

END DALLAS' YOUTH CURFEW

TICKETING YOUTH DOESN'T
KEEP THEM SAFE!

Young people who are out late or may not be in school during the day may need special services, resources, or simple guidance.¹ Others may work late-night jobs to provide for themselves or their family. Some are homeless. None should be saddled with tickets, court time, or a criminal record.

FOUR THINGS TO KNOW

Under Dallas' Juvenile Curfew Ordinance (JCO), youth who are out between

9 A.M. AND 2:30 P.M.

on a school day

OR 11 P.M. AND 6 A.M.

can be charged with a

CLASS C MISDEMEANOR.



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SINCE 2015

No student in the state can be ticketed for truancy, the failure to attend school. But, cities nonetheless continue to

CRIMINALIZE YOUTH WHO ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

through juvenile curfew ordinances.

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YOUTH BETWEEN 10 AND 16

years old can be sent to

ADULT CRIMINAL COURT

without an attorney. They may face

FINES UP TO \$500

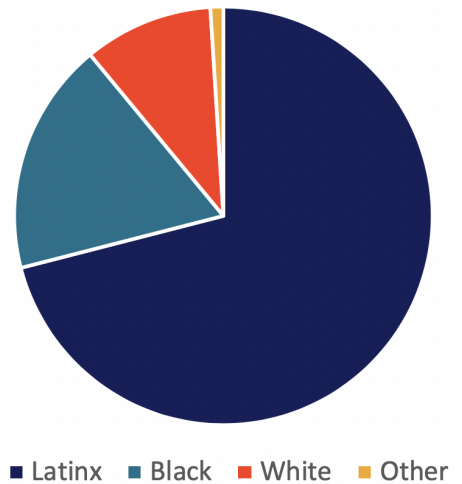
and end up with a

CRIMINAL RECORD.

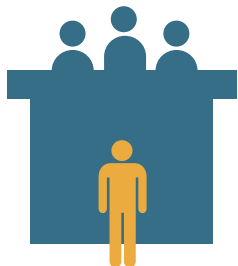
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Youth of color in Dallas are **overrepresented and over-ticketed.**

From 2017-2018, about 88% of Curfew tickets were issued to Black and Latinx youth, even though Black and Latinx people are only 66% of Dallas' population.²



THE IMPACT



Research shows this type of justice system contact is harmful for youth, making it less likely they will succeed in school and more likely that they will have future court and police interactions.³

CRIMINAL COURT CONTACT IS HARMFUL AND MAY BE EVEN MORE PROBLEMATIC FOR UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Media reports show that ICE monitors courts, even for class C misdemeanors.⁴

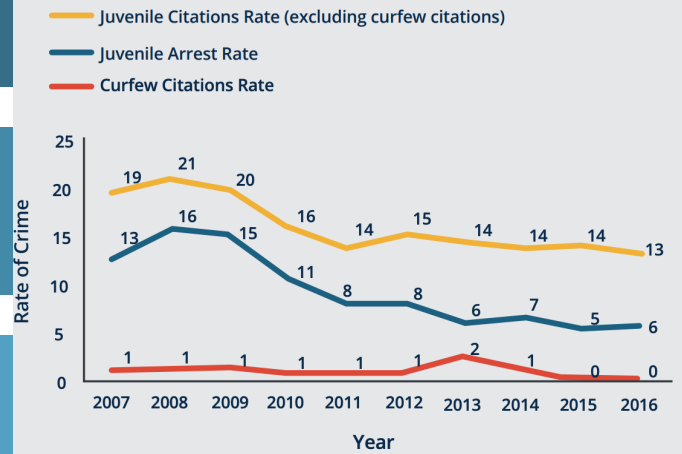
JUVENILE CRIME DECLINES WITHOUT CURFEWS

Juvenile crime rates have **DECREASED NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY**, including in cities that do not have curfews.

Waco eliminated its juvenile curfew ordinance in 2014 and Austin ended its in 2017.⁵ Since then, there has been no increase in the juvenile citation or arrest rate in either city.⁶

Put simply, this suggests that **CURFEWS ARE AN INEFFECTIVE MEANS** of reducing both crime and victimization.⁷

Crime Rate per 1,000 Juveniles: Waco, Texas (2007-2016)



Juvenile population totals were taken from McLennan County estimates.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

There are ways that Dallas can support its young people without ticketing them and be a leader in youth justice in Texas:

Utilize existing resources within the city to provide **NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTIONS TO YOUTH**

END THE JUVENILE CURFEW IN DALLAS

Ensure that officers, orgs, youth, and families are **AWARE OF SERVICES AND SUPPORTS IN THE CITY**

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¹ Vera Institute of Justice, *Just Kids: When Misbehaving is a Crime*, 2017, available at <https://www.vera.org/when-misbehaving-is-a-crime#introduction>.

² Presentation produced by the Dallas Chief of Police and Dallas Assistant City Manager, 2018, available at https://dallascityhall.com/government/Council%20Meeting%20Documents/pscj_5_juvenile-curfew-ordinance_combined_010818.pdf.

³ Texas Appleseed & Texans Care for Children, *Dangerous Discipline: how Texas schools are relying on law enforcement, courts, and juvenile probation to discipline students*, 2016, available at <http://stories.texasappleseed.org/dangerous-discipline>.

⁴ In apparent case of mistaken identity, father caught in ICE sting, *The Texas Tribune*, 14 Feb. 2017, available at <https://www.texastribune.org/2017/02/14/apparent-case-mistaken-identity-father-caught-ice-sting/>.

⁵ Data obtained from open records request to the Waco Police Department; See *Austin City Council ends juvenile curfew*, available at <https://www.statesman.com/NEWS/20170929/Austin-City-Council-ends-juvenile-curfew>.

⁶ See *The Curfew Myth*, The Marshall Project, available at <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/07/31/the-curfew-myth>. Population estimates taken from McLennan County Juvenile Populations, available at https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/comparison_selection.asp?selstate=1

⁷ See e.g., *Juvenile Curfews are not effective in reducing crime and victimization*, The Campbell Collaboration, 2016, available at http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/media/k2/attachments/Campbell_PLS_Youth_Curfew.pdf.