

Improving Outcomes for Youth

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Agenda

01 Introductions

02 Challenges to Improving Outcomes for Youth

03 About the Improving Outcomes for Youth Initiative (IOYouth)

04 IOYouth in Nevada

05 IOYouth in New Mexico

06 IOYouth in Colorado

Speakers

Shanelle Johnson, *Policy Analyst, The Council of State Governments Justice Center*

Ross Armstrong, *Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services*

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Adam Zarrin, *Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Jared Polis*

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

Mission

We develop research-driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

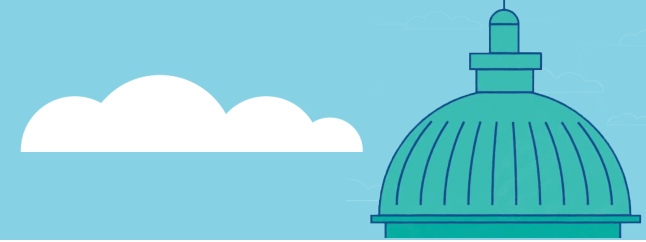


**Justice
Center**

Who We Are

We combine the power of a membership association, representing state officials in all three branches of government, with the expertise of a policy and research team focused on assisting others to attain measurable results.

The Second Chance Act



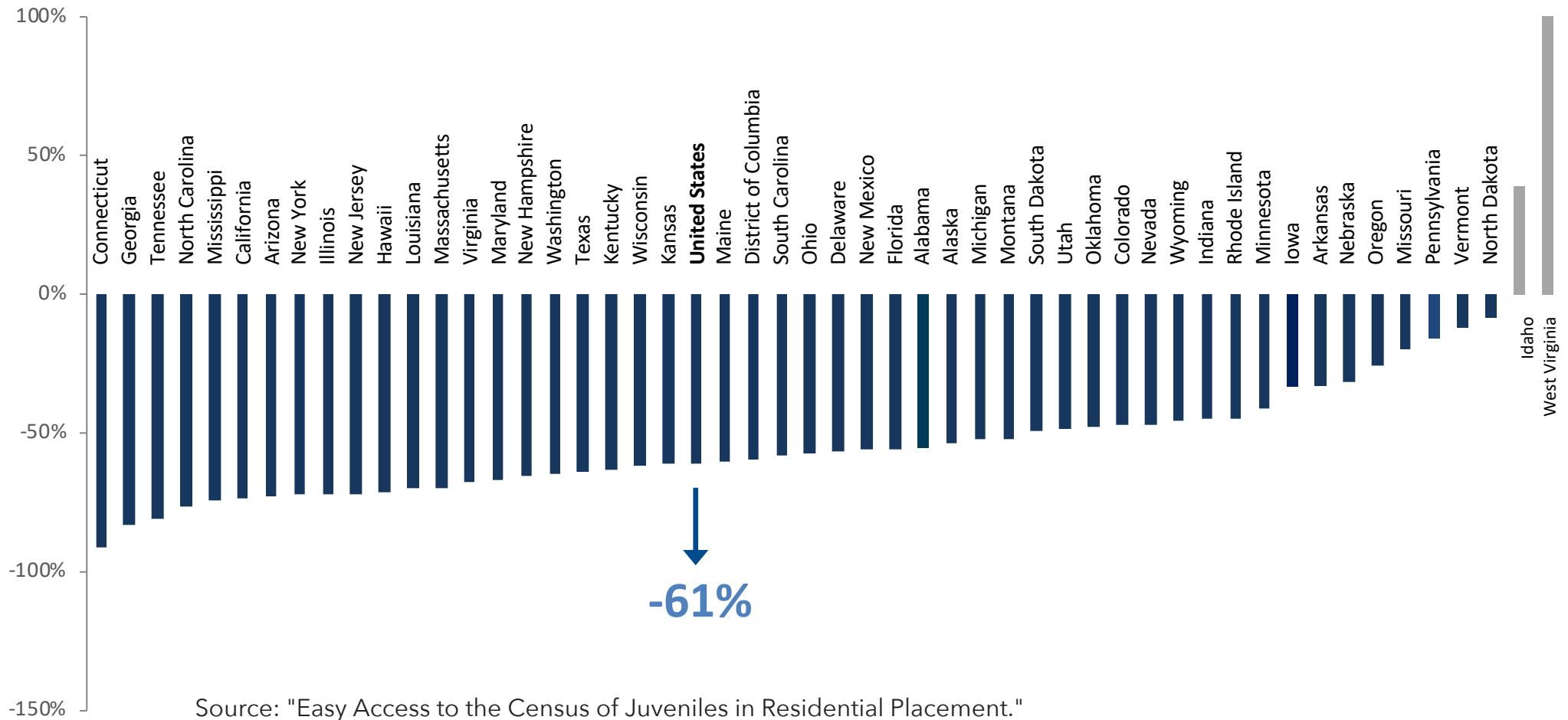
- The Second Chance Act supports state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations in their work to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people leaving incarceration.
- The Second Chance Act has supported over \$400 million in reentry investments across the country.
- Passed in 2018, the Second Chance Reauthorization Act builds on and strengthens the initial landmark legislation.

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States' juvenile incarceration rates have declined dramatically over the past decade from over 75,000 in 1997 to less than 32,000 in 2015

PERCENT CHANGE IN STATE JUVENILE INCARCERATION RATES (1997-2015)



Source: "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement."

CSG Justice Center used more than 1.3 million records to analyze recidivism rates for similar groups of youth

Juvenile Probation and Secure Confinement Data

- 899,101 records
- 452,751 juveniles
- Dispositions and secure releases



Criminal History and Prison Admission Data

- 408,312 records
- 242,541 juveniles
- Arrests and incarcerations



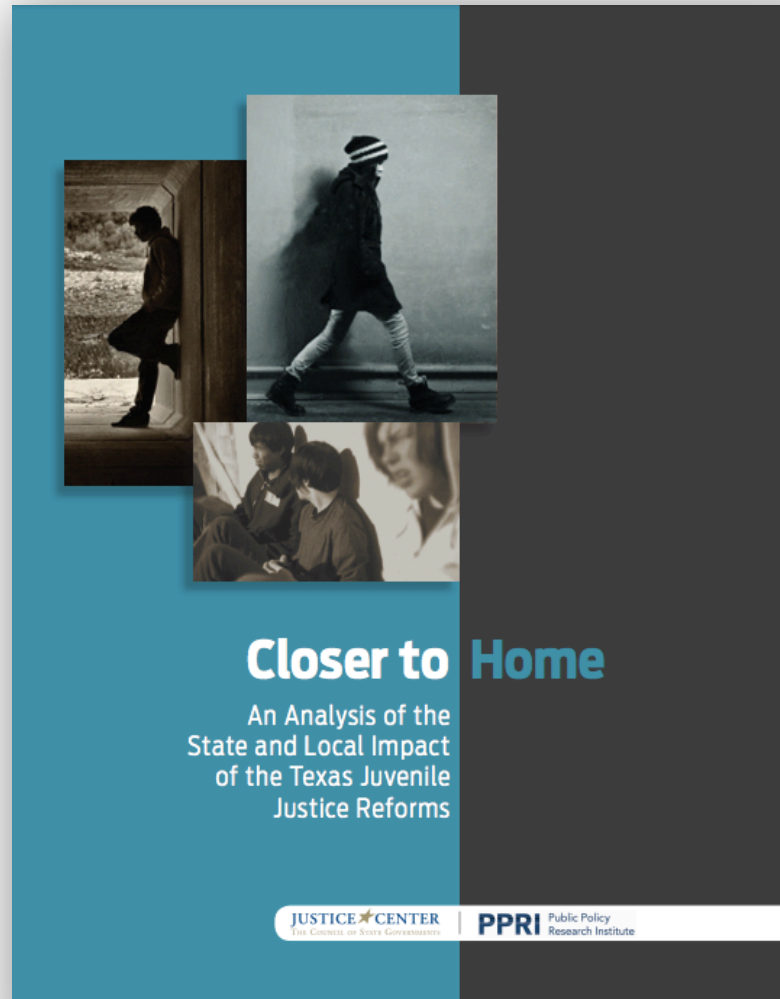
Two Closer-to-Home Study Cohorts

- Pre-reform cohort: 27,131 juveniles
- Post-reform cohort: 31,371 juveniles

“Apples to apples” comparison of youth eligible for incarceration:

- Youth supervised in the community
- Youth released from state-run secure facilities

Youth kept closer to home have better outcomes



One-Year Probability of Rearrest

Released from
State-Run Secure
Facilities

41%

Supervised in the
Community

34%



21% more likely to be
rearrested

First Recidivism Offense a Felony

Released from
State-Run Secure
Facilities

49%

Supervised in the
Community

17%



3x more likely to commit a
felony when recidivating

Per capita funding for county juvenile probation departments increased significantly after reforms

	FY2005	FY2012	% Change
Per capita expenditures for local juvenile probation departments	\$3,555	\$7,023	98%
Expenditures (adjusted for inflation to 2014 dollars)	\$4,337	\$7,304	68%
Percentage of local juvenile probation expenditures department contributed by county	77%	71%	-8%

Rearrest rates for youth on community supervision were comparable regardless of intervention and did not improve after reforms

INTERVENTION TYPE	PRE-REFORM STUDY GROUP <i>One-Year Probability of Rearrest</i>	POST-REFORM STUDY GROUP <i>One-Year Probability of Rearrest</i>
State Incarceration	41%	41%
Skill-Based Program	29%	27%
Treatment Program	28%	30%
Surveillance Program	31%	29%
Secure County Placement	33%	34%
Non-Secure County Placement	35%	35%
No Intervention	33%	32%

A significant percentage of low-risk youth under supervision received supervision and services

	% of Low-Risk Youth on Supervision* in Programs	Low-Risk Youth on Supervision* in Programs % High Need
Tarrant	44%	11%
Travis	71%	22%
Victoria	91%	35%
Harris	80%	4%
Lubbock	43%	19%
Cameron	40%	20%
Dallas	55%	18%
El Paso	77%	4%

Low-risk youth in most counties stayed in programs longer than high-risk youth

MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY (IN DAYS) IN A PROGRAM

	LOW-RISK YOUTH	HIGH-RISK YOUTH
Tarrant	105	77
Travis	115	112
Victoria	125	69
Harris	75	104
Lubbock	167	118
Cameron	193	135
Dallas	94	124
El Paso	136	133

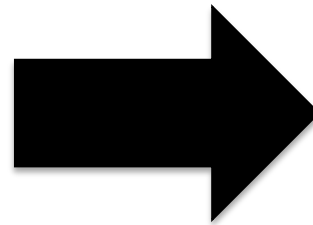
Youth were not matched with services that addressed their needs and were research-based

NUMBER OF YOUTH IDENTIFIED AT REFERRAL AS HAVING A SUBSTANCE ABUSE NEED, FY 2012

659
497
0

3,731
131

287
1,835
518



PERCENT OF THESE YOUTH IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT OR INTERVENTION PROGRAM

2%*
27%
0%*

12%
32%

25%
23%
0%**

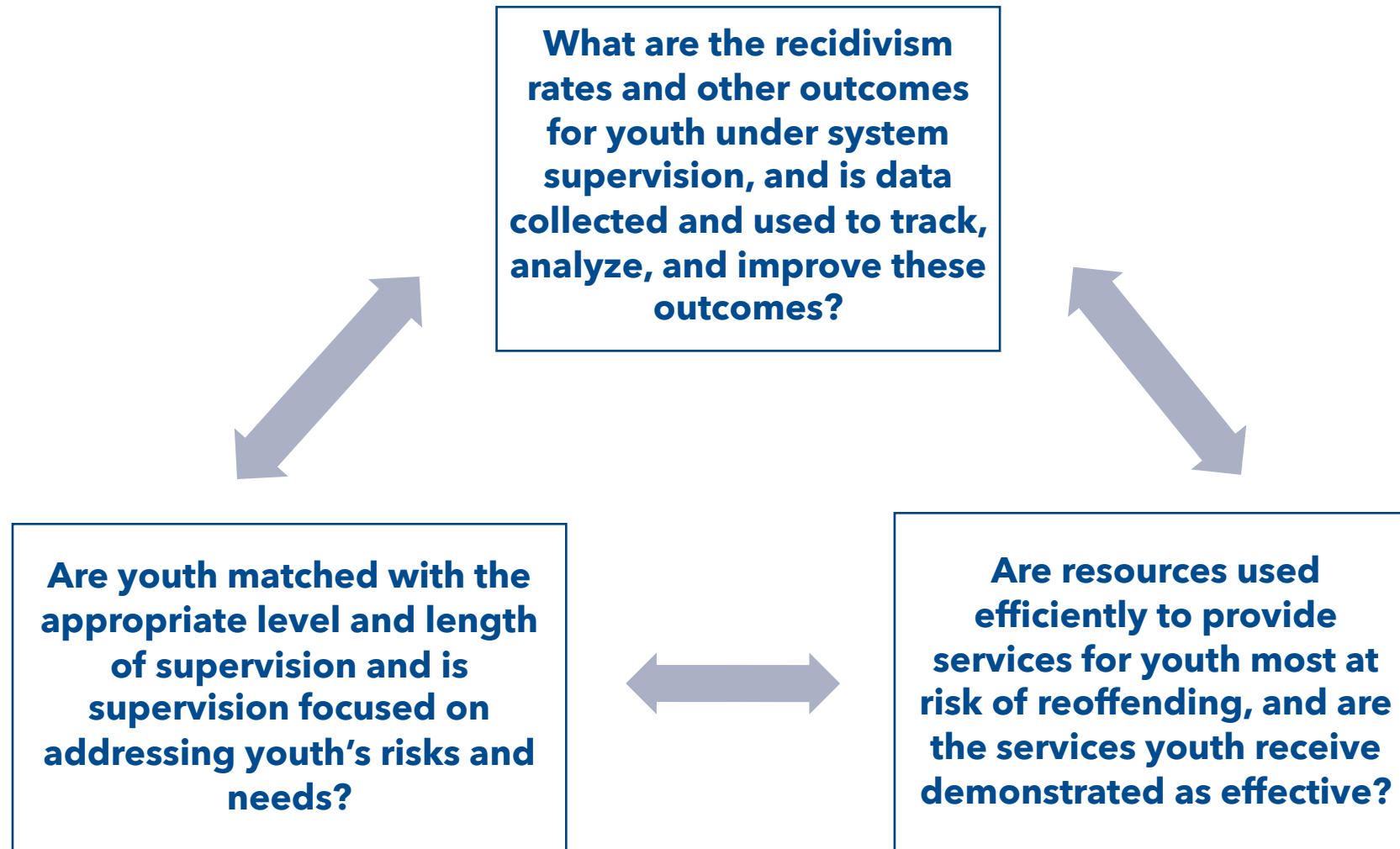
Texas study has key implications for all states

1. State and local jurisdictions can **reduce the number of incarcerated youth** without compromising public safety.
2. Youth supervised “closer to home” have **lower rearrest rates** than similar youth released from state-run secure facilities.
3. Increased **resources are not sufficient** to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth on community supervision and returning from incarceration.
4. Resources must be used efficiently to **match youth with the appropriate level and type of research-based supervision and services based on their assessed risks and needs.**

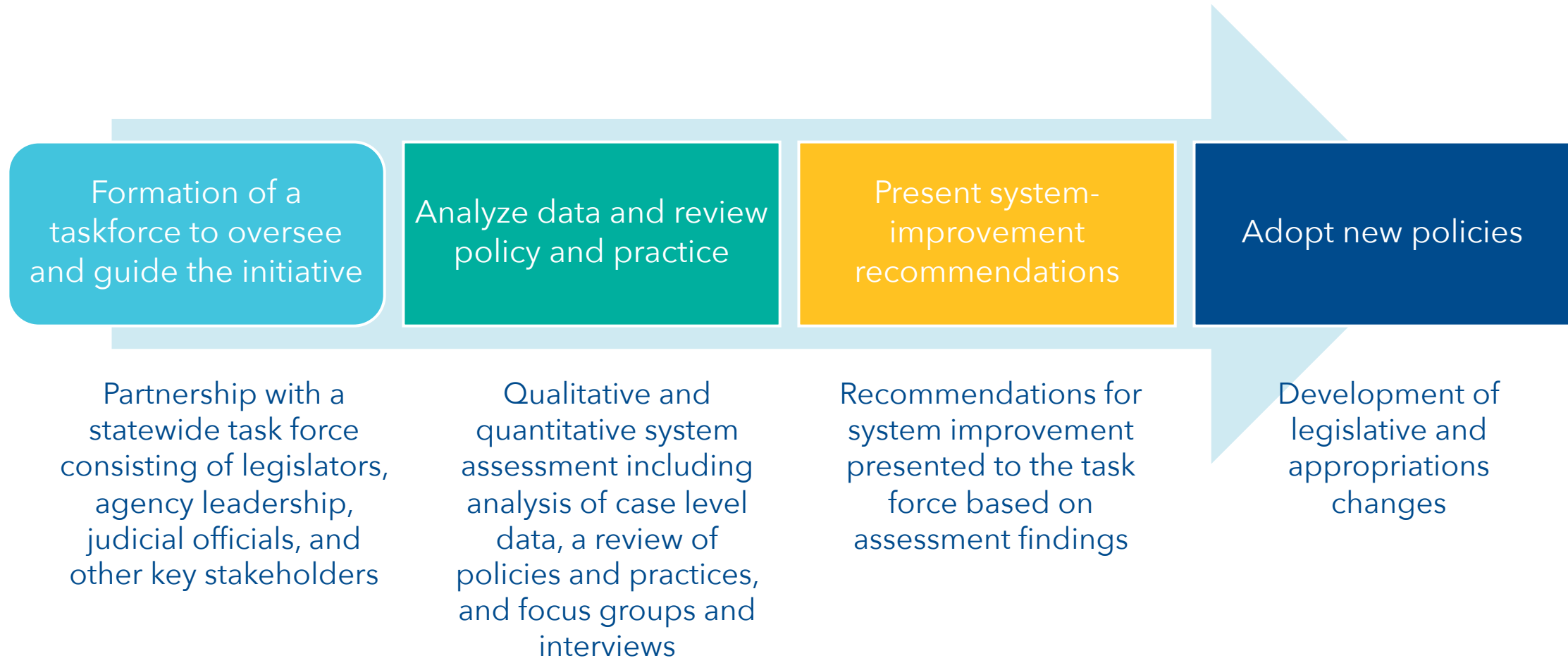
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The IOYouth Initiative can help leaders answer key questions about the juvenile justice system



The IOYouth Initiative has four key phases of work



There are several prerequisites that are necessary for the IOYouth initiative to be successful



Strong leadership from taskforce members that are committed to the assessment process and championing improvement efforts



Transparency and timely sharing of available juvenile justice system data, and other data related to juvenile justice youth



Commitment across all three branches of government, state and local agencies, and stakeholder groups to potential policy changes resulting from the IOYouth initiative



Collaboration across youth serving systems, branches of government, and state and local entities as applicable

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Assessment Findings

- **Arrests** for violent and weapons offenses **decreased by close to 70%**
- **Detentions** for a gross misdemeanor or felony offense **declined 18% between 2011 and 2015. Probation dispositions declined 22%** between 2011 and 2015.
- **Commitments decreased by 53%** between 2006 and 2015. There was a **41% decline in the average monthly juvenile parole population** between 2009 and 2015
- Nevada spent **more than \$95 million** for juvenile justice supervision and services in 2015
- **No standard definition of recidivism** and no way to consistently measure outcomes

Juvenile Justice Reform Bill

- Required DFCS and local departments **to use state funds on evidence-based practices**
- Established **a cost-sharing model for evidence-based programs**
- Required DFCS **submit an annual report** on agencies' compliance with established evidence-based standards
- Allowed the state to withhold money from a juvenile court or agency **that does not comply data collection and evidence-based practice regulations**
- Required DFCS to **analyze information to determine trends, disparities, supervision/services effectiveness, and recidivism rates**
- Established the **Juvenile Justice Oversight Council to oversee** the selection and adoption of a validated risk and needs assessment

Juvenile Justice Reform Bill

Where We Are Today:

Risk & Needs
Assessment tool
selected with
pilot
implementation
to begin by July
1, 2019

5 Year Strategic
Plan adopted,
Commission
working on
implementation

Facility quality
assurance reviews
in progress

Foundation for
data collection
and analysis
established

Lessons Learned

SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
Legislation passed unanimously	Short-term from initial convening to legislative session
Buy-in from agency leadership and all three branches of government	Legislative drafting process
Collection of information from a variety of sources	Achieving racial diversity on the task force
Commission members invested in the success of reforms	Overcoming suspicion of outsider infiltration/lack of clarity on outsider qualifications
	Implementation deadline in bill language

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Assessment Findings

- **Half of all referrals** to the juvenile justice system are **for status offenses and petty misdemeanors**
- New Mexico **does not use a risk assessment tool** to identify youths' risk of reoffending or to inform disposition, placement or length of stay
- **Probation violations** account for **largest proportion of new detentions, probation dispositions and commitments**
- Since 2012, the **proportion of time a youth spends in secured facility has increased by 10%**, and the use of extensions has increased
- **1 in 5 youth with informal disposition receive another disposition within a year** compared to 1 in 2 youth disposed to probation

Juvenile Justice Reform Bill

1

Divert lower-level youth to **ensure limited resources are spent on higher-risk youth that are a public safety concern**

- Require certain offenses to be diverted automatically
- Establish minimum age of juvenile delinquency

2

Adopt a risk and needs assessment instrument to identify high-risk youth and match supervision accordingly`

- Require the use of a risk and needs assessment for every pre-adjudicated youth and use the assessed risk of reoffending to inform disposition, placement, and release decisions

3

Prioritize limited service resources on higher risk youth and **increase accountability for service providers**

- Focus funding for community-based services on moderate and high-risk youth
- Require quality assurance reviews to improve the quality and delivery of services in correctional facilities

Lessons Learned

SUCSESSES	CHALLENGES
Positive collaboration from diverse stakeholders from different systems and communities	Consistent participation by task force members due to conflicting commitments and schedules
More consensus than disagreement	Reluctance to reform arising from fears of perceived risk to public safety and public perception
Numerous policy changes identified, agreed upon, and recommended	Hesitation in moving forward because of perceived time constraints in short session
Commitment from state leadership to pursue reform changes to improve outcomes and public safety	
Identification of policy changes that can be implemented without legislation	

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Assessment Findings

- Colorado **lacks a centralized approach to tracking diversion participation, services, and outcomes**
- **More than one-third** of youth who **screen to a level below secure detention still end up in secure detention**
- **Over two-thirds of** district court **cases resulted in some form of system supervision**
- **62% of DYS sentences are for two years or longer**, and in 2017, youth spent an average of 834 days (2.28 years) total in DYS custody
- **Nearly 30 %** of youth starting probation **fail while under probation supervision** and **35%** of youth completing probation **have a subsequent case filed within three years of discharge**

Juvenile Justice Reform Bill

- **Expanded accessibility to diversion programs** across the state
- Developed **clear criteria for detention** eligibility
- Targeted CYDC resources more efficiently by **focusing resources on youth most at risk of secure detention**
- **Adopted a validated risk and needs assessment instrument** to identify a youth's risk of reoffending and to inform court decision making and case planning
- **Established statewide standards** for juvenile probation that are based in research
- **Expanded the use of kinship care** for youth in detention and commitment and under consideration for out-of-home placement

Key System Improvements from Juvenile Justice Reform Bill

1. Creation of a committee to select/develop:

- ❑ Validated risk and needs assessment
- ❑ Mental health screening tool for juveniles
- ❑ Validated risk screening tool to be used in informing a juvenile's eligibility for diversion
- ❑ Research-based detention screening instrument

2. Statewide graduated responses and incentives

3. Established standards for probation

4. Implemented length-of-stay matrix

Juvenile Justice Reform Bill

Where are we today?

Implements the recommendations for juvenile justice system from our task force

Includes funding for risk assessment tool selection and initial implementation

\$2.9M set aside to expand juvenile diversion programs statewide

Thank you!

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