

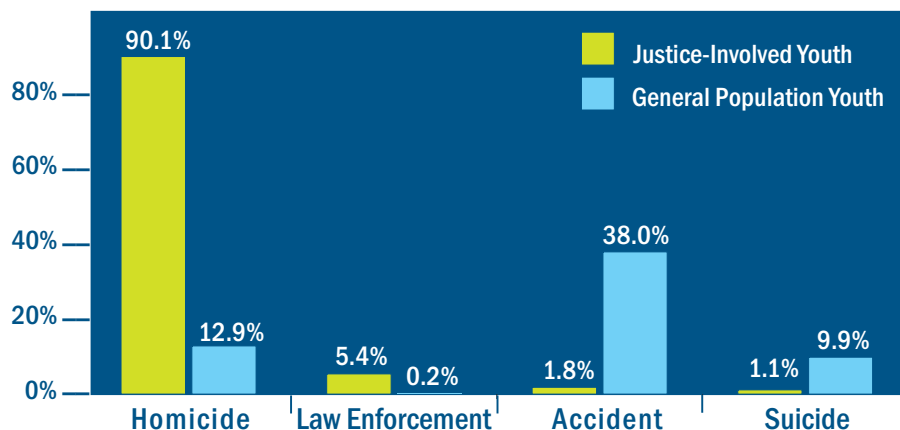


## Cook County Study Shows Youth in Juvenile Justice System Are at Greater Risk for Early Violent Death

Results from a longitudinal study that compared mortality rates among 1,829 justice-involved youth enrolled in the Northwestern Juvenile Project<sup>1</sup> in Cook County's Juvenile Justice System to those among general population youth revealed that the overall rate of death due to violence or accident among justice-involved youth (806 per 100,000) was 4.4 times higher than the overall rate for general population youth (184 per 100,000).

The study reported that 90.1 percent of deaths among justice-involved youth were due to homicide, 5.4 percent were due to law enforcement actions, 1.8 percent were due to accidents, and 1.1 percent were due to suicide (1.6 percent were due to other causes not including disease or illness). In contrast, of general population deaths, 12.9 percent were due to homicide, .2 percent were due to law enforcement actions, 38 percent were due to accidents, and 9.9 percent were due to suicide. Notably, the rate of suicide was 8.8 percent higher for general population youth than for justice-involved youth.

**Causes of Death for Justice-Involved and General Population Youth**



Source: Adapted by TASC from Teplin, L.A., McClelland, K.M., Abram, K.M., and Mileusnic, D. (2005). Early Violent Death Among Delinquent Youth: A Prospective Longitudinal Study. *Pediatrics*, 115 (6), 1586-1593.

<sup>1</sup> The NJP studied the health needs and outcomes of justice-involved youth processed through the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center in Chicago, Illinois, between 1995 and 1998.

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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