VIOLENT CRIME PROFILE

Sangamon County

Introduction

Problem analysis is the basic building block for creating an effective, strategic approach to crime prevention. Many criminal justice agencies collect a vast amount of data, yet few use these data in ways that can fully inform their policies and practices. Understanding your community's crime problem will require analysis of various types of information, some of which may be already collected and some of which will require additional data collection efforts. The purpose of this document is to provide your community with a starting point for assessing, understanding, and discussing its violent crime problems, particularly those stemming from firearm-related violence. The packet contains analyses of data that are accessible to researchers working at the state-level and include data submitted to the Illinois State Police Uniform Crime Reporting and Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) programs.

At the end of this pack is a glossary of terms to aid interpretation and understanding of the data points presented. The packet also provides suggestions for what other types of data should be collected and examined. Research staff at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority are available to talk more with you about the data presented here as well as what additional data that might exist and next steps for data collection and analysis.
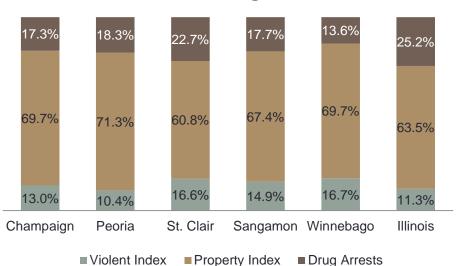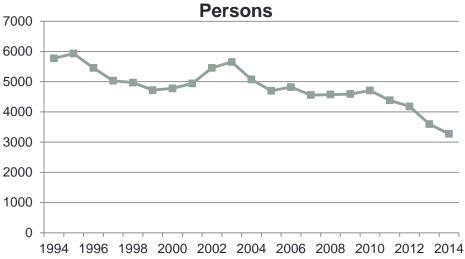
- John Maki, Executive Director

Index Crime and Drug Arrests

- The property index crime rate for Sangamon County has decreased overall since 1994.

- A similar decrease trend pattern was not noted for the violent index crime rate nor the drug arrest rate. It is not clear why the violent index crime rate increased in the mid 2000s, particularly since most communities experienced either declines or no relative changes in their rates during that time period.

- Like other counties with similar residential populations, property index crimes accounted for the largest percentage of crimes in 2014 reported to the State Police Uniform Crime Reporting program.
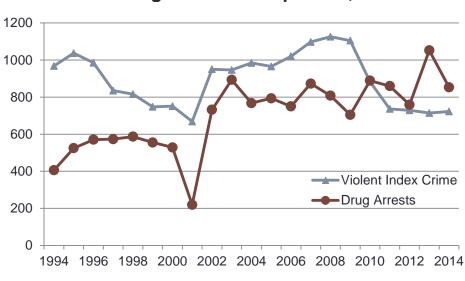
Property Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Persons

Index Crime and Drug Arrests - 2014

	Champaign	Peoria	St. Clair	Sangamon	Winnebago	Illinois
Drug Arrests	17.3%	18.3%	22.7%	17.7%	13.6%	25.2%
Property Index	69.7%	71.3%	60.8%	67.4%	69.7%	63.5%
Violent Index	13.0%	10.4%	16.6%	14.9%	16.7%	11.3%

■Violent Index ■Property Index ■Drug Arrests

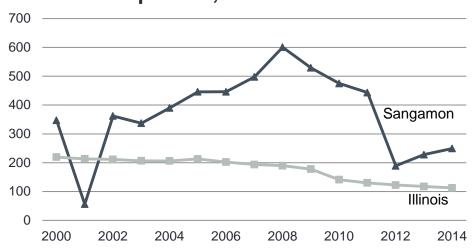**Violent Index Crime and Drug Arrest Rates per 100,000 Persons**
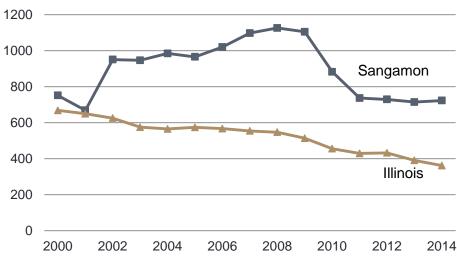

Source: Illinois State Police IUCR Annual Reports.

Violent Index Crime

- The violent index crime and arrest rates for Sangamon County generally were higher than the rates for the state overall.

- Aggravated assaults (and batteries) accounted for the largest percentage of violent index crimes and arrests from 2010 to 2014, followed by robberies.
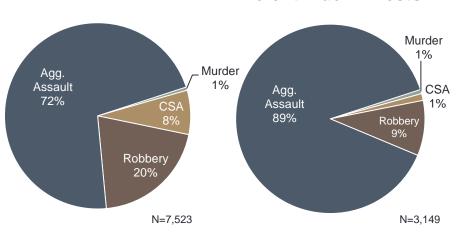
Violent Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Persons

Violent Index Arrest Rate per 100,000 Persons

Sangamon County: 2010 - 2014

Violent Index Crimes

Agg. Assault 72%
Murder 1%
CSA 8%
Robbery 20%
N=7,523

Violent Index Arrests

Agg. Assault 89%
Murder 1%
CSA 1%
Robbery 9%
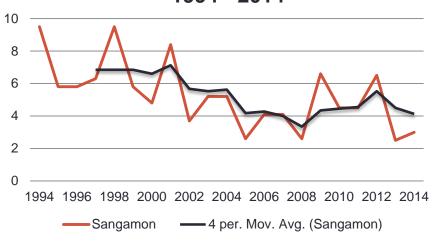N=3,149

Source: Illinois State Police IUCR Annual Reports.

Murder & Aggravated Assault

- The murder rate for Sangamon County declined between 1994 and 2008, followed by a slight uptick. The rate appears to be now trending downward.

- The aggravated assault (and battery) rate trend followed a different pattern. It is not clear why the rate increased in the mid 2000s; further exploration is suggested.
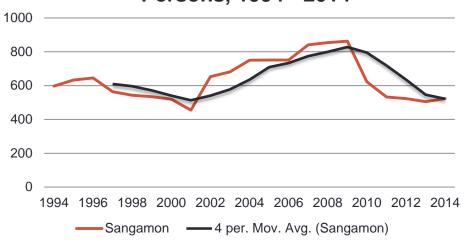
Murder Rate per 100,000 Persons, 1994 - 2014

Sangamon   4 per. Mov. Avg. (Sangamon)

Number of Murders and Aggravated Assaults, 2005-2014

Offense Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Murders	5	8	8	5	13	9	9	13	5	6
Aggravated Assaults	1,446	1,452	1,632	1,667	1,693	1,231	1,059	1,042	1,006	1,041

Aggravated Assault Rate per 100,000 Persons, 1994 - 2014

Sangamon   4 per. Mov. Avg. (Sangamon)

Source: Illinois State Police IUCR Annual Reports.
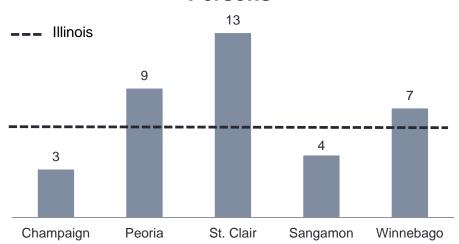
Avg. Violent Crime Rates – 2010 to 2014

- The average violent index crime and the aggravated assault (and battery) rates from 2010 to 2014 were above the rate for Illinois but below the average Illinois statewide rate for murder.

- Direct comparisons between counties of comparable population sizes is somewhat challenging and caution should be taken when drawing conclusions. Community-level factors, such as the rate of poverty, unemployment, and residential mobility, are associated with crime prevalence and may explain the differences noted.
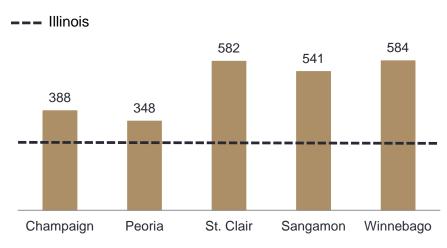
Average Violent Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Persons

- - - Illinois

Champaign	Peoria	St. Clair	Sangamon	Winnebago
556	552	811	757	833

Average Murder Rate per 100,000 Persons

- - - Illinois

Champaign	Peoria	St. Clair	Sangamon	Winnebago
3	9	13	4	7

Average Aggravated Assault Rate per 100,000 Persons

- - - Illinois

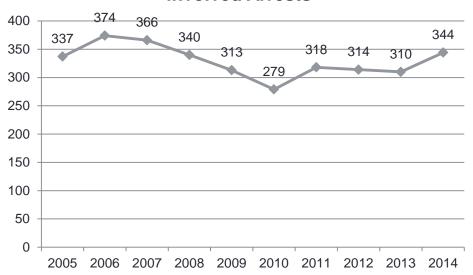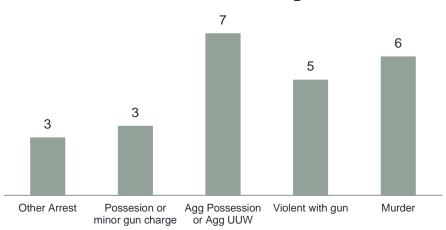| Champaign	Peoria	St. Clair	Sangamon	Winnebago
388	348	582	541	584

Source: Illinois State Police IUCR Annual Reports.

Murders & Firearm Involved Arrests – 2014

- There were 344 murder or firearm-involved arrests in 2014. The typical arrestee was male, black (68%), and 26 years old (median age).

- Those arrested for more serious, violent offenses tended to have more significant criminal histories, both in terms of the number of prior arrests, but also the type of prior arrests.

- Conviction rates varied and were generally lower than that reported for other counties; further exploration is suggested to fully understand these numbers.
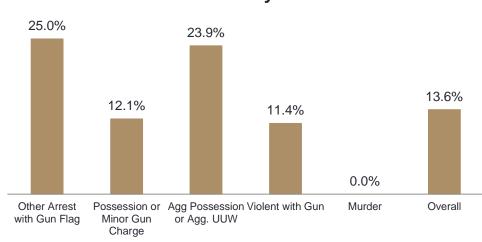
Total Number of Murder and Firearm-involved Arrests

Median Number of Prior Arrests by Current Arrest Charge*

Percent of Arrests in 2010 Resulting in a Conviction by 2014

*Includes all arrests from 2005 to 2014.

Source: Illinois Criminal History Record Information system.

Suggested Additional Data Analysis

Communities interested in implementing the programs identified during this conference are encouraged to consider analyzing and potentially collecting additional data. Regardless as to whether communities are considering focused deterrence or the swift, certain, and fair approach, we strongly urge that you collect information that helps facilitate a discussion about the relationship between the residents of your community and criminal justice agencies.

- **Police data (Focused Deterrence):**
  - Calls for service by crime type, date/time, neighborhood
  - Crime data by victim and suspect characteristics (NIBRS data)
  - Shootings by date/time, suspect(s) and victim(s) involved, group(s) involved, neighborhood, motive, weapon(s) used
  - Individual and group-specific data for targeted intervention

- **Probation data (Swift, Certain, Fair):**
  - Probation trends in use and compliance
  - Profile of probationers who violate terms of probation, including demographics, violation types and reasons for violations, offense history, previous history on probation
  - Assessment of existing probation processes and sanctioning practices

- **Neighborhood perceptions and legitimacy:**
  - Neighborhood conditions, crime, fear of crime
  - Police and the criminal justice system response
  - Police-community relationship (legitimacy, support)

- **Police and other CJS personnel perceptions**:
  - Police-community relationship
  - Collaborative relationship between criminal justice stakeholders (police, prosecutors, probation, parole, community service providers)
  - Barriers to effective crime prevention and intervention

Glossary of Terms

Violent Index crimes: Includes all incidents of murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault/battery reported to the police.

Property Index crimes: Includes all incidents of burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson reported to the police.

Drug arrest violations: Includes all arrests made for violations of the Illinois Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act, Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, and the Methamphetamine Control Act.

Moving average: A moving average is simply the average of a specific number of data points across the time period examined. In the data provided to you we calculated a 4-year moving average. The first moving average would represent years 1994 to 1997, the second moving average would be for years 1995 to 1998 and so forth. A moving average allows one to "smooth" out trend lines, which can aid in interpretation of overall trends.

Firearm-involve arrests: Includes any crime in which the fingerprint arrest card indicated a firearm flag or the offense for which the individual was charged involved a firearm.

Median: The middle point of a range of sorted values. The median is sometimes preferred over an average score when the range includes extreme numbers because those extreme numbers pull the average score higher or lower.