

# NOT IN ISOLATION

## HOW TO REDUCE ROOM CONFINEMENT WHILE INCREASING SAFETY IN YOUTH FACILITIES



#StopSolitaryforKids



stopsolitaryforkids.org

Check out the Not in Isolation webpage for the report and more resources: <https://bit.ly/2GDxv7Y>

### THE NEED FOR PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

Not in Isolation tells the stories of four jurisdictions as examples of how to safely reduce isolation for kids. By highlighting lessons learned and results from four jurisdictions, Not in Isolation gives administrators and staff practical guidance on how to reduce isolation in their own facilities. Not in Isolation includes information about concrete strategies that have worked to reduce isolation and prevent injuries to staff and youth. Advocates, legislators, and other stakeholders can also use Not in Isolation to demonstrate that it is possible to reduce the use of isolation.

Colorado Division of Youth Services

Massachusetts Department of Youth Services

Oregon Youth Authority

Shelby County Sheriff's Department in Memphis

### EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES IN PRACTICE

Each jurisdiction had a “story” about why and how it reduced isolation. Whether it was in response to suicides, federal litigation, or new laws, these sites made intentional changes to safely reduce the frequency and duration of isolation. The report contains:



#### DETAILS & OUTCOMES

Details from each site about challenges, lessons learned, and results (qualitative and quantitative).



#### QUOTES FROM STAFF

Perspectives, quotes, and examples from facility and agency staff.



#### SAMPLE FORMS & POLICIES

Sample policies, forms, tools, and other materials.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 Room confinement is not an effective tool to manage youth behavior or ensure safety, contrary to traditional views. In fact, misplaced reliance on room confinement can create a facility culture of mistrust and violence.
- 2 There are effective ways to hold youth accountable without room confinement.
- 3 It is possible to reduce room confinement in a diverse range of youth facilities without sacrificing staff safety. This includes facilities and agencies with large youth populations, detained and committed youth, older youth, youth charged as adults, and youth with violent charges.
- 4 Reducing room confinement is inseparably related to changes in staffing, training, mental health services, programming, behavior management, and other factors.

### TOPICS COVERED

- Important elements of isolation policies;
- How to communicate changes and goals while addressing staff concerns;
- Examples of changing institutional culture around the use of isolation;
- What data to collect on isolation and how to use it;
- How staff can respond to youth behavior without using isolation; and
- How to leverage external relationships to seek additional resources to reduce isolation.

**Not in Isolation is a publication by the [Stop Solitary for Kids](#) campaign, a partnership between:**

The Center for Children's Law and Policy  
The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University  
The Justice Policy Institute

For more information go to: [www.StopSolitaryForKids.org/not-in-isolation/](http://www.StopSolitaryForKids.org/not-in-isolation/)

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