



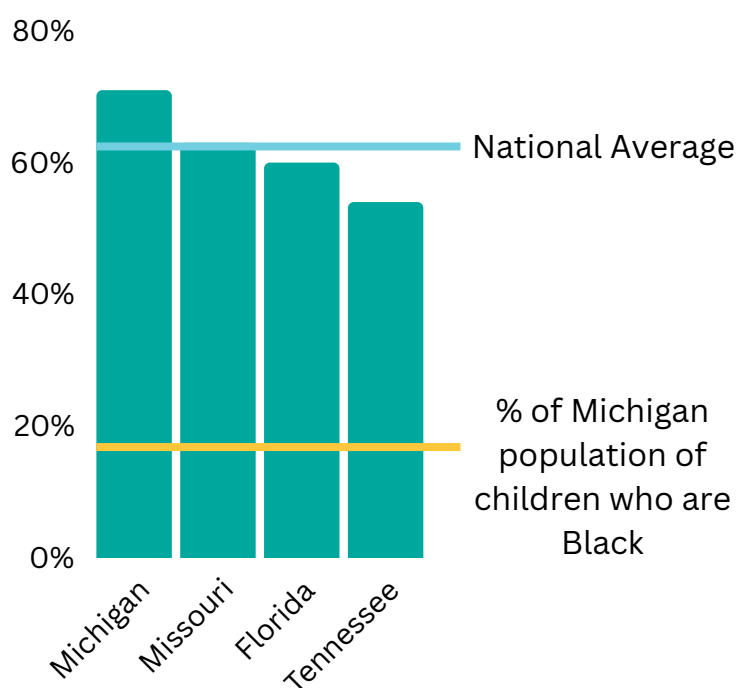
# MICHIGAN HAS THE MOST CHILDREN SERVING LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE IN THE COUNTRY.

28 U.S. states have banned sentencing children to life without parole. Michigan hasn't.

## Racial Disparities

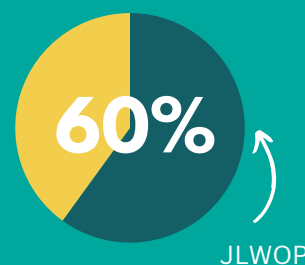
Racial disparities for this population in Michigan are starker than they are nationally. While Black children make up 16% of Michigan's child population, 70% of the children sentenced to life without parole are Black.

### % of JLWOP population that is Black



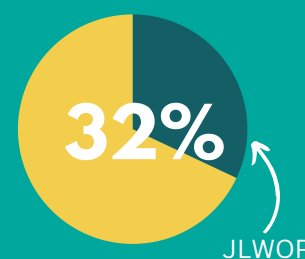
*Note on the data in this brief: Since 2016, the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth has collected individual-level data for every person in the United States convicted of life without parole for a crime committed under the age of 18. This data is collected and updated using information from state partner organizations, state departments of correction, and outreach from those serving these sentences and their families.*

After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that those sentenced to mandatory life without parole as children can be resentenced, prosecutors in Michigan sought LWOP in 60% of the state's resentencing hearings.



### Michigan resentencings

That's nearly double the rate of Louisiana prosecutors who sought LWOP in 32% of the state's resentencing hearings.



### Louisiana resentencings

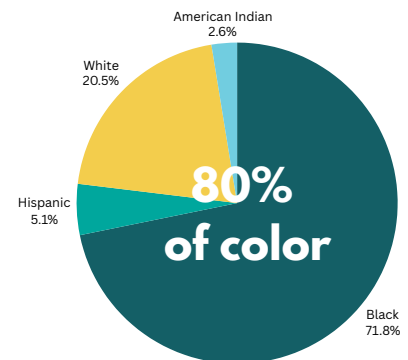
# JUSTICE DELAYED

Despite Supreme Court rulings that restrict the use of juvenile life without parole and a national trend to ban the practice in 28 states, Michigan has continued to impose JLWOP at rates only behind Georgia and Louisiana. Racial disparities in these new cases have only worsened: of the children sentenced to life without parole in Michigan over the last decade, 82% are children of color.

Leaving action to the state's courts has delayed justice for too many children in Michigan. Without legislation banning the practice, JLWOP has been imposed with arbitrary and racist outcomes for its children and lengthy and expensive processes for its justice system. When counties seek JLWOP in resentencing hearings or impose JLWOP in new cases, appeals courts have repeatedly reversed these decisions as trial courts are found to consistently fail to consider the youth mitigating factors required by law. Legislation empowering the parole board to simply review all of the cases will avoid this cumbersome, expensive, protracted litigation and impact hundreds of people, including:

## 40 people • Waiting for 7 years

40 individuals sentenced to mandatory life without parole have been waiting over seven years for their first resentencing hearing granted by the US Supreme Court under *Montgomery v. Louisiana* in 2016. 80% of those waiting behind bars are people of color.



## 44 people • Cases Pending

The Michigan Supreme Court decided in *People v. Stovall* that children sentenced to life *with* parole must be resentenced because youth factors were not taken into account. 44 of those eligible cases are still pending (70%).



## 273 people • Eligible for Relief

The Michigan Supreme Court decided in *People v. Parks* that 18 year olds cannot be sentenced to mandatory life with parole. 273 people serving this sentence await relief. 80% of them are Black.

