

**CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE**  
**National Survey**

**September 27-October 2, 2011**  
**1000 Respondents**

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Q.3 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?

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

Q.4 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?

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

Q.5 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?

	<b>Total</b>
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
<b>Total MORE likely to commit crime.....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Total LESS likely to commit crime .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>More likely to commit crime - Less likely to commit crime.....</b>	<b>29</b>
(ref:TRANSF2)	

Q.6 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?

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

Q.7 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?

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

Q.8 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?

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

**[640 Respondents]**

Q.9 (IF FAVOR IN Q.8) 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?

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

Q.10 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?

	<b>Total</b>
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
<b>Total Case-by-case basis.....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Total Clear set of rules with no exceptions.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Case-by-case basis - Clear set of rules with no exceptions.....</b>	<b>57</b>
(ref:TRANSF6)	

Q.11 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?

	<b>Total</b>
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.

	<b>1st Stmt Much</b>	<b>1st Smwt</b>	<b>2nd Smwt</b>	<b>2nd Stmt Much</b>	<b>Nei- ther</b>	<b>DK/ Ref</b>	<b>Total 1st Stmt</b>	<b>Total 2nd Stmt</b>	<b>1st - 2nd</b>
12 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	<b>71</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>48</b>
13 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	<b>64</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>
14 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	<b>76</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>58</b>

	1st Stmt Much	1st Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Much	Nei-ther	DK/Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
15 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

16 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
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**[500 Respondents]**

Q.17 (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.18 (SPLIT B) Thinking specifically about a youth who commits assault, which TWO of the following punishments are the most fitting?

	<b>Total</b>
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.19 (SPLIT A) Thinking specifically about a youth who is caught dealing drugs, which TWO of the following punishments are the most fitting?

	<b>Total</b>
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.20 (SPLIT B) Thinking specifically about a youth who is caught with drug possession, which TWO of the following punishments are the most fitting?

	<b>Total</b>
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.

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

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.

	<b>Strng Favr</b>	<b>Smwt Favr</b>	<b>Smwt Opp</b>	<b>Strng Opp</b>	<b>DK/ Ref</b>	<b>Total Favr</b>	<b>Total Opp</b>	<b>Favr - Opp</b>
26 Require facilities that incarcerate youth to let youth offenders see their families at least once a week. ....	65	21	5	7	1	<b>86</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>73</b>
27 Require that incarcerated youth are placed in facilities close to their families and communities. ....	50	27	8	12	3	<b>77</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>57</b>
28 Design treatment and rehabilitation plans that include a youth's family in planning and services. ....	59	27	6	5	3	<b>86</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>74</b>
29 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	<b>84</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>71</b>

Q.30 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?

	<b>Total</b>
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).....	6
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.31 Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal?

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

Q.32 In what year were you born?

	<b>Total</b>
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.33 What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	<b>Total</b>
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.34 And what is your race?

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

Q.35 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?

	<b>Total</b>
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.36 Have you or someone in your immediate family been the victim of a violent crime?

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

Q.37 Have you or someone in your immediate family been the victim of a serious property crime, such as a home burglary or car theft?

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

Q.38 Have you, a close friend or family member spent time in jail or prison?

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

Q.39 Do you or does someone in your immediate family work in law enforcement?

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

Q.2 Respondent's gender

	<b>Total</b>
Male .....	48
Female .....	52
(ref:GENDER)	