

Juvenile justice system data

Population data

The understanding and use of population data is critical to putting into context the juvenile justice data contained in this report. Population data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau is needed to calculate crime rates and the measures of disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system. Rates are calculated using the youth population ages 10 to 16, the age range at which youth are typically held responsible for the offenses they commit by the Illinois juvenile justice system. In 2005, about 1.3 million youth ages 10 to 16 were living in Illinois, according to the U.S. Census.

Data elements contained in this report include Youth Population by County (ages 10-16) and Youth Population by Race and Ethnicity by County (ages 10-16). Both are provided by county in the data tables section in Appendix H.

Arrest data

In Illinois, an **arrest** refers to the taking into custody a youth who is believed to have committed a delinquent act (705 *ILCS* 405/5-401). Once a youth is arrested, a **juvenile police officer** may:

- Charge the youth with an offense and refer him or her to the state's attorney's office for prosecution or to probation for **intake screening**.
- Initiate a formal or informal **station adjustment**. With use of station adjustment, the youth's case is not referred to the court for prosecution and the youth is released to a parent or guardian under specified conditions, such as obeying curfew, attending school, performing community service, and participating in social services. With an informal station adjustment, there is no admission of guilt by the minor. In a formal station adjustment, the youth admits to having been involved in the offense (705 *ILCS* 405/5-301).
- Release the youth without charging him or her.

Under the I-UCR program, all Illinois law enforcement agencies are required to report monthly offense and arrest data to the Illinois State Police. Since 1995 I-UCR program has only collected aggregate-level offense and arrest data from law enforcement agencies across the state. **Index offenses**, which include **property, violent, and drug crime index** offenses, in addition to supplemental data on domestic crimes, crimes against children, crimes against school personnel, and hate crimes. These aggregate totals combine offense data across gender, race, and age. Unfortunately, the collection of aggregate-level offense and arrest data prevents researchers from comparing offender characteristics by age and other important variables.

An alternate source for youth arrest data is Illinois' central repository for criminal history record information, ISP's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system. The Criminal Identification Act (20 *ILCS* 2630/5) mandates that an arrest fingerprint card be submitted for all minors age 10 and over who have been arrested for an offense which would be a felony if committed by an

adult, or one or both of two serious motor vehicle offenses—aggravated eluding of a police officer (625 *ILCS* 5/11-204.1), or driving under the influence (625 *ILCS* 5/11-501).

Fingerprint-based arrest cards for minors age 10 and over who have committed an offense that would be a class A or B misdemeanor if committed by an adult may be submitted to ISP, but are not required. Further, the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998 mandated that ISP maintain a record of all station adjustments, both formal and informal, for offenses that would be a felony if committed by an adult. The reporting of station adjustments for misdemeanor offenses is optional.

The Authority, in cooperation with ISP, has established an in-house computer linkage to certain data elements of the CCH system's back-up database for research purposes. The Authority has begun to assess the quality of the juvenile criminal history record information contained in CCH and its suitability for research purposes.

Preliminary analyses conducted on yearly datasets (1999-2001) extracted from CCH focused on compliance with the new youth arrest reporting requirements. As with adult criminal history records kept in CCH, which are audited periodically by the Authority, various reporting issues affect the quality of juvenile CCH data. For example, changes in reporting requirements, coupled with the advent of electronic reporting technology, such as the Livescan fingerprint recording system, led to a 217 percent increase in the total statewide volume of youth arrests reported to ISP from 1999 to 2001.

In 1999, prior to the reporting requirement changes, close to 40 percent of the largest police departments in the state were not submitting youth arrest cards to ISP. By 2001, close to 90 percent of all police departments in the most populated areas were reporting youth arrests. However, even though the percentage of jurisdictions reporting had increased, the volume of arrests expected in a given area, when using Census Bureau population estimates to create a rough benchmark, was found to be adequate in only 22 counties. In other words, while the number of jurisdictions reporting increased, the number of arrests reported was not as high as expected. Because of these data issues, arrest trends between 1999 and 2001 cannot be reliably calculated using CCH data.

Further, as with any data reporting system, the CCH data will always be limited to those events it is designed to capture, namely, arrests documented by an arrest fingerprint card submitted to ISP. Although these issues are challenges to the research utility of CCH, the data provided by CCH can potentially fill a gap that exists in the I-UCR program, particularly as youth arrest reporting practices increase and become more standardized across the state. The Authority, through its direct computer linkage with CCH, continues to monitor progress in this regard.

An additional limitation of arrest data collected through CCH is the lack of ethnic and demographic categories. Demographic information is collected by race, including white, black, Asian, and American Indian, but data on ethnicity, such as Hispanic, is not collected. The omission of ethnicity is a result of nationally standardized electronic reporting to the FBI, which does not include ethnicity. As a result, the race categories used by CCH may not be comparable

to race categories used by detention, corrections and other agencies that include ethnicity in their race codes.

Another challenge juvenile data collection and analysis is that the number of juvenile arrests in any given time period may change due to arrest record expungements.

In light of these data quality issues, the data on youth arrests and the characteristics of those arrested should not be viewed as an absolute measure of youth crime in Illinois.

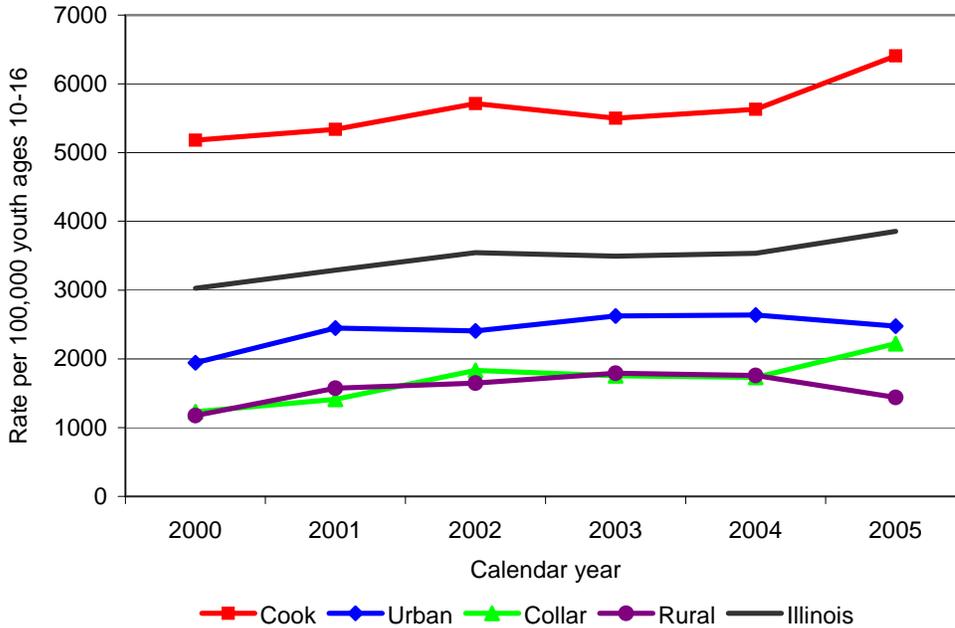
Data summary

This research analysis was conducted using arrest data collected in 2000 and later, when revisions to the Juvenile Court Act had been implemented and data reporting had improved with tighter requirements and use of electronic reporting technology.

From 2000 to 2005, overall youth arrests increased 30 percent, from 38,246 to 49,886. This count of arrests totals the number of fingerprint cards filed, rather than the unique number of youth arrested. Observed increases in youth arrests can be attributed in part to improved arrest data collection and entry rather than an increase in youth arrests or youth crime. Counties that have a higher number of youth arrests may be counties in which local law enforcement agencies are fully complying with youth arrest reporting requirements or are also reporting misdemeanor arrests, which is encouraged, but not required.

In 2005, there were a total of 49,886 youth arrests in Illinois (*Figure 13*). Arrests for property offenses accounted for one-third of all youth arrests. Arrests for violent or person offenses accounted for 30 percent of all youth arrests and arrests for a drug offense accounted for 14 percent of all youth arrests. Arrests for weapons offenses accounted for 2 percent. Sex offenses accounted for 0.9 percent of all arrests. Offense categories—property, violent, drug, sex offenses—were created based on the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

Figure 13
Rate of reported arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10-16,
by county classification, 2000-2005



Source: Illinois State Police

Sixty-one percent of youth arrested in 2005 were identified as black and 38 percent were identified as white. Hispanic youth arrested in 2005 could appear in any race category, depending on their specific ethnic background and the reporting practices of local law enforcement. Most youth arrestees were 15 or 16 years old (29 percent and 37 percent respectively). Most arrestees are also male (79 percent).

Map 1 compares county rate changes in youth arrests from 2000 to 2005.

Court data

After being arrested a youth may be referred to the county state's attorney for prosecution. A petition is filed when a decision is made to prosecute. The number of petitions filed in each county can be found in the data tables section in Appendix H.

The court may also choose to perform investigations that may inform court staff of a youth's background and prior history. The number of **juvenile/social investigation reports** conducted by a county's probation department is also included in the data tables section in Appendix H.

The most common type of petition filed is a delinquency petition. **Delinquency petitions** are filed when a youth is alleged to be **delinquent**; that is, the youth allegedly violated or attempted to violate a state or federal statute, or a municipal or county ordinance. Once a delinquency petition is filed, a number of possible scenarios may follow. New information may come to light that results in the state's attorney dismissing the petition against the youth, a plea agreement, or referral to a diversionary program.

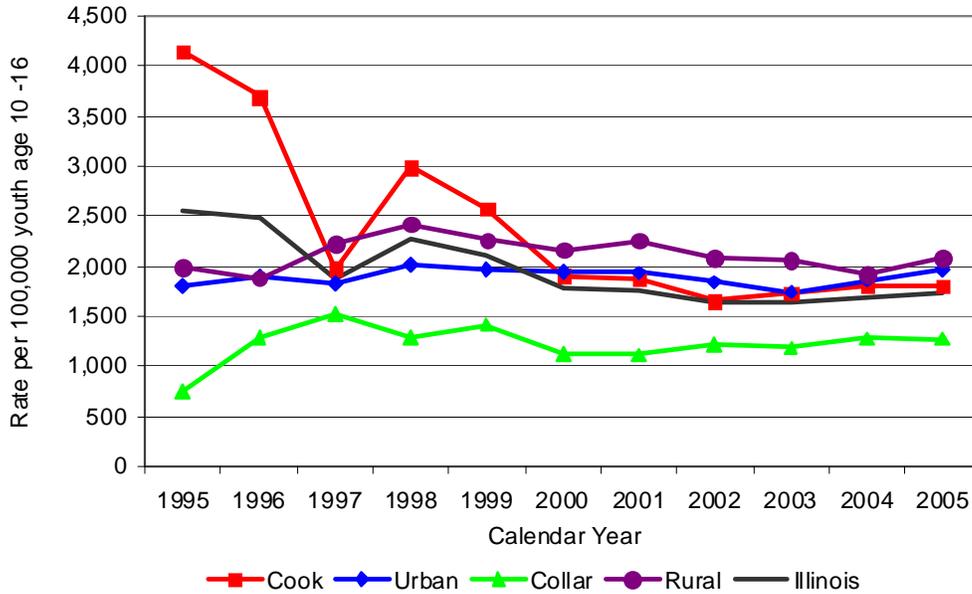
If none of these scenarios occur, an **adjudicatory hearing**, or **trial**, is held to determine whether the allegations against the youth are supported by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. If the youth is adjudicated delinquent, a **dispositional hearing** or **sentencing hearing** is held. After the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998 were enacted, the terms "adjudicatory hearing" and "dispositional hearing" were changed to "trial" and "sentencing hearing," respectively, to reflect the terms used in criminal court.

Data summary

Delinquency petitions

There was a steady decrease in the number of delinquency petitions filed statewide over the period studied. From 1995 to 2005, the number of delinquency petitions filed in Illinois decreased by 28 percent. This decline was driven in part by a 53 percent decline in delinquency petitions filed in Cook County between 1995 and 2005. *Figure 14* depicts the rate of delinquency petitions filed by county classification.

Figure 14
Rate of delinquency petitions filed per 100,000 youth age 10-16,
by county classification, 1995- 2005

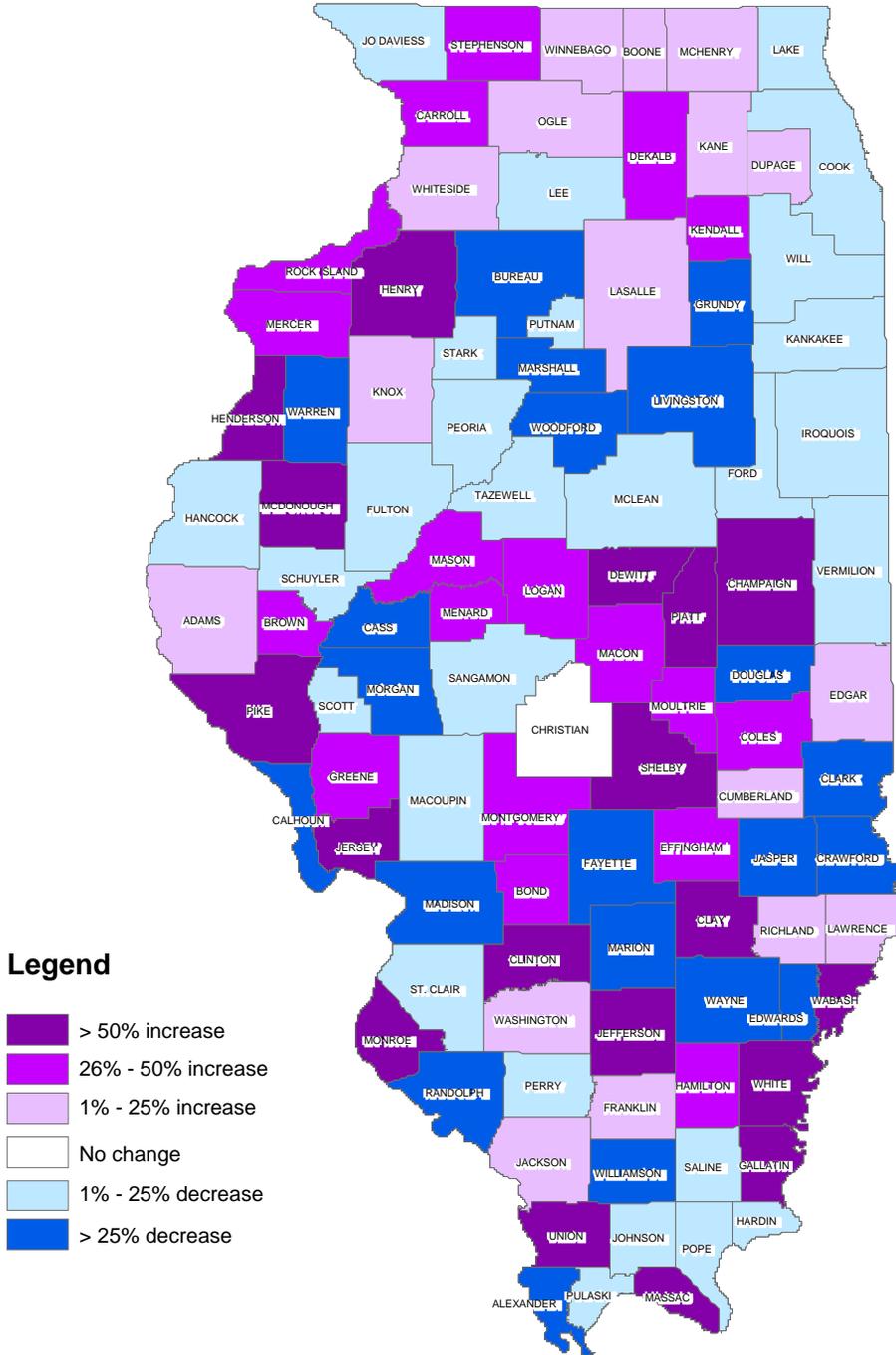


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Delinquency petition data for Cook County in 1997 were only available for January through June, which accounts for the dip depicted in the line graph in *Figure 14*.

From 2000 to 2005, the number of delinquency petitions filed statewide fell by 1 percent from 22,645 to 22,358. However, the rate of delinquency petitions filed slightly increased between 2004 and 2005. *Map 2* shows the percent change in the rate of delinquency petitions filed by county from 2000 to 2005.

Map 2
Percent change in rate of delinquency petitions filed in Illinois, 2000-2005

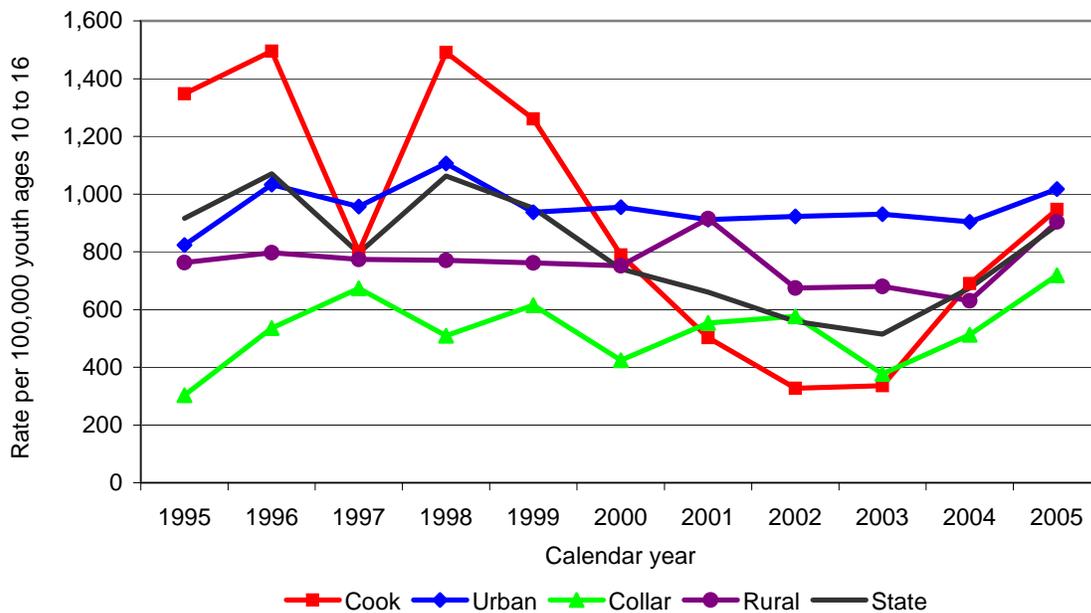


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adjudications

In Illinois, the rate of adjudications of delinquency decreased slightly from 1995 to 2005. However, in 2003 the state rate of adjudications per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16 was 515, the lowest rate since 1989 before increasing in CY04. *Figure 15* depicts the rate of youth adjudicated delinquent by county classification. Adjudication data for Cook County in 1997 were only available for January through June, which accounts for the dip depicted in the line graph in *Figure 15*.

Figure 15
Rate of youth adjudicated delinquent per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16, by county classification, 1995-2005

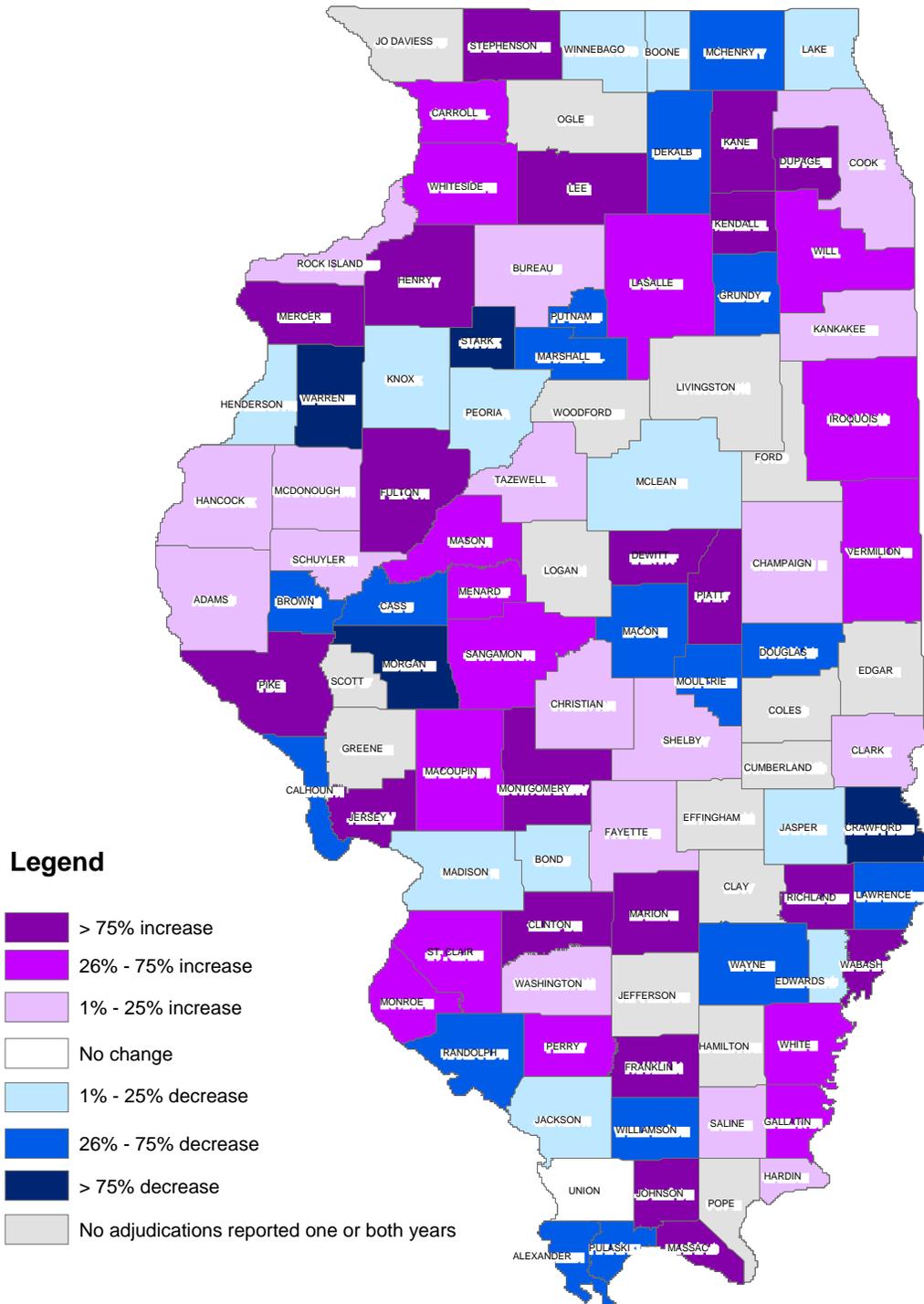


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

A 22 percent increase occurred in the number of adjudications between 2000 and 2005, from 9,357 to 11,455. From 2000 to 2005, Cook County had a 20 percent increase in adjudications of delinquency. A 73 percent increase in the statewide rate of adjudications of delinquency was seen most recently, from a rate of 515 in 2003 to 891 in 2005.

Map 3 shows the percent change in the rate of youth adjudicated delinquent by county from 2000 to 2005.

Map 3
Percent change in rate of youth adjudicated delinquent in Illinois, 2000 - 2005



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Detention data

Once a police officer takes a youth into custody, he or she considers the need for placement in a **detention** facility, based on flight risk and whether the youth is a danger to himself or the community. If detention seems appropriate, the officer will contact the agency responsible for formal detention screening (typically a probation department or detention center) and request detention screening. If the officer decides not to request detention, the youth is released to a parent or guardian.

With detention screening, it is the screener's responsibility to determine whether the youth requires detainment. A **detention screening instrument** is used in nearly all Illinois jurisdictions. The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts is developing and piloting a new screening instrument. See Appendix E for a copy of the detention screening instrument being used across Illinois.

Detention decisions are made based on a final screening score. Points are assigned based on the severity of the current offense, the youth's prior involvement with the juvenile justice system, whether or not the youth has missed previous court dates, and the youth's legal status. For most instruments in use in Illinois, if a youth scores 12 or more points, he or she is detained. If a youth scores seven to 11 points, the screener may release the youth, but apply a less restrictive or **non-secure custody** option, such as **home detention**. If a youth scores less than six points, he or she is released to a parent or guardian.

A detention screener may ask a supervisor for permission to override the score when aggravating or mitigating factors not found on the instrument are considered. For example, a youth arrested during a domestic dispute may not score enough to warrant detention, but the screener may request an override to keep the youth from returning to his or her home environment.

A **detention hearing** must be held within 40 hours of detainment. Once there is probable cause to believe the minor is delinquent, a continuation of detention can be based on any of the following: (1) secure custody is of immediate and urgent necessity for the minor's protection or the protection of another person or his or her property; (2) the minor is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court; or (3) the minor was arrested under a **warrant** (705 ILCS 405/5-501). Only youth 10 years of age or older can be held in a youth detention center. See Appendix D for a map of all Illinois detention centers operating in 2005.

Most **admissions** to youth detention centers are of youth who have been accused of committing delinquent acts but have not yet been adjudicated delinquent. The detainment of youth accused of delinquent acts but who have not yet had a trial is referred to as **pre-trial detention**.

Youth detention centers also are used for short periods of detention as part of a sentence. The detainment of youth following trial is referred to as a **post-trial detention**. Youth found delinquent can be ordered to serve up to 30 days in a county detention center, which includes time served prior to sentencing.

Data summary

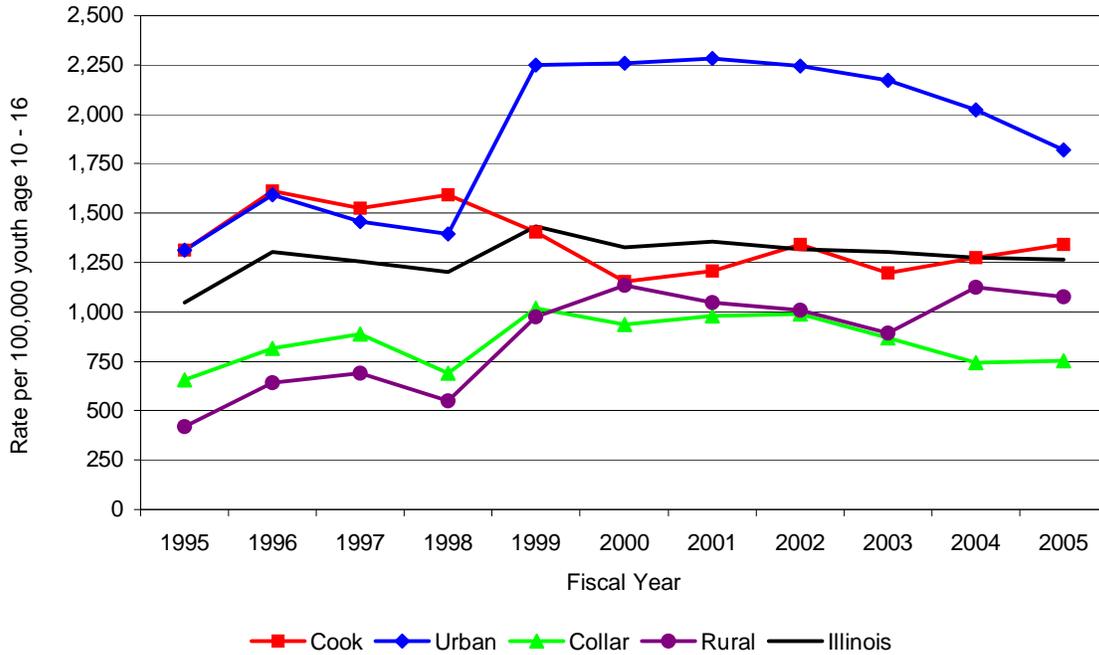
Data collected for the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts Annual Report to the Illinois Supreme Court and from the **Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS)** were used to examine admissions to Illinois youth detention centers from 2000 to 2005.

JMIS is a web-based management information system that allows all Illinois juvenile detention centers to electronically submit data and run data reports. The 2005 data extracted from JMIS can be separated by age, gender, race, and offense type for each admission. Most detention centers reported in 2005 to JMIS the number of admissions and the characteristics of the youth admitted. Although the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center did not report to JMIS in 2005, they provided the Authority with detention data for 2005. The Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center began JMIS data entry in 2006.

Detention offense categories used were based on the Illinois Compiled Statutes and are detailed in Appendix F. The JMIS system makes a distinction for juveniles admitted to detention for a warrant. Warrants can be issued for any type of crime. A warrant offense designation in the JMIS system indicates that the juvenile was admitted on the basis of an outstanding warrant, rather than the offense for which the warrant was issued.

In 2005, there were 16,284 admissions to secure detention statewide, an 11 percent decrease from the 18,245 admissions in 1995. In 2005 60 percent of detention admissions were black youth, 28 percent were white youth, and 11 percent were Hispanic youth. Most youth admitted to detention were male (83 percent). A total of 26 percent of youth admissions to detention were due to a violent offense, followed by property offenses (23 percent) and warrant offenses (22 percent). Cook County detention admission data by offense category were unavailable.

Figure 16: Rate of admissions to secure detention per 100,000 youth age 10-16 by county classification, CY95 - 2005



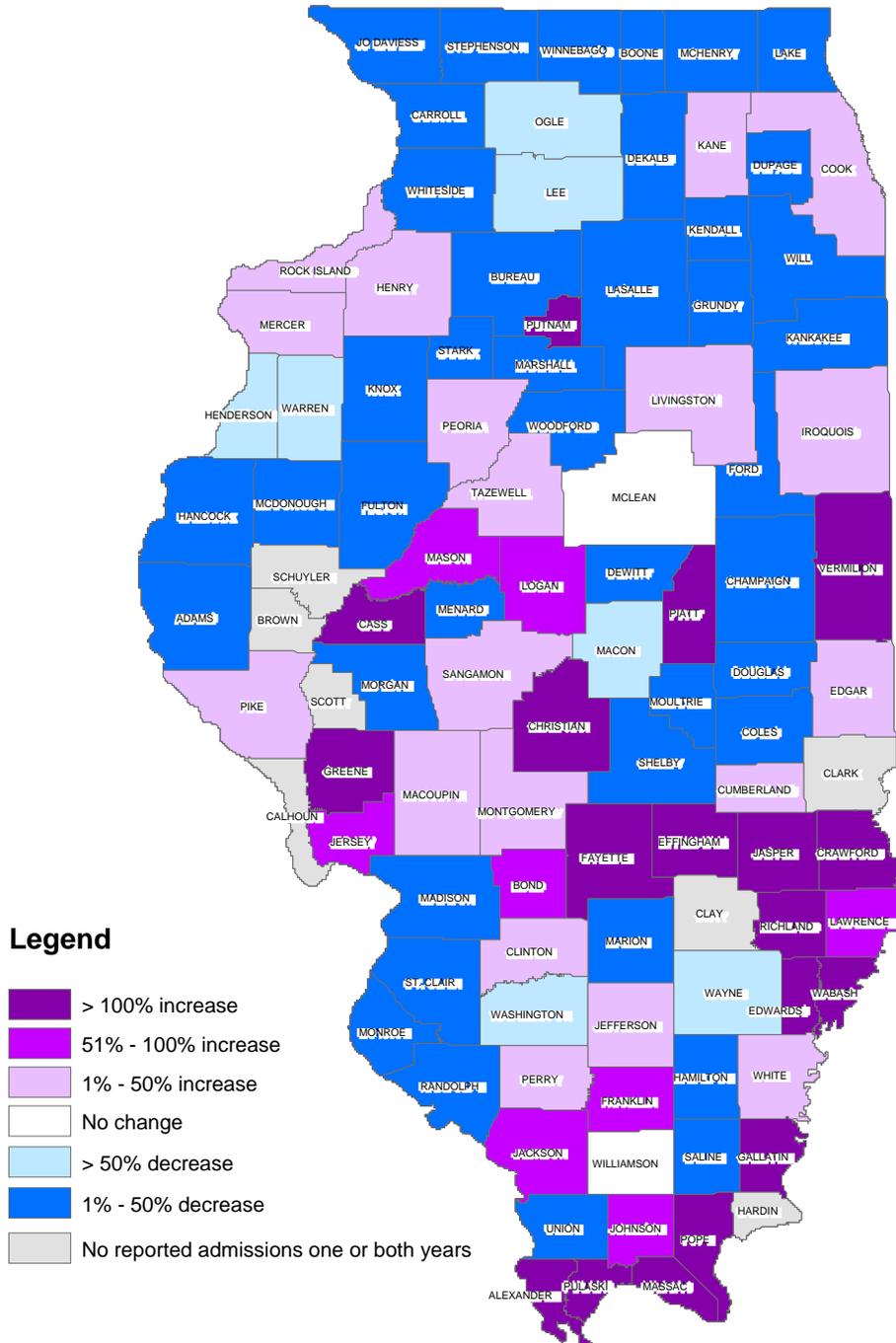
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and Juvenile Monitoring Information System

The state rate of annual detention admissions increased slightly in the 10 years examined from 1995 to 2005. In 2005, the rate of detention admissions was 1,267 admissions per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16. *Figure 16* shows the rate of youth admissions to secure detention by county classification from 1995 to 2005.

Map 4 depicts the percent change in the rate of county level detention center admissions between 2000 and 2005.

In Illinois in 2005, the **average daily population** of youth in detention centers was 970. The **average length of stay** is based on the admission and release dates of youth in detention. The average length of stay of youth in detention was 15 days. For county-level data, refer to the data tables section in Appendix H.

Map 4
Percent change in rate of youth admissions to secure detention in Illinois, 2000- 2005



Source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System and Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center

Transfers to criminal court

Youth 13 years or older charged with more serious crimes can be transferred to adult criminal court. Four types of transfers may result in a youth being tried in criminal court. They include automatic transfer/excluded jurisdiction, mandatory transfer, presumptive transfer, and discretionary transfer (705 *ILCS* 405/5-805). The state's attorney's office files the transfer motion, and a juvenile court judge decides whether the motion should be granted.

Youth are excluded from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and **automatically transferred** to adult criminal court if they are 15 years of age or older and are alleged to have committed:

- First degree murder or another **forcible felony**.
- Aggravated discharge of a firearm in a school, on school property, within 1,000 feet of a school, at a school activity, or in a school vehicle.
- Any forcible felony when the youth had been previously adjudicated delinquent for another felony and the current alleged felony was related to gang activity.
- Any offense that would qualify for a presumptive transfer and the youth had been previously adjudicated delinquent for a forcible felony [705 *ILCS* 405/5-130(6)].

Excluded jurisdiction and automatic transfers mean that the criminal (adult) court is established as the original court of jurisdiction rather than the juvenile court (juvenile court is the original court of jurisdiction in presumptive and discretionary transfers). That is, cases in which the youth is automatically transferred or excluded from the juvenile court's jurisdiction are not originally heard in juvenile court, and the youth will from that point on be treated as an adult by the courts [705 *ILCS* 405/5-130(6)].

Mandatory transfer occurs when a motion is filed by a state's attorney to allow for the prosecution of a youth age 15 years or older for a forcible felony if the youth had been previously adjudicated delinquent and the offense was committed in furtherance of criminal activity of a gang, and a juvenile judge determines there is probable cause to believe that the allegations against the youth are true.

A **presumptive transfer** occurs when a youth age 15 years or older has allegedly committed a Class X felony other than armed violence; or if they allegedly committed aggravated discharge of a firearm, or other specified offenses, and a petition is filed by the state's attorney to permit the prosecution of the youth under criminal laws. Presumptive transfer will occur for these juveniles unless a juvenile court judge is able to make a finding based on **clear and convincing evidence** that the youth is amenable to the care, treatment, and training programs available through the facilities of the juvenile court.

A motion for **discretionary transfer** is made by the state's attorney to allow for prosecution of a youth 13 years of age or older under criminal laws. While there are no specific offenses associated with a discretionary transfer, the court will consider many factors before granting such a transfer, including the seriousness of the offense and the minor's prior record of delinquency.

Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) is the primary source of data on youth transferred to adult court in Illinois. Until 1999, AOIC collected aggregate-level information on the number of youth transferred to criminal court. Due to the manner in which these data were collected, however, it was not possible to determine the offenses for which the transfers took place, case sentencing following the transfer, or the demographic characteristics of the youth transferred. AOIC discontinued the reporting of these data in 1999.

The Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS) contains juvenile transfer data. However, JMIS can only provide the numbers of detained youth who were transferred to criminal court, but it is likely that the data can provide a reasonable approximation of the number of transfer cases outside of Cook County. As previously stated, the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center did not report to JMIS in 2005, therefore transfer data for Cook County were unavailable. Transfers reported to JMIS are shown in the data tables section in Appendix H.

Data summary

In 2005, 81 detained youth were transferred to the adult criminal court. In 2005, the counties with the most youth transfers were Jefferson, Peoria, and Richland with 16, seven, and seven transfers, respectively. Based on available data, the use of transfers to adult court is generally found in counties with large, urban populations. *Map 5* depicts the number of transfers of detained youth to adult court by county in 2005.

Probation data

Probation departments in Illinois provide services to youth adjudicated delinquent and alleged youth offenders whose cases are diverted from the juvenile court. Probation departments can provide **informal probation** supervision to alleged youth offenders on whom no delinquency petition has been filed. Additionally, probation departments can oversee youth whose cases are petitioned to court but have not been formally adjudicated. These types of probation cases or petitions may receive a **continuance under court supervision order**, requiring youth monitoring by the probation department for up to 24 months. While on supervision, the youth must meet special conditions, such as attending counseling sessions or completing community service work. The case is dismissed if the youth successfully completes the provisions of his or her supervision.

The primary function of **formal probation** is to provide the court with investigative and case supervision services for adjudicated delinquents. Youth adjudicated delinquent can be sentenced to probation for a maximum of five years or until age 21, whichever comes first. Youth who are non-delinquent but subject to conditions imposed by the court, such as **minors requiring authoritative intervention**, may receive **supervision** or supervised probation to ensure they follow requirements set by the court.

Probation departments also oversee court-ordered services and programs to which youth probationers are sentenced at disposition. Such services and programs include, but are not limited to, alcohol and drug treatment, mental health treatment, **Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, Inc.** (TASC) programs, **Unified Delinquency Intervention Services** programs, and **Job Training Participation Act** programs.

Probationers may also receive **community service** and be ordered to pay victim **restitution** costs. Youth may also be removed from their homes, or in some cases require **placement** in a **foster home, group home, residential treatment center**, or placement with a relative.

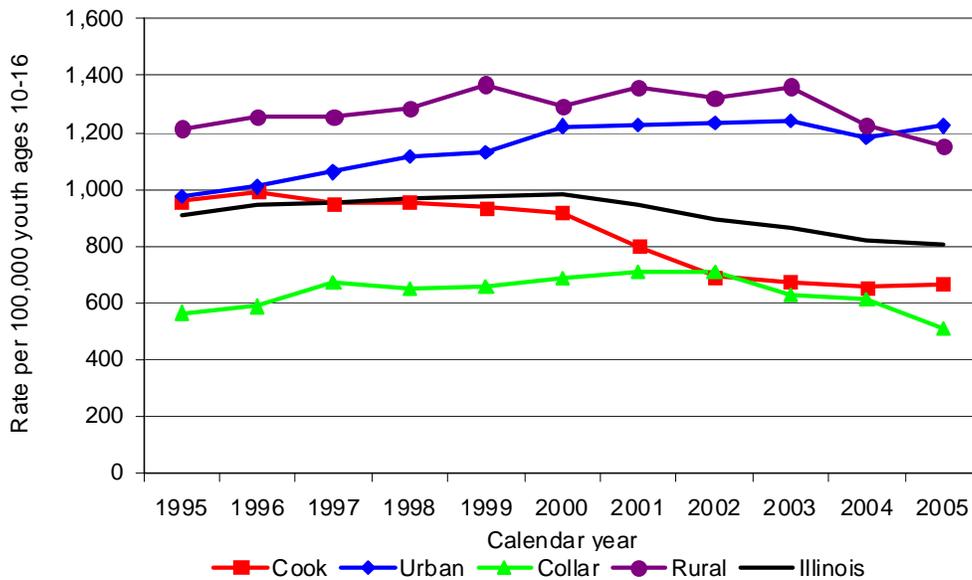
Data summary

Probation caseloads

AOIC collects aggregate-level **active probation caseload** information on the number of youth receiving informal supervision, those whose cases were continued under supervision, and those who are on formal county probation. These data, along with data on services ordered and youth placements, are shown in the data tables section in Appendix H.

Caseloads include only the number of active youth probation cases open on Dec. 31, 2005. A 6 percent decline was recorded in active probation caseloads from 1995 to 2005. There were 10,993 active probation caseloads in 1995 and 10,353 caseloads in 2005.

Figure 17
Rate of youth probation caseloads per 100,000 youth ages 10-16,
by county classification, 1995-2005

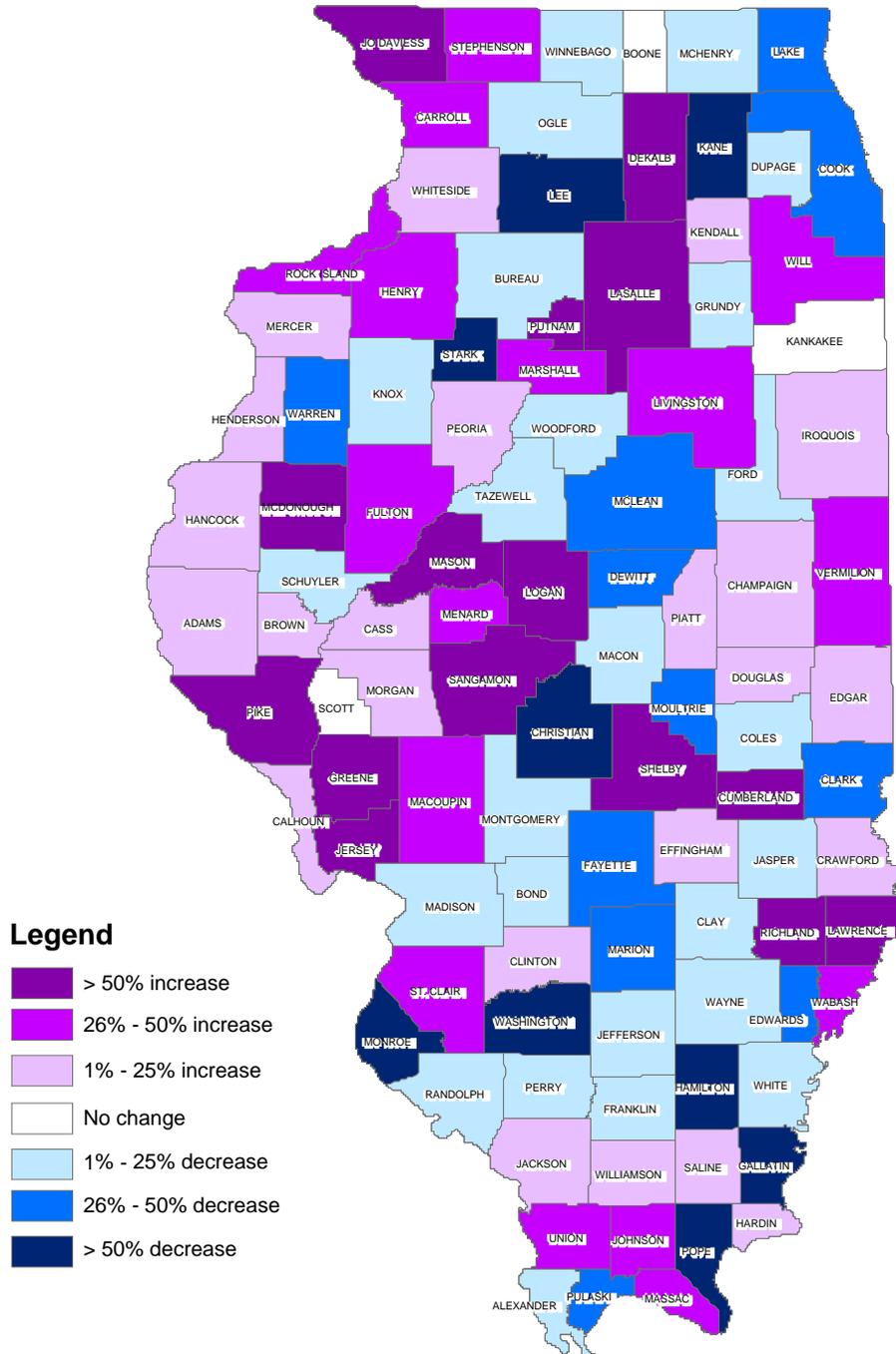


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
 Note: Rate of formal probation caseloads as of Dec. 31, 2005

The rate of formal probation caseloads statewide decreased from calendar years 1995 to 2005, peaking in 2000 before a slight decline through 2005. In 2005, the state rate of active youth probation caseloads was 805 per 100,000 youth age 10 to 16. The more populated counties of the state drove the recent decrease. *Figure 17* depicts the rate of youth probation caseloads by county classification from 1995 to 2005.

Map 6 depicts the percent change in the rate of youth probation caseloads in Illinois between 2000 and 2005.

Map 6
Percent change in rate of youth probation caseloads in Illinois,
2000 - 2005*

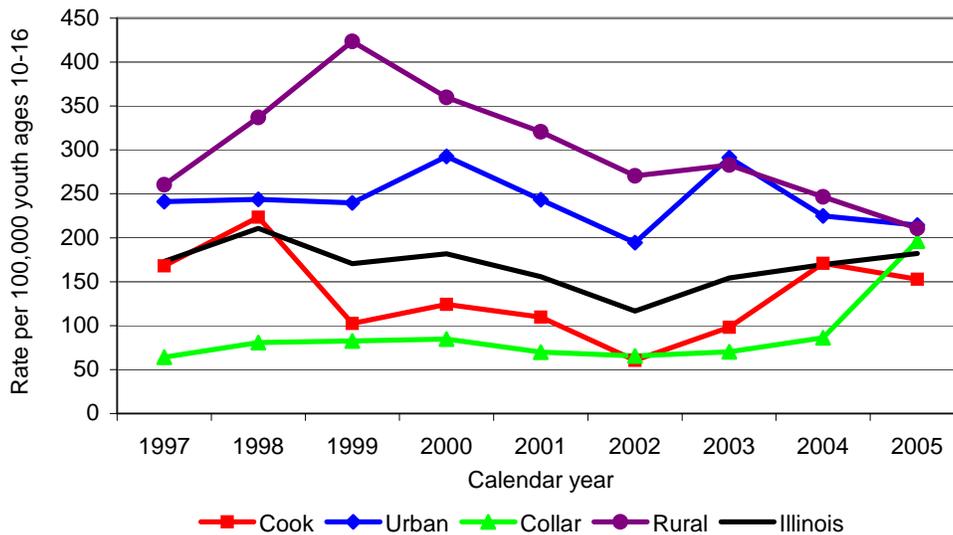


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
 *As of Dec. 31, 2005.

Informal probation caseloads

The state rate of active informal probation caseloads declined from calendar years 1997 to 2005. The state rate of informal probation on Dec. 31, 2005 was 182 caseloads per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16. Rural counties historically have had the highest rates of informal probation caseloads. Data for Cook County were unavailable for 1995 and 1996.

Figure 18
Rate of active informal probation caseloads per 100,000 youth ages 10-16, by county classification, 1997 – 2005*

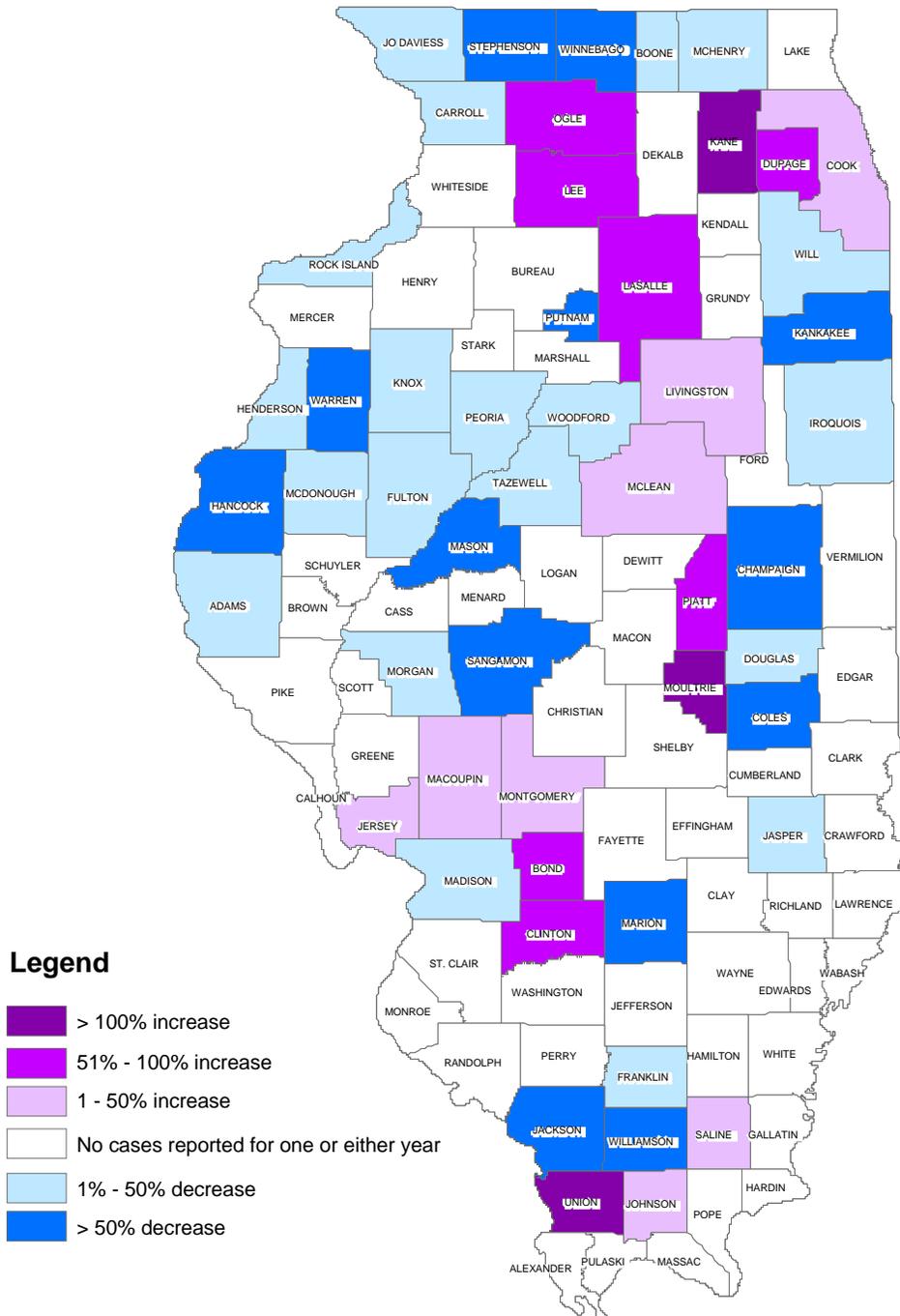


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
 * As of Dec. 31, 2005.

The number of active informal probation caseloads statewide increased 2 percent from 2,297 in calendar year 2000 to 2,339 in 2005. A total 30 counties had no active informal probation supervision caseloads in either calendar year 2000 or 2005.

There was a slight increase in the rate of active informal probation caseloads, from 117 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16 in 2002, to a rate of 182 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16 in 2005. This represents a 56 percent increase in the statewide rate. *Map 7* illustrates rate changes in informal youth probation caseloads in Illinois counties between 2000 and 2005.

Map 7
Percent change in rate of youth informal probation caseloads, 2000 - 2005*

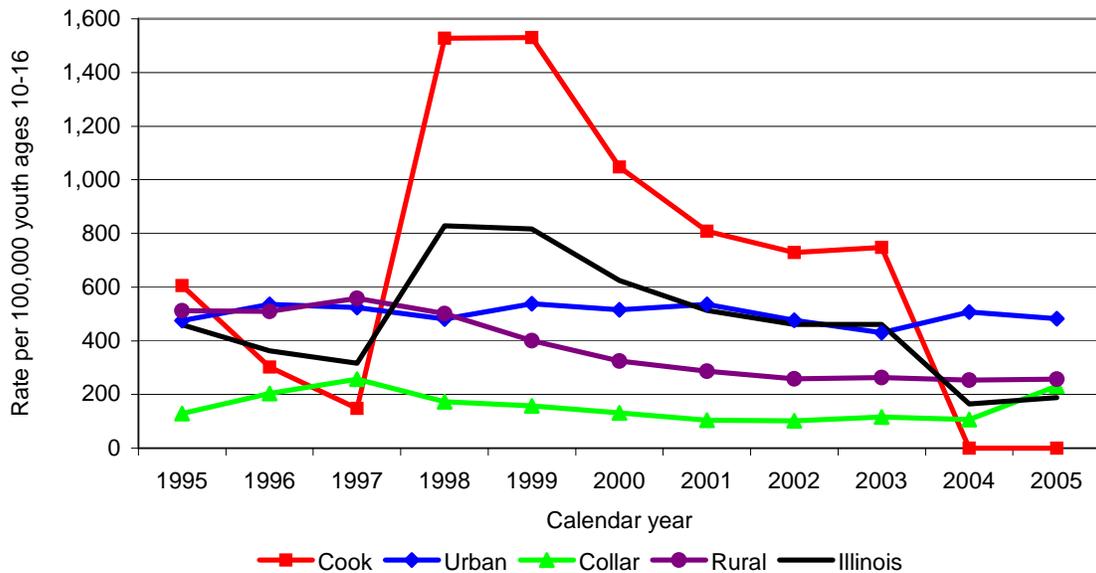


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
 * As of Dec. 31, 2000, and Dec. 31, 2005.

Cases continued under supervision

In Illinois, the court may order a continuance under supervision during court proceedings which may not exceed a 24-month period for youth alleged to be delinquent. During the time of the continuance, the youth must follow conditions of supervision determined by the court (705 ILCS 405/5-615). *Figure 19* shows the trend in rates of cases continued under supervision by county classification from 1995 to 2005. Data for Cook County for CY04 and 2005 were unavailable, which explains the dip in the line graph shown in *Figure 19*.

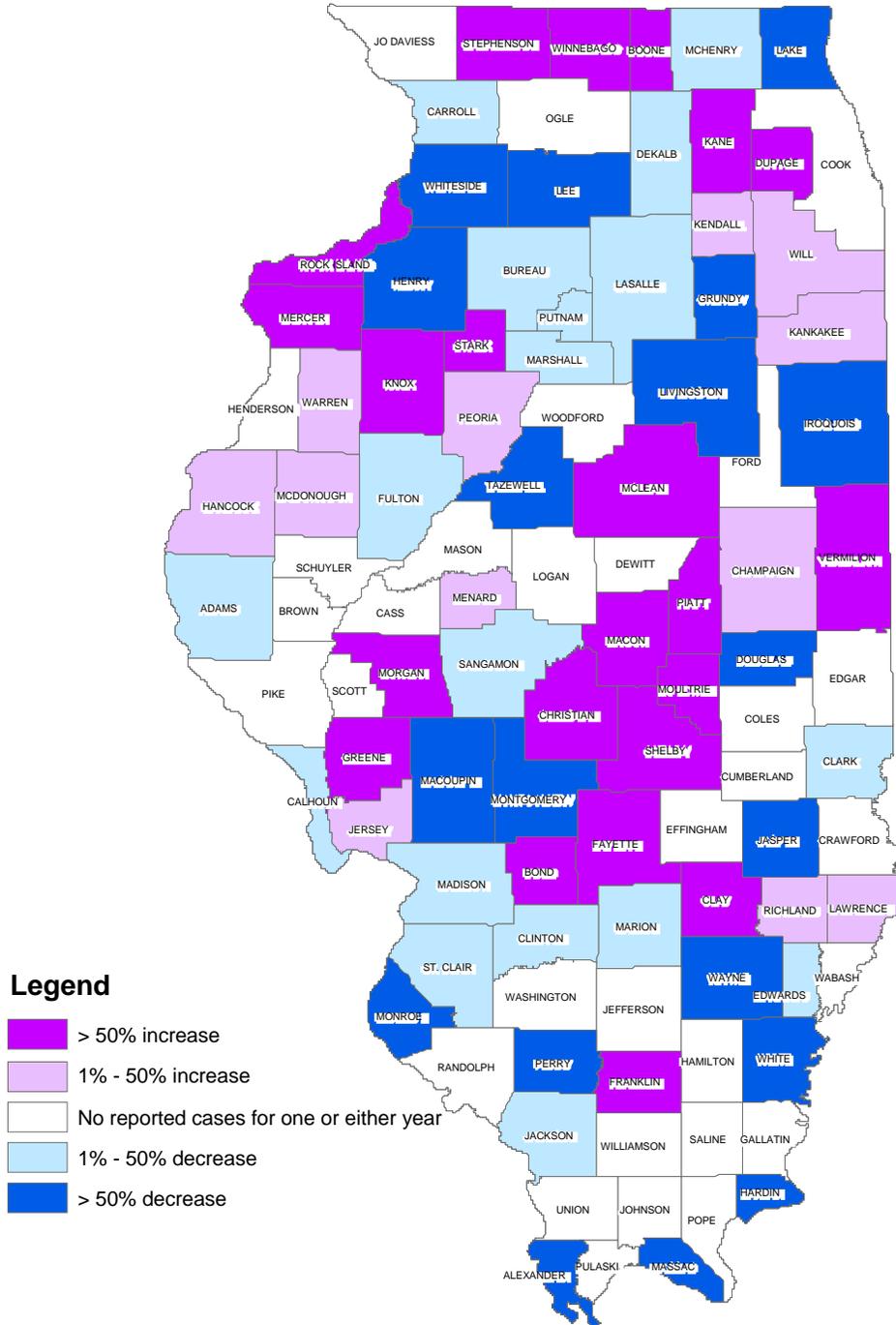
Figure 19
Rate of cases continued under supervision per 100,000 youth
ages 10-16, by county classification, 1995 – 2005



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
 Note: Cook County data for 2004 and 2005 were unavailable.

A decrease was noted in the number of delinquency cases continued under supervision from 2000 to 2005. However, Cook County reported zero cases continued under supervision to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. Without 2005 data on cases continued under supervision in Cook County, statewide trends are difficult to pinpoint. *Map 8* depicts the rate changes of cases continued under supervision by county between 2000 and 2005.

Map 8
Percent change in rate of youth continued under supervision in Illinois, 2000 - 2005



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Corrections data

Since the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice did not come into existence until July 1, 2006, the corrections data discussed in this report are for time periods no later than FY05. References are still made to the juvenile division of the Illinois Department of Corrections rather than the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) provides long-term custody in Illinois Youth Centers to youth ages 13 through 16. According to 730 *ILCS* 5/3-10-7(b), a youth may remain within the IDOC Juvenile Division until age 21, unless juvenile division administrators file a petition to transfer the youth to the **adult corrections** division or prison (under the guidelines set forth in 730 *ILCS* 5/3-10-7(a)). In 2005, youth were committed to one of eight Illinois Youth Centers located throughout Illinois (Appendix D). In FY05, the average annual cost of housing one youth in an Illinois Youth Center was \$70,827, although the cost per youth varies considerably across the centers.⁸

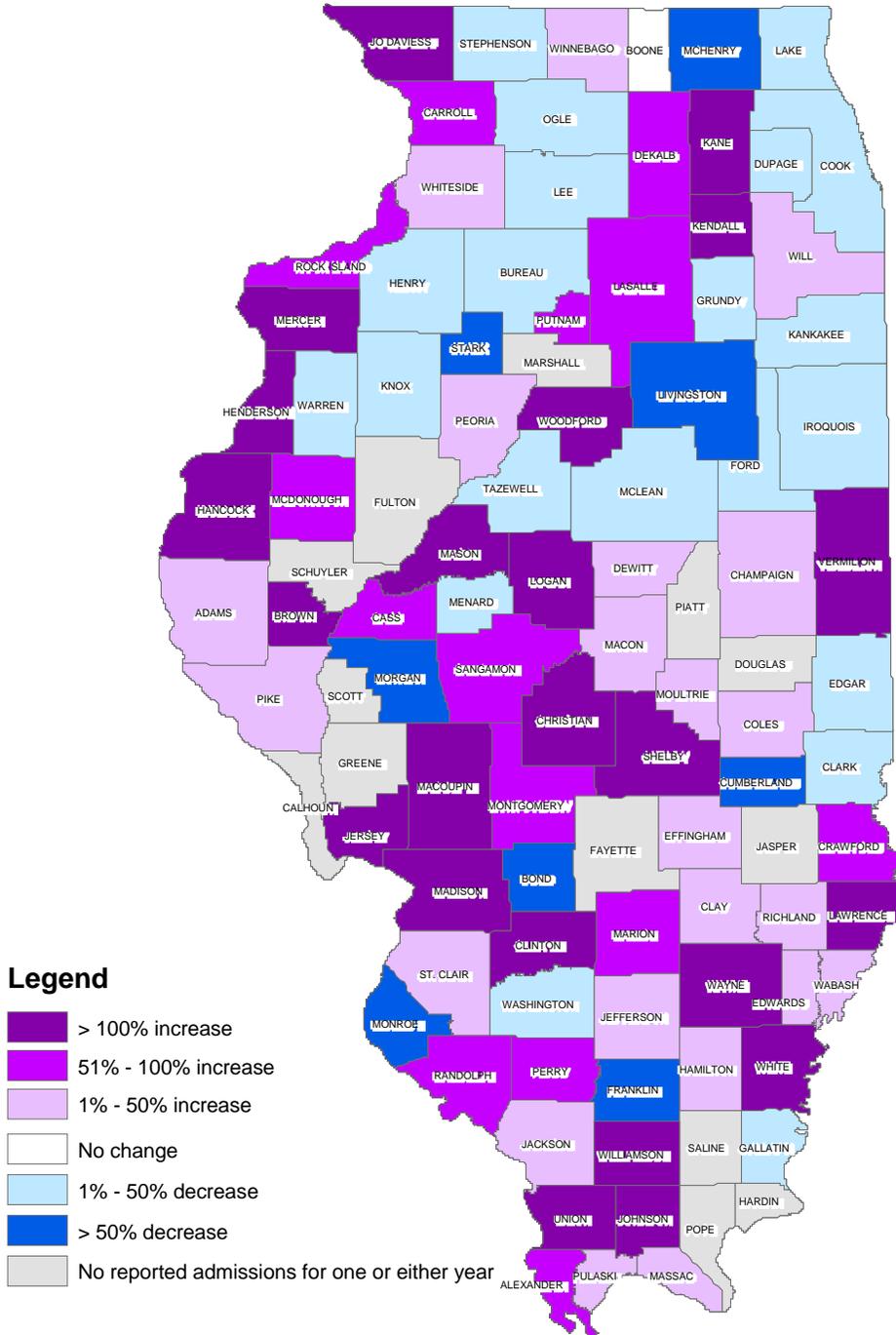
Data summary

Admissions to IDOC

IDOC data for FY05 were unavailable during compilation of this report. In FY04, 2,771 youth were admitted to an IDOC Youth Center—an increase of 4 percent from the 2,673 admitted in FY00. Seven counties reported no youth admissions to IDOC during FY04.

Map 9 depicts the rate changes in youth admissions to IDOC by county from FY00 to FY04.

Map 9
Percent change in rate of youth admissions to IDOC,
FY00 - FY04



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

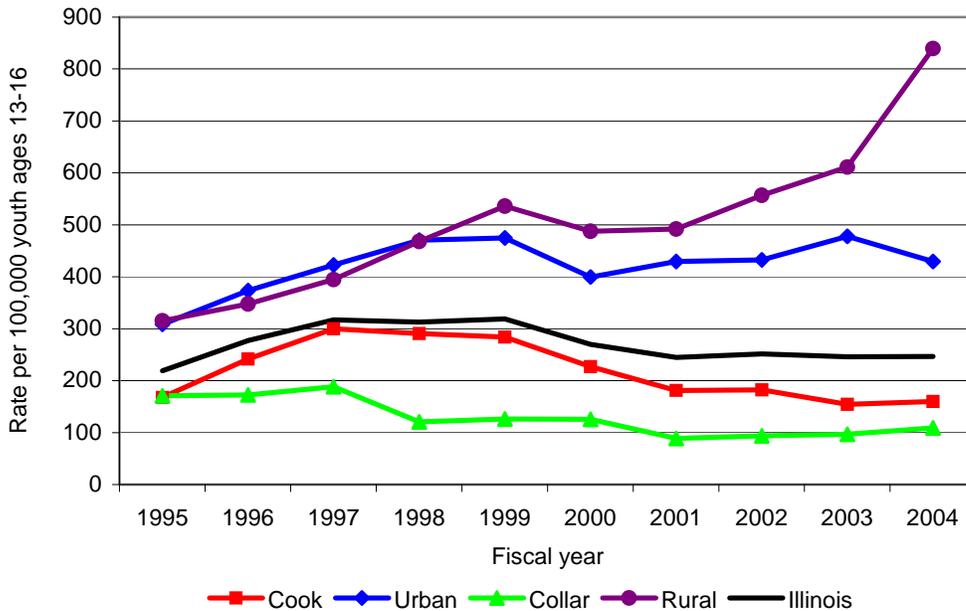
Court commitments to IDOC

Court commitments are a subset of all admissions to IDOC. In this report, court commitments to IDOC are defined as **delinquency commitments** or **court evaluations**.⁹ Delinquency commitments, also referred to as initial commitments or new sentences, are given to youth who were adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to IDOC for their offenses. A delinquency commitment is an indeterminate sentence that is assessed during the youth’s stay at an Illinois Youth Center.

Adjudicated delinquents also may be sent to IDOC for court evaluation, a 30, 60, or 90-day commitment used to assess the needs of delinquent youth. Based on the court evaluation, a youth could be released from IDOC custody by a juvenile court judge, or is given a **court evaluation return** to an Illinois Youth Center to serve an indeterminate term.

The state rate of youth court commitments to IDOC increased from FY95 to FY04. In FY04, the state rate of court commitments was 247 per 100,000 youth age 13-16. *Figure 20* depicts the rate of youth who court committed to IDOC, by county classification, from FY95 to FY04.

Figure 20
Rate of youth court commitments to IDOC per 100,000 youth ages 13-16, by county classification, FY95-FY04



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In FY04, there were 1,691 court commitments, including 798 delinquency commitments, 821 court evaluations, and 72 recommitments. Of the court evaluations, 211 led to a return to IDOC. In FY04, court commitments represented 54 percent of total IDOC admissions. From FY00 to FY04, delinquency commitments dropped 45 percent from 1,461 to 798. While the statewide rate of youth court committed to IDOC leveled off between 2003 and 2004, the rural rates increased

37 percent, from 611 commitments per 100,000 youth age 13 to 16 in FY03 to 840 commitments in FY04.

In contrast to the decrease in delinquency commitments statewide from FY00 to FY04, a 33 percent increase was seen in court evaluation commitments, from 616 to 821. In FY04, a total of 211 court evaluation returns were recorded. Twenty-six percent of ordered terms in IDOC for a court evaluation resulted in a return to IDOC.

In FY04, 46 percent of court-committed youth were committed for a property offense, 36 percent for an offense against a person, and 12 percent for a drug offense. Of all youth court committed to IDOC, 52 percent were black, 37 percent were white, and 11 percent were Hispanic. Most court committed youth were male (89 percent).

IDOC reports youth recidivism rate as the percentage of youth who return to Illinois Youth Center facilities within three years following their release. Youth who return to an adult IDOC facility or receive any other sentence, such as probation, are not counted in IDOC's youth recidivism rate. In FY04, IDOC reported the youth recidivism rate within three years of exiting an IDOC facility (FY01 release) as 46.6 percent.¹⁰

Technical violations

Youth also are admitted to IDOC for technical violations of parole or mandatory supervised release conditions. In FY04, 44 percent of youth center admissions were for technical violations. Of the 3,106 admissions, 1,363 were for technical violations of conditions of parole or mandatory supervised release.

Notes

⁸ Illinois Department of Corrections, "2005 Department Data," June 2005: Retrieved November 23, 2007 on the World Wide Web: <http://www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/reports/default.shtml>.

⁹ Note: Detention officials in Cook County record the number of juveniles admitted for "bring-back orders" (short term determinate sentences to be served at the detention center) and do not record the number of those admitted for court evaluations. However, IDOC officials record the number of juveniles admitted for bring-back orders in Cook County as court evaluations.

¹⁰ Illinois Department of Corrections, "2004 Department Data" June 2004: Retrieved August 3, 2006, on the World Wide Web: <http://www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/reports/default.shtml>.