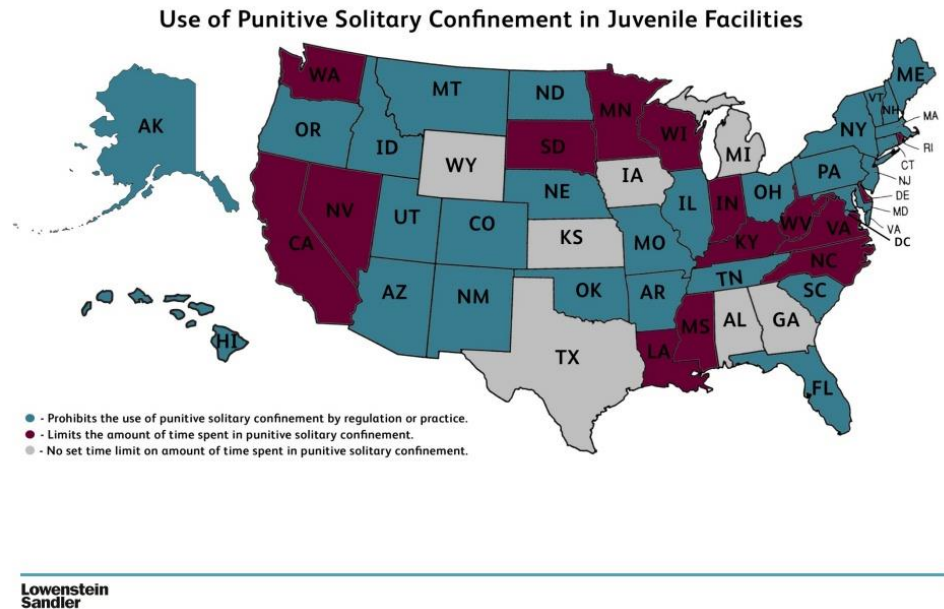


# UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE AND USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN JUVENILE FACILITIES

In 2016, the **Lowenstein Sandler Center for the Public Interest** found that “of the 29 states that ban punitive solitary confinement, at least 25 continue to use solitary confinement for other purposes, such as safety concerns,” and many permit indefinite extensions of time limits. Since then, California has also prohibited solitary confinement for disciplinary purposes. Still, no state yet has a complete ban on all juvenile solitary confinement.



SOURCE: NATALIE J. KRANER ET AL., LOWENSTEIN CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST, 51—JURISDICTION SURVEY OF JUVENILE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT RULES IN JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS 2 (2016), <https://www.lowenstein.com/files/upload/51-Jurisdiction%20Survey%20of%20Juvenile%20Solitary%20Confinement%20Rules.pdf>.

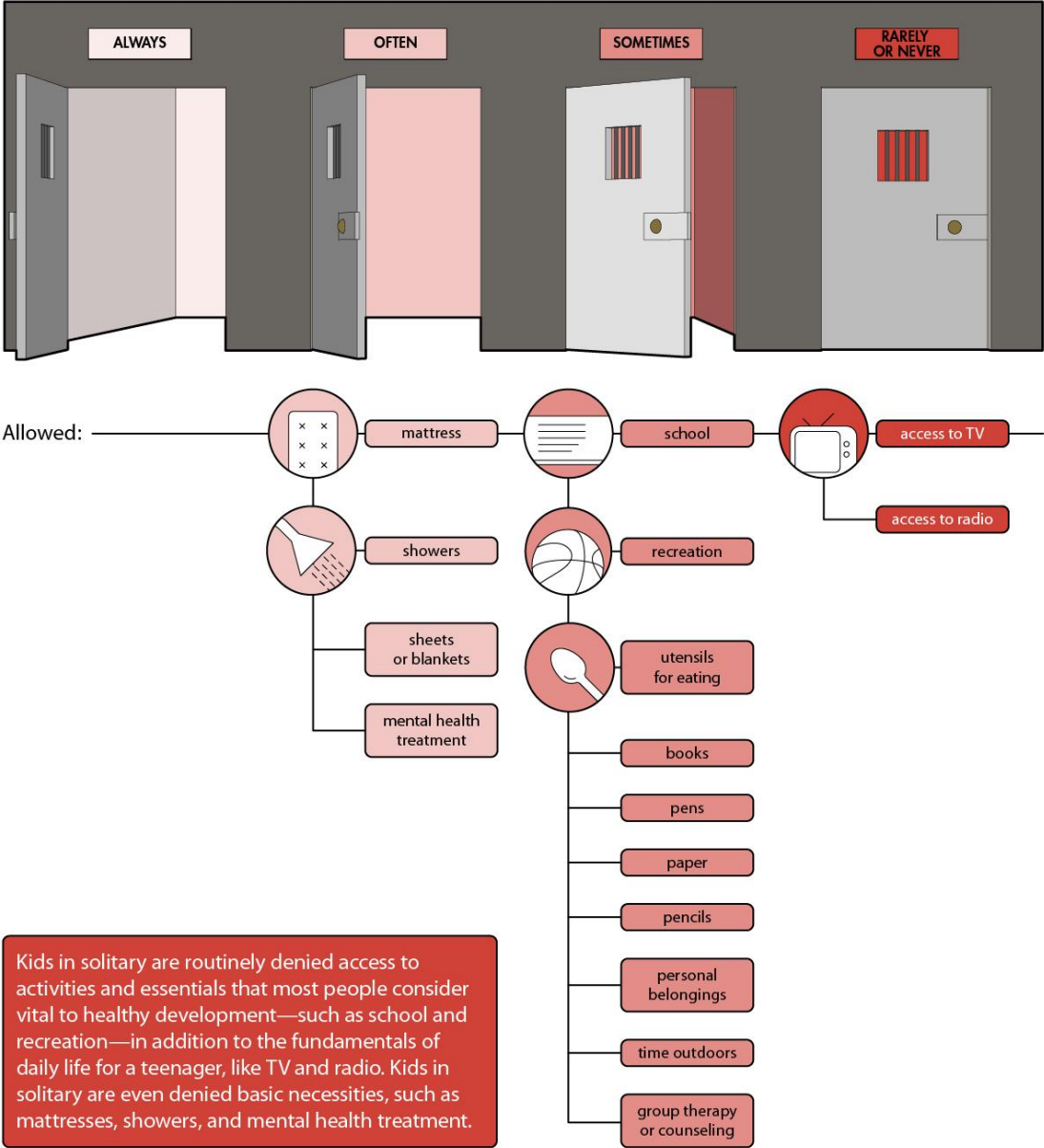
## Results from Juvenile Law Center’s 2016 National Survey of Juvenile Defenders:

### Solitary confinement of youth is:

- **Common:** More than two-thirds of respondents reported that they had clients who spent time in solitary confinement. Of those, approximately 40% said that a quarter or more of their clients had been exposed to the practice.
- **Imposed for many different reasons:** Respondents reported that young people could be placed in solitary confinement for a wide variety of reasons, including discipline, to prevent self-harm, to protect others, “in cases of emergency,” due to understaffing, and for “administrative convenience.”
- **Imposed with few due process protections:** More than two-thirds of respondents reported that youth “never” receive a hearing before being placed in solitary confinement, and none reported that youth always get a hearing.
- **Called by many different names:** Including “Room Confinement,” “Special Management,” “Isolation,” “Lockdown,” “The Hole,” “Green Card,” “Time Out,” and “Administrative Detention,” “Disciplinary Detention”

**And there is significant variation in practice around the country:** Typical time youth spent in solitary ranged from “several hours” to 90 days. The longest period of time defenders reported that a client had spent in solitary ranged from 23 hours to 7 months.

# A Kid’s Life In “The Box”: The Harsh Reality of Solitary Confinement



*Juvenile Law Center asked juvenile defenders around the country about the conditions their clients experience when in solitary confinement, and their answers reveal just how bleak and isolating life can be for these young people. In our survey, defenders indicated whether youth “always,” “sometimes,” or “never” have access to certain items and activities while in solitary confinement.*