Excluding Violent Youths from Juvenile Court: The Effectiveness of Legislative Waiver

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Description
Legislative waivers excluding youths from juvenile court have expanded. Meyers studied data on 557 youths judicially waived in Pennsylvania in 1994. Those sent to adult court were more likely to be released from custody prior to disposition of their cases. Of those released, waived juveniles exhibited greater recidivism during the pre-dispositional time period than did those facing juvenile court. Despite the more severe sanctions of adult court, transferred offenders again displayed greater recidivism during the post-dispositional follow-up period. Finally, qualitative interviews with justice officials corroborated statistical results. The findings suggest a more selective approach to excluding youths from juvenile court.

ISBN
978-1931202022

Publication Date
5-10-2001

Publisher
LFB Scholarly Pub Llc

City
New York

Keywords
legislative waiver, recidivism, juvenile court, adult court

Subject: LCSH
Juvenile corrections, Juvenile justice, Administration of -- United States, Prosecution -- United States -- Decision making, Juvenile recidivists -- United States

Disciplines
Criminology and Criminal Justice

Repository Citation
Myers, David, "Excluding Violent Youths from Juvenile Court: The Effectiveness of Legislative Waiver" (2001). Criminal Justice Faculty Book Series. 3. https://digitalcommons.newhaven.edu/criminaljustice-books/3

Publisher Citation
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