

The Satanic Temple

Solitary Confinement Fact Sheet

1. The United Nations has deemed that solitary confinement of anyone under age 18, for any duration, constitutes cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.ⁱ
2. No evidence-based research has ever demonstrated that the use of solitary confinement or physical has any therapeutic benefit or is effective at promoting pro-social behavior.ⁱⁱ
3. Despite successful efforts to dramatically reduce the use of solitary confinement in prisons on the grounds that it is inhumane and ineffective, use of solitary confinement in schools continues to increase.^{iii iv}
4. The use of solitary confinement risks causing or exacerbating mental disabilities or other serious mental health problems in adolescents.^v
5. Adverse cognitive effects can also ensue from solitary confinement including memory loss, impulsive behavior, and impaired thinking.^{vi}
6. Use of solitary confinement can also impact physical health by inducing anxiety, disrupting sleep habits resulting in lethargy and difficulty sleeping, instilling loss of appetite, as well as prompting headaches and frequent nightmares.^{vii}
7. Use of seclusion and restraint promotes aggressive behavior.^{viii}
8. Use of solitary confinement has been attributed to physical self-harm and, in some cases, even suicide.^{ix}
9. Allowing school faculty to confine and restrain children has profoundly chilling constitutional implications.^x
10. A US Government Accountability Office report determined that *hundreds* of cases of abuse and death were attributable to the use seclusion and restraints.^{xi}

ⁱ UN Human Rights Council, Interim Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan Mendez, U.N. G.A. Doc. A/66/268, August 5, 2011.

ⁱⁱ L.M. Finke, The Use of Seclusion is Not an Evidence-Based Practice, 14 *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, 186 (2001).; K.H. Millstein & N.S. Cotton, Predictors of the Use of Seclusion on an Inpatient Child Psychiatric Unit, 29 *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* 256, 256-64 (1990); W. K. Mohr & J.A. Anderson, Faulty Assumptions Associated With the Use of Restraints With Children, 14 *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing* 141 (2001); D.E. Miller., The Management of Misbehavior by Seclusion, 4(1) *Residential Treatment for Children and Youth* 63 (1986)

ⁱⁱⁱ Weiser, Benjamin. "New York State in Deal to Limit Solitary Confinement." *NY Times*. Feb 19, 2014.

^{iv} Kuriakose, Sabina. "Seclusion Rooms Used 23,000 Times in Connecticut Schools." *NBC Connecticut*. Nov 20, 2013. <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/investigations/LWRD-Seclusion-Rooms-Used-23000-Times-in-Connecticut-Schools-232611351.html>

^v Growing Up Locked Down Youth in Solitary Confinement in Jails and Prisons Across the United States. *Human Rights Watch/ACLU* October 2012. Page 23.

^{vi} Grassian, Stuart, "Psychopathological effects of solitary confinement" *American Journal of Psychiatry Online* 1983; 140: 1450–1454.

^{vii} See note v

^{viii} National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), Seclusion and Restraint Position Statement as Revised by NASMHPD Forensic Division and Accepted by NASMHPD Membership (7/15/07), http://www.nasmhpd.org/general_files/position_statement/S&R%20position%20statement.Forensic%20Div.%20prop.%20approved%20by%20NASMHPD.07.07.final.pdf

^{ix} National Disability Rights Network, School is Not Supposed to Hurt, 7 (2009), <http://www.ndrn.org/sr/SR-Report.pdf>, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc., Unsafe in the SchoolHouse: Abuse of Children with Disabilities, 4 (2009), http://www.copaa.org/pdf/UnsafeCOPAAMay_27_2009.pdf, D.E. Miller., The Management of Misbehavior by Seclusion, 4(1) *Residential Treatment for Children and Youth* 63, 63-73 (1986).

^x Kennedy SS, Mohr WK. A prolegomenon on restraint of children: implicating constitutional rights. *Am J Orthopsychiatry* 2001 January;71(1):26-37

^{xi} GAO-09-719T: Seclusions and restraints-selected cases of death and abuse at public and private schools and treatment centers: Testimony before the Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, 111th Cong. 3 (2009) (testimony of Gregory D. Kutz).