**Chapter 10: Juveniles and the Criminal Justice System**

**Summary**

This chapter explored the history of the treatment of juveniles who committed delinquency as well as the development of the juvenile justice system in the United States. Included in the discussion was an assessment of the disproportionality of minorities for juveniles, either as victims or offenders. Like their adult counterparts, African American and Hispanic juveniles are more likely than white youth to be involved in each stage of the juvenile justice process, from arrest, to adjudication, to sentencing, to detention. Also included in the discussion about juveniles was the influence of emotional disorders and suicide for detained youth. From a public policy standpoint, the issue of the overall “get tough” approach to crime, popular since the 1980s, has impacted how the general public views juveniles, despite the fact that most youths who enter the juvenile justice system do not return. The remaining small number of hard-core, violent juvenile offenders has shaped public policy in all aspects of the juvenile system, with a greater emphasis on treating youth like adults for many offenses.