

On January 19, 2015, the Commission on Youth, Public Safety & Justice, a task force created by NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, released its recommendations on how to improve the treatment of young people in the NY State justice system.

RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE

- Raising the age of adult criminal responsibility to 18.
- Keeping youth out of adult jails and prisons.
- Diverting youth cases before they reach the courts.
- Modifying how 16 & 17 year olds are handled in the court system, depending on the type of crime committed.
- Reducing the lifetime obstacles faced by youth with a criminal record.
- Making upfront investments in intensive interventions.

An estimated
1,500
to
2,400

crime victimizations
**WOULD BE
ELIMINATED**
if the commission
recommendations
are implemented.

Youth in adult jails & state prisons

2X

More likely to be physically harmed by staff.

(Source: American Youth Policy Forum)

5X

More likely to be sexually assaulted than youth in juvenile facilities..

(Source: US Department of Justice)

8X

More likely to commit suicide.
(Source: Campaign for Youth Justice)

Why bother?

We're behind the times: NY State is only one of two states in the nation that has no capacity to treat 16-17 year olds as juveniles.

Make our community safer and avoid relapse into crime: Evidence shows that raising the age of criminal responsibility can LOWER recidivism and juvenile crime rates.

Protect our youth: Research shows that adolescents that are incarcerated in adult jails and prisons have higher suicide rates, victimization, and re-arrest rates than similar adolescents who are treated as juvenile offenders.

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