

# 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?



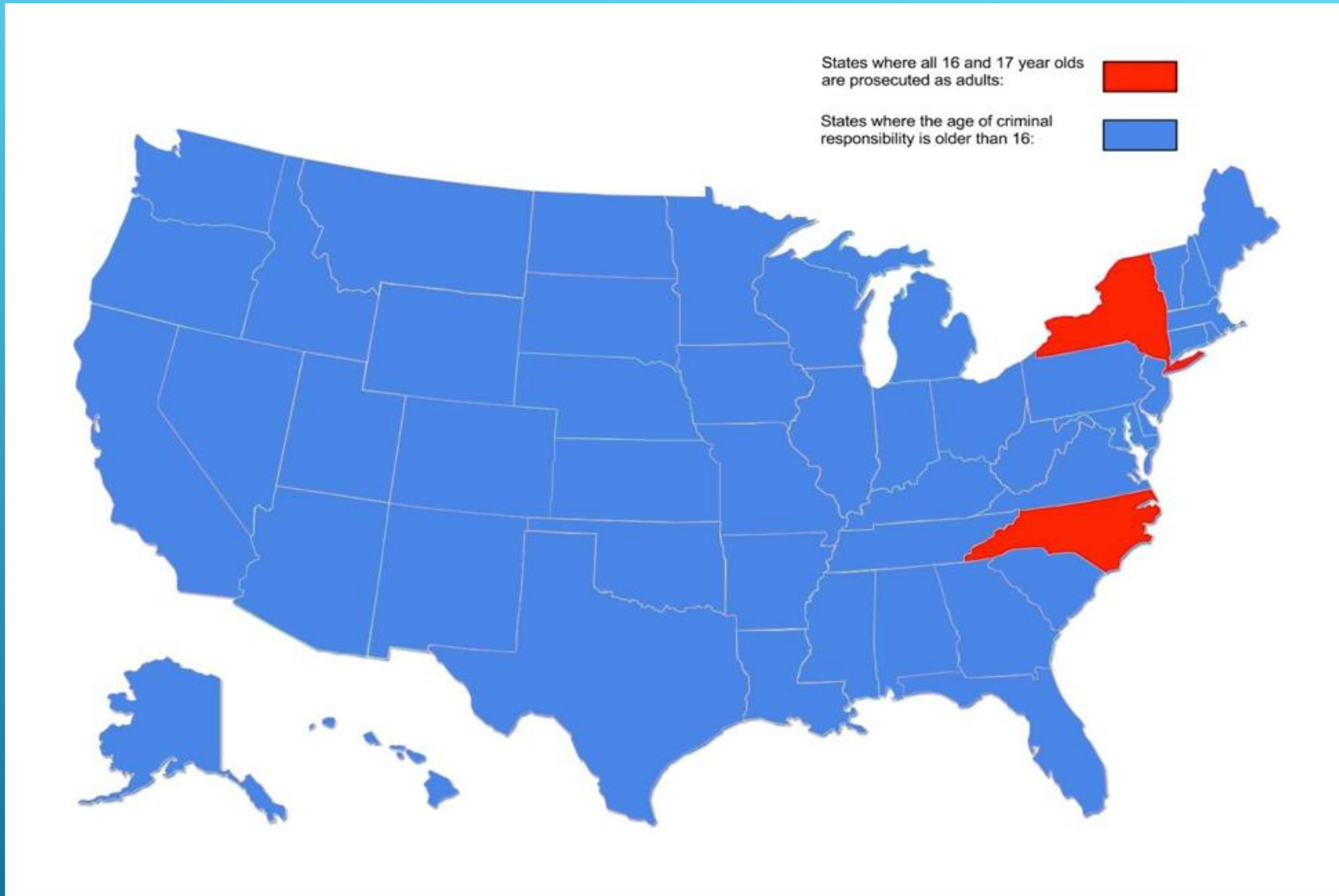
# INACTION





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](http://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\\*](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)