

**Social Media Toolkit**

**Smart, Safe and Fair: Strategies to Prevent Youth Violence, Heal Victims of Crime and Reduce Racial Inequality**

*Copy and paste these posts to easily share our new report! Please use #SmartSafeFair in all posts* *and tag @JusticePolicy and @CrimeVictimsOrg*

Please note, the NCVC plenary session releasing the report will be on our Facebook Live stream September 5th at 8:30 am Eastern - http://www.facebook.com/justicepolicy

**Summary:**

The justice system treats youth charged with violent offenses in ways that are unnecessarily expensive, ineffective, and unjust. The research is clear that youth convicted of a violent crime are best treated in a community-based setting, but our default response to youth violence is confinement. Research demonstrates that using confinement over community-based approaches increases risk of reoffending; discriminates against youth of color; and is significantly more expensive - changing our default reaction would allow us to reinvest that money into victims services and to begin to heal the damage done.

In *Smart, Safe and Fair*, the Justice Policy Institute (JPI) and the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) examine community-based approaches to treating youth involved in violent crime, and how victims and victims advocates react to these proposed reforms. The crime victims we spoke with were consistent in their views that they: want to have victims needs met in ways we currently don’t; want youth to be treated effectively and held accountable; believe there should be no categorical bar on serving more young people involved in violent crimes in the community; and recognize that young people involved in violent crime are themselves overwhelmingly victims and should receive appropriate services.

To reduce youth violence, recidivism, mass incarceration and racial disparities, we must make changes to the many laws, policies and practices that prevent youth convicted of violent offenses from being effectively treated in the community.

**Tweets:**

* Research shows that youth convicted of a crime who are treated in the community are significantly less likely to reoffend than if they are confined – regardless of their offense type. Learn more with our #SmartSafeFair report <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* Our #SmartSafeFair report details how treating youth involved in violent crime in community-based settings, as opposed to confinement, makes everyone safer and is more cost effective <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with “Youth Confinement is…” graphic
* Since 1995, there has been over a 50 percent decline in the number of confined youth, coinciding with an era of historic crime decline. Policymakers are not forced to choose between locking up more youth and being safe #SmartSafeFair <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* Despite the overall decline in youth confinement, racial and ethnic disparities have actually increased. Our #SmartSafeFair report calls for an intentional racial justice strategy that seeks to reduce the number of youth of color in confinement <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with Racial Disparity graphic OR Gun vs. Arrest rate graphic
* Our #SmartSafeFair report finds that to truly reduce youth violence, recidivism, mass incarceration and racial disparities, we must stop preventing young people involved in violent crime from being effectively treated in the community <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with “Youth Confinement Is…” graphic OR Key Recommendations graphic
* Simply locking up youth who have committed a violent offense not only fails to ensure public safety, but also does not meet the needs of crime victims. Read our new report on #SmartSafeFair for treating youth involved in the justice system <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* The research in our #SmartSafeFair report is clear - the community is the best place to serve many youth who have been convicted of a violent crime – and many victims of crime agree. Read our new report for more information <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with Crime Victim Preference graphic
* Keeping kids close to home, providing services and support, and allowing them to engage with their families and experience positive peer associations results in significantly lower rates of reoffending. Read more in our #SmartSafeFair report <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with Key Recommendations graphic
* Over the past 30 years youth confinement has declined but the benefits haven’t accrued to all—the majority being nonviolent offenses it’s #smartsafefair to expanding community-based services to youth involved in violent crime <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* The research within #SmartSafeFair shows that many youth who have committed a violent offense can benefit from staying in the community and close to home just as much as those who have committed a nonviolent offense <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with Key Recommendations Graphic
* #JJSystem practitioners know how to treat youth in the community while keeping the public safe. Lawmakers are in the way of creating #SmartSafeFair and extending the benefits of community-based interventions to youth who've engaged in violence <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* Our #SmartSafeFair roundtable and conversations with crime victims echoed public opinion polling, demonstrating that many victims of crime believe that youth convicted of violent offenses can be held accountable and effectively treated in the community <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with Crime Victim Preference Graphic
* FACT: Many youth who have committed violent offenses have themselves been victims of crime and are not receiving care and services they need to heal. Read our report on why we need #SmartSafeFair <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* Our #SmartSafeFair report calls for a change in the many laws, policies and practices that prevent young people involved in violent crime from being served in the community. Read why <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with “Youth Confinement Is…” graphic
* FACT: Confinement is the most expensive way to address a youth's behavior. Our #SmartSafeFair details how the cost of confinement limits the resources available to serve youth in the community and provide necessary services to crime victims <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* When policy focuses on the offense rather than need, we create a system that is worse for everyone – the youth, the community, and the victim. Read our report on why it is time for #SmartSafeFair <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with Key Recommendations graphic
* FACT: Confinement increases a young person's likelihood of recidivating compared with treatment in community-based approaches, making everybody less safe. Learn more in the new #SmartSafeFair <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* Although youth of all backgrounds engage in similar behavior, young people of color are disproportionately impacted any time a system relies on confinement. We must have #SmartSafeFair to address unjust sentencing <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with Racial Disparity graphic OR Gun vs. Arrest rates graphic
* “To successfully help young people leave delinquency behind them, systems must assess the individual needs of each youth and provide individualized services based on their specific needs.” Our #SmartSafeFair report discusses these approaches <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* Our work with @CrimeVictimsOrg for the #SmartSafeFair report shows that many victims of crime want an justice approach that meets the needs of youth, strengthens families, and addresses the underlying causes of crime <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* Our new #SmartSafeFair report provides key recommendations for preventing youth violence, healing victims of crime and reducing racial inequality. Learn how here <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with Key Recommendations graphic

**Facebook and LinkedIn:**

* “To successfully help young people leave delinquency behind them, systems must assess the individual needs of each youth and provide individualized services based on their specific needs.” Many youth who have committed violent offenses are victims of crimes themselves, and have not received the trauma-informed care and services they need to heal. Focusing on youth sentencing practices differently would create a safer, healthier society for everyone. Read our new report, which examines community-based approaches to treating youth involved in violent crime <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* “When policy focuses on the offense rather than need, we create a system that is worse for everyone – the youth, the community, and the victim.” Our justice system equates violent crime with confinement: we incarcerate too many youth, in too many adult-like facilities that remove young people from their community and family, often placing them in harmful and traumatic conditions. In addition to making everyone safer, youth can be treated in the community at a fraction of the cost of confinement. The research in our #SmartSafeFair report is clear, the community is the best setting to serve youth who have been convicted of a crime <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with “Youth Confinement Is…” graphic
* The new #SmartSafeFair report provides key recommendations for preventing youth violence, healing victims of crime, and reducing racial disparities in confinement. Read the full report for more information <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
  + Share with Key Recommendations graphic

**Instagram:**

* “Youth Confinement Is…” Image
  + Caption: Youth confinement practices in the United States are unnecessarily expensive, ineffective, and unjust. To reduce youth violence, recidivism, mass incarceration, and racial disparities, we must make changes to our laws, practices, and polices to shift youth convicted of violent offenses out of secure facilities and into the community. Read more in the *Smart, Safe, and Fair* report <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* Racial Disparity Image
  + Caption: Anytime the criminal justice system relies on confinement, youth of color are disproportionately affected. In fact, despite plummeting numbers of youth in confinement, racial and ethnic disparities have actually increased. Reducing the number of youth of color in confinement requires an intentional racial justice strategy. Read more in the *Smart, Safe, and Fair* report <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>
* Crime Victim Preference Graphic
  + Caption: Many crime victims agree that they do not equate accountability with confinement when treating youth convicted of a violent crime. Rather, by a margin of 3 to 1, interviewed crime victims expressed a preference for holding people who commit crimes accountable through rehabilitative serves, as opposed to prison #SmartSafeFair <http://bit.ly/2oHkEYI>





