



Stop
Solitary
for Kids

Core Strategies to Reduce Room Confinement in Facilities



- Providing strong leadership on this issue by agency directors and facility administrators;
- Adopting clear policies that prohibit room confinement as discipline, punishment, or retaliation;
- Developing an institutional culture in which staff view room confinement as an intervention to be used in very limited circumstances;
- Providing staff with training and resources designed to prevent conflict situations, including trauma, conflict resolution, and verbal and non-verbal de-escalation techniques;
- Keeping at least 1-to-8 staffing ratios to allow staff to fully engage with youth and to prevent and respond to behavioral disruptions;
- Ensuring that staff use less restrictive options before resorting to room confinement;
- Developing alternative sanctions **as well as** rewards and incentives for good behavior;
- Prohibiting the use of solitary confinement for fixed periods of time, even brief;
- Collaborating with qualified mental health professionals to identify supports and develop individualized behavior plans to transition youth out of room confinement;
- Requiring supervisor approval in all cases where staff use room confinement, and from increasingly senior administrators;
- Identifying, collecting, and analyzing data to manage, monitor and provide accountability for the use of room confinement.

Richard Ross