FACTS ABOUT JUVENILES IN THE U.S. JUSTICE SYSTEM

On any given day in the United States, approximately 70,000 young people are in juvenile detention or correctional facilities. Though violent crime arrest rates for juveniles are only marginally higher than in many other nations, the U.S. detains and commits children at close to five times the rate of its nearest successor, South Africa.

In 22 states and the D.C, children as young as seven can be prosecuted and tried in adult court.

The suicide rate is 36 times higher for youths held in adult jails than juvenile detention facilities.

73 juveniles are serving life without parole for crimes they committed when they were 14 or younger.

The cost for a typical stay in a juvenile facility is between $66,000 and $88,000 for 9-12 months. The cost in California is much higher, $252,000.

The cost for enrollment in a community treatment program for the same duration averages $9,500 or less.