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MARYLAND YOUTH
JUSTICE COALITION

What's Best for Kids is Best for Everyone

The case for Maryland safety strategies based on prevention and age-appropriate accountability

Leaders who are serious about safety will recognize that effective responses must be informed by facts, not fears.

This report, one year after the state enacted its most important juvenile justice reforms in a generation, offers a timely reminder of what is known about youth crime in Maryland, our state's history of mass incarceration and racial disparities, and the effectiveness of age-appropriate supports and services in reducing unwanted behavior among young people.

Policymakers must take action now—and being serious about safety requires them to be guided by **facts, not fears**. The Maryland Youth Justice Coalition (MYJC) is calling upon lawmakers to enhance public safety by:

- Restoring, expanding, and coordinating access to age-appropriate supports and services for children and teens,
- Preserving the Juvenile Justice Reform Act and the Child Interrogation Protection Act, and
- Advancing the Youth Equity and Safety Act (YES Act) to keep minors out of the adult criminal legal system unless a judge has intentionally sent them there.

When it comes to public safety, what's best for kids is best for everyone. Passing the YES Act, funding a robust continuum of services to support the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, and preserving the Child Interrogation Protection Act will help young people make better choices and make all Marylanders safer.

View the full report [here](#).