



2004 Report on Illinois Poverty

*Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
for Illinois Teens*

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The Illinois Poverty Summit is facilitated by Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, a serviced-based human rights organization. Heartland Alliance provides housing, health care, human services, and human rights protections to the most poor and vulnerable people in our society.

This report was produced independently of the Illinois Poverty Summit Steering Committee and is intended to stimulate dialogue about anti-poverty initiatives in the state.

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About the Illinois Poverty Summit

The Illinois Poverty Summit was established in 2000 to develop strategies to eliminate poverty in Illinois. Poverty in Illinois has a wide reach – touching women, children, teens, the elderly, people with disabilities, and working families.

The Illinois Poverty Summit

- develops bipartisan support for strategic priorities to eliminate poverty in Illinois;
- analyzes current poverty data and serves as an information source on trends impacting the state's economic health; and
- convenes legislators and other key civic leaders to determine the most effective use of state and federal anti-poverty resources and to develop new anti-poverty strategies.

Four precepts guide the Illinois Poverty Summit

People who work full time should not live in poverty.

All people who can work should be given the tools to work toward their fullest potential.

A safety net should be provided for those who cannot work.

Eliminating poverty is an investment in Illinois's future.

Introduction

Definition of Youth

There is no consensus as to the standard age range used to define a teenager. Federal, state, and community programs for youth serve different groups of individuals within the ages of 10 to 24. Many teens fall between the cracks of programs serving age groupings that do not include them. Data in this report indicates the age parameters for research, when available. Census data is presented using two age groupings: 12 to 17 and 18 to 24.

The teenage years are an important time of transition. Access to educational opportunity, adequate health care, stable housing, and positive relationships with adults can assist teens in making healthy life choices. Poverty and vulnerability to risk factors during these critical years, combined with limited supports, can jeopardize a teen's future stability and success.

Teens growing up in poor families are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior, such as dropping out of school. Similarly, teens who engage in high-risk behavior are much more likely to experience poverty in the future. This cycle of poverty has significant consequences for teens, for their families, and for society as a whole. Despite the strong relationship between poverty and high-risk behavior, as well as the associated costs and consequences, **poverty among teens is a largely neglected policy issue in Illinois.**

The complex issues surrounding teen poverty highlight a need for multi-faceted solutions that break the cycle of poverty for Illinois teens. High-risk factors associated with current and future poverty – including school dropout, teen parenting, homelessness, and health issues – often intersect presenting unique challenges. The majority of programs for vulnerable populations tend to focus on children, families, and the elderly. Youth programs that do exist tend to focus on a sole issue such as dropping out of school or pregnancy prevention. While poor and vulnerable youth benefit from these programs, their unique needs require more comprehensive solutions.

This report provides data on the status of poor and at-risk teens in Illinois and highlights the intersection of issues that put them at risk of physical, social, and financial harm. While teenagers face enormous challenges and pressures, they have tremendous potential. **Effective prevention and comprehensive intervention efforts with vulnerable youth can break the cycle of poverty for Illinois teens, diverting individuals from a path toward a lifetime of poverty and onto a path toward a productive, healthy future.**

Key Findings

Teen poverty in Illinois is on the rise.

Poverty for youth ages 12 to 17
**increased in
34 Illinois
counties**

between 1990 and 2000.¹
Illinois has the third highest
12- to 17-year-old poverty rate
among the 12 Midwestern states.

Poverty for youth ages 18 to 24
**increased in
39 Illinois
counties**

between 1990 and 2000.
Statewide the rate increased
almost 5% in that decade.²

In Illinois,

175,653

youth ages 12 to 24 live in deep
poverty (below 50% of the
poverty line),³ far exceeding the
population of Aurora, the second
largest city in the state.⁴

City	Census population estimate July 2004
Peoria	112,907
Springfield	113,586
Joliet	123,570
Naperville	137,894
Rockford	151,725
Aurora	162,184
Youth ages 12 to 24 living in deep poverty — 175,653	
Chicago	2,869,121

¹U.S. Census 1990 and 2000

²U.S. Census 1990 and 2000

³U.S. Census 2000

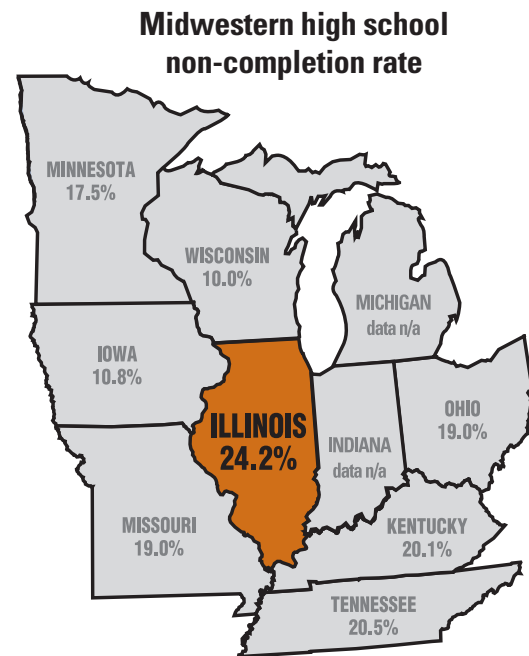
⁴Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. *Annual Estimates of the Population for Incorporated Places over 100,000, Ranked by July 1, 2003 Population: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003 (SUB-EST2003-01)*. June 24, 2004.

Rates of Illinois youth not completing high school are alarmingly higher than in neighboring states.

From 2000-2001, Illinois had the

highest

four-year high school non-completion rates for 16- to 24-year-olds of all of its neighbors.⁵

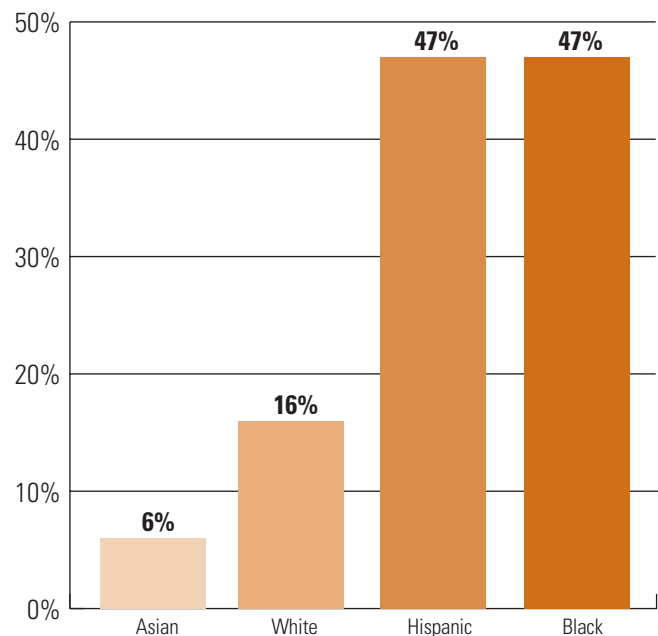


Illinois ranks

third in the nation

in its disparity in dropout rates between Whites and Blacks and fourth in the nation in its disparity between Whites and Hispanics.⁶

High school non-completion rates of Illinois racial and ethnic groups⁷



⁵ Young, Beth. (2003). *Public High School Dropouts and Completers From the Common Core of Data: School Year 2000-2001*. (NCES Publication Number 2004-310). U.S. Department of Education.

⁶ Greene, J. P. & Forster, G. (2003, September) *Public High School Graduation and College Readiness Rates in the United States*. (Education Working Paper No. 3) Manhattan Institute: New York.

⁷ Greene, J. P. & Forster, G. (2003, September) *Public High School Graduation and College Readiness Rates in the United States*. (Education Working Paper No. 3) Manhattan Institute: New York.

Dropouts face a future with the odds stacked against them.



3 out of 4

state prison inmates in the United States did not earn a high school diploma.⁹

High school dropouts are

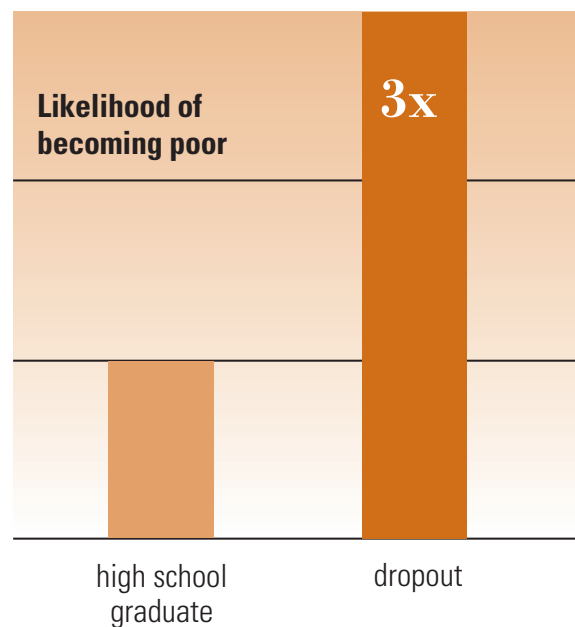
72%

more likely to be unemployed than those who graduate.¹⁰

High school dropouts are

three times

more likely than high school graduates to become poor in the span of one year.⁸



⁸ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2000). 2000 KIDS COUNT online. Retrieved March 10, 2004 from http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/kc2000/sum_8.htm

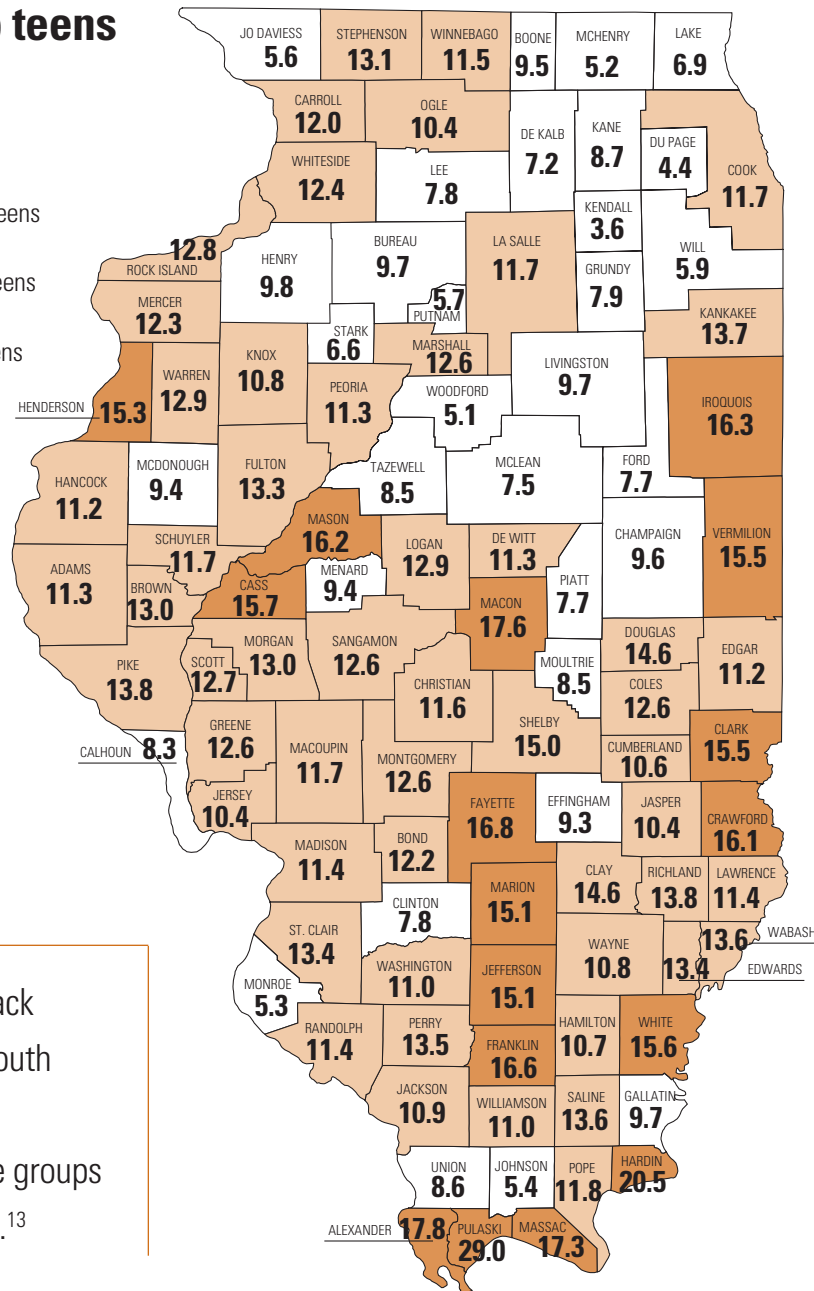
⁹ Harlow, C.W. (2003). *Education and Correctional Populations*. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, NJC 195670.) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Labor (n.d.). *So you are thinking about dropping out of school?* Retrieved September 16, 2004 from www.dol.gov/asp/fibre/dropout.htm

Over 10 percent of Illinois births are to teen mothers, a predictor of future family poverty.¹¹

% of county births to teens in 2002¹²

- Less than 10% of county births to teens
- 10% to 14.9% of county births to teens
- 15% or more of county births to teens



Illinois teen birth rates for Black (9.4%) and Hispanic (9.0%) youth continue to **exceed the national rates** for these groups (7.7% and 8.7% respectively).¹³

¹¹ Illinois Department of Public Health. (n.d.). *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2000-2001*. Retrieved September 16, 2004 from <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0001.htm>.

¹² Illinois Department of Public Health. (n.d.). *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2000-2001*. Retrieved September 16, 2004 from <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0001.htm>.

¹³ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (n.d.). retrieved Jun 09, 2004, from State Health Facts Online Web site: <http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?action=profile&area=Illinois&category=Health+Status&subcategory=Births&topic=Teen+Birth+Rate+by+Race%2fEthnicity>.

Teen parenting has multi-generational consequences.

2/3 of families

begun by young, unmarried mothers
are poor.¹⁴

The children of teen parents¹⁵ are

50% more likely to be **born with low birth weight**

less likely to complete high school (77% vs. 89%)

2.7 times more likely to end up **in prison** (if male)

83% more likely to **become a teen mother**
(if female)

¹⁴ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2002, February). *Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention's Link to Other Critical Social Issues*. Washington, DC.

¹⁵ Maynard, R.A. (Ed.) (1996). *Kids having kids: A Robin Hood Foundation special report on the costs of adolescent childbearing*. New York: Robin Hood Foundation.

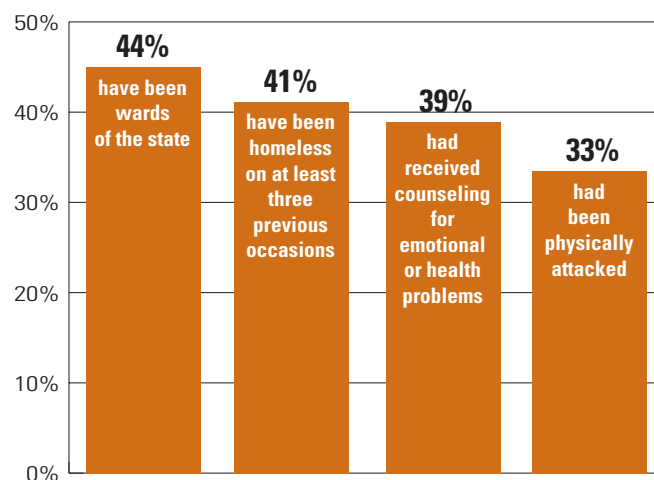
Homeless youth are extremely vulnerable.

There are an estimated
26,000
 homeless youth in Illinois.¹⁶

Over
1 in 4
 pregnant and parenting youth surveyed in Illinois live in unsafe or unstable conditions.¹⁷

60–80%
 of youth in homeless shelters report past physical or sexual abuse by a parent or guardian.¹⁸

A survey of homeless Chicago teens reports that¹⁹



(Categories are not mutually exclusive.)

¹⁶ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. (2001, September). *Youth on the streets and on their own: Youth homelessness in Illinois*. Chicago.

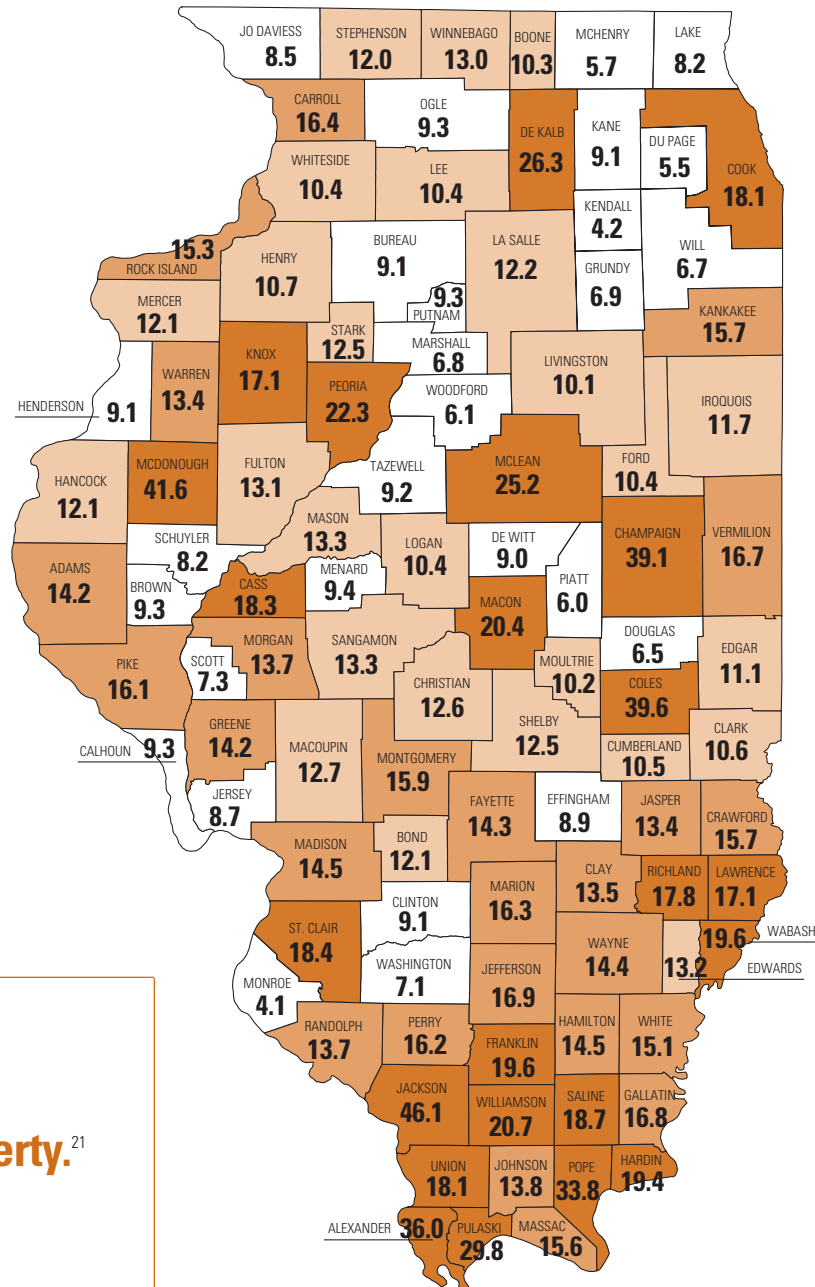
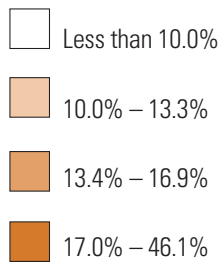
¹⁷ Marcy, Helene. (2003, June). *No Place to Grow: The Unsafe and Unstable Housing Conditions of Illinois Pregnant and Parenting Youth and Their Children*. Center for Impact Research.

¹⁸ Straka, D., Temple, C., & Epstein, E. (n.d.) *Supportive housing for youth: A background of the issues in the design and development of supportive housing for homeless youth*. New York: Corporation for Supportive Housing.

¹⁹ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. (1993). *Alone after dark: A survey of homeless youth in Chicago*. Chicago.

A Profile of Illinois Teens

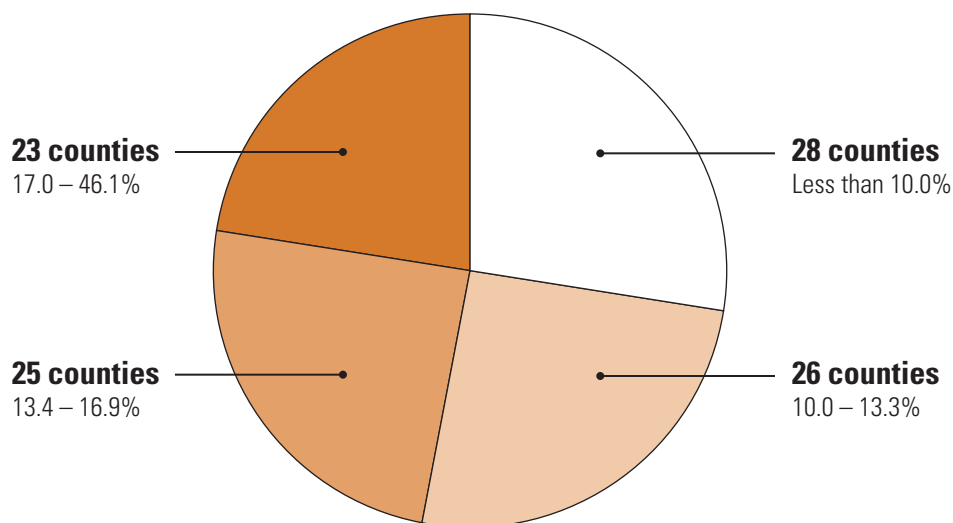
Almost three-quarters of Illinois counties have more than 10% of 12- to 24-year-olds living below the poverty line.²⁰



In Illinois, **15%** of 12- to 24-year-olds **live in poverty.**²¹

²⁰ U.S. Census 2000
²¹ U.S. Census 2000

Teen poverty in Illinois counties



12- to 17-year-olds

- **1.048 million** 12- to 17-year-olds live in Illinois.²²
- Of those, **12.7% live in poverty**, giving Illinois the third highest teen poverty rate for the age group among the 12 Midwestern states.²³
- **34 Illinois counties had increases in poverty** for ages 12 to 17 between 1990 and 2000.²⁴

18- to 24-year-olds

- **1.092 million** 18- to 24-year-olds live in Illinois.²⁵
- Of these youth, **18.3% are living in poverty**, a statewide increase of almost 5% in the past 10 years.²⁶
- **39 Illinois counties had increases in poverty** for ages 18 to 24 between 1990 and 2000.²⁷

^{22,23} U.S. Census 2000

²⁴ U.S. Census 1990 and 2000

²⁵ U.S. Census 2000

^{26,27} U.S. Census 1990 and 2000

School Dropout

An incomplete high school education is one of the strongest future indicators of poverty. The individual and social consequences of dropping out are dire. Students who drop out of school are more likely to be poor, use drugs, join a gang, or become a parent at a young age. State and federal prisons are full of individuals who did not complete high school. Between 1973 and 1999, the average hourly wage (inflation adjusted) of high school dropouts fell 24%.²⁸ In addition, a growing number of “disconnected youth” did not complete school and are not currently engaged in school or work.

The reasons why youth do not complete their schooling involve a number of economic, social, health, and housing issues. Disparities in dropout statistics among different racial groups also suggest that race and ethnicity are important factors. Individuals with a disability face additional challenges to completing school.

While Illinois youth drop out for many reasons, the impact is staggering, affecting future income, employment prospects, and the quality of Illinois’s labor market. **Given these dire social and economic consequences, school dropout is an area of grave concern for Illinois.**

²⁸ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2000). *Children at risk: state trends 1990-2000: A first look at census 2000 supplementary survey data*. Baltimore, MD: Author. Retrieved February 9, 2004 from <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/c2ss/pdfs/front/summary.pdf>

Many Illinois youth do not complete their education.

- More than **36,300** Illinois youth dropped out of high school in 2003, and even more did not complete high school.³⁸
 - At least **38,800** Illinois youth were chronic truants in 2003, demonstrating a high risk of eventually dropping out.³⁹
 - In 26 Illinois counties **more than 10%** of youth ages 16 to 19 are not in school, not employed, and not in the armed forces.⁴⁰
 - Nearly **one in four** Illinois young adults ages 18 to 24 have not graduated from high school.⁴¹
-

Students with a disability are at greater risk of dropping out than their peers without a disability.

- Youth with disabilities drop out of high school at **twice the rate** of students without disabilities, and dropout rates for students with severe disabilities are even higher.⁴²
- About **50%** of students identified with an emotional disturbance drop out of school.⁴³

³⁸ Illinois State Board of Education. (2003). *2003 Illinois State Report Card*. Springfield, IL: Author

³⁹ Illinois State Board of Education. (2003). *2003 Illinois State Report Card*. Springfield, IL: Author

^{40, 41} U.S. Census 2000

⁴² President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education. (2002, July). *A new era: revitalizing special education for children and their families*. Retrieved February 11, 2004 from <http://www.ed.gov/inits/commissionsboards/whspecialeducation/reports/index.html>

⁴³ U.S. Department of Education. (2001). *To assure the free appropriate public education of all children with disabilities: twenty-third annual report to congress on the implementation of the individuals with disabilities education act*. Washington, DC: Author.

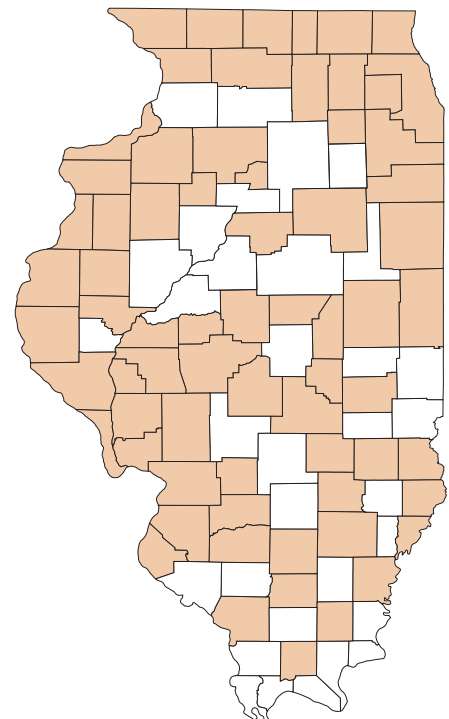
Racial disparities exist in Illinois's dropout statistics.

	Asian	White	Hispanic	Black
High school non-completion rate	6%	16%	47%	47%

- Illinois ranks **third in the nation in its disparity** in dropout rates between Whites and Blacks and fourth in the nation in its disparity between Whites and Hispanics.⁴⁵
- Current testing results indicate that **disparity in dropout rates may continue or worsen**. In 2003, 76% of white third-graders met or exceeded standards on the state reading test – compared to only 35% of blacks and 50% of Hispanic students.⁴⁶

Limited English-speaking ability and immigration status affect dropout rates.

- English language learners are almost **twice as likely** to drop out of high school as those who are English proficient.⁴⁷
- Since 1990, 69 Illinois counties experienced an **increase** in the number of youth age 5 to 17 that speak limited English.⁴⁸
- Limited English Proficient (LEP) children of natives are almost **twice as likely** to be dropouts (38.7%) as LEP foreign-born children (21.5%).⁴⁹
- **28%** of foreign-born youth age 16 to 24 are not in school and do not have a high school diploma compared to 10% of all youth age 16 to 24.⁵⁰
- The **poverty rate** for the foreign born youth under age 18 was 26.9%.⁵¹



Counties with increase in youth age 5 to 17 who speak limited English

⁴⁴ Greene, J. P. & Forster, G. (2003, September) *Public High School Graduation and College Readiness Rates in the United States*. (Education Working Paper No. 3) Manhattan Institute: New York.

⁴⁵ Greene, J. P. & Forster, G. (2003, September) *Public High School Graduation and College Readiness Rates in the United States*. (Education Working Paper No. 3) Manhattan Institute: New York.

⁴⁶ Illinois State Board of Education. (2003). *2003 Illinois State Report Card?* Springfield, IL: Author. Retrieved June 23, 2004 from http://206.230.157.60/PublicSite/reports/2003/state/English/2003_StateReport_E.pdf

⁴⁷ Levin-Epstein, J., & Greenberg, M. H. (Eds.) (2003, July). *Leave no youth behind: opportunities for congress to reach disconnected youth*. Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

⁴⁸ U.S. Census 1990 and 2000

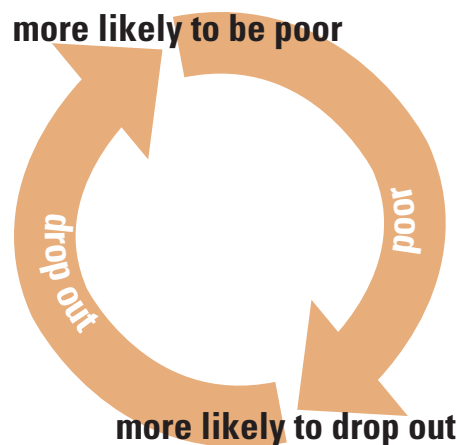
⁴⁹ Ruiz-De-Velasco, Jorge & Fix, Michael. (2000, December) *Overlooked & Underserved: Immigrant Students in U.S. Secondary Schools*. Urban Institute.

⁵⁰ Ruiz-De-Velasco, Jorge & Fix, Michael. (2000, December) *Overlooked & Underserved: Immigrant Students in U.S. Secondary Schools*. Urban Institute.

⁵¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 Current Population Survey.

Students who are already poor are more likely to drop out.

- In 2000, young adults living in families with incomes in the bottom quintile were **six times more likely to drop out** than their peers from families in the top quintile.⁵²
- In high poverty neighborhoods in large cities, **one out of every five** 16- to 19-year-olds dropped out of high school in 1999.⁵³



Students who drop out are more likely to be poor later on in life.

High school dropouts

- are **three times more likely** than high school graduates to become poor in the span of one year.⁵⁴
- are **72% more likely to be unemployed** than those who graduate,⁵⁵ and they remain unemployed for longer periods than their counterparts with a high school degree.⁵⁶
- comprise **nearly half** of the heads of households on welfare.⁵⁷
- on average, **earn \$9,245 less** per year than high school graduates.⁵⁸

⁵² U.S. Department of Education. (2001). *Dropout rates in the United States: 2000*. (NCES Publication No. 2002-114.) Washington, DC: Author.

⁵³ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2000). *Children at risk: state trends 1990-2000: A first look at census 2000 supplementary survey data*. Baltimore, MD: Author. Retrieved February 9, 2004 from <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/c2ss/pdfs/front/summary.pdf>

⁵⁴ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2000). 2000 KIDS COUNT online. Retrieved March 10, 2004 from http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/kc2000/sum_8.htm

⁵⁵ U.S. Department of Labor (n.d.). *So you are thinking about dropping out of school?* Retrieved February 9, 2004 from www.dol.gov/asp/fibre/dropout.htm

⁵⁶ Levin-Epstein, J., & Greenberg, M. (Eds.). (2003). *Leave No Youth Behind: Opportunities for Congress to Reach Disconnected Youth*. Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

⁵⁷ Schwartz, W. (1995). *School dropouts: new information about an old problem*. (Report No. 109.) (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED386515).

⁵⁸ Doland E. (2001). *Give yourself the gift of a degree*. Washington, DC: Employment Policy Foundation. Retrieved February 9, 2004 from <http://www.epf.org/media/newsreleases/2001/nr20011219.htm>

High school dropouts are
more likely

to smoke cigarettes regularly,
drink alcohol regularly,
and use illegal drugs
than their peers in grades 11 and 12.⁵⁹

Half

of teen mothers drop out before
becoming pregnant.⁶⁰

3 out of 4

state prison inmates
did not earn a high school diploma.⁶¹

77%

of state prison inmates who did not
complete high school or a GED
return to prison (are recidivists).⁶²

⁵⁹ Institute for Youth Development. (2002). *America's youth: measuring the risk* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

⁶⁰ National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2002). *Not just another single issue: teen pregnancy prevention's link to other critical social issues*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved February 9, 2004 from <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/notjust.pdf>

⁶¹ Harlow, C. W. (2003). *Education and Correctional Populations*. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, NJC 195670.) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

⁶² Harlow, C. W. (2003). *Education and Correctional Populations*. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, NJC 195670.) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

Teen Parenting

Teen parenting is a complex issue with multi-generational ramifications that can be seen both at the point-in-time when a teen becomes a parent as well as in the years that follow.

When teens become parents they put increased burden on their adult parents in terms of financial, logistical and emotional support, often relying on them for housing, child care, and basic costs of living. These initial burdens often translate into an ongoing need for support as teen parents are more likely to face barriers that impact their achievement of long-term economic independence such as school dropout and poverty.

In addition to the pregnancy itself, young parents also experience point-in-time changes. Teen parents, especially teen mothers, are likely to live in poverty, particularly in their younger years. Interruptions in mainstream youth activities, such as school attendance and completion, have significant impact on future opportunities. Teen parents are much less likely to complete school, which only worsens the outcomes for themselves and their children over time. If a mother gives birth to a second child, which occurs more frequently in Illinois than in most other states, she has an even greater likelihood of a lifetime of poverty.

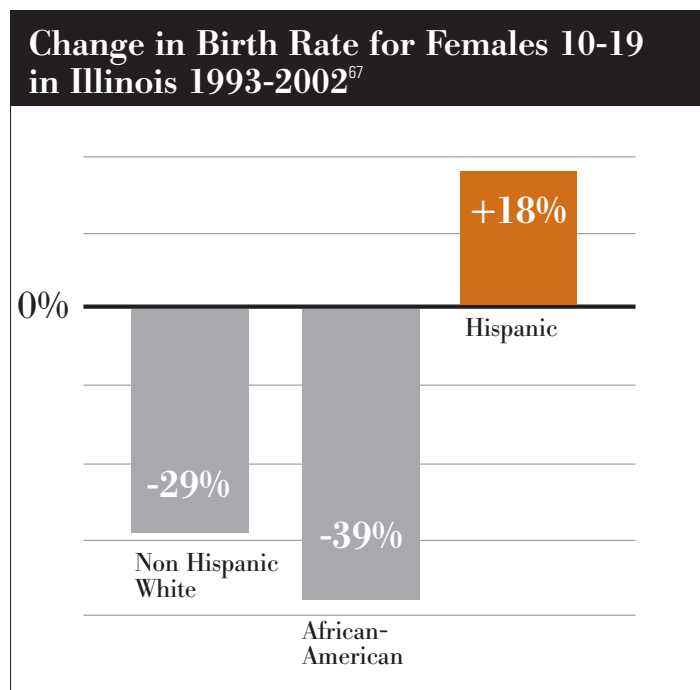
The children of teen parents also suffer the consequences of young parenting that often translate into another round in the cycle of poverty. Beginning at birth, the children of teen parents are more likely to have health problems. Over time, they are more likely than their peers to perform poorly in school, commit crimes, and become teen parents themselves.

The reasons that teens become parents include a lack of education, limited access to birth control options, limited vision for one's future, low self-esteem, manipulation by an older partner, rape or incest, or a combination of factors. While the state rate has dropped overall, **tens of thousands of Illinois teens and their children are still dealing with the consequences of teen parenting with tremendous costs to all involved and society as a whole.**

Teen parenting impacts communities throughout Illinois.

- In 2002, **18,546** Illinois teens gave birth.⁶³
- Between 2000-2002, more than **59,700** Illinois teens gave birth.⁶⁴
- More than **one in every 10** Illinois births is to a youth age 19 or younger.⁶⁵
- While the state rate has improved overall, **one-third** of Illinois counties actually saw an increase in their teen birth rate from 2001-2002.⁶⁶

Teen parenting rates are increasing among the Latino population.



- Illinois has the **tenth highest** annual rate in the nation of Latina teen pregnancies.⁶⁸
- Hispanic females comprise 15% of the female population ages 10 to 19 in Illinois⁶⁹, yet **30%** of all births to Illinois teens are to Hispanics.⁷⁰

⁶³ Illinois Department of Public Health. (n.d.). *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2003*. [Data file]. <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0203.htm>

⁶⁴ Illinois Department of Public Health. (n.d.). *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2002*. [Data file]. <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0203.htm>

⁶⁵ Illinois Department of Public Health. (n.d.). *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2003*. [Data file]. <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0203.htm>

⁶⁶ Illinois Department of Public Health. (n.d.). *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2000 and 2001*. [Data file]. <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0001.htm> and *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2002* [Data file]. <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0203.htm>

⁶⁷ Illinois Department of Public Health. (2003, December). *Teen Births Fall For Eighth Consecutive Year*. [News Release]. December 18, 2003. Retrieved September 16, 2004 from <http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/press03/12.18.03.htm>

⁶⁸ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2002, January). *Fact Sheet: Teen Pregnancy and Childbearing in Illinois*.

⁶⁹ U.S. Census 2000

⁷⁰ Illinois Department of Public Health. (2003, December). *Teen Births Fall For Eighth Consecutive Year*. [News Release]. December 18, 2003. Retrieved September 16, 2004 from <http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/press03/12.18.03.htm>

Teens who become parents are likely to live in poverty.

- **Two-thirds** of families begun by a young, unmarried mother are poor.⁷¹
- **More than 80%** of young mothers live in poverty during the critically important developmental years of their infant's life.⁷²
- During their first 13 years of parenthood, adolescent mothers earn an average of \$5,600 annually, **less than half** of the poverty level for a family of two.⁷³
- **Almost half** of all teen mothers and more than three-fourths of unmarried teen mothers began receiving welfare within five years of the birth of their child.⁷⁴

The demands of teen parenting limit a parent's chances of high school completion.

- Almost **60%** of teens with a school-age pregnancy drop out between 8th and 12th grades.⁷⁵
- Only **64%** of teen mothers complete their high school education or receive a GED.⁷⁶
- Those teen parents who do complete high school are **less likely** to attend college than their peers without children.⁷⁷

⁷¹ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2002, February). *Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention's Link to Other Critical Social Issues*. Washington, DC: Author.

⁷² Maynard, R. A. (Ed.). (1996). *Kids having kids: A Robin Hood Foundation special report on the costs of adolescent childbearing*. New York: Robin Hood Foundation.

⁷³ Maynard, R. A. (Ed.). (1996). *Kids having kids: A Robin Hood Foundation special report on the costs of adolescent childbearing*. New York: Robin Hood Foundation.

⁷⁴ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2002, February). *Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention's Link to Other Critical Social Issues*. Washington, DC: Author.

⁷⁵ Levin-Epstein, J., & Greenberg, M. H. (Eds.) (2003, July). *Leave no youth behind: opportunities for congress to reach disconnected youth*. Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

⁷⁶ U.S. General Accounting Office. (1998, June). *Teen mothers: Selected socio-demographic characteristics and risk factors*. (GAO/HEHS-98-141.) Washington, DC: Author. Available at <http://www.hi-ho.ne.jp/taku77/refer/teenmo.pdf>

⁷⁷ The Allen Guttmacher Institute. (1999). *Facts in brief: teen sex and pregnancy*. New York & Washington, DC: Author. Available at www.agi-usa.org

Many Illinois teens have more than one child, presenting an even greater set of multi-generational challenges.

- In 2000, **23%** of all Illinois teen births were repeat births.⁷⁸
- Illinois has the **tenth highest** teen subsequent pregnancy rate in the nation.⁷⁹
- The likelihood that a teen mother will finish high school or end her use of public supports **diminishes** with the arrival of each additional child.⁸⁰

The children of teen parents face increased social and health risks.

The children of teen parents⁸¹ are

50% more likely to be born **with low birth weight**

two to three times more likely to **run away from home**

50% more likely to **repeat a grade**

less likely to complete high school (77% vs. 89%)

more than twice as likely to be **victims of abuse and neglect**

2.7 times more likely to **end up in prison** (if male)

83% more likely to become a **teen mother themselves** (if female)

⁷⁸ Child Trends. (2002, September). *Facts at a Glance*. Washington, DC: Author.

⁷⁹ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2000). *Subsequent Teen Births*. Retrieved September 16, 2004 from <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/america/statisticsDisplay.asp?ID=4&SID=33>

⁸⁰ Florida State University Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy (2001). *Subsequent Pregnancies and Births Among Adolescent Mothers*. Retrieved December, 2001 from <http://www.fsu.edu/~cpeip/5-SubsPreg.pdf>

⁸¹ Maynard, R. A. (Ed.). (1996). *Kids having kids: A Robin Hood Foundation special report on the costs of adolescent childbearing*. New York: Robin Hood Foundation.

The issues of involved fathers and teen marriage are complex.

- **Eight of 10** teen fathers do not marry the mothers of their children.⁸²
 - Regardless of parents' ages, children who live apart from their fathers are **five times** more likely to be poor than children with both parents at home.⁸³
 - Teens who marry experience **divorce and separation at higher rates** than those who wait to marry until they are out of their teens.⁸⁴
 - Unwed mothers of all ages who married and then divorced have a **greater chance of living in poverty** than those who never married.⁸⁵
-

Paternal involvement is even more complicated when there is a significant age difference between the parents.

- Teens who have an older partner are **more likely** to become pregnant.⁸⁶
- Approximately **one in five** infants born to unmarried teens are fathered by men who are five or more years older than the mother.⁸⁷
- A young teen in a relationship with a significantly older partner – as opposed to someone slightly older, the same age, or younger – is much **more likely** to engage in sex.⁸⁸

⁸² The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2002, February). *Not Just Another Single Issue: Teen Pregnancy Prevention's Link to Other Critical Social Issues*. Washington, DC: Author.

⁸³ Parke, M. (2003, May). *Are married parents really better for children? What research says about the effects of family structure on child well-being*. (Policy Brief No. 3). Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

⁸⁴ Seiler, N. (2002, April). *Is teen marriage a solution?* Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

⁸⁵ Seiler, N. (2002, April). *Is teen marriage a solution?* Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

⁸⁶ The Allen Guttmacher Institute. (1999). *Facts in brief: teen sex and pregnancy*. New York & Washington, DC: Author. Available at www.agi-usa.org

⁸⁷ The Allen Guttmacher Institute. (1999). *Facts in brief: teen sex and pregnancy*. New York & Washington, DC: Author. Available at www.agi-usa.org

⁸⁸ Albert, B., Brown, S., & Flanigan, C. (Eds.). (2003). *14 and younger: The sexual behavior of young adolescents (summary)*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

⁸⁹ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. (2001, September). *Youth on the streets and on their own: Youth homelessness in Illinois*. Chicago: Author.

Homeless and Runaway Youth

Youth who are homeless are among the state's most vulnerable individuals. The vast majority of homeless youth left their homes because they were experiencing abuse. On the streets, these youth continue to find themselves in dangerous situations.

As is the case with the adult homeless population, homeless and runaway youth are difficult to count. There is probably a greater undercount in the youth population since many youth do not seek emergency shelter out of fear of being returned home or to the foster care system. In addition, many shelters have rules that prohibit adolescents.

Once a youth becomes homeless, the challenges amass for that individual to move out of poverty. **Time on the streets often leads to medical and mental health issues, school dropout, and survival behaviors that put the teen at great risk. The combination of these factors makes it increasingly difficult for youth to pull themselves out of poverty.**

While exact numbers on the Illinois homeless youth population are difficult to ascertain with existing data, there are far too many Illinois youth who experience the perils of living on the streets.

Many youth experience homelessness each year, and their numbers are increasing.

- An estimated **26,000** youth in Illinois experience homelessness each year, and 45% of these youth have long-term homeless experiences.⁸⁹
- Chicago homeless youth surveyed
 - 72% report they had **run away from home** at least once before their 16th birthday;
 - nearly one-quarter had **run away from home** at 11 or younger; and
 - 41% had been **homeless** on at least three previous occasions.⁹⁰
- Youth advocates and providers nationwide report that the number of homeless and runaway youth is **increasing** each year.⁹¹

Many homeless youth are pregnant or parenting.

- **Almost half** of female youth living on the streets (48%) and one-third of those residing in shelters (33%) have been pregnant.⁹²
- **20%** of female street youth and 12.6% of female shelter youth reported having had two or more pregnancies.⁹³
- Over **one in four** pregnant or parenting youth surveyed in Illinois live in unsafe or unstable conditions, putting them at grave risk of homelessness.⁹⁴

⁸⁹ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. (2001, September). *Youth on the streets and on their own: Youth homelessness in Illinois*. Chicago: Author.

⁹⁰ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. (1993). *Alone after dark: A survey of the homeless youth in Chicago*. Chicago: Author.

⁹¹ Straka, D., Temple, C., & Epstein, E. (n.d.). *Supportive housing for youth: A background of the issues in the design and development of supportive housing for homeless youth*. New York: Corporation for Supportive Housing.

⁹² Greene, J.M., & Ringwalt, C.L. (1998). Pregnancy among three national samples of runaway and homeless youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 23*(6), 370-377.

⁹³ Greene, J.M., & Ringwalt, C.L. (1998). Pregnancy among three national samples of runaway and homeless youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 23*(6), 370-377.

⁹⁴ Marcy, Helene. (2003, June). *No Place to Grow: The Unsafe and Unstable Housing Conditions of Illinois Pregnant and Parenting Youth and Their Children*. Center for Impact Research.

Former foster care youth are especially vulnerable to homelessness.

- Nationally, **25% to 40%** of foster care youth become homeless.⁹⁵ 44% of Chicago homeless youth surveyed were wards of the state.⁹⁶
- Terminating financial support for young people transitioning out of foster care can have **dire consequences** for youth lacking education, job skills, and affordable housing.⁹⁷

A number of factors contribute to a youth's decision to leave home.

- Youth consistently report that **family conflict** over such issues as sexual activity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, school problems, or alcohol and drug use, is the primary reason for their homelessness.⁹⁸
- Youth often **become homeless** upon release from juvenile detention, exit from a foster care placement, and when unable to secure affordable housing.⁹⁹
- Youth diagnosed with serious **emotional disturbances** are particularly vulnerable to homelessness.¹⁰⁰
- Between 60% to 80% of youth in homeless shelters and in transitional living facilities have been **physically or sexually abused** by their parents or guardians prior to leaving home.¹⁰¹

⁹⁵ Straka, D., Temple, C., & Epstein, E. (n.d.). *Supportive housing for youth: A background of the issues in the design and development of supportive housing for homeless youth*. New York: Corporation for Supportive Housing.

⁹⁶ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. (1993). *Alone after dark: A survey of the homeless youth in Chicago*. Chicago: Author.

⁹⁷ Straka, D., Temple, C., & Epstein, E. (n.d.). *Supportive housing for youth: A background of the issues in the design and development of supportive housing for homeless youth*. New York: Corporation for Supportive Housing.

⁹⁸ Robertson, M.J., & Toro, P.A. (1998). *Homeless youth: Research, intervention, and policy*. Paper presented at the 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research. Abstract retrieved October 1, 2003 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>

⁹⁹ Robertson, M.J., & Toro, P.A. (1998). *Homeless youth: Research, intervention, and policy*. Paper presented at the 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research. Abstract retrieved October 1, 2003 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>

¹⁰⁰ Robertson, M.J., & Toro, P.A. (1998). *Homeless youth: Research, intervention, and policy*. Paper presented at the 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research. Abstract retrieved October 1, 2003 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>

¹⁰¹ Straka, D., Temple, C., & Epstein, E. (n.d.). *Supportive housing for youth: A background of the issues in the design and development of supportive housing for homeless youth*. New York: Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Many homeless youth experience poor physical and mental health.

- The HIV rate among homeless youth has been estimated to be as much as **two to 10 times higher** than the rate of non-homeless youth in the United States.¹⁰²
- Studies cite that **between 19% and 50%** of homeless youth are found to have serious mental health disorders.¹⁰³
- Among homeless youth, anxiety disorders are **three times more common** than to youth who are not homeless.¹⁰⁴
- Rates of depression, conduct disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder are **three times higher** in runaway youth than in non-runaways.¹⁰⁵
- Studies consistently report that rates of suicide attempt for homeless and runaway youth are higher than those for non-homeless and runaway youth.¹⁰⁶ **18%** of Chicago homeless youth surveyed report having attempted suicide.¹⁰⁷

Homeless and runaway youth often experience difficulties in school.

- 42% of boys and 32% of girls had **dropped out** of school in four Midwestern cities where homeless youth were surveyed.¹⁰⁸
- In several studies of homeless youth, **25% to 35%** report being held back a year in school and about one-quarter report participation in special or remedial classes.¹⁰⁹
- **68%** of Chicago homeless youth surveyed report that they had been suspended from school, 27% report having been expelled, and almost one quarter had been in special education classes.¹¹⁰

¹⁰² National Coalition for the Homeless. (1999, April). *Fact sheet #11: Homeless youth*. Retrieved December 22, 2003, from <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/youth.html>

¹⁰³ Robertson, M.J., & Toro, P.A. (1998). *Homeless youth: Research, intervention, and policy*. Paper presented at the 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research. Abstract retrieved October 1, 2003 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>

¹⁰⁴ Patel, D.R., & Greydanus, D.E. (2002). Homeless Adolescents in the United States: An Overview for Pediatricians. [Electronic Version]. *International Pediatrics*, 17(2), 71-75.

¹⁰⁵ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. (n.d.). *No youth alone: The campaign to end youth homelessness in Illinois: Campaign overview*. Chicago: Author.

¹⁰⁶ Robertson, M.J., & Toro, P.A. (1998). *Homeless youth: Research, intervention, and policy*. Paper presented at the 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research. Abstract retrieved October 1, 2003 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>

¹⁰⁷ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. (1993). *Alone after dark: A survey of the homeless youth in Chicago*. Chicago: Author.

¹⁰⁸ Palmer, B. (2001, Spring). *The facts behind the faces: Youth homelessness*. Chicago: Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.

¹⁰⁹ Robertson, M.J., & Toro, P.A. (1998). *Homeless youth: Research, intervention, and policy*. Paper presented at the 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research. Abstract retrieved October 1, 2003 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>

¹¹⁰ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. (1993). *Alone after dark: A survey of the homeless youth in Chicago*. Chicago: Author.

More than one-quarter
of youth living on the streets
engage in

survival sex

(sex for money, food, or shelter).¹¹¹

Substance abuse

is five times more prevalent
among homeless youth
than in the general youth population.¹¹⁴

Survival sex is correlated (particularly among
homeless and runaway youth)¹¹² with other

high risk

behaviors including: substance abuse,
suicide attempts, HIV, STDs, pregnancy,
and criminal behavior.¹¹³

¹¹¹ Greene, J.M., Ennett, S.T., & Ringwalt, C.L. (1999). Prevalence and correlates of survival sex among runaway and homeless youth. *American Journal of Public Health*, 89(9), 1406-1409.

¹¹² Bailey, S.L., Camlin, C.S., & Ennett, S.T. (1998). Substance use and risky sexual behavior among homeless and runaway youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 23(6), 378-388.

¹¹³ Greene, J.M., Ennett, S.T., & Ringwalt, C.L. (1999). Prevalence and correlates of survival sex among runaway and homeless youth. *American Journal of Public Health*, 89(9), 1406-1409.

¹¹⁴ Patel, D.R., & Greydanus, D.E. (2002). Homeless Adolescents in the United States: An Overview for Pediatricians. [Electronic Version]. *International Pediatrics*, 17(2), 71-75.

Teen Health

Youth living in poverty are at increased risk for health-related problems. Poor youth are more likely to experience obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, as well as mental health problems, such as depression. Substance use also intersects with other major poverty risk factors for teens, such as pregnancy and dropping out. Unfortunately, the availability of specialized treatment for substance abuse, mental health issues, dental care, and other problems is woefully inadequate for meeting the need.

Poor teens face limited access to health insurance and quality health care. As a result, many poor teens have unidentified and untreated health problems that exacerbate other negative impacts of poverty and often lead to difficulties in school, involvement in delinquent activities, vulnerability to disease, and unintended pregnancy. Homeless youth and teens living in low-income communities are also at increased risk of health problems and exposure to violence.

Illinois's public health insurance program, KidCare, has greatly increased access to health insurance for many poor youth. However, eligibility for KidCare only continues through age 18 leaving many young adults without coverage. In addition, many youth who are eligible for KidCare are not enrolled in the program. **Unaddressed health issues intersect with other major poverty risk factors to impact teens in both the short- and long-term and contribute to the cycle of poverty for Illinois youth.**

Teens living in poverty are more likely to suffer physical health problems.

- Among adolescents 11 to 17, the probability of being in the poorest health profile type group was progressively **higher** as social class declined.¹¹⁵
- Teens from lower income households are at **greater risk of mortality**, due to higher rates of obesity and diabetes,¹¹⁶ and have been shown to display a higher prevalence of risk factors for heart disease than their middle-income peers.¹¹⁷
- Increases in family income among U.S. adolescents decreased the likelihood that they would engage in **unhealthy activities**, such as smoking cigarettes, having a sedentary lifestyle, and engaging in episodic heavy drinking.¹¹⁸

Poor teens are at increased risk of experiencing mental health issues.

- Poverty is one of the most powerful demographic risk factors for diagnosis of **mental health disorder**.¹¹⁹
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services identified low socioeconomic status as a **risk factor for suicide** among adolescents.¹²⁰
- The percentage of Chicago high school students who **attempted suicide**, 12.1%, is among the highest of 18 cities in 2003.¹²¹
- **More than 57%** of youth receiving mental health services in 1997 were poor. Their care was paid for through Medicaid (42%), other public insurance (10%) or charity care (5%). Less than one-third (31%) had private insurance, or paid with personal resources (9%).¹²²

¹¹⁵ Starfield, B., Riley, A.W., Witt, W. P., & Robertson, J. (2002). Social class gradients in health during adolescence. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 56, 354-361.

¹¹⁶ Emmer, L. (2003, April). The impact of poverty on adolescent health. *Adolescent Health: Practice Update*, 3(2). Retrieved January 12, 2004, from http://www.socialworkers.org/practice/adolescent_health/ah0503.pdf.

¹¹⁷ Diez-Roux, A., Northridge, M.E., Morabia, A., Bassett, M.T., & Shea, S. (1999). Prevalence and social correlates of cardiovascular disease risk factors in Harlem. *American Journal of Public Health*, 89, 302-307.

¹¹⁸ Lowry, R., Kann, L., Collins, J.L., & Kolbe, L.J. (1996). The effect of socioeconomic status on chronic disease risk behaviors among U.S. adolescents. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 276(10), 792-797.

¹¹⁹ Rones, M., & Hoagwood, K. (2000). School-based mental health services: A research review. *Clinical Child & Family Psychology Review*, 3(4), 223-241.

¹²⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). *I sing the body electric: Youth risk behavior surveillance survey report of East-Central Illinois, 2002*. Atlanta: Author.

¹²¹ Grunbaum, J., Kann, L., Kinchen, S., Ross, J., Hawkins, J., Lowry, R., Harris, W. A., McManus, T., Chyen, D., Collins, J. (2003). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance: United States, 2003. *MMWR Surveillance Summaries*, May 21, 2004, 53(SS02), 1-96.

¹²² Rutgers University. (2002, Summer). *Update: Latest findings in children's mental health*, 1(1), 1-4. Retrieved March 29, 2004, from <http://www.aecf.org/publications/data/issuebrief1.pdf>.

Community violence is a common experience for poor youth.

- Of African-American high school freshmen in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Chicago: **45% had seen someone killed**, 66% had seen a shooting, 38% had seen someone stabbed, 49% had been shot at and 6% had actually taken a bullet.¹²³
- Young people who become violent or involved in gangs usually have witnessed or been **victims of violence** in their homes or communities.¹²⁴
- Many communities with prevalent drug use have high rates of poverty and violence, traumatizing children and making them more **prone to substance abuse and violence**.¹²⁵
- Youth who have been exposed to high rates of violence are **more vulnerable** to mental health problems, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression.¹²⁶

Risky behaviors affect future life choices and are linked to poverty.

- Usage rates among Illinois 12th graders for tobacco and marijuana are **higher** than the national averages.¹²⁷
- Marijuana and cocaine use significantly **increases** the probability of being poor.¹²⁸
- Teens who drink or abuse drugs are much **more likely** to have sex, initiate it at younger ages, have unprotected intercourse, and have multiple partners.¹²⁹
- Teens who use drugs typically exhibit **declines** in grades and inconsistent attendance at school.¹³⁰

¹²³ Illinois Center for Violence Prevention. (n.d.). *Chicago and Illinois Violence Statistics*. Retrieved June, 25, 2003, from <http://www.icvp.org/downloads/ICVPFactSheets.pdf>.

¹²⁴ Little Hoover Commission. (2001, June). *Never too early, never too late . . . to prevent youth crime and violence*. (Report # 159.) Retrieved February 23, 2004, from <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/lhcdir/report159.html>.

¹²⁵ Haverland, S. (2003, May 5). Foundation-sponsored symposium analyzes youth-service crisis. *Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Weekly*, 15(18), 5.

¹²⁶ Scarpa, A. (2003). Community violence exposure in young adults. *Trauma Violence & Abuse*, 4(3), 210-227.

¹²⁷ Chestnut Health Systems. (2003, March). *Illinois youth study on substance use: Comparing the 1998, 2000 and 2002 results from the Illinois Youth Survey*. Retrieved February 23, 2004, from <http://www.chestnut.org/LI/downloads/YS2002Draft%20ReportwBookmarks.pdf>.

¹²⁸ Kaestner, R. (1999). Does drug use cause poverty?. In F. J. Chaloupka, M. Grossman, W.K. Bickel, & H. Saffer (Eds.), *The Economic Analysis of Substance Use and Abuse* (pp.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

¹²⁹ National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (1999, December). *Dangerous liaisons: Substance abuse and sex*. Retrieved February 23, 2004, from http://www.casacolumbia.org/pdshopprov/files/Dangerous_Liaisons_12_7_99.pdf.

¹³⁰ Focus Adolescent Services. (n.d.). *Drugs and teen substance abuse*. Retrieved August 29, 2003, from <http://www.focusas.com/SubstanceAbuse.html>.

Illinois has the
highest rate
 of uninsurance for children 18 and younger
 in the Midwest. In Illinois, 11 percent of
 children aged 18 and younger,
 or 374,360, are uninsured.¹³¹

Uninsurance rates are extremely high
 for youth age 18 to 24 in 2002,

29.6%

of whom were uninsured.¹³²

Dental care is often
inaccessible
 for low-income youth, due to youths'
 lack of insurance or dentists'
 unwillingness to accept Medicaid.¹³³

On average, only

1/4

of youth in need of mental health services
 receive needed care,¹³⁴
 and only 16% receive any
 mental health services at all.¹³⁵

Nationally, of the estimated 1.1 million youth between 12 and 17 who needed
 treatment for drug abuse in 2001, only

10.2%¹³⁶

(100,000) received it.

¹³¹ Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2002). *State health facts online, 50 state comparisons, health coverage & uninsured, distribution of children 18 and under*. Retrieved June 15, 2004, from www.statehealthfacts.kff.org.

¹³² U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 Current Population Survey

¹³³ Emmer, L. (2003, April). The impact of poverty on adolescent health. *Adolescent Health: Practice Update*, 3(2). Retrieved January 12, 2004, from http://www.socialworkers.org/practice/adolescent_health/ah0503.pdf.

¹³⁴ Rand Corporation. (2001). *Mental health care for youth: Who gets it? How much does it cost? Who pays? Where does the money go?* Retrieved March 10, 2003, from <http://www.rand.org/publications/RB/RB4541/index.html>.

¹³⁵ Rones, M., & Hoagwood, K. (2000). School-based mental health services: A research review. *Clinical Child & Family Psychology Review*, 3(4), 223-241.

¹³⁶ Office of National Drug Control Policy. (2003, June). *Fact sheet: Juveniles and drugs*. Retrieved June 28, 2004, from <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/factsheet/juvenile/index.html>.

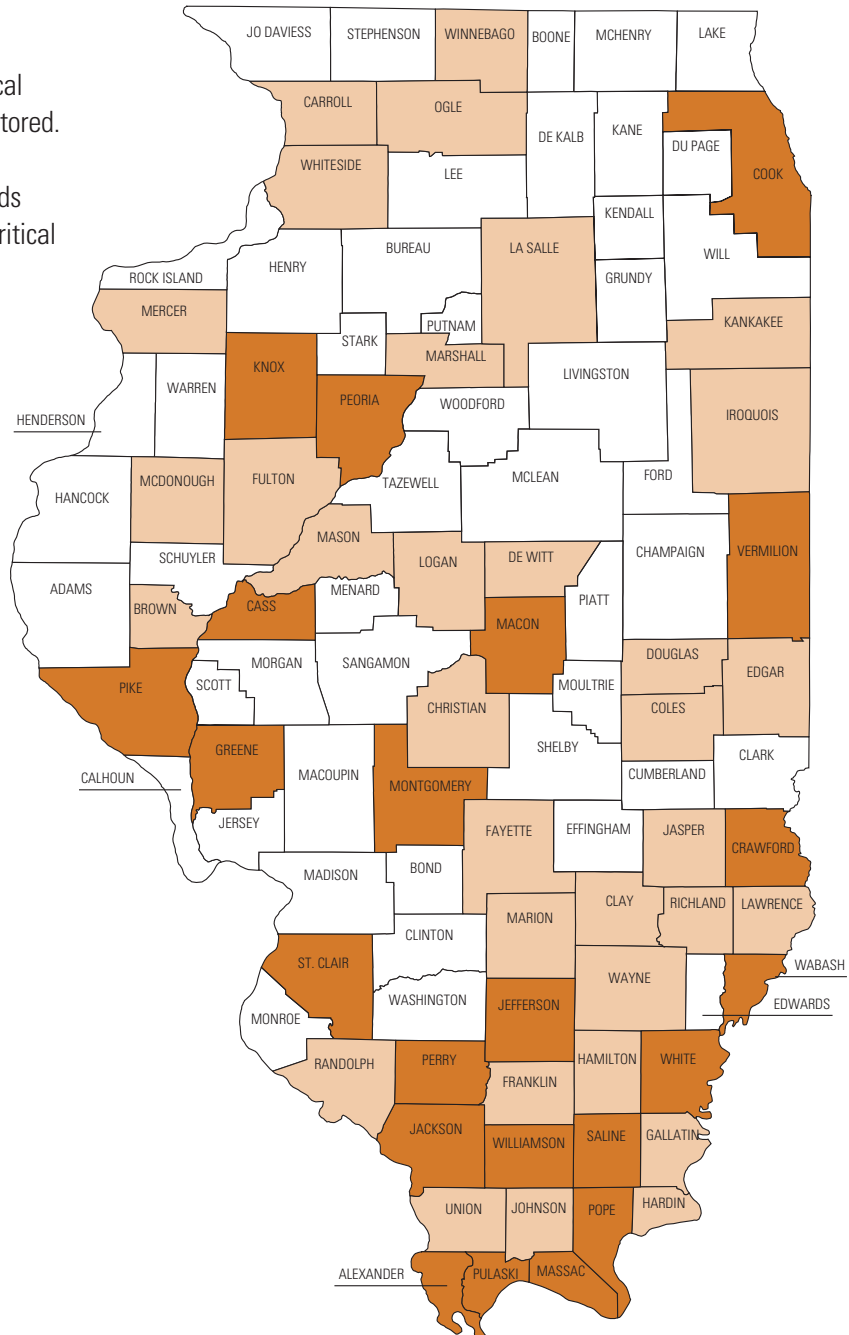
Counties of Concern

Four critical indicators show how teens are faring in their county of residence:

- percentage of county births to teens
- poverty rate for youth age 12 to 17
- poverty rate for youth age 18 to 24
- percentage of youth age 18 to 24 without a high school diploma

Over one half of Illinois counties are on the teen watch or warning list.

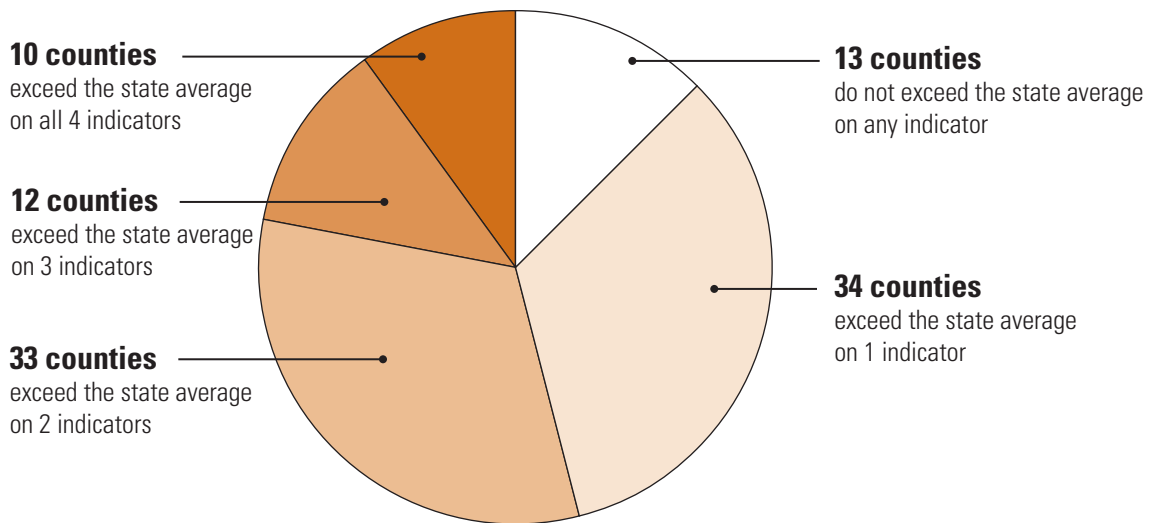
- Watch** — County rate exceeds the state rate in two of the critical indicators and needs to be monitored.
- Warning** — County rate exceeds the state rate in three or more critical indicators and needs to initiate corrective action.



Critical Indicators

- **10.3%** of births in Illinois are to teens. **70 counties** exceed this rate.
- **12.7%** of youth age 12 to 17 in Illinois are poor. **34 counties** exceed this rate.
- **18.3%** of youth age 18 to 24 in Illinois are poor. **23 counties** exceed this rate.
- **24%** of youth age 18 to 24 have no high school diploma. **49 counties** exceed this rate.

Counties of Concern



Appendix

The following tables offer detailed data on each Illinois county. Data for each county is shaded when the county rate in a given area is above the state average in that area. Definitions are offered to provide the reader with a more complete understanding of the complexities of youth poverty.

Youth Population

County	2000 Population Age 12-17 ¹	% Change Age 12-17 (1990-2000) ²	2000 Population Age 18-24 ³	% Change Age 18-24 (1990-2000) ⁴	2000 Population Age 5-17 Speaking Limited English ⁵	Change in Age 5-17 Speaking Limited English (1990-2000) ⁶
Illinois	1,062,401	13.6%	1,206,393	1.5%	65,176	25,154
Adams	6,131	10.8%	6,134	4.8%	126	42
Alexander	971	-9.3%	710	-14.9%	5	-27
Bond	1,375	3.6%	2,041	22.7%	29	18
Boone	3,929	37.9%	3,268	11.5%	144	95
Brown	445	6.2%	875	50.6%	0	0
Bureau	3,318	6.2%	2,617	-6.5%	47	6
Calhoun	454	0.2%	387	-12.4%	1	1
Carroll	1,599	13.4%	1,093	-13.9%	26	9
Cass	1,242	1.0%	1,178	5.3%	122	122
Champaign	12,614	14.4%	41,320	4.7%	203	60
Christian	2,866	1.4%	2,670	-3.2%	4	4
Clark	1,415	5.5%	1,214	-1.9%	22	-1
Clay	1,232	0.7%	1,179	2.2%	19	19
Clinton	3,284	9.7%	3,240	0.2%	46	36
Coles	3,610	1.3%	12,372	6.1%	41	34
Cook	444,193	9.6%	529,229	-0.6%	43,847	13,218
Crawford	1,749	13.4%	1,787	30.2%	22	2
Cumberland	1,059	4.3%	906	0.4%	4	-5
DeKalb	1,442	-69.8%	19,376	-0.1%	190	87
Dewitt	6,886	398.3%	1,317	5.2%	8	6
Douglas	2,108	8.0%	1,609	20.6%	36	0
DuPage	78,081	28.1%	73,691	1.1%	3,811	2,234
Edgar	1,799	-1.6%	1,615	3.7%	7	-16
Edwards	551	-14.8%	548	-8.7%	0	0
Effingham	3,345	12.8%	2,834	6.4%	26	11
Fayette	1,887	8.2%	2,025	12.2%	18	-4
Ford	1,357	15.1%	997	-4.3%	9	0
Franklin	3,260	-7.6%	3,059	-9.9%	37	19
Fulton	2,901	-11.6%	3,296	3.0%	19	-11
Gallatin	480	-14.7%	532	-13.9%	4	-1
Greene	1,296	-3.6%	1,323	5.8%	12	12
Grundy	3,499	12.1%	3,188	13.5%	28	-5
Hamilton	728	2.5%	686	8.9%	5	-8
Hancock	1,823	-4.0%	1,442	-6.6%	25	3

1,2,3,4,5,6 U. S. Census Bureau 2000

2,4,6 U. S. Census Bureau 1990

Youth Population (continued)

County	2000 Population Age 12-17 ¹	% Change Age 12-17 (1990-2000) ²	2000 Population Age 18-24 ³	% Change Age 18-24 (1990-2000) ⁴	2000 Population Age 5-17 Speaking Limited English ⁵	Change in Age 5-17 Speaking Limited English (1990-2000) ⁶
Hardin	378	-13.9%	375	-17.4%	2	-5
Henderson	704	1.1%	620	7.6%	4	2
Henry	4,552	-5.9%	3,928	-1.1%	121	79
Iroquois	3,008	6.6%	2,234	3.9%	48	26
Jackson	4,210	15.3%	15,514	-9.0%	78	36
Jasper	1,063	14.9%	918	18.8%	14	14
Jefferson	3,396	4.3%	3,482	11.3%	49	15
Jersey	2,118	18.2%	2,167	0.0%	16	4
Jo Daviess	1,775	-10.6%	1,515	-10.7%	30	3
Johnson	865	16.7%	1,431	21.8%	6	3
Kane	38,364	34.4%	36,347	17.6%	5,033	3,316
Kankakee	9,387	3.9%	9,912	7.5%	196	59
Kendall	5,084	36.5%	4,090	19.2%	140	51
Knox	4,342	-6.3%	5,539	4.4%	64	31
Lake	10,122	-75.9%	56,999	2.9%	4,365	2,969
LaSalle	57,664	537.7%	9,035	-1.7%	83	-34
Lawrence	1,259	5.0%	1,201	-0.6%	26	24
Lee	3,119	7.1%	2,794	-1.4%	26	-4
Livingston	3,617	11.9%	3,281	-1.2%	52	35
Logan	2,556	9.2%	3,648	15.6%	14	1
Macon	9,593	-7.8%	11,367	8.8%	110	-7
Macoupin	4,513	11.3%	4,018	-4.5%	43	38
Madison	22,711	13.5%	24,008	-0.3%	230	131
Marion	3,848	2.6%	3,368	0.8%	2	-28
Marshall	1,092	-1.7%	964	-6.8%	3	-19
Mason	1,392	-11.7%	1,249	-4.0%	6	-2
Massac	1,192	-4.2%	1,212	1.8%	0	-35
McDonough	2,062	-7.8%	9,138	-8.0%	26	21
McHenry	24,482	55.9%	17,711	17.9%	844	551
McLean	11,191	26.2%	28,009	6.4%	146	0
Menard	1,238	19.0%	865	18.7%	13	13
Mercer	1,606	0.4%	1,239	-8.5%	24	17
Monroe	2,762	49.0%	2,023	14.1%	12	2
Montgomery	2,600	5.1%	2,542	0.7%	16	-24
Morgan	3,172	7.8%	4,041	1.4%	23	12

^{1,2,3,4,5,6} U. S. Census Bureau 2000
^{2,4,6} U. S. Census Bureau 1990

Youth Population (continued)

County	2000–Population Age 12-17 ¹	% Change Age 12-17 (1990-2000) ²	2000–Population Age 18-24 ³	% Change Age 18-24 (1990-2000) ⁴	2000–Population Age 5-17 Speaking Limited English ⁵	Change in Age 5-17 Speaking Limited English (1990-2000) ⁶
Moultrie	1,296	7.7%	1,122	9.4%	25	14
Ogle	5,083	20.1%	3,710	-1.1%	135	96
Peoria	15,107	-6.7%	18,891	-2.8%	201	-44
Perry	1,795	-2.1%	2,313	21.5%	2	-18
Piatt	1,555	11.0%	1,118	5.0%	10	4
Pike	1,553	4.1%	1,338	-5.4%	21	7
Pope	407	-6.0%	473	-12.6%	0	-1
Pulaski	806	9.7%	632	16.8%	0	0
Putnam	554	8.4%	424	2.9%	12	10
Randolph	2,722	-2.7%	3,239	-1.9%	7	-18
Richland	1,445	2.0%	1,358	3.5%	7	-11
Rock Island	12,371	0.9%	14,983	6.0%	373	120
Saline	2,590	7.5%	2,194	5.7%	16	11
Sangamon	16,434	14.5%	15,251	0.4%	198	88
Schuyler	638	-7.1%	502	-2.7%	6	6
Scott	491	-1.0%	440	1.4%	6	6
Shelby	2,040	3.4%	1,746	3.3%	38	14
St. Clair	25,219	4.8%	22,412	-12.4%	405	170
Stark	593	-3.1%	431	-1.6%	2	2
Stephenson	4,156	8.1%	3,768	-8.9%	97	80
Tazewell	11,041	-0.1%	10,566	0.0%	51	-8
Union	1,567	6.1%	1,348	-2.1%	33	-12
Vermilion	7,238	-8.5%	7,202	-0.9%	79	28
Wabash	1,185	5.7%	1,178	-0.3%	9	3
Warren	1,542	-5.0%	2,275	16.8%	50	34
Washington	1,430	8.4%	1,155	1.9%	4	4
Wayne	1,385	-13.0%	1,351	2.3%	12	10
White	1,389	15.3%	1,208	6.5%	5	3
Whiteside	5,334	-1.0%	4,833	-4.4%	89	-43
Will	47,354	39.2%	40,963	16.6%	1,433	951
Williamson	4,846	4.4%	5,276	3.0%	32	-36
Winnebago	24,039	16.3%	23,109	-2.5%	941	390
Woodford	3,230	-1.9%	3,042	10.5%	69	39

1,2,3,4,5,6 U. S. Census Bureau 2000

2,4,6 U. S. Census Bureau 1990

Youth Poverty

County	2000–Population Age 12-17 Living Below Poverty Level ¹	% Change Age 12-17 (1990-2000) ²	2000–Population Age 12-17 Living in Deep Poverty ³	2000–Population Age 18-24 Living Below Poverty Level ⁴	% Change Age 18-24 (1990-2000) ⁵	2000–Population Age 18-24 Living in Deep Poverty ⁶
Illinois	12.7%	-4.3%	6.2%	18.3%	4.6%	10.1%
Adams	10.5%	-9.3%	3.9%	18.2%	6.7%	7.7%
Alexander	40.9%	6.8%	14.9%	28.9%	-32.9%	15.3%
Bond	7.7%	-40.7%	5.5%	17.3%	-3.8%	8.7%
Boone	6.5%	-0.8%	2.9%	14.9%	107.3%	9.0%
Brown	6.5%	-46.3%	0.4%	12.4%	-15.3%	6.4%
Bureau	8.6%	-21.9%	4.0%	9.7%	-17.9%	4.0%
Calhoun	7.7%	-14.6%	1.5%	11.1%	-38.6%	4.1%
Carroll	15.3%	14.7%	5.9%	18.0%	-23.4%	5.7%
Cass	13.6%	-11.8%	5.3%	23.1%	62.9%	13.7%
Champaign	9.8%	4.4%	4.6%	51.7%	31.0%	31.8%
Christian	11.0%	0.3%	2.7%	14.5%	-6.4%	6.4%
Clark	11.6%	13.2%	3.7%	9.4%	-19.9%	4.2%
Clay	11.5%	-36.4%	3.6%	15.6%	-12.4%	5.9%
Clinton	7.6%	-13.1%	3.2%	10.9%	-19.4%	5.1%
Coles	7.2%	-36.3%	4.0%	52.6%	48.1%	31.2%
Cook	17.5%	-7.0%	9.1%	18.7%	5.2%	10.5%
Crawford	13.2%	49.7%	5.1%	18.5%	4.6%	9.6%
Cumberland	10.5%	15.8%	6.8%	10.6%	-25.8%	3.7%
DeKalb	4.0%	-2.9%	1.5%	38.3%	-10.5%	21.6%
Dewitt	8.6%	-3.9%	2.0%	9.5%	-28.1%	5.9%
Douglas	5.6%	-51.3%	3.5%	7.7%	18.1%	3.6%
DuPage	3.9%	80.1%	2.1%	7.3%	40.4%	4.1%
Edgar	10.6%	-49.0%	2.2%	11.7%	-49.1%	5.6%
Edwards	10.7%	28.3%	4.6%	15.7%	-18.9%	7.5%
Effingham	7.1%	-18.3%	3.0%	11.1%	7.6%	5.0%
Fayette	11.9%	-7.9%	4.1%	17.1%	2.6%	7.8%
Ford	10.5%	-6.1%	3.4%	10.3%	-30.8%	6.1%
Franklin	21.0%	-15.3%	8.6%	18.1%	-35.9%	9.0%
Fulton	10.5%	-46.2%	4.1%	15.7%	-31.1%	8.7%
Gallatin	15.6%	-51.3%	4.8%	17.9%	-31.7%	7.5%
Greene	16.8%	-16.5%	5.5%	11.5%	-37.5%	4.2%
Grundy	5.6%	-17.2%	3.2%	8.3%	-0.4%	4.7%
Hamilton	16.3%	-30.6%	4.8%	12.5%	-31.2%	5.7%
Hancock	9.6%	-31.0%	4.0%	15.2%	1.4%	5.6%

1,2,3,4,5,6 U. S. Census Bureau 2000

2,5 U. S. Census Bureau 1990

Youth Poverty (continued)

County	2000–Population Age 12-17 Living Below Poverty Level ¹	% Change Age 12-17 (1990-2000) ²	2000–Population Age 12-17 Living in Deep Poverty ³	2000–Population Age 18-24 Living Below Poverty Level ⁴	% Change Age 18-24 (1990-2000) ⁵	2000–Population Age 18-24 Living in Deep Poverty ⁶
Hardin	24.4%	-38.5%	15.6%	14.4%	-65.8%	8.6%
Henderson	6.6%	-36.1%	2.4%	11.9%	0.0%	4.4%
Henry	8.8%	-33.3%	5.0%	12.9%	-3.5%	7.0%
Iroquois	10.7%	31.7%	5.6%	12.9%	-5.0%	6.7%
Jackson	18.4%	11.6%	9.1%	56.3%	-17.5%	33.8%
Jasper	14.7%	2.0%	4.5%	11.8%	-30.1%	3.6%
Jefferson	14.2%	-11.8%	7.2%	19.9%	-8.0%	6.8%
Jersey	7.7%	23.6%	2.0%	10.0%	-35.7%	4.8%
Jo Daviess	6.2%	-26.4%	2.7%	11.2%	98.8%	4.6%
Johnson	9.1%	-38.7%	1.3%	19.3%	0.7%	7.9%
Kane	8.2%	49.8%	3.2%	10.0%	20.8%	5.2%
Kankakee	13.9%	0.8%	6.1%	17.6%	2.8%	8.1%
Kendall	5.0%	82.1%	1.9%	3.2%	5.7%	1.5%
Knox	14.6%	-6.6%	6.6%	19.9%	-6.1%	10.8%
Lake	6.6%	51.1%	2.8%	10.2%	38.9%	5.0%
LaSalle	10.1%	-2.2%	3.9%	14.8%	4.4%	7.7%
Lawrence	16.9%	-36.2%	5.6%	17.3%	-16.9%	9.0%
Lee	7.2%	-15.4%	2.3%	14.6%	10.6%	8.1%
Livingston	8.0%	34.4%	3.1%	12.7%	-12.5%	7.0%
Logan	8.9%	0.0%	2.5%	12.0%	-26.8%	5.3%
Macon	15.8%	3.2%	9.2%	24.9%	25.0%	13.9%
Macoupin	12.7%	-8.8%	5.5%	12.8%	-23.4%	5.9%
Madison	11.7%	-2.4%	5.6%	17.5%	-12.0%	9.5%
Marion	15.2%	-15.6%	4.7%	17.5%	-11.3%	7.4%
Marshall	4.2%	-45.8%	0.7%	9.8%	-21.0%	5.6%
Mason	10.6%	-42.3%	4.0%	16.3%	-9.4%	5.8%
Massac	15.6%	-38.3%	4.5%	15.7%	-26.6%	7.6%
McDonough	15.3%	20.6%	4.6%	52.5%	23.4%	32.5%
McHenry	4.6%	118.8%	2.2%	7.3%	73.1%	3.9%
McLean	6.2%	-4.5%	3.0%	36.4%	2.8%	20.1%
Menard	8.8%	19.8%	3.9%	10.2%	-17.0%	5.4%
Mercer	12.2%	109.8%	7.8%	11.9%	-34.7%	5.6%
Monroe	3.0%	-18.6%	2.0%	5.7%	-10.2%	2.1%
Montgomery	14.2%	25.9%	6.9%	18.0%	3.7%	7.5%
Morgan	9.5%	6.0%	4.6%	18.3%	13.4%	9.9%

1,2,3,4,5,6 U. S. Census Bureau 2000

2,5 U. S. Census Bureau 1990

Youth Poverty (continued)

County	2000–Population Age 12-17 Living Below Poverty Level ¹	% Change Age 12-17 (1990-2000) ²	2000–Population Age 12-17 Living in Deep Poverty ³	2000–Population Age 18-24 Living Below Poverty Level ⁴	% Change Age 18-24 (1990-2000) ⁵	2000–Population Age 18-24 Living in Deep Poverty ⁶
Moultrie	10.5%	-14.6%	2.9%	9.9%	-32.3%	2.5%
Ogle	6.8%	39.6%	3.5%	12.7%	18.6%	8.1%
Peoria	18.8%	-6.4%	8.5%	25.6%	12.3%	12.7%
Perry	14.0%	-24.2%	6.8%	18.6%	-24.2%	6.5%
Piatt	4.0%	-7.5%	2.2%	8.7%	6.6%	4.3%
Pike	15.7%	-19.1%	5.1%	16.6%	-31.8%	6.3%
Pope	22.6%	-29.8%	3.9%	43.3%	-14.6%	28.8%
Pulaski	32.2%	4.1%	15.6%	26.3%	-14.4%	11.5%
Putnam	9.3%	70.0%	4.2%	9.2%	25.8%	3.5%
Randolph	11.9%	-15.4%	7.3%	15.7%	12.2%	9.9%
Richland	12.7%	-18.5%	5.2%	23.2%	2.6%	15.0%
Rock Island	12.2%	-16.6%	5.4%	18.1%	-23.2%	8.9%
Saline	18.7%	-18.1%	9.1%	18.7%	-36.2%	8.0%
Sangamon	10.0%	-1.9%	5.5%	16.8%	17.2%	7.6%
Schuyler	7.7%	-54.2%	0.5%	8.8%	-42.9%	2.0%
Scott	7.0%	-52.1%	3.1%	7.7%	-53.4%	4.1%
Shelby	10.6%	-16.7%	5.0%	14.7%	7.6%	6.2%
St. Clair	18.5%	-21.0%	9.1%	18.3%	-31.3%	9.8%
Stark	8.3%	-38.8%	3.4%	18.1%	116.7%	8.8%
Stephenson	8.8%	7.7%	5.3%	15.5%	-8.6%	7.6%
Tazewell	7.6%	-14.1%	2.2%	11.0%	-21.5%	5.3%
Union	18.2%	15.9%	8.7%	18.0%	-20.4%	6.9%
Vermilion	14.2%	-28.0%	6.8%	19.4%	-8.0%	9.4%
Wabash	14.5%	34.1%	5.1%	24.7%	-4.9%	13.5%
Warren	8.9%	-46.9%	4.7%	18.3%	-13.1%	7.0%
Washington	7.0%	1.0%	3.2%	7.2%	-4.7%	3.5%
Wayne	13.0%	-43.6%	5.3%	15.7%	18.5%	6.8%
White	13.3%	-33.7%	5.5%	17.1%	-21.4%	5.0%
Whiteside	8.3%	-30.2%	4.1%	12.7%	-14.6%	5.6%
Will	5.5%	12.1%	2.7%	8.1%	23.2%	4.6%
Williamson	16.4%	-0.9%	6.3%	24.7%	12.8%	11.8%
Winnebago	11.0%	17.0%	5.5%	15.0%	4.4%	8.4%
Woodford	5.3%	-33.1%	2.5%	7.1%	-22.2%	4.2%

^{1,2,3,4,5,6} U. S. Census Bureau 2000^{2,5} U. S. Census Bureau 1990

Education

County	Percentage of Students Below State Reading Standards 2001-2002 ¹			Percentage of Population Age 18-24 No High School Diploma, 2000 ²	Percentage Age 16-19 not in school, not employed, not in military
	Third Grade	Eighth Grade	Eleventh Grade		
Illinois	37.8	32.0	41.8	24.0	9.1
Adams	31.4	33.2	42.7	18.9	5.8
Alexander	54.0	51.7	73.5	24.9	7.3
Bond	25.3	24.9	44.3	16.2	7.8
Boone	34.5	37.8	46.2	30.4	7.2
Brown	40.0	37.0	41.1	50.7	18.5
Bureau	29.7	27.1	44.6	23.6	6.1
Calhoun	25.6	18.2	54.1	16.5	6.3
Carroll	26.3	26.7	37.3	23.6	4.4
Cass	41.7	37.3	52.2	28.2	13.9
Champaign	36.2	29.2	32.6	6.2	2.8
Christian	25.4	34.0	37.6	28.2	10.7
Clark	35.4	30.6	39.5	22.1	5.2
Clay	27.1	29.4	43.1	25.5	7.8
Clinton	19.2	28.7	42.6	23.9	7.5
Coles	27.3	27.9	37.1	6.4	4.7
Cook	33.2	29.3	39.8	27.4	11.8
Crawford	39.1	33.5	46.4	29.3	3.7
Cumberland	25.3	33.5	45.1	21.1	4.1
DeKalb	28.5	27.0	37.6	7.7	2.5
Dewitt	21.8	29.8	36.3	25.2	5.8
Douglas	26.3	29.1	40.2	38.4	7.6
DuPage	17.9	17.9	29.6	20.7	4.8
Edgar	27.9	41.7	47.4	34.4	10.3
Edwards	35.2	26.4	39.8	17.9	4.3
Effingham	24.3	28.1	38.8	19.2	3.9
Fayette	31.1	35.5	44.9	36.5	12.6
Ford	26.6	26.3	30.1	19.9	8.3
Franklin	32.3	33.5	45.9	22.5	9.4
Fulton	32.1	30.5	43.0	32.2	13.4
Gallatin	38.1	22.8	36.4	28.2	9.2
Greene	41.3	43.0	53.7	28.3	11.6
Grundy	22.8	24.5	36.6	20.0	5.4
Hamilton	30.3	23.2	47.4	15.9	5.3
Hancock	31.7	32.4	47.5	20.1	5.6

¹Voice for Illinois Children, (n.d.). retrieved April 15, 2004, from Illinois Kids Count 2004 Web site: <http://www.voices4kids.org/impact3.pdf>.

²U. S. Census Bureau 2000

Education (continued)

County	Percentage of Students Below State Reading Standards 2001-2002 ¹			Percentage of Population Age 18-24 No High School Diploma, 2000 ²	Percentage Age 16-19 not in school, not employed, not in military
	Third Grade	Eighth Grade	Eleventh Grade		
Hardin	26.0	39.6	45.0	21.1	13.5
Henderson	36.6	35.4	43.2	15.8	8.1
Henry	22.8	30.4	37.0	20.4	4.1
Iroquois	28.1	32.9	40.3	27.8	8.5
Jackson	31.5	29.0	38.6	6.5	7.6
Jasper	30.7	24.6	36.1	17.3	3.5
Jefferson	31.1	31.0	46.4	30.5	9.9
Jersey	35.7	42.3	46.3	16.8	6.8
Jo Daviess	26.0	27.6	41.7	25.5	3.8
Johnson	24.0	22.4	34.1	52.1	18.2
Kane	32.0	33.3	42.5	36.8	10.6
Kankakee	38.4	35.7	47.4	22.8	10.3
Kendall	27.5	26.3	38.9	24.5	4.3
Knox	25.7	37.7	39.8	23.6	11.2
Lake	27.0	25.2	31.8	26.1	6.9
LaSalle	33.2	32.5	42.8	26.3	8.0
Lawrence	32.4	40.3	45.1	17.1	7.9
Lee	23.5	25.9	36.2	33.1	9.0
Livingston	30.7	29.2	38.6	38.9	13.2
Logan	29.2	33.8	36.3	24.2	6.5
Macon	36.2	36.5	40.2	20.3	10.9
Macoupin	26.7	31.1	42.1	17.9	7.1
Madison	37.6	34.9	40.0	18.6	7.9
Marion	34.7	30.0	45.5	21.7	10.5
Marshall	17.2	30.5	45.0	25.2	6.2
Mason	25.3	35.1	38.7	29.8	10.0
Massac	29.5	35.9	43.6	26.6	8.9
McDonough	14.0	30.8	38.5	5.0	2.5
McHenry	27.1	26.2	36.6	24.5	4.3
McLean	26.5	25.2	33.2	7.8	3.5
Menard	30.3	28.9	44.6	19.1	2.2
Mercer	35.1	36.0	41.8	25.6	5.8
Monroe	18.2	17.0	31.9	17.7	4.9
Montgomery	31.5	32.9	39.9	38.0	9.0
Morgan	28.9	31.4	40.2	23.2	7.0

¹Voice for Illinois Children, (n.d.), retrieved April 15, 2004, from Illinois Kids Count 2004 Web site: <http://www.voices4kids.org/impact3.pdf>.²U. S. Census Bureau 2000

Education (continued)

County	Percentage of Students Below State Reading Standards 2001-2002 ¹			Percentage of Population Age 18-24 No High School Diploma, 2000 ²	Percentage Age 16-19 not in school, not employed, not in military
	Third Grade	Eighth Grade	Eleventh Grade		
Moultrie	25.5	17.0	38.2	31.9	9.8
Ogle	25.4	22.0	36.6	26.7	5.7
Peoria	32.9	31.6	43.6	19.0	8.1
Perry	31.8	32.5	36.9	38.1	15.7
Piatt	24.5	28.0	27.9	24.7	2.7
Pike	36.6	34.2	47.4	31.7	9.9
Pope	39.4	14.3	36.3	31.3	25.4
Pulaski	36.9	64.5	51.2	36.9	20.8
Putnam	28.5	21.7	48.6	24.3	3.9
Randolph	30.7	29.8	39.9	38.8	12.6
Richland	25.5	25.7	32.1	18.5	10.4
Rock Island	37.1	36.3	44.6	22.3	7.5
Saline	28.3	33.0	43.5	30.1	27.0
Sangamon	35.3	32.2	39.4	21.8	7.3
Schuyler	32.5	26.7	49.9	12.5	7.1
Scott	32.9	24.7	47.3	15.0	5.9
Shelby	31.3	29.6	39.9	19.5	6.8
St. Clair	34.3	33.5	44.5	24.2	10.1
Stark	17.2	22.3	38.8	28.1	8.8
Stephenson	30.2	35.6	41.4	23.1	8.3
Tazewell	22.2	21.6	37.9	23.1	4.3
Union	34.0	32.2	44.9	27.7	7.1
Vermilion	33.6	36.7	46.3	30.1	12.0
Wabash	23.8	38.7	38.7	22.1	7.0
Warren	33.5	32.3	47.7	13.9	6.5
Washington	25.9	28.8	38.1	20.7	6.8
Wayne	27.5	29.6	47.3	17.6	9.7
White	37.6	34.5	56.6	24.8	13.7
Whiteside	29.6	30.8	40.7	25.6	7.6
Will	33.3	29.2	40.4	23.1	8.1
Williamson	30.3	30.0	44.3	19.4	10.9
Winnebago	41.4	42.4	42.6	29.1	9.7
Woodford	18.3	22.2	34.0	20.2	2.5

¹Voice for Illinois Children, (n.d.). retrieved April 15, 2004, from Illinois Kids Count 2004 Web site: <http://www.voices4kids.org/impact3.pdf>.²U. S. Census Bureau 2000

Youth Health

County	# of Births to Teens, 2002 ¹	Teen Birth Rate, 2002 ²	Change in Teen Birth Rate, 2001-2002 ³	Children Enrolled in KidCare or Medicaid, 2003 ⁴	% Change in KidCare or Medicaid Enrollment, 1998-2003 ⁵	Children in Substitute Care, May 2004 ⁶
Illinois	18,546	10.3	-0.6	1,034,928	32.5	18,719
Adams	86	11.3	-1.3	5,029	25.5	79
Alexander	23	17.8	-3.2	1,650	5.9	15
Bond	21	12.2	-5.1	1,144	58.4	15
Boone	60	9.5	-1.3	2,818	103.8	49
Brown	7	13.0	-8.1	257	13.2	3
Bureau	42	9.7	-3.4	2,285	79.1	24
Calhoun	4	8.3	0.1	278	102.9	3
Carroll	23	12.0	-0.2	1,173	62.9	17
Cass	29	15.7	3.1	1,103	92.2	24
Champaign	213	9.6	0.3	11,746	52.6	414
Christian	46	11.6	-0.5	2,936	41.0	89
Clark	27	15.5	5.3	1,451	72.9	24
Clay	26	14.6	-4.6	1,278	61.0	31
Clinton	28	7.8	-0.5	1,494	22.3	20
Coles	72	12.6	-0.2	3,327	64.8	65
Cook	9,534	11.7	-0.7	576,470	19.6	10,198
Crawford	31	16.1	2.0	1,577	49.3	11
Cumberland	13	10.6	-5.7	870	36.8	10
DeKalb	81	7.2	-1.0	4,041	82.4	75
Dewitt	23	11.3	0.7	1,247	44.7	22
Douglas	42	14.6	7.4	1,211	83.5	7
DuPage	562	4.4	0.0	29,192	152.1	327
Edgar	24	11.2	-6.1	1,603	47.3	31
Edwards	9	13.4	9.6	404	17.8	15
Effingham	40	9.3	1.4	2,409	54.4	33
Fayette	41	16.8	-2.9	2,008	50.5	19
Ford	12	7.7	-3.1	789	70.4	10
Franklin	78	16.6	1.8	4,062	44.1	71
Fulton	53	13.3	0.0	3,127	36.4	44
Gallatin	6	9.7	-2.0	593	17.2	19
Greene	19	12.6	-0.1	1,279	39.5	19
Grundy	38	7.9	-0.2	1,572	108.2	19
Hamilton	9	10.7	-1.9	736	36.5	5
Hancock	24	11.2	-0.2	1,320	41.3	33

^{1,2,3} Illinois Department of Public Health, (n.d.). retrieved Dec 12, 2003, from *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2002* Web site: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0203.htm>.

³ Illinois Department of Public Health, (n.d.). retrieved Dec 12, 2003, from *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2002* Web site: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0001.htm>.

^{4,5} Voices for Illinois Children, (n.d.). retrieved April 15, 2004, from *Illinois Kids Count 2004* Web site: <http://www.voices4kids.org/impact7.pdf>.

⁶ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, (n.d.). retrieved June 10, 2004, from *Children in Substitute Care by Placement County* Web site: <http://www.state.il.us/dcf/docs/SubCareCounty.pdf>.

Youth Health (continued)

County	# of Births to Teens, 2002 ¹	Teen Birth Rate, 2002 ²	Change in Teen Birth Rate, 2001-2002 ³	Children Enrolled in KidCare or Medicaid, 2003 ⁴	% Change in KidCare or Medicaid Enrollment, 1998-2003 ⁵	Children in Substitute Care, May 2004 ⁶
Hardin	9	20.5	8.9	402	34.4	5
Henderson	9	15.3	7.6	587	44.2	9
Henry	54	9.8	-3.1	3,101	56.5	67
Iroquois	58	16.3	1.9	2,183	55.7	82
Jackson	69	10.9	1.0	4,941	19.4	56
Jasper	12	10.4	-0.1	795	35.4	10
Jefferson	75	15.1	0.2	4,080	30.3	111
Jersey	25	10.4	3.3	1,196	31.0	41
Jo Daviess	13	5.6	-2.7	1,014	70.1	4
Johnson	7	5.4	-2.1	881	48.6	32
Kane	723	8.7	-0.4	33,949	94.9	319
Kankakee	215	13.7	-0.8	9,928	32.1	208
Kendall	38	3.6	-1.5	1,828	170.0	36
Knox	68	10.8	-1.8	4,756	60.6	57
Lake	718	6.9	-4.7	30,823	72.3	480
LaSalle	162	11.7	4.0	7,181	72.7	88
Lawrence	19	11.4	-8.6	1,160	18.2	17
Lee	29	7.8	-2.3	1,882	57.4	34
Livingston	47	9.7	-2.0	2,442	58.3	60
Logan	45	12.9	-3.5	2,131	40.6	60
Macon	258	17.6	2.5	10,834	25.4	172
Macoupin	63	11.7	2.4	3,473	41.1	50
Madison	386	11.4	-0.6	17,963	17.7	233
Marion	78	15.1	-2.5	4,439	37.6	79
Marshall	18	12.6	0.8	839	43.4	19
Mason	29	16.2	-0.8	1,530	46.1	38
Massac	36	17.3	2.9	1,477	30.7	27
McDonough	26	9.4	-2.8	1,912	44.0	15
McHenry	217	5.2	-0.3	8,140	142.6	108
McLean	157	7.5	0.5	7,608	58.8	209
Menard	12	9.4	-4.2	751	31.8	13
Mercer	22	12.3	2.7	1,076	34.3	17
Monroe	18	5.3	-0.1	419	16.4	21
Montgomery	42	12.6	-2.5	2,496	39.5	50
Morgan	56	13.0	-0.9	2,652	56.7	23

^{1,2,3} Illinois Department of Public Health, (n.d.). retrieved Dec 12, 2003, from *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2002* Web site: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0203.htm>.³ Illinois Department of Public Health, (n.d.). retrieved Dec 12, 2003, from *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2002* Web site: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0001.htm>.^{4,5} Voices for Illinois Children, (n.d.). retrieved April 15, 2004, from *Illinois Kids Count 2004* Web site: <http://www.voices4kids.org/impact7.pdf>.⁶ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, (n.d.). retrieved June 10, 2004, from *Children in Substitute Care by Placement County* Web site: <http://www.state.il.us/dcfcs/docs/SubCareCounty.pdf>.

Youth Health (continued)

County	# of Births to Teens, 2002 ¹	Teen Birth Rate, 2002 ²	Change in Teen Birth Rate, 2001-2002 ³	Children Enrolled in KidCare or Medicaid, 2003 ⁴	% Change in KidCare or Medicaid Enrollment, 1998-2003 ⁵	Children in Substitute Care, May 2004 ⁶
Moultrie	15	8.5	-2.6	793	116.1	3
Ogle	61	10.4	2.8	2,888	91.8	45
Peoria	294	11.3	-2.9	17,947	25.3	817
Perry	36	13.5	2.8	1,776	45.3	16
Piatt	12	7.7	-2.6	731	34.9	19
Pike	26	13.8	3.6	1,441	49.9	20
Pope	4	11.8	-4.3	378	59.5	3
Pulaski	27	29.0	5.9	1,103	9.8	15
Putnam	4	5.7	-5.6	284	49.5	11
Randolph	46	11.4	-1.4	2,513	60.7	25
Richland	26	13.8	4.3	1,414	23.1	20
Rock Island	251	12.8	-2.0	12,777	53.6	164
Saline	44	13.6	-4.3	2,766	37.7	61
Sangamon	309	12.6	-0.7	14,893	50.0	290
Schuyler	7	11.7	9.3	507	92.0	14
Scott	7	12.7	-5.9	352	31.3	4
Shelby	35	15.0	2.4	1,480	62.1	20
St. Clair	484	13.4	-2.6	27,102	7.5	429
Stark	4	6.6	-2.6	467	75.6	4
Stephenson	77	13.1	-1.7	3,735	57.6	72
Tazewell	137	8.5	-1.2	7,524	62.6	199
Union	18	8.6	-0.9	1,786	28.5	26
Vermilion	170	15.5	-0.6	9,078	46.4	181
Wabash	19	13.6	1.8	1,016	28.3	9
Warren	27	12.9	-0.2	1,413	44.2	14
Washington	17	11.0	0.9	608	41.1	36
Wayne	25	10.8	-5.1	1,450	50.7	18
White	26	15.6	1.0	1,189	37.0	11
Whiteside	95	12.4	-2.0	4,452	91.5	57
Will	526	5.9	-0.4	24,903	65.1	706
Williamson	81	11.0	-1.4	5,521	39.9	107
Winnebago	456	11.5	-1.2	24,643	57.7	560
Woodford	21	5.1	-1.7	1,507	91.0	53

^{1,2,3} Illinois Department of Public Health, (n.d.). retrieved Dec 12, 2003, from *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2002* Web site: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0203.htm>.³ Illinois Department of Public Health, (n.d.). retrieved Dec 12, 2003, from *Illinois Teen Births by County, 2002* Web site: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/teen/teen0001.htm>.^{4,5} Voices for Illinois Children, (n.d.). retrieved April 15, 2004, from *Illinois Kids Count 2004* Web site: <http://www.voices4kids.org/impact7.pdf>.⁶ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, (n.d.). retrieved June 10, 2004, from *Children in Substitute Care by Placement County* Web site: <http://www.state.il.us/dcf/docs/SubCareCounty.pdf>.

Dropout Measurement

Because a variety of calculation methods are used to determine high school enrollment and completion, securing an accurate understanding of these indicators is challenging. Two measures are often used: the event dropout rate and the graduation rate. The event dropout rate is the proportion of students in a given age range who leave school each year without completing high school. Graduation rates measure the percent of ninth graders who graduated in four years.

The National Center for Education Statistics and Illinois State Board of Education report Illinois' 2001^a high school event dropout rate as 6%.²⁹ This rate can be misleadingly low³⁰ as it does not track a cohort's progress over four years, instead counting dropouts as youth who were in a school the previous year but are not enrolled at the beginning of the current school year for reasons other than graduation, school-excused absence, death, and transfer.³¹

In addition, this Illinois dropout rate is most likely underestimated as a result of variances in dropout calculations from district to district. School districts differ in their definitions of dropout, use different methods of counting dropouts, and have different methods for following youth who have relocated.^{32 33} In addition, many dropout statistics fail to include those students who dropped out of school before high school.³⁴ Finally, the dropout numbers from alternative high schools, where many high-risk students attend, are often left out of calculations.³⁵

Graduation rates are typically a more accurate measure, but ISBE's 2001 graduation rate, 83.2%, is considered inflated because it is based on dropout data that is likely underestimated. The Manhattan Institute reports Illinois' four-year graduation rate as 74%³⁶ and the Harvard's Civil Rights Project reports it as 75%.³⁷ These are more reliable because they base their estimates on actual enrollment numbers, not dropout numbers.

^a 2001 data is used here because that is what is available from each of the data sources being compared.

²⁹ Illinois State Board of Education, Data Analysis and Performance Reporting Division, Elementary and Secondary School Educational Statistics, 2001 <http://www.isbe.net/research/brochure01.htm>.

³⁰ See Bhanpuri, Hoor, and Ginger M. Reynolds. 2003. "Understanding and Addressing the Issue of the High School Dropout Age." (Naperville, Ill.: Learning Point Associates). www.ncrel.org/policy/pubs/pdfs/mich.pdf. Pages 5-6.

³¹ Young, Beth Aronstamm. 2003. "Public High School Dropouts and Completers From the Common Core of Data: School Year 2000-01: Statistical Analysis Report." (Washington, D.C.: NCEES, U.S. Department of Education).

³² Zweig, J. (2003). *Vulnerable Youth: Identifying Their Need for Alternative Educational Settings*. Retrieved February 9, 2004 from <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=410828>

³³ Greene, J. P. (2002). *High school graduation rates in the United States*. Retrieved February 9, 2004 from http://www.manhattan-institute.org/cr_baeo.pdf

³⁴ Allensworth, E., & Easton, J. Q. (2001, June). *Calculating a cohort dropout rate for the Chicago Public Schools: A technical research report*. Chicago: Consortium on Chicago School Research. Retrieved February 9, 2004 from <http://www.consortium-chicago.org/publications/pdfs/p0a01.pdf>

³⁵ CPS dropout rates: Let me count the ways. (2000, June). *Catalyst: Voices of Chicago School Reform*. 11(9). Retrieved February 9, 2004 from <http://www.catalyst-chicago.org/06-00/0600letmecount.htm#1>

³⁶ Greene, Jay P., and Greg Forster. 2003. "Public High School Graduation and College Readiness Rates in the United States." *Education Working Paper No. 3* (New York: Center for Civic Innovation at the Manhattan Institute). www.manhattan-institute.org.

³⁷ Orfield, Gary, Daniel Losen, Johanna Wald, Christopher B. Swanson. 2004. "Losing Our Future: How Minority Youth are Being Left Behind by the Graduation Rate Crisis." (Cambridge, MA: The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University. Contributors: Advocates for Children of New York, The Civil Society Institute). www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu.

Poverty rate and college students

In the 2000 Census, the calculation of poverty rates excludes certain segments of the population whose poverty status cannot be assessed with a reasonable degree of accuracy. The “poverty universe” generally does not include those people who live in group quarters like barracks, prisons, group homes, and dormitories or people under the age of 15 who are unrelated to the primary householder. The largest of the groups excluded from poverty calculations, being particularly relevant to 18- to 24-year-olds, consists of those living in college dormitories. While not all college students live in dormitories, many do, especially during their first years of college.

The majority of people 18 to 24 included in the poverty universe who are identified as living in poverty experience poverty for an extended period of time or as a permanent situation. These people primarily fall in three categories: 18- to 24-year-olds who are counted as belonging to their parents’ family, which is poor; youth who live independently in poverty, who are not in college or engaged in other professional training, and therefore have limited prospects for increased earnings in future years; and college students who live off-campus and complete their own census data. Although this last group may indeed exhibit substantial poverty rates, there is an important caveat to consider – college students in this case are not well represented in the Census due to lower levels of survey response, likely due to transient housing, mailing and timing inconsistencies, and a lack of follow through by either party.

Racial and ethnic categories

Racial and ethnic categories are presented throughout this report exactly as they are found in the respective citations in order to preserve meaning and data integrity.

2004 poverty guidelines for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia	
Size of family unit	Poverty guideline
1	\$ 9,310
2	12,490
3	15,670
4	18,850
5	22,030
6	25,210
7	28,390
8	31,570

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

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