



# RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

## Juvenile arrest rates reveal significant racial disparity

In 2003, African-American youth in Illinois were arrested at a level that was more than three times their representation in the general juvenile population of the state. Asian/Pacific Islander and Caucasian youth were arrested at a level approximately one-tenth and two-thirds, respectively, of their representation in the general juvenile population of Illinois.

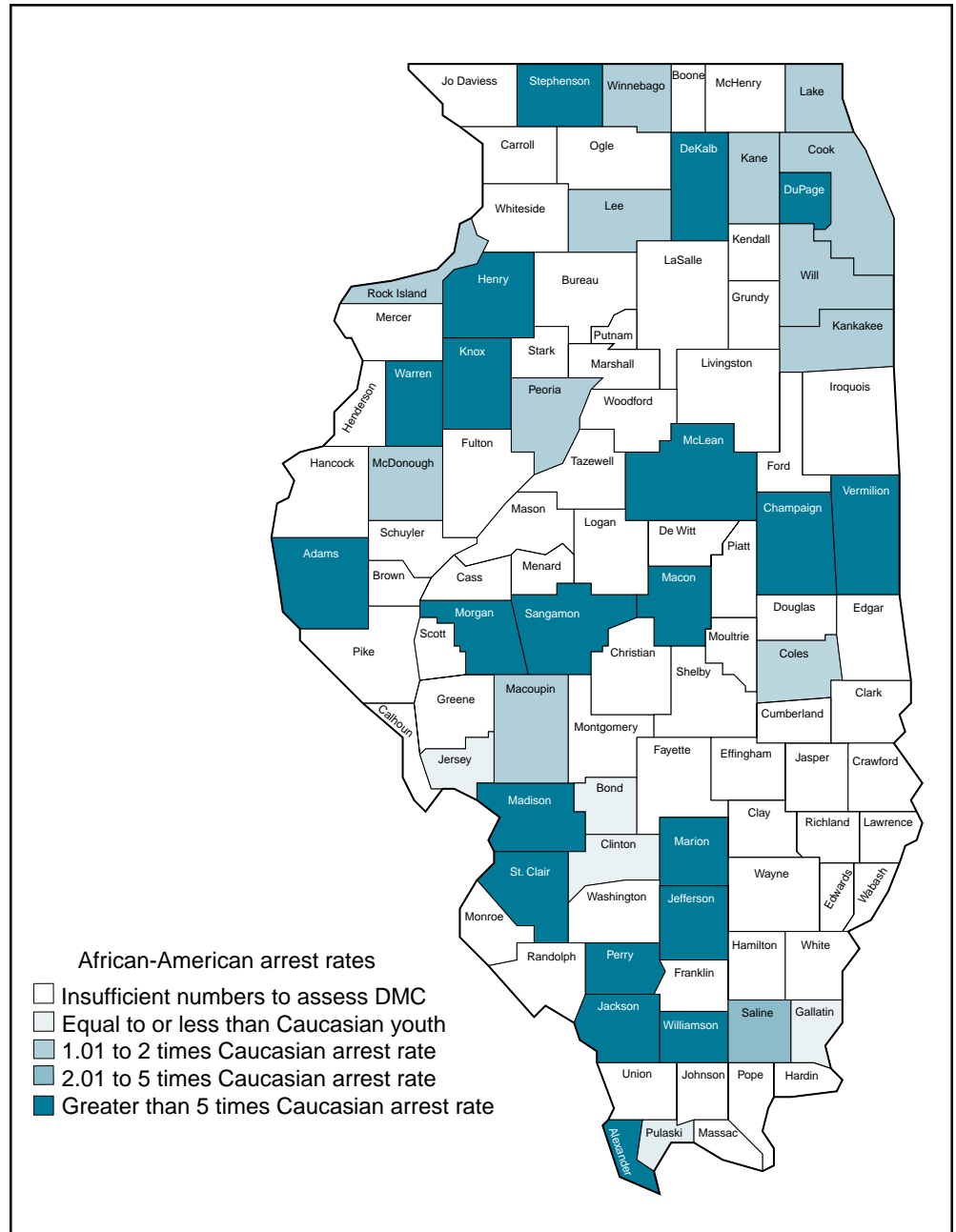
Of the 42 counties with a sufficient percentage of African-American youth to measure disproportionate minority contact, 35 had an over-representation of African Americans among youth arrested when compared to their representation in the general juvenile population in those counties.

In contrast, Asian/Pacific Islander youth were not overrepresented in any Illinois county at the point of arrest when compared to their representation in the general juvenile population

In 2003, African-American youth in Illinois were arrested at a rate that was nearly five times the rate at which Caucasian youth were arrested. In contrast, Asian/Pacific Islander youth were arrested at just less than one-fifth the rate of Caucasian youth.

Figure 1

African-American arrest relative rate index by county



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The problem of minority over-representation among youth arrested is especially acute for African-American youth. African-American youth were arrested at more than twice the rate of Caucasian youth in 33 of 42 Illinois counties examined in an assessment of disproportionate minority contact with the Illinois juvenile justice system.

Table 1  
2003 population and arrest percentages by race\*

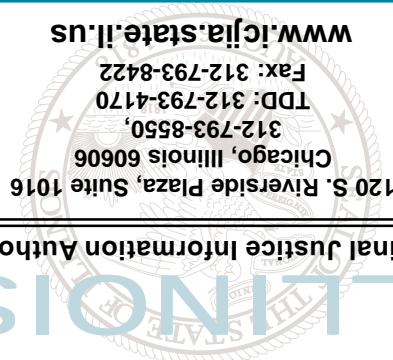
Race	Percent of population ages 10 to 16	Percent of all youth arrested
African American	18%	57%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3%	0.39%
Caucasian	65%	42%

\*Because the Illinois Criminal History Records Information System does not collect arrest data by ethnicity, Hispanic arrest rates could not be determined.

Table 2  
2003 arrest rates by race\*

	African American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Caucasian
Arrest rate per 100,000	11,647.71	438.59	2,401.61

\*Because the Illinois Criminal History Records Information System does not collect arrest data by ethnicity, Hispanic arrest rates could not be determined.



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