

Does Lowering Juvenile Confinement Rates at the State Level Foreshadow Increased Juvenile Violence?

Evidence from 1997 to 2007 says “NO.”

States That Sharply Reduced Juvenile Confinement Rate (40% to 60% Reduction)

STATE	PERCENT CHANGE IN JUVENILE COMMITTED CONFINEMENT RATE	PERCENT CHANGE IN JUVENILE ARREST RATE FOR VIOLENT INDEX OFFENSES
Mississippi	-60.0%	-51.2%
New Mexico	-55.2%	-7.3%
Maryland	-54.4%	-25.8%
Louisiana	-53.5%	-30.7%
Rhode Island	-52.6%	-79.1%
Arizona	-50.5%	-47.9%
Georgia	-50.1%	-43.1%
Tennessee	-50.0%	-12.2%
Maine	-48.5%	-52.6%
Connecticut	-46.8%	-44.2%
California	-42.5%	-28.7%
Median change for above states	-50.5%	-43.1%
Median change for all 50 states	-20.1%	-36.5%

States With Moderate Reductions in Juvenile Confinement Rate (20% to 40% Reduction)

STATE	PERCENT CHANGE IN JUVENILE COMMITTED CONFINEMENT RATE	PERCENT CHANGE IN JUVENILE ARREST RATE FOR VIOLENT INDEX OFFENSES
South Carolina	-36.10%	-31.9%
Washington	-35.31%	-35.8%
New Jersey	-34.18%	-42.0%
Montana	-33.73%	-14.3%
Alaska	-31.31%	-51.8%
New York	-28.70%	-18.7%
Virginia	-26.70%	-37.3%
Illinois	-25.16%	-10.0%
North Carolina	-24.23%	-26.0%
Wisconsin	-22.09%	-26.2%
Texas	-21.99%	-36.5%
Nebraska	-20.10%	4.5%
Median change for above states	-28.7%	-31.9%
Median change for all 50 states	-20.1%	-36.5%

**States With Small Reductions in Juvenile Confinement Rate
(< 20% Reduction)**

STATE	PERCENT CHANGE IN JUVENILE COMMITTED CONFINEMENT RATE	PERCENT CHANGE IN JUVENILE ARREST RATE FOR VIOLENT INDEX OFFENSES
Michigan	-19.70%	-27.5%
Kentucky	-16.20%	-54.4%
Wyoming	-14.53%	-5.3%
Oregon	-12.51%	-14.5%
Nevada	-11.73%	-43.1%
South Dakota	-11.65%	-58.1%
Alabama	-11.06%	-17.4%
Minnesota	-9.37%	4.8%
Missouri	-3.59%	-36.7%
Delaware	-0.33%	-38.0%
Median change for above states	-11.7%	-32.1%
Median change for all 50 states	-20.1%	-36.5%

**States With Increased Juvenile Confinement Rate
(+1% to +136% Reduction)**

STATE	PERCENT CHANGE IN JUVENILE COMMITTED CONFINEMENT RATE	PERCENT CHANGE IN JUVENILE ARREST RATE FOR VIOLENT INDEX OFFENSES
Massachusetts	0.84%	-43.4%
Indiana	1.58%	-57.4%
Ohio	4.97%	-59.1%
Iowa	5.02%	0.8%
Utah	13.84%	-58.9%
Colorado	16.86%	-32.9%
Pennsylvania	17.43%	41.5%
Oklahoma	39.53%	-38.4%
North Dakota	41.69%	23.4%
Arkansas	42.09%	-49.0%
Idaho	115.50%	-37.6%
West Virginia	136.25%	-46.8%
Median change for above states	+17.4%	-38.4%
Median change for all 50 states	-20.1%	-36.5%

Sources: Arrest data come from “Easy Access to FBI Arrest Data,” and confinement rate data come from “Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement.” Both data sets are available online from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Statistical Briefing Book website, www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/default.asp.