



All About Florida

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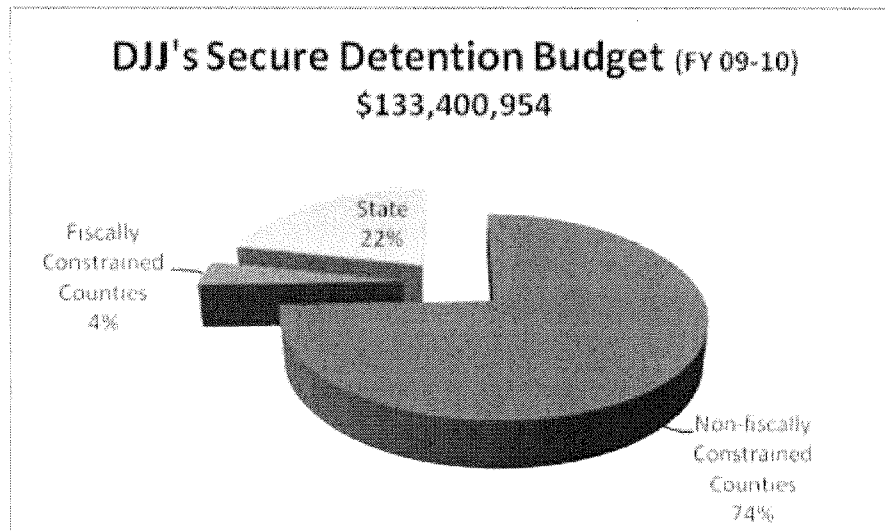
Juvenile Detention in Florida

Current Issue: Florida uses secure detention as the primary method of supervising children before trial.

Research demonstrates that secure detention is harmful to children. On any given day in Florida, there are about 1,300 youth sitting in youth detention facilities. Children who are detained are more likely to end up in the adult correctional system. In order to prevent these youthful offenders from becoming hardened criminals we must act now to change the current system of juvenile detention in Florida.

1. Juvenile detention, as it stands now, is a \$100 million unfunded mandate.
2. There is an unequal contribution between the counties that pay into detention and the state.
3. The current system is cost prohibitive.

Conclusion: Florida needs to create a continuum of care for at-risk youth. Focus on prevention and *early* intervention. Alternatives to detention, such as the civil citation program and pretrial diversion are more effective.



80
YEARS
1929-2009