

## Fact Sheet

# Florida Youth in Solitary Confinement

**UF**

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1. Solitary confinement is defined as physical and social isolation lasting more than 22 hours each day. In Florida, 45 hours is the average length of time a youth will spend in solitary confinement
2. Solitary confinement can cause permanent psychological damage and may lead to self-harm, suicide, and psychosis.
3. The United Nations considers solitary confinement lasting more than 15 days to be torture.



Credit: karenfoleyphotography / Shutterstock

- 4.** In Florida, 26% of children in Florida's Department of Corrections are in solitary confinement at any given time.



- 5.** Between 2017 and 2019, more than 4,000 children were placed in solitary confinement in Florida juvenile detention facilities.
- 6.** While Black youth represented approximately 22% of the population in Florida's Public Schools, they accounted for 70% of all instances of solitary confinement in juvenile detention.
- 7.** The odds of a Black youth being placed in confinement following a behavioral incident are 69% greater than the odds a White youth being placed in confinement.

8. Florida legislation introduced to ban solitary confinement for juveniles has never received a vote. The most recent bill was introduced in 2022.
9. The Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys ("Dozier") was a juvenile reform school in Marianna, Florida. It was operated by the state of Florida from 1900 to 2011, and at one point, it was the largest reform institution in the United States.
10. During its operation, Dozier "swirled with allegations of cruelty, rape, and physical abuse." One form of abuse the school inflicted was solitary confinement.



Dozier Memorial erected in 2023

**11.** In 2011, the Department of Justice released a report concluding that boys at Dozier faced “conditions that placed them at serious risk of avoidable [due to] systemic, egregious and dangerous practices.”

**12.** The horrors of Dozier are depicted in *The Nickel Boys* by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Colson Whitehead.



**13.** Florida prosecutes more children as adults than any other state.





**14.** Children facing criminal charges are held in solitary confinement before they have been adjudicated (in the juvenile legal system) or convicted (in the criminal legal system) for a crime.

**15.** Florida held a 15-year-old, Ian Manuel, in solitary confinement for 18 years.



Ian Manuel Booking Photo (left) and Ian Manuel Present Day (right)

**16.** Children are 9 times more likely to commit suicide in isolation rather than being held in the general population.

- 17.** A National Study found that out of children who died by suicide in detention centers, 50 percent of those individuals were in solitary confinement at the time of the suicide, and 62 percent had spent time in solitary at one point during their detention.



- 18.** Recent neuroscientific research demonstrated that after one month of social isolation, neurons in sensory and motor regions of the brain had shrunk by 20 percent.



The following pages provide the resources for each fact.



# Resources

## **Fact 1**

<https://www.splcenter.org/20190404/solitary-confinement-inhumane-ineffective-and-wasteful>

[https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/doc.\\_2\\_-\\_complaint.pdf](https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/doc._2_-_complaint.pdf)

## **Fact 2**

<https://jlc.org/issues/solitary-confinement-other-conditions#:~:text=Solitary%20confinement%20can%20cause%20permanent,traumatic%2C%20degrading%2C%20and%20humiliating>

## **Fact 3**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2011/10/392012>

## **Fact 4**

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2022/02/28/florida-should-end-solitary-confinement-of-children-column/#:~:text=We%20know%20at%20a%20minimum,Justice%20is%20just%20as%20shocking>

## **Fact 5**

<https://www.splcenter.org/presscenter/new-lawsUIT-challenges-use-solitary-confinement-children-florida>

# Resources Continued

## **Fact 6**

<https://www.splcenter.org/presscenter/new-lawsUIT-challenges-use-solitary-confinement-children-florida>

## **Fact 7**

<https://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/islandora/object/fsu:709800/datastream/PDF/view>

## **Fact 8**

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=75195>

## **Fact 9**

<https://www.npr.org/2012/10/15/162941770/floridas-dozier-school-for-boys-a-true-horror-story>

## **Fact 10**

<https://ejl.org/news/abuse-racism-at-dozier-school-for-boys-florida/>

## **Fact 11**

[https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2011/12/02/dozier\\_findltr\\_12-1-11.pdf](https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2011/12/02/dozier_findltr_12-1-11.pdf)

## **Fact 12**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/14/books/review/nickel-boys-colson-whitehead.html>

# Resources Continued

## **Fact 13**

[https://www.aclufl.org/sites/default/files/cr\\_fl\\_no\\_place\\_for\\_a\\_child.pdf](https://www.aclufl.org/sites/default/files/cr_fl_no_place_for_a_child.pdf)

## **Fact 14**

<https://www.npr.org/2012/10/15/162941770/floridas-dozier-school-for-boys-a-true-horror-story>

## **Fact 15**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/25/opinion/solitary-confinement-reform.html>

## **Fact 16**

<https://solitarywatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Solitary-Confinement-FAQ-2018-final.pdf>

## **Fact 17**

<https://solitarywatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Solitary-Confinement-FAQ-2018-final.pdf>

## **Fact 18**

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/what-does-solitary-confinement-do-to-your-mind/#:~:text=Often%20time%2C%20he%20found%2C%20prisoners,prisoners%20may%20literally%20stop%20behaving.%E2%80%9D>  
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