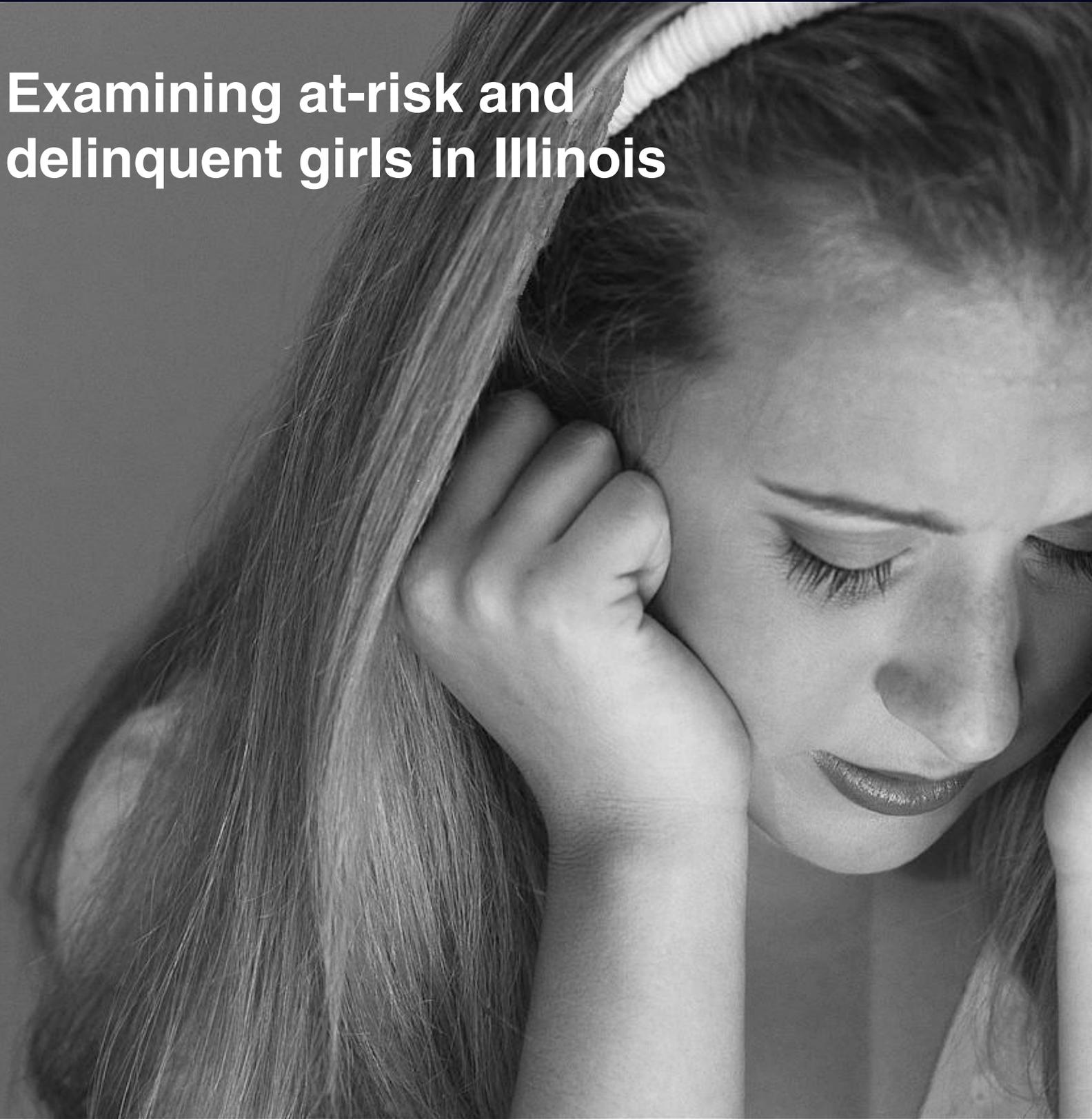




Examining at-risk and delinquent girls in Illinois



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May 2009

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This project was supported by Grant #06-DJ-0681 awarded to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and a grant awarded to the Authority by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission through the Illinois Department of Human Services. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Authority, the Commission, or the U.S. Department of Justice.

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Executive summary

Risk factors

Girls experience risk factors that may increase their involvement in delinquency. The following provides an overview on data available on individual, family, and school risk factors for girls in Illinois.

Individual risk factors for girls

In Illinois, girls were more likely than boys to abuse alcohol, inhalants, and prescription drugs.

Teen births have decreased in Illinois—from 2001 to 2006, there was a 10 percent decrease in births to teenaged girls.

Illinois girls were more likely than boys to have a sexually transmitted disease than boys.

Family risk factors for girls

In Illinois, girls were more often the victims of neglect, and physical and sexual abuse. According to the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services, 80 percent of all sexually abused children were girls in Illinois in fiscal year 2007.

School risk factors for girls

While the number of school truancies and suspensions among girls increased in Illinois, the number of girls who dropped out of high school decreased. From academic years 2002 to 2007, both truancies and suspensions among girls increased 47 percent.

Protective factors

Protective factors are those that offer support and guidance for youth. Little is known about protective factors for girls as opposed to boys, but limited research suggests that caring adults, fair teachers, academic aspirations, and religion are factors that may help girls be resilient to risks for delinquency. Programs for girls in the community can help promote resilience and positive youth development.

Girls in the Illinois juvenile justice system

Illinois girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitment to corrections were more likely than boys' to be for less serious offenses. At all stages of the Illinois juvenile justice system, gender discrepancies were present.

Arrests

Girls experienced a greater increase in rate of arrests than boys from 2002 to 2007. During this period, girls' arrests were more likely than boys' to be for status and person offenses, and noncompliance with public officials, such as contempt of court. Girls' arrests were more likely to be for misdemeanor offenses than boys'.

Detention

Girls experienced a larger decrease in rate of detention admissions than boys. However, the proportion of girls admitted for offenses against a person was higher than that of boys. Girls' detention admissions were more likely to be for status and person offenses.

Corrections

Rates of commitments to corrections decreased less for girls than for boys. Girls' commitments to corrections were more likely to be for status offenses, noncompliance with public officials, and disorderly conduct.

Girls who commit person offenses

Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely than boys' to be for person offenses. Girls' involvement in the Illinois juvenile justice system was increasingly for battery. However, girls' juvenile justice system involvement was more commonly for misdemeanors and less serious person offenses.

Girls who commit sex offenses

Few girls were arrested, detained, or incarcerated for sex offenses. Girls' arrests for sex offenses in 2007 were more likely to be for misdemeanors than boys'. In 2004, the most recent year data are available for commitments to corrections, no girls were committed for sex offenses.

Girls who commit weapons offenses

Few girls were arrested, detained, or incarcerated for weapons offenses. Girls' arrests for weapons offenses in 2007 were more likely to be for misdemeanors than boys'. In 2004, the most recent year data are available for commitments to corrections, only 4 girls were committed for weapons offenses.

Girls who commit property offenses

Among girls, property offenses accounted for 32 percent of arrests, 20 percent of detention admissions, and 50 percent of corrections commitments. Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to incarceration were more likely than boys' to be for theft, particularly retail theft. Girls' juvenile justice system involvement was more likely to be for less serious property offenses.

Girls who commit drug offenses

Girls committed few drug offenses. Their arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were far less likely to be for drug offenses.

Girls who are noncompliant with the juvenile justice system

Noncompliance with juvenile justice system includes, but is not limited to, contempt of court, obstruction of justice, technical violations of the conditions of one's parole or probation, fleeing or eluding a peace officer, resisting arrest.

Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely to be for obstructing justice and contempt of court than boys'. Girls had a higher proportion of felony noncompliance arrests than boys.

Girls who commit juvenile-specific offenses

Girls' juvenile justice system involvement was more likely to be for a status offense, or offenses that are only criminal due to the age of the offender, such as running away, drinking, and truancy. Girls' arrests and admissions to detention were more likely to be for running away and being a minor requiring authoritative intervention. Few juveniles were committed to corrections for status offenses, and possession of liquor by a minor accounted for all of those commitments.

Girls who commit other juvenile offenses

Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely to be for disorderly conduct and mob action than boys'. Girls' arrests were more likely to be for local ordinance violations than boys'.

Disproportionate representation of girls in the juvenile justice system

Girls were underrepresented at all stages of the Illinois juvenile justice system. However, girls' system involvement was statistically more likely than boys' to be for running away, retail theft, disorderly conduct, being a minor requiring authoritative intervention, contempt of court, and battery.

Girls' juvenile justice system involvement was statistically more likely to be for misdemeanor and petty offenses than boys', except for misdemeanor status and noncompliance offense categories.

Gender specific programming

Gender-specific programs can focus on female delinquency prevention and intervention and take into account the developmental needs of girls at adolescence. Girls may need additional services for abuse and mental health problems. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has identified national model programs for girls.

Introduction

Girls make up the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice system in Illinois and across the nation. However, girls still commit far less crime than their male counterparts, comprising only 29 percent of arrests in the United States in 2006.¹ In addition to increased delinquency, juvenile justice decision-making, changing laws, and shifting societal views may impact the number of girls becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

In Illinois, girls, or females under 17 years old, are becoming increasingly visible in the juvenile justice system, particularly for offenses against a person and status offenses. Girls have experienced a greater increase in rates of arrest between 2002 and 2007, and boys a greater decrease in rates of corrections commitment from 1999 to 2004. A larger decrease was seen in rates of girls' detention admission than boys.

There are risk factors that put juveniles at risk for delinquency, as well as protective factors that help reduce delinquency. Many risk and protective factors are applicable to both boys and girls, but girls are more affected by risk factors that are physiological and relational. The unique needs of girls, including sexually-transmitted disease, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, mental health issues, abuse, and exploitation, as well as their patterns of delinquency warrant gender-specific programming.

This report examines risk factors of girls in Illinois including individual, family, and school risk factors. Also examined are delinquent girls at arrest, detention, and corrections stages in the juvenile justice system. Data tables containing the arrest, detention, and corrections numbers used in this report are available online at www.icjia.state.il.us/public. Finally, the report explores gender-specific programming, including existing national and state programs.

Risk and protective factors

While certain factors may increase the probability of a girl's delinquent behavior and involvement in the juvenile justice system, there are other protective factors that may reduce that probability. Risk factors are life circumstances that may increase youths' likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors. Protective factors are circumstances that promote healthy youth behaviors and decrease chances that youth will engage in risky or delinquent behaviors.

Based in part on the work of Loeber and Farrington (1998), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) compiled a comprehensive list of risk factors.² *Figure 1* lists risk and protective factors associated with juvenile delinquency and violence for both girls and boys.³ Risk factors are organized into five categories: individual, family, school, peer group, and community.

Figure 1
Risk and protective factors for delinquency or violence

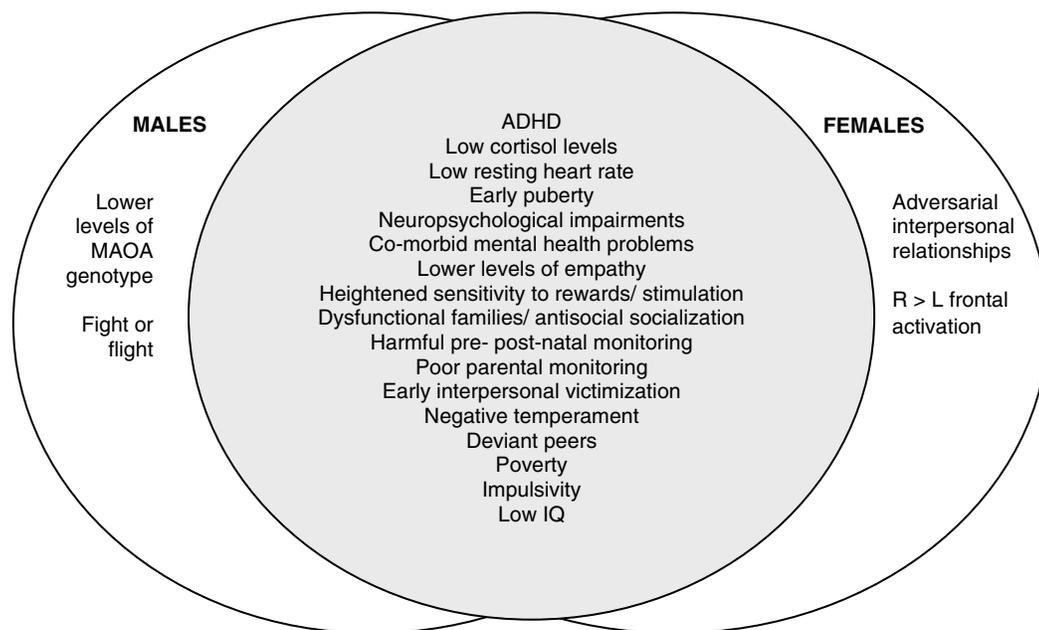
Risk factors	Protective factors
Individual	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antisocial behavior and alienation • Gun possession/ illegal gun ownership/ carrying • Teen parenthood • Favorable attitudes toward drug use/ early onset of alcohol and other drug use • Early onset of aggression/ violence • Cognitive and neurological deficits/ low intelligence quotient/ hyperactive • Victimization and exposure to violence • Lack of guilt and empathy • Poor refusal skills • Chronic medical/ physical condition • Life stressors • Early sexual involvement • Mental disorder/ mental health problem/ conduct disorder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive/resilient temperament • Religiosity/valuing involvement in organized religious activities • Social competencies and problem-solving skills • Perception of social support from adults and peers • Self-efficacy • Positive expectations/ optimism for the future • High expectations • Healthy/conventional beliefs and clear standards
Family	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family history of the problem behavior • Family management problems/ poor parental supervision and/or mentoring • Poor family attachment/ bonding • Child victimization and maltreatment • Pattern of high family conflict • Family violence • Having a young mother • Broken home • Sibling antisocial behavior • Family transitions • Parental use of physical punishment. • Harsh and/or erratic discipline practices • Low parent education level/ illiteracy • Maternal depression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good relationships with parents/bonding or attachment to family • Effective parenting • Opportunities for pro-social family involvement • Rewards for pro-social family involvement • Having a stable family • High expectations
School	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low academic achievement • Negative attitude toward school/ low binding/ low school attachment/ commitment to school • Truancies/ frequent absences • Suspension • Dropping out of school • Inadequate school climate/ poorly organized and functioning schools/ negative labeling by teachers • Identified as learning disabled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong school motivation/positive attitude toward school • Student bonding (attachment to teachers, belief, commitment) • Above average academic achievement/reading ability and mathematics skills • Opportunities for prosocial school involvement • Rewards for prosocial school involvement • High quality schools/clear standards and rules • High expectations of students • Presence and involvement of caring, supportive adults
Peer	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gang involvement/ gang membership • Peer alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use • Association with delinquent/ aggressive peers • Peer rejection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement with positive peer group activities and norms • Good relationship with peers • Parental approval of friends
Community	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability/ use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in neighborhood • Availability of firearms • High crime neighborhood • Community instability • Low community attachment • Economic deprivation/ poverty/ residence in a disadvantaged neighborhood • Neighborhood youth in trouble • Feeling unsafe in neighborhood • Social and physical disorder/ disorganized neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-disadvantaged neighborhood • Safe environment/Low neighborhood crime • Rewards for pro-social community involvement • Clear social norms/policies with sanctions for violations and rewards for compliance • Pro-social opportunities/opportunities for participation/availability of neighborhood resources • High expectations • Presence and involvement of caring, supportive adults

Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Gender is arguably one of the most important factors in understanding delinquency, but there has been little research in the area of gender-specific risk and protective factors. Much is still unknown about how boys and girls differ in risks for, and protection from, antisocial behavior and delinquency. Research has shown girls have a younger age of onset of antisocial behavior than boys and victimization is a stronger predictor of female offending than boys.⁴ Girls and boys experience many of the same risks, but may differ in sensitivity to and rate of exposure to these risks. As a result, they have different risk assessment and programmatic needs.⁵

Goldweber, Broidy, and Cauffman (2009) identified risk factors primarily associated with girls (*Figure 2*).⁶ The right section of *Figure 2* indicates two particularly relevant risk factors for females due to personal relationships and brain activity. Girls place great importance on interpersonal relationships and acceptance from others. When there are negative relationships with family and intimate partners, girls may exhibit aggression towards them. In addition, girls with greater frontal brain activation on the right than the left side ($R > L$) causes reduced verbal ability and emotional control which can contribute to delinquent behavior.⁷

Figure 2
Risk factors associated with delinquency for boys and girls



Adapted from: Goldweber, Asha, Lisa Broidy M., and Elizabeth Cauffman, "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Persistent Female Offending: A Review of Theory and Research," in *The Development of Persistent Criminality*, ed. Joanne Savage Oxford University Press (2009).

Protective factors

Historically, the juvenile justice system has supported a deficit-focused, “medical model” of diagnosing youth delinquency and behavior problems and prescribing treatment, hence the concern with risk factors. The focus has not been on youth resilience or the ability to successfully adapt and thrive despite risks or adversity leading to negative consequences such as delinquency. Protective factors, as opposed to risk factors, offer support, guidance, self-worth, and purpose. Protective factors may include the presence of a caring adult, school connectedness and involvement, academic success, and religiosity.

Although there has been increased interest in this area, researchers still cannot completely explain why some children are resilient to risk factors and others are not and if there is differing impact on boys and girls.⁸ One study found that the most consistent protective factor reducing the chance of delinquent behaviors for girls was the presence of caring adults.⁹ Another study found desire to go to college, feeling loved and wanted, belief that teachers treat students fairly, and religiosity were significant resilience factors for girls.¹⁰ The findings suggest that examining risk and resilience factors are important for understanding delinquency of adolescent girls.

Many community programs, such as Girls Scouts, promote resilience and positive youth development. These programs can offer girls support and opportunities including safety, structure, relationship building, and skill building. A study of several programs incorporating positive youth development indicated that the principles of and strength-based practice can be implemented in juvenile justice settings.¹¹ Some of these programs are highlighted in this report’s section on gender-specific programming.

Girls at risk for delinquency

There are five types of risk factors for delinquency— individual, family, school, peer, and community. However, there are only statewide data available for Illinois girls in the areas of individual, family, and school risk factors. These data are provided in this section.

Individual risk factors for girls

In Illinois, girls were more likely than boys to abuse alcohol, inhalants, and prescription drugs.

Individual risk factors for delinquency may include aggression, violence, learning disabilities, mental health problems, substance use and sexual health. Data for Illinois girls was only available for the risk factors of substance use and sexual health. The most recent data available was used.

Drug and alcohol use

Drug and alcohol use can be a risk factor for delinquency, as discussed in this section, or a delinquent act when youth are arrested for the illegal use of drugs or alcohol. The Monitoring the Future survey allows students to self-report drug and alcohol use. According to that survey, there is little difference between boys and girls in 8th and 10th grades in the use of ecstasy (MDMA), cocaine, crack, heroin, Ritalin, Rohypnol, and GHB. However, girls in younger grades report somewhat higher use of alcohol, inhalants, amphetamines, Ritalin, methamphetamine, and tranquilizers.¹² Therefore, the use of illicit drugs other than marijuana tends to be only slightly higher for girls. Girls start smoking at younger ages and subsequently smoke more regularly than boys. Furthermore, girls who use substances are more likely to become dependent.¹³

The Illinois Department of Human Services' annual Illinois Youth Survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders found girls were more likely to use alcohol, inhalants, pain pills, other prescription drugs, and over the counter weight loss aids than boys.¹⁴ In 2006, 63 percent of girls and 60 percent of boys drank alcohol in the past year. Sixteen percent of girls admitted using pain pills and 14 percent admitted other prescription drug use in the past year, compared to 14 percent and 13 percent of boys, respectively. Boys were more likely to smoke cigarettes, and use smokeless tobacco, marijuana, cocaine/ crack, hallucinogens, ecstasy, methamphetamine, uppers/downers, steroids, and over the counter performance enhancing drugs. *Table 1* indicates the percentage of past year drug use by gender.

Table 1
Percentage of students indicating past year drug use by gender, 2006

	Female	Male
<i>Alcohol</i>	62.5%	59.7%
<i>Cigarettes</i>	21.7%	22.3%
<i>Smokeless tobacco</i>	7.1%	14.6%
<i>Inhalants</i>	8.9%	7.8%
<i>Marijuana</i>	24.6%	27.2%
<i>Cocaine/ crack</i>	2.6%	3.4%
<i>Hallucinogens</i>	1.5%	2.7%
<i>Ecstasy</i>	1.7%	3.2%
<i>Methamphetamine</i>	0.7%	0.8%
<i>Uppers</i>	3.0%	4.3%
<i>Downers</i>	2.9%	3.7%
<i>Pain pills</i>	16.0%	14.0%
<i>Steroids</i>	0.2%	1.1%
<i>Other prescription drugs</i>	13.9%	12.8%
<i>OTC performance enhancing drugs</i>	3.2%	8.5%
<i>OTC weight loss aids</i>	4.6%	1.6%

Source: Illinois Department of Human Services

Sexual health

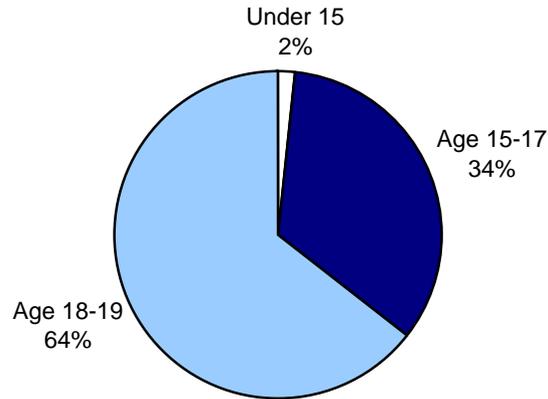
In Illinois, teenage births have decreased, but girls are more likely to have a sexually transmitted disease than boys.

Teen pregnancy

Teens often engage in sexual risk taking, including unprotected sex resulting in sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy. According to the Centers for Disease Control, after 14 years of reductions, the national teen birth rate increased 3 percent from 2005 to 2006 to 42 births per 1,000 teens. Teenage mothers are less likely to complete school and go to college and more likely to be single and live in poverty. Furthermore, research has shown that “children of teen mothers have less supportive home environments, lower cognitive development, less education, more behavior problems, and higher rates of both incarceration (for boys) and adolescent childbearing.”¹⁵ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy estimated that teen childbearing cost taxpayers \$9 billion.

Ten percent of all children born in Illinois in 2006, or 18,027 births, were to teenaged mothers aged 13 to 19 years old, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Thirty-six percent of all teenage births were to girls under the age of 17 (n=6,395). *Figure 3* indicates the number of teen births by age group.

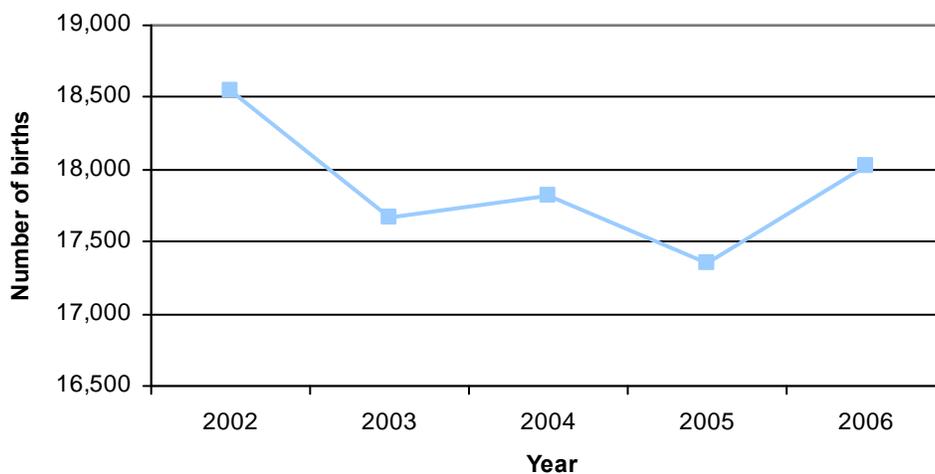
Figure 3
Births to teenage mothers by age group,
2006



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

From 2001 and 2006, there was a 10-percent decrease of births to teenage mothers, from 20,092 to 18,027 (*Figure 4*). However, there was a 4 percent increase from 2005 to 2006, from 17,354 to 18,027 births. Births among teenagers are associated with less education, lower earnings, and other negative outcomes for their children.

Figure 4
Illinois births to teenage mothers, 2001- 2006

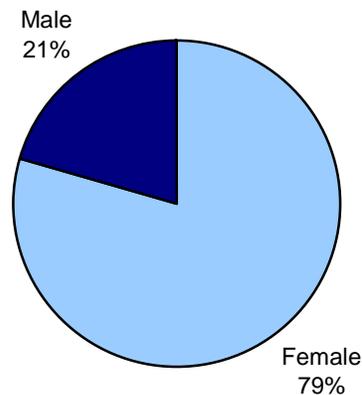


Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

Sexually-transmitted diseases

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, in 2006, 19,554 sexually transmitted disease (STD) cases were recorded among girls ages 10 to 19 years old. The STDs recorded included chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. During that time period, 5,058 STD cases were recorded for boys ages 10 to 19 years old. Seventy-nine percent of all STD cases for that age group were female (*Figure 5*).

Figure 5
Cases of sexually transmitted diseases,
ages 10-19 by gender, 2006



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

Family risk factors for girls

In Illinois, girls were almost equally at risk for neglect, but more at risk for physical and sexual abuse, than boys.

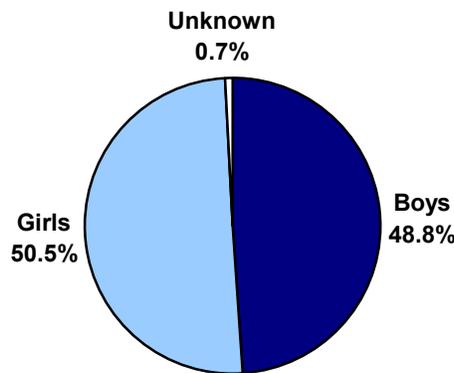
Girls in the juvenile justice system often have been victims of violence, in particular sexual abuse. Research has found that abused and neglected children have delinquency rates 47 percent higher than children who are not abused or neglected.¹⁶ One study found that abused and neglected girls were twice as likely to be arrested as juveniles than non-abused girls.¹⁷ Abused and neglected girls often run away to escape abusive environments leading to an increased risk of arrest; have lower IQs due to injury and/or malnutrition, which leads to lower self esteem and control; lack of traditional social controls due to dysfunctional families; have criminal friends or relatives; and do not learn social and psychological developmental skills, which leads to drug and alcohol use and sensation seeking.¹⁸

Abuse and neglect

In FY07, 50 percent of reports of suspected abuse and neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) were girls (n=48,279) and 49 percent of reports were boys (n=47,015) (1 percent unknown).

DCFS investigates all reports of alleged abuse and neglect of youth age 0 to 17 years old. If credible evidence is revealed the cases are considered “indicated.” In FY07, DCFS indicated 26,233 (27 percent) of reported cases of child abuse and neglect, and 67 cases resulted in death. There were 25 deaths of girls under the age of 17 due to abuse or neglect and 13 girls were under the age of one year old. Fifty-one percent of indicated child abuse and neglect reports were on girls (n=13,235), and 49 percent were on boys (n=12,804) (Figure 6).

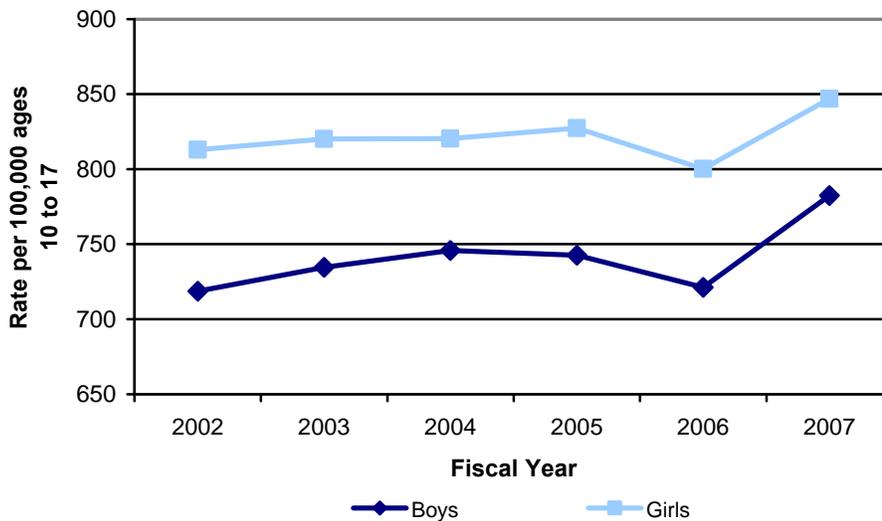
Figure 6
Children indicated for child abuse and neglect
by gender, FY07



Source: Illinois Department of Child and Family Services

From FY02 to FY07, a 3 percent increase was seen in female children indicated for abuse and neglect, from 12,875 to 13,235. From FY06 to FY07, there was a 6 percent increase of girls indicated for abuse and neglect. The rate of child abuse and neglect was higher for girls than for boys, 843 girls per 100,000 were indicated for abuse and neglect, compared to 782 boys (Figure 7). These increases are of concern given that child victims may be prone to delinquency and experience physical and emotional problems later in life.

Figure 7
Rate of children indicated for abuse and neglect
by gender, FY02-07



Source: Illinois Department of Child and Family Services

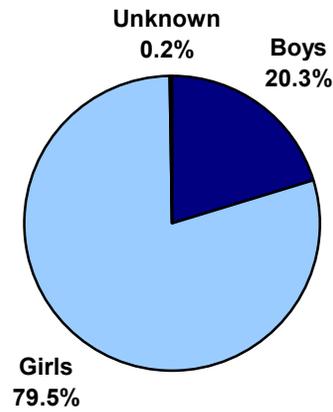
Sexual abuse

When girls are victims or witnesses of violence, they either internalize problems and are withdrawn or anxious or externalize problems and are aggressive and delinquent.¹⁹ Abuse of delinquent girls in their homes should be addressed because they often return to their family following detention or incarceration, and many times may become involved in the juvenile justice system as a result of such abuse.

In FY07, 8,274 children in Illinois were victims of alleged sexual abuse reported to DCFS and of those, 80 percent were girls.

DCFS conducts investigations on reports of alleged sexual abuse and if credible evidence is revealed the sexual abuse report is indicated. In FY07, 80 percent of indicated reports of child sexual abuse were female (n=1,924), and 20 percent of reports were male (n=490) (*Figure 8*).

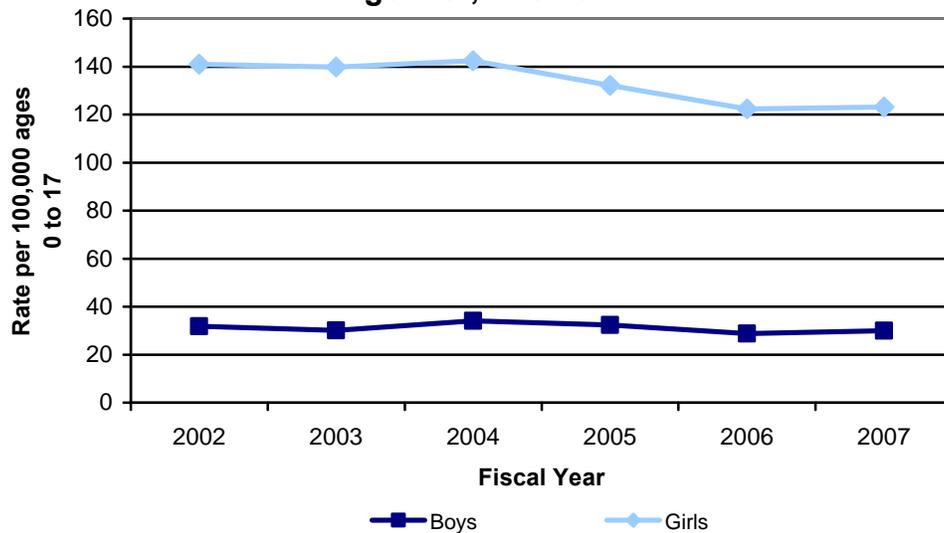
Figure 8
Children indicated for sexual abuse by gender, FY07



Source: Illinois Department of Child and Family Services

From FY02 to FY07, there was a 13 percent decrease in the rate of female children indicated for sexual abuse, from 141 girls to 123 girls per 100,000 in the population (*Figure 9*).

Figure 9
Rate of children indicated for sexual abuse by gender, FY02-07



Source: Illinois Department of Child and Family Services

Commercial sexual exploitation

A 2001 University of Pennsylvania study estimated there are between 244,000 and 325,000 child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the nation.²⁰ Most of the sexually exploited are girls who have experienced childhood abuse, have runaway from home, and have engaged in sex for survival.

Girls living on the streets were more likely to be victims of sexual exploitation and violence than boys.²¹ One out of eight children run away prior to age 18 years old and 40 percent do not return.²² Children may runaway for many reasons, such as adventure, escape from dangerous family situation, are thrown out of the home, or their families can no longer financially support them. Girls who run away from home are at risk for delinquency, as well as violence, dropping out of school, drug use, and pregnancy.

One Illinois study estimated a minimum of 16,000 women and girls are regularly prostituted in the Chicago metropolitan area,²³ while another estimated 1,800 to 4,000.²⁴ However, official police statistics offer lower estimates of the problem. In Illinois, there were 45 arrests of juveniles for prostitution from 1995 to 2004. Prostitution is a class A misdemeanor, subsequent convictions are Class 4 felonies [720 ILCS 5/11-14]. Juvenile arrest data excludes many misdemeanor arrests because police departments are not required to report them. During that time period, there were 162 arrests for soliciting a juvenile prostitute and 258 arrests for child pornography.

A 2008 Illinois study found prostituted girls are controlled, intimidated, socially isolated, and economically dependent on their pimps—which may be a boyfriend, parent, or relative—making it difficult to leave a life of prostitution.²⁵ Victims of commercial sexual exploitation may suffer from physical and mental health problems including post traumatic stress disorder.

Teen dating violence

According to the Illinois Department of Human Services' 2006 Illinois Youth Survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, 13 percent of girls stated that they had experienced dating violence in the past year.

School risk factors for girls

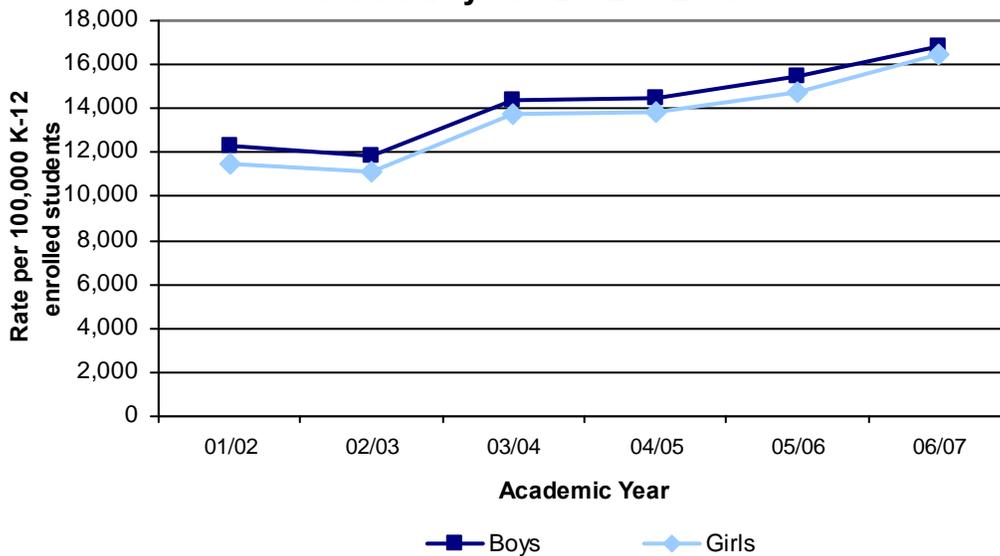
The number of school truancies, suspensions, and expulsions accumulated by girls has increased, but the number of girls who have dropped out of high school has decreased.

Research on academic achievement often indicates that school failure may contribute to delinquent behavior among kids and adolescents.²⁶ A study of a small sample of girls in correctional facilities found that school was problematic—all had skipped school and been sent to school detention.²⁷

Truancy

In Illinois, boys accumulated more truancies than girls. In the 2007 school year, girls in grades K-12 had 163,938 truancies, compared to 176,179 truancies by boys, according to the Illinois State Board of Education. During the 2007 academic year, girls in grades K-12 had a truancy rate of 16,462 truancies per 100,000 girls, compared to a truancy rate of 16,824 for boys (*Figure 10*). From the 2002 to 2007 school year, truancies of girls increased 43 percent.

Figure 10
Rate of school truancies in Illinois by gender,
academic years 2002 to 2007

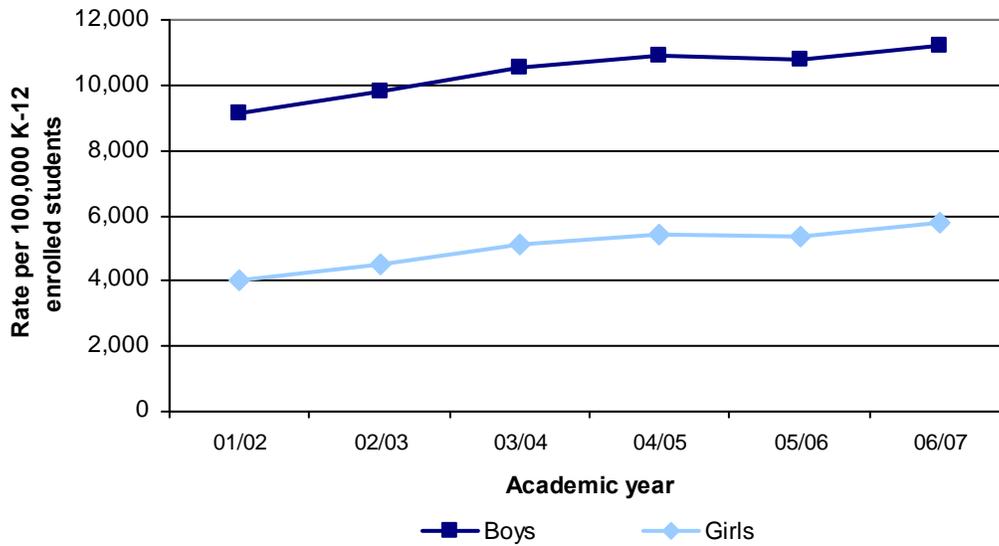


Source: Illinois State Board of Education

Suspensions

Boys had almost double the rate of high school suspensions than girls in Illinois. During the 2007 academic year, girls in grades K-12 had a suspension rate of 5,783 per 100,000 girls, compared to a suspension rate of 11,205 for boys. However, from the 2002 academic year to the 2007 academic year, the suspension rate of girls increased 43 percent (*Figure 11*).

Figure 11
Rate of school suspensions in Illinois by gender,
academic years 2002 to 2007

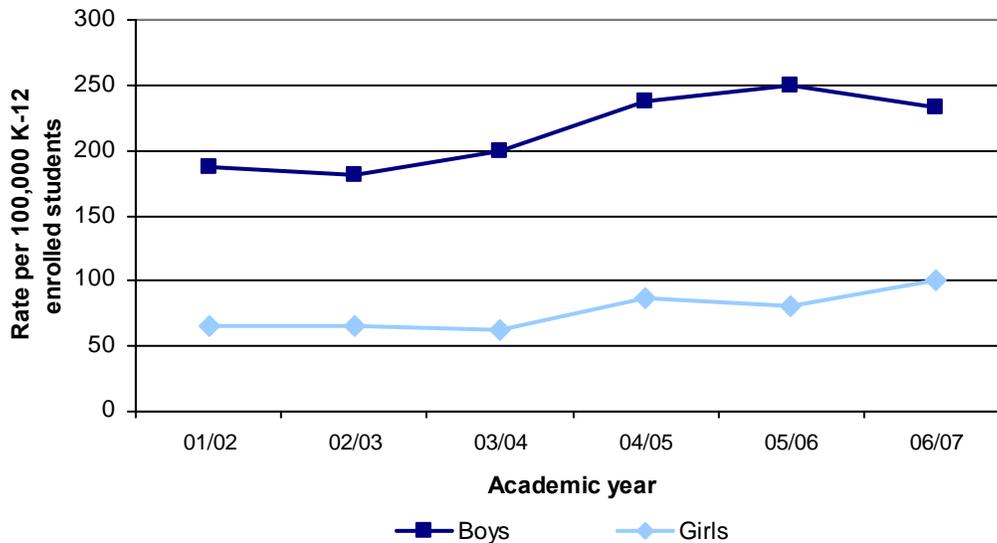


Source: Illinois State Board of Education

Expulsions

During the 2007 academic year, girls in grades K-12 had a expulsion rate of 101 per 100,000 girls, compared to a expulsion rate of 233 for boys. However, from the 2002 academic year to the 2007 academic year, the expulsion rate of girls increased 55 percent (*Figure 12*).

Figure 12
Rate of school expulsions in Illinois by gender,
academic years 2002 to 2007



Source: Illinois State Board of Education

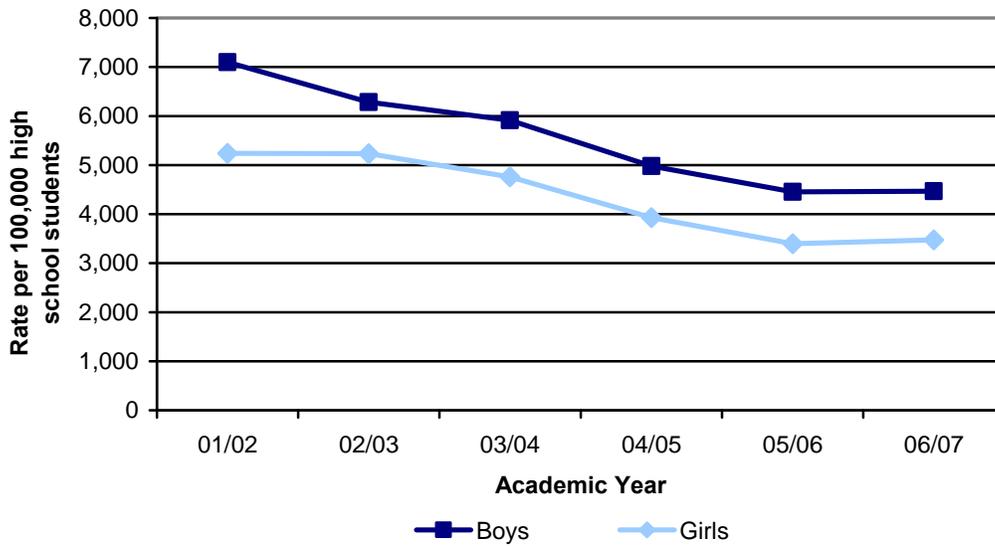
High school drop outs

Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to disengaging from academic pursuits if they perceive themselves to be incapable of meeting academic performance standards.²⁸ Such disengagement can lead to dropping out of school and other school-related problems. While girls are less likely to drop-out or repeat a grade than boys, female drop-outs may have their situation compounded by teen parenting.

Although truancies and suspensions have increased over time for both boys and girls in Illinois, more students, male and female, are staying in school. In addition, effective Jan. 2005, Illinois law increased the upper age limit of students required to attend school from 16 years old to 17 years old. From academic year 2002 to academic year 2007, a 27 percent decrease was seen in female high school drop outs.

More boys dropped out of high school than girls. During the 2007 school year, 10,883 girls dropped out of high school compared to 14,617 boys who dropped out. In academic year 2007, the high school drop out rate was 3,472 per 100,000 girls, compared to 4,468 for boys (*Figure 13*). The drop out rate for girls decreased 34 percent from academic year 2002 to academic year 2007.

Figure 13
Rate of high school drop outs in Illinois by gender,
academic year 2002 to 2007



Source: Illinois State Board of Education

Girls in the Illinois juvenile justice system

Introduction

In general, two perspectives exist regarding how girls are treated in the juvenile justice system. The paternalistic perspective views girls who offend as being treated more harshly by the juvenile justice system because they need protection, which the system can provide, or have violated female gender roles and need guidance. With the chivalry perspective, girls are treated more leniently and viewed as less dangerous and less threatening because of their gender.²⁹

According to the American and National bar associations, there is bias in the handling of girls in the juvenile justice system due to discretionary decisions by police, probation officers, prosecutors, and judges.³⁰ The OJJDP Girls Study Group explains that girls continue to be punished for behavior that is acceptable for boys.³¹

Research has suggested several biases in the juvenile justice system against girls, including more aggressive monitoring³² and divergent attitudes towards sexuality by probation officers.³³ Furthermore, involvement in the juvenile justice system may replicate or exacerbate prior experiences of abuse,³⁴ raising the question if the system in its current state is appropriate or fair.

Data used in report

To explore the status of girls in the juvenile justice system, this report examined available data at the arrest, detention, and corrections stages of the Illinois juvenile justice system. When examining the state of girls in the system, it helps to have a comparison group, the boys. For this reason proportions were used to explore any differences between boys and girls who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

This report examined trends from 2002 to 2007, however, much of the focus is on the most recent year data are available, 2007. Arrest and detention data from 2002 to 2007 were examined. Corrections data from state fiscal years 1999 to 2004, the most recent data available, also were examined. Data tables containing the arrest, detention, and corrections numbers used in this report are available in Appendix F and online at www.icjia.state.il.us/public.

Data sources

Arrest data

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Ad Hoc datasets are the source of arrest data presented here. These data are derived from records in the Illinois State Police's (ISP) Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system, the state's central repository for criminal history record information. Fingerprint-based arrest cards used by law enforcement are entered into the state system. The Authority, in cooperation with

ISP, has established an in-house computer linkage that allows us to derive arrest statistics and demographic characteristics from the individual records.

The CCH system is a live database and its data are updated and changed constantly by ISP, leading to potential changes in statistical information derived from it. Data are based on the number of arrest incidents, not the number of unique individuals arrested. Law enforcement is only required to report felony arrests for juveniles. Misdemeanor offenses may be submitted, but are not mandatory.

Detention data

Data from juvenile temporary detention centers were extracted from the Illinois Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS) database. JMIS is a web-based management information system, managed by the University of Illinois that allows Illinois juvenile detention centers to electronically submit data.

Detention admissions include juveniles that are admitted pre-adjudication and post-adjudication. It is not possible to distinguish between these two groups. Decisions to detain juveniles prior to adjudication are made using a scorable detention screening instrument. While the decision to detain is determined by their score on the screening tool, youth can be detained pre-adjudication if the screener feels the youth should not be returned to their home environment for safety or other reasons.

The offenses for which youth are detained are grouped into eight categories: property, person, drug, sex, “other,” noncompliance, status offenses, and youth detained for a warrant. Offenses designated as “other” include such offenses as disorderly conduct, mob action, and traffic violations. Further explanation of offense categories is provided later.

Corrections data

Data from the Juvenile Division of the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), now known as the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ), were only available up to state fiscal year 2004. The Authority used its own method of categorizing offenses, discussed later, so data may differ slightly from official IDOC statistical reports.

New sentence commitments to IDOC were examined separately from admissions for technical violations of a youth’s parole or mandatory supervised release. IDOC commitments discussed in this report include juveniles committed to an IDOC facility only for new sentences, unless otherwise specified.

Offense categories

Offenses were grouped into eight categories: person, sex, weapons, property, drug, noncompliance, status, and “other”.

Data from detention and correctional centers use their own hierarchical system to determine the most serious offense at the time of admission, and identify offense category only by one offense. Arrest data contain information about multiple charges. The Authority has developed a method

of classifying and organizing arrest incidents to determine and classify arrests by the most serious charge in an incident should there be multiple charges. To maintain consistency, the same offense category classification system was used for arrest, detention, and corrections data.

Person offenses

Person offenses are any offense against another person. For the purposes of this report, the following offenses or groups of offenses were categorized as person offenses: all types of battery (such as domestic, heinous, and aggravated), all types of assault (such as simple and aggravated), homicide, all types of robbery (such as armed and aggravated), ritual mutilation, reckless conduct, ritualized child abuse, offenses involving children (child abuse, neglect, or endangerment), home invasion, vehicular hijacking, arson with persons present, and kidnapping.

Sex offenses

Sex offenses are any sexually-based offense against another person. For the purposes of this report, the following offenses or groups of offenses were categorized as sex offenses: all types of criminal sexual assault (such as predatory and aggravated), all types of criminal sexual abuse (such as simple and aggravated), solicitation, pandering, prostitution, pimping, obscenity, all pornography charges, exploitation, public indecency, sexual relations within families, and sexual misconduct with disabled and animals.

Weapons offenses

Weapons offenses are any offense involving a weapon in which injury did not occur. For the purposes of this report, the following offenses or groups of offenses were categorized as weapons offenses: all types of unlawful use or possession of a weapon (including firearms, ammunition, and other weapons), unlawful discharge of a firearm, unlawful sale, delivery, or purchase of a firearm, reckless discharge of a firearm, defacing firearm identification, armed violence, and all Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card violations.

Property offenses

For the purposes of this report, the following offenses or groups of offenses were categorized as property offenses: all types of burglary (such as residential and theft from a motor vehicle), all types of theft (such as retail theft, pocket-picking, motor vehicle theft, and theft from a building), all types of arson (such as residential and aggravated), all types of deceptive practices (such as forgery, fraud, identity theft, embezzlement, and possession of stolen property), all types of criminal damage, all types of criminal trespassing, and all types of vandalism.

Drug offenses

For the purposes of this report, the following offenses or groups of offenses were categorized as drug offenses: all violations of the Cannabis Control Act (such as possession and delivery), all violations of the Controlled Substances Act (such as possession, delivery, and manufacturing), all violations of the Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act, all violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Act, and non-status offense violations of the Liquor Control Act (such as sale of liquor to a minor and liquor transportation violations).

Noncompliance

Noncompliance offenses are any offenses in which the individual did not comply with mandates or stipulations of public officials or court orders. For the purposes of this report, the following offenses or groups of offenses were categorized as noncompliance offenses: contempt of court, interference with the judicial process, escape, fleeing or eluding a peace officer, resisting a peace officer, obstructing a peace officer, disarming a peace officer, obstruction of justice, all court order violations (violating orders of protection, failure to pay child support, technical violations of probation and parole), and criminal registry violations.

Juvenile-specific offenses

Juvenile specific offenses, or status offenses, are offenses that are illegal due to the age of the offender and would not be criminal if committed by an adult. For the purposes of this report, the following offenses were categorized as status offenses: curfew violations, possession or consumption of liquor by a minor, running away, truancy, minor requiring authoritative intervention, misrepresentation of age by a minor, and zero tolerance.

“Other” offenses

Offenses designated as “other” are offenses that do not fit into one of the previously defined categories. For the purposes of this report, the following offenses or groups of offenses were categorized as other offenses: driving under the influence, reckless driving, all other motor vehicle offenses (such as driving on a suspended or revoked license, improper registration, drag racing, and driving without insurance), all types of gambling (such as operating or playing a dice game and bookmaking), all types of disorderly conduct (such as obscene phone calls, disorderly conduct, mob action, and telephone harassment), all types of animal cruelty (such as dog fighting), and possession of burglary tools.

Offense classes

For some of the analyses in this report, offense class was grouped into misdemeanor or felony. Other analyses in this report examined each offense class individually, or in other groupings. Offense classes were used as a measure of offense severity when available. Some offenses have an unknown class or do not have a class designation, such as a probation violation. These were included in some analyses as a separate group. Offense classes for detention admissions were unavailable.

In Illinois, there are four groups of offense classes: felony, misdemeanor, petty, and local. There are six classes of felonies, in order of severity: first-degree murder, X, 1, 2, 3, and 4; and three classes of misdemeanors, in order of severity: A, B, and C. Petty and local offenses are punishable only by fines.

The arrest data used in this report are derived from the Authority’s CHRI Ad Hoc Datasets. The class of the offense is not always submitted for each arrest incident. In 2007, 8 percent of arrests were either unclassified or the class was not submitted (n=3,940). The Authority has developed a method to recode missing classes based on the class designations outlined in the *Illinois*

Compiled Statutes. Some offenses can have multiple offense classes based on the circumstances of the offense. In these instances, the least serious offense class was used.

In 2007, 2 percent of offenses were reclassified as misdemeanors (3 percent for girls, n=297 and 2 percent for boys, n=776). Additionally, in 2007, 2 percent of offenses were reclassified as felonies (2 percent for girls, n=165 and 2 percent for boys, n=602). With so few incidents requiring reclassification, it is unlikely that these changes would impact the results of this report. *Appendix B* shows the number and percent of misdemeanor and felony recodes that were made for each offense category.

Rates

Rates were calculated using the Illinois population for each gender. Arrest and detention rates were calculated per 100,000 girls/boys ages 10 to 16. Under the Illinois criminal code, youth are adults at the age of 17 and youth that have reached their 17th birthday would be in the adult criminal justice system. Additionally, in Illinois, youth younger than age 10 cannot be detained in a juvenile detention facility and are rarely arrested, therefore detention and arrest rates are calculated with the population of youth ages 10 to 16. Corrections rates were calculated per 100,000 girls/boys age 13 to 16. In Illinois, youth may not be incarcerated in a juvenile correctional facility under the age of 13.

When numbers are particularly small, such as when calculating rates within an offense category, rates were calculated per 1,000 youth. Rates per 1,000 youth were also used to calculate a relative rate ratio discussed later in the report.

Statistical analyses

Various statistical analyses were performed in this report. Chi-Square, phi, phi-square, and Yule's Q analyses were used for person and property offenses. The results of these analyses are presented in the corresponding offense category sections of this report.

Additional analyses were done to examine the difference in proportions of offense category and misdemeanor and felony justice system involvement. Explanations of and results from these analyses are presented in the section on girls' disproportionality.

Girls and the Illinois juvenile justice system

Arrests

Girls were arrested less often than boys, for less serious offenses, and experienced a greater increase in arrest rates.

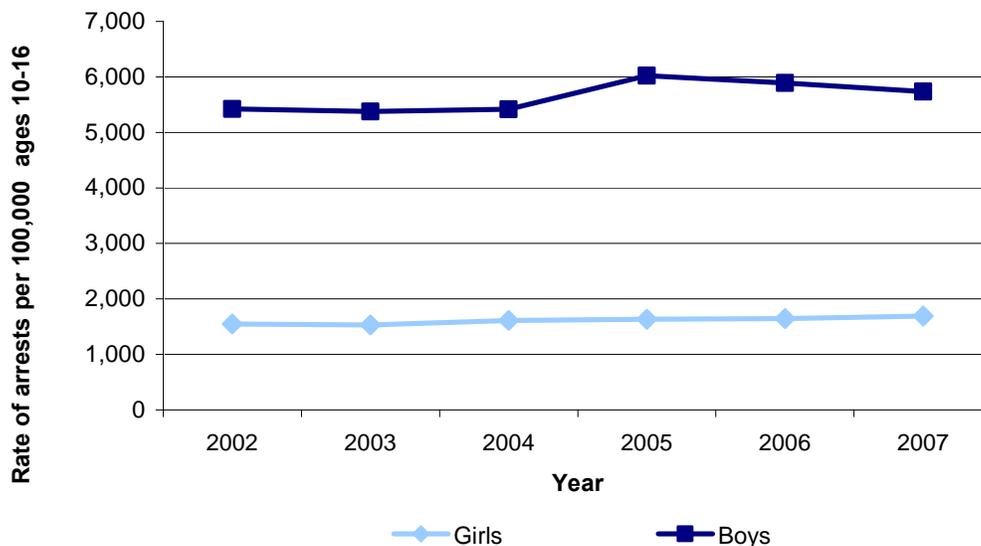
According to official statistics from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Girls Study Group, from 1980 to 2005, arrests of girls increased nationwide, while arrests of boys decreased. Girls are also entering the juvenile justice system at a younger age.³⁵ However, the National Crime Victimization Survey, based on surveys of the general population, indicates that gender differences have not changed meaningfully or systematically.³⁶

In Illinois, girls were arrested less often than boys, coinciding with national findings that girls have less involvement in the juvenile justice system.³⁷ Additionally, girls were arrested less often for serious offenses than boys, also in accordance with national trends.³⁸

In 2007, there were 48,032 arrests made of youth between the ages of 10 and 16 in Illinois. The gender in 12 arrests was not recorded (0.02 percent). Of the remaining 48,020 arrests, 78 percent were boys (n=37,472) and 22 percent were girls (n=10,548).

In 2007, the girls' rate of arrest was 1,690 for every 100,000 girls age 10 to 16, and the boys' rate was 5,740. From 2002 to 2007, girls' rates of arrest increased 9 percent, compared to a 6 percent increase for boys. *Figure 14* shows the rate of juvenile arrests for boys and girls from 2002 to 2007.

Figure 14
Rate of juvenile arrests by gender, 2002–2007



Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Felony and misdemeanor

Girls' arrests were more likely than boys' arrests to be for less serious offenses. In 2007, girls had a higher proportion of their arrests for misdemeanors (n=6,978 or 66 percent) than boys (n=20,400 or 54 percent). Conversely, felony offense arrests were higher for boys (n=12,052 or 32 percent) than girls (n=1,964 or 19 percent).

Reporting misdemeanor arrests for juveniles to CHRI by law enforcement is voluntary. As a result, arrest offense class disparities are a conservative estimate.

Detention

Girls were admitted to detention less often than boys and experienced a greater decrease in detention rates.

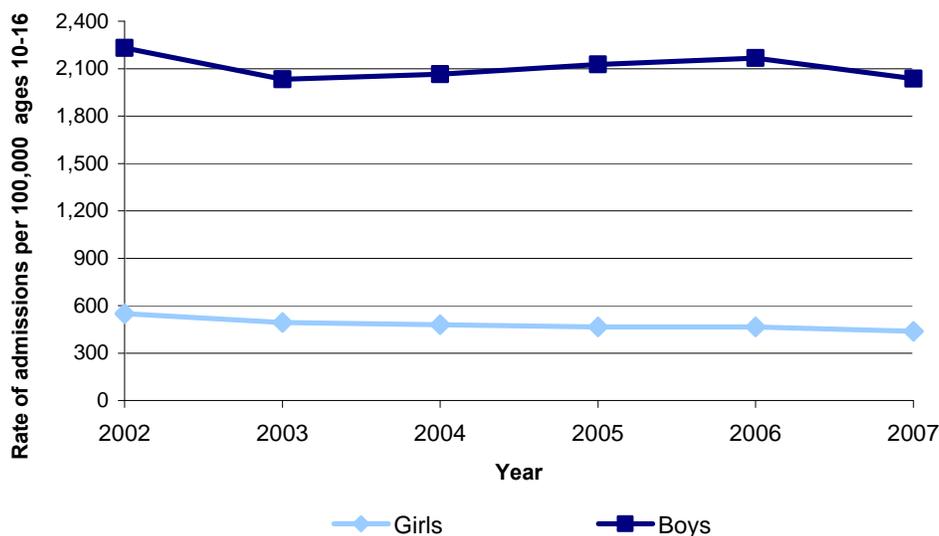
Nationally, girls are often disproportionately charged in court with status offenses and detained for less serious offenses than boys.³⁹ The Annie E. Casey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative's study of detention sites in several U.S. cities found 29 percent of girls were detained for minor offenses such as public disorder, probation violations, status offenses, and traffic offenses, while 19 percent of boys were detained for minor offenses.⁴⁰

In Illinois, from 2002 to 2007, girls were detained less often than boys. While both boys' and girls' rates of admissions to detention decreased, girls experienced a larger decrease in admissions rates.

Girls' detention rates decreased 20 percent between 2002 and 2007, while the boys' rates decreased 9 percent. *Figure 15* shows the rate of detention admissions from 2002 to 2007 by gender.

In 2007, 17 percent of the 15,747 juveniles detained were girls (n=2,677). Girls were detained at a rate of 437 for every 100,000 girls ages 10 to 16. Boys were detained at a rate of 2,036 for every 100,000 boys in that age group.

Figure 15
Rate of juvenile admissions to secure detention by gender, 2002–2007



Source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System

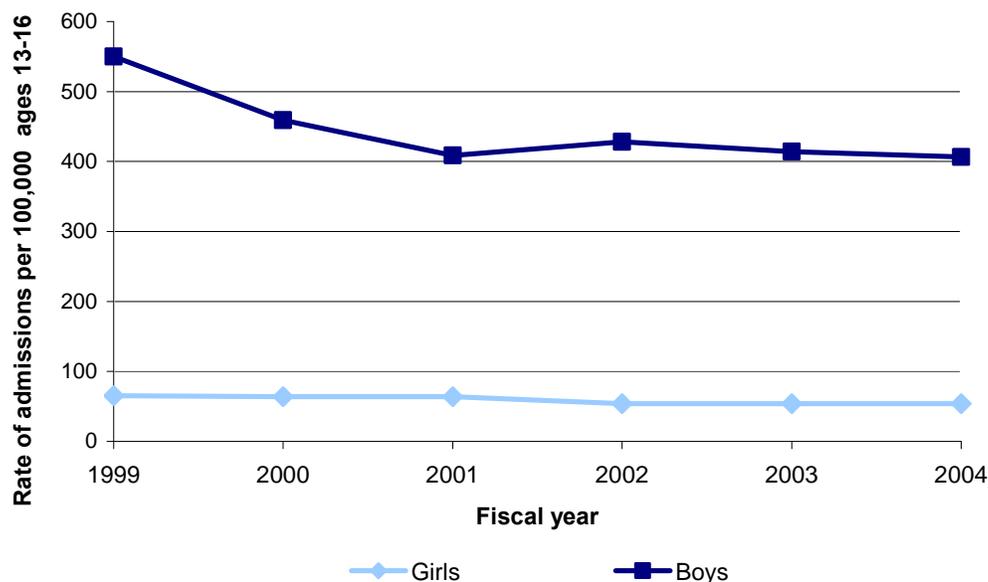
Corrections

Girls were committed to corrections less often than boys and their commitments were for less serious offenses.

Girls were committed to corrections less often than boys. In FY04, the last year for which data were available, 11 percent of the 1,729 juveniles committed to IDOC for new offenses were girls (n=193). Girls were also incarcerated at a rate much lower than boys. In FY04, 54 girls were committed to IDOC for every 100,000 girls age 13 to 16, while boys were committed at a rate of 406.

Although incarceration rates decreased overall for juveniles, during the time period examined girls experienced a smaller decrease in their rates of incarceration than boys. The girls' rate of commitment decreased 17 percent from 65 in FY99 to 54 in FY04. During this same time period, the boys' rate decreased 29 percent. *Figure 16* shows the rate of juvenile commitments to corrections by gender from FY99 to FY04.

Figure 16
Rate of juvenile commitments to IDOC by gender, FY99–FY04



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Felony and misdemeanor

Girls had a larger proportion of their commitments for misdemeanor offenses than boys. In FY04, 38 percent of girls' commitments (n=73) and 14 percent of boys' commitments (n=218) were for misdemeanors. Conversely, 62 percent of girls' commitments (n=120) and 86 percent of boys' (n=1,317) were for felonies.

Girls who commit person offenses

Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely than boys' to be for person offenses, most often misdemeanor battery.

Boys had higher rates of offending than girls for all crime offense categories, but girls' juvenile justice system involvement was more likely to be for person offenses. At all stages in the system, girls had a higher proportion of involvement for person offenses, often related to battery and assault. This finding is similar to national findings that girls are increasingly involved in the juvenile justice system for person offenses, particularly for offenses against those with whom the girls have a relationship.⁴¹ When girls commit offenses against another person it is often due to influences of a violent culture from peers, gangs, families, schools, and disadvantaged neighborhoods.⁴²

Arrests for person offenses

Person offenses include assault, battery, homicide, intimidation, kidnapping, offenses involving children, and robbery. Girls’ arrests were more likely than boys’ to be for person offenses, although usually for misdemeanors. Arrests for person offenses among both girls and boys were largely for battery, with girls’ arrests more often for misdemeanor battery than boys.

In 2007, 33 percent of girls’ arrests (n=3,476) and 26 percent of boys’ (n=9,830) were for person offenses.

For both boys and girls, person offense arrests were more often for misdemeanor offenses, however, girls’ person offense arrests were more likely than boys’ to be for misdemeanors. Eighty percent of girls’ person arrests (n=2,783) and 69 percent of boys’ (n=6,799) were for misdemeanors. Conversely, 20 percent of girls’ (n=693) and 31 percent of boys’ (n=3,030) person arrests were for felonies.

Most juvenile arrests for person offenses were for battery (n=9,725 or 73 percent). Girls’ battery arrests were more likely to be for misdemeanors than boys’. Eighty-four percent of female person offense arrests were for battery (n=2,921), and 81 percent of those battery arrests were misdemeanors (n=2,372). Sixty-nine percent of boys’ person arrests were for battery (n=6,804) and 79 percent of those arrests were misdemeanors (n=5,409). *Table 2* shows the arrests by the type of offense against a person among boys and girls by class in 2007.

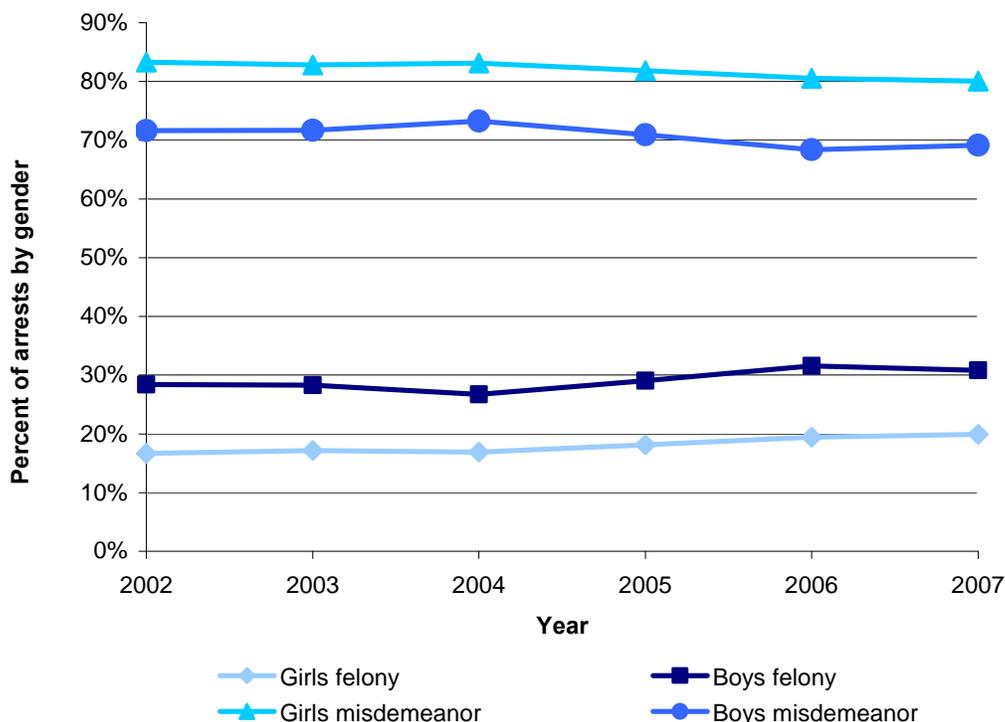
**Table 2
Person offense arrests by type, class, and gender, 2007**

Person offense type	Girls		Boys	
	Misdemeanor	Felony	Misdemeanor	Felony
Assault	404 (99%)	3 (1%)	1,383 (98%)	28 (2%)
Battery	2,372 (81%)	549 (19%)	5,409 (79%)	1,395 (21%)
Homicide	0 (0%)	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	40 (100%)
Intimidation	2 (20%)	8 (80%)	2 (5%)	35 (95%)
Kidnapping	1 (14%)	6 (86%)	0 (0%)	18 (100%)
Offenses involving children (e.g. neglect)	4 (80%)	1 (20%)	5 (63%)	3 (37%)
Robbery	0 (0%)	123 (100%)	0 (0%)	1,511 (100%)
Total of person offenses	2,783 (80%)	693 (20%)	6,799 (69%)	3,030 (31%)

Source: Authority’s CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

During the time period examined, most person arrests for boys and girls were misdemeanors. The proportion of girls' person offense arrests for misdemeanors consistently remained higher than boys'. *Figure 17* shows the proportion of misdemeanor and felony arrests by gender from 2002 to 2007.

Figure 17
Percent of person arrests by offense class within gender, 2002–2007



Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Reporting misdemeanor arrests to CHRI are not mandatory, therefore, these findings are a conservative estimate. These data support mounting arguments that girls may be arrested for less serious person offenses more often than boys.⁴³

Results of statistical analysis

The difference between male and female arrests for misdemeanor classes and felony classes in 2007 was significant but substantively small. A Yate's chi-square test found a statistically significant association between gender and class group ($\chi^2 = 151.28$, $df = 1$, $p < .001$), but subsequent phi and phi-square tests, which are less sensitive to sample size, indicate the association is weak ($\Phi = 0.106$, $\Phi^2 = 0.01$).

Yule's Q analysis showed that approximately 28 percent of the variation in offense class was predicted by gender ($Q = 0.283$). As misdemeanor arrest reporting is voluntary, these findings are a conservative estimate and the relationship is likely to be stronger. Additional statistical analyses examining gender differences are discussed later.

Detention admissions for person offenses

As previously mentioned, decisions to detain juveniles are based on screening instruments that take into account numerous factors in addition to the presenting offense. Absent from this analysis on detention admissions are data pertaining to previous offenses or circumstances that may play a part in detention decisions.

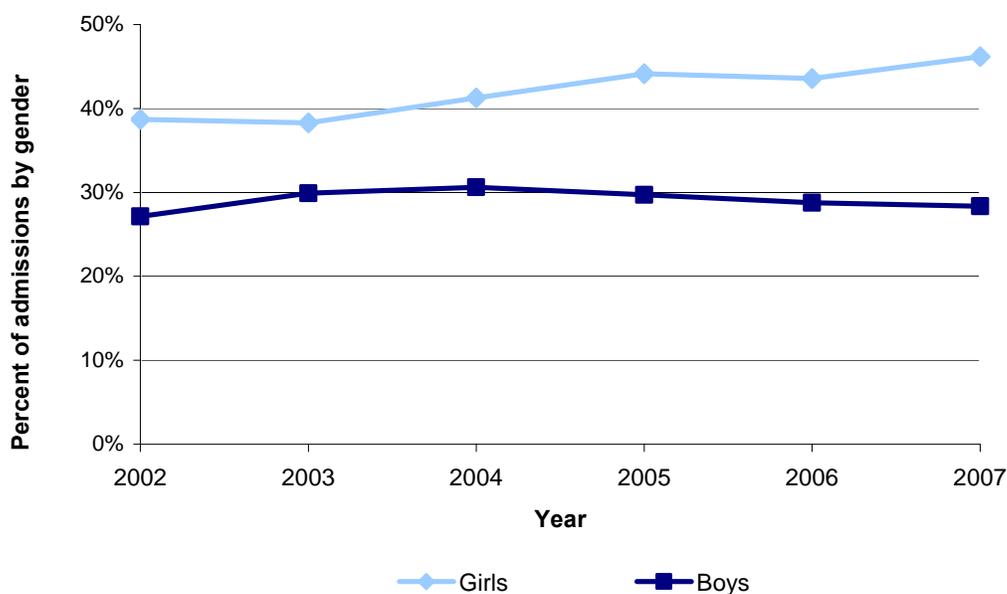
Girls' detention admissions were more likely to be for person offenses than boys' and the girls' proportion of admissions for person offenses increased more than boys during the period examined.

In 2007, 46 percent of all girls admitted to secure detention were for offenses against a person (n=1,236). The proportion of girls detained for offenses against a person increased 18 percent during the period examined, from 39 percent (n=1,302) in 2002 to 46 percent (n=1,236) in 2007.

Boys were detained at a much higher rate for offenses against a person than females. There were 567 admissions for every 100,000 boys age 10 to 16 in 2007 compared to 198 for girls. While boys' rates of detention for offenses against a person were higher than girls, girls had a higher proportion of their admissions for person offenses.

In 2007, 28 percent of boys' admissions (n=3,706) and 46 percent of girls' admissions (n=1,236) were for person offenses. *Figure 18* shows the proportion of person offense admissions to secure detention for boys and girls from 2002 to 2007.

Figure 18
Proportion of detention admissions for offenses against a person by gender, 2002–2007



Source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System

Commitments to corrections for person offenses

Decisions to commit a juvenile to corrections involve a number of factors in addition to the presenting offense. Absent from this analysis of corrections commitments are data pertaining to previous offenses or other circumstances that may play a part in commitment decisions.

Girls' commitments to corrections were more likely than boys to be for person offenses in FY04. Thirty-eight percent of girls' (n=74) and 27 percent of boys' overall commitments were for person offenses.

Most girls' person offense commitments were for battery (n=64 or 86 percent). The proportion of girls' commitments for battery was higher than boys (n=241 or 58 percent). *Table 3* shows the type of person offense commitments by gender and class for fiscal year 2004.

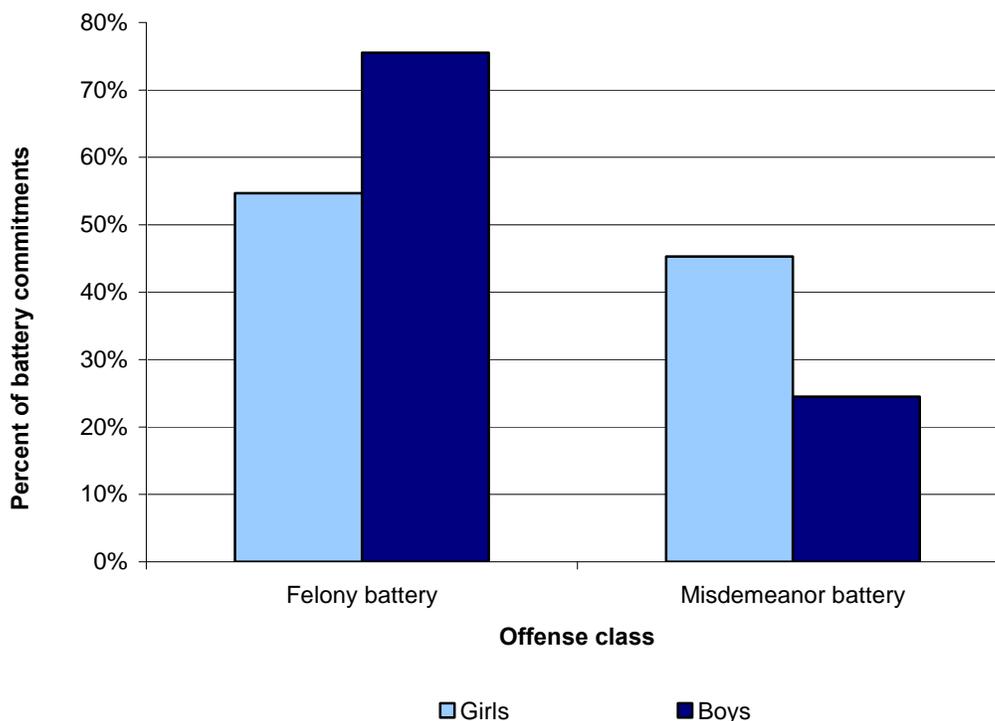
**Table 3
Person offense commitments by type, gender, and class, FY04**

Person offense type	Girls		Boys	
	Misdemeanor	Felony	Misdemeanor	Felony
Aggravated assault	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	10 (100%)	0 (0%)
Battery	29 (45%)	35 (55%)	59 (24%)	182 (76%)
Invasion/Hijacking (Home and vehicle)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	26 (100%)
Kidnapping	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Other person offenses	0 (0%)	4 (100%)	2 (10%)	19 (90%)
Robbery	0 (0%)	5 (100%)	0 (0%)	113 (100%)
Total	30 (41%)	44 (59%)	71 (17%)	343 (83%)

Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

While the proportion of felony battery commitments was high for both boys (n=182 or 76 percent) and girls (n=35 or 55 percent), girls had a higher proportion of misdemeanor battery commitments (n=29 or 45 percent) than their male counterparts (n=59 or 24 percent). *Figure 19* shows the proportion of IDOC commitments for battery by offense class and gender for FY04.

Figure 19
Proportion of IDOC commitments for battery by class and gender, FY04



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Boys' commitments were more likely to be for robbery than girls. Robbery accounted for 28 percent of boys' commitments for offenses against a person (n=113), compared to 7 percent of girls' commitments for offenses against a person (n=5).

Commitments to corrections for misdemeanor offenses against a person continue to support that girls were involved with the juvenile justice system for less serious offenses when compared to boys.

Results of statistical analysis

The difference between boys' and girls' commitments to corrections for misdemeanor and felony person offenses in 2004 is statistically significant. A Chi-Square test of association was used to analyze gender and offense class associations. This test found a significant association between gender and class, with girls having more commitments for misdemeanors than expected ($\chi^2 = 20.93$, $df = 1$, $p < .001$). Further statistical analyses examining gender differences are discussed later. These analyses found a significant difference between the proportion of misdemeanor commitments between girls and boys.

Girls who commit sex offenses

Few juveniles are arrested, detained or incarcerated for sex offenses. Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections for sex offenses were more likely than boys' to be for misdemeanors.

Arrests for sex offenses

Sex offenses accounted for less than one percent (0.7 percent) of all juvenile arrests in 2007 (n=336). Boys were more often arrested for sex offenses than girls. Sixteen girls and 320 boys were arrested for sex offenses in 2007.

Girls were rarely arrested for felony sex offenses. In 2007, 12 percent of girls' sex offense arrests (n=2) and 69 percent of boys' sex offense arrests (n=222) were for felonies. Conversely, 88 percent of girls' (n=14) and 31 percent of boys' (n=98) sex offense arrests were for misdemeanors.

Detention admissions for sex offenses

Girls' detention admissions were less likely to be for sex offenses than boys. The proportion of girls detained for sex offenses was less than 1 percent in 2007 (n=6). Approximately 2 percent of boys' detention admissions were for sex offenses (n=321).

The rate of admissions to detention for sex offenses decreased for both boys (18 percent) and girls (67 percent) between 2002 and 2007.

Commitments to corrections for sex offenses

Juvenile commitments for sex offenses accounted for a small proportion, 5 percent, of all commitments in 2004 (n=83). Girls had no admissions for sex offenses in 2004 and only three admissions in 2002 and in 2003. The proportion of commitments for sex offenses for boys also was low, averaging 5 to 6 percent of all their commitments, or 91 commitments per year.

Girls who commit weapons offenses

Few juveniles are arrested, detained or incarcerated for weapons offenses. Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections for weapons offenses were more likely than boys' to be for misdemeanors.

Arrests for weapons offenses

Few juveniles were arrested for weapons offenses as their most serious offense. Girls' arrests were less likely to be for serious weapons offenses.

In 2007, weapons arrests accounted for 1 percent of all girls' arrests (n=103), and 2 percent of boys' arrests (n=790). Girls' weapons arrests were less likely to be a felony offense than boys'. Thirty-four percent of girls' weapons arrests (n=35) were felonies, while 60 percent of boys'

weapons arrests were felonies (n=477). Conversely, the majority (66 percent) of female weapons arrests were misdemeanors (n=68), compared to 40 percent of male arrests (n=313).

Detention admissions for weapons offenses

Girls had a smaller proportion of admissions to detention for weapons offenses (n= 29 or 1 percent) than boys (n= 683 or 5 percent).

The proportion of admissions for weapons offenses decreased for both boys (12 percent) and girls (4 percent) between 2002 and 2007. The rate of admissions for weapons offenses decreased 17 percent for girls and 15 percent for boys during that same time period.

Commitments to corrections for weapons offenses

Few juveniles were committed for weapons offenses; however, girls' commitments to corrections were less likely to be for weapons offenses.

For girls, in FY04, 2 percent of all commitments were for weapons offenses (n=4). Boys had a higher proportion of weapons offense commitments—7 percent of all commitments (n=107) were for weapons offenses.

Half of the girls' commitments to IDOC for weapons offenses were for felonies (n=2) and half were for misdemeanors (n=2). Ninety-five percent of boys' weapons commitments were felonies (n=102), and 5 percent were misdemeanors (n=5). However, since so few girls were committed for weapons offenses, it is not possible to know if the higher proportion of girls committed for felonies is a meaningful difference.

Girls and property offenses

Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely to be for theft, particularly retail theft.

Property offenses account for a high proportion of boys' and girls' involvement in the juvenile justice system. Property offenses accounted for 32 percent of girls' arrests, 20 percent of their admissions to detention, and 50 percent of their commitments to corrections. Property offenses accounted for 32 percent of boys' arrests, 26 percent of their detention admissions, and 46 percent of their commitments to corrections.

Girls' juvenile justice system involvement at all stages was more likely to be for theft, particularly, retail theft. Boys' involvement was more likely to be for burglary. *Table 4* shows 2007 arrests, detainments, and commitments for property offenses by type and gender.

Table 4
Arrests, detention admissions, and IDOC commitments for property offenses, 2007*

Property offense type	Arrest		Detention		Corrections*	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Arson	19 (1%)	89 (1%)	24 (4%)	77 (2%)	1 (1%)	12 (2%)
Burglary	146 (4%)	2,385 (20%)	105 (20%)	1,528 (45%)	23 (24%)	351 (50%)
Criminal damage	313 (9%)	2,667 (19%)	91 (17%)	577 (17%)	8 (8%)	63 (9%)
Criminal trespassing	401 (12%)	2,836 (21%)	32 (6%)	188 (6%)	13 (13%)	29 (4%)
Motor vehicle theft	69 (2%)	765 (6%)	38 (7%)	341 (10%)	12 (12%)	126 (18%)
Other property offenses	79 (2%)	264 (2%)	23 (4%)	71 (2%)	6 (6%)	6 (1%)
Theft	2,373 (70%)	3,164 (26%)	222 (41%)	602 (18%)	34 (35%)	113 (16%)
Total property	3,400 (100%)	12,170 (100%)	535 (100%)	3,384 (100%)	97 (100%)	700 (100%)

* Corrections data for 2005 through 2007 were unavailable; FY04 was used.

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets, Juvenile Monitoring Information System, and Illinois Department of Corrections.

The majority of property offense arrests were for misdemeanors, while the majority of property offense commitments to IDOC were for felonies. Girls were arrested and committed to corrections for misdemeanors more often than boys.

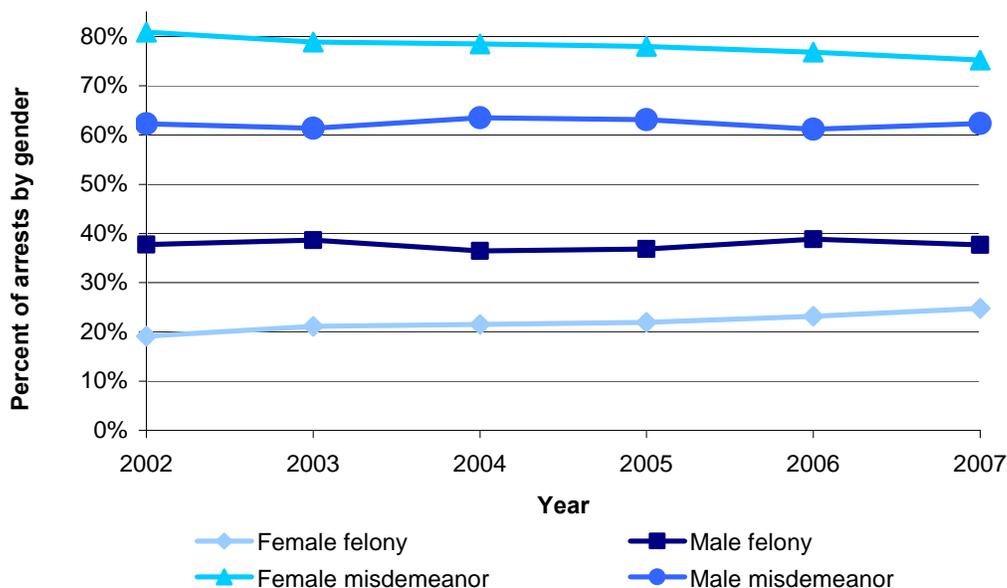
Arrests for property offenses

Girls and boys were arrested for property offenses at about the same rate. However, girls' property offense arrests were more likely to be misdemeanors specifically misdemeanor retail theft.

While girls only accounted for 22 percent of all property offense arrests (n=3,400) in 2007, these arrests accounted for 32 percent of all girls' arrests in 2007. Similarly, 32 percent of all boys' arrests in 2007 were for property offenses (n=12,170).

Girls had a higher proportion of their arrests for less serious offenses compared to boys. In 2007, 75 percent of girls' property offense arrests were for misdemeanors (n=2,552), compared to 62 percent of boys' (n=7,511). Statistical analyses, discussed later in this report, found significant differences between the proportion of misdemeanor property arrests between boys and girls. *Figure 20* depicts the proportion of property arrests by class and gender from 2002 to 2007.

Figure 20
Proportion of property arrests by offense class within gender, 2002–2007



Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Among property offense arrests, the proportion of female arrests for theft (n=2,373 or 70 percent) was higher than boys (n=3,164 or 26 percent). Eighty-five percent of girls' theft arrests (n=2,027) and 53 percent of boys' (n=3,690) were for retail theft. *Table 5* shows property offense arrests by type, class, and gender for 2007.

Table 5
Property offense arrests by type, class, and gender, 2007

Property offense type	Girls		Boys	
	Misdemeanor	Felony	Misdemeanor	Felony
Arson	0 (0%)	19 (100%)	0 (0%)	89 (100%)
Burglary	0 (0%)	146 (100%)	0 (0%)	2,385 (100%)
Criminal damage	240 (77%)	73 (23%)	2,056 (77%)	610 (23%)
Criminal trespassing	401 (100%)	0 (0%)	2,830 (100%)	6 (0%)
Motor vehicle theft	0 (0%)	69 (100%)	0 (0%)	765 (100%)
Other property offenses	35 (44%)	40 (51%)	136 (52%)	59 (22%)
Theft	1,876 (79%)	497 (21%)	2,488 (79%)	676 (21%)
Total of property offenses	2,552 (75%)	844 (25%)	7,511 (62%)	4,588 (38%)

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Note: Percentages may not equal 100 percent because of Petty, Local, and Unknown offense classes

Girls' and boys' arrests for misdemeanor theft accounted for 79 percent of theft arrests among girls (n=1,876) and boys (n=2,488) in 2007. The remaining 21 percent of theft arrests among girls (n=497) and boys (n=676) were for felonies.

Results of statistical analysis

The difference between male and female arrests for misdemeanors and felonies in 2007 is significant but substantively small. A Chi-Square test found that there was a statistically significant association between gender and class ($\chi^2 = 151.28$, $df = 1$, $p < .001$), but subsequent phi and phi-square tests, which are less sensitive to sample size, indicate virtually no association ($\Phi = 0.012$, $\Phi^2 = 0.00015$).

A Yule's Q statistic, shows that approximately 29 percent of the variance in offense class is predicted by gender ($Q = 0.294$). Additional statistical analyses examining gender differences are discussed later. Reporting misdemeanor arrests to CHRI is not mandatory, therefore, these findings are a conservative estimate.

Detention admissions for property offenses

Girls' detention admissions were less likely than boys' to be for property offenses overall but more likely to be for theft. Girls experienced a greater decline in their rate of property offense detention admissions than boys during the period studied.

Property offenses accounted for 20 percent of girls' admissions (n=535) and 26 percent of boys' (n=3,384). The proportion of girls' admissions for property offenses decreased 20 percent from 2002 to 2007, and their rate for every 100,000 ages 10 to 16 fell 35 percent. Boys experienced a smaller decrease in their rate of admissions for property offenses, only falling 9 percent during the period examined.

In 2007, most property offense detainments among girls were for theft (n=222 or 41 percent). Most property offense detainments among boys were for burglary (n=1,528 or 45 percent). *Table 6* shows the number and proportion of admissions to detention for property offenses by type of offense and gender for 2007.

Table 6
Property offense admissions to secure detention by type and gender, 2007

Property offense type	Girls		Boys	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Arson	24	4.5%	77	2.3%
Burglary	105	19.6%	1,528	45.2%
Criminal damage	91	17.0%	577	17.1%
Criminal trespassing	32	6.0%	188	5.6%
Motor vehicle theft	38	7.1%	341	10.1%
Other property offenses	23	4.3%	71	2.1%
Theft	222	41.5%	602	17.8%
Total	535	100%	3,384	100%

Source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System

Fifty percent of girls' theft detention admissions were for retail theft (n=112), compared to 34 percent of theft admissions for boys (n=206). Boys were more likely to be detained for theft from buildings, motor vehicles, or machines (n=98 or 16 percent) than girls (n=25 or 5 percent).

Commitments to corrections for property offenses

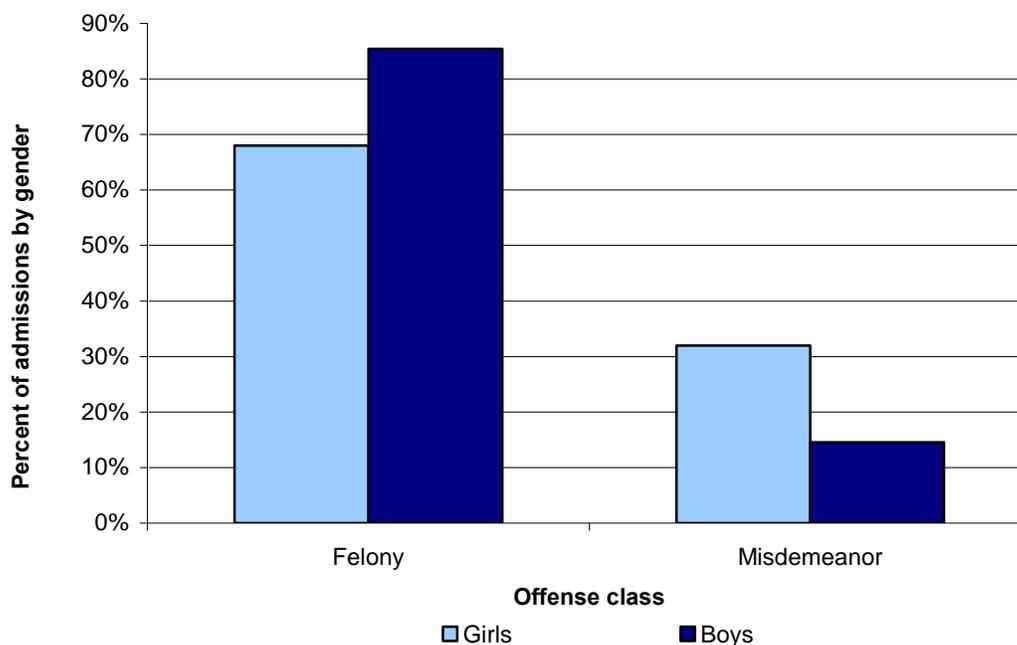
Girls' commitments to a youth correctional facility were more likely than boys' to be for property offenses. Of those committed for property offenses, girls' property offense commitments were more likely to be for theft and misdemeanor offenses.

In FY04, property offenses accounted for 50 percent of girls' commitments to IDOC (n=97) and 46 percent of boys' commitments (n=700). Thirty-five percent of girls' property commitments (n=34) and 16 percent of boys' property commitments (n=113) were for theft. Fifty percent of boys committed for property offenses were for burglary (n=351), compared to 24 percent for girls committed for property offenses (n=23). Girls also had a higher proportion of property commitments for criminal trespassing (13 percent) than boys (4 percent).

Felony and misdemeanor

The proportion of property commitments for misdemeanors was higher for girls (n=31 or 32 percent) than boys (n=102 or 15 percent) in 2004. *Figure 21* depicts the proportion of IDOC property commitments by offense class and gender for FY04.

Figure 21
Proportion of IDOC property commitments by offense class and gender, FY04



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely than boys' to be for less serious property offenses. Girls had a higher proportion of arrests and incarcerations for misdemeanors.

Girls also had a higher proportion of their arrests, detainments, and incarcerations for criminal trespassing and theft than boys. Boys' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely to be for motor vehicle theft, arson, and burglary.

Girls and drug offenses

Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were less likely than boys to be for drug offenses.

Girls committed fewer drug offenses than boys. According to the IDHS Illinois Youth Survey, girls used cannabis less often than boys, and while their proportion of arrests for cannabis were lower, their proportion of detention admissions for cannabis offenses were higher than boys'. Girls' arrests were also more likely than boys' to be for drug paraphernalia. Still, drug offenses accounted for a small proportion of girls' overall juvenile justice system involvement (*Table 8*).

Table 7
Arrests, detention admissions, and IDOC commitments for drug offenses, 2007*

Drug offense type	Arrest		Detention		Corrections*	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Controlled substances	124 (24%)	1,865 (33%)	87 (69%)	1,065 (80%)	4 (80%)	163 (85%)
Cannabis	277 (53%)	3,276 (59%)	26 (21%)	217 (16%)	0 (0%)	24 (12%)
Drug paraphernalia	115 (22%)	417 (7%)	13 (10%)	45 (3%)	0 (0%)	4 (2%)
Other drug	8 (1%)	12 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	1 (0.5%)
Total drug	524 (100%)	5,570 (100%)	126 (100%)	1,327 (100%)	5 (100%)	192 (100%)

* Corrections data for 2007 were unavailable; FY04 was used.

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets, Juvenile Monitoring Information System, and Illinois Department of Corrections

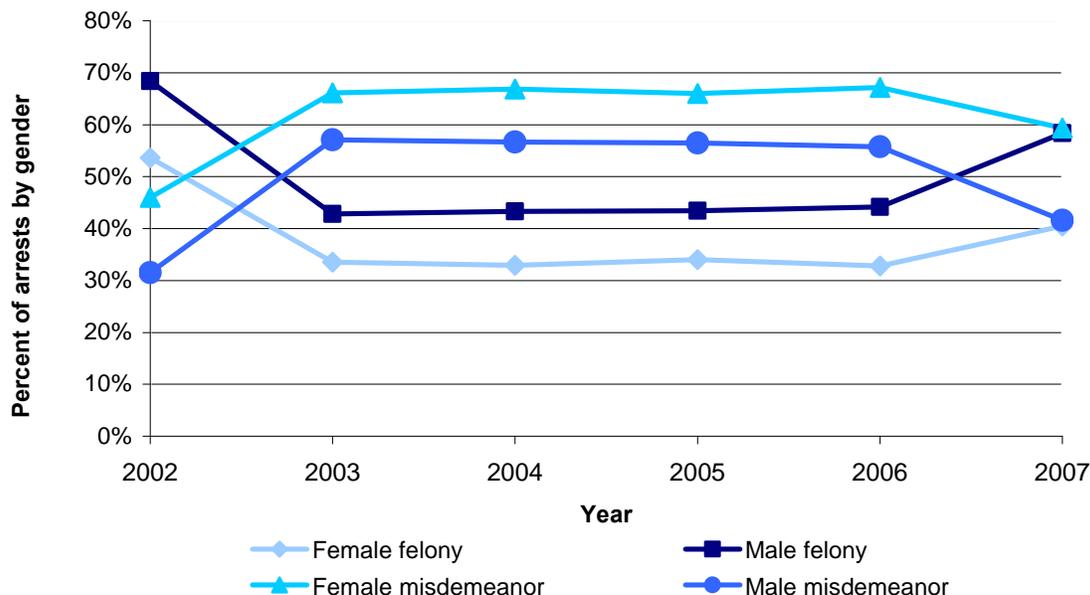
Arrests for drug offenses

Girls' arrests are less likely to be for drug offenses than boys'. Nine percent of juveniles arrested for drug offenses in 2007 were girls (n=524) and 91 percent were boys (n=5,570). Drug arrests accounted for 5 percent of all female juvenile arrests and 15 percent of all male juvenile arrests.

Felony and misdemeanor

Reporting misdemeanor arrests for juveniles to CHRI by law enforcement is voluntary. As a result, arrest offense class disparities are a conservative estimate. Girls had a higher proportion of their drug arrests for misdemeanors than boys (*Figure 22*). In 2007, their proportion of misdemeanors was 59 percent (n=311), compared to 42 percent for boys (n=2,317). This proportion decreased 12 percent from 2006 to 2007, while the boys' proportion decreased 25 percent.

Figure 22
Proportion of drug arrests by offense class within gender, 2002–2007



Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

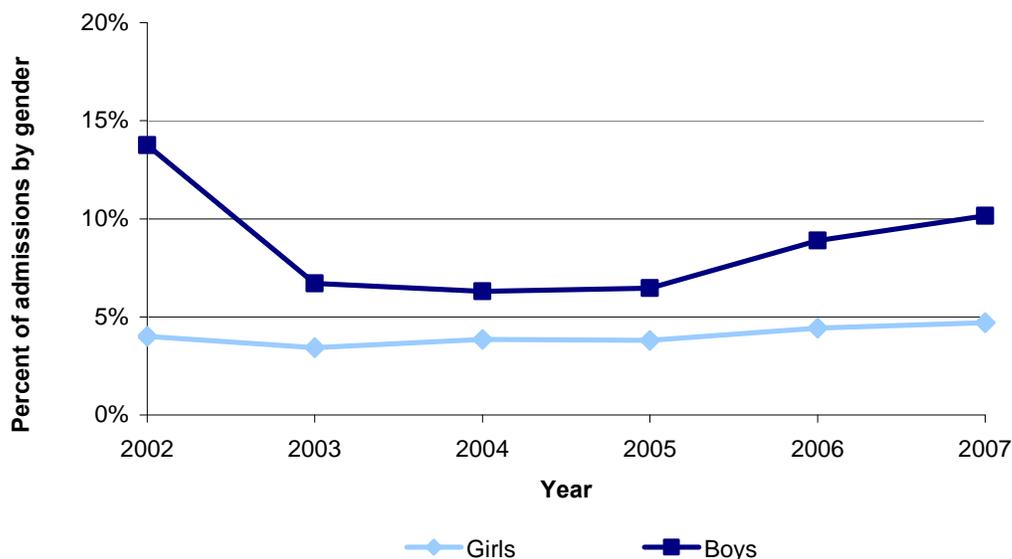
Statistical analyses, discussed later in this report, found significant differences in the proportion of misdemeanor drug arrests between boys and girls.

Detention admissions for drug offenses

Girls' admissions to detention were less likely than boys' to be for drug offenses. However, the proportion of admissions for drugs increased slightly for girls while it has decreased for boys.

Girls accounted for 9 percent of drug admissions to juvenile detention in 2007, and 5 percent of girls' detention admissions were for drugs (n=126). Girls' admissions for drug offenses increased 18 percent from 2002 to 2007. Boys' drug offense admissions decreased 26 percent during that time period, though their proportion began increasing in 2005. *Figure 23* depicts the proportion of detention admissions for drug offenses by gender from 2002 to 2007.

Figure 23
Proportion of detention admissions for drug offenses by gender, 2002–2007



Source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System

For girls and boys, controlled substance offenses constituted the largest proportion of drug admissions. Sixty-nine percent of girls' drug offense admissions were for controlled substances (n=87) and possession of a controlled substance accounted for 68 percent of their drug offense admissions (n=86).

Comparatively, 80 percent of drug detention admissions among boys were for controlled substances (n=1,065) and possession of a controlled substance accounted for 75 percent of their total drug admissions (n=1,002).

Commitments to corrections for drug offenses

In FY04, the proportion of girls' commitments to corrections for drugs was small—only five girls were committed for drug offenses (3 percent). Boys had a higher proportion of their overall commitments to IDOC for drugs—12 percent of admissions (n=192).

Most drug offense commitments were for felony offenses. Sixty percent of girls' drug commitments (n=3) and 94 percent of boys' drug commitments were for felonies (n=181). Conversely, 40 percent of girls' drug commitments were for misdemeanors (n=2), compared to only 6 percent of boys' drug offense commitments (n=11).

Gender differences were apparent with respect to drug offenses, with few girls committed to IDOC for them. While girls had a higher proportion of their commitments for misdemeanor offenses than boys, commitment numbers for girls were too small to draw definitive conclusions.

Girls and juvenile justice system noncompliance

Girls' involvement in the juvenile justice system was more likely to be for noncompliance offenses, such as contempt of court and obstructing justice.

Many youth are involved in the justice system as a result of noncompliance with the court or public officials. These individuals do not adhere to stipulations mandated of them through the courts or laws. This section explores youth arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections for noncompliance with the court and public officials.

Noncompliance with public officials

Juveniles can be arrested, detained, and incarcerated for not complying with individuals working in an official capacity, such as law enforcement officers. Such noncompliance can include obstruction of justice, interference with a public official, resisting or obstructing a peace officer, and fleeing, escaping, or eluding peace officers or public officials. Obstruction of justice is any action that intends to prevent or interfere with the apprehension, prosecution, or defense of any person. *Table 8* depicts arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections for boys and girls for noncompliance with public officials.

Table 8
Arrests, detention admissions, and IDOC commitments for noncompliance with public officials by gender, 2007

Noncompliance offense type	Arrest		Detention		Corrections*	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Obstructing justice	37 (18%)	78 (13%)	14 (37%)	26 (14%)	4 (67%)	7 (32%)
Resist/obstruct/disarm a police officer	161 (78%)	478 (79%)	20 (53%)	135 (71%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Escape	3 (1%)	8 (1%)	1 (3%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	3 (14%)
Fleeing or eluding a police officer	2 (1%)	43 (7%)	3 (8%)	25 (13%)	2 (33%)	12 (54%)
Other	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	205 (100%)	607 (100%)	38 (100%)	189 (100%)	6 (100%)	22 (100%)

* Corrections data for 2007 were unavailable; 2004 was used.

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets, Juvenile Monitoring Information System, and Illinois Department of Corrections.

Noncompliance with the court

Courts may have additional requirements, expectations, and mandates of court-involved juveniles. Not complying with these requirements can lead to arrests, detainment, and incarceration for these offenses. Noncompliance with court mandates, for the purpose of this research, included contempt of court, court order violations, and interference with the judicial process.

Contempt of court is an order issued by a judge to enforce court rules and to maintain control of the courtroom by imposing sanctions. A judge may find juveniles in contempt for a number of reasons, including disrespecting the judge or other poor behavior and failure to comply with court orders. Contempt of court is often a civil, not criminal, charge. A civil charge of contempt is one in which the juvenile defies an order of the judge, such as paying restitution, when it is in their ability to comply. A civil sanction for contempt is limited in length of time to as long as disobedience to the court’s order continues.

A judge can charge a juvenile with criminal contempt. A criminal sanction for contempt can be imposed unconditionally, so a youth can be detained or incarcerated beyond the cessation of the contempt action after a hearing affording the juvenile all the rights of a criminal defendant.

Court order violations include, but are not limited to, technical violations of probation and parole/MSR, non-payment of child support, violating an order of protection, and failure to register with local and national registries for certain sex, violent, methamphetamine, and arson offenses.

Interference with the judicial process consists of any action that directly impedes or circumvents judicial procedures. These offenses include, but are not limited to, perjury, compounding a crime, harassment of jurors or witnesses, bribery, false impersonation of a judicial or public official, and tampering with evidence. *Table 9* depicts arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections for boys and girls for noncompliance with court mandates.

Table 9
Arrests, detention admissions, and IDOC commitments for noncompliance with the court by gender, 2007*

Noncompliance offense type	Arrest		Detention		Corrections*	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Contempt of court	7 (26%)	9 (7%)	99 (31%)	422 (31%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Probation/parole violations	13 (48%)	89 (69%)	206 (65%)	866 (64%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)
Other court order violations	5 (18%)	19 (15%)	11 (3%)	51 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Interference with the judicial process	2 (7%)	12 (9%)	0 (0%)	3 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	27 (100%)	129 (100%)	316 (100%)	1,343 (100%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)

* Corrections data for FY05 through FY07 were unavailable; FY04 was used.

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets, Juvenile Monitoring Information System, and Illinois Department of Corrections.

Other types of noncompliance

An additional type of noncompliance is recommitments to IDOC for technical violations. These individuals have not necessarily committed a new crime, but have failed to comply with the conditions of their parole. *Table 10* depicts arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections for noncompliance. *Table 10* also includes technical parole violation recommitments to IDOC.

Table 10
Arrests, detention admissions, and IDOC commitments for noncompliance offenses, 2007*

Noncompliance offense type	Arrest		Detention		Corrections*	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Noncompliance with public officials	205 (88%)	607 (82%)	38 (11%)	189 (12%)	6 (5%)	22 (2%)
Noncompliance with the court	27 (12%)	129 (17%)	316 (89%)	1,343 (88%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Technical parole violations (IDOC)	—	—	—	—	102 (94%)	1,275 (98%)
Total noncompliance	232 (100%)	736 (100%)	354 (100%)	1,532 (100%)	109 (100%)	1,297 (100%)

* Corrections data for 2005 through 2007 were unavailable; FY04 was used.

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc Datasets, Juvenile Monitoring Information System, and Illinois Department of Corrections

Arrests for noncompliance

The rate of noncompliance offense arrests for girls and boys were similar. Additionally, girls' and boys' noncompliance arrests were for similar offense classes, with girls' arrests being slightly more likely than boys' to be for felony offenses.

Two percent of all girls' arrests (n=232), and 2 percent of all boys' arrests (n=736) in 2007 were for noncompliance with the court or public officials.

Felony and misdemeanor

The most common noncompliance arrest was for resisting or obstructing a peace officer [720 *ILCS* 5/31-1]. Resisting or obstructing a police officer is a misdemeanor when a person knowingly resists or obstructs the performances of a peace officer or correctional employee within his or her official capacity. Resisting or obstructing a peace officer is a felony when the aforementioned action was the proximate cause of an injury to the officer.

In 2007, 71 percent of girls' noncompliance arrests (n=150) and 76 percent of boys' noncompliance arrests (n=515) were for misdemeanors. Additionally, 29 percent of girls' (n=60) and 24 percent of boys' (n=163) arrests for noncompliance were for felonies.

Between 2002 and 2007, the felony proportion of noncompliance arrests decreased 35 percent for girls and 31 percent for boys. However, in both 2002 and 2007, the girls' proportion of felony

noncompliance arrests was higher. Statistical analyses, discussed later in this report, did not find significant differences between misdemeanor noncompliance arrests between boys and girls. *Table 11* shows the proportions of offense class groups for noncompliance arrest for girls and boys in 2002 and 2007. Reporting misdemeanor arrests for juveniles to CHRI by law enforcement is voluntary. As a result, arrest offense class disparities are a conservative estimate.

Table 11
Proportion of offense classes for noncompliance arrests by gender, 2002–2007

Offense class	Girls		Boys	
	2002 proportion	2007 proportion	2002 proportion	2007 proportion
Felony	43.9%	28.6%	35.0%	24.0%
Misdemeanor	56.1%	71.4%	65.0%	76.0%

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc Datasets

Arrests for noncompliance with public officials

In 2007, 78 percent of arrests of girls for noncompliance with public officials were for resisting, obstructing, or disarming a police officer (n=161), and 18 percent were for obstructing justice (n=37). Boys had similar proportions but their arrests were more likely to be for fleeing or eluding a police officer (n=43 or 7 percent) than girls (n=2 or 1 percent).

Arrests for noncompliance with the court

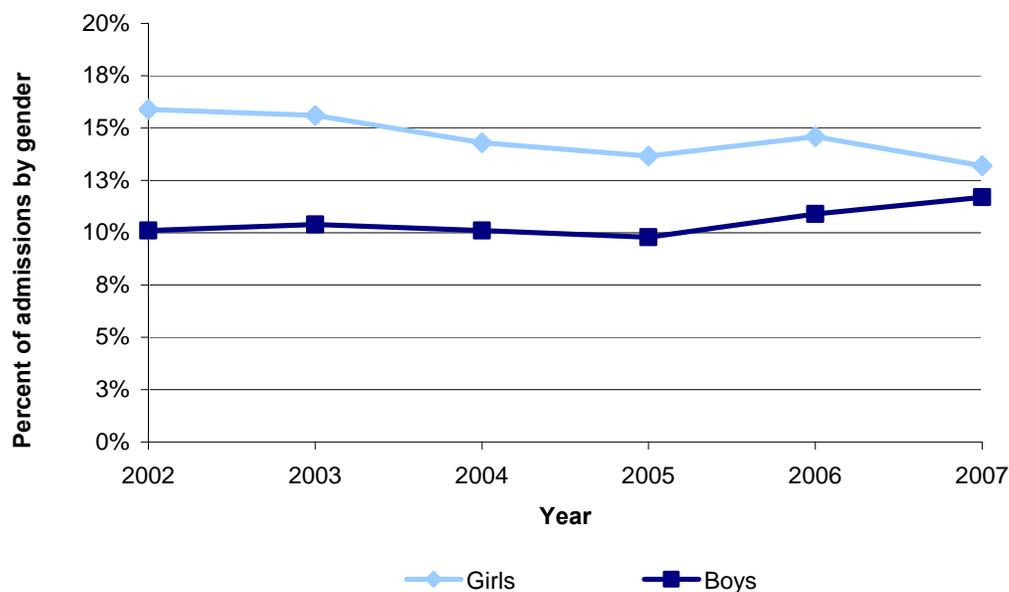
In 2007, probation and parole violations accounted for the highest proportion of juvenile justice system involvement for court noncompliance among both boys and girls. These violations could include, but are not limited to, failing mandatory drug testing, not completing mandated treatment or services, or failing to pay restitution or court fines. Forty-eight percent of girls' court noncompliance arrests were for probation or parole/MSR violations (n=13), compared to 69 percent for boys (n=89).

Detention admissions for noncompliance

In 2007, girls and boys were admitted to detention for noncompliance with the court and public officials at a similar rate. During the period examined, girls experienced a larger decline in noncompliance admissions than boys.

Thirteen percent of girls' admissions (n=354) and 12 percent of boys' admissions (n=1,529) to detention in 2007 were for noncompliance. *Figure 24* depicts the proportions of admissions to detention for noncompliance from 2002 to 2007.

Figure 24
Proportion of detention admissions for noncompliance offenses by gender, 2002–2007



Source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System

Detention admissions for noncompliance with public officials

Fifty-three percent of girls' detention admissions for noncompliance with public officials were for resisting, obstructing, or disarming a police officer (n=20), and 37 percent were for obstructing justice (n=14). Boys' admissions to detention were more likely to be for eluding or fleeing a police officer (n=25 or 13 percent) than girls' (n=3 or 8 percent).

Detention admissions for noncompliance with the court

Girls' and boys' admissions to detention for noncompliance with the court were at a similar rate. Twelve percent of girls' (n=316) and 10 percent of boys' (n=1,343) detention admissions were for noncompliance with the court.

Corrections admissions for noncompliance

New sentence commitments to corrections for noncompliance with the court and public officials were minimal. Girls' commitments to corrections were two times more likely to be for noncompliance offenses than boys'. In 2004, seven girls were committed to corrections for noncompliance (4 percent). While 22 boys were committed to corrections for noncompliance that year, these commitments only comprised 1 percent of their overall commitments. However, commitment numbers for girls were too small to draw definitive conclusions.

Commitments to corrections noncompliance with public officials

Girls' commitments to corrections (n=4 or 67 percent) were more likely than boys' (n=7 or 32 percent) to be for obstructing justice. Boys' commitments to corrections were more likely to be for fleeing or eluding a police officer (n=12 or 54 percent) than girls' (n=2 or 33 percent).

Commitments to corrections for noncompliance with the court

Only one girl was committed to corrections for noncompliance with the court. In 2004, the most recent year data are available, no boys were committed to corrections for noncompliance with the court.

Technical violation recommitments to corrections

Technical violation commitments are recommitments to IDOC for violations of the conditions of a youth's parole or mandatory supervised release (MSR). These violations include, but are not limited to, failing mandatory drug testing, not completing mandated treatment or services, and failure to attend school. If IDOC's Prisoner Review Board determines that the youth violated the terms of their parole or MSR, they can be returned to a correctional facility for additional time or to complete the remainder of their initial sentence. These individuals are not considered new offenders, as they have not committed a new offense.

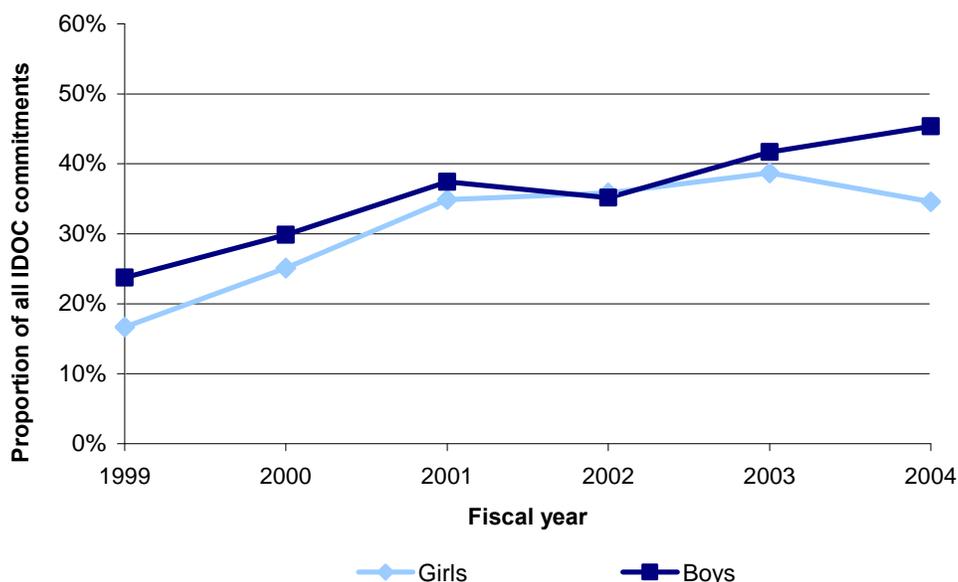
In 2004, 1,377 juveniles were re-committed to corrections for technical violations. Girls accounted for 7 percent of technical violation commitments (n=102) and boys for 93 percent (n=1,275).

In 2004, technical violation recommitments accounted for 44 percent of all juvenile IDOC admissions (for both new sentences and technical violations). For girls, technical violation recommitments (n=102) accounted for 35 percent of their admissions. Boys' technical violation admissions (n=1,275) accounted for 45 percent of their admissions to corrections.

Girls have experienced a greater increase in rates of commitment for technical violations during the period examined, more than doubling between 1999 and 2004. Boys' proportion of technical violation commitments increased 91 percent during that same time period.

Figure 25 shows the proportion of admissions for technical violation recommitments from fiscal year 1999 to 2004.

Figure 25
Technical violation recommitment proportion of all commitments to IDOC by gender, FY99–FY04



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Girls and juvenile-specific offenses

Girls’ arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely than boys’ to be for running away and requiring authoritative intervention.

Status offenses are offenses that are illegal due to the age of the offender and would not be criminal if committed by an adult. Curfew violations, truancy, and running away are examples of status offenses. Research has shown that girls have more involvement with the juvenile justice system for status offenses, particularly running away and incorrigibility.⁴⁴

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act requires that states deinstitutionalize status offenders. Therefore, each juvenile detained or incarcerated for a status offense not in violation of a court order is in violation of the Act.

Table 12 shows the number and proportion of boys and girls arrested, detained, and incarcerated for status offenses by type in 2007.

Table 12
Arrests, detention admissions, and IDOC commitments for status offenses by gender, 2007*

Status offense type	Arrest		Detention		Corrections*	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Curfew	81 (17%)	195 (25%)	3 (7%)	4 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Possession or consumption of liquor by minor	296 (63%)	503 (64%)	21 (47%)	18 (46%)	2 (100%)	4 (100%)
Runaway	14 (3%)	10 (1%)	14 (31%)	3 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total status	470 (100%)	783 (100%)	45 (100%)	39 (100%)	2 (100%)	4 (100%)

* Corrections data for 2005 through 2007 were unavailable; 2004 was used.

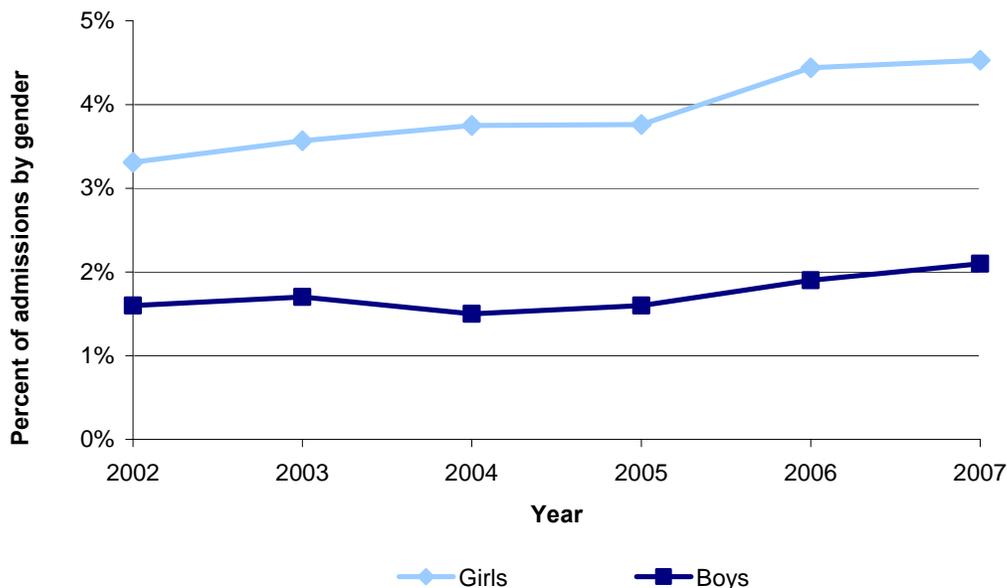
Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets, Juvenile Monitoring Information System, and Illinois Department of Corrections

Arrests for status offenses

Girls' arrests were more likely to be for status offenses than boys, particularly for running away and requiring authoritative intervention. However, status offenses are all misdemeanors or local ordinance violations, and these types of offenses are not required to be reported to CHRI. As a result, the number of juveniles arrested for status offenses are likely underreported.

Based on, therefore, limited data, girls had a higher proportion of their arrests for status offenses than boys, at 5 percent (n=478) and 2 percent (n=799), respectively. *Figure 26* shows the proportion of arrests for status offenses for boys and girls from 2002 to 2007.

Figure 26
Proportion of arrests for status offenses by gender, 2002–2007



Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Sixty-three percent of girls' status arrests (n=296) and 64 percent of boys' status arrests (n=503) were for possession of liquor by a minor. Girls had a higher proportion of their status arrests for running away (n=14, or 3 percent) than boys (n=10, or 1 percent). Girls' arrests were also more likely to be as minors requiring authoritative intervention (n=77, or 16 percent) than boys' (n=61, or 8 percent). *Table 13* depicts status offense arrests for boys and girls in 2007. In the years examined, all status offense classes were misdemeanor, petty, or unclassified.

Table 13
Status offense arrests by type and gender, 2007

Status offense type	Girls		Boys	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Curfew	81	17.2%	195	24.9%
Habitual juvenile offender	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Minor requiring authoritative intervention (MRAI)	77	16.4%	61	7.8%
Possession of liquor by a minor	296	63.0%	503	64.2%
Runaway	14	3.0%	10	1.3%
Truant in need of supervision	2	0.4%	11	1.4%
Zero tolerance*	0	0.0%	2	0.3%
Total	470	100%	783	100%

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

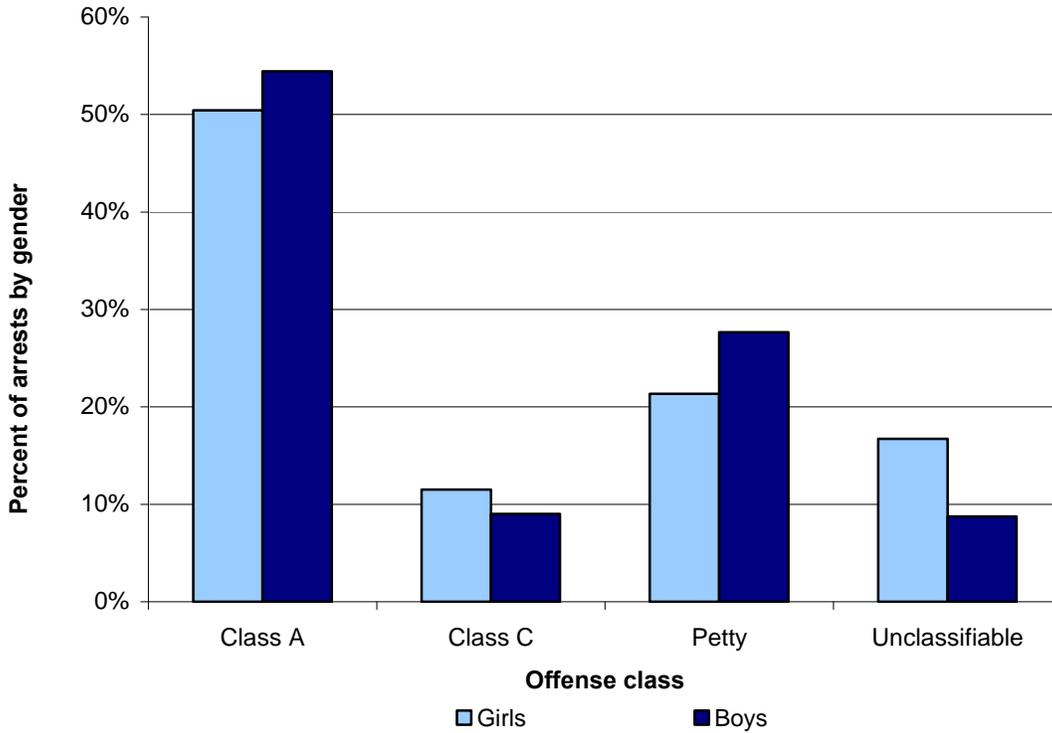
* Zero tolerance refers to a minor having a blood-alcohol content (b.a.c.) level above 0. However, if a juvenile has a b.a.c. above the legal limit, they will be charged with a DUI. Zero tolerance refers only to those with a b.a.c. below the legal limit.

A minor requiring authoritative intervention (MRAI) is a youth under 18 years of age that is absent from their home without consent of a guardian, or is beyond the control of a guardian. Ninety-two percent of unclassifiable status offenses were minors requiring authoritative intervention. In 2007, girls' arrests (n=77) were more likely than boys' (n=61) to be for being a minor requiring authoritative intervention.

Of those misdemeanor and ordinance arrests that were reported to the CHRI system, girls' arrests were more often for less serious misdemeanor classes. Class A misdemeanors, the most serious misdemeanor class, accounted for 50 percent of girls' (n=240) and 54 percent of boys' (n=433) status offense arrests. Eleven percent of girls' (n=55) and 9 percent of boys' (n=72) status offense arrests were class C misdemeanors.

However, a lower proportion of girls' arrests were for petty offenses (n=102, or 21 percent) than boys (n=221, or 28 percent). *Figure 27* depicts the proportion of status offense arrests by offense class and gender for 2007.

Figure 27
Proportion of status offense arrests by offense class and gender, 2007

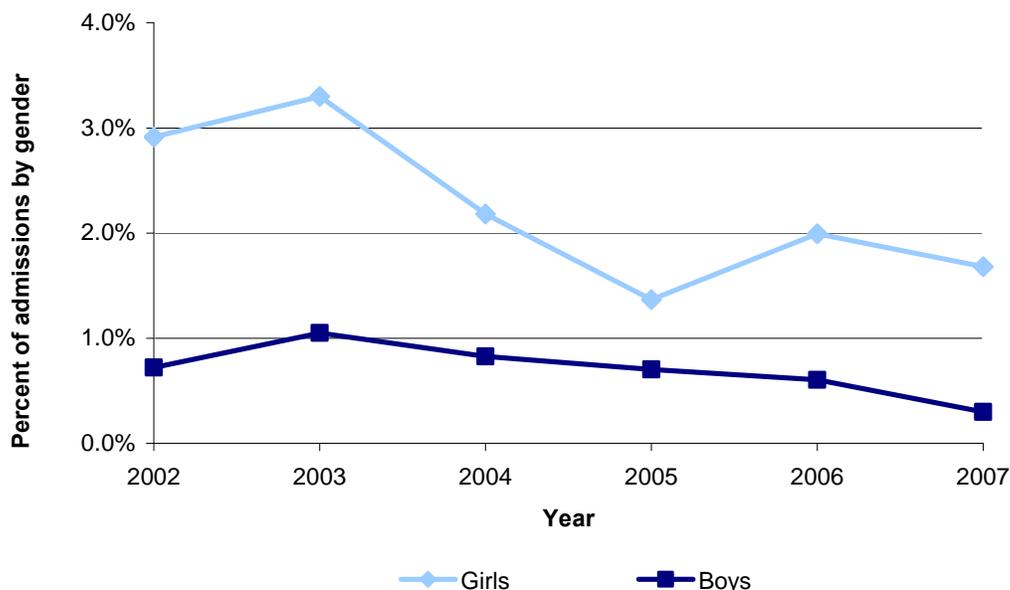


Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Detention admissions for status offenses

Girls' detention admissions were somewhat more likely to be for status offenses than boys. In 2007, 2 percent of girls' detention admissions were for status offenses (n=45), compared to only 0.3 percent of boys (n=39). *Figure 28* shows the proportion of girls' and boys' detention admissions for status offenses from 2002 to 2007.

Figure 28
Proportion of detention admissions for status offenses by gender, 2002–2007



Source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System

Girls' rates of detention admissions for status offenses decreased similarly to the decrease for boys during the period examined. Girls' rates decreased 56 percent, from 16 admissions for every 100,000 girls age 10 to 16 in 2002 to seven in 2007. The boys' rates decreased 60 percent, from 15 in 2002 to six in 2007.

Alcohol-related status offenses, such as possession and consumption of alcohol, were the most common status offense leading to detention admission. In 2007, 47 percent of girls' (n=21) and 46 percent of boys' (n=18) admissions to detention for status offenses were alcohol-related.

In 2007, 31 percent of girls' status offense admissions to detention were for running away from home (n=14), compared to only 8 percent of boys' (n=3). Sixteen percent of girls' (n=7) status offense admissions were for truancy, compared to 36 percent of boys' (n=14). *Table 14* shows the number and proportion of status offense detention admissions by type and gender in 2007.

Table 14
Status offense detention admissions, 2007

Status offense type	Girls		Boys	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Alcohol (possession & consumption)	21	46.7%	18	46.2%
Curfew	3	6.7%	4	10.3%
Runaway	14	31.1%	3	7.7%
Truancy	7	15.6%	14	35.9%
Total	45	100%	39	100%

Source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System

Corrections admissions for status offenses

Due to specifications of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, it is unlikely that a juvenile would be placed in a correctional facility solely for a status offense. Youth committed for a new sentence to an IDOC facility for a status offense likely have a prior criminal history or other aggravating circumstances. As previously noted, youth may be recommitted to a juvenile correctional facility for a status offense if the offense is a violation of the youth's parole or mandatory supervised release.

However, between FY99 and FY04, six girls and 24 boys were sentenced for new offenses to IDOC for possession of liquor by a minor (*Table 15*).

Table 15
IDOC commitments for possession of liquor by a minor by gender, FY99–FY04

Year	Girls		Boys	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
1999	0	0%	4	0.2%
2000	0	0%	0	0%
2001	0	0%	0	0%
2002	2	1.0%	4	0.3%
2003	2	1.0%	8	0.5%
2004	2	1.1%	8	0.5%
Total	6	—	24	—

Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Girls and other offenses

A higher proportion of girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were for disorderly conduct and mob action than boys'.

While boys have higher rates of offending across all offense categories, girls had greater involvement in the juvenile justice system for offenses designated as “other” which include, but are not limited to, disorderly conduct, traffic offenses (such as driving on a suspended license, reckless driving, or driving under the influence), gambling, issuance of a warrant, and cruelty to animals.

Arrests

Other offenses accounted for 22 percent of girls' arrests (n=2,327), and 19 percent of boys' arrests (n=7,273) in 2007. Among other offenses, girls' arrests were included disorderly conduct (n=540, or 23 percent), mob action (n=201, or 9 percent), and local ordinance violations (n=1,051, or 45 percent). Literature shows that department arrests, such as disorderly conduct, have increased over the years as a result of “zero tolerance” policies. These policies now funnel minor fights and disturbances into the juvenile justice system as opposed to resolving them without law enforcement as in the past.⁴⁵

Admissions to detention

Girls' admissions to detention less often involved other offenses than boys—13 percent (n=346), compared to 16 percent for boys (n=2,080) in 2007. However, girls' admissions to detention more often were for disorderly conduct or mob action than boys'.

Commitments to corrections

In FY04, three girls and zero boys were committed to corrections for disorderly conduct. Two of the girls were committed for felonies (67 percent) and one girl was committed for a misdemeanor (33 percent).

Disproportionate representation of girls in the juvenile justice system

While Illinois girls were underrepresented at all stages in the juvenile justice system, their arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were statistically more likely to be for less serious offenses.

Illinois girls were underrepresented in the juvenile justice system, which coincides with national trends. Based on their proportion of the population, girls were, on average, 80 percent less likely than their male counterparts to be involved with the juvenile justice system. Most studies⁴⁶ have shown that girls' offending patterns are much different from their male counterparts in terms of severity, duration, frequency of offending, and type of offending.⁴⁷

Relative rate ratios of girls’ disproportionality

In order to assess male and female proportionalities at each stage of the juvenile justice system (independent of one another), relative rate ratios (RRRs) were calculated. These ratios compare the rate of juvenile female offenders to juvenile male offenders. An RRR of 1 indicates equal representation at that justice stage. An RRR below 1 indicates an under-representation of girls. Rates used in RRR calculations were calculated per 1,000 girls/boys ages 10 to 16 in the population for arrest and detention, and ages 13 to 16 for corrections. Data available does not allow for an individual to be linked across the different stages. Therefore, the RRRs for each stage must be interpreted independent of the other stages.

At each stage of the juvenile justice system, girls were underrepresented, as shown in *Table 16*.

Table 16
Relative rate ratios for arrests, admissions to detention and commitments to IDOC by gender, 2007*

Juvenile justice stage	Girls			Boys		
	Total	Rate	RRR	Total	Rate	RRR
Arrest	10,548	17.22	0.295	37,472	58.37	—
Detention	2,677	4.37	0.215	13,069	20.36	—
Corrections*	193	0.54	0.132	1,535	4.07	—

Source: Authority’s CHRI Ad Hoc datasets, Juvenile Monitoring Information System, Illinois Department of Corrections.
 * Corrections data for FY05 through FY07 were unavailable; 2004 was used.

In 2007, girls were 70 percent less likely to be arrested and 79 percent less likely to be detained than their male counterparts. In 2004, the last year for which IDOC data were available, girls were 87 percent less likely to be incarcerated.

Girls and disproportionality in offense categories

To examine disproportionality within the different stages of the juvenile justice system, proportionality ratios (PRs) were calculated. This calculation takes the ratio of the proportion of arrests, detentions, or incarcerations for a specific offense category for each gender. To obtain further explanation of these calculations, please see *Appendix C*. Similar to the relative rate ratio, a PR of 1 indicates equal proportional representation. A PR below 1 indicates an under-representation of girls. As with the RRR, available data do not allow for an individual to be linked across different stages and the PR for each stage must be interpreted independent of the other stages.

Coinciding with prior research, Illinois girls’ juvenile justice system involvement was more likely than boys’ to be for status offenses. The proportion of status offense arrests for girls was twice as high as boys’. However, because many status offense arrests are not reported to the CHRI system, it is difficult to gauge gender discrepancies at arrest. The proportion of girls’ admissions to detention for status offenses was almost five times higher than boys’, and their proportion of commitments to corrections were almost twice as high as boys’. However, because

the number of juveniles incarcerated for status offenses was minimal, it is hard to draw definitive conclusions as to whether there was a true gender disparity in commitments to corrections for status offenses.

Also in accordance with national trends, girls' juvenile justice system involvement was more likely than boys' to be for person offenses. In 2007, the proportion of girls' arrests for person offenses were 26 percent higher than boys', their proportion of admissions to detention were 63 percent higher, and their proportion of commitments to corrections were 42 percent higher for person offenses than boys'.

Girls' juvenile justice system involvement was more likely than boys' to be for offenses categorized as "other," such as disorderly conduct. The proportion of girls' arrests was 14 percent higher and their commitments to corrections were 139 percent higher than boys' for "other" offenses. However, the proportion of girls' admissions to detention was 19 percent lower than boys'.

Girls' involvement in the juvenile justice system was less likely to be for drug offenses than boys. Girls' arrests were 67 percent less likely, their detention admissions were 54 percent less likely, and their commitments to corrections were 79 percent less likely than boys' to be incarcerated for drug offenses. Moreover, girls were less likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system for sex or weapons offenses. However, the number of juveniles arrested, detained, and incarcerated for sex or weapons offenses were too low to determine true gender disparities.

Table 17 depicts the proportion ratios of arrests, detainments, and incarcerations for girls by offense category for 2007.

Table 17
Girls' proportion ratios for arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to IDOC by offense category, 2007*

Offense category	Proportion ratios		
	Arrest	Detention	Corrections*
Person	1.26	1.63	1.42
Sex	0.18	0.09	0.00
Weapons	0.46	0.21	0.30
Property	0.99	0.77	1.10
Drugs	0.33	0.46	0.21
Noncompliance	1.12	1.13	2.89
Status	2.13	5.63	1.99
Other	1.14	0.81	2.39

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets, Juvenile Monitoring Information System, Illinois Department of Corrections.

* Corrections data for FY05 through FY07 were unavailable; FY04 was used.

Disproportionality of girls’ involvement for less serious offenses

To examine disproportionality in the seriousness of the offenses, proportionality ratios (PRs) were calculated. This calculation takes the ratio of the proportion of arrests, detainments, or incarcerations for a specific offense class for each gender. To obtain further explanation of these calculations, please see *Appendix C*. Similar to the relative rate ratio, a PR of 1 indicates equal proportional representation. A PR below 1 indicates an under-representation of girls. As with the RRR, available data do not allow for an individual to be linked across different stages and the PR for each stage must be interpreted independent of the other stages. Reporting misdemeanor arrests for juveniles to CHRI by law enforcement is voluntary. As a result, arrest offense class disparities are a conservative estimate.

As previously noted, the proportion of girls’ juvenile justice system involvement in Illinois was higher for misdemeanors and less serious offenses than their male counterparts. Overall, girls’ arrests were 22 percent more likely to be for misdemeanors and 42 percent less likely to be for felonies than boys’. The girls’ proportion of arrests was 13 percent more likely to be for unknown or unclassified offenses and 26 percent more likely to be for a petty offense. *Table 18* depicts the girls’ proportion ratios for arrests by gender and offense class for 2007.

Table 18
Girls’ proportion ratios for arrests by offense class and gender, 2007

Offense class	Girls			Boys		
	Total	Proportion	PR	Total	Proportion	PR
Misdemeanor	6,978	0.662	1.22	20,400	0.544	—
Felony	1,964	0.186	0.58	12,052	0.322	—
Unknown/ Unclassified	1,506	0.143	1.13	4,738	0.126	—
Petty	100	0.009	1.26	282	0.007	—
Total	10,548	1.00	—	37,472	1.00	—

Source: Authority’s CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

In 2004, girls' commitments to corrections were 166 percent more likely to be for a misdemeanor offense than boys' and 28 percent less likely to be for a felony. *Table 19* shows the girls' proportion ratios for commitments to IDOC by gender and offense class for 2004.

Table 19
Girls' proportion ratios for commitments to IDOC by offense class and gender, FY04

Offense class	Girls			Boys		
	Total	Proportion	PR	Total	Proportion	PR
Misdemeanor	73	0.378	2.66	218	0.142	—
Felony	120	0.622	0.72	1,317	0.857	—
Unknown/ Unclassified	0	0.00	0.00	1	0.00	—
Petty	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	193	1.00	—	1,536	1.00	—

Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Offense categories and classes

To examine disproportionality in the intersection of offense seriousness and offense type, proportionality ratios were calculated (PRs). This calculation takes the ratio of the proportion of arrests, detainments, or incarcerations for a specific offense class within each offense category for each gender. To obtain further explanation of these calculations, please see *Appendix C*. Similar to the relative rate ratio, a PR of 1 indicates equal proportional representation. A PR below 1 indicates an under-representation of girls. As with the RRR, available data do not allow for an individual to be linked across different stages and the PR for each stage must be interpreted independent of the other stages. Reporting misdemeanor arrests for juveniles to CHRI by law enforcement is voluntary. As a result, arrest offense class disparities are a conservative estimate.

The girls' proportion of arrests and commitments to corrections for misdemeanor offenses was higher for all offense categories except noncompliance offenses.

Girls' arrests and commitments to corrections were more likely to be for misdemeanor property offenses than boys. In 2007, girls' arrests were 22 percent more likely to be for misdemeanor property offenses and in FY04, girls' commitments to corrections were almost 119 percent more likely to be for misdemeanor property offenses than boys.

Girls' arrests and commitments to corrections were also more likely to be for misdemeanor person offenses. In 2007, girls' arrests were 16 percent more likely to be for misdemeanor person offenses and in FY04, their commitments to corrections were 136 percent more likely to be for misdemeanor person offenses than boys'.

Girls’ arrests were 17 percent more likely than boys’ to be for felony noncompliance offenses, although their commitments to corrections were 17 percent less likely to be for felony noncompliance offenses. However, girls’ commitments to corrections were 15 percent more likely to be for misdemeanor noncompliance offenses.

Table 20 shows the summary of the proportionality ratios for girls by offense category and class for arrests and commitments to corrections. For additional tables on these calculations, please see Appendix D. It is important to note that arrest and commitment PRs must be interpreted independent of one another.

Table 20
Summary of girls’ proportion ratios for arrests and IDOC commitments by offense class and category, 2007*

Offense category	Arrest proportion ratios (PR)			Corrections proportion ratios (PR)		
	Misdemeanor	Felony	Other/Unknown	Misdemeanor	Felony	Other/Unknown
Person	1.16	0.65	—	2.36	0.72	—
Sex	2.86	0.18	—	—	—	—
Weapons	1.67	0.56	—	10.70**	0.52	—
Property	1.22	0.66	0.20	2.19	0.80	—
Drugs	1.43	0.69	5.31	6.98**	0.64	—
Noncompliance	0.92	1.17	1.20	1.15	0.83	—
Status	0.97	—	1.05	1.00	—	—
Other	1.87	1.15	0.95	3.33**	0.74	—

Source: Authority’s CHRI Ad Hoc datasets, Illinois Department of Corrections

* Corrections data for 2005 through 2007 were unavailable; 2004 was used

** As the number of girls committed to IDOC for drug, weapons, or “other” offenses in FY04 was small, this ratio may be inflated.

Statistical tests of differences in proportions between girls and boys

While our data show that girls’ arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections are more often for less serious offenses than boys, statistical analyses were used to determine if these differences were meaningful. With such large sample sizes, Chi-square analyses showed significant associations between gender and class, but subsequent phi and phi-square analyses showed these associations to be substantively weak. A test of the difference in proportions was used to determine if the proportion of girls’ arrests or commitments to corrections for misdemeanor offenses was significantly higher than the proportion of boys’ arrests or commitments to corrections for misdemeanor offenses.

Test of difference in arrest proportions for misdemeanors

The proportion of misdemeanor arrests for girls was significantly higher for all offense categories, except noncompliance. *Table 21* provides the results of Z-test of proportions analyses for misdemeanor arrests in 2007. There was no significant difference between the proportion of girls' Class C status offense arrests and boys'.

Table 21
Results of Z-Test for difference in proportions of misdemeanor arrests by offense category, 2007

Offense category	Female proportion	Male proportion	Z-score	Confidence level (α)	P-value	Significant
Person	80.1%	69.2%	12.29	99%	p<.01	Yes
Sex	87.5%	30.6%	4.71	99%	p<.01	Yes
Weapons	66.0%	39.6%	5.10	99%	p<.01	Yes
Property	75.1%	61.7%	14.01	99%	p<.01	Yes
Drug	59.4%	41.6%	7.85	99%	p<.01	Yes
Noncompliance	64.7%	70.0%	-1.52	99%	p>.05	No
Status*	11.7%	9.2%	1.42	99%	p>.05	No
Other	60.3%	32.2%	24.19	99%	p<.01	Yes
All arrests	71.8%	54.4%	32.00	99%	p<.01	Yes

* Status offense proportions compared proportion of Class C misdemeanors.
 Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Reporting misdemeanor arrests for juveniles to CHRI by law enforcement is voluntary. As a result, arrest offense class disparities are a conservative estimate.

Test of difference in proportion for commitments to corrections

Girls’ commitments to corrections were significantly more likely to be for misdemeanor offenses than boys’. This was found for all offense categories, except status, noncompliance, sex, and “other” offenses. While few youth are committed to IDOC for status offenses, all of those commitments were for class A misdemeanors, therefore no statistically significant difference between boys and girls exists. Similarly, none of the girls’ commitments to corrections was for sex offenses. *Table 22* depicts the results of Z-test of proportions analyses for misdemeanor IDOC commitments by offense category in FY04.

Table 22
Results of Z-Test for difference in proportions of misdemeanor commitments to IDOC by offense category, FY04

Offense category	Female proportion	Male proportion	Z-score	Confidence level (α)	P-value	Significant
Person	40.5%	17.1%	4.58	99%	p<.01	Yes
Sex	0.0%	9.6%	—	—	—	—
Weapons	50.0%	4.67%	3.67	99%	p<.01	Yes
Property	32.0%	14.6%	3.27	99%	p<.01	Yes
Drug	40.0%	5.7%	3.06	99%	p<.01	Yes
Noncompliance	62.5%	54.5%	0.39	99%	p>.05	No
Status*	100.0%	100.0%	0.00	99%	p>.50	No
Other	33.3%	10.0%	0.98	99%	p>.05	No
All commitments	37.8%	14.2%	8.26	99%	p<.01	Yes

* All status offense commitments are for class A misdemeanors.
 Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Girls’ involvement in the Illinois juvenile justice system was statistically more likely to be for a misdemeanor or less serious offense.

Discussion

Illinois girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely than boys' to be for less serious offenses.

During the period studied, girls' rates of arrest increased more than boys and girls' arrests were more likely to be for status offenses, person offenses, and for noncompliance with courts and public officials. Moreover, across almost all offense categories, girls' arrests were more likely to be for misdemeanor and petty offenses than boys'. These data lend additional support to research findings of national trends of female involvement with the juvenile justice system for less serious offenses.⁴⁸

Girls experienced a larger decrease in detention admissions compared to boys. From 2002 to 2007, girls' detention admission rates decreased 22 percent, while boys' rates only dropped 10 percent. However, the proportion of admissions for person offenses increased more for girls (19 percent) than boys (4 percent).

Girls had a smaller decrease in rates of commitments to corrections. While boys' rates decreased 29 percent, girls' rates only decreased 17 percent. Girls' commitments to corrections were more likely to be for person offenses, noncompliance, status offenses, and offenses categorized as other.

Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more often for person offenses than boys'. However, the increase in these person offenses is largely due to misdemeanor battery. Girls' arrests and commitments to corrections were more likely to be for misdemeanor battery than boys'.

The proportion of girls' arrests for property offenses were equal to that of boys'. However, while girls' admissions to detention were less likely to be for property offenses, their commitments to corrections were more likely to be for property offenses. Moreover, girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were more likely to be for theft, particularly retail theft. Furthermore, girls' arrests and commitments to corrections were more likely to be for misdemeanor theft than boys'.

Girls' involvement in the Illinois juvenile justice system was more likely than boys' to be for status offenses, particularly running away and for being a minor requiring authoritative intervention. Girls' arrests were almost one and a half times more likely and their admissions to detention were three times more likely to be for running away than boys'. Girls' arrests were twice as likely as boys' to be for being a minor requiring authoritative intervention.

Statistical analyses confirmed that these gender discrepancies are statistically significant. Girls' involvement in the Illinois juvenile justice system was significantly more likely to be for misdemeanor offenses, and less serious offenses, such as status offenses or contempt of court.

Gender-specific programming

The literature shows that a one-size-fits-all approach does not help girls. Girls have different pathways to delinquency and require different services. Gender-specific programs can focus on female delinquency prevention and intervention and take into account the developmental needs of girls at adolescence.

Girls may need treatment for trauma due to sexual and physical abuse, gang violence, and other victimization, rather than punishment in the juvenile justice system. Girls who have endured abuse are at increased risk for post-traumatic stress, psychiatric disorders, self-harm, and suicide. High rates of mental health problems for girls in the juvenile justice system indicate the need for treatment services.

Little available research has been applied to the development of gender-specific programming to reduce recidivism and promote healthy lifestyles for girls.⁴⁹ According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), there is a lack of adequate information about evidence-based programs that effectively address girls' delinquency.

There have been some efforts to provide gender-specific programming in the juvenile justice system. Gender-based programs can focus on relationship skills, building family or community connections, and reducing high risk behaviors such as sexual activity and substance abuse.

National model programs

The OJJDP model program guide offers programs for girls that involve peers and family, provide alternatives to drug abuse and gangs, and offer educational opportunities and assistance for teen mothers.

OJJDP created a guide on model programs to help communities and agencies implement evidence-based programs for delinquency prevention and intervention. Programs cover the continuum of youth services from prevention to sanctions to reentry. The guide can be used by juvenile justice practitioners, administrators, and researchers to enhance accountability, ensure public safety, and reduce recidivism. The following programs have been identified as national model programs for girls.⁵⁰

Friendly PEERsuasion

Girls Inc.'s Friendly PEERsuasion program approaches drug-abuse prevention as a peer issue by training girls ages 11 to 14 years old to advocate for them and serve as role models for younger girls. Girls learn decision-making, assertiveness, and communication skills, including practicing how to remove themselves from situations when pressured to use alcohol or drugs. These trained youth plan substance-abuse prevention activities for children ages six through 10. An evaluation showed that the program helped to delay 11- and 12-year-old girls' use of harmful substances.

Girl's Circle

The Girl's Circle promotes a model of structured support groups for girls ages nine to 18 years old, supporting relationships, resiliency, and skills to increase positive connections, personal and collective strengths, and competence in girls. The program's groups aim to counteract social and interpersonal factors that impede girls' growth and development by promoting an emotionally safe setting and structure within which girls can develop caring relationships.

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars

Instituted in 1992 through a partnership with the National Institute of Justice, Girl Scouts Beyond Bars allows girls to visit their incarcerated mothers to take part in Girl Scout troop meetings. Mothers lead troop meetings and develop skills in leadership, conflict resolution, and parenting. In addition, girls and their mothers have facilitated discussions about family life, violence, and drug abuse prevention. The program serves approximately 800 girls ages five to 17 in 17 states. The Girl Scouts of Chicago is an Illinois council with Girl Scouts Beyond Bars.

Girl Scouting in Detention Centers

Since the 1990s, Girl Scouting in Detention Centers reaches girls who have been adjudicated, are wards of the court, or are court-referred delinquents. The program is often court-mandated to provide girls with opportunities to participate in activities that work to cultivate a positive value system, a strong social consciousness, and life skills needed to become healthy, productive women. Girl Scout councils serve over 10,000 girls ages 12 to 17 living in detention facilities in 20 states. Girl Scout councils in Chicago, Joliet, and Springfield implement this program.

Movimiento Ascendencia

Movimiento Ascendencia, or *Upward Movement*, provides girls with positive alternatives to substance use and gang involvement. Girls ages eight to 19 years old both at-risk and gang-involved are referred or recruited by outreach workers. Staff are trained in conflict mediation and resolution skills, signs and symptoms of drug and alcohol abuse, and providing information on sexuality, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. Activities offer cultural awareness, mediation, conflict resolution, self-esteem, and social support.

Nurse-Family Partnership

Nurse-Family Partnership provides first-time, low-income mothers of any age with home visitation services from public health nurses. Nurses work intensively with mothers to improve maternal, prenatal, early childhood health, and well-being to achieve long-term improvements. The program concentrates on developing therapeutic relationships with the family and is designed to improve five broad domains of family functioning—parental roles, family and friend support, physical and mental health, home and neighborhood environment, and major life events. Ultimately the baby and all the members of the girls support system—friends, parents, boyfriend, child's father—are involved in the program.

Parent-Child Assistance Program

The Parent–Child Assistance Program is a 36-week program that provides home visitation for high-risk substance-abusing girls. The program focuses on reducing alcohol and drug use and other risk behaviors, while addressing the health and social well-being of the mothers and their children. The program does not provide direct services but offers consistent home visitation and provides women and their families with a comprehensive array of existing community resources.

Project Chrysalis

Project Chrysalis is a school-based program that provides abused girls with support services, including support groups, case management, and skill-building workshops. The program aims to improve resiliency and school performance, while decreasing the negative outcomes of abuse, particularly substance abuse, risky sexual behavior, and suicidal ideations among at-risk high-school girls ages 14 to 18 years old.

Project Link

Project Link is a program designed to offer substance abuse treatment to pregnant and postpartum women and girls. Project Link addresses risk and protective factors in multiple domains using clinical services and case management services. Clinical services include substance abuse assessment, crisis intervention, comprehensive psychosocial assessment, individual therapy, group therapy, child and family therapy, toxicology screening, and referral to ancillary services. Case management services include home visiting, parenting assessment, parenting education, monitoring of pediatric visits, HIV education, GED courses, and literacy tutoring.

Reaffirming Young Sister’s Excellence

Reaffirming Young Sister’s Excellence is an intensive community treatment and intervention program that provides services to adjudicated females ages 12 to 17 years old. The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism, as well as promote the development of the participants’ social, academic, and vocational competencies. The program offers strong relationships between probation officers and girl with more intensive supervision and treatment services. The program offered mandatory programs such as the provision of life skills interventions and services for specific needs. Its services include weekly contact and home visits with probation officers, therapy, funds for emergency situations, leadership opportunities, life skills courses, and teen pregnancy and parenting services.

SISTERS

The goal of the SISTERS program is to provide peer-oriented outreach and case management to ensure the coordination of drug treatment, prenatal, postpartum, pediatric, and family support services for pregnant and postpartum women—particularly high risk black or Hispanic women. The program offers services such as relapse prevention counseling, acupuncture, detoxification, prenatal care, housing, transportation, child care, nutrition, assistance with child welfare,

Medicaid, and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Program counselors are women in recovery who have experienced many years of addiction, abusive relationships, life on the streets, birth of infants with positive toxicology, and removal of their child by protective services.

Urban Women Against Substance Abuse

Urban Women Against Substance Abuse (UWASA) is a school-based program for Hispanic and black girls ages 9 to 11 years old. UWASA is theoretically grounded in social learning theory, which suggests a strong connection between certain risk factors (such as juvenile drug-abuse violations and high teen-birthrates) and the absence of positive female role models within a young girl's immediate family, community, and culture. UWASA offers a self-development curriculum that teaches girls to build their cultural and gender identity, discourages alcohol and drug use, promotes HIV awareness, and explores possible career options.

Illinois programs

There are few programs in Illinois geared toward at-risk girls in the juvenile justice system, especially outside of Chicago.

The initiatives, programs, and services detailed in this section do not represent an exhaustive list. The inclusion of any agency, program, service, or individual does not indicate an endorsement by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. This section is intended to offer a broad range of resources on services for girls both involved and not involved with the juvenile justice system.

Juvenile justice system programming

The following are some of the few collaborations or programs to address the unique needs of delinquent girls.

Fabulous Females

Fabulous Females, a program of Music Theatre Workshop, serves young women incarcerated at Illinois Youth Center at Warrenville. The year-round program provides an outlet for the young women to experience the success of personal development through the writing and performance of songs, poems, stories and scenes inspired by their personal experiences.

Female Offender Services Program

The Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department created the Female Offender Services Program, which uses specialized supervision by probation officers who have undergone gender-specific training to address the special needs of girls on probation. The program seeks to increase confidence, self-esteem and life skills, to teach anger management strategies, provide educational and employment opportunities, and discuss family violence to break intergenerational cycles of abuse, neglect, and delinquency.

GIRLS

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Probation and Detention Services established a specialized program, Girls in Real Life Situations to address the specific needs of female offenders who come to the attention of the juvenile justice system. The program is a network of women, including juvenile court judge, staff from the state's attorney's and public defender's offices, probation, intake, and detention officers. These individuals collaborate with members of the community and address the needs of female offenders at all stages of the juvenile justice system. The team provides female offenders with consistent personnel knowledgeable about gender-specific issues and informed about services and programs available in the community.

GIRLS LINK

In 1998, the Cook County Bureau of Public Safety established the GIRLS LINK Juvenile Female Offender Project, which was recognized by OJJDP as a national model. The project seeks to change policies to address the unique needs of girls in its juvenile justice system. GIRLS LINK is a collaboration of more than 20 public and private agencies and seeks to improve gender-responsive services to girls through advocacy, education, policy development, and programming. The group has sought specialized services for pregnant and/or parenting girls in the juvenile justice system.

Project RENEW

In 1998, Project RENEW (Reclaim Empower Nurture Embrace Womanhood), a gender-specific initiative, was established by the Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department. Project RENEW specially trains female probation officers to identify the unique needs of girls on probation and help them to receive the appropriate services.

General programming for girls

Described below are several local programs designed for all girls.

Brown Eyed Girl

Brown Eyed Girl, based in Aurora, is an organization responsive to the special needs of maturing young ladies currently in foster care. The program promotes girls' empowerment through knowledge of self, exposure to cultural differences, and engagement in service in order to evolve into positive, purpose-driven women.

Girls! Action! Media!

Beyondmedia Education in Chicago's Girls! Action! Media! brings media workshops to girls and young women in community-based organizations. These workshops teach skills that nurture artistic expression and critical thinking including media literacy and production skills. Young women create their own videos, websites or other media projects that explore issues relevant to their communities.

Girls in the Game

Girls in the Game promotes sports, nutrition, health, and leadership development to enhance the health and well-being of girls in Chicago. An evaluation by Loyola University Chicago found that participants had healthier lifestyles and body image than non-participants.

Girls Rock! Chicago

Girls Rock! Chicago is dedicated to fostering girls' creative expression, positive self-esteem, and community awareness through rock music. Through music education programs for girls ages nine to 16, girls learn the musical, technical, and creative aspects involved in musicianship. Its summer camp program teaches girls through instrument instruction, music composition coaching, recording workshops, songwriting workshops, hands-on activities, technical equipment workshops, and performances. Applications are based on sliding scale tuition and no one is turned away for lack of funding.

Girl World

Alternatives, Inc., a Chicago-based non-profit organization providing clinical, educational and vocational training to youth, has many programs for girls through Girl World. Girl World offers gender specific programming for girls ages 10 to 18 and focuses on self-esteem, team building, cultural awareness, and leadership development. Programming includes Girls Movement which encourages professional and career development; Leadership Council which works on community issues and activism; and Teen Group which offers workshops on issues such as sexual health and teen dating violence, and provides community service options (services to take advantage of or services to provide the community?).

Girlz in Transition

Girlz in Transition, an organization in the city of Round Lake Beach, offers girls peer to peer mentoring and hosts ongoing events and programs. Services include teen mother support, career development, and online homework assistance and tutoring

Global Girls

Global Girls in Chicago is a youth development organization that uses the performing arts to equip girls eight to 18 with strong communication, leadership, and life skills. In addition to dancing, singing, and acting, participants learn about healthy lifestyles, participatory evaluation research, violence prevention, and social change.

Sisters Empowering Sisters

The Chicago Girls Coalition advocates for girls' self-determination and power by providing and promoting support networks that are responsive to, and inclusive of, girls' needs, interests, and development. Its grant making and social change program, Sisters Empowering Sisters, serves young women in the Chicago area between the ages of 14 and 18. Sisters Empowering Sisters

puts decision-making power and the power to create change directly into the hands of young women.

Sisters of Struggle/ Sisters in Unity

Family Matters has two programs for girls in Chicago—Sisters of Struggle for high school girls and Sisters in Unity (SIU) for middle school girls. These programs seek to equip young women with resources, knowledge, and experience to make positive decisions in areas such as health, relationships, education, and career options. The teen girls programs focus on the arts as a means of community advocacy and leadership development. The teens implement projects that engage the larger community in dialogue on issues of importance to them.

Conclusion

Much has been written about girls' increasing involvement in the juvenile justice system, and girls' involvement in the Illinois juvenile justice system largely mirrors national trends. However, this examination of Illinois girls revealed a few points of particular interest.

Girls in Illinois continue to be at risk for delinquency due to victimization, substance abuse, and school failure. Compared to boys, girls were more often the victims of neglect and physical and sexual abuse, more often abused alcohol, inhalants, and prescription drugs, and had more school truancies and suspensions than boys.

Similar to national trends, Illinois girls are underrepresented in the juvenile justice system. Based on their proportion of the population, girls are, on average, 80 percent less likely than their male counterparts to be involved with the juvenile justice system.

Girls in Illinois were involved in the juvenile justice system more often for status offenses than boys. Girls were more often admitted to secure detention for status offenses. The Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act specifically prohibits the institutionalization of such status offenders. However, these girls' admissions to detention were more likely than boys' to be for running away and being a minor requiring authoritative intervention. There may be a lack of social services or other diversion programs in place to aid troubled girls and assist their families.

Nationally, girls' arrests are more likely to be for non-violent offenses, status offenses, such as running away, survival crimes such as prostitution, and drug offenses.⁵¹ Meda Chesney-Lind argues that there has been a "criminalization of girls' survival strategies," such as prostitution and theft.⁵²

Girls' involvement in the juvenile justice system is increasingly for misdemeanor battery offenses. While it is impossible to ascertain from the limited data available the specifics of these offenses, research shows that girls' involvement in offenses against persons are often a result of changes in laws requiring mandatory arrests of alleged batterers in domestic disputes.⁵³ This is supported by research that shows girls are more likely to victimize those with whom they have a relationship.⁵⁴

Girls' arrests, admissions to detention, and commitments to corrections were often for retail theft. Some counties, including Cook, have, for example, diversion programs for juveniles arrested for retail theft. In these "retail theft schools," youth and their parents attend a daylong class about retail theft and its consequences, and write an apology letter to the store from which they stole. Diversion programs can offer accountability without assigning an adjudication to a youth's official juvenile records. The expansion of such retail theft schools would help steer such girls out of the juvenile justice system.

Girls are different from boys in their risks, needs, and offending patterns, so gender specific programming is warranted. However, few programs geared specifically to delinquent girls exist in Illinois.

Appendix A: Resources

The following are a list of initiatives and programs and their Web site. The resources are not exhaustive. The inclusion of any agency, program, or service does not indicate an endorsement by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. This section is intended to offer a broad range of resources on services for girls both involved and not involved with the juvenile justice system in Illinois and nationally.

Illinois resources

Brown Eyed Girl

Web site: <http://www.browneyedgirlinfp.org>

Fabulous Females

Music Theatre Workshop

Web site: http://www.mtwchicago.org/site/epage/50818_678.htm

Female Offender Services Program

Cook County Probation and Court Services

Web site: <http://www.cookcountycourt.org/services/programs/juvenile/new.html>

Girls! Action! Media!

Beyondmedia Education

Web site: <http://www.beyondmedia.org>

Girls in the Game

Web site: <http://www.girlsinthegame.org>

Girls Rock! Chicago

Web site: <http://girlsrockchicago.org/about-us/>

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars

Girl Scouts of Chicago

Web site: <http://www.girlscouts-chicago.org>

Girl Scouting in Detention Centers

Girl Scouts, Land of Lincoln Council, Springfield

Web Site: <http://www.girlscoutslc.org>

Girl Scouts of Chicago

Web site: <http://www.girlscouts-chicago.org>

Girl Scouts of Trailways Council, Joliet

Web Site: <http://www.girlscoutstrailways.org>

Girl World

Alternatives, Inc.

Web site: <http://www.alternativesyouth.org>

Girlz in Transition

Web site: <http://www.girlzinttransition.org/>

Global Girls

Web site: <http://www.globalgirlsinc.org/ContactUs.htm>

Sisters Empowering Sisters

Chicago Girls' Coalition

Web site: http://chicagogirlscoalition.org/ses/sisters_empowering_sisters3.htm

Sisters of Struggle

Family Matters

Web site: <http://www.familymatters.org>

Young Parents Program

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Web site: <http://www.ywca.org/site/pp.asp?c=euLRI7OZH&b=185375>

Other resources

Girls Study Group

Web site: <http://girlsstudygroup.rti.org/>

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars

Girl Scouting in Detention Centers

Web site: http://www.girlscouts.org/program/program_opportunities/community/gsbb.asp

Friendly PEERsuasion

Web site: <http://www.girlsinc.org/about/programs/friendly-peersuasion.html>

Nurse Family Partnership

Web site: <http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home>

OJJDP Model Programs Guide

Web site: http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/mpg_index.htm

Appendix B: Class recodes

Table 23 shows the number and percent of misdemeanor and felony recodes that were made for each offense category.

Table 23
Number and percent of arrest incident class recodes by offense category, class, and gender, 2007

Offense category	Girls		Boys	
	Misdemeanor recodes	Felony recodes	Misdemeanor recodes	Felony recodes
Person	59 (2%)	52 (1%)	177 (2%)	137 (1%)
Sex	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	19 (6%)
Weapons	5 (5%)	1 (1%)	43 (5%)	14 (2%)
Property	122 (4%)	46 (1%)	266 (2%)	319 (3%)
Drug	33 (6%)	2 (0%)	150 (2%)	25 (0%)
Noncompliance	0 (0%)	23 (10%)	4 (0%)	39 (5%)
Status	26 (5%)	—	28 (4%)	—
Other	52 (2%)	41 (2%)	107 (2%)	49 (1%)
All arrests	297 (3%)	165 (2%)	776 (2%)	602 (2%)

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc Datasets

Appendix C: Methods

Proportionality ratios (PRs) were calculated in this report to examine the differences between girls and boys. A proportionality ratio is the ratio of the girls' proportion to the boys' proportion. Since we are concerned with comparing girls who were arrested, detained, or incarcerated to boys who were arrested, detained, or incarcerated, using proportions to determine gender differences is most appropriate.

Calculating proportion ratios for offense categories

To calculate the PRs for offense category, the following three-step formula was used:

Step one: calculation of girls' proportion

$$\frac{\text{Number of girls arrested, detained, or incarcerated for offense category}}{\text{Number of girls arrested, detained, or incarcerated for all offenses}} = A$$

Step two: calculation of boys' proportion

$$\frac{\text{Number of boys arrested, detained, or incarcerated for offense category}}{\text{Number of boys arrested, detained, or incarcerated for all offenses}} = B$$

Step three: ratio of girls' and boys' proportions (PR)

$$\frac{A}{B} = PR_{\text{offense category}}$$

Calculating proportion ratios for offense classes

Proportionality ratios for offense class are only possible at the arrest and corrections stages because class designations are unavailable at the detention stage. To calculate the PRs for offense classes, the following three-step formula was used:

Step one: calculation of girls' proportion

$$\frac{\text{Number of girls arrested or incarcerated for offense class}}{\text{Number of girls arrested or incarcerated for all classes}} = A$$

Step two: calculation of boys' proportion

$$\frac{\text{Number of boys arrested or incarcerated for offense class}}{\text{Number of boys arrested or incarcerated for all classes}} = B$$

Step three: ratio of girls' and boys' proportions (PR)

$$\frac{A}{B} = \text{PR}_{\text{offense class}}$$

Calculating proportion ratios for offense classes within offense categories

Proportionality ratios for offense classes within offense categories are only possible at the arrest and corrections stages because class designations are unavailable at the detention stage. To calculate the PRs for offense classes within offense categories, the following three-step formula was used:

Step one: calculation of girls' proportion

$$\frac{\text{Number of girls arrested or incarcerated for class within offense category}}{\text{Number of girls arrested or incarcerated for all classes within offense category}} = A$$

Step two: calculation of boys' proportion

$$\frac{\text{Number of boys arrested or incarcerated for class within offense category}}{\text{Number of boys arrested or incarcerated for all classes within offense category}} = B$$

Step three: ratio of girls' and boys' proportions (PR)

$$\frac{A}{B} = \text{PR}_{\text{class within offense category}}$$

Appendix D: Additional tables

The full tables for the proportion ratios for the three possible offense classes within each offense category as summarized in *Table 20* in the report are provided in the tables below for arrests and commitments to IDOC.

Arrests

The following tables are the proportions and proportion ratios for the different offense classes for arrests in 2007.

Table 24
Girls' proportion ratios for misdemeanor arrests by gender, 2007

Offense category	Girls				Boys			
	Total in category	Total misdemeanor	Proportion	PR	Total in category	Total misdemeanor	Proportion	PR
Person	3,476	2,783	0.801	1.16	9,830	6,799	0.692	—
Sex	16	14	0.875	2.86	320	98	0.306	—
Weapons	103	68	0.660	1.67	790	313	0.396	—
Property	3,400	2,552	0.751	1.22	12,170	7,511	0.617	—
Drugs	524	311	0.594	1.43	5,570	2,317	0.416	—
Noncompliance	232	150	0.647	0.92	736	515	0.700	—
Status	470	295	0.628	0.97	783	505	0.645	—
Other	2,327	1,404	0.603	1.87	7,273	2,342	0.322	—
Total	10,548	7,577	0.718	1.32	37,472	20,400	0.544	—

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Table 25
Girls' proportion ratios for felony arrests by gender, 2007

Offense category	Girls				Boys			
	Total in category	Total felony	Proportion	PR	Total in category	Total felony	Proportion	PR
Person	3,476	693	0.199	0.65	9,830	3,030	0.308	—
Sex	16	2	0.125	0.18	320	222	0.694	
Weapons	103	35	0.340	0.56	790	477	0.604	
Property	3,400	844	0.248	0.66	12,170	4,588	0.377	—
Drugs	524	212	0.405	0.69	5,570	3,251	0.584	—
Noncompliance	232	60	0.259	1.17	736	163	0.221	—
Status	470	0	0.000	—	783	0	0.000	—
Other	2,327	118	0.051	1.15	7,273	321	0.044	—
Total	10,548	1,964	0.186	0.58	37,472	12,052	0.322	—

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Table 26
Girls' proportion ratios for arrests by gender for unknown, petty, and local offense classes, 2007

Offense category	Girls				Boys			
	Total in category	Total other and unknown	Proportion	PR	Total in category	Total other and unknown	Proportion	PR
Person	3,476	0	0.000	—	9,830	1	0.000	—
Sex	16	0	0.000	—	320	0	0.000	—
Weapons	103	0	0.000	—	790	0	0.000	—
Property	3,400	4	0.001	0.20	12,170	71	0.006	—
Drugs	524	1	0.002	5.31	5,570	2	0.000	—
Noncompliance	232	22	0.095	1.20	736	58	0.079	—
Status	470	175	0.372	1.05	783	278	0.355	—
Other	2,327	1,404	0.603	0.95	7,273	4,610	0.634	—
Total	10,548	1,606	0.152	1.14	37,472	5,020	0.134	—

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Commitments to corrections

The following tables are the proportions and proportion ratios for the different offense classes for commitments to IDOC in 2004.

Table 27
Girls' proportion ratios for misdemeanor commitments to IDOC by gender, 2004

Offense category	Girls				Boys			
	Total in category	Total misdemeanor	Proportion	PR	Total in category	Total misdemeanor	Proportion	PR
Person	74	30	0.405	2.36	414	71	0.171	—
Sex	0	0	—	—	83	8	0.096	—
Weapons	4	2	0.500	10.70	107	5	0.047	—
Property	97	31	0.320	2.19	700	102	0.146	—
Drugs	5	2	0.400	6.98*	192	11	0.057	—
Noncompliance	8	5	0.625	1.15	22	12	0.545	—
Status	2	2	1.00	1.00	8	8	1.00	—
Other	3	1	0.333	3.33	10	1	0.100	—
Total	193	73	0.378	2.67	1,536	218	0.142	—

Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

* As the number of girls committed to IDOC for drug offenses in FY04 was small, this ratio may be inflated.

Table 28
Girls' proportion ratios for felony commitments to IDOC by gender, 2004

Offense category	Girls				Boys			
	Total in category	Total felony	Proportion	PR	Total in category	Total felony	Proportion	PR
Person	74	44	0.595	0.72	414	343	0.829	—
Sex	0	0	—	—	83	75	0.904	—
Weapons	4	2	0.500	0.52	107	102	0.953	—
Property	97	66	0.680	0.80	700	598	0.854	—
Drugs	5	3	0.600	0.64	192	181	0.943	—
Noncompliance	8	3	0.375	0.83	22	10	0.455	—
Status	2	0	0.00	—	8	0	0.00	—
Other	3	2	0.667	0.74	10	9	0.900	—
Total	193	120	0.622	0.72	1,536	1,318	0.858	—

Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Appendix E: Report data

Table 29
Arrests by year, offense category, offense class, and gender, 2002–2007

Offense category	Girls				Boys			
	Misde-meanor	Felony	Other	Total	Misde-meanor	Felony	Other	Total
2007								
Person	2,783	693	0	3,476	6,799	3,030	1	9,830
Sex	14	2	0	16	98	222	0	320
Weapons	68	35	0	103	313	477	0	790
Property	2,552	844	4	3,400	7,511	4,588	71	12,170
Drug	311	212	1	524	2,317	3,251	2	5,570
Noncompliance	150	60	22	232	515	163	58	736
Status	295	0	175	470	505	0	278	783
Other	805	118	1,404	2,327	2,342	321	4,610	7,273
Total	6,978	1,964	1,606	10,548	20,400	12,052	5,020	37,472
2006								
Person	2,846	686	1	3,533	6,878	3,175	0	10,053
Sex	5	10	0	15	101	256	0	357
Weapons	81	26	0	107	317	514	0	831
Property	2,499	757	11	3,267	7,753	4,965	64	12,782
Drug	381	186	0	567	3,428	2,715	5	6,148
Noncompliance	143	74	15	232	426	161	47	634
Status	284	0	166	450	535	0	190	725
Other	787	116	1,185	2,088	2,304	306	4,405	7,015
Total	7,026	1,855	1,378	10,259	21,742	12,092	4,711	38,545
2005								
Person	3,223	714	1	3,938	7,588	3,109	0	10,697
Sex	12	6	0	18	118	291	0	409
Weapons	69	43	0	112	337	530	0	867
Property	2,659	752	9	3,420	8,288	4,881	72	13,241
Drug	394	203	0	597	3,687	2,833	8	6,528
Noncompliance	145	67	26	238	393	166	79	638
Status	227	0	159	386	431	0	185	616
Other	738	107	716	1,561	2,453	432	3,735	6,620
Total	7,467	1,892	911	10,270	23,295	12,242	4,079	39,616

Table 29 continued
Arrests by year, offense category, offense class, and gender, 2002–2007

Offense category	Girls				Boys			
	Misde-meanor	Felony	Other	Total	Misde-meanor	Felony	Other	Total
2004								
Person	3,221	654	0	3,875	7,205	2,628	0	9,833
Sex	18	6	0	24	113	294	0	407
Weapons	102	41	0	143	337	418	0	755
Property	2,760	760	16	3,536	7,720	4,468	61	12,249
Drug	386	190	1	577	3,355	2,564	3	5,922
Noncompliance	89	54	30	173	345	164	76	585
Status	252	0	127	379	398	0	153	551
Other	593	113	706	1,412	2,180	395	2,834	5,409
Total	7,421	1,818	880	10,119	21,653	10,931	3,127	35,711
2003								
Person	3,015	626	0	3,641	6,686	2,637	0	9,323
Sex	9	9	0	18	115	277	1	393
Weapons	97	31	0	128	340	419	0	759
Property	2,871	771	7	3,649	8,082	5,142	87	13,311
Drug	357	181	2	540	3,282	2,461	7	5,750
Noncompliance	117	62	61	240	377	183	198	758
Status	202	0	141	343	423	0	192	615
Other	456	119	476	1,051	1,801	429	2,173	4,403
Total	7,124	1,799	687	9,610	21,106	11,548	2,658	35,312
2002								
Person	3,021	606	0	3,627	6,611	2,619	0	9,230
Sex	8	12	0	20	139	314	0	453
Weapons	63	46	0	109	353	361	0	714
Property	3,098	734	8	3,840	8,781	5,384	110	14,275
Drug	236	275	2	513	1,859	4,036	6	5,901
Noncompliance	81	68	57	206	284	167	116	567
Status	210	0	111	321	437	0	125	562
Other	330	115	608	1,053	1,518	361	1,921	3,800
Total	7,047	1,856	786	9,689	19,982	13,242	2,278	35,502

Source: Authority's CHRI Ad Hoc datasets

Table 30
Detention admissions by year, offense category, and gender, 2002–2007

Offense category	Calendar year					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Girls						
Person	1,302	905	890	936	1,071	1,236
Sex	19	12	9	9	12	6
Weapons	38	21	18	11	27	29
Property	845	656	554	549	537	535
Drug	135	81	82	81	109	126
Noncompliance	547	482	431	400	424	354
Status	98	78	47	29	49	45
Other*	380	128	125	106	228	346
Total	3,364	2,363	2,156	2,121	2,457	2,677
Boys						
Person	3,687	2,396	2,337	2,284	3,192	3,706
Sex	395	260	262	279	293	321
Weapons	800	257	225	257	544	683
Property	3,775	2,736	2,546	2,611	3,239	3,384
Drug	1,870	537	474	497	986	1,327
Noncompliance	1,476	1,384	1,376	1,370	1,544	1,530
Status	98	84	63	54	67	39
Other*	1,486	353	352	335	1,221	2,080
Total	13,587	8,007	7,635	7,687	11,086	13,070

Source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System

* Other includes cases where offense category was missing

Table 31
IDOC commitments by year, offense category, offense class, and gender,
FY99–FY04*

Offense category	Girls			Boys		
	Misde-meanor	Felony	Total	Misde-meanor	Felony	Total
2004						
Person	30	44	74	71	343	414
Sex	0	0	0	8	75	83
Weapons	2	2	4	5	102	107
Property	31	66	97	102	598	700
Drug	2	3	5	11	181	192
Noncompliance	5	3	8	12	10	22
Status	2	0	2	8	0	8
Other	1	2	3	1	9	10
Total	73	120	193	218	1,318	1,536
2003						
Person	27	51	78	79	301	380
Sex	0	3	3	9	92	101
Weapons	1	3	4	5	101	106
Property	17	63	80	86	621	707
Drug	0	11	11	19	166	185
Noncompliance	5	5	10	21	17	38
Status	2	0	2	8	0	8
Other	0	2	2	2	14	16
Total	52	138	190	229	1,312	1,541
2002						
Person	32	43	75	69	332	401
Sex	0	3	3	15	73	88
Weapons	0	0	0	2	86	88
Property	26	63	89	118	639	757
Drug	3	5	8	19	176	195
Noncompliance	5	5	10	11	17	28
Status	2	0	2	4	0	4
Other	0	1	1	2	7	9
Total	68	120	188	240	1,330	1,570

Table 31 continued
IDOC commitments by year, offense category, offense class, and gender,
FY99–FY04*

Offense category	Girls			Boys		
	Misde-meanor	Felony	Total	Misde-meanor	Felony	Total
2001						
Person	41	51	92	77	316	393
Sex	2	2	4	14	67	81
Weapons	1	1	2	9	91	100
Property	39	61	100	95	557	652
Drug	1	8	9	23	206	229
Noncompliance	4	3	7	9	12	21
Status	4	0	4	5	0	5
Other	1	3	4	1	11	12
Total	93	129	222	233	1,260	1,493
2000						
Person	37	51	88	73	323	396
Sex	0	5	5	4	70	74
Weapons	1	5	6	24	106	130
Property	39	64	103	99	594	693
Drug	0	8	8	33	287	320
Noncompliance	2	2	4	12	20	32
Status	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	5	5	3	15	18
Total	79	140	221	248	1,415	1,668
1999						
Person	34	56	90	79	420	499
Sex	1	1	2	8	84	92
Weapons	1	1	2	5	159	164
Property	35	75	110	118	707	825
Drug	1	6	7	23	338	361
Noncompliance	4	8	12	13	16	0
Status	0	0	0	4	0	4
Other	1	0	1	4	0	4
Total	77	147	225	252	1,733	1,999

Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

* New sentence admissions only

Note: 2000 totals include 2 girls and 5 boys for whom offense information was missing. 1999 totals include 1 girl and 14 boys for whom offense information was missing.

Notes

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- ² Loeber, Rolf and David P. Farrington, eds., *Serious and Violent Juvenile Offenders: Risk Factors and Successful Interventions*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 1998.
- ³ Retrieved November 24, 2008 from Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Model Programs Guide on the World Wide Web: http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/prevention_risk_factors.htm and http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/prevention_protective_factors.htm
- ⁴ Cauffman, Elizabeth, "Understanding the Female Offender," (Fall 2008) *Juvenile Justice* 18(2): 126, 130.
- ⁵ Retrieved on June 6, 2008 from Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Girls Study Group on the World Wide Web at www.juvenilecouncil.gov/materials/2008_06/Hawkins-GSG%20findings_June%206%202008.ppt
- ⁶ Asha Goldweber, Lisa Broidy, and Elizabeth Cauffman., "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Persistent Female Offending: A Review of Theory and Research For The Development of Persistent Criminality," in *The Development of Persistent Criminality*, ed. Joanne Savage, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009: 218.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, 219.
- ⁸ Hawkins, Stephanie, R., Phillip W. Graham, Jason Williams, and Margaret A. Zahn, "Resilient Girls—Factors that Protect Against Delinquency," (2009) Girls Study Group, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Washington, DC: 1.
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