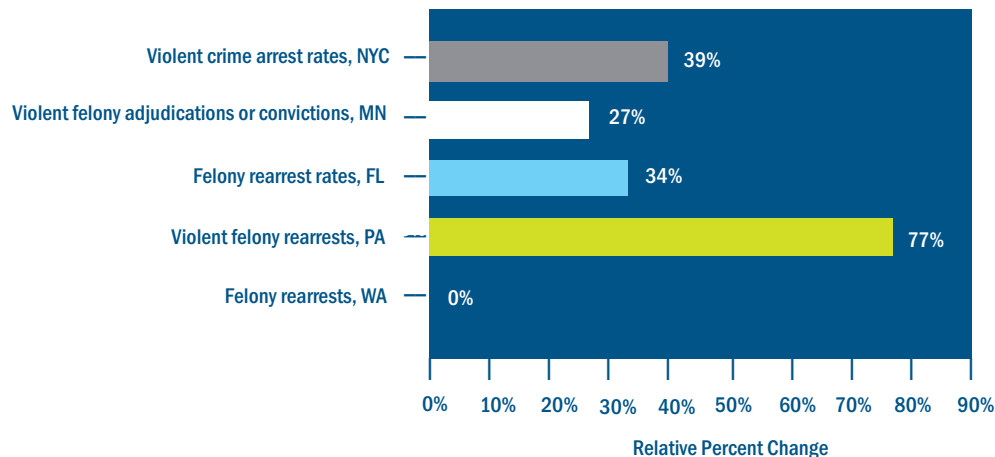




Transferring Juveniles to Adult Criminal Justice Systems Increases Recidivism & Violence

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) review of studies measuring the effectiveness of transferring juveniles¹ from juvenile justice systems to adult criminal justice systems on reducing future recidivism – including offenses of violence – concludes that these policies are not effective. Instead, a majority of reviewed studies (four of six) found that such transfers resulted in *increased* rather than decreased violence among transferred juveniles, and one study found no difference in recidivism rates between transferred juveniles and those retained in adult systems (“retained” juveniles). A study in New York City found transferred juveniles 39% more likely to be rearrested on a violent offense than retained juveniles. In Hennepin County, Minnesota, transferred juveniles were 27% more likely to experience a subsequent criminal conviction (for violent and non-violent offenses) than retained juveniles. A Florida study found transferred juveniles had 34% more felony rearrests (for violent and non-violent offenses) than retained juveniles. Transferred juveniles in Pennsylvania were 77% more likely to be rearrested on violent felony charges than retained juveniles. In Washington, violence rates between transferred and retained juveniles were comparable.

Relative Change in Percentage of Recidivism After Release From Adult Justice System Compared With Juvenile Justice System, by Selected U.S. Studies, 1996-2007



Source: Hahn, R. et al. (30 November 2007). Effects on Violence of Laws and Policies Facilitating the Transfer of Youth from the Juvenile to the Adult Justice System. A Report on Recommendations of the Task Force on Community Preventive Services. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report – Recommendations and Reports*, 56(RR09); 1-11. Atlanta, Georgia: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

¹ Individuals younger than 18 years old.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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