The Facts

- Adolescent brains develop through the age of 25. This period of development is associated with greater impulsiveness and stronger emotional responses than older adulthood.

- 70 percent of surveyed crime victims preferred criminal legal systems that held people accountable through different options beyond just prison.

- Connecticut has one of the country’s highest levels of racial disparity in the juvenile justice system, detaining an out-sized number of children of color relative to their peers. At the Manson Youth Institution, 80 percent of those being held are Black or Brown.

- Most youth in Connecticut's adult system are being held pre-trial, this means they haven't been found guilty.

- Those who entered the adult system are 30 percent more likely to be re-arrested after returning to their community than young people who stayed in the system.

- 82 percent of Connecticut residents believe that youth in prisons should be rehabilitated. Connecticut residents strongly back a youth criminal justice system that focuses on prevention and rehabilitation over punishment and incarceration.

- Manson Youth Institution was found to be violating children's Constitutional rights by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Comparing the Treatment of Youth in Each System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ADULT LEGAL SYSTEM</th>
<th>YOUTH LEGAL SYSTEM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ages Served</td>
<td>15 years old + who are being tried as &quot;adults&quot;</td>
<td>Under 18 (is responsible for youth being tried as a child 10 - 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Facilities for Youth Under 18</td>
<td>2 places for youth under 18, including: Manson Youth Institution and York Correctional Institute</td>
<td>8 facilities for youth under 18 in Connecticut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENCY IN CHARGE</td>
<td>Department of Corrections (DOC) Youth are held pre-trial on bail/bond</td>
<td>Judicial Branch: Court Support Services Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAXIMUM SENTENCE</td>
<td>15 and over - Beyond 25 years (can't get life without parole)</td>
<td>Under 15 - 60 months max Over 15 - Can be charged as adult for serious offenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECORD ERASURE</td>
<td>Cases have to be eligible to be nOLlied or expunged (Clean Slate - 2023) Record is public, unless youthful offender status, and must be expunged or nOLlied in order to be clean</td>
<td>Usually sealed, can petition for erasure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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System-involved youth, families, crime victims, and survivors impacted by the legal system should play a key role in informing the development of legal policy and finding solutions to hold youth accountable in age-appropriate ways.

Funding should be prioritized for community-based programs, policies, and practices that are backed by research and evidence showing their effectiveness.

Youth justice policies must be based on data and research about youth development and delinquency to prevent reoffending and promote improved outcomes for youth, communities, and families.

Conditions and residential facilities and other programs must be humane, supportive of rehabilitation, developmentally appropriate, close to home, and trauma-informed.

Expand funding for Youth Advocate Programs to be operational statewide.

What you can do

- Sign on to the #InvestInMeCT campaign!
- Become a Justice Defender
- Contact your elected officials: Your voice matters!
- Schedule a face-to-face with the Justice Advisors
- Apply to become a Justice Advisor for CTJA!