JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVOCATES



IMPACT REPORT 2023

https://jjadvocates.org

2023 Project Sites

Children around the world are suffering in abusive justice systems, often in poor conditions. The excessive deprivation of liberty of children is not confined to one country or region. In 2023, JJAI's projects expanded beyond Mexico - detention assessments in the United States and training and information sharing with officials in Costa Rica - and we are impacting more children thanks to our generous supporters.



Alternatives to Detention Initiative

Our Alternatives to Detention initiative minimizes the deprivation of children's liberty, protects their rights and promotes positive youth development through policy advocacy, technical assistance and training, and partnership with local authorities.

Detention Conditions

Based on our assessment of the Specialized Pretrial Detention Center in Mexico City, we have worked with the authorities to rewrite their policies and procedures and are now working to get the necessary training on the new policies to ensure that children are safe at this facility - the most intensive partnership we have had with any detention center in Mexico.

JJAI has been working with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's JDAI network on conditions in United States facilities. At the beginning of 2023 our National Director Sarahí García went onsite to two detention centers in Indiana to pilot the U.S. facility assessment tools. By the end of 2023, five facilities in the U.S. (in Indiana, California, Missouri and Louisiana) have used this assessment to evaluate their policies and procedures and are in the process of improving the services they provide to children in their care.

CHILDREN IMPACTED	21 in Mexico City 150-200 in USA



Director Sarahí García onsite in Indiana, USA



Re-Entry Services

When children in conflict with the law leave the system, they lack the support needed to reintegrate into society. Our Re-Entry Services Project creates a network of support for children and families after they leave the justice system.

CHILDREN IMPACTED 75 in Chihuahua
5 in Durango

Probation Transformation

The probation model continues to operate in Chihuahua and Durango states, ensuring community-based services . With only 3-7 percent of children violating probation conditions during 2023, it is closing the revolving door to

CHILDREN IMPACTED 110 in Chihuahua
10 in Durango



Time-To-Trial

Every day counts for incarcerated children. Since 2022, a National Mexican Working Group meets every four months to review case processing timelines and eliminate unnecessary procedural delays for children in pretrial detention. Chihuahua, Durango, Campeche and Michoacan states participate.

CHILDREN IMPACTED 300 - 400 in Mexico

Mobilize and Empower Initiative



The Mobilize and Empower Project operates in **Chihuahua, Durango and Mexico City.** It provides direct support to children and their families and gives them tools to be able to understand the justice system and advocate on behalf of their children in detention. It includes:

Family Reunification:

Transportation so families can maintain contact, attend court hearings and return home when children are released, reducing the trauma of incarceration.

FAMILIES IMPACTED 155 in Mexico

Family Committees:

Organizing family members for mutual support, education on their children's rights and advocacy within the justice system.

FAMILIES IMPACTED 40 in Mexico

Care Packages:

Donating personal hygiene items, clothing, games and sports equipment for children in prison and needed items for their own children such as formula and diapers.

CHILDREN IMPACTED 300 in Mexico



Mexico City Coordinator Marlene Tovar at sporting event.



Family members waiting to see their children in Mexico City detention.

Special Events

Special Events – Sponsoring and co-organizing events for Christmas, Mother's Day and other special events, improving the daily life of incarcerated children.

CHILDREN IMPACTED 320 in Mexico

Relocation:

Sometimes youth and their family members are at risk once released due to targeted violence in their home community. JJAI helps, in coordination with appropriate authorities, to relocate youth and, if necessary, their family members.

CHILDREN IMPACTED 3 in Mexico



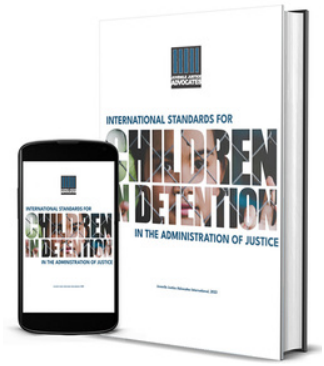
Delivering personal hygiene supplies to girls' detention center.

International Collaborations

Costa Rican Training

JJAI was in San Jose, Costa Rica presenting for and training Costa Rican youth justice authorities. First, JJAI was part of panel discussing the use of youth pretrial detention and comparing practices from the U.S., Mexico and Costa Rico. Then, JJAI presented an afternoon training on community supervision and re-entry services for youth in the justice system. Over 20 officials participated and showed interest in improving the available services for youth in Costa Rica's justice system.



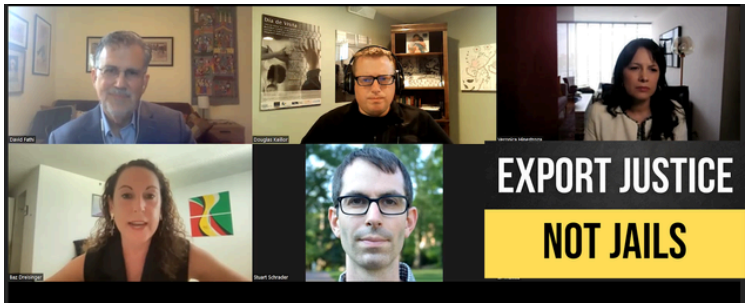


International Detention Standards

At the end of 2023, we published a the **"International Standards for Children in Detention in the Administration of Justice"** - the most comprehensive set of standards based on international law and best practices. Based on our work in Mexico and the U.S., the standards can dramatically transform places of detention. Officials from over 25 countries have downloaded the standards or attended one of our informational webinars.

Export Justice, Not Jails

In collaboration with Incarceration Nations Network and Fair Trials, JJAI launched the "Export Justice, Not Jails" campaign – designed to raise awareness on the impact of U.S. international aid for criminal justice development. The U.S. incarcerates more adults and youth than any other country in the world and is not a party to many of the international human rights agreements on the rights of incarcerated people. As a result, policies and practices that are common in the U.S. and have led to over-incarceration are being promoted and spread in other countries. JJAI has seen this first-hand in Mexico's youth justice system. There are more effective policies that reduce insecurity that should be the basis of international cooperation on criminal justice. For more information visit, **https://www.exportjustice.org/**.



Thank You!

We continued to recover from the impacts of the global pandemic in 2023, and nearly all of our projects operated normally. Thanks to supporters like you, not only did we survive the turbulence, but we have also emerged as a regional leader in protecting incarcerated children. As we look forward to 2024 and beyond, we are excited about sharing our successes with more local and national authorities and building a stronger network of individuals and organizations committed to fighting for youth.

Thank you for coming with us on this journey. We cannot do it alone!



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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