

Raise the Age MI Campaign



Youth are Not Adults

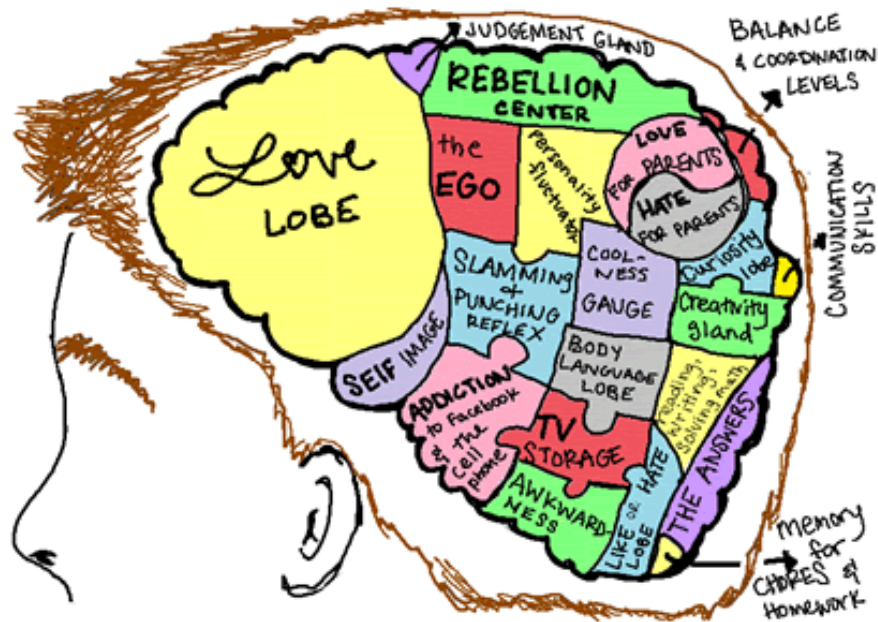
- **Too often, children who aren't old enough to buy cigarettes legally - are thrust automatically into an adult penal system ill suited to the unique challenges and opportunities teenagers present.**



Youth are Not Adults

- Teens are more inclined to take risks, act impulsively, and succumb to peer pressure.
- Youth are very amenable to rehabilitative programs and behavior modification during these formative years.

THE AVERAGE TEENAGE BRAIN



Youth are Not Adults

- However, under current law in Michigan, 17-year-olds who are arrested are tried in **adult criminal court without exception.**



Youth are Not Adults

- Michigan is 1 of 5 states left.
- All other Michigan laws set the age of adulthood at 18:
 - Child labor laws
 - Voting
 - Serving on a jury
 - School attendance
 - Living independently



Youth are Not Adults

- U.S. Supreme Court has made it clear - children under 18 must be treated differently from adults in the criminal justice system.



Youth are Not Adults

- PREA: Youth under 18 years old must be separated by sight and sound from adults, and restricts the use of isolation or solitary confinement.



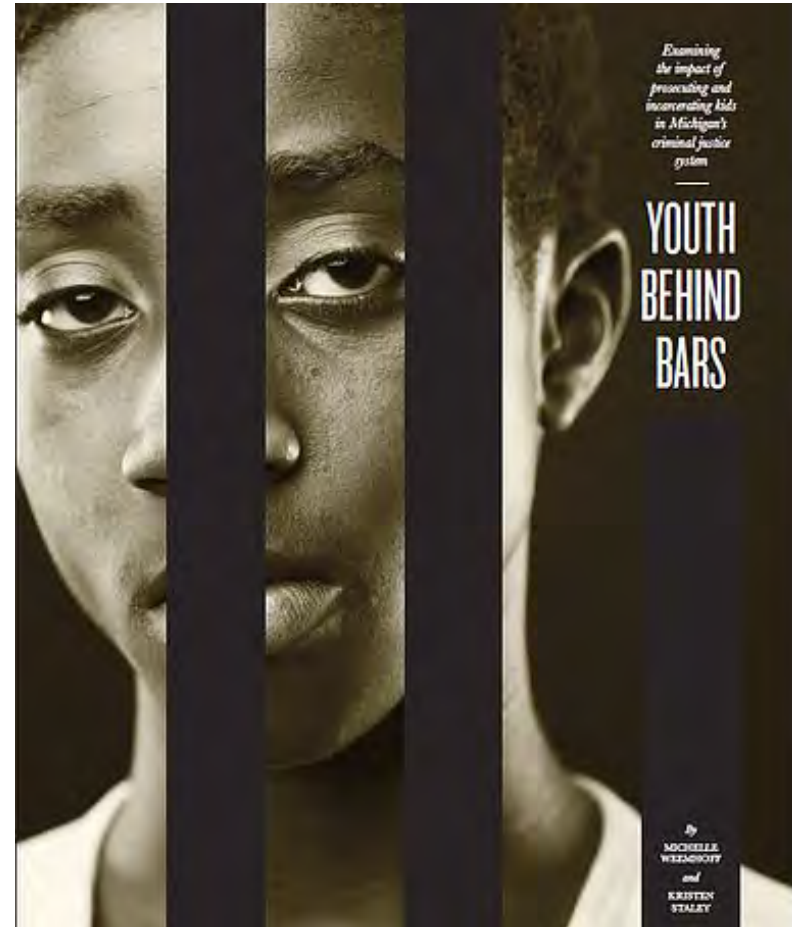
Once an Adult, Always an Adult



- Once waived to the adult system, a youth must be tried as an adult for any future felony charges, even if the offense would not normally warrant transfer to adult court.
- This applies even if they were never convicted of the original offense.

Youth Behind Bars Report

In 2014, the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCCD) published a report on impact of prosecuting and incarcerating kids in Michigan's criminal justice system.



YBB Report Findings (2003-2013)

- **Over 20,000** youth were convicted as adults and placed on probation, sent to jail, or incarcerated for offenses committed prior to age 18.
- **Approximately 6,700** remain under MDOC supervision.



Profile of Convicted 17-Year-Olds

- **Nearly 60% of offenses were nonviolent** and did not involve a weapon.
- 58% had no prior juvenile record.
- 55% were sentenced to prison time



Profile of Convicted 17-Year-Olds

These kids suffered from a variety of serious traumas:

- 44% in foster care with 11 or more placements!
- 45% with parent in prison
- 78% experienced violence as victims or witness
- 25% mental illness
- 50% substance addictions



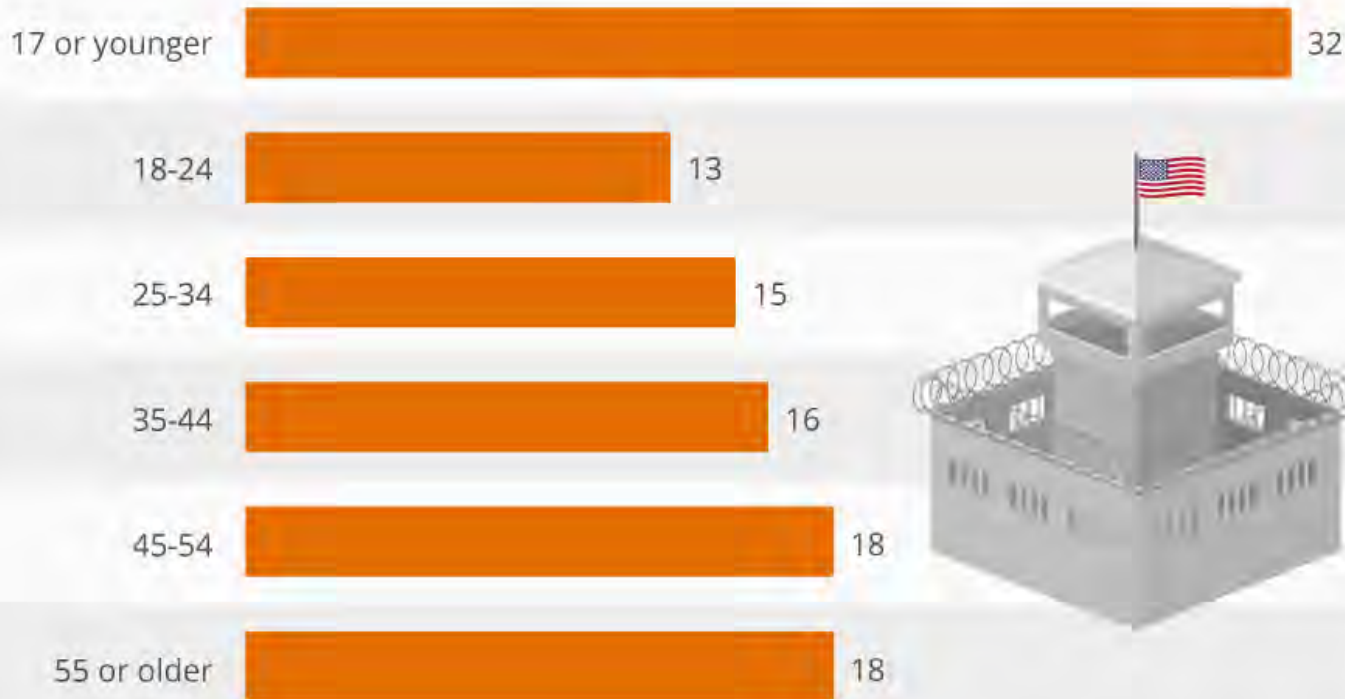
Unintended Consequences

- Youth in adult system are more likely to be physically attacked, or sexually assaulted.
 - 2013 class action suit filed against MDOC, alleged 500 prisoners who were sexually or physically assaulted by adult prisoners as youth.

Unintended Consequences

Teenage Prisoners Are Twice As Likely to Commit Suicide

Average annual mortality rate per 100,000 prisoners in the U.S. (2001-2012)



* in adult prisons

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Forbes statista

MCCD
MICHIGAN COUNCIL
ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Unintended Consequences

- **Lifelong impact:** Adult convictions creates barriers to housing, employment, education, and more.
- **Expensive:** Each year of prison costs about \$34,000, with a lifetime earnings loss of 40%



Unintended Consequences

Finally, are we creating the very thing we fear?

- **Increased crime:** Teens in the adult system are 34% more likely than their counterparts in the juvenile justice system to reoffend, re-offend sooner, and do so violently.

Racial Overrepresentation

53% of youth entering **MDOC** jurisdiction at age 17 were **youth of color**



...even though youth of color only make up **23%** of the population **statewide**.



RTA Benefits Municipalities

Youth in your community will commit less crime

- a) Youth in the juvenile system have significantly lower recidivism rates
 - i) Fewer victims
 - ii) Lower police and court costs

RTA Benefits Municipalities

Youth in your community will remain competitive

- a) No lifelong criminal record
- b) Equal chances at employment & education as youth who come here from other states
- c) Workforce is expanded and tax revenues increased
- d) Less reliance on government assistance

Youth in Prison Bill Package

Introduced during the 2016-17 Michigan Legislative Session, the following policies were developed into a bi-partisan package of bill proposals.

1. Increase the maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years old.
1. Establish funding to ensure that 17-year-olds can access services available in the juvenile justice system.
1. Prohibit the placement of youth under 18 in adult jails and prisons.
1. Omit offenses not requiring adult sentencing from the list of Specified Juvenile Offenses.

Youth in Prison Bill Package

Introduced during the 2016-17 Michigan Legislative Session, the following policies were developed into a bi-partisan package of bill proposals.

- 5. Require equal consideration of all mitigating factors prior to waiving jurisdiction in traditional juvenile waiver cases.
- 5. Require public monitoring and oversight of youth under the jurisdiction of the MDOC.
- 5. Restrict the use of administrative segregation for youth under 18 in prison.
- 5. Establish a family advisory board within the MDOC.

Current Status of Legislation

- Youth in Prison bill package passed the House with huge majorities in 2016.
- Legislation stalled in Senate Judiciary Committee.
- Stakeholders concerned about costs to counties/state if juvenile jurisdiction is raised.

Current Status of Legislation

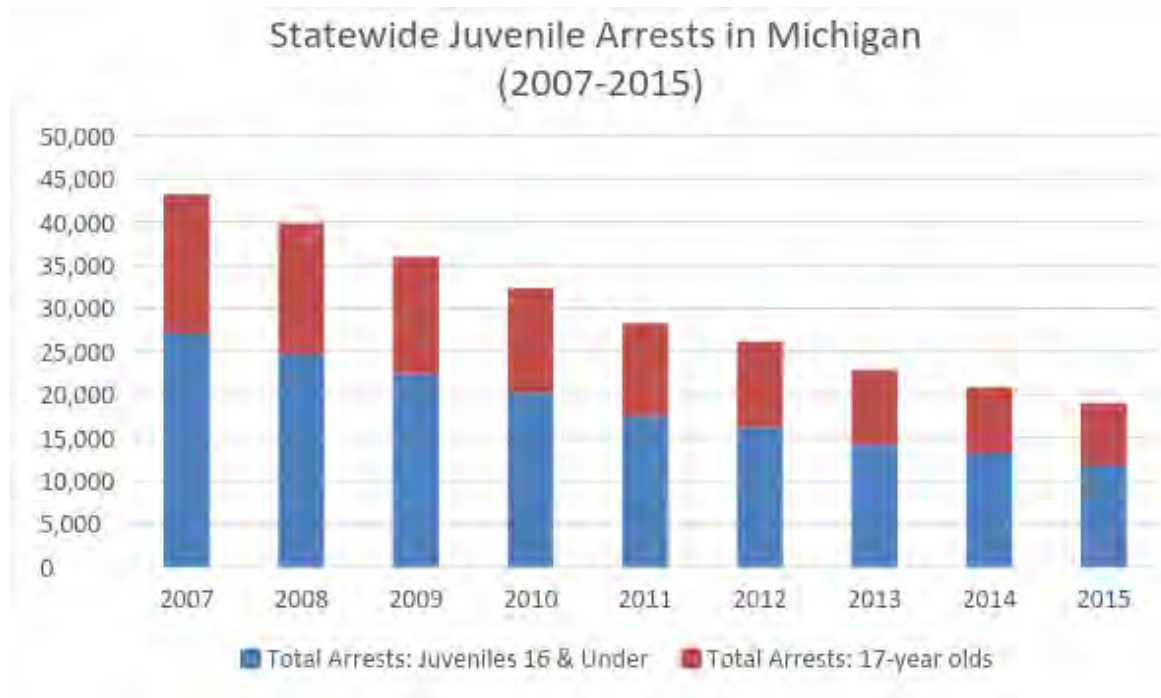
- Bills sponsors reintroduced the legislation for 2017-18 session, referred to House Law & Justice Committee.
- Cmte hearings on the Youth in Prison bill package expected in spring '18 (Likely April/May)

Legislative Cost Study

- RTA Cost Study report (funded by state legislature) approved in March 2018.
 - Cost estimate is between \$45M and \$60M
 - Actual RTA cost in EVERY OTHER state were lower than the estimates
 - Costs will go down over time because 17-year-olds recidivate less in juvenile system

Legislative Cost Study

- In addition, both juvenile arrests and caseloads have been declining for the past decade.



How You Can Support the Raise the Age MI Campaign

- Visit our “Taking Action” page on Campaign website:
www.RaiseTheAgeMI.org/TakingAction
- Sign up for the RTA campaign newsletter to receive updates, and action alerts.

How You Can Support the Raise the Age MI Campaign

- In 1-3 paragraphs, tell us why you support Raise the Age.
- Host a presentation and/or campaign event in your community.

How You Can Support the Raise the Age MI Campaign

- Help find stories of people impacted by the law.
- Contact your state legislators (House & Senate) and encourage them to vote in support of the Youth in Prison bill package.

Who We Are

- MCCD is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving policies and systems that prevent and reduce youth and adult crime and incarceration in Michigan.



Contact Us

Mary King, Executive Director, mking@miccd.org

Jason Smith, Youth Justice Policy Associate, jsmith@miccd.org

Michigan Council on Crime & Delinquency

(517)482-4161

www.miccd.org



@JusticeinMI

