

Norway shares its model of success: Part 3

The Rights of the Child

Norwegian Population Statistics and Prison Locations

Norway Population Statistics

- **Total Population:** 5,413,492
- **Population Density:** 35 people per sq/mile
- **Largest City:** Oslo 580,000 people
- **Median age:** 39.7 yrs
- **Gender:** 49.9% female and 50.1% male

Demographics:

- **Norwegian** 83.2% (includes about 60,000 Sami)
- **European** 8.3%
- **other** 8.5% (2017 est.)



Connecticut Population Statistics and Prison Locations (2020)

Connecticut Population Statistics

- **Total Population:** 3,563,077
- **Population Density:** 738.1 people per sq/mile
- **Largest City:** Bridgeport 143,628 people
- **Median age:** 40.6 yrs
- **Gender:** 51.2% female and 48.8% male

Demographics:

- **White:** 76.36%
- **Black or African American:** 10.56%
- **Other race:** 5.17%
- **Asian:** 4.43%
- **Two or more races:** 3.17%
- **Native American:** 0.27%
- **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander:** 0.03%



Prison rates

<u>Country</u>	<u>Prison population</u>	<u>Population per 100,000</u>	<u>Un-sentenced prisoners %</u>	<u>Women prisoners %</u>
US	2,193,798	737	21.2	8.9
CONNECTICUT	9,912	278	40.29	6.9
ENGLAND/WALES	80,002	148	16.4	5.5
GERMANY	77,166	94	17.1	5.3
FRANCE	52,009	85	31.5	3.6
NETHERLANDS	21,013	128	30	8.7
NORWAY	2,905	54	15.9	4.8

Juvenile Statistics

- Connecticut average juvenile prison population of 66 in 2021
- 9 per 100,000 minors in Connecticut

- Norway juvenile prison population of 3 in 2022
- .24 per 100,000 minors in Norway

Children in Connecticut are imprisoned at a rate 37.5 times the rate in Norway



Age Cutoffs

	<15	15-17	>17
Connecticut	Children 10 or older can be tried in juvenile court	Felony cases may be transferred to adult court; class A and most class B, or arson murder automatically	Considered an adult; tried in adult court
Norway	Children under 15 are not criminally responsible	Tried in adult court; receives youth punishment	Considered an adult; tried in adult court

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Article 3-1: “ In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, **the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.**”
- Article 37: “The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used **only as a measure of last resort** and **for the shortest appropriate period of time**”

Norway ratified the Rights of the Child in 1991; The United States has not done so and Connecticut does not follow the treaty.

Pre-trial Custody of Juveniles

In Connecticut,

- pre-disposition average length of stay was 23 days in 2021
- 43 juveniles were held 60 or more days pre-disposition

In Norway,

- court-ordered custody is only possible when there are no other alternatives
- A fixed length of time must be set that is no more than 2 weeks
- This can be extended by the court on request of the prosecutor 2 weeks at a time

Connecticut Juvenile Sentences

- Handled by special juvenile courts
- Average Juvenile “secure treatment” stay in CT was 190.6 days in 2021
- All sentences in 2021 were over 60 days
- This occurs in a juvenile institution

State of Connecticut Juvenile Court and Detention Center, Hartford, CT



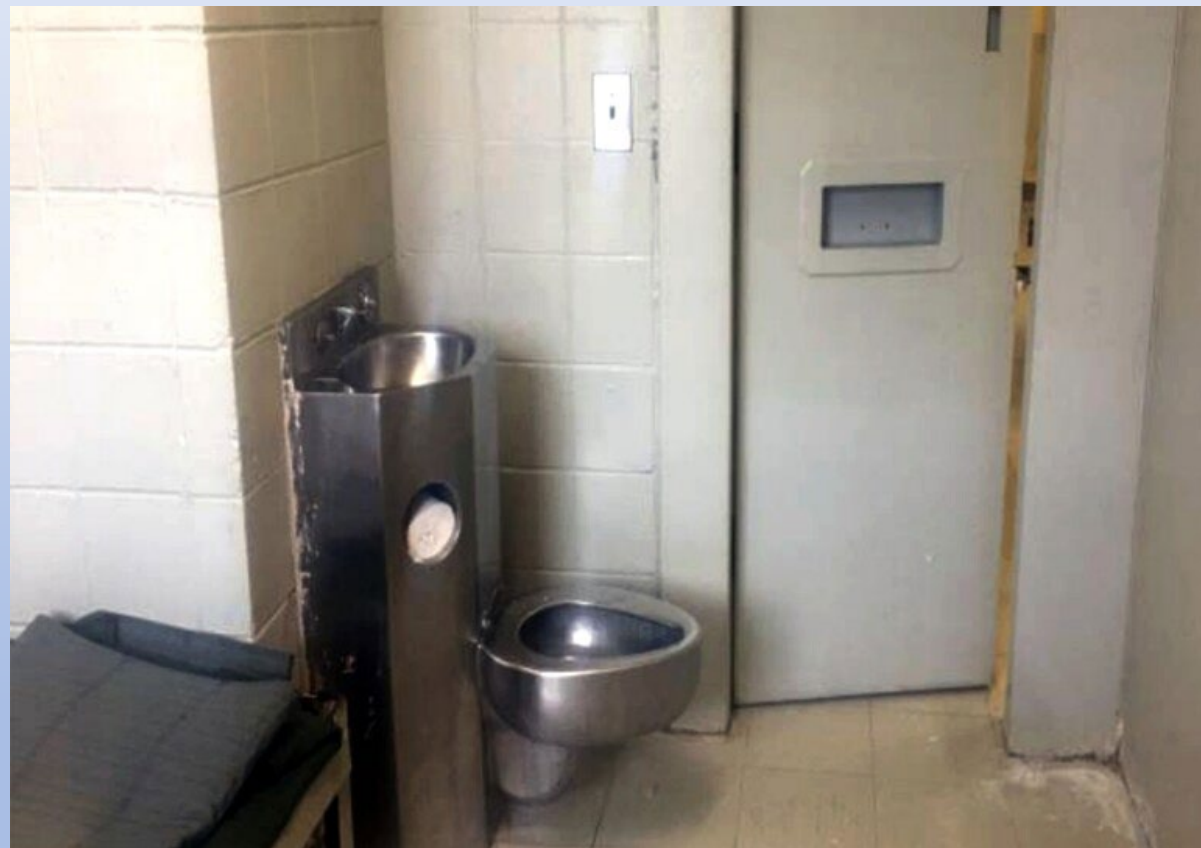
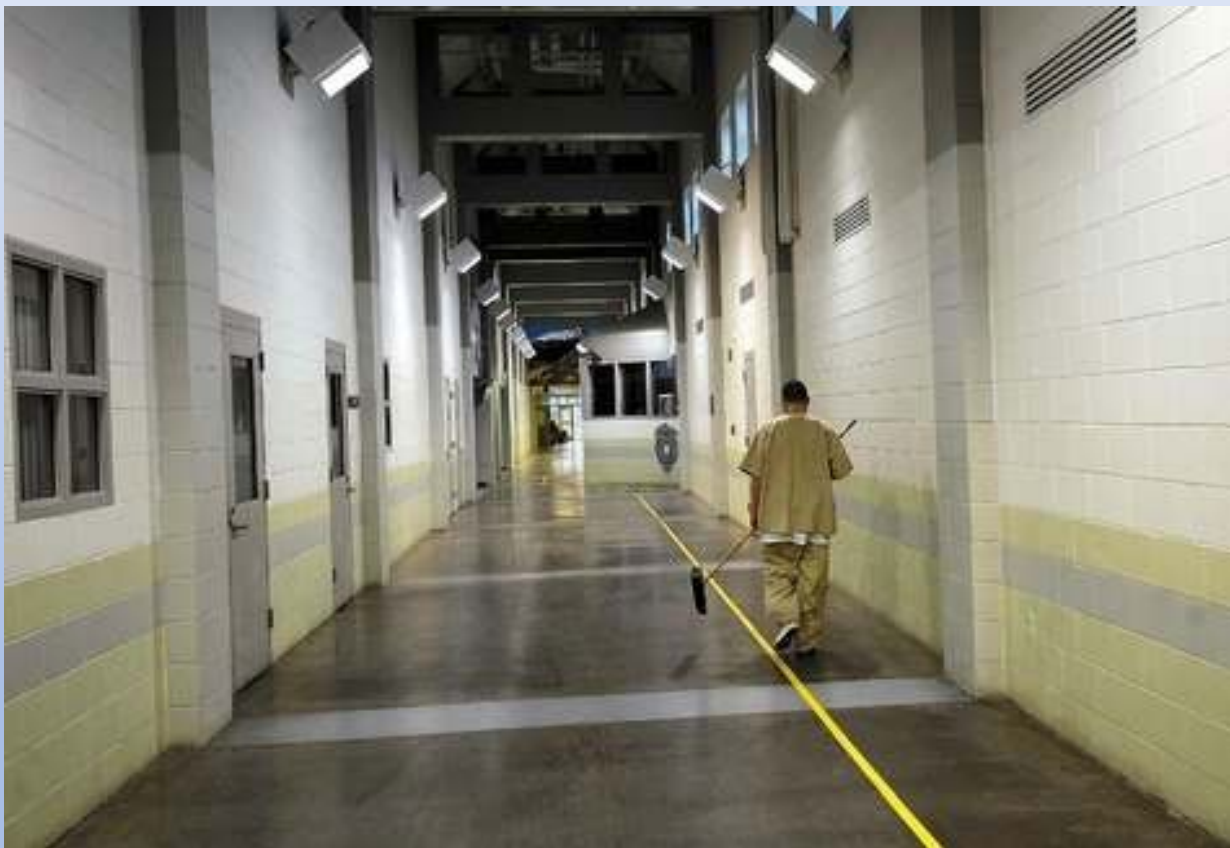
Regions Program for Boys, Hamden, CT



Connecticut Adult Sentences for Children

- Children 15 or older who have committed felonies may be sentenced by an adult court. Those who have committed class A or B felonies are automatically transferred.
- They are held in Manson Youth Institution, a high-security facility for men under 21 and York Correctional Institution, a high-security women's prison
- Manson YI has been found to violate the 8th and 14th amendments and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by the DOJ. It also failed to provide appropriate mental health care to children. The constitutional violations specifically involved solitary confinement of children

Manson Youth Institution, Cheshire, CT



Norwegian Youth Sentences

- Prison sentences only given when considered especially necessary
 - Maximum 15 years sentence
 - Only one child has ever been sentenced to preventive detention
 - Sentences served in youth units, transferred to adult units when they turn 18
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- Alternative “youth penalty” for moderately serious crimes served at home with frequent follow-up meetings
 - Option to transfer sentenced child to childcare institution

Romerike Prison, Kløfta, Norway



This is an adult cell; juveniles are housed in a different division