

Juvenile Justice

Overview & A Look Inside Santa Clara County

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Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commissioner

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Juvenile Justice Commission - Santa Clara County

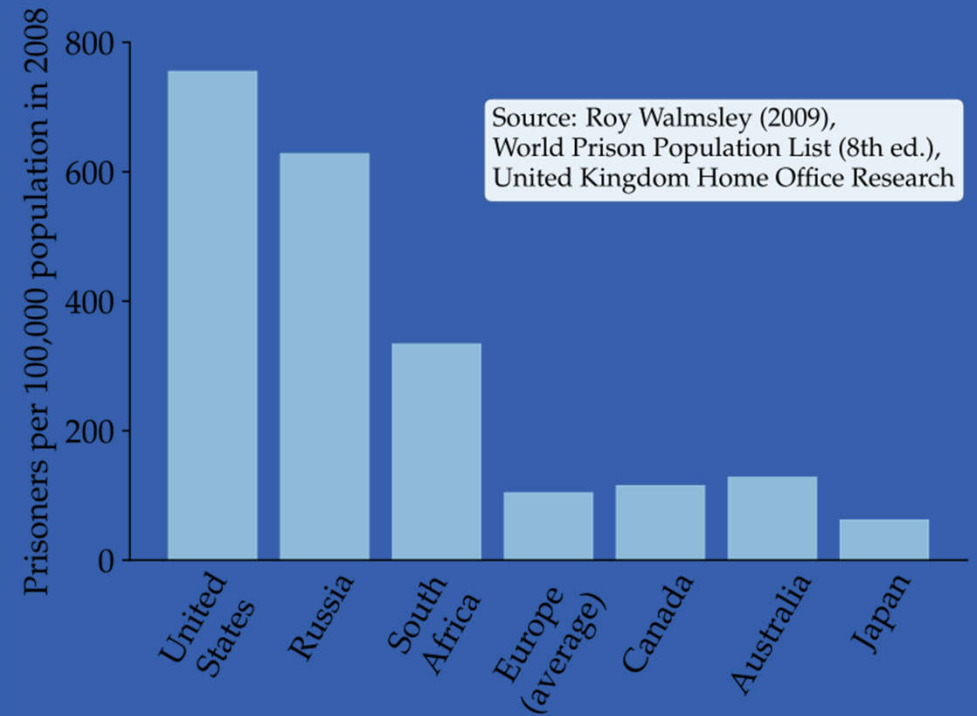
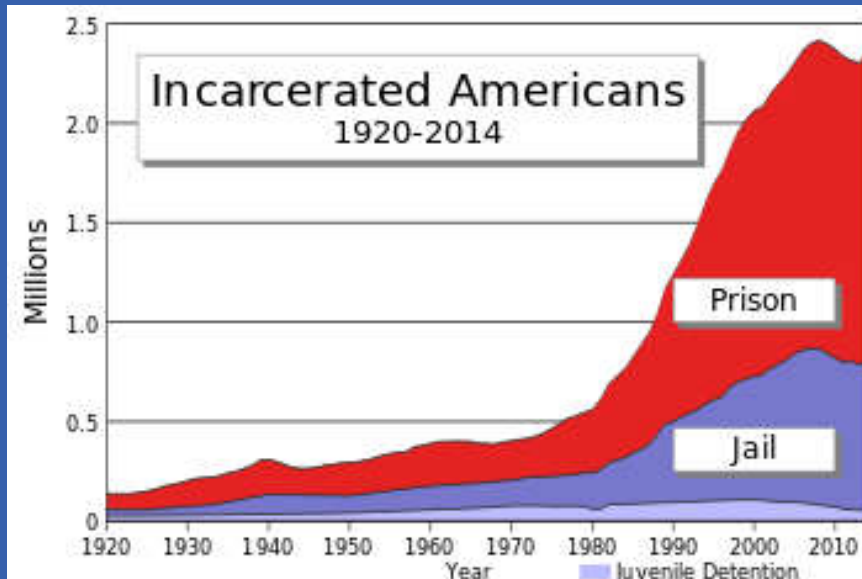


- State-mandated & Appointed by the Superior Court
 - 13 Adult Commissioners
 - 2 Youth Commissioners (age 14 – 21)
- Oversight of Juvenile Justice System
 - Child Welfare / Dependency –
approximately 1000 children out of home / ~2000 receiving services
 - Justice / Probation –
190 in custody / approximately 1000 children under supervision (3800 arrests)
- Goals
 - Minimize system involvement
 - Welfare of kids in the system

SCC - Juvenile Justice System Partners

- Law Enforcement
 - Police
 - Probation Department
 - District Attorney
- Public Defender
- Superior Court: Dependency and Justice
- Department of Family & Children's Services
- Health & Hospitals / Behavioral Health Services
- Schools, COE
- Dozens of CBOs
 - FLY (Fresh Lifelines for Youth)
 - Bill Wilson Center & Uplift Services
 - Young Women's Freedom Center
 - NCYL
 - CHAC

Background: U.S. Incarceration



Background: U.S. Juvenile Justice

Despite a decade of steadily declining crime, arrest, and incarceration rates:

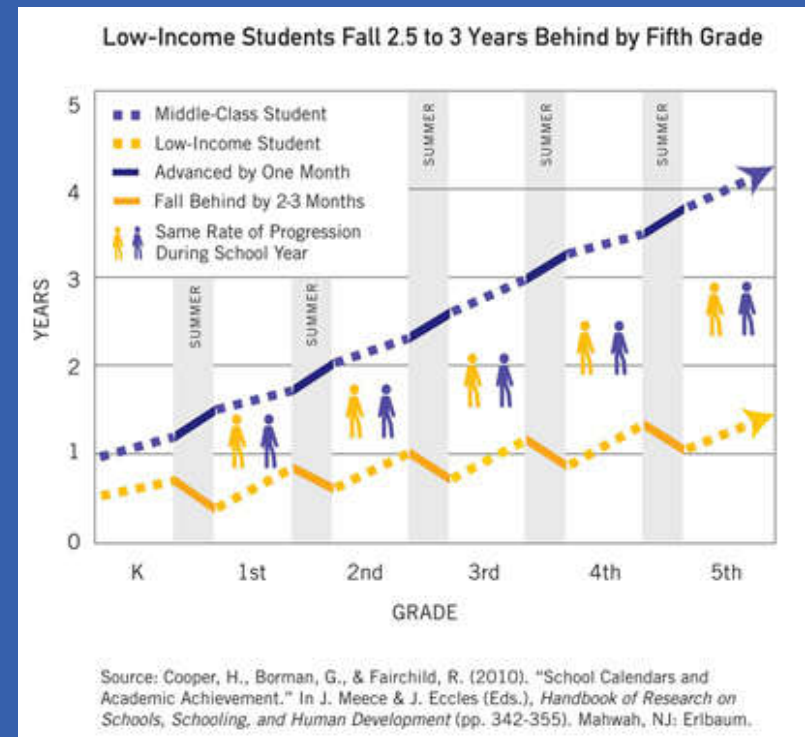
- 53,000 youth in facilities in 2018 (daily count)
- 70% children of color / >70% non-violent offenses
- 90% of black male school dropouts go to prison
- Children as young as 8 in Adult Court
- 50% of emancipated foster youth become homeless

California:

- SB 439
- Alternatives

Key Factors

- School to Prison Pipeline
 - ACES / Trauma, Instability & discontinuity
 - Fear / Anxiety
 - Labeling / Personal Narrative, expectations
 - Learning gap
 - Adolescent brain development
 - Criminalization of behaviors
 - Implicit bias embedded
 - Zero tolerance policies
- Worsening poverty & inequality
 - Destiny by zip code
 - Avg. Life Expectancy = 13 years less in East Palo Alto (62) vs Palo Alto (75)



Santa Clara County – Juvenile Justice

- Good news
 - Arrests and citations down 43% since 2013
 - Juvenile Hall admission down 33% since 2012
 - Juvenile incarceration down 77% since 2000
 - Probation Officers - new culture
 - Intensive programs in and out of custody / Wrap-around services / Family support
 - One consistent, caring adult can change a child's narrative
- Bad news
 - Racial disproportionality persists
 - 2-year trend in San Jose of increases in Aggravated Assault & Robberies
 - Social media facilitates
 - Materialism (\$) drives
 - Increasing inequality
 - Upstream community resources (publicly funded) as alternatives defunded since 2008
 - Too few adults stepping up (as foster parents, mentors, or advocates)

Challenge



We seem to live on 2 different planets

We can narrow the inequality gap

All the challenges are within our power to address