

Building Higher Education Pathways for Secure Treatment Youth in California: **A Call to Action**

Draft Report Content

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Overview

- Plummeting arrest and confinement rates amidst an auspicious policy context
- The Promise of Higher Education for Changing Youth Trajectories
- Key Takeaways from Proven Interventions
- Building Higher Education Pathways for Secure Treatment Youth in California: Recommended Pathway Elements



Plummeting arrest and confinement rates amidst an auspicious policy context

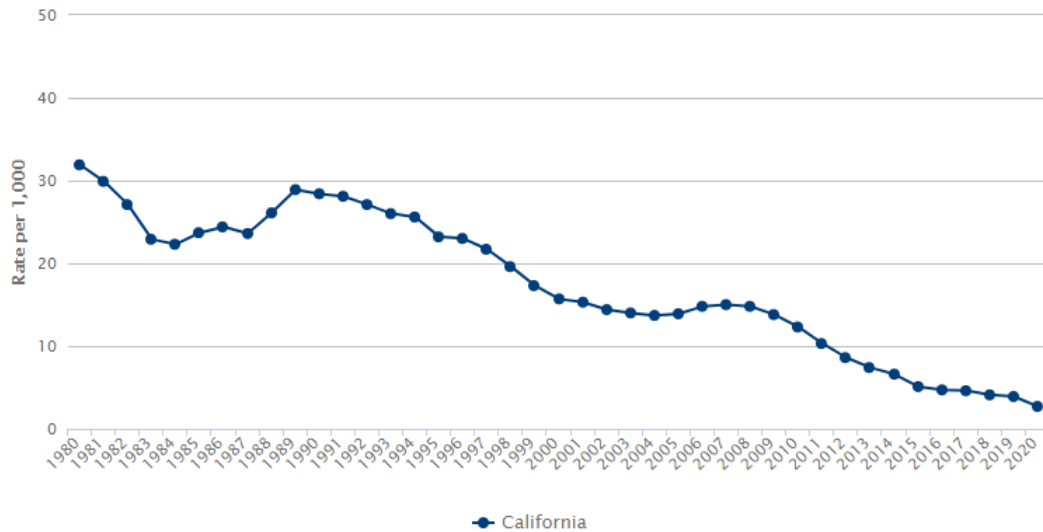


Plummeting Juvenile Arrests and Confinement

Juvenile felony **arrests today** are **just one-tenth what they were in the early 1990s**

Plummeting Juvenile Arrest Rates

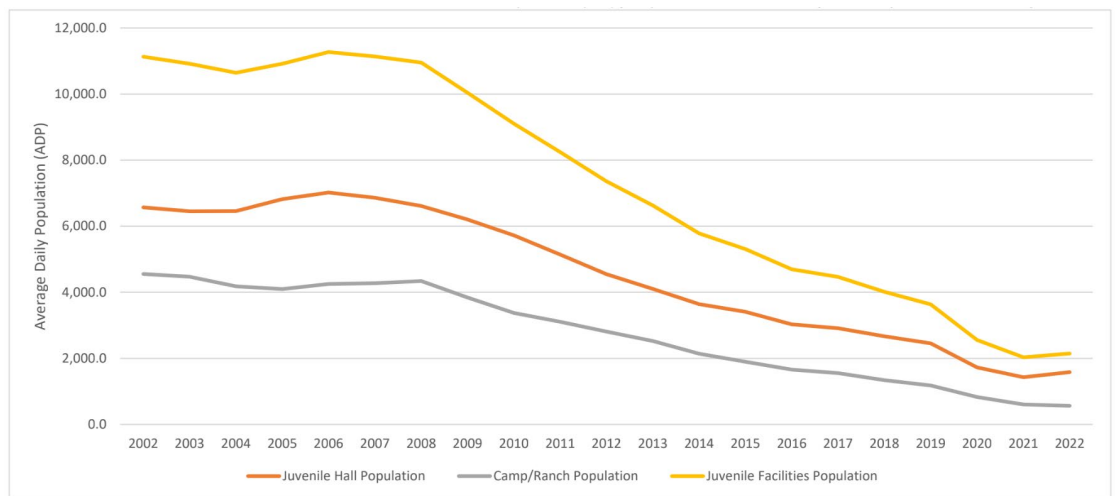
Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate per 1,000: 1980 to 2020



The number of **youth in confinement** has also decreased dramatically over the last two decades, **down 81 percent since 2002**

Plummeting Juvenile Confinement Rates

Total Youth in Juvenile Confinement: Average Daily Population: 2002-2023



Auspicious Policy Context

In the
2022-23
budget:

- **\$100 million** for facility upgrades and programming
- **\$25 million** to support the Rising Scholars Network, of which \$15 million will be ongoing
- **\$4 million** to Underground Scholars
- **\$11.3 million** to support the Project Rebound Consortium



SB 823 (2021): Juvenile Justice Realignment, transfers all youth committed to the California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) back to counties and calls for the closure of DJJ by June 30, 2023.



SB 416 (2021): ensures college programs offered to incarcerated students are provided by California Community Colleges, CSU, UC , and/or other regionally accredited non-profit colleges or universities.



SB 716 (2019): requires county probation departments to provide

- access to online academic and career technical education programs to youth currently in detention who have completed their high school diploma or California equivalency certificate.
- Academic courses must be transferable to a University of California or California State University school, and career technical education (CTE) courses must help prepare students for career entry.
- Encourages but does not require, Probation and DJJ to also offer on-site college course instruction at facilities.



The Promise of Higher Education for Changing Youth Trajectories



LIFE COURSE ANALYSIS OF INCARCERATED YOUTH

Pre-Incarceration Risk Factors



Social Environment

- Single or no parent family
- Child abuse or neglect
- Involvement with child welfare
- Family criminality
- Parental Incarceration
- Family functioning
- Low parental supervision
- School mobility
- Concentrated disadvantage neighborhood with gangs
- Witnessed violence
- Violent victimization
- Gang/Deviant peer affiliation
- Lack of prosocial peers



Developmental Factors

- Disabilities: Learning disability, emotional or behavioral disorder
- Poor self regard
- Low academic aptitude/Below grade level
- Social skills deficit
- Mental Disorders: ADHD, Conduct disorder, substance use disorder, PTSD, Depression
- Developmental language disorder
- Trauma history
- English Language Learner



Life Course Outcomes

- Reading and math achievement difficulties
- Special Ed identified
- Behavior problems
- School suspensions
- Truancy
- School absenteeism
- Low G.P.A.
- Under-credited for age
- Grade retention
- Expulsion
- School dropout

Youth Incarceration + Higher Education



Post-Incarceration Outcomes



Low high school completion



Increased adult crime



Increased adult incarceration



Reduced full-time employment

Post-Incarceration Outcomes



Increased schooling



Reduced recidivism



Increased employment



Key Takeaways from Proven Interventions



What are “proven” interventions?

- Proven interventions are those that have been evaluated using a Randomized Controlled Trial or a Quasi-experimental design

Key Takeaways from Proven Interventions

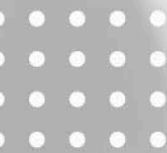
- **Quality education improves an array of outcomes:** Improved academic achievement, increased high school completion, increased employment, and reduced recidivism.
- **Intensive and individualized instruction improves outcomes:** APYA-SS provided compelling evidence that an intensive and personalized approach to educational and vocational instruction improves education and employment outcomes.
- **Computer-assisted instruction helps to individualize instruction:** Read 180 showed that computer-assisted tools allowed instructors to individualize instruction and closely monitor student progress for students with widely varying skill levels.
- **Reentry support lasting up to a year is associated with better outcomes:** APYA-SS provided reentry supports that lasted almost a year on average and helped produce positive outcomes

Key Takeaways from Proven Interventions Cont.

- **Daily dose of instruction is better:** Read 180, which significantly improved reading skills, featured a daily dose of reading instruction.
- **Obtaining a Bachelor's reduces recidivism more than other degrees:** BPI demonstrated that higher levels of educational attainment—obtaining a bachelor's compared to an associate's degree—is associated with larger reductions in recidivism.



**Building Higher Education
Pathways for Secure Treatment
Youth in California:
Recommended Pathway Elements**



Components of Higher Education Pathways: Building Bridges to Opportunity



Administrative Pathways

Creating administrative pathways with multiple options and key institutional milestones building toward a credential

Pathway Supports

Decision-making and developmental supports to incentivize pursuit of a higher education pathway as well as support for persistence.

Meaningful Destination

The ultimate destination or the structural connection of pathways to employment opportunities with good earnings

Recommended Core Elements for Building Higher Education Pathways



Administrative Pathways

- Dual-enrollment for high school youth
- Effective Instructional approaches
- Qualified instructors and professional development
- Free courses and materials
- Access to adequate technology
- Program and course variety
- Complete pathways to degrees
- Guided and integrated pathways

In-person instruction

Online courses: wider choice, weekly synchronous

Correspondence: for youth missing enrollment windows

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Professional development: basic safety procedures, effective youth development strategies, trauma-informed practices, self-care, classroom management, and individualized instruction

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- tablets or laptops, along with broadband internet access
- laptops over tablets (functionality, security, Microsoft Office)
- Allow youth to take laptops to cells
- Online research services: EBSCO host correctional edition

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- Guided pathways: clear curricular pathways to further education or employment
- Integrated pathways: complete requirements for an academic pathway while they also complete requirements for a career pathway

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Pathway Supports

- Systematic screening and service matching
- Supportive facility climate
- Building interest and scaffolding a college identity
- Academic and financial aid advising
- Tutoring and supplemental instruction
- Transition planning and reentry support
- A community of belonging and campus integration

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- Token economy
- Medium-security vs. high-security policies
- Caring adult relationships
- Credible messengers and mentors
- Regular course attendance
- Incentivize college participation

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- Dedicated classroom space for college instruction
- College branding
- Quiet areas for homework
- Desks in cells
- Alternative attire for attending online college classes
- Pre courses (e.g. College 101)

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- Multidisciplinary reentry team
- Planning begins when entering facilities
- Liaison with Rising Scholars at community colleges
- Support smooth transfer to alternate community college during step-down or release
- Provide support for housing & stipend

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- Credible mentors/ambassadors/paid peer mentors
- Foster connections with key personnel across campus departments
- Mentorship relationships with faculty and staff
- Dedicated campus spaces with weekly meetings, ample food

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Meaningful Destination

- Vocational Diplomas (connected to a labor market analysis)
- AA Degree with Labor Market Value (connected to labor market analysis)
- Transfer to a 4-Year University
- Bachelor's Degree
- Obtaining a good-paying job