

Across Illinois, **22,377 delinquency petitions**<sup>1</sup> were filed in 2008. Of these, 6,084 were **adjudicated delinquent**<sup>2</sup> (does not include plea agreements) and 1,861 delinquency cases were continued **under supervision**<sup>3</sup> (source: The Administrative Office of Illinois Courts).

In 2007, **3,305 youth came before the Cook County Juvenile Court**. This is down from a high of 8,638 in 1994 and represents a 60% decline. There has also been a decrease in the number of petitions filed in the court from over 21,000 in 1995 to under 8,000 in 2008 (source: Juvenile Justice in Cook County: Report of the Cook County Juvenile Court, Juvenile Justice Division, 2009).

#### Cases Screened by the Cook County State's Attorney in 2008

43% were petitioned into court.

35% were not filed due to insufficient evidence to support the charge.

22% were referred to a diversion<sup>4</sup> program.

[Source: *Juvenile Justice in Cook County: Report of the Cook County Juvenile Court, Juvenile Justice Division, 2009*]

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<sup>1</sup> The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority defines **delinquency commitments** as: "Documents filed in delinquency cases with the juvenile court through the state's attorney alleging that a juvenile is a delinquent. The petition sets forth the supporting facts regarding the alleged offense, information about the minor, and, if the minor is detained, the start date of the detention. The petition requests that the minor be adjudged a ward of the court and asks for relief under the Juvenile Court Act. Supplemental petitions may be filed alleging new offenses or alleging new violations of orders entered by the court in the delinquency proceeding."

<sup>2</sup> ICJIA defines **adjudicated delinquent** as: "Anyone prior to their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday that has been found by the Juvenile court to have violated or attempted to violate any federal or state law, or county or municipal ordinance."

<sup>3</sup> The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority defines **continuance under court supervision** as: "When the court enters an order (1) upon an admission or stipulation by the appropriate respondent or minor respondent of the facts supporting the petition and before proceeding to adjudication, or after hearing the evidence at the adjudicatory hearing, and (2) in the absence of objection made in open court by the minor, his or her guardian, defense attorney, or state's attorney. During the continuance period, not to exceed 24 months, the court requires the minor to follow specific conditions (found at 705 ILCS 405/5-615(5)) ordered by the court and the minor is supervised by court services. If the alleged offender successfully completes the conditions imposed by the court, the petition is dismissed. A court can enter a continuance under supervision for any offense other than first degree murder, a Class X felony or a forcible felony."

<sup>4</sup> "**Diversion programs** avoid bringing youth deeper into the juvenile justice system when this can be safely avoided. Whenever possible, these programs follow the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice – balancing the needs of the victims, the youthful offender and the community. These diversion programs seek to hold youth accountable for their behavior while involving youth in restoring, as much as possible, both the victim and the community (p.2, in Juvenile Justice in Cook County: Report of the Cook County Juvenile Court, Juvenile Justice Division, 2009)."