SAFETY

Safe environments and relationships are foundational to ensuring that children can reach their full potential. Physical and emotional safety impact children's health, sense of security, academic achievement, and potential for juvenile delinquency. Child maltreatment, unsafe schools and neighborhoods, exposure to violence, and traumatic stress put children's safety at risk.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT ⚠️ Juvenile Justice: Youth in the System

Juvenile justice has important consequences for both youth and communities. Indiana is one of 40 states implementing the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) to promote rehabilitation and reduce unnecessary confinement of Hoosier youth.[1] Since 2006, JDAI has expanded to 31 Indiana counties and the number of juvenile case filings has fallen 51.2%.[2]

Juvenile offenses fall into two broad categories. Status offenses would not be considered a crime if committed by an adult, such as running away or buying alcohol. Delinquency offenses involve an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult.[3]

- In 2016, there were 3,426 status offense cases and 13,804 juvenile delinquency cases in Indiana.

- The number of juvenile delinquency case filings has fallen 50.4% and the number of status case filings has fallen 54.0% over the past decade.[4]
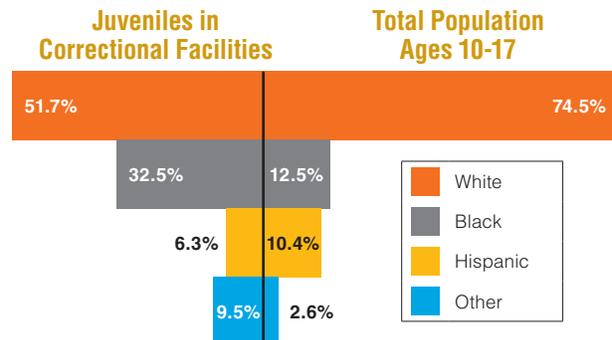
The number of juvenile offense case filings in Indiana has fallen

51.2%

over the past decade.

Who is Confined?

The Indiana Department of Correction oversees four juvenile facilities.[5]

- In 2016, 662 youth younger than age 18 were committed to the Indiana Department of Correction.[6]

- The most common juvenile offenses are property crime (31.3%) and person offenses (30.1%), which involve direct physical harm or force against a person.[7]

- It costs an estimated $264.97 each day to house a youth in confinement.[8]

- Youth of color experience disproportionate contact with the juvenile justice system. Black youth account for 32.5% of youth confined by IDOC but just 12.5% of the total population of children ages 10-17.

Juveniles in Correctional Facilities / **Total Population Ages 10-17**

	Juveniles in Correctional Facilities	Total Population Ages 10-17
White	51.7%	74.5%
Black	32.5%	12.5%
Hispanic	6.3%	10.4%
Other	9.5%	2.6%

Source: Indiana Department of Correction

What is Dual Status?

Youth who experience childhood maltreatment are more likely to become involved in the juvenile justice system. Youth who are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice system are considered "dual status."[9] Nationally, it is estimated that upwards of 50% of youth in the juvenile justice system are dual status.[10]

What are the Challenges for Dual-status Youth?

Dual-status youth tend to be younger at the time of their first arrest, have higher rates of recidivism, are detained more often, and experience more placement changes.[11]

Complex trauma. Dual-status youth are more likely to experience exposure to multiple traumatic events with the potential for wide-ranging and long-term impact.[12]

Identification. Delays in identifying dual-status youth can delay appropriate responses. Prompt identification with both juvenile justice and child welfare systems allows for timely responses to address issues.[13]

Conflicting case plans. There may be disagreement on the best course of action due to separate child welfare and juvenile justice case plans with conflicting goals and requirements.[14]
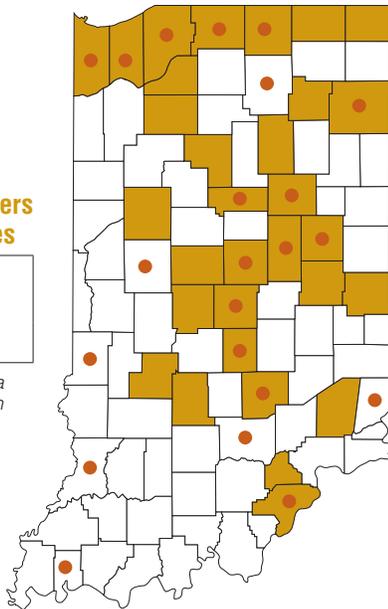
Disparate treatment in the juvenile justice system. Dual-status youth are more likely to be detained or sent to a group home instead of assigned to probation than youth with no child welfare involvement.[15]

Juvenile Detention Centers and JDAI Sites

- Juvenile Detention Centers
- JDAI Sites

Source: Indiana Judicial Branch

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a juvenile justice strategy that aims to eliminate unnecessary detention of youth, reduce racial disparities and improve welfare of youth.[16] The JDAI model is dependent on interagency collaboration, use of accurate data, alternatives to detention, reducing secure confinement, and reducing racial disparities.[17]

- In Indiana, there are 31 counties participating in JDAI.
- 69% of Hoosier youth ages 10-17 reside in a JDAI county.[18]

Alternatives to secure confinement include:

Home or Community Detention requires youth to observe a tight curfew and limit movement outside the home.

Day and Evening reporting programs provide six to twelve hours of daily supervision and structured activities.

Residential Alternatives provide nonsecure 24-hour supervision and age-appropriate services like education, recreation, tutoring and life-skills training.

Foster Care Contracts often are used as temporary housing (only a few days) while other arrangements are made.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

What Solutions are Possible?

Individuals

✔ Strong involvement among youth and parents in case planning, as well as probation officers and caseworkers.

Organizations and Communities

✔ Partnerships among local courts, probation departments, prosecutor's offices, law enforcement agencies, schools, and social service agencies.

✔ Use credible, standardized tools to make placement decisions.

Leaders and Policy Makers

✔ Expand non-secure alternatives to detention.

✔ Design prevention and early intervention programs that address the family, social, and situational factors that contribute to juvenile crime.

✔ Use sentencing approaches that provide opportunity for rehabilitation.

What Resources are Available?

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice provides resources on dual-status youth reform, probation system reform, information sharing, trauma and other topics related to the juvenile system. https://rfknrcjj.org/

Annie E. Casey Foundation provides resources on JDAI and reducing youth incarceration. http://www.aecf.org/work/juvenile-justice/

The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice provides research, tools, findings, and lessons about aftercare, dual-status youth, community-based practices, mental health, and more topics. https://www.ncmhjj.com/

2018 Indiana KIDS COUNT® Data Book
a profile of child well-being

Safety Spotlight Sources

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