**JUVENILE JUSTICE FACT SHEET**

*Beat the drum for justice.*
- *Just Mercy*, p. 46

4,028
The number of children arrested in America every day. That’s one every 21 seconds.
Source: Children’s Defense Fund, 2014 State of America’s Children

$352,663
The cost to house a juvenile offender in New York for one year, the most expensive in the country. The state that currently spends the least on youth incarceration is Louisiana ($46,662 a year per offender).

34%
Although children of color make up only 16% of the overall child population ages 10-17, they make up 34% of children arrested and 68% in residential placement.
Source: Children’s Defense Fund, 2014 State of America’s Children

*In poor urban neighborhoods across the United States, black and brown boys routinely have multiple encounters with the police. Even though many of these children have done nothing wrong, they are targeted by police, presumed guilty.... The random stops, questioning, and harassment dramatically increase the risk of arrest for petty crimes. Many of these children develop criminal records for behavior that more affluent children engage in with impunity.*
- Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*, p. 155

2,500
Number of children in the United States that had been sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.
Source: Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*, p. 269

*By the late 1980s and early 1990s, the politics of fear and anger sweeping the country and fueling mass incarceration was turning its attention to children... Tens of thousands of children who had previously been managed by the juvenile justice system, with its well-developed protections and requirements for children, were now thrown into an increasingly overcrowded, violent, and desperate adult prison system.*
- Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*, p. 159

250,000
The number of children tried as adults per year.
Source: Act4Juvenile Justice, Fact Sheet, August 2014

14
Number of states with no minimum for how young a child can be sentenced as an adult.
Source: Equal Justice Initiative, Children in Prison

**Up to 39%**
Juvenile incarceration decreases the chances of high school graduation by 13-39% and increases the chances of incarceration as an adult by 23-41%, compared to the average student in the same area.
Source: Journalist Resource, 2015

*Mercy is most empowering, liberating, and transformative when it is directed at the undeserving. The people who haven’t earned it, who haven’t even sought it, are the most meaningful recipients of our compassion.*
- Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*, p. 314

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