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Broken Juvenile Justice system

Posted in [Criminal Justice System](#), at 4:28 pm by Administrator

This is taken from a Broken juvenile justice system by Errol Louis. The juvenile justice system is an expensive, dismal failure that causes more harm to children and families without making our neighborhoods safer.

A staggering 80% of the youngsters who enter juvenile facilities end up returning or graduating to the adult prison system within three years- a recidivism rate higher than 60% in the adult criminal justice system.

Taxpayers are shelling out top dollar for that 80% failure rate. In some facilities that works out to a mind boggling \$150,000 a year per juvenile inmate. We have created a PIPELINE TO PRISON. Empty beds = wasted dollars. There by creating a collars for dollars mentality in law enforcement. "I don't care if I win or loose the case think of how many times I've been to court already Cha- Ching" Cha Ching is the sound of the overtime being paid every time they punch in and out on the time clock.

There is no question that some offenders are terribly dangerous and need to be behind bars, but most require care. Care not custody, a level of education, guidance and health treatment which is missing from many correctional facilities. In New Jersey if you are sentenced to more than five years in prison you **can not** take college courses. Overs 80% of the young people in the system have some type mental health issues of clinical significance. Stop wasting money on a failing system, money better spent on beefed up services provided by community organizations- a model used in states like Missouri which cut recidivism to 30%. Criminal justice experts say we need to find a way to reinvest this money and get it into the communities where it belongs. While reinvesting in money and recycling services it is now time for us to recycle our youth and stop throwing them away. Suppression alone has never worked yet it is the only one dimensional approach seen in Jersey City as most urban areas. Awareness, Intervention & Networking is the appropriate response. Education or Incarceration is still the question. Please remember **2nd class educations build 1st class jails !**