



RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

CLEAR information technology system offers benefits to police, state

Since 2001, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) in partnership with Oracle Corporation and the Police Executive Research Forum developed the Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR).

CLEAR, a state-of-the-art information technology system enabling police to share crime information, promises substantial crime-fighting benefits.

In 2007, researchers evaluated the expanded statewide system, Illinois Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting system, also known as I-CLEAR.

Powered by a data warehouse, CLEAR applications impact police management and performance, criminal justice integration, and community partnerships (Figure 1).

In 2002, the Chicago Police Department opened its data warehouse to law enforcement agencies outside the city of Chicago. The data warehouse, accessed over the Internet, offers agencies information such as criminal history data and outstanding warrants (Table 1).

Figure 1

Key applications and benefits of the CLEAR system

KEY APPLICATIONS	
• Automated arrest system: allows real-time data entry processing	• eTrack: logs evidence and recovered property
• Personnel Suite: automates and integrates human resources functions	
• CLEARpath: suite of Internet applications interfacing with residents	
• Automated Incident Reporting Application: electronic case processing	
BENEFITS	
• Assists in decision-making on officer deployment.	
• Provides information for improving management and officer accountability.	• Streamlines administrative functions.
• Supports decision-making at all levels of the department.	
• Provides data and problem-solving information for community policing patterns.	• Furnishes information for sharing across criminal justice agencies.
• Offers proactive community involvement and resource allocation.	• Reduce crime and increase community safety.

Table 1

Average monthly warehouse use by agency type, 2002-07

Agency type	Number of agencies	Queries per month
Municipal police	260	233
Specialized police	22	341
County sheriffs	27	1,519
Federal agencies	27	233
Prosecutors, probation and parole	14	630
State police	2	3,132
Other	13	32

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In early 2004, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley announced their commitment to building I-CLEAR to allow all police agencies in Illinois to share crime information.

Evaluators cited numerous benefits of CLEAR and I-CLEAR: the systems offer more efficient deployment of personnel for targeted crime reduction and of case processing of suspects; better unit accountability; and

increased clearance of crimes (*Figure 2*). Evaluators have also recommended the creation of an impartial governance body for conflict resolution and oversight.

CLEAR and I-CLEAR encountered many obstacles during development, including personnel changes, new di-

Figure 2

Frequency and type of field officer use of CLEAR system

Type of use	During past week	During past month	Total
Check a license	90%	6%	96%
Check a name or address	91%	5%	96%
Check outstanding warrants	68%	23%	88%
Communicate with other officers	67%	10%	77%
Enter evidence electronically	46%	22%	68%
Retrieve information for mission	39%	24%	63%
Check investigative reports	37%	26%	63%

visions of responsibility, and budgeting issues.

Despite setbacks, Illinois State Police and the Chicago Police Department continue to maintain their commitment to I-CLEAR as a viable data system for law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois.

ILLINOIS
 Criminal Justice Information Authority
 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1016
 Chicago, Illinois 60606
 312-793-8550
 TDD: 312-793-4170
 Fax: 312-793-8422
 www.icjia.state.il.us