

Juvenile Drug Arrests in CY2011

- Disproportionate Minority Contact



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This Research Brief reviews the juvenile arrests in Illinois in calendar year 2011 to address disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the juvenile justice system. The Brief concludes that in spite of efforts to reduce DMC, the juvenile arrests showed significant racial disparities in Illinois. The study was conducted by Kanako Ishida, Policy Research Analyst at the Juvenile Justice Initiative with assistance of researchers at Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. For further information contact Kanako at ki@jjjustice.org.

Executive Summary

The overrepresentation of minority youth (Disproportionate minority contact (DMC)) in the juvenile justice system is of great concern. Using data retrieved from the Criminal History Record Information, this report examines Illinois youth arrest data to see if there is a disproportionate percentage of minority youth. The following report summarizes the facts on disproportionality in Illinois juvenile arrests in CY2011.

- In Illinois in CY2011, African American youth were over represented at the point of arrests at a level triple their representation in the general youth population (RI=3).
- Although only thirty nine percent of youth (up to 17 years of age) are in Cook County, sixty four percent of arrests came from Cook County in CY2011
- Cook County accounted for 69 percent of overall Illinois drug offense arrests
- More than half of drug offense arrests involved African American youth statewide in CY2011.
- African American youth were overly represented in drug arrests at a level double their representation in Cook County youth population (RI=2.23)
- Fifty two percent of African American youth arrested for drug offense in Cook County was arrested for felonious

charge while only nine percent of white youth were arrested for felonious charge.

Background

Disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the juvenile justice system, which refers to “an empirical finding that a higher percentage of minority youth are involved in the juvenile justice system than their representation in the general population”² has been of increasing concern. It has been revealed that racial minority youth, especially African American youth, are generally more likely to have contact with the juvenile justice system from arrest to confinement. The research brief examines the DMC of youth arrests, specifically drug offense arrests, in Illinois and in Cook County.

Data

Juvenile arrest numbers were obtained from the Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) on October 17, 2012, and juvenile population numbers were obtained from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Ethnicity codes related to Hispanic are not collected in the CHRI; thus Hispanic youth could be categorized in any race (i.e., African American, white or others). The CHRI has arrest records of youth up to the age 17.

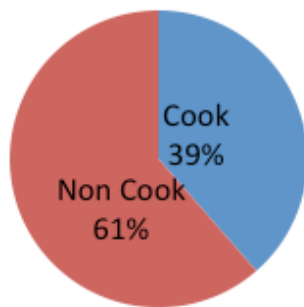
Overall, the juvenile arrest numbers reveal a disproportionately large number of African American youth, with the majority of the arrested youth from Cook County.

Result

Juvenile Population

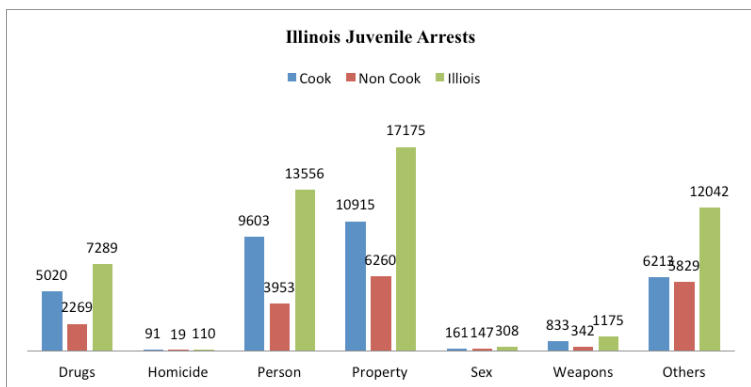
There were 1,417,154 youth aged 10-17 in Illinois in CY2011. Seventy six percent of the youth population was White, and nineteen percent was African American in Illinois. Cook County accounted for thirty nine percent of the state wide youth population – sixty two percent of the Cook youth population was White, and thirty one percent was African American. Table 1 shows the Illinois’ juvenile population

Illinois Youth Population, CY2011



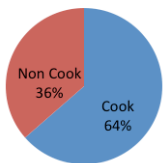
Juvenile Arrests

There were 51,655 juvenile arrests in CY2011. The most common offense statewide was property offense² (17,175), followed by person offense³(13,556).

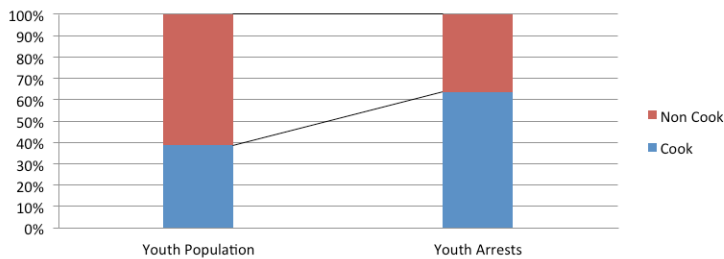


Cook County accounted for a disproportionately large number of juvenile arrests, 64 percent (32,836), despite the fact that Cook accounts for only 39 percent of youth population.

Illinois Juvenile Arrests, CY2011



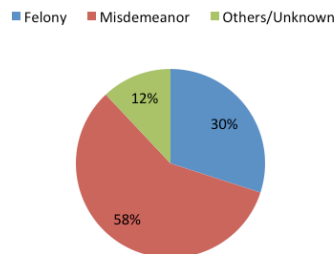
Disproportionality of Arrests by Location



Offense Class

Youth were arrested for offenses in different classes: felony, misdemeanor and petty. The majority of the youth were arrested for misdemeanor offense (58 %) and thirty percent of youth were for felonies. Twelve percent of arrest offense classes were unknown in CY2011.

Illinois Juvenile Arrests by Offense Class



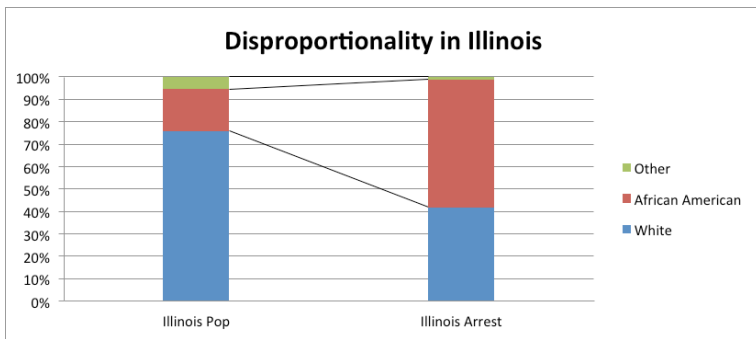
Racial Disparity

African American youth have been much more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system than white youth. In CY2011, the data reveal that African American youth were arrested at a much higher rate than white youth.

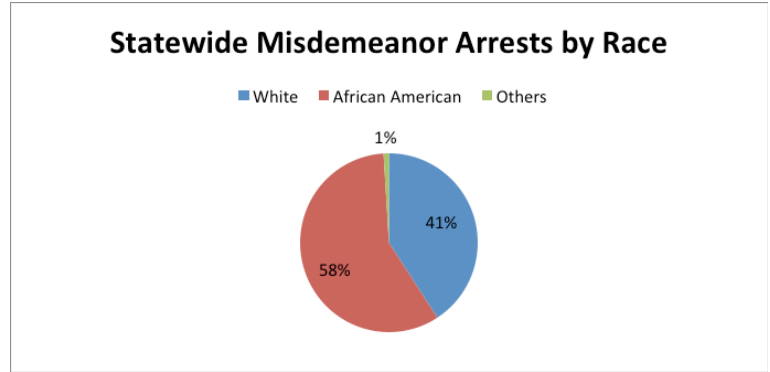
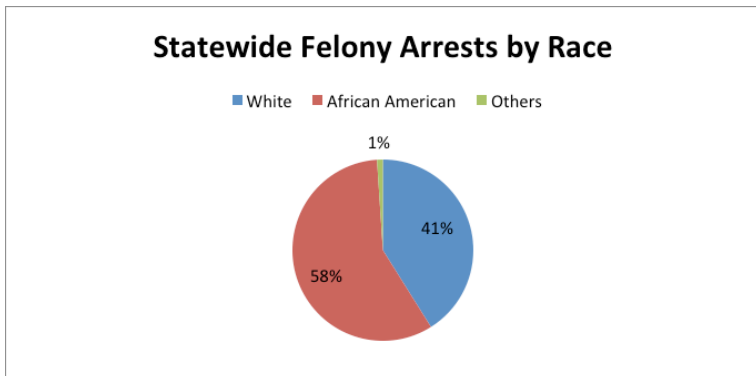
There were 51,655 juvenile arrests across Illinois in CY2011. Fifty seven percent of arrests involved African American youth, and forty two percent involved white youth in Illinois. That is, **in Illinois in CY2011, African American youth were over represented at the point of arrests at a level triple their representation in the general youth population (RI=3).**² On the other hand, white youth were under-represented and arrested at a level about 45 percent

In Illinois in CY2011, African American youth were over represented at the point of arrests at a level triple their representation in the general youth population

less than their representation in Illinois youth population (RI=0.55). In non-Cook, African American youth are still over-represented at a level triple their representation in the general non Cook youth population (RI=3). Table 3 details the juvenile arrest frequencies by race.



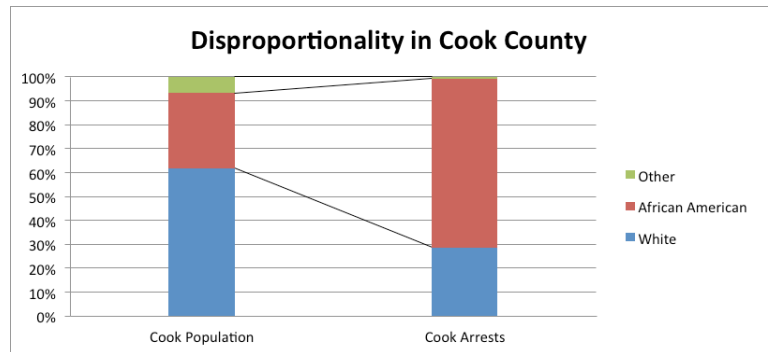
There was no racial disparity between statewide offense classes. That is, it was not the case that African American youth were arrested predominantly for felonious offenses rather than misdemeanor offenses. Fifty eight percent of arrests for both felonious offenses and misdemeanor offenses involved African American youth, and 41 percent of arrests for both of the offenses involved white youth.



Racial disparity in arrests remained when looking only at Cook County. Sixty four percent (32,836) of arrests happened in Cook County. Only 28 percent of Cook County arrests involved White, and seventy one percent involved African American youth. This number is striking in that African American youth

African American youth were over-represented at a level almost triple their representation in the general population for drug arrests.

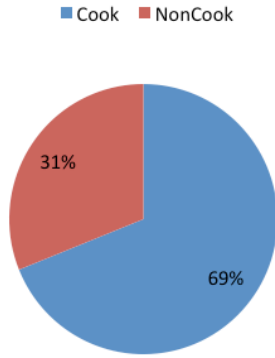
accounted for only thirty two percent of Cook youth population in CY2011; African American youth were over represented at the point of arrest at a level of 2.23 time higher their representation in Cook county youth population (RI=2.23). On the other hand, white youth were under-represented at the arrest (RI=0.46).



Drug Offense

African American youth involvement in drug offense² arrests has been of particular concern of DMC. In 2011, there were 7,289 arrests statewide related to drug offenses, 54 percent (3,289 arrests) of which involved African American youth. This means that African American youth were over-represented at a level almost triple their representation in the general population (RI=2.84).

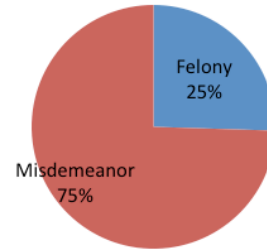
Juvenile Drug Arrests CY2011



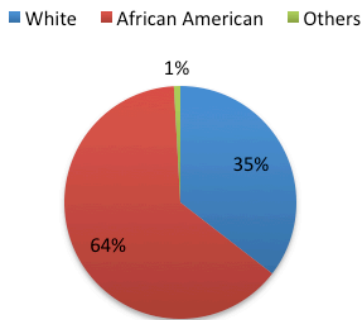
American youth were overly represented in drug arrests at a level double their representation in Cook County youth population (RI=2.23). On the other hand, twenty nine percent of Cook County drug offense arrests involved White and others (RI=0.47 & RI=0.1 respectively). Table 4 details the frequencies of juvenile drug arrests.

There was a difference in drug offense classes between African American youth and white youth. Although misdemeanor drug offense arrests were equally distributed between African American and white youth, sixty four percent of felonious drug offense arrests involved African American youth.

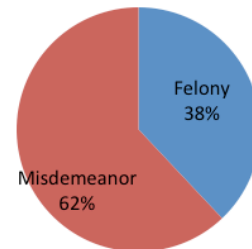
White Youth Drug Arrests by Offense Class



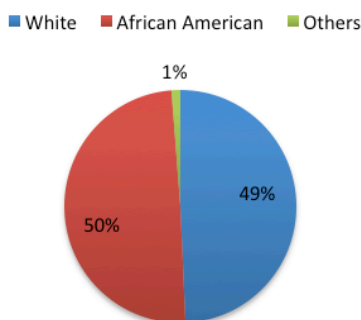
Statewide Felony Drug Arrests



African American Youth Drug Arrests by Offense Class



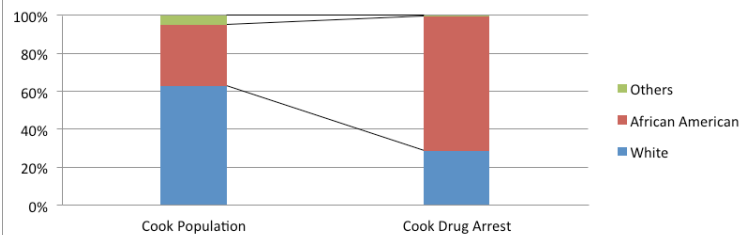
Statewide Misdemeanor Drug Arrests



While thirty eight percent of African American youth arrested for drug offenses were arrested for felonious offenses, 25 percent of white youth were arrested for felonious offenses.

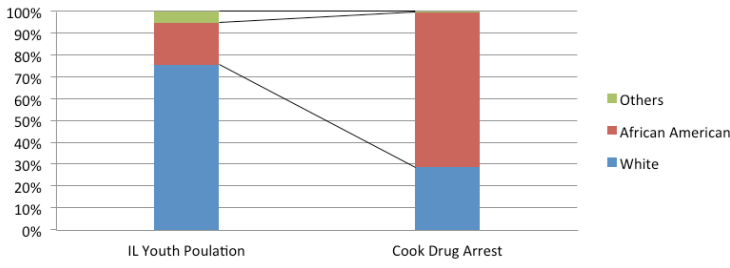
Sixty nine percent (5,020 arrests) of Illinois drug arrests happened in Cook County. Of 5,020 arrests in Cook County, 71 percent involved African American. This means African

Cook County Drug Arrest Disproportionality



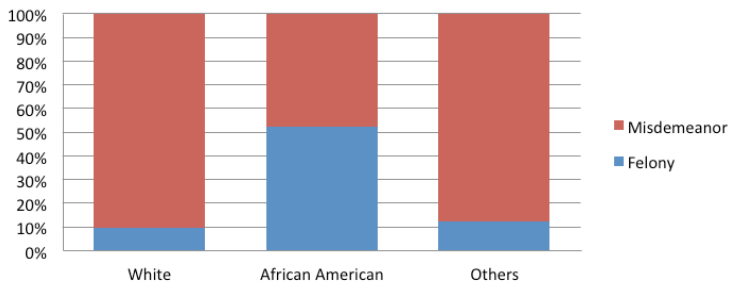
This also means that although African American youth represent only 19 percent of the general youth population in Illinois, Cook County's African American drug arrests accounted for 49 percent of statewide drug arrests (54 percent of Illinois drug arrests involved African American youth). The over-representation of African American youth remains in Non-Cook area (Table 6). This racial disproportionality is striking considering that the recent study² conducted by researchers at Department of Psychiatry at Duke University reveals that white youth are more likely to use substances, especially hard drugs, than African American youth.

Disproportionality of Drug Arrests



The disparity in Cook drug offense classes between African American and white youth was larger than that across the state. Fifty two percent of African American youth arrested for drug offense in Cook County was arrested for felonious drug offense while only nine percent of white youth were arrested for felonious charge.

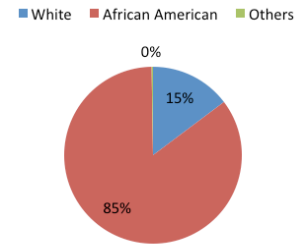
Drug Arrest Offense Class in Cook County



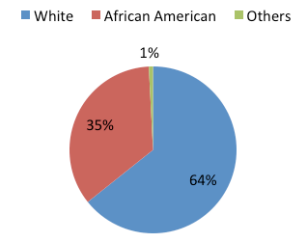
Felonious drug arrests among Cook youth are not equally distributed. African American youth arrested for felonious drug offense in Cook accounted for 85 percent of felony drug arrests, and only 15 percent of such arrests involved white youth. Sixty

four percent of misdemeanor drug arrest involved African American youth.

Felonious Drug Offense Arrest by Race in Cook County



Misdemeanor Drug Arrests in Cook County by Race



In summary, there are a much higher number of juvenile arrests in Cook County than in the rest of the state. In both Cook County and across the state, African American youth are arrested at much higher levels than white youth. Furthermore, African American youth are more likely to be arrested for drug offenses. In fact, almost half of drug offense arrests involve African American youth in Cook County.

1. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (2011). Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data-2008 Annual Report.
2. Property offenses here include: Deception, motor vehicle theft, criminal damage & trespass to property, theft and arson
3. Person offenses include: child abuse, kidnapping, harassment, assault, robbery, intimidation, ritualism, aggravated drug related child endanger, criminal abortion, and other person offenses (e.g., inducement to suicide)
4. The representation index (RI) is calculated as the following: Percent of African American youth arrests divided by percent of African American youth in the general population. An RI of 1.0 would be equal representation in the general population and in the system. An RI less than 1.0 means under-representation, and over 1.0 means over-representation. Table 5 details RI and percentage used for calculation.
5. Drug charges are by statutes, so that the charges include liquor control act violations, use of controlled substance and dealing of controlled substance
6. Wu, L., Woody, G.E., Yang, C., Pan, J., & Blazer, D. G. (2011). Racial/Ethnic Variations in Substance-Related Disorders among Adolescents in the United States. *Achieve of General Psychiatry*, 68, 1176-1185.

Table 1. Juvenile Population Age 10-17 by Race

	Cook	Non Cook	Illinois
White	337,288 (62%)	734,145 (84%)	1,071,433 (76%)
African American	173,929 (32%)	95,222 (11%)	269,151 (19%)
Other	36,570 (7%)	40,000 (5%)	76,570 (5%)
Total	547,787 (100%)	869,367 (100%)	1,417,154 (100%)

Table 2. Juvenile Arrests Breakdown by Age

	Cook	Non-Cook	IL
17	10,808 (33%)	6,457 (34%)	17,265(33%)
13-16	21,199 (65%)	11,536 (61%)	32,735 (63%)
Under 13	829 (3%)	826 (4%)	1,655(3%)
Total	32,836 (100%)	18,819 (100%)	51,655 (100%)

Table 3. Juvenile Arrests in Illinois by Race

	Cook	Non Cook	Total
White	9,356 (28%)	12,257 (65%)	21,613
African American	23,286 (71%)	6,194 (33%)	29,480
Others	194(1%)	368 (2%)	562
Total	32,836 (100%)	18,819 (100%)	51,655

Table 4. Juvenile Drug Arrests

Drug Offense	Cook	Non Cook	Total
White	1,438 (28%)	1,831 (81%)	3,269 (45%)
African American	3,550 (71%)	388 (17%)	3,938 (54%)
Others	32 (1%)	50 (7%)	82 (1%)
Total	5,020 (100%)	2,269 (100%)	7,289 (100%)

Table5. Percentage Breakdown of Drug Offense Arrests by Race and by County

Drug Offense	Cook	Non Cook	Total
White	20%	25%	45%
African American	49%	5%	54%
Others	0.40%	0.70%	1%
			100%

Table 6. Representation Index

	RI	Arrest	Population
IL White	0.55	42%	76%
IL African American	3	57%	19%
Cook White	0.46	28%	62%
Cook African American	2.23	71%	32%
Non Cook White	0.77	65%	84%
Non Cook African American	3.00	33%	11%
IL Drug White	0.59	45%	76%
IL Drug African American	2.84	54%	19%
Cook Drug White	0.47	29%	62%
Cook Drug African American	2.23	71%	32%
Non Cook Drug White	0.96	81%	84%
Non Cook Drug African American	1.55	17%	11%

Table 7. Percentage of CY2011 Arrests by Race, Compared to Population

Race	Cook Arrests	Cook Drug Arrests	Cook Pop	Non Cook Arrests	Non Cook Drug Arrests	Non Cook Pop
White	28% (-34%*)	20% (-42%*)	62%	65% (-19%*)	25% (-59%*)	84%
African American	71% (+39%*)	49% (+17%*)	32%	33% (+22%*)	5% (-6%*)	11%
Other	1% (+0.6%*)	0.4% (-6.6%*)	7%	2% (-3%*)	0.7% (-4.3%*)	5%

**Compared to Population*