

*Illinois Youth Center at*  
*Joliet*

*Public Comments*

As of 04/29/2012

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
ATTN: Facility Closure  
703 Stratton Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

March 29, 2012

Dear COGFA Co-Chairs and Members:

My name is Cynthia Robles and I am opposed to the closing of IYC Joliet and am submitting this written statement to explain my opposition. I have been employed at the above mentioned facility for 8 years and firmly believe we all have done and continuously do a great job. The closing of IYC Joliet will be a negative impact on nearby and surrounding businesses due to the purchasing power of IYC Joliet employees and visitors. The closing of IYC Joliet would have a devastating impact on hundreds of employees and their families. Not to mention the most important...the youth who are incarcerated at this facility.

By relocating these youth the end result of a longer distance to travel will result in fewer visits by family members. Fewer visits are the exact opposite of the mission statement which focuses on family unity while a youth is incarcerated. Many family members currently have a difficult time making it to IYC Joliet to visit with their child and if this facility closes it would make it almost impossible to visit due to location and transportation and is this not the whole idea behind IDJJ? Keep families together, kids need their family support. Eight-five percent of inmate population is from Cook County the mission statement is about family and the distance will create further separations not only in miles but also in family ties.

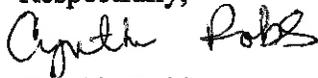
I would like to inform you of some of the programs we currently have in Joliet and just what we do on daily basis. We have year round school which every youth is required to attend with the exception of high school graduates and GED youth and the graduate and GED students are assigned jobs throughout the facility. We have an annual GED graduation ceremony which is open to all family members. We have a Wellness Program which focuses on drugs and alcohol use and abuse. We have a TASC program Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities; TASC advocates for people in courts, jails, prisons, higher education, housing, and child welfare systems that need treatment for alcohol/drug and mental health problems and also follows through upon release from prison. We have a Chaplain who has bible study on Saturdays and church services on Sunday's.

The closing of IYC Joliet is a hastily made decision in the governor's budget proposal. The proposed closing of IYC Joliet is to save money rather than to save lives and the reason is...in the long run, the human cost will outweigh any financial savings. The youth in our society whom are headed down the wrong path are still young and there is still time to correct this direction, they are being used by adults as bargaining chips to solve the financial mistakes made by adults. This is all about attempting to save money and not lives and in the long run it will cost more. The human cost will exceed the financial cost. Short term solution vs. long term costs.

A perfect example for the need to keep IYC Joliet open is every time a youth at any other juvenile facility commits an aggressive act of anti-social behavior he is immediately transferred to IYC Joliet. Negative transfers occur on a weekly basis. Why are these juveniles immediately transferred to IYC Joliet when every IDJJ staff member has received the exact same training as us? The answer is, because the very nature of a maximum security prison; juvenile or adult is designed to reduce anti-social and violent behavior. The point of a maximum security facility for juveniles is to provide maximum security for the staff and youth. Everyone should be in a safe environment.

An example of the short sightedness and shortcomings of this budget proposal is there has been no long term thought given to future consequences, transferring maximum security youth into less secure facilities will result in more violence and will in turn cause longer prison terms. The IYC Joliet staff is better equipped to handle youth who exhibit greater anti-social and violent behavior. In other words, no thought has been given to the transitory process of including more violent behavior in a less secure environment. The mixing of max with medium will create a highly combustible situation. It is a recipe for a volatile outcome.

Respectfully,



Cynthia Robles  
Juvenile Justice Supervisor



March 27, 2012

Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg  
Representative Patricia Bellock  
Co-Chairs  
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
703 Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Written Testimony- Closure of IYC Joliet Correctional Center

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Bellock,

Please accept this communication as my submission of written testimony on the above referenced closure which will be heard by the Commission on April 4, 2012. The proposed closure of IYC Joliet is of great concern to Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 2002, Illinois State Employees Association and the Union members, employees at the facility who will be laid off or transferred.

It is on behalf of all of the affected employees at IYC Joliet that we urge this Commission **not** to support the closure of this facility. IYC Joliet currently houses the most at-risk and oldest youth offenders in the State. These are also the offenders with the most long term and repeated criminology in the State. However, IYC Joliet has been an active leader and has efficiently promoted and advanced pro-active measures to reduce recidivism, youth on youth assaults, and youth on employee assaults. Through the exceptional work of the employees at IYC Joliet they have also seen fewer incidences requiring use of force, use of restraints, and use of confinement. Bottom line- IYC Joliet is getting the job done and accomplishing the real goals of the Agency.

By closing IYC Joliet, the Agency will have to distribute the offenders back into other youth centers from where they have likely been taken due to escalated incidences. The strides that IYC Joliet employees will have made with this special group of youth will be diminished with their return to centers with other offenders that they may have had issues within the past.

It is imperative to vote against the closure of this youth center where they are specialized in taking care of the most dangerous youth offenders, striving toward turning around the future of this special group of youths. IYC Joliet is vital to the Agency because of its special strategies and efforts designed specifically with this particular group of youths in mind. It is of the utmost importance that this Commission consider first of the safety of the employees and the youth offenders across the State of Illinois. We implore you on behalf of the employees across the State not to support the closure of IYC Joliet Correctional Center.

Sincerely,



Steve Ruiz

President, LIUNA, Local 2002, ISEA

Cc: *COGFA Members*  
*Dan Long, Executive Director, COGFA*

**ADVISORY BOARD  
To the  
Department of Juvenile Justice**

March 28, 2012

Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg  
Representative Patricia R. Bellock  
Co-Chairs  
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
703 Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Joliet IYC Facility Closure Hearing April 4, 2012

Dear COGFA Co-Chairs and Members:

The Advisory Board to the Department of Juvenile Justice supports the proposal of the Governor and the Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice to close the Illinois Youth Center in Joliet.

At the outset, we wish to clarify that this recommendation is no reflection on the hard work of the committed Department of Juvenile Justice leadership and staff. Rather, it reflects a growing national recognition that incarceration does not effectively rehabilitate youth.

The Dept. of Juvenile Justice was created in 2006 with a statutory mission to “provide treatment and services through a **comprehensive continuum of individualized educational, vocational, social, emotional, and basic life skills to enable youth to avoid delinquent futures and become productive, fulfilled citizens.**” 730 ILCS 5/3-2.5-5. The statute creating the Department of Juvenile Justice mandated the creation of an Advisory Board, statutorily required to advise the Director on policy matters and programs of the Department, and to establish, with the Director and the Office of the Governor, outcome measures to ensure the successful fulfillment of the statutory mission of the Department. 730 ILCS 5/3-2.5-65. The DJJ Advisory Board has met quarterly since its appointment to review and comment on the progress of the Dept. of Juvenile Justice. Over the past years, members of the DJJ Advisory Board and members of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission have jointly “adopted” individual DJJ youth facilities in order to acquire first hand knowledge of the reforms taking place within the eight juvenile facilities.

Last fall the Advisory Board to the Department of Juvenile Justice supported the recommendation of the Director to close IYC Murphysboro, following a briefing by the Director and extensive discussion and review of relevant materials.

Recently, the Advisory Board met in Chicago on March 1, 2012 and was briefed by the Director and his staff about the Governor’s proposal to close both Murphysboro and Joliet IYC, and the implications of the closures. Following the briefing, and having reviewed the relevant written materials filed with COGFA, the DJJ Advisory Board members listed below who participated in the meeting unanimously voted to support the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice for the closure of both IYC Murphysboro and of IYC Joliet, as filed with the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability earlier this year. In support, DJJ Advisory Board members noted the decrease in Department population, the increase in per bed costs, the availability of vacant beds in other Department facilities for the youth,

There are several recommendations that the DJJ Advisory Board members request be considered when closing the facility and transferring youth, including the following:

1. The DJJ Advisory Board urges that youth housed in Joliet IYC at the time of closing be moved to a youth facility as close, or closer, to home;
2. The DJJ Advisory Board urges that youth housed in Joliet IYC at the time of closing be moved to facilities that meet the classification needs of the youth;
3. The DJJ Advisory Board urges that the Illinois Legislature ensure the Dept. of Juvenile Justice have adequate resources to provide services, treatment and programming for the youth in its care; and
4. The DJJ Advisory Board urges that the State of Illinois use incarceration of youth only as a last resort, per the increasing body of research and documentation that community based alternatives are as effective, or more effective, than incarceration in providing for the public's safety and in rehabilitating youth in conflict with the law.

The DJJ Advisory Board took particular note of a new publication released last fall from the Annie E. Casey Foundation – *“No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration”* (Oct., 2011). The report notes that 18 states have closed more than 50 juvenile prisons within the past four years, and concludes there is a growing consensus among experts that the current incarceration model provides little public safety benefit. [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org) The report conducts a comprehensive review of research and new data on the effectiveness and costs of juvenile incarceration and concludes there is now “overwhelming evidence that the wholesale incarceration of juvenile offenders is a failed strategy” for combating youth crime since it does not reduce future offending, does not enhance public safety, wastes taxpayer dollars and exposes youth to violence and abuse.

For these reasons, we urge support for the recommendation of the Director to close IYC-Joliet We will be happy to provide further information or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Clarke*

Elizabeth Clarke

Chair, Juvenile Advisory Board

On Behalf of the Juvenile Advisory Board to the Department of Juvenile Justice

**Advisory Board Members Who Participated in this decision:** Walter Brandon, Elizabeth Clarke, David Olson, Terry Solomon, Randolph Stone, Rick Velasquez, and Mark Hassakis.

Advisory Board member Eva Annetta Wilson also supports this recommendation.

Cc: Arthur Bishop, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Toni Irving, Office of the Governor

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**JACK MCGUIRE**  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER  
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 30, 2012

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
ATTN: Facility Closure  
703 Stratton Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

CGFA Commission Members:

I am providing testimony today in opposition to the proposed closing of IYC- Joliet. As a legislator, I am faced with making choices on fiscal issues that compare financial savings to the responsibility of government to provide critical services. While I understand the strain currently placed on the Department of Juvenile Justice, I hold the rehabilitation and safety of our youth in high regard.

IYC- Joliet is an important piece of our local community and also to the juvenile justice system. The individuals who work with the youth at IYC- Joliet are faced with the task of providing our children with an opportunity to repay their debt to society and also to create a path to becoming responsible citizens. IYC-Joliet has been a consistent leader among juvenile institutions in advancing the fundamental philosophy created by the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. A philosophy that believes in the individual care of our youths by highly trained staff with the purpose of protecting public safety by reducing the rate of recidivism.

The inmates of this facility have been committed for a variety of crimes which include: 1st degree murder, manslaughter, aggravated battery with great bodily harm, criminal sexual assault of a child (under 4 years of age), kidnapping, home invasion, robbery, unlawful use of a weapon, manufacturing/delivery of controlled substance, etc. Even with the duty of working with the state's highest at risk youth population, the facility has dramatically lowered employee assaults, youth assaults, youth fights, use of force, use of restraints and use of confinement. There have been no escapes from IYC-Joliet largely based on the professional staff and the "physical structure" of this facility.

The "physical structure" which houses the young adults is due to the heinous and violent crimes they have committed or based on their negative behavior in a less restrictive environment. They have shown through choice and action that they cannot co-exist with a more vulnerable population. IYC- Joliet also serves as the closest juvenile facility outside of Chicago. This provides families that may be dealing with hardships for reasonable travel to visit their loved ones.

I respectfully urge that you take into consideration the work of the employees and positive results that continue to benefit our local community and state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack McGuire".

State Representative  
Jack McGuire  
Assistant Majority Leader  
86<sup>th</sup> District

# JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

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March 30, 2012

Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg  
Representative Patricia R. Bellock  
Co-Chairs  
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
703 Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Joliet IYC Facility Closure Hearing April 4, 2012

Dear COGFA Co-Chairs and Members:

The Juvenile Justice Initiative supports the proposal of the Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice to close the IYC-Joliet.

Attached is a position paper summarizing the policy rationale behind our recommendation that Illinois close one or more of its eight juvenile prisons. While the current Director and staff have worked diligently to improve conditions within the juvenile facilities, it is simply not sustainable to administer operations at eight separate facilities with a total capacity of housing 1,754 youth for the rapidly diminishing juvenile population hovering around 1,000 youth.

We also note, this is part of a national trend to shift state financial investment from costly and ineffective institutional care to individualized community based care. As a recent national report notes, **18 states have closed over 50 juvenile prisons since 2007**. States including Texas, California, Ohio and New York have shifted some of the savings to community based care. As other states have concluded, good public policy and smart budgeting argue for closure of one or more of the eight juvenile prisons in Illinois with a shift of savings to community programming.

For too long we have invested scarce state resources in institutional confinement, spending over \$100 million annually to confine youth, but less than \$3 million at the front end to keep youth out through Redeploy Illinois – and providing virtually no state resources to keep youth from returning through juvenile aftercare services. Despite the miniscule state investment to keep youth out of confinement, we have seen dramatic reductions in the number of youth committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. Shifting some of the savings from closing one – or more – youth facilities to community-based alternatives would continue this positive trend of reduced juvenile offending, thereby improving public safety and providing more resources for youth across the state.

Attached is the report on national juvenile deincarceration trends issued last fall from the Annie E Casey Foundation, *No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration*, (Oct., 2011), [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). As the report concludes, there is now “overwhelming evidence that the wholesale incarceration of juvenile offenders is a failed strategy” for reducing juvenile crime.

We have also attached a report from the federal Dept. of Justice, reviewing a longitudinal study (Pathways to Desistance, funded by the MacArthur Foundation) on juvenile offenders that includes findings documenting the inefficacy of longer juvenile incarcerations on decreasing repeat offending. <http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=253020>

Thank you for your attention to this proposed facility closure. We will be happy to answer any questions or provide further information.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Clarke  
President  
Juvenile Justice Initiative

# JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

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EVANSTON, IL 60201  
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WWW.JJUSTICE.ORG

April, 2012

## THE CASE FOR CLOSING ONE OR MORE OF THE EIGHT JUVENILE PRISONS IN ILLINOIS *Shift Limited State Dollars to Front End to Protect Public Less Cost – Better Outcomes*

In his budget message, Gov. Pat Quinn announced plans to deal with a budget shortfall by closing two juvenile prisons.

The fact is, good public policy and smart budgeting argue for closure of several of the eight juvenile prisons in Illinois. A national report concluded last fall, there is now **“overwhelming evidence that the wholesale incarceration of juvenile offenders is a failed strategy”** for reducing juvenile crime.<sup>1</sup> With a rapidly decreasing juvenile population, and a high failure rate (half the youth end up recommitted following parole violations), incarceration must be the last resort for youth in conflict with the law in Illinois. Despite the \$86,861 per bed cost, youth receive only the bare essentials, rather than the individualized services possible with less costly community-based alternatives. Thus, outcomes for public safety and youth rehabilitation are better with community alternatives. The time has come to shift our state’s investment to evidence-based services at the local level, to ensure better outcomes for less cost.

In stark contrast to serious overcrowding conditions in the adult correctional system, commitments to the eight juvenile prisons have declined significantly in recent years, and the juvenile system is far below its capacity. From a high of over 2,300 youth incarcerated in 1997, today there are fewer than 1,050<sup>2</sup> – less than half the number held fifteen years ago. As a result, per-bed costs have skyrocketed at the same time the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has struggled to provide adequate schooling and counseling needed to rehabilitate juveniles in the eight prisons.<sup>3</sup> The \$86,861 per bed cost covers only the minimum necessities – personnel, food, utilities, etc. Little is left for individualized counseling and services.

Even if state government were not facing a budget crisis, good policy dictates that Gov. Quinn and lawmakers should downsize the juvenile prisons and should invest some of the savings in community services that local courts could use to respond to juvenile offenders, who would benefit from individualized drug and alcohol treatment, mentoring, counseling and other services.

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<sup>1</sup> *No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration*, (Oct., 2011), [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)

<sup>2</sup> 1,023 on March 30, 2012

<sup>3</sup> The per bed cost, as of March 30, 2012, was \$86,861.

**ILLINOIS CAN DO MORE TO REFORM JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER by shifting savings to community alternatives.**

While making the state’s juvenile prison system more cost efficient, Illinois can do a better job of rehabilitating the juveniles committed to its prisons and can free resources needed in our communities to keep juveniles accountable for their crimes and connect them and their families to counseling and other rehabilitation services that can prevent future crimes. Studies of similar youth assigned by random to prison or community services show that youth diverted from incarceration fare substantially better long-term than those sent to prison.<sup>4</sup>

**THE DATA . . .**  
**STEADY DECLINE IN NUMBER OF JUVENILES SENT TO STATE PRISONS**

In recent years, there has been a steady decline in the number of youth committed to DJJ prisons. Between FY 05 and FY 11, there has been a 30 percent drop in average daily population from 1,603 to 1,113, and the decrease has continued into FY12, with the Department reporting 1,023 youth in the facilities on March 30, 2012.

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION <sup>5</sup></b>
FY97	2,300 (estimate)
FY 05	1,603
FY 06	1459
FY 07	1,428
FY 08	1,364
FY 09	1,329
FY 10	1,192
FY 11	1,113
March 30, 2012	1,023

**The decline is consistent with national trends and attributable** to Illinois’ investment in community-based alternatives, including Redeploy Illinois, and a new statutory clarification that juvenile incarceration must be the last resort.

**UNLIKE ADULT PRISONS, JUVENILE PRISONS ARE FAR BELOW CAPACITY**

The eight juvenile prisons have a combined capacity of 1,754, but the average daily population is now below 1,050. Operating prisons at 60 percent of capacity is not cost effective. By reducing the number of juvenile prisons, the state can save money on management salaries, facility maintenance, utilities and more. System costs can be reduced without overcrowding the remaining juvenile prisons.

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<sup>4</sup> ***Highlights from Pathways to Desistance – A Longitudinal Study of Serious Adolescent Offenders***, OJJDP March, 2011,  
<http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=253020>

<sup>5</sup> Sources: DJJ Administration, DJJ audit, state budget documents and the Criminal Justice Information Authority

### **SKYROCKETING PER-BED COSTS**

The reduction in the number of incarcerated juveniles without closing any of the eight prisons across Illinois has caused per-bed operation costs to skyrocket. It is worth noting that the current per-bed cost provides only minimal necessities, with the majority of the price tag going to personnel, and some for food, utilities, etc. Little remains for individualized services like counseling, vocational and individualized educational services, and treatment services.

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>PER-BED COST<sup>6</sup></b>
FY 07	\$70,915
FY 08	\$78,846

March 30, 2012 – cost per bed estimated to be \$86,861.

### **CHANGING RESPONSE TO JUVENILE CRIME IN ILLINOIS**

More than 100 years ago, the nation's first juvenile court was established in Cook County – a recognition that juveniles are different from adults because of their limited capacity to understand and make “adult” decisions. Over the years, the response to juvenile crime changed and the juvenile system became more “adultified” with more emphasis on punishment and less on rehabilitation. The results included higher numbers of youth in prisons that provided fewer services, leading to high failure rates with half the youth returning to juvenile prison within three years.

***As the juvenile prisons failed more youth, Illinois shifted to reinvestment strategies, like Redeploy Illinois.*** More recently, we have learned from research into the development of the brain that the brain systems providing for impulse control are still maturing during adolescence, and evidence-based practices point to more successful rehabilitation for youth outside prison walls. In response, the juvenile justice system in Illinois has increased efforts to implement evidence-based practices that stop reoffending by treating youth in the community. Illinois' fiscal reinvestment model of **Redeploy Illinois**, shifting state resources to community based alternatives to juvenile prisons, has demonstrated success at diverting over 200 youth annually and is a nationally acclaimed model.

***Redeploy Illinois - Counties using evidence based practices to divert youth from prison and from future offending*** - Illinois has encouraged counties to rehabilitate their juveniles in their home communities by providing state resources to enable local communities to provide the services they know are most effective for their local youth who need help becoming good citizens. The Redeploy Illinois program, which began in 2005 as a pilot at four sites, offers financial support to counties willing to reduce the number of juveniles committed to state prisons by 25 percent. Counties participating in Redeploy Illinois use evidence based practices to provide individualized services to youthful offenders. The results are dramatically more successful than youth prison. The successful reduction of commitments to state youth prisons convinced state leaders to increase Redeploy Illinois opportunities statewide. Community based alternatives save the state money while reducing youth crime. If the state had closed beds as a result of diverting 184 youth from prison in 2010, for example, there would have been a

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<sup>6</sup> Sources: DJJ Administration, DJJ audit, and state budget documents

\$9 million savings to the state, according to a cost benefit analysis by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

## **CONCLUSION**

The move away from incarceration for juvenile offenders is part of a national trend to shift state financial investment from costly and ineffective institutional care to individualized community based care. As a recent national report notes, **18 states have closed over 50 juvenile prisons since 2007.**<sup>7</sup> States including Texas, California, Ohio and New York have closed many of their juvenile prisons and shifted some of the savings to community based care. As other states have concluded, good public policy and smart budgeting argue for closure of one or more of the eight juvenile prisons in Illinois with a shift of savings to community programming.

For too long we have invested scarce state resources in institutional confinement, spending over \$100 million annually to confine youth, but less than \$3 million at the front end to keep youth out through Redeploy Illinois – and providing virtually no state resources to keep youth from returning through juvenile aftercare services. Despite the miniscule state investment to keep youth out of confinement, we have seen dramatic reductions in the number of youth committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice, and better outcomes in public safety. Shifting some of the savings from closing one – or more – youth facilities to community-based alternatives would continue this positive trend of reduced juvenile offending, thereby improving public safety and providing more resources for youth across the state.

Even if state government were not facing a budget crisis, good policy dictates that Gov. Quinn and lawmakers should downsize the juvenile prisons and should invest some of the savings in community services that local courts could use to respond to juvenile offenders, who would benefit from individualized drug and alcohol treatment, mentoring, counseling and other services.

**For additional information or comment, contact:  
Elizabeth Clarke,  
President, Juvenile Justice Initiative  
847-864-1567  
847-894-4206 (cell)**

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<sup>7</sup> *No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration*, (Oct., 2011), [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)

## **ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

For more information about trends in juvenile justice reform, visit the website of Models for Change, an initiative of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation:  
[www.modelsforchange.net](http://www.modelsforchange.net)

*No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration*, (Oct., 2011), [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)

***Highlights from Pathways to Desistance – A Longitudinal Study of Serious Adolescent Offenders***, OJJDP March, 2011,  
<http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=253020>

“The Costs of Confinement: Why Good Juvenile Justice Policies Make Good Fiscal Sense,” a report by the Justice Policy Institute: <http://www.justicepolicy.org/research/78>

See cost benefit analysis of Redeploy Illinois here:  
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=55824&newssidebar=27893>

See annual Redeploy Illinois report here: [http://www.jjustice.org/pdf/Redeploy\\_Report\\_Jan\\_2010.pdf](http://www.jjustice.org/pdf/Redeploy_Report_Jan_2010.pdf)

Charts from Illinois Auditor General William G. Holland’s supplemental digest of Department of Juvenile Justice, August 2011: <http://www.auditor.illinois.gov/Audit-Reports/Compliance-Agency-List/Corrections/DOJJ/FY10-DOJJ-Supplemental-Digest.pdf>

The Juvenile Justice Project of the John Howard Association of Illinois:  
<http://thejha.org/jjp>

The website of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice: <http://www.idjj.state.il.us/>

The website of the Juvenile Justice Initiative: <http://www.jjustice.org/>



# Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission

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April 13, 2012

The Honorable Jeffrey Schoenberg, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Patricia Bellock, Co-Chair  
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
ATTN: Facility Closure  
703 Stratton Building  
Room 703  
Springfield, IL 62706

## Re: Department of Juvenile Justice Proposal to Close IYC Joliet

Dear Sen. Schoenberg and Rep. Bellock:

On behalf of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, I submit this letter and accompanying materials outlining the Commission's position on the proposed closure of the IYC Joliet youth prison (hereinafter "IYC Joliet"). Under Illinois law, it is the duty of the Commission to advise the General Assembly on matters of effective juvenile delinquency intervention. Consistent with that duty – and the April 4, 2012 testimony of Commissioner Julie Biehl (see attached testimony) – the Commission submits that closing a Department of Juvenile Justice facility and shifting resources to community-based services and supervision protects public safety, is fiscally responsible, and improves the outcomes of Illinois youth in conflict with the law.

The national juvenile crime rate is at its lowest since 1980 and Illinois has been no exception to this trend.

- **As of 2009, the Illinois juvenile crime rate has fallen nearly 50 percent since 1994. In one year alone, 2008-09, the juvenile arrests for violent crime decreased 10 percent.**
- **The Department of Juvenile Justice has 1,754 beds, and a current population of 1,031 youth.**

Research has shown that states that reduced their rates of juvenile confinement reported greater declines in juvenile violent crime (see attached report). Nationally, states are responding to these diminishing crime rates and best practice research by downsizing their juvenile prison systems. Since 2007, 18 states – including Texas and Ohio – have closed more than fifty juvenile prisons with several states proposing more closures this year.

While no member of the Commission takes lightly the potential local economic hardship caused by facilities closures, the Commission notes the growing body of research that shows the positive impacts of community-based services and supervision as opposed to incarceration-based models. A 2011 longitudinal study on serious offenders, supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, found that lengthy commitments in juvenile detention facilities did not reduce recidivism rates for serious offenders and that incarceration actually increased recidivism rates for low-level offenders (see attached report).

- **The study further found that community-based alternatives, as a component of aftercare, reduced recidivism rates among low-level and serious offenders.**
- **The Illinois Auditor General estimated that Illinois spent \$86,861 to incarcerate one youth for one year, while many community-based programs are proven to reduce recidivism rates cost only \$3,300 - \$11,000 annually per youth.**

In a time of fiscal crisis, Illinois must invest in what works. Closing facilities could improve public safety and save tax-payers \$23,971,000.

At the hearing, questions were raised regarding the closure of the State's only "maximum security" prison for juveniles. It is important to note that security level designations are set by the Department director. Director Arthur Bishop has the authority to designate one of the State's seven remaining youth facilities as maximum security.

For the reasons outlined in this letter and enclosures, the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission supports the closure of one or more Department of Juvenile Justice facilities and urges you to do what is fiscally sound and in the interest of public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. Timberlake", written in a cursive style.

Hon. George W. Timberlake, Retired  
Chairman, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission

CC: Director Arthur Bishop, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice  
Dan Long, Executive Director, Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
Toni Irving, Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor Pat Quinn

**Encl.**

## Issue Brief

# NO PLACE FOR KIDS

## The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

A new report, *No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration*, published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, assembles decades of research as well as persuasive new data to demonstrate that America's heavy reliance on juvenile incarceration has not paid off, and in fact, is a failed strategy for combating youth crime.

The latest official national count of youth in custody, conducted in 2007, found that roughly 60,500 U.S. youths were confined in correctional facilities or other residential programs each night on the order of a juvenile delinquency court. The largest share of committed youth—about 40 percent of the total, disproportionately youth of color—are held in locked long-term correctional facilities operated by state governments or private contractors hired by states.

There is compelling evidence that our nation's heavy reliance on youth incarceration:

- Does not reduce future offending by confined youth;
- Provides no overall benefit to public safety;
- Wastes taxpayer dollars; and
- Exposes youth to high levels of violence and abuse.

The report notes that a significant movement away from juvenile incarceration is already underway. Prompted by state budget crises and scandals over abuse in many institutions, more than 50 juvenile corrections facilities have been shut down since 2007 in 18 states. Although these closures signal positive action is being taken, sustainable system improvements will require the mobilization of a coordinated juvenile corrections reform movement.

### YOUTH INCARCERATION DOES NOT REHABILITATE

Dozens of recidivism studies from systems across the nation have found that these facilities fail to place youth on the path to success. Re-offending rates for youth released from juvenile correctional facilities are almost uniformly high.

- Within three years of release, around 75 percent of youth are rearrested and 45 to 72 percent are convicted of a new offense.
- In New York State, 89 percent of boys and 81 percent of girls released from state juvenile corrections institutions in the early 1990s were rearrested as adults by age 28.

Nationally, just 12 percent of the nearly 150,000 youth placed into residential programs by delinquency courts in 2007 had committed any of the four most serious violent crimes—aggravated assault, robbery, rape, or homicide. Yet, incarceration has been found to be especially ineffective for less-serious youth offenders.

- In a recent Ohio study, low- and moderate-risk youth placed into correctional facilities were five times more likely to be incarcerated for subsequent offenses than comparable youth placed in community supervision programs.
- In Florida, a 2007 study found that low-risk youth placed into residential facilities not only re-offended at a higher rate than similar youth who remained in the community, they also re-offended at higher rates than high-risk youth placed into correctional facilities.

Finally, research shows that incarceration reduces youths' future success in education and the labor market. One study found that correctional confinement at age 16 or earlier leads to a 26 percent lower chance of graduating high school by age 19. Other studies show that incarceration during adolescence results in substantial and long-lasting reductions in employment.

## **REDUCING INCARCERATION DOES NOT UNDERMINE PUBLIC SAFETY**

Between 1997 and 2007, the percent of U.S. youth confined in residential facilities declined 24 percent, while the percent incarcerated in long-term secure care correctional institutions plummeted 41 percent. Despite the reduced use of incarceration, juvenile crime rates fell across the board from 1997 to 2007, including a 27 percent drop in juvenile arrests for serious violent crimes.

Examining the data in more detail, the report finds no evidence that sharp reductions in juvenile incarceration cause any increase in juvenile crime or violence.

- States that decreased juvenile confinement rates most sharply (40 percent or more) saw a greater decline in juvenile violent crime arrest rates than states that increased their youth confinement rates or decreased them more modestly (less than 40 percent).
- In California, the population in state youth corrections facilities has declined 85 percent since 1996. Yet California's juvenile crime rates have declined substantially during this period of rapid de-incarceration. In 2009, California's juvenile arrest rate for violent crimes fell to its lowest level since 1970.

## **THESE FACILITIES WASTE TAXPAYER DOLLARS**

Nationwide, taxpayers spent about \$5 billion in 2008 to confine youthful offenders in juvenile institutions.

Most states spend the bulk of their juvenile justice budgets on correctional institutions and other residential

placements. According to the American Correctional Association, the average daily cost nationwide to incarcerate one juvenile offender in 2008 was \$241. This means that the cost of the average 9 to 12 month stay of one youth is \$66,000 to \$88,000. This heavy investment in correctional confinement makes little sense given the powerful evidence showing that non-residential programming options deliver equal or better results for a fraction of the cost.

- Florida's Redirection Program provides evidence-based, family-focused treatment as an alternative to residential placements for less-serious youth offenders. Redirection participants are significantly less likely than comparable youth placed in residential facilities to be arrested for a new crime, convicted of a new felony, or sentenced to an adult prison. From 2004 to 2008, the Redirection Program saved \$41.6 million through reduced program costs and lower spending to prosecute and punish subsequent crimes.
- The Washington State Institute for Public Policy has estimated that placing one young person in Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care, where troubled and delinquent youth live with specially trained foster families while their parents receive counseling and parent training, saves \$96,000 in reduced costs to victims and the criminal justice system.

## **THESE FACILITIES ARE OFTEN VIOLENT AND ABUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS**

In the past four decades, recurring violence, abuse, and maltreatment have been documented in the publicly funded youth corrections facilities in at least 39 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This disturbing trend is not improving. In 22 of those states (and the District of Columbia) maltreatment has been documented since 2000.

- In 2010, the first national study on sexual abuse in juvenile corrections found that 12 percent of confined youth—more than 3,000 young people—reported

being victimized sexually by staff or other youth in their facilities.

- A 2008 Associated Press story found that 13,000 claims of abuse had been reported from 2004 through 2007 in state-run juvenile facilities nationwide.
- In the first nationally representative survey of confined youth, published in April 2010, 42 percent said they were somewhat or very afraid of being physically attacked, 45 percent said that staff use force against youth when they don't need to, and 30 percent said that staff place youth in solitary confinement as a form of discipline.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Limit Eligibility for Correctional Placements

*States should impose new restrictions that limit incarceration to youth who have committed serious offenses and pose a clear and demonstrable risk to public safety.* For instance, Texas enacted a new law in 2007 allowing state correctional commitments only for youth found guilty of felony crimes, and California now permits only youth who have committed violent felonies to be placed in state facilities. Other states have prohibited commitments for low-level offenses except for youth with serious histories of prior offending. Youth should be placed into correctional facilities based only on their crimes committed and risk of re-offense—not on their perceived needs for mental health or behavioral treatment.

### 2. Invest in Promising Non-Residential Alternatives

*States should redirect funds previously spent on incarceration to support a continuum of high-quality treatment and supervision programs.* States should give top priority to proven family intervention models, such as Multisystemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, and Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care, which currently serve only a small fraction of youth who might benefit nationwide. States should also expand access to career preparation and vocational training programs; intensive youth advocate and mentoring programs; and promising

models for specialized mental health and substance abuse treatment.

### 3. Change the Financial Incentives for Incarcerating Youth

*States should revamp funding mechanisms to increase the incentives for local courts to treat delinquent youth in their home communities whenever possible.* In too many jurisdictions, local juvenile justice officials face a perverse choice between offering youth cost-effective community-based programming (at the expense of local governments) or committing them to more expensive and less effective custody programs (often funded entirely by the states). California, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Wayne County, Michigan, among others, have adopted funding formulas that increase the incentives for local supervision and treatment.

### 4. Adopt Best Practice Reforms for Managing Youthful Offenders

*States and localities should implement complementary policies and practices that have proven useful for safely reducing the number of youth confined in correctional facilities.* States and localities should limit lengths of stay in correctional facilities and other residential placements, given the research finding that longer periods of incarceration—especially stays over one year—do not reduce future offending, add to state youth corrections budgets, and harm youths' prospects for success in adult life. States should also embrace detention reforms that safely steer many youth away from pre-trial detention centers and reduce the odds they will be placed into correctional facilities. Finally, states should limit correctional placements based on probation rules violations, which account for one in every eight commitments to secure custody.

### 5. Replace Large Institutions With Small, Treatment-Oriented Facilities for the Dangerous Few

*States should place serious and chronic youth offenders into small, humane, and treatment-oriented facilities, such as those operated by Missouri's Division of Youth Services (DYS).* Missouri has divided the state into five regions

and built a continuum of programs in each. The secure-care facilities house just 30–36 young people. Youth are placed in small groups that participate in education, treatment, meals, and recreation. DYS staff engage the families to help devise successful reentry plans and assign a single case manager to oversee each youth from commitment through release and aftercare, providing extensive supervision and support in the critical reentry period. Through this approach, Missouri’s re-offending rates are far lower than other states.

## 6. Use Data to Hold Youth Corrections Systems Accountable

*States should collect more and better information about correctional programs and use the data to hold systems accountable.* States must carefully measure re-offense rates of youth released from juvenile correctional facilities, employing rigorous methodologies to track re-offending into early adulthood. States should also monitor youths’ progress after release in education, employment, and mental and behavioral health. To minimize the risks of abuse, states should closely monitor conditions of confinement in juvenile facilities, and ensure that all facilities maintain grievance processes that allow confined youth to report maltreatment and obtain a fair hearing. Finally, given the continuing racial disparities at all levels of our nation’s juvenile justice systems, every state and locality should be collecting and analyzing data to identify and correct practices that unfairly impact youth based on their race or ethnicity.

## CONCLUSION

The evidence presented in *No Place for Kids* makes clear that heavy reliance on juvenile incarceration is a counterproductive public policy for combating youth crime. It is time to act on this information by abandoning the long-standing incarceration model and embracing a more constructive, humane, and cost-effective approach to youth corrections.

The substantial decreases in reliance on youth prisons over the past decade are significant. However, these reductions have neither been anchored in a strong new national consensus among policy leaders, nor based on comprehensive changes to policy, practice, programming, and financing that will be critical to ensure sustainable, effective alternative responses to juvenile crime.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation hopes that this report can serve as a catalyst for building a new movement for enlightened juvenile corrections reform. If states adopt the recommendations and best practices highlighted in *No Place for Kids* and reallocate funds currently spent on incarceration to more constructive supervision and treatment strategies, there is every reason to believe that the end result will be less crime and more successful futures for America’s young people.

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The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. For more than two decades, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has supported efforts to reform the juvenile justice system. Its Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a system reform project aimed at reducing unnecessary and inappropriate reliance on local detention centers, is active in 35 states and the District of Columbia. **To read the report, *No Place for Kids*, and find more information, visit [www.aecf.org/noplacforkids](http://www.aecf.org/noplacforkids).**

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*Juvenile Offenders and Victims:*

# National Report Series

*Bulletin*

December 2011

*This bulletin is part of the Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report Series. The National Report offers a comprehensive statistical overview of the problems of juvenile crime, violence, and victimization and the response of the juvenile justice system. During each interim year, the bulletins in the National Report Series provide access to the latest information on juvenile arrests, court cases, juveniles in custody, and other topics of interest. Each bulletin in the series highlights selected topics at the forefront of juvenile justice policymaking, giving readers focused access to statistics on some of the most critical issues. Together, the National Report and this series provide a baseline of facts for juvenile justice professionals, policymakers, the media, and concerned citizens.*

## Juvenile Arrests 2009

Charles Puzzanchera and Benjamin Adams

### A Message From OJJDP

This bulletin, which draws on data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, summarizes crimes known to the police and juvenile arrests made during the 2009 reporting year. The authors use the UCR data to characterize the extent and nature of juvenile crime that comes to the attention of the justice system. This information also serves as a benchmark for juvenile justice professionals and other concerned citizens who wish to assess America's progress in reducing juvenile delinquency.

Contrary to the popular perception that juvenile crime is on the rise, the data reported in this bulletin tell a different story. As detailed in these pages, juvenile arrests for violent offenses declined 10% between 2008 and 2009, and overall juvenile arrests fell 9% during that same period. Between 1994—when the Violent Crime Index arrest rates for juveniles hit a historic high—and 2009, the rate fell nearly 50% to its lowest level since at least 1980. Arrest rates for nearly every offense category for both male and female and white and minority youth were down in 2009.

Although such trends are encouraging, they should not lead to a misplaced sense of complacency. Juvenile crime and violence continue to plague many communities across the country. During the first decade of the 21st century (2000–2009), juvenile arrests for robbery rose 15%, and arrests for murder were unchanged. Clearly, our work is not finished.

OJJDP hopes that the information that this bulletin provides will inform our efforts to prevent and combat juvenile delinquency for the sake of our children and our nation.

Jeff Slowikowski  
Acting Administrator



Access OJJDP publications online at [ojjdp.gov](http://ojjdp.gov)

# Most information about law enforcement's response to juvenile crime comes from the FBI's UCR Program

## Since the 1930s, police agencies have reported to the UCR Program

Each year, thousands of police agencies voluntarily report the following data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program:

- Number of Index crimes reported to law enforcement (see sidebar).
- Number of arrests and the most serious charge involved in each arrest.
- Age, sex, and race of arrestees.
- Proportion of reported Index crimes cleared by arrest and the proportion of these Index crimes cleared by the arrest of persons younger than 18.
- Police dispositions of juvenile arrests.
- Detailed victim, assailant, and circumstance information in murder cases.

## What can the UCR arrest data tell us about crime and young people?

The UCR arrest data can provide estimates of the annual number of arrests of juveniles\* within specific offense categories. UCR data can also provide detail on juvenile arrests by sex, race, and type of location (urban, suburban, or rural area). The data can be used to compare the relative number of arrests of adults and juveniles within offense categories, to develop estimates of change in arrests over various periods, and to monitor the proportion of crimes cleared by arrests of juveniles.

\* In this bulletin, "juvenile" refers to persons younger than age 18. In 2009, this definition was at odds with the legal definition of juveniles in 13 states—10 states where all 17-year-olds are defined as adults and 3 states where all 16- and 17-year-olds are defined as adults.

## What do arrest statistics count?

To interpret the material in this bulletin properly, the reader needs a clear understanding of what these statistics count. Arrest statistics report the number of arrests that law enforcement agencies made in a given year—not the number of individuals arrested nor the number of crimes committed. The number of arrests is not the same as the number of people arrested because an unknown number of individuals are arrested more than once during the year. Nor do arrest statistics represent the number of crimes that arrested individuals commit because a series of crimes that one person commits may culminate in a single arrest, and a single crime may result in the arrest of more than one person. This latter situation, where many arrests result from one crime, is relatively common in juvenile law-violating behavior because juveniles are more likely than adults to commit crimes in groups. For this reason, one should not use arrest statistics to indicate the relative proportions of crime that juveniles and adults commit. Arrest statistics are most appropriately a measure of entry into the justice system.

Arrest statistics also have limitations in measuring the volume of arrests for a particular offense. Under the UCR Program, the FBI requires law enforcement agencies to classify an arrest by the most serious offense charged in that arrest. For example, the arrest of a youth charged with aggravated assault and possession of a weapon would be reported to the FBI as an arrest for aggravated assault. Therefore, when arrest statistics show that law enforcement agencies made an estimated 33,900 arrests of young people for weapons law violations in 2009, it means that a weapons law violation was

the most serious charge in these 33,900 arrests. An unknown number of additional arrests in 2009 included a weapons charge as a lesser offense.

## What are the Crime Indexes?

The designers of the UCR Program wanted to create an index (similar in concept to the Dow Jones Industrial Average or the Consumer Price Index) that would be sensitive to changes in the volume and nature of reported crime. They decided to incorporate specific offenses into the index, based on several factors: likelihood of being reported, frequency of occurrence, pervasiveness in all geographical areas of the country, and relative seriousness.

The Crime Index is divided into two components: the Violent Crime Index and the Property Crime Index.

**Violent Crime Index**—Includes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

**Property Crime Index**—Includes burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Although some violent crimes, such as kidnapping and extortion, are excluded, the Violent Crime Index contains what are generally considered to be serious crimes. In contrast, a substantial proportion of the crimes in the Property Crime Index are generally considered less serious crimes, such as shoplifting, theft from motor vehicles, and bicycle theft, all of which are included in the larceny-theft category.

## What do clearance statistics count?

Clearance statistics measure the proportion of reported crimes that were cleared (or “closed”) by either arrest or other, exceptional means (such as the death of the offender or unwillingness of the victim to cooperate). A single arrest may result in many clearances. For example, 1 arrest could clear 10 burglaries if the person was charged with committing all 10 crimes. Or multiple arrests may result in a single clearance if a group of offenders committed the crime. For those interested in juvenile justice issues, the FBI also reports the proportion of clearances that involved only offenders younger than age 18. This statistic is a better indicator of the proportion of crime that this age group commits than is the proportion of arrests, although there are some concerns that even the clearance statistic overestimates the proportion of crimes that juveniles commit.

Most serious offense	Percent involving juveniles	
	Clearance	Arrest
Violent Crime Index	11%	15%
Property Crime Index	15	24
Murder	5	9
Forcible rape	11	14
Robbery	15	25
Aggravated assault	10	12
Burglary	15	25
Larceny-theft	18	24
Motor vehicle theft	15	24
Arson	35	44

**Data source:** *Crime in the United States 2009*, (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010), tables 28 and 38.

Research has shown that juvenile offenders are more easily apprehended than adult offenders; thus, the juvenile proportion of clearances probably overestimates juveniles’ responsibility for crime. To add to the difficulty in interpreting clearance statistics, the FBI’s reporting guidelines require that clearances involving both juvenile and adult offenders be classified as clearances for crimes that adults commit. Because the juvenile clearance proportions include only those clearances in

which no adults were involved, they underestimate juvenile involvement in crime. Although these data do not present a definitive picture of juvenile involvement in crime, they are the closest measure generally available of the proportion of crime known to law enforcement that is attributed to persons younger than age 18.

## How are national estimates of arrests calculated?

The FBI’s *Crime in the United States (CIUS)* report presents a detailed snapshot of crime and arrests voluntarily reported by local law enforcement agencies. Some agencies report data for a full calendar year, other agencies are “partial reporters” (i.e., their reported data cover less than 12 months), and some agencies do not report at all. Data from 12-month reporting agencies form the basis of the tables presented in the annual *CIUS* report. As such, *CIUS* presents a sample-based portrait of arrests that law enforcement agencies report. There is an exception, however. Each *CIUS* report includes one table that presents national estimates of arrests for 29 offense categories (in recent years, these estimates have been presented in table 29). In short, *CIUS* does not include national estimates for any subpopulation groups.

For nearly 2 decades, the National Center for Juvenile Justice developed national estimates of juvenile arrests based on data presented in *CIUS*; these estimates have been the basis of the *Juvenile Arrests* series since its inception in the 1990s. However, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) recently developed a new process that supplants the estimation procedure used in prior versions of this bulletin. The method that BJS uses takes advantage of more complete sample data reported to the FBI from local law enforcement agencies. To learn more about the BJS estimation process, see *Arrest in the United States, 1980–2009*, which is available from the BJS Web site ([bjs.gov](http://bjs.gov)).

## Crime in the United States reports data on murder victims

Each *Crime in the United States* report presents estimates of the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Although many crimes are never reported to law enforcement, murder is one crime that is nearly always reported.

An estimated 15,241 murders were reported to law enforcement agencies in 2009, or 5.0 murders for every 100,000 U.S. residents. The murder rate was essentially constant between 1999 (the year with the fewest murders in the past three decades) and 2008. Prior to 1999, the last year in which the murder rate was less than 6.0 was 1966.

Of all murder victims in 2009, 89% (or 13,710 victims) were 18 years old or older. The other 1,530 murder victims were younger than age 18 (i.e., juveniles). The number of juveniles murdered in 2009 was 4% more than the average number of juveniles murdered in the prior 5-year period and 39% less than the peak year of 1993, when an estimated 2,880 juveniles were murdered. During the same prior 5-year period, the estimated number of adult murder victims fell 33%.

Of all juveniles murdered in 2009, 36% were younger than age 5, 67% were male, and 49% were white. Of all juveniles murdered in 2009, 28% of male victims, 53% of female victims, 41% of white victims, and 32% of black victims were younger than age 5.

In 2008, 67% of all murder victims were killed with a firearm. Adults were more likely to be killed with a firearm (69%) than were juveniles (51%). However, the involvement of a firearm depended greatly on the age of the juvenile victim. In 2009, 18% of murdered juveniles younger than age 13 were killed with a firearm, compared with 80% of murdered juveniles age 13 or older. The most common method of murdering children younger than age 5 was by physical assault: in 48% of these murders, the offenders’ only weapons were their hands and/or feet, compared with only 3% of juvenile victims age 13 or older and 4% of adult victims.

# Law enforcement agencies in the U.S. made 1.9 million arrests of persons under age 18 in 2009

The number of arrests of juveniles in 2009 was 17% fewer than the number of arrests in 2000

Most serious offense	2009 estimated number of juvenile arrests	Percent of total juvenile arrests			Percent change		
		Female	Younger than 15	White	2000– 2009	2005– 2009	2008– 2009
<b>Total</b>	1,906,600	30%	27%	66%	-17%	-11%	-9%
<b>Violent Crime Index</b>	85,890	18	26	47	-13	-10	-10
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	1,170	7	9	40	0	-7	-7
Forcible rape	3,100	2	32	65	-30	-22	-6
Robbery	31,700	10	18	31	15	9	-10
Aggravated assault	49,900	25	30	56	-24	-19	-11
<b>Property Crime Index</b>	417,700	38	28	64	-19	0	-4
Burglary	74,800	11	27	61	-21	-4	-10
Larceny-theft	317,700	45	28	65	-12	8	-1
Motor vehicle theft	19,900	17	20	54	-61	-47	-20
Arson	5,300	13	59	77	-37	-33	-17
<b>Nonindex</b>							
Other assaults	219,700	34	37	59	-6	-12	-5
Forgery and counterfeiting	2,100	30	13	67	-66	-49	-17
Fraud	6,200	35	17	62	-62	-21	-15
Embezzlement	600	42	7	64	-68	-47	-52
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	18,700	19	22	55	-28	-16	-10
Vandalism	90,500	14	39	79	-20	-13	-15
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	33,900	10	31	61	-7	-25	-15
Prostitution and commercialized vice	1,400	78	12	40	-4	-16	-8
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	13,400	11	48	71	-23	-21	-7
Drug abuse violations	170,300	16	16	72	-14	-12	-5
Gambling	1,800	3	11	7	67	-13	9
Offenses against the family and children	4,500	36	28	74	-49	-21	-22
Driving under the influence	13,500	25	2	92	-37	-25	-15
Liquor laws	110,300	39	9	89	-15	-11	-15
Drunkenness	13,800	25	12	88	-37	-13	-11
Disorderly conduct	170,100	33	36	57	6	-17	-10
Vagrancy	2,700	28	24	72	-24	-29	-32
All other offenses (except traffic)	323,300	26	23	69	-17	-12	-10
Suspicion (not included in totals)	200	22	27	42	-82	-61	-20
Curfew and loitering	112,600	31	25	61	-27	-20	-15
Runaways	93,400	55	31	65	-34	-14	-14

■ In 2009, there were an estimated 317,700 juvenile arrests for larceny-theft. Between 2000 and 2009, the number of such arrests fell by 12%.

■ All four offenses that make up the Violent Crime Index decreased in the last year: murder (down 7%), rape (6%), robbery (10%), and aggravated assault (11%).

■ In 2009, females accounted for 18% of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests, 38% of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests, and 45% of juvenile larceny-theft arrests.

■ Youth younger than age 15 accounted for more than one-fourth of all juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses and Property Crime Index offenses in 2009 (26% and 28%, respectively).

**Note:** Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, released 9/22/11].

# The number of juvenile Violent Crime Index offense arrests in 2009 was the lowest in two decades

## Juvenile arrests for violence declined in 2009 for the third consecutive year

The FBI assesses trends in violent crimes by monitoring four offenses that law enforcement agencies nationwide consistently report. These four crimes—murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—form the Violent Crime Index.

Following 10 years of declines between 1994 and 2004, juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses increased from 2004 to 2006, then declined in each of the next 3 years. Given that the number of arrests in 2004 was less than in any year since 1987, the number of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests in 2009 was still relatively low. In fact, the number of juvenile violent crime arrests in 2009 was less than any year in the 1990s, and 14% less than the number of such arrests in 2006.

The number of juvenile arrests in 2009 for forcible rape was less than in any year since at least 1980, and the number of juvenile aggravated assault arrests in 2009 was less than in any year since 1987. In contrast, after also falling to a relatively low level in 2004, juvenile arrests for murder increased each year from 2005 to 2007, then declined 12% by 2009. However, juvenile arrests for robbery increased 43% from 2002 through 2008, then declined 10% by 2009.

Between 2000 and 2009, the number of arrests in most offense categories declined for juveniles but increased for adults:

Most serious offense	Percent change in arrests 2000–2009	
	Juvenile	Adult
Violent Crime Index	-13%	-6%
Murder	0	-7
Forcible rape	-30	-21
Robbery	15	21
Aggravated assault	-24	-10
Property Crime Index	-19	19
Burglary	-21	15
Larceny-theft	-12	27
Motor vehicle theft	-61	-37
Simple assault	-6	2
Weapons law violations	-7	8
Drug abuse violations	-14	8

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, released 9/22/11].

## Juvenile property crime arrests declined in 2009

As with violent crime, the FBI assesses trends in the volume of property crimes by monitoring four offenses that law enforcement agencies nationwide

consistently report. These four crimes, which form the Property Crime Index, are burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

For the period 1980–1994, during which juvenile violent crime arrests increased substantially, juvenile property crime arrests remained relatively constant. After this long period of relative stability, juvenile property crime arrests began to fall. Between 1994 and 2006, the number of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests fell by half to their lowest level since at least 1980. This long decline was interrupted briefly as the number of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests increased in 2007 and 2008. By 2009, the number of juvenile Property Crime Index arrests fell 4%, returning to the 2007 level. Between 2008 and 2009, there were declines in juvenile arrests for individual property offenses: burglary (10%), larceny-theft (1%), motor vehicle theft (20%), and arson (17%).

## Most arrested juveniles were referred to court

In most states, some persons younger than age 18 are, because of their age or by statutory exclusion, under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system. For arrested persons younger than age 18 and under the original jurisdiction of their state's juvenile justice system, the FBI's UCR Program monitors what happens as a result of the arrest. This is the only instance in the UCR Program in which the statistics on arrests coincide with state variations in the legal definition of a juvenile.

In 2009, 22% of arrests involving youth who were eligible in their state for

processing in the juvenile justice system were handled within law enforcement agencies and the youth were released, 67% were referred to juvenile court, and 9% were referred directly to criminal court. The others were referred to a welfare agency or to another police agency.

In 2009, the proportion of juvenile arrests sent to juvenile court in cities with a population of more than 250,000 was the same as the proportion sent to juvenile court in smaller cities (67% each).

**Data source:** *Crime in the United States 2009* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010), table 68.

# Female and minority proportions of juvenile arrests increased for many offenses between 2000 and 2009

## In 2009, females accounted for 30% of juvenile arrests

Law enforcement agencies made 578,500 arrests of females younger than age 18 in 2009. From 2000 through 2009, arrests of juvenile females decreased less than male arrests in several offense categories (e.g., aggravated assault, vandalism, and drug abuse violations); in some categories (e.g., simple assault, larceny-theft, and disorderly conduct), female arrests increased while male arrests decreased.

Most serious offense	Percent change in juvenile arrests 2000–2009	
	Female	Male
Violent Crime Index	-13%	-13%
Robbery	26	14
Aggravated assault	-20	-26
Simple assault	4	-11
Property Crime Index	3	-28
Burglary	-21	-22
Larceny-theft	9	-25
Motor vehicle theft	-60	-61
Vandalism	-13	-21
Weapons	-8	-7
Drug abuse violations	-7	-15
Liquor law violations	5	-24
Driving under influence	-9	-42
Disorderly conduct	25	-2

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, released 9/22/11].

Gender differences also occurred in the assault arrest trends for adults. Between 2000 and 2009, adult male arrests for aggravated assault fell 12% while female arrests fell 1%. Similarly, adult male arrests for simple assault fell 2% between 2000 and 2009 while adult female arrests rose 17%. Therefore, the female proportion of arrests grew for both types of assault. It is likely that the disproportionate growth in female assault arrests over this period was related to factors that affected both juveniles and adults.

Gender differences in arrest trends also increased the proportion of arrests involving females in other offense categories for both juveniles and adults. Between 2000 and 2009, the number of larceny-theft arrests of juvenile females grew 9% while juvenile male arrests declined 25%, and adult female arrests grew more than adult male arrests (54% and 12%, respectively). For Property Crime Index offenses, juvenile arrests declined for males and increased for females between 2000 and 2009, and adult arrests increased less for males (6%) than for females (49%).

## Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the U.S. juvenile population ages 10–17 in 2009 was 77% white, 16% black, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% American Indian. Most juveniles of Hispanic ethnicity were included in the white racial category. Of all juvenile

arrests for violent crimes in 2009, 47% involved white youth, 51% involved black youth, 1% involved Asian youth, and 1% involved American Indian youth. For property crime arrests, the proportions were 64% white youth, 33% black youth, 2% Asian youth, and 1% American Indian youth. Black youth were overrepresented in juvenile arrests.

Most serious offense	Black proportion of juvenile arrests in 2009
Murder	58%
Forcible rape	33
Robbery	67
Aggravated assault	42
Simple assault	39
Burglary	37
Larceny-theft	32
Motor vehicle theft	43
Weapons	37
Drug abuse violations	25
Vandalism	19
Liquor laws	6

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, released 9/22/11].

## One in nine violent crimes cleared was attributed to juveniles

The relative responsibility of juveniles and adults for crime is difficult to determine. Law enforcement agencies are more likely to clear (or “close”) crimes that juveniles commit than those that adults commit. Thus, law enforcement records may overestimate juvenile responsibility for crime.

Data on crimes cleared or closed by arrest or exceptional means show that the proportion of violent crimes cleared and attributed to juveniles has been rather constant in recent years, holding at about 12% over the past 10 years. Specifically, the proportions of both forcible rapes and aggravated assaults attributed to juveniles fluctuated

between 10% and 12% over this period, while the proportion of murders ranged between 5% and 6% and the proportion of robberies ranged between 14% and 16%.

In 2009, 17% of Property Crime Index offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means were cleared by the arrest of a juvenile. This was 1 percentage point less than the level in 2008; the level in 2009 was the lowest since at least the mid-1960s. For comparison, the proportion of Property Crime Index offenses that law enforcement attributed to juveniles was 28% in 1980 and 22% in both 1990 and 2000.

**In 2009, juveniles were involved in about 1 in 10 arrests for murder and about 1 in 4 arrests for robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and disorderly conduct**

**Juvenile arrests as a percentage of total arrests**

Most serious offense	Juvenile arrests as a percentage of total arrests						
	All persons	Males	Females	Whites	Blacks	American Indians	Asians
<b>Total</b>	13%	12%	15%	12%	14%	11%	15%
<b>Violent Crime Index</b>	15	15	14	12	20	10	15
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	9	10	7	8	11	8	8
Forcible rape	15	14	21	14	15	10	12
Robbery	25	26	21	18	30	15	30
Aggravated assault	12	11	13	10	15	9	12
<b>Property Crime Index</b>	24	24	24	23	27	22	32
Burglary	25	26	19	23	30	26	26
Larceny-theft	24	23	25	23	26	22	32
Motor vehicle theft	24	25	23	21	29	29	25
Arson	44	46	34	45	40	48	53
<b>Nonindex</b>							
Other assaults	17	15	22	15	20	12	15
Forgery and counterfeiting	2	3	2	2	3	3	2
Fraud	3	3	2	3	3	4	3
Embezzlement	3	4	3	3	4	1	5
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	18	18	16	15	22	17	19
Vandalism	33	35	25	35	28	25	36
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	20	20	26	21	19	22	27
Prostitution and commercialized vice	2	1	2	1	3	1	1
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	17	17	21	17	19	13	17
Drug abuse violations	10	11	9	11	8	15	16
Gambling	17	19	4	4	23	0	3
Offenses against the family and children	4	3	6	4	3	3	3
Driving under the influence	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Liquor laws	19	17	26	21	10	19	19
Drunkenness	2	2	4	2	1	3	3
Disorderly conduct	26	24	32	23	32	16	26
Vagrancy	8	7	11	11	5	2	8
All other offenses (except traffic)	9	8	10	9	8	7	12
Suspicion (not included in totals)	11	12	9	11	12	0	14

■ Juvenile females accounted for more than one-fifth (22%) of all simple assault arrests involving females in 2009, while male juveniles accounted for 15% of all simple assault arrests involving males.

■ On average, juveniles accounted for 9% of all murder arrests during the 2000s, compared with 14% during the 1990s.

■ Overall, in 2009, 12% of white arrests and 14% of black arrests involved a person younger than age 18. However, for some offenses, juveniles were involved in a greater proportion of black arrests than white arrests (e.g., robbery, burglary, and disorderly conduct). For other offenses, juvenile involvement was greater in white arrests than black arrests (e.g., arson, vandalism, and liquor law violations).

**Note:** Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Data source:** Analysis of Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [online, released 9/22/11].

# The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate reached a historic low in 2009

## Violent crime arrest rates declined after 1994

Between 1980 and 1987, the juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate (i.e., the number of arrests per 100,000 juveniles in the population) was essentially constant. After these years of stability, the rate grew by nearly 70% in the 7-year period between 1987 and 1994. This rapid growth led to speculation about changes in the nature of juvenile offenders—concerns that spurred state legislators to pass laws that facilitated an increase in the flow of youth into the adult justice system. After 1994, however, the violent crime arrest rate fell. Between 1994 and 2009, the rate fell nearly 50% to its lowest level since at least 1980.

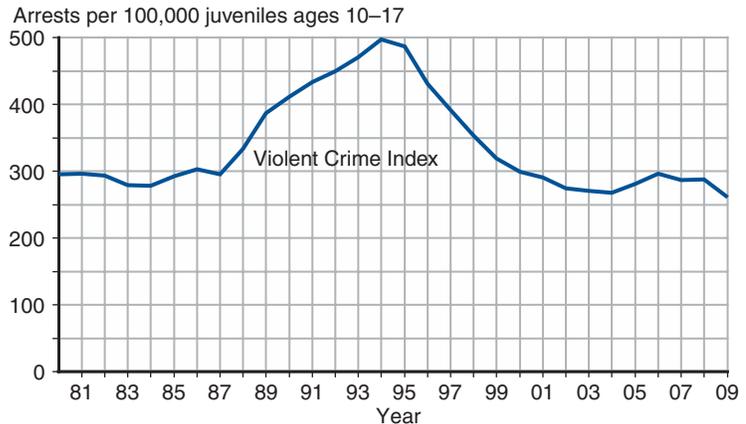
## Female violent crime arrest rates remain relatively high

In 1980, the juvenile male violent crime arrest rate was 8 times greater than the female rate. By 2009, the male rate was just 4 times greater. This convergence of male and female arrest rates is due to the large relative increase in the female rate. Between 1980 and 1994, the male rate increased 60%, while the female rate increased 132%. By 2009, the male rate had dropped to 19% below its 1980 level, while the female violent crime arrest rate was still 57% above its 1980 level.

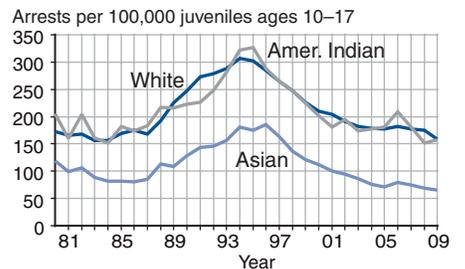
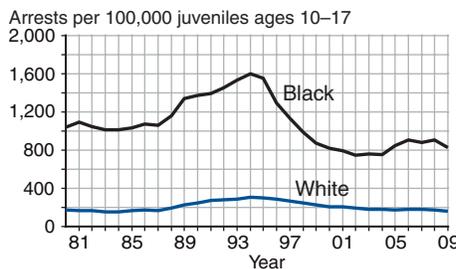
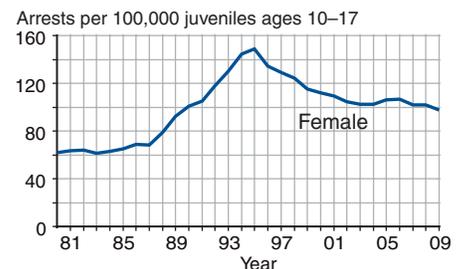
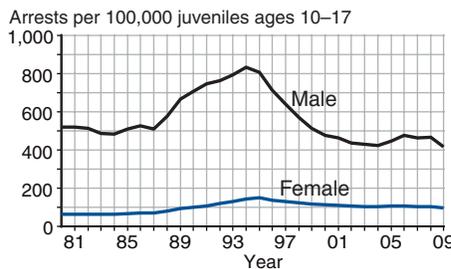
## Arrest rates declined for all racial groups since the mid-1990s

All racial groups experienced large increases in their juvenile violent crime arrest rates in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Following their mid-1990s peak,

Following a 12% decline since 2006, the 2009 Violent Crime Index rate reached its lowest level since at least 1980



### Violent Crime Index arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ The Violent Crime Index arrest rate in 2009 for black juveniles was 5 times the rate for white juveniles, 6 times the rate for American Indian juveniles, and 13 times the rate for Asian juveniles.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

the rates declined through 2009 for all racial groups: Asian (65%), American Indian

(52%), white (48%), and black (48%) youth.

# The juvenile arrest rate for murder has remained relatively constant during the 2000s

## The 2009 murder arrest rate was the lowest since 2004

Between the mid-1980s and the peak in 1993, the juvenile arrest rate for murder more than doubled. Since the 1993 peak, however, the rate fell substantially through 2000, resting at a level that essentially remained constant for the entire decade. Compared with the prior 20 years, the juvenile murder arrest rate between 2000 and 2009 has been historically low and relatively stable. In fact, the number of juvenile arrests for murder in the 4-year period from 1992 through 1995 exceeded the number of such arrests for all of the past decade.

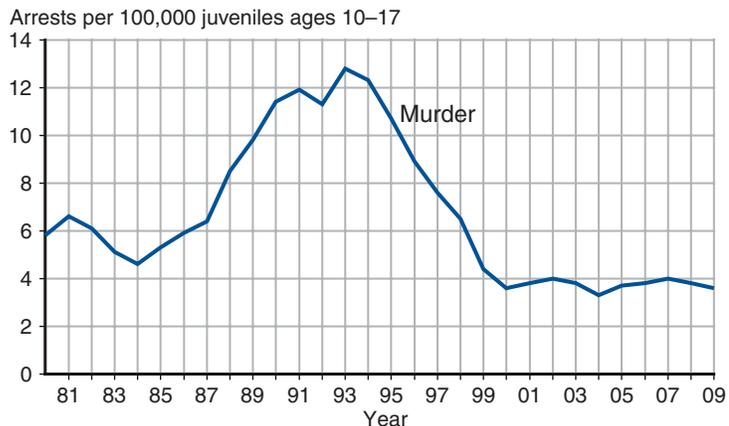
## Male arrests drove murder arrest rate trends

During the 1980s and 1990s, the juvenile male arrest rate for murder was, on average, about 13 times greater than the female rate. Both displayed generally similar trends. The female arrest rate peaked in 1994 at 62% above its 1980 level, whereas the male rate peaked in 1993 at 123% above the 1980 rate. Both fell more than 65% since their respective peaks so that, by 2009, both arrest rates were substantially below their levels of the early 1980s.

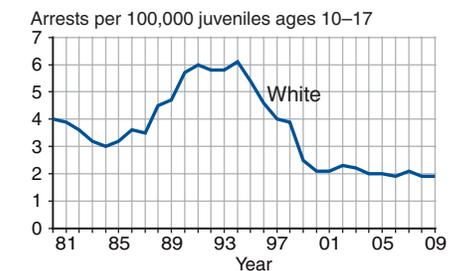
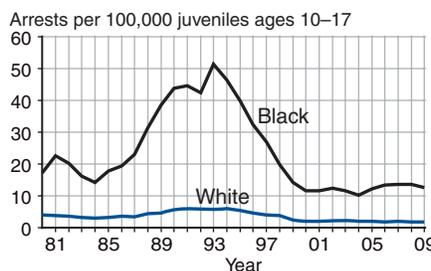
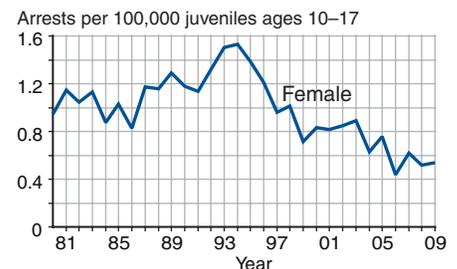
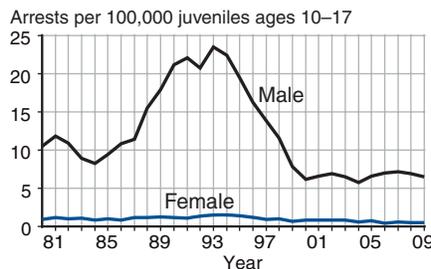
## The juvenile murder arrest rate pattern was linked to the arrests of black juveniles

The black-to-white ratio of juvenile arrest rates for murder grew from about 4-to-1 in 1980 to about 8-to-1 in 1994, reflecting the greater increase in the black rate over this period—the white rate increased 53% while the black rate increased more than

Following a 10% decline in the previous 2 years, the 2009 juvenile murder arrest rate was well below the levels reached during the 1990s



## Murder arrest rate trends by gender and race



**Note:** Murder arrest rates for American Indian youth and Asian youth are not presented because the small number of arrests and small population sizes produce unstable rate trends.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

170%. Since their 1994 peak, both rates fell through 2000, with the black rate falling considerably more. During the past decade, the white rate remained relatively

constant while the rate for black youth increased 10%. As a result, the black-to-white ratio of juvenile arrest rates for murder in 2009 approached 7-to-1.

# The juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape in 2009 was half its 1991 peak

## The 2009 rape arrest rate was at its lowest level in three decades

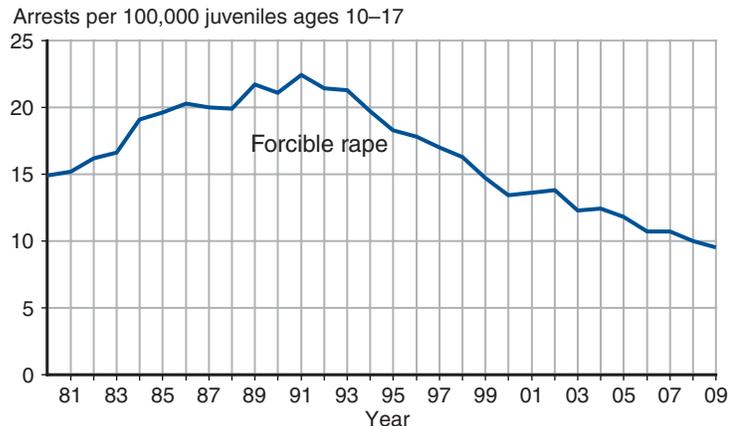
Between 1980 and the peak in 1991, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape increased 50%. This growth occurred during a time when there were also increases in arrest rates for aggravated assault and murder. After 1991, the forcible rape arrest rate gradually fell, resting at a level in 2009 that was 58% below the 1991 peak. In fact, the 3,100 estimated juvenile arrests for forcible rape in 2009 were the fewest such arrests in at least three decades.

Juveniles accounted for 15% of all forcible rape arrests reported in 2009. More than two-thirds (68%) of these juvenile arrests involved youth ages 15–17. Not surprisingly, males accounted for the overwhelming majority (98%) of juvenile arrests for forcible rape.

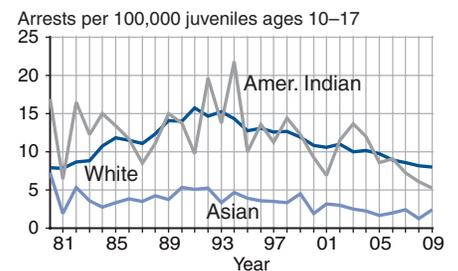
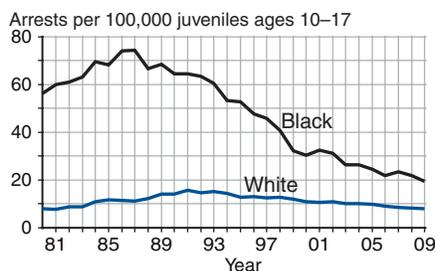
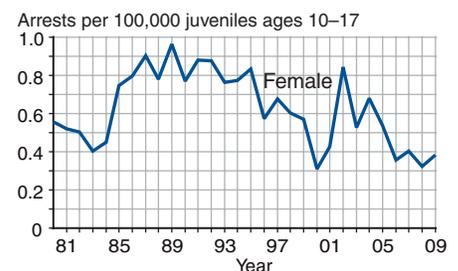
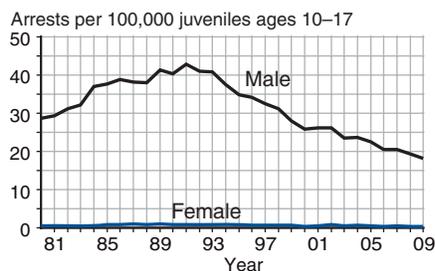
## Rape arrest rates declined more for black youth than white youth since 1991

For black juveniles, the substantial decline in the arrest rate for forcible rape began in the late 1980s. The rate peaked in 1987 and then fell 74% by 2009. In contrast to the rate for whites, the forcible rape arrest rate for black juveniles in 2009 was less than half the rate in 1980. For white juveniles, the arrest rate for forcible rape nearly doubled between 1980 and 1991, when it reached its peak. Between 1991 and 2009, the rate declined 50%, returning to the level where it began 30 years earlier, just 1% above its 1980 level. By 2009, the black-to-white ratio of juvenile arrest rates for forcible rape was less than 3-to-1, compared to a ratio of 7-to-1 in the early 1980s.

## With few exceptions, the juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape dropped annually from 1991 through 2009



## Forcible rape arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ Black youth accounted for one-third of all juvenile arrests for forcible rape in 2009, and white youth accounted for nearly two-thirds (65%).

**Note:** The annual rape arrest rates for American Indians fluctuate because of the small number of arrests, but the average rate over the period is close to the white rate.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

# The juvenile arrest rate for robbery declined substantially after its mid-1990s peak

## The juvenile arrest rate for robbery increased since a 2002 low

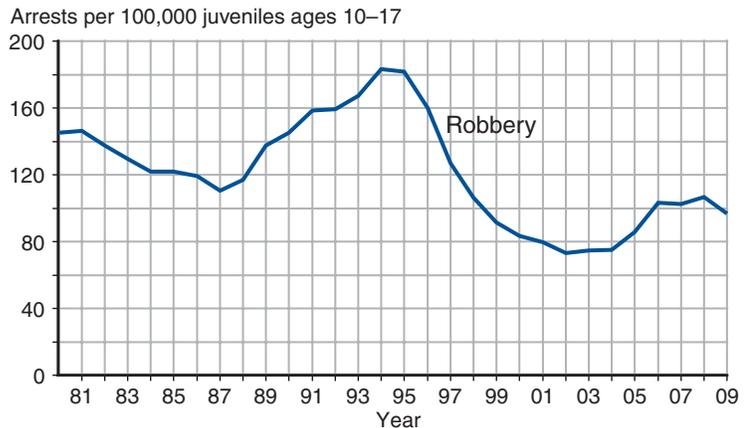
The juvenile arrest rate for robbery declined for most of the 1980s and then increased steadily to a peak in 1994. By 2002, the rate fell 60% from the 1994 peak and then increased yet again through 2008 (up 46%). Despite the decline over the previous year (down 9%), the rate in 2009 was 32% above its low point in 2002.

## Arrest rate trends by gender and race parallel the overall robbery arrest rate pattern

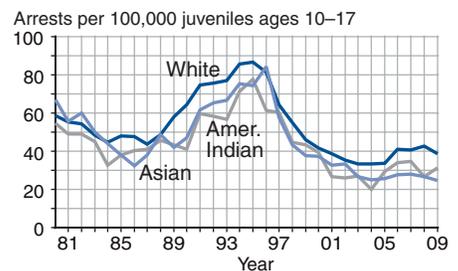
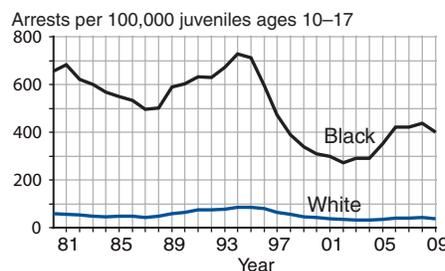
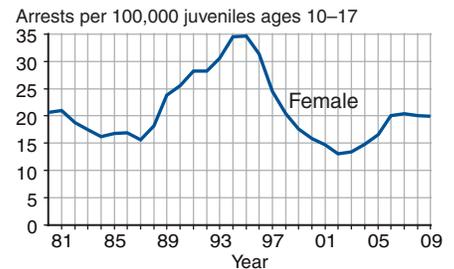
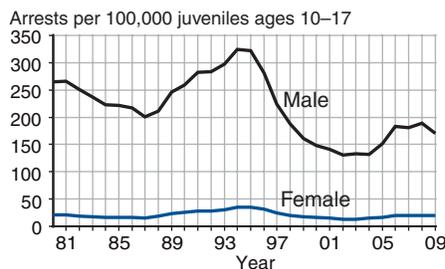
Across gender and race subgroups, robbery arrest rates decreased through the late 1980s and climbed to a peak in the mid-1990s. By 2002, the rate for males and females had fallen to their lowest level since at least 1980. Following these declines, the rates for both groups increased through 2008 (45% for males and 54% for females). Despite the decline over the previous year, the rates for both groups in 2009 were well above their 2002 low point.

The trends in arrest rates within racial groups were similar over the past three decades. For each racial group, the juvenile robbery arrest rate fell by more than 50% between the mid-1990s and the early 2000s. Juvenile robbery arrest rates increased for all but Asian youth since 2004. As a result, rates in 2009 were above the 2004 level for American Indian youth (57%), black youth (38%), and white youth (17%) and slightly below the 2004 level for Asian youth (2%).

## The juvenile arrest rate for robbery reached a historically low level in 2002, 60% below the 1994 peak



### Robbery arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ The racial disparity in juvenile arrest rates for robbery was quite large in 2009. Specifically, the rate for black youth was 10 times the rate for white youth, 12 times the rate for American Indian youth, and 16 times the rate for Asian youth.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

# The 2009 juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault was at its lowest since the mid-1980s

## The juvenile aggravated assault arrest rate fell 46% since its 1994 peak

The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault doubled between 1980 and 1994 and then fell substantially and consistently through 2009, down 46% from its 1994 peak. As a result of this decline, the rate in 2009 returned to the level of the mid-1980s, resting at a rate 18% above the 1983 low point. However, of the four Violent Crime Index offenses, only aggravated assault had a juvenile arrest rate in 2009 above the levels of the 1980s.

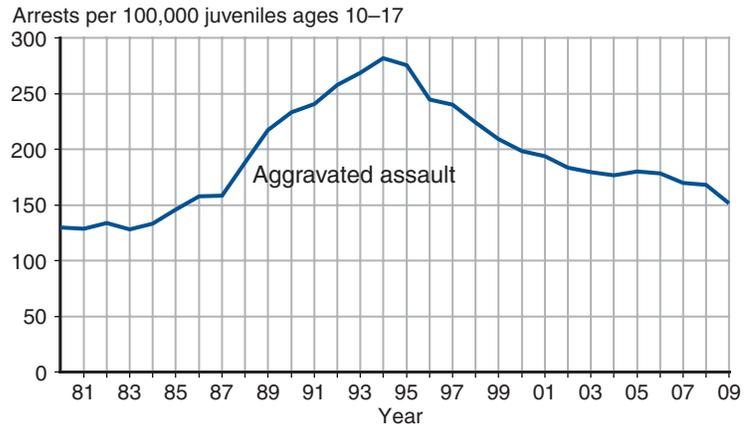
## The rate for females increased more and declined less than the male rate

The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault doubled between 1980 and the mid-1990s for males while the female rate increased by more than 170%. Since the mid-1990s peak, the rates for both groups declined through 2009, but the relative decline was greater for males (48%) than for females (31%). As a result, in 2009, the juvenile male arrest rate was just 4% above its 1980 level, and the female rate was 91% above its 1980 rate. The disproportionate increase in female arrest rates for aggravated assault compared with male rates indicates that factors that impinged differently on females and males affected the rates. One possible explanation may be found in policy changes over this period that encouraged arrests in domestic violence incidents.

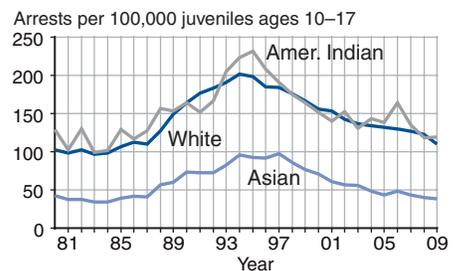
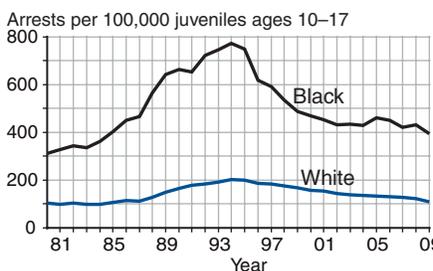
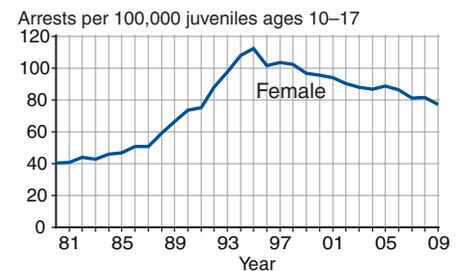
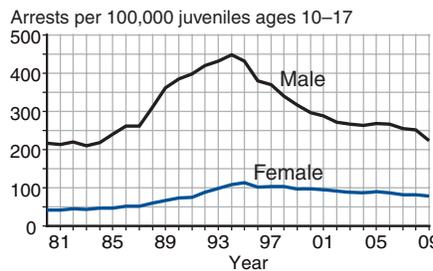
## Aggravated assault arrest rates fell for all four racial groups

The period from 1980 through 1994 saw substantial increases in aggravated

On average, the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault declined 4% each year since 1994



### Aggravated assault arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ The black-white disparity in aggravated assault arrest rates peaked in 1988, when the black rate was more than 4 times the white rate; by 2009, this black-white ratio was a little more than 3-to-1.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

assault arrest rates for juveniles in each racial group: black (149% increase), Asian (126%), white (97%), and American Indian (73%). Although rates have declined

for all racial groups since the mid 1990s, rates in 2009 for white and black youth remained above their 1980 levels.

# The juvenile arrest rate for property crimes in 2009 was just half of its peak

## After 1994, juvenile property crime arrest rates fell continuously for more than a decade

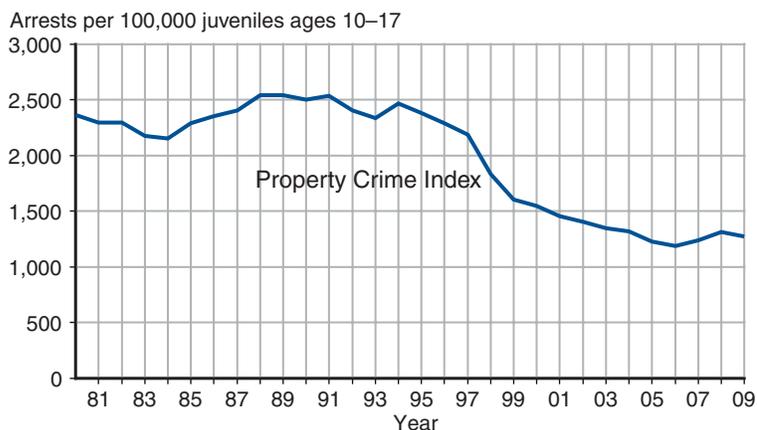
Between 1980 and 1994, the juvenile arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses varied little, always remaining within 10% of the average for the period. After years of relative stability, the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate began a decline in the mid-1990s that continued annually until reaching a historic low in 2006, down 53% from its 1988 peak. This nearly two-decade decline was followed by an 11% increase over the next 2 years, and then a 3% decline between 2008 and 2009. As a result, juveniles were far less likely to be arrested for property crimes in 2009 than they were 30 years earlier.

## Female property crime arrest rates increased each year since 2006

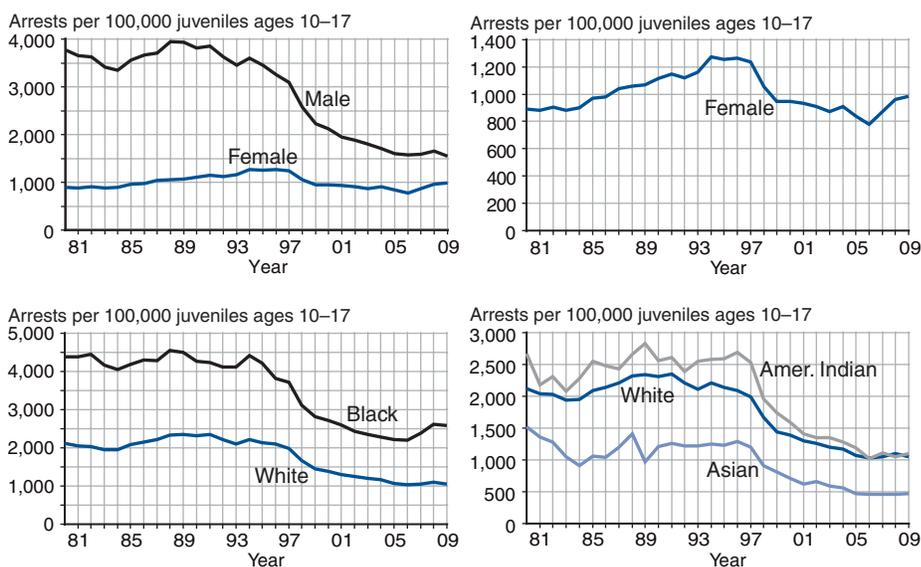
In 1980, the juvenile male arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses was 4 times the female rate; by 2009, the male rate was about 60% above the female rate. These two rates converged in large part because the female rate increased 26% since 2006 whereas the male rate declined 2%. The stark differences in the male and female trends suggest several possibilities, including gender-specific changes in these behaviors and an increased willingness to arrest female offenders.

Despite recent increases for all racial groups, the Property Crime Index arrest rates in 2009 were far below their 1994 level for Asian (62% below the 1994 level), American Indian (57%), white (52%), and black juveniles (41%). In the 30 years from 1980 to 2009, the black

The juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate fell 3% between 2008 and 2009, reversing the increase that began in 2006



### Property Crime Index arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ In 2009, for every 100,000 youth in the United States ages 10–17, there were 1,272 arrests of juveniles for Property Crime Index offenses. The Property Crime Index is dominated by larceny-theft, which in 2009 contributed 76% of all juvenile Property Crime Index arrests. Therefore, the trends in Property Crime Index arrests largely reflect the trends in arrests for larceny-theft.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

youth arrest rate for property crimes averaged twice the white youth rate, much

smaller than the black-white disparity in juvenile arrest rates for violent crimes.

# The juvenile arrest rate for burglary has stabilized after nearly three decades of decline

## Juvenile arrests for burglary fell more than adult arrests

In 2009, the juvenile arrest rate for burglary reached its lowest point in the past 30 years, one-third of its 1980 level. This large fall in juvenile burglary arrests from 1980 through 2009 was not replicated in the adult statistics. For example, between 2000 and 2009, the number of juvenile burglary arrests fell 21% while adult burglary arrests increased 15%. In 1980, 45% of all burglary arrests were arrests of a juvenile; in 2009, reflecting the greater decline in juvenile arrests, just 25% of burglary arrests were juvenile arrests.

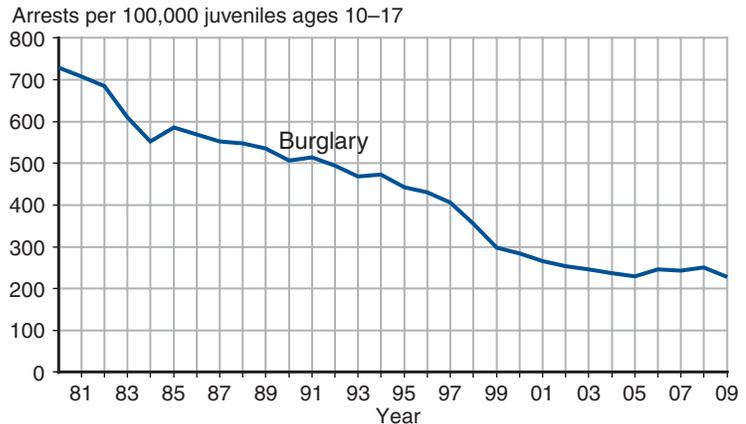
## Juvenile female arrest rates for burglary declined less than male rates

The substantial decline in the juvenile burglary arrest rate was primarily the result of a decline in juvenile male arrests. In 1980, 6% of juveniles arrested for burglary were female; by 2009, 11% were female. Between 1980 and 2009, the male rate fell 71% while the female rate dropped 43%. The rate for males reached a low point in 2005, increased through 2008 (8%), and then fell 9% in 2009 to its lowest level since at least 1980. For females, the rate also increased (16%) between 2005 and 2008 and then fell (13%) in 2009.

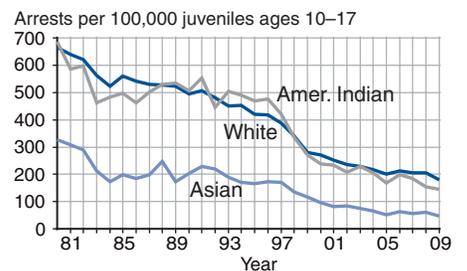
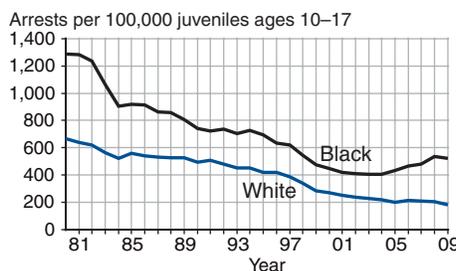
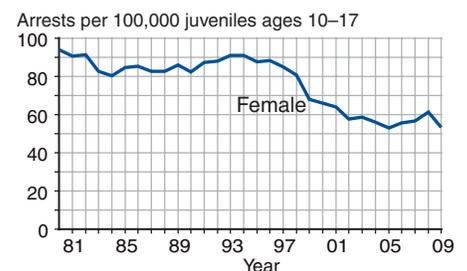
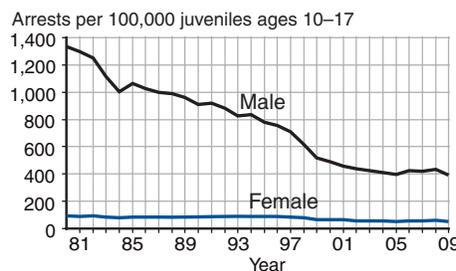
## White rates continued to fall as black rates increased in recent years

Between 1980 and 2009, the juvenile burglary arrest rate declined for all racial groups: 86% for Asians, 79% for American Indians, 73% for whites, and 60% for

**Unique in the set of property crime offenses, the juvenile arrest rate for burglary declined almost consistently and fell 69% between 1980 and 2009**



### Burglary arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ The gender disparity in juvenile burglary arrest rates has diminished over the past 30 years. In 1980, the juvenile male arrest rate for burglary was more than 14 times the female rate; in 2009, the male rate was 7 times the female rate.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

blacks. As a result, rates for Asian, American Indian, and white youth in 2009 were at their lowest levels of the 30-year period. Since falling to its lowest level of the

30-year period in 2004, the burglary arrest rate for black juveniles increased 29% through 2009.

# Despite recent growth, juvenile arrest rates for larceny-theft remain low

## Juvenile larceny-theft rates fell dramatically in the late 1990s

The juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft generally increased between 1980 and the mid-1990s and then fell 51% between 1994 and 2006, reaching its lowest point since 1980. This decline reversed in 2007, as the juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft increased 19% between 2006 and 2009. Despite this increase, the overall decline in arrests for a high-volume offense translated into significantly fewer juveniles charged with property crimes entering the justice system.

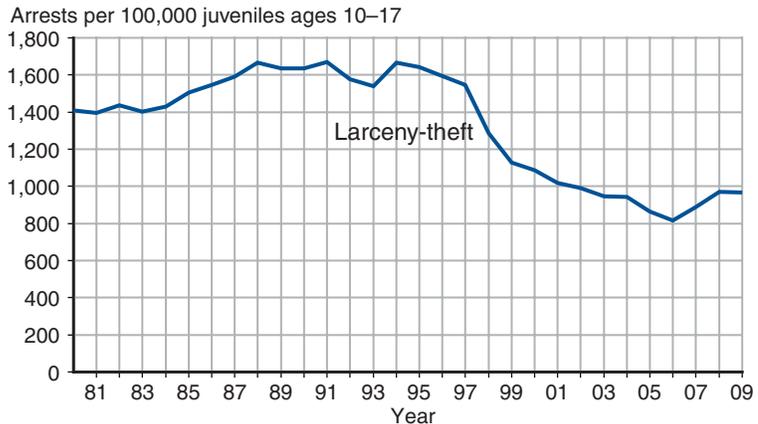
## The female proportion of larceny-theft arrests has grown

In 1980, 26% of juveniles arrested for larceny-theft were female; by 2009, this proportion had grown to 45%. Although larceny-theft arrest rates dropped for male and female juveniles in the late 1990s, the prior increases for females resulted in their 2006 rate being just 9% below their 1980 rate, whereas the 2006 rate for males was 54% below their 1980 rate. These decade-long declines were followed by larger relative increases for females (33%) than males (9%) over the next 3 years.

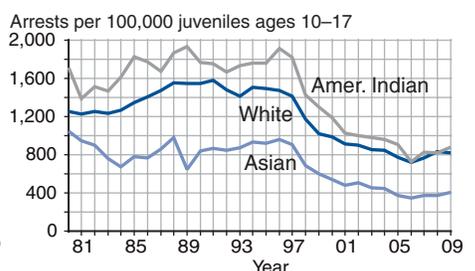
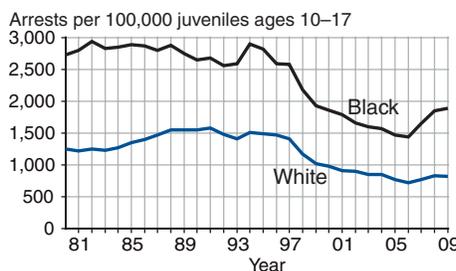
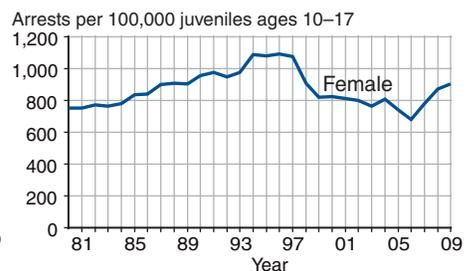
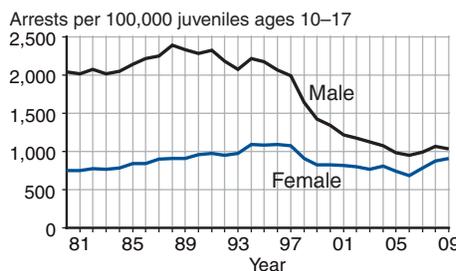
## Larceny-theft rates for all racial groups reached historic lows in 2006

The decline in the juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft between 1994 and 2006 was similar in each of the four racial groups: 63% for Asians, 59% for American Indians, 52% for whites, and 50% for blacks. However, arrest rates for larceny-theft increased for all racial groups between 2006 and 2009: 31% for blacks, 21% for

The longstanding decline in the juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft reversed between 2006 and 2009, as the rate increased 19%



## Larceny-theft arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ Larceny-theft is the unlawful taking of property from the possession of another. This crime group includes such offenses as shoplifting, bicycle theft, and pickpocketing—or thefts without the use of force, threat, or fraud. For juveniles, it has been the most common type of crime: in 2009, 1 in 6 juvenile arrests was for larceny-theft.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

American Indians, 17% for Asians, and 13% for whites. In 2009, the black juvenile larceny-theft arrest rate was 2.3 times

greater than the white juvenile rate, equivalent to the 1982 peak in black-white disparity for larceny-theft.

# The motor vehicle theft arrest rate for juveniles was at a 30-year low in 2009

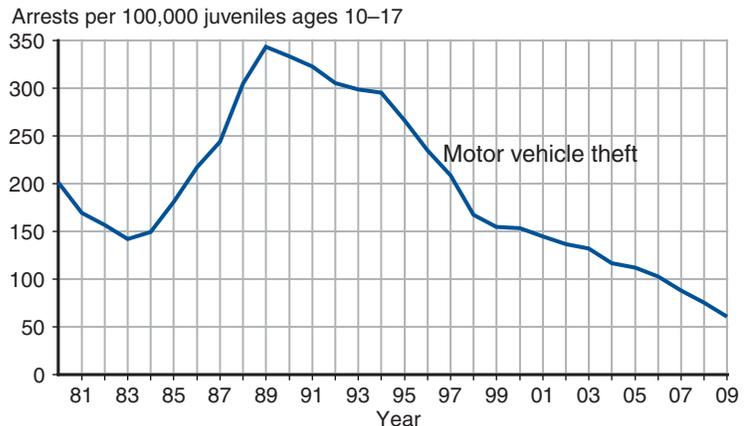
## The juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft peaked in 1989

The juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft more than doubled between 1983 and 1989, up 141%. After the 1989 peak, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined steadily, erasing its prior growth by 1999. In 2009, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft was lower than in any year in the 30-year period, 82% below its peak level. This large decline in juvenile arrests outpaced declines in adult statistics. Between 2000 and 2009, the number of juvenile motor vehicle theft arrests fell 61%, and adult motor vehicle theft arrests decreased 37%.

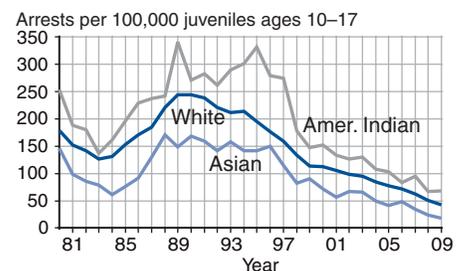
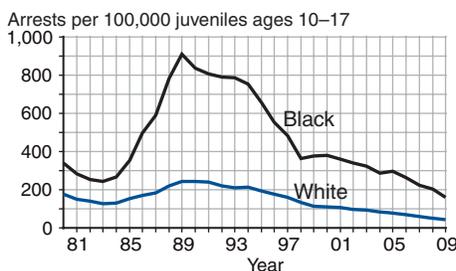
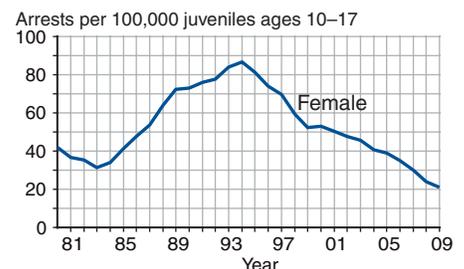
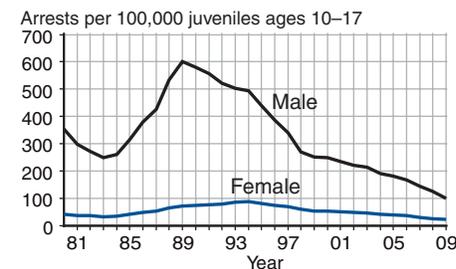
Male and female juvenile arrest rates for motor vehicle theft displayed generally similar trends in the 1980s and 1990s, first increasing and then decreasing. However, the male rate peaked in 1989, but the female rate did not peak until 1994. With a longer period of decline than the female rate, the male rate in 1999 fell to within 1% of its 1983 level, but the female rate was still 66% above this low point. By 2009, the male and female rates reached their lowest level in the past three decades.

From 1983 to their peak years, arrest rates for motor vehicle theft nearly doubled for white juveniles (peak year 1990) and Asian juveniles (peak year 1988), increased nearly 150% for American Indian juveniles (peak year 1989), and more than tripled for black juveniles (peak year 1989). By 2009, motor vehicle theft arrest rates were at or near their lowest level since at least 1980 for all race groups.

Between 1989 and 2009, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft fell 82%, so that the rate in 2009 was at its lowest level since 1980



## Motor vehicle theft arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ The juvenile arrest rate trends for motor vehicle theft differed from those for the other high-volume theft crimes of burglary and larceny-theft. In the 1980s and 1990s, the burglary arrest rate declined consistently and the larceny-theft rate remained relatively stable, but the motor vehicle theft rate soared and then dropped just as dramatically.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

# Nearly half of all persons arrested for arson in 2009 were younger than 18; 1 in 4 was younger than 15

## Arson is the criminal act with the largest proportion of juvenile arrestees

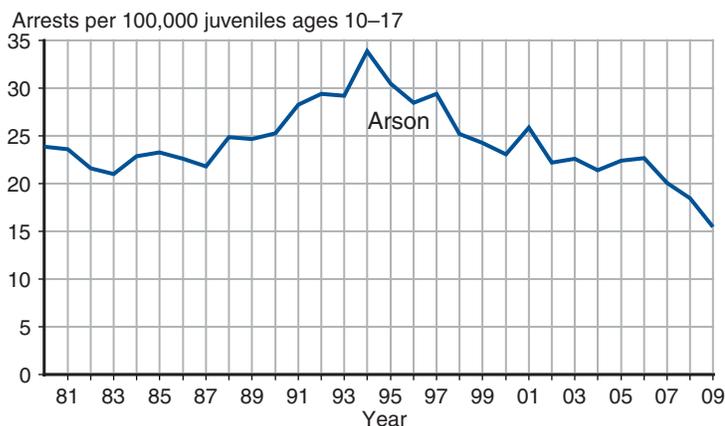
In 2009, 44% of all arson arrests were arrests of juveniles, and most of these juvenile arrests (59%) involved youth younger than 15. In comparison, 24% of all larceny-theft arrests in 2009 involved juveniles, but only 28% of these juvenile arrests involved youth younger than 15.

## Trends in juvenile arson arrests paralleled that of violent crime

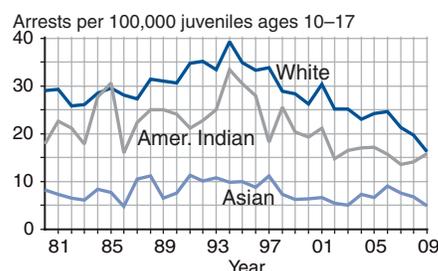
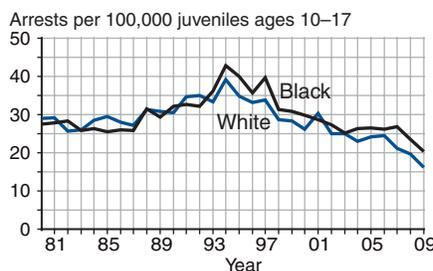
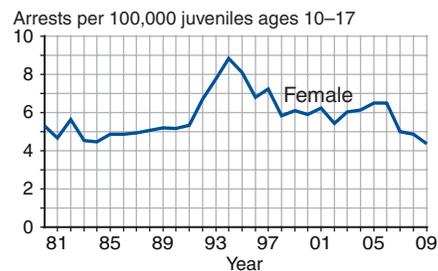
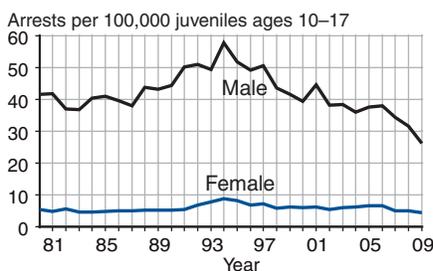
The pattern of stability, growth, and decline in the juvenile arrest rate for arson in the past 30 years was similar in magnitude and character to the trend in juvenile violent crime arrest rates. After years of stability, the juvenile arrest rate for arson increased more than 50% between 1987 and 1994 before falling 54% through 2009. During the period of increase, the female rate increased abruptly between 1991 and 1994 (up 66%). During the period of decline after 1994, the male and female rates declined proportionally (55% and 51%, respectively). However, because of the greater increase in the female rate, these declines left the female rate in 2009 18% below its 1980 level, and the male rate was 37% below its 1980 level.

One major distinction between violent crime and arson arrest rates over this period was that white and black rates were similar for arson but not for violent crime. Between 1980 and 2009, on average, the black rate was 5% greater than the white rate for arson, but the violent crime arrest rate for black juveniles was 5 times the white rate. For white juveniles and black juveniles, arson arrest rates were essen-

Following a 32% decline between 2006 and 2009, the juvenile arrest rate for arson in 2009 reached a historic low



### Arson arrest rate trends by gender and race



Between 1980 and 2009, the arson arrest rate for Asian juveniles stayed within a limited range and was substantially below the rate for other races, averaging less than 30% of the white rate over the 30-year period.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

tially equal for most years between 1980 and 1992. After 1992, the black rate rose to slightly above the white rate;

however, both groups ended the 30-year period at their lowest rates.

# The juvenile arrest rate for simple assault in 2009 was more than twice the 1980 rate

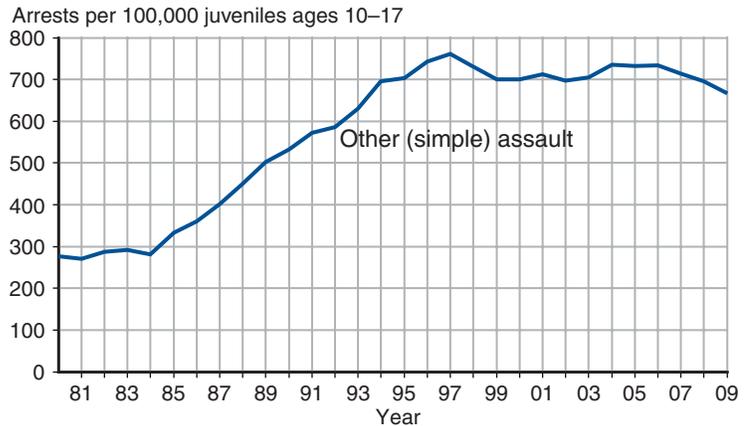
## Simple assault is the most common of all crimes against persons

The juvenile arrest rate for simple assault increased 176% between 1980 and 1997, declined through 2002, then rose again through 2006. Following the decline over the past 3 years, the 2009 rate was 13% below the 1997 peak. Unlike the trend for simple assault, the juvenile aggravated assault arrest rate declined steadily between 1994 and 2009, falling 46%. As a result of these divergent trends, a greater percentage of assaults that law enforcement handled in recent years has been for less serious offenses. In 1980, there were 2 juvenile arrests for simple assault for every 1 juvenile arrest for aggravated assault; by 2009, this ratio had grown to 4-to-1—with most of this growth occurring after the mid-1990s. The large increase in the juvenile arrest rate for simple assault was paralleled by a similar increase in the adult rate, so that the juvenile proportion of all simple assault arrests was 18% in 1980 and 17% in 2009.

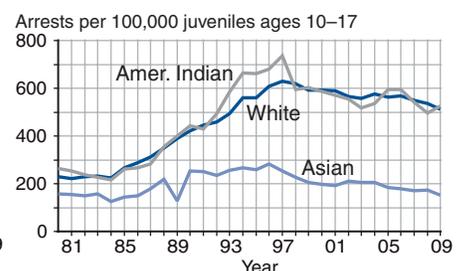
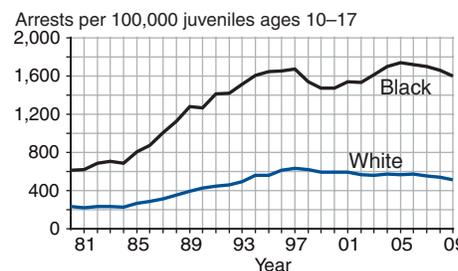
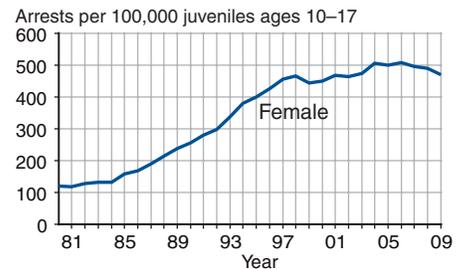
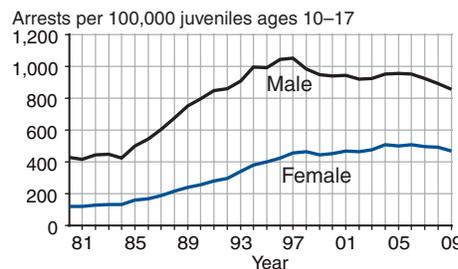
## Growth in the female arrest rate for simple assault outpaced the male rate

As with aggravated assault, between 1980 and 2009, the increase in the juvenile female arrest rate for simple assault far outpaced the increase in the male rate (295% vs. 100%). As a result, the female proportion of juvenile arrests for simple assault grew from 21% to 34%. During that period, simple assault arrest rates increased substantially for white (123%), black (160%), and American Indian (98%) youth, with rates for Asian youth declining 3% over the 30-year period. These increases were greater than the corresponding increases in aggravated assault rates.

## The juvenile arrest rate for simple assault declined for the third consecutive year—down 9% since 2006



## Other (simple) assault arrest rate trends by gender and race



- Juvenile male and female simple assault arrest rates declined similarly between 2006 and 2009 (by 10% and 8%, respectively).
- In 2009, the ratio of simple to aggravated assault arrests of juveniles varied across gender and racial groups: male (3.8-to-1), female (6.1-to-1), white (4.7-to-1), black (4.1-to-1), American Indian (4.4-to-1), and Asian (4.0-to-1).

**Note:** In contrast to aggravated assault, a simple assault does not involve the use of a weapon and does not result in serious bodily harm to the victim. The lesser severity of simple assault makes the reporting of it to law enforcement less likely and gives law enforcement more discretion in how to handle the incident.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

# Juvenile arrest rate trends for weapons law violations generally paralleled trends for violent crimes

## The juvenile weapons arrest rate in 2009 was half its 1994 peak

Between 1980 and 1994, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations increased more than 146%. Then the rate fell substantially, so that by 2002 the rate was just 22% more than the 1980 level. However, between 2002 and 2006, the juvenile weapons arrest rate grew 34% and then fell 26% through 2009. As a result, the rate in 2009 was 20% above the 1980 level and 51% below its 1994 peak. It must be remembered that these statistics do not reflect all arrests for weapons offenses. An unknown number of other arrests for more serious crimes also involved a weapons offense as a secondary charge, but the FBI's arrest statistics classify such arrests by their most serious charge and not the weapons offense.

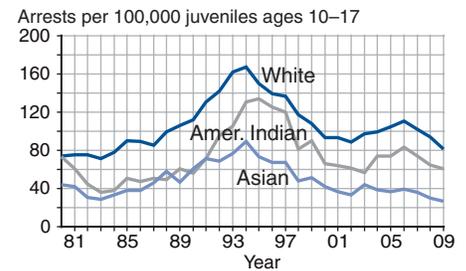
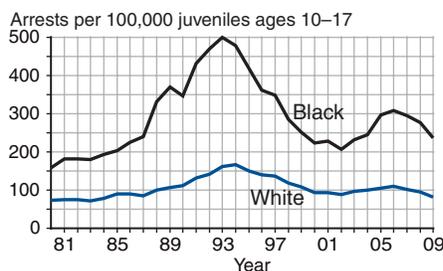
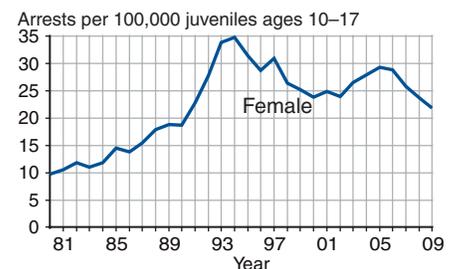
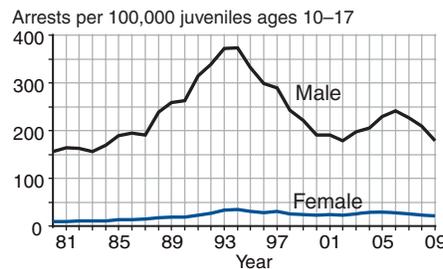
Between 1980 and 1994, the arrest rate for weapons law violations increased proportionally more for females (256%) than for males (139%). After reaching a peak in 1994, both rates declined through 2002 (52% for males and 31% for females), increased through 2006 and then fell through 2009.

Arrest rates for weapons law violations peaked in 1993 for black juveniles, in 1994 for white and Asian juveniles, and in 1995 for American Indian juveniles. The increase between 1983 and the peak year was the greatest for American Indian juveniles (273%), followed by Asians (213%), blacks (179%), and whites (134%). Similar to trends for males and females, the rates for all racial groups dropped quickly after their peaks, grew between 2002 and 2006, and fell again between 2006 and 2009. Despite recent declines, the 2009 arrest rates were still moderately above their 1980 levels for male (14%) and

## The juvenile arrest rate for weapons law violations declined for the third consecutive year, falling 26% since 2006



## Weapons law violation arrest rate trends by gender and race



■ The disproportionate increase in the female rate narrowed the gender disparity in weapons law violation arrest rates. In 1980, the male rate was 16 times the female rate; in 2009, the male rate was about 8 times the female rate.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

white (10%) juveniles, and substantially above their 1980 levels for female (123%) and black (49%) juveniles. In 2009, arrest rates for weapons law violations were

actually below their 1980 levels for American Indian and Asian youth (by 18% and 39%, respectively).

# The juvenile drug arrest rate more than doubled between 1991 and 1997 but has since declined

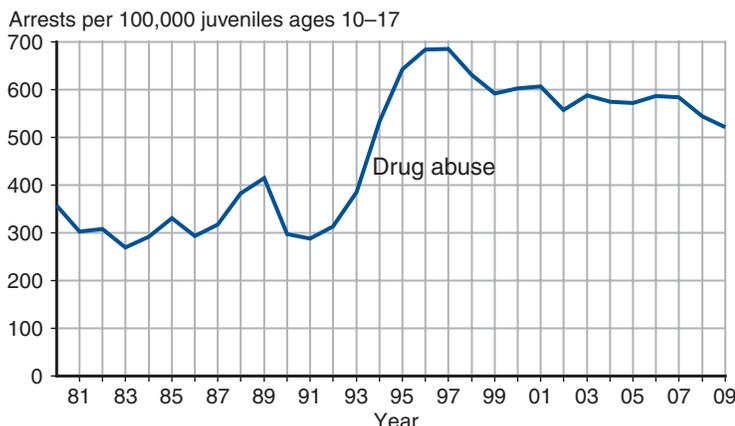
## Racial disparity in drug arrests increased in the 1980s and early 1990s

The annual juvenile arrest rates for drug abuse violations (a category that includes both drug possession and drug sales) varied within a limited range in the 1980s. A closer look at juvenile drug arrest rates finds sharp racial differences. The drug abuse violation arrest rate for white juveniles generally declined between 1980 and 1991 while the black rate soared. The white rate fell 54%, compared with a 190% increase for blacks. In 1980, the white and black arrest rates were essentially equal, with black youth involved in 14% of all juvenile drug arrests. By 1991, the black rate was nearly 6 times the white rate, and black youth were involved in 52% of all juvenile drug arrests.

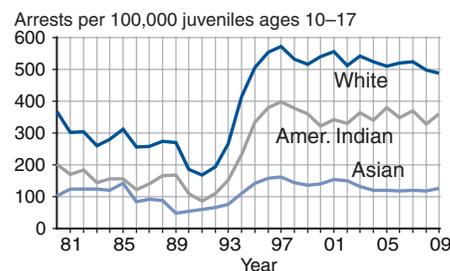
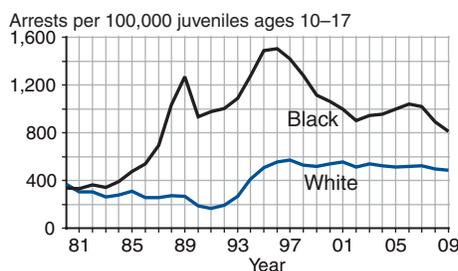
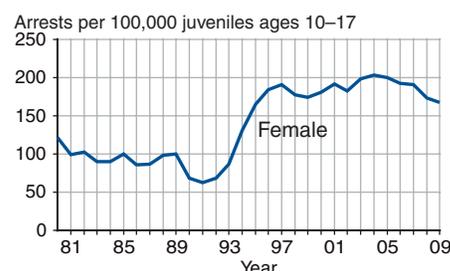
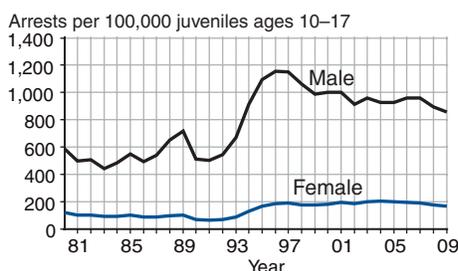
## Drug arrests soared for all youth between 1991 and 1997

Between 1991 and 1997, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations increased 138%. The rate declined 24% between 1997 and 2009, but the 2009 rate was 81% more than the 1991 rate. After a period of substantial growth through the 1990s, the male juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations generally declined after 1996 while the female rate remained relatively stable. By 2009, the drug abuse arrest rate for males declined 26% from its 1996 peak, whereas the rate for females was just 9% below its 1996 level. For both groups, the arrest rates in 2009 were considerably above the rates in 1980 (47% for males and 38% for females). Between 1980 and 2009, the juvenile drug arrest rate for whites peaked in 1997 and then remained relatively constant through 2009 (down 15%). In contrast, the rate for blacks peaked in 1996

After a period of substantial growth through the 1990s, the juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations generally declined through 2009



### Drug abuse violation arrest rate trends by gender and race



- The trend in juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations among blacks was different from the trends for other racial groups. Whereas the arrest rate for other races generally declined throughout the 1980s, the rate for black juveniles increased substantially during this period.
- Despite recent declines, rates for all racial groups in 2009 remained well above their 1980 rates: white (32%), black (140%), American Indian (78%), and Asian (24%).

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. (See arrest rate data source note on page 23 for details.)

and then fell 40% by 2002. Despite a recent increase—15% between 2002 and

2006—the rate fell 22% through 2009 and was 46% less than the 1996 peak.

# In 2009, about one-fourth of the states had a juvenile violent crime arrest rate above the national average

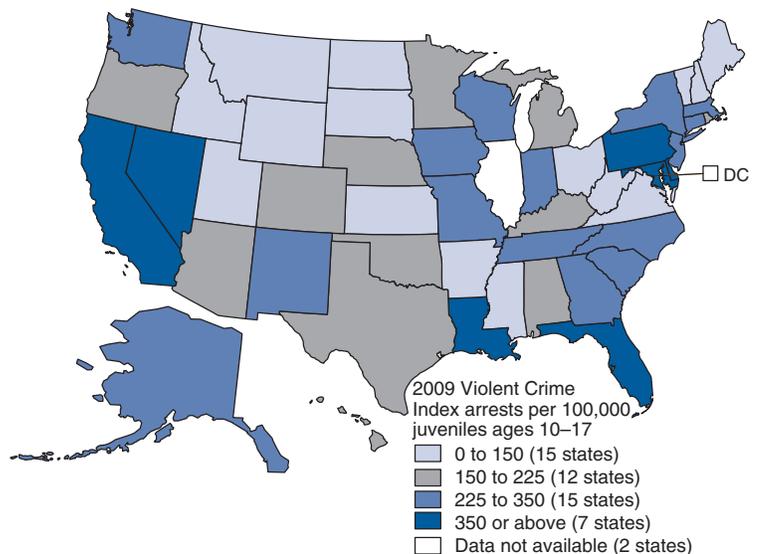
Among states with at least minimally adequate reporting, those with high juvenile violent crime arrest rates in 2009 were California, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, and Pennsylvania

State	Reporting population coverage	Arrests of juveniles under age 18 per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17					State	Reporting population coverage	Arrests of juveniles under age 18 per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17				
		Violent Crime Index	Robbery	Aggrav. assault	Other assault	Weapon			Violent Crime Index	Robbery	Aggrav. assault	Other assault	Weapon
U.S. total	84%	274	102	159	684	103	Missouri	93%	286	85	183	1,034	103
Alabama	78	158	86	60	466	31	Montana	93	127	11	109	645	14
Alaska	98	259	48	203	466	50	Nebraska	89	159	60	84	1,172	78
Arizona	99	189	52	131	684	55	Nevada	96	361	158	192	995	134
Arkansas	85	133	24	95	601	54	New Hampshire	88	75	15	58	889	12
California	99	372	153	208	466	174	New Jersey	98	312	159	141	417	147
Colorado	90	176	44	113	431	102	New Mexico	76	253	18	221	800	122
Connecticut	100	310	87	214	1,061	77	New York	55	239	107	124	440	60
Delaware	100	553	194	329	1,609	152	North Carolina	74	266	102	153	803	175
Dist. of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	95	95	8	60	717	47
Florida	100	407	148	245	838	82	Ohio	70	145	86	46	768	62
Georgia	69	286	87	186	705	140	Oklahoma	96	174	46	113	333	74
Hawaii	89	222	104	102	858	29	Oregon	94	150	46	97	493	60
Idaho	98	117	6	96	635	78	Pennsylvania	94	373	140	213	605	103
Illinois	23	924	405	475	1,415	291	Rhode Island	97	191	97	78	688	167
Indiana	73	231	66	159	959	58	South Carolina	96	241	64	161	722	118
Iowa	92	235	36	190	783	38	South Dakota	83	77	6	60	692	90
Kansas	64	145	25	105	584	51	Tennessee	78	313	99	193	1,111	130
Kentucky	53	176	80	86	455	40	Texas	98	174	57	105	828	51
Louisiana	54	627	87	518	1,170	95	Utah	99	105	22	65	675	112
Maine	100	57	14	27	699	37	Vermont	97	73	8	51	424	25
Maryland	100	537	293	228	1,149	179	Virginia	95	103	39	57	594	52
Massachusetts	93	291	79	206	410	39	Washington	73	240	89	129	752	100
Michigan	96	200	63	124	393	68	West Virginia	51	63	20	36	368	23
Minnesota	97	187	67	117	614	114	Wisconsin	95	245	88	130	591	195
Mississippi	55	136	75	52	889	130	Wyoming	99	85	0	65	1,203	63

NA = Arrest counts were not available for this state in the FBI's *Crime in the United States 2009*.

**Notes:** Arrest rates for jurisdictions with less than complete reporting may not be representative of the entire state. In the map, rates were classified as "Data not available" when agencies with jurisdiction over more than 50% of their state's population did not report. Readers should consult the related technical note on page 23. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from *Crime in the United States 2009* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010) tables 5 and 69, and population data from the National Center for Health Statistics' *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2009, United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2009 Postcensal Series by Year, County, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm), released 7/23/10].



# High juvenile property crime arrest rates in 2009 did not necessarily mean high violent crime arrest rates

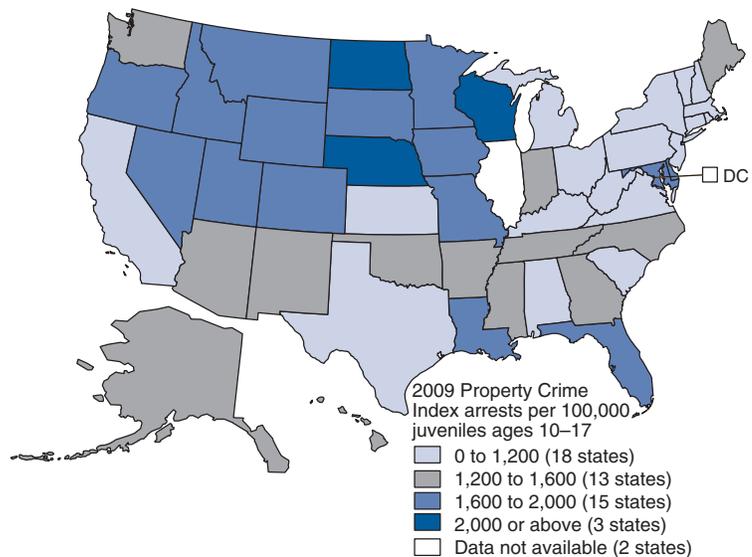
Among states with at least minimally adequate reporting, those with high juvenile property crime arrest rates in 2009 were Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wisconsin

State	Reporting population coverage	Arrests of juveniles under age 18 per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17					State	Reporting population coverage	Arrests of juveniles under age 18 per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17				
		Property Crime Index	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Vandalism			Property Crime Index	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Vandalism
U.S. total	84%	1,336	249	1,008	63	269	Missouri	93%	1,918	305	1,483	111	302
Alabama	78	951	193	729	24	59	Montana	93	1,681	74	1,483	104	418
Alaska	98	1,390	110	1,167	74	179	Nebraska	89	2,153	176	1,878	67	680
Arizona	99	1,542	194	1,267	64	481	Nevada	96	1,690	298	1,318	53	557
Arkansas	85	1,258	217	1,013	24	121	New Hampshire	88	940	127	762	30	308
California	99	1,065	342	633	74	341	New Jersey	98	911	170	698	24	278
Colorado	90	1,660	178	1,381	68	340	New Mexico	76	1,589	170	1,328	66	194
Connecticut	100	1,082	152	862	57	212	New York	55	1,079	183	841	44	339
Delaware	100	1,824	317	1,428	47	369	North Carolina	74	1,439	398	997	29	235
Dist. of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	North Dakota	95	2,115	181	1,775	149	477
Florida	100	1,851	503	1,244	94	129	Ohio	70	1,001	180	758	48	216
Georgia	69	1,441	314	1,030	88	115	Oklahoma	96	1,482	224	1,187	41	120
Hawaii	89	1,598	122	1,364	100	316	Oregon	94	1,683	175	1,421	49	410
Idaho	98	1,664	205	1,374	52	307	Pennsylvania	94	988	151	761	53	320
Illinois	23	1,732	350	978	398	464	Rhode Island	97	1,108	202	829	38	344
Indiana	73	1,574	245	1,239	74	193	South Carolina	96	1,176	248	889	29	169
Iowa	92	1,751	228	1,450	58	487	South Dakota	83	1,960	114	1,771	64	306
Kansas	64	1,198	126	1,017	39	199	Tennessee	78	1,480	285	1,120	63	274
Kentucky	53	1,112	209	858	33	79	Texas	98	1,198	186	969	34	195
Louisiana	54	1,749	328	1,346	61	208	Utah	99	1,961	116	1,781	44	515
Maine	100	1,478	251	1,144	59	368	Vermont	97	599	132	413	39	194
Maryland	100	1,834	308	1,323	158	272	Virginia	95	869	127	703	24	157
Massachusetts	93	556	115	417	18	133	Washington	73	1,517	243	1,181	67	333
Michigan	96	1,022	165	781	66	104	West Virginia	51	707	68	602	34	100
Minnesota	97	1,894	167	1,653	53	314	Wisconsin	95	2,429	282	2,044	88	600
Mississippi	55	1,582	421	1,123	22	126	Wyoming	99	1,813	128	1,577	90	426

NA = Arrest counts were not available for this state in the FBI's *Crime in the United States 2009*.

**Notes:** Arrest rates for jurisdictions with less than complete reporting may not be representative of the entire state. In the map, rates were classified as "Data not available" when agencies with jurisdiction over more than 50% of their state's population did not report. Readers should consult the related technical note on page 23. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

**Data source:** Analysis of arrest data from *Crime in the United States 2009* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010) tables 5 and 69, and population data from the National Center for Health Statistics' *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2009, United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2009 Postcensal Series by Year, County, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm), released 7/23/10].



# Notes

## Technical note

Although juvenile arrest rates may largely reflect juvenile behavior, many other factors can affect the magnitude of these rates. Arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of youth arrests made in the year by the number of youth living in the jurisdiction. Therefore, jurisdictions that arrest a relatively large number of nonresident juveniles would have a higher arrest rate than jurisdictions where resident youth behave similarly. Jurisdictions (especially small ones) that are vacation destinations or that are centers for economic activity in a region may have arrest rates that reflect the behavior of nonresident youth more than that of resident youth.

Other factors that influence arrest rates in a given area include the attitudes of citizens toward crime, the policies of local law enforcement agencies, and the policies of other components of the justice system. In many areas, not all law enforcement agencies report their arrest data to the FBI. Rates for such areas are necessarily based on partial information and may not be accurate.

Comparisons of juvenile arrest rates across jurisdictions can be informative. Because of factors noted, however, comparisons should be made with caution.

## Arrest rate data source

Analysis of arrest data from Snyder, H., and Mulako-Wantota, J., Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Arrest Data Analysis Tool* [available online at [www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm](http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm),

released 9/22/11]; population data for 1980–1989 from the U.S. Census Bureau, *U.S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1980 to 1999* [machine-readable data files available online, released 4/11/00]; population data for 1990–1999 from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau with support from the National Cancer Institute), *Bridged-Race Intercensal Estimates of the July 1, 1990–July 1, 1999, United States Resident Population by County, Single-Year of Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm), released 7/26/04]; and population data for 2000–2009 from the National Center for Health Statistics (prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau), *Estimates of the July 1, 2000–July 1, 2009, United States Resident Population From the Vintage 2009 Postcensal Series by Year, County, Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin* [machine-readable data files available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged\\_race.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm), released 7/23/10].

## Data coverage

FBI arrest data in this bulletin are counts of arrests detailed by age of arrestee and offense categories from all law enforcement agencies that reported complete data for the calendar year. (See *Crime in the United States 2009* for offense definitions.) The proportion of the U.S. population covered by these reporting agencies ranged from 63% to 94% between 1980 and 2009, with 2009 coverage of 80%.

## Visit OJJDP's Statistical Briefing Book for more information on juvenile arrests

OJJDP's online Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) offers access to a wealth of information about juvenile crime and victimization and about youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Visit the "Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime" section of the SBB at [ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/faqs.asp](http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/faqs.asp) for more information about juvenile arrest rate trends detailed by offense, gender, and race, including a spreadsheet of all juvenile arrest rates used in this bulletin.

Estimates of the number of persons in each age group in the reporting agencies' resident populations assume that the resident population age profiles are like the nation's. Reporting agencies' total populations were multiplied by the U.S. Census Bureau's most current estimate of the proportion of the U.S. population for each age group.

The reporting coverage for the total United States (84%) in the tables on pages 21 and 22 includes all states reporting arrests of persons younger than age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the bulletin (80%) for various reasons. For example, a state may provide arrest counts of persons younger than age 18 but not provide the age detail required to support other subpopulation estimates.

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*The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.*



OJJDP

Serving Children, Families, and Communities

# JUVENILE JUSTICE FACT SHEET

March 2011

Jeff Slowikowski, Acting Administrator

## Highlights From Pathways to Desistance: A Longitudinal Study of Serious Adolescent Offenders

Edward P. Mulvey

The Pathways to Desistance Study is a large collaborative, multidisciplinary project that is following 1,354 serious juvenile offenders ages 14–18 (184 females and 1,170 males) for 7 years after their conviction (for more detailed information, see “Study Design”).<sup>1</sup> This study has collected the most comprehensive data set currently available about serious adolescent offenders and their lives in late adolescence and early adulthood. It looks at the factors that lead youth who have committed serious offenses to continue or desist from offending, including individual maturation, life changes, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

### Study Findings

The primary findings of the study to date deal with the decrease in self-reported offending over time by most serious adolescent offenders, the relative inefficacy of longer juvenile incarcerations in decreasing recidivism, the effectiveness of community-based supervision as a component of aftercare for incarcerated youth, and the effectiveness of substance abuse treatment in reducing both substance use and offending by serious adolescent offenders.

**Most youth who commit felonies greatly reduce their offending over time, regardless of the intervention.** Approximately 91.5 percent of youth in the study reported

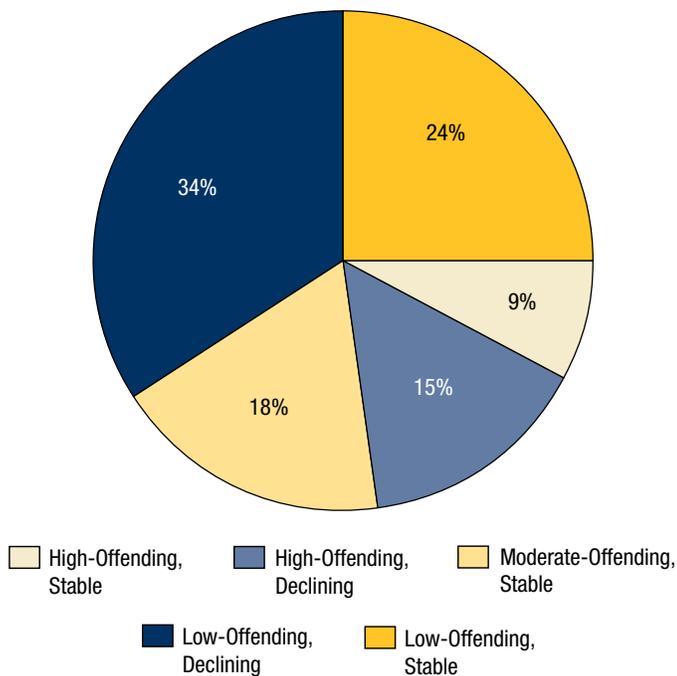
decreased or limited illegal activity during the first 3 years following their court involvement. In particular, two groups of male offenders—those with high, stable offending rates, and those with high, but declining offending rates—had very different outcomes despite similar treatment by the juvenile justice system (see figure 1). For both groups, approximately 40 percent of offenders were in jail or prison across the 3-year followup period (see “Study Design”); each group also had similar percentages under detention or in a contracted residential placement (about 20 percent of each group was in each of these forms of supervision). Overall, approximately 50 percent of the youth in each group were under some form of supervision during the followup period, and about 20 percent were receiving community-based services.

### Key Points

- Most youth who commit felonies greatly reduce their offending over time.
- Longer stays in juvenile institutions do not reduce recidivism.
- In the period after incarceration, community-based supervision is effective for youth who have committed serious offenses.
- Substance abuse treatment reduces both substance use and criminal offending for a limited time.



Figure 1: Groups of Male Offenders, Based on Self-Reports of Offending



Therefore, institutional placement and the type of setting appeared to have little effect on which high-end offenders persisted in offending and which reduced their offending (Mulvey et al., 2010).

**Longer stays in juvenile institutions do not reduce recidivism**, and some youth who had the lowest offending levels reported committing more crimes after being incarcerated. The researchers looked at two groups of cases that were adjudicated in juvenile court at both the Philadelphia and metropolitan Phoenix sites. Of 921 offenders who remained in the juvenile system, 502 received probation and 419 were placed in institutions. The researchers then matched the two groups based on 66 variables that would affect the probability that an individual offender would be placed in an institution to rule out those variables as potential causes of different outcomes between the placement and probation groups. After 64 of those 66 variables were ruled out, the two groups showed no significant

differences in their rate either of rearrest or of self-reported offending. Also, when the researchers matched groups of offenders with similar backgrounds, they found that, for lengths of stay between 3 and 13 months, youth who stayed in institutions longer showed little or no decrease in their rates of rearrest compared with those with shorter stays (Loughran et al., 2009). Moreover, in another set of analyses, the study found that the group of offenders with the lowest levels of self-reported offending actually raised their levels of offending by a small but statistically significant amount following stays in institutions (Mulvey et al., 2010).

**Community-based supervision as a component of aftercare is effective for youth who have committed serious offenses**, and offenders who receive community-based services following incarceration are more likely to attend school, go to work, and reduce offending. Because the project collects monthly data about institutional placement, probation, and involvement in community-based services, investigators were able to examine the effects of aftercare services for 6 months after a court-ordered placement (the period when such services are presumably provided with greater intensity in most locales). Increasing the duration of community supervision reduced reported reoffending. In addition, although returning offenders generally received supervision only, rather than treatment, the research showed that in the 6 months after release, youth who were involved in community-based services were more likely to avoid further involvement with the juvenile justice system (Chung, Schubert, and Mulvey, 2007).

**Substance abuse treatment reduces both substance use and criminal offending**, at least in the short term. Research has consistently shown that substance use among adolescents is linked to serious juvenile offending. The adolescent offenders profiled in the Pathways to Desistance study reported very high levels of substance use and substance use problems.<sup>2</sup> Substance use was linked to other illegal activities engaged in by the study participants. It is a strong, prevalent predictor of offending. The presence of a drug or alcohol disorder and the level of substance use

## Study Design

The study involved extensive interviews with young offenders at enrollment, followup interviews every 6 months for the first 3 years and annually thereafter, interviews following release from residential facilities, collateral interviews with family members and friends, data collection about significant life events recorded at the monthly level, and reviews of official records data. Enrollment took place between November 2000 and March 2003, and the research team concluded data collection in 2010.

The study followed young offenders in two metropolitan areas: Maricopa County (metropolitan Phoenix), AZ, and Philadelphia County, PA. Youth

enrollees in the study were 14 to 17 years old and found guilty of at least one serious (almost exclusively felony-level) violent crime, property offense, or drug offense as the result of their current petition to court. The study limited the proportion of male drug offenders to 15 percent at each site to ensure a heterogeneous sample of serious offenders. Because investigators also wanted to ensure a large enough sample of female offenders—a group neglected in previous research—they did not apply this limit to female drug offenders. In addition, youth whose cases were considered for trial in the adult criminal justice system were still enrolled.

were both shown to be strongly and independently related to the level of self-reported offending and the number of arrests. This relationship held even when drug-related offenses and behaviors were removed from the offending measures, and characteristics including socioeconomic status, gender, and ethnicity were controlled statistically (Mulvey, Schubert, and Chassin, 2010). The good news, however, is that treatment appears to reduce both substance use and offending, at least in the short term. Youth whose treatment lasted for at least 90 days and included significant family involvement showed significant reductions in alcohol use, marijuana use, and offending over the following 6 months (Chassin et al., 2009).

## Conclusions

The most important conclusion of the study is that even adolescents who have committed serious offenses are not necessarily on track for adult criminal careers. Only a small proportion of the offenders studied continued to offend at a high level throughout the followup period. The great majority reported low levels of offending after court involvement, and a significant portion of those with the highest levels of offending reduced their reoffending dramatically. Two factors that appear to distinguish high-end desisters from persisters are lower levels of substance use and greater stability in their daily routines, as measured by stability in living arrangements and work and school attendance.

The second conclusion is that incarceration may not be the most appropriate or effective option, even for many of the most serious adolescent offenders. Longer stays in juvenile facilities did not reduce reoffending; institutional placement even raised offending levels in those with the lowest level of offending. Youth who received community-based supervision and aftercare services were more likely to attend school, go to work, and avoid further offending during the 6 months after release, and longer supervision periods increased these benefits.

Finally, substance use is a major factor in continued criminal activity by serious adolescent offenders. Substance abuse treatment for young offenders reduces both substance use and non-drug-related offending in the short term, if the treatment period is long enough and if families take part in the treatment with the offender. Most young offenders who are diagnosed with substance abuse disorders, however, do not receive treatment in institutions or community-based settings. Given that community-based supervision may reduce reoffending and promote prosocial attitudes and behaviors, and that continued substance abuse treatment may be needed to prevent longer term relapses, integrating substance abuse treatment into community-based services may realize greater benefits in



reducing serious adolescent offending while providing more efficient and effective delivery of services.

## Notes

1. OJJDP is sponsoring the Pathways to Desistance study in partnership with the National Institute of Justice, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the William T. Grant Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the William Penn Foundation, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (Grant Number R01DA019697), the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Arizona State Governor's Justice Commission. Investigators for this study are Edward P. Mulvey, Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh), Robert Brame, Ph.D. (University of North Carolina–Charlotte), Elizabeth Cauffman, Ph.D. (University of California–Irvine), Laurie Chassin, Ph.D. (Arizona State University), Sonia Cota-Robles, Ph.D. (Temple University), Jeffrey Fagan, Ph.D. (Columbia University), George Knight, Ph.D. (Arizona State University), Sandra Losoya, Ph.D. (Arizona State University), Alex Piquero, Ph.D. (Florida State University), Carol A. Schubert, M.P.H. (University of Pittsburgh), and Laurence Steinberg, Ph.D. (Temple University). The rationale for the study may be found in Mulvey et al., 2004, and the details of operations can be found in Schubert et al., 2004.

2. During their baseline interviews, 57 percent of the respondents reported that they had smoked marijuana in the previous 6 months, 40 percent had drunk alcohol during that time, and 27 percent had used cocaine, hallucinogens, or other drugs. Approximately 48 percent of the study participants had used multiple substances during the 6 months before the baseline interviews and, in each followup interview, about 28 to 30 percent reported using multiple substances in the previous 6 months. In addition, at the time of the baseline interview, 37 percent of male study participants and 35 percent of female participants were diagnosed with a substance use disorder in the previous year, three to four times the rate in the general youth population (Mulvey, Schubert, and Chassin, 2010).

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Edward P. Mulvey, Director of the Law and Psychiatry Program at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and principal investigator for the Pathways to Desistance Study, prepared this document as a product of the Pathways to Desistance Project, which is supported by OJJDP grant 2007–MU–FX–0002 and National Institute of Justice grant 2008–IJ–CX–0023.

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To the members of the advisory council,

I am writing this email in regards to the proposed closure of IYC-Joliet as announced by Governor Quinn last month. It is my opinion that closure of this maximum security facility for juvenile offenders is a poor decision; I am against closure of this facility.

As a member of this state, I do my civic duty at each election and vote for the candidates that I think will best represent me, and even more so for that candidate that offers the best plan and promise toward leading our state toward better days. I put my trust in these individuals to make sound, well thought out decisions that will help protect my employment, my family's safety, and the general well being of all residents of the State of Illinois. I do not often engage in political discussions mostly because I do not feel educated enough about the facts to present a well rounded, thoughtful argument for one view versus another. That has all changed though with Governor Quinn's latest proposal to shutter some of our state's most vital institutions. I feel that his plan is one that has not been thought out with long term planning, foresight, or a complete understanding for what elimination of these services would do to our state and the residents that live both within and outside of these facilities. Closure of institutions like IYC-Joliet as well as the other correctional facilities, mental health centers, and facilities for assisting people with developmental disabilities targeted in Governor Quinn's proposed budget cuts eliminate vital public services to some of our state's most vulnerable citizens. In addition, the safety of the general population of our state could also be placed in jeopardy with the short sightedness that comes with closure of these facilities.

IYC-Joliet is the only maximum security facility for juveniles in the state of Illinois. It currently houses more than 230 young men who have been convicted of violent crimes including but not limited to murder, rape, drug charges, and armed robbery. It is a sad reality that a maximum security facility for such heinous crimes is necessary but it is a reality that we must live with, one that we can not ignore or underscore. By the time the youth of this facility reach the gates of IYC-Joliet, most have seen and participated in years of violence and crime. These youth are not first time offenders but instead have led a life filled with crime and criminal actions. The staff that work with these youth are well trained, committed, dedicated individuals who have specialized knowledge and training in how to deal with these individuals. Closing the doors of IYC-Joliet would mean moving high profile, repeat, violent offenders to an already overcrowded medium security facility with staff who are ill prepared to deal with the level of need that these offenders require. This becomes a security and safety risk for both youth and staff. In addition to this safety concern, at this point the domino effect moves into action: lesser offenders are moved to minimum security facilities or placed on home monitoring before they have served their full sentences and prior to receiving appropriate rehabilitation. Parole officers - already in small numbers - become inundated with new parolees in alarming numbers. Youth who have been removed from rehabilitative programs within the Department of Juvenile Justice are put back on the streets to repeat previous acts and quickly move back into the system they were prematurely removed from. We can not afford to let this happen. In addition to being the only maximum security facility for youth in the state, IYC-Joliet also houses previously paroled offenders who now face adult charges through Cook County and surrounding counties. All court writs - transportation of inmates to

court appearance - are also run through IYC-Joliet. Having these writs run from a facility further from Cook County than Joliet would generate massive over-time costs, not to mention additional fuel and mileage costs. These additional responsibilities are just another example of the vital role IYC-Joliet serves within the Department of Juvenile Justice.

I have to wonder if closing this facility would actually save the money advertised by Governor Quinn. I know of one example at IYC-Joliet - recently installed beds in all cells at a hefty price tag - where I can't help but wonder: if these proposed costly renovations were approved recently at this facility, why is our Governor now calling for total closure of this same facility? Does it seem logical and cost effective to spend millions of dollars in installation of new equipment only to close the facility down mere months later? This is only one example at only one institution targeted for closure. I have to think that similar events are occurring at other facilities slated for closure as well. This is just one example of short sighted thinking that makes me seriously question whether or not such closings are really fiscally responsible at all. Our state has seen an unfortunate pattern of government officials mismanaging funds at an unspeakable rate in recent years and I can't help but think that this might be another example of that happening yet again. Either way, I think government officials need to take a hard, serious, comprehensive look at not only the immediate cost but also long range costs that closing these facilities would carry. There are the immediate "cost savings" which Governor Quinn's office has reported, but has there been any thought into what costs will be incurred as a result of transfer of inmates alone? Then there are related costs to consider: as mentioned previously, increased transportation related costs as youth are traveling farther to attend required court appearances and the cost of hiring additional parole officers for the increased number of released inmates are just two that immediately come to mind. Please also keep in mind that by closing IYC-Joliet and similar institutions as proposed by Governor Quinn, hundreds (if not thousands) of loyal, dedicated state employees would be out of jobs leading to even higher unemployment rates which leads to additional pressure on an already taxed unemployment funds and subsequent decreased revenue generated by those employees who will be unable to put money back into our state's economy due to restricted funds. Again, looking at the big picture it's hard to imagine how closing these facilities is even close to the answer to our state's financial problems. Does it even make a dent or scratch the surface? If the answer is no, then why are we even entertaining the thought?

Let's stop to consider this summary of Governor Quinn's proposal: two juvenile prisons, two maximum security adult prisons, six adult transition centers, and four mental health institutions closed by July 31st. I struggle to find where any of this makes sense. I am fully aware of the dire situation that our state is in, but where and when does it ever make sense, when it comes time to tighten the purse strings, to first take off the backs of those citizens who are the most vulnerable, neediest, and impoverished?

I sincerely appreciate the time you have devoted to reading this email and my concerns. I ask now that you thoughtfully consider the dire consequences that come with execution of Governor Quinn's drastic proposed cuts to IYC-Joliet and facilities like it. They serve a vital role in terms of public safety and rehabilitation and provide valuable jobs for hundreds of hard working men and women in the State of

Illinois. I urge you to think not just in the immediate but also long term and consider what certain consequences we would face if these necessary institutions were eliminated.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Patten

---

All I want to say is to PLEASE KEEP THE FACILITY OPEN. Joliet has lost a lot already. We need the jobs here.

Thank You.

Luis A. Rivera

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Good Morning,

My name is Robert J. Parks. I have worked at the Illinois Youth Center -Joliet for 24 years. I oppose the closing of this facility for numerous reasons.

1. The closure of this facility would be a tremendous strain on the youths in our custody and their families. It is a very important part in the on-going rehabilitation of our youths to be in the proximity of their families. This ensures that their family have the ability to visit and to be a part of their long reaching goals when they are able to be placed back into society. The movement of these youths to other facilities will almost assuredly make this contact and interaction with their families nearly impossible.

2. It has been said that we are the least rehabilitative facility. We have youths that could not or would not conform to some of the other facilities' rules and regulations. Some of our youths have committed numerous staff and youth assaults at the other facilities. We currently house youths that are facing charges that, if convicted, could receive sentences in excess of 50 years. It is my understanding that there are numerous youths at our facility that have been sentenced and do currently have sentences in excess of 20 years. They are the majority of the worst offenders in our state facilities. It is very easy to send this type of youth to our facility and then say that we are the least rehabilitative.

3. That being said, we do not "give up" on these youths. Our staff consistently counsel, mentor and provide a safe environment for these youths to the best of our abilities. I know that numerous staff have made an impact on some of the youths. I know of staff that have received phone calls from previously incarcerated youths to say Thank You for the guidance and advice or Father's Day cards ( some of our staff are the only father figure that some of these youths have had) . These calls or cards have come as late as 10 years or more after the youth has left our facility, results are not instantaneous.

4. To move our youths to other facilities would be extremely costly in the terms of money, all the way from the initial cost of the transfers to the additional cost of the writs for court( in terms of gas and overtime if these youth are moved farther away from this area. We have numerous youth that have Cook County court, it would not be cost effective for ANY of those youth to be transferred to the facilities that are being considered). We are the most centrally located facility. We have access, with in minutes, to Interstate -80, Interstate -57 and Interstate-55.

These are just some of the reasons that I feel are pertinent. I don't have the "magic" answer on how to balance the budget or how to consistently rehabilitate these youths ( but we will keep trying). I do know that closing our facility is not the answer to either of these issues.

Thank you

Robert J. Parks

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I am an employee at IYC-Joliet and I oppose Governor Quinn's proposal to close IYC-Joliet.

The Governor has based this closure on the outside appearance of IYC-Joliet stating it is the least rehabilitative structure, resembling an adult prison. I would like to point out that Governor Quinn has never been to this facility.

IYC-Joliet is a MAXIMUM security prison for young males - they are not children. The average youth at IYC-Joliet is between 17 and 20 years old. They youth weigh between 150 lbs to 300 lbs. They stand from 5'8" to 6'5" tall. They are currently incarcerated at IYC-Joliet because they have committed the most violent and heinous crimes imaginable and/or have shown through their behavior at other facilities need a more strict and secure setting. This is what IYC-Joliet is. We deal, and succeed, with youth that every other facility has deemed too "behaviorally challenged" to be housed in a less secure setting.

IYC-Joliet has embraced the concept of Juvenile Justice and that of the Department. The staff at IYC-Joliet have established behavior modification programs to motivate the youth in academics and behavior. The programs, despite the lack of continued funding by the facility or the department, continued because staff at IYC-Joliet were not about to let these youth face disappointment upon achieving their goal. The cost of 8 pizza's may have been too much for the department or the achievements of the youth not grand enough for the department, but the staff at IYC-Joliet walked the walk and provided the funds needed to complete the program. IYC-Joliet offers a multitude of programs for the youth we serve and protect. There is an intramural sports program that includes flag football, soccer, kickball, softball, basketball and a track meet. We have an academic program designed for youth with special education needs, middle school and high school curriculum. There are religious services and mentor groups on Saturdays. We have had Guardian Angel come in and do Anger Management groups. In addition, a number of the Juvenile Justice Youth and Family Service Specialist's also conduct Anger Management groups. We have had spellings bee's, parenting classes, job interview skill workshops etc. The youth have special programs for Black History Month and Christmas. In addition, IYC-Joliet also puts on a science fair once per year. This year, the funding was not available in a timely manner, and the staff at IYC-Joliet again, put the youth first and purchased supplies on their own. This is where IYC-Joliet makes a difference in the life of the young men incarcerated here. We have taken the time to open up the lines of communication, establish relationships and formed a certain level of trust with the most difficult population in the juvenile systems. In addition, IYC-Joliet has and continues to exceed other facility's and nationwide levels when it comes to PBS (Performance Based Standards) as reported last quarter. IYC-Joliet continues to show positive growth even with the most difficult population.

IYC-Joliet is a solid and sound structure. The roofs have been repaired and replaced. The housing units have recently been fitted with the new safety beds. There are no condemned buildings on site. We do not have mold and mildew issues. We are 98% asbestos free. We are a safe and healthy facility. We are not the newest Juvenile facility, we are not the oldest juvenile facility, but I can say with great confidence we are strong and solid.

The Governor of Illinois has stated the youth will be moved to IYC-St. Charles, IYC-Kewanee or IYC-Harrisburg. Not one of these institutions is as conveniently located to Cook County as IYC-Joliet. Approximately 85% of the population at IYC-Joliet is from Cook County. The parents and family members of our youth rely on public transportation in order to see their youth. They are suffering in hard economic times and moving their family 6 hours to the south, 4 hours to the west or 2 hours to the north will cause both economic and emotional harm. It is not in the spirit or mission of IDJJ to break the fragile family bond these families have. The staff at IYC-Joliet work tremendously hard to reestablish and reunify the family of our youth. With this proposal, the Governor of Illinois has decided that positive progress is not important, family reunification is not important, the hard work of the staff, the youth and the families are not significant enough due to the outside appearance of this facility.

I urge Governor Quinn to rethink his decision to close IYC-Joliet. It is not fiscally responsible to close a solid, secure and safe structure based on someone else's view of what is "rehabilitative". I believe, we at IYC-Joliet, have shown we are "rehabilitative" inside the walls of IYC-Joliet.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Konopka  
JJSS  
IYC-Joliet

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Eric Cannon and I am strongly opposing the closure of IYC Joliet! I'm an employee at IYC Joliet (Security Staff) and I can tell you we deal with the worst of the worst juveniles in Illinois. We house murderers, rapists, and several other individuals that have committed heinous acts in our society. Despite what the spokesperson for the governor says, we are the only juvenile maximum security facility in Illinois for young men. This can be verified by checking the state website.

It was also said that we have the least amount of rehabilitative programs out of all other juvenile facilities. Untrue! On March 19, 2012, State Senator Pat McGuire (D- Joliet) toured our facility and was informed of some of our rehabilitative programs for our youths. State Senator McGuire also agreed that due the nature of their crimes, it is necessary to hold these youths in a secure facility, which IYC provides.

What you're not being told is that the youths who can't comply with the rules and programs at other facilities are sent to us. Any youths who assault staff at other facilities are also sent to us. Therefore, if

IYC Joliet was to close, these youths will be sent back to the same facilities that they couldn't make it in the first time.

Two hundred seventy-five workers will be laid off at IYC Joliet if we were to close, two hundred seventy-five contributing members to this great state. We pay property taxes, state taxes, sales taxes at stores, and any other taxes the government puts on our plates. It's just disheartening that we have to fight for our jobs because the state government's mismanagement of our tax dollars. I know sacrifices need to be made, but to lay off people who are contributing to our society, to close a facility that is not only necessary but essential, well--it just doesn't make sense.

I ask that you reconsider the closing of IYC Joliet and allow us to continue to be helpful members in this society. Thank you in advance for taking time to listen to my concern. Please keep IYC Joliet open!

Sincerely  
Eric Cannon

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Governor Quinn,

This e-mail is regards to the possible closure of IYC Joliet. I can not begin to explain how detrimental it would be to close this maximum facility. Not only to my family but to the community as well.

We are highly dependent on what was to be a secure job. This loss of employment would cause an extreme financial hardship on our family. Our oldest daughter Cara, currently in sixth grade and on the Highest Honor Roll, participates in several school activities such as band, choir, and seasonal athletics. Currently she has made the track team and this past fall she was in cross country. These programs cost money...money we would no longer have if this facility was to be closed. Due to the wide spread economic hardship Illinois has been in, the schools have to charge activity fees to allow for them to continue.

Chloe is in kindergarten and has participated in dance and ice skating classes. She also is a daisy girl scout. For a kindergartner, she also maintains great grades.

Nevaeh is our youngest, just 19 months old. She unfortunately has to be on a strict diet due to the amount of food allergies she has. The milk she drinks is 4 dollars a half gallon. Her allergies include soy, dairy, eggs, almonds, tree nuts and gluten.

Mike, my husband, has maintained employment with this facility for 13 years. He also maintains good standings for his annual performance reviews. As quoted from his superior, who will remain unnamed, "Mike is an asset to this facility". He maintains noted professionalism among the incarcerated juveniles, willingness to teach and assist new and time in co-workers.

As for myself, I hold a state license as an EMT, but currently am a stay at home mom. I am an active member of our community. I am a Girl Scout leader, participate in the Women's Club, adult religious education and assist in kindergarten Ccd. With the cost of EVERYTHING sky rocketing, I have become an avid coupon clipper. It has helped our family out tremendously with making ends meet, and that's with my husband having a job!

We are all also active members of our church.

Although faith and hope exists for those who commit dangerous, violent crimes, like the juveniles at IYC Joliet, ultimately for some, it is their own choice whether or not they want to take a better path in life. It is also a fact that many of them can never become rehabilitated and are guaranteed to commit the same, or a more violent crime if they had the opportunity. Some of these young men, that do have a chance, have had limited choices and opportunities. At IYC Joliet they have a choice, they have an opportunity to become active, responsible members of society upon release. Drug programs, an education, mental health and recreational time is all available to these young men on a daily basis. It's their choice, and unfortunately some of them will not take advantage of what this facility can offer them. For those that choose not to, they in the right place regardless. A maximum security facility. They do not belong among the community where there is ample amount of opportunity for them to commit more violent crimes on innocent children, helpless elderly, rivals, businesses, the list goes on and on. If the numbers show that IYC Joliet juvenile delinquents are the least rehabilitated, it isn't because the facility doesn't provide everything they need. It's because they chose not to participate.

Closing IYC Joliet and releasing these criminals to house arrest or a lower security facility is a grave mistake. It will endanger lives. It will do more harm than good. It will give them the upper hand. It will send a message that you can take a life and not have severe consequences. It will say steal the innocence of a girl or boy and all you have to do is have a bracelet slapped on your ankle. It will leave 275 people and their families with no income living next door to the criminal you let stay home on house arrest.

Please consider, for even just a moment, the repercussions of your actions. Keep IYC Joilet open. If they are able to be rehabilitated or not, they are where they belong.

Sincerely,

Lilly Fuller

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Dear CGFA:

I have been employed with IYC Joliet for 8 years now and most recently as a Shift Supervisor and I have seen fist hand changes in several of these youth upon their arrival to our facility be it from another facility, a negative transfer or just a parole violator, we have made a difference in these young men. These young adults learn from example we display, in how we speak, respond, listen, and advise to their needs. We have school year round, a drug and alcohol dorm, a TASK program to follow through upon release of the youth and then there is us again the security staff who work 24 hours around the clock to ensure their needs and safety are addressed and met. Sure we have some challenged youth but with our experience, patience, and team work we not handle but also gain respect from our youth. Because of the fact that we work around the clock we frequent and patronize several businesses in Joliet, be gas, food, coffee, or the post office we spend our money where it is convenient, close to work.

I have seen and learned much from my job and I can sincerely say, I appreciate life and my freedom all the more after working in a prison and because of this all the more I perform my job duties to the best of my ability and then some. And with that being said, I have gained respect from just about every youth housed at IYC Joliet. I am not there to judge...only to do my job. I ask you to please help keep IYC Joliet open.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Robles

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Fact: We house approx. 90 consent decrees and run WRITS daily to Cook County. How will the scheduled court dates be handled from institutions so far away?

Fact: Our youth are Cook County. This will severely affect visits with families- support they depend on.

Fact: Chrysler, GM, and Ford all make cars- but they're all different, some are better than others, the quality is not the same. The employees of IYC-Joliet are like that. No one does the job with these youth the way we do. Security minded? Yes. Understanding of our youth and their particular needs? Yes. They are our kids. We get them. No one else will have the patience, drive, and desire we have to help these guys.

As their Counselor I am truly concerned about what this change will mean to my guys. They're going through enough already. This will affect their sense of security.

This decision will not be a positive one.

Kimberly Duvall JJYFS

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Jennifer Lewis and I am writing this email because I am against the closure of the IYC - Joliet center. My views on the opposition closure are very strong and so are many others. My fiance is currently an employee at this facility as I communicate with him much about the youth located at that facility. These are very dangerous youth who need to have the discipline that these people provide to them. They receive education, counseling services, and support from the staff at the IYC - Joliet center. They can be rehabilitated and gain the experience and knowledge they need to survive later on in life that would help them avoid making the same mistakes again. Also, being that many of these youth are from Cook county and surrounding areas, if they are moved, this would be very difficult for them and their families for visitation. Their families already have a hard enough time trying to see their loved ones. Therefore moving them would make not only the inmates, but their families lives more difficult.

Another reason I oppose this closure is because again, my fiance is an employee as well as many of our close friends. This closure would cause several job losses which would just contribute to the economic hardships that many of us are experiencing now. Home foreclosures will increase, unemployment rates will increase, and the surrounding businesses will also suffer and possibly close because of the lack of business. We have a family that needs not only emotional support, but monetary support and most of this support comes from my fiance which is employed at IYC - Joliet. This could cause many hardships for us and not just us, the other families who will be affected by this incident. The government needs to stop propping up the rich and pay more attention to the working class economy. The middle (working class) economy suffers tremendously from the government's hand. We see taxes increasing, government spending increasing, healthcare being cut, all while jobs and income are being cut as well. When are we going to receive a bailout and assistance. We work too hard to just sit back and do nothing. We need to stop this closure immediately!

Jennifer Lewis

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Dear Commission members,

I am writing to you in opposition of closing either of the juvenile facilities (IYC Joliet and IYC Murphysboro) as proposed by Governor Quinn. Many of the arguments made by myself and the employees of my own facility at the IYC in Murphysboro are absolutely in line with why the facility in Joliet should remain open.

In the wake of the recent shootings in Chicago that so many were killed or injured, I have to ask, where the logic is in proposing replacement of safe secure facilities such as these with community based programs being recommended by such organizations as the Juvenile Justice Initiative (Elizabeth Clark) and the John Howard Association. The states budget issues cannot be fixed by implementing these types of programs because in the long term, it is my belief that these programs will fail miserably and will ultimately cost the state even more to reinstitute the facilities proposed to close. It was gang bangers pulling the triggers that killed up to 10 and injured nearly 50 as the reports are saying. The numbers being reported that community based programs are working cannot be accurate, again, in my opinion, if these kinds of things are happening. It is a problem that cannot be ignored any longer, and the juvenile facilities are the only place these young and misguided young men can be given the treatment and supervision needed to turn them around. The streets have these young people believing in an unrealistic future of fame and power. I work directly with these youth, and I am amazed about how calloused many of them are in their views of the world. We will be doing them an injustice to think that we can instill a warm fuzzy feeling of reality in them after living the lives many of them have lived through programs that most communities are not prepared for financially or even aware of for that matter. We deal with these issues daily. We work as hard as we can with the tools we are given.

Joliet IYC deals with the worst of the worst in solving these issues. How can we believe that sending them to other less secure facilities or even back into the community will benefit them in the long term? As an employee who works with these youth and also as a citizen concerned for public safety, I am asking the COGFA to recommend keeping this facility open, and to continue providing the vital services it provides in helping these young offenders restructure their lives, as well as for public safety. I AM OPPOSED TO CLOSURE OF IYC JOLIET, AND IYC MURPHYSBORO.

Greg Foreman  
AFSCME President  
Local 2335  
IYC Murphysboro, Southern Illinois ATC, District 5 Parole Office

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Hello I'm an employee at IYC Joliet .. Let me start off by opposing the proposed closure of IYC Joliet. IYC Joliet is the institution that houses the states worst of the worst juveniles.. Let me inform you on incidents that occur behind the fences of IYC Joliet.. We the employees have complied with everything asked of us whether we thought it was wrong or right.. I am almost sure you have no idea that we keep confinement numbers low for outside organizations such as John Howard .. Again no one knows exactly whats going unless you are an employee at the facility .. We empty out confinement when tour groups come tour the facility.. Someone needs to even just ask why when tour groups visit they only visit the westside of the facility.. Why just the westside ? It's the side with lesser of the aggressive youths.. The Wells Center and Tasc Programs are housed on the westside of the facility.. Now about the eastside of the facility.. Wow Consent Decree's !! Consent Decree are individuals still fighting cases such as Murder, Rape you name it .. It where the absolute worst are.. These individuals are facing serious time.. Serious time is 10,20 ,30 years or better.. These youths are by far more aggressive in every way. Not every facility can handle the youths housed at IYC Joliet .. Joliet takes in all the problem youths from IYC St.Charles , Kewanee ,and Harrisburg .. Everyone's problem youths are transferred and housed at IYC Joliet.. Not every youth should be considered worst of the worst. Some employees are father figures, big brothers figures and uncle figures to these youths.. We the employee are some youths everything , there is no better feeling than a former inmates calling the facility and saying " hey I'm doing ok working and taking care of my kids and thanks for everything .. You can't reach them all but for the ones that can be counseled an be receptive to what's right and wrong.That call that comes in and saysThanks for everything is priceless !!! In conclusion let me say I oppose the preposed closure , I Love my job it has made me a great provider for my family.. I am a Husband , a father to two wonderful children . I'm a homeowner that works to do everything to keep his family in tact .. I don't want to lose my job or family with the Closure of IYC Joliet.. Thank you for your time..

Tommy H. Johnson

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This is my written statement of opposition of the facility closure YC Joliet.

Karla Williams Jones

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I OPPOSE THE CLOSURE OF IYC JOLIET!

Yolanda A Mckinnon

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I OPPOSE THE CLOSURE OF IYC JOLIET!

Andrew G. Mckinnon

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to Governor Quinn's plan to close the Illinois Youth Center Joliet. My name is Susan Lyday, and have been employed as an Educator at this facility since 2006. I teach math to an academically diverse, rapidly changing group of youth. Some of them have not been in school for years. They choose not to go. One of the great things about IYC Joliet is the importance placed on educating these youth. As educators, we strive to challenge and engage these young men. I look to instill critical thinking skills, and looking at numbers and patterns in data is a means to achieve those important skills. Let me apply this to our current situation:

As I examine and research the information available on this proposed closing, it leaves me shaking my head in despair. Governor Quinn presented his FY2013 budget as an "honest" one. He proposes "necessary cuts" to public safety in order to achieve budget savings. I do not see any honesty in his presentation.

For example, upon review of the budget submission for the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), it shows absolutely no change in spending when comparing 2011 actuals to his 2013 proposal. How can this be? He is planning to close two juvenile facilities, eliminate over 300 positions, has yet to pay out contractual pay increases, has benefited from the negotiated voluntary furlough program, and yet there is no impact? I think the Governor is not being truthful.

The FY2013 proposal for DJJ does show, however, significant increases in administrative spending (\$9 million), headcount (General Office up 74%), and funding for "Designated Programs," which is consistently appropriated at more than double the actual expenditures, plus an additional \$6.4 million. One might infer by looking at this data, that someone is padding their nest. The budget also shows an increase in aftercare services of 71 employees and another \$9 million dollars. Those 71 aftercare positions are replacement jobs for the 226 specially skilled and trained employees at IYC Joliet and over 50 employees at IYC Murphysboro. The Governor's plan is a shell game, and he is not being honest. The examples I have selected to illustrate this amount to \$21 million, which happens to be more than enough to keep our facility open and allow us to continue to serve public safety for the long-term. I hope that you can see the same pattern, not only for IYC Joliet and the Department of Juvenile Justice, but for all his planned "budget-cutting" closures, and vote to reject ALL of his proposals.

Much is wrong with the State of Illinois financial and budgetary process, but the services provided by my co-workers are NOT the problem.

Instead of cutting vital services that help ensure the safety and welfare of ALL of our citizens, I propose that cuts be made to grants for special interests first. Employ a zero-based budget system, just as we do in our homes and personal lives. There are hundreds of millions of dollars allocated to special interest causes, and that needs to stop before we start jeopardizing the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of this State that make valuable contributions in terms of employment and tax payments. Workers pay taxes. Workers spend money that also get taxed. Cutting the jobs by closing these

facilities will compound and exacerbate the problems that government currently faces. As members of this important commission and also as legislators, I urge you to keep Governor Quinn honest, and not allow these proposed closures to happen by voting NO, and use the data that you obtain to inform your fellow lawmakers of this farce that the FY2013 budget proposal represents.

There are plans afoot to move juvenile justice to community based settings. While there are loud voices that cry that this is the only and best alternative to commitment to our Department (which I disagree with), I do not disagree that in some cases, this may be appropriate. However, the youth placed at IYC Joliet, a maximum-security juvenile facility, have particular needs that will not be best served in a community-based or group-home setting. As you will hear, and have heard, these young men have set a dangerous, and sometimes deadly, pattern for themselves and our communities. We at IYC Joliet use all of our caring knowledge, skills and abilities to turn these youth at perhaps their last stop before adult incarceration. Does our facility "look" like the least rehabilitative on the outside? Perhaps. It may be a function of funding priorities and the level of safety required for the population we serve.

Regardless, it is what happens on the inside that counts.

You will hear, read about, and hopefully see for yourself many of the successful programs we have in place for this particular population. Our programs are staffed by some of the best employees in the state. When I started at IYC Joliet 5 years ago, I had no idea of what to expect. I have learned much from all involved - administrators, fellow educators, juvenile justice specialists, mental health and support programmers, and the youth we work with. We make a difference in the lives of these young men. We see change everyday. We encourage and embrace change and growth. Look at the data. We are successful, and I would like to see that come to the forefront. We are accountable and we expect results. Let's publicize that. IYC is a thriving and viable community making a real difference in the lives of these youth. I encourage you to see through the smoke being blown around, and make the decision that is best not only for the youth, but the communities, employees, and the entire state. KEEP IYC JOLIET OPEN!

Thank you.

Susan Lyday  
Educator  
IYC Joliet

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The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice has submitted notice that it intends to close the Illinois Youth Center Joliet located at 2848 W. McDonough St, Joliet Illinois 60436. This proposal and plan to proceed at Governor Quinn's direction appears to be without much consideration or respect to the many benefits to keeping the agency open. Instead of closing the facility, Governor Quinn should be trying to figure out a way to better fund the agency to ensure that it never closes. It's as if Governor Quinn and his supporters have totally disregarded the many years of commitment to service that has been offered

by the Direct Care Correctional Staff, Counselors, Teachers, Food Services Staff, Maintenance Personnel, Administrators, Clerical Staff, Volunteers etc. We have devoted our lives to managing a very complex population of youth between the ages of 17-21 who may be incarcerated for what many only read about or hear about on the news. Closing IYC Joliet appears to be more of a knee-jerk reaction to a complex financial concern than a well thought out resolution. Instead of being recognized for dealing with a very troubled population, the employees have been slapped in the face with a notice of closure within a few months. He has totally disregarded and failed to show any appreciation for the fact that our very lives are affected by his "band-aid" approach to resolving the State of Illinois budgetary concerns.

What the public address has failed to highlight is the fact that the Illinois Youth Center of Joliet houses "The" worst of the State of Illinois offenders. The youth housed at the facility are not "children" as the term implies. Many of the youth housed at the facility have committed very heinous crimes. These may be considered by many to be "the worst of the worst"; but the staff at the Illinois Youth Center of Joliet are very effective at managing this population. Many of the "youth" have never had a Father figure in their lives. Many have never been embraced by a Big-Brother other than the man who introduced them to the gang or to selling drugs. Many have never been provided with a sense of structure that let's them know that they're expected to clean up their rooms, make up their beds, comb their hair, pull up their pants, wash their faces and brush their teeth. Many have never been encouraged to respect themselves and each other. Many of them have never been encouraged and told that they can actually be more and do more than they have before they were locked up. This is the kind of "care" that we provide at the Illinois Youth Center Joliet. We effectively mentor a population of "youth" that society has failed. We are trained professionals, and we deal with the problems that the rest of society chooses not to.

The training department for the Illinois Youth Center Joliet has been contacted by many of the state correctional agencies throughout Illinois in an attempt to model the systems that we have in place. We are often asked how we managed to accomplish all that we do in the course of a year. How can we get all of our staff trained to effectively manage this troubled population? We work hard, and our staff are committed to excellence. We take pride in our performance and we appreciate being prepared to do what we do. This is another reason that I'm confused by Governor Quinn's decision to close IYC Joliet. We are a model that other facilities want to follow, but the decision has been made to close us? This doesn't make sense to me.

IYC Joliet has a "culture" that's understood and accepted by even the most difficult to manage youth. Upon arrival, even from other facilities, youth understand that the things that they were permitted to do while housed at other facilities will not be permitted while housed at IYC Joliet. This culture was not birthed from posted rules on the walls or gates of the facility. This culture was spoken by the efforts of the staff who have worked at the facility for decades. Many have come to work neat and clean, and left going home to their families tattered and torn. This is the kind of population that is managed on a daily basis by staff who are passionate about their jobs. We don't tuck tail and ignore problems; we deal with them professionally and according to mandates regulated by policy and procedure. Many of our "youth" have failed to comply with the rules of ANY controlled setting that they've been expected to attend, including school, other jails, housing arrangements etc; but we take ALL of these youth and

mandate that they attend organized group settings in mass numbers routinely and WITHOUT INCIDENT. This is the kind of work that's performed by the staff at the Illinois Youth Center of Joliet. Instead of visiting the facility to recognize the staff for the hard work that we do, not only have we been denied a contractually agreed upon raise for over a year now, we've been advised that we will be closed within a few months. A pat on the back would be nice; but even though we don't expect that, we would at least like to know for sure that we will keep our jobs. It's understood that Gov. Quinn has awarded himself and his staff with raises but failed to comply with a contract that would award us with ours, but at least we'd like to know that we'll continue to be able to keep our houses, feed our children, and put food on the table. I think that I can safely say that the staff of the Illinois Youth Center of Joliet feel completely betrayed by this knee-jerk decision made by Governor Quinn and his supporters.

One of the suggestions submitted is that our youth be moved to the Illinois Youth Center of St. Charles. This is a huge mistake and again, not very well thought out. This is a decision made by people who look at numbers on paper and push pens for a living. It is an assumption, but I think it to be a very good one. I'm assuming that the people who came up with this decision has never worked directly with a controlled population such as the one at IYC Joliet. I'm assuming that the people who made this decision fail to understand that a Jail has a culture unspoken of and not very well communicated in movies and television shows. In every Hollywood creation that I can think of, the Correctional Professional is always depicted as the bad guy, the abuser, the cold hearted guy in the black uniform with the night stick. This couldn't be further from reality. The people who made this decision fail to realize that the very youth that have been transferred to our facility because they couldn't be managed at other facilities and by other staff are accustomed to the "way of life" and the staff of the Illinois Youth Center. The plan is to move IYC Joliet youth to a facility that's well outdated. A facility that youth have escaped from in the past and been on the run for at least a week resulting in a robbery and stolen car. The very youth who escaped from IYC St. Charles were later capture and transferred where???? IYC Joliet! IYC St. Charles has a reported asbestos problem. An asbestos problem that has resulted in the closure of the infirmary. IYC St. Charles has a raccoon infestation in many of their dilapidated buildings. IYC St. Charles has record of their staff suffering Bells Palsy; a common side effect of being exposed to asbestos. Moving to IYC St. Charles is your plan of action?

I don't have all of the answers, but I certainly don't think that closing IYC Joliet is the solution to the State's problem. In fact, I think that by closing IYC Joliet, you're going to cause yourself more. Not only do I want to keep my job, but I can testify to the fact that we do a darn good job. I am an employee of IYC Joliet, and if I had a vote it would be to keep IYC Joliet open.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ronald Amos / Juvenile Justice Specialist for IYC Joliet

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Dear CoFGA members,

I oppose the closure of IYC Joliet for many reasons both personal and professional. On a personal level, I have my M.A. in Forensic Psychology and after completing graduate school I waited tables for about 2 years before finding gainful employment with the state of Illinois as a Juvenile Justice Specialist. That was almost 2 years ago, and I very much do not wish to go back to waiting tables to support myself and my family. Since I have supported myself throughout all of my education, I have a lot of student loans to pay off. I am getting married in July and the idea of getting married and laid off in the same month is a sad one. So, for my personal economic situation I oppose the closure of IYC Joliet. I like my job, I like being able to pay all my bills every month too.

On a little bit of a larger scale, I live in LaSalle County, in Oglesby, IL. It is not a wealthy area and it has been struggling for years. My job loss would affect this area negatively as well, as I spend the majority of my money at local businesses. Multiply my small impact by the approximately 3,000 jobs that Governor Quinn is proposing to cut and the economic impact to the state as a whole would be widespread. Job loss throughout the state would rise, the state's income from taxes would decrease, and the end result would not be saving money. The Great Depression did not end because the government laid people off. It ended because the government created jobs that generated income. Generate income from people then collect the taxes on it and a state has an income. Big businesses throughout Illinois just got large tax breaks that could have easily covered the cost of running all 14 facilities that are on the chopping block yet they want to lay off thousands of state employees under the guise of lack of funding. This is fundamentally contradictory.

Professionally I think that IYC Joliet provides important services to the young male offenders housed there. I consider this population to be a specialized subpopulation within the Department, with their own set of specialized rehabilitation needs. Our young men do much better in smaller numbers, which is why all of our counselors and mental health staff do their groups with fewer than ten youth at a time and rotate the youths in and out until all of them have participated. This way each young man receives specialized attention from his counselor and has his needs addressed more readily. IYC Joliet gets the most aggressive and violent youth from various facilities and with us they are less violent. All the staff at IYC Joliet, every turn-key on grounds, contributes to teaching these young men to act like men; to respect each other and staff, to solve their issues without violence, and to take responsibility for their actions. This happens daily and on an individual basis. The staff at IYC Joliet cares about these young men and does the best they can for them. I am not going to say we are perfect, there are improvements to be made but without more resources to provide for these improvements we are doing the very best that we can.

Governor Quinn's plan to layoff so many employees will result overcrowding. There will be the same number of youth in the system but a drastically reduced staff to care for them. The youth that we have now will receive a lower standard of care than they have been getting since counselors, mental health staff, and Juvenile Justice Specialists alike will have a larger case load. Each young man will receive less individualized attention and overall this will be detrimental to his rehabilitation. Beyond even this, the young men at our facility have been sent to us because they were disruptive to the youth

at other facilities. They either assaulted the youth or staff and overall added to an environment that was detrimental to the youth at the facilities rehabilitation, reintegrating them into these same facilities will just result in the same issues that required the young men to be removed in the first place.

The only reason stated by Governor Quinn for the closure of IYC Joliet is that it looks like the most like an adult facility. The only benefit to the government is the supposed money they will save by closing the facility. I am certain that the figure quoted does not take into consideration costs of transporting youth to and from court daily, the downward spiral the economy will take and the resulting loss of revenue to the state, and the increase in payout from the unemployment office. One must ask how much does this really save and is it really worth it? My answer is no, it is not worth it. This is a hard time for the state of Illinois and the country as a whole and Illinois does not need to contribute to this harsh economy by laying off the 230 employees at IYC Joliet, or the about 3000 state employees he is considering doing. We look to our government to help us move out of this recession, not contribute to it. If the state needs money, which it does, then how has it been able to provide \$300 million in tax breaks to big businesses that could certainly afford to pay them? Then the state looks at the working and middle class, who do pay their taxes, and decides to cut jobs. It looks to the poor and decides to cut resources that help them. Oppose this. This is not what the State of Illinois should stand for.

Lauren Radke

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To Whom it May Concern:

I oppose the closure of IYC Joliet for many reasons.

1. I believe that this maximum security facility, which may not be pretty but is fully functional, serves a vital role in the Department of Juvenile Justice. The staff there do the best that they can do, with the limited resources provided, to rehabilitate the young men there. In addition, the facility has recently undergone thousands of dollars in renovations, such as new roofs and new suicide safe beds. The closure of the facility after the investment of such large sums of money also seems wrong to me.
2. I believe the closure of this facility and the layoff of these employees will have a widespread detrimental impact on the economy both locally and statewide. That is income lost to local businesses and the cities and counties the employees belong too. Not to mention income lost to the state in income taxes and unemployment payout.
3. The resulting overcrowding of all the youth facilities would just contribute to an overall detriment in rehabilitation services. No where in the plans proposed by Governor Quinn do we reduce the amount of youth residing in the system, just the staff available to care for them, assist them and rehabilitate them.

If rehabilitation is our goal, than this is a step in the wrong direction. This could contribute to an increase in the crime rate over the next decade as well.

The proposed closure of IYC Joliet seems to me to be short sighted and not well thought out. The state just approved \$300 million in tax cuts to big business, but then needs to close 14 facilities that employ the middle and working class tax payers of the state and provide resources to the poor and needy. This is not fair and I do not believe this is right. This is not what I intended when I cast my vote for the leaders of this state.

Sincerely,  
Robert Knutson Jr.

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Dear COGFA Members:

My name is Anquinnette Price and I am currently and 11-year employee at IYC-Joliet. If IYC-Joliet closes, I, along with several of my co-workers, would be losing 2 salaries from IDJJ. It isn't guaranteed that I'll (we'll) be offered a position at another facility. I've been doing my daily drive frim Chicago, to Joliet for my entire career and I don't mind the drive. It works for me. We are the middleclass population of working people at IYC-Joliet and we are not looking forward to becoming lowerclass due to job loss.

Despite the population of youths currently housed at IYC-Joliet, they also have families. Most of their families have a difficult time getting transportation to and from Joliet to visit their loved ones on a weekly basis. Moving our population or closing our facility would cause more harm and damage than good. In speaking with alot of the families on the designated visiting days, they've expressed great concern on how difficult it would be for them to visit on a weekly or even a monthly basis due to the distance they would have to travel. Not only that, if IDJJ is for the youths well-being, forcing the families to travel a great distance to see their loved ones isn't a good decision. Besides that, it would be difficult for the youths attorneys, public defenders, etc. to visit their clients and it'll be even more difficult to get the youths to scheduled court dates, which in turn, at times, that's the only time loved ones can see the young men due to transportation being difficult to Joliet from wherever they may live.

Understanding that they have different needs than adults, they need their families to visit for the time they are in DJJ. The youths need to be cared for by knowledgeable staff (such as us), that has been trained to deal with our current population of some of the state's difficult young men. Believe it or not, we go the extra mile to ensure the safety and security of our young men. The staff at IYC-Joliet is knowledgeable enough to quell situations that may arise between youths, often times before it gets out of control; meaning, because there are many staff that pay close attention to the youths they work with, if something seems to be "out of the ordinary", it's often brought to the attention of a Supervisor s well as the youth(s) in question. Usually after nofication, whatever issue(s) were "brewing" aer usually

solved and all is well. That comes from knowing our population, having the level of respect we have with our youths and knowing our jobs well. Yes, although at times it could be difficult, as with any other job, we still go above and beyond to get the job done.

There are times when the youth have personal problems and need to talk with someone they trust will help them. They would request to talk with one of us, a Juvenile Justice Specialist. Contrary to popular belief, outside of being "Peace Officers" we are Counselors and Parent Figures. They come to us to talk about their issues and problems, at times, they ask for advice, and they tell us if there is trouble brewing. If we see they are having a bad day, we are usually able to talk them out of doing something that'll get them into any type of trouble while they are IYC-Joliet. We are caring and sensitive. They respect us and they also understand we as JJS staff have a job to do. It's funny, they care about us. They share some personal affects with us, such as cards they've received from loved ones and pictures. They also write positive and influential songs, poems and raps about some of us. At times, we can even influence them to say simple words like "please" and "thank you" when someone does something for them. Whereas, the majority of the young men are from broken homes and from the street and were never taught to say words as simple as those to show appreciation to someone. The youths know we care for them, so many times after a youth has been paroled from our facility, they've called back to the facility to see how we are doing and to update us on their progress and the such. We even see them out on the street and in the neighborhoods in which we live, because of that level of respect for a lot of the staff, they would talk in a respectful manner and give updates on what's going on with them.

There are programs that are in place to help reintegrate the youths back into the communities from where they came. As with anything, if you want anything to work, you have to put forth the effort. There are some youths that are a bit more difficult than others that are in the programs they are a part of, but there are others that have benefitted from the program. Periodically, upon request of the youths involved and the staff conducting the programs, the JJS staff contribute to the programs that are at IYC-Joliet. The young men would ask for our opinions, etc pertaining to the programs if they want an "unbiased" opinion about it.

It's unfair to take IYC-Joliet away from the staff, the youths, as well as the City of Joliet. 1. This is our livelihood, we need our jobs. That'll put us out of work and in the event we are sent to other facilities, that'll make it more difficult for us to get to and from work. The other facilities are further away from where we are now. Our families would be in jeopardy, we would lose our homes, our children wouldn't be able to attend the schools that we, as responsible parents, enroll our kids into due to the inability to pay required tuition and fees (college, high school, daycare, etc). Not to mention, unemployment would skyrocket greatly and those are just a few problems of many we all would face.

2. As for the youths, because they are court-ordered by the Judges of Cook, Kane, DuPage, and other Counties, we are a huge staple in Illinois courthouses, especially Cook County because of our ability to work with the difficult population of the young men we house. For the individuals that have adult cases that hasn't reached the age to go to adult, we keep them until they reach the necessary age. Also, know that we also maintain the population that are too difficult to deal with at other Juvenile facilities

throughout the state of Illinois. We don't get them directly from county juvenile facilities, or off of the street, they had to have gone in front of a Judge several times and more and have had to commit a heinous crime to be sent to the state facilities, and then to IYC-Joliet because of the level of the crime or because of a pattern of difficult and aggressive behavior. We pretty much prepare them for the adult population. Also, it's easier for family members to visit their loved ones at IYC-Joliet, going further away would only separate the young men from their loved ones. Not to mention, we as staff, has a good rapport with many of the family members that come out on scheduled visiting days. Let it be known, they have expressed deep concern to the staff that they DO NOT AGREE WITH THE CLOSURE OF IYC-JOLIET.

3. The city of Joliet and the surrounding towns: Joliet and the surrounding towns would suffer greatly from the closure of IYC-Joliet. Some staff at IYC-Joliet own homes in and around the Joliet area. We supply a great amount of revenue by way of restaurants, mom and pop shops, big box stores, gas stations (as high as it is), lodging, banking, malls, shopping centers, etc. We bring alot to the Joliet metropolitan area. All would be lost if we're closed. Illinois Government should be focused on maintaining jobs and employment for its constituents, not removing or taking jobs away and making life difficult for us. We are residents of Joliet, Romeoville, Lockport, Shorewood, Crest Hill, Bolingbrook, Naperville, Kankakee, Aurora, Coal City, University Park, Monee, Crete, Peotone, Richton Park, Park Forest, Country Club Hills, Markham, Riverdale, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Lansing, and even Indiana; and of course, the City of Chicago! and guess what, in addition to contributing to our own cities and towns, where ever we may live and travel from on a daily basis, we also contribute to the cities and towns we pass through on our way to and from and that are close to Joliet. They would all suffer tremendously from the closure of IYC-Joliet. There are other ways to keep us open, something can be worked out to maintain FULL operation at 2848 West McDonough.

Please reconsider and DO NOT CLOSE ILLINOIS YOUTH CENTER IN JOLIET. We are a family and a family divided will surely fall, we are a staple in the Joliet family!!

Thank you for your time and again,

PLEASE KEEP IYC-JOLIET OPEN!!!!

Anquinnett Price, Juvenile Justice Specialist  
an 11-Year Employee

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I OPPOSE THE CLOSURE OF IYC JOLIET!!!

Nichol Amos

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To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Tim Graf and I have been an Educator at IYC-Joliet for 18 years. In that time I have taught Consumer Ed., Social Studies, Cooperative Work Training, Language Arts and P.E. In addition to content areas I teach the youth how to do the following;

- \* How to reference the glossary when defining vocabulary words.
- \* How to utilize the index when answering the questions at the end of each chapter.
- \* How to apply critical thinking and problem solving skills while using the text book as a reference.

In addition to the academic standards I have also instituted an all institution intramural sports program. In the sports program the youth play a variety of sports while focusing on the game, team work, and sportsmanship. When competing for institutional championships, the youth all work together to win despite their gang and cultural differences. All youth receive a certificate of participation for all sports.

Respectfully,

Tim Graf

IYC – Joliet

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My name is Crystal Napier and I work at the facility IYC- JOLIET, the only maximum security prison for young male adults. I have worked at IYC-JOLIET 10 1/2 yrs now, first arriving at IYC I was completely naive and very unaware of what I was walking into. Yes murderers, rapist just the most violent and dangerous youth that I've ever seen, but I refused to let my being nervous stop me from doing the job that was hired to do....which was attending to our youth. After almost 11yrs, which is minor time compared to what my senior staff

has....20-30yrs of dedication to the juveniles that are housed there, I still maintain a great repore w/ the youth! The youth that are housed there need discipline as well as direction to take them to where they need to go and that is what our facility/ my co-workers give to these youth. Closing IYC-JOLIET will not only have a huge negative affect on the youth and their families because the youth will be stripped from the only positive structure they know, as well as their families that they depend on seeing every weekend for support. But it will also be a negative affect on our families as well, we(IYC-JOLIET STAFF) will not be able to provide for their loved ones, hence having to find other means of support for our families!!! You will be putting over 230 staff out of jobs just for your budget cuts, which will put alot of

businesses out of business. Our business to these stores, restaurants, and yes bars is what help those people provide for their loved ones. This would be a huge trickle down affect, our jobs lost which will affect the businesses in all the areas that Quinn plan to close, which will also increase our unemployment rate. We have programs that provide help for these youths, also just personal experience with dealing with troubled youth. We give these youths what they need, without us the youths will be placed back into society that will increase the crime by 50-60% because again these are violent offenders!! Would you like to wake up to find out you have a juvenile murderer, rapist or all around violent individual living right next door to you? You have a sexual offender living 2 doors down from your teenage daughter or son, what can you do and how would you feel? I have a 20 yr old daughter and has taken in 2 young female girls from abusive family members, now they are healthy happy and workin young ladies with drive! I refuse to have to put these young ladies back into a bad situation because i can't provide the support they need! Lets vote to keep IYC-JOLIET OPEN, let us keep providing help education and support to our young juvenile offenders that have took the wrong way out and into a worse situation! Let us help you by keeping the violent offenders off the streets to commit even more violent crimes, KEEP IYC-JOLIET OPEN.....THANK YOU!!!!

Crystal Napier

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Sharon Randle and I have been Juvenile Justice Specialist for more than 11 years.I hereby oppose the closing of the Illinois Youth Center in Joliet. Every since the separation from IDOC and into the Department of Juvenile Justice, we have been labeled as “harsh”, “ugly”, “operates too much like an adult structure”. Truthfully, a vast majority of the young men incarcerated at this facility, do not meet the needs of the mission statement set by the Juvenile Justice Committee, because of the extensive sentences from a minimum of 15 to 97 years.it states: at y “Understanding that youth have different needs than adults, it is the mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice to preserve public safety by reducing recidivism .Youth committed to the Department’s care will receive individualized services provided by qualified staff, that gives them the skills to become productive citizens”.

With that being said, here at IYC Joliet, we do not write these young men off, put blinders on and pretend they do not exist. Our facility takes on the most hostile and troubled minors, where other facilities have sent them to us as negative transfers with claims of “too disruptive’, “too violent”, “multiple staff and youth assaults, for our facility setting”. Here at IYC Joliet, we as staff challenge such behavior by providing these young men with an education; anger management; life skills; and drug treatment. Also; helping to understand accountability for their actions, so these young men can understand why they are here; and began the process of remorse, so that the negative behavior can start to change,while preparing them to re-enter society or to mentally prepare them for an adult facility. While encouraging them to continue on with their education and trade skills. Time after time,

we have parents and legal guardians, every weekend tell us, "Thank You", because this is the first time my son communicated with me

A lot of these young men do not have positive male figures in their life, and our male staff takes on the secondary role of father figure, to show them how to respect themselves, and respect for others. This is what the public does not see. Here at IYC Joliet, we do not write them off, or transfer these young men because of their behavior. That is why our facility year after year receives the PBS top rankings for the most structured youth facility. Second; by closing us would cause extreme economic heartache on all of our families. We have husbands and wives that work here; mortgages; rents; student loans; providing for elderly parents; children; and children with disabilities. Laying off so many state employees will not solve an economic crisis, but create an economic catastrophe. Because the unemployment rate would soar even higher, cutting vital services is not the solution. Cutting wasteful spending is. I am asking you the commission to hear us, listen to us. And to ask Governor Quinn to leave our facility open.

Thank You

Sharon Randle

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To whom it may concern

My name is John Leonard. I have worked at IYC-Joliet since June of 2001. I have built a life around the income I have received from there. I have a home in Joliet, that I would really like to keep. I also have a wife and one year old son with a new baby on the way, all of which are dependent upon me for their food and shelter. My wife does not work any longer so that she can stay home with our son. I know that if I lose this job, it will be very difficult to find another job of this caliber right now. Our economy is still very bad. No one is hiring. They say that some of us will be given the opportunity to transfer to other facilities, but the numbers I've seen will most likely mean that I won't make the cut. I will only have 11 years with the state and that will not put me up high enough in seniority to take one of the few openings.

I can't say that I really enjoy my job, it can be quite depressing and stressful; but I feel that it is a necessary and important one. I do feel like I personally have made a positive impact on a few young men's lives and that God led me to this job for a reason.

Governor Quinn's reasoning for picking IYC-Joliet for closure, although I don't think he has ever been there, is that we are the least rehabilitative and the most like a prison of all the youth centers. My argument to that is first of all, that we are a prison. We should look like one. The young men in our facility are there for a reason. The same reasons people go to Stateville or any other prison. We house murders, rapists, drug dealers, gang leaders, home invasion, armed robbery, you name it and we have it. Second, none of the young men in our custody come to us first. They have all been to other youth centers already. We are the only maximum security juvenile facility in the state, and consequently we only get the most aggressive difficult population, we are the last stop, and for some the last hope for a life change. They have all gotten into trouble in one of the other youth centers to the point that that

facility could not handle them. We may be on paper the least rehabilitative of all the youth centers, but we house the worst. Our numbers would look great if we could just ship out the ones that didn't want to change or go with the program. I think the staff at IYC-Joliet are the best staff in the state, and closing us down would be a huge mistake.

Thank you for reading this and please give some serious thought to the impact that closing IYC-Joliet will have on the lives of so many people, not just the 235 the work there, but also their families, churches, the businesses they frequent, and also the inmates that they might otherwise have helped.

Sincerely  
John Leonard

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To Whom It May Concern:

My Name is Allen Lofton, I put in an application to work for the Department of Corrections tested and passed. Shortly after I received calls from Stateville, Joliet (now closed) and Sheridan. I was about to accept an job offer from Stateville, when the Chief of Security Robert Catchings of IYC Joliet called. I never heard of IYC Joliet before Mr Catching called and mentioned it to me. Mr Catching stated "Mr. Lofton I know other facilities are calling and offering you a job, not only am I offering you a job I'm offering you a chance to make a difference in out young troubled youth lives." I told him I would love to work for IYC Joliet. That was 15 years ago and I enjoy every day of it and still do. A few years ago we became known as Department of Juvenile Justice and IYC Joliet still remains a maximum facility and houses the most violent and dangerous youth in the State of Illinois. We also have youth that have behavioral concerns and was not able to be handled at other facilities. 90% of our youth is from the Cook County Area and for our center to close and move these individuals 6 hours South, 3 hours West or 2 hours North would cause both an economic and emotional hardship on families of the youth housed here. In addition, it would sever the family bond these youth depend on. Here at IYC Joliet we offer an wide variety of programs such as WELLS CENTER (drug program that offers group therapy / counseling for the youth) TASK (prepares the youth for parole) we also offer Anger Management, HIV, and Parole school classes. All of our youth must attend school ( academic / vocational) youth have the chance to earn their GED or Highschool Diploma. I have fours children, in which one have already completed college. Sadly, I had to tell my 19 year old daughter that her plans on entering college in the fall had to be put on hold becasue of the threats of closing. As a father and provider for my family, that was hard to say to one of your children. I was putting the sign that says ,"Keep IYC Joliet Open" in my yard and my 12 year old and 10 year old was asking, "Why are they trying to close your job down?" It's hard to try to explain something to children that I myself do not really have the answer for. Our Union AFSCME voted Quinn in and now he have completely turned his back on us. So with all this being said, I speak for myself and all of my fellow employees PLEASE KEEP IYC JOLIET OPEN!!!!

Allan Lofton

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I am a teacher of 12 years at IYC Joliet. In working daily with these youth, teaching Language Arts, Math, and Health, I am able to see what a difference it makes in their lives - and in how they view themselves - as they begin to master rudimentary reading skills and basic math. Most of our youth have not succeeded in school "in the world," and on average are working at about a 4th, 5th grade level. Once they begin to see themselves as able to succeed and learn, their confidence rises and they become anxious to become better readers and tackle higher math areas. They can begin to start to see themselves working and succeeding in the world, instead of returning to the drugs so many of them sell on the streets. They begin to realize they have choices in their lives and must ultimately be responsible for those choices.

At least this is a start. Change starts with how our youth view themselves. If they start to see themselves as able to learn, capable of succeeding and of making positive change, they are more inclined to change their behavior correspondingly.

This is the end of the road for our population. They have learning and behavior issues, violent and dangerous criminal histories, and oftentimes a weak outside support system. If our youth leave here just as they entered, it seems likely they would return to what is familiar and comfortable to them. But, many do not return. Many have chosen to change their behaviors. To this, I credit all of our staff - teachers, counselors, security, administrators, and everyone else - because they care about our youth and so want to help them to help themselves and see they can change if they want.

This doesn't mean all our youth do - but many do. And, even if it is done in baby steps, that is fine because by the late teens, an individual who has come to a maximum security facility has already made so many negative choices. It is a long process to begin to see the world thru different eyes.

It would be a horrible mistake to close our facility. We do require a very secure facility for our population. They need to be close to their families. The employees here take time to go the "extra mile" to assist the youth, talk with them, listen to them, and let them know they are there and they do care about their young lives. This all together accounts for hundreds of years of experience and knowledge. Our youth need a facility like ours that invests time, energy and positive support to their personal change and academic growth.

The next step - if they continue to fail to change and turn away from crime - is adult prison.

People can and do change. Some won't, we all know that. Many of our youth can't be handled in less secure settings. They'd be a danger to other inmates and staff. Many have very long sentences. In the end, the cost to society is far too great in very real terms of crime, pain, lost lives of productivity, to not try to turn our youths lives around before they decide to make crime their future way of living in the community.

If you want some insight on how many of our youth have lived and how they view their world, read, "Looking In, Looking Out: Reflections of Children Changing Their Lives," by youth in confinement at the

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. The Illinois John Howard Society was the instrumental organization that spearheaded the solicitation of input from our incarcerated youth.

I know we make a difference. Let me give you one recent example. I was calling some of the guardians of our youth in regard to attending parent-teacher conferences. As I spoke with the grandma/guardian of one of my students, I told her how pleased I was with his effort, progress and excellent behavior. To my surprise, she broke into tears and told me, "You don't know how happy you've made me! I can't wait to tell my husband when he comes home! I've never had no teacher ever call me and tell me nothing good about that boy. Our car's not working now - and it's a long distance - but, you can be sure we'll be there!"

Our facility helps change lost lives towards the positive. The structure, discipline, and 24 hour support is needed to redirect our youths focus, widen their frame of reference, and assist them in ultimately becoming more self-disciplined. For youth that need this type of environment, this may be their last chance to make it.

Respectfully,

Lenore Handlon, IYC Joliet

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Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
ATTN: Facility Closure  
703 Stratton Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

March 26, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Cynthia Robles and I am opposed to the closing of IYC Joliet and am submitting this written statement to explain my opposition. I have been employed at the above mentioned facility for 8 years and firmly believe we all have done and continuously do a great job. I am not sure of the economic condition of Joliet at this time although I am sure that the closure of this facility would be a negative impact on surrounding businesses due to the patronage of IYC Joliet employees. The closing of IYC Joliet would have a devastating impact on hundreds of employees and their families. Not to mention the most important...the youth who are incarcerated at this facility.

By relocating these youth the end result of a long distance to travel will result in fewer visits by family members. Fewer visits are the exact opposite of the mission statement which focuses on unity while a

youth is incarcerated. Many family members currently have a difficult time making to IYC Joliet to visit with their child and if this facility closes it would make it almost impossible to visit due to location and transportation and is this not the whole idea behind IDJJ? Keep families together, kids need their family support.

I would like to inform you of some of the programs we currently have in Joliet and just what we do on daily basis. We have year round school which every youth is required to attend with the exception of high school graduates and GED youth and the graduate and GED students are assigned jobs throughout the facility We have an annual GED graduation ceremony. We have a Wellness Program which focused on drugs and alcohol use and abuse. We have a TASC program Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities; TASC advocates for people in courts, jails, prisons, higher education, and child welfare systems who need treatment for alcohol/drug and mental health problems and also follows through upon release from prison. We have a Chaplain who has bible study on Saturdays and church services on Sunday's.

The closing of IYC Joliet is a hastily made decision in the governor's budget proposal. The proposed closing of IYC Joliet is to save money rather than to save lives and the reason is in the long term the human cost will exceed the

it will cost more money, there are no thought going into transferring these max youth to less secure facility. Which could result in more violence and can in turn cause longer prison terms with max there are programs and staff to help prevent or curtail, reduce, anti social behavior. In other words, no thought was given to the transitory process of including more violent behavior in a less violent environment. Inmate population. This is all about attempting to save money and not lives and in the long run it will cost more. The human cost will exceed the financial cost. Short term solution vs. long term costs.

85% of inmate population is from cook county the mission statement is about family and the distance will create further separation not only in miles but also in family ties.

The mixing of max with medium will create a highly combustible situation. It is a recipe for a volatile outcome.

Cynthia Robles

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Hello my name is LaJuana McGruder, I am a Juvenile Justice Specialize at IYC-Joliet. I am writing this letter to oppose the closing of IYC-Joliet as well as enlighten everyone as to what "we" IYC-Joliet employees do and deal with on daily basics. The staffs at IYC-Joliet are trained professionals. We deal with the most violent, aggressive and challenging youths that society and other Juvenile facilities considered to be the most dangerous and can not handle therefore they send them to us to deal with. I have been an employee at IYC-Joliet for 13 months. When I initially started at IYC-Joliet I was saying to myself "O Lord what the heck I done signed myself up for?" That was my first impression due to me knowing that IYC-Joliet housed the worst of the worst and me being a female knowing that most young men have issues with listening to women in an authority figure. That alone built so much anxiety for me

not knowing what to expect and wondering how these boys will perceive me as being a woman they have to listen to. However being an intern I had the privileged to shadow veteran staffs. From my observation of shadowing veteran staffs and learning my duties as a new employee I have learned that I am not just a Juvenile Justice Specialize that turns a key and monitor the youth movement, I am also the youth counselor, mentor and teacher to some that is willing to be receptive to the knowledge I am sharing. I have witness youths that transferred to Joliet from other facilities on a negative transfer from being a repeated staff assaulter, a repeated youth assaulter or just being an overly aggressive violent youth but when the youth arrive at Joliet these youth gives staff no problem. These particular youths that were a problem in other facilities came to Joliet and did a 360 with their behavior. They became very humbled as well as gotten a job either in the kitchen, or around the dorms doing cleaning and other positive things. That says a lot about the type of cultural and environment that has been established at Joliet. The trained staff at Joliet has the abilities to bring out the best in these youths that are considered to be the worst.

Additionally I have observed ALL the youths from different dorms attending church, academic programs, special programs as well as recreational programs come together and interact with each other with no problem. I was amazed the most by watching the youths play in the recreational programs. The idea of ALL these youths from different dorms, different gangs, different neighborhoods and different crimes come together to play competitive sports was definitely unheard of for me with my prior knowledge of the type of youths that is housed at Joliet, I just knew it was going to be major problems. These youths participated in football, kickball, basketball and baseball with other youths from different dorms and the staff was the coach. The staff at IYC-Joliet has an excellent rapport with these youths I have seen the coach in which was the staff had these youths pull together as a team to use strategies to come out victorious against the other teams. As I observed these youths playing in the sports I didn't see murderers, rapist, and etc, I seen children that was deprived of their childhood learning and loving the idea of being a kid. From that perspective I knew that I was apart of a prestige organization that not only cared about the safety and well-being of these youths but also taught these youths how to utilize their talents in a positive manner.

To me IYC-Joliet is more than just a Detention Center I see it as being an Attitude Adjustment Center. The youth comes in Joliet as a violent youth with no sense of direction but leaves Joliet as a humble young man that wants to do better in life but is placed back in the same environment that is poverty, negative activities, drug infested and gang infested. Before the youths leave IYC-Joliet the youths share with the staff their potential goals that they will like to accomplish when they get out. All the staff at IYC-Joliet has taken the time to counselor, mentor, teach and reach at lease one youth that made that youth felt like someone cared. Therefore closing IYC-Joliet will be a huge mistake due to the service we provide to these youths and their families.

Thank you in Advance  
LaJuana McGruder

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I oppose the closing of IYC Joliet! I am concerned for those that would lose their jobs and I wonder what the outcome will be as a result. There is one thing I do not have to wonder about. My son will be a senior next year and I will have no choice but to inform him that we will be moving from the area if IYC Joliet closes. We moved here so I could educate youths at IYC Joliet a little over five years ago. After a rough initial adjustment my son has excelled academically and was looking forward to ending his high school career in an area he has grown to love. Even though these concerns are valid and weighing on my mind, they are not as heavy as the concern I have for the youths that we serve. I am also equally concerned for the other individuals and communities who will be impacted by the difference in the young men's living situations. I am wondering if there is really an understanding that may only come with experience; an understanding that comes from being with these young men day in and out. It seems too easy to eliminate components of a system in which there is a lack of a voice or the resources to influence and there appears to be a tendency for decisions to be made, from the outside looking in, without adequate knowledge to do so.

There are many employees at this facility that have degrees in Social Work, Psychology, Criminal Justice etc.... as well as those with many years of experience; individuals who have specific tools that enables corrective action towards successful outcomes. There is a wealth of knowledge combined at this location. There have been many changes evolving in how the Juvenile Justice system operates since becoming its own department. Having specifically trained employees was part of that plan and I would like to see the intended purpose have the time and opportunity to be effective in a way that can only come with time.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Master's degree in Education. I felt it was a well combined preparation as I began the job of educator at IYC Joliet. My background has given me real world experience in social services settings, as well as being an educator. I am still excited by the fact that I was assigned to teach Life Skills and Health as part of the educational curriculum. This is a two fold accomplishment. On a daily basis the youth in my classes are taught so they will have the ability to take care of themselves and others, in real life circumstances, while working towards an educational milestone. The Health and Life Skills curriculum is specifically tailored to the needs of the students in general, but those and many other educational classes are often individualized. The curriculum is a vital component that assists the youth in being more self sufficient members of society. Many of the youth in my classes state they do not go to school if they are not living within corrections. When first hearing this I did not believe it, but it is so.

The young men start their day with staff who are educated and trained to interact with them in the role of mentor and supporter in a secure fashion. Juvenile Justice Specialists ensure that the most basic needs of the youth are taken care of, as well as have the training to deal with personal crisis which requires skill beyond any services I have seen offered in the community. It takes a unique individual to interact with the young men we serve in an effective manner. This staff takes a vested interest in the success of the youth they are responsible for. They ensure that the youth come to school and even though they are not the parents of these young men, the tactic used to encourage often reminds me of something more of a parental role rather than something one might envision when thinking of an

"institutional" setting. How many of us have heard, "I do not feel like going to school today"? At IYC Joliet, there is someone there to make sure that is just a passing thought, in a supportive manner, which for one reason or another does not happen in the community.

Juvenile Justice Specialists walk our young men to school. They then stay at the school to ensure order, safety and assist with educational progress. This population requires structure and discipline in all activities. Young people of all types generally do much better with defined expectations, structure and consequences to follow. Yet, compliance is not gained through harsh treatment and I have never once heard a youth complain about the color of his room or the fencing that surrounds the inner perimeter. The fencing is like an insurance policy and compliance is mostly gained with 24/7 monitoring that factors in many interactions to ensure success. When concerns arise, the specialists are available to assist in a least restrictive and least disruptive manner possible. Situations occur, but with this kind of support the teacher and students can focus on the educational aspects of the day. This is unlikely to happen in a setting that is not structured like IYC Joliet.

I have had students tell me they only made it as far in school, as they did, because they were "pushed through" the system. The view, I have heard expressed from the youth, is that of institutions that did not want to deal with them. An entity must have the resources to be able to "deal" and IYC Joliet has those resources with the people who show up everyday. Resources, structure, expectations and growth, through knowledge, brings about accomplishment.

There are many challenges, but I would like to describe a couple of my students as examples. One did not seem to understand that no matter what he said, or what he did in class, there were consequences, but everyday I would try again. After months passed his demeanor finally became different. His skill level advanced to the degree in which he qualified for the GED program. He told me before he got transferred out of my class, that many people had given up on him, but I did not and he respected that. I have another student currently that is so close to his high school diploma that he can almost touch it. Several members of staff took steps to assist him in being able to get to this point. My projected calculation puts him finishing his requirements around July. Depending on what happens here, I am very concerned that is more than a possibility, he may not get his diploma on time due to the projected time line for closing. Everyday my coworkers and I make a difference while guiding and directing. I am certain we could all tell you something specific that shows the true nature of success at IYC Joliet. Giving up on these young men is not a part of our vocabulary.

The same staff are there for these youth day in and day out. The employee turnover rate is minimal. There is consistency. It is more than fair and it is supportive in a way that I do not believe can be matched in the community or at other facilities. We connect with these youth. We share the ups, downs and the in between. We are a constant reliable examples and we do make a difference even though it is a challenge. We are trained and educated to work with the young men that enter IYC Joliet. I have seen many of them learn and grow while they are with us. Foundational components are taught through interaction that can only really occur through daily life in this type of environment. Services are

provided specifically to enact change where there creates a potential to be successful in an environment that is not so structured. There are numerous interactions in the day that end up being significant.

Myself and many others, who have first hand experience as to the day to day operations, believe in IYC Joliet , not just because the loss of jobs would have a ripple effect even beyond the individual employee, but because we believe in what we do and we understand what it is we are working with.

What is the totality of the ripple effect if IYC Joliet is closed? I respectfully request that the big picture is considered when making the decision concerning this closure. Some things we just can not put a price tag on, and if we could, we would realize that the costs can end up being so much more in the long run.

Amy McGivney  
Educator  
IYC Joliet

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I am strongly opposed to closing IYC Joliet.

Beverly Treadman

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On a personal level, the closing of IYC Joliet means that I will no longer be spending money in the Joliet area, as I reside in Oak Lawn. I estimate that amount to be approximately \$150.00 to \$200.00 per week primarily on groceries, gasoline, and restaurants. (This does not include the \$25000 I spent two months ago at a Joliet Subaru dealer.) Since I now commute some 30 miles each way, I do not foresee being able to commute a much longer distance if given a choice to continue working at more distant facility. In all likelihood, I will opt for an "earlier" retirement, as I am 63 and have 13.5 years of credible service. While not financially ideal for me, I will survive a closure. In retirement I will NOT be paying very much into the system and begin withdrawals from both SERS and social security.

One thing is certain, each and every job lost will be an extreme hardship---good jobs are NOT abundant.

As an institution, IYC Joliet provides one irreplaceable service to both the greater community and its clientele: We have the experience to deal with those youth who for whatever reason have failed at every other juncture in their lives to find the means or the opportunity to stay out of the criminal justice system. This includes previous incarnations at less restrictive facilities. We provide the kind of structure that most youth need in order to learn how to function in society. Liquidating IYC Joliet destroys an institution that knows how to work with young men who have run out of options elsewhere. Can another institution provide the same level of services for these young men? In time, the answer is maybe, if for no other reason than the challenge of servicing both those who have run out of options in the legal system and those who have simply gotten into trouble.

I wish all of you Godspeed in your deliberations.

Stan Iwaszkiewicz  
Educator  
IYC-Joliet

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April 1, 2012

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
ATTN: Facility Closure  
703 Stratton Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

I am writing to to declare my opposition in a filed statement to the closure of IYC Joliet. IYC Joliet is a viable entity and asset, as it provides for the employees, youth and community of Joliet. At present, I have been employed for the State of Illinois for over 13 years. I have spent the last 2.5 years as a Juvenile Justice Specialist at IYC Joliet. It has been a challenging yet rewarding opportunity working with this population group. I have had the privilege to learn and apply the diversified skills set from the old and new staff at this facility. We are in fact, a unique group that is equipped to handle the most formidable youth.

Our mission statement first sentence is "Understanding that youth have different needs than adults, it is the mission of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice to preserve public safety by reducing recidivism." We, at IYC Joliet, wholeheartedly understand that these youth have different needs even within their own population group. The youth held in our facility need the structure that is already in place in our maximum security facility. Many of the youth have been sent to our facility because they have been disorderly and disruptive in other facilities. It should also be noted, that a large portion of our population are also being housed in our facility because they have or will be facing adult prison time. With our specialized skills and training, these youth become amenable and prosper in our environment.

Closing our facility will be detrimental for so many reasons. First the closure will affect the livelihoods of hundreds of families that are currently employed by our facility. Secondly, the surrounding community will also be affected economically when all these families can no longer contribute to the economy. Third, the adverse effects continue when the families of the transferred youth have to contend with the hardship that will result from the additional travel involved in visiting their children. Lastly, but most importantly, you will be affecting the youth. We, the staff at IYC Joliet provide the specialized services as indicated in our mission statement. We provide the consistency, support and guidance for this sub group of youths that need extra structure that can only be provided at an established maximum security facility. We serve and fulfill a purpose, and therefore I implore the Commission to recommend to Governor Quinn, not to close the facility at IYC Joliet.

Sincerely,

Eva Rivera,  
Juvenile Justice Specialist, IYC Joliet

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Matthew Petty and I would like to speak on behalf of the staff at IYC-Joliet. I am a Juvenile Justice Specialist at IYC-Joliet and have been for fourteen years. Not only would it be a mistake to close Joliet but, it would be an injustice. Other facilities may have bed space but, they do not have: the knowledge, experience, or the training that Joliet has.

Being a staff from Joliet is more than a job it's a way of life. You expect to deal with hard core criminals. In the mix you not only deal with youths other facilities can't control. You find a way to make them function in a structured environment.

We are some of the Best state representatives the state has to offer. The everyday forgotten heroes.

With this being said, please change your mind in putting us up for closure. I am also requesting permission to speak at the hearing on Wednesday, April 4th.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

JJS Matthew J. Petty

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Hello, I am a employee at IYC-Joliet. I would like to start off by saying that I truly oppose to the proposal of closing IYC-Joliet. We work with some of the most severely behaviorial challenged juvenile offenders in the state.

We at IYC-Joliet have done everything the department has asked of us. I am sure that the challenges that we face on a daily basis do not be discussed. I a am sure that the department does not discuss how we keep the confinement numbers low when outside organizations tour the facility. When John Howard Association tour the facility, the administration are instructed to make sure that the number of juveniles in confinement is non-existing. The tour group is only given a tour to program units. I know that they do not visit the unit that house the consent decree juveniles. Some of these offenders are fighting some serious cases and serious time.

Also, how many facilities can say they house some of the most aggressive juveniles that they can help change. We at IYC-Joliet have been the dumping ground for all the other facilities to send their most problematic and aggressive juveniles they can not no longer handle. Therefore we the staff have taken on more roles than most. Their are staff who mentor the juveniles and take on the roles as mothers or fathers and even counselors. We become their only source of what family means of their spiritual advisor. We giving counseling to help them learn and understand what would be the best choices to

make in life. We are trained staff who work hard in trying to help these juveniles improve their behavior and their uncontrollable aggressive behavior. We work hard in improving and lifting their self esteem so they will strive to become productive members of the community.

In conclusion I am asking for your support in helping Gov. Quinn reconsider the closure of IYC-Joliet. The closure would cause many juvenile offenders and their support based family to experience emotional and financial stress. Remember that being able to see their family is one of the key elements for rehabilitating our juvenile offenders.

PLEASE KEEP IYC-JOLIET OPEN

Michelle Jackson

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am a 19 year veteran of IYC-Joliet and I believe the proposed closure of the facility is wrong and I ask that you consider the following points.

1.) The Majority of youth housed at IYC-Joliet are from Cook and the surrounding counties. Their families utilize Pace buses and the trains in order to visit their children and would have no way to get to Kewanee or Harrisburg to see their child. The youth at our facility look forward to seeing their parents and this contact often keeps kids out of trouble as some parents will not come and see their child if they are on confinement. To move them to a place where they may never be able to get a visit may increase some negative behavior because the incentive of a family visit has been removed.

2.) This facility also houses a large number of Consent Decrees who are all in the middle of trials or are awaiting trial. To move these youths to another facility will increase the over-time due to the number of boys going to court and the corresponding increase in needed security staff. At IYC-Joliet the shifts are staffed to accommodate this need.

3.) The youths housed at IYC-Joliet are the most aggressive in the state. They were sent to us to ensure the safety of other younger or less aggressive youth. If our facility were closed these youth would only be ping-ponged back and forth between the remaining facilities. This will affect their treatment as it would hinder the much needed time to build a rapport with counselors, Mental Health counselors and even the security staff with whom the youth would have daily contact. Keeping our facility open would mean that these youths would have this much needed consistency.

4.) One of the arguments in closing our facility was to save cash, but it actually will lead to a great waste of taxpayers money. IYC-Joliet has just had most of the roofs of the housing units repaired and all most all of the youths rooms have been re-done with BRAND NEW suicide proof beds and desks.

5.) As for the staff losing our jobs could cost us our homes. In turn businesses where we would shop for anything from clothing to patio furniture to groceries and gas would all lose business. The more money we have the more we spend!

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Kramm

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How did it come to this ? because politics are a running joke but the only ones laughing are politicians, for decades Joliet was one of the most industrial cities in America, but due to corporate and political greed it is now a shell of empty buildings and lots, a growing trend of what America is becoming. Current politicians have been in these political arena's for nearly two decades or more "when this all started" not paying the states portion of pension contribution, allowing people to ( friends) to abuse the pension system (double dipping),trading millions of tax dollars for campaign donations, who raises millions of dollars to win a job that only pays one hundred seventy five thousand dollars a year ? the people of Illinois voted themselves voice to represent their best interest but that voice went silent when money and power was passed its way, today these voices want to leave the city of Joliet with yet another empty building as a testament to their missmanagement, but to do this they have become desperate enough to jeopardize public safety,they propose to close IYC JOLIET to help recover years of they're plundering and pillaging of the states economic system, IYC JOLIET houses the absolute most hardened juveniles in the state of Illinois. While some can be rehabilitated and reintergrated into society most are on a fast track to more heinous crimes and a sentence that will carry them into the adult system, The state manipulates the public into thinking that the social outreach programs that they sponsor are successful, truth is the numbers are manipulated to indicate success ( like if an inmate does not re-offend for ninety days he is not considered a re-offender and is therefore excluded from the stats) re-offending is re-offending no matter how long it takes.If you read page two of March 31st Suntimes you will see the types of offenders that Quinn Administration are willing to turn loose on the public to cover the years of missmanagement by state government, young people today are more violent than they have ever been, i know first hand for i have lost relatives to former IYC JOLIET residents violence, DO NOT CLOSE IYC JOLIET AND EMPTY HARDENED JUVENILES INTO SOCIETY, DO NOT OPEN A DOOR TO SUMMER OF VIOLENCE AND ULTIMATELY SOMEONES PAIN.

MICHAEL BEW  
JJS IYC JOLIET.

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in opposition to the closing of Illinois Youth Center Joliet. I have worked at said center for two years. Through the duration of my time working with troubled youth I have gained an educated and experienced opinion of the Juvenile prison system. I have witnessed incarcerated youth on both ends of the spectrum. Youths that will be paroled within three months, youths that have been transferred from other facilities for negative behavior, and those youths that are awaiting shipment to the Department of Corrections to serve sentences upward of 50 years. In all of these cases IYC Joliet has served and will continue to serve as a facility for these youth to complete their sentences, and a facility that is keeping our communities safe.

Many of these youths are involved in various wellness programs during their time at IYC Joliet. These programs are an attempt to give necessary skills to succeed upon their release. The youth are also required to attend school regularly, something that many fail to do while in their community. Many youth have also earned their GED and taken the ACT while housed at IYC Joliet. Both of which are opportunities that will further the likelihood of success upon being released. These youth are IYC Joliet best case scenarios; unfortunately many youth do not fall into this category.

Many youth advocates applaud the closure because they feel youth do not belong in a prison setting. Even so, I feel that I must remind you that while the demographic at IYC Joliet are considered teenagers the crimes they have committed are far from juvenile. Large percentages of youth at IYC Joliet have been charged with adult crimes and are facing 20 plus years. This facility also receives many youth that were disruptions to other facilities. They need the structure that only IYC Joliet can provide.

IYC Joliet has been successful at keeping youth and staff safe because from the first day working at the facility, staff is trained to be prepared for any situation and always remember while these are youth, they are dangerous and safety is the top priority. Every juvenile facility specializes in a certain demographic and to suddenly transfer maximum security youth to a facility that is not equipped to handle them will be dangerous for all parties involved.

Illinois Youth Center Joliet needs to remain open for the housing and rehabilitation of dangerous youth and the safety and security of the community.

Juvenile Justice Specialist Rebecca Hall

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Please do not close this valuable facility. It will be detrimental to the local economy and do more harm to the state than has already been done.

Katy Flanagan

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April 3,2012

I am opposing the closure of IYC-Joliet. Safety and security are being sacrificed with the proposed closing of IYC Joliet. This facility is the only maximum security site specifically designed to house the worst juvenile offenders our society fears. The word "juvenile" is an oxymoron because a large percentage of individuals are between the ages of 17-20. These individuals are murderers, rapists, sexual deviants, home invaders and the criminal element that perpetrates terrorist activities on the streets throughout Illinois. These criminals mainly come from the inner city of Chicago, hard core gang members who defy the laws and moral code responsible citizens live by. IYC-Joliet is societies safety net to keep these juveniles in a place where they can be securely locked up. The State cannot save money if the populations is simply moved to other inadequate facilities that need millions of dollars in renovations so they can be retrofitted to hold these criminals. When polities are removed, the proposed closing of IYC Joliet will not save the State the millions being reported, but will jeopardized the personnel at the proposed transfer site, place communities at risk with early release of inmates and waste millions of dollars on capital improvements to house these criminals when this money can be used to improve the educational system in Illinois and provide funds for books and supplies so kids who want to obey the law and respect authority can obtain a quality education and attend college.

Marcy Moulder

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To Whom It May Concern,

I want to write this letter regarding the closure of IYC Joliet Youth Correctional Center. I am strongly against this closure. Closing this facility will highly impact not only the employees, but also the community and the state. This action will put many employess without a job. Losing this many jobs will effect many families and put them at hardship. I'm sure most people are aware of the obvious effects on the employees at IYC, but this would also put a hardship on many local gas stations and stores that these employees travel to each day on route to and from work. Also the rate of home foreclosures would increase because of all the employees no longer having a source of income to pay their bills. IYC Joliet is the only maximum security prison for youth in Illinois. It houses some of the most violent criminals that were originally placed there because they were too violent to be placed in a lower security prison environment. It makes no sense that suddenly they are capable of being placed in these environments. Relocating these inmates will put the employees and other inmates at new facilities and the people in the neighboring communities of the facilities at risk. My father is an employee there and was personally injured and had to have surgery because of an inmate. While an inmate was trying to commit suicide he attempted to stop it. In this process he was injured. This closure would also be a hardship for the families of the youth whom reside at the facility. These youths would have to be moved a minimum of 2 hours away. The families would then have to travel these distances to see the inmates. The youths also depend of these family bonds that may not be possible if distance is increased. Closing the facility will also cost the state. Sure some employees will trasfer and be relocated, which in itself causes hardships

to their families. But others will not be as lucky and will be sent out to start over to find a whole new career avenue which is a difficult task for anyone right now. This will cause an increase in unemployment and public aide, which the state can not afford right now. Now ask yourself why our state can not afford these things and why we are resorting to cutting state jobs. I think the answer may lye with the fact that 300 million dollars in tax cuts are being given to rich corporations and not being given to places that actually need it. I strongly believe the answer to the state's problems are not in cutting jobs that already exist, but in the budget. We need to stop making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Thank You,  
Ashley Howard

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Dear COGFA,

I am a current employee at IYC Joliet in Joliet, IL. I have been employed at IYC Joliet for almost two years, however, I have been employed by the State of Illinois for approximately nine years. I transferred to the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2010 from another state agency because I wanted to work with troubled youth and I had previous experience working with that population. At the time of my transfer I was given the option to work at IYC St. Charles, IYC Warrenville, or IYC Joliet. Since I worked at Stateville (adult facility with the IDOC) I knew from past experience if I worked in a juvenile maximum facility I would be prepared to work with any type of youth.

Working at IYC Joliet has taught me a lot about working with juveniles with serious criminal offenses. Like most people from the outside looking in I thought that the majority of the juveniles were between the ages of 15 to 17, and that most of them had committed minor juvenile crimes. However, after working at IYC Joliet for two weeks I realized that most of juveniles at IYC Joliet were between the ages of 18 to 20 years and they were being charged for crimes such as: armed robbery, burglary, sexual assault, aggravated battery with intent to harm, murders, and much more. Due to my prior experience working at Stateville Correctional Center, I was prepared to deal these types of youth. From my own personal experience I have learned that these particular youth do not care about others and are quite self-centered; they have an "I have nothing to loose" mentality. As a result, these youth are treated differently because they face the possibility of being incarcerated in an adult facility for a number of years.

I have also seen youth that have been transferred from facilities (e.g. IYC St Charles and IYC Harrisburg) because they had assaulted other youths or staff. I have personally worked with many of these youths who have been transferred from these facilities and I admit that when they first arrived at IYC Joliet they were problematic. However, once they understand how the programs are run at IYC Joliet many of those youth end up changing their attitudes and behaviors. The programs are designed to be more structured and help educate the youth on how to be disciplined in the facility and on the outside once they return home. They also are set up where the youth can earn jobs, participate in facility programs such as talent shows, sports tournaments, and earn items such as televisions and radios. Some of these youth have even received early parole due to their good behavior at the facility. IYC Joliet has excellent veteran staff who have taught me how to work with this demographic of youth, but also how to be mindful of my surroundings when I am around these young men.

IYC Joliet has been in existence for many years because this facility is the only youth facility in the State of Illinois that houses, to put it plainly, the youth that no one else wants. I am asking you as a employee at IYC Joliet to join me and my fellow co workers and help support us in keeping IYC Joliet open.

Thank you,  
S. McClain

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Govenor Quinn,

The state of Illinois is in distress and does not have enough money. Your answer to these problems is to close facilities and put thousands of state employees out of jobs. This is going to increase the amount of unemployment needed and the amount of money needed for public aide. Also in transferring these inmates to other facilities the state's budget will be used to make upgrades and construction into these facilities. The employees that get the option to transfer will have extra travel costs to get to and from work everyday. Which will increase the poverty level when the money they once used to pay bills is going directly into the gas tank. If these employees choose to uproot and move their families to avoid the increase in gas costs they will also be in hardship. Imagine uprooting your whole life. The surrounding communities of Joliet will also suffer. These employees spend money most every day at local gas stations and stores. These businesses will no longer have the customer base they once did. The employees and inmates and communities surrounding the facilities the inmates will be transferred to are also being put at risk. You are putting inmates that were determined to need maximum security into and facility with a lower level of protection. I strongly suggest before closing the facility that you go and work as an employee there for only 1 day. I feel this may show you a side of IYC Joliet that you may not have seen before. This may show you why these inmates need this facility. So while you close facilities and eliminate state jobs you also give rich corporations 300 million dollars in tax cuts. That doesn't seem quite right. It seems the states budget is being placed in all the wrong places.

Thanks,  
William Smith

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Good Morning, my name is Kim Navarro, I am the Records Office Supervisor at the Illinois Youth Center - Joliet. I have 22 years of state service, 19 years on them with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Throughout my career I have served on the External Audit Team, served as an Audit Trainer, I have been temporarily assigned as the Reception Unit Administrator at the Illinois Youth Center – St. Charles and as the Assistant Chief Records Officer.

It has been stated that one of the reasons they want to close the Illinois Youth Center Joliet is because we are most like an adult facility, and to some extent that may be true. But the reason we are most like an adult facility, is because of the type of young men that are housed at IYC – Joliet. We are a maximum security facility. We house the youth who score out in the Reception and Classification process as maximum security. This score is based on several factors. In the classification process we take into consideration the youth's age, his criminal history, his committing offense, his committing county, which is usually where his family resides, his history of aggression, whether or not the youth has any other pending charges, his behavior while in the detention center and his in the reception center. We also take into consideration the youth's programmatic needs. All youth are classified based on the same factors.

In addition to the youth who are initially classified as maximum security and placed at IYC – Joliet, youth are also transferred to Joliet from other lower level facilities. These youth are usually transferred for behavioral and/or security reasons. Some of these reasons include assaults on staff, assaults on other youth, escapes and attempt escapes.

The average age of the youth placed at IYC – Joliet is 18 years of age. These are young men who are the older and more sophisticated. These are not the 14 to 16 year olds who are housed at the Minimum and Medium level security facilities. I believe that to now even consider mixing these young men in with the younger less sophisticated population would be detrimental not only to the safety and security of the facility and most importantly the safety and security of these youth. Again, I think we need to keep in mind that these young men are placed in a Maximum Security facility for a reason.

To give you an idea of the type of young men who are housed at the Illinois Youth Center Joliet, currently 78 % of our population are Parole Violators. 66% of the Parole Violators are Technical Parole Violators who are returned because they violated criminal statutes. We also have 49% of our population who are considered Cook County Duran Consent Decree Youth. These are youth who had previously been released on Parole Status, while on parole they committed a new offense in Cook County, for which they are now being tried as an adult. These youth have already been held in the Cook County Jail for some period of time, which means they have been housed with older more mature adult inmates. Due to the overcrowding issues in Cook County, the United States District Court, entered an order which allowed for the Cook County Sheriff, at his discretion, to send these young men back to the Department of Corrections/Department of Juvenile Justice to serve out the unexpired portion of their time with us. The order also states that if there is a need to return these young men to the Circuit Court of Cook County to appear on these pending charges, the Department of Corrections/Department of Juvenile Justice shall transport these youth for their appearance. For the youth housed at IYC – Joliet, this amounts to, on average, the transportation of 27 of these young men back and forth to court per week. The young men who are facing a sentence for a more serious offense, such as Murder, are also require an armed escort back and forth to court. Some of the other, more serious charges these young men have pending include, Attempt Murder, Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Home Invasion, Aggravated Kidnapping, Armed Robbery with a Firearm, Aggravated Criminal sexual abuse and aggravated battery with great bodily harm. These are young men, who if found guilty, are looking at being sentenced to serve some serious time. We currently have one young man who is facing a 99 year sentence for numerous counts of Murder if he is found guilty. We have had seen some of these young men come back to us with 48 and 50 year sentences. In 2011 alone, we had approximately 71 Consent Decree Youth who returned from court with an adult sentence. These youth are either released from us on adult Parole or eventually process to be transferred to the Department of Corrections. In addition to that, we have also had several of these young men, who had completed their time with the Department of Juvenile Justice either by way of attaining their 21st date of birth or their expiration of sentence. For these youth, upon attaining their Maximum Discharge Dates, we must then make arrangement for that youth to be remanded back to the custody of the Cook County Sheriff.

The number of these Consent Decree youth received by the department has increased over the years. I began monitoring this population back in 2006 when the department received only 44 consent decree youth, 39 of them being placed at IYC – Joliet. Just 5 years later that number had more than tripled. In 2011 the department received 169 Consent Decree youth, with 152 of them being placed at IYC – Joliet. Our numbers are already up for 2012. At this time last year the Department had received only 26 consent decree youth, this year the number has almost doubled, the department has already received 49 Consent Decree youth with 44 of them having been placed at IYC - Joliet

No matter where we house these young men, the facility is going to look most like an adult facility. As a tax payer I do not understand the department and the governor's desire to spend millions of dollars to renovate another facility in order for them to house these maximum security youth, when we already have a facility that was built to accommodate the needs of these young men. As a 19 year veteran to the Department of Juvenile Justice, I fear for the safety and security of not only the young men currently housed at IYC – Joliet, but for the younger less sophisticated youth who would then have to be housed with these young men if our facility is closed. I also fear for the safety and security of the staff that are not accustomed to handling this type of population. Personally, in all my years working at IYC – Joliet, I have never feared for my safety as I have while working at other facilities, I attribute that to the Staff of the Illinois Youth Center – Joliet. Losing these employees would be of a great disservice not only to the Department of Juvenile Justice but the public as well.

Kim Navarro

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To Whom It May Concern,

I can not figure out how doing away with over 2000 jobs is going to help anything. I think you need to look in a different direction on where to fix the budget. It should not mean putting people out of jobs. This would only lead to a disaster. There would be people who have serviced our state for many years losing homes, cars, and personal belongings and many children being homeless and without food. There would be others who would have to uproot their families and relocate. A lot of these people would be leaving other family and loved ones. As you are planning this, you are giving 300 million dollars in tax breaks to rich corporations. By overcrowding prisons not only are you putting the guards more at risks, you are also putting some of the youths at risks. There is a reason the inmates that are in Joliet are there. A lot of them have been sent there from other facilities that could not handle them. So now the solution is to send them back where they can not be taken care of. You would also create families not being able to communicate as well with their loved ones that are in the facility if they were to get moved three hours south. I agree the budget needs to be fixed, but it needs to be worked on from the state as a whole, not by getting rid of jobs. This is only creating disaster. If you plan on closing facilities and cutting all these jobs, it doesn't make any sense why there is any talk of who gets raises next year or even where money is going to be going.

Thank you,  
Ron and Lori Hoegger

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April 3, 2012

Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg  
Representative Patricia R. Bellock  
Co-Chairs  
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
703 Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: IYC-Joliet Facility Closure Hearing - April 4, 2012

CoGFA Co-Chairs and Members,

I am submitting this letter as a written testimony to oppose the closure of IYC-Joliet. I have read through all of the testimony submitted on behalf of the employees and their families to keep the facility open as well as Elizabeth Clarke's three submissions in favor of closing IYC-Joliet. Being that I am an employee at IYC-Joliet, the letters written by the employees came as no surprise to me. What did catch my attention were the words and references used by Elizabeth Clarke, President of the Juvenile Justice Initiative and Chair of the Juvenile Advisory Board.

In a letter submitted to this commission on March 28, 2012, Ms. Clarke wrote the following:

*"There are several recommendations that the DJJ Advisory Board members request be considered when closing the facility and transferring youth, including the following:*

- 1. The DJJ Advisory Board urges that youth housed in Joliet IYC at the time of closing be moved to a youth facility as close, or closer, to home;*
- 2. The DJJ Advisory Board urges that youth housed in Joliet IYC at the time of closing be moved to facilities that meet the classification needs of the youth;*
- 3. The DJJ Advisory Board urges that the Illinois Legislature ensure the Dept. of Juvenile Justice have adequate resources to provide services, treatment and programming for the youth in its care; and*
- 4. The DJJ Advisory Board urges that the State of Illinois use incarceration of youth only as a last resort, per the increasing body of research and documentation that community based alternatives are as effective, or more effective, than incarceration in providing for the public's safety and in rehabilitating youth in conflict with the law."*

I would refute that the recommendations being brought forth by Ms. Clarke and the DJJ advisory board are already in place at IYC-Joliet. For example, in terms of housing youth in a facility that meets their classification that is also close to their home, it should be known in the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), that approximately 85-90 percent of the young men housed at IYC-Joliet are from Cook County. With IYC-Joliet being the *only* maximum security juvenile facility in the state, it would be impossible that these young men be moved to facilities closer to home that meet the classifications needs of the youth.

According to Governor Quinn, the catalyst for closing IYC-Joliet is a cost savings measure. *According to DJJ Director Arthur Bishop's recommendation to the commission on March 16, 2012, DJJ anticipates on saving \$11,740,236 as a result of closing IYC-Joliet.* The DJJ Advisory Board's third recommendation - providing better services, treatment, and programming for the youth - will cost money to implement. Considering this, it seems as though this will result not in the intended purpose of saving money but instead most likely just be a reallocation of funds. It has been stated by DJJ Director Arthur Bishop that the majority of youth at IYC-Joliet will be transferred to a facility that is in need of renovations and repairs. As a result, DJJ has already requested emergency funds in excess of \$4,000,000 just to begin creating a maximum security setting that is already solidly in place at IYC-Joliet. If these emergency funds were to be dispensed for costly renovations at another facility, in addition to the recommended allocation of funds that would be required to provide additional treatments, programming, and services, it is easy to see that projected \$11,000,000 savings quickly dwindle away, making it hard to find where any money will be saved at all.

Finally, in response to the DJJ Advisory Board's final recommendation, as far as the State of Illinois using incarceration of youth only as a last resort, that is already the case in Illinois. The young men at IYC-Joliet have been given chances in their communities, on a county level, and at the other facilities within DJJ. When all those other option have been exhausted, that is when a young man is transferred to Joliet.

In all three of the letters submitted by Ms. Clarke in favor of the Joliet closure, there was a focus on a new publication released last fall from the Annie E. Casey Foundation – *“No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration”* (Oct., 2011). Each time this publication was referenced, Ms. Clarke added a quote from the closing of the article indicated there is "overwhelming evidence that the wholesale incarceration of juvenile offenders is a failed strategy". I would like to point out an additional statement from the very same publication quoted by Ms. Clarke. In this publication, Dr. Barry Krisberg, the longtime president of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency now on faculty at the University of California-Berkeley, is quoted “. . . we need to reduce incarceration of young people to the very small dangerous few." This speaks volumes to the very reason IYC-Joliet should be saved instead of closed. Although I believe that Ms. Clarke and the DJJ Advisory Board's recommendations and concerns are valid to a degree when it comes to juvenile incarceration, they are misplaced when it comes to IYC-Joliet. Our facility does house the "dangerous few" in the State of Illinois. I agree that many 8-14 year old offenders would benefit from community based programs; however, when you are dealing with 17-20 year old felons and the likes thereof, you cannot place these young men in the same programs.

Dave Patten  
Juvenile Justice Specialist  
IYC-Joliet

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04/04/12

COGFA Committee:

I am writing today in opposition of Governor Quinn's proposal to close IYC-Joliet.

- 1) IYC-JOLIET is the only MAXIMUM SECURITY prison for young males in Illinois. This is substantiated by the IDJJ website that lists IYC-Joliet as the only level one prison for males. The Governor and his staff will continue to state the young adult males at IYC-Joliet can be housed elsewhere. This is not a true statement. The young male offenders at IYC-Joliet have been housed in a less secure environment and have been negatively transferred to IYC-Joliet because of the difficult behavior problems they present. They have been given the opportunity to conform to a less restrictive setting and have made the choice not to comply. The young adult males are currently convicted of or facing charges of murder, kidnapping, aggravated battery of a senior citizen, criminal sexual assault of a child, multiple weapons charges, vehicular hi-jacking, armed robbery, home invasion, aggravated battery with great bodily harm etc. The young adult males at IYC-Joliet are the most aggressive and dangerous in the State of Illinois.
- 2) 85% of our population is from Cook County. If Governor Quinn is successful in his proposal the youth will be transferred to facilities 6 hours south or 3 hours west. (Per Governor Quinn's 2013 Budget Fact Sheet as submitted by IDJJ). This will create both an emotional and economical hardship on the families that rely on public transportation in order to see their family member. In most cases, the relationship between offender and family is a fragile bond. The Governor is in essence, breaking that bond, destroying relationships and doing absolutely nothing to encourage family reunification. It is vital for the continued growth and development of these youth, family visits are not severed.
- 3) You have heard the Governor's Office speak of recidivism. You have heard IDJJ Administration talk of statistics and research. However, in very few instances will you hear the statistics as they are reported on what is going on in ILLINOIS. Redeploy Illinois states 33% of youth were diverted from being committed to IDJJ. This number is not surprising as a county/community must have a minimum of 25% diversion in order to receive state funds. In addition, the youth that are currently being diverted are not the hard core repeat offenders that a MAXIMUM Security facility such as IYC-Joliet serves. After Care will report a recidivism rate of 24%. This is also extremely inaccurate. This does not take into account when a youth is sent to Half Way Back at IYC-Chicago for a minimum of two weeks. As per IDJJ Director Arthur Bishop's own statement at the COGFA hearing on 04/04/12, Half Way Back is considered a "violation of parole". The research, in ILLINOIS, shows that youth currently in After Care as of 02/29/12, including those that have been diverted for non compliance to HWB show an actual recidivism rate in excess of 55%. It is important to note this recidivism number is despite all the community resources and family reunification the principal of After Care is based on. In addition, 40 random general population, TASC and After Care parole violations were pulled from the master files of IYC-Joliet. The statistics, in ILLINOIS, show 37 out of 40 youth were given referrals for community based programs and did not comply with those referrals, in addition to the non-compliance of community based programs, these youth also had a variety of other parole violations such as criminal contact, failure to report, failure to allow agent to visit, AWOL, failed random urinalysis tests, non-compliance in academics and association with negative peer groups.

- 4) IYC-Joliet has the appearance of an adult prison because of its population and because it is a prison/youth center. It is not a detention center or a home. It is, in most cases, the last stop before an 18, 19 or 20 year old is transferred to the adult system. IYC-Joliet is comprised of several housing units, an academic building, dietary building, administration building, multi-purpose area, and two gyms. The buildings are sound, safe and secure. There are no condemned buildings at IYC-Joliet. We do not require millions of dollars in renovation in order to maintain the population we serve. In all actuality, due to the design of IYC-Joliet we are capable of housing minimum, medium and maximum security inmates. This can be done without “blending” the population as we have two separate school buildings and a facility within a facility. This can also be done without MILLIONS of dollars of renovation. As we learned today at the COGFA hearing, \$17,000 to meet the needs of a youth at IYC-STC, \$12,000 to meet the needs of a youth at IYC-JOE – where is the savings? We learned, in the next five years, per IDJJ’s Brian Gleckler it will take almost 3 times the amount of money to continue to upgrade IYC-St. Charles compared to IYC-Joliet. I ask – where is the savings in closing IYC-Joliet?
- 4) IYC-Joliet has continued to outrank other facilities using Performance Based Standards. This is quite an accomplishment considering the difficult population that is housed there. This is a direct testimony to the front line staff, the clinical staff, the mental health staff and the academic staff. They, everyday, encourage this population to want to be more than a number, to understand bad choices in the past do not have to color their future, to know they can be more, want more and succeed in whatever they choose to do. They are encouraged to see, that with positive effort, they will see positive results. They are encouraged to act and think like an individual and not as part of a group. This is communicated daily to the youth as an affirmation. We believe in and stress OPEN COMMUNICATION with the need to build solid relationships while in our care. We are, in some cases, the only consistency in the lives of these young men. We assume a parent type role. We the disciplinarian when the choices they make are negative and we offer positive praise and actions for all positive behavior as well. As said by Director Bishop – “Minimum Standards are not OUR Standards.” Joliet has proven that, not only statewide, but compared at a National level as well. IYC-Joliet is constantly called upon when other facility’s are in need of assistance. We have had our staff detailed to other institutions in order to “get the job done”. Joliet does not recognize minimum standards – we strive for excellence.
- 6) As a voter and a tax payer I do not believe Governor Quinn is making a sound decision as it pertains to the closure of this facility. I would like to see the Governor apply real reform measures in order to balance a budget and spending that is out of control. He will need to make tough choices but to continue to balance the budget every year by cutting services to people who rely on them, by risking public safety in closing prisons and cutting the work force is not the answer. As stated in the COGFA hearing 04/04/12, by IYC-Joliet Juvenile Justice Specialist Javius Bridges, how will the Governor balance a budget when there is nothing left to close? The answer to a fiscally responsible budget will not be found in the continued closures of facilities or loss of services. In a tough economy it is about BUILDING jobs, not destroying them. The Governor is attempting to lay off over 2000 state employees. You will hear his staff state; Joliet will have an opportunity to bump into positions in IDOC as well. The truth is there are not near enough open positions to stop the ripple effect of what this Governor has planned to do.

In his budget address he talked about the truth, he talked about handling the truth, well the truth is Governor, stop giving out millions of dollars in tax cuts to the rich corporations of Illinois. I only needed to check the internet to see the people who run these corporations are not suffering through any economic hard times. Can the Governor say the same for the 2,000 state employees these closures will affect? Can he say the same for the local businesses that will have to lay people off due to loss of revenue? Can he say the same for the housing market in Joliet and the surrounding area's when the foreclosures continue to rise? Can he say the same for the communities that depend on the state and local income taxes collected? I don't think he can.

I respectfully ask you to OPPOSE the Governor's proposal to close IYC-Joliet. It is not fiscally responsible in any way, shape or form.

Thank you!  
Sharon Konopka  
President, AFSCME 1753  
Juvenile Justice Youth and Family Specialist  
IYC-Joliet

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I AM AGAINST THE CLOSURE OF THE IYC IN JOLIET, THE REASON IS WE HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF CRIME IN JOLIET , OUR EXPERIENCE IS AFTER THE PERPETRATOR WAS RELEASED FROM JAIL, THEY WENT OUT AND GOT RE ARRESTED FOR OTHER VIOLATIONS.

BOTTOM LINE IS WE WILL NOT SUPPORT, NOR WILL WE RECOMMEND ANY POLITICIAN THAT DOE'S NOT PROTECT THE CONSTITUENTS.

THESE BELIEFS WILL BE SHARED WITH OUR FELLOW RETIREES FROM TWO DIFFERENT RETIREMENTS, (WHICH NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS) AND THE FIVE DIFFERENT SENIOR ORGANIZATIONS WE BELONG TO, NOT INCLUDING OUR MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

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JIM HOOD

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Please keep the Illinois Youth Center in Joliet open. Where are these youth going to be housed if this facility is closed? Budget cuts need to be made but this is the wrong way to go about it. The public will be among those that will suffer if this facility is closed.

Thank you,

Dawn Sheikh

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According to Federal law accused or adjudicated offenders, status offenders and non offenders cannot have contact with adult inmates, including adult inmates trustees. Contact is defined to include any physical or sustained sight and sound contact. Sight contact is defined as clear visual contact between adults inmates and juvenile within close proximity to each other. Sound contact is defined as oral communications between adult inmates and juvenile offenders. adult offenders include those awaiting on trial on criminal charges. states are required to verify that no juvenile offender shall enter under public authority, for any amount of time, into a secure setting or secure section of an adult jail or lockup, or a correction facility as disposition of an offense or a means of modifying their behavior. 52 % of the young men are convicted as adults and / or pending adult charges, 96% are from the northern region, 85% cook county. Transferring these young men to other facilities will not only be costly, but more importantly it will pose a potential danger to other youths who have committed lesser crimes.

Director Bishop nor any member of the commission will be able to say that this federal law will be adhered to. It will be virtually impossible for this to take place. In order for this to happen there will have to be a separate school schedule, these young men in classrooms with youths aged 13-16 years of age violates both parts of the law, (contact and sound). In addition there will have to be separate schedule for feeding the youths/men. With both of these issues will generate additional overtime because caution must be taken to ensure that (contact and sound ) does not occur.

During the hearing Director Bishop mentioned that the staffs at IYC-Joliet has the same training as staffs at other IYC-facilities. That is not a true statement. At IYC-Joliet we have specialized training, in childhood trauma of youths, and how it affects their development and behavior. This training is not offered at other facilities.

IYC-Joliet has a Critical Incident Review Committee, this committee consists of security staffs, & clinical staff. That reviews and take a proactive vs reactive approach to the young men behavior. This approach has proven to be very beneficial since this is a maximum facility. IYC-Joliet is the end of the road for these youth. Unlike other facilities IYC-Joliet does not have another facility to transfer youths who exhibit negative behavior. This training is taught at IYC-Joliet not at the Illinois Training academy.

In closing we the employees at IYC-Joliet and the concerned citizens of the State of Illinois is asking that the members of the COGFA Committee consider keeping IYC- Joliet open. Thanks in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Rickey Williams

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Hello,

I'm strongly opposing to the closure of the Illinois Youth Center in Joliet, IL. It is crucial to keep this facility open to continue to serve and protect our society.

Sincerely,

Monica Kowalski  
3418 Timberlake Dr.  
Joliet, IL 60435

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In regards to I.D.J.J.'s mission statement to provide a comprehensive continuum of education and vocational training, why has the vocational training declined since 2006 when I.D.O.C. and I.D.J.J. separated?

I.D.J.J. Deals with young men with low reading and academic skills. Out of 3 institutions, IYC-St. Charles, IYC-Kawannee, and IYC-Chicago that has been suggested that IYC-Joliet's youth are sent to upon closure. IYC-Joliet offers more vocational training. How can this be productive to the older youths of IYC-Joliet?

Knowing that the great majority of youths at IYC-Joliet have academic skills below standards, it is true that these students need more of an individualized one on one teaching. How can class size be conducive when more students are put into classes at other institutions along with the students they already service?

At IYC-Joliet, the consent decree students are taught in a separate school then the rest of the population. St. Charles has one school, yet Mr. Bishop claims that the max security youths would not be integrated with the general population. How do they plan to educate this group?

Thank you,  
Tim L'Ecuyer  
(Correctional Vocational Instructor)

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Dear COGFA,

Please consider,

The people working at Joliet pay the State about 17% of their paycheck. 8.5% for pension, and the rest in Health and welfare and payroll tax.

This totals 2.55 million. Was this calculated in the "savings"?

230 people will then be on unemployment at 538.00 per week. This costs the state about 6.44 million per year. Was this calculated in the "savings"?

In essence it will cost the state almost 9 million to lay these people off.  
I believe that DJJ has said they would "save" 11.8 million that will stay in the department.....essentially "saving"the state nothing.  
It seems this 2.8 million will not be worth the loss of Economic Output of 30.6 million.

Thanks so much for listening,  
Troy Johnson

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I oppose the Governor Quinn's proposal to close IYC-Joliet!  
Please help us KEEP THE ONLY MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON FOR VIOLENT, AGGRESSIVE AND DANGEROUS young adults (17 years - 21 years old) OPEN! Thank You!

Christine Dent  
907 Grand Blvd  
Joliet, IL 60436

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Honored Representative,

Please consider the social repercussions of closing Illinois Youth Center Joliet.  
As an IYC-Joliet employee I can personally attest that many of our offenders are there for committing violent crimes or because they were disruptive at other facilities; and the majority are repeat offenders. You do not want them returning home to your representative district or anyone else's.  
Closing IYC-Joliet will inevitably return many of these violent people to our communities because limits on overcrowding will necessitate early parole.  
The recent rise in homicides in Chicago shows the consequences of having violent people out in the community, and that IYC-Joliet is more needed now than ever. Per the Chicago Tribune: "Homicides in Chicago soared by 60 percent in the first three months of 2012, continuing a troublesome trend that began late last year" (Gorner, April 12, 2012).  
While I appreciate the State's strained economic situation, compromising public safety by closing IYC-Joliet is not the solution to that situation.

Marie Redman  
Staff Assistant  
IYC – Joliet

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I, Rosemary Bridges, a 17 year veteran and my husband a 19 year veteran of IYC JOLIET, opposes Governor Quinn's proposal to close the facility. I'm 36 years old and have resided in Joliet for almost 20 years. In JOLIET I own a home, pay taxes & always vote yes for revenue increases for our Public School system. I, along with many other staff, have dedicated more than half of my life to IYC JOLIET. My husband and I currently have 2 daughters attending their 1st year of college, our 3rd daughter attending Joliet Junior College 2012-2013, and our son a Junior in high school. As a team my husband and I have raised productive young adults. On a daily basis I am instilling the same values in the young men at IYC JOLIET. Our goal is to help the youth make better choices for their lives, and once they leave us for them to become productive young men in society. Structure is what many of these young men have been missing and at IYC JOLIET we, the staff, are able to provide that for them. There are many staff that pour their efforts into teaching the youths that they deserve more and should want more out of their lives. IYC JOLIET is the only centrally located youth facility in the state surrounded by Interstates 55 & 80. More than 85% of our youths are from the Chicago-land area. We are able to transport youths within minimal time for medical visits and also for court appearances. Approximately 100+ youths at our facility are currently fighting adult crimes but are being held for juvenile parole violations. Until the youths are vindicated or convicted of their adult charges they do remain in the only maximum security facility currently capable of holding maximum security youths...IYC JOLIET! IYC JOLIET needs no major renovations to continue to hold our maximum security youths. I state that we are the end of line because we are the receiving center for all of the youths that are uncooperative at other juvenile facilities throughout the State of IL. When a youth is not compliant, combative, abusive towards others, assaults staff and fellow youths, and the list continues, these young men are negatively transferred to IYC JOLIET. The structure that is provided at IYC JOLIET helps the youth to productively grow in a positive manner. For IYC JOLIET to remain open no renovations are needed. Our facility is structurally sound, in good standing & also 97% asbestos free (unlike other facilities which will remain un-named because we all know who they are). The State of IL wants to transfer our youths to facilities that are not adequate to hold maximum security youths and spend more than 20 million dollars over the next 5 years renovating with the tax payers dollar. Myself being a taxpayer opposes IYC JOLIET CLOSURE. Where will the money be saved at when IYC JOLIET spends 12,000 a year on a youth for care & IYC St. Charles spends 19,000 a year? That statement came directly from the COGFA panel on April 4th, 2012. The state wants to spend 20 million plus dollars on renovations for IYC St. Charles over the next five years so they can hold maximum security youths. Why spend 20 million when we already have a facility that doesn't need renovations. Yes this may be bigger than I am, because I work on the front lines with the youths 5 days a week, risking my life to return home the same way that I left, but as I always say I'm one of the little guys that doesn't get to make the big boy decisions. The little guy knows that the numbers don't add up and money will be misallocated so when will the BIG BOYS get it??? If the STATE OF ILLINOIS could take down the blinders that they are trying to put over the publics eyes and be truthful, only then can we continue to accomplish the goals that have been set for many young offenders.

Have a Great Day!!!

Mrs. Rosemary A. Bridges

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