

RAISE THE AGE IN NEW YORK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
FOR CONSENSUS STUDY

FALL 2015



*CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM HAS
TRADITIONALLY TREATED CHILDREN
DIFFERENTLY THAN ADULTS*

In 1824 New York first established a facility to house juvenile offenders

In 1924, independent juvenile courts were established in the entire state.

In 1909, the legislature decriminalized most youthful offenses.



IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE LAST CENTURY, ATTITUDES TOWARD JUVENILE OFFENDERS CHANGED,

- No longer emphasize the best interests of the juvenile
- Primary goal became the need to protect the community.



BRAIN DEVELOPMENT SCIENCE HAS ESTABLISHED

*Adolescents Are Different Than
Adults*



HUMAN BRAIN IS NOT FULLY DEVELOPED TILL THE AGE OF 25



AT THE SAME TIME, DEVELOPING BRAIN IS MORE OPEN TO CHANGE

adolescents are highly receptive to change;

adolescents respond well to interventions, learn to make responsible choices,

adolescents are likely to grow out of negative or delinquent behavior.



NEW YORK'S RESPONSE TO THESE SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS?

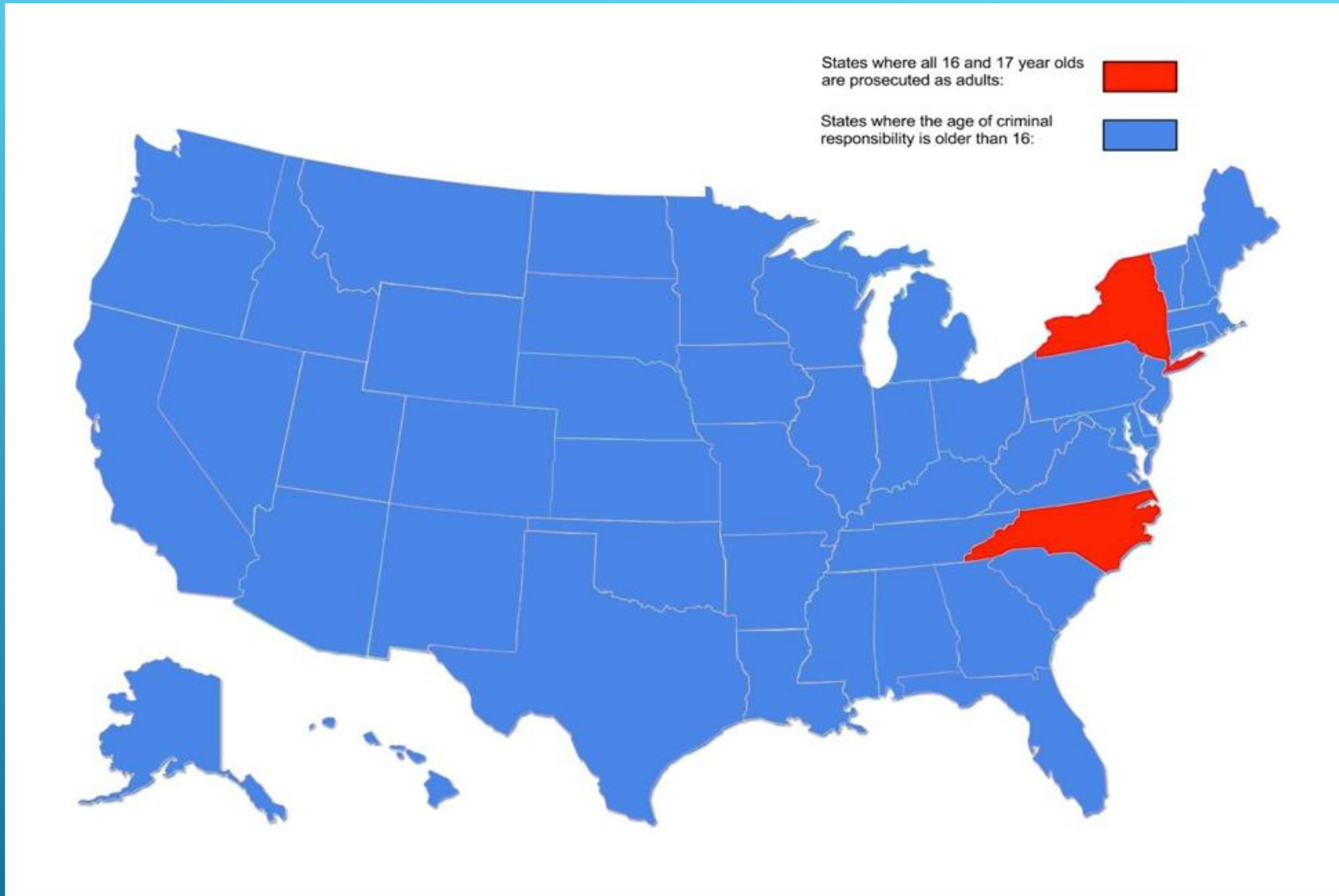


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WHAT ARE THE RESULTS
OF THAT INACTION?





THIS MAP AND MUCH OF THE FACTUAL INFORMATION ON THE NEXT SEVERAL SLIDES IS BASED ON INFORMATION FOUND ON RAISETHEAGENCY.COM

Nearly 50,000 16- and 17-year-olds are arrested and face the possibility of prosecution as adults in criminal court each year

the vast majority for minor crimes (75.3% are misdemeanors)

More than 600 children ages 13 to 15 are prosecuted in adult criminal courts

LIVES ARE AFFECTED



Over 70% of the children and youth arrested are black or Latino.

Of those sentenced to incarceration, 80% are black and Latino.

LIVES ARE AFFECTED

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against a blue background.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

\$1,000 a day
to keep a
juvenile
incarcerated.

\$352,000 a
year.

New York's
costs are the
highest in the
nation.



WHAT DOES IT COST?

Young people processed through the adult criminal justice system have about one-third more felony re-arrests than those processed in the youth justice system.

Around 80% of youth released from adult prisons reoffend often going on to commit more serious crimes.



WHAT DOES IT COST?

Youth in adult prisons are twice as likely to report being beaten by staff,

They are nearly 50% more likely to be attacked with a weapon than children placed in youth facilities.

Youth in adult prisons face the highest risk of sexual assault



WHAT CAN WE DO?

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Children under the age of 18 are not adults

Their treatment within the juvenile justice and criminal court system should relate to their stage of development.

Children should not be held in adult jails.

Rehabilitation is the purpose of the juvenile justice system.

The legal rights of children should be protected.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

▶ General Information on Raise the Age

- ▶ http://raisetheagency.com*
- ▶ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/keywords/raise-age>

▶ Information on Ohio's Studies and Position

- ▶ [http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/Juvenile%20Justice\(1\).pdf](http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/Juvenile%20Justice(1).pdf)