

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.”

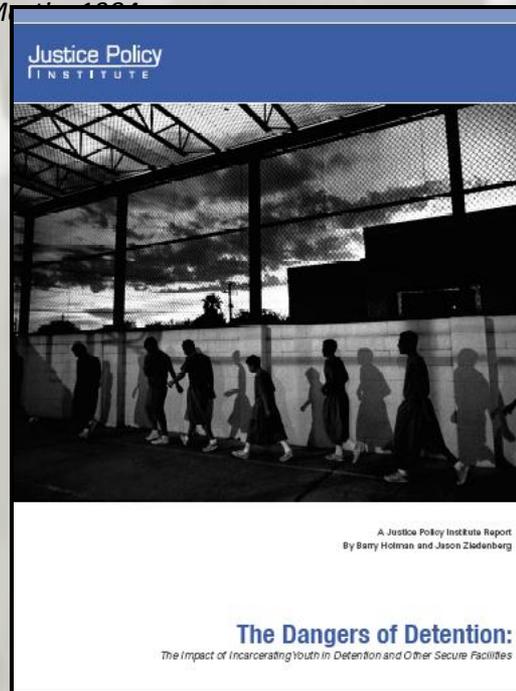
- Justice Marshall for the minority in Schall v. M...

“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 .”

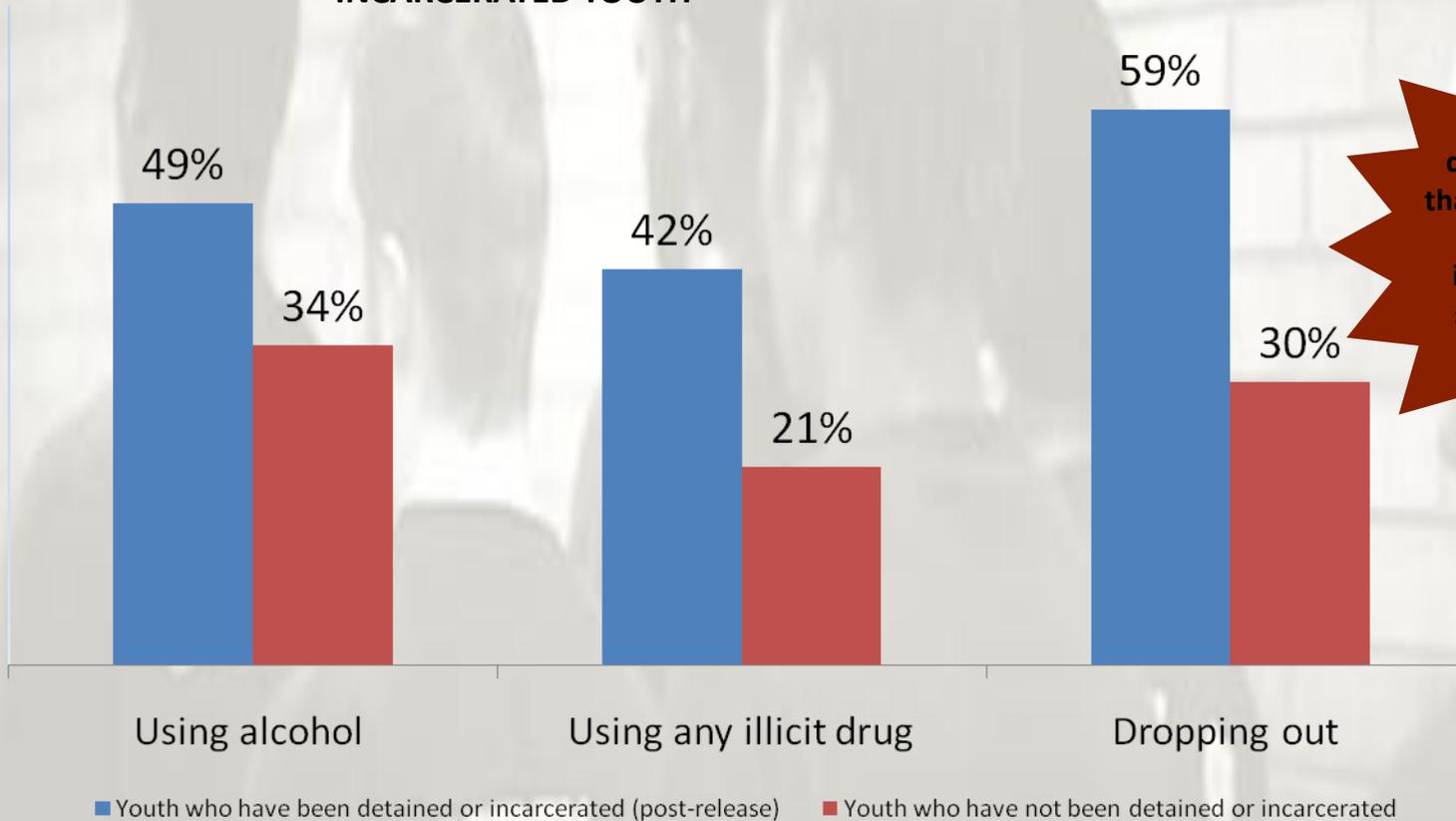


“...youth who are detained are three times more likely to end up being committed to a juvenile facility than similar youth who are not detained.”

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

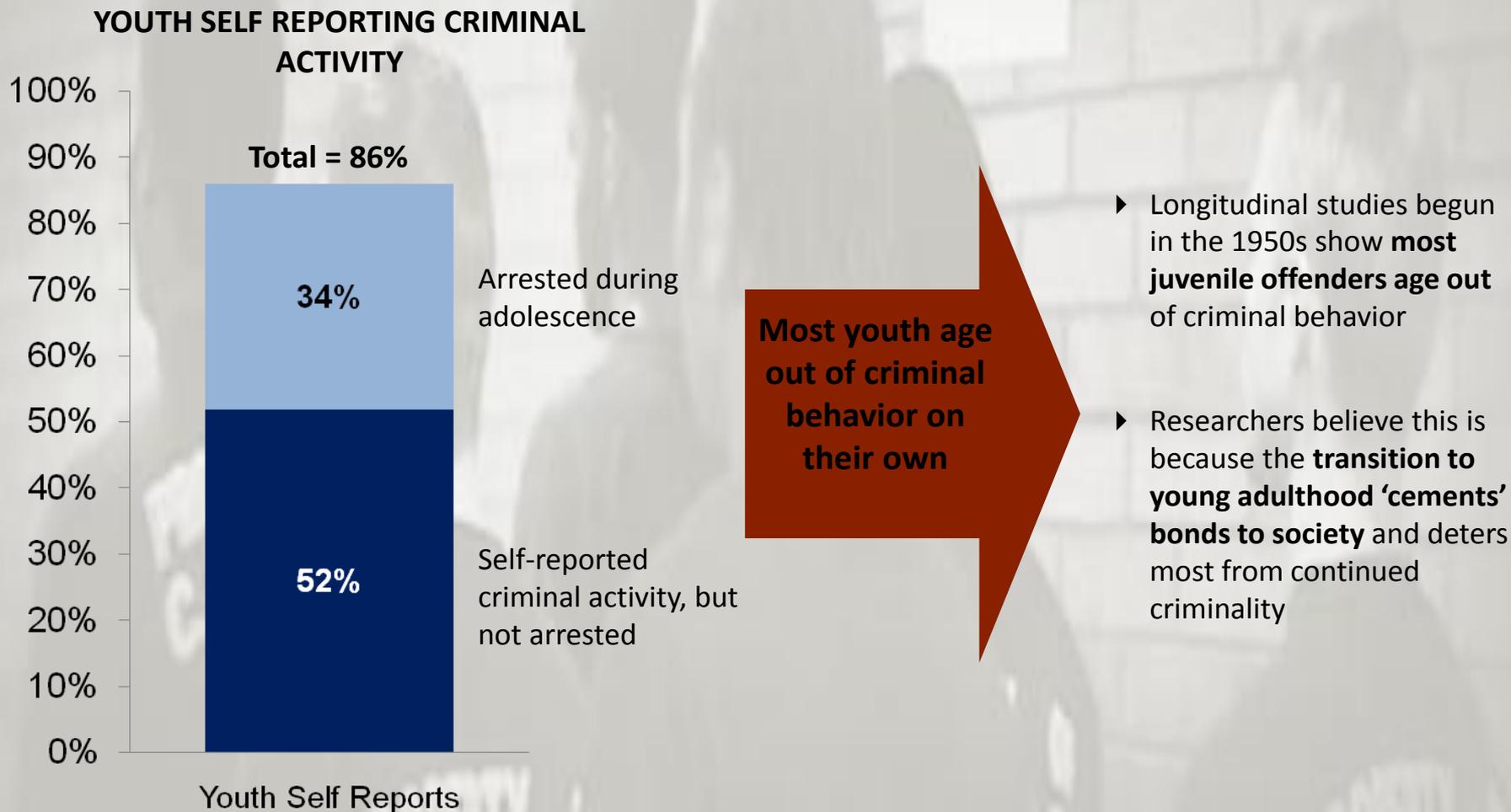
LIKELIHOOD OF BEHAVIOR: INCARCERATED VS. NON-
INCARCERATED YOUTH



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/.

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

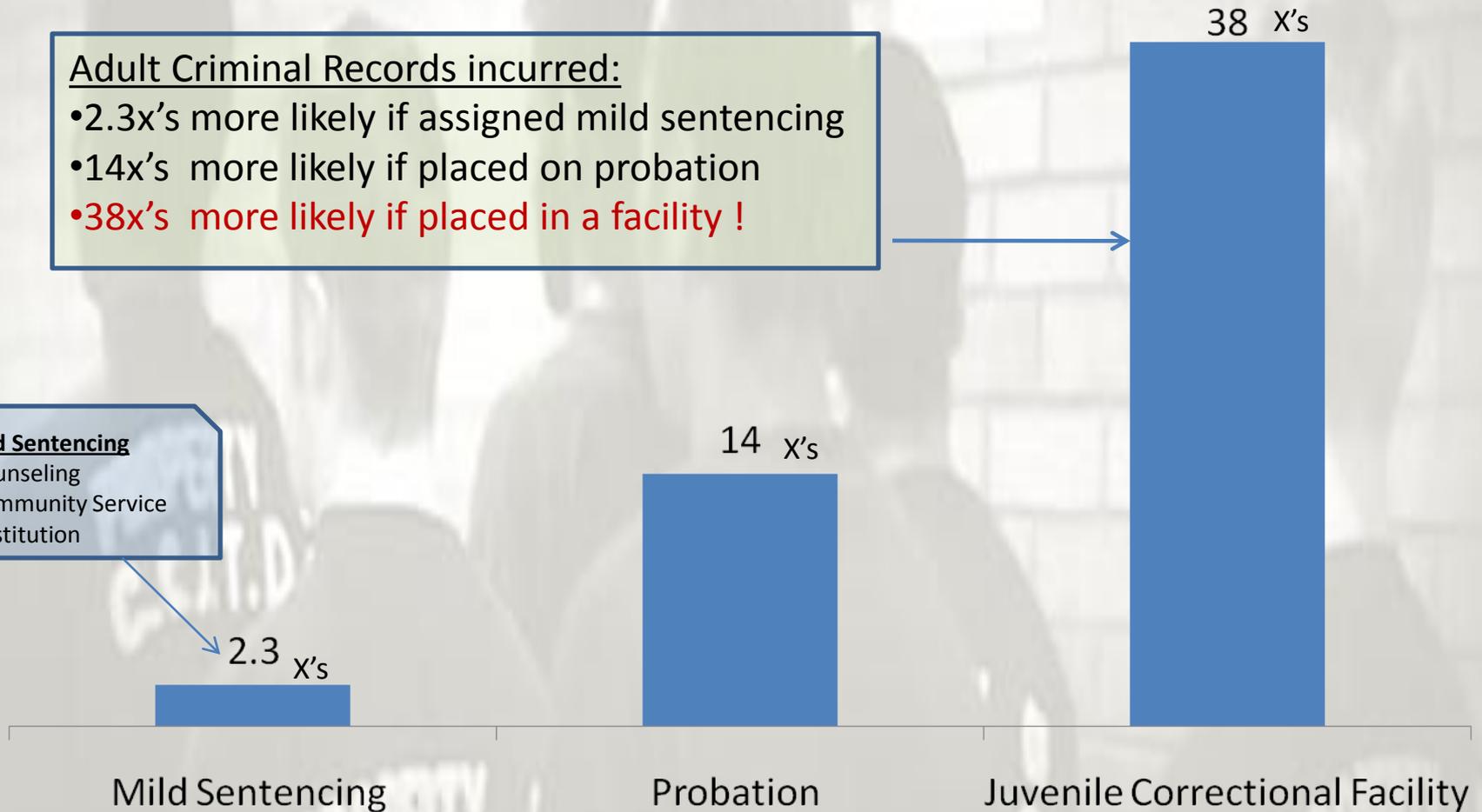


Criminogenic Effects by Response

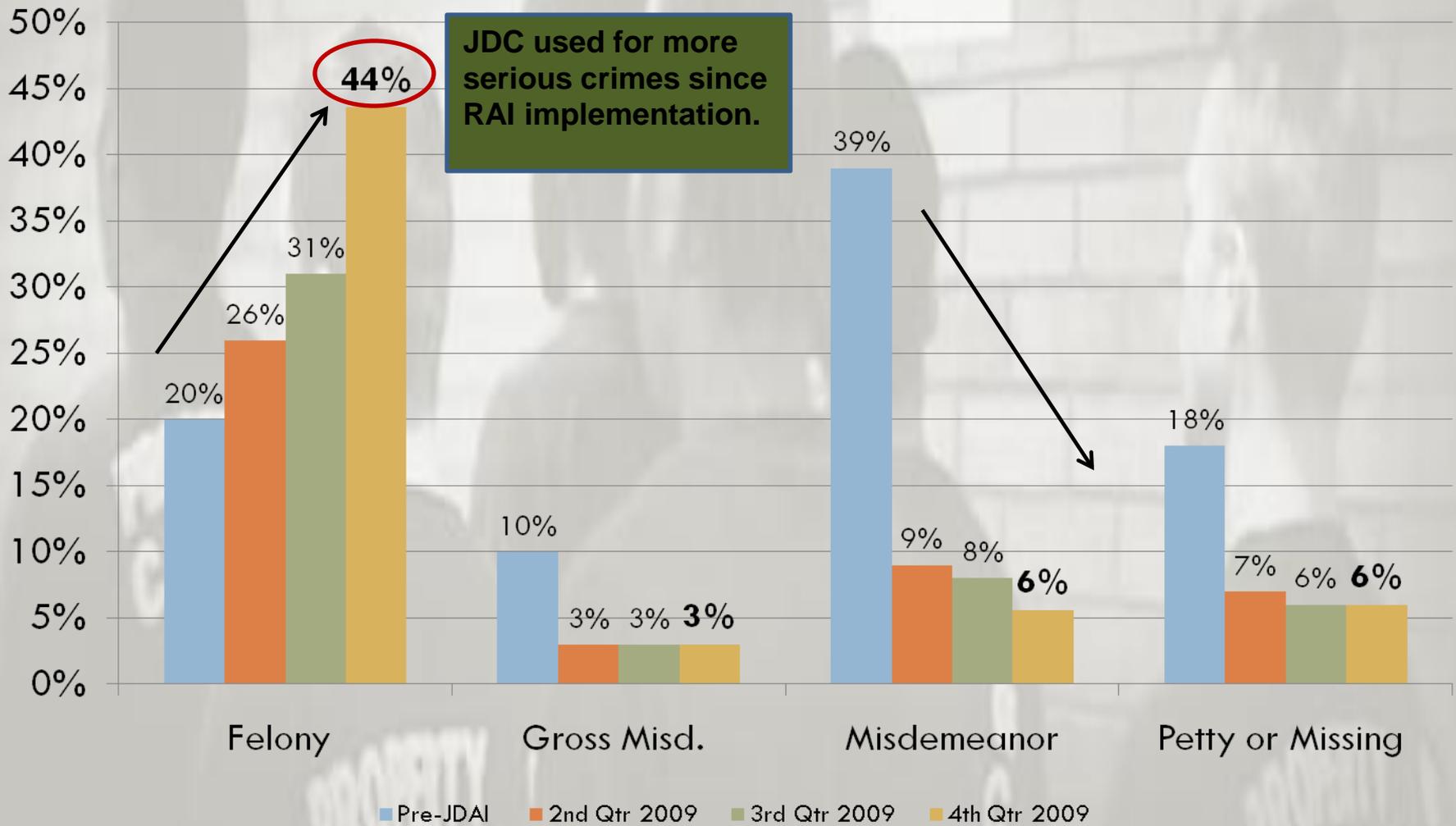
Adult Criminal Records incurred:

- 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**.