

Emerging Adult Justice Project

Bridging justice between childhood and adulthood

The EAJP and Vermont's Department for Children and Families submitted an implementation plan for the upcoming expansion of VT's juvenile jurisdiction to the 20th birthday

On November 1, Vermont's Department for Children and Families (DCF) submitted a **plan for implementation of the state's recently passed Raise the Age Law** (RTA), which it developed over the past year with the Emerging Adult Justice Project's action research support and with input from the state's Juvenile Justice Stakeholder Group. The report included an analysis of current caseloads to help predict the law's impact, as well as researched recommendations focusing on key issues identified by the Stakeholder Group. The primary strategies outlined in the report are: (1) increasing opportunities to divert cases from formal justice processing, (2) maximizing the efficiency of the court process, and (3) ensuring a full continuum of post-dispositional options. The report also offers recommendations regarding additional issues that stakeholders repeatedly identified as important during the planning process, including ensuring victims' rights, providing sufficient resources, and conducting/reporting ongoing data analysis.

**The EAJP would like to extend special thanks to Naoka Carey and Natalie Behr for their invaluable contributions to the report.*

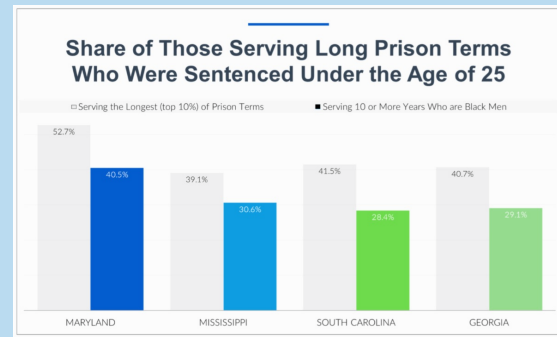
NFL New England Patriots Players Devin and Jason McCourty wrote an op-ed lauding Vermont for its Raise the Age reform and encouraging Massachusetts to follow suit

On November 14, the Boston Herald published an **op-ed** written by New England Patriots players Devin and Jason McCourty, in which the twins praised Vermont for the historic legislation it passed in 2018 that raised the state's upper age of juvenile jurisdiction to 20. Citing research that supports the reform from a variety of fields, the brothers also urged the Massachusetts legislature to pass An Act to Promote Public Safety and Better Outcomes for Young Adults, which would gradually raise the Commonwealth's upper age of juvenile jurisdiction to the 21st birthday.

The Justice Policy Institute released a report on

Maryland's disproportionate incarceration of Black emerging adults

The Justice Policy Institute released a [report](#) highlighting the Maryland justice system's disparate treatment of Black emerging adults. According to the report, the over-incarceration of people who are Black in Maryland is most pronounced among those incarcerated as emerging adults, and particularly those serving long prison terms. Analyzing data, reviewing research, and reporting on the costs of this injustice, the report provides recommendations and emphasizes the need for solutions to focus on emerging adults in order to be effective.



For a review of the report, check out the [Baltimore Sun](#).

California passed a law to improve Youth Offender Parole

In October, California passed [Assembly Bill 965 \(Stone\)](#), which requires youth offender parole hearings to occur within 6 months of the first year the person becomes eligible and allows eligible incarcerated individuals who were under the age of 26 at the time of the offense the opportunity to move their parole dates forward based on achievements and participation in programming.

Congratulations to EAJ Learning Community Member Frankie Guzman!

Director of the National Center for Youth Law's Youth Justice Initiative and EAJ Learning Community member **Frankie Guzman** [received](#) the 2019 Natalie S. Bimel Award from the Annie E. Casey Foundation for his commitment to fairness and equality, human rights, and social justice. Frankie was also [named](#) as one of UCLA Law School's 70 trailblazing alumni. Many congratulations to Frankie!

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