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Juvenile Justice: Achieving Better Outcomes at Less Correctional Cost

Public Safety Performance Project

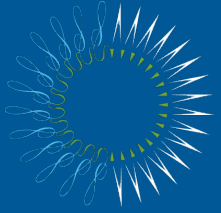
July 19, 2015

The Pew Charitable Trusts is a nonprofit organization that applies a **rigorous, analytical approach** to improve public policy, inform the public, and stimulate civic life.

Pew's public safety performance project works with states to advance **data-driven, fiscally sound policies and practices** in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

- Protect public safety
- Hold offenders accountable
- Control corrections costs
- Improve outcomes for youth, their families and the community

Goal: Help states get a better public safety return on their corrections dollars



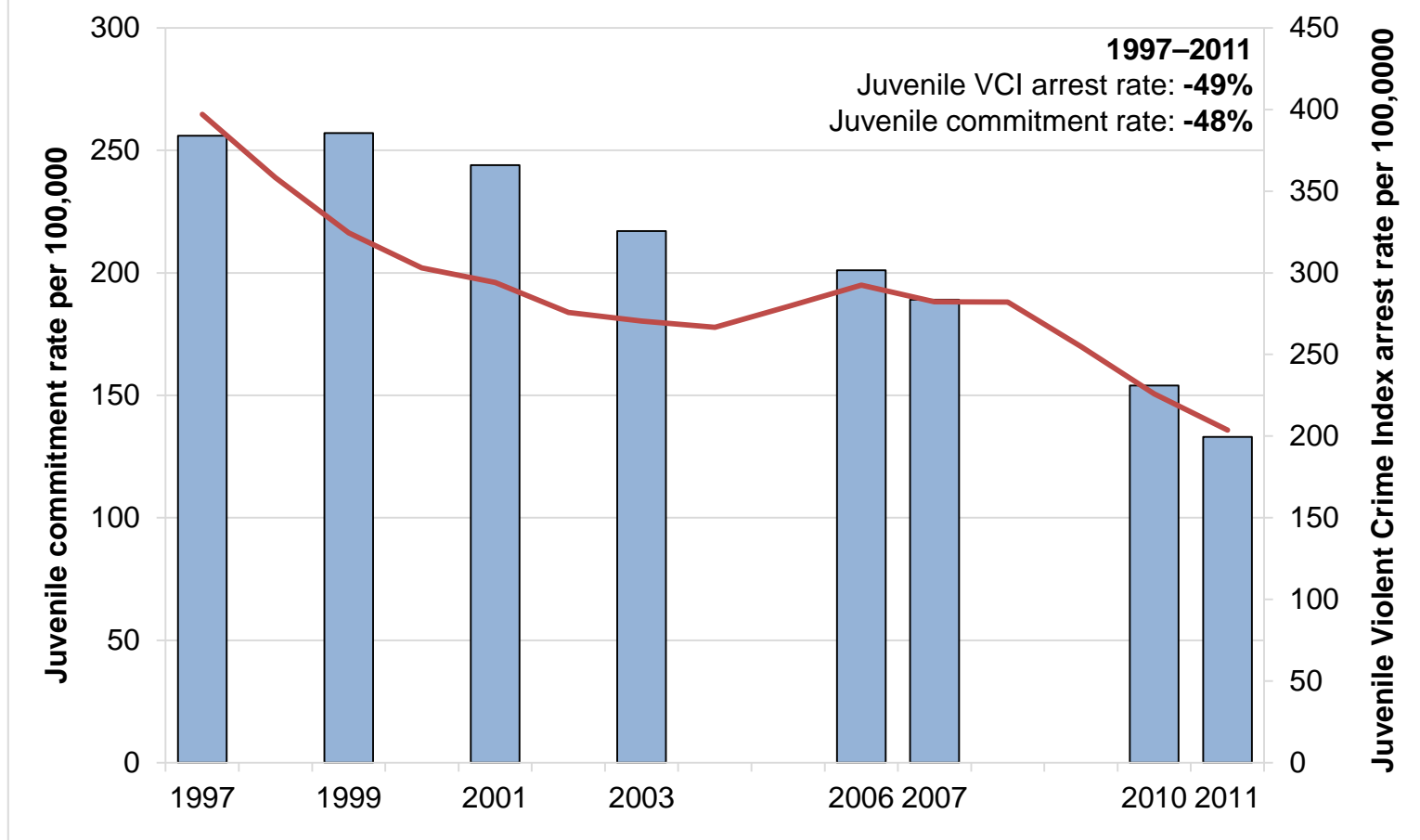
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National Juvenile Justice Trends

National Juvenile Justice Trends:

National juvenile commitment rate declined and juvenile arrest rates for violent crime also declined

Juvenile Commitment Rates & Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rates in the United States, 1997-2011



National Juvenile Justice Trends:

Understanding what works to reduce recidivism

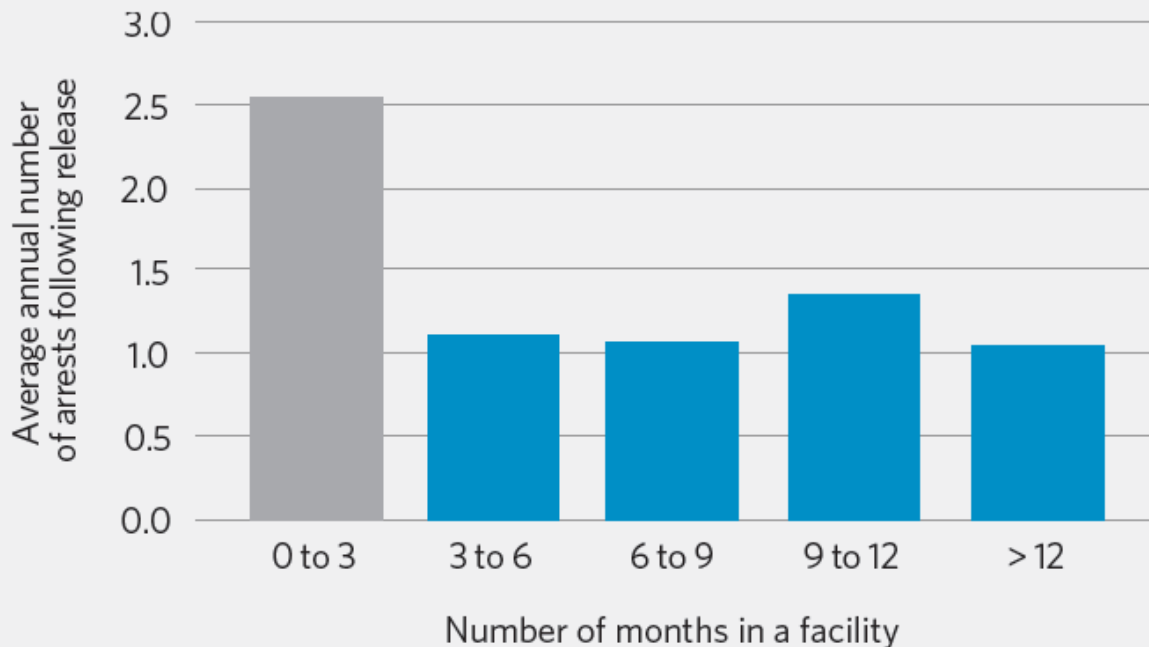


National Juvenile Justice Trends:

Residential placement generally ineffective

Longer Stays Do Not Yield Consistent Reductions in Juvenile Recidivism

Rearrest rates in 2 counties remained steady for offenders with longer placements

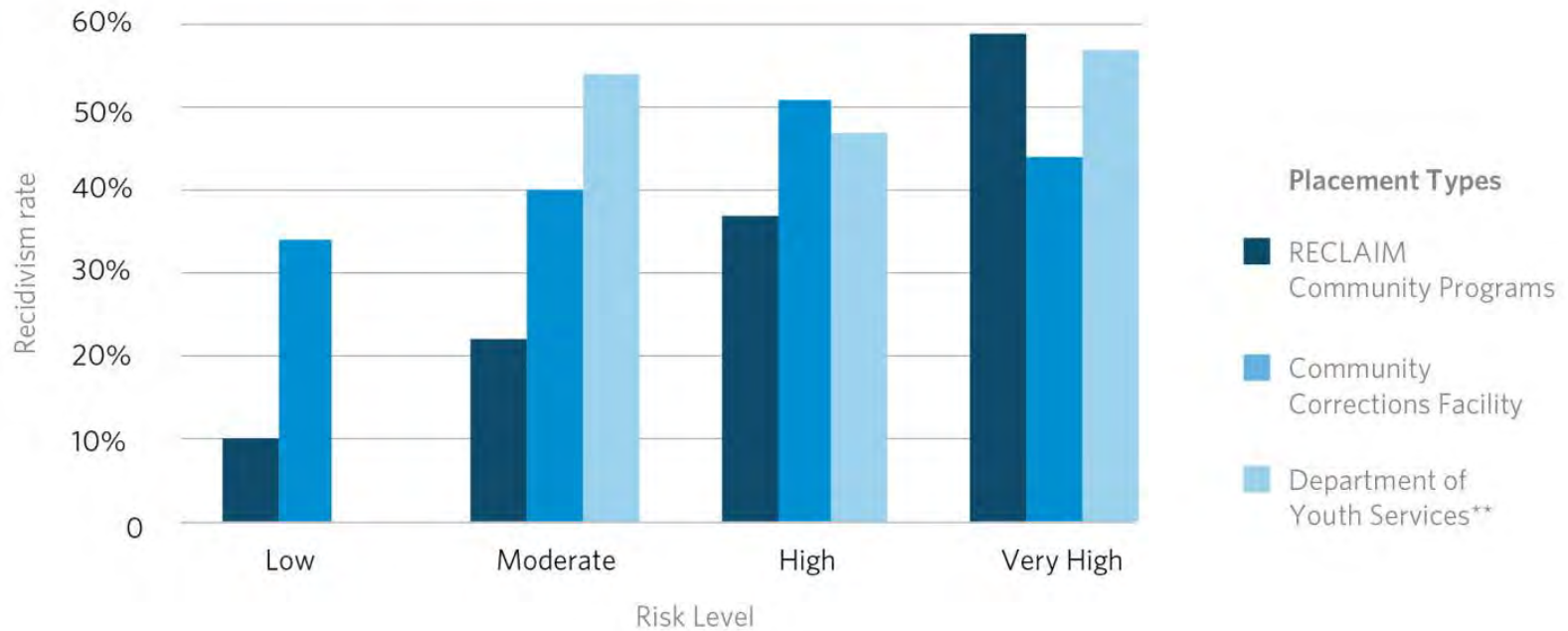


Note: Study evaluated serious adolescent offenders in Maricopa County, Arizona, and Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

Source: Thomas A. Loughran et al., "Estimating a Dose-Response Relationship Between Length of Stay and Future Recidivism in Serious Juvenile Offenders," *Criminology* 47, no. 3 (2009): 699-740, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2801446>

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Figure 3
Most RECLAIM Ohio Youth Have Lower Recidivism* Rates
 Recidivism rates by risk level and placement

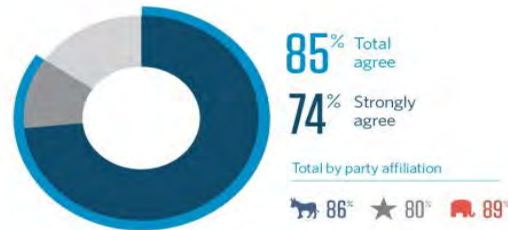


National Juvenile Justice Trends:

Strong public support for what works

Voters Care Less About Whether or How Long Juvenile Offenders Are Incarcerated Than About Preventing Crime

"It does not matter whether a juvenile offender is sent to a juvenile corrections facility or supervised in the community. What really matters is that the system does a better job of making sure that he or she is less likely to commit another crime."



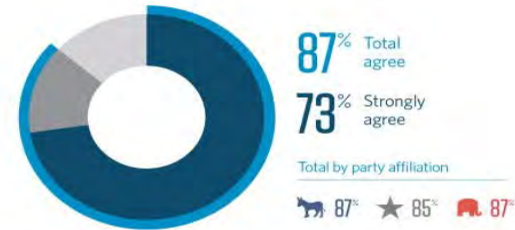
Geographic region

Northeast	Midwest	South	West
79%	87%	86%	84%

Household type

Violent crime victim	Nonviolent crime victim	Law enforcement member
85%	82%	84%

"It does not matter whether a juvenile offender is in a juvenile corrections facility for 6 or 12 or 18 months. What really matters is that the system does a better job of making sure that when a juvenile does get out, he or she is less likely to commit another crime."



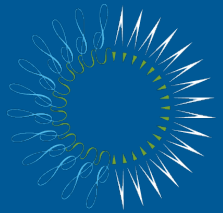
Geographic region

Northeast	Midwest	South	West
88%	89%	83%	88%

Household type

Violent crime victim	Nonviolent crime victim	Law enforcement member
88%	87%	84%

Note: Party affiliations represent Democratic, independent, and Republican voters.

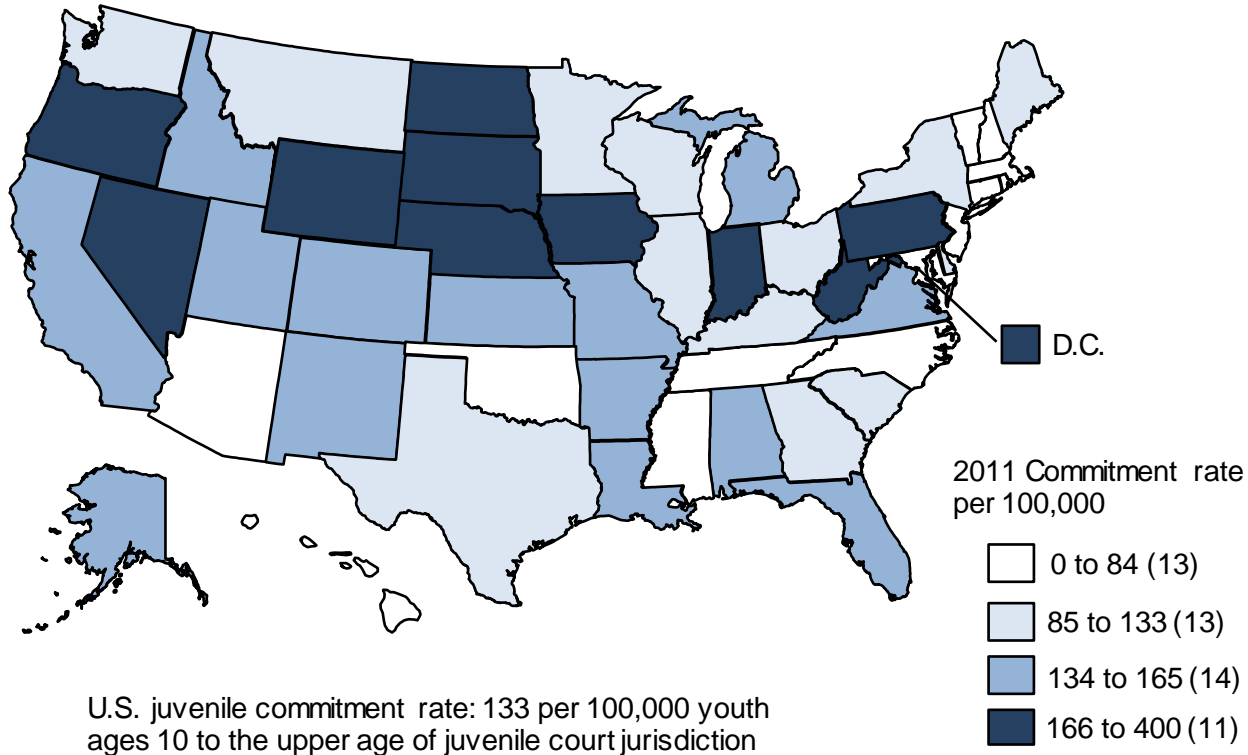


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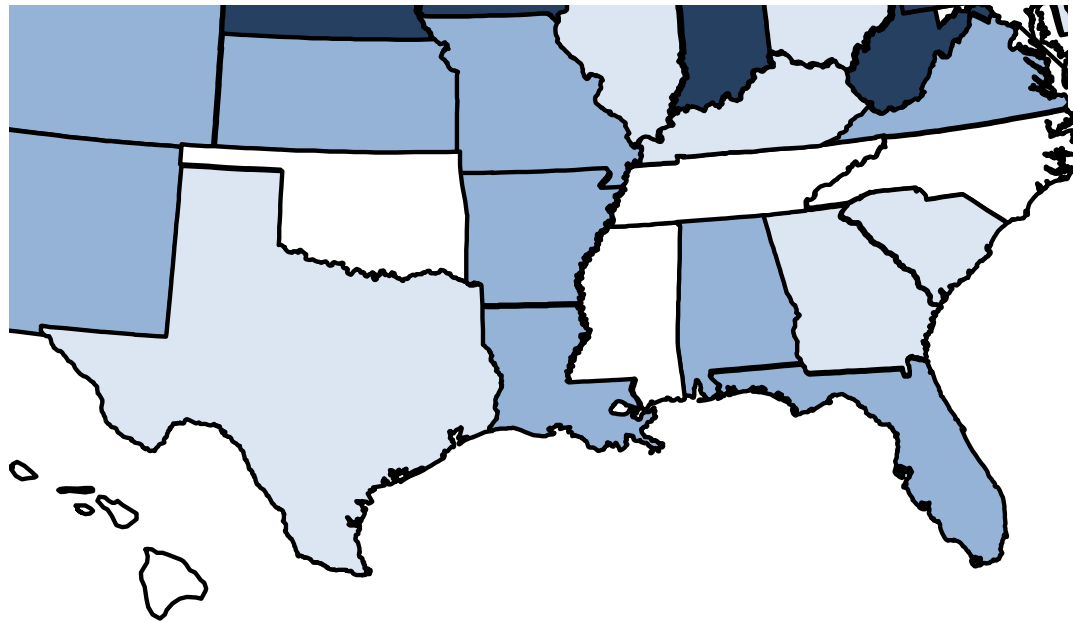
State Juvenile Justice Trends

State Level Juvenile Commitment:

Wide variation in state-level commitment rates



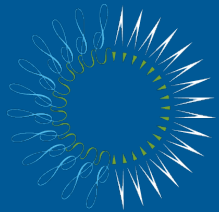
State Level Juvenile Commitment: *The Southern United States*



2011 Commitment rate per 100,000

- 0 to 84 (13)
- 85 to 133 (13)
- 134 to 165 (14)
- 166 to 400 (11)

U.S. juvenile commitment rate: 133 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction



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Pew's State Technical Assistance

Pew's State Technical Assistance:

A bipartisan, inter-branch process

1

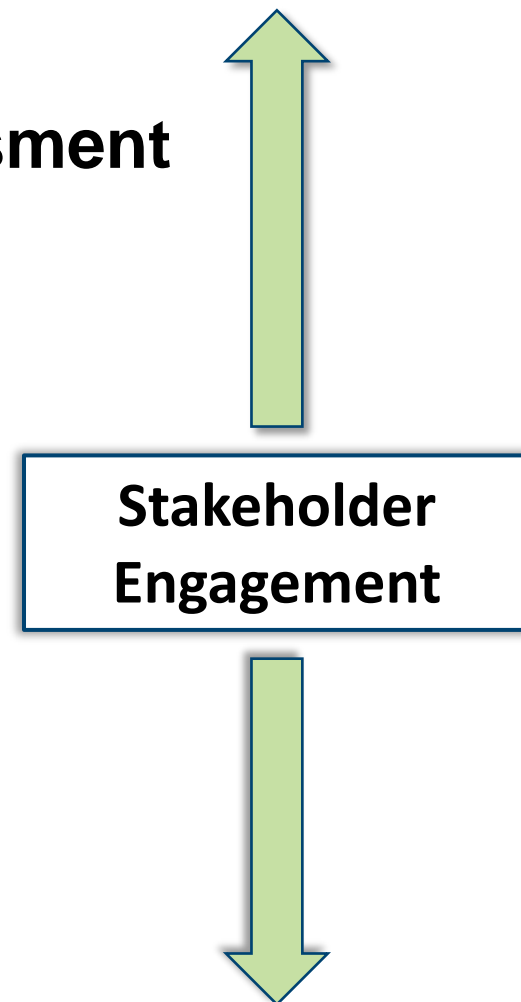
Data Analysis / System Assessment

2

Policy Development

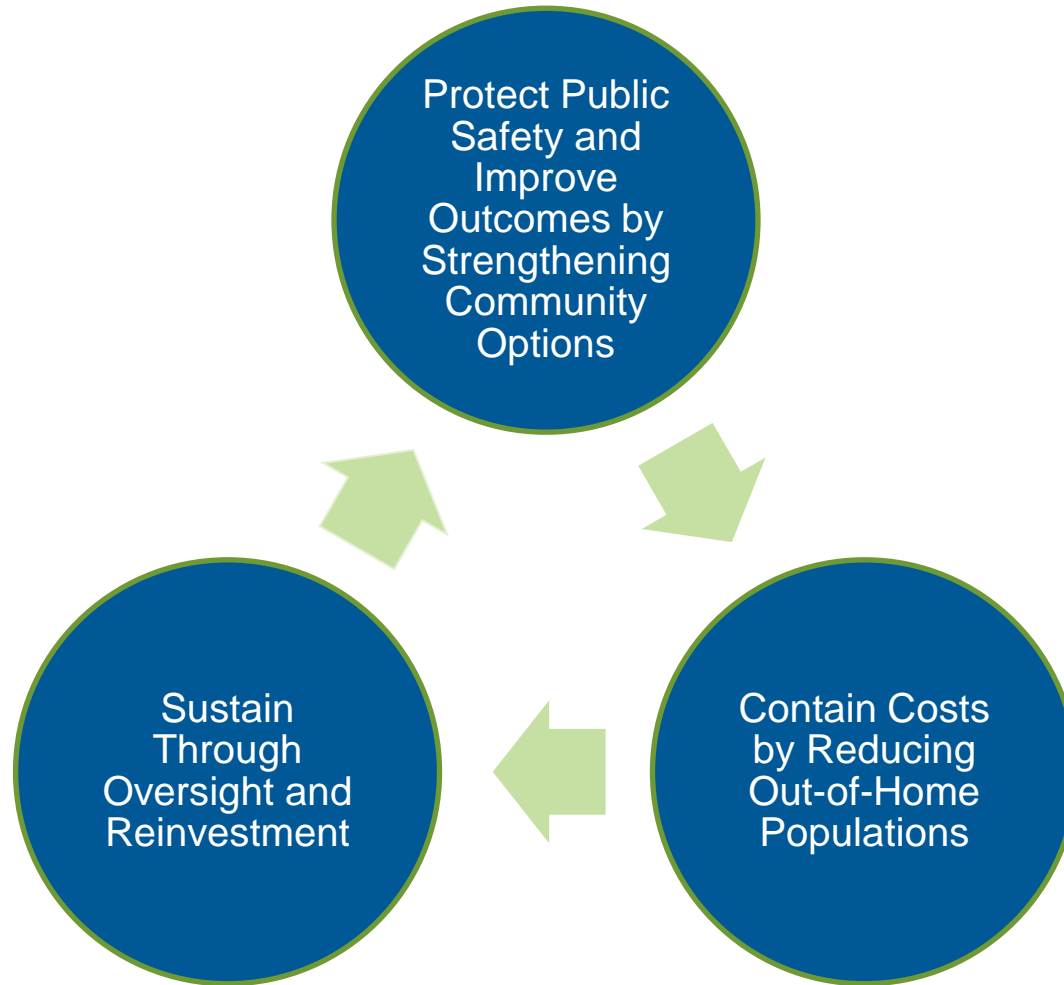
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Consensus Building



Pew's State Technical Assistance:

State policy solutions are tailored and reinforced



Pew's State Technical Assistance:

States facing high annual costs per youth



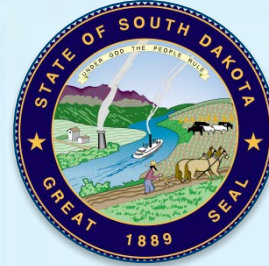
Georgia
\$90,000



Hawaii
\$199,000



Kentucky
\$87,000



**South
Dakota**
\$41,000 -
\$144,000



**West
Virginia**
\$100,000

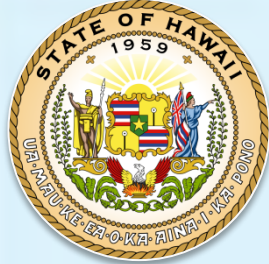
Pew's State Technical Assistance:

States experiencing poor or unknown outcomes



Georgia

Recidivism:
65%



Hawaii

Recidivism:
75%



Kentucky

Recidivism:
unknown



South Dakota

Recidivism:
45%



West Virginia

Recidivism:
unknown

Pew's State Technical Assistance: *Strong Support from Key Voices*

“We need to do a better job determining which youth offenders really need to enter an expensive Youth Detention Center and which ones can be effectively supervised in the community.”

Danny Porter, District Attorney, Gwinnett County
Scott Berry, Sheriff, Oconee County, Georgia
Op-ed, Gwinnett Daily Post, February 13, 2013



“The solution is to focus our secure facilities on higher risk, serious offenders and place others in community-based programs better suited to their criminal behavior and their needs”

Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Kelly McCutchen, president and CEO of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation

Op-ed, Marietta Daily Journal, March 20, 2013



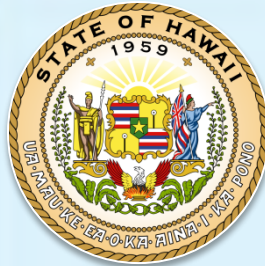
Pew's State Technical Assistance:

Strong legislative support for reform



Georgia

- Senate: 47-0
- House: 173-0



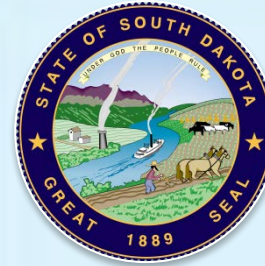
Hawaii

- Senate: 24-0
- House: 50-0



Kentucky

- Senate: 32-6
- House: 84-15



South Dakota

- Senate: 35-0
- House: 60-7



West Virginia

- Senate: 34-0
- House: 100-0



Pew's State Technical Assistance: *Measuring Results in Georgia*

Observable Results

Reduction in felony commitments from fiscal incentive counties*

62%

Reduction in population at secure state facilities*

14%

The Future of Juvenile Justice

- As a nation, we're headed in the right direction on juvenile crime and commitment.
- We know more about what works, and more about the high costs and poor returns of residential placement.
- Now, states are applying that knowledge in a proactive effort to lock-in and accelerate the crime decline, improve outcomes, focus beds and save money.



For more information

Ruth Rosenthal
Senior Associate
Public Safety Performance Project
The Pew Charitable Trusts
RRosenthal@pewtrusts.org

www.pewtrusts.org