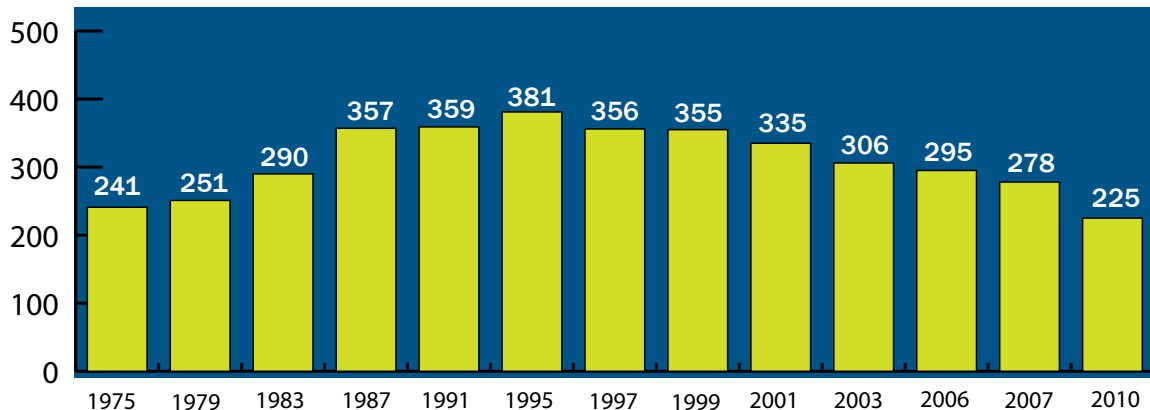




## Youth Incarceration Continues Significant Decline, but Racial/Ethnic Disparities Persist

The number and rate of incarcerated youth in the U.S. continues to drop, without leading to increased crime,<sup>1</sup> according to *Reducing Youth Incarceration in the United States*, an analysis of government data<sup>2</sup> recently published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The rate of youth confinement decreased 41% between 1995 and 2010, from 381 to 225 per 100,000 youth. The number of confined youth declined from 107,637 to 70,792 during this time. Even with this dramatic decline, the U.S. still leads the developed world in the proportion of its youth who are confined, and racial/ethnic minority groups are disproportionately incarcerated. In 2010, African-American youth were almost five times as likely to be incarcerated as non-Hispanic white youth (605 vs. 127 per 100,000, respectively). Similarly, American Indian and Hispanic youth were disproportionately confined (367 and 229 per 100,000, respectively). Authors note that decreasing delinquency through more cost-effective and humane approaches – including limiting eligibility for youth incarceration and investing in community-based alternatives – provides improved outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

**Rate of Youth Confinement (per 100,000), 1975-2010**



**Source:**

Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2013). "Reducing Youth Incarceration in the United States." *KIDS COUNT Data Snapshot*. Baltimore: author.

**Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> Crime rates have declined over the past several decades. United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2012). *Crime in the United States, 2011*. Retrieved 24 May 2013 from [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/table-1](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/table-1).
- <sup>2</sup> Data were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Census Bureau conducts a bi-annual survey of juvenile residential facilities across the country and produces a point-in-time count of individuals under age 21 who are assigned a bed in a long- or short-term residential facility due to being charged with or adjudicated for an offense. Most youth are confined in facilities for juveniles, while some are held in adult jails and prisons.

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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