



RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

Corrections data illustrate juvenile incarceration trends in Illinois

Data indicate that between state fiscal years 1994 and 2004, the number of youth court committed to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Juvenile Division rose 13 percent (*Figure 1*). The numbers of court commitments of female juveniles and of black juveniles increased significantly during that time period.

Although 89 percent of court-committed juveniles in FY04 were male, the number of court-committed female juveniles jumped 65 percent, and the number of black juvenile commitments increased 17 percent.

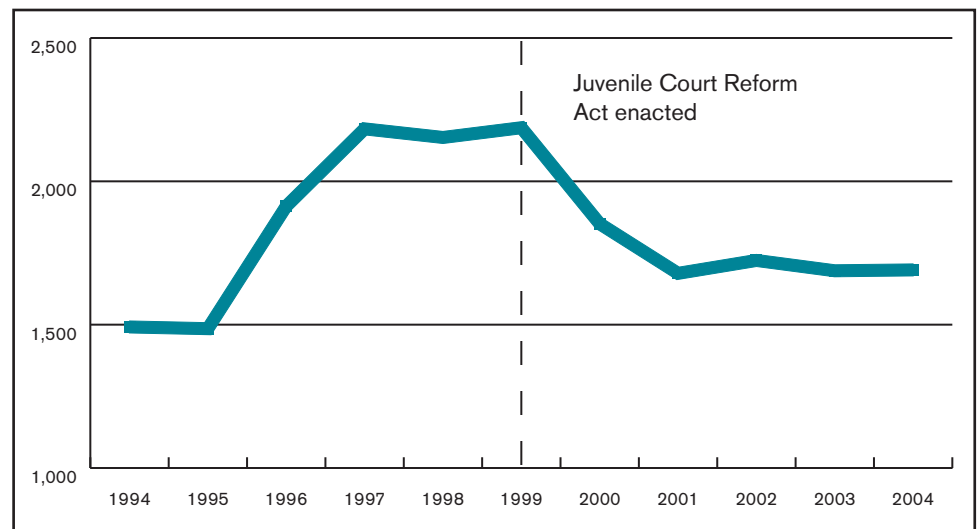
The greatest increase in overall commitment rates occurred between 1995 and 1999, due in part to juvenile justice reforms intended to toughen penalties for violent youth offenders.

A 23 percent reduction in commitments to state youth centers followed passage of the Juvenile Court Reform Act in FY99. Between FY99 and FY01, juvenile IDOC commitments dropped 30 percent, from 2,187 to 1,679, leveling off over the next three years.

In FY04, 57 percent of juvenile court commitments were for non-violent property or drug offenses (*Figure 2*). Eighty-three percent of court-committed juveniles received felony convictions.

Figure 1

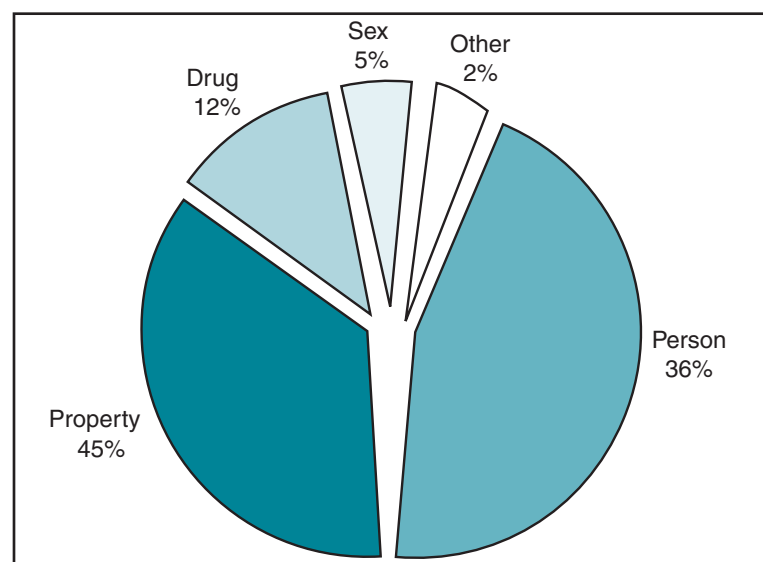
Number of IDOC juvenile court commitments, state fiscal years 1994 to 2004



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Figure 2

Juvenile court commitment offense types, FY04



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

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The number of youth court-committed to one of the eight IDOC Juvenile Division Illinois Youth Centers rose 13 percent between state fiscal years 1994 and 2004. Increases also were noted in the number of female and black juvenile commitments.

Of all admissions to IDOC’s Juvenile Division, 20 percent were for court evaluations. Juveniles can be held up to 90 days for court evaluations without a conviction.

Table 1
IDOC juvenile admission types FY04

		Total	Percent*
Court commitments	Initial sentence	798	26%
	Court evaluation	610	20%
	Court evaluation return	211	7%
	Discharged and recommitted	72	2%
	Total	1,691	54%
Parole violations	Parole violator, new sentence	38	1%
	Technical mandatory supervised release violator	14	1%
	Technical parole violator	1,363	44%
	Total	1,415	46%
Total	All admissions	3,106	100%

*Column total does not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

