



JUVENILE JUSTICE

Fact Sheet: Illinois

Key Facts:

- Illinois is one of four the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change sites. The Models for Change program in Illinois includes right-sizing the juvenile court jurisdiction, expanding community based alternatives to incarceration, and addressing disproportionate minority contact. There are currently 5 local demonstration sites in Illinois.¹
- Cook County, Illinois is one of four model sites for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI). This county drastically reduced its detention population between 1996 and 2005 and has increased its use of community-based alternatives to incarceration. There are also ten other JDAI sites in Illinois.²
- Redeploy Illinois is a program for first time offenders that keeps kids in the community while providing them the rehabilitative services they need to lead a productive life. It has been called a model for the nation by the Justice Policy Institute (JPI).³
- In 2005, the percentage of persons age 18 to 24 not attending school, not working, with no degree beyond high school – essentially, with few opportunities at all – was 15%.⁴
- African-American youth represent 18% of Illinois' population of youth ages 10 to 16, but 57% of youth who are arrested.⁵
- In 2003, African-American youth were arrested at a rate that was more than

three times their representation in the general population.⁶

- In 2003, the rate of persons residing in juvenile detention and correctional facilities was at a rate of 307 for every 100,000 individuals.⁷
- Although African-American youth represent only 18% of Illinois' population of youth ages 10 to 16, they total 41% of those youth that are securely detained, and 52% of those youth who are incarcerated.⁸

What Illinois Law Says:

- There are eight youth detention centers in the state of Illinois, and youth may be sent there for contempt of court and parole violations along with delinquency disposition;^{9, 10}
- Illinois recently created a new Department of Juvenile Justice separate from the Illinois Department of Corrections;¹¹
- The courts in the state of Illinois may send a youth to Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) for "evaluation" – a process that can last as long as 90 days;¹²
- The extended age of juvenile delinquency jurisdiction is 20;
- While it is not mandated, pre-trial detention in adult jails is permitted for youths of at least 15 years of age. Sight and sound separation from adult inmates is required;¹³

- The minimum age at which a youth can be transferred to adult court is 13. Fifteen year olds face mandatory transfers if they commit certain felonies;¹⁴
- Over the past six years, Illinois has considered and enacted reforms to address youth in its adult criminal justice system. In 2003, the law was changed to allow a reverse waiver for drug offenders automatically tried in adult court.¹⁵ In August 2005, Public Act 94-0574 was enacted, giving judges more discretion in deciding whether to transfer 15- and 16-year-olds to adult court for drug charges instead of requiring an automatic transfer.¹⁶
- As of July 2007, legislation is currently being considered that will change the definition of delinquent minor to any youth under the age of 18 (currently, a youth 17 years of age or older is automatically tried as an adult for misdemeanors);¹⁷
- Youth with felony convictions or pending felony cases are not eligible at all for diversionary programs;¹⁸ and

State Resources:

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Chapters of parent & family advocacy organizations:

Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM) state chapters:

<http://www.famm.org/TakeAction/FindaFAMMVolunteer.aspx>

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) state chapters:

<http://www.curenational.org/new/index.html>

Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (FFMCH) state chapters:

http://www.ffcmh.org/who_chapters.php

Community Parent Resource Centers:

<http://www.taalliance.org/centers/index.htm>

Protection & Advocacy System state contacts:

<http://www.ndrn.org/aboutus/consumer.htm>

Prepared by the Campaign for Youth Justice

¹ National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006). *States for change: Illinois*. Models for Change: Systems reform in juvenile justice. Retrieved July 23, 2007, from <http://www.modelsforchange.net/locations/IL/>

² The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2007). *JDAI sites and contacts*. The Annie E. Casey Foundation: Helping vulnerable kids and families succeed. Retrieved July 25, 2007, from <http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/JuvenileDetentionAlternativesInitiative/SitesAndContacts.aspx>

³ Bray, J. (2006, March 23). Redeploy Illinois hailed as model for the nation. (Press Release). *Justice Policy Institute Newsroom*. Retrieved July 26, 2007, from <http://www.justicepolicy.org/article.php?id=573>

⁴ Kids Count State-Level Data Online. (2006). Youth risk factors. Retrieved July 2, 2007 from http://www.kidscount.org/sld/profile_results.jsp?r=15&d=1&c=7&p=5&x=168&y=12

⁵ Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission. (2005). *Annual report to the Governor and General Assembly, fiscal year 2005: Disproportionate minority contact in the Illinois juvenile justice system*. Retrieved July 2, 2007 from http://jjjustice.org/pdf/Annual_Report_FY2005%5B1%5D.pdf

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ See Kids Count State-Level Data Online, 4.

⁸ See Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, 5.

⁹ National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006). Illinois: Detention. Retrieved July 2, 2007 from <http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/profiles/IL07.asp?to>

[pic=Detention&state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FIL07.asp](http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/profiles/IL07.asp?to pic=Detention&state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FIL07.asp)

¹⁰ National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006). Illinois: Juvenile corrections continuum. Retrieved July 2, 2007 from <http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/profiles/IL07.asp?to pic=Institutions&state+%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FIL07.asp>

¹¹ National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006). Issues for change: Right-sizing jurisdiction. *Models for change: Systems reform in juvenile justice*. Retrieved July 23, 2007, from <http://www.modelsforchange.net/issues/right-sizing/>

¹² National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006). Illinois: Commitment. Retrieved July 2, 2007, from <http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/profiles/IL07.asp?to pic=Commitment&state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FIL07.asp>

¹³ Goemann, M. (2007). *Children Being Tried as Adults: Pre-trial Detention Laws in the U.S.*. Washington, DC: Campaign for Youth Justice.

¹⁴ National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006). Illinois transfer provisions: As amended through the 2004 legislative session. Retrieved July 2, 2007 from <http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/asp/transfer.asp?topic=Transfer&state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FIL07.asp>

¹⁵ Campaign for Youth Justice. (2007) *The Consequences Aren't Minor: The Impact of Trying Youth as Adults and Strategies for Reform*.

¹⁶ National Center for Juvenile Justice. 2006. "Illinois." *State Juvenile Justice Profiles*. Pittsburgh, PA: NCJJ. Online. Available: <http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/>.

¹⁷ Illinois General Assembly. (2007, July 26). *Bill status of HB1517*. Illinois General Assembly. Retrieved July 26, 2007, from <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1517&GAID=9&GA=95&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=30321&SessionID=51>

¹⁸ National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2006). Illinois: Diversion. Retrieved July 2, 2007 from <http://www.ncjj.org/stateprofiles/profiles/IL07.asp?to pic=Diversion&state=%2Fstateprofiles%2Fprofiles%2FIL07.asp>