

Youth Fire Setting Interventions in Illinois (2023)



Submitted by Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal
December 28, 2023

Purpose

Under provisions of the Fire Investigation Act (425 ILCS 25/13.2) established by Public Act 103-0307, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is tasked with providing a report on Youth Fire Setting Interventions by December 31, 2023, with subsequent semiannual and annual reports.

Background

The Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program is a statewide standardized program to provide prevention education and intervention, and referrals, if warranted, for the children and families of Illinois to reduce the frequency and severity of fires set by youths. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) receives requests for Interventionists from fire departments, law enforcement, social service organizations, and members of the public to conduct an assessment of youth exhibiting fire setting interest or behaviors. Properly targeted, designed, and delivered prevention education, as well as other interventions, can address youth fire setting interest or behaviors.

Program Statistics

Table 1. Intervention Requests by Age (2023)

Age (in Years)	Number	Percent
4 to 12	25	52%
13 to 18	23	48%
Total	48	100%

Table 2. Intervention Requests by Region (2023)

Region	Total	Percent
North	33	69%
Central	12	25%
South	3	6%
Total	48	100%

Conclusion

This is the first report of youth fire setting interventions. Future reports may offer additional insights.