



State of Illinois  
Department of Human Services

# Activities & Accomplishments

## Annual Report 2013 - 2014



ILLINOIS JUVENILE  
JUSTICE COMMISSION







# Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission

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October 2015

Greetings:

On behalf of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, it's my privilege to highlight our activities and achievements in 2013 and 2014. As you will see, we have engaged in significant work to improve our juvenile justice system with goals of public safety, positive youth outcomes and fiscal responsibility.

Our work includes two roles. First, we provide federal grant funds to juvenile justice partners across the state to maintain compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and to support innovations that keep youth out of the system wherever possible and provide developmentally appropriate services for those who are system-involved. Second, we serve as advisors to the Governor, General Assembly and Illinois Department of Human Services on juvenile justice matters.

In the next year, we will release two new policy reports at the request of the General Assembly. Senate and House Joint Resolution 79, adopted in the fall of 2014, requested that we study issues of juvenile records confidentiality and expungement. House Resolution 396, adopted in the spring of 2015, urged that we partner with the Juvenile Justice Initiative and the Illinois Balanced and Restorative Justice Project to study how restorative justice practices can be more fully used in Illinois. Both of these studies are underway and reports will be submitted in 2016.

We look forward to working with all three branches of government at the state, county, and municipal levels, along with the many dedicated non-profit agencies who tirelessly work with our state's youth.

Sincerely,

Hon. George W. Timberlake (Retired)  
Chair





## ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

# Report on Activities & Accomplishments: 2013-2014

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## Background

The Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission is the State Advisory Group designated in accordance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) to work with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the U.S. Department of Justice. The Commission administers federal grant programs, including Title II Formula Grants and Juvenile Accountability Block Grants, supporting compliance with the four core JJDP requirements:

- Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (no confinement of youth for age-based offenses)
- Jail Removal (avoid detaining youth in adult facilities)
- Sight and Sound Separation (youth do not encounter adult detainees when co-located)
- Disproportionate Minority Contact (assess and address racial and ethnic disparities)

Pursuant to Illinois statute, the Commission advises the Illinois Governor, General Assembly and Department of Human Services on juvenile justice issues.<sup>1</sup> The Commission has made significant progress in recent years by narrowly focusing its system reform efforts on refining and promoting developmentally appropriate and rehabilitative practices regarding youth in conflict with the law. The Commission supports policies, practices and programs that promote public safety, fiscal responsibility and positive youth outcomes to ensure that:

- Youth do not enter the juvenile justice system unnecessarily;
- Youth who do enter the system receive developmentally appropriate support and services; and
- Youth leave the system with positive outcomes, which in turn enhance public safety.

The membership of the Commission includes representatives from every stage of the juvenile justice system as well as community members, youth advocates and policy experts (see membership list on page 16).

## Recent Accomplishments

### 1. Linking and Supporting Juvenile Justice Stakeholders

#### *Formation of Juvenile Justice Councils*

Starting in 2014, the Commission has dedicated significant resources to local juvenile justice councils to foster collaboration, planning and shared accountability among juvenile justice system officials and the community. Illinois' Juvenile Court Act encourages – but does not require or provide fiscal support for –

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<sup>1</sup> See 20 ILCS 505/17a-5 and 20 ILCS 505/17a-9

the creation of local Juvenile Justice Councils to bring together local justice system leaders, community members, youth, families, service providers, educators and other stakeholders to prevent and address juvenile delinquency.<sup>2</sup> Because this model of local governance, collaboration and data-driven decision-making has proven effective, the Commission has allocated federal funding to support councils in the development of local juvenile justice plans which guide future system improvement efforts. The data collection and analysis focuses on racial and ethnic disparities. A major emphasis of the councils is the development of policies, programs and practices to appropriately divert youth from the justice system.

### *Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)*

The Commission supports the work of JDAI across the state. As a national project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, JDAI has made a tremendous mark on the juvenile justice system across the country. Beginning in the late 1990's, JDAI has helped local systems decrease their reliance on secure detention, thereby promoting positive outcomes for youth and saving taxpayers millions in detention costs.

In Illinois, the Commission supports JDAI work in 10 jurisdictions; in addition, the Casey Foundation has a direct relationship with the long-standing "model site" work in Cook County. Much of the Commission's support is in coordination with local Juvenile Justice Councils. Some recent accomplishments in the JDAI sites include, in St. Clair County, expansion of diversion programs with a focus on providing similar options across the county's jurisdictions; and in Ogle County, utilization of restorative practices schools to decrease reliance on the courts for school discipline. The efforts of the 10 JDAI sites have played an important role in the declining reliance on detention in Illinois (see chart on page 10).

### *Statewide Conference*

In June 2014, the Commission partnered with the Illinois Association of Juvenile Justice Councils, the Illinois Collaboration on Youth, the Illinois Juvenile Justice Leadership Council and the Illinois Models for Change Initiative to host a statewide juvenile justice conference entitled "Re-Connecting the Pathways." OJJDP Administrator Robert Listenbee was the keynote presenter. Conference participants were able to select from multiple workshops covering various aspects of the juvenile justice system. Over 390 juvenile justice professionals participated in the conference.

## **2. Implementing Juvenile Aftercare & Reentry Recommendations**

*Youth Reentry Improvement Report (<http://ijjc.illinois.gov/reentryimprovementreport>)*

Following the release of the Commission's 2011 report on the juvenile parole system, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice has made significant progress in several recommended areas:

- Statewide expansion of the IDJJ Aftercare program, removing youth from supervision by adult parole agents (IDOC);
- Enhanced due process protections for youth during at revocation hearings;
- Emphasis on stabilization and reintegration, links to needed services and accountability through graduated sanctions (rather than passive surveillance alone);
- Improved case management for youth in facilities and under community supervision; and

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<sup>2</sup> See 705 ILCS 405/6-12

- Most recently (Spring-Summer 2015), supporting legislation that would reasonably limit the amount of time youth spend on post-release supervision (Public Act 99-0268, effective January 1, 2016).

Beginning in the summer of 2012, the Commission supported aftercare connections through the Juvenile Reentry Initiative (JRI), a two-site, three-year pilot aimed at forging collaboration between IDJJ and youth-serving community organizations. An implementation study of this initiative is forthcoming.

The Commission will continue to monitor implementation of its recommendations, with particular attention to timely release procedures and ongoing aftercare program evaluation.

### 3. Recommending Changes in Adult Penalties for Juveniles

*Raising the Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction: The future of 17-year-olds in Illinois' justice system (<http://ijc.illinois.gov/rta>)*

Pursuant to Public Act 96-1199, the Commission studied the impact of bringing 17-year-olds, including those charged with felony offenses, into juvenile court. Relying upon developmental science and legal research, the report recommended the expansion of juvenile court jurisdiction to include youth age 17 charged with felony offenses.

- Within a few months of the report's January 2013 release, the General Assembly passed legislation in keeping with the report recommendations. Public Act 98-0061 raised the age of default criminal responsibility to 18, effective January 1, 2014.
- The Commission report contained a supplementary recommendation to review Illinois' automatic transfer laws based on the report's information about youth development and culpability, as well as increased recidivism for youth in the adult system. Public Act 99-0258, signed August 4, 2015, limits the application of automatic transfer while tracking data about youth cases that are still routed to adult court.
- In response to another supplementary recommendation, legislators and system actors have begun to review Illinois' practice of imposing five year mandatory-minimum juvenile probation terms, questioning its relationship to rehabilitation, proportionate penalty goals, administrative efficiency and consistency with best practice.

### 4. Recalibrating Responses to Sexual Offending

*Improving Illinois' Response to Sexual Offenses Committed by Youth: Recommendations for Law, Policy, and Practice (<http://ijc.illinois.gov/youthsexualoffenses>)*

Following a request from the General Assembly (Public Act 97-0163), the Commission engaged in a comprehensive review of youth sex offending, including Illinois case files; data; treatment and supervision methods; national practice standards; and collateral consequences. In its report, released in March 2014, the Commission's recommendations called upon state practitioners and policymakers to:

- (1) Develop and implement best practice standards and provide current, objective, and evidence-informed training for professionals who work with youth offenders and victims of sexual abuse;
- (2) Equip courts and communities to intervene effectively with individualized, community-based, family-focused services and supervision; and

(3) Remove young people from the state's counter-productive sex offender registry and categorical application of restrictions and "collateral consequences."

Following the Commission's report, the General Assembly declined to pursue several legislative proposals that ran counter to the report's findings concerning best practices. The Commission has presented the report's findings and recommendations to key stakeholders and organizations with a role in responding to sexual offending by youth to seek perspectives and identify potential areas of collaboration. System stakeholders are expressing interest in developing youth-appropriate statewide standards for risk-driven treatment and supervision and a Commission workgroup has convened to discuss this pending work. The Commission presented the report, findings and recommendations at regional training sessions throughout Illinois at the request of the Sex Offender Management Board. Nationally, the report and its findings have been presented to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

## 5. Assessing Disproportionate Minority Contact with the System

*(<http://ijjc.illinois.gov/dmcassessment2013>)*

In March 2013 the Commission published a statewide assessment of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in partnership with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) at the University of Illinois. DMC describes a reoccurring finding across the country that youth of color interact with the juvenile justice system at rates disproportionate to their percentage of the population. Researchers conducted quantitative data collection and qualitative interviews and surveys from 2011 through 2012 focusing on youth involved in the system in 2010.<sup>3</sup>

- To assess DMC, the Commission tracked nine critical decision points in the juvenile justice system – arrest, diversion, detention, referral to court, petition filed, adjudication, probation, secure confinement and transfer to adult court – in 41 Illinois counties which contain over 90% of the state's minority youth population. In addition to studying those statistics, researchers from CPRD surveyed over 600 juvenile justice professionals to better understand their perception of DMC.
- The Assessment revealed that youth of color were largely overrepresented throughout the system. In 2010, African-American youth were arrested 3.5 times the rate of white youth despite evidence suggesting similar rates of offending across racial groups. Black youth represented 20% of the total youth population in Illinois but 64% of those detained and 72% sentenced to the Department of Juvenile Justice. Fifty-three percent of the respondents said they had no familiarity with the concept of DMC. Although most respondents reported witnessing no discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity, they did express a need for more interagency collaboration and education on how to treat youth in the system more objectively.

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<sup>3</sup> Comprehensive statewide juvenile justice data which includes race and ethnicity is not collected nor available at key decision points in Illinois. The Commission's 2013 DMC Assessment used 2010 data as it took nearly two years to obtain from local and state sources. The Commission has supported local efforts to collect data on a more regular basis: we have recently collected 2013 data and 2014 data is soon to follow.



Since the release of the statewide Assessment in 2013, the Commission has integrated DMC reduction planning and intervention throughout all of its activities. The Commission built on the findings and recommendations and established three priority areas: improve data collection, increase DMC awareness and education and reduce DMC through local planning and governance. Today, we see significant progress in each of these areas. In December 2014, the Commission released a standardized data collection tool to the participating counties from the last assessment in order to produce the most consistent and reliable data from year to year. The subcommittee on DMC publishes a monthly newsletter for juvenile justice stakeholders to better understand DMC, its underlying causes and the resources necessary for addressing it. The subcommittee supported a youth-police engagement project, entitled *Bridging the Divide*, through the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and the Chicago Police Department. The project aided youth and police participants in understanding one another's experiences; it is a model which has also been offered to other jurisdictions in the state. The subcommittee is also planning a series of community forums in late 2015 to bring together system professionals and community advocates to both raise awareness and reach common solutions. Finally, the Commission supports 11 local juvenile justice councils (highlighted above) in critically reviewing their local race and ethnicity data and creating local DMC reduction plans.

## **6. Effective Responses to Youth in Family Crisis Situations**

The Commission has continued its support for innovative responses to youth charged with “adolescent domestic battery,” which is typically part of ongoing family conflict and crisis, with lead partners in Cook and DuPage Counties. As part of Illinois Models for Change efforts, leaders in DuPage and Cook County and the National Youth Screening and Assessment Project are also completing a multi-state validation of the “typology” tool developed for use with families in contact with the justice system. The tool – and the cross-state validation work – will assist crisis responders, probation officers and others in diverting families experiencing ADB from the justice system, when possible, reducing unnecessary detention and incarceration and better responding to the needs of victims and families.

## **7. Screening & Assessment and Behavioral Incentives for IDJJ Youth**

For several years, the Commission has provided funding to the Department of Juvenile Justice to support the implementation of screening and assessment programs to ensure youth needs are appropriately identified and treatment provided in a timely manner. These assessments include the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI) which screens for mental health concerns; the Voice Diagnostic Interview for Children which assists in accurate and timely diagnosis of behavioral health disorders; and the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) which provides an actuarial assessment of risk for further delinquency and a comprehensive assessment of youth needs to guide case planning and interventions.

The MAYSI helps IDJJ identify youth who may be experiencing mental health crises so that facility staff can take immediate steps to ensure youth safety and well-being. When fully implemented, the YASI assessment will assist IDJJ facility staff and aftercare specialists in developing individualized, developmentally-appropriate case plans to prepare a youth for successful return home.

The Commission has also recently supported IDJJ's efforts to implement Positive Behavioral Incentives and Supports in facilities. PBIS uses positive reinforcement and rewards to promote positive youth behavior and skill-learning within facilities. The Department has identified PBIS as a key component in transitioning from punitive discipline practices to a more positive and restorative model.

## **8. Evaluating Audio-Video Appearances in Juvenile Court**

*(<http://ijjc.illinois.gov/publications/audio-video-appearances-juvenile-court>)*

Following the introduction of legislation to permit audio-visual conferencing in juvenile court hearings when youth are detained, the Commission dedicated time and resources in the spring of 2015 to research and analysis of the issue. Conducting hearings by audio-visual conferencing in lieu of transporting youth back and forth to court, sometimes at great distance or in inclement weather, presents some possible benefits to local court and law enforcement agencies.

The Commission compiled a report addressing appearances by audio-video conferencing with three sections: first, a summary of the legal issues posed by audio-video conferencing, with the conclusion that the practice is only legally permissible in very limited circumstances; second, highlights of potential impacts on court proceedings of appearance by video; and third, an analysis of detention admissions to two juvenile detention centers with recommendations for reducing unnecessary detention admissions.

Based on a review of the report, the experiences of other states in utilizing audio-visual conferencing in court hearings, the legal protections extended to juveniles in the court process and the obstacles created for effective legal representation, impartiality and meaningful engagement in the court process, the Commission unanimously passed a motion opposing this practice at its March 18, 2015 meeting: *"The use of video conference technology is inappropriate in juvenile court hearings."*

## **9. Providing Special-Purpose Data Reports**

*2013 Juvenile Detention Data Report (<http://ijjc.illinois.gov/Detention2013>)*

The Commission partnered with the Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois to develop a statewide juvenile detention data report. Released in January 2015, this is the first, comprehensive look at detention practice in Illinois in a number of years. The report is intended for local juvenile justice stakeholders to understand their own use of detention and to support systems improvement activities.

Overall, Illinois has made significant reductions in the number of youth detained annually – the report identifies a 16% decline in the most recent five years. At the same time, significant racial and ethnic disparities remain in the use of detention, which indicate an ongoing need to ensure that detention is utilized fairly, appropriately and sparingly. To support these efforts, the Commission will release a similar report on an annual basis.

*Juvenile Justice in Illinois: 2013*

Produced by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority with funding from the Commission, this data snapshot provides key juvenile justice system data in a user-friendly format. (The Commission anticipates a release of this publication in late 2015.)

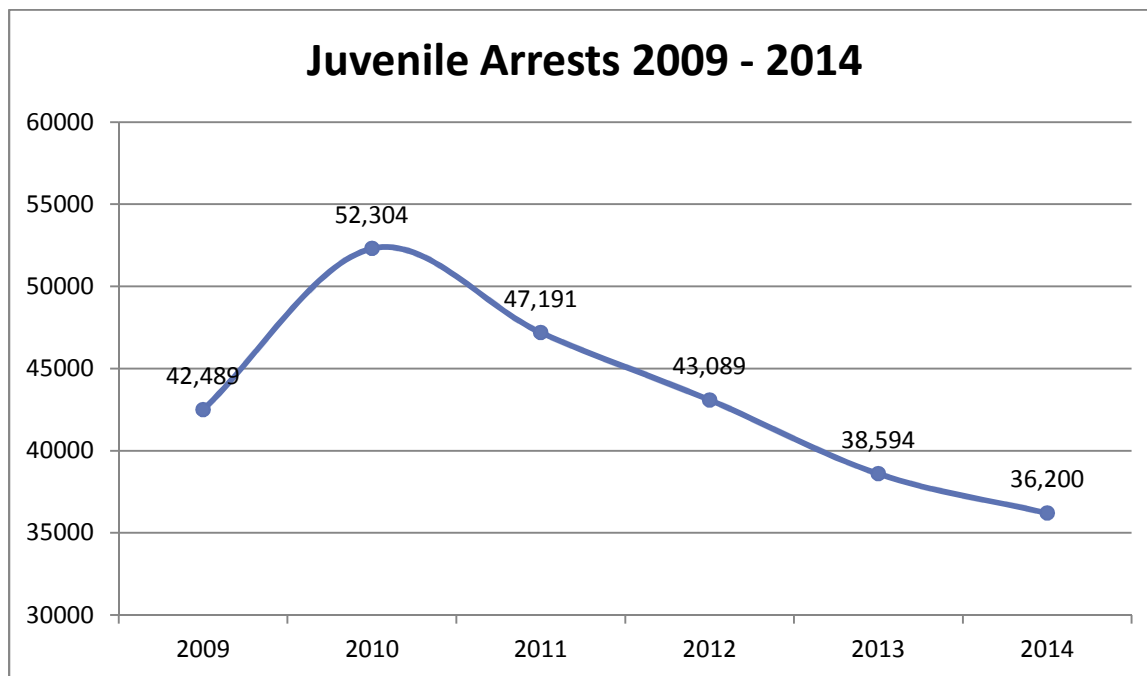
## System Overview: Illinois' Juvenile Justice System by the Numbers

Illinois has statewide data at only three decision points: arrests, detention admissions, and IDJJ admissions. While not comprehensive, these can serve as proxies for the volume of work performed by the system. More detailed data is contained in the Illinois Juvenile Detention Data Report and the 2013 Juvenile Justice in Illinois reports, described in the previous section.

**Data Note: Legislation raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction moved 17-year-olds from the adult to the juvenile system in two phases.** Phase I (2010): Added a projected 12-18,000 misdemeanor arrests to statewide juvenile totals. Phase II (2014): Added a projected 4,000 felony arrests.

### *Arrest*

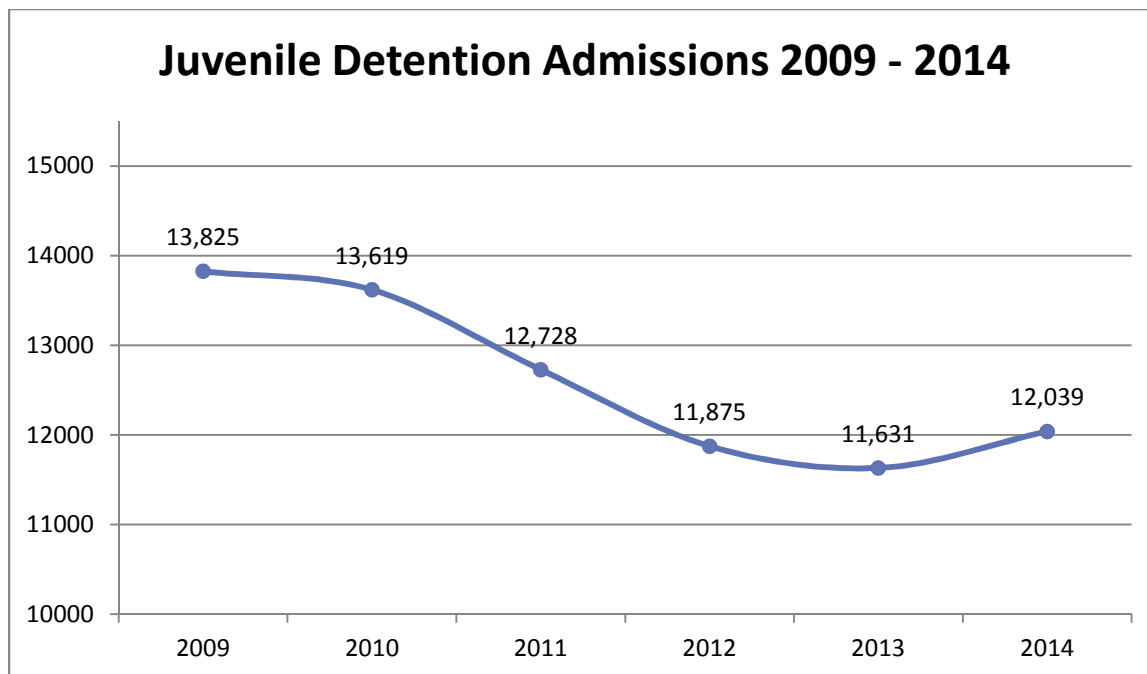
In recent years, juvenile arrest reports have declined for every age group (similar to national trends of decreasing juvenile crime). Note that even after adding over 10,000 17-year-old arrests to the juvenile system in 2010, the net number of arrests had *decreased* by 2013.



*Data Source: ICJIA analysis of CHRI data*

### *Detention in County Facilities*

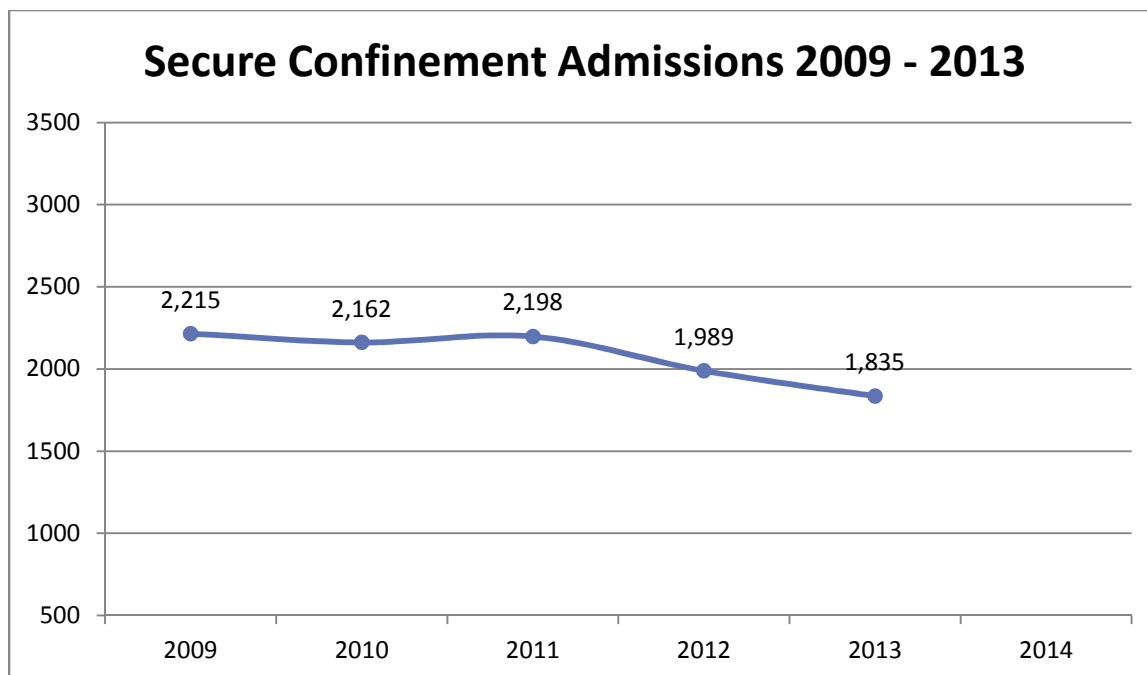
The number of annual admissions to local detention facilities has also declined overall in the last five years. (The slight increase in 2014 is likely due to shifting 4,000 felony arrests of 17-year-olds from the adult criminal justice system to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, pursuant to the “raise the age” legislation.)



*Data Source: CPRD analysis of JMIS data*

#### *Secure Confinement in IDJJ Facilities*

Admissions to IDJJ (state) facilities have also declined despite the shift of 17-year-olds from the adult criminal justice system to the juvenile justice system.



*Data Source: ICJIA analysis of IDJJ data; 2014 data unavailable at the time of publication.*



## Compliance with JJDP Core Requirements

The Commission works to maintain compliance with the four core requirements of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Each of these core requirements is intended to ensure that youth are treated fairly and in developmentally appropriate ways and are kept safe if they are held in custody. This includes three requirements for youth in secure custody: first, deinstitutionalization of status offenders so that youth charged with offenses like truancy, running away or possession of tobacco are kept out of detention settings; second, separation of juvenile offenders from adults in secure facilities like jails and police lockups; and third, removing youth from these adult locked facilities within six hours. The final core requirement requires data collection and planning to reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. Illinois has currently been designated as “in compliance” with these requirements, allowing us full participation in the Title II Formula Grants program. However, Illinois’ lack of statewide data at key decision points presents ongoing challenges to maintaining that compliance and – as importantly – creates barriers in analyzing how the Illinois juvenile justice system functions.

### *Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)*

The “DSO” core requirement is based on decades of research which demonstrates that placing status offenders such as runaways or truants in secure detention does little to address the often complex factors underlying these behaviors. Instead, these punitive approaches traumatize youth, may increase risks for future justice system involvement and waste scarce resources. Illinois has achieved significant success in reducing the number of status offenders detained securely. Historically, the Commission has invested considerable resources in support of strategies to address status offenses, particularly truancy, without placing youth in secure detention. At this point, most jurisdictions in the state do not turn to detention as a “solution” in these non-criminal cases and Illinois maintains a rate of violations below the federal numerical *de minimis* rate, maintaining compliance with this requirement of the JJDP. As required to maintain ongoing compliance, Commission monitors secure detentions of youth, tracks “DSO violations” and works with jurisdictions to ensure that status offenders are not securely detained.

	2012	2013	2014
Number of DSO Violations	71	50	45

### *Separation from Adult Offenders*

The second core requirement of the JJDP requires that juveniles who are held in the same facilities as adults are separated both by sight and sound from adult offenders. This core requirement is intended to protect youth from abuse or unnecessary trauma and to protect lower risk youth from the negative impact of contact with higher risk adult offenders. The Commission supports the Illinois Department of Corrections efforts to monitor municipal lockups and county jails, where in some circumstances juveniles are held, to ensure policies and practices provide for separation. Illinois has not violated this requirement for a number of years.

### *Jail Removal*

The JJDPa also requires that juveniles held in secure custody in municipal lockups or county jails be moved to a juvenile-only facility within six hours. This core requirement is designed to reduce the trauma and risk of self-harm which arises when youth are confined in adult facilities. The Illinois Department of Corrections also monitors lock-ups and jails to ensure compliance with this requirement. Illinois has maintained violation levels below the federal numerical *de minimis* rate; however, the number of violations increased in 2014. It appears this increase is related to expansion of juvenile court jurisdiction to 17-year-olds. The Commission is studying this trend and determining an appropriate response to maintain compliance and to ensure the safety of youth in custody

	2012	2013	2014
Number of Jail Removal Violations	164	136	203

### *Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)*

Finally, the JJDPa mandates that states receiving Title II funding address Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) or the racial and ethnic disparities present throughout the juvenile justice system. In order to adequately address DMC, the Commission calculates a statistic known as the Relative Rate Index (RRI), which describes the rate at which youth of color are involved in the system relative to their white peers. In 2010<sup>4</sup>, African-American youth showed an RRI of 5.52 at the point of arrest, meaning African-American youth were arrested five and half times more than white youth. In 2013, that number dropped slightly to 5.12. Contrastingly, we have seen a dramatic reduction at the point of sentencing to secure confinement at the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. In 2010, youth of color had an RRI of 3.88 and in 2013 that number dropped to 1.32 achieving close to parity with white youth sentences. As a partial solution to the gaps in state-level data, the Commission has begun working with local juvenile justice councils to collect their local data annually and to examine and address the underlying factors contributing to these disparities.

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<sup>4</sup> As noted above, a comprehensive assessment of DMC was completed in 2013 using data from 2010, the most readily available data set at that time. The Commission has gathered and is currently analyzing data from 2013, with plans to also collect 2014 data within the year.

## Grants Programs

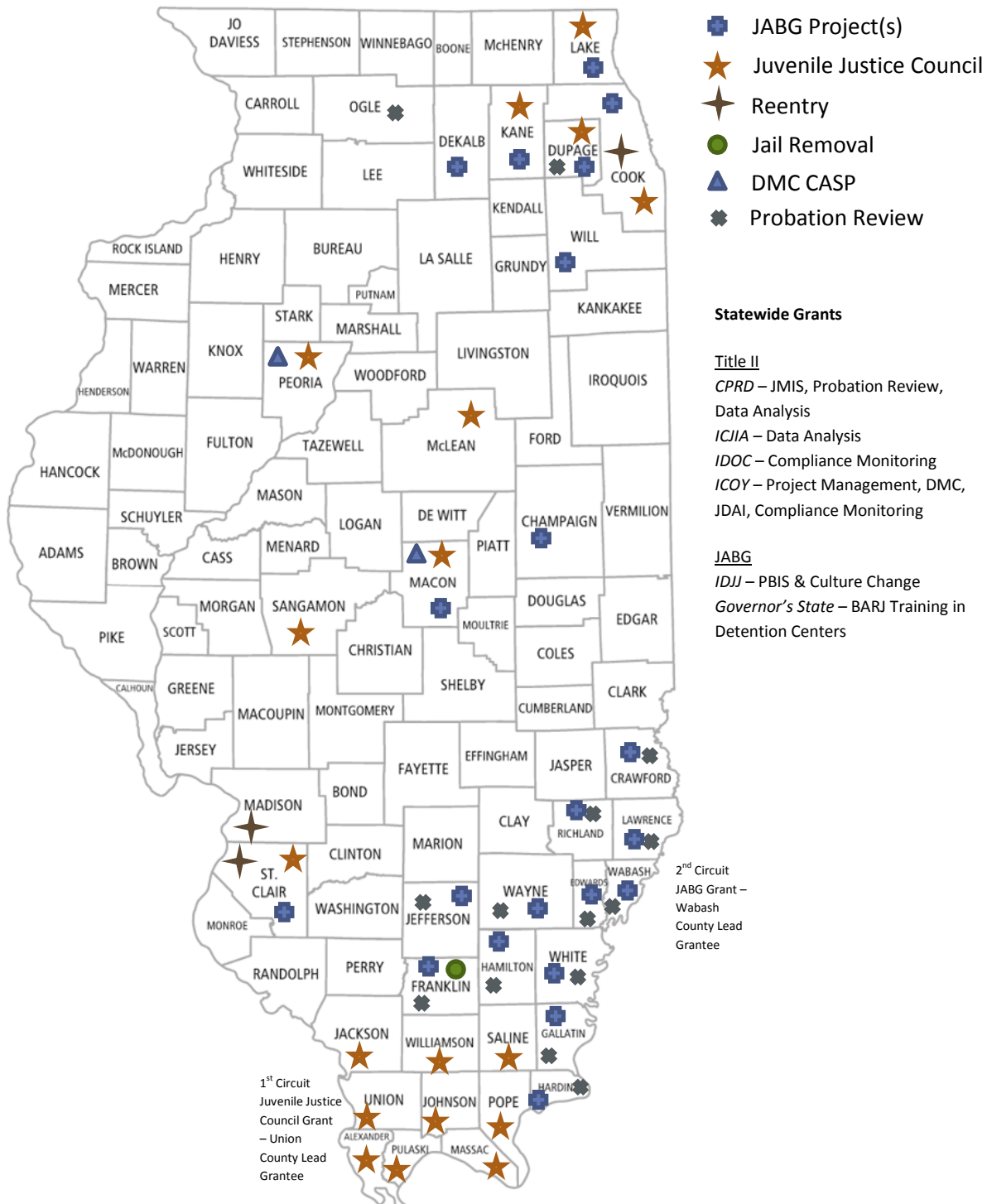
In accordance with the federal and state provisions, the Commission administers federal Title II Formula Grant and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) programs.

Title II Grants may be used for a wide range of systems improvement activities. The Commission uses these funds to ensure ongoing compliance with the JJDPa and for targeted investments such as building local juvenile justice council infrastructure and testing the efficacy of community-based reentry services.

JABG funds are used primarily by local juvenile justice agencies for a wide range of activities including trauma-informed approaches, vocational training, restorative justice practices and domestic battery interventions.

Details about individual grantees are available at <http://ijjc.illinois.gov/grants>.

## Map of SFY15 Local Grantees





## **Related IDHS Programs within the Bureau of Youth Intervention Services**

The Bureau of Youth Intervention Services (BYIS) implements programs throughout the state in partnership with local communities and community-based organizations to ensure the safety of youth, to support families in crisis, prevent juvenile delinquency, to encourage academic achievement and to divert youth at risk of involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. BYIS provides support to the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and the Illinois Redeploy Oversight Board. BYIS currently operates the following services, in addition to those funded through the Title II Formula Grant and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant programs.

### **A. Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services**

The Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services (CCBYS) program was created by a 1982 state statute (20 ILCS 505/17) and serves youth, ages 11-17, and their families when appropriate, who are at risk of involvement with the child welfare and/or the juvenile justice system. This includes runaways, lockouts, unaccompanied homeless youth as well as youth beyond the control of their parents. The program is a statewide network of supports and services that ensure eligible youth access to needed community, prevention, diversion, emergency and independent living services. The primary purpose of CCBYS is providing youth in high risk situations, and their families, with a continuum of services according to their needs with the overarching goal of family preservation, reunification and/or family stabilization. CCBYS services are delivered by community agencies throughout the state.

### **B. Homeless Youth**

The Homeless Youth program serves those youth who are 14 to 24 years of age who cannot return home and/or lack the housing and skills necessary to live independently. The program strives to meet the immediate survival needs of youth (food, clothing and shelter) and to provide services that help homeless youth transition to independent living and become self-sufficient. Services provided are emergency shelter, outreach and transitional living. The services available to youth in these programs include: housing, food, needed goods and assistance in obtaining and maintaining available entitlements supports and services, educational services, life skills/independent living skills, employment and/or vocational training.

### **C. Release Upon Request**

The Release Upon Request (RUR) program serves youth 12-17 years of age who have been ordered released from the Cook County Temporary Juvenile Detention Center, but who remain there because a parent, guardian or custodian has failed to accept custody. This program is available only in Cook County and only for non-wards. The purpose of the RUR program is to ensure that youth are removed from detention within 24 hours of referral. Once that is accomplished, the focus of the program turns to efforts to reunify the family.

### **D. Teen REACH**

Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring and Hope) provides services to at-risk youth between the ages of 6 and 17. The purpose of the program is to expand the range of choices and opportunities that enable, empower and encourage youth to achieve positive growth and development, improve expectations and capabilities for future success and avoid and/or reduce risk-taking behavior. Teen REACH services are delivered by community-based agencies throughout Illinois.

### **E. Redeploy Illinois**

Redeploy Illinois funding gives counties the financial support to provide comprehensive services to delinquent youth, ages 13 to 18, in their home communities instead of sending youth to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ). The funds provided to the Redeploy Illinois sites help fill the gaps in the existing continuum of programs and services for delinquent youth, allowing counties to cost effectively serve youth locally and reduce their reliance on IDJJ. Prior research provides solid evidence that community-based services for delinquent youth are more effective and less expensive than a sentence to secure confinement for a certain profile of youth offenders who are deemed likely to benefit from such services, since the cost of community-based programs is lower than the cost of incarceration. Through Redeploy Illinois, counties can link each youth to a wide array of needed services and supports within his or her home community, as indicated through an individualized needs assessment. Services are provided in the least restrictive manner possible and include, but are not limited to, case management, court advocacy, education assistance, individual, family and/or group counseling and crisis intervention.

### **F. Illinois Second Chance**

Illinois Second Chance, federally funded through the Second Chance Act, provides services to male and female youth age 17 ½ and younger, with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health issues that are being released from secure correctional facilities to Cook County. The purpose of the program is to provide individualized, comprehensive aftercare planning and services for high-risk, high-need youth that will support them as they transition from incarceration into the community. Illinois Second Chance creates a reentry infrastructure that incorporates evidence-based intervention techniques and community-based health and human services, beginning two months prior to release and continuing four months post-release. A partnership between IDHS and IDJJ provides each youth with an aftercare plan that addresses the individual and his/her family's assessed needs, provides a service-based case plan and identifies the community placement requirements. Illinois Second Chance uses Family Integrated Transitions (FIT) as the primary strategy to reduce recidivism among juvenile offenders with mental health and chemical dependency disorders. Illinois Second Chance services are currently delivered in Cook County.

### **G. Community Youth Employment Program**

The Community Youth Employment Program Grant provides eligible youth with age-appropriate job training, life skills, counseling, work-readiness skills and supervised meaningful work experience in an effort to connect youth to the skills that are needed to enter and advance in the workforce. This grant also seeks the following outcomes for youth: violence prevention, a reduction in risky behavior and increased educational achievement. Grant funds must be used to address youth unemployment, poverty and violence in Illinois' most needy communities. Eligible youth include in-school youth ages 16-21 and out-of-school youth ages 16-24. Each youth must also meet one or more additional criteria to be eligible:

Served under one or more of the following programs:

- National School Lunch Program
- Workforce Investment Act
- Food Stamps / SNAP Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

And/or are qualified as:

- Court-involved or at-risk youth, or
- Family income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

## Ongoing and Future Initiatives

The Commission's federally-required 3-year plan lays out a comprehensive strategy to address Illinois' most pressing juvenile needs in a way that meets federal requirements while advancing Commission priorities for the state. The plan contains comprehensive data about Illinois' juvenile systems and describes numerous initiatives on topics ranging from juvenile record expungement to adolescent domestic battery to restorative justice practice. It is available at <http://ijjc.illinois.gov/publications/three-year-plan>

### *Major Priorities and Objectives:*

1. Maintain full compliance with the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.
  - A. Incorporate an emphasis on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in all initiatives.
  - B. Implement pilot strategies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.
  - C. Maintain low violation levels of the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Separation and Jail Removal core requirements and decrease youth contact with the adult system.
2. Youth do not enter or penetrate the state's juvenile justice system unnecessarily.
  - A. Local communities and justice systems divert low-level and low-risk youth from formal involvement, thereby promoting positive youth outcomes and public safety.
  - B. Diversion strategies are provided in an equitable manner to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.
  - C. Court personnel are equipped to protect the due process rights of youth, respond to individual youth needs and promote developmentally appropriate and rehabilitative outcomes.
3. Youth who enter the juvenile justice system receive developmentally appropriate, individualized support and services.
  - A. Juvenile justice interventions are guided by each individual youth's risk and needs.
  - B. Services and supports align with best practice so that youth are served in safe, developmentally-appropriate programs.
  - C. Programs and practices are reviewed and adjusted to ensure they do no harm and do not cause disparities.
4. Youth leave the juvenile justice system with positive outcomes which in turn enhance public safety.
  - A. Juvenile records, including the sex offender registry, do not cause long-term harm to youth.
  - B. Reentry services prepare youth for success as they exit the juvenile justice system.





## Commission Members

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### *Vice Chair*

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The Bureau of Youth Intervention Services provides additional administrative and programmatic support.





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