



# RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

## Juvenile commitment rates reveal significant racial disparity

In 2003, African-American youth in Illinois were committed to Illinois Department of Corrections at a level nearly three times their representation in the general juvenile population of the state. In contrast, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Caucasian youth were incarcerated at levels less than their respective representation in the general juvenile population of Illinois.

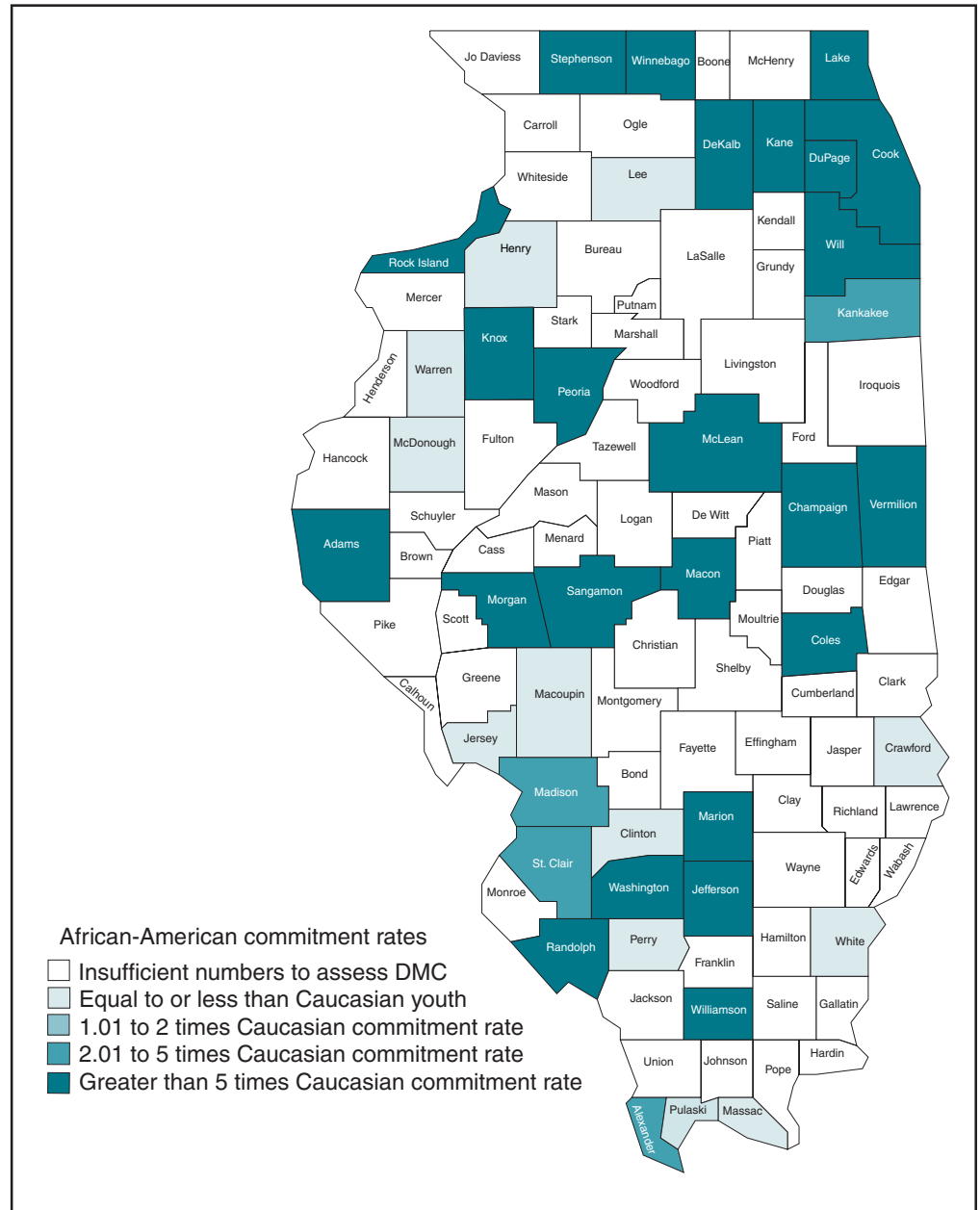
An assessment was conducted in each Illinois county that had a sufficient percentage of minority youth to measure disproportionate contact.

African-American youth were over-represented among youth committed to IDOC in 30 of 42 counties studied. Hispanic youth were over-represented in 14 of 57 counties, and Asian/Pacific Islander youth were over-represented in two of 31 counties.

Statewide, African-American youth were committed to IDOC at a rate that was more than five times the rate of Caucasian youth in 2003. Hispanic youth were committed at a rate that was 45 percent greater than the rate of Caucasian youth. Asian/Pacific-Islander youth were committed to IDOC at just more than one-tenth the rate of Caucasian youth.

Figure 1

African-American commitment relative rate index by county



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## Juvenile commitment rates reveal significant racial disparity

- African-American youth were over-represented among youth committed to Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) in 30 of 42 counties studied.


- In 28 counties, African-American youth were committed to IDOC at more than twice the rate of Caucasian youth.

Table 1  
2003 population and commitment percentages by race

	Percent of population ages 13 to 16	Percent of 2003 IDOC commitments
African American	18%	52%
Hispanic	13%	11%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4%	0.2%
Caucasian	65%	37%

Table 2  
2003 commitment rates by race

	African American	Hispanic	Caucasian	Asian/Pacific Islander
Commitment rate per 100,000	605.24	169.82	117.44	51.79



**Illinois**  
**Criminal Justice Information Authority**  
 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1016  
 Chicago, Illinois 60606  
 312-793-8550  
 TDD: 312-793-4170  
 Fax: 312-793-8422  
[www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us)