

# YOUR POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2021

We asked, you answered: How TCJC supporters responded to our 2020 survey.

## Who responded?

Our 2020 survey, conducted online, received 140 responses.

The level of justice system involvement among respondents is broken down based on their self-identification. Many respondents were impacted by the system on multiple levels.



## How were policy priorities shared?

Through open-ended responses, supporters shared policy priorities, personal stories of system impact, and notes about their vision for our team and our movement in Texas.

## Key takeaways:

- The survey results show that a person's experience with the justice system may influence their priorities for policy reform.
  - Respondents who had been incarcerated, along with those who had been impacted by the system but not incarcerated (i.e. arrested, on probation), expressed an interest in reentry supports.
  - People who told us their family members had been incarcerated prioritized reentry as well, with additional focus on youth justice (specifically Second Look) and conditions of confinement.
  - Practitioners, meaning those who work in the justice system, emphasized alternatives to incarceration.
- Although many respondents indicated system impact in more than one category, the largest category was immediate family members of incarcerated people.
- Overall, responses indicate an interest in reducing the harms of the justice system by investing in rehabilitation, focusing on decarceration, and fostering community.

**TCJC is the most effective organization in Texas for criminal justice issues.**



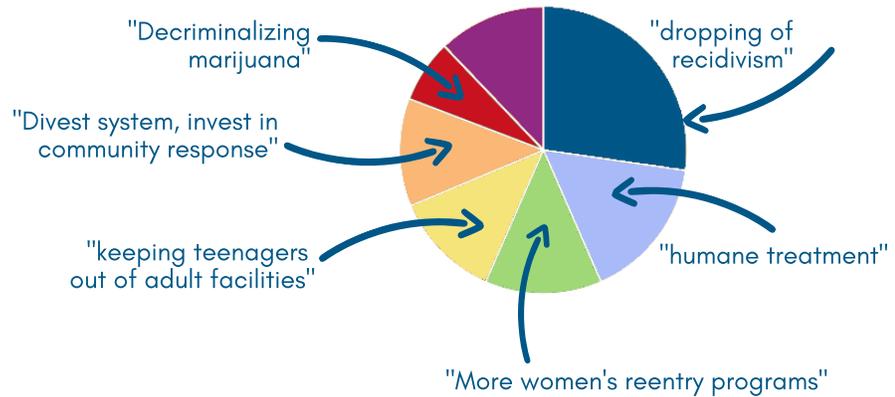
# How did system impact affect policy priorities?

We asked respondents their first, second, and third priorities, then sorted their open-ended responses into nine policy areas and an "other" category for broad or unclear responses.

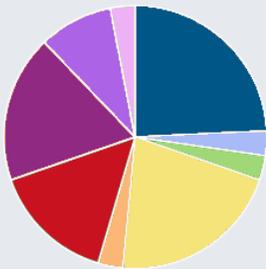
## Response Color Code



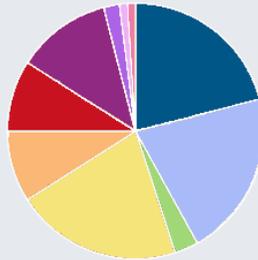
## Formerly Incarcerated People



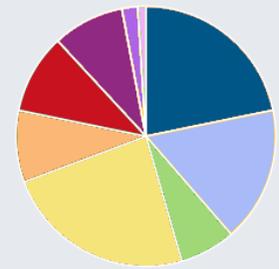
## Impacted But Not Incarcerated



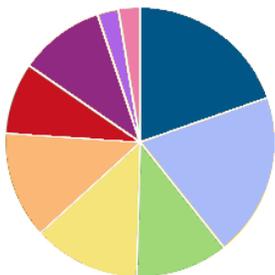
## Immediate Family Members



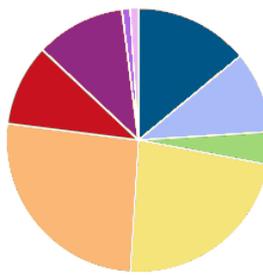
## Non-Immediate Family Members



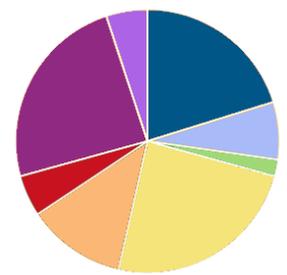
## Crime Survivors



## Practitioners



## No System Involvement



## 140 respondents

- 23** formerly incarcerated
- 27** practitioners
- 50** immediate family member incarcerated
- 15** crime survivors
- 12** system-impacted, not incarcerated
- 3** impacted in other state/country
- 33** non-immediate family members
- 14** not system-impacted

## How were respondents impacted by the system?

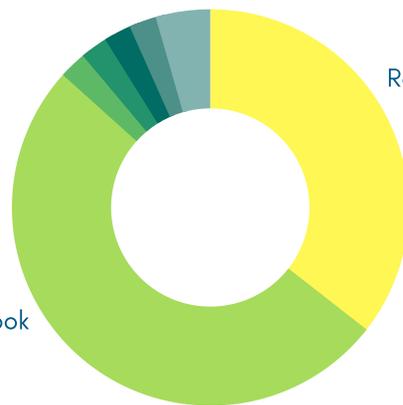
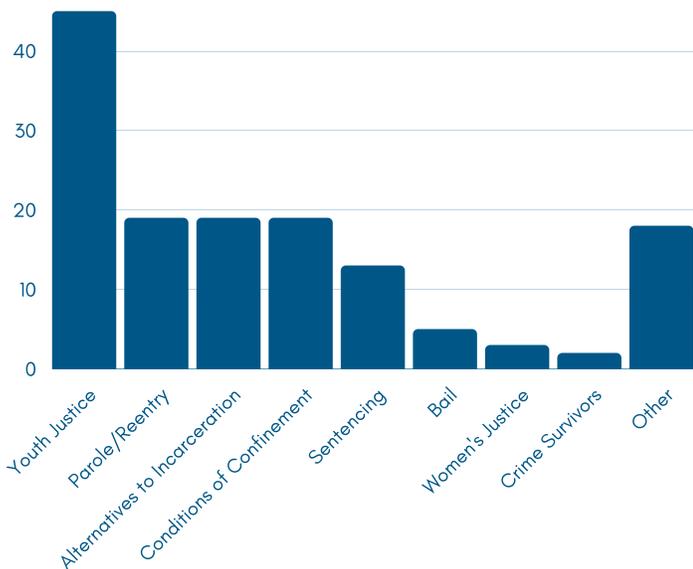
Most respondents were impacted by the system in more than one way--some checked as many as 5 categories.



# What is your first priority for policy reform?

We compared first priority responses for every respondent. Across all categories of system impact, youth justice was a top policy priority for respondents, many of whom shared stories of personal or family member involvement in the juvenile justice system.

First Priority Responses



Within first priority responses that focused on youth justice, the breakdown was as follows: Second Look (23), Raise the Age (16), Restorative Justice (1), Diversion (1), Law of Parties (1), Lower Age (1), General Youth Justice (2)

## Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

The Second Look Bill would be a great change to our Texas parole reform. Children going into an adult system have the capacity to CHANGE, LEARN, and rehabilitate themselves. Give them another look at life instead of raising them behind bars.

Greatly reducing the prison population and closing prisons would allow the state to realign the prison budget to support a better system based on rehabilitation and not retribution.

Our son was released on parole and one of his conditions was that he not drive. How is he supposed to get and keep a job? PO's are changed often and the parolee has to become familiar with a new officer, which is detrimental to the parolee. This system sets parolees up for failure.

Texas is wasting millions of dollars and ruining countless lives.



A sampling of supporters' open-ended responses to our survey's final question.

The 2021 Texas Legislative Session promises challenges unlike any we have seen before--from COVID-19 to a substantial budget crisis.

Your policy priorities, as well as in-depth budget-focused research conducted by our team, will inform our strategy to divest from a broken justice system and invest in communities across the state.

## What comes next?