

California took a wrong turn in 1995.

It's time to correct course.

# SB 1391



**No one thinks a 14 or 15 year old child is an adult, right? Wrong. California does.**

Over a 10-year period 1,150 youth age 15 and younger faced adult court prosecution and adult sentences, including life in prison.

1995

**This wasn't always the law.**

**Only since 1995 has California tried 14- and 15-year-olds as adults.**

Before 1995, California treated youth under 16 in the juvenile system where they are required to participate in rehabilitation programs. The law changed during the highly racialized "tough on crime" era that was fueled by a widespread and shameful portrayal of youth of color as "super-predators." The myth of the super-predator has now been discredited as violent crime continues to decline, but the impact continues to have a disparate impact on youth of color.

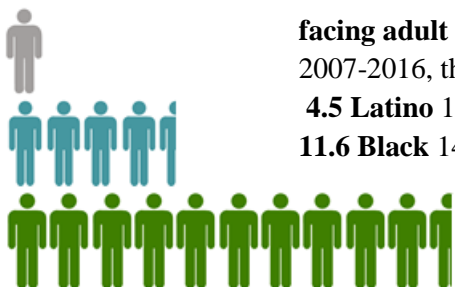
## Youth of color bear the brunt



As the result of transfer hearings over the past 10 years...

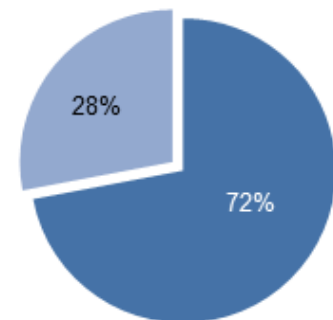
1 in 10 White youth, *but*  
5 in 10 Latino youth *and*  
6 in 10 Black youth  
were sent to adult court.\*

## For Every 1 White 14- or 15-year-old...



facing adult court prosecution from 2007-2016, there were  
**4.5 Latino** 14- and 15-year-olds *and*  
**11.6 Black** 14- and 15-year-olds\*\*

## The vast majority of 14- and 15-year-olds were tried as adults for non-homicide cases.



■ All Other Offenses ■ Homicide

Most youth under 16 (72%) are sent to adult court for crimes like burglary, robbery, and assault. And even in homicide cases, research indicates that a large proportion of these youth were not the primary actor and were likely to have had an adult co-defendant.

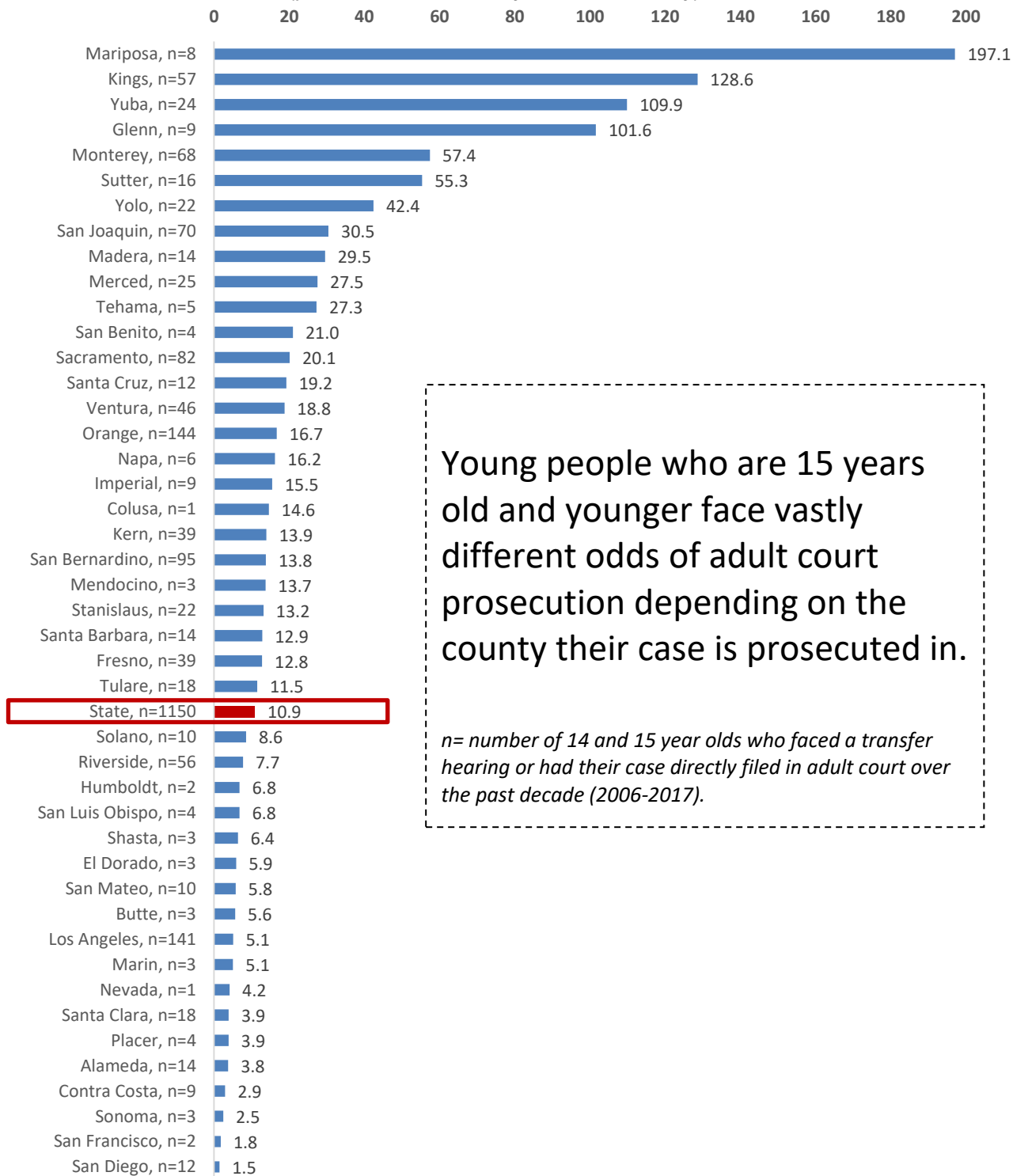
\* Data includes 368 youth age 15 and under with a transfer hearing from 2007-2016.

\*\* Data includes 1050 youth age 15 and under who faced adult court prosecution either with a transfer hearing (368 youth) or as the result of direct file (782 youth) from 2007-2016.

## Significant Geographic Disparities

Over the past decade, the rate at which youth 15 years old and younger face adult court prosecution varies wildly across the state.

Rate of Adult Prosecution of Youth 15 and Under (2007-2016)  
 (per 100,000 14 and 15 year olds in County)



Young people who are 15 years old and younger face vastly different odds of adult court prosecution depending on the county their case is prosecuted in.

*n = number of 14 and 15 year olds who faced a transfer hearing or had their case directly filed in adult court over the past decade (2006-2017).*