

Overview of Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System



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Executive Director

Overview of the System

Connecticut's juvenile justice system is a statewide system of juvenile courts, detention centers, private residential facilities and juvenile correctional facilities.

- 13 Juvenile Courts (Superior Court, Juvenile Matters)
- 3 Public Juvenile Detention Centers (Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven)
- Private residential facilities
- Community-based programs
- Correctional facilities

System Philosophy and Goals



The juvenile justice system in Connecticut is grounded in the concepts of restorative justice, emphasizing protection of the community, offender accountability, and rehabilitation

The goals of the system, as defined in the Juvenile Justice Act of 1995, include:

- **Individualized supervision, care, and treatment** provided pursuant to an individual case management (probation) plan that **involves the family of the juvenile.**
- School and community programs promoting **prevention.**
- A statewide system of **community-based services** designed to **keep the juvenile in the home and community whenever possible.**

System Philosophy and Goals



- **Uniform intake procedures** including “risk and needs” assessment instruments and case classification plans to inform decision-making relative to detention, residential placement and treatment plans.
- **Facilitated access to treatment** programs addressing drug and alcohol abuse, emotional and behavioral problems, sexual abuse, health needs, and education.
- A statewide **network of high quality professional** medical, psychological, psychiatric and substance abuse **testing and evaluation**.
- Programming for **anger management** and nonviolent **conflict resolution**.
- A coordinated statewide **system of secure residential facilities** and **closely supervised nonresidential centers** and programs.
- **Community centered programs** involving restitution, community service, mentoring, and intensive early intervention.

Law Enforcement

Initial Contact

Issue a warning and release the juvenile.

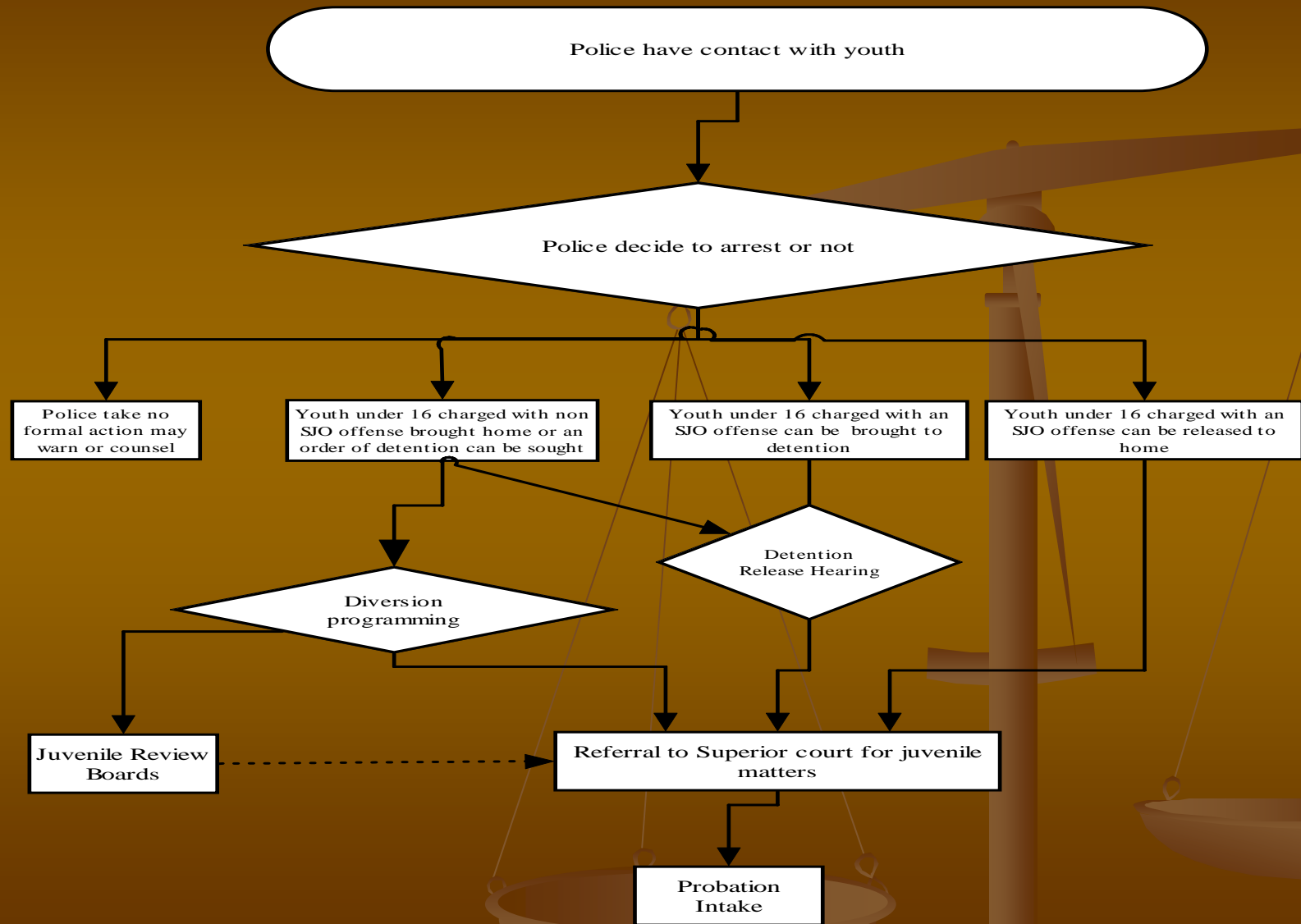
Confer with parents and release the juvenile.

Make a referral to a community-based organization.

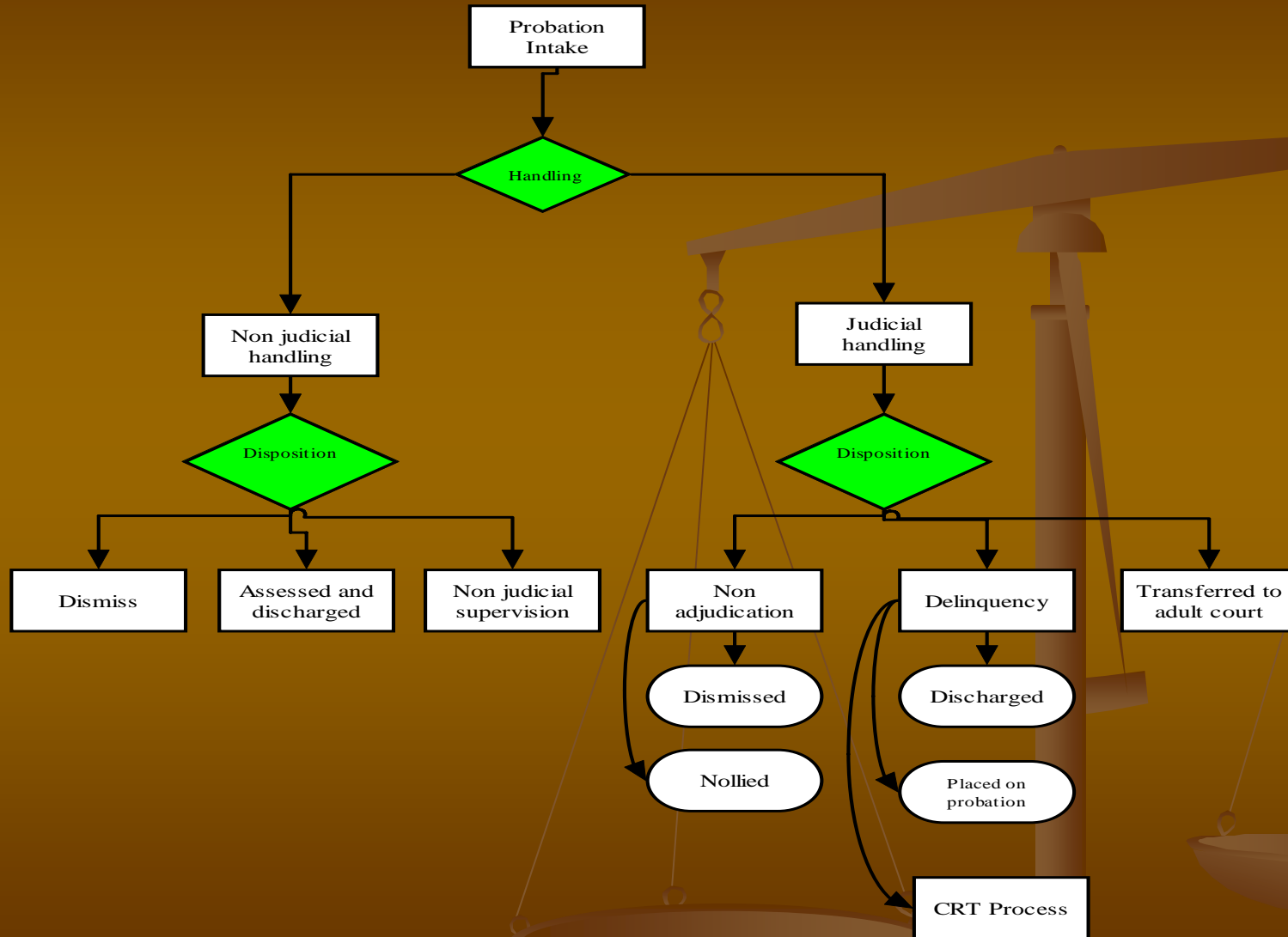
Make a referral to formal diversion services, where available (JRB, YSB, etc.).

Make an arrest.

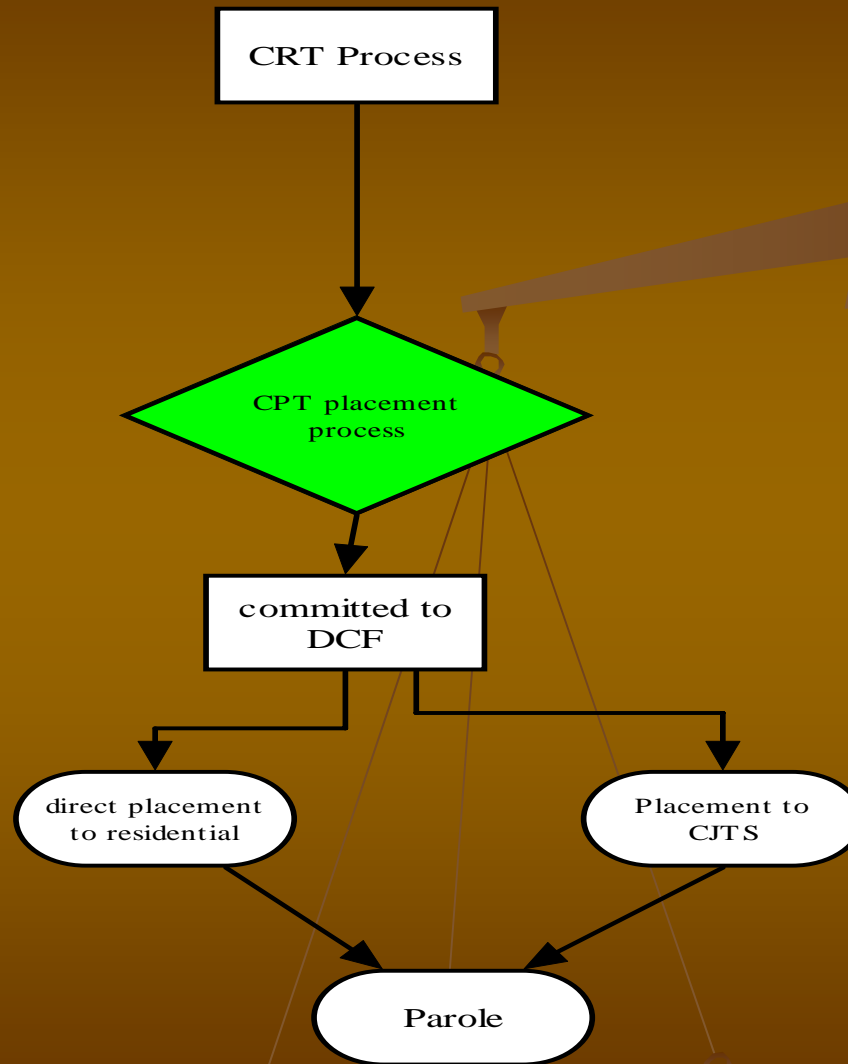
Moving through the System



Moving through the System

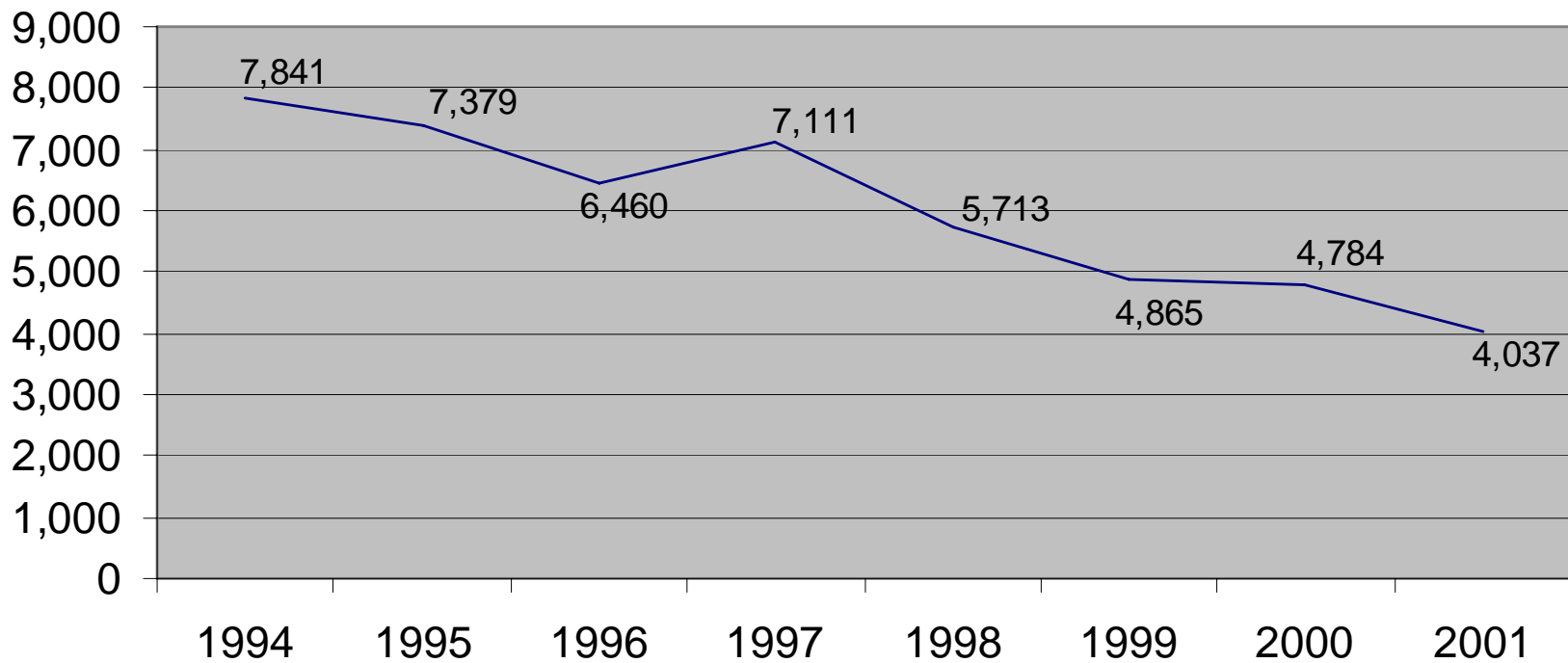


Moving through the System



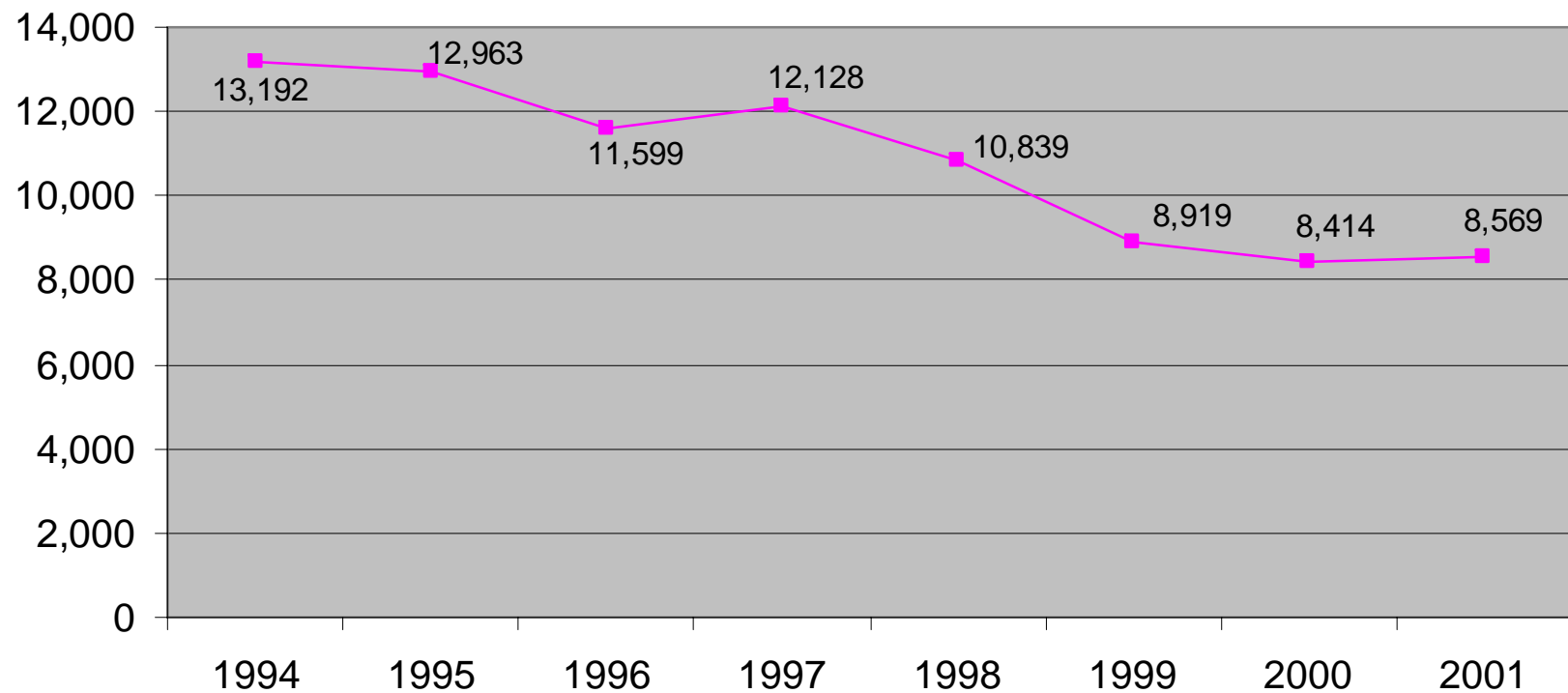
Decrease in Juvenile Crime

Arrest Rate of Persons Under Age 18 (per 100,000 persons age 10 to 17) in Fairfield County



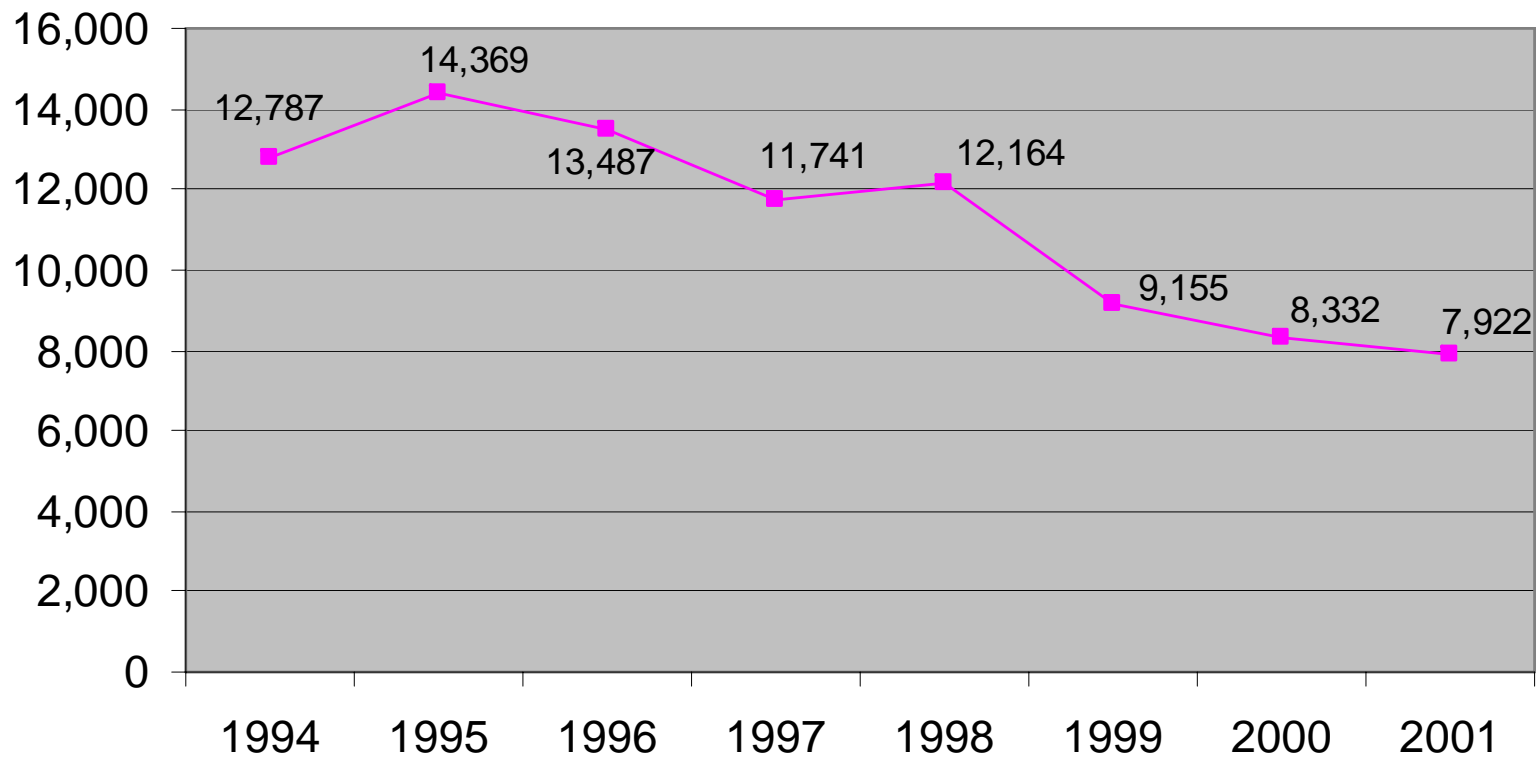
Decrease in Juvenile Crime

Arrest Rate of Persons Under Age 18 (per 100,000 persons age 10 to 17) in Hartford County

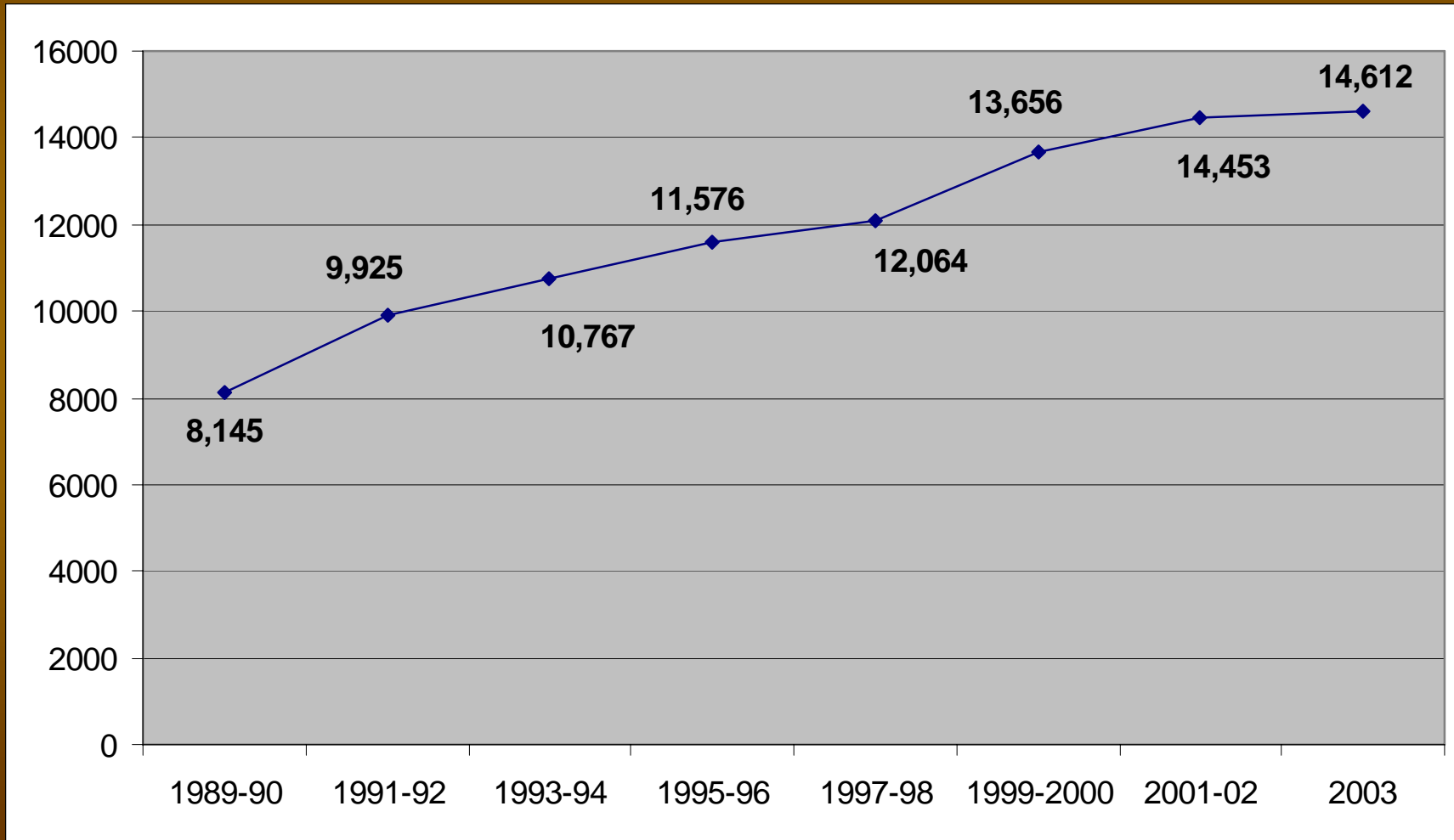


Decrease in Juvenile Crime

Arrest Rate of Persons Under Age 18 (per 100,000 per persons age 10 to 17) in New Haven County



Juveniles Referred to Connecticut Superior Court, Juvenile Matters: 1989 – 2003*



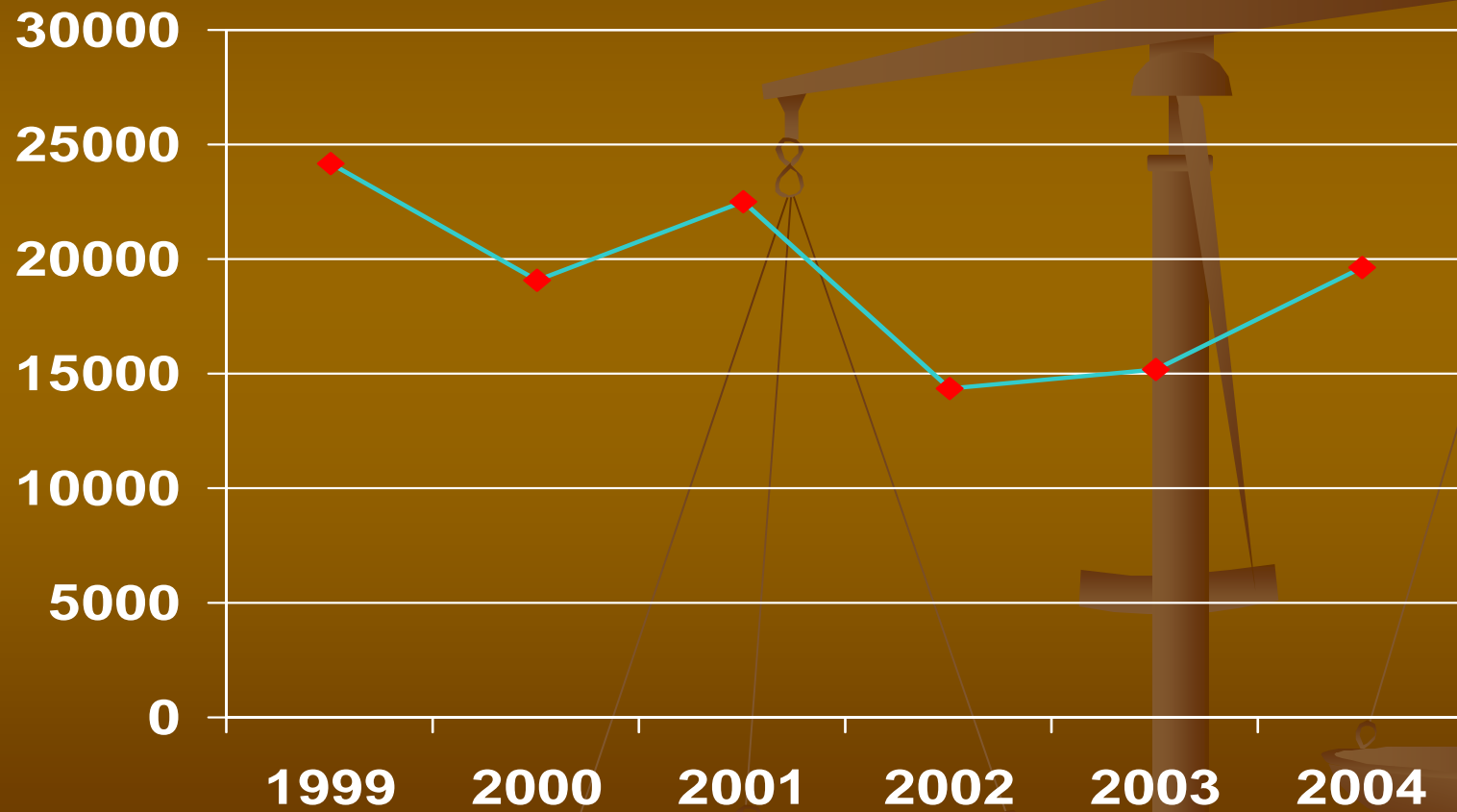
Source: Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division.

2003 Referral and Disposed by Court Location

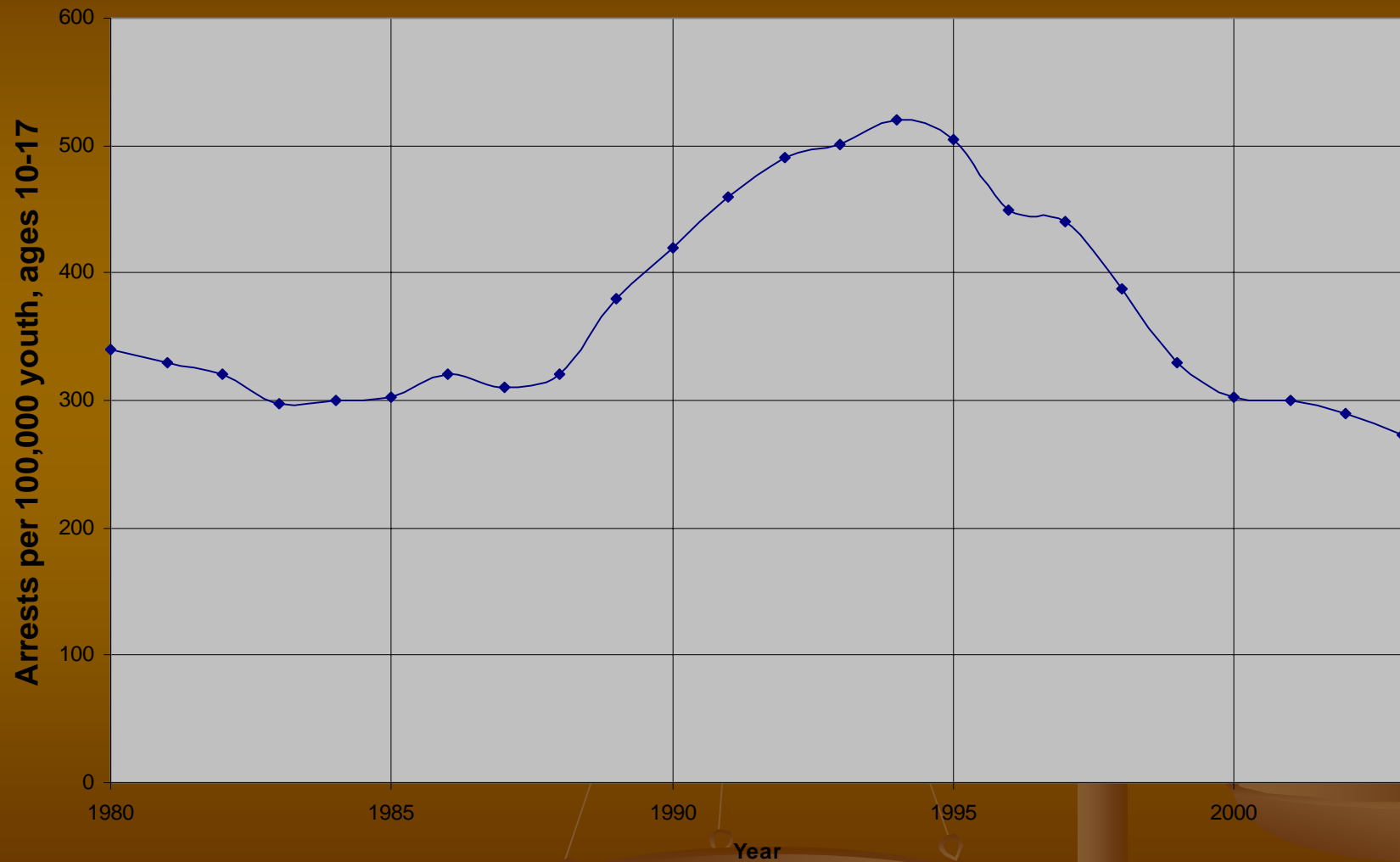
Location	Total Referred For Delinquency	Total Referred for FWSN	Court Total
New Haven	1780	411	2365
Hartford	1606	327	2001
Waterbury	1173	368	1676
Bridgeport	1113	230	1400
New Britain	1001	263	1345
Waterford	765	216	1050
Middletown	565	194	844
Rockville	548	161	771
Willimantic	445	131	610
Torrington	369	138	558
Stamford	359	61	441
Norwalk	327	66	412
Danbury	311	70	399
TOTAL REFERRALS	10362	2636	13872

Source: Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division.

CT Arrest Under 18

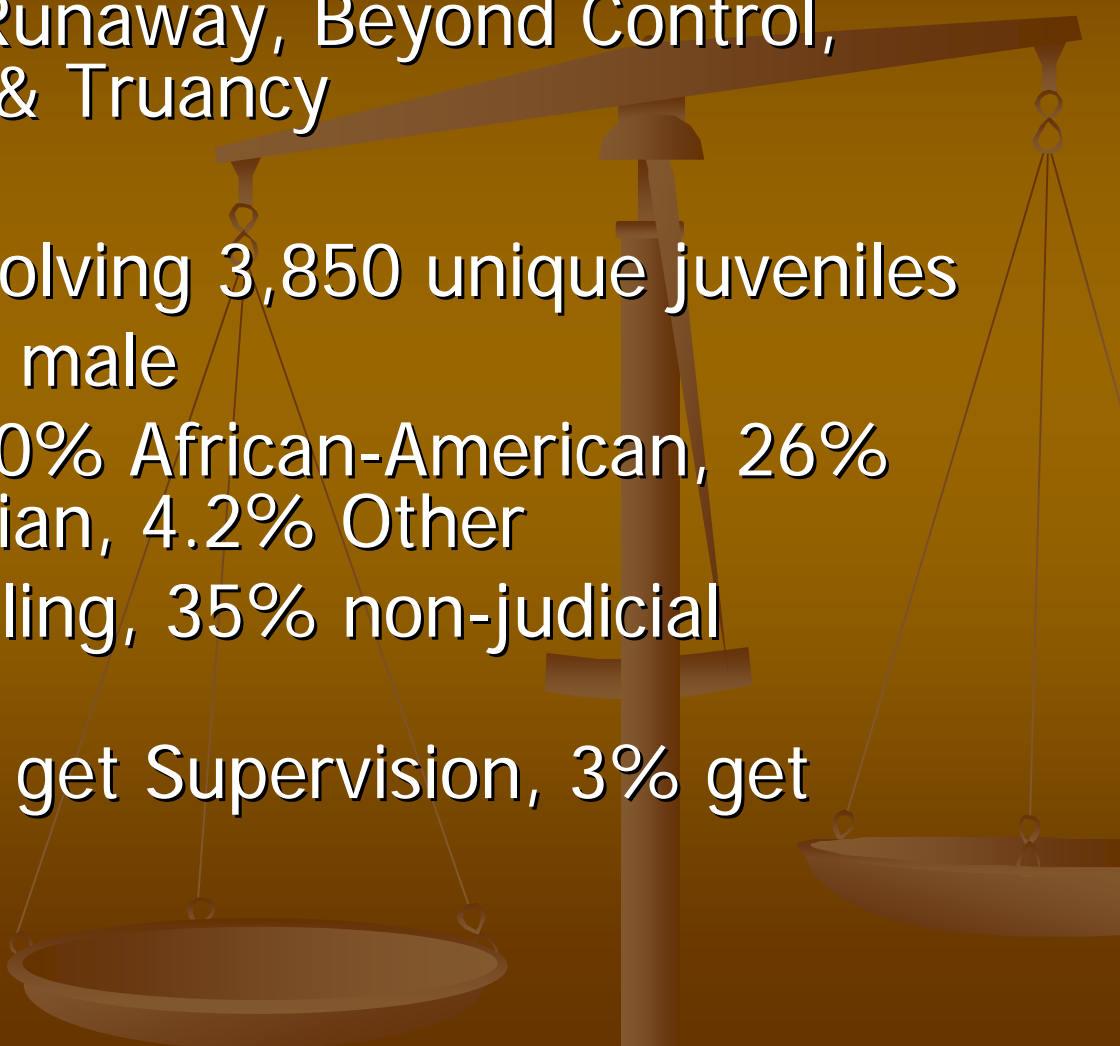


Number of Arrests for Violent Crime Index Offenses

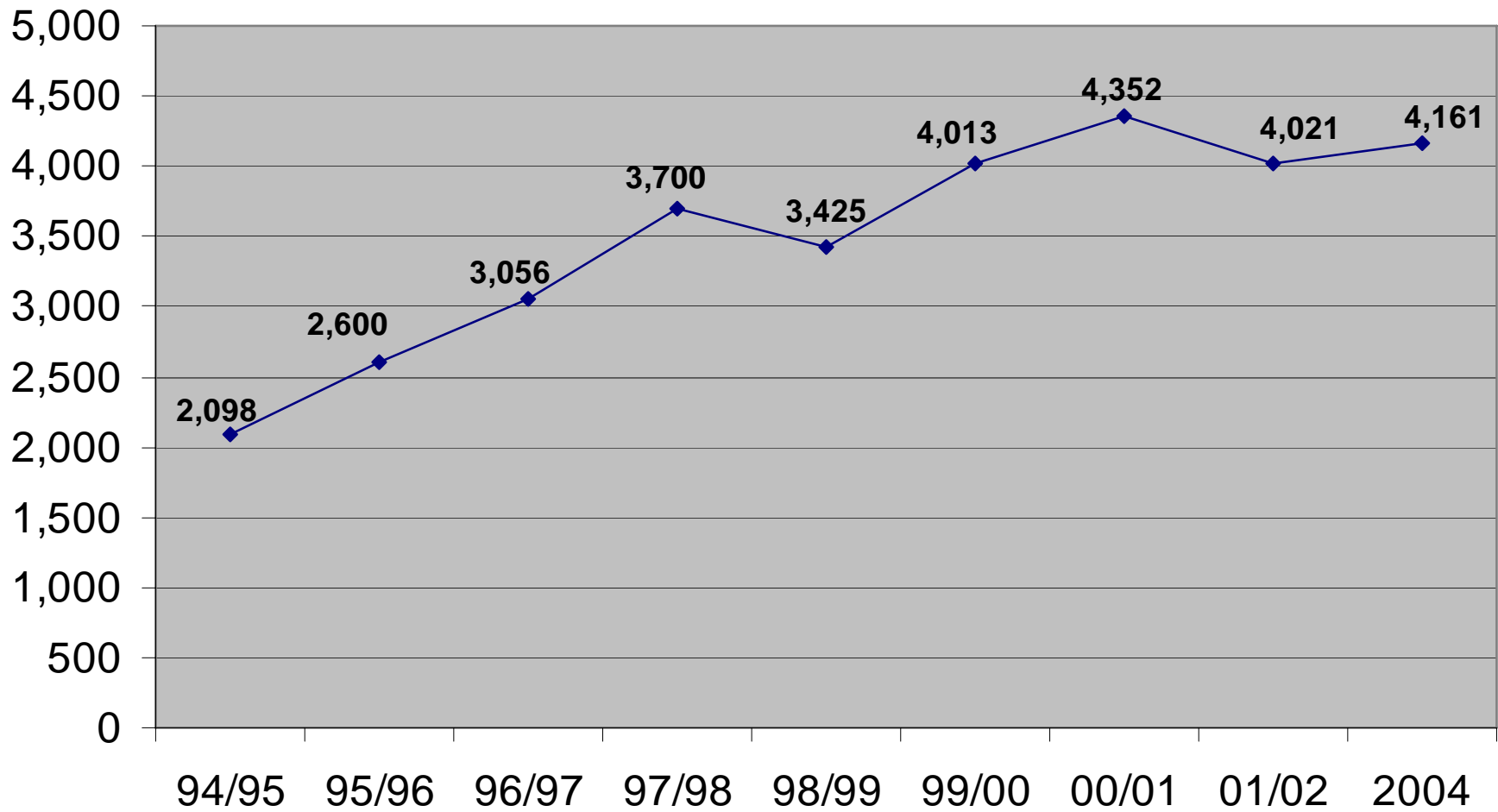


Source: OJJDP Juvenile Violent Crime Index, August 2005

2004 FWSN Cases

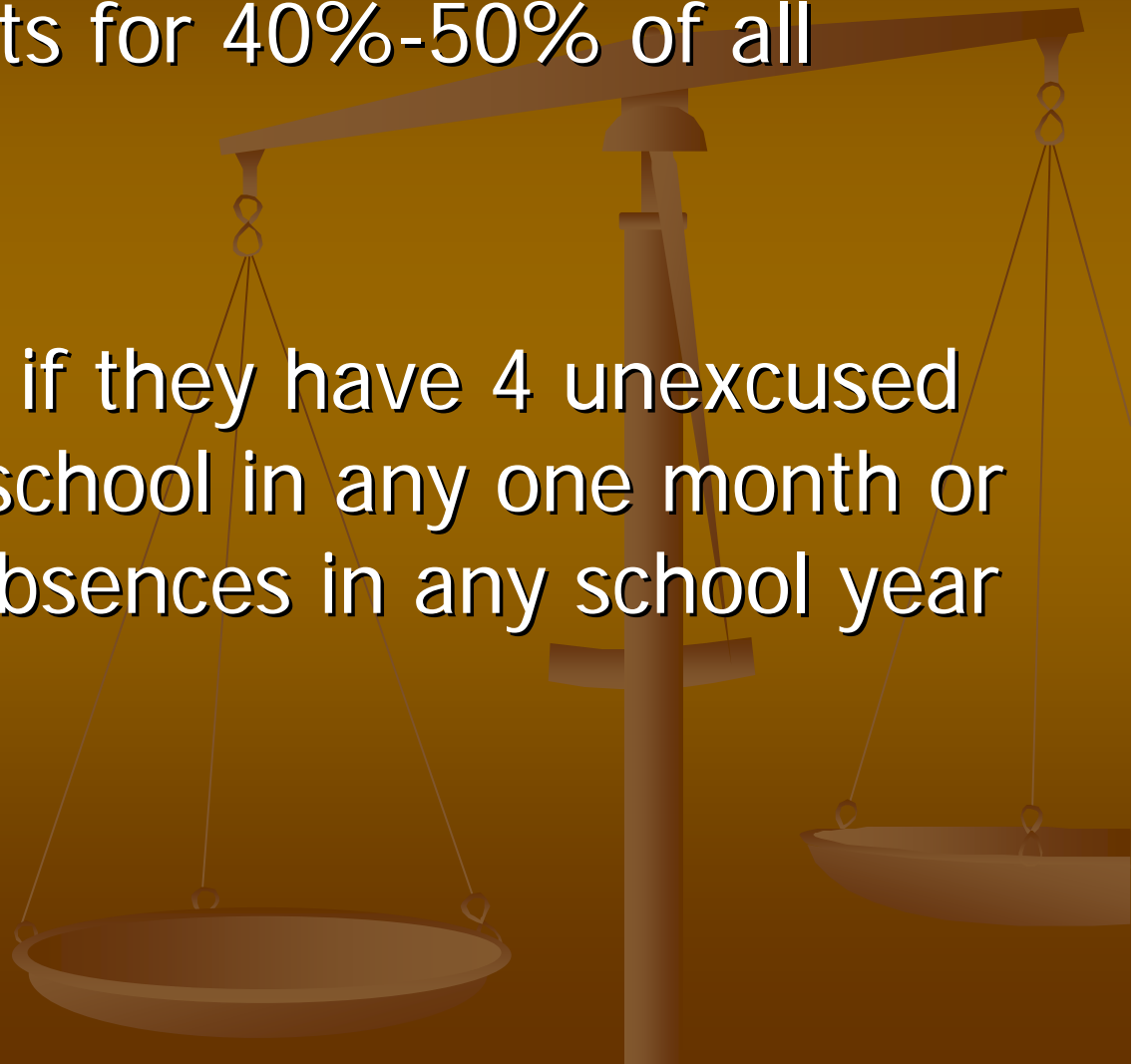
- Four Categories: Runaway, Beyond Control, Immoral Conduct & Truancy
 - 4,161 referrals involving 3,850 unique juveniles
 - 46% female, 54% male
 - 49% Caucasian, 20% African-American, 26% Hispanic, 0.6% Asian, 4.2% Other
 - 65% Judicial handling, 35% non-judicial handling
 - Dispositions: 23% get Supervision, 3% get committed
- 

Growth of FWSN Referrals



Truancy & Juvenile Justice

- Truancy accounts for 40%-50% of all FWSN referrals
- A child is truant if they have 4 unexcused absences from school in any one month or 10 unexcused absences in any school year



Mental Health



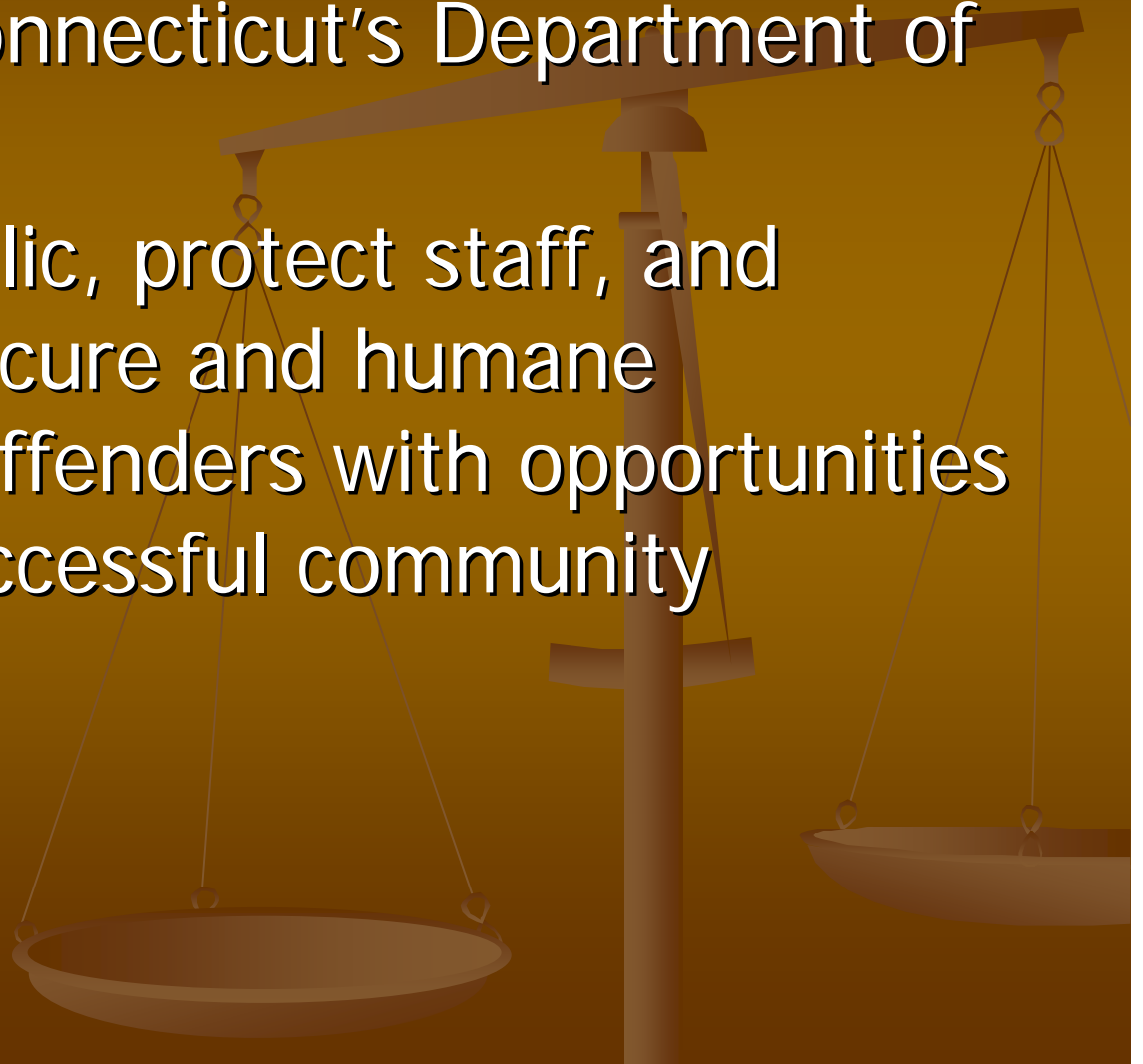
For children admitted to pre-trial detention centers:

- • 55% show signs of a mental health disorder
- • 20% require prompt psychiatric intervention
- • 22% of children were in the mental health system when referred to court supervision

Adult System

The mission of Connecticut's Department of Correction is to:

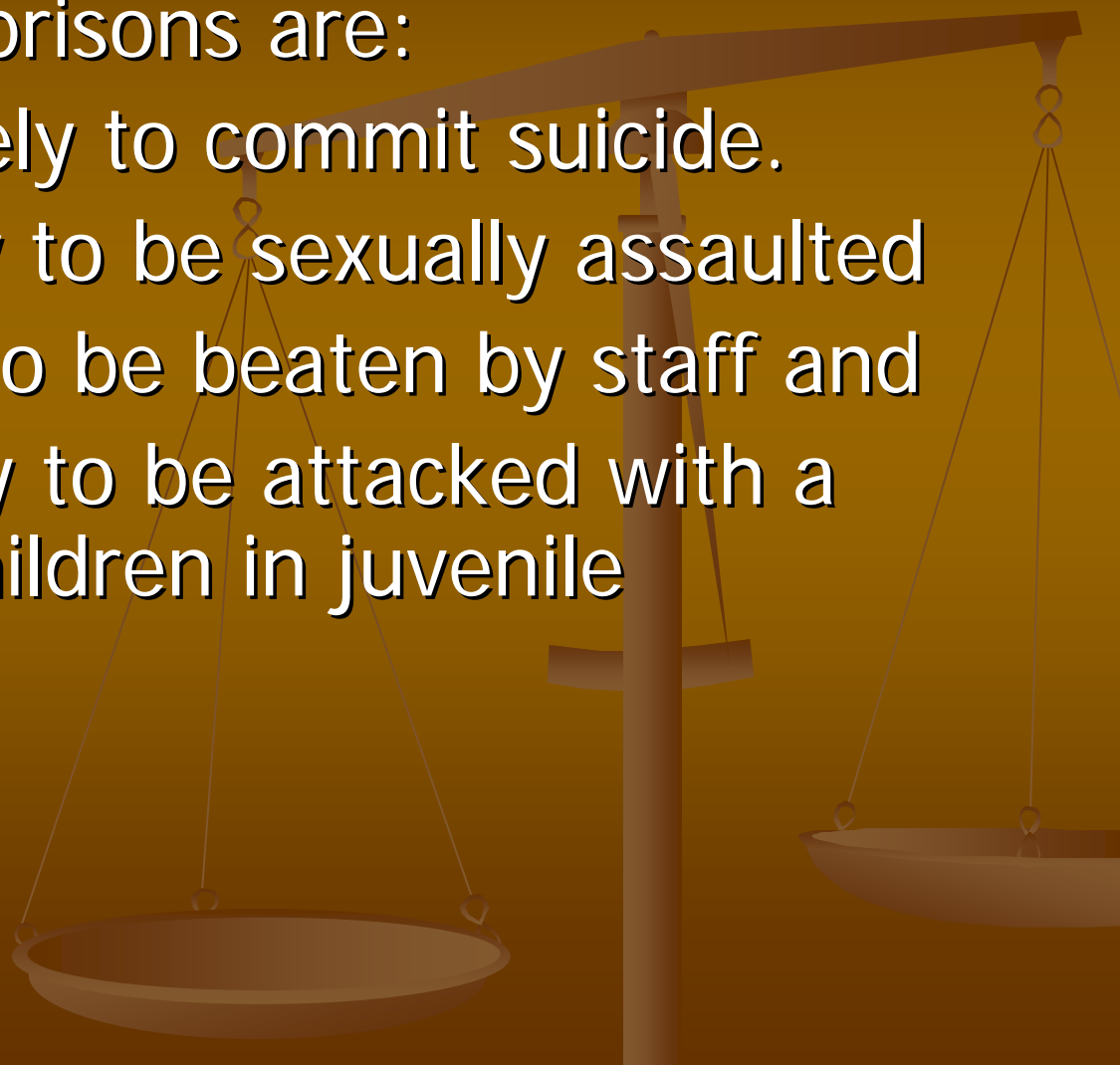
“protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration.”



Trying Youth as Adults Harms Children

Children in adult prisons are:

- 7.7 times as likely to commit suicide.
- 5 times as likely to be sexually assaulted
- Twice as likely to be beaten by staff and
- 50% more likely to be attacked with a weapon than children in juvenile institutions.



Youth in the adult system.....

- receive fewer rehabilitative supports including: education, treatment and vocational training;
- are at risk of “school of crime” training, with unhealthy adult mentors.

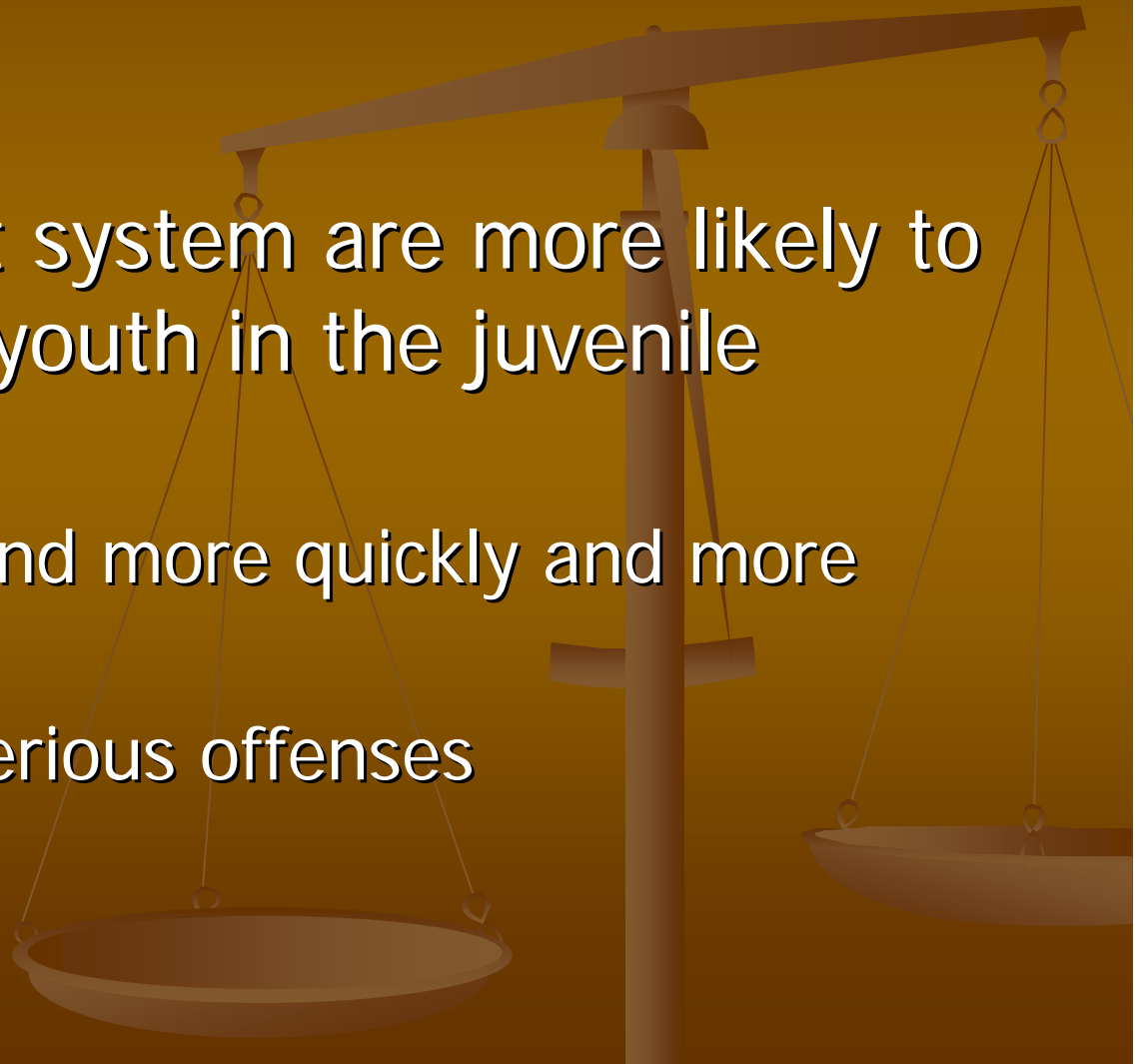
When they reenter, they ...

- are subject to increased stigma and labeling;
- may have weakened ties to family and other support systems;
- will have difficulty finding and keeping a job.

Trying Youth as Adults Jeopardizes Public Safety

Youth in the adult system are more likely to recidivate than youth in the juvenile system --

- They will reoffend more quickly and more often
- And for more serious offenses



A Closer Look at the Research:



- **New Jersey/New York (Jeffrey Fagan)**
 - 1,600 15 & 16 year olds: half tried as adults in NY and half tried as juveniles in NJ charged with burglary and robbery
 - No difference in re-offense rate for burglary offenders
 - Re-arrest rate for NJ robbery offenders was 29% lower than for NY offenders who were in adult court
- **Pennsylvania (David Myers)**
 - 557 youth matched for age, past criminal record, weapon used etc...
 - Re-offense rate was worse for youth tried in adult court
 - More likely to be rearrested and more likely to be charged with violent felonies
- **Florida (Donna Bishop)**
 - 1996 comparison of youth transferred to adult court and those who remained in juvenile justice system for same offenses and similar prior records
 - Youth in the adult system were a third more likely to re-offend than those sent to the juvenile justice system
 - Of those youth who committed new crimes, those sent to adult court re-offended at twice the rate of those sent to juvenile court

Transfer to Adult Court



Juveniles age 14 or 15 charged with a Class A or B felony are automatically transferred to the adult criminal court.

Additionally, juveniles age 14 or 15 charged with a Class C or D felony or with an unclassified felony may be transferred to the adult criminal court upon a motion by the juvenile prosecutor and order of a Juvenile Matters Judge (discretionary transfers).

Juveniles charged with a Class B felony and the "discretionary transfers" can be returned to the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters upon order of a judge in the adult court.

Juveniles confined in a detention center and subsequently transferred to the adult court may be placed in the custody of the Department of Correction and held in an adult facility both pretrial and following conviction.

FISCAL ARCHITECTURE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS



Pennsylvania—“Act 148”

- State pays 80 percent of the county cost of community-based juvenile justice services. The county pays state 40 percent of the cost of state juvenile confinement.
- Three years after Act 148 was enacted in the late 1970s, there was a 75 percent increase in state subsidies for county programs; by the early 1980s, secure placements for juveniles dropped 24 percent.

Wisconsin—“Youth Aids”

- Allocation for each county is based on the total county youth population and the number of juvenile arrests and county secure placements.
- A year after Youth Aids” was enacted in 1980, 25 counties shared \$26 million in funding plus state capacity-building money for community alternative programs. Between 1995 and 2006, Milwaukee—the city within the biggest county—experienced a 74 percent decline in commitments to secure state facilities.

FISCAL ARCHITECTURE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS



Ohio—"RECLAIM Ohio"

- State provides counties with fixed financial support for community-based juvenile justice services *minus* a fraction of the total for each youth sent to the state for handling.
- Counties are allocated the savings based on their use (or lack) of commitments to state facilities the previous year.
- Between RECLAIM Ohio's enactment in 1992 and 2004, the number of youths committed to secure state care in Ohio fell 31 percent.

Illinois—"Redeploy Illinois"

- County identifies target type of delinquent behavior or overall delinquent population and commits to 25 percent reduction in corrections commitments from average number during the previous three years.
- State provides funding for the county to deliver services related to the targeted populations, particularly juveniles committed for court evaluations, and nonviolent offenders.
- Since starting in mid-2004, Redeploy pilot sites include the 2nd Judicial District (containing 12 rural counties) and in St. Clair, Peoria, and Macon. Preliminary projections suggest the four pilot sites will have a 33 percent reduction in commitments to the state by the end of year one, resulting in \$2 million less being spent on youth incarceration costs.

Cost-Effective Interventions for Juvenile Offenders

Dr. Peter W. Greenwood
Academy of Experimental Criminology
Association for the Advancement of Evidence-Based
Practice
University of California at Irvine
VisionQuest
Greenwood & Associates



The Good News

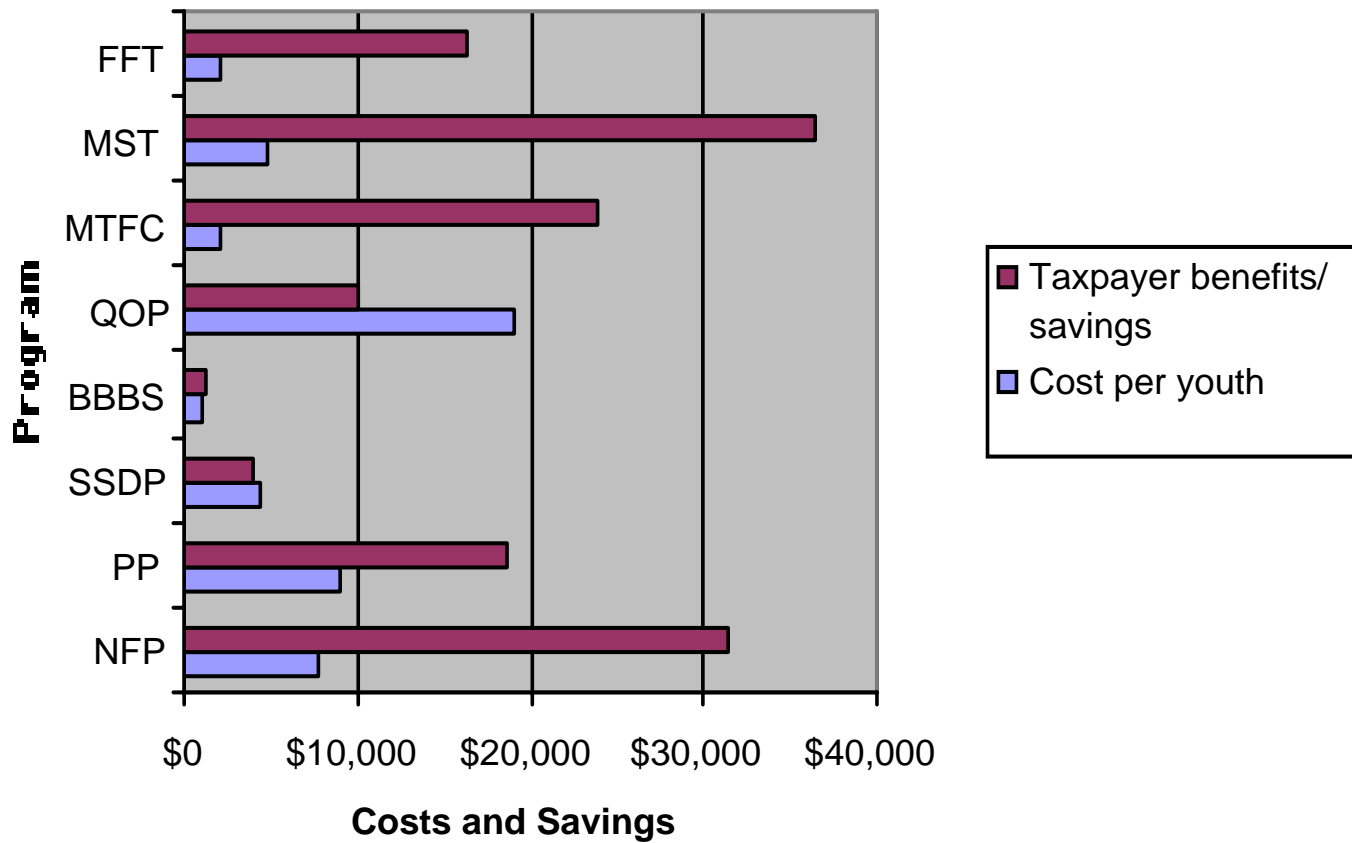
- There are proven program strategies and models that consistently improve outcomes, when implemented correctly
- They cover full range of child development
- Several pay for themselves, many times over, in reduced corrections costs



What Works

- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Multi-systemic Therapy (MST)
- Treatment Foster Care (TFC)
- Nurse-Family Partnerships (NFP)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Program Accountability (QA)

Costs & Taxpayer Benefits by Program

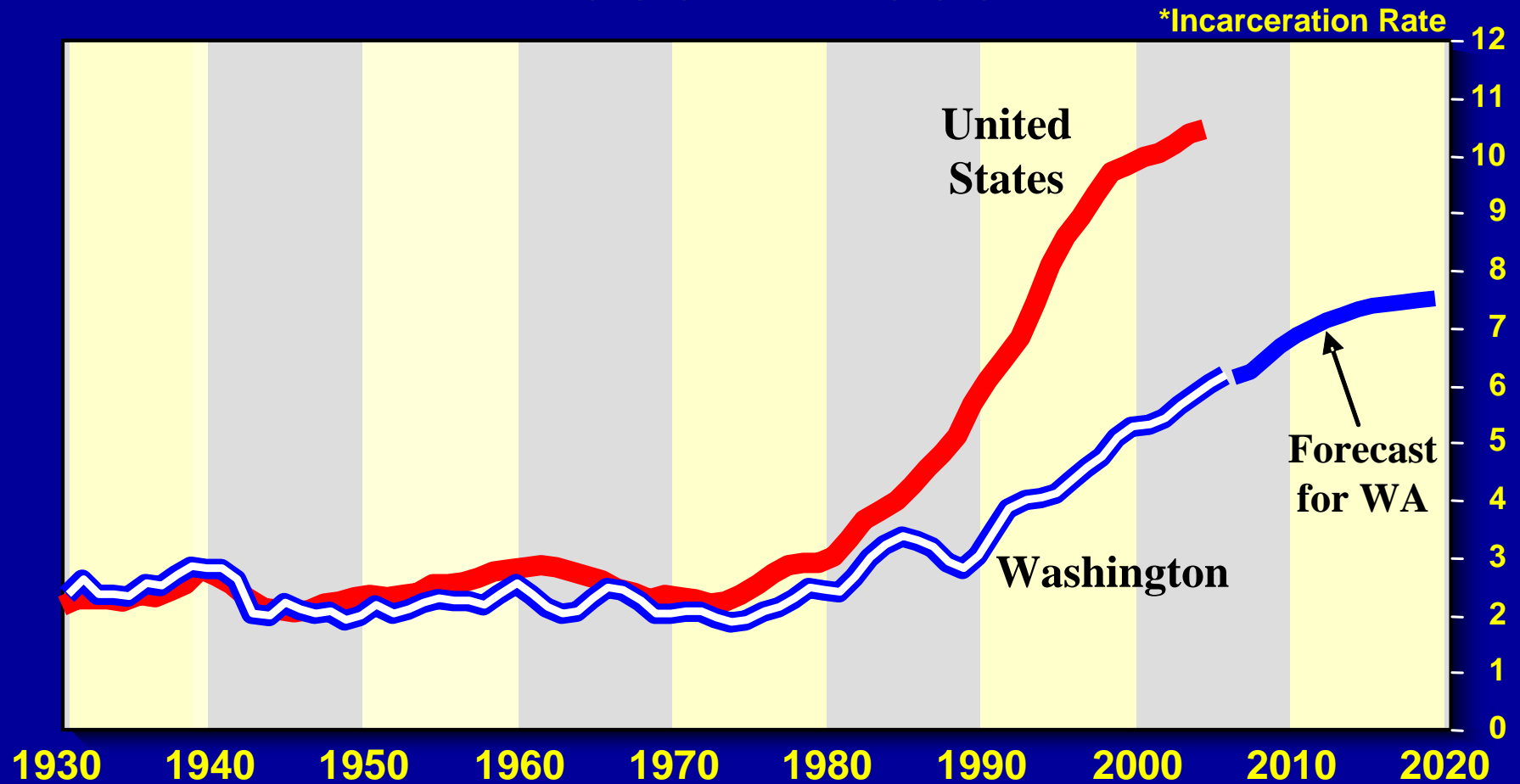


2005 Legislative Direction (ESSB 6094):

- ✓ “Study options to stabilize future **prison populations**.”
- ✓ “Study the net short-run and long-run **fiscal savings to state and local governments** of implementing...
 - **evidence-based** treatment human service and corrections programs and policies, including prevention and intervention programs,
 - sentencing alternatives,
 - and the use of risk factors in sentencing.”
- ✓ “**Project total fiscal impacts** under alternative implementation scenarios.”

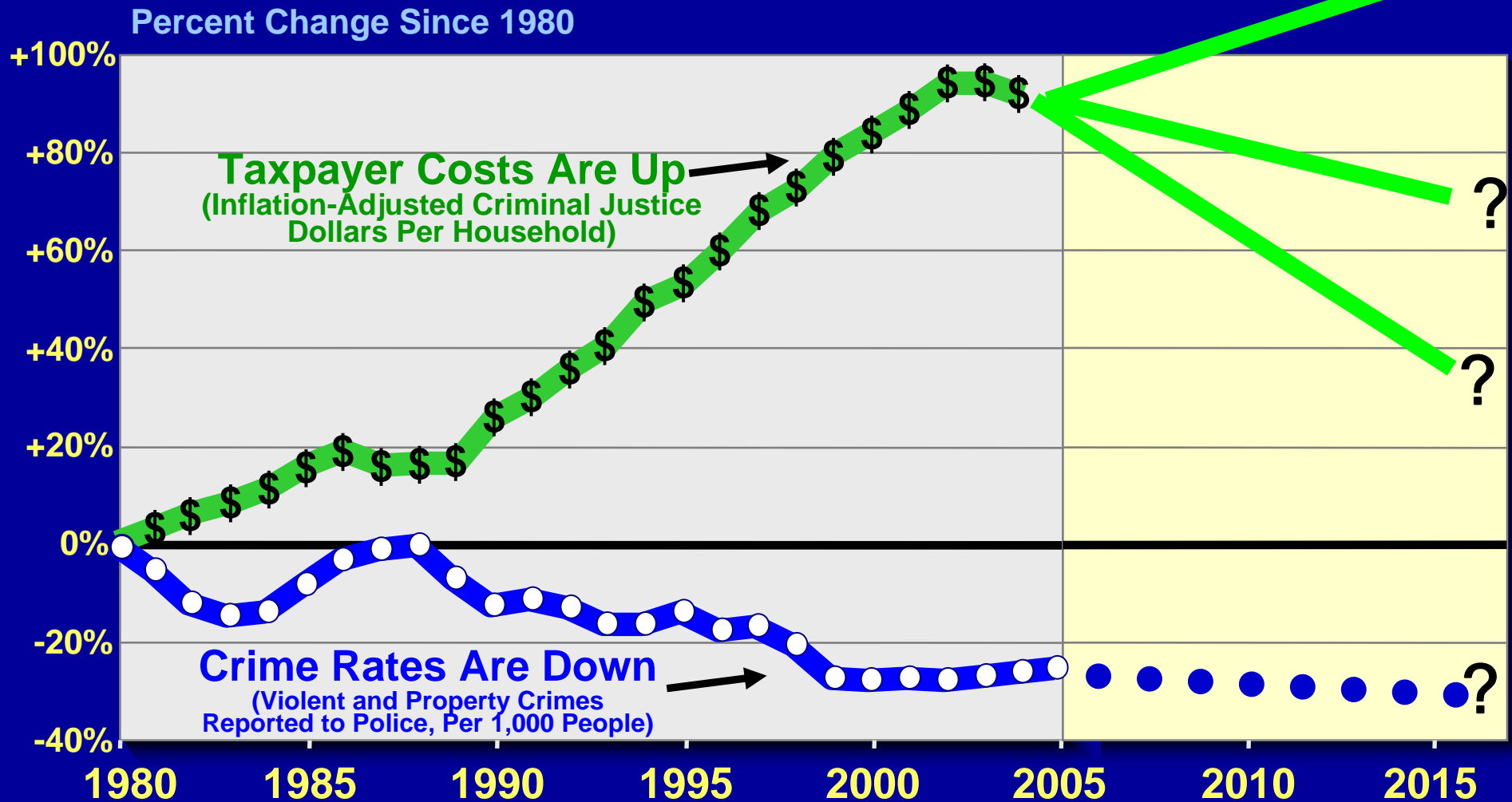
WSIPP published report in October, 2006

Adult Prison Incarceration Rates: 1930 to 2005



*The incarceration rate is defined as the number of inmates in state prisons per 1,000 18- to 49-year-olds in Washington or the United States.

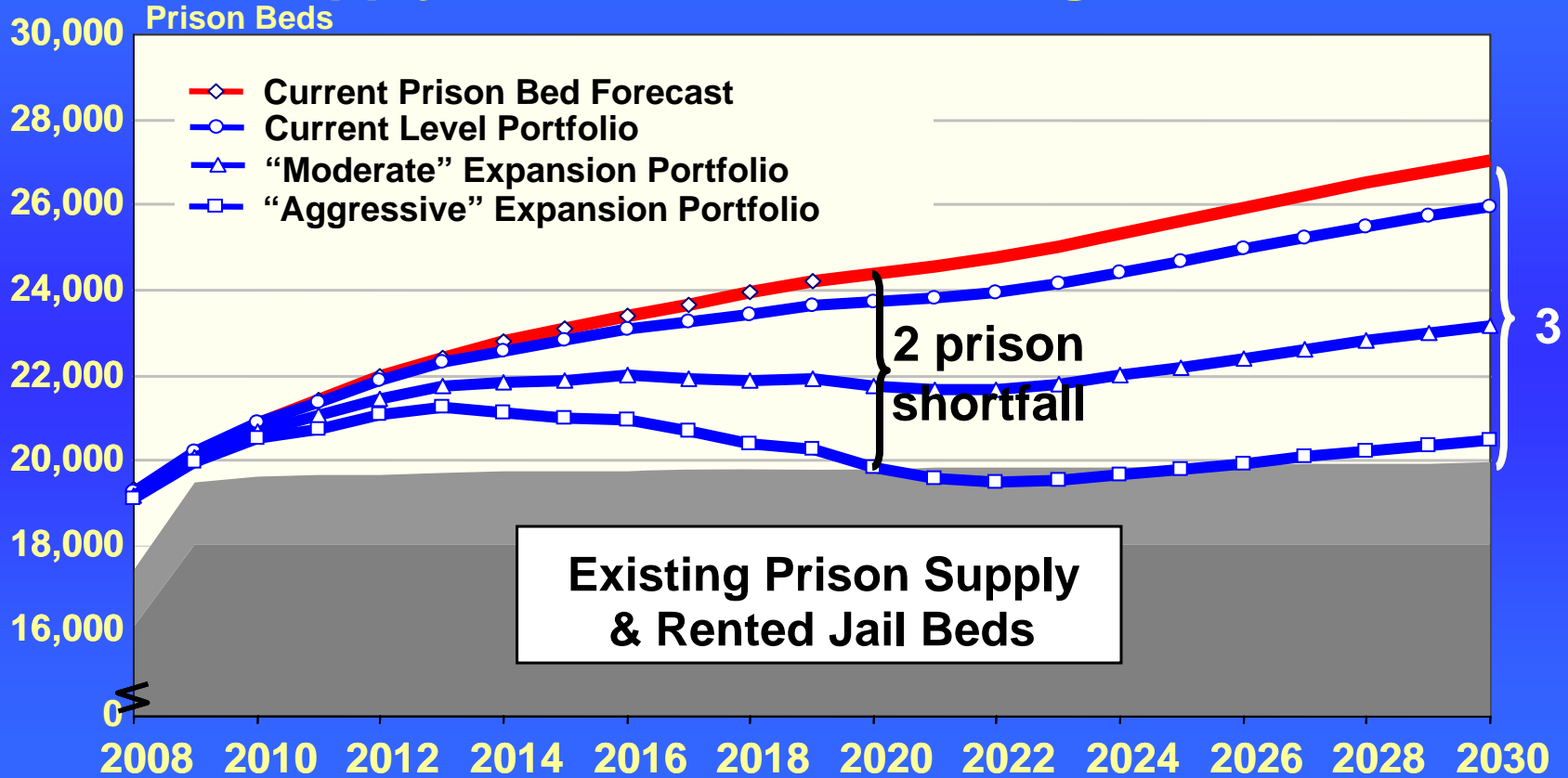
Crime Rates and Taxpayer Costs



All Data are for Washington State: 1980 to 2005

Results for Three Example Portfolios of Evidence-Based Options

Prison Supply & Demand in Washington: 2008 to 2030



Taxpayer Summary Statistics

	Current Level	Moderate	Aggressive
Annual cost of portfolio	\$41 million	\$63 million	\$85 million
Long-run benefits minus costs	\$1.1 billion	\$1.7 billion	\$2.4 billion
Benefit-to-cost ratio	\$2.45	\$2.55	\$2.60
Return on investment	24%	27%	28%
Crime Rate in 2020 (2005 rate = 52)	48	48	49

Evidence-Based Programs, Crime Outcomes

Selected Results

	Expected Change In Crime (# of EB Studies)	Benefits minus Costs (per-person, life cycle)
<u>Adult Offenders</u>		
Cog-Behavioral Treatment	-6.3% (25)	\$10,299
Education Prms., Prison	-7.0% (17)	\$10,669
Drug Tx in Prison (TC or out-patient)	-5.7% (20)	\$7,835
Adult Drug Courts	-8.0% (57)	\$4,767
ISP: surveillance	-0.0% (23)	-\$3,747
ISP: treatment	-17.1% (11)	\$11,563
<u>Juvenile Offenders</u>		
Functional Family Thpy.	-15.9% (7)	\$31,821
Family Int. Transitions	-13.0% (1)	\$40,545
Aggression Repl. Trng.	-7.3% (4)	\$14,660
Restorative Justice (low risk)	-8.7% (21)	\$7,067
<u>Prevention</u>		
Pre-School* (low income)	-14.2% (8)	\$12,196
Nurse Family Partnership*	-36.3% (2)	\$27,105

How does a program get to be considered “proven” or “promising”?

- Strong evaluation
- Lasting effects on targeted outcomes
- Replication of effects in other sites
- Benefits exceed costs



For further information

- Greenwood, P.W., **Changing Lives: Delinquency Prevention as Crime Control Policy**, University of Chicago Press (2006)
- Greenwood, P. W. **Promising Solutions in Juvenile Justice** in Dishion, T. and K. Dodge (eds.) **Deviant Peer Influences in Programs for Youth**, Guilford Press (2006)
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