

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE
National Survey

September 27-October 2, 2011
1,000 Respondents

Q.1 Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Total
Right direction	21
Wrong track	68
(Don't know/refused)	11
 Right direction - Wrong track	 -46
(ref:DIRECT)	

Q.2 Now, I am going to ask you some questions about the juvenile justice system in this country. Do you think juveniles who have committed a crime should be housed in youth facilities, or in adult jails or prisons?

	Total
Youth facilities.....	56
Adult jails or prisons.....	12
(Depends).....	26
(Don't know/refused)	5
 Youth facilities - Adult jails or prisons	 44
(ref:TRANSF1)	

Q.3 Now I'm going to read you a pair of statements. Please tell me which statement you agree with more.

Putting youth under the age of 18, who are charged with or convicted of crimes, in adult jails and prisons makes them MORE likely to commit future crimes than if they were placed in a youth facility.

OR

Putting youth under the age of 18, who are charged with or convicted of crimes, in adult correctional facilities makes them LESS likely to commit future crimes than if they were placed in a youth facility.

Which statement do you agree with more?

	Total
Makes them MORE likely to commit crime - MUCH	35
Makes them MORE likely to commit crime - SOMEWHAT	22
Makes them LESS likely to commit crime - SOMEWHAT	16
Makes them LESS likely to commit crime - MUCH.....	12
(Neither).....	7
(Don't know/refused)	9
Total MORE likely to commit crime.....	57
Total LESS likely to commit crime	27
More likely to commit crime - Less likely to commit crime.....	29
(ref:TRANSF2)	

Q.4 Who do you think should decide whether youth under the age of 18 are tried in juvenile courts or adult courts - a judge or a prosecutor?

	Total
Judge	81
Prosecutor	12
(Someone else).....	1
(Should not be tried as adults)	0
(Don't know/refused)	6
Judge - Prosecutor	69
(ref:PROSEC1)	

Q.5 In some states, prosecutors are allowed to decide whether to try a youth in adult court. Do you favor or oppose allowing adult court judges, after a hearing, to overrule the prosecutor's decision, and send the case back to juvenile court?

	Total
Favor	71
Oppose	20
(Don't know/refused)	9
Favor - Oppose.....	52
(ref:PROSEC2)	

Q.6 In some states, there is no minimum age to prosecute youth as an adult. Do you favor or oppose setting a minimum age limit before a youth can be prosecuted in adult court?

	Total
Favor	64
Oppose	30
(Don't know/refused)	6
Favor - Oppose.....	35
(ref:PROSEC3)	

[640 Respondents]

Q.7 (IF FAVOR IN Q.6) What do you think is the youngest age at which it should be legal to try and incarcerate a youth charged with a crime as an adult?

	Total
15 or under	23
16-17	40
18	25
19 and above	5
(Don't know/refused)	6
(ref:PROSEC4)	

Q.8 Now I'm going to read you another pair of statements. Please tell me which statement you agree with more.

Instead of a rigid policy for determining when youth are tried in adult courts, judges should make the decision on a case-by-case basis after a hearing, and take into account the seriousness of the offense and circumstances of the individual child.

OR

When a youth is charged with a serious offense, the decision to try a youth in adult court should not be discretionary. For some crimes, youth should automatically be charged as adults and tried in adult courts with no exceptions.

Which statement do you agree with more?

	Total
Case-by-case basis - MUCH MORE	51
Case-by-case basis - SOMEWHAT MORE	25
Clear set of rules with no exceptions - SOMEWHAT MORE	9
Clear set of rules with no exceptions - MUCH MORE	11
(Neither).....	1
(Don't know/refused)	2
Total Case-by-case basis.....	76
Total Clear set of rules with no exceptions.....	20
Case-by-case basis - Clear set of rules with no exceptions	57
(ref:TRANSF6)	

Q.9 Compared to the way things are now, when it comes to the juvenile justice system, do you think there should be more focus on punishment and incarceration, or more focus on prevention and rehabilitation?

	Total
Punishment and incarceration.....	15
Prevention and rehabilitation.....	78
(Current focus is about right).....	1
(Don't know/refused).....	6
 Punishment and incarceration –	
Prevention and rehabilitation.....	-63
(ref:REHAB1)	

Now I'd like to read you some pairs of statements. After I read you each pair, please tell me which statement you agree with more.

	1st	1st	2nd	2nd	Nei-	DK/	Total	Total	1st
	Stmt	Stmt	Stmt	Stmt	ther	Ref	1st	2nd	-
	Much	Smwt	Smwt	Much			Stmt	Stmt	2nd
10 Rehabilitation programs like counseling and education for youth who have committed crimes helps prevent future crimes. OR Rehabilitation programs like counseling and education do little to prevent youth who have committed crimes from committing future crimes.....	38	32	13	9	2	4	71	23	48
11 Rehabilitation programs like counseling and education for youth who have committed crimes will SAVE tax dollars in the long run. OR Rehabilitation programs like counseling and education for youth who have committed crimes will COST tax dollars in the long run.	37	27	13	13	3	7	64	27	37
12 Most youth who commit crimes are capable of positive growth, and they have the potential to change for the better. OR Most youth who commit crimes are unlikely to change for the better, and they will likely continue a life of illegal behavior.	45	32	9	9	3	3	76	18	58

	1st Stmt Much	1st Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Much	Nei-ther	DK/Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
13 When it comes to youth who have committed crimes, the best thing for society is to rehabilitate them so they can become productive members of society. OR When it comes to youth who commit crimes, the best thing for society is to incarcerate them so that our streets are safer.	52	24	8	8	4	3	77	17	60
14 The juvenile justice system should provide youth with more opportunity to better themselves. OR The juvenile justice system should focus on punishing youth who have committed crimes. (ref:PAIRS)	54	21	9	10	2	3	75	20	56

[500 Respondents]

Q.15 (SPLIT A) Thinking specifically about a youth who commits robbery, which TWO of the following punishments are the most fitting?

	Total
Pay compensation to the victim	47
Community service	32
Go through treatment or rehabilitation	29
Serve a jail term of a year or less.....	27
Serve a jail term of more than a year	20
Serve probation.....	17
Pay a fine	13
(Other)	0
(No second choice)	8
(Don't know/refused)	3

(ref:RPUNISH)

[500 Respondents]

Q.16 (SPLIT B) Thinking specifically about a youth who commits assault, which TWO of the following punishments are the most fitting?

	Total
Go through treatment or rehabilitation	40
Pay compensation to the victim	35
Serve a jail term of a year or less	28
Community service	27
Serve a jail term of more than a year	20
Serve probation	19
Pay a fine	12
(Other)	1
(No second choice)	8
(Don't know/refused)	6

(ref:APUNISH)

[500 Respondents]

Q.17 (SPLIT A) Thinking specifically about a youth who is caught dealing drugs, which TWO of the following punishments are the most fitting?

	Total
Go through treatment or rehabilitation	56
Community service	38
Serve a jail term of a year or less	28
Serve probation	27
Serve a jail term of more than a year	18
Pay a fine	14
(Other)	2
(No second choice)	8
(Don't know/refused)	4

(ref:DDPUNISH)

[500 Respondents]

Q.18 (SPLIT B) Thinking specifically about a youth who is caught with drug possession, which TWO of the following punishments are the most fitting?

	Total
Go through treatment or rehabilitation	65
Community service	38
Serve probation	26
Serve a jail term of a year or less	20
Pay a fine	18
Serve a jail term of more than a year	12
(Other)	1
(No second choice)	9
(Don't know/refused)	5

(ref:DPPUNISH)

Now, I am going to read you some proposals to reform the juvenile justice system. For each one please tell me whether you favor or oppose the proposal.

	Strng Favr	Smwt Favr	Smwt Opp	Strng Opp	DK/ Ref	Total Favr	Total Opp	Favr - Opp
[500 Respondents]								
19 (SPLIT A) Remove youth under age 18 from adult jails and prisons and place them in youth facilities.....	42	27	11	13	7	69	24	45
[500 Respondents]								
20 (SPLIT B) Require youth awaiting trial to be held in youth facilities instead of adult jails.....	54	26	7	9	4	80	16	65
21 Increase the use of mandatory rehabilitation, education, drug treatment, and job counseling programs for youth who commit crimes.....	62	26	5	5	2	89	9	80
22 Increase funding to provide more public defenders who represent children in court.....	42	29	13	13	3	71	26	45
23 Require the juvenile justice system to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the system. (ref:PROPOSAL)	43	23	11	13	10	66	24	42

Now, I am going to read you some proposals to reform the way parents and communities are involved in the juvenile justice system. For each one please tell me whether you favor or oppose the proposal.

	Strng Favr	Smwt Favr	Smwt Opp	Strng Opp	DK/ Ref	Total Favr	Total Opp	Favr - Opp
24 Require facilities that incarcerate youth to let youth offenders see their families at least once a week.	65	21	5	7	1	86	13	73
25 Require that incarcerated youth are placed in facilities close to their families and communities.	50	27	8	12	3	77	20	57
26 Design treatment and rehabilitation plans that include a youth's family in planning and services.	59	27	6	5	3	86	11	74
27 Create an independent commission of community leaders tasked with ensuring that youth are protected from abuse while in state or local custody. (ref:PROPOS2)	62	23	7	6	2	84	13	71

Q.28 Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or what?

	Total
Strong Democrat.....	19
Weak Democrat.....	15
Independent-lean Democrat.....	10
Independent.....	14
Independent-lean Republican.....	10
Weak Republican.....	11
Strong Republican.....	15
(Don't know/Refused)..... (ref:PTYID1)	6

Q.29 Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal?

	Total
Liberal.....	20
Moderate.....	33
Conservative.....	38
(Don't know/refused)..... (ref:IDEO1)	9

Q.30 In what year were you born?

	Total
18 - 24	12
25 - 29	9
30 - 34	9
35 - 39	9
40 - 44	10
45 - 49	12
50 - 54	17
55 - 59	4
60 - 64	4
Over 64	14
(No answer)	1
(ref:AGE)	

Q.31 What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	Total
1 - 11th grade	6
High School graduate	31
Non-college post H.S.	2
Some college	25
College graduate	23
Post-graduate school	11
(Don't know/refused)	2
(ref:EDUC)	

Q.32 And what is your race?

	Total
White	63
Black	11
Hispanic	15
(Other)	6
(Don't know/refused)	4
(ref:RACE)	

Q.33 Of all the personal telephone calls that you receive, do you get all or almost all your calls on a cell phone, some on a cell phone and some on a regular home phone, or all or almost all your calls on a regular home phone?

	Total
All or almost all on a cell phone	26
Some on a cell phone and some on a regular home phone	26
All or almost all on a regular home phone	45
(Other)	0
(Don't know/refused)	3
(ref:CELL)	

Q.34 Have you or someone in your immediate family been the victim of a violent crime?

	Total
Yes	24
No	73
(Don't know/refused)	3
(ref:CRIME1)	

Q.35 Have you or someone in your immediate family been the victim of a serious property crime, such as a home burglary or car theft?

	Total
Yes	34
No	63
(Don't know/refused)	3
(ref:CRIME2)	

Q.36 Have you, a close friend or family member spent time in jail or prison?

	Total
Yes	36
No	61
(Don't know/refused)	3
(ref:PRISON)	

Q.37 Do you or does someone in your immediate family work in law enforcement?

	Total
Yes	23
No	74
(Don't know/refused)	4
(ref:LAWENF)	

Q.38 Respondent's gender

	Total
Male	48
Female	52
(ref:GENDER)	