



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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# Memorandum

**To:** Authority Members

**From:** *GR* Gerard F. Ramker, Ph.D.  
Research and Analysis Unit

**Date:** May 16, 2003

**Re:** Research and Analysis Unit Report – June 6, 2003 Authority Meeting

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This memorandum highlights some of the work performed by Research and Analysis Unit staff since the Authority's last quarterly meeting.

## I. ONGOING ACTIVITIES

### A. Publications

R & A staff published eleven (11) reports since the last Authority meeting.

- *On Good Authority* - Family Group Conferences Offer Promise for Juvenile Cases
- *Research Report* - New Approaches and Techniques for Examining and Evaluating Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces
- *Research Report* - Community Policing in Chicago, Years Eight and Nine, Chicago's Alternative Policing Strategy and Information Technology Initiative
- *Research Report* - A Crime Analyst's Guide to Mapping
- *Research Report* - A Process and Impact Evaluation of Cook County's State's Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance Program
- *Research Bulletin* - CHD Series: Is Age Discrepancy a Risk Factor for Intimate Partner Homicide?
- *Research Bulletin* - Disparity Index Computation Database User's Manual
- *Program Evaluation Summary* - Community Policing in Chicago, Years Eight and Nine
- *Program Evaluation Summary* - Community Policing: Accountability in Management in the Chicago Police Department
- *Program Evaluation Summary* - Community Policing: Police and Community Problem Solving in Chicago
- *Program Evaluation Summary* - Sex Offender Probation Programs in Lake, DuPage and Winnebago Counties

In addition, staff electronically published twenty (20) Juvenile Justice System county profiles to the Authority's website making them available for download.

## **B. Briefings/Presentations**

Since the last Authority meeting, R & A staff made presentations at and/or attended:

- Spring Conference of the Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association;
- Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and Grant Review Committee meetings;
- Meetings of the Cook County Girls Link steering committee, education and program development committee;
- Chicago Police Department's Training Academy;
- Governor's Department of Children and Family Services Task Force;
- Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center advisory board;
- JRSA Research Committee;
- Association of Crime Analysts in Illinois;
- Governor's Ex-Offender Employability Task Force;
- Administrative Office of Illinois Courts field staff training session;
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Partner's Meeting;
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Annual Conference;
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative grant site meetings;
- North Lawndale DMC Forum;
- Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission's Juvenile Detention in Illinois annual report advisory committee;
- Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission meetings and a meeting of its Disproportionate Minority Confinement Subcommittee.

## **C. Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse**

The Authority serves as a statewide clearinghouse for statistics and other information about the criminal justice system. During the third quarter (1/1/03- 3/31/02) of SFY03, R&A staff responded to 326 requests from people seeking information — an average of 109 requests per month. Most came from other government agencies (33 percent) and the general public (22 percent). Other requests came from private agencies (15 percent), researchers (12 percent), students (10 percent), news media representatives (4 percent), prison inmates (2 percent), and legislators (less than 1 percent). About 30 percent of the requests originated in Chicago. Over one-third (37 percent) originated in other parts of the state. All other requests for information were received from outside Illinois. R&A distributed 4,544 Authority publications during this period. *[TABLE 1 (attached) provides statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

## **D. Web Site Development**

R&A staff also contribute toward the continued development of the Authority's Web site ([www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us)). We continue to expand the criminal justice data and information available on the site. We also continue to actively gather user satisfaction information and other feedback "on-line." Staff also continues to upload publications to the site and have perfected our on-line ordering forms and protocols. The site averaged over 600 daily user sessions during this period, and we now have 1,255 registered users of the Authority's email program (called "CJ Dispatch"), which automatically alerts Web site visitors to new information added to the site. Staff continue work on database applications and new software

for the site which will allow visitors to download, display and graph data in a variety of formats. *[Table 2 (attached) presents website statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

### **E. FSGU Support Efforts**

Upon request, R&A staff review and comment on proposed program narratives submitted by potential grantees to the Federal and State Grants Unit (FSGU). The focus of R&A comments are in the areas of proposed objectives, goals, and performance measures. FSGU staff also request R&A assistance in the development of data reports for proposed programs. R&A staff has also assumed responsibility for the computerization of some program performance data and, upon FSGU request, we produce program status reports and/or profiles assessing performance over a given period of time. Some staff accompanies FSGU staff on grant monitoring site visits as well. *[Table 3 (attached) presents FSGU support statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

### **F. Technical Assistance**

R & A staff is continually called on to provide a variety of technical assistance on extra-agency research and evaluation projects. For example, since the last Authority meeting:

- Staff continued to assist in several third-party research projects involving studies of individuals' criminal history records including those conducted by:
  - Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice;
  - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Children and Family Research Center;
  - Harvard University's Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods;
  - University of Chicago's Chapin Hall;
  - Justice Research Associates;
  - Department of Human Services and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc;
  - University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Addams School of Social Work;
  - University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies; and
  - Northwestern University's Medical School.
  
- Staff is also participating in the Governor's Sheridan Re-opening Working Group.

## **II. CURRENT PROJECTS**

### **A. Special Short-Term Studies**

Some R&A staff are currently engaged in developing short-term studies on specific issues and/or trends. The following examples will be completed this fiscal year:

*DUI Trends and Issues* – Short term project intended to describe significant statistical trends and issues related to driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

*Drug Arrest Trends in Illinois* – Short term project intended to describe trends and related to drug arrests and substance abuse treatment in the State.

### **B. Illinois Substance Abuse Surveillance Network**

R&A staff, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services' Office on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse established an Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network. This group functions as a special workgroup to facilitate the exchange and analysis of information regarding the nature and extent of drug use, drug abuse, and drug markets in Illinois. The inaugural meeting of the group was held at the Authority's offices on December 16, 2002, was very successful. Planning for the next (and future meetings) continues.

### **C. Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit**

The unit's Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit Center is an ADAA-funded in-house effort to continuously examine the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of this information, and to recommend strategies for its improvement. The 2003 draft audit report has been completed and submitted to the Illinois State Police for review and comment. The findings and recommendations, presented to the Authority's Information Systems Committee, report that the quality of Illinois' CHRI has improved from the last statewide audit published in 1995. In connection with the next audit, staff is currently working to develop a methods report that focuses on validation of electronically reported data.

### **D. Chicago Homicide Dataset Update Project**

The R&A Unit maintains a comprehensive database containing information on every homicide that occurred in the City of Chicago between 1965 and 1996. This information is culled from Chicago Police Department files following a long-standing collaborative process developed with the department's Detective Division. Staff recently completed an effort to update the dataset with information for the years 1997 through 2000, and will soon begin collecting 2001 data. We expect to generate a variety of research products from this dataset and to develop an archive version for use by other researchers through the University of Michigan's National Criminal Justice Data Archive. Staff is also collaborating on various third-party projects involving use of the Chicago Homicide Dataset:

- Arson associated homicides (Mr. Dallas Drake).
- Patterns of youth homicide victimization (Dr. Kimberly Vogt).
- Arrest histories of homicide offenders (Drs. Jens Ludwig & Philip Cook).
- Intimate partner homicides (Dr. Todd Shackelford).

Reports on these studies are under preparation for publication.

### **E. Statewide Crime Victimization Survey**

Growing out of recommendations in the *State Criminal Justice Plan*, staff has initiated a state crime victimization survey modeled on the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of

Justice Statistics' Crime Victimization Survey, and similar efforts in other states. Through a "request for proposals" process, staff selected a vendor to undertake the survey, incorporate defined sampling and methodological strategies, and provide the Authority with a data file. After overcoming some technical difficulties and delays experienced with the Illinois Secretary of State's office, staff recently took receipt of the survey sample. The survey project was launched in January 2003. Data collection ended on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **F. Program Evaluation and Research Projects**

The R&A Unit pursues an aggressive program evaluation and research agenda through an in-house ADAA-funded grant program.

*Current/ongoing evaluation and research efforts supported by the Authority include the following:*

##### **1. Evaluation of the Jackson County School-Based Probation Program**

Staff from the Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale began the evaluation of this probation project in April. A preliminary meeting with project staff, the Authority and the evaluation team has taken place and the evaluators are working toward the design of instruments, data collection efforts and interviews with staff.

##### **2. Evaluation of Moral Reconciliation Therapy in the Franklin/Jefferson County Evening Reporting Center Program**

Staff from the Public Administration and Policy Analysis Department at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville began the evaluation of this probation project in April. After a preliminary meeting with project staff and the Authority, the evaluation team has begun to create and review project databases. The evaluators are also working toward a documentary review of the project, refinement of outcome measures and the identification of a comparison group.

##### **3. Lake County Domestic Violence Probation Program Evaluation**

This is an impact evaluation of a specialized probation program in Lake County focused on domestic violence offenders, and is being carried out by Justice Research Associates (JRA). The project is a follow-up to an implementation evaluation recently completed by JRA and is focusing on the outcome differences between the program participants and a comparison group. A final report is due by June 30, 2003.

##### **4. Study of Disproportionate Incarceration of Minorities for Drug Crimes**

This project is a collaboration between the Authority and Loyola University Chicago, The John Howard Association and TASC, Inc. The study is examining the impact of sentencing

laws and practices on the minority community, particularly in response to convictions for drug related crimes. A series of research bulletins on the project is planned for May, including reports on national trends, drug law changes, the nature of addiction and treatment, the Illinois perspective on minority incarceration and policy recommendations.

#### **5. Reintegration of Gang Offenders in the Community Study**

In collaboration with DePaul University's Department of Sociology, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center, a small-scale, pilot study of the reintegration process is being conducted. The study is largely qualitative, examining how gang & non-gang offenders go about reintegrating into their communities of origin. A final report on the study is due August 30, 2003.

#### **6. Community Mobilization: Best Practices and Lessons Learned**

This project involves the development of a series of four research briefs on different aspects of the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center Community Mobilization Program. The first of four research briefs is available on the topic of resident decision making versus representativeness in the community. The remaining report topics include the evolution of program implementation, resident involvement/coalition building and integration into the surrounding community. These reports are currently under review and will be made available over the summer.

#### **7. CAPS at Ten**

This project is being conducted by Northwestern University and is the last phase of a comprehensive multi-year assessment of the Chicago Police Department's community policing program. The Authority has been supporting this evaluation for several years and this final analysis will focus on the main themes that have characterized Chicago's program. A final report on this phase of the study is to be submitted on December 31, 2003.

#### **8. Returning Home-Illinois Research Project**

This project is being carried out by The Urban Institute. It involves the development of several products including a portrait of prisoner reentry in Illinois, a briefing on pre-release expectations on returning Illinois prisoners, and an advisory report addressing how funds made available to the Illinois Department of Corrections through the Authority should be prioritized to reduce recidivism rates. The evaluation team, with the assistance of Authority staff, completed the portrait of prisoner reentry in Illinois and presented it in April. Urban Institute staff have completed 400 pre-release surveys, over 400 interviews with inmates and 69 family interviews. The final report on this project is due July 31, 2003.

#### **9. National Evaluation of Multijurisdictional Drug Task Forces**

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Program's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), staff is preparing to provide federal funds and technical assistance to participate in a national evaluation of multijurisdictional drug task forces. It is anticipated that the research will result in an advisory report to the Authority on the effectiveness and impact of these multijurisdictional task forces in Illinois, in the context of the broader national evaluation. Staff is currently awaiting further direction from BJA on the initiation of this project.

**10. Supplemental Funds for Methamphetamine Enforcement: A Process Evaluation**

Initiated in March, this project will be carried out by researchers at Illinois State University. In 2002 four task force programs (East Central, West Central, South Central and Quad City) received supplemental funding from the Authority to facilitate investigations related to methamphetamine production. At the time of their application these four task forces, drawing from agencies in 18 counties, were comprised of 44 officers from 29 local agencies and the Illinois State Police. The supplemental funding allowed for hiring 7 additional officers (6.75 positions) for one year and for a variety of items in support of task force activities (e.g., bullet proof vests). This project will use site visits, face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews, and data from quarterly reports to assess how the supplemental money has been used, and to identify the uses for which it has proven most beneficial and the uses for which it has not been as helpful as originally planned.

*Future evaluation and research efforts supported by the Authority include the following:*

**1. Illinois Going Home Program Evaluation**

In collaboration with the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) and a host of other advisory entities, Authority staff have prepared a "request for proposals" (RFP) for the evaluation of Illinois' Going Home Program. This major offender reentry program will be funded through a partnership of contributing federal agencies and in concert with a number of Chicago-area government, community and faith-based organizations. The Authority is partnering in the effort by providing federal funds and technical assistance for its evaluation. The RFP is currently being reviewed by IDOC and will be issued at the end of May. Proposals for this project will be due July, and the evaluation is scheduled to begin in September and continue for 40 months.

**2. Circuit Court of Cook County, Department of Social Service, Domestic Violence Intervention Program**

This project is being conducted by University of Illinois at Chicago under the direction of Larry Bennet and the West Side Domestic Abuse Project (WSDAP) in collaboration with the Social Service Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In 1999, UIC and WSDAP developed an assessment tool for batterers aimed to increase the safety of victims and improve the ability of staff to identify men who are at high risk and intervene to reduce their

risk by assertive case management. This project will use existing Cook County PROMIS data and supplemental data collected from case records on men participating in the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Researchers will be able to collect longitudinal data on predictors of attrition and outcomes for men who batter that can be used by policy makers and staff to improve intervention services. Researchers will also be able to contribute important information to the larger criminal justice and violence against women communities about the effectiveness of justice-based intervention with batterers. Staff has initiated the contract process for the project and hopes to initiate it this summer.

**3. An Evaluation of the Chicago Police Department's CLEAR Initiative – Phase II**

The continued evaluation of CLEAR, the Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting project, is scheduled to continue with a grant to the University of Illinois at Chicago. CLEAR is a major initiative of the Chicago Police Department to integrate information systems and processes within the department. The continued evaluation will focus on the efforts aimed at the introduction of high-priority applications, and the resources and processes needed to develop and implement the major components of CLEAR. The project is slated to begin September 1, 2003 and continue for a year.

**4. An Evaluation of Bloom Township's Neighborhood Restorative Justice Mediation Program**

The Neighborhood Restorative Justice Mediation Program (NRJMP) is a volunteer-based, victim-offender mediation program. The purpose of the NRJMP is to utilize the Balanced and Restorative Justice approach in response to juvenile crime and provide an alternative to formal prosecution for first time juvenile offenders. The NRJMP brings victims and offenders together in a neutral setting with the goal being a plan for repairing harm done to the victim that both the offender and victim can agree upon. Operating since 2000 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Municipal Court District of Cook County, the NRJMP expanded into the 5<sup>th</sup> Municipal Court District in the Spring of 2001, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Municipal Districts in the Fall-Winter of 2001, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Municipal District in early 2003. The manner in which this program has evolved provides an opportunity for researchers to conduct meaningful process evaluations of the program in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> districts and an impact evaluation of the NRJMP as it functions in the 6<sup>th</sup> district. A request for proposals is currently under development with the expectation that the evaluation will begin on October 1, 2003.

***Recently concluded evaluation and research efforts supported by the Authority include the following:***

**1. Chicago Community Policing (CAPS) Program 2001-2002**

The evaluation of the Chicago Police Department's community policing project, Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy – CAPS), during years 8 and 9 is complete. The full report and three summaries: *Community Policing in Chicago, Years 8 and 9; Accountability in*



*Management, and Police and Community Problem Solving in Chicago*, are currently available. The final report has shown that while modest improvements have been made, there is still work to be done in the area of engaging residents in community policing efforts.

## **2. Citizens and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR) Project Evaluation**

The CLEAR project is a major initiative of the Chicago Police Department to integrate information systems and processes within the department and, in many ways, represents an evolution of community policing efforts incorporating technological advances, increased accountability measures, community participation and other developments. The University of Illinois at Chicago and Northwestern University CLEAR conducted the evaluation of CLEAR in concert with the CAPS 2001-2002 evaluation. A final report on this study was submitted and is included in the CAPS final report.

## **3. Little Village Community Youth Worker Study**

This is an extended study of data derived from the Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Program (GVRP). The GVRP was one of a series of recent initiatives in Illinois and elsewhere to address the youth gang problem. The Chicago Police Department administered the project between 1992 and 1997 with federal funds provided by the Authority. University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration Professor Irving Spergel designed the project and became its coordinator. Among other components of the comprehensive program was the employment of youth outreach workers. This study examines survey data and other information on this component of the project. A final report was received and is under review.

## **Other Projects**

Additional external research and evaluation efforts are under development, including requests for proposals for the evaluation of these projects:

- Evaluating Peer Juries in Chicago Public Schools; and
- Analysis of Datasets Maintained/Available Through the Authority.

## **G. Externally-Funded Research and Evaluation Projects**

R&A staff has been successful in pursuit of external discretionary grants to support research and evaluation efforts. Several current projects are or were supported by such grants:

### **1. NIJ Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRIS)**

The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project is a continuing collaboration of Chicago medical, public health, and criminal justice agencies, and domestic violence experts to identify factors that indicate a significant danger of life-threatening injury or death in situations of intimate partner violence. Collaborating agencies include the Chicago

Department of Public Health, Erie Family Health Center, Cook County Hospital, Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, Chicago Police Department and the Authority. Project research included detailed interviews with abused women sampled as they entered a hospital, clinic, or health center for treatment, as well as interviews with people who knew victims of intimate partner homicide. By comparing data on abused women with similar data on people who have been killed by an intimate partner, the project helps agencies develop collaborative ways to identify and respond to potentially life-threatening intimate violence situations. A follow-up study looked at the effects of community capacity to determine whether the violence stopped or declined in the abused women's neighborhoods. The research provides vital information to beat officers, clinical staff, and other decision-makers in the field. The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project was supported with grants from the National Institute of Justice, the Authority, and other agencies. A number of reports, journal articles and other publications have been developed from the research. Staff continues to be solicited for presentations and briefings on the research and project tools and data continue to be requested for use by other researchers. Most recently, Carolyn Rebecca Block was asked to present relevant findings as part of in-service training efforts in the Chicago Police Department. Current collaborations on reports from CWHRS include:

- PTSD, Abused Women, Pregnancy, Gregory Laskin, National Center for PTSD Research;
- Social Support Network and Abuse, UIC Ph.D. Dissertation;
- Abused Women and the Criminal Justice System, Kim Davies

2. **NIJ Evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim-Witness Program**

This was a federally funded (National Institute of Justice) evaluation of the Cook County State's Attorney's Victim Witness Program. The final report has been submitted to NIJ and to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. NIJ will soon be making the final report available through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. An *On Good Authority* summarizing the research is currently under development.

3. **BJS Gun Crime Study**

This is a federally funded (Bureau of Justice Statistics) project being carried out in partnership with the Illinois State Police, which we hope will establish a warehouse of criminal history record information for research purposes. Extracts of criminal history data have been received and have been analyzed. Archiving procedures are being finalized and the report on an analysis of all 1998 arrests for gun-related charges is nearing completion. The final report was submitted to BJS in December 2002, and a *Research Bulletin* summarizing the report is under development for publication.

#### **4. BJA Study of MEG Unit and Local Police Department Drug Targets**

This is a federally funded (Bureau of Justice Assistance) study being carried out in partnership with Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice. Data regarding criminal histories, and drug arrest dispositions, for a sample of Illinois' multi-jurisdictional drug task force targets and a comparison group of local police department arrestees has been collected and coded, and is now being analyzed to better understand the differences between MEG/TF and local police department drug targets. In addition, the project has also developed a means to compare Authority-funded MEG and Task Force activities with the general drug control activities in the areas they serve. This technique was used to develop new comprehensive statistical profiles for each unit, and place their efforts into the larger context of drug control efforts in the jurisdictions they work in. The final report for the project was submitted to BJA in December 2002. An *On Good Authority* summarizing the research was published in February 2003.

#### **5. IJJC Evaluation of the Impact of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act**

This project is funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, utilizing Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds, and is a complex, multi-phase study evaluating the implementation, process, and impact of recent changes to the Juvenile Court Act in Illinois. The project involves the study of processes by which individuals and agencies impacted by the Act's legislative changes understand the major statutory provisions and the extent to which local implementation efforts are consistent across the state. The project also involves the collection of statewide juvenile arrest data from local law enforcement agencies. Two comprehensive reports have been published. Three *On Good Authority* publications based on the full report have been published since the last Authority meeting.

#### **6. IJJC Study of Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System**

This project is funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission utilizing OJJDP funds, and is a study of disproportionate minority representation among juveniles in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System. Staff has completed collection and analysis of aggregate data from various juvenile justice system contact points, and has presented a draft of those findings at a meeting of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission. Staff collected case-level data on a sample of juveniles to measure the possible influence of specific factors on decisions made as the juveniles are processed through the system. A final report will be completed and submitted to the Commission by May 31, 2003. *Research Bulletins* drawing from these findings are also planned.

#### **7. BJS State Police NIBRS Grant Project**

A \$1.2 million discretionary grant application developed jointly with the Illinois State Police was awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics. The project will

lead to the development of local records management solutions and a state central repository for National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data. In connection with this State Police grant, R&A staff are to: (1) assist in the evaluation of crime analysis tools which will be developed as part of the project, and (2) develop “case studies” on how local law enforcement agencies make use of the expanded incident-based crime data. Staff continues to attend advisory committee and various subcommittee meetings.

#### **8. JRSA Disproportionate Minority Confinement Grant Project**

With the assistance of a \$20,000 grant from the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), staff is developing comprehensive statistical profiles for each of Illinois' 102 counties containing a host of data and information relative to juvenile justice planning, problem identification and problem solving, including a section that focuses on assessing disproportionate minority representation. Some of the profiles are already in printed form and are downloadable from the Authority's web site. We expect to complete the remaining profiles by July 31, 2003.

#### **9. BJS Crime Analysis and Mapping for Local Police Grant Project**

Pursuant to a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics' State Justice Statistics program, staff has begun development of a crime analysis and mapping manual for local law enforcement agencies. The publication will be a companion piece to the already-published crime analysis manual. The grant was awarded in February and the project was initiated in March 2002. An advisory committee was formed and has convened several times to review plans, working papers, and the final publication. The report was completed on March 31, 2003 and is currently being disseminated. It is also available on the agency's website.

#### **10. JRSA Profile of Girls Committed to the IDOC Youth Centers**

Pursuant to a \$22,190 grant from the Justice Research and Statistics Association, Authority staff in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) is conducting an in-depth examination of the backgrounds, needs, and services received by female delinquents that have been committed to IDOC. Ultimately, this project seeks to develop research, programming and policy recommendations to aid the State in the implementation of gender-specific programming for female delinquents. The project entails examining already existing information collected by IDOC on each female inmate. These data are being used to develop an in-depth profile of girls residing in IDOC. In addition, more detailed and exploratory data will be collected through focus groups of IDOC staff members regarding the barriers and successes to working with girls, girls' unique needs, and the types of services that may help girls return successfully to their communities. Additionally, a detailed inventory of the programs currently offered through IDOC and the characteristics of the girls receiving these programs, in combination with the needs assessment, will assist in identifying service gaps. The final report of the project is due on June 15, 2003.

### **11. OJJDP Recidivism of Gang Versus Non-Gang Members Released from Prison in Illinois**

Pursuant to a \$49,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through the National Youth Gang Center, R&A staff are conducting a recidivism study of adult inmates released from the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), focusing on the differences between those identified as members of street gangs and those who are either not in a gang, or have renounced gang membership. In addition to examining gang membership as a factor associated to recidivism, staff is examining variables related to the inmate's age, race, prior criminal history, education level, marital status, substance abuse history, and the jurisdiction/environment the inmate was released back into. Inclusion of these variables allows staff to statistically isolate the influence gang membership has on the likelihood of an arrest for a new crime following release back into the community. A sample consisting of one month's releasees (November 2000) from the IDOC (approximately 2,000 adults, with an estimated 34 percent identified as gang-members) has been identified through examination of an automated data file on releasees provided to the ICJIA by the IDOC. Criminal history records provided by the Illinois State Police (ISP) are being used to summarize each individual's prior criminal history, as well as whether or not they were rearrested following release from prison. A variety of analyses are being conducted to measure the overall prevalence of recidivism among gang and non-gang members, as well as the degree to which gang-membership plays an independent role in recidivism likelihood. A preliminary draft report on the project has been reviewed by the National Youth Gang Center and OJJDP officials. Further analysis is underway at this time.

### **III. GRANT PROPOSALS**

R&A staff routinely pursue discretionary grants to support data collection, research, and evaluation activities. Frequently these projects involve collaborations with universities and/or other criminal justice agencies.

1. *Decision Pending* - Staff partnered with INFONET staff and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault on a proposal for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice to document the profile of Illinois sexual assault victims and their offenders, and to assess the outcome of sexual assault cases in Illinois. The proposal was submitted in March 2003.
2. *Decision Pending* - Staff partnered with the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Center for Children and its Harris School for Policy Studies, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, and the Cook County Department of Corrections on a proposal for the National Institute of Justice to study the sexual assault victimization experience of women in the Cook County jail and its connection with later life experience. The proposal was submitted in February 2003.

3. *Decision Pending* – Staff partnered with the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Jane Addams College of Social Work in a grant proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Substance Abuse Policy Research Program for a study of co-morbidity rates in criminal offenders. The proposal was submitted in April 2003.
4. *Decision Pending* – Staff partnered with Loyola University Chicago’s Department of Criminal Justice in a proposal to the National Institute of Justice for a six-year follow-up evaluation of specialized sex offender probation programs in four Illinois counties. The proposal was submitted in March 2003.
5. *Awarded* - Staff developed a grant application for consideration by the Justice Research and Statistics Association for a study of the validity, reliability and equity of scoreable screening instruments being used in Illinois in connection with juvenile detention decisions. The project involves a collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, local probation departments, and others. The grant was awarded in April and the project began May 1, 2003.
6. *Under Development* – Staff is working on a proposal for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for the development of a guide to managing evaluations for local law enforcement entities. The guide is to assist law enforcement agencies in providing funding for, conducting and utilizing program evaluation research. The grant application is due in June 2003.

#### **IV. ONGOING STAFF DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING**

- Staff continues to conduct and/or take part in a variety of staff development and training programs and projects. These include: (a) observations/site visits to several key criminal justice agencies; (b) peer review process for project development and pre-publication; (c) partnerships with the academic community; (d) development of specific training classes including ArcView mapping, multivariate statistical analysis, basic SPSS use, data availability in criminal justice, among other topics; and (e) human subject research issues/concerns and practices.
- A total of nine (9) R&A staff persons are currently pursuing advanced academic degrees: Five (5) are enrolled in graduate programs and four (4) are in post-graduate programs.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information on any of these activities.

GFR:r

**TABLE 1. Information Request Handling Statistics**

ITEM	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/2002	SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2002	THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2003	FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2003	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
<b>Information requests handled:</b>	295	397	326		1,018
<b>Monthly average number of requests:</b>	98	132	109		339
<b>Pct of requests completed within two days:</b>	79%	84%	84%		82%
<b>Geographic Origin of requesters:</b>					
Chicago metropolitan area	24%	42%	29%		32%
Other region of Illinois	44%	30%	37%		37%
U.S. other than Illinois	18%	17%	25%		20%
Outside the U.S.	2%	3%	3%		3%
Unknown	12%	8%	6%		9%
<b>Type of requester:</b>					
Government agency	34%	49%	33%		39%
Private citizen	21%	16%	22%		20%
Private agency	25%	17%	15%		19%
Researcher	7%	7%	12%		9%
Student	9%	8%	10%		9%
Media	1%	2%	4%		2%
Legislators	1%	1%	<1%		1%
Inmates	2%	1%	2%		2%
Unknown	-	-	-		-
<b>Method of request:</b>					
Telephone/fax	45%	24%	41%		37%
Mail	3%	4%	8%		5%
Email/Internet	35%	28%	33%		32%
In-person	-	32%	1%		17%
ICJIA Web site	17%	11%	21%		16%
<b>Publications disseminated:</b>					
Mailed in response to requests	12,621	3,864	4,544		21,029
Downloaded from Web Site	16,221	18,032	16,932		51,185
Total	28,842	21,896	21,476		72,214

**TABLE 2. Web Site Traffic Report**

	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/02	SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2002	THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2003	FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2003	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
<b>Hits for Home Page</b>	535,203	516,072	638,080		1,689,355
<b>Number of User Sessions</b>	50,558	55,074	66,436		172,068
<b>Average Hits Per Day</b>	5,814	5,611	7,080		6,168
<b>Average User Sessions Per Day</b>	549	598	738		628
<b>Average Use Session Length (minutes)</b>	16	15	15		15
<b>Unique Visitors</b>	21,514	23,839	30,538		75,891
<b>Visitors Who Visited Once</b>	17,657	19,638	25,439		62,734
<b>Visitors Who Visited More Than Once</b>	3,857	4,201	5,099		13,157
<b>Persons Registered for CJ Dispatch (Email notification of updates)</b>	1,051	1,140	1,233		1,233

**TABLE 3. FSGU Support Requested: Statistics**

Activities Requested by Federal and State Grants Unit	PROGRAM	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/02			SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2002			THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2003			FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2003			FISCAL YEAR TO DATE		
		REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING
<b>PROGRAM NARRATIVE REVIEW</b>	ADAA	10	10	0	10	10	0	1	1	0				20	20	0
	JAIBG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	VOCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	MVTPC	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0				0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>DATA REPORT DEVELOPMENT</b>	ADAA	14	14	0	9	9	0	0	0	0				23	23	0
	JAIBG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	VOCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	MVTPC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>DATA REPORT ENTRY (Number of projects for which monthly/quarterly data reports were computerized)</b>	ADAA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	JAIBG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	VOCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	MVTPC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PROJECT STATUS REPORT (Number of assessments completed)</b>	ADAA	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0				3	3	0
	JAIBG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	VOCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	MVTPC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PROGRAM PROFILE (Number of profiles)</b>	ADAA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	JAIBG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	VOCA	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				2	2	0
	MVTPC	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				2	2	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>