

## FROM LEGISLATOR TO

# YOUTH JUSTICE HERO!

How youth automatically end up in the adult criminal justice system and how to change it.

### THE CURRENT SITUATION...



When a law enforcement officer arrests a youth (age 14-17) accused of any one of 33 crimes, they are automatically charged as an adult.

Youth's cases spend an average of

**82 DAYS**

in the adult system.



Although the youth has only been accused of the crime, they must request a hearing for a judge to determine if they are suitable for treatment in the juvenile system.



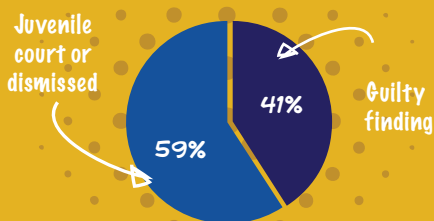
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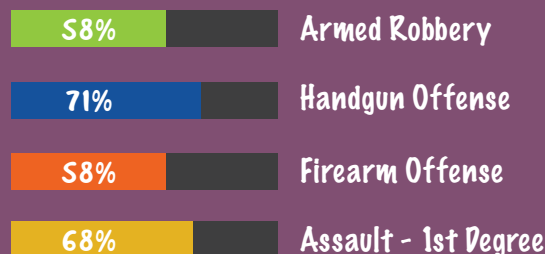
Automatically charging a youth as an adult produces an adult criminal record.

### WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUTH AUTOMATICALLY CHARGED AS ADULTS?

Almost 60% of all youth charged as adults have their cases dismissed or sent to juvenile court.



Most youth charged with the top offenses have their cases dismissed or sent to juvenile court:



Youth in the adult system are

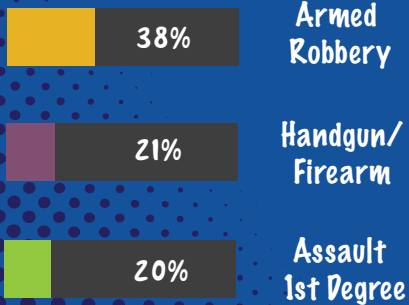
**34%**

more likely to reoffend than a youth in the juvenile system.

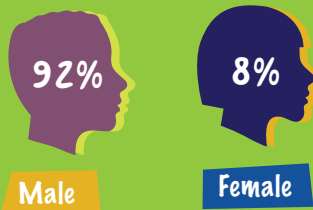
## WHO ARE THE YOUTH?

### TOP CHARGES

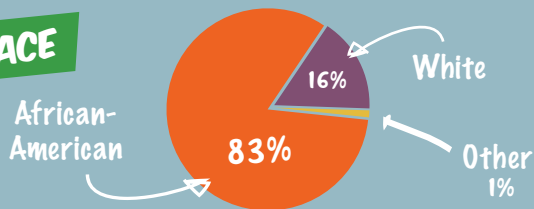
Almost 80% of youth charged as adults are accused of these offenses:



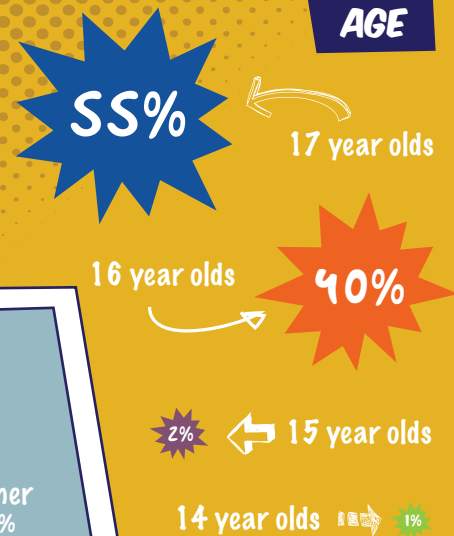
### GENDER



### RACE



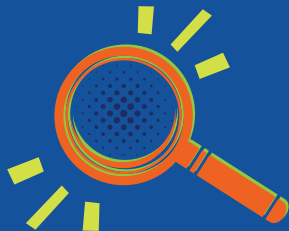
### AGE



## THE SOLUTION...

Youth accused of the most common offenses, including armed robbery, possession of a gun and assault, will start their case in the juvenile justice system.

If necessary, a state's attorney may ask a judge to review a youth's case to move it from the juvenile to the adult system.



To move a youth's case to the adult system...

- ➔ A prosecutor must prove the youth is a risk to public safety and cannot be rehabilitated in the juvenile system
- ➔ The judge must assume the child committed the alleged crime

## WHAT THE BILL DOES:

It holds kids accountable in a timely fashion.



It promotes public safety by providing the treatment that youth need.



It allows youth to become productive citizens by eliminating the barriers they'd face with an adult criminal record.

