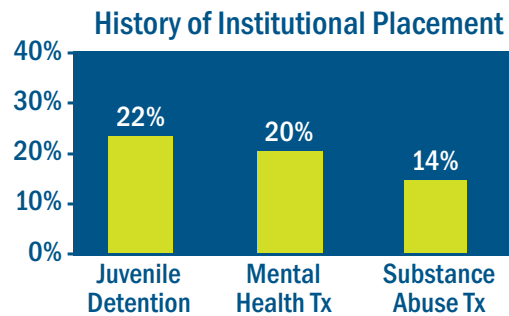
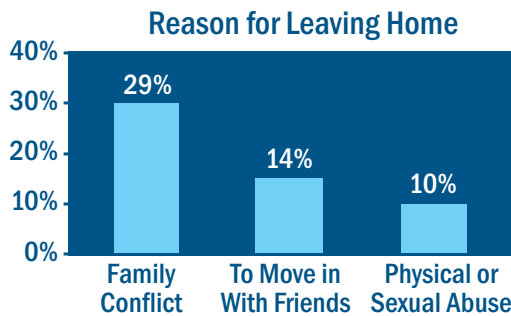


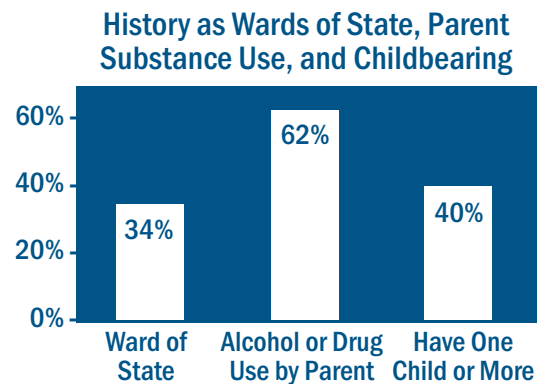


## A Snapshot of Homeless Youth in Illinois

Estimates from the *Unaccompanied Homeless Youth in Illinois: 2005* report, presented by researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago, indicate that there were nearly 25,000 homeless youth (HY) between the ages of 12 and 21 in Illinois in 2004, up nearly 4,000 from 1985, when the last study on homeless teens in the state was conducted. A sub-sample of 169 HY (66% female, 34% male) from across Illinois was interviewed for the study. Over half (55%) of HY interviewed were Black, followed by 20% White, 15% Mixed, and 10% Other race/group. Among HY interviewed, the largest group (29%) reported leaving home as a result of a family conflict or argument; 14% reported that they had decided to leave or run away from home to move in with a boy/girlfriend or other friend; and 10% reported leaving due to physical or sexual abuse from a parent, stepparent, or family member.<sup>1</sup> When asked about institutional placement, 22% of the sub-sample reported having been detained in a juvenile facility; 20% reported having been admitted to the hospital for mental health treatment or care; and 14% reported having been admitted to a treatment program for drugs or alcohol.



Among interviewed HY, 34% indicated that they had been a ward of the state at some point (i.e. placed by the Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] or a private agency, even if it was with a relative); 62% of HY reported that at least one of their parents or guardians drank heavily and/or used illegal drugs; and almost 40% of HY reported having one or more biological children.



Source: Johnson, T. P. and Graf, I. (2005). *Unaccompanied Homeless Youth in Illinois: 2005*. University of Illinois at Chicago, Survey Research Laboratory. Coordinated by the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. Retrieved March 20, 2006, from <http://www.chicagohomeless.org/youthreport.pdf>.

<sup>1</sup> Other reported reasons for leaving included their own pregnancy; having nowhere to live after parent or guardian died or became incapable of providing care due to illness; or that their parent/family did not have a place to live or room for them to stay.

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs. 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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