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ROADMAP TO JUSTICE - ENDING YOUTH SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

New report details implementation lessons from four jurisdictions

(WASHINGTON, DC, June 27, 2019) Isolation and room confinement have life altering effects. Today, the [Stop Solitary for Kids](#) campaign (SSK) is releasing [Not in Isolation: How to Reduce Room Confinement While Increasing Safety in Youth Facilities](#) highlighting best practices and lesson learned from four jurisdictions – Colorado, Massachusetts, Oregon and Tennessee. This groundbreaking report is a roadmap helping administrators and staff change facilities in ways that are healthy and safe for everyone.

“Youth justice system and facility leadership must reduce the use of room confinement to avoid the high price of litigation or, worse, the continued human costs of this outdated practice. *Not in Isolation* helps leaders make these critical changes,” said Mike Dempsey, Executive Director of the [Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators](#) and former Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Corrections, Division of Youth Services.

Federal courts have entered orders against facilities for putting young people in room confinement, and legislation at both state and federal levels has limited its use in juvenile facilities. As developments call for change, the [responsibility for implementation](#) falls mainly on state and local facilities, with facility and agency leaders struggling to [implement reform strategies](#) with limited resources. “Administrators want specific strategies for reducing room confinement,” said SSK campaign manager Jenny Lutz, “and they want to know, from their peers, how to operationalize those strategies in their facilities.” [Center for Children’s Law and Policy](#) Executive Director Mark Soler emphasized its practical nature, saying, “this is a how-to manual for ending abusive practices and making youth facilities safer and more effective.”

The harmful effects of room confinement are well-recognized, including depression, anxiety, and exacerbated trauma, increasing the [risk of self-harm and suicide](#). “Facilities use room confinement because they believe it helps manage behavior and maintain safety, but instead, reliance on room confinement can create a culture of mistrust and violence, making both youth and staff less safe,” said Marc Schindler, Executive Director of the Justice Policy Institute and former interim director of [DC’s youth corrections agency](#). “Many administrators and staff recognize that room confinement isn’t working, but need detailed information about what to do instead.” *Not in Isolation* is a guide and practical toolkit designed to equip facilities, agencies and advocates with effective strategies and lessons on how to operationalize them in their jurisdictions.

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[Stop Solitary for Kids](#) is a national campaign to end solitary confinement of young people. The campaign is a joint effort by the [Center for Children’s Law and Policy](#), the [Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators](#), the [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#), and the [Justice Policy Institute](#).