

COUNTY SOLUTIONS FOR KIDS IN TROUBLE

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Texas Juvenile Justice System 2011:

55,145 youth referred to 165 county juvenile departments

27,143 youth detained in 50 secure county pre-adjudication detention facilities

16,601 youth disposed to probation

2,616 youth sent to 33 secure county post-adjudication facilities.

2,436 sent to non-secure placements

956 youth sent to 6 state secure facilities

173 youth certified



Keeping Kids Close to Home

- Access to community resources
- Access to family
- Lower staff turnover
- Safer for youth and staff
- Less expensive
- Legislative Mandate



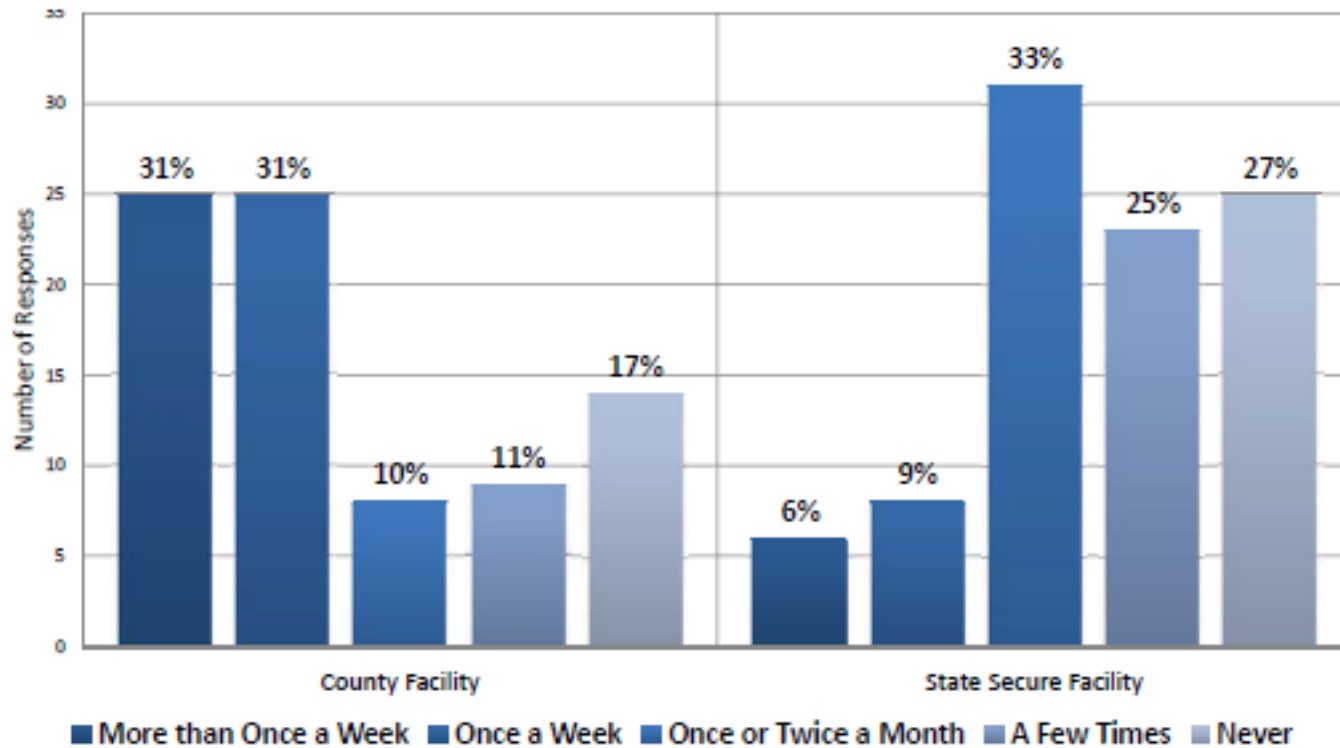
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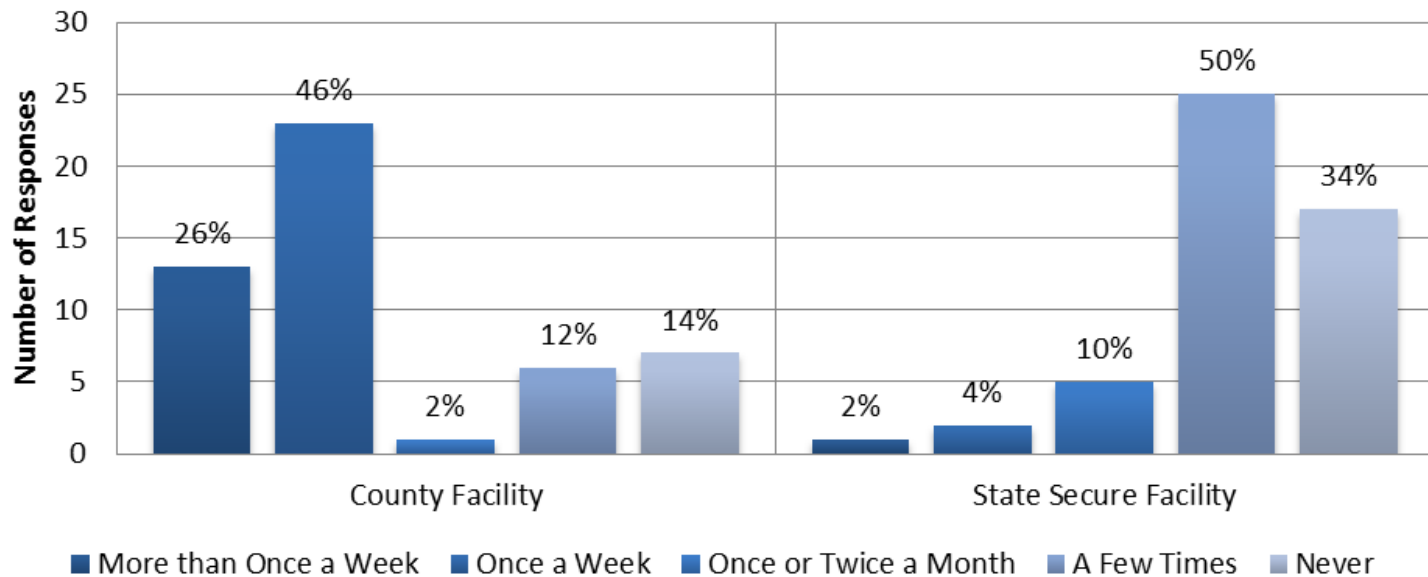
How many times did a family member visit you at those facilities?

(More than Once a Week, Once a Week, Once or Twice a Month, A Few Times, or Never)



Survey at Giddings (boys) state facility

How many times did a family member visit you at those facilities? (More than Once a Week, Once a week, Once a Month, A Few Times, or Never)

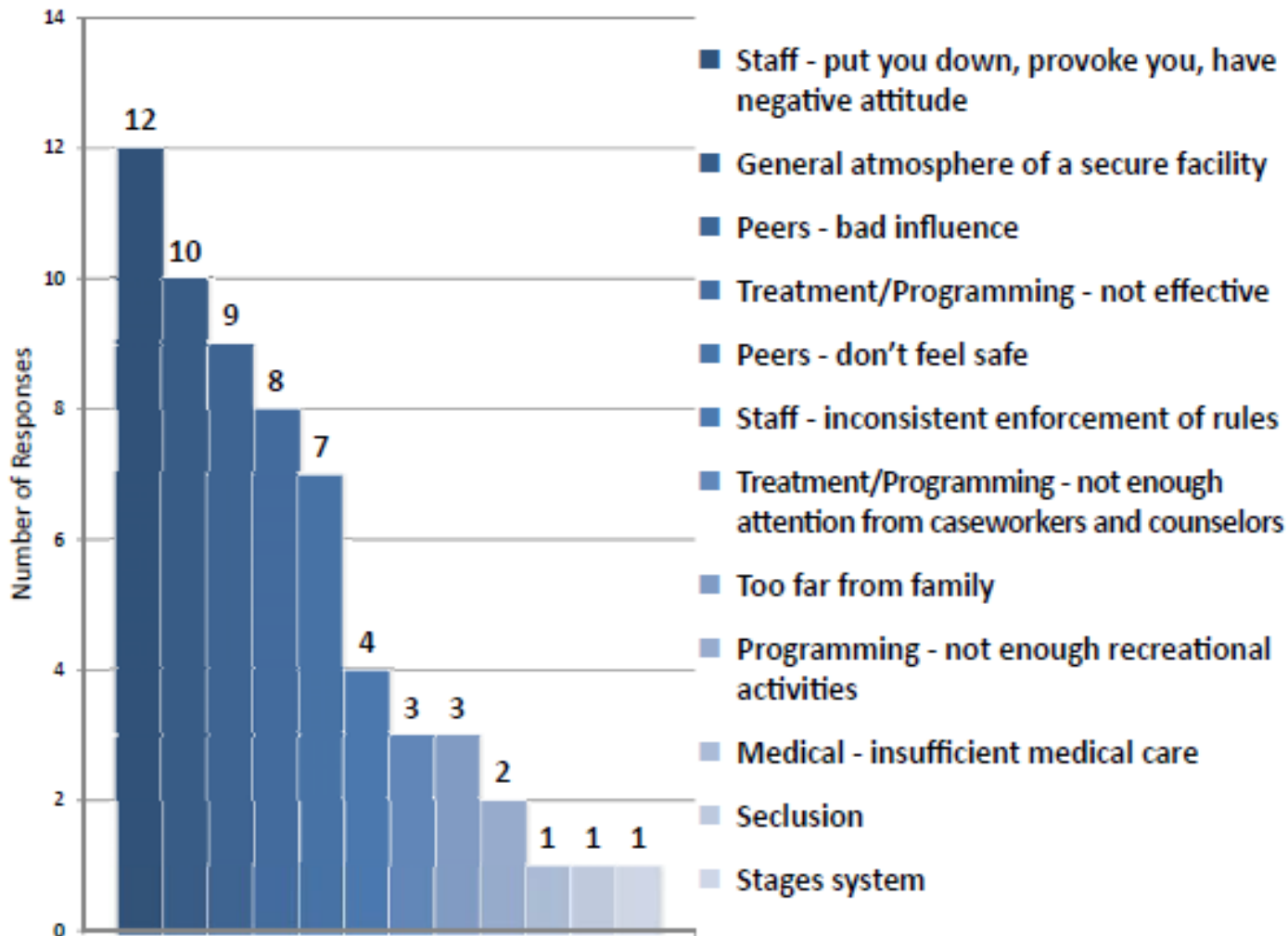


Survey at Ron Jackson (girls) state facility

Keeping Kids Close to Home

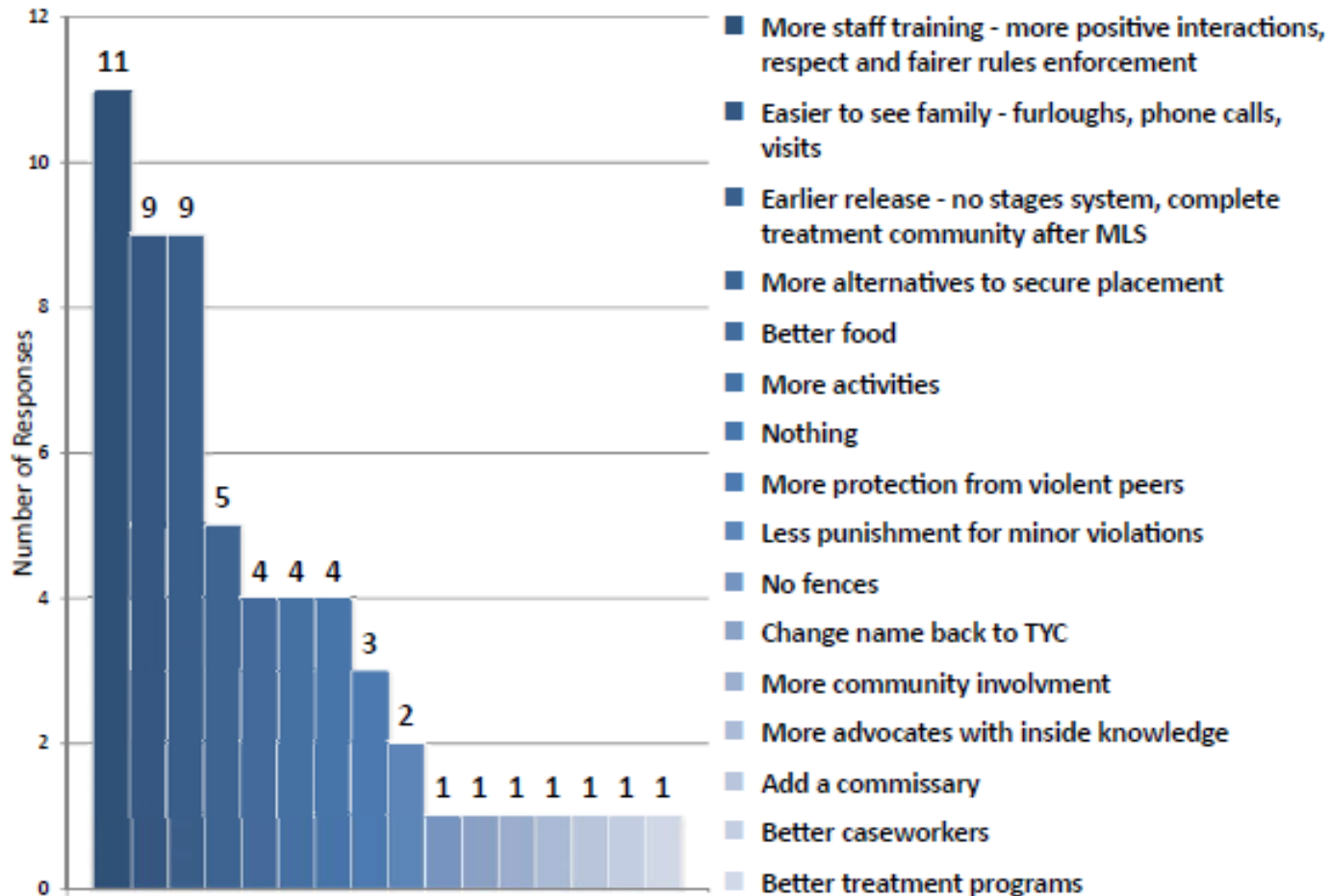
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What has been the least helpful to prepare you for your future after you leave the juvenile justice system?



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If you were in charge and had the power to change one thing about the juvenile system, what would you change?



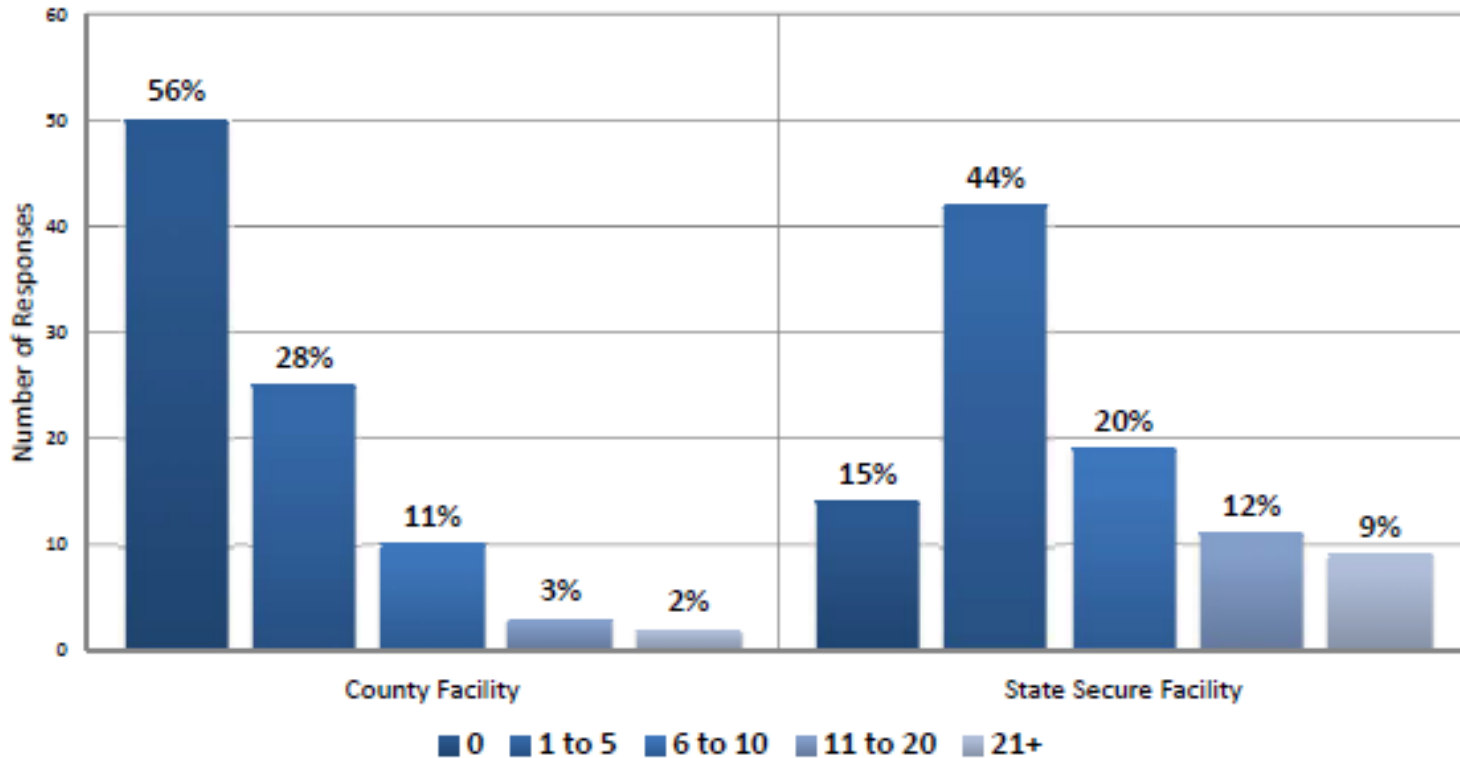
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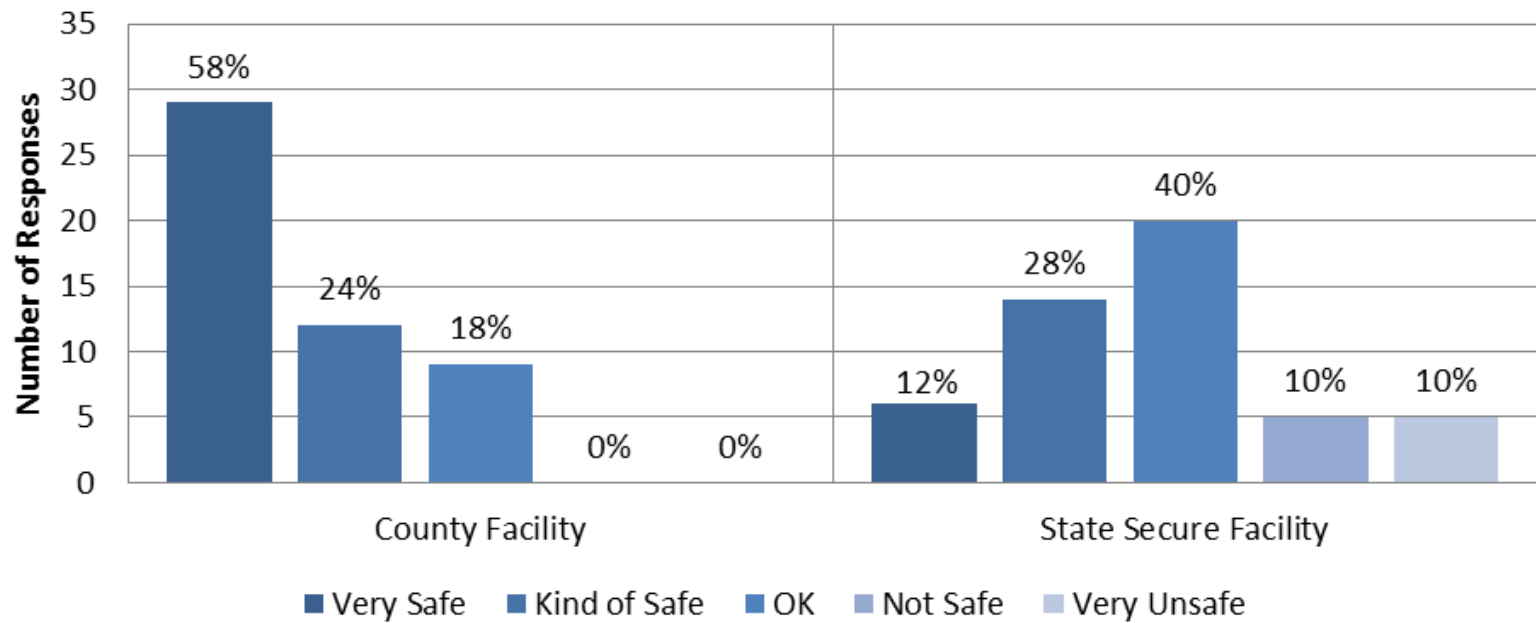


How many times were you in a physical fight with other youths at these facilities?



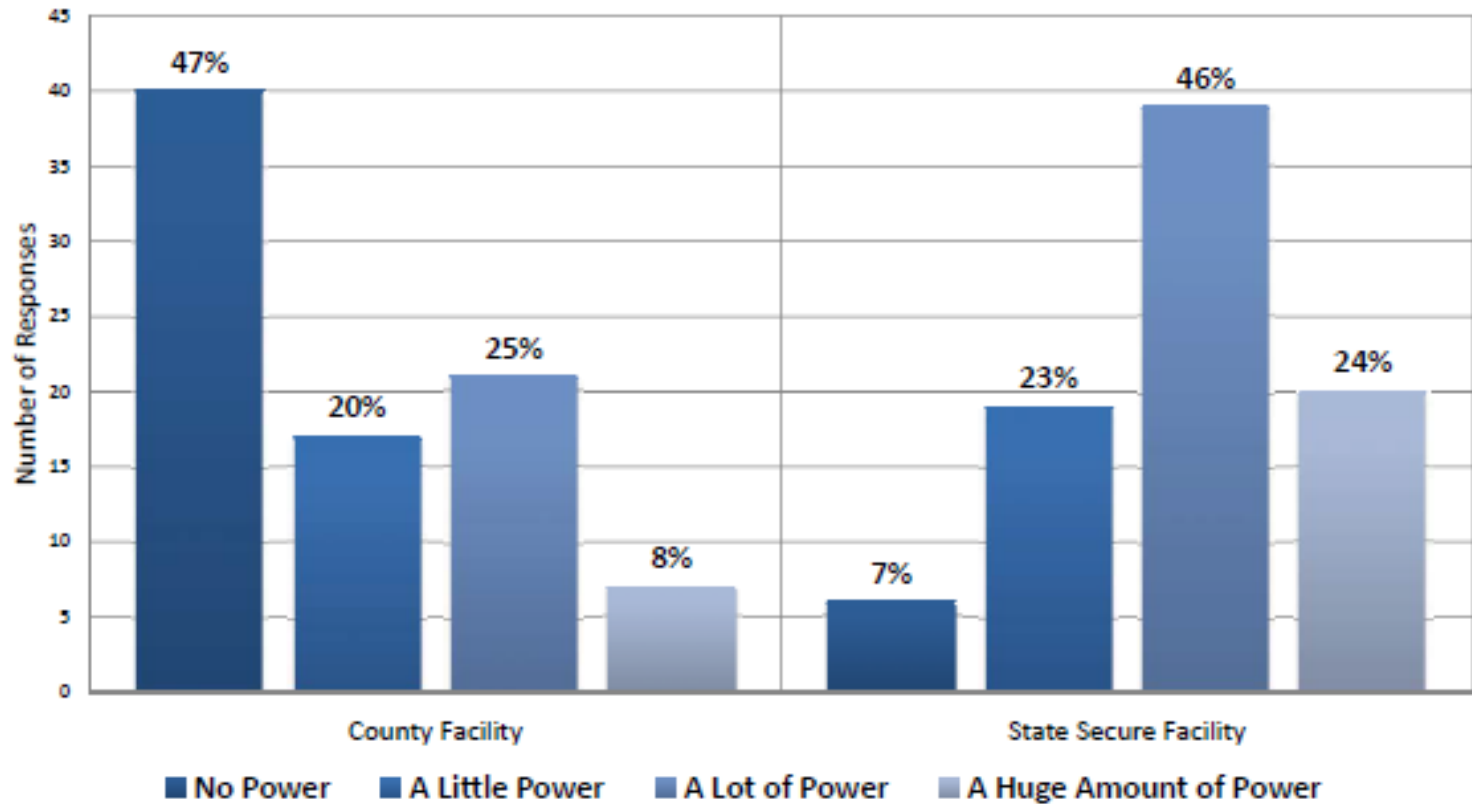
Survey at Giddings (boys) state facility

How safe did you feel at those facilities? (Very Safe, Kind of Safe, OK, Not Safe, Very Unsafe)



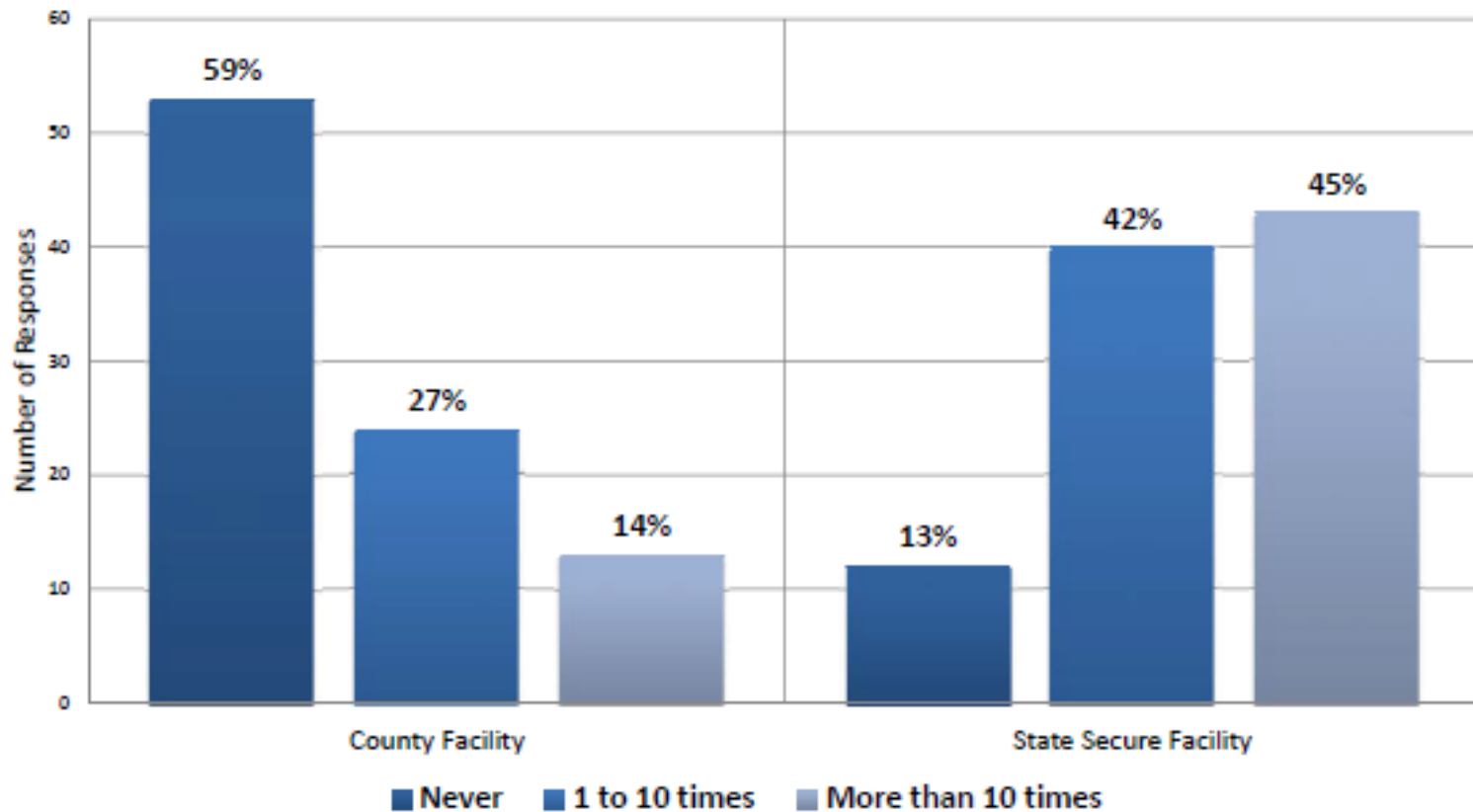
Survey at Ron Jackson (girls) state facility

How much power did gangs have in those facilities? (No Power, A Little Power, A Lot of Power, A Huge Amount of Power)



Survey at Giddings (boys) state facility

How many times were you confined to your room as punishment for more than 24 hours at those facilities?



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Community Challenges

- **(Very) Insufficient Funding**

Is current funding for county juvenile probation departments sufficient to implement best practices for reductions in juvenile crime and recidivism?

- Very insufficient: 11%
- Insufficient: 64%
- Sufficient: 25%
- More than sufficient: 0%

- **Limited state oversight / guidance**



Community Priorities

Please rank the following by need of increased funding at your department.

1. Mental Health Services (average rank: 3.0)
2. Community Alternatives to Secure Detention (average rank: 3.2)
3. Family Involvement Programs (average rank: 3.7)
4. Prevention Programs (average rank: 4.2)
5. Substance Abuse Services (average rank: 4.4)
6. Reentry and Aftercare Programs (average rank: 5.0)
7. Staff Training (average rank: 6.7)
8. Assessment Instruments (average rank: 7.3)
9. JJAEP and Detention Schoolwork (average rank: 7.7)

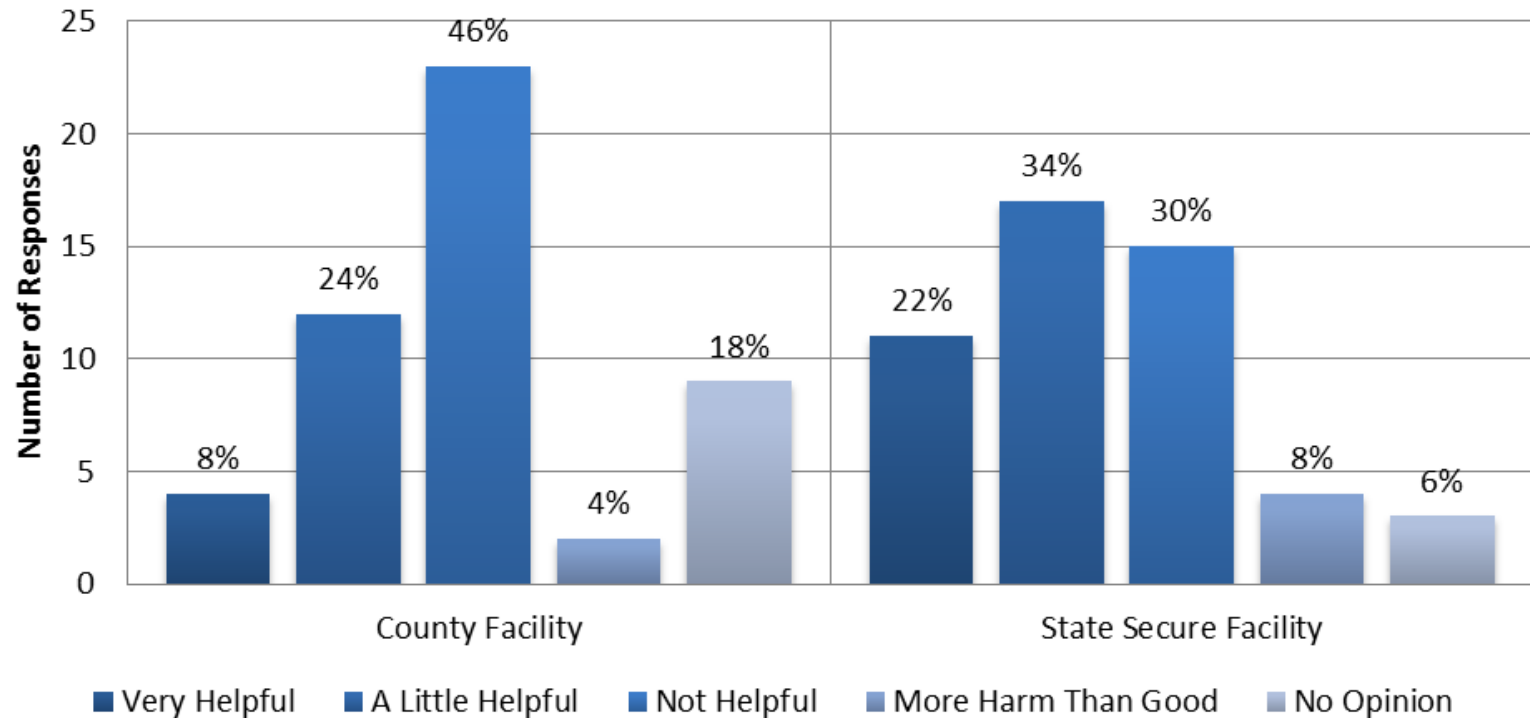


Mental Health and Trauma

- Texas ranks **last** in mental health funding
- 1/3 of probation youth have a diagnosed mental illness
 - Only 1/4 of those diagnosed youth receive mental health treatment
- 1/2 of referred youth report a past traumatic experience
 - 1/2 of girls at Ron Jackson report probation experience did not help or did more harm than good in helping them to deal with past trauma
 - The biggest predictor of increasingly severe placements for girls
- Wide variation in county responses to mental health



How well did staff, programs, and treatment help you to deal with past trauma in your life? (Very Helpful, A Little Helpful, Not Helpful, More Harm Than Good)



Survey at Ron Jackson (girls) state facility



County Successes

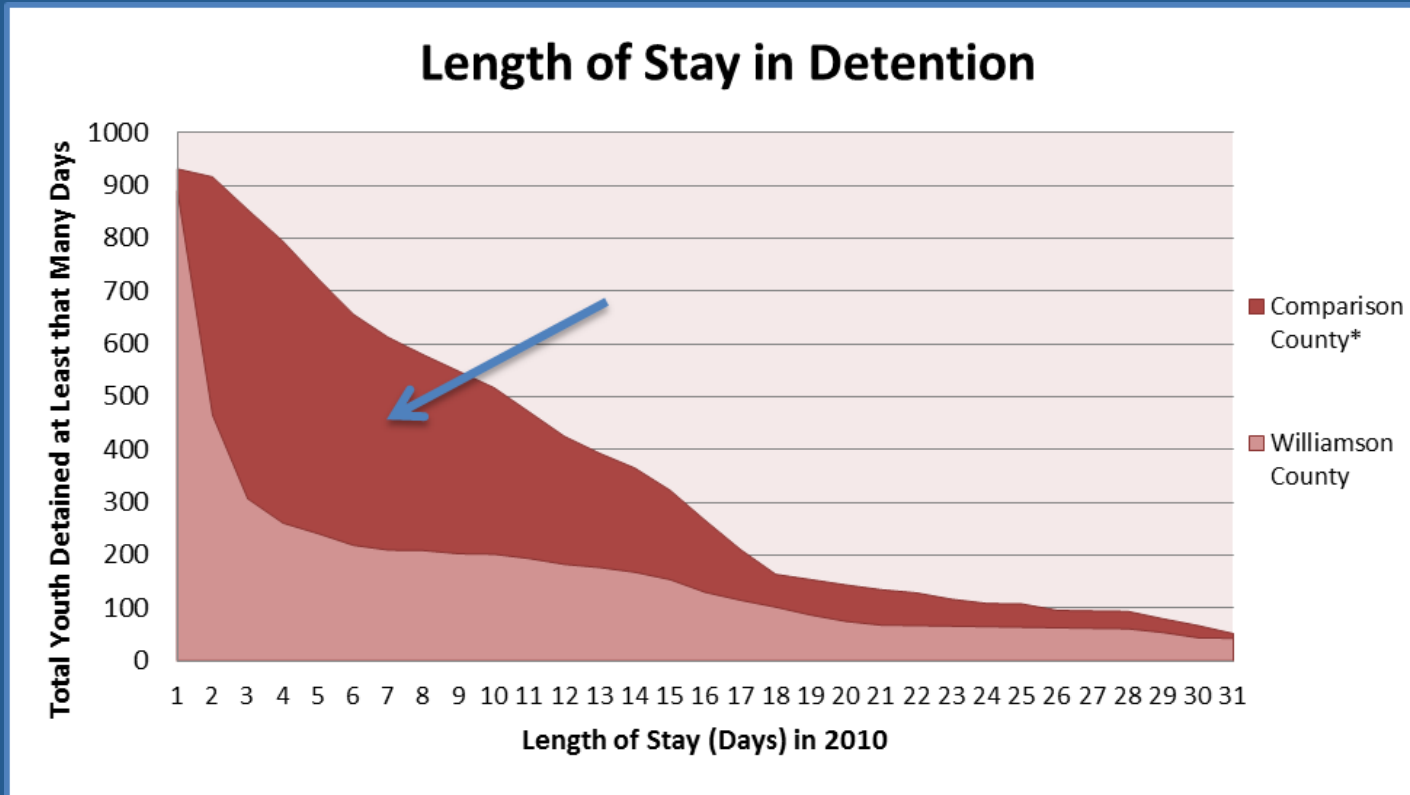
- Coordination is Key
 - Texas Front End Diversion Initiative
 - Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams
- Need for more trauma-informed systems



Pre-adjudication Detention

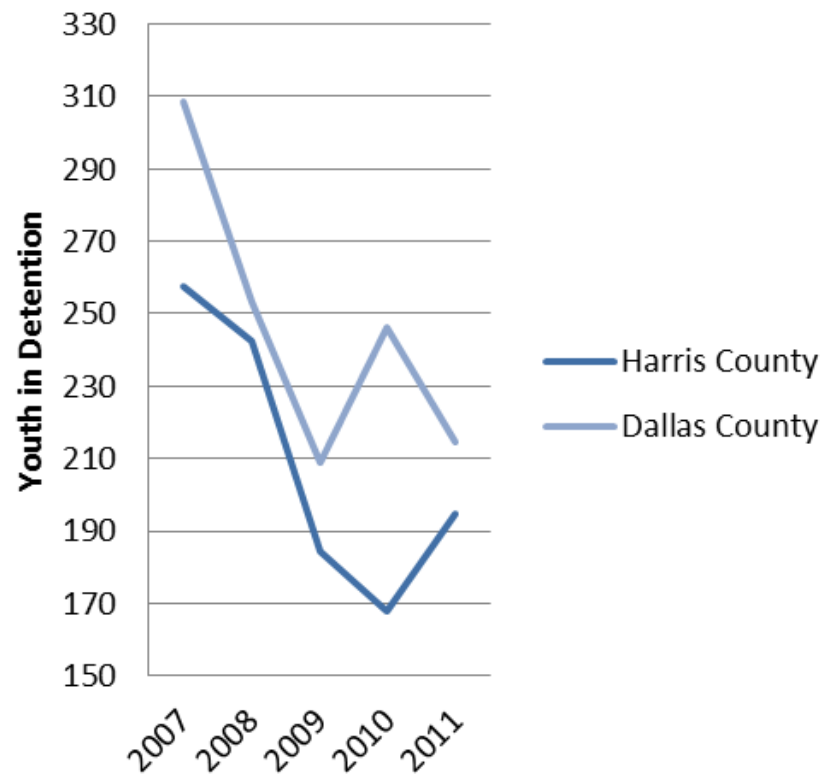
- In 2011:
 - 16,700 youth spent more than 10 days
 - 11,000 for non-felony offenses
 - 5,600 spent more than a month
 - 3,400 for non-felony offenses
 - 600 spent over 100 days
 - 280 for non-felony offenses
- Texas law disfavors detention
- It does not reduce recidivism for most youth
- It's 4 times as expensive as intensive supervision
- Varies widely from county to county

County Successes



County Successes

JDAI Sites' Average Daily Detention Population



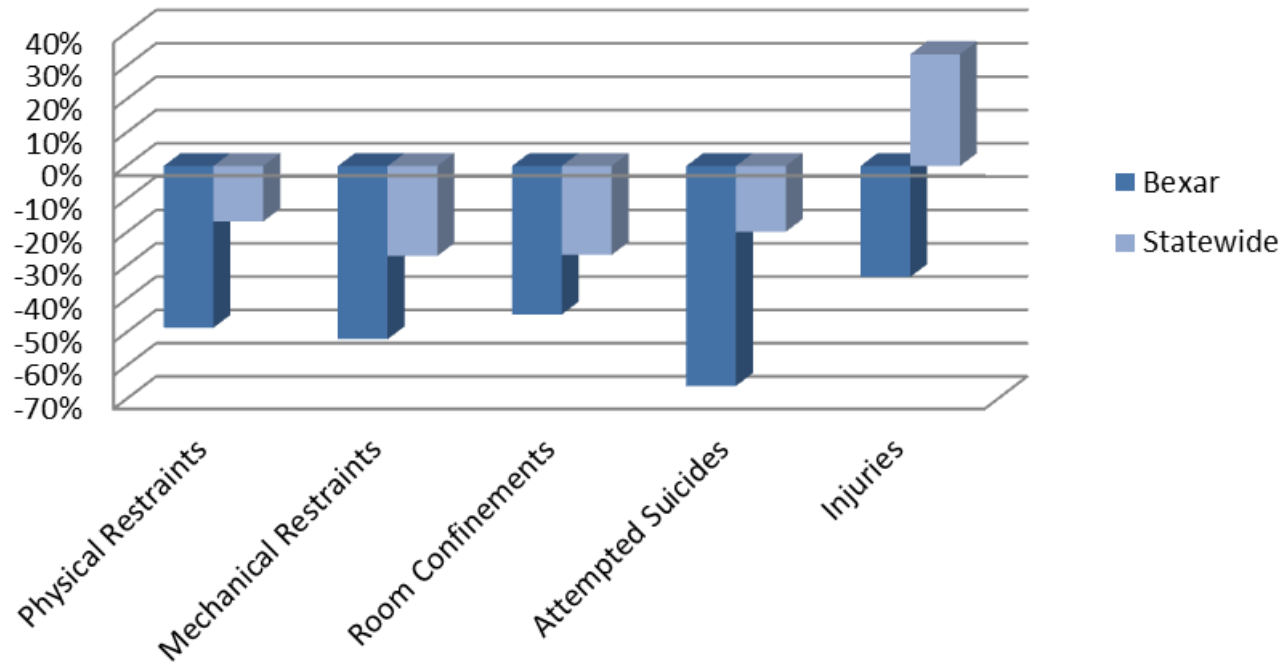
Seclusions and Restraints

- In 2011 in county facilities:
 - 5,333 physical restraints
 - 37,071 seclusions (likely thousands >24hrs)
- Especially problematic for traumatized youth or youth with disabilities
- Injuries are very costly
- Policies and procedures vary widely from county to county



County Successes

Restraints and Seclusions Reductions In Bexar County, 2008-2011



Family Involvement

- Higher involvement lowers recidivism for youth and siblings
- Many county visitation policies allow only for the minimum required visitation opportunities (30 minutes every seven days)

County Successes

- Family Functional Therapy (FFT)
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL)
- Parent Project, Family Preservation, others

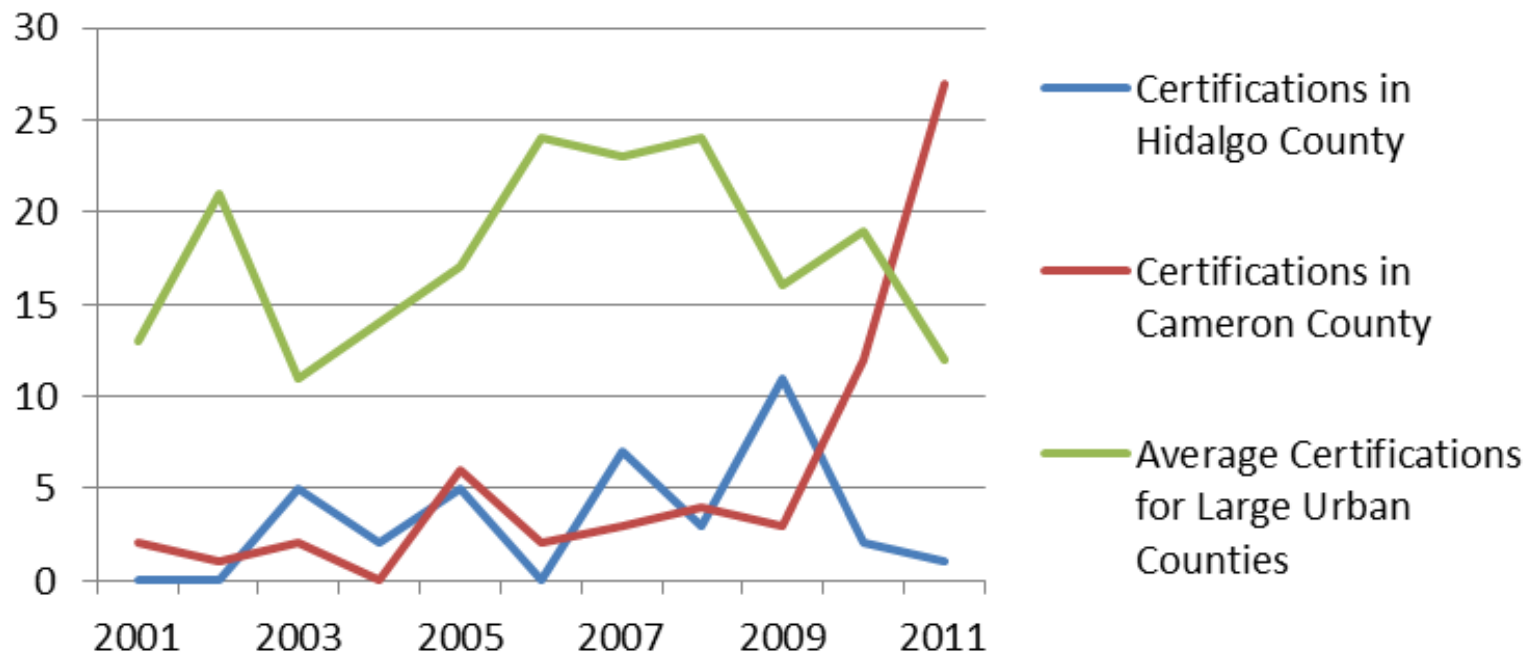


Certification

- Adult prisons are very dangerous for youth
 - More sexual victimization
 - Limited programming and oversight
 - Development of anti-social behaviors
 - Higher recidivism
- 173 TX youth were certified as adults in 2011
 - Many were first-time offenders
 - Do not differ significantly from determinate sentenced youth

County Successes

Certifications in Hidalgo County



“It’s not a question of being more effective, it’s a question of not allowing serious offenses to go unpunished. People have to be held accountable for their actions. . . Most of this is not a question of rehabilitation. Most of what we do is punishment.”

– Hidalgo County District Attorney Rene Guerra

“I view the adult system as a punitive system and the juvenile system as a rehabilitative system... Certification is always a last option.”

– Hidalgo County Judge Mario Ramirez



SB 653 (2011)

Sec. 201.002. PURPOSES AND INTERPRETATION. This title shall be construed to have the following public purposes:

(1) creating a unified state juvenile justice agency that works in partnership with local county governments, the courts, and communities to promote public safety by providing a full continuum of effective supports and services to youth from initial contact through termination of supervision; and

(2) creating a juvenile justice system that produces positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities by:

(A) assuring accountability, quality, consistency, and transparency through effective monitoring and the use of systemwide performance measures;

(B) promoting the use of program and service designs and interventions proven to be most effective in rehabilitating youth;

(C) prioritizing the use of community-based or family-based programs and services for youth over the placement or commitment of youth to a secure facility;

(D) operating the state facilities to effectively house and rehabilitate the youthful offenders that cannot be safely served in another setting; and

(E) protecting and enhancing the cooperative agreements between state and local county governments.



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