

April 24, 2018



Improving Outcomes for Young Adults in the Justice System

Speakers

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- Bob Costello, Assistant Commissioner for Training and Organizational Development, New York City Department of Probation

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center



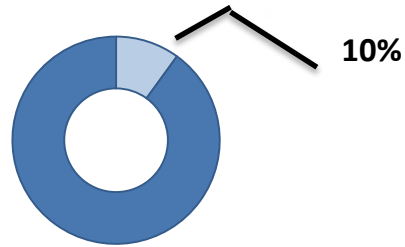
National nonprofit, nonpartisan membership association of state government officials that engages members of **all three branches** of state government



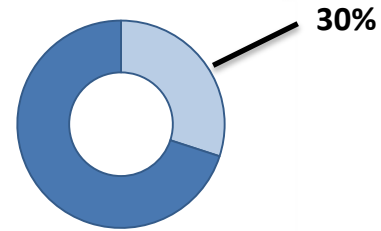
Provides practical, nonpartisan, research-driven strategies and tools to increase public safety and strengthen communities

Young adults are disproportionately represented in the justice system

Young Adults as a Percentage of the Total U.S. Population, 2012*



Young Adult Arrests as a Percentage of All Arrests, 2012*

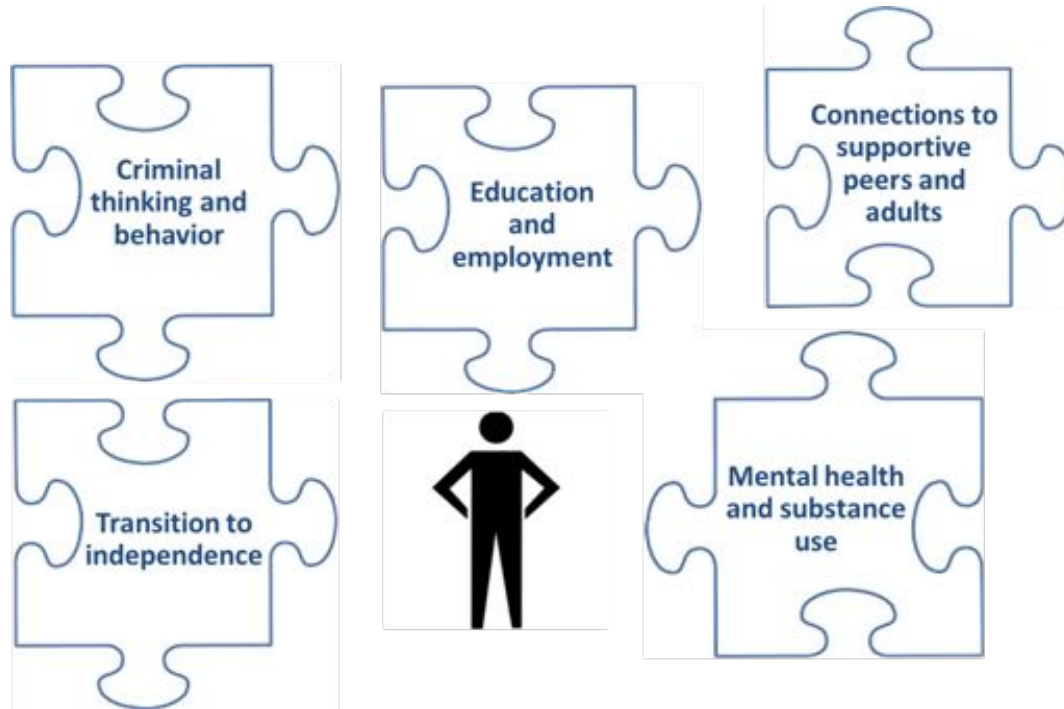


78% of young adults were rearrested within 3 years of release from prison

A growing body of research shows that young adults differ from both youth and fully mature adults

- Brain development extends well beyond teen years
- Neuroscience is changing the debate over what role age should play in courts
- Neuroscience of 20-somethings: 'emerging adults' show brain differences

Young adults have distinct needs from youth and older adults



In response, a growing number of jurisdictions have explored strategies to better support young adults in the justice system



Implemented **“Youthful Offender” policies** that protect young adults from the consequences of a criminal conviction

Created **separate facilities** for young adults



Established **dedicated community supervision units** for young adults

The CSG Justice Center's issue brief summarizes the limited available research on what works for young adults

Highlights how **young adults are distinct**

Identifies young adults' unique needs and **summarizes available research** on what works to address these needs

Provides recommendations for steps states can take to improve outcomes for young adults



In 2017, the CSG Justice Center and the Harvard Kennedy School convened researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to learn more about what research says works to improve outcomes for young adults and identify where gaps in knowledge still exist.

This past September, the CSG Justice Center released a list of dos and don'ts to guide policy and practice



Draws on **guidance from the Harvard convening**

Informed by both **research and practice**

Outlines **supervision and service strategies** to make efficient use of resources and improve outcomes

Five key takeaways from the *Do's and Don'ts* publication

1. Use **validated screening and assessment tools** to guide supervision decisions and tailor programming to address young adults' distinct needs.
2. Fund and provide **research-based programs and treatment** for young adults.
3. Foster sustained **connections to pro social peers and adults** to strengthen engagement in programming.
4. Hold young adults responsible for their behavior while also **accounting for their ongoing growth and development**.
5. Support **collaboration across service systems** to minimize barriers to services and institutional supports for young adults.

Anyone Can Excel (ACE)
Bob Costello
Assistant Commissioner
New York City Department of Probation



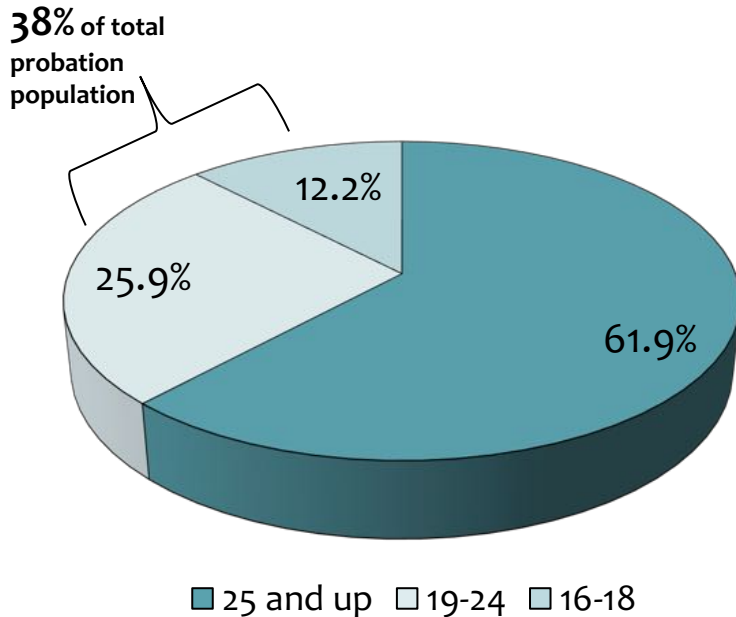
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, CREATING OPPORTUNITY, CHANGING LIVES

Overview of DOP

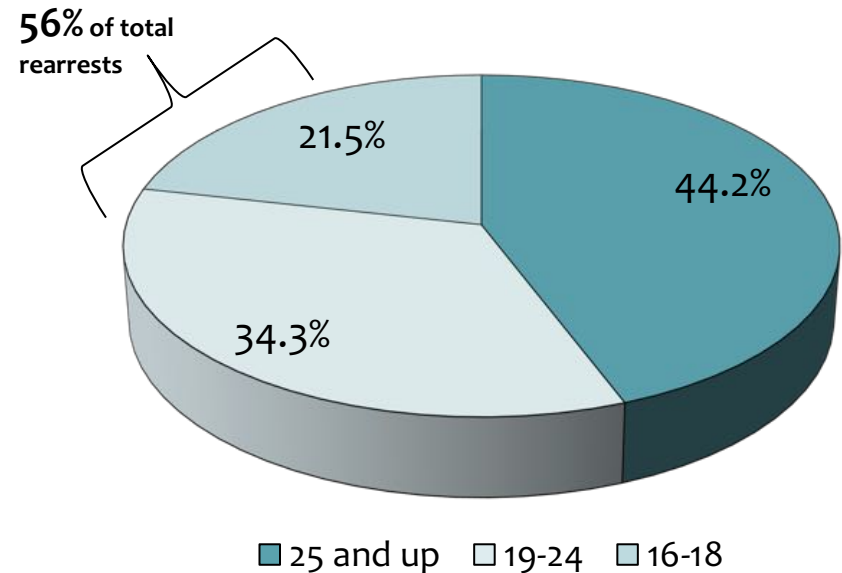
- * Services for 55,000 adults & juveniles annually
 - Intake
 - Investigations
 - Supervision
- * Supervision in any given year
 - 29,300 adults
 - 2,900 juveniles

Young Adults on Probation

Total population
by age group

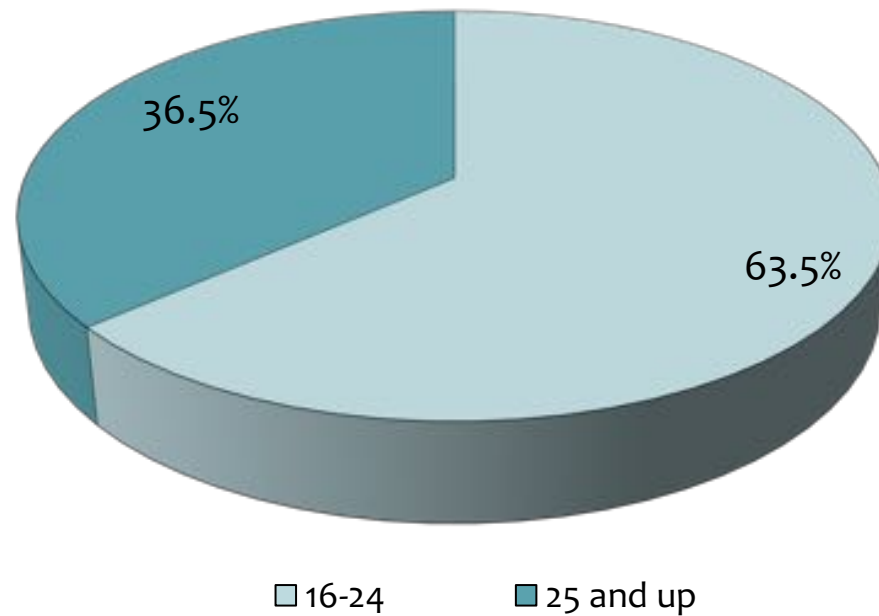


Percent of
total rearrests



Note: breakdown as of October, 2014. Rearrests are available between CY 2012 and June 30, 2014

Shooting incidents by age group



Note: shooting incidents between January 1st and August 31st, 2015

High Arrest Rates for Violent Felonies

- * About half of all violent felony arrests in NYC involve 16 to 25 year olds

The Goal

Long-term behavior change, esp. around violence:

- Improved conflict resolution skills
- Connection to supportive role models
- Swift responses for increased accountability
- Connection to community

Three-Stage Model

STAGE ONE: Assessment and Engagement

- * Age-appropriate validated risk-assessment instruments
- * ALL 16-24 y/o sentenced to probation go through Stage One
- * Caseloads according to risk.
- * Individual Achievement Plans (IAP)/Circle of Care
- * Team supervision
- * Trust building
- * Start of anti-violence messaging

Three-Stage Model

STAGE TWO: CBT Interventions

- * Rigorous individual and group CBT interventions (e.g. Carey Guides)
- * Action planning within IAP
- * Exposure to Voices from Within (individual/group)
- * Assess stages of change
- * Addresses thinking, decision-making, and conflict resolution.
 - * Peer group management

Three-Stage Model

STAGE THREE: Competency Building

- Existing DOP programs
 - Arches
 - Justice Community
 - Justice Scholars
- New DOP programs under development
 - Young Adult Success Corps (employability, giving back)
- Individualized opportunities through Community Based Organizations

Additional Components

- * Use of technology and social media to foster engagement and monitor behavior.
- * Enhanced Administrative Hearing/Accelerated VOP process.
- * Increase of community-based mentoring options for transition from probation.
- * On-going specialized staff training in adolescent brain development, positive youth development, restorative practices and motivational interviewing.
- * Behavioral Health Consultations with Clinical Advisors
- * Specialized officers for Pre-Sentence Investigations and in Community Progression (low risk supervision)

Questions and Answers

Thank you!

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