

# The Dangers of Detention

*“Fairly viewed, pretrial detention of a juvenile gives rise to injuries comparable to those associated with the imprisonment of an adult.”*

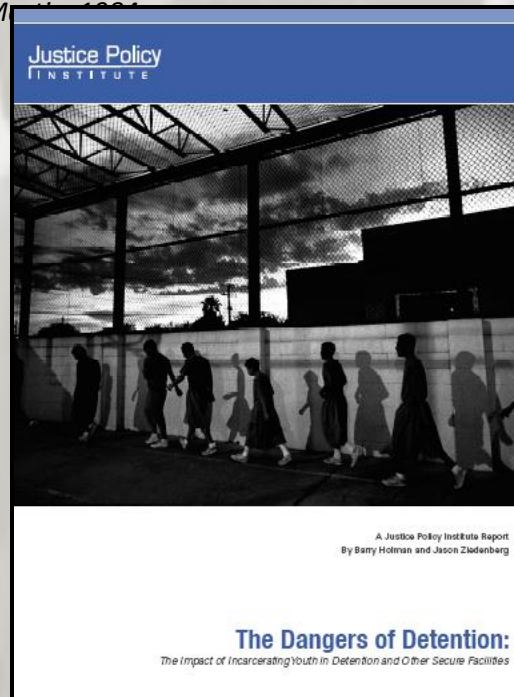
*- Justice Marshall for the minority in Schall v. M...*

*“Researchers believe that the combination of mental health disorders youth bring into detention coupled with the negative effects of institutionalization places incarcerated youth at a higher risk of suicide than other youth”*

*“Locking up kids is the easiest way. But once they get in the juvenile justice system, it’s very hard to get them out.”*

*- San Jose Police Chief Bill Lansdowne*

*“Youth who spent some time incarcerated in a youth facility experienced three weeks less work a year as compared to youth who had no history of incarceration .”*

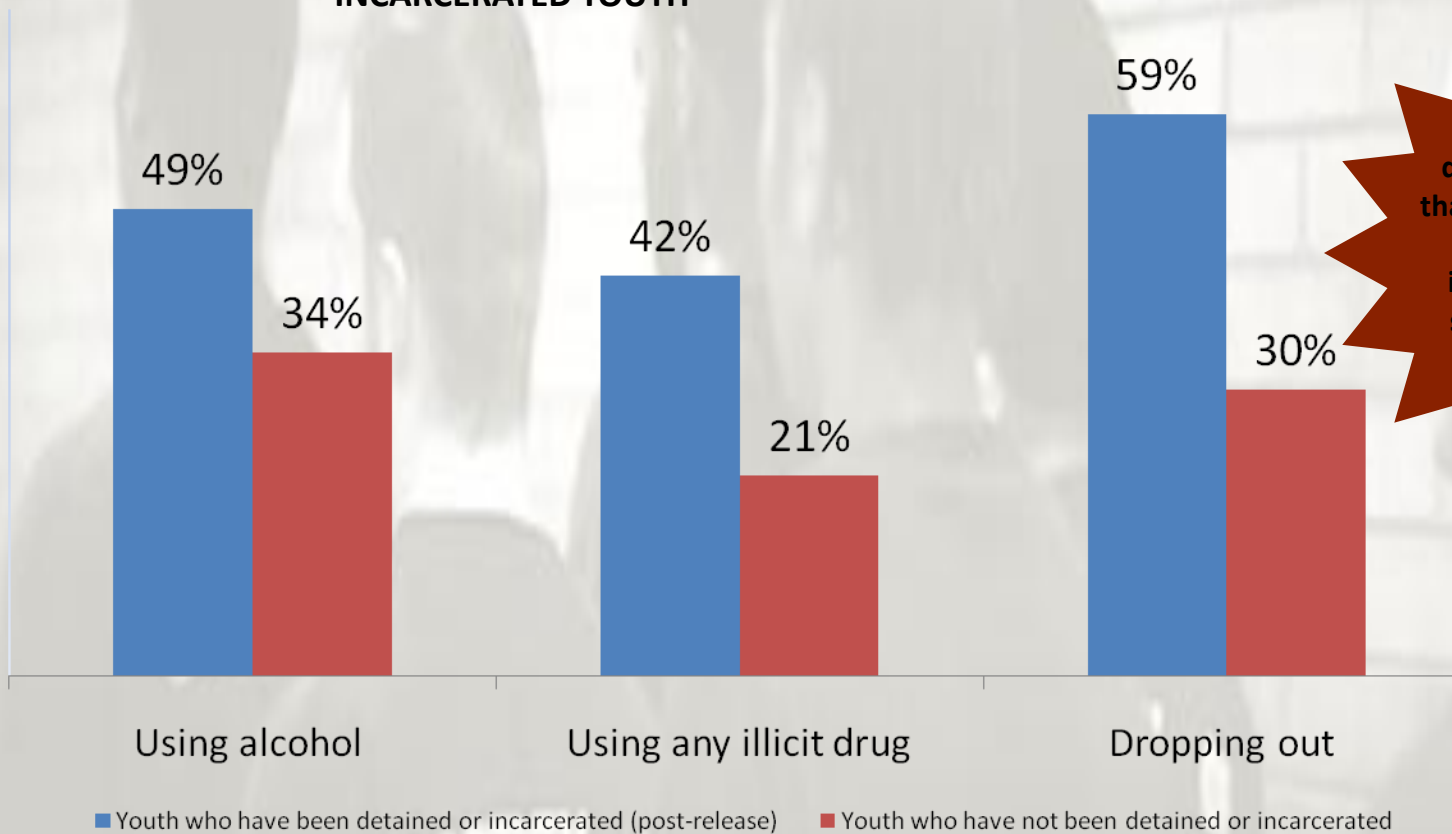


*“...youth who are detained are three times more likely to end up being committed to a juvenile facility than similar youth who are not detained.”*

*There is little observed relationship between the increased use of detention, and crime.*

# Detention leads to worse outcomes. After release, detained youth are far more likely to drop out of school and use drugs and alcohol

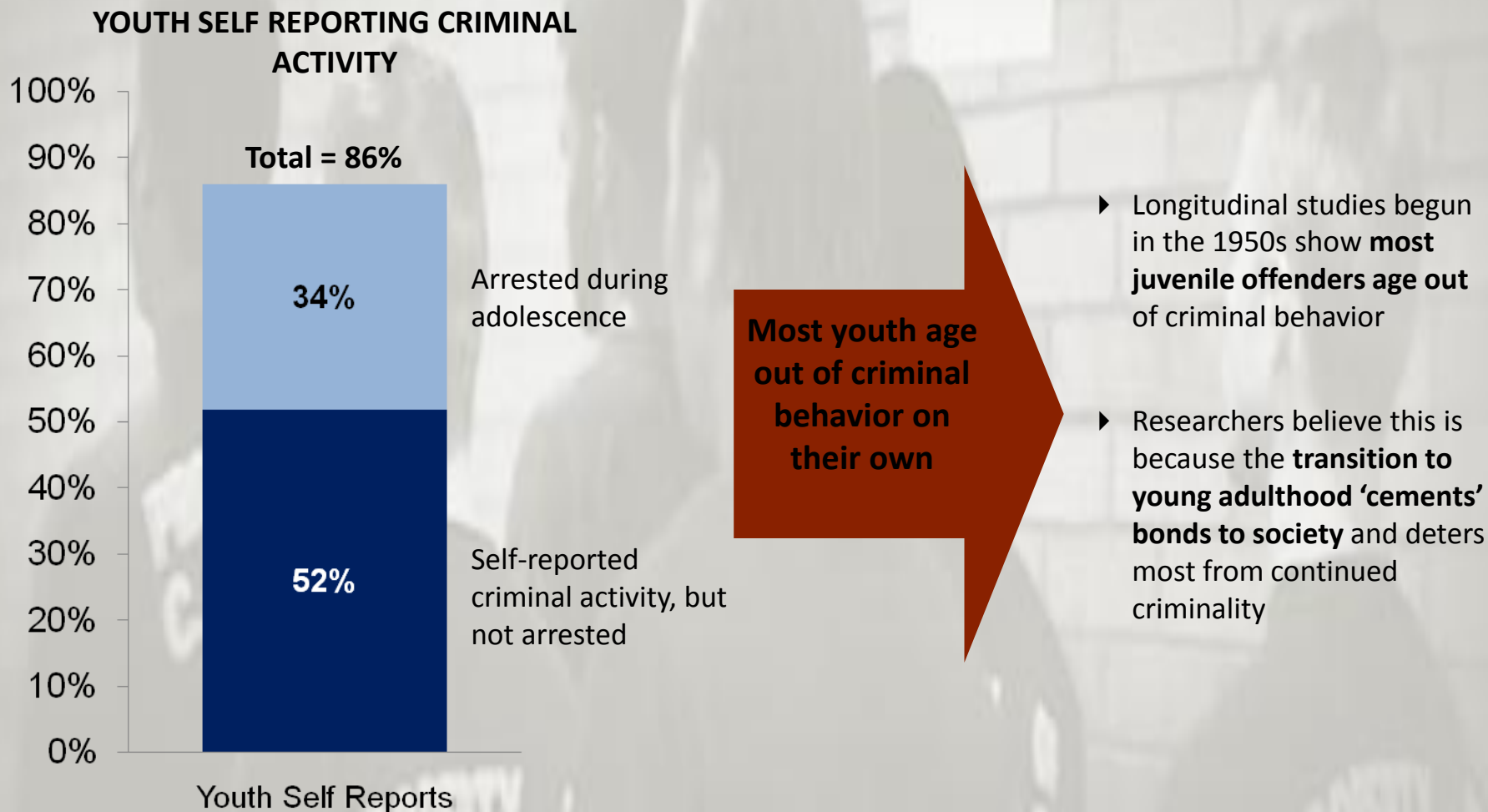
LIKELIHOOD OF BEHAVIOR: INCARCERATED VS. NON-  
INCARCERATED YOUTH



Youth who are detained are more than 3x as likely to be found guilty and incarcerated than similarly situated peers

Source: Office of State Courts Administrator, Florida Juvenile Delinquency Court Assessment (2003); LeBlanc, (1991), "Unlocking Learning" in Correctional Facilities, Washington, D.C.; Substance use, abuse, and dependence among youths who have been in jail or a detention center: The NSDUH report, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, (2004); America's Promise report on national rates of high school dropouts: [www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23889321/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23889321/).

# Research shows that most juveniles engage in criminal behavior, but don't continue into adulthood

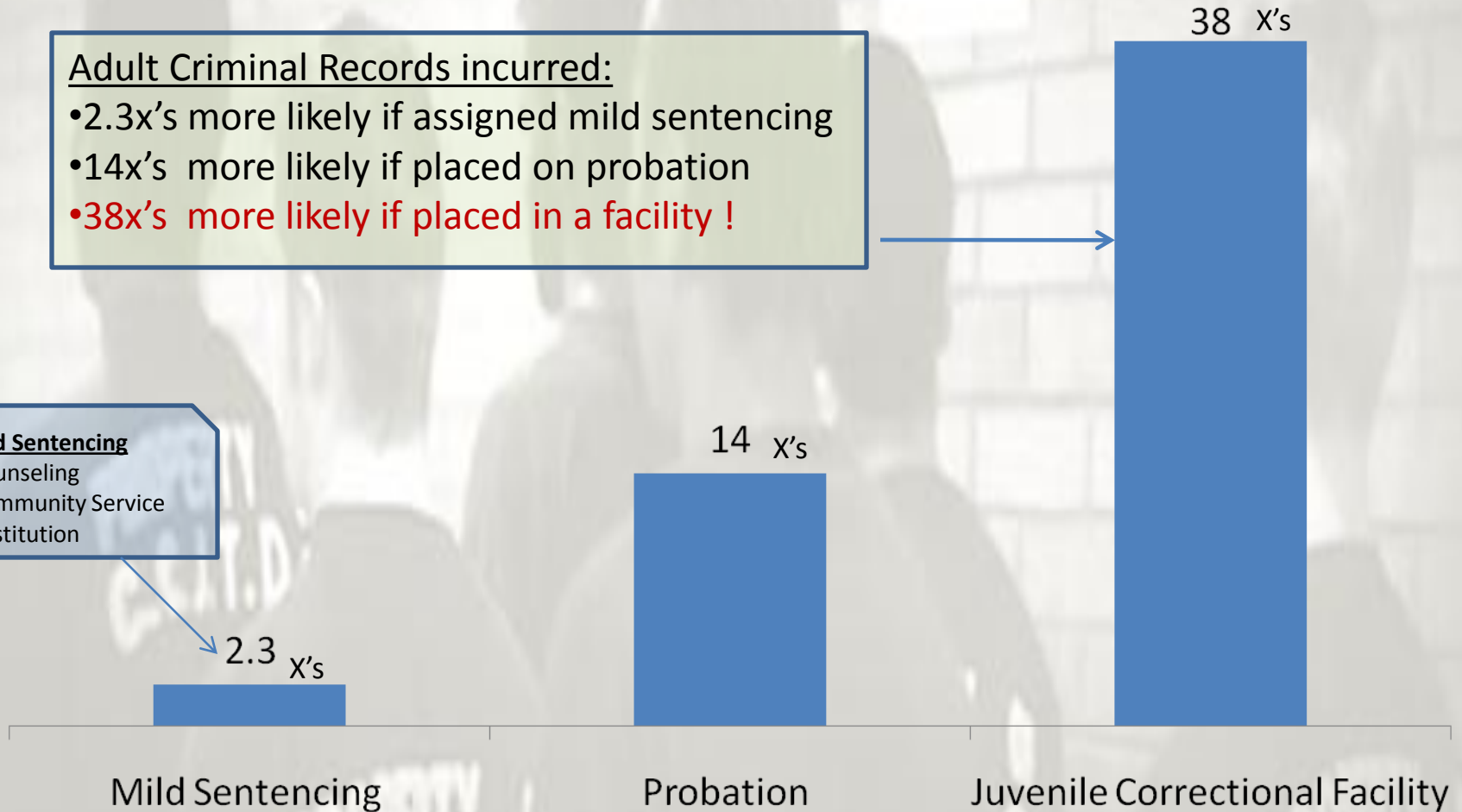


# Criminogenic Effects by Response

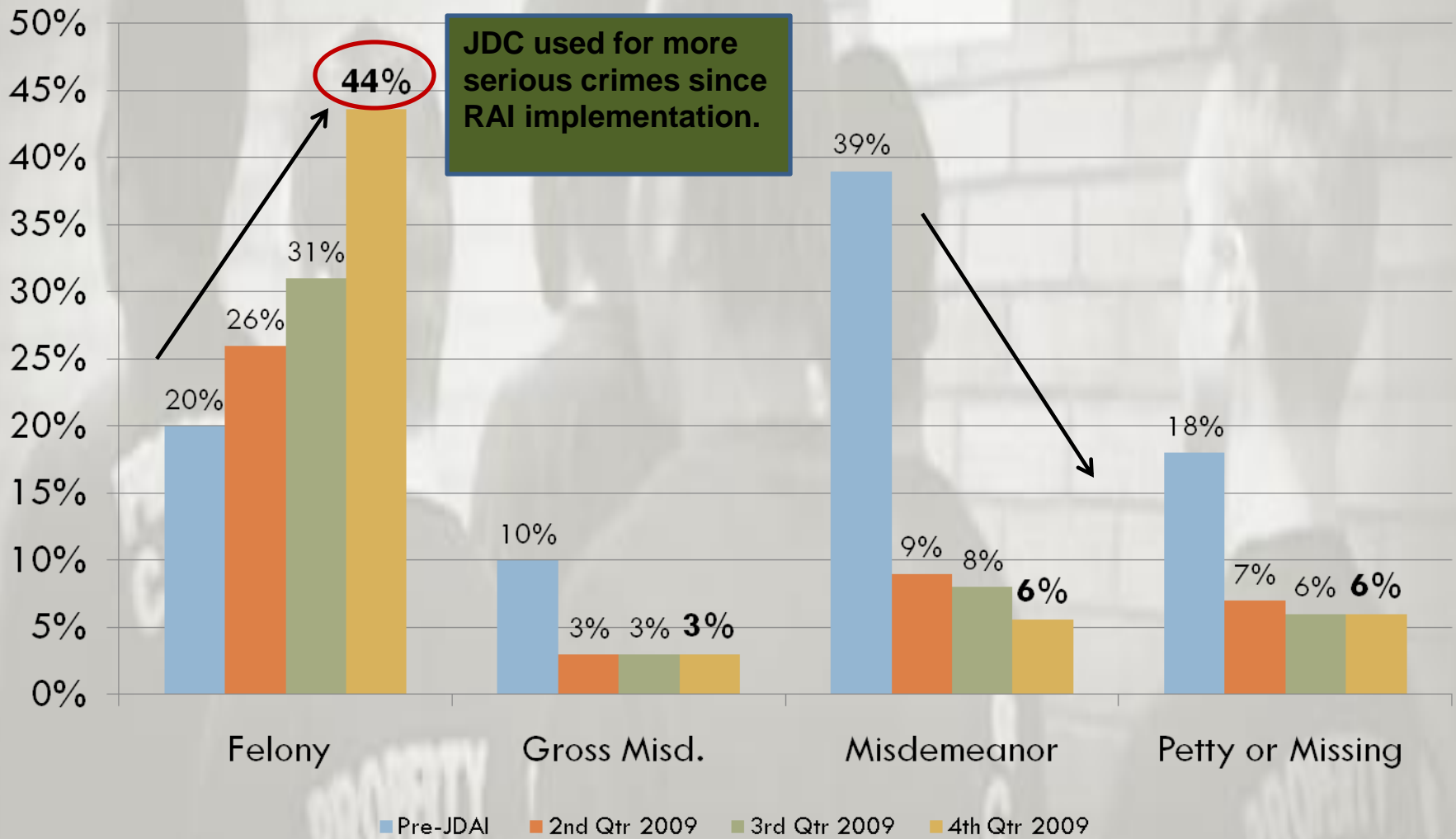
## Adult Criminal Records incurred:

- 2.3x's more likely if assigned mild sentencing
- 14x's more likely if placed on probation
- **38x's more likely if placed in a facility !**

**Mild Sentencing**  
• Counseling  
• Community Service  
• Restitution



# Crime Level Admissions by Percent of Total in Ramsey County



# IN SUMMARY: WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT DETENTION

- Prior incarceration is a **greater predictor** of recidivism than carrying a weapon, gang membership, or poor parental relationship.
- Congregating delinquent youth together **negatively impacts** their behavior and increases their chance of re-offending.
- Detention pulls youth deeper into the juvenile and criminal justice system.
- Alternatives to detention (ATDs) can **curb crime** and reduce recidivism better than detention.
- Detention can **slow or interrupt** the process of “aging out of delinquency.”
- Detention **harms** youths’ **mental health**.
- Detained youth with special needs **fail to return to school**.
- Formerly detained youth have **reduced success** in the labor market.
- Detention is **expensive**. Many youth will achieve better outcomes in ATDs.
- The more restrictive and more intense the justice system intervention, the **greater its negative impact**.