

Ending the Criminalization of Poor Women and Girls of Color

Presented By



Working to decriminalize and decarcerate
young women, girls and TGNC folks for over 25 years



YOUNG WOMEN'S
FREEDOM CENTER

Decriminalizing and Decarcerating Women, Girls, and TGNC people in California.



#Freedom2030

- Base Building
- Place Based Strategy
- Statewide Policy
- Research
- Movement-Based Legal Advocacy

Deep Partnerships: Essie Justice Group, CCWP, LSPC,

Engagement strategies with allies



Place Based Strategy

Replicable Models for Transformation

Divestment + Investment Strategies

Led by those most Impacted

- Ending Incarceration of girls in Santa Clara County





- Launching Research Model
- New Report for Research Institute
- 2-year statewide research project

YWFC Center Research Model

- Participatory
- Community based
- Decolonizing
- Ethical



FREEDOM
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

youngwomenfree.org

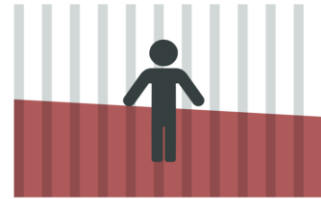
YOUNG WOMEN'S
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Family Incarceration

“I just think about the time that they were able to remove my dad, and then they were able to remove myself. That's my intro to systems, it's like-- You can't even have your own living space. They could just straight up go in your house, knock down your door. That's what it means to be impacted to have things ripped apart.”



AVERAGE **3** of **5** SIBLINGS



52%
OF MOTHERS



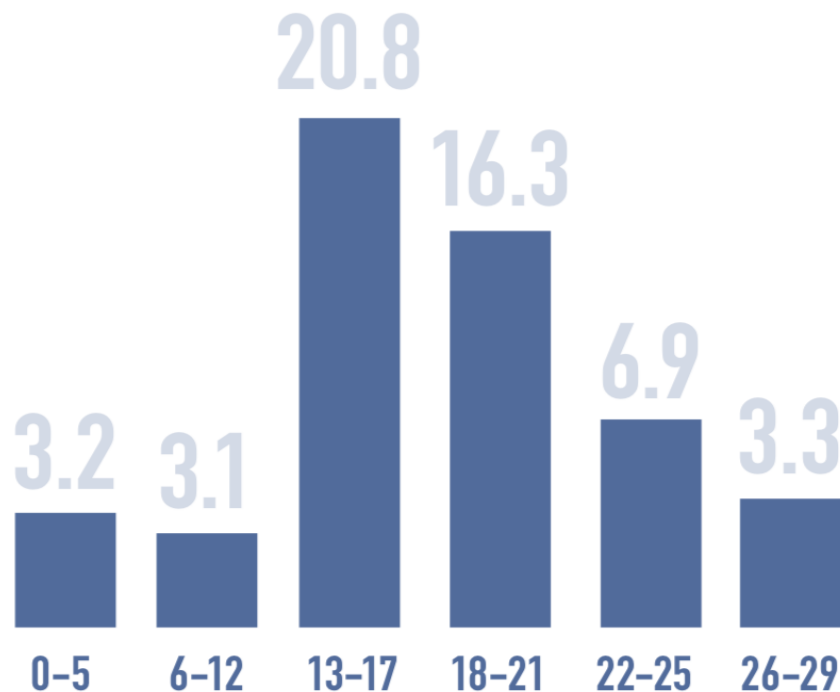
68%
OF FATHERS

Housing Histories

“They just want to clean the street, but homeless doesn't always look like that. Homeless is, "I'm eight months pregnant, working full time, living in my car. There's different types of homeless.”

“It's not fun being displaced routinely. It's really not.”

AVERAGE NUMBER OF TIMES MOVED
FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY



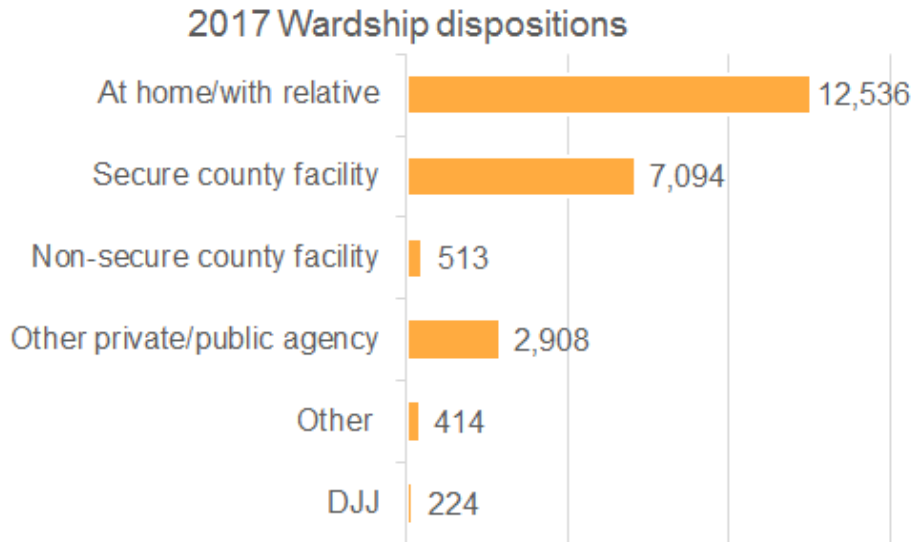


Movement-Based Legal Advocacy

- Primary goal = Shifting power
- Impact Litigation as a core tool
- Legal analysis, research, legislative drafting, advocacy support
- Framework = Challenging the Criminalization of Childhood

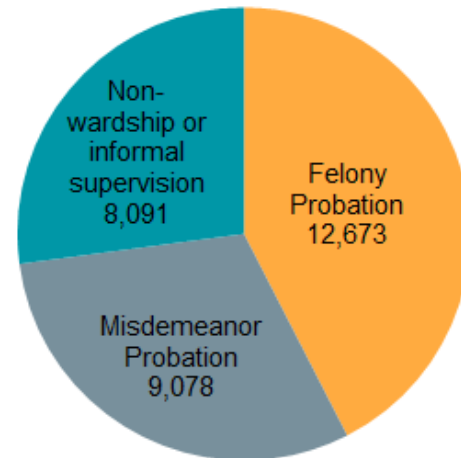
Challenging the Criminalization of Childhood

Over 23,000 cases resulted in probation supervision or custody in 2017



Most youth on probation are under misdemeanor or “informal” supervision.

Total Probation Supervision Population, 2017



Challenging the Criminalization of Childhood

- 8,111 bookings into juvenile hall for probation violations in 2017
- 20% of youth in institutional placements are there for technical probation violations



Movement-Based Legal Advocacy



Legal Advocacy to Restore Childhood:

- County-based
- Litigation-focused
- Multi-disciplinary
- Integrated with the movement

Advocacy Goals:

- Protect fundamental rights;
- Challenge surveillance and incarceration;
- Demand community-based supports for youth.

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