

## RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

## Minorities overrepresented in Illinois juvenile correctional facilities

Overrepresentation of minorities, primarily blacks, exists in the Illinois Department of Corrections Juvenile Division, according to an IDOC data analysis.

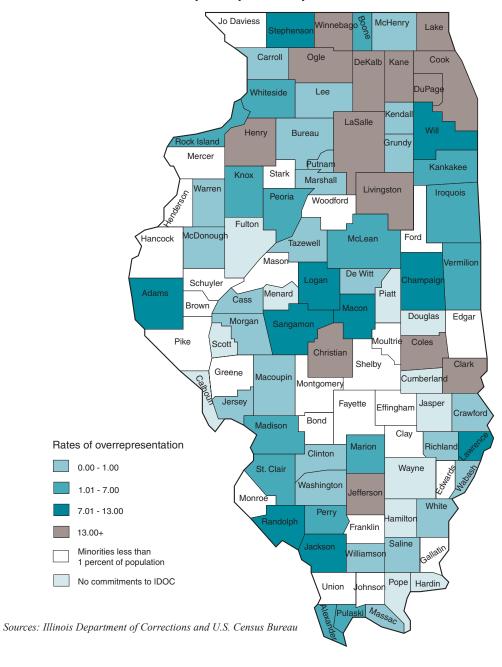
In state fiscal year 2004 (FY04), minorities accounted for 63 percent of all juveniles being detained in the IDOC Juvenile Division despite representing only 42 percent of the general population. Black youth, who make up only 18 percent of the general population, comprised 52 percent of the IDOC Juvenile Division population.

Black youth were found to be 4.27 times more likely than white youth to be committed to a youth center in IDOC's Juvenile Division. Hispanic youth had the same commitment rate as whites.

Also, black youth were five times more likely than white youth to be committed for drug crimes, at 81 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

Disproportionate minority confinement is measured by the relative rate index, comparing incarceration rates of minorities with those of a reference group. Minority overrepresentation occurs when the index exceeds 1.00 (*Figure 1*). White youth served as the reference group in this data analysis.

Figure 1
Relative rate indices by county for black youth in IDOC, FY04



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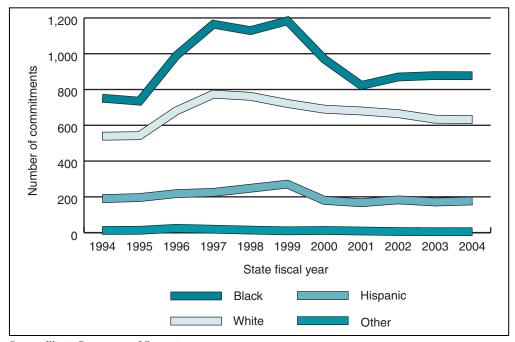
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A 17 percent increase was seen in the number of black youths entering the Illinois Department of Corrections Juvenile Division between state fiscal years 1994 and 2004 (*Figure 2*).

Of youth committed to IDOC's Juvenile Division in state fiscal year 2004, 52 percent were black, 37 percent were white, 10 percent were Hispanic, and less than 1 percent were Asian or American Indian.

Figure 2

Juvenile IDOC commitments by race, state fiscal years 1994 to 2004



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

