



JUVENILE JUSTICE IN ILLINOIS 2014

Juvenile Justice in Illinois, 2014

Prepared for
The Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission

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Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Office Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, or the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

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Key findings

High profile crimes committed by juveniles tend to influence public perception of juvenile crime.¹ National and Illinois data, however, show juvenile crime has dropped over the last 10 years.^{2,3} Only 2 percent of the juvenile population was arrested in 2014. Fewer moved deeper into the system.

Juvenile Justice in Illinois 2014 provides an overview of Illinois juvenile justice system processes for 2014, with 10-year trend analyses when possible. Processing points examined included: arrest, detention, court, and corrections. The following are key findings from the report.

Decreases in the statewide figures were noted across all of the data points examined, indicating that fewer youth were entering and moving through the juvenile justice system in 2014 than 10 years ago.

Black youth continue to be disproportionately represented in the Illinois juvenile justice system in 2014.

- Although Blacks comprised 18% of the youth population aged 10 to 17 years, they accounted for 61% of juvenile arrests, 62% of detention admissions, and 66% of admissions to state juvenile correctional facilities.

Gender differences continued to exist in 2014.

- Males accounted for the largest percentage of youth moving through the juvenile justice system.
- Females were more likely than males to be arrested as well as committed to IDJJ for less serious offenses.

Between 2005 and 2014, the juvenile arrest rate decreased in Illinois.

- The arrest rate of youth decreased 31% statewide. Regional declines were also noted.
- Most juvenile arrests in Illinois (75%) were for non-felony offenses in 2014.
- In 2014, property crimes accounted for the largest percentage of all juvenile arrests (31%) and felony arrests (39%).
- Arrests in 2014 typically involved males, Black youth, and individuals 16 to 17 years of age.

¹ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2014). *Juvenile offenders and victims: 2014 national report*. Retrieved from <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/nr2014/html/chp3.html>.

² Illinois State Police. (2014). *Crime in Illinois 2014*. Retrieved from <http://www.isp.state.il.us/crime/ucrhome.cfm>; Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2014). *Crime in the U.S. 2014*. Retrieved from <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/>.

³ The national decrease could be due to fewer agencies reporting data rather than decreases in criminal activity. In addition, 2013 and 2014 numbers are preliminary estimates (<http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/JAR.asp>).

The detention admission rate in Illinois fell from 2008 to 2014.⁴

- The statewide admission rate to secure detention decreased 16% from 2008 to 2014. Declines were noted across all regions of the state.
- Although declines from 2008 to 2014 were noted, there was a recent one year uptick in detention admissions from 2013 to 2014 statewide and across most regions of the state.
- In 2014, youth admitted on a warrant accounted for the largest percentage of admissions to detention (28%), followed by violent (25%) and property (19%) crimes.
- Most youth admitted to detention in 2014 were male, Black and 16 years or older.

Decreases were also noted from 2005 to 2014 in informal probation, petition, adjudication, and probation caseload rates.

- Decreases were noted statewide and across all of the regions examined.

The admission rate to juvenile correctional facilities declined from 2005 to 2014.

- The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) admission rate decreased 33% between state fiscal years (SFY) 2005 and 2014.
- Unlike other regions of the state, which experienced overall declines in their IDJJ admission rates, Cook County experienced an 8% increase.
- Property offenses accounted for the largest percentage of admissions to IDJJ (42%) in SFY14, followed by person offenses (31%).
- Males, Black youth, and individuals ages 17 to 20 accounted for the largest percentages of youth entering IDJJ in SFY14.

⁴ 2008 is the first year of available data.

Introduction

About this report

The report outlines juvenile justice statistics across four process points in which data were available: arrest, detention, court, and corrections. Demographic data are presented across three process points: arrests, detentions, and corrections admissions. Information about data sources and tables providing the data are available at the end of the report in *Appendix A* and *Appendix B*, respectively.

- The *Juvenile Arrests* section presents the data on the arrests, types of arrest charges, and demographic characteristics of the juveniles.
- The *Juvenile Detention* section presents data on youth held in temporary detention centers across Illinois and the demographic characteristics of the juveniles detained.
- The *Juvenile Court* section shares information about the informal probation caseload, delinquency petitions filed, cases adjudicated delinquent, and probation caseload.
- The *Juvenile Corrections* section includes the number of youth admitted to state correctional facilities and the demographic characteristics of the juveniles.

About the Illinois juvenile justice system

Legal definition of juvenile

The legal definition of who is considered a juvenile has changed over the last several years. The Illinois Juvenile Court Act of 1987 (705 ILCS 405) defined juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system as youth 16 years or younger. In 2010, Illinois law moved 17-year-old misdemeanor offenders from the adult to the juvenile system (Public Act 095-1031). In 2014, lawmakers further expanded the definition of juvenile to include all 17-year-old youth, regardless of offense class (Public Act 096-1199).

Diversion programs

Over the last decade, Illinois has focused on diverting delinquent youth from the juvenile justice system⁵ while also holding them accountable for their actions and maintaining public safety.⁶ Diversion is based on the theory that processing youth through the

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (2009). *Disproportionate Minority Contact technical assistance manual*. Retrieved from: http://www.ojjdp.gov/compliance/dmc_ta_manual.pdf.

⁶ Beck, V., Ramsey, R.J., Lipps, T.R., Travis, L.F. (2006). Juvenile diversion: An outcome study of the Hamilton County, Ohio, unofficial juvenile community courts. *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, 57, 1-10.

juvenile justice system is more harmful than effective.⁷ Youth can be diverted at any stage in the juvenile justice process.⁸

Diversionary programs in Illinois include community mediation panels and mediation programs, victim-offender conferencing, restorative justice circles, referrals for services, counseling, restitution, and other community-based initiatives that hold the youth accountable for their actions and provide opportunities for rehabilitation (705 ILCS 405/5-310).⁹ Although diversionary programs are available, data on the extent of their use and the characteristics of youth offered these programs is not available at the statewide level beyond that reported on informal probation caseloads.

Juvenile justice system structure and flow

The Illinois juvenile justice system in Illinois operates at the county level. Each county's juvenile justice "system" is comprised of a network of entities. These include:

- Municipal police departments, county sheriffs, and the Illinois State Police.
- Probation and court services.
- Judges, state's attorneys, public defenders, and private attorneys.
- The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.
- County-operated temporary detention centers.
- The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and child welfare agencies.
- Private social service and faith-based organizations that provide crisis intervention, foster care, residential placement, counseling, and other services.
- Schools.
- Neighborhood-based organizations and coalitions.

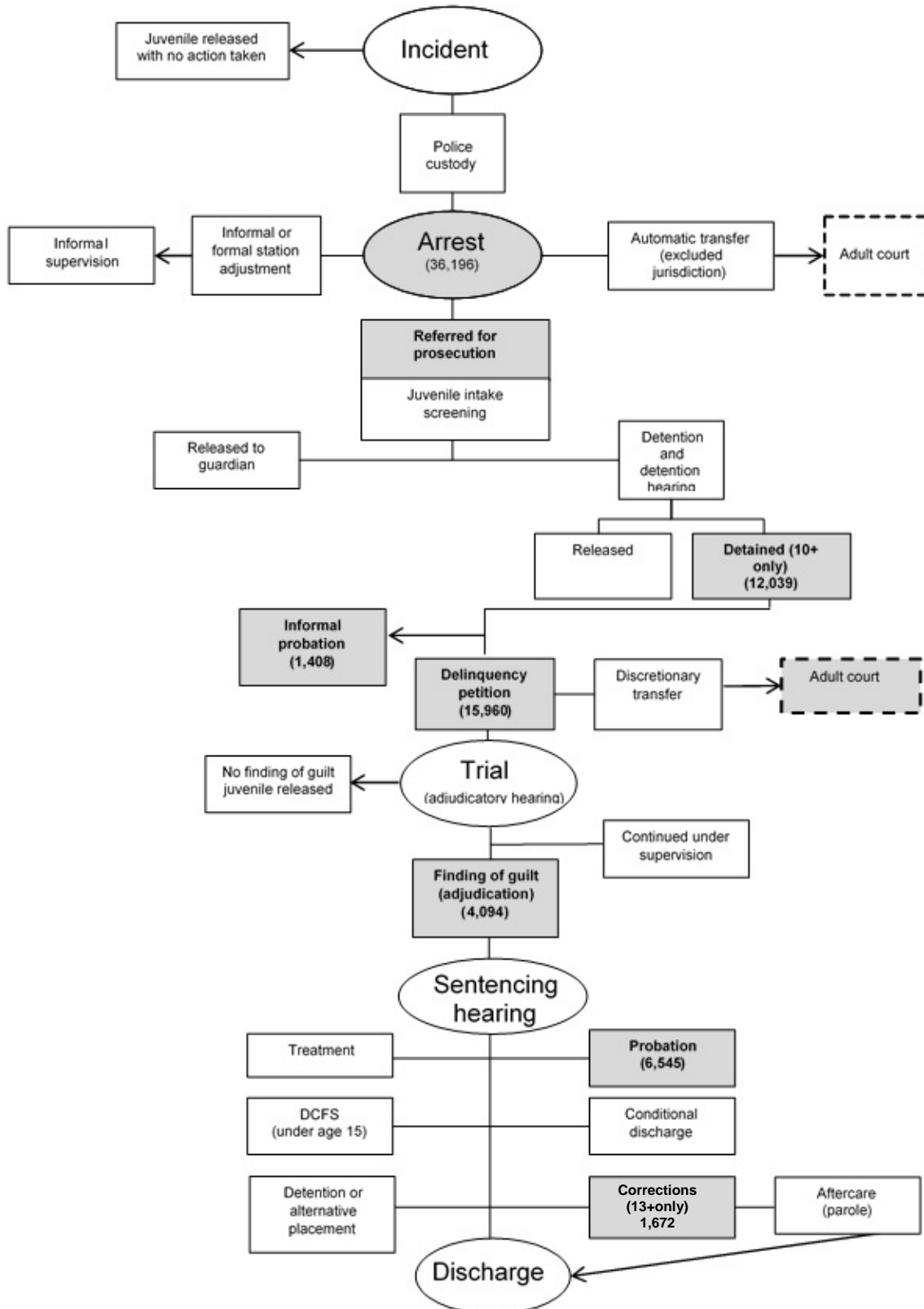
The flowchart depicts the typical stages in the Illinois juvenile justice process. Variations exist across counties in how specific types of cases are handled. When available, the total number of juveniles at each stage in 2014 is presented.

⁷ Bynum, J.E., & Thompson, W.E. (1996). *Juvenile delinquency: A sociological approach*. 3rd ed. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

⁸ This includes arrest, admissions to detention, filing of delinquency petitions, adjudication, probation, and admissions to correctional facilities.

⁹ Bostwick, L. (2010). *Policies and procedures of the Illinois juvenile justice system*. Chicago, IL: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Illinois juvenile justice system flowchart



Juvenile Arrests

Involvement in the juvenile justice system begins with a youth's alleged violation of criminal law or local or municipal ordinance. While many young people violate the law at some point during their adolescence, most incidents involve no police contact or result in only minor violations.¹⁰

Youth enter police custody when a police officer observes a violation of the law, has probable cause to believe a violation has occurred, or is called to take a youth into custody. A youth also may be taken into police custody on a warrant issued by a judge authorizing the arrest of youth who allegedly committed a crime, failed to appear in court, or failed to perform court-mandated activities. Youth also may enter the juvenile justice system through referrals by truancy officers and other outside entities.

Options available to police officers at the time of arrest include diverting youth through informal or formal station adjustments,¹¹ submitting formal charges to the state's attorney and releasing the youth, or formally charging the youth and requesting screening for detention in a secure facility.

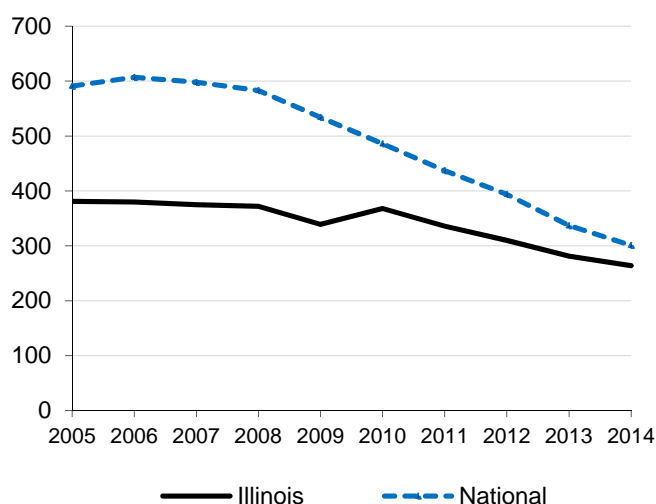
Data used for this section of the report were obtained from the state's Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) system. More information about these data can be found in *Appendix A*.

¹⁰ Bostwick, L. (2010). *Policies and procedures of the Illinois juvenile justice system*. Chicago, IL: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

¹¹ When a youth is offered a station adjustment, that youth is released to a parent or guardian under specific conditions, such as attending school and participating in social services. Informal station adjustments do not require an admission of guilt by the minor, while formal station adjustments do (705 ILCS 405/5-301).

National and Illinois juvenile arrest trends

Illinois and national juvenile arrest rates, 2005-2014

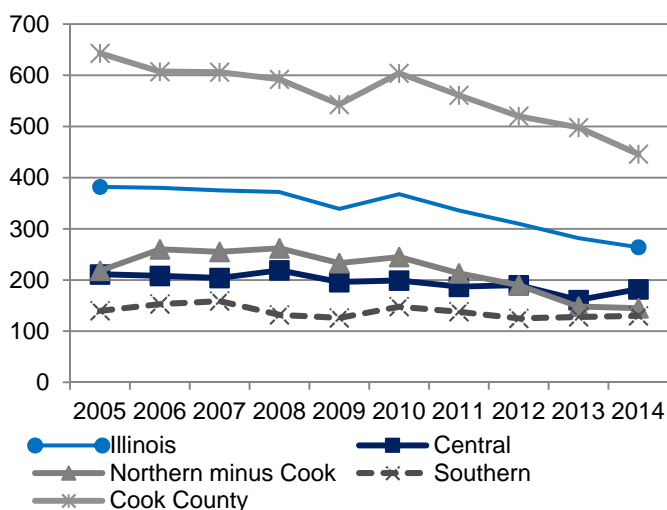


Note: Rate per 10,000 juveniles in population.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data and data from the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

Between 2005 and 2014:

- The national juvenile arrest rate was 55% higher than the Illinois rate in 2005, but the gap narrowed to 14% by 2014.
- The Illinois juvenile arrest rate decreased 31%, while the national rate decreased 49%.

Juvenile arrest rates by region, 2005-2014



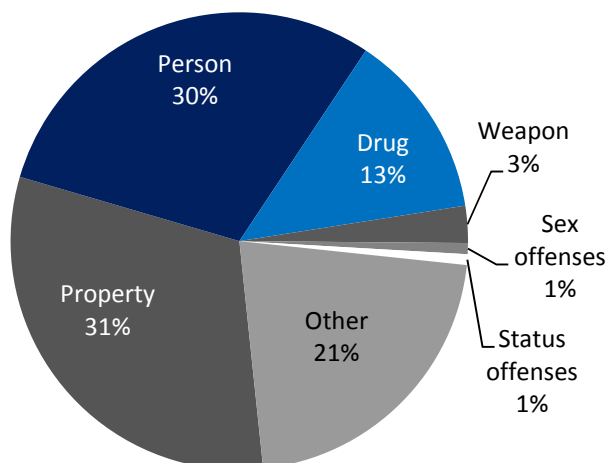
Note: Rate per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 16 (2004-2009) and 10 to 17 (2010-2014).
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

Between 2005 and 2014:

- Rate decreases were noted across all regions of the state, although the magnitude of those decreases varied greatly.
- Northern counties outside Cook County experienced the largest decline (-33%) followed by Cook County (-31%), while central (-14%) and southern counties (-7%) had smaller decreases.

Juvenile arrest characteristics - 2014

Juvenile arrests by offense type, 2014



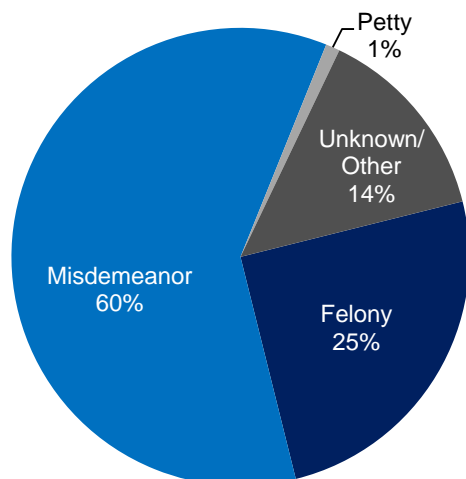
Note: Person offenses include murder, criminal sexual assault, aggravated battery, and any offense committed against an individual(s). Other offenses included disorderly conduct, interference with a police officer, traffic offenses, arrests on warrants or for violations, attempted offenses, and ordinance violations.

Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- There were 36,196 arrests statewide involving youth 17 years and younger. These arrests involved 23,860 unique individuals or approximately 2% of all Illinois youth ages 10 to 17 (23,860 of 1,369,463 youth).
- Property offenses accounted for the largest percentage of juvenile arrests (n=11,295), followed by person offenses (n=10,787).
- Drug offenses accounted for 13% of arrests (n=4,772).

Juvenile arrests by offense class, 2014



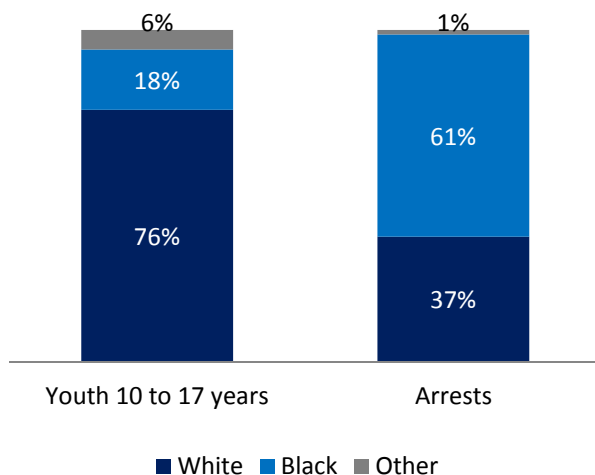
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Three-quarters of arrests were for lower class offenses: misdemeanors (n=21,702), petty offenses (n=208), or unknown/other offenses (n=5,154).

Juvenile arrest characteristics - 2014

Juvenile arrests by race, 2014

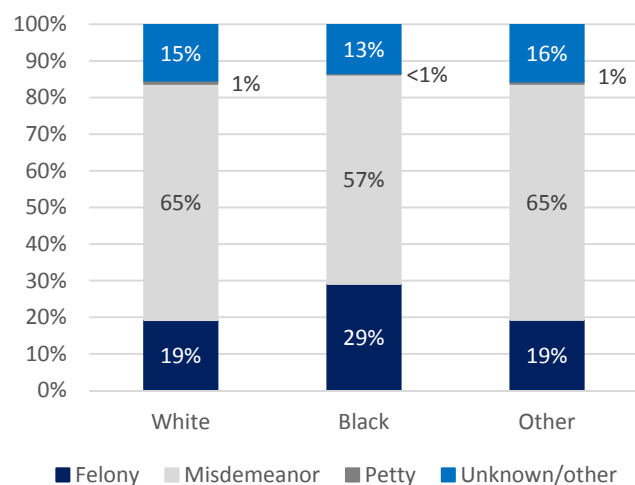


In 2014:

- Black youth were arrested at a rate disproportionate to their number in the overall youth population; While Black youth comprised 18% of the youth population, they accounted for 61% of all arrests.
- White youth accounted for 76% of the youth population and 37% of all arrests.

Note: Data on Hispanic youth not available. Excludes 321 arrests where the race was unknown.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

Juvenile arrests by offense class and race, 2014



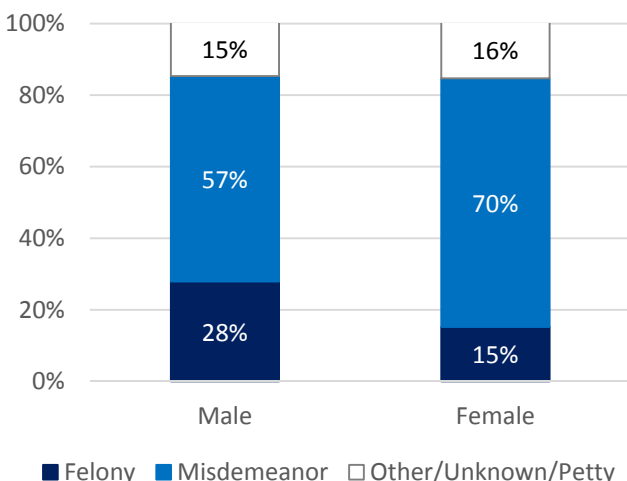
In 2014:

- Non-White youth accounted for 63% of youth arrested.
- A larger percentage of Black youth (29%) were arrested for felony offenses than White youth (19%).

Note: Excludes 321 arrests where the race was unknown.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

Juvenile arrest characteristics - 2014

Juvenile arrests by offense class and gender, 2014

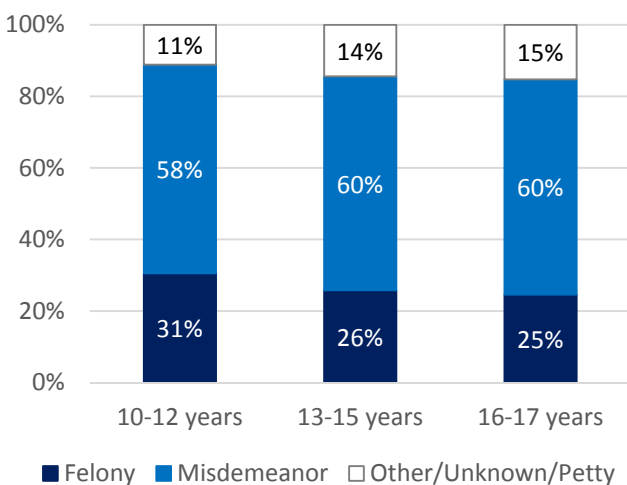


Note: Excludes 10 arrests where the gender was unknown.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Males made up 79% of the youth arrested (n=28,548).
- Felonies accounted for a larger percentage of arrests involving males than females; misdemeanors accounted for more female than male arrests.

Juvenile arrests by offense class and age group, 2014



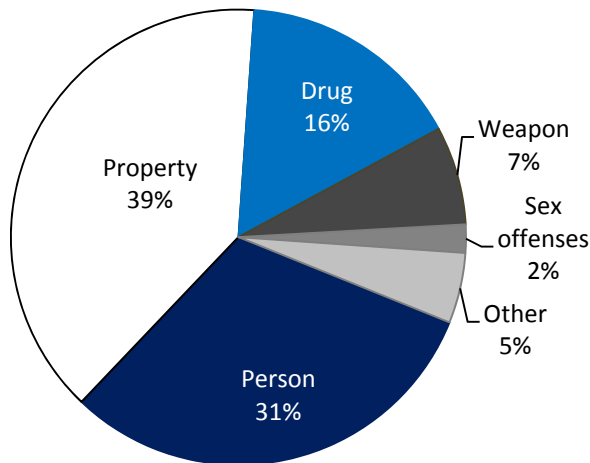
Note: Excludes 10 arrests where the gender was unknown.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Older youth between the ages of 16 and 17 years accounted for 59% of all arrests (n=21,297).
- Felonies accounted for a larger percentage of arrests involving youth ages 10 to 12 years than youth 13 years and older. This difference may be partly due to fingerprinting policies at the local level.

Juvenile felony arrest characteristics - 2014

Juvenile felony arrests by offense type, 2014

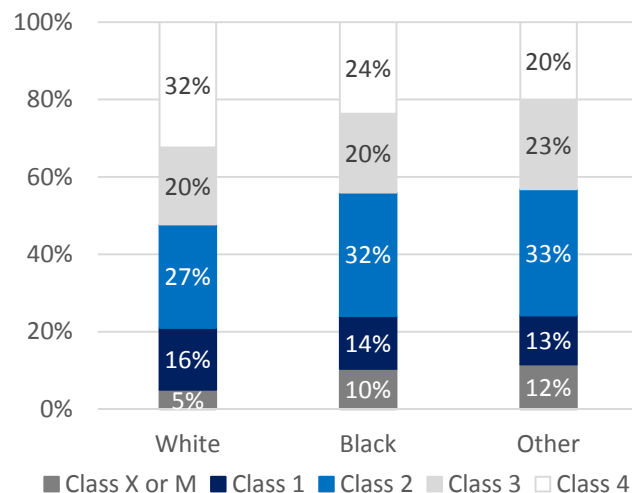


Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Property crimes accounted for the largest percentage of felony arrests (n=3,532).
- Crimes against a person accounted for the second most common reason for a felony arrest (n=2,842).

Juvenile felony arrests by offense class and race, 2014



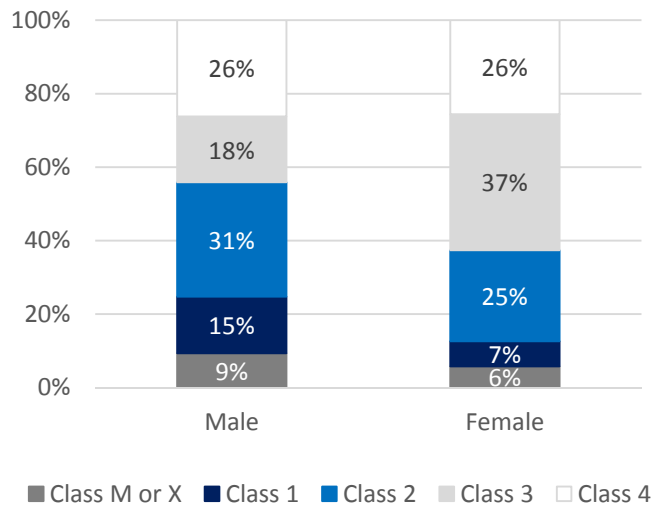
Note: Excludes 58 arrests where race was unknown.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Higher percentages of Black youth and those identified as some other racial group were arrested for felony class X and M (murder) offenses as compared to White youth.
- Higher percentages of White youth than non-White youth were arrested for class 4 felonies.

Juvenile felony arrest characteristics - 2014

Juvenile felony arrests by offense class and gender, 2014

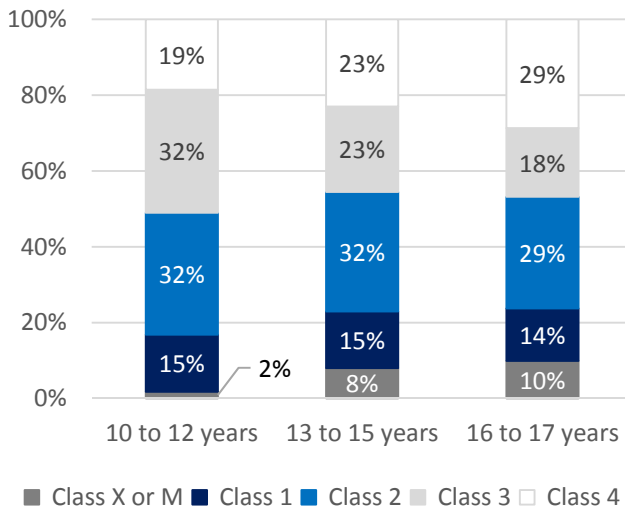


Note: Excludes 3 arrests where gender was unknown.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Male youth accounted for 87% of felony arrests.
- Male youth were more likely than females to be arrested for more serious felonies, particularly class M (murder) and X offenses.

Juvenile felony arrests by offense class and age group, 2014



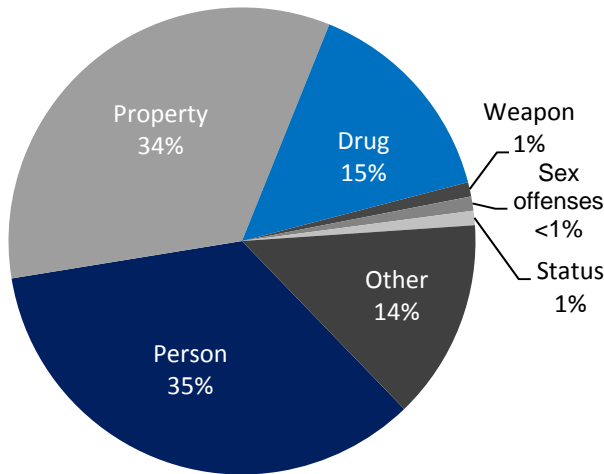
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Sixteen to seventeen year olds accounted for 57% of all felony arrests.
- Younger youth (10 to 12 years of age) tended to be arrested for less serious crimes as compared to older youth (16 to 17 years of age).

Juvenile misdemeanor arrest characteristics - 2014

Juvenile misdemeanor arrests by offense type, 2014

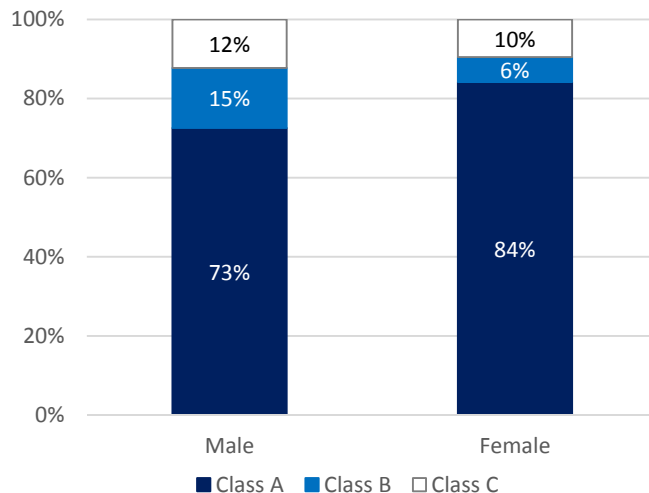


Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Nearly half of the 21,702 misdemeanor arrests were for property (n=7,326) and drug offenses (n=3,206).
- There were 7,665 misdemeanor arrests involving crimes against persons, the highest percentage of misdemeanor arrests.

Juvenile misdemeanor arrests by class and gender, 2014



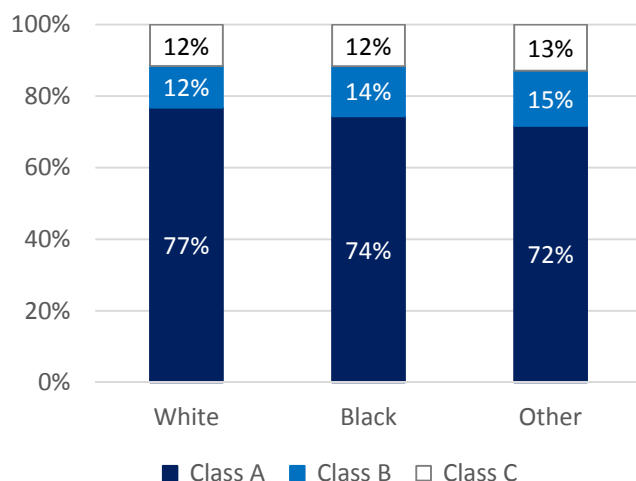
Note: Excludes 4 arrests where the gender was unknown.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Male youth accounted for 76% of all misdemeanor arrests.
- A greater percentage of females than males were arrested for misdemeanor A offenses.

Juvenile misdemeanor arrest characteristics - 2014

Juvenile misdemeanor arrests by class and race, 2014

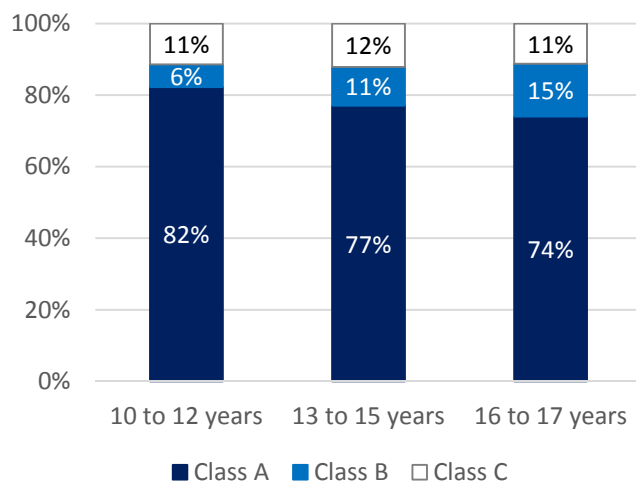


Note: Excludes 171 arrests where race was unknown.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Non-White youth accounted for 60% of misdemeanor arrests.
- A slightly greater percentage of misdemeanor arrests involving White youth were for misdemeanor A offenses as compared to non-White youth.

Juvenile misdemeanor arrests by offense class and age group, 2014



Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data.

In 2014:

- Youth aged 16 to 17 years accounted for 59% of all juvenile misdemeanor arrests.
- A higher percentage of younger individuals than older youth were arrested for misdemeanor A offenses.

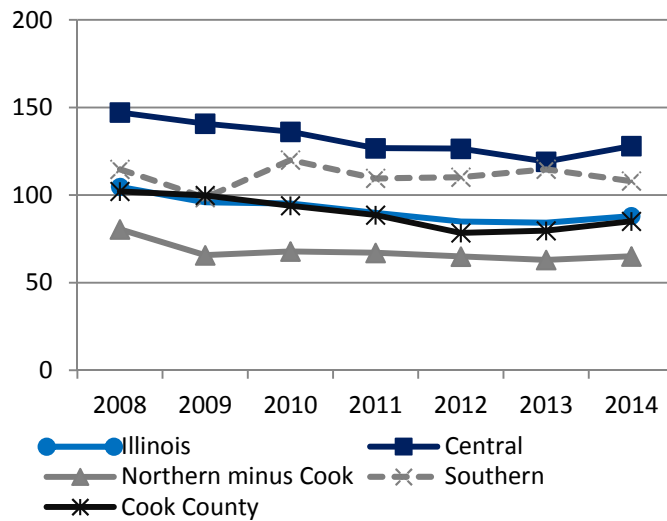
Juvenile Detention

After a youth is arrested and processed, police may release the youth to a guardian, or, if the youth is at least 10 years of age and there is a decision to , use a detention screening instrument to assess whether to detain the youth until their court date. Screening is used to assess flight risk and whether the youth is a danger to himself or the community. Youth are held until a detention hearing (within 40 hours), where a judge determines whether the youth will remain in detention or be released until their court date. Detention also is used as a sanction after a guilty finding.

Data used in this analysis were collected from the Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS), maintained by the Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois. More information about these data can be found in *Appendix A*. For this section, the data analyzed were limited to the years 2008 to 2014 because 2008 was the first year in which the data were available.

Juvenile detention admissions trends

**Detention admission rates by region,
2008-2014**



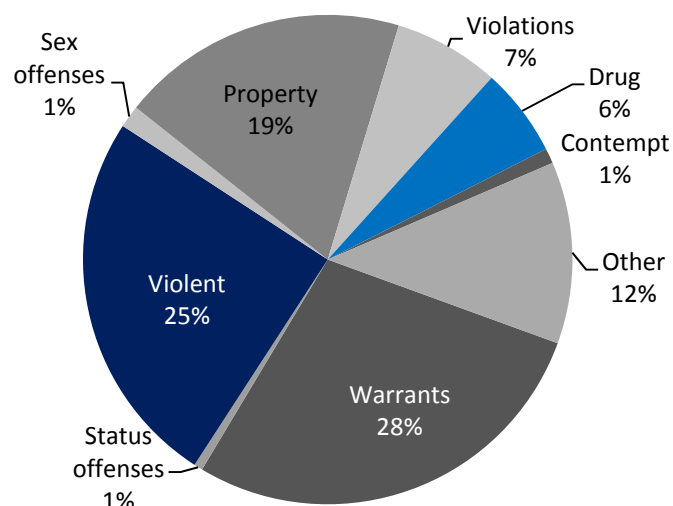
Note: Rate per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 17 years.
Data prior to 2008 are unavailable.
Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS).

Between 2008 and 2014:

- The statewide admission rate to secure detention decreased 16%.
- Declines were noted across all regions of the state; the largest decrease was in the northern region (-19%), followed by Cook County (-17%) and central counties (-13%). The smallest decline occurred in the southern region (-6%).

Juvenile detention admissions characteristics - 2014

Secure detention by offense type, 2014

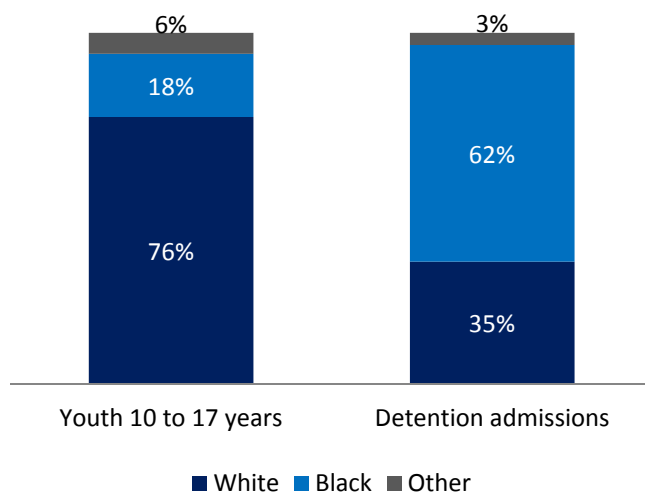


Note: Underlying offense information for warrants is unavailable.
Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS).

In 2014:

- There were 12,039 admissions to secure detention.
- Arrest warrants accounted for the largest percentage of admissions to detention (n=3,378), followed by violent (n=3,039) and property (n=2,277) crimes.

Secure detention by race, 2014



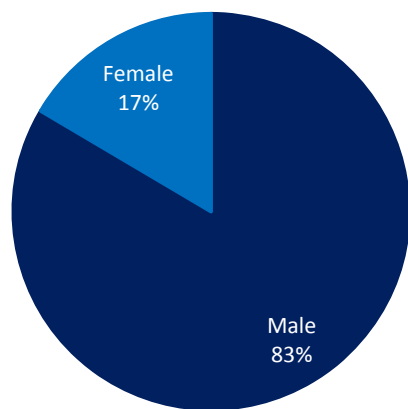
Note: Hispanic is not a race category and therefore not mutually exclusive from other races.
Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS).

In 2014:

- Black youth were disproportionately detained as compared to their representation in the population.
- White youth and youth of other races (Asian, Hawaiian, or multi-racial) were underrepresented in detention admissions as compared to their representation in the population.
- A total of 1,475 of the youth admitted were Hispanic.

Juvenile detention admissions characteristics - 2014

Secure detention by gender, 2014

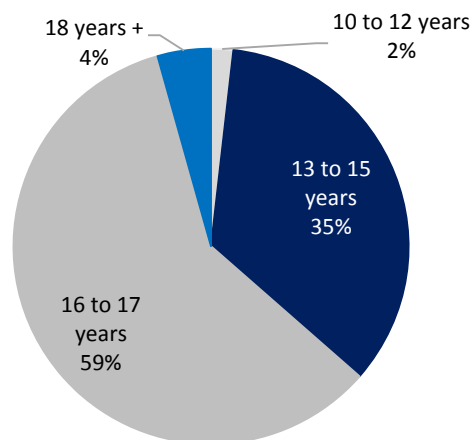


Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS).

In 2014:

- In 2014, the average daily population in Illinois detention centers was 757 youth.
- Males were more likely than females to be committed to secure detention.
- The average length of stay was 14 days for females and 19 days for males.

Secure detention by age group, 2014



Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS).

In 2014:

- More than half of youth detained were 16 and 17 years old.
- Youth 13 to 15 years accounted for the next highest percentage of detention admissions.

Juvenile Court

Once an arrest is made, the state's attorney may file a delinquency petition, or charges. The petition sets forth supporting facts about the youth's alleged offense, demographic information about the minor, and whether the youth is being detained. The petition requests that the minor be adjudicated a ward of the court and asks for relief under the Juvenile Court Act, which makes the resources and processes of the court available to the youth, including a public defender.

If a youth has not reached a plea agreement with the prosecutor, the judge determines whether the allegations against a youth are supported by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. If the judge finds that the allegations are supported by evidence, the youth will be found guilty. The judge has several sentencing options, one of which is probation.

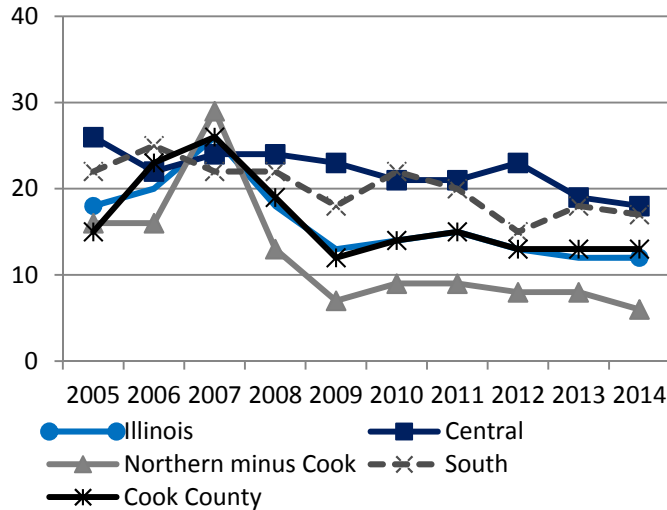
A youth also may receive informal probation supervision in lieu of a state's attorney's filing. Informal probation supervision lasts about 12 months. If the youth refrains from additional law violations and complies with supervisory mandates, such as attending school or refraining from drug use, during that period, he or she is released without further action (705 ILCS 405/5-305).¹²

Data from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts were used for this analysis. More information about these data can be found in *Appendix A*.

¹² Bostwick, L. (2010). *Policies and procedures of the Illinois juvenile justice system*. Chicago, IL: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Juvenile court and probation trends

**Informal probation rates by region,
2005-2014**

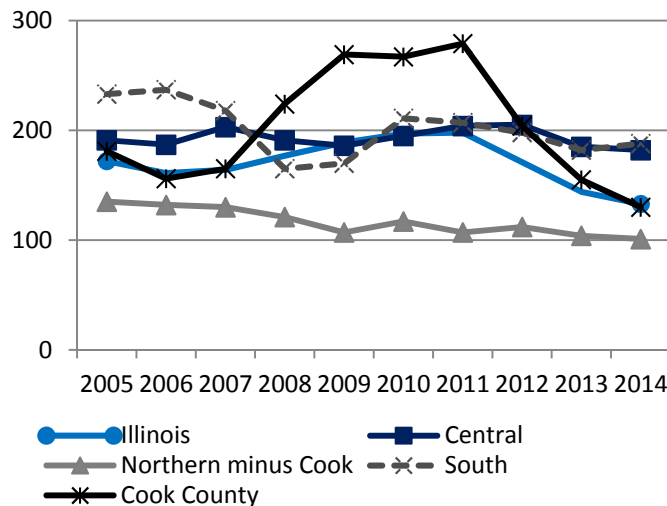


Note: Rate per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 16 years.
Data source: Administrative Office of Illinois Courts.

Between 2005 and 2014:

- The statewide informal probation supervision rate dropped 33%.
- The central (-31%), northern (-63%), and southern (-23%) regions as well as Cook County (-13%) also had declines.
- The spike in 2007 was due to large increases in Cook and Kane counties.
- In 2014, there were 1,408 cases of informal probation statewide.

**Delinquency petition rate by region,
2005-2014**



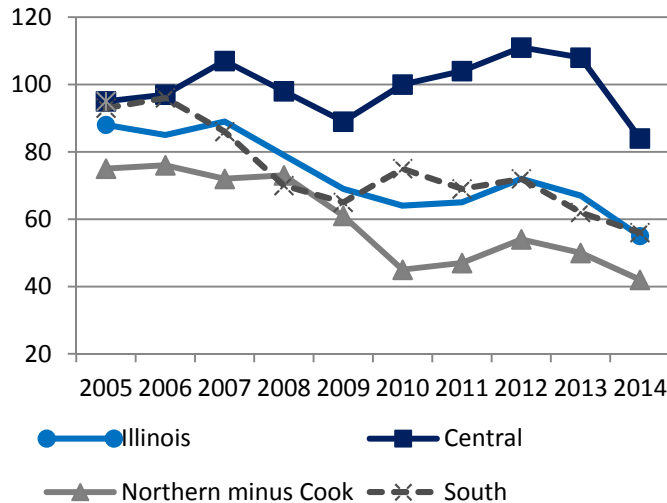
Note: Rate per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 16 years.
Data source: Administrative Office of Illinois Courts.

Between 2005 and 2014:

- The statewide delinquency petition rate declined 23%.
- Decreases were experienced in every region of the state, with drops of 28% in Cook County, 25% in the northern region, 19% in the southern region, and 5% in the central region.
- There were 15,960 delinquency petitions filed in 2014.

Juvenile court and probation trends

**Adjudication rate by region,
2005–2014**

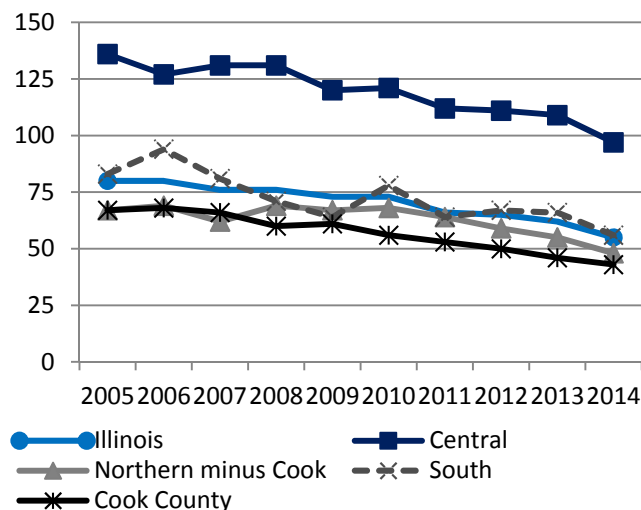


Note: Rate per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 16 years.
Cook County has not reported adjudication data since 2005.
Cook County population was excluded from the statewide rate after 2005.
Data source: Administrative Office of Illinois Courts.

Between 2005 and 2014:

- The statewide adjudication rate decreased 38%.
- Decreases were experienced in the southern (-40%), northern (-31%), and central (-12%) regions.
- There were 4,094 cases adjudicated delinquent in 2014.

**Probation caseload rate by region,
2005–2014**



Note: Rate per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 16 years.
Data source: Administrative Office of Illinois Courts.

Between 2005 and 2014:

- The statewide probation caseload rate dropped 31%.
- Rates also decreased across the various regions of the state: Cook County (-36%) and southern (-33%), central (-29%), and northern (-28%) counties.
- The number of probation cases statewide was 6,545 in 2014.

Juvenile Corrections

Once a youth has been adjudicated delinquent, a sentencing hearing is held. During the sentencing hearing, the court determines whether it is in the best interests of the youth or the public that he or she be made a ward of the court, which gives the court the authority to make decisions on behalf of the youth. When a youth becomes a ward of the court, the judge determines a sentence that serves the needs of the youth and the public [705 ILCS 405/5-705(1)]. An Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) commitment is one option.¹³

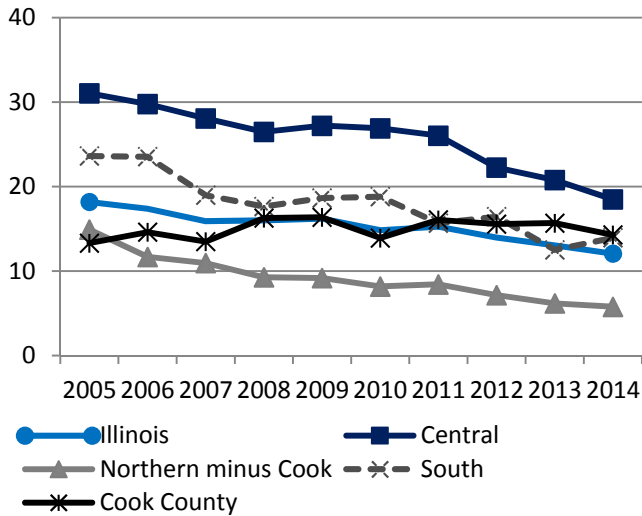
IDJJ operates the state's juvenile correctional facilities. Youth ages 13 or older are eligible for IDJJ commitment. They may remain in IDJJ custody until they turn 21.

Data from the IDJJ were used for the following analysis. More information about these data can be found in *Appendix A*.

¹³ Bostwick, L. (2010). *Policies and procedures of the Illinois juvenile justice system*. Chicago, IL: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Juvenile corrections trends

Corrections admission rate by region, SFY 2005 -2014



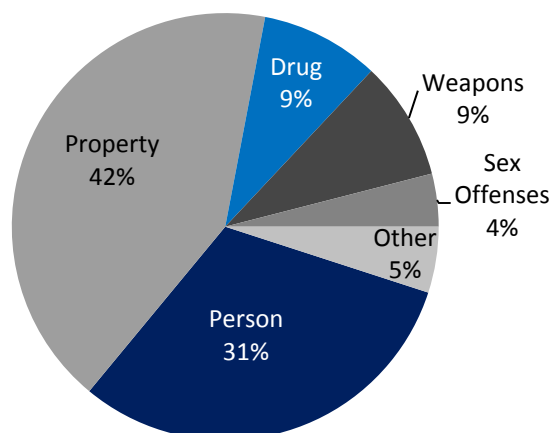
Note: Rate per 10,000 youth ages 13 to 20 years.
Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data.

Between SFY 2005 to 2014:

- The statewide admission rate to IDJJ decreased 33%.
- Declines were noted in the central (-42%), northern (-60%), and southern (-42%). Cook County experienced an increase of 8%.

Juvenile corrections admission characteristics - 2014

Corrections admissions by offense type, SFY 2014

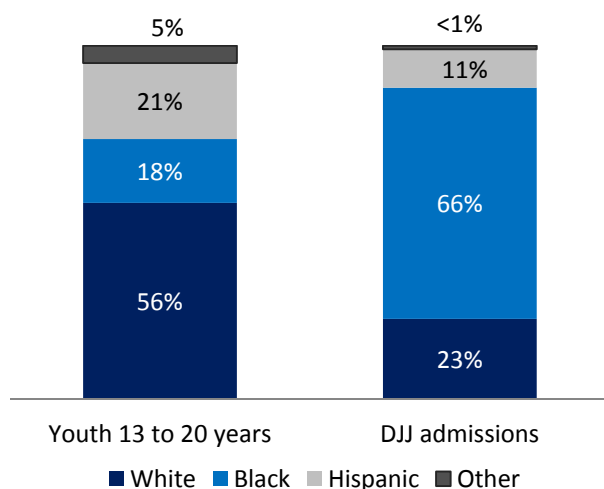


Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data.

In SFY 2014:

- Property crime (n=699) and crimes against a person (n=510) accounted for the majority of corrections admissions.

Corrections admissions by race, SFY 2014



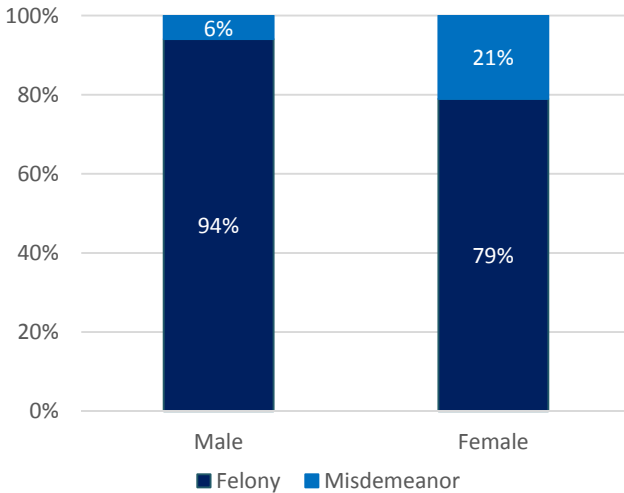
Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data.

In SFY 2014:

- Black youth were disproportionately admitted to IDJJ in comparison to their representation in the total youth population.
- Hispanic, White, and youth from other races were underrepresented in comparison to their representation in the total youth population.

Juvenile corrections admission characteristics - 2014

Corrections admissions by gender and offense class, SFY 2014

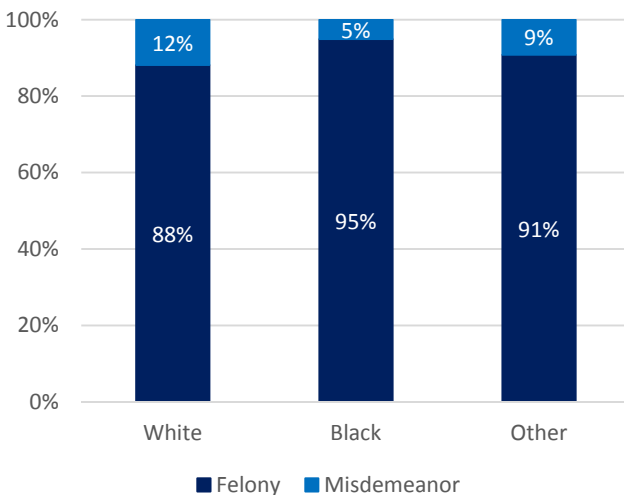


Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data.

In SFY 2014:

- Males accounted for 92% of youth admissions to IDJJ.
- Less serious offenses accounted for a higher percentage of female admissions than male admissions to IDJJ.

Corrections admissions by race and offense class, SFY 2014



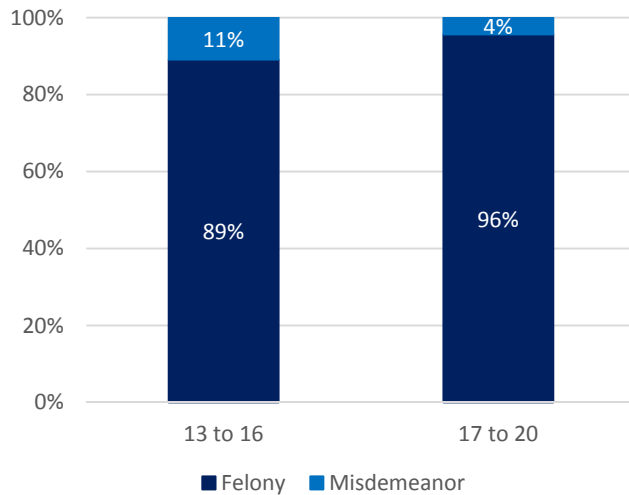
Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data.

In SFY 2014:

- A larger proportion of White youth were admitted for misdemeanor offenses than non-White youth.

Juvenile corrections admission characteristics - 2014

Corrections admissions by age and offense class, SFY 2014



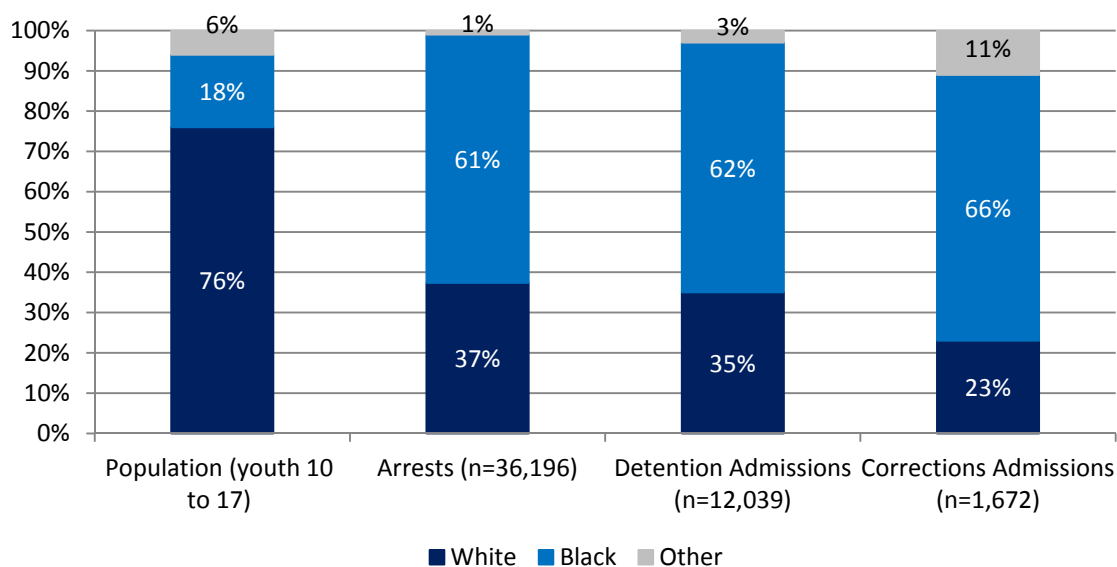
Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data.

In SFY 2014:

- Youth aged 13 to 16 years accounted for 42% of admissions to IDJJ.
- A higher percentage of younger youth than older youth were admitted to IDJJ for misdemeanor offenses.

Conclusion

- Statewide decreases were noted across all of the data points examined, indicating that fewer youth were entering and moving through the juvenile justice system in 2014 than 10 years ago.
- One-quarter of arrests involving juveniles were for felony offenses, and property crimes accounted for the largest percentage (39%) of those felony arrests.
- Demographic characteristics were available for three data points: arrests, secure detention admissions, and commitments to IDJJ. Although these data provide only a limited picture of the impact of juvenile justice decision making and policies on particular youth, they do indicate the following:
 - Males accounted for the largest percentage of youth moving through the juvenile justice system.
 - Gender differences were found when examining the types of offenses for which females and males were arrested and admitted to IDJJ. Specifically, females were more likely than males to be arrested as well as committed to IDJJ for less serious offenses.
 - The percentage of Black youth arrested, detained, and admitted to IDJJ was disproportionate as compared to their percentages in the youth population. This disparity began at the arresting stage and continued to grow at each stage for which data were available.



Data sources: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data (arrests), Juvenile Monitoring Information System (detention), and ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data (corrections).

Appendix A: Data Sources

Arrests

Researchers derived age-specific arrest statistics from the Illinois State Police Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) system. These data are accessible to Authority staff for research purposes through a cooperative interagency agreement.

Arrest records in the CHRI system contain offender characteristics, such as gender, race, and age, and statute citations and offense classes. ICJIA researchers imposed coding schemes on the individual records to derive crime categories from the citations. A more detailed description of CHRI data elements can be found in the State Police Guide to Juvenile Justice Reporting at <http://www.isp.state.il.us/docs/jjguide.pdf>.

This report included arrests of youth ages 10 to 17 years. It should be noted that state law [20 ILCS 2630/5] does not require arresting agencies to submit juvenile arrest records to the CHRI system for misdemeanor arrests. Therefore, juvenile arrest statistics generated from CHRI data should be viewed as estimates and not absolute figures. Trends observed in the data may reflect changes in reporting practices as much as changes in actual arrest volumes or underlying criminal behavior. An analysis of the agencies that report CHRI data found that arrest records are representative of overall juvenile arrest activity in Cook and surrounding counties, but should be interpreted with caution when seeking to draw conclusions about overall juvenile arrest activity in the central or southern regions of the state.¹⁴

Prosecutorial diversion

Statewide informal probation caseload data was collected by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC). Aggregate informal probation caseload counts was presented by county within each circuit court in the agency's annual Statistical Summary Report, available at: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/SupremeCourt/AnnualReport/2013/StatsSumm/default.asp>.

Youth demographic information was not collected and consistency of county reporting practices is unknown.

Detention

The Illinois Juvenile Monitoring Information System is a web-based management information system that allows Illinois juvenile detention centers to submit their case-level data, and run multiple reports. The system is maintained by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD)

¹⁴ Devitt Westley, C., & Hughes, E. (2015). *Assessing the quality of the Illinois Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) System data on juveniles*. Chicago, IL: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

at the. The system has been in use since 2004. The AOIC requires counties to report demographic, case, offense, and transportation data on every youth admitted to detention.

Detention facilities follow their own methods to determine the most serious charge for which a youth is being detained. This charge is then grouped into specific offense categories for analytic purposes. If a youth is being detained on a warrant, violation, or contempt offense, the underlying offense is entered. The original adjudicated offense also may be entered.

CPRD generated custom statistical tables for ICJIA for the purpose of this research.

The Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission published an in-depth 2013 detention data report, available at <http://ijjc.illinois.gov/Detention2013>.

Juvenile court

Statewide juvenile court activity data is collected by AOIC. These data include information on delinquency petitions filed, cases adjudicated delinquent, and probation caseloads. Youth demographics are not collected. Aggregate court caseload counts for each county within the 18 court circuits are published in the annual Statistical Summary

Report, available at:

<http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/SupremeCourt/AnnualReport/2013/StatsSumm/default.asp>.

Juvenile corrections

Data regarding youth admitted, serving a sentence, and released from the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice is maintained on Youth 360, a statewide network that connects the state's nine juvenile correctional institutions to a centralized Springfield database. ICJIA received case-level files from the network for the purposes of this research. The files contained youth demographics, holding charge information, and admission and release dates.

Appendix B: Data

Below are tables with data used for analysis in this report.

Table 1: Total Juvenile Arrest Rate, 2005-2014
Illinois and National comparison

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Illinois	381	380	375	372	339	368	336	310	281	264
National	591	607	598	583	534	486	437	394	337	301

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

Data sources: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data and OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book. (2015). Retrieved from http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/JAR_Display.asp?ID=qa05200.

Table 2: Number and Rate of Illinois Juvenile Arrests, 2005-2014
by Region

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Illinois	49,578	49,146	47,934	47,027	42,489	52,654	47,557	43,397	38,956	36,196
	Central	4,459	4,348	4,203	4,470	3,956	4,608	4,293	4,314	3,627	4,091
	Northern minus Cook	9,495	11,480	11,314	11,629	10,370	12,482	10,802	9,555	7,405	7,202
	Southern	1,748	1,900	1,809	1,578	1,482	1,992	1,830	1,630	1,657	1,669
	Cook	33,872	31,412	30,608	29,350	26,681	33,572	30,632	27,898	26,267	26,196
rate		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Illinois	381	380	375	372	339	368	336	310	281	264
	Central	211	208	204	219	196	199	187	190	161	182
	Northern minus Cook	218	260	255	262	233	245	213	190	148	145
	Southern	140	153	159	132	126	148	138	125	128	130
	Cook	643	607	606	592	543	604	561	520	498	446

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data

Table 3: Total Illinois Juvenile Arrests, 2005-2014
by County Type

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Urban	45,970	45,233	44,119	43,554	39,368	48,494	43,729	40,079	32,946	33,319
	Rural	3,604	3,907	3,815	3,473	3,121	4,160	3,828	3,318	2,977	2,877
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
rate	Urban	424	419	414	413	376	406	370	344	286	317
	Rural	167	183	181	166	151	176	164	143	130	126

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population
Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data

Table 4: Total Juvenile Arrests, 2014
by Offense Type and Class

Offense Type	n	Percent
Person	10,787	30%
Property	11,295	31%
Drug	4,772	13%
Weapon	945	3%
Sex	283	1%
Status	273	1%
Other	7,841	21%
Total	36,196	100%
Offense Class	n	Percent
Felony	9,132	25%
Misdemeanor	21,702	60%
Petty	208	1%
Unknown/other	5,154	14%
Total	36,196	100%

Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data

Table 5: Total Juvenile Arrests, 2014
by Gender, Age, Race, and Offense Class

Category	Male	Female	Unknown	10 to 12	13	14	15	16	17	White	Black	Other	unknown
Felony	7,968	1,161	<10	339	541	1,165	1,849	2,530	2,708	2,581	6,398	95	58
Misdemeanor	16,388	5,310	<10	647	1,286	2,512	4,451	5,905	6,901	8,654	12,559	318	171
Petty	155	53	<10	<10	13	23	36	65	65	117	80	<10	<10
Unknown/other	4,037	1,114	<10	118	266	578	1,069	1,457	1,666	2,062	2,931	77	84
Total	28,548	7,638	10	1,110	2,106	4,278	7,405	9,957	11,340	13,414	21,968	493	321

Note: Class M is murder

Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data

Table 6: Total Juvenile Felony Arrests, 2014
by Offense Type

Crime Type	n	Percent
Person	2,842	31%
Property	3,532	39%
Drug	1,459	16%
Weapon	633	7%
Sex	203	2%
Other	463	5%
Total	9,132	100%

Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data

Table 7: Total Juvenile Felony Arrests, 2014
by Gender, Age, Race, and Offense Class

Category	Male	Female	Unknown	10 to 12	13	14	15	16	17	White	Black	Other	unknown
Class X or M	742	67	0	<10	25	97	162	205	314	130	667	11	<10
Class 1	1,229	79	0	51	84	160	288	371	354	412	873	12	11
Class 2	2,483	288	<10	109	153	390	577	803	740	690	2,040	31	11
Class 3	1,427	430	<10	110	169	265	367	496	452	513	1,304	22	20
Class 4	2,087	297	0	63	110	253	455	655	848	836	1,514	19	15
Total	7,968	1,161	<10	339	541	1,165	1,849	2,530	2,708	2,581	6,398	95	58

Note: Class M is murder

Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data

Table 8: Total Juvenile Misdemeanor Arrests, 2014
by Offense Type

Offense Type	n	Percent
Person	7,665	35%
Property	7,326	34%
Drug	3,206	15%
Weapon	285	1%
Sex	72	<1%
Status	164	1%
Other	2,984	14%
Total	21,702	100%

Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data

Table 9: Total Juvenile Misdemeanor Arrests, 2014
by Gender, Age, Race, and Offense Class

Category	Male	Female	Unknown	10 to 12	13	14	15	16	17	White	Black	Other	unknown
Class A	11,895	4,470	<10	532	1,041	1,944	3,372	4,404	5,075	6,647	9,342	228	151
Class B	2,485	335	<10	41	101	265	527	817	1,070	1,006	1,757	49	9
Class C	2,008	505	0	74	144	303	552	684	756	1,001	1,460	41	11
Total	16,388	5,310	<10	647	1,286	2,512	4,451	5,905	6,901	8,654	12,559	318	171

Data source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data

Table 10: Illinois Juvenile Detention Admissions, 2008-2014
by Region

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Illinois	15,221	13,825	13,619	12,728	11,875	11,632	12,039
	Central	3,464	3,282	3,153	2,918	2,879	2,688	2,882
	Northern minus Cook	4,101	3,343	3,454	3,400	3,264	3,142	3,240
	South	1,585	1,340	1,613	1,454	1,443	1,484	1,392
	Cook	5,825	5,611	5,218	4,833	4,207	4,199	4,399
rate	Illinois	105	96	95	90	85	84	88
	Central	147	141	136	127	126	119	128
	Northern minus Cook	80	66	68	67	65	63	65
	South	115	99	120	110	110	115	108
	Cook	102	100	94	89	78	80	85

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

Note: Data prior to 2008 are unavailable

Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS)

Table 11: Illinois Juvenile Detention Admissions, 2005-2014
by County Type

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Urban	12,984	11,778	11,446	10,723	10,024	9,737	10,274
	Rural	1,991	1,798	1,992	1,882	1,769	1,776	1,639
rate		2008	2007	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Urban	107	98	96	91	86	84	90
	Rural	82	75	84	80	76	77	72

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

Note: Data prior to 2008 are unavailable

Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS)

Table 12: Juvenile Detention Admissions, 2014
by Offense Type

UCR Category	# Admissions
Warrant	3,378
Violent	3,039
Property	2,277
Other	1,390
Violation of Parole or Probation	826
Drug	705
Status Offense	65
Contempt	179
Sex	180
Total	12,039

Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS)

Table 13: Juvenile Detention Admissions, 2014
by Race

Race	# Admissions
Black/African American	7,426
White	4,192
Other	421
Total	12,039

Note: Hispanic youth accounted for 12% of admissions. Hispanic is reported as an ethnicity; therefore, Hispanic youth can fall into any race category.

Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS)

Table 14: Juvenile Detention Admissions, 2014
by Gender

Gender	# Admissions
Male	10,052
Female	1,987
Total	12,039

Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS)

Table 15: Juvenile Detention Admissions, 2014
By Age

Age	# Admissions
10 to 12	217
13 to 15	4,171
16 to 17	7,125
18+	526
Total	12,039

Data source: Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS)

Table 16: Youth on Informal Probation, 2005-2014
by Region

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Illinois	2,339	2,648	3,341	2,287	1,573	1,737	1,795	1,566	1,492	1,408
	Central	550	468	487	497	459	430	426	449	376	352
	Northern minus Cook	713	704	1,274	599	323	388	419	348	329	275
	Southern	270	307	272	261	215	262	234	171	200	191
	Cook	806	1,169	1,308	930	576	657	716	598	587	590
rate		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Illinois	18	20	26	18	13	14	15	13	12	12
	Central	26	22	24	24	23	21	21	23	19	18
	Northern minus Cook	16	16	29	13	7	9	9	8	8	6
	Southern	22	25	22	22	18	22	20	15	18	17
	Cook	15	23	26	19	12	14	15	13	13	13

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

Data source: Administrative Office of Illinois Courts Statistical Summaries

Table 17: Delinquency Petition Filings, 2005-2014
by Region

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Illinois	22,358	20,803	20,956	22,377	23,643	24,472	24,370	20,761	17,375	15,960
	Central	4,039	3,914	4,187	3,893	3,770	3,916	4,083	4,070	3,655	3,556
	Northern minus Cook	5,872	5,843	5,792	5,399	4,743	5,219	4,715	4,917	4,539	4,379
	Southern	2,918	2,946	2,659	1,967	2,007	2,459	2,387	2,256	2,052	2,111
	Cook	9,529	8,100	8,318	11,118	13,123	12,878	13,185	9,518	7,129	5,914
rate		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Illinois	172	161	164	177	189	197	198	171	144	133
	Central	191	187	203	191	186	195	204	205	185	182
	Northern minus Cook	135	132	130	121	107	117	107	112	104	101
	Southern	233	237	218	165	170	211	207	198	182	188
	Cook	181	156	165	224	269	267	279	204	155	130

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

Data source: Administrative Office of Illinois Courts Statistical Summaries

Table 18: Adjudicated Cases, 2005-2014
by Region

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Illinois*	11,455	6,577	6,902	6,084	5,255	4,883	4,956	5,385	5,012	4,094
	Central	2,016	2,032	2,202	1,992	1,801	2,017	2,089	2,215	2,133	1,652
	Northern minus Cook	3,278	3,350	3,658	3,250	2,693	1,996	2,077	2,344	2,180	1,814
	Southern	1,170	1,195	1,042	842	763	870	790	826	699	628
	Cook	4,991	Did not report								
rate		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Illinois	88	85	89	79	69	64	65	72	67	55
	Central	95	97	107	98	89	100	104	111	108	84
	Northern minus Cook	75	76	72	73	61	45	47	54	50	52
	Southern	93	96	86	70	65	75	69	72	62	56
	Cook	95	Did not report								

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

*Statewide rate excludes Cook County population starting in 2006.

Data source: Administrative Office of Illinois Courts Statistical Summaries

Table 19: Probation Caseloads, 2005-2014
by Region

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Illinois	10,353	10,406	9,768	9,575	9,145	9,079	8,320	7,877	7,428	6,545
	Central	2,888	2,668	2,716	2,678	2,426	2,439	2,245	2,216	2,166	1,914
	Northern minus Cook	2,902	3,068	2,744	3,069	2,990	3,029	2,830	2,569	2,391	2,058
	Southern	1,044	1,170	983	846	750	907	738	763	750	629
	Cook	3,519	3,500	3,325	2,982	2,979	2,704	2,507	2,329	2,121	1,944
rate		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Illinois	80	80	76	76	73	73	68	65	62	55
	Central	136	127	131	131	120	121	112	111	109	97
	Northern minus Cook	67	69	62	69	67	68	64	59	55	48
	Southern	83	94	81	71	64	78	64	67	66	56
	Cook	67	68	66	60	61	56	53	50	46	43

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

Data source: Administrative Office of Illinois Courts Statistical Summaries

Table 20: Admissions to Juvenile Corrections, SFY05-SFY14
by Region

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Illinois	2,662	2,549	2,333	2,351	2,374	2,162	2,198	1,989	1,835	1,672
	Central	852	812	762	716	729	714	684	576	532	468
	Northern minus Cook	689	548	520	445	443	396	410	348	300	278
	Southern	348	344	274	253	265	263	212	216	161	177
	Cook	773	844	777	937	937	788	892	849	840	749
rate		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Illinois	18	17	16	16	16	15	15	14	13	12
	Central	31	30	28	26	27	27	26	22	21	18
	Northern minus Cook	15	12	11	9	9	8	8	7	6	6
	Southern	24	24	19	18	19	19	16	16	13	14
	Cook	13	15	13	16	16	14	16	16	16	14

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data

Table 21: Admissions to Juvenile Corrections, SFY05-SFY14
by County Type

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
n	Urban	2,051	1,983	1,787	1,851	1,880	1,725	1,804	1,582	1,502	1,321
	Rural	588	548	529	481	482	423	382	396	325	347
rate		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Urban	18	17	16	16	17	15	16	14	14	12
	Rural	18	17	16	15	15	13	12	12	10	11

Note: Rate per 10,000 youth in the population

Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data

Table 22: Admissions to Juvenile Corrections, SFY14
by Offense Type and Class

Offense Type	n	Percent
Person	510	31%
Property	699	42%
Drug	150	9%
Weapon	157	9%
Sex	65	4%
Other	91	5%
Total	1,672	100%
Offense Class	n	Percent
Felony	1,553	93%
Misdemeanor	119	7%
Total	1,672	100%

Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data

Table 23: Admissions to Juvenile Corrections, SFY14
by Gender, Age, Race, and Offense Class

Category	Total	Male	Female	13 to 16	17 to 20	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Felony	1,553	1,448	105	631	922	341	1,043	166	3
Class M	2	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
Class X	70	66	4	37	33	20	38	12	0
Class 1	331	318	13	126	205	70	228	33	0
Class 2	562	531	31	231	331	143	363	55	1
Class 3	322	278	44	123	199	70	218	32	2
Class 4	266	253	13	112	154	38	195	33	0
Misdemeanor	119	91	28	77	42	46	56	17	0
Class A	115	87	28	75	40	46	53	16	0
Class B	4	4	0	2	2	0	3	1	0
Total	1,672	1,539	133	708	964	387	1,099	183	3

Note: Class M is murder

Data source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data



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