In 2007, 77% of admissions to DYS were for non-violent misbehavior. This map translates those admissions into approximate state spending.

Every dollar spent to incarcerate a low-risk child in a state facility is a dollar that could instead be invested in community-based, non-residential sanctions that create local jobs, local opportunities, and healthy futures in the child’s home county. Community-based sanctions are more effective at reducing juvenile crime and cost much less than correctional institutions.

Commitment rates are calculated based on actual admissions and overall juvenile population data.

The size of the yellow circle corresponds to **absolute spending**: shades of gray show differences in commitment rates.

Dollar amounts are approximations of **absolute spending** based on actual admissions in FY 2007, average per diem costs ($134 per child), and average length of stay (144 days). DYS includes about 1,200 beds, which vary in cost from $80 - $170 per day.

For more information, visit the Alabama Youth Justice Coalition on the web at www.njjn.org/AL.html.