

# Juvenile justice system

## Introduction

The juvenile justice system in Illinois operates as 102 county-level systems with some oversight by state agencies responsible for probation, detention, and corrections. Each county's juvenile justice system is comprised of a network of entities that deal with minors under age 17 who commit delinquent acts.

*Figure 63* depicts the stages in the juvenile justice process. While cases flow through local juvenile justice systems in a similar manner throughout the state, variation exists between counties in the handling of specific types of cases. For instance, some counties have diversionary programs available for youth, while others have few resources available. These differences may impact the way juvenile justice professionals address delinquency in their counties.

In 2005, the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation to create the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, separating juveniles from the adult Department of Corrections. Upon implementation in July 2006, Illinois joined 39 other states with separate youth and adult corrections systems.

## Illinois Juvenile Court Act revisions

In 1998, Public Act 90-590 or the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998 was signed into law in Illinois. Among the reform provisions, the most significant change was revision of the purpose and policy statement to Article V of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/5-101), which addresses adoption of balanced and restorative justice as the guiding philosophy for the Illinois juvenile justice system.

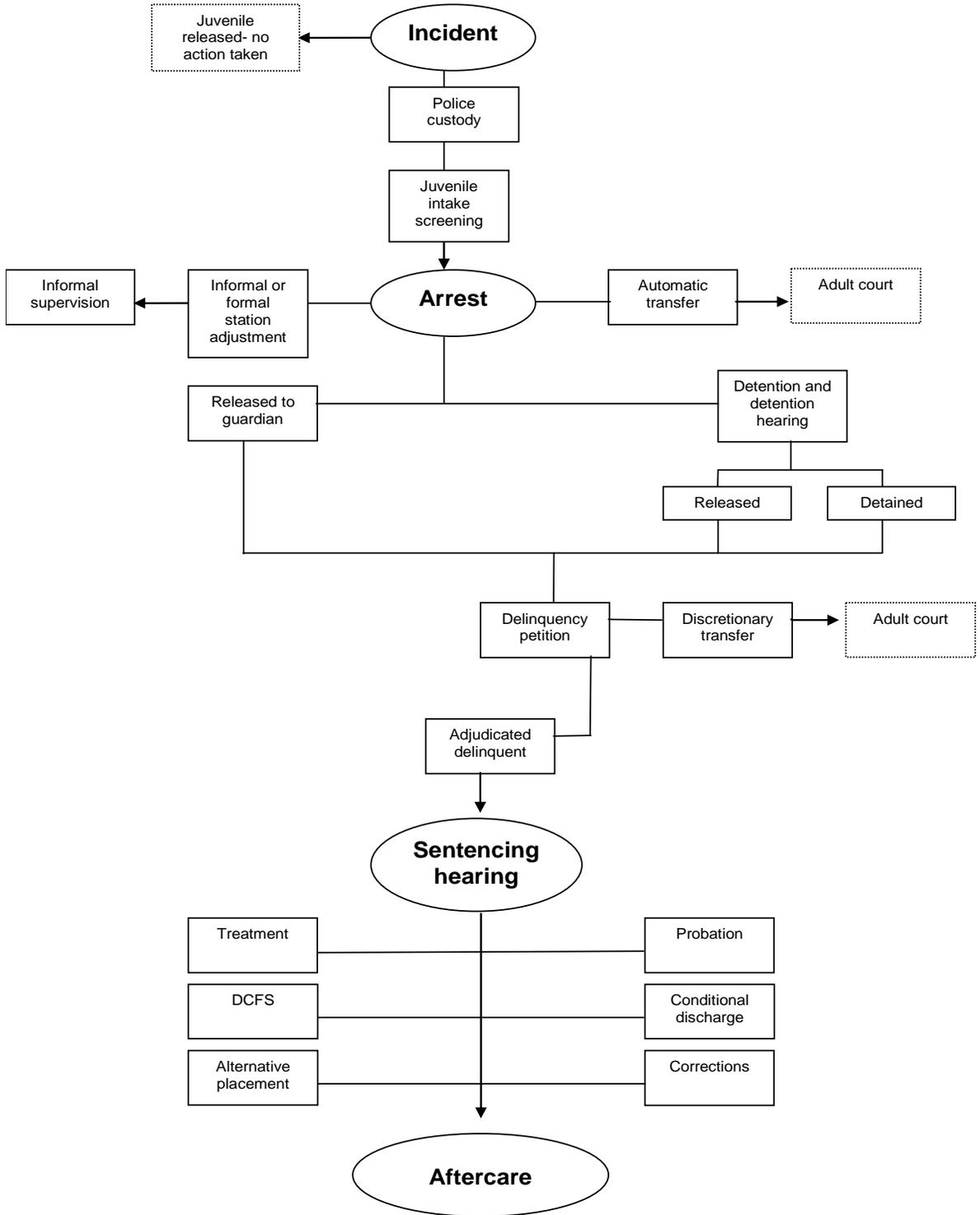
**Table 6**  
**Legislative changes to the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998,**  
**by topic and citation**

Topic	Citation
Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) purpose and policy statement	705 ILCS 405/5-101
Prevention and early intervention legislative declaration	705 ILCS 405/5-201
<i>Changes to law enforcement practices</i>	
Station adjustments	705 ILCS 405/5-301
Creation of a Juvenile Criminal History Information System	20 ILCS 2605/55a & Reform Provision Appropriations
Submitting arrest data to the Illinois State Police	20 ILCS 2630/5
Non-secure custody or detention— placing minors in lockups with adults	705 ILCS 405/5-410
Releasing minor to parent	705 ILCS 405/3-8
Non-secure custody or detention— time spent in secure custody	705 ILCS 405/5-410
Expungement of law enforcement and juvenile court records	705 ILCS 405/5-915
<i>Changes in prosecutor practices</i>	
Extended jurisdiction juvenile prosecutions	705 ILCS 405/5-810
Submitting delinquency petition and sentencing information to Illinois State Police	20 ILCS 2630
Community mediation program	705 ILCS 405/5-130
<i>Changes to pre-trial juvenile detention</i>	
Trial (extended time in detention awaiting trial)	705 ILCS 405/5-601
<i>Changes in probation practices</i>	
Submitting probation adjustment information to Illinois State Police	705 ILCS 405/5-305
Increase in maximum age on probation	705 ILCS 405/5-715
<i>Changes in inter-agency sharing of juvenile records</i>	
Sharing of school records	105 ILCS 10/6
Sharing of public aid records	20 ILCS 2605/55a; 305 ILCS 5/11-9
Sharing of DCFS records	20 ILCS 505/35.1
<i>Other changes</i>	
New terminology	705 ILCS 405/5-105
County juvenile justice councils	705 ILCS 405/6-12
Teen court	705 ILCS 405/5-315
Parental responsibility	705 ILCS 405/5-110; 705 ILCS 405/4-9

Funding	Reform Provisions appropriations
Victims rights	705 <i>ILCS</i> 405/5-115
Permanent adult status	705 <i>ILCS</i> 405/5-130
Increase in upper age of wardship	705 <i>ILCS</i> 405/5-755

Adapted from: Lavery, et al., *An Implementation Evaluation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998*, ii.

**Figure 63: Flowchart of the Illinois juvenile justice system**



## Balanced and restorative justice

As of March 2006, at least 17 states have included balanced and restorative justice in the purpose clauses of their juvenile court.<sup>i</sup> Balanced and restorative justice strives to balance the attention paid to the needs of all parties affected by crime: victim, offender, and community. The principles of balanced and restorative justice serve as a guide for actions taken to achieve that balance with an explicit focus on meeting the needs of crime victims. This system has three main goals:<sup>ii</sup>

- **Accountability.** Balanced and restorative justice strategies provide opportunities for offenders to be accountable to those they have harmed and enable them to repair the harm caused to the extent possible.
- **Community safety.** Balanced and restorative justice recognizes the need to keep the community safe. Community safety can be accomplished through balanced and restorative justice strategies by building relationships and empowering the community to take responsibility for the well-being of its members.
- **Competency development.** Balanced and restorative justice seeks to increase the pro-social skills of offenders. Addressing factors that lead youth to engage in delinquent behavior and building on the strengths evident in each youth increases their competencies.

## **Juvenile justice trends**

Juvenile justice trend data for this analysis were drawn from ISP, AOIC, and IDOC annual reports and statistical summaries.

### Arrest data

In Illinois a juvenile arrest refers to the taking into custody a youth who is believed to have committed a delinquent act (705 ILCS 405/5-401). Once a youth is arrested, a juvenile police officer may either charge the youth with an offense and refer him or her to the state's attorney's office for prosecution, refer him or her to probation for intake screening, or initiate a formal or informal station adjustment. Station adjustments do not require referral of the case to the court for prosecution, but the youth is released to a parent or guardian under specified conditions, including obeying curfew, attending school, performing community service, and participating in social services. A third option following an arrest is releasing the youth without charges.

Youth arrest data is kept in the state's central repository for criminal history record information, the Illinois State Police Computerized Criminal History system. The Criminal Identification Act (20 ILCS 2630/5) mandates an arrest fingerprint card be submitted on all minors ages 10 and older who have been arrested for an offense which would be a felony if committed by an adult, and for certain serious motor vehicle offenses, including motor vehicle theft, driving under the influence, aggravated fleeing, eluding police. Fingerprint-based arrest cards for minors ages 10 and older who have committed what would be a Class A or B misdemeanor if perpetrated by an adult may

also be submitted to ISP, but it is not required. Further, the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1999 mandated that ISP maintain a record of all station adjustments for offenses that would be a felony if committed by an adult. The reporting of station adjustments for misdemeanor offenses is optional.

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

Trends in youth arrest data derived from criminal history records submitted to the computerized criminal history system from 2000-2001 mostly reflect changes in reporting mandates and technology enhancements made earlier in the 1990s, rather than actual arrest trends in Illinois. The lack of some ethnic demographic categories, such as Hispanic, is another limitation. The system does collect racial demographic information on arrestees, with categories of white, black, Asian, and American Indian. In light of these data quality issues, the number and characteristics of youths arrested should be viewed as a conservative estimate, and not an absolute measure of youth crime in Illinois.

The counts of arrests total the number of fingerprint cards filed, not the unique number of youth arrested. Therefore, the same youth arrested twice is counted twice in total arrests. Increases in youth arrests can be attributed in part to improved arrest data collection and entry rather than an increase in youth arrests or youth crime.

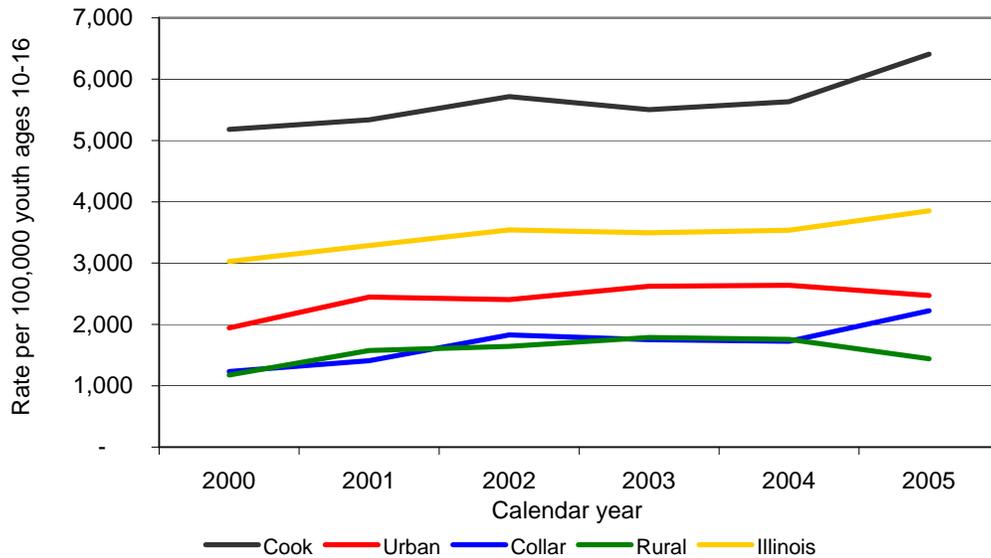
In addition, increased arrest totals are not necessarily a reflection of a serious youth problem. Counties that have a higher number of youth arrests may be those in which local law enforcement agencies are fully complying with the reporting requirements.

In 2005, 49,886 youth arrests were reported to the Illinois State Police. Arrests for property offenses were the most common, accounting for 33 percent of all youth arrests. Arrests for violent offenses or offenses against a person accounted for 30 percent of the total, and arrests for a drug offense accounted for 15 percent. Sex offenses comprised 0.8 percent of all arrests.

Property, violent, drug, and sex offenses categories were created based on the Illinois Compiled Statutes. Sixty-one percent of youth arrested in 2005 were identified as black and 38 percent were identified as white. Hispanic youth arrested in 2005 could appear in any race category, depending on their specific ethnic background and the reporting practices of local law enforcement. Most youth arrestees were 15 or 16 years old (29 percent and 37 percent respectively). Most arrestees were male (79 percent).

*Figure 64* depicts the rate of juvenile arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16 from 2000 to 2005. A 27 percent increase was seen in juvenile arrests from 2000 to 2005.

**Figure 64**  
**Rate of juvenile arrests in Illinois, 2000-2005**



Source: Criminal History Record Information

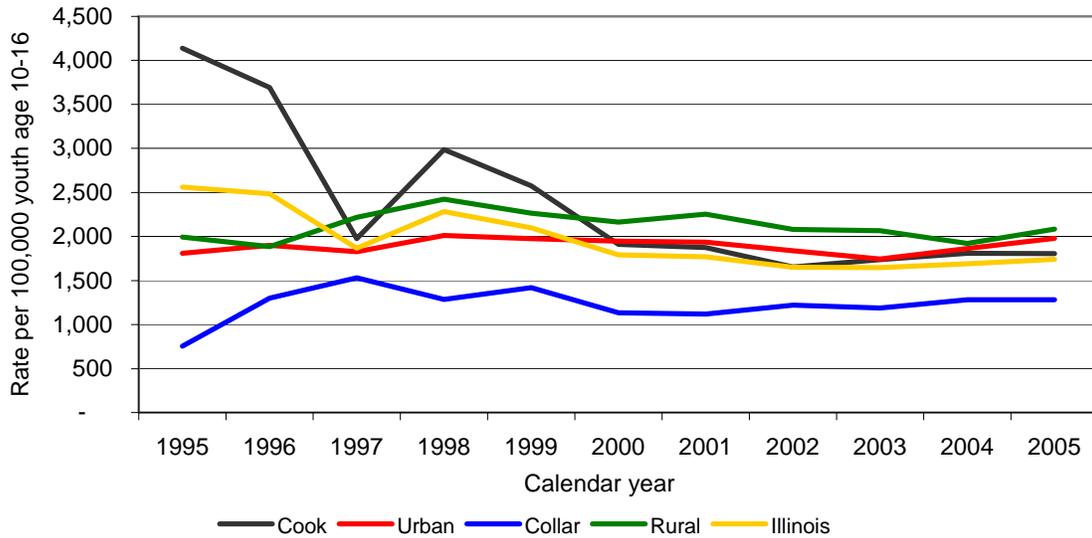
### Court data

After being arrested, a youth may be referred to the county State’s Attorney’s Office for prosecution. If this occurs and the decision is made to prosecute the case, a petition is filed. The most common type of petition filed is a delinquency petition. Delinquency petitions are filed when a youth is alleged to be delinquent or allegedly violated or attempted to violate a state or federal statute or a municipal or county ordinance. Once a delinquency petition is filed, the State’s Attorney’s Office may dismiss the petition against the youth, offer a plea agreement to the defense attorney representing the youth, or refer the youth to a program which diverts the case from the court. If none of these scenarios occur, a trial is held which determines if the allegations against the youth are supported by evidence. If the youth is adjudicated delinquent a sentencing hearing is held. The court may also choose to perform juvenile investigation reports to inform court staff of a youth’s background and prior history.

### *Delinquency petitions*

There was a steady decrease in the number of delinquency petitions filed statewide over the 10-year time period studied. The number of delinquency petitions filed in Illinois decreased by 28 percent from 30,869 in CY95 to 22,358 in CY05. This decline was driven in part by a 53 percent decline in delinquency petitions filed in Cook County between CY95 and CY05. *Figure 65* depicts the rate of delinquency petitions filed by county type. Delinquency petition data for Cook County in CY97 were only available for January through June, which accounts for the dip depicted in the line graph in *Figure 65*.

**Figure 65**  
**Rate of juvenile delinquency petitions in Illinois, 1995-2005**

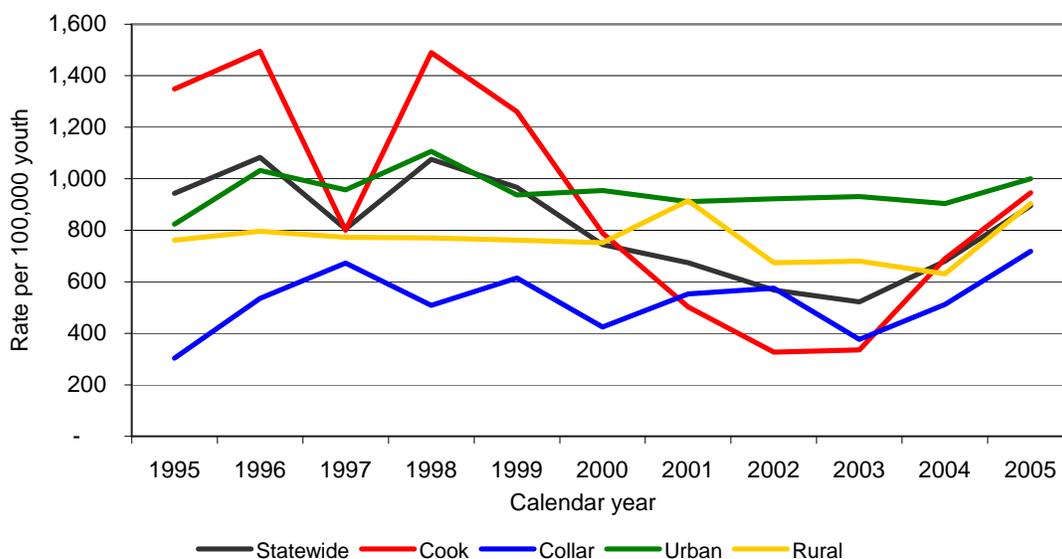


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

*Adjudications*

In Illinois, the rate of adjudications of delinquency decreased only 3 percent between 1995 and 2005. In 2003, the state rate of adjudications was 515 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16, the lowest rate since 1989. A significant statewide increase in adjudications was seen between 2003 and 2005, driven by the sharp increase in Cook County adjudications. *Figure 66* depicts the rate of youth adjudicated delinquent by county classification. Adjudication data for Cook County in 1997 was only available for January through June, which accounts for the dip depicted in the line graph in *Figure 66*.

**Figure 66**  
**Rate of juvenile adjudications of delinquency in Illinois,**  
**1995-2005**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

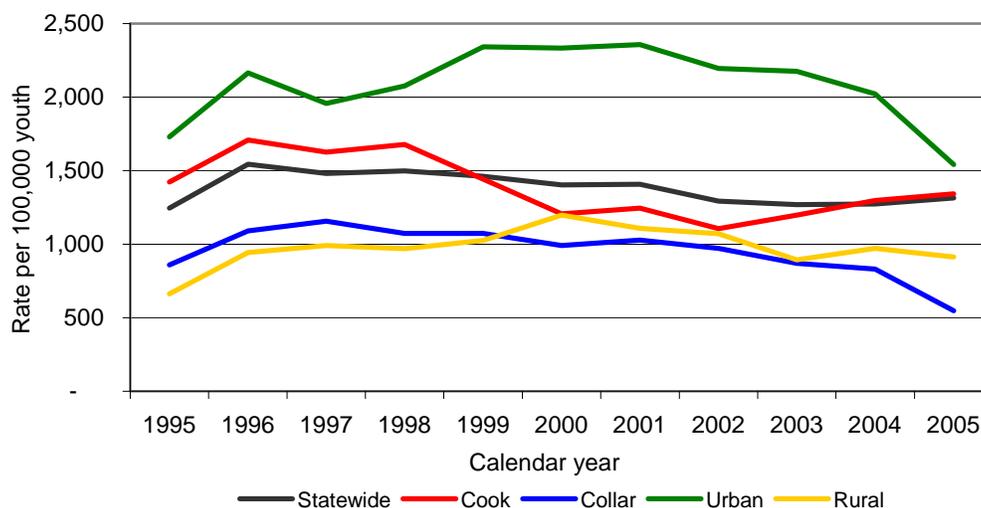
### Detention data

After a juvenile is taken into custody, a local detention screener determines whether the youth should be placed in detention. In nearly all Illinois jurisdictions, a detention screening instrument measures a youth's flight risk potential and helps to make a determination of whether the youth is a danger to himself or the community. A detention hearing must be held within 40 hours of placement in a detention facility.

Detained juveniles who are accused of delinquent acts and are awaiting trial stay in pre-trial detention. Most youths admitted to detention centers have been accused of committing delinquent acts but have not yet been adjudicated delinquent. Juveniles found delinquent can be sentenced to youth detention centers for a period of time as part of a post-trial detention sentence. The juvenile's time in post-trial detention can be reduced by the time served in detention prior to trial and sentencing.

In the 10-year period examined, a 5 percent increase was seen in the rate of juveniles detained in Illinois. Detention rates increased from 1,246 juveniles per 100,000 youth in the population in 1995 to 1,316 in 2005. *Figure 67* depicts the rate of juveniles serving a detention sentence between 1995 and 2005 by county classification.

**Figure 67**  
**Rate of juveniles held in detention in Illinois,**  
**1995-2005**



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

In 2005, 16,916 juveniles were held in detention in Illinois. They were most commonly detained for crimes against a person (25 percent) followed by property offenses (23 percent). The Juvenile Monitoring Information system (JMIS) makes a distinction for juveniles admitted to detention on a warrant. Warrants can be issued for any type of crime. A warrant offense designation in the JMIS system indicates that the juvenile was admitted on the basis of a warrant. It is not possible in the JMIS system to identify what offense the warrant was issued for. As a result, they can only be classified as warrant offenses. Warrant offenses accounted for 22 percent of detention admissions. More than half of detained juveniles were identified as black (59 percent) and 28 percent were identified as white. Hispanic youth accounted for 11 percent. Males accounted for 83 percent of the detention population in 2005.

Illinois law states that youth over 16 years old are ineligible for juvenile detention. However, data showed that youth older than age 16 accounted for 23 percent of reported detention admissions. Researchers blame data entry errors for the figure rather than actual detention admissions of these youth.

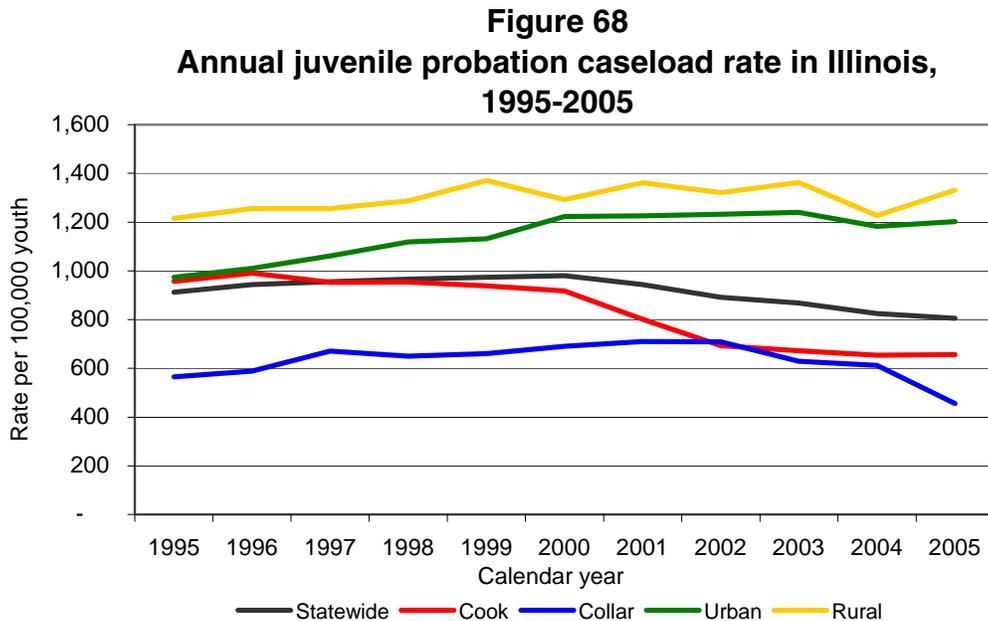
The most common age for youth admissions to detention was 16, or 33 percent of all admissions. Twenty-four percent of youth admissions to detention were age 15 and 12 percent were age 14. Eight percent of youth in detention were between the ages of ten and thirteen.

#### Probation data

Probation departments in Illinois provide services to youths whose cases are diverted from juvenile court and to adjudicated delinquents. Probation departments provide informal supervision to youth offenders for whom no delinquency petition has been filed. In addition, probation departments oversee youth whose cases are petitioned to court but have not been formally adjudicated. These petitions may result in a continuance under court supervision order in which youth are monitored by the probation department for up to 24 months. While on supervision, the youth must meet conditions such as attending counseling sessions and completing community service work. If the youth successfully completes the provisions of his or her supervision, the case is dismissed.

Probation officers also serve youth who are adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to a term of probation. For adjudicated delinquents, the primary function of formal probation is to provide the court with investigative and case supervision services. Youth are sentenced to probation for a maximum of five years or until the age of 21, whichever comes first.

Between 1995 and 2005, a 6 percent decrease was seen in the rates of juvenile probation caseloads in Illinois. Probation caseload rates decreased from 913 juveniles per 100,000 youth in the population in 1995 to 805 in 2005. *Figure 68* depicts the rate of probation caseloads from 1995 to 2005 by county classification. Caseload numbers are calculated on Dec. 31 of each year.



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois  
Note: Total includes all formal caseloads on Dec. 31 of each year.

Corrections data

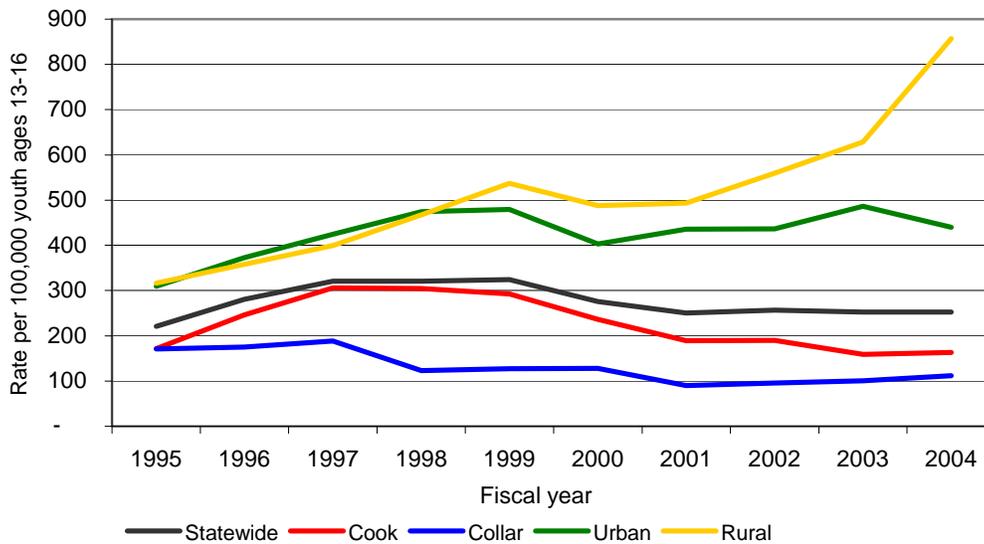
The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice operates Illinois Youth Centers which provide long-term confinement to youth who are ages 13 through 16 at the time of sentencing. According to 730 ILCS 5/5-8-6, a youth may remain in the juvenile division until age 21, unless the Department of Juvenile Justice chooses to file a petition to transfer the youth to the adult corrections division under the guidelines set forth in 730 ILCS 5/3-10-7. Youth are sent to one of seven Illinois Youth Centers located throughout the state (*Map 3*). In FY04, the average annual cost of housing one youth in an Illinois Youth Center was \$64,406, although the cost per youth varies considerably among the centers.

Court commitments are a subset of all admissions to IDJJ. In this report, court commitments to IDJJ are defined as either delinquency commitments or court evaluations. Delinquency commitments, also referred to as initial commitments or new sentences, are for youth who were adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to IDJJ. A delinquency commitment is an indeterminate sentence that is assessed during the youth's stay at an IYC. Adjudicated delinquents can also be sent to IDJJ for court evaluation, which is a 30-, 60-, or 90-day commitment used to assess the needs of delinquent youth. Based on the court evaluation, a youth could be released from IDJJ custody by a juvenile court judge or have a court evaluation return- a return to IDJJ to serve an indeterminate term in a youth center by a juvenile court judge.

#### *Admissions to Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice*

Because juvenile corrections data for FY05 were unavailable, FY04 data were used in this section. In FY04, 3,106 youth were admitted to an Illinois Youth Center. Seven counties reported no youth admissions to the IDJJ during FY04. The rate of juvenile admissions to corrections increased 14 percent from 221 in FY95 to 252 in FY04.

**Figure 69**  
**Rate of juvenile admissions to corrections in Illinois,**  
**FY95-FY04**

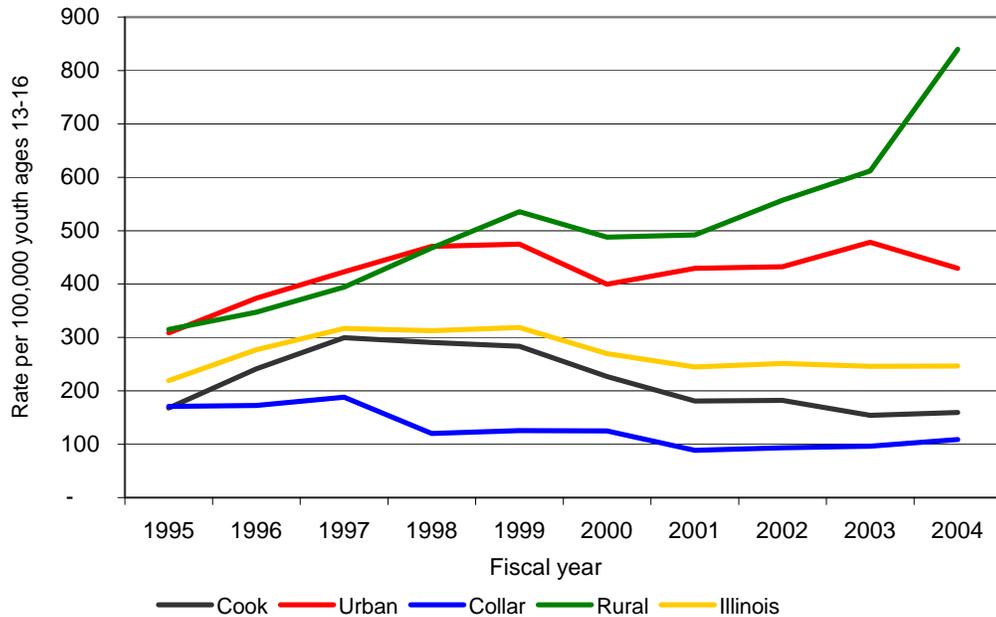


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

*Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice commitments*

In FY04, there were 1,691 court commitments—798 delinquency commitments, 821 commitments for court evaluation, and 72 recommitments. In addition, 610 court evaluations were ordered and 211 returns to IDJJ following court evaluation were recorded (26 percent). In FY04, court commitments represented 54 percent of all admissions. The rate of delinquency commitments decreased by 5 percent between FY99 and FY04 from 168 to 159 (*Figure 70*).

**Figure 70**  
**Rate of juvenile court commitments to corrections,**  
**FY95-FY05**

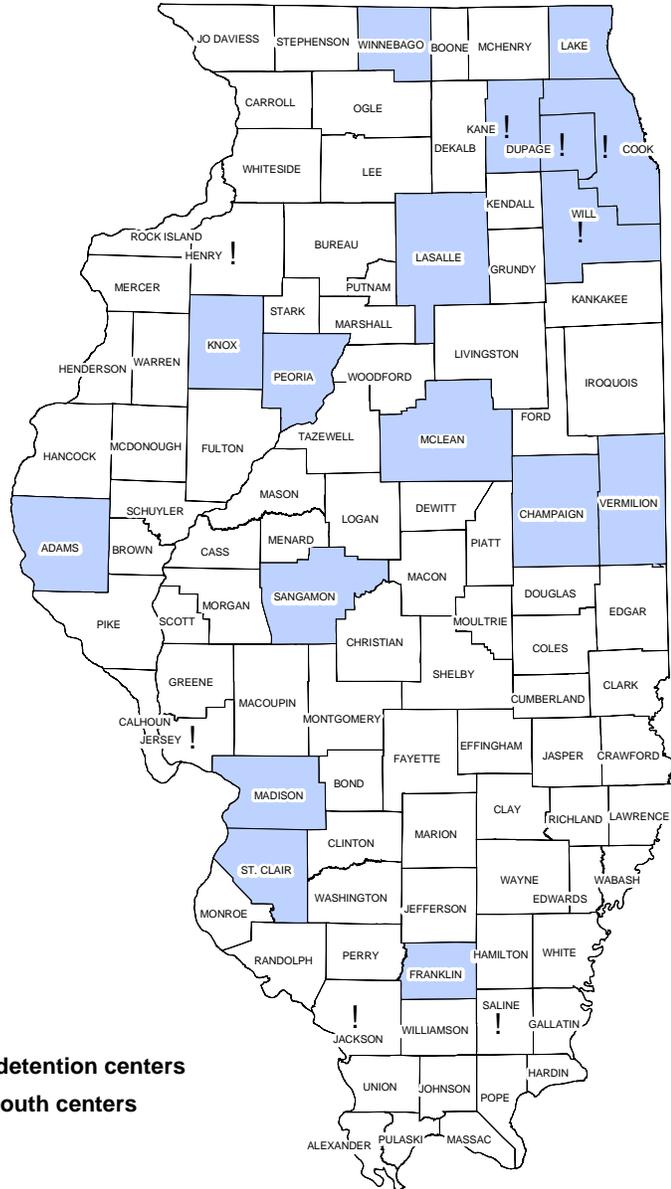


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In FY04, of the juveniles who were court committed to IDJJ, 46 percent of youth were committed for a property offense, 36 percent were committed for an offense against a person, and 12 percent were committed for a drug offense. Other statistics revealed that 52 percent of youth court-committed to IDJJ were black, 37 percent were white, and 10 percent were Hispanic. Additionally, 89 percent were male and 11 percent were female.

IDJJ defines the recidivism rate as the percentage of youth who return to Illinois Youth Center facilities within three years after release. Youth who return to an adult Department of Corrections facility or receive any other sentence, such as probation, are not counted in Department of Juvenile Justice's recidivism rate. In FY04, the Department of Corrections reported the recidivism rate as 46.6 percent for youth after three years of exiting a corrections facility in FY01.

### Map 3 Illinois youth centers and youth detention centers



**Legend**  
 Youth detention centers  
 ! IDOC youth centers

## Disproportionate minority contact

Minority youth comprised 34 percent of all youth in the United States, 62 percent of youth in secure detention, and 67 percent of youth in secure correctional facilities in 1997.<sup>iii</sup> The rate of minority over-representation in juvenile justice systems across the country has contributed to greater scrutiny of juvenile justice system decision making and the examination of how other factors correlated with race, such as poverty, contribute to the over-representation of minorities. An Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention workgroup developed the relative rate index, a measure of disproportionate minority contact. The relative rate index compares the rate at which a minority group is represented at a particular juvenile justice stage to the rate a reference group (white) is represented at the same stage.

The following is the calculation for RRI.

$$\text{RRI} = \frac{\text{Rate per 1,000 of a minority group at specific stage in jurisdiction of interest}}{\text{Rate per 1,000 of reference group at same stage in jurisdiction of interest}}$$

Rates were calculated per 1,000 youth, not 100,000 as in other sections of this report, in order to be consistent with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention measure of relative rate index nationally. The reference group is white youth age 10 to 16. Using this method, a comparison of relative rate indices between jurisdictions can be made.

### Arrests

In 2005, the relative rate index was 6.0 for arrested black youth ages 10 to 16 and .24 for arrested Asians of the same age statewide. This means a black youth in Illinois was about six times more likely to be arrested than a white youth. An Asian youth was arrested at a rate of about one-fourth that of a white youth.

### Detention

In Illinois in 2005, the relative rate index was 7.92 for black youth ages 10 to 16 in juvenile detention centers, and 0.17 for Asians the same age in detention. This indicates a black youth was about eight times more likely to be committed to detention than a white youth. An Asian youth was committed to detention at a rate that a little more than one-tenth that of a white youth.

### Corrections

FY04 corrections data was the most recent available for analysis. In Illinois in FY04, the Department of Juvenile Justice relative rate index for court-committed black youth ages 10 to 16 was 5.23, while the Hispanic relative rate index was 1.21, and the Asian relative rate index was 0.03. This indicates that a black youth was more than five times more likely to be committed to an Illinois Youth Center than a youth who was white. A

Hispanic youth was about as likely as a white youth to be committed to an Illinois Youth Center. An Asian youth was committed to an Illinois Youth Center at a rate that was one-thirtieth less than the rate of a white youth.

### **Juvenile justice needs assessment survey**

A 2005 statewide needs assessment surveyed 1,561 criminal and juvenile justice professionals, and juvenile detention center administrators were among those surveyed. In addition to overall agency characteristics, such as operating budgets and personnel, respondents were asked to identify major contributors to their workload, worsening problems in their field, and strategies for reducing drug use and violence.

Detention centers, with an average annual budget of \$2.4 million, handled an average daily population of 34.5 juveniles, accepted an annual average of 565 admissions, and were staffed by an average 42 full-time employees.

Most administrators (64 percent) expressed concerns with mental health issues of juveniles in detention, and recommended day reporting centers be considered as a detention alternative. Administrators also indicated the need for training in language translation (55 percent), program evaluations (46 percent), and working with special needs prisoners (40 percent). More than half said sex offender treatment and pre-release services, such as halfway houses, needed development (55 percent).

Juvenile detention center administrators were also asked about types of offenses committed by their clients. Fifty-five percent said juveniles in the detention center population had committed violent crimes, and 36 percent of administrators cited both property offenses and probation violations.

### **Conclusion**

The following are conclusions from the data on minors in the juvenile justice system.

- A 27 percent increase was seen in the juvenile arrest rate from 2000 to 2005.
- Illinois saw a 33 percent drop in the rate of juvenile delinquency petitions and a decrease of 3 percent in the rate of juvenile court adjudications from 1995 to 2005.
- The rate of juvenile detention admissions decreased by 40 percent from between 1995 and 2005.
- The rate of juvenile probation caseloads dropped 12 percent between 1995 and 2005.
- A 7 percent increase in the rate of juvenile detention admissions and a 45 percent decrease in court commitments to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice was seen from FY99 to FY04.
- Black youth in Illinois were four times more likely to be arrested and incarcerated in 2004 and four times more likely to be detained in 2005, compared to white youth.

## Notes

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<sup>i</sup> Griffin, Patrick, Linda Szymanski, and Melanie King, *National Overviews, State Juvenile Justice Profiles*, National Center for Juvenile Justice Online (2006).

<sup>ii</sup> Ashley, Jessica and Phillip Stevenson, *Implementing Balanced and Restorative Justice: A Guide for Defense Attorneys*, Chicago, IL: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 2006: 7.

<sup>iii</sup> Hsia, Heidi M., George S. Bridges, Rosalie McHale, *Disproportionate Minority Confinement: 2002 Update*, Summary, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, September 2004, NCJ 201240: 1.

## ***Special issue***

### **Illinois juvenile justice system reform initiatives**

#### **Redeploy Illinois**

The Redeploy Illinois Act took effect in December 2003 and provides counties with funding for probation departments to assess delinquent youth and refer those deemed low-risk to community-based programs that include education, recreation, community service, and crisis and health intervention. Redeploy program participants are non-violent youth who would otherwise be incarcerated.

Redeploy Illinois programs are obligated to reduce the number of youth commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) by 25 percent from the average number of commitments for the previous three years. Redeploy Illinois sites are operating in Macon County, the 2nd Judicial Circuit (serving Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White counties), St. Clair County, and Peoria County.

Services provided by Redeploy Illinois programs include: aggression replacement training, functional family therapy, GPS monitoring, substance abuse and mental health treatment, life skills education, parent/family support, and victim support.

In the first two years of implementation, Redeploy Illinois pilot sites, on average, reduced DJJ commitments by 44 percent (226 youth) within their communities. The Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board estimated that the reduction of 226 youth equals a gross DJJ savings of more than \$11 million in the four sites.

#### **Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation established the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) in 1992 to demonstrate that jurisdictions can establish more effective and efficient alternatives to placing youth in detention centers. The national foundation is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children. JDAI focuses on the juvenile detention component of the juvenile justice system with an underlying belief that youth are often unnecessarily or inappropriately detained at great expense, with long-lasting negative consequences for both public safety and youth development.

JDAI is coordinated by several state and local agencies and entities, including the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, Illinois Department of Human Services, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department, and the Authority. Detention alternative initiatives have been implemented in DuPage, Franklin, Jefferson, Kankakee, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Peoria, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties.

JDAI promotes changes to policies, practices, and programs in efforts to: (1) reduce reliance on secure confinement, (2) improve public safety, (3) Reduce racial disparities and bias, (4) save tax dollars, (5) stimulate overall juvenile justice reforms, and (6) implement new or enhanced non-secure alternatives to detention, such as innovative probation- based services.

## **Disproportionate minority contact sites**

Between FY03 and FY05, the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission funded efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact in Peoria County, St. Clair County, Cook County's south suburbs, and Chicago's Lawndale community. Each site hired a local coordinator to collaborate with the W. Haywood Burns Institute, a leading national organization working to reduce the over-representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. The Burns Institute model requires the active commitment and participation of key traditional and non-traditional stakeholders in the juvenile justice system in each site—including judges, prosecutors, public defenders, police, probation, political leaders, service providers, and community groups. The institute leads stakeholders through a data-driven, consensus-based process that focuses specifically on changing policies, procedures, and practices to reduce racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.

## **Models for Change**

Models for Change, an initiative of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is based on its investment in research regarding adolescent development and delinquent behavior. The initiative also is laying the groundwork for significant changes in law, policy and practice. Models for Change partners with the states of Illinois, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Washington to advance juvenile reforms that effectively hold young people accountable for their actions, provide for their rehabilitation, protect them from harm, increase their life chances, and manage the risk they pose to themselves and the public.

Models for Change supports the reform efforts under way in Illinois to bring about change in three areas needing improvement: juvenile court jurisdiction, community-based alternatives to secure confinement, and disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system. The MacArthur Foundation, in partnership with its grantees in the juvenile justice field, developed a model juvenile justice system that responds to delinquency locally and informally whenever possible. Under this vision, all but a limited number of juvenile offenders are to be supervised, sanctioned, and treated in community settings.