

It is quite controversial to try juveniles in adult court and send them to adult prisons. This is because lots of people believe that the crime they commit leads to them deserving this kind of punishment. Others believe that they should not be tried as adults because they're still just kids, and this can lead to quite the disagreement. But we should not try them as adults for multiple reasons. They don't understand the enormity of their crimes and the effect that it can have on others.

One reason why children should not be tried as adults is because it puts them at high risk of danger. According to Juvenile Law Center, "Youth in the adult criminal justice system face a higher risk of sexual abuse, physical assault, and suicide. Incarcerating children with adults also denies them access to many essential programs and services, including basic and special education, as well as treatment and counseling services, impeding their chances for healthy development. Education is also closely linked to reducing re-offending; youth's successful re-entry to their communities is compromised when they are deprived of adequate and appropriate educational opportunities." Not only are they at risk of being in danger physically when put in prison with adults, but mentally as well. It messes with their head and puts them more at risk of suicide, and doesn't let them get the education and the rehab they need.

Another reason why juveniles should not be tried as adults is because the justice system is biased against youth of color. Human Impacts Partner states, "Rampant racial inequities are evident in the way youth of color are disciplined in school, policed and arrested, detained, sentenced, and incarcerated. These inequities persist even after controlling for variables like offense severity and prior criminal record. Research shows that youth of color receive harsher sentences than White youth charged with similar offenses. Youth of color are more likely to be tried as adults than White youth, even when being charged with similar crimes. In California in 2015, 88% of juveniles tried as adults were youth of color." Youth of color is more commonly tried as adults because people are still often prejudiced against them.

The final reason why juveniles should not be tried as adults is because it affects their whole family. The Law Office of Katie Walsh states, "Complexities in the juvenile justice system and court process may make parents feel confused or powerless, which can cause emotional upheaval in families. In addition, while financial hardship is a risk factor for juvenile crime, the economic burdens associated with court and legal fees can have long-lasting financial consequences." Even if the crime their child did was large, the family would know the punishment was too harsh and could worry deeply for the child and their mental and physical health.

In conclusion, there are multiple reasons on why Juveniles should not be tried as adults. It puts them at high risk of danger, the justice system is biased against youth of color, and their families will be affected greatly as they worry about those dangers.