

**Youth First Initiative  
New Jersey Online Survey**

**January 9-18, 2017  
501 Adults**

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Q.1 Do you think that this country is going in the right direction, or in the wrong direction?

	<b>Total</b>
Right direction .....	42
Wrong direction .....	58
Don't know .....	0

**Right direction - Wrong direction ..... -16**  
(ref:DIRECT)

While taking this survey, when you read the term "youth justice system," it refers to the government agencies that handle truant or runaway youth and youth accused of acts of delinquency, including courts, correctional facilities, probation and parole departments, detention centers and other out-of-home confinement facilities.

Q.2 Compared to the way things are now, when it comes to the youth justice system, do you think there should be more focus on punishment and incarceration or more focus on prevention and rehabilitation?

	<b>Total</b>
Punishment and incarceration .....	16
Prevention and rehabilitation .....	84

**Punishment and incarceration –  
Prevention and rehabilitation ..... -67**  
(ref:CHOICE)

Next you will read some proposals that have been made to reform the youth justice system. For each, please indicate whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal.

	Strng Fav	Smwt Fav	Smwt Opp	Strng Opp	Total Fav	Total Opp	Fav - Opp
3 Provide financial incentives for states and municipalities to invest in alternatives to youth incarceration, such as intensive rehabilitation, education, job training, community services, and programs that provide youth the opportunity to repair harm to victims and communities. ....	55	37	7	2	92	8	84
4 Increase funding to provide more public defenders who represent children in court. ....	40	41	15	4	81	19	62
5 Require states to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the youth justice system. ....	42	34	18	5	77	23	53
6 Design treatment and rehabilitation plans that include a youth's family in planning and services. .... (ref:PROPOSAL)	57	35	6	1	92	8	85

Next you will read some proposals that have been made to reform the youth justice system for youth who pose a serious risk to public safety and may need to be in a secure setting. For each, please indicate whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal.

	Strng Fav	Smwt Fav	Smwt Opp	Strng Opp	Total Fav	Total Opp	Fav - Opp
7 Require facilities that incarcerate youth to let youth see their families at least once a week. ....	53	38	6	3	90	10	81
8 Require that incarcerated youth are placed in facilities within 60 miles of their families. ....	41	40	14	4	81	19	62
9 Create an independent commission of community leaders tasked with ensuring that youth are protected from abuse while in state or local custody. ....	51	39	8	2	90	10	80
10 Require that youth are placed in facilities with no more than 30 other youth. .... (ref:PROPOSAL2)	36	45	15	4	81	19	61

Next you will read some statements. For each, please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that statement.

	Strng Agree	Smwt Agree	Dis-agree	Dis-agree	Total Agree	Total Dis-agree	- Dis
11 When it comes to youth in the justice system, what is most important is that the system does a better job of making sure that he or she gets back on track and is less likely to commit another offense.....	68	26	5	1	94	6	88
12 Teaching youth who commit an offense to take responsibility for his or her actions does not require incarceration. ....	26	41	25	8	67	33	34
13 We spend too much taxpayer money on prisons for youth in the justice system. .... (ref:AGREEBAT)	26	39	28	7	65	35	30

Next you will read a few short pairs of statements about the youth justice system. For each pair, please indicate whether you agree with the first statement much more, the first statement somewhat more, the second statement somewhat more, or the second statement much more.

	1st Stmt Much	1st Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Much	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
14 Rehabilitation programs like counseling and education for youth who have committed delinquent acts helps prevent future delinquent acts. OR Rehabilitation programs like counseling and education do little to prevent youth who have committed delinquent acts from committing future delinquent acts. ....	36	40	19	4	77	23	53
15 Rehabilitation programs like counseling and education for youth who have committed delinquent acts will SAVE tax dollars in the long run. OR Rehabilitation programs like counseling and education for youth who have committed delinquent acts will COST tax dollars in the long run.....	36	39	20	6	75	25	49

	1st Stmt Much	1st Stmnt Smwt	2nd Stmnt Smwt	2nd Stmnt Much	Total 1st Stmnt	Total 2nd Stmnt	1st - 2nd
16 Most youth who commit delinquent acts are capable of positive growth, and they have the potential to change for the better. OR Most youth who commit delinquent acts are unlikely to change for the better, and they will likely continue a life of illegal behavior. ....	38	42	15	5	<b>80</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>60</b>
17 When it comes to youth who have committed delinquent acts, the best thing for society is to rehabilitate them so they can become productive members of society. OR When it comes to youth who commit delinquent acts, the best thing for society is to incarcerate them so that our streets are safer. ....	48	34	10	7	<b>82</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>65</b>
18 The youth justice system should provide youth with more opportunity to better themselves. OR The youth justice system should focus on punishing youth who have committed delinquent acts. .... (ref:PAIRS)	49	34	9	7	<b>84</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>67</b>

Finally a few questions for statistical purposes.

Q.19 What is your gender?

	<b>Total</b>
Male .....	47
Female .....	53
(ref:GENDER)	

Q.20 In what year were you born?

	<b>Total</b>
18 - 24.....	12
25 - 29.....	7
30 - 34.....	9
35 - 39.....	12
40 - 44.....	5
45 - 49.....	8
50 - 54.....	10
55 - 59.....	9
60 - 64.....	9
Over 64 .....	20
(ref:AGE)	

Q.21 What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	<b>Total</b>
1 - 11th grade.....	3
High School graduate .....	24
Non-college post H.S. ....	2
Some college .....	25
College graduate .....	27
Post-graduate school .....	19
(ref:EDUC)	

Q.22 What is your race?

	<b>Total</b>
White/Caucasian .....	67
Hispanic/Latino .....	13
Black/African American .....	11
Asian .....	6
Native American.....	1
Other.....	2
(ref:RACE)	

Q.24 Have you or someone in your immediate family been the victim of a violent crime?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes .....	16
No.....	81
Don't know .....	4
(ref:CRIME1)	

Q.25 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, an Independent, or a Republican?

	<b>Total</b>
Strong Democrat.....	23
Weak Democrat .....	13
Independent-lean Democrat .....	11
Independent.....	19
Independent-lean Republican.....	9
Weak Republican.....	11
Strong Republican.....	14
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.28 Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are liberal, moderate, or conservative?

	<b>Total</b>
Liberal .....	24
Moderate.....	56
Conservative.....	20
(ref:IDEO1)	

Q.29 Have you or someone in your immediate family been the victim of a serious property crime, such as a home burglary or car theft?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes .....	27
No.....	71
Don't know .....	2
(ref:CRIME2)	

Q.30 Have you, a close friend or family member spent time in jail or prison?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes .....	25
No.....	75
(ref:PRISON)	

Q.31 Do your or does someone in your immediate family work in law enforcement?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes .....	16
No.....	84
(ref:LAWENF)	