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

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 in the system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total 17-year-old population</th>
<th>Total 17-year-olds entering state corrections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kids of color</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>53%</td>
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Youth in adult prisons are at a higher risk than youth in the juvenile justice system for:
- Sexual assault
- Restraint
- Solitary confinement
- Suicide

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

- Teens are more inclined to take risks, act impulsively, and succumb to peer pressure.
- Youth are amenable to rehabilitative programs and behavior modification.
- Youth need access to age-appropriate services, like those provided in the juvenile justice system.

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.

BRIANA’S STORY

www.raisetheagemi.org

Because 17-year-olds are automatically tried in the adult criminal justice system in Michigan, they face lifelong consequences for what are often minor, nonviolent offenses. Briana was one of those 17-year-olds:

“I wish that I could say I have recovered from my criminal history, but the fact is I have not. It follows me at every turn. When applying for my cosmetology license, college, an internship ... It will follow me in all my future career applications. Will I always be paying for the mistakes I have made so many years ago? Will people be able to see past my mistakes and take me seriously?”

Let’s make sure kids like Briana will have a chance to thrive in Michigan. Let’s Raise the Age.