

Executive summary

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority received a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission to create the *Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data for Illinois: 2005 Annual Report*. In an effort to present a broad range of relevant data to juvenile justice professionals, this report's aim is to be as comprehensive as possible in reporting juvenile justice data. Additionally, this report presents a brief explanation of risk factors and their importance to the juvenile justice system. Together, these data can assist juvenile justice system policymakers and practitioners in developing informed planning and policy initiatives.

Risk factor data

Risk factors are characteristics, experiences, or circumstances that research has shown to put youth at risk for delinquency. Research examining youth delinquency risk factors has focused on distinct types, including: community risk factors, social risk factors, school risk factors, individual risk factors, and situational risk factors. Data is not readily available for individual or situational risk factors and as a result, this report focuses on the other three domains.

Community context

Substance abuse treatment

Based on data received by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, substance abuse services were provided to 19,144 youth 10 to 16 years old during the 2004 fiscal year. This represents a rate of 1,482 for every 100,000 youth age 10 to 16. Data for the 2005 fiscal year were unavailable.

Education

In calendar year 2000 (the most recent year that data are available), approximately 6.5 million people over 25 years of age living in Illinois had at least a high-school diploma, a rate of 81,391 for every 100,000 persons over the age of 25.

Unemployment

In fiscal year 2005, 370,819 people, or 6 percent of the labor force, were unemployed in Illinois. At a rate of 5,719 for every 100,000 persons in the labor force, this is a 27 percent increase in rate from fiscal year 2000.

Income

In calendar year 2005, the estimated median household income for families in Illinois was \$50,270. This is an 8 percent increase from calendar year 2000.

Poverty

In calendar year 2005, 524,897 youth 17 years of age and younger were considered to be living in poverty, a rate of 16,275 for every 100,000 youth under the age of 18. This is a 12 percent rate increase from calendar year 2000.

Temporary assistance to needy families

In fiscal year 2005, an average of 81,991 Illinois youth per month were in families that received temporary assistance, a rate of 5,597 for every 100,000 youth ages 10 to 18. This is a 58 percent decrease in the rate from fiscal year 2000.

Social context*Domestic violence*

In calendar year 2005, 115,411 domestic violence offense incidents were reported to Illinois State Police (ISP), a rate of 904 for every 100,000 persons in the general population. This is a 3 percent rate increase from calendar year 2000.

Abuse and neglect

In fiscal year 2005, 111,830 cases of child abuse and neglect were reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). This represents a rate of 3,454 for every 100,000 youth under 18 years of age, and an 18 percent increase from fiscal year 2000. In fiscal year 2005, 27,575 cases of child abuse and neglect, or 25 percent of all reported cases, were verified by DCFS. This represents a rate of 852 for every 100,000 youth under 18 years of age, and a 2 percent increase in the rate from fiscal year 2000.

Sexual abuse

In fiscal year 2005, 9,100 cases of sexual abuse of children were reported in Illinois to DCFS. This represents a rate of 281 for every 100,000 youth under age 18, and a 6 percent rate increase from FY00. In FY05, 2,618 cases of child sexual abuse, or 29 percent of all reported cases, were verified by DCFS. This represents a rate of 81 verified cases for every 100,000 youth under the age of 18, and a 23 percent increase in rate from fiscal year 2000.

Crimes against youth

In calendar year 2005, there were 39,400 criminal offenses against youth reported to ISP, a rate of 309 for every 100,000 youth 10 to 17 years of age and an 11 percent rate increase from calendar year 2000. Reporting of these data to ISP is voluntary; therefore, these data may be a reflection of reporting practices rather than a true measure of the frequency of these incidents.

Correctional inmates with children

In fiscal year 2004 (the most recent year that data are available), 24,941 adult inmates (66 percent) admitted to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), had children. This represents a 102 percent increase in the number of adult inmates with children from 12,351 in fiscal year 2000.

School context*Truancy*

There were 341,792 truant youth during the 2004-05 academic year, a rate of 16,916 for every 100,000 K-12 enrolled students and a 5 percent increase from the 1999-00 academic year. Of truant youth in 2005, 55,113 (16 percent) were chronically truant (absent for 18 or more days without a valid cause). This represents a rate of 2,728 chronic truants for every 100,000 K-12 enrolled students, and a 17 percent increase in rate from the 1999-00 academic year.

Truant minors in need of supervision

In Illinois, 22,599 truant minors were in need of supervision, as determined by a court proceeding, during the 2004-05 academic year, a rate of 1,118 for every 100,000 K-12 enrolled students and a 1 percent rate decrease from academic year 1999-00.

Suspensions

During the 2004-05 academic year, 166,240 students were suspended from school. This represents a rate of 8,228 for every 100,000 K-12 students enrolled and a 29 percent rate increase from the 1999-00 academic year. Of those, 67,960, or 41 percent, were suspended more than once.

Expulsions

During the 2004-05 academic year in Illinois, 3,271 students were expelled from school, a rate of 162 for every 100,000 K-12 enrolled students and a 60 percent increase in rate from the 1999-00 academic year.

Dropouts

In Illinois, 27,066 high school students dropped out of school during the 2004-05 academic year, a rate of 4,435 for every 100,000 K-12 enrolled students and a 28 percent rate increase from the 1999-2000 academic year.

Crimes against school personnel

In calendar year 2005, 3,242 crimes against school personnel were reported to ISP, a rate of 26 for every 100,000 persons in the general population and a 105 percent increase in rate from the 1999-2000 academic year.

Illinois juvenile justice system dataArrests

In calendar year 2005, 49,886 arrests of youth were entered into Illinois' computerized criminal history record (CCH) system. Arrests for property offenses accounted for 33 percent of arrests entered, 30 percent were for violent offenses against a person, 15 percent were for drug offenses, and 0.8 percent were for sex offenses. In calendar year 2005, 61 percent of arrests were of black youth and 38 percent were of white youth. Ethnicity is not captured in Illinois arrest data, and the number of Hispanic youth arrests was unknown. Most youth arrests were of males (79 percent).

Courts*Delinquency petitions*

In calendar year 2005, 22,358 delinquency petitions were filed in court for youth ages 10 to 16- a rate of 1,739 for every 100,000 youth 10 to 16 years of age and a 2 percent increase in the statewide rate from calendar year 2000.

Adjudications

In calendar year 2005, there were 11,455 adjudications of delinquency among youth ages 10 to 16, a rate of 891 for every 100,000 youth age 10 to 16 and a 20 percent rate increase from calendar year 2000.

Detention

In calendar year 2005, there were 16,916 admissions of youth ages 10 to 16 to secure detention statewide, a rate of 1,316 youth for every 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16 and a 5 percent decrease in the statewide rate from calendar year 2000.

Transfers to criminal court

In calendar year 2005, 81 detained youth were transferred to the adult criminal court. However, other Cook County data on detained youth transferred to criminal court were unavailable.

Sentencing

Probation

On Dec. 31, 2005, there was an active youth probation caseload of 10,353 statewide, a rate of 805 for every 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16 and a 17 percent decrease in the statewide rate from 2000.

Informal probation

On Dec. 31, 2005, there was an active informal probation caseload of 2,339 in Illinois, a rate of 182 for every 100,000 youth ages 10 to 16 and less than 1 percent rate increase from 2000.

Continued under supervision

In calendar year 2005, 2,423 youth delinquency cases were continued under supervision in Illinois, a rate of 188 for every 100,000 youth age 10-16 and a 70 percent decrease in rate from calendar year 2000. However, Cook County data for calendar year 2005 were unavailable.

Corrections

In fiscal year 2004 (the most recent year data were available), 3,106 youth were admitted to the IDOC. Of those, the court committed 1,691 youth, or 54 percent of all youth admissions to IDOC. In this report, IDOC court commitments include delinquency commitments, recommitments after discharge, and youth undergoing court evaluations including returns to IDOC following a court evaluation. The remaining admissions to IDOC were a result of technical violations and new offense violations of youth on mandatory supervised release (parole).

Also in fiscal year 2004, most youth were committed for a property or person offense (46 and 36 percent respectively). More than half (52 percent) of all youth committed to IDOC were black, and 37 percent of youth committed were white. A total of 89 percent of youth committed to IDOC were male.

Special issues

Disproportionate minority contact

Disproportionate minority contact is the overrepresentation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. The relative rate index measures disproportionate minority contact by using the rate at which minority youth are involved at a stage of the juvenile justice process compared to the rate at which a reference group is involved at the same stage of the process. In Illinois, the appropriate reference group is white. The Authority accessed three sources of statewide data on youth to assess disproportionate minority contact at three points in the process: arrest, detention, and IDOC commitment. The following are based on the calculated relative rate index.

Arrests

In calendar year 2005, black youth in Illinois were arrested at a rate six times the rate at which white youth were arrested.

Detention

In calendar year 2005, black youth in Illinois were detained at a rate that was eight times the rate at which white youth were detained.

Corrections

In Illinois in fiscal year 2004 (the most recent year IDOC data were available), black youth were court committed to IDOC at a rate that was five times the rate at which white youth were court committed.

Status offenders

Each detainment of a status offender is a violation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. A status offense is any offense that is specifically applicable to juveniles because of their age. Illinois recorded 41 violations for the detainment of status offenders in calendar year 2005.

Females in the juvenile justice system*Arrests*

In calendar year 2005, female youth accounted for 21 percent of all youth arrests reported to the CCH system. A total of 39 percent of all female arrests were for violent offenses. In comparison, 28 percent of all male arrests were for violent offenses.

Detention

Females accounted for 2,927 (17 percent) of 16,916 admissions to secure detention statewide in calendar year 2005.

Corrections

In fiscal year 2004, females accounted for 8 percent of commitments to IDOC or 109 of 1,434 commitments. This finding suggests that the offenses committed by female delinquents were not severe enough to warrant a commitment to IDOC, and/or that females were diverted from IDOC more often than their male counterparts.

Mental health

An evaluation of the Illinois Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Initiative found that youth who participated in the initiative and received treatment had lower rates of recidivism compared to detained youth who do not receive mental health treatment. Forty-two percent of youth in the program in fiscal year 2003 were re-arrested, compared to a re-arrest rate of 72 percent for all youth detained in Illinois.

Dually involved youth

Dually involved youth are those involved in both the state's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Although there are challenges in obtaining data on these youth, an estimate can be made based on DCFS data. According to those limited data, 381 cases showed youth involvement in both DCFS and juvenile justice on December 31, 2005.

Specialized courts

Many jurisdictions may have specialized courts that focus on one issue in the juvenile justice system. Some examples of these may be mental health courts, drug courts, female courts, and community courts.

Juvenile drug courts focus on substance abusing youth in juvenile justice cases and/or substance abusing family members in child protection cases. Four juvenile drug courts are active or in the planning stages in Cook, Peoria, Kane, and Will counties, according to the Illinois Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Juvenile justice councils

Juvenile justice councils are collaborative groups of juvenile justice professionals and community representatives who address youth crime in their communities. Statewide data on juvenile justice councils for 2005 were not available. In 2003, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts found that 50 counties had convened juvenile justice councils or were participating on circuit-wide juvenile justice councils.

Restitution

Statewide data on community service and restitution in calendar year 2005 was not collected. The most recent data collected was for calendar year 2002. In calendar year 2002, just more than \$729,000 in restitution was collected from youth offenders.

Community service

In calendar year 2002, youth completed 274,625 hours of community service work. At that year's minimum wage rate of \$5.15 per hour, delinquent youth performed more than \$1.4 million worth of community service work across Illinois.

Youth courts

Youth courts, also called teen courts and peer juries, are programs in which young volunteers hear cases of youth delinquency or school misconduct and make recommendations. Illinois has 95 operational youth court programs in existence around the state, including 23 within schools.

Record expungement

Under Illinois law, a youth who is arrested prior to turning 18 can seek expungement of his/her juvenile records at the age of 17 or when all juvenile court proceedings for the youth are finished, whichever is later. The existence of a juvenile record can be a barrier to individuals trying to gain employment, housing, credit, scholarships, and certain licensing