

Adult and Juvenile Correctional Systems

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The ways that correctional systems manage criminal actions are important, but they change a lot depending on how old the person who committed the crime is. Over time, how we deal with criminals has changed. It used to be all about punishing them, but now we try to help them get better, especially when they're young. The rules for dealing with adults and kids in the legal system are based on different ideas that come from laws, psychology, and studies about how people grow and develop. Centers for young people focus on helping them change for the better by teaching them and helping them with their feelings. They know that how kids' brains grow affects how they make choices and take risks (Cavanagh, 2022). Prisons for adults focus on punishing them and keeping the public safe, which can be hard on the people there because it does not always focus on helping them get better. There's been a lot of talk about putting young people in adult prisons and courts. This is because people worry that they will commit crimes again and that being around adult criminals will hurt them mentally (Redding 2022). Age affects more than just criminal behavior; it also affects how people respond to efforts to help them. Young people tend to change more easily when they get the right learning and therapy. Looking at the numbers, we can see big differences in how often adults and kids commit crimes again. This means we need special plans to help young people stop committing crimes. Providing learning programs in prisons is a key part of helping people get back on track. It gives them the skills they need to fit back into society. This essay will look at the history of corrections, the differences between adult and juvenile facilities, the debate over helping versus hurting, how development affects criminal behavior, how often different age groups commit crimes again, and how important learning is in fixing these problems.

Historical Overview Of Correctional Systems:

The ways we correct people who have done wrong have changed a lot over time. This shows how society's ideas about crime, punishment, and getting better have changed. At first, punishments were very strong, like hitting people. Putting people in prison was more about keeping them away from others or getting back at them than about helping them change. In the Middle Ages in Europe, punishment was usually physical, like hitting or killing someone. Prison was mainly for people who owed money or were waiting for a trial. The prison system we know today started in the late 1700s, when people started to think it was important to reform criminals and help them become better

people. The Walnut Street Jail in Philadelphia was one of the first places to try a system where prisoners could think about what they did and feel sorry for it.

The system for young people came later because society realized that kids and teens are different from adults in how they grow and develop, which affects how responsible they are for their actions. In the late 1800s, special courts and detention centers for young people were created. This showed a move toward helping young people change instead of just punishing them. The main idea was that young people could still turn their lives around and should be kept away from the bad effects of adult prisons (Cavanagh, 2022). So, juvenile systems focused on teaching, training for jobs, and mental health help, instead of just punishment.

Later in the 1900s, people started to worry more about young people committing crimes. Because of this, some places started to punish them more harshly, like sending them to adult courts. This led to more young people being in adult prisons (Austin et al., n.d.). These changes show that there is a conflict between wanting to keep the public safe and wanting to help young people grow and develop. Even though some young people now face stricter punishments, research still says that adult and juvenile systems are different. They come from different ideas about how mature people are, how responsible they are, and how likely they are to change for the better.

The story of how correctional systems have grown shows a constant back-and-forth between punishing and trying to reform people. This has been shaped by changing social values and new scientific knowledge about how people grow and change.

Differences Between Adult And Juvenile Facilities:

The main differences in how adult and juvenile correction centers are set up, what they're for, and how they work show that they're trying to meet the different needs and legal situations of the people they house. Adult centers mostly focus on security and keeping people contained because they think adult criminals are more dangerous. These places often punish people and don't spend much time helping them change for the better or thinking about how they're growing as people. Juvenile centers, on the other hand, focus on helping young people change, teaching them, and giving them mental support that's designed for how teens grow. The reason for this difference is that young people can often change their behavior because their brains and emotions are still developing (Cavanagh, 2022).

Adult prisons are usually bigger and have more rules. They have set routines to keep order among a mix of people who are different ages and have committed different crimes. Juvenile centers tend to be smaller and more open. This is to create safer

places that help people with their treatment programs. Safety is a big concern in adult prisons, where young people are housed with adults. They face risks of being hurt, sexually abused, and mentally traumatized (Austin et al., n.d.). Having older criminals in these centers makes it harder to keep young people safe.

Juvenile centers have learning programs that are made for how young people grow. They also offer counseling to deal with the mental health problems that are common among young criminals. Adult centers might have job training programs, but they often don't have good programs that use ways to change thinking and behavior or help people learn social skills, which are especially important for young people. Juvenile systems focus on making treatment plans for each person by checking how mature they are and what risks they face, instead of just using the same punishments for everyone, which is common in adult corrections.

The laws that control these two types of centers are very different. Juvenile justice systems focus on keeping things private and avoiding stereotypes by sealing records and using programs to keep young people from being labeled as criminals for a long time (Redding, 2022). Adult correctional systems are based on being responsible through punishment and trying to prevent crime, but they don't have ways to protect people.

The main difference in thinking between juvenile and adult correction centers is clear in how they approach things. Juvenile centers try to help people grow and fit back into society by addressing their problems as they grow, while adult prisons focus on keeping people contained and keeping the public safe through stricter control. This difference shows how society views responsibility, maturity, and whether people can change at different ages in the criminal justice system.

Rehabilitation Vs. The ongoing discussion about whether correction centers should focus on helping people change or punishing them shows two very different ideas about what prison should be for. Helping people change means finding out why they commit crimes and giving them the skills, education, and mental support they need to fit back into society. Punishment systems focus on getting back at people and discouraging others from committing crimes by taking away their freedom and making conditions harsh to prevent future crime. Adult correction centers have mostly used punishment, while juvenile systems have always focused on helping young people change because they have the potential to grow.

The field of corrections supports helping people change because studies show that special programs like drug treatment, teaching, and changing thinking and behavior can

help lower the chances of people committing crimes again, according to Cavanagh's 2022 research. Those in charge of juvenile centers often use these methods because they know that teens' brains are still developing, so they can change their actions more easily than adults. But many adult prison systems continue to use punishment like keeping people alone and limiting their access to programs, even though studies show that these methods might make criminal behavior worse instead of better.

The trend of trying young people in adult courts makes this legal issue even more confusing. Putting young people in adult prisons under a punishment system without programs that fit their needs as they grow leads to bad results (Austin et al., n.d.). Young people in adult detention centers face higher risks of being hurt and mentally traumatized, and they don't get the care they need for their development. The approach discussed actively hurts efforts to help young people change by putting them in places that make them think of themselves as criminals instead of encouraging them to reform.

Punishment-focused correction systems often fail to deal with the community issues that lead to crime, such as poverty and lack of education. The goals of helping models go beyond just changing the person to also fixing community problems through local choices and restorative justice programs. Trying to balance helping people change with holding them responsible continues to be hard. Yet, research increasingly supports helping people change—especially young criminals—as the better way to lower reoffending rates and help them fit back into society (Redding, 2022).

Impact Of Age On Criminal Behavior:

Age is a key factor in why people commit crimes. The ways young offenders grow and develop and their mental states are different from those of adult criminals. Teens go through big brain changes, especially in the areas that control impulses, think about risks, and handle emotions. These changes can cause young people to take more risks, which can lead to bad behavior or crime, according to Cavanagh (2022). Young people often commit crimes because of impulsiveness and peer pressure, not because they plan it out like adults. The things presented emphasize that it's important to know that juvenile crime often comes from temporary issues with how teens are growing, not from a criminal nature.

Age affects criminal actions because of cognitive growth and emotional maturity. Young people often have rapidly advancing thinking skills but lack well-developed emotional skills. This leads to poor choices in emotional situations. Adults, with more developed cognitive skills, do not face this difficulty (Cavanagh, 2022). Actions that lead to juvenile arrests don't always mean they will be adult criminals. They may just be testing limits.

The legal system handles offenders differently based on age, showing it knows about these behavioral differences. Juvenile justice systems focus on helping instead of punishing because young people can change because of their current growth stage. But this method of handling young offenders becomes complicated when they are subjected to adult judicial processes, which put them in prison settings intended for mature adults without care for their needs (Austin et al., n.d.). Putting young people in adult correction centers leads to psychological problems and also increases the chances of them committing crimes again.

Adult offenders are often thought of as being responsible. People think they have set behavior patterns and good decision-making skills. If they continue to commit crimes as adults, it often shows they have antisocial problems or situations that support crime. Understanding how age affects behavior is key for creating correction plans that target the causes and help individuals at their stage of development (Redding 2022).

Recidivism Rates: Adults Vs. The rates at which adults and young people commit crimes again after being in correction centers are different. This is due to how they grow, legal rules, and things that affect the system. Studies often find that young people commit crimes again more often than adults after they are released. But the crimes they commit are often less serious (Redding 2022). Teens have ongoing cognitive and socioemotional development that affects their decision-making and impulse control.

When young people are moved into adult courts and prisons, it is directly related to higher rates of repeat criminal behavior. Young people in adult detention centers face increased dangers of physical damage and mental distress, which makes them more likely to commit crimes again after release (Austin et al., n.d.). Adult prison environments keep young prisoners from getting services like education and mental health treatments. This lowers their opportunity to successfully fit back into society. Juvenile correction systems usually focus on programs designed to meet developmental needs, which helps lower things that lead to repeat offending

Adult offenders' rates of committing crimes again are lower than young people's. But adults tend to commit crimes for longer periods. The factors are often embedded social problems, like unemployment and substance abuse disorders, which occur with less frequency and severity among younger offenders. The law lets adults be sentenced to long prison terms, allowing correction programs to have longer periods to change behavior.

Adults and juveniles leaving prison both face problems fitting back into society. But the especially high rates of young people committing crimes again show that the juvenile

justice system must use programs that are appropriate. Policies should limit moving young offenders into adult correction systems. This helps lower crime rates because young people will continue to get programs designed for them (Redding, 2022). Addressing these differences is needed to reach better long-term outcomes for correction populations.

Role Of Education In Correctional Programs:

Education in correction programs is a key element in helping people change and lowering crime rates among adult and young offenders. Correctional education is a program that has academic instruction, job training, and life skills. It prepares prisoners with the knowledge and skills they need to successfully rejoin society. Many studies show that education programs in correction settings lead to lower reoffending rates. This proves how much education can change people through Austin Johnson & Gregoriou's work. Education is especially important for young people because their cognitive and socioemotional abilities need support to help them with good behavior. It also addresses issues that lead to bad behavior.

Educational programs in juvenile centers need to be made to fit developmental needs. They should also make up for gaps caused by stopping school, which is common among youth offenders. The programs often emphasize special education and standard lessons. They also help students with learning problems or emotional challenges. The use of social-emotional learning can boost teens' decision-making and impulse control (Cavanagh, 2022). Job training programs help people get skills that fit the job market. This training and teaching improves their opportunities of getting jobs after prison—a key element in reducing crime rates.

Adult correctional systems know education programs are tools to help people change, but they face problems like high illiteracy and substance abuse among the prisoner population. Education programs for adults will emphasize literacy skills, preparing for the GED test, and getting job-related certifications. The programs face trouble because they do not have enough staff combined with security concerns. But even with many problems, education programs, when done well, can improve prisoners' self-esteem and lower bad behavior in correction centers.

Education programs in correction centers raise questions about access to education during prison and continuing it after release. Communication and cooperation between correction centers and learning sources in the community is key to make sure the learning people achieve continues after they are released. Providing equal learning services to everyone, no matter their age or facility type, supports complete change efforts to stop criminal activity.

Broad education programs in prison systems are an investment in keeping the public safe. They address criminal thoughts through skill development instead of just punishment (Austin et al., n.d.).

Conclusion:

A careful study of adult and juvenile correctional systems shows major differences that have been shaped by history and social influences. Correction systems have changed from strict punishment methods to helping approaches, especially in juvenile systems that understand the special needs of younger offenders. Adult correction centers focus on security and punitive measures because of how serious the crimes their prisoners committed are. Juvenile centers focus on helping and changing behavior programs, which shows that they are aware of how young minds develop and their capability for change. Looking deeply at correction philosophies shows a stark opposition between helping and punishing. Juvenile offenders are more likely to have access to education and therapy to prevent future crimes, while adult correction systems keep people contained with less focus on special treatment approaches. Age is a key factor in criminal behavior and the success of correction strategies. Juveniles have brain flexibility, which enables them to change their behavior positively if they get help. Looking at crime data shows different things. Juveniles who take part in education programs commit less crimes after release, while adults face social problems after their release that lead to higher rates of reoffending. Education programs are key in both systems, but they are more integrated into juvenile corrections, where education is the primary tool for fitting back into society. Good correctional practices need to consider developmental factors as well as social things for public safety and offender responsibility. An understanding of these things is key for creating policies that balance punishment and programs made to meet the special needs of offenders based on their age, which improves things for both people and communities.

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