

Juvenile Justice Reform in Wisconsin

Rep. Evan Goyke

Current Landscape of our Juvenile Justice system

Majority of the Juvenile Justice Code, Chapter 938, was written in 1995

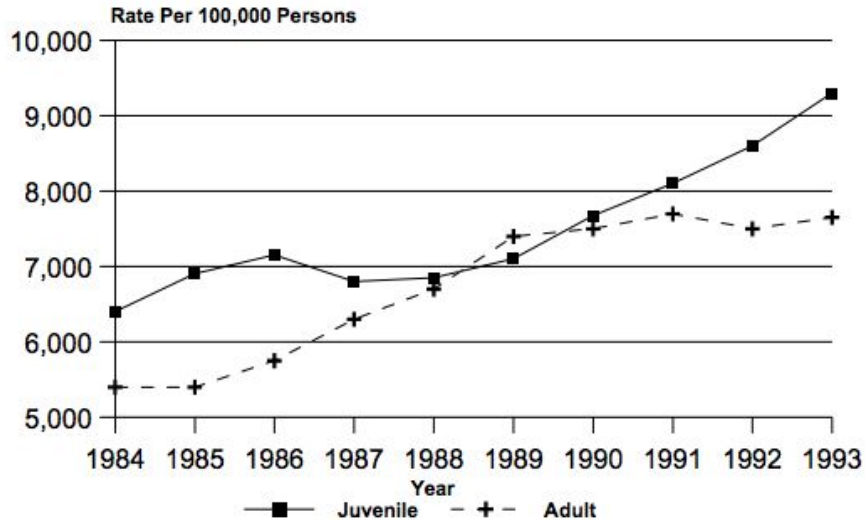
The majority of these provisions remain unchanged today, including:

- 17 year olds are adults for the purposes of criminal justice systems
- Serious Juvenile Offender program
- Juvenile Court jurisdiction at 10 years old
- Youth Aids payments to Counties
- Original Court jurisdiction for some crimes and waiver procedures

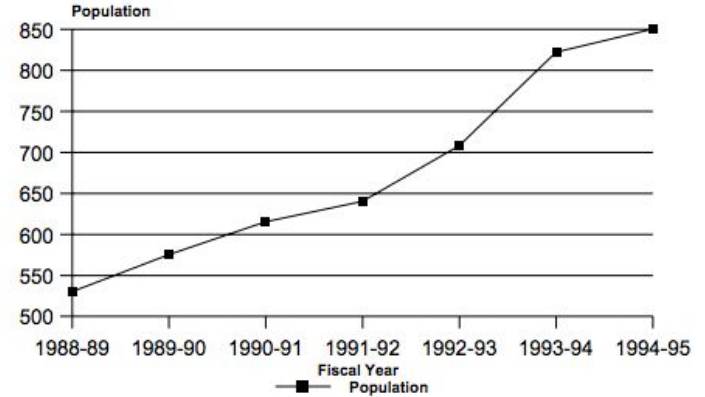
Juvenile crime and incarceration were on the rise

Graph 1

All Crimes Arrest Rate
1984-1994



Graph 4



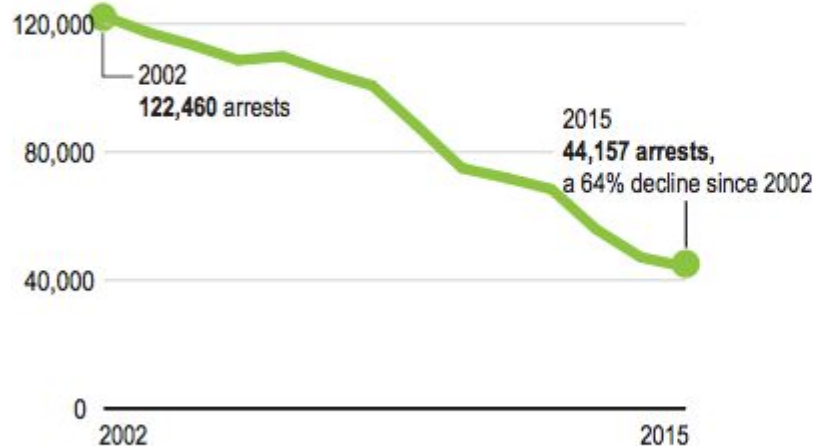
In 1995 there were 850 kids in prison

Since the 1990's, juvenile crime and incarceration have fallen

CHART 1

Number of Juvenile Arrests in Wisconsin Has Declined Sharply

Arrests of youth age 17 and under in Wisconsin.



Source: Wisconsin Department of Justice
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

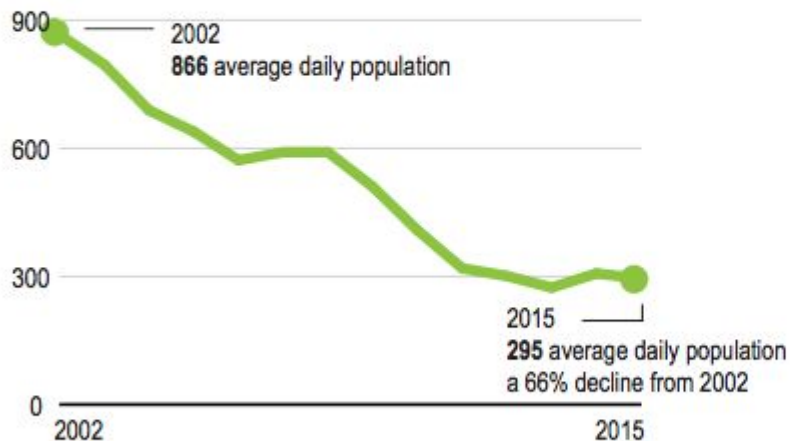
Year	Juvenile Arrests
2002	122,460
2003	117,224
2004	113,345
2005	108,685
2006	109,845
2007	104,891
2008	100,744
2009	88,082
2010	74,975
2011	71,902
2012	68,385
2013	55,884
2014	47,135
2015	44,157

The number of kids in prison has fallen as well

CHART 8

Wisconsin's Juvenile Correctional Institutions Hold Fewer Youth than Before

Average daily population of Wisconsin's Juvenile Correctional Institutions.



Year	Average Daily Population of Juvenile Correctional Institutions
2002	866
2003	796
2004	689
2005	639
2006	572
2007	591
2008	591
2009	510
2010	408
2011	319
2012	301
2013	274
2014	307
2015	295

Source: Wisconsin Division of Juvenile Corrections
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Today, the population is a fraction of what it once was...

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Offenders Under Control on 03_05_2021

	Total Capacity ⁴	Total Supervised Population
DIVISION OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS		
Total On-Grounds Population ³	603	77
SUBTOTAL-MALES		
Lincoln Hills School	519	52
Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center	43	16
Grow Academy	12	4
SUBTOTAL-FEMALES		
Copper Lake School	29	5

How has this happened?

- Reductions in crime rate and incarceration rate have largely been fueled by local leadership within the spectrum of juvenile care: child welfare, intake workers, social workers, judges, prosecutors, defense counsel...county boards, etc.
- Nationally, policies have changed to reflect the enhanced knowledge of brain development, trauma, evidence based decision making, etc.
- Wisconsin's law, at least what's on the books in Madison, has not...but it can with the Governor's proposed budget!

Raise the Age

- Only Wisconsin, Texas, and Georgia remain
- Missouri passed Raise the Age in 2018, took effect January 1, 2021
- Michigan passed Raise the Age in 2019, will take effect October, 2021
- In 2020, Vermont became the first state in the country to Raise the Age beyond 18, with many offenses committed prior to an individual's 20th birthday resulting in juvenile court jurisdiction

Raise the Age Wisconsin

Governor Evers' proposed 2022-23 budget includes Raise the Age for all crimes and modifies the procedure of waiving juveniles into adult court.

The budget also includes a “sum sufficient” appropriation to support increased costs to counties associated expanded cases and services

Raise the Age Partners & Supporters



WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



Outcomes from other states that have raised the age...

- From Louisiana: “Through a comprehensive review of published studies and government-conducted examinations of policies allowing youth to be handled by the adult criminal justice system, the Centers for Disease Control Task Force found that youth were 34% more likely to be rearrested after going through the adult system.”
- Costs in many states have been under the estimated amount, driven in part by lower recidivism rates

Facilities

The Governor proposes to blend the “Type 1” and “SRCCCY” facilities into one designation. Facilities can be operated by the state or county.

Money remains appropriated but not spent for:

- Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center

- Grants for Counties to build SRCCCY's

- Proposed money for state run facility/facilities

Statutory date to close Lincoln Hills will not be met, proposed new date as soon as alternatives are open.

Other Juvenile Justice Reform items in the 2022-23 Budget

- Raise the Age of jurisdiction from 10 years old to 12 years old
- End the Serious Juvenile Offender program
- Modernize waiver into adult court and end “original” jurisdiction
- End Juvenile life without the possibility of parole
- Creation of “Community-based Services Grant Program” funded at \$8.9million (EBDM programs at the county level for moderate to high risk kids)
- Reducing the use of physical restraints on juveniles
- \$1million for statewide training and quality assurance

Thank You

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