

# RAISE THE AGE



Michigan is one of only four states across the country that automatically prosecutes 17-year-olds as adults for any offense.

## 17-year-olds cannot legally:



Vote in elections



Rent a car



Serve on a jury



Live independently from parents or guardians



Enter a legal contract



Purchase or use tobacco

Yet they are automatically charged as adults in the criminal justice system.

According to *Youth Behind Bars*:

60%

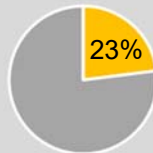
of 17-year-olds were charged for nonviolent offenses

58%

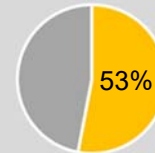
had no prior juvenile record

## Kids of color are overrepresented

Total 17-year-old population



Total 17-year-olds entering state corrections



Kids of color

## Prosecuting youth as adults is expensive and threatens public safety:

- ◆ Youth prosecuted as adults are 34% more likely to reoffend than youth in the juvenile justice system.
- ◆ Youth prosecuted as adults earn 40% less over their lifetime than youth in the juvenile justice system, which translates in a loss of state tax revenue.
- ◆ Adult convictions lead to lifelong barriers in housing, employment and education.

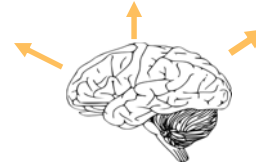
## Youth in adult prisons are at a higher risk than youth in the juvenile justice system for:

- Sexual assault
- Solitary confinement
- Restraint
- Suicide

Youth are amenable to rehabilitative programs and behavior modification.

Youth need access to age-appropriate services, like those provided in the juvenile justice system.

Teens are more inclined to take risks, act impulsively and succumb to peer pressure.



Research shows that young brains are still developing and are not the same as adult brains.

## Take Action

[www.raisetheage.org](http://www.raisetheage.org)

### STEP 1

Identify a Point Person for Raise the Age Updates and Actions

### STEP 4

Draft an Organizational Position Statement

### STEP 2

Help Spread the Word Via Newsletters and Social Media

### STEP 5

Encourage Support for Raise the Age Among Colleagues, Local Leaders and State Policymakers

### STEP 3

Raise the Voices of Impacted Youth and Families

