

# Youth (In)Justice

**1,909** CHILDREN ARE ARRESTED EACH DAY IN THE U.S.

[Black] children continue to be criminalized at alarming rates and disparities have persisted. Many children—particularly children in poverty...children with disabilities; children with mental health and substance abuse challenges; children subjected to neglect, abuse, and/or other violence; children in foster care; and LGBTQ children—are pushed out of their schools and homes into the juvenile...or adult criminal [legal] systems.

- In 2019, 696,620 children were arrested in the U.S.
- During the 2015-2016 school year alone, there were over 61,000 school arrests and 230,000 referrals to law enforcement, largely overrepresented by students with disabilities, Black students, and Indigenous students. The prioritization of police over mental health professionals in schools often leads to the criminalization of typical adolescent behavior and fuels the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Today, 14 million students attend schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker.
- Despite research showing that young people's brains continue to develop and mature through their late teens and into their mid-twenties, young adults do not often have access to the age- and developmentally- appropriate policies and resources they need. All states also allow or require younger children charged with certain offenses to be prosecuted in adult court.
- Even as child arrests and detentions have fallen, extreme racial disparities have persisted across the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. Children of color, particularly Black children, continue to be overcriminalized and overrepresented at every point—from school discipline and arrest.

Source: Children's Defense Fund

## Winston-Salem Is A Poverty Trap For Youth

### Ranked 19th worst for childhood poverty

Out of over 19 thousand cities in the U.S., Winston-Salem was found to have had the 19th worst childhood poverty rate In a study conducted just two years go.

### 4th Hardest City To Escape Poverty

According to a recent Harvard study, Winston-Salem was the 4th hardest city to escape childhood poverty. The 3 places ranked worst than Winston-Salem all happened to be Indian reservations.

### 17th Worst In Eviction Rates

A 2017 study found that Winston-Salem was amongst the 20 worst cities in eviction rates with close to 9 families being evicted a day. Sadly, during the pandemic, evictions have not slowed down.

## We Demand Change In Winston-Salem

Lit City joins the chorus of people, communities, & grassroots organizations of our city that are demanding deep change. We want schools to be springboards to flourishing, not pipelines to prison. We want Black youth to have all the resources -- economic, relational, material -- that are necessary for their development!

