

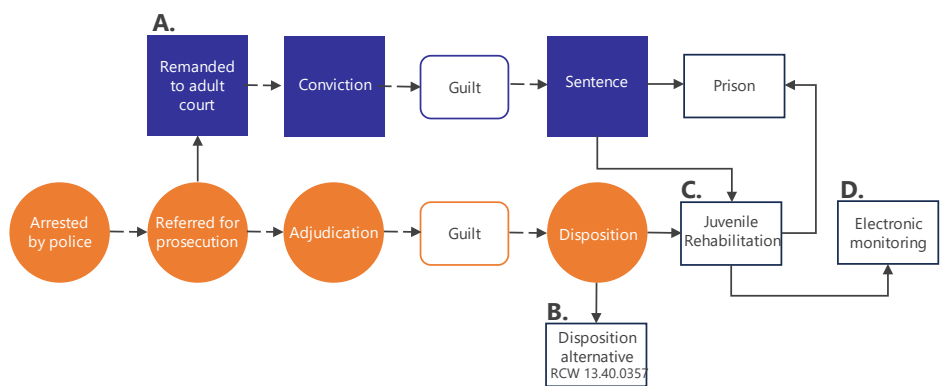
Changes to Washington State's Juvenile Court and Juvenile Rehabilitation Jurisdiction: A Preliminary Analysis of "JR to 25"

Starting in 2018, the Washington State Legislature made reforms that, among other things, modified court jurisdiction and the location of confinement for juveniles convicted as adults in Washington State. With these bills, WSIPP was directed to examine the impacts of the legislative changes. This report serves as the preliminary report, with a final report due in December 2031.

Background

The Washington State Legislature instituted policy changes affecting the juvenile judicial system for those with serious, violent felonies at several points: (A) the flow of cases being remanded to adult court, (B) the availability of disposition alternatives, (C) the jurisdiction of juvenile confinement, and (D) the use of electronic monitoring as an alternative to transfer to a DOC facility.

Juvenile Judicial System Process



Notes:

Orange indicates processing points in the juvenile justice system that may lead to Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR).

Blue indicates processing points in the adult criminal justice system that may lead to JR or prison.

Findings

- JR facility populations are now **older**, and youth are more likely to come based on a **felony offense** after JR to 25 took effect.
- After the JR to 25 legislative changes, individuals directly affected by the changes participate in **more rehabilitative programming**.
- After the JR to 25 legislative changes, there are **more reports of incidents** and associated **room confinement and isolation** events.

Limitations

Our analyses are descriptive and are not meant to draw any causal connections between the JR to 25 legislative changes and these outcomes. There is also a relatively limited amount of data available due to these being recent legislative changes. Future work may uncover different patterns in outcomes. A final report is due to the legislature in December 2031.

Assignment Details

Assigned in 2021 Legislative Session
E2SHB 1186, Sponsor: Rep. Goodman

Full report available on [WSIPP's website](#)

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