half of all state juvenile correctional agencies measure youth outcomes beyond whether youth commit future delinquent acts, and only 20 percent of states track these outcomes for youth after they are no longer on supervision. Policymakers and juvenile justice agency leaders should strongly consider including a priority set of positive youth outcomes in the evaluation of system success to determine not only whether the juvenile justice system is helping to prevent youth's subsequent involvement in the system, but also whether it is helping youth transition to a crime-free and productive adulthood.



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CORE PRINCIPLES FOR REDUCING RECIDIVISM AND IMPROVING OTHER OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



the NATIONAL REENTRY RESOURCE CENTER
A Project of the CSG Justice Center

MacArthur Foundation

BIA

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Transforming Juvenile Justice Systems to Improve Public Safety and Youth Outcomes

MAY 2018

Joah Weber, Deputy Director, Corrections & Reentry
The Council of State Governments Justice Center

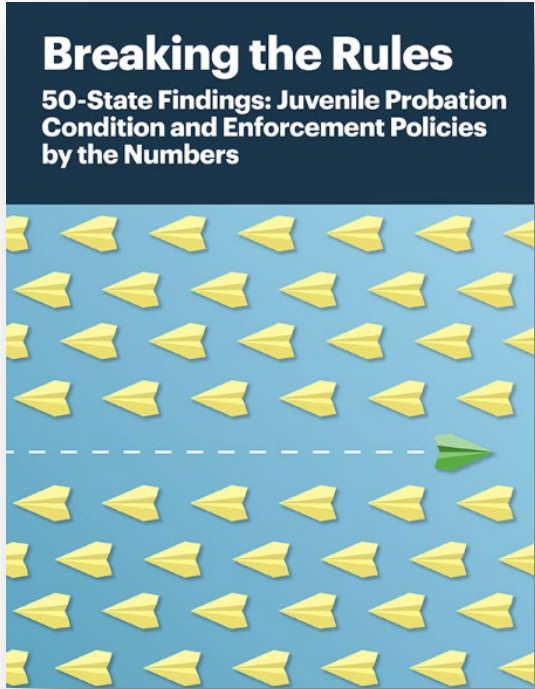
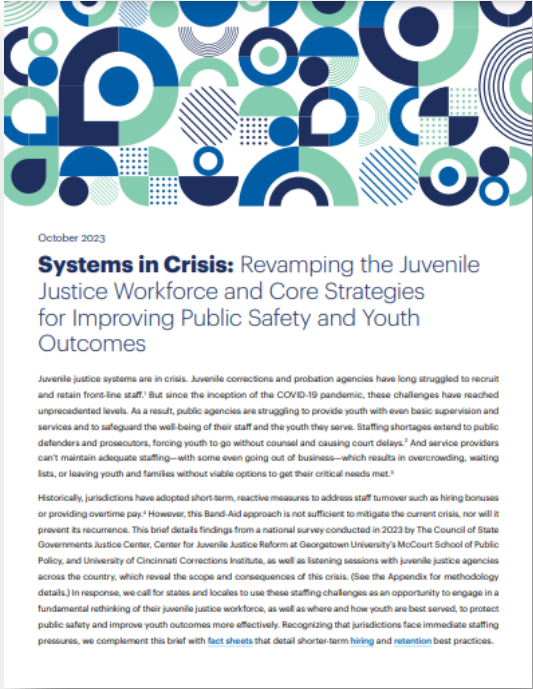
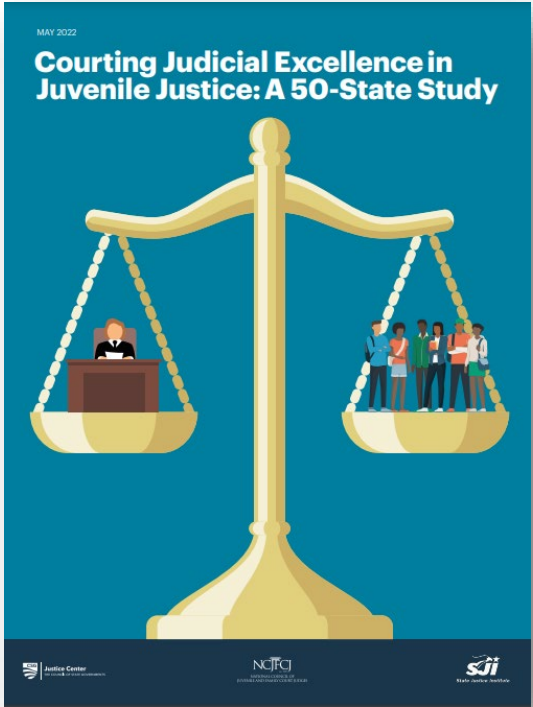
Michael Umpliere, Deputy Director
Juvenile Justice System Improvement and Communications
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University

Shay Bilchik, Director
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University



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And our work responds to emerging issues and challenges in the field with research, best practices, and innovations.

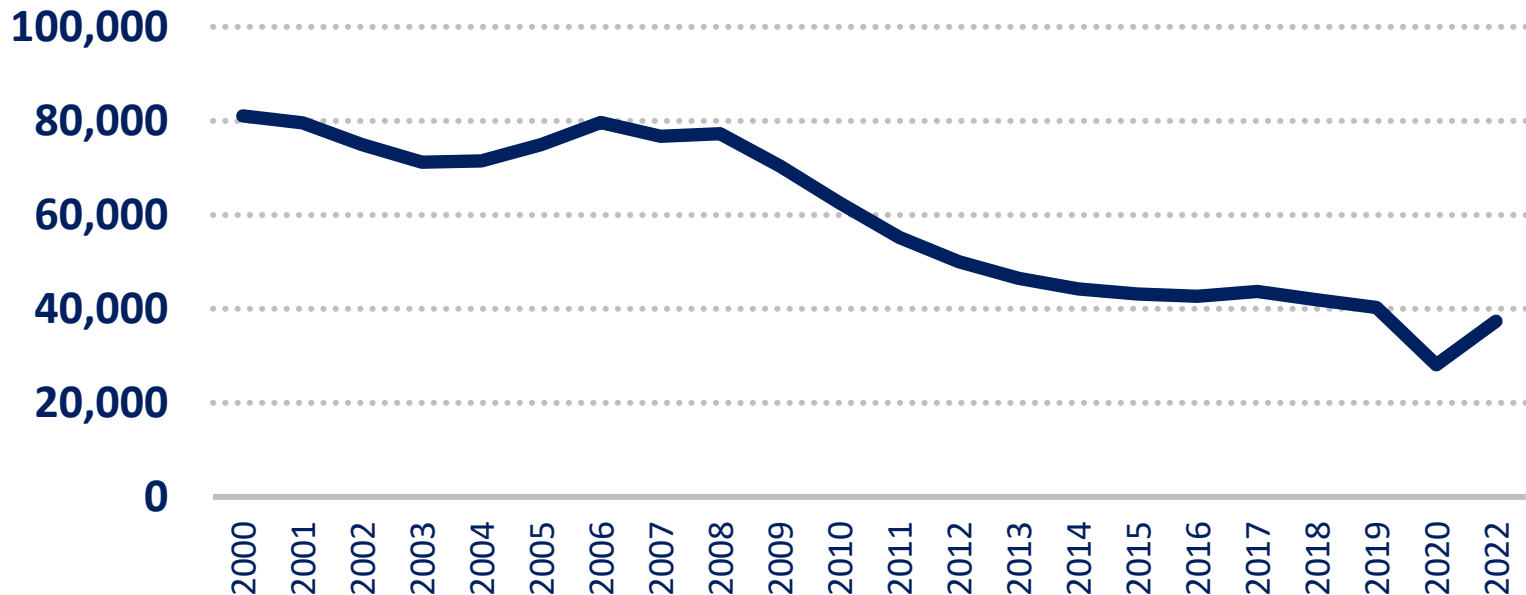


Purpose of the Youth Justice Listening Tour in New Mexico

- Share information on national research, data trends, and research-based innovations/best practices in youth justice and adolescent service delivery.
- Identify shared perceptions of system strengths, gaps, and opportunities to strengthen public safety and improve youth outcomes in New Mexico.
- Share takeaways with state leaders and identify priorities and next steps for short- and long-term policy, practice, and funding improvement

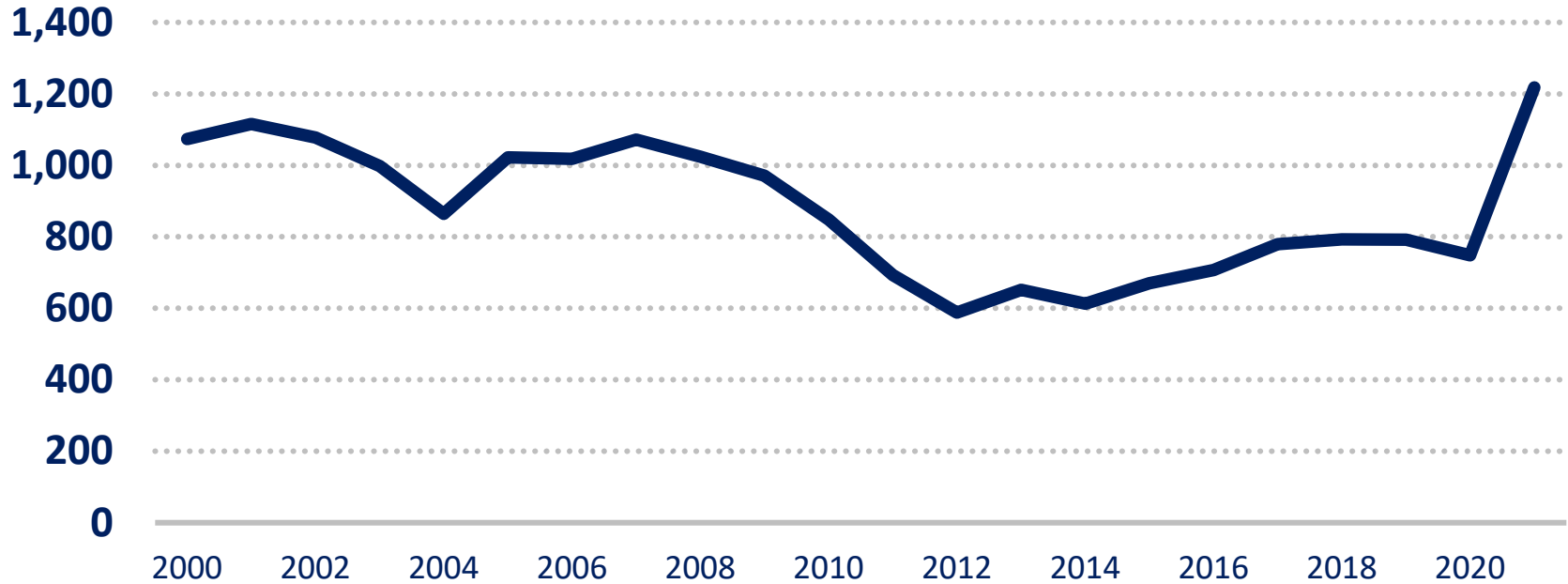
Overall, arrests for youth violence declined 54% from 2000 to 2022, and in 2022, remained near historical lows.

**Total Youth Arrests for Violent Index Offenses,
2000–2022**



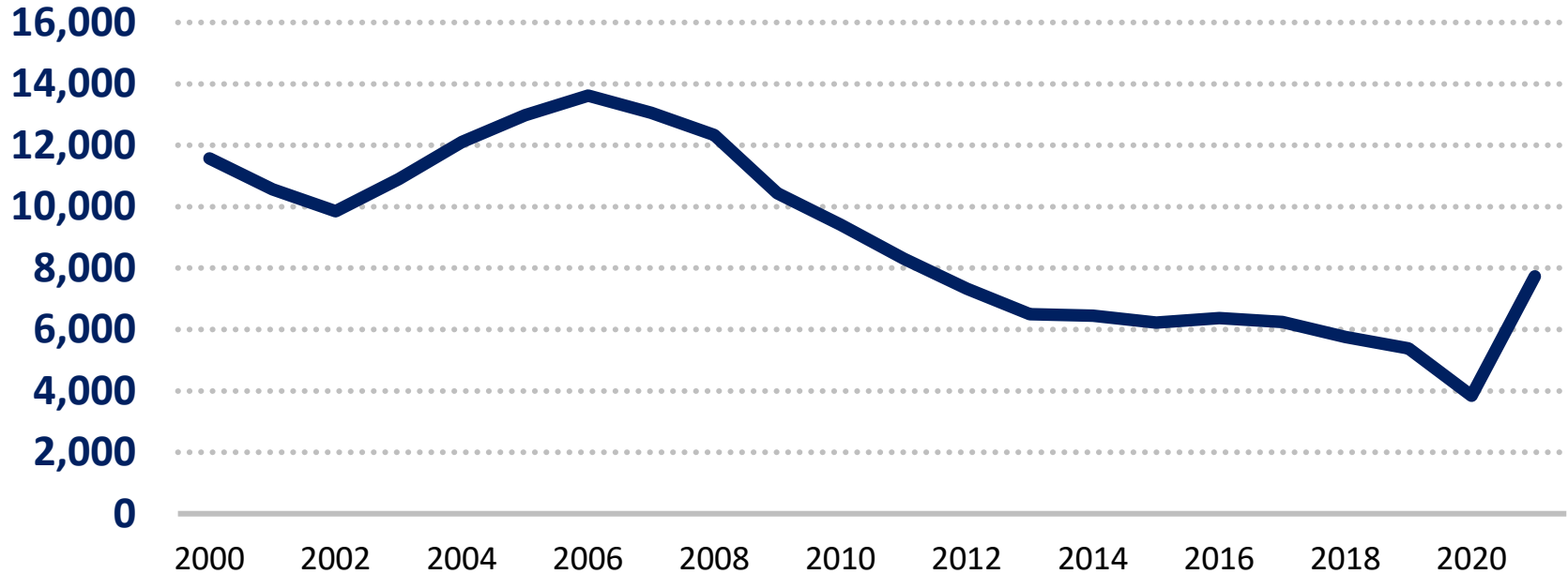
However, youth arrests for homicides have increased for a decade and surged in 2022 to never-before-seen levels.

Youth Arrests for Homicides, 2000–2022



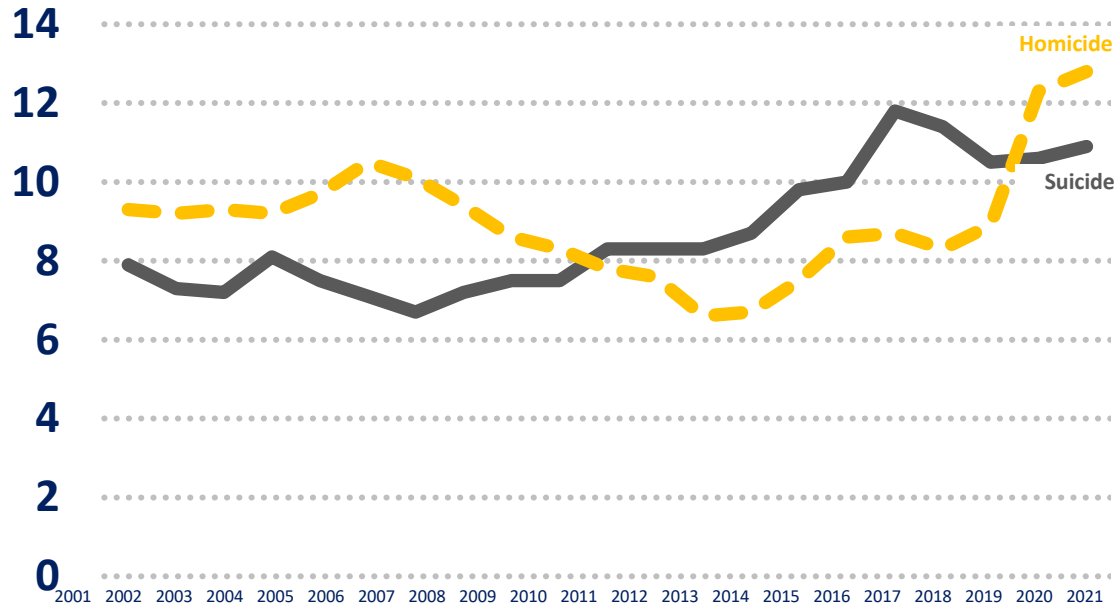
Arrests for weapons offenses spiked in 2022 to levels not seen for a decade.

Youth Arrests for Weapons, 31 States, 2000–2022



Homicide and suicide are now the leading causes of death among children and young adults, particularly among youth of color.

Suicide and Homicide Death Rates Among People Aged 15–19: United States 2001–2021



- In half of all cases in which a minor committed a violent crime, the victim was also a minor.
- The rate of firearm deaths among Black youth is 20 times higher than White youth.
- Rates of gun violence victimization for Black youth in rural areas are now equal to urban areas.

Public concern, media coverage, and political divisiveness on youth crime and violence is at levels not seen the mid-1990s.



HOMEPAGE SHOWCASE

'You can't keep letting them get away with it': Addressing juvenile crime



MOJO 360

Opinion

Opinion: To fix our juvenile justice system, we need accountability for offenders

Some say - it all starts at change. Either way, every carjackings shouldn't be Adrian Inniss. "You can't k changes and they're hurt down. It's bad," said Linde

Montgomery County has an obligation to fill the gaps to prevent recurring incidents

by Dawn Luedtke

November 18, 2023 11:00 am



By: Elizabeth

At our Oct. 30 County Council Public Safety Committee

READER

NEWS & POLITICS

Politics of fear: Are youth really to blame for the car-jacking spike?

Cops say masked teens with a thirst for violence and

are ter
reveals
al evid



Dukmas
2021

Lawmakers looking to hold parents accountable for their children's crimes



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Juvenile Crime Surges, Reversing Long Decline. 'It's Just Kids Killing Kids.'

Violence among children has soared across the country since 2020. One consequence: a mounting toll of young victims.

By [Dan Frosch](#) and [Zusha Elinson](#) | Photographs by José A. Alvarado Jr. for *The Wall Street Journal*
Jan. 23, 2023 10:06 am ET



IN FOCUS

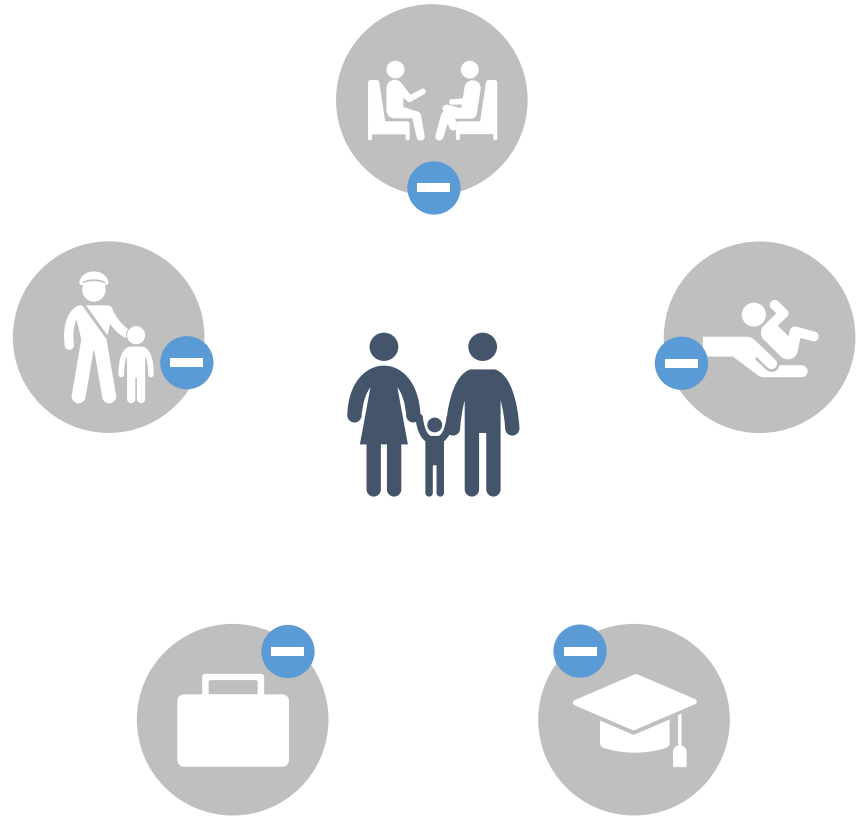
Governor wants juvenile justice bills to focus on accountability



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Based on our work in states, public agencies are pointing fingers rather than collaborating on solutions, with youth and families left to suffer.



State responses risk increasing the use of the justice system as a default response to adolescents in crisis, causing more harm than good for most youth.



Justice system involvement negatively affects the entire course of young people's lives.

Youth formally processed by the juvenile justice system experience far worse outcomes in the 5 years after arrest as compared to similar youth who were diverted:

X More likely to be rearrested and incarcerated

X More engaged in violence

X More peers involved in delinquency

X Lower school attainment and graduation rates

X Fewer skills to manage their emotions

X Lower perception of opportunity



Most youth involved in the juvenile justice system have not caused physical harm to another person.

Proportion of All Youth at Each Decision Point Whose Most Serious Offense was a Non-Person Delinquent Offense

70%
Arrest =
~250,000

62%
Probation =
~106,000

62%
Incarceration =
~24,000

Recent data reveals an increase in adolescent mental health challenges, highlighting significant need for community-based services.



29% of high school students reported that “Their Mental Health Was Most Of The Time Or Always Not Good.”



55% reported experiencing emotional abuse by a parent or adult in the home and almost 12% reported physical abuse.



42% of all students and over 55% of females reported feeling “sad or hopeless” in the past year, compared to 29% in 2009.



20% “ever saw someone get physically attacked, beaten, stabbed, or shot in their neighborhood, including almost 30% of Black students.

Public agencies and service providers
are increasingly unable to meet
adolescents' needs.



Most states have historically lacked a formal adolescent behavioral health system.

~5M

youth with at least one major depressive episode (MDE)

~3M

youth with severe major depressive episode (MDE)

Only half of all young people with a major or severe depression episode receive needed treatment.

47%

youth with MDE who received mental health services

53%

youth with severe MDE who received consistent treatment



Public agencies and providers are facing significant staffing challenges that are further undermining their ability to address youth's needs.

> **85%**

Cite moderate or severe challenges in hiring and retaining staff.

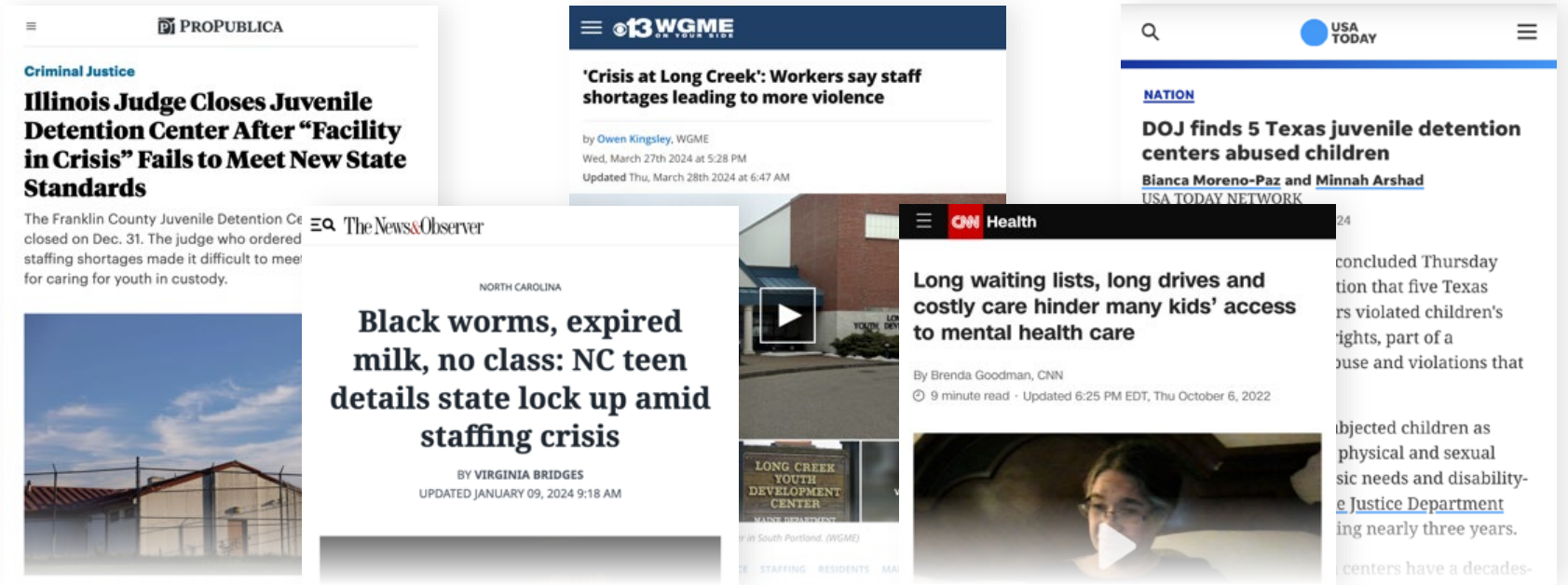
> **80%**

Report moderate or severe staffing challenges among service providers, significantly impacting service availability.

< **10%**

Felt their state had a plan to address these staffing challenges.

Staffing challenges are leading to longer stays in facilities, violent and unsafe conditions, and extensive waiting lists for community services.



Some states have started to adopt innovative approaches to address the current challenges.



Governor Kelly Expands Mental Health Initiative to Kansas' Juvenile Justice System

Nov 8, 2023

Governor Kelly Expands Mental Health Initiative to Kansas' Juvenile Justice System

~Kansas is the First State in the Country to Implement the Stepping Up Initiative in the Juvenile Justice System~

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly announced today the launch of The Council of State Government's (CSG) Justice Center's **Stepping Up Initiative** in Kansas' juvenile justice system to reduce the over-incarceration of Kansans with mental illness and substance abuse

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023

Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order Establishing State Office of Violence Prevention

Office will coordinate with state and local leaders to reduce violence and increase public safety

Today, Governor Roy Cooper announced the creation of a statewide Office of Violence Prevention that will be located in the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Governor Moore Signs Executive Order Establishing the Governor's Office for Children and Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

Published: 1/18/2024

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governor Wes Moore today signed two executive orders reaffirming the Moore-Miller administration's commitment to fighting child poverty and public safety throughout Maryland. The executive orders establish the [Governor's Office for Children](#) and the [Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy](#).

"Now is the time for us to say in one voice that we refuse to accept childhood poverty and that we refuse to accept cycles of crime for certain children in certain neighborhoods as a fact of life in the State of Maryland," said Gov.

Moore. "We are going to confront both of these challenges together and this is what these executive orders are all about. We are going to eradicate child poverty, we are going to break cycles of crime in our communities, and we are going to do it together. That is the legacy all of us will leave."



Governor Newsom Unveils New Plan to Transform Kids' Mental Health

Published: Aug 18, 2022

In significant overhaul of state's mental health system, Governor's plan increases access to mental health services for all Californians ages 0-25

Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health invests \$4.7 billion to reimagine mental health and substance use services, adds 40,000 new mental health workers

FRESNO – With kids across California headed back to school, Governor Gavin Newsom today unveiled [California's Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health](#) to ensure all California kids, parents and communities have increased access to mental health and substance use services.

Nationally, kids are reporting symptoms of depression and anxiety at record rates and are considering or attempting suicide at historic levels. Here in California, about one-third of 7th and 9th graders and half of 11th graders experienced chronic sadness

Lt. Governor Gilchrist Signs Bipartisan Bills Reforming Michigan's Juvenile Justice System

Aug 12, 2023

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug 12, 2023

press@michigan.gov

Author:

Executive
Communications
press@gr

Lt. Governor Gilchrist Signs Bipartisan Bills Reforming Michigan's Juvenile Justice System

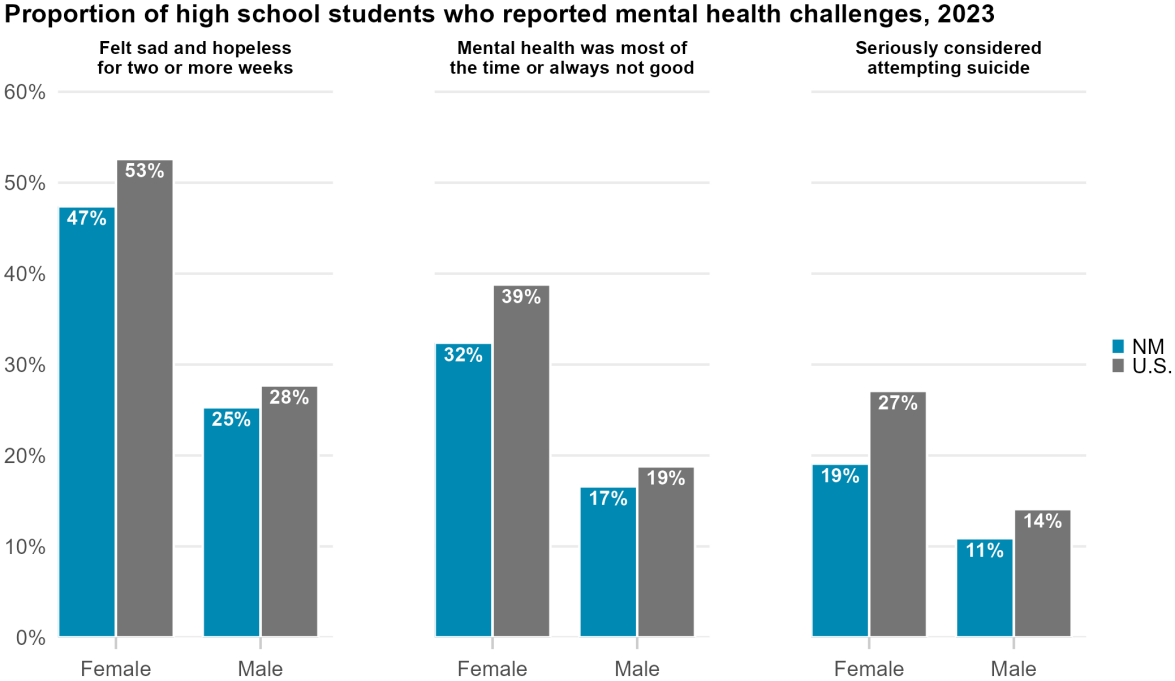
Implements recommendations of Michigan Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform

LANSING, Mich.—Today, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist signed first of its kind, bipartisan legislation in transforming Michigan's juvenile justice system and investing in diversion and reentry services to better position Michigan's youth for successful adulthood.

New Mexico's Juvenile Justice and Adolescent Service System and Initial Areas for Exploration



Behavioral health needs are a significant driver of juvenile justice involvement and have been increasing nationally and in New Mexico.



CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 2023, <https://yrbs-explorer.services.cdc.gov>



Students in New Mexico and nationally report experiencing trauma that, if unaddressed, can also lead to justice system involvement.

16 percent

of New Mexico HS students reported “not going to school at least once in the last month because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.”

9 percent

of New Mexico HS students reported “experiencing sexual violence at least once in the last year.”

25 percent

of New Mexico HS students reported that their “mental health was most of the time or always not good in the last month.”

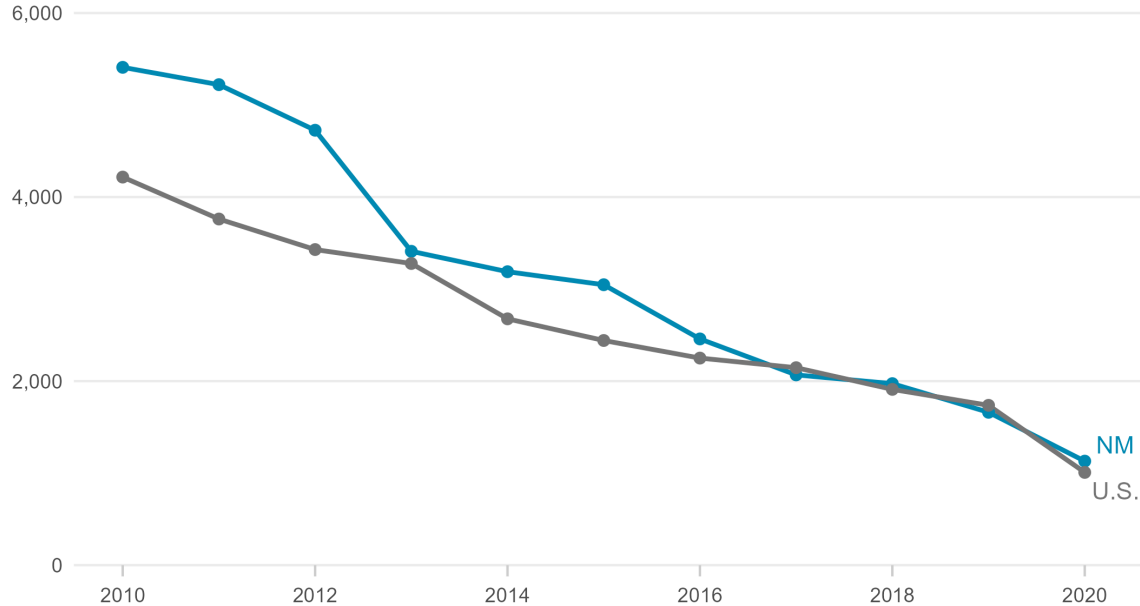
CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 2023, <https://yrbs-explorer.services.cdc.gov>



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The youth arrest rate in New Mexico in 2020 was 79 percent lower than the arrest rate in 2010.

Youth arrests per 100k residents



In 2020 in New Mexico, 2,585 juveniles were arrested, a rate of 1,130 per 100,000 youth.

The New Mexico arrest rate was 12 percent higher than the national average of 1,008 arrests per 100,000.

FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program Summary Reporting System; Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race data set. Aggregated to the state-level from Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files; <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102263V15>

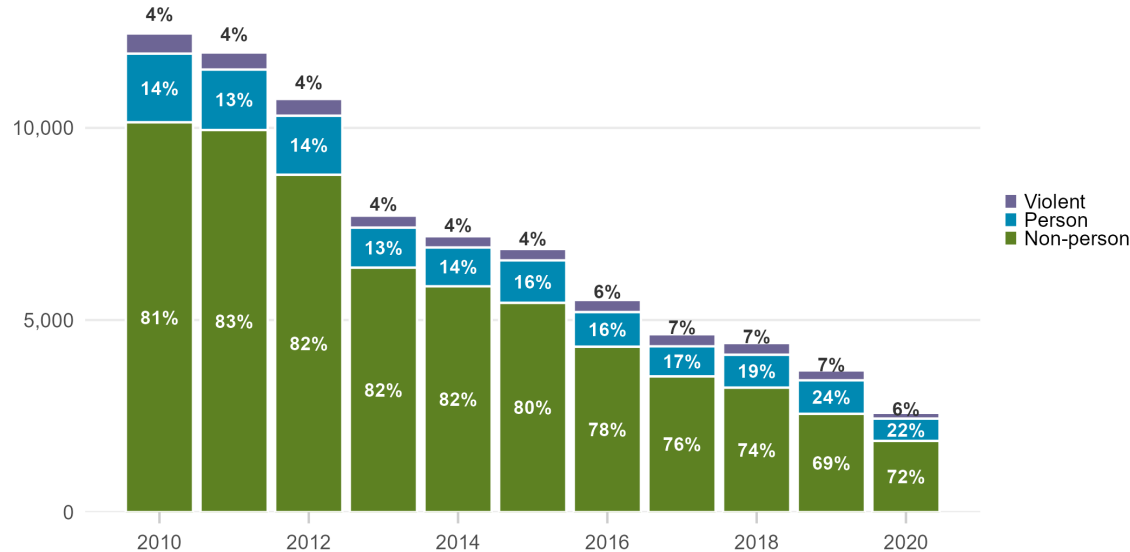


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In 2020, 72 percent of youth arrests in New Mexico were for non-person offenses.

Youth arrests per 100k residents by category, New Mexico



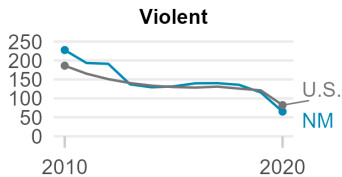
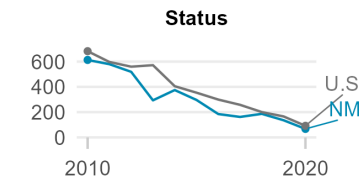
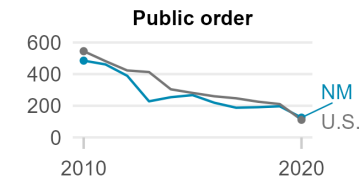
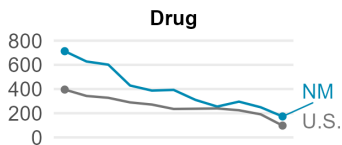
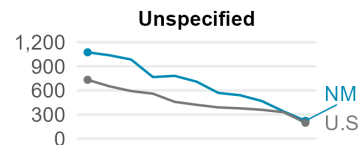
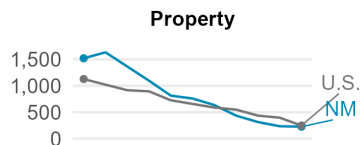
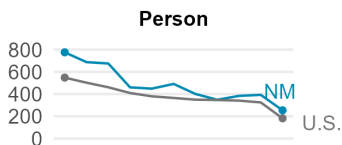
In 2020, nationally, 74% of all youth arrests were for non-person offense.

FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program Summary Reporting System; Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race data set. Aggregated to the state-level from Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files; <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102263V15>



The largest difference in arrest rates in 2020 between New Mexico and the national average was in drug offenses.

Youth arrests per 100k residents by offense category

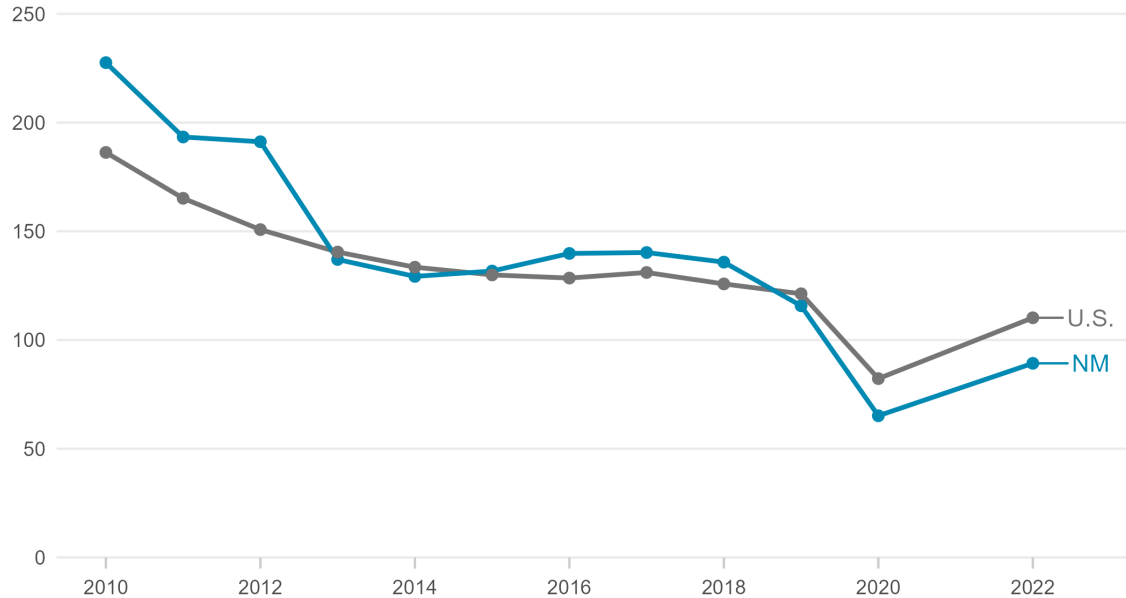


FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program Summary Reporting System; Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race data set. Aggregated to the state-level from Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files; <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102263V15>



The youth arrest rate for violent crimes in New Mexico in 2022 was 61 percent lower than the arrest rate in 2010.

Youth arrests for violent index crimes per 100k residents



In 2022 in New Mexico, 200 youth were arrested for violent index crimes, a rate of 89 per 100,000 youth.

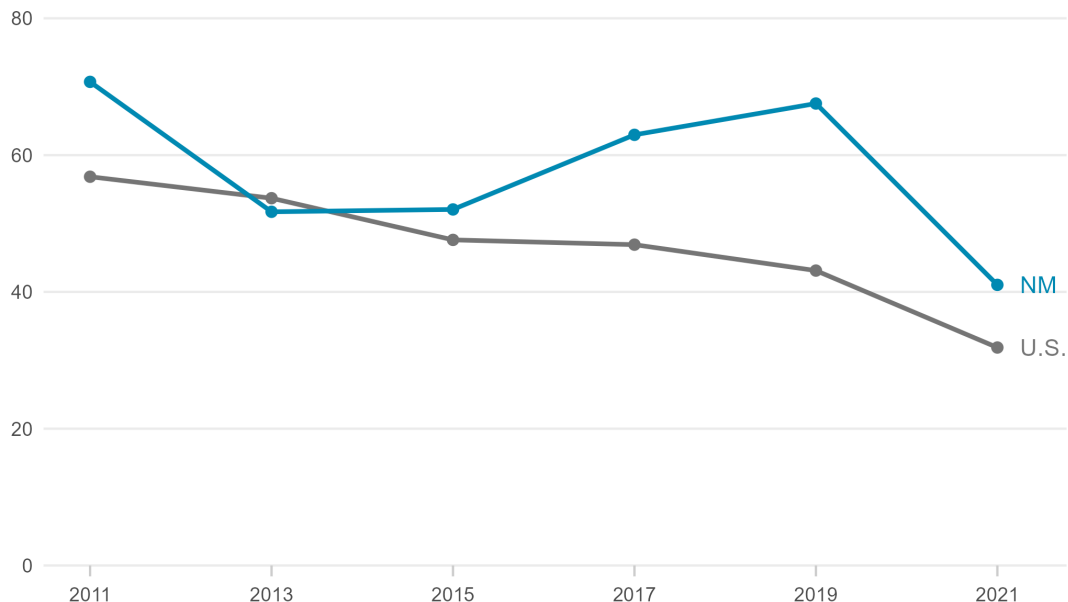
The New Mexico violent index arrest rate was 19 percent lower than the national average of 110 arrests per 100,000.

FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program Summary Reporting System; Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race data set. Aggregated to the state-level from Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files; <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102263V15> FBI National Incident Based Reporting System Estimation Files. Indicator Table 5a



In New Mexico in 2021, the youth pre-adjudication detention rate was 41 per 100k.

Youth detained pre-adjudication per 100k residents



Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2011-2021, <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

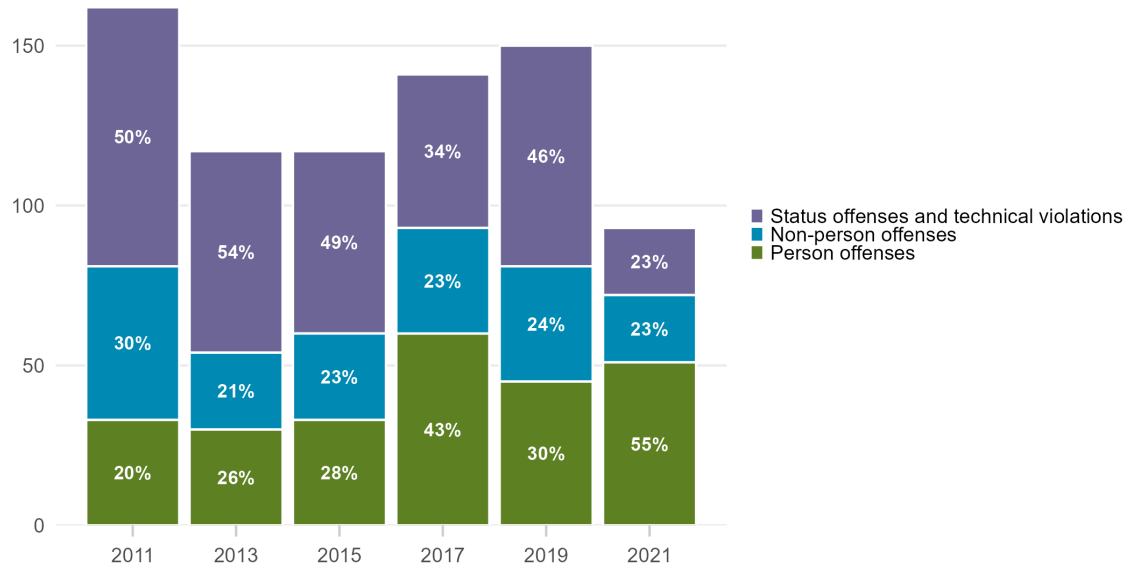
There were 93 youth detained pre-adjudication in New Mexico in 2021. The detention rate in 2021 was 42 percent lower than in 2011.

The New Mexico pre-adjudication detention rate was 29 percent higher than national pre-adjudication detention rate in 2021.



In New Mexico in 2021, 46 percent of youth detained pre-adjudication were held for non-person offenses or technical violations.

Number of youth detained pre-adjudication by offense type, New Mexico



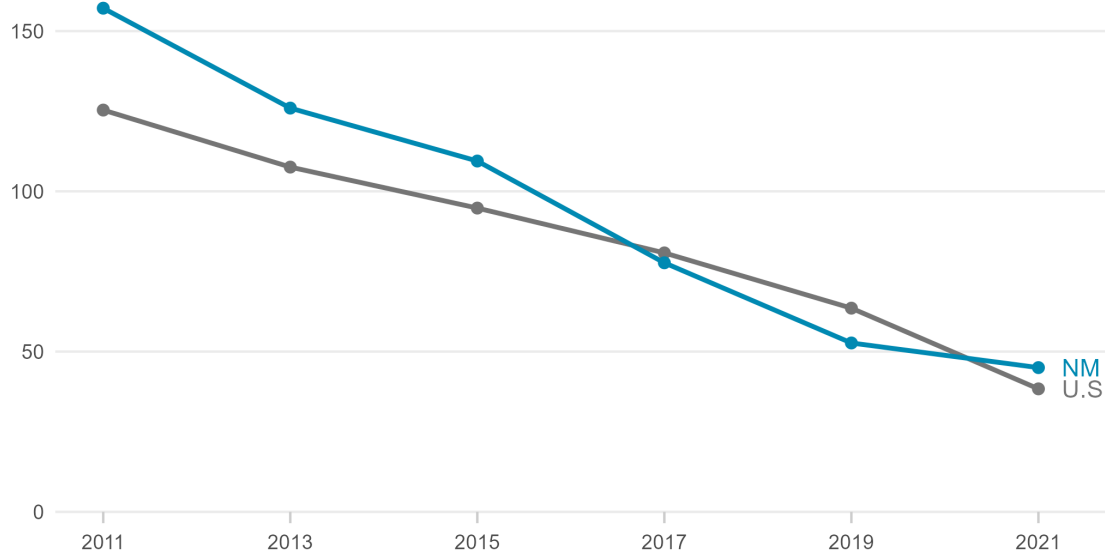
Compared to the national average, New Mexico had more youth detained for person offenses and status offenses and fewer detained for property, drug, and public order offenses.

Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2011-2021, <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacrj/>



In New Mexico in 2021, the youth commitment rate was 45 per 100k.

Youth committed to residential facilities per 100k residents



There were 102 youth committed in New Mexico in 2021. The commitment rate in 2021 was 71 percent lower than in 2011.

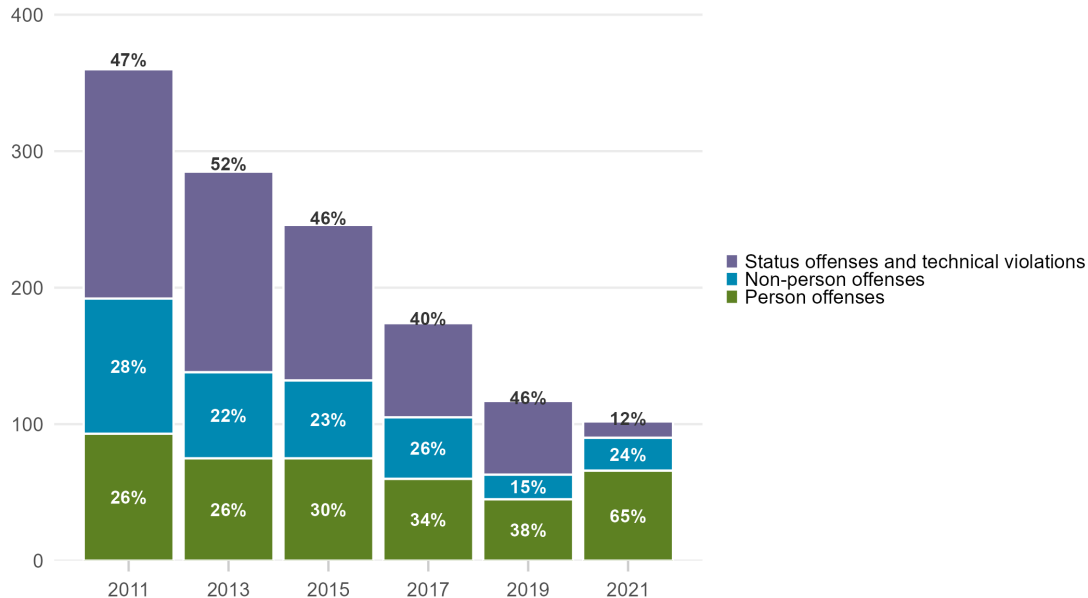
The New Mexico commitment rate was 17 percent higher than the national commitment rate in 2021.

Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2011-2021, <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacrjpr/>



In New Mexico in 2021, 36 percent of committed youth were convicted of non-person offenses.

Number of youth committed post-adjudication by offense type, New Mexico



Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2011-2021, <https://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>

In the United States in 2021, 54 percent of committed youth were placed due to non-person offenses or technical violations.



Designing Solutions for Current Challenges



What can a new vision for supporting youth and families look like?

Develop and implement a statewide strategy to provide vulnerable youth with the services, supports, and opportunities they need to transition to a safe and healthy adulthood and that strengthens public safety.

✓ Comprehensive and statewide

✓ Cross-systems

✓ Service/opportunity, not court, oriented

✓ Research-based

✓ Youth, family, and community centered

Through legislative efforts, states can expand diversion for low-risk youth from the juvenile justice system.

Expand diversion for low and moderate risk youth, develop statewide guidelines/criteria, and utilize risk screening tools to inform decisions.

Establish a minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction and an age of youth competency.

Eliminate the use of fines, fees, and parental sanctions.

Develop a funding and administrative structure for statewide diversion with strong state oversight, quality assurance, training, and data collection.

States can also implement front-end prevention strategies to support youth at-risk of, or involved in, the justice system.

Early Intervention Systems

- Florida established a statewide system of services, including assessments, case management and respite, that is managed by the [Florida Network of Youth and Family Services](#), a community-based provider.
- Utah established a statewide “early intervention” approach to serving youth and families in need of services which is overseen by the Utah Department of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services but sits outside of the formal juvenile justice system.

Youth Mobile Crisis

- [Connecticut](#): Trained mental health clinicians are deployed to homes, schools and community locations to provide in-person crisis stabilization services and linkage to ongoing care for children.
- [Nevada](#): Rural Mobile Crisis Response allows children to be served in an appropriate crisis response setting instead of utilizing juvenile detention centers or hospitals.

Assessment Centers & Crisis Stabilization Units

- [Oklahoma](#): Provides acute care services and connection to long-term care for youth in crisis.
- [Colorado](#): Statewide funding structure that requires assessments and performance metrics.

School-based Diversion

- [Wisconsin](#): Implemented a statewide mental health framework to promote prevention and mental health supports throughout the school system to meet children’s behavioral health needs without the presence of law enforcement.
- [Massachusetts](#): The School Mental Health Consortium provides comprehensive mental health services, supports, and responses to students.

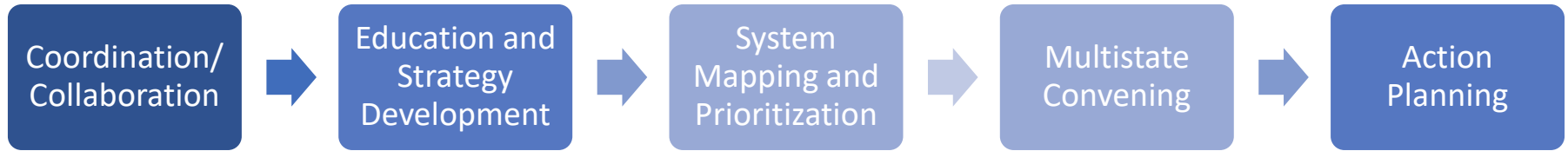
And, at the same time, states should develop a broader violence prevention and intervention plan to support higher risk kids and reduce recidivism.

For higher-risk youth, ample research shows that intensive, community-based **cognitive behavioral and family therapy, mental health and substance use treatment, and wraparound case management** are cost-effective ways to improve public safety and youth outcomes.

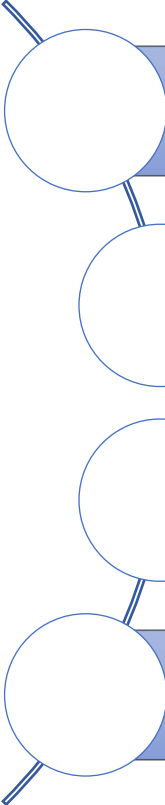
Jurisdictions should seek to adopt and scale these interventions as part of a broader violence prevention and intervention strategy that includes focused **deterrence policing, credible messengers and mentoring, grassroots violence interrupter models** such as Operation Ceasefire and Cure Violence, hospital-based violence interventions, and trauma recovery centers for victims.



The CSG Justice Center is launching an initiative to support states develop comprehensive multisystem plans to improve public safety and behavioral health, education, and other outcomes for youth.



Key Questions for Consideration During the Summit



What are the greatest challenges to improving public safety and youth outcomes in New Mexico, and what are shared priorities for statewide system and service improvement?

Are sufficient services available for youth/families to prevent risky behaviors from escalating into family conflict, self harm, or justice system involvement? To prevent/intervene with high-risk kids?

Is New Mexico's juvenile justice system sufficiently focused on public safety, and are the right youth being matched with the right level, type, and quality of services?

How can youth-family service systems, providers, and communities work better together to address common challenges (e.g. staffing, service capacity, funding coordination, etc.)?



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