

News from Kansas

KS Juvenile Justice Reform Bill Introduced

Senate Bill 367, **Amendments to the juvenile justice system** was introduced into the Kansas Senate on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 by Senator Greg Smith. [Link to the bill](#)

Kansas Juvenile Justice Needs Reform, House Panel is Told

Placing so many of the state's juvenile offenders in detention facilities and group homes is costly and ineffective, a Kansas House panel heard this past week. A reform bill is on its way. Rep. John Rubin, a Shawnee Republican and chairman of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee, presented recommendations by a study group he co-chaired. They include diverting more low-level offenders from detention and into intensive supervision and eliminating placement in group homes. [Read more](#)

Bipartisan Group on Track With Juvenile Justice Reforms in Kansas

Kansas' treatment of juvenile offenders is inconsistent, costly and often overly harsh. It harms young people and families and does little to deter the youths from committing crimes as adults. Fortunately, a serious bipartisan effort is underway in the state Legislature to do better. "The single best thing I know of to reduce adult crime is to do a better job with juvenile offenders than we have in Kansas," said Rep. John Rubin, a Republican from Shawnee who is chairman of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee. [Read more](#)

KDOC Launches Dashboard

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) launched the new KDOC Dashboard for public use. This online resource will provide adult corrections and juvenile justice staff, legislators, county commissioners, judges, law enforcement and the public access to view important data with regard to the scope and effectiveness of our criminal and juvenile justice systems in Kansas.

To access the dashboard, [click here](#). Each tab across the top of the page is a different data set, by clicking on the white arrow in the upper right hand corner you can look through the currently available data sets. Those looking for juvenile data will find that to the far right. The data currently available is from the KDOC 2015 annual report, and as resources permit our goal will be to continue adding data sets to the dashboard.

Please feel free to access the link at any time for your use, to share the link with others, and to check back periodically for additional data.

National News

Obama Bans Solitary Confinement for Juveniles in Federal Prison

President Barack Obama said Monday he was moving to ban solitary confinement for juveniles and low-level offenders in federal prisons, a change long sought by advocates of prison reform who argue the punishment exacts a lasting mental toll. [Read more and watch video](#)

Why We Must Rethink Solitary Confinement *By Barack Obama, President of the United States 1/25/16*

In 2010, a 16-year-old named [Kalief Browder](#) from the Bronx was accused of stealing a backpack. He was sent to Rikers Island to await trial, where he reportedly endured unspeakable violence at the hands of inmates and guards — and spent nearly two years in solitary confinement. In 2013, Kalief was released, having never stood trial. He completed a successful semester at Bronx Community College. But life was a constant struggle to recover from the trauma of being locked up alone for 23 hours a day. One Saturday, he committed suicide at home. He was just 22 years old. [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Ruling Is Landmark for Two Reasons

Monday's landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to make retroactive its [2012 prohibition](#) on mandatory life sentences without parole for juvenile offenders is worthy of celebration. The court clarified its [retroactivity jurisprudence](#), holding for the first time that the Constitution demands that new [substantive constitutional rules](#) be applied to people convicted before the rules were announced. And the justices were correct to apply their newly announced principle to the case of mandatory sentences of life without parole for juveniles. [Read more](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

By **Randy Bowman, Director**
DOC – Juvenile Community-Based Services

In June of 2015, Governor Sam Brownback announced the formation of the Juvenile Justice Workgroup. The Workgroup is a bipartisan panel of members from the three branches of state government as well as law enforcement. The Workgroup met from June through November to examine the Kansas Juvenile Justice System and make recommendations aimed at improving public safety and outcomes for youth. The Workgroup conducted a comprehensive analysis of the Kansas Juvenile Justice System; consulted with national experts in the field of juvenile justice; examined state statutes, policies, practices, and programs; and conducted over two dozen roundtable discussions while gathering over 250 surveys from county and judicial district staff from across the state. The results of this research and key insights were presented in a [Final Report](#) that includes 40 policy recommendations to reform the juvenile justice system in Kansas.

The 40 recommendations presented by the Workgroup are the foundation of proposed statutory changes reflected in [Senate Bill 367](#), which was recently introduced. The Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice has scheduled hearings to begin on Monday, February 1. We encourage everyone to participate in this process, whether you are a proponent or opponent. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to take some time to read the Final Report of the Workgroup and SB 367. Please consider sharing your knowledge and insights through this process so that the changes made will reflect the best possible outcomes to enhance public safety while improving outcomes for children, families, and communities in Kansas. Thank you for all you do.

News from other States

New Illinois Laws Aim to Keep Teens Out of Prison System

A package of new laws taking effect Friday aims to keep more juveniles out of the prison system, including changes that stop youths from being detained for misdemeanor crimes and give judges more discretion on whether teens should be tried as adults. An additional measure eliminates mandatory life sentences for minors convicted of murder, while another seeks to keep children younger than 13 out of the justice system altogether by attempting to place them with community service providers instead of a juvenile detention facility. [Read more](#)

Report: Despite Fewer Incidents, Victor Cullen Center Not Prepared for Aggressive Teens

The officials running a high-security juvenile facility in Frederick County need to create a comprehensive approach to help their detained youths deal with past traumas and aggressive behavior, according to a report by the Maryland Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit of the Office of the Attorney General. [Read more](#)

Richmond Hopes LIFE Program Will Keep Teens Out of Jail, in Class

Richmond's police department and school system are moving forward with a plan that is aimed at keeping students who get into legal trouble out of jail and in the classroom. "We needed to do something," said Steve Drew, deputy chief of Richmond police. "When we look at the number of juveniles arrested in our school system, we think there are options other than an arrest for minor offenses," he said. [Read more](#)

With New Governor, a Debate Brews About the Future of Louisiana's Juvenile Justice System

Several recent Louisiana governors have pledged to revamp and change how the state deals with juvenile lawbreakers, with successive administrations embracing a policy of trying to rehabilitate young offenders instead of just locking them up. But advocates aren't satisfied with how state government has recently lived up to those promises, in the past few years criticizing hefty budget cuts to the Office of Juvenile Justice under Gov. Bobby Jindal. Now they want Gov.-elect John Bel Edwards to push forward more aggressively, from directing more money to community-based programs to changing the law to end Louisiana's policy of treating 17-year-olds as adult criminals. [Read more](#)

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu on Criminal Justice in New Orleans

A video interview on progress with juvenile justice reform from a mayors point of view

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu talks about efforts in his city to reduce both its incarceration and crime rates in tandem, the challenges to those efforts, and the last effects of Hurricane Katrina on criminal justice and public education policies. [Watch video](#)

Human Trafficking

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is an excellent opportunity to spread awareness and stand with the victims of this insidious trade. Human trafficking can take many forms, whether it involves coerced labor, involuntary domestic servitude, child soldier recruitment, or prostitution. Often, human trafficking involves children. Sex trafficking is the most common form of modern day slavery. Recognized in countries like Cambodia, Kenya, and India, this tragic problem is also prevalent throughout the United States. No country is immune. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) has shockingly emerged in the United States as a growing problem on both the national and individual state levels.

Victims of commercial sexual exploitation face a plethora of physical, emotional and psychological wounds as a result of the trauma they endure. Shame, self-hatred, grief, and fear may lead some to commit suicide or have suicidal thoughts. This month is an excellent opportunity to spread awareness, advance understanding of this crime, and its victims, and support efforts to educate the public how to identify and prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Hidden America: Chilling New Look at Sex Trafficking in the US

ABC's Diane Sawyer reports on the danger of vulnerable young women falling victim to prostitution rings. [Watch video . . .](#)

Kansas Sees Slight Improvement in Child Sex Trafficking Grade

Kansas' grade for child sex trafficking has improved from a "C" to a "B." Each state is graded annually by an organization called Shared Hope International, which examines legislation on domestic child sex trafficking. [Read more . . .](#)
Link to the Protected Innocence Challenge [Read more . . .](#)

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT - JULY 2015

An Extensive Report on How Big and Widespread Human Trafficking Is

"Trafficking in persons," "human trafficking," and "modern slavery" have been used as umbrella terms for the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-386), as amended (TVPA), and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime describe this compelled service using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor. Human trafficking [Read more . . .](#)

Report: More than 200 potential human trafficking victims in Ohio last year

Ohio law enforcement identified more than 200 potential human trafficking victims last year, 60 of them under the age of 18, and successfully prosecuted 33 traffickers, according to a report from Attorney General Mike DeWine. [The Human Trafficking Commission's 2015 report](#) reflects an increasing number of investigations, victims and arrests for something that wasn't even a crime in Ohio 10 years ago. [Read more . . .](#)

Selling American girls

On a cool, quiet Thursday night, crimes of all types unfurl on South Figueroa Street. This is one of the main tracks for prostitution in Los Angeles, a strip where sex can be purchased from teenage girls on almost any given corner, where pimps, some of them gang affiliated, carefully guard their turf and property. At about 200 blocks, [Read more . . .](#)

Annie E Casey Foundation

How Ohio Went from Investing in Youth Prisons to Investing in Youths' Futures

In the past two decades, Ohio has slashed its state youth prison population by more than 80% while boosting public safety, improving youth outcomes and saving taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. A new report from the Juvenile Justice Coalition of Ohio documents these successes [Read more . . .](#)

Connecting Young Adults to Employment

This report shares findings from a national survey conducted by the Aspen Institute Workforce Strategies Initiative. It tells how 340 organizations across the country are working to connect young adults with employment. Service providers reveal go-to strategies, common roadblocks [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking in Kansas

From the Kansas Department of Labor

Kansas Department of Labor Takes a Stand on Combatting Human Trafficking

The Department of Labor is committed to helping end labor trafficking in Kansas. Labor trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting a person to involuntarily servitude, debt bondage or slavery. The Kansas legislature . . . [Watch video . . .](#)

Human Trafficking to Exploit Labor - [Read more . . .](#)

Event Teaches Community How to Help Fight Human Trafficking

About 20 community members filled a small meeting room at the Lawrence Public Library to learn about human trafficking in Lawrence. Elizabeth Moffitt, human trafficking program coordinator for the Willow Domestic Violence Center, explained the pervasiveness of the crime within Douglas County — a fact most attendees found jarring. [Read more . . .](#)

Man Charged with 18 Felonies, Including Aggravated Human Trafficking

A 26-year-old man has been charged with 18 felonies, including aggravated human trafficking, and many of the remaining felonies allege sexual offenses in which the victims are teens. [Read more . . .](#)

'Second Chance' Offers Missouri Woman Just That

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- She went in at 16. She came out at 34. In between a lot had changed for Dianne Myers - and to the world outside. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

JJIE – Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Report Looks At Best Practices for Addressing Trauma in Diversion

When officials in four states were asked several years ago what tools they would need to divert youth from the juvenile justice system, a better understanding of trauma was at the top of all their lists. They wanted to help youth with behavioral conditions when they are evaluated for probation but said they couldn't do so most effectively without understanding how traumatic experiences had affected the adolescents. A new [report](#) sets out a framework for trauma-informed diversion that grew from those states' experiences and additional research into best practices. It's intended as guidance for other juvenile justice officials considering reforms to address trauma. [Read more . . .](#)

Females: Juvenile Justice Issues - updates . . .

All About Girls Summit Seeks to Create 'Girls Movement'

Mary Marx would like to see a national movement for girls. The president and CEO of the Florida-based [PACE Center for Girls](#) is concerned about the criminalization of girls. In 2013, 37 percent of girls detained in the juvenile justice system in the United States were held for status offenses such as truancy, running away and curfew violations. Marx is concerned about the fact that large numbers of detained girls had previously been sexually or physically abused. Such abuse is one of the biggest risk factors for girls becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, [Read more . . .](#)

From The Council of State Governments Justice Center Updates . . .

SCA Grantee's Juvenile Justice Work Recognized by NACo, State Correctional Education Association

The Maricopa County Education Service Agency (MCESA), a FY2013 Second Chance Act Juvenile Demonstration grantee, was recently awarded the 2015 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for their collaborative, community-based program for youth transitioning out of incarceration or detention. [Read more . . .](#)

Reinvesting in Law Enforcement to Reduce Crime: Oklahoma's 'Safe Oklahoma Grant Program'

Faced with one of the highest violent crime rates in the country in 2010, Oklahoma state policymakers created the Safe Oklahoma Grant Program to fund law enforcement-led strategies to reduce violent crime as part of the state's [justice reinvestment effort](#). Between 2013 and 2015, almost \$4 million was distributed to more than a dozen local law enforcement agencies to help implement new or enhance existing data-driven policing strategies. The grant program prioritizes work that targets five key areas related to preventing violent crime: implementing evidence-based policing strategies; increasing technological capacity to support crime prevention; improving analytical capacity; engaging with community partners; and providing victim services. [Read more . . .](#)