

# 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>

### PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR FACILITY & AGENCY LEADERS

Evolving best practices and professional standards highlight the need for youth justice facilities to reduce room confinement to achieve better outcomes for youth, staff, and communities. However, reducing room confinement is a complex task. Administrators and superintendents need both effective strategies as well as useful examples of how to implement strategies in practice. As leaders begin making changes in their own facilities, it is important to hear from their peers about what works to reduce room confinement and why the process is worth it.

### EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES IN PRACTICE

Not in Isolation tells the stories of how four jurisdictions reduced room confinement without compromising staff or youth safety. 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.

Colorado Division of Youth Services

Massachusetts Department of Youth Services

Oregon Youth Authority

Shelby County Sheriff's Department in Memphis



### 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.

### QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF

- Without room confinement, how do we hold youth accountable for their misconduct?
- How can we best motivate positive youth behavior?
- How do we safely transition away from a practice that has been used in our facility for so long?

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 Despite long-held beliefs, we have proof that room confinement is not an effective tool to manage youth behavior or ensure safety.
- 2 There are effective ways to hold youth accountable for misconduct 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 room confinement policies;
- How to communicate changes and goals while addressing staff concerns;
- Examples of changing institutional culture around the use of room confinement;
- How to get youth out of room confinement faster;
- What data to collect on isolation and how to use it;
- How staff can respond to youth behavior without using room confinement; and
- How to leverage external relationships to seek additional resources to reduce room confinement.

Not in Isolation is a publication by the Stop Solitary for Kids campaign, a partnership between:

Center for Children's Law and Policy

Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University

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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