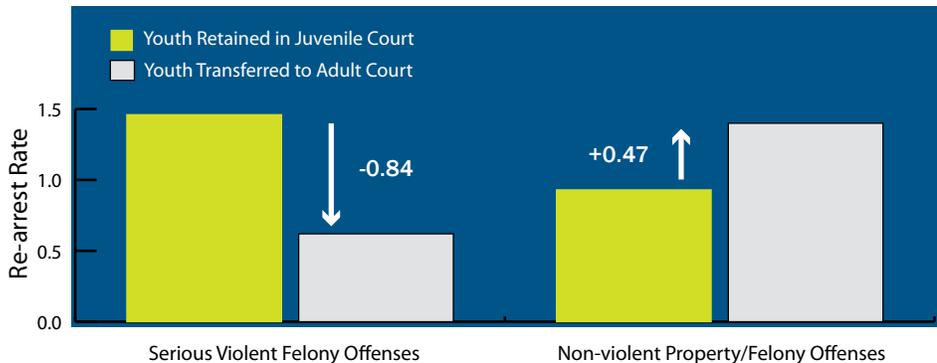




## Transferring Youth to Adult Court: Increase in Re-arrest Rate for Those with Non-violent Offenses, Decrease in Rate for Those with Violent Offenses

Transferring youth to adult court appears to increase subsequent arrests for some youth and decrease it for others, according to recent findings from the Pathways to Desistance study.<sup>1</sup> Researchers followed a sample of 654 youth<sup>2</sup> arrested for serious offenses<sup>3</sup> over four years. They found that those arrested for non-violent property crimes who were transferred to adult court were re-arrested at a rate<sup>4</sup> 0.47 greater than their non-transferred peers. Conversely, youth arrested for violent offenses who were transferred to adult court were re-arrested at a rate 0.84 lower than their non-transferred peers. Also, youth arrested for serious offenses who had no prior offense history were likely to be re-arrested at a greater rate if transferred to adult court, compared with their peers retained in the juvenile justice system. Since available evidence indicates adolescents in the adult system may be at risk for harmful disruptions in development and victimization in adult facilities (psychological, physical, or sexual), authors suggest that the differential effect of transfer on rate of re-arrest, depending on offense type and prior offense history, should inform discussions regarding the implementation of more limited and effective transfer policy.

**Comparison of Four-year Re-arrest Rates for Youth Retained in Juvenile Court and Those Transferred to Adult Court, by Initial Offense Category**



**Source:**

Mulvey, E. D., Schubert, C. A. (2012). Transfers of juveniles to adult court: Effects of a broad policy in one court. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

**Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> With sites in Philadelphia County, PA, and Maricopa County, AZ, the study investigates how youth arrested for serious offenses transition to adulthood. The findings presented here reflect study results from the Maricopa County site.
- <sup>2</sup> Of the Maricopa County participants, 193 (29%) were transferred to adult court.
- <sup>3</sup> The "Serious Violent Felony Offense" category excludes sex offenses. The "Non-violent Property/Felony Offense" category excludes Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Part I offenses and drug offenses.
- <sup>4</sup> The re-arrest rate was determined by calculating the number of arrests per individual throughout the study period divided by the number of days the individual spent in the community. The result was standardized to create the rate of arrests per year.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at [www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org).

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