POSITIVE YOUTH JUSTICE INITIATIVE

PARTNERS
American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego and Imperial Counties
(Policy Research/Advice/Guidance)
Mid-City Community Action Network
(Youth Organizing/Community Organizing)

STRATEGIES TO BUILD POWER
Youth Leadership Development and Community Organizing
Community Research
System Accountability

The San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP) works to develop neighborhood leaders throughout San Diego County who learn to build empowering community organizations. SDOP invests its resources in people — teaching and training families to successfully address the issues affecting their lives. Families engage in public debate about priorities and promote a new vision of what is possible throughout the county.

POLICY ISSUES
• Restorative justice and rehabilitative practices within the juvenile justice system
• Policy and systemic reforms to limit detention of non-violent offenders
• Viable pathways to opportunities for youth and families
• Culture shift from prosecution and incarceration to rehabilitation, recovery and reintegration
• Increased spending for prevention, early intervention, mental health and trauma-informed services

KEY JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA
• 25,000 people are under criminal justice supervision
• Latino youth = 68% of youth population touched by the juvenile justice system
• Black youth = 25% of youth population touched by the juvenile justice system
• In 2013, 72% of supervised youth were Latino or African American, while making up only 37% of the population
• Latinos were 36% more likely to be detained than whites
• African Americans were 50% more likely to be detained than whites
• Latinos were 103% more likely and African Americans 91% more likely to receive an institutional commitment compared to whites

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