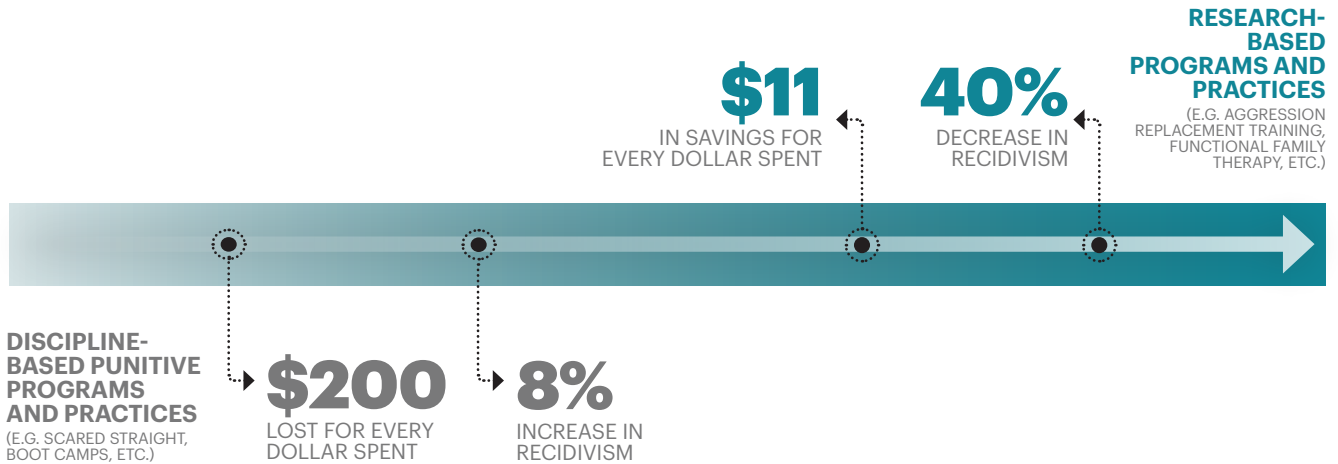MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

ASSESSING WHETHER "WHAT WORKS" TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM IS ACTUALLY WORKING

✓ SUCCESSES

Many states have adopted programs and practices shown by research to reduce recidivism and improve other youth outcomes

$11
IN SAVINGS FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT

40%
DECREASE IN RECIDIVISM

RESEARCH-BASED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES
(E.G. AGGRESSION REPLACEMENT TRAINING, FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY, ETC.)

DISCIPLINE-BASED PUNITIVE PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES
(E.G. SCARED STRAIGHT, BOOT CAMPS, ETC.)

$200
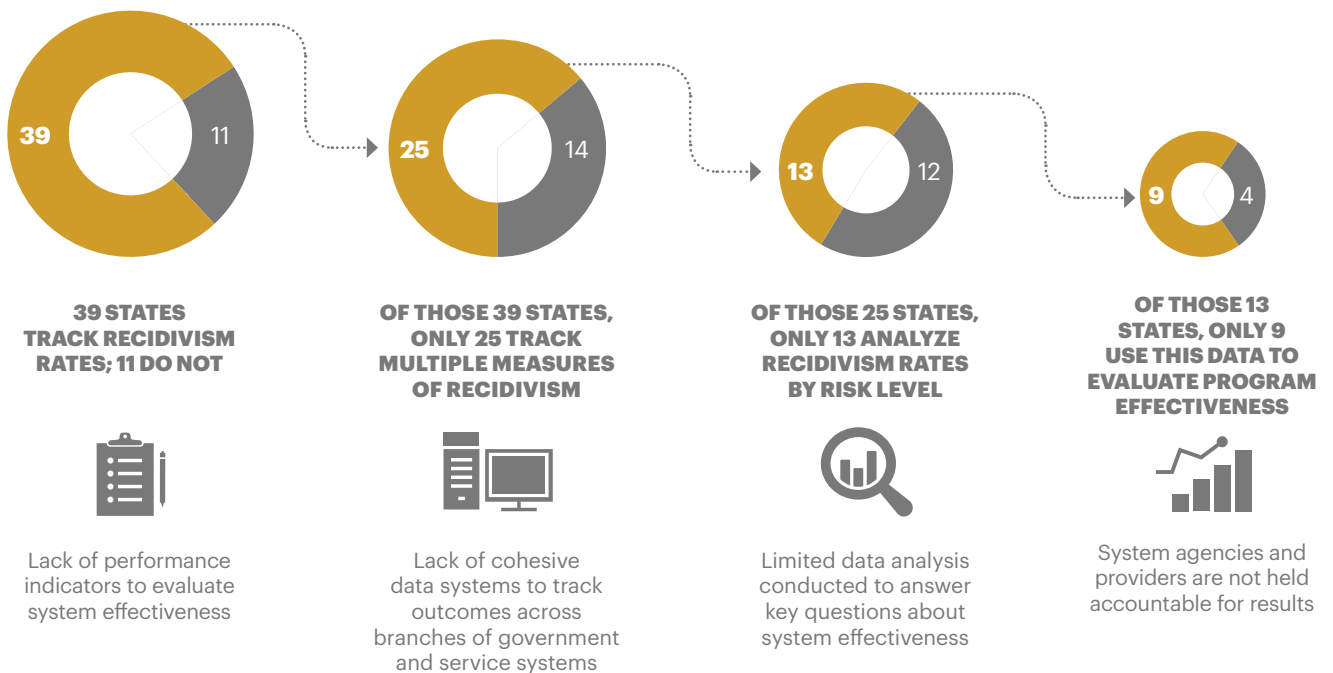LOST FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT

8%
INCREASE IN RECIDIVISM

Source: wsipp.wa.gov/Reports/E2SHB2536

! CHALLENGES

Few states fully track recidivism or other youth outcomes to evaluate whether their program and service investments are producing the expected benefits

39 | **11**

39 STATES TRACK RECIDIVISM RATES; 11 DO NOT

Lack of performance indicators to evaluate system effectiveness

25 | **14**

OF THOSE 39 STATES, ONLY 25 TRACK MULTIPLE MEASURES OF RECIDIVISM

Lack of cohesive data systems to track outcomes across branches of government and service systems

13 | **12**

OF THOSE 25 STATES, ONLY 13 ANALYZE RECIDIVISM RATES BY RISK LEVEL

Limited data analysis conducted to answer key questions about system effectiveness

9 | **4**

OF THOSE 13 STATES, ONLY 9 USE THIS DATA TO EVALUATE PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

System agencies and providers are not held accountable for results

Source: csgjusticecenter.org/youth/publications/measuring-juvenile-recidivism

USING DATA TO EVALUATE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AND INFORM POLICY, PRACTICE, AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

QUESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
How to measure whether resources are being used efficiently to protect public safety and improve outcomes for youth

KEY QUESTIONS POLICYMAKERS AND AGENCY LEADERS SHOULD ASK

» Have specific measures been identified to evaluate the performance of the juvenile justice system and whether resources are being used efficiently?

» Does a centralized data system exist to track assessments, supervision, and services for youth across all parts of the juvenile justice system?

» Is data analyses readily available and routinely shared with policymakers and other stakeholders that shows what's working, what's not, and what improvement efforts are needed?

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING YOUTH OUTCOMES

» Identify key supervision, service, and youth outcome performance measures and require that an annual progress report is submitted to the legislature.

» Provide funding to support the creation of a centralized data system to track outcomes for youth across state/local lines and branches of government.

» Support the matching of juvenile and criminal justice data records to track outcomes for youth into the adult corrections system.

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