

Kansas News

Kansas Sees 63% Decline in Youth Confinement

When Kansas embarked on a path to improve juvenile justice, state leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders looked to data and research to inform the legislation adopted in 2016. A little more than two years after enactment, the reforms are showing clear signs of progress. A [recent report](#) from the Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee shows that the population of the state's youth prison, the Juvenile Correctional Facility, fell from 237 in 2015 to 164 in 2018, a 31 percent reduction. [Read more](#)

Kansas Reduces Youth Confinement while Reinvesting \$30 million in Evidence Based Programs

A new report shows that data-driven legislative reforms in Kansas have had more significant outcomes than the state anticipated. "The reductions in residential placement have already surpassed those projected when the legislation was enacted. The reforms are well on their way to an expected \$72 million in total for reinvestment by 2020," the Pew Charitable Trusts stated in a [Read more](#)

Kansas Juvenile Arrests, Incarceration Plummet as State Strives to Implement Reform

The number of juvenile arrests and placement of youths in group homes or detention facilities declined at the same time Kansas moved to funnel budget savings into community-based therapy and intervention programs designed to keep families together, a new study said Thursday. The total number of juvenile arrests in Kansas declined 29 percent between 2015 to 2017, according to the assessment by Pew Charitable Trusts. The out-of-home population of juveniles placed in secure correctional facilities, group homes or other detention units fell 63 % [Read more](#)

Audit Proposed to Examine Juvenile Justice Reforms

Representative John Barker has submitted a request for a performance audit to be conducted by the Legislative Division of Post Audit. The purpose of the audit would be to evaluate the effectiveness of reforms implemented as a result of Senate Bill 367 in 2016. To review the audit proposal [click here](#)

2019 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Salina | Saturday | June 15 th |
| Topeka | Thursday | July 11 th |
| Times | 10 am – 4:00 pm | |

All intake workers, supervisors and anyone who approves intakes and placement decisions must be trained in administering the KDAI. These trainings are reserved for intake workers and supervisors. For more information on KDAI training or to register contact Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov

New Officer YLS/CMI Training:

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|-------------|
| Location | Eisenhower State Office Building (ESOB); 4 th Floor, Rm. 460 (Auditorium B); 700 SW Harrison; Topeka, KS | | |
| Dates | Tuesday | June 18 | 9 am – 5 pm |
| | Wednesday | June 19 | 8 am – 5 pm |
| | Thursday | June 20 | 8 am – 5 pm |

To Enroll Email michelle.montgomery@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor's name.

Special Parking Instructions:

If you would like to access free parking in Lot 8C (north of 6th Street) directly adjacent to ESOB you must provide Michelle Montgomery with the following information by **June 10th**:

- Vehicle make
- Vehicle Model
- Vehicle tag number

Note: Parking in Visitor and Lot 8B is prohibited

Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ)

KJCC - The Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) will be available for new employees from Judicial Districts to attend at Kansas Juvenile Correction Complex as a part of KJCC's new employee orientation.

To inquire about upcoming trainings or if you have questions please contact Lt. Johnathon Ashley at johnathon.ashley@ks.gov or 785-354-9820. KJCC will have MHTC-JJ training as a part of their basic training for new employees approximately every four weeks.

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II/Graduated Responses (EPICS II/GR):

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|-------------|
| Location | TBD | | |
| Date | Wednesday | June 26 | 9 am – 5 pm |
| Date | Thursday | June 27 | 9 am – 5 pm |
| To Enroll | Registrations are handled by the Regional Trainers | | |

Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

Using Space Well

Walking into the facility, there was a distinct feeling of uneasiness in the air and the youth and staff were visibly tense. The atmosphere was aggressive, hostile and violent. This was recipe for disaster, as our facilities continued to be plagued with rising numbers of acts of violence and seclusion. Something just wasn't working. That's when I realized we needed to change the way we were operating secure juvenile facilities, and the fundamental relationships [Read more](#)

Kansas News

Governor Announces New Secretary of Corrections

Governor Laura Kelly has named Jefferey Zmuda as secretary of corrections. He is currently the deputy director of the Idaho Department of Corrections. Roger Werholtz's last day as Acting Secretary of Corrections will be May 31. Chuck Simmons, the current deputy secretary for facilities management, will serve as the interim secretary beginning June 1 until Mr. Zmuda becomes the acting secretary on July 1. [Read more](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

I recently had the opportunity to visit with a young man who previously was a youth in our juvenile justice system in Kansas. He had been incarcerated at the [Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex](#) (KJCC) and shared some memories of that life changing event. His focus was not on his frustration, anger, gang activity or confrontations with authority figures. Rather, he talked about the positive impacts that staff at KJCC had on him during a critical time of his personal development as he struggled with adversity.

He shared that as he dealt with frustration and anger, he challenged the people around him, the rules and the processes that were in place. He stated that he remembers specific staff that "took the time to listen to me; they took an interest in me." Although at times he was in conflict, some staff presented him with opportunities to get involved with some programs to develop a different side of himself, and he was advised "to be happy with who I am, to find peace within myself." In this process, "they initiated a change in me, and became a support system for me".

With the guidance and support of the staff, he was able to "get out of the disciplinary unit. I saw more opportunities to grow and to learn, and I could start putting together the pieces of my life". In reflecting on his stay, he shared that "the simple fact that they (the KJCC staff) took the time to try to reach me; they saw somebody who was broken and reached out a hand to try to help me pull myself together" changed his life. Now this young man contributes and helps other young people who need support.

Earlier this month we celebrated [Kansas Correctional Officers and Employees Week](#).

It is important that everyone who works with justice involved youth realize that you are having a lasting impact on a young person and can make a huge difference in their lives. You likely may never know the details of what positive long-term impact you had. But through your observations and interactions, the impression you make is felt not only by the individuals and families you work with, but within the culture you create in your organization. We have all heard about the importance of professionalism, using your training properly, supporting and enhancing teamwork while providing good programs. But as I was reminded by that young man recently, it often is the personal interactions that make the difference and facilitates personal growth opportunities.

The impact shared by this particular young man involving the staff that he talked about is repeated day after day across the state. So it is with these things in mind, we say THANK YOU for your commitment, teamwork, perseverance and service. And most importantly, THANK YOU for the positive impact you are having on a young person's life.

Dual Systems: Justice/Welfare System Youth

Listen to Crossover Girls Talk about their Reality, Then Act

Recently, [Rebecca Burney and Larson Binzer](#) called for the voices of girls in the justice system to be heard. We extend their plea, adding the vitality of the voices of girls caught up not only in the justice system, but in the foster system as well. Academics and practitioners alike call these young people crossover youth. Through 33 interviews with [Read more](#)

Is there an Effective Practice Model for Serving Crossover Youth?

Youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, commonly referred to as crossover, dually-involved, dually-adjudicated, dual-system, or multi-system youth; require a special level of focus. Crossover youth require attention because their involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems is associated with higher risks for: mental health, educational, and vocational challenges; higher rates of recidivism; longer stays in detention; and poorer placement stability and permanency outcomes. Unfortunately, the quality and consistency of the casework services provided to crossover youth [Read more](#)

Dual Status Youth

Depending on how broadly dual system involvement is defined, estimates of youth in the juvenile justice system with child welfare involvement is upwards of 50 percent. In field work with several local jurisdictions across the country, the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice has found that approximately two-thirds of the juvenile justice populations in these jurisdictions have had some level of contact with the child welfare system. This connection between child welfare and juvenile delinquency is concerning for a number of reasons. [Read more](#)

Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

Girls' Involvement in Justice System Dropped to Record Low Levels, Study Finds

Girls were once considered the fastest growing segment in the juvenile justice system, but a study from the Office of Justice Programs (OJP,) based on 2015 data, concludes that arrests involving juvenile females had declined to their lowest level since 1980. [Read More](#)

Youth First Initiative: New Findings Show Sharp Decline in Girls in Juvenile Justice System

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) [released its newest findings](#) on the number of girls in the country's juvenile justice system this week, finding a sharp decline in the number of girls arrested overall—the lowest rate in three decades. However, the girls who are system-involved are disproportionately young girls of color. The new bulletin finds that girls account for 269,900 of the total 921,600 arrests of persons younger than 18—less than one-third of total youth arrests. Despite this decrease, more than half of all female cases still involved Black or Latinx youth highlighting the ongoing racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. [Read more . . .](#)

Our 10-Year Strategy to End Girls' Incarceration Nationwide

Last month, we announced our 10-year strategy to end the incarceration of youth on the girls' side of the juvenile justice system. Getting to zero girls in 10 years is ambitious but achievable. The number of girls in juvenile justice confinement has dropped significantly over the past few decades. Reforms have reduced the annual number of girls' detentions to less than 46,000 nationwide—down from nearly 100,000 in the early 2000s. And in 2015, most states had fewer than 150 girls in long-term placement—many fewer than 50. [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking - National

Undertow of Exploitation: How Teens Get Trapped in Human Trafficking

Child abuse, homelessness and sexual assault are among the top risk factors

Her story began like so many others, with an exploitation of trust. Edie Rhea is a survivor of sex trafficking. Her formative years were largely spent being sold for sex by her mother's boyfriend. It began when she was 10 and lasted until she was 17 years old. "He really did take on that daddy-figure role," Rhea said. "Then at 10 started sexually abusing me and trafficking me. That literally wrecked my world, my whole life." [Read more . . .](#)

National News

Juvenile Justice Reform Based on Simple Truth: 'You Can't Punish the Bad out of Kids'

In the mid-1990s, Thurston County's (WA) juvenile detention facility had room for 40 kids, but often held as many as 60. It was the era of public panic about super predators, gangs, and rampant, drug-fueled crime. In 1998, the [Read more . . .](#)

Criminalizing Disability: Special Needs Kids who Don't Get Help in School are Ending up in Jail

It was right after the fifth-period bell last October that Sebastian Montano lay face down in the grass outside Alamogordo High School, screaming for his mother, as two police officers pinned him to the ground and thrust a Taser in his back. Moments earlier, a staff member had called police after learning that the 16-year-old, a special needs student who'd recently dropped out, was now trespassing on school grounds. A shy [Read more . . .](#)

Adapt Youth Prisons for Maximum Education, Not Maximum Security

At 16, Alyssa Beck was locked in solitary confinement in an adult jail in Florida. Most of her day was spent in a gray cell no larger than a parking space. School was a struggle. Every week, a teacher slid worksheets under her cell door - middle school assignments for a high school student, Beck said. If she had questions, she would crouch to talk through a flap in the cell door. Jeremy Taveras was in a juvenile center in New York. He never spent time [Read more . . .](#)

Schools, Mental Health, Juvenile Justice System Need Comprehensive Approach

Tennessee State Rep. Michael Curcio was right on when he [said he hopes](#) that the state's new [Juvenile Justice Reform Implementation Council](#) will take a comprehensive approach that extends beyond the courtroom and examines schools and mental health services and the criminal justice system for young offenders. I am suggesting that a systems approach to the complex issue of juvenile delinquency is called for. A delinquent act is a crime regardless of the age of the perpetrator. The juvenile court also deals with myriad other behaviors termed status offenses, which only juveniles can commit, i.e., truancy or unruly behavior. [Read more . . .](#)

Restorative Justice in Schools - Kansas

Restorative Kansas: Intro to Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice is a framework of principles and values which focus on addressing the needs of those impacted by harm through relational processes of accountability and repair. Restorative Justice values and principles are applicable in response to harm as well as in its prevention and cessation through relational community building and problem solving. [Read more . . .](#)

Kansas House of Representatives Education Committee Learns about Restorative Justice

Restorative justice, also known as restorative practice, works to keep students in school while addressing problem behavior. Advocates say it reduces discipline referrals and suspensions, improves school climate and diverts children from the so-called "school to prison pipeline." It emphasizes school-wide healthy relationships between administrators and students and the development of social-emotional skills and understanding. Students, teachers and administrators learn to manage difficult situations through a variety of methods that include heavy emphasis on recognizing the impact of [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Restorative Justice Gave Me the Best Day of My Life

I want to share with you a personal story about the true practice of restorative justice and how it plays a part in my life. In 2014, I participated in a restorative justice roundtable here in San Quentin State Prison and it was one of the first self-improvement programs I was involved in. During the course of the program, a video was shown about a police officer being shot at by an assailant. As a result of the shooting, the police officer lost one of [Read more . . .](#)

We've Learned a Lot About Reforming Probation Culture From Control to Assistance

Probation is the most common court disposition for youth and therefore worthy of examination. "Getting probation right" often makes the difference between a youth exiting the justice system successfully or sliding deeper into the system. Depending on the jurisdiction, probation handles diversion decisions, oversees pretrial release programs, prepares social study reports, makes recommendations to judges on dispositions, makes referrals to services and programs, and directly provides [Read more . . .](#)

Homelessness Advocates Tell of New Successes via State Legislation

Some laws can make life exceptionally difficult for homeless and runaway youth. Whether it's requiring parental consent to receive health care or demanding proof of residency to obtain a photo ID, unfriendly policies have left many service providers feeling frustrated and powerless to help. A small national nonprofit based in Washington is working to change that. [Read more . . .](#)

The Problem of Youth Homelessness Is Not Young People's Fault, Experts Say

The fight against youth homelessness drags on and on. It is not that the fighters are no match for a seemingly intractable issue that has haunted the nation for decades. Rather, the tangled causes of youth homelessness defy thoughtful solutions. One problem is solved, but another peril is waiting to ensnare youth. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

Community Activism a Family Tradition for Head of Violence Interruption Program

She remembers the frantic knocks at the door and the family friend who waited almost hysterical on the other side. "He was saying my brother [Kam] had been shot. I ran to my father and mother's room and told them. They both immediately got up, jumped in the car and went to the hospital," said Rukia Lumumba, the 40-year-old founder of the [People's Advocacy Institute](#), a community resource and training incubator for social, political and economic [Read more . . .](#)

Youth Caught in Crosshairs of Cycles of Gun Violence. Is Anybody Listening?

Cassio Batteast, a community advocate in Jackson, recently sat down with 20 of the students in the local school district who were causing the most trouble. Over weekly meetings, they gradually opened up to him. "I learned that 10 of the 20 had fathers who had been murdered or fathers who had murdered someone. Half," he said. "Not one of them," [Read more . . .](#)

Diversion, Positive Youth Development, Restorative Practices: Connecting the Dots

Only a small percentage of young people continue into adulthood the kind of anti-social behavior that rises to the level of justice involvement. [Recent studies](#) suggest that the most successful programs provide intensive, comprehensive services based on the youths' level of risk for offending over an extended period in community-based programs. Ideally, community-based alternatives will reduce stigma and recidivism, provide youth with role models and positive peers, improve school engagement and increase overall levels of youth functioning. [Read more . . .](#)