



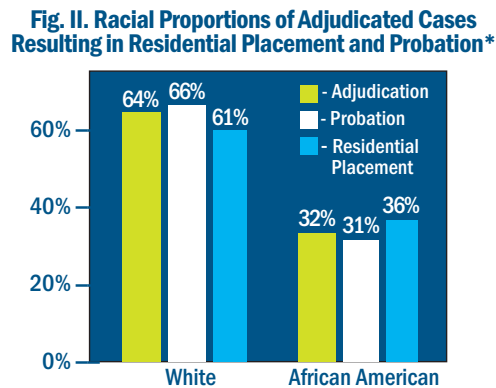
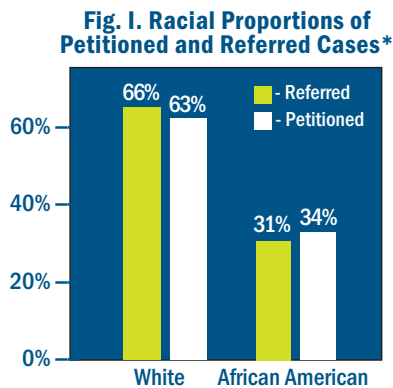
## African American Youth Disproportionately Represented at All Stages of the Juvenile Justice System

Research indicates that there is an overrepresentation of minority youth, particularly African Americans confined in secure juvenile facilities. This disparity is partially due to the differential actions that occur at various critical decision points in the juvenile justice system. A 2004 review of the most recent national data on the racial proportions of justice-involved youth indicates that the disparity is most pronounced in the early stages of involvement, and that African American youth are more likely than white youth to be arrested, detained, and referred to court for the same type of offenses.

Racial Proportions of U.S. Youth Under Age 18*	White	African American
General Population	79%	15%
Estimated Number of Juvenile Arrests*	Percent of Total Arrests	
2,603,300	71%	26%

\* Statistics are drawn from the most recent national data available. Sources: *Juvenile Arrests 1998*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (1999) and *Crime in the United States, 1998*, Federal Bureau of Investigation (1999); *U.S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1980-1998*, U.S. Census Bureau (1999).

This racial disparity tends to intensify as minority youth are processed further through the system. African American youth are more likely to be petitioned for formal processing, adjudicated, and confined than white youth.



\* Statistics are drawn from the most recent national data available. Sources: Sickmund, M. June, (2004). National Report Series: *Juveniles in Corrections*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Available online at <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/202885.pdf>; Data adapted from "Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics: 1988-1997" [data presentation and analysis package]. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (1999).

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, statewide, nonprofit agency that provides case management for clients who are mandated or referred to substance abuse treatment by public systems (e.g. corrections, criminal justice, child welfare, welfare to work). TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit [www.tasc.org](http://www.tasc.org).

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