

Monday, February 6, 2023

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“The Rhetoric and Reality of Developmentally Informed Justice: Evidence from Massachusetts”

Many jurisdictions are experimenting with developmentally-informed justice policies through a mixture of legal boundary and practice reform. These initiatives aim to minimize the adverse effects of trying older adolescents in the traditional criminal justice system by giving them access to programs and policies that facilitate successful aging out of adolescent criminal involvement and integration into pro-social age-graded adult roles. The present study examines the impact of Raise the Age (RTA), a developmentally-informed criminal justice reform policy designed to limit justice-involvement stigma by shifting prosecution of arrested older adolescents from the adult justice system into the juvenile justice system. Examining evidence from Massachusetts, the third U.S. jurisdiction to adopt RTA, this ongoing study explores the complexities of implementing developmentally informed justice policies as well as the risks that these policies will produce unintended and iatrogenic effects due to unrecognized differences in the organizational imperatives of the juvenile and adult justice systems. Incorporating these organizational imperatives into policy planning highlights opportunities for developmentally-informed justice policies that avoid iatrogenic impacts associated with the last several cycles of juvenile justice jurisdictional reform through tighter coupling of developmentally-informed policy goals and organizational practices.

PLACE Philip Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Avenue
TIME 12:45 - 2:00pm.
INFO <https://www.csls.berkeley.edu>

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