Michigan is one of only four states across the country that automatically prosecutes 17-year-olds as adults for any offense.

17-year-olds cannot legally:
- Vote in elections
- Rent a car
- Serve on a jury
- Live independently from parents or guardians
- Enter a legal contract
- Purchase or use tobacco

Yet they are automatically charged as adults in the criminal justice system.

Prosecuting youth as adults is expensive and threatens public safety:
- Youth prosecuted as adults are 34% more likely to reoffend than youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Youth prosecuted as adults earn 40% less over their lifetime than youth in the juvenile justice system, which translates in a loss of state tax revenue.
- Adult convictions lead to lifelong barriers in housing, employment and education.

According to Youth Behind Bars:
- 60% of 17-year-olds were charged for nonviolent offenses
- 58% had no prior juvenile record

Kids of color are overrepresented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total 17-year-old population</th>
<th>Total 17-year-olds entering state corrections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23% (Kids of color)</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth in adult prisons are at a higher risk than youth in the juvenile justice system for:
- Sexual assault
- Solitary confinement
- Restraint
- Suicide
- Youth are amenable to rehabilitative programs and behavior modification.
- Teens are more inclined to take risks, act impulsively and succumb to peer pressure.
- Youth need access to age-appropriate services, like those provided in the juvenile justice system.
- Research shows that young brains are still developing and are not the same as adult brains.

Take Action

www.raisetheagemi.org

**STEP 1**
Identify a Point Person for Raise the Age Updates and Actions

**STEP 2**
Help Spread the Word Via Newsletters and Social Media

**STEP 3**
Raise the Voices of Impacted Youth and Families

**STEP 4**
Draft an Organizational Position Statement

**STEP 5**
Encourage Support for Raise the Age Among Colleagues, Local Leaders and State Policymakers

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