



## California youth crime at record low, but why?

### ::PUBLICATIONS::

#### **New data released this month shows youth crime at record low, debunking conventional crime theories**

CJCJ released a publication today, [California Youth Crime Plunges to All-Time Low](#), using new data available from the Department of Justice. The publication shows 149,563 Californians under age 18 were arrested in 2011, **the lowest number since statewide figures were first issued** in 1957.

The large and continuing decline in California's youth crime over the past 60 years is not explained by conventional crime theories and provides an optimistic outlook for a state that is experiencing rapid demographic change. The publication explores the most recent data in the context of these historic trends and examines possible explanations for the youth crime decline.

Read the full publication here: [http://www.cjcj.org/files/CA\\_Youth\\_Crime\\_2011.pdf](http://www.cjcj.org/files/CA_Youth_Crime_2011.pdf)

For more information, check out [KPCC radio's blog](#) and [TakePart.com's article](#) reviewing curfews and boot camps in light of these trends.

### ::JUVENILE CASI::

#### **California Sentencing Institute launches juvenile justice map, Wednesday Nov. 14th!**

Following the release of CJCJ's [California Sentencing Institute \(CASI\)](#) in July, CJCJ is planning the release of a complementary juvenile justice map. After some unforeseen delays, CJCJ is proud to announce its launch set for **November 14, 2012**.

CASI displays detailed crime and incarceration trends for California's 58 counties. The new juvenile justice map will feature relevant juvenile justice data including information on youth confinement in both local and state facilities, and transfers to adult criminal court.

If you would like to support this project, please consider giving an end-of-year, tax-deductible donation through [Network for Good](#).

### ::NATIONAL REFORMS::

#### **Texas pioneers local juvenile justice solutions; California follows**

The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition [issued a report](#) this month detailing the innovative reforms occurring in Texas' juvenile justice system. The report documents a statewide system overhaul and highlights the model practices of 12 local counties.

Texas and California are both pursuing realignment strategies by divesting from expensive and inefficient state-run facilities and investing in local infrastructures and services. In Texas, this transition has been accompanied by tracking and accountability standards, which incentivize investment in model treatment programs and coordinated systems of care.

California lacks those mechanisms, creating minimal oversight for county spending or practices. This exacerbates disparities of treatment across the 58 California counties. Texas' reforms could provide valuable insight into possible solutions and model practices as California continues to pursue the creation of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century juvenile justice system.

For more information on Texas' exceptional progress and how it may be applied in California, read [Texas juvenile justice community solutions](#) and [Texas juvenile justice reforms highlight California's shortcomings](#).

#### **Introducing CJCJ's latest bloggers:**

~ **S. Patrick Wynne** discusses the power of education in [Increased higher education spending enhances public safety and deters crime](#).

~ **Christa Collins** describes the value of mental health services in [Meaningful mental health outcomes for youth](#).

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