

California Juvenile Incarceration Fast Facts



These youth were sentenced to life without parole and interviewed for the Human Rights Watch report, "The Rest of Their Lives: Life Without Parole for Child Offenders in the United States."

What's Going On?

The U.S. has the highest rate of juvenile incarceration in the industrialized world, and the vast majority (3 in 4) of the country's incarcerated youth are held for non-violent offenses.

Over 6,500 people currently in California prisons were under the age of 18 and as young as 14-years-old at the time of their crime. Over 5,000 have sentences of ten years or more, with more than 2,000 of those cases being indeterminate, life sentences with no clear ending point.

California Direct File Fast Facts ([Juvenile Justice in California 2015 Report](#)):

- 71,923 juvenile arrests were reported by California law enforcement agencies in 2015.
- 492 juveniles were direct filed into California adult court in 2015.
 - 10.4% (51) were white
 - 60.8% (299) were Hispanic
 - 25.2% (124) were black
 - 3.7% (18) were from other race/ethnic groups
- Of the 492 juveniles direct filed into California adult court:
 - 3% (15) were 14-years-old
 - 10.6% (52) were 15-years-old
 - 26.8% (132) were 16-years-old
 - 50.8% (250) were 17-years-old
 - 8.7% (43) were other ages
- Of the juveniles tried in adult court, 88% (366) were convicted and 218 were sentenced to spend time in an adult prison in 2015.

Learn More:

FairSentencingforYouth.org
[Human Rights Watch's Juvenile Justice Program](#)