<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Age of Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Number of States</th>
<th>Which States?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>California, Massachusetts, Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Connecticut, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
States Working to Raise the Minimum Age of Jurisdiction or Confinement

Connecticut
Delaware
Illinois
Indiana
Kansas
Kentucky
Maine
Maryland

WIN!! Mississippi
- **SB 2282** Raises the minimum age of *commitment to the state training school or secure detention as a disposition to 12 with no carve outs except for delinquents.

Minnesota
New York
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
Texas
Washington
Why Raise the Age?

- Children have limited capacity and competency to stand trial
  - Relying on capacity and competency laws results in inequitable and unfair treatment of young children.
- Child incarceration disproportionately impacts Black or Hispanic males from lower socio-economic backgrounds
- Minimum age laws can disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline
- Formal justice system processing harms children and reduces public safety
  - Younger children are at the greatest risk of violence in custody
  - Early contact has negative impact on future behavior
International Standards

- The *median* age worldwide is 12-years-old and the average age of criminal responsibility in Europe is 13-years-old.

- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which monitors the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), issued General Comment No. 24 in 2019 in which they encouraged nations to **increase their minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14-years-old with no exceptions carved out.**

- In 2019, the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty released its report also recommending that nations set the **minimum age of prosecution in juvenile court at 14-years-old.**
NJJN recommends that all states set a reasonable minimum age for charging children in court and we recommend that age be no lower than 14-years-old.

For further details see our policy platform at:


Join our coalition to raise the minimum age by emailing Melissa Goemann at Goemann@njjn.org.
For young children, many of the presenting behaviors do not require formal system outcomes.

When system outcomes are helpful, some of the responses from MA are:
- Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) Proceedings
- Network of Family Resource Centers (FRCs)
- Care and Protection Proceedings
- School disciplinary and behavior management tools
- Mental health services
  - Mental Health Advocacy Project for Kids (private program)

In Utah services are being recommended by probation for diversion agreements. Often this involves community services. If services are needed, they can be referred to receiving centers.
Outcomes

MA changes:
- From FY19 to FY20: Overnight arrest admissions of 12 year olds down 90%; under 12 stable at zero.
- Applications for complaint for under age 12: Down 95% from FY18 to FY20
- Delinquency filings for under age 12: Down 96% from FY18 to FY20

Complaints from child welfare group home providers
- In the past kids would be detained by DYS when fighting, etc., but no longer
- This is more about the decriminalization reforms.

Questions?

Contact Melissa Coretz Goemann
goemann@njjn.org

National Juvenile Justice Network
1200 G Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
www.njjn.org