



A BIT OF PERSPECTIVE

Parents

The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance talked with parents who have kids in the system. We asked them: What wasn't in the film that audiences should know?

1. Most kids don't fare as well as the young people featured in the film.

All the teens featured in *Education vs. Incarceration* connected to great programs that helped them get their lives on track. But for many kids, involvement in the juvenile justice system stigmatizes them, puts them behind academically and often puts them on a path to get involved with the adult criminal system. That's why preventing a kid from entering the system in the first place is key.

2. The services that worked for the kids in the film are not always available.

Programs that benefit at-risk youth have been hit hard by budget cuts. In most cases, they don't have enough openings to serve all the kids who need help.

3. Good parents can still have kids enter the system.

Several parents talked about providing a loving home and setting sensible limits but still seeing a child arrested in school on a minor offense. (See the school-based arrest fact sheet for some of the truly amazing things kids get arrested for – including having a soda in school.)

4. Parents who are working two or more jobs have trouble connecting with schools.

In some communities, the available jobs don't pay a living wage. So parents find themselves working many jobs. That can make it impossible to meet with teachers, social workers, etc.

5. Particularly in cities, there aren't enough good recreational activities for kids.

Many state and local parks and recreation programs have had to scale back offerings because of budget cuts.