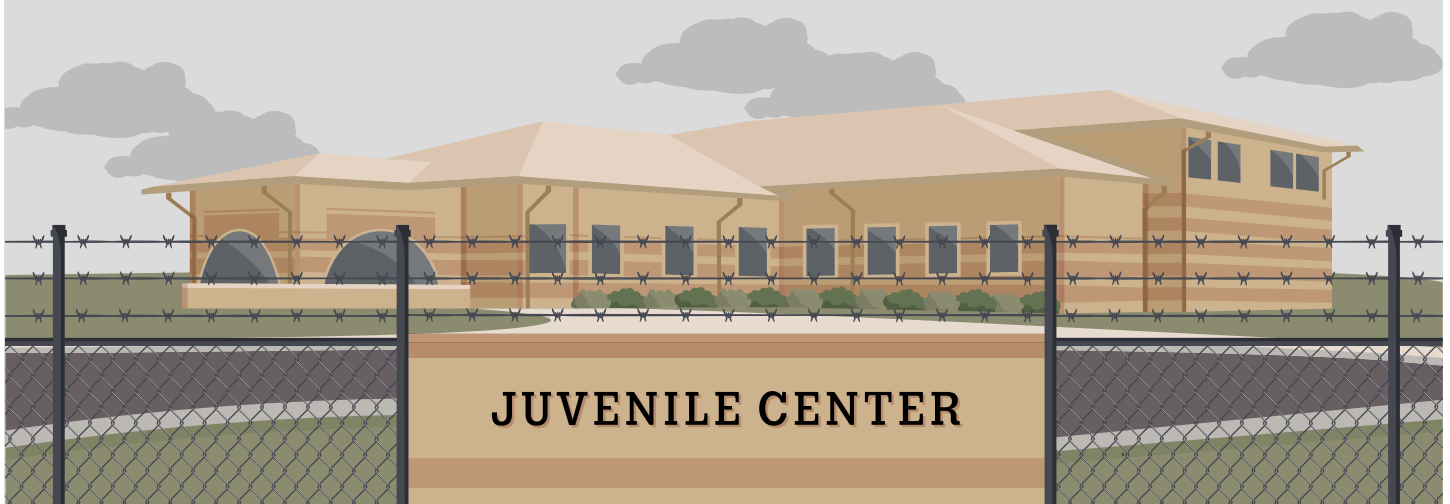




# Kansas Reduces Youth Confinement, Expands Evidence-Based Programs

2016 reforms drive reinvestment to better serve young people at home

Kansas enacted juvenile justice reform legislation, S.B. 367, in 2016. Out-of-home confinement decreased by **63 percent** between 2015 and 2018. Placements in group homes declined **87 percent** and confinement in the state's youth prison fell **31 percent**.



By closing a facility and reducing reliance on other types of out-of-home placements, the state has reinvested **\$30 million** in an evidence-based programs fund since the law passed, allowing expansion of services across the state.



Evidence-based programs now serve more than **4,000 youth and their families** each year and allow youth to remain at home and in their communities. Meanwhile, juvenile arrests continue to fall, **down 29 percent from 2015 to 2017**.



Research shows that for most youth, confinement in a costly juvenile facility is no more likely to prevent recidivism than having them remain in their own homes for intervention and treatment. And for some, it can even increase the probability of reoffending. On the other hand, evidence-based, in-home programming options, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, have been shown to substantially reduce recidivism.<sup>1</sup>

## Endnote

1 The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Re-Examining Juvenile Incarceration" (2015), <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2015/04/reexamining-juvenile-incarceration>.

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## For further information, please visit:

[pewtrusts.org/publicsafety](https://pewtrusts.org/publicsafety)

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