AUTOMATIC ADULT TRIAL OF YOUTH IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, 2010-2012

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUTH TRIED AS ADULTS?

29 states including Illinois have a system to automatically prosecute youth as adults. Other states or nations prohibit automatic adult trials of youth.

Out of 257 youth, there was only one white child.

90% Pled guilty rather than a trial
82% from Chicago zip codes
16% Recharged with lesser offense
54% Convicted of a lesser offense
13% Charged with murder

Youth prosecuted as adults:
- Are at high risk of committing suicide, suffering from a mental health problem, and being a victim of violence in prison
- Are more likely to commit a more serious crime
- Receive fewer mental health and educational services

Bring a case to juvenile court!

All the numbers are based on the JJI report Automatic Adult Trial of Children in Cook County, IL. Prepared by Kanako Ishida, Juvenile Justice Initiative. Questions? Contact ki@jjustice.org