



RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

Meth response teams easing burden on localized drug task forces

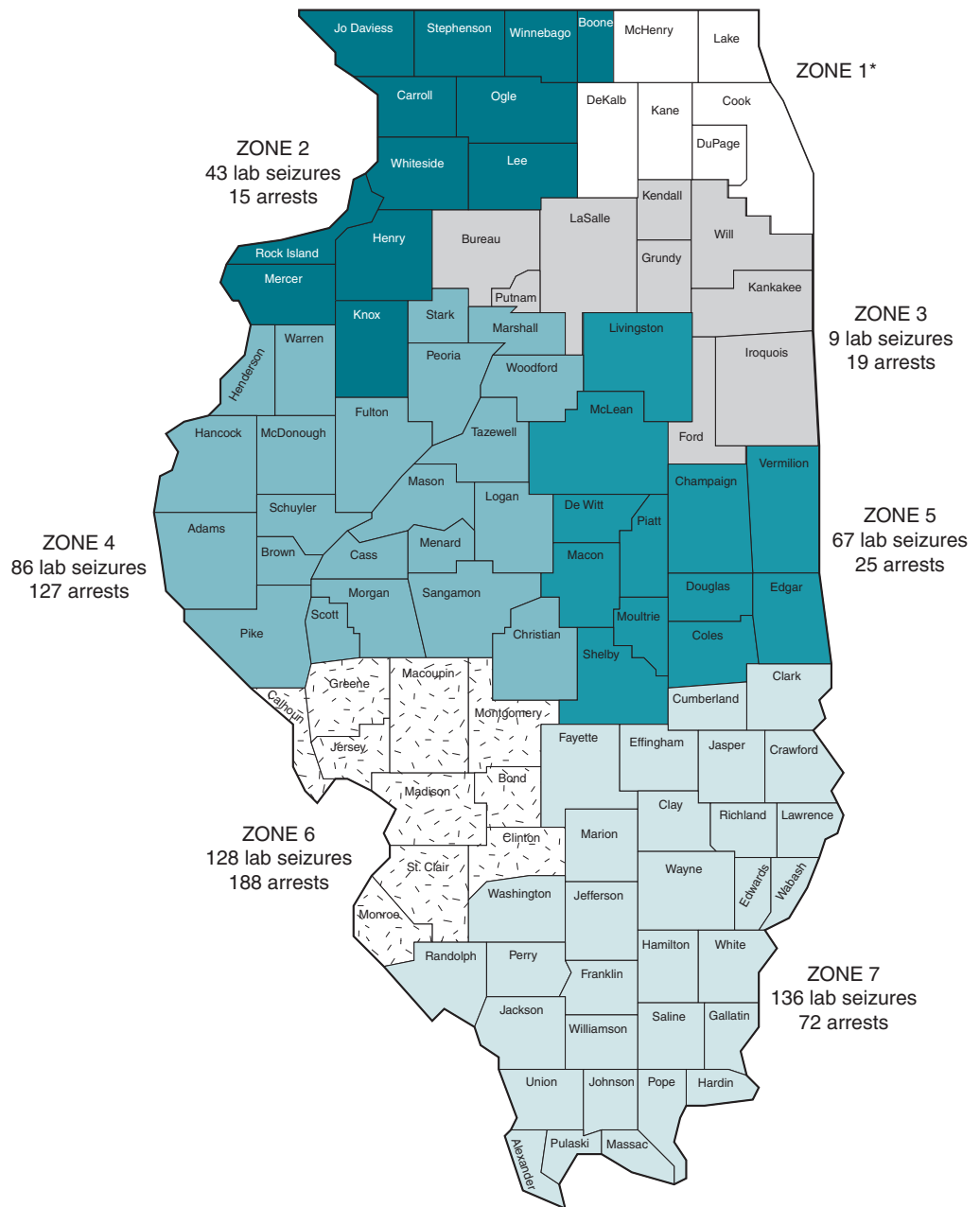
The Illinois State Police Statewide Methamphetamine Response Team (MRT) program has had an immediate and significant impact on the growing problem of meth use and production in Illinois.

Six regionally located meth crime fighting teams were created in May 2005 to assist multijurisdictional drug task forces as they struggle to meet increasing drug law enforcement demands across the state. MRTs focus on fighting meth-related crime across Illinois, allowing other local drug task forces to combat use and distribution of marijuana, cocaine, and other illegal substances.

During the first seven months of operation, MRTs seized 469 meth labs and made 446 meth-related arrests. MRTs accounted for 34 percent of all meth arrests and 48 percent of all meth lab seizures by the response teams and task forces in 2005. Lab seizures by local drug task forces dropped from 913 to 504 between 2004 and 2005, due to the supplemental work of the MRTs (Figure 2). Drug task force arrests for meth also decreased from 1,264 to 863.

Methamphetamine use and distribution is a significant problem in central and southern Illinois. The meth epidemic is spreading to more urban regions.

Figure 1
ISP Methamphetamine Response Team activities by zone, May 15 to Dec. 31, 2005



*Zone 2 and Zone 3 MRTs cover McHenry, Lake, Cook, DeKalb, Kane and DuPage counties (Zone 1).

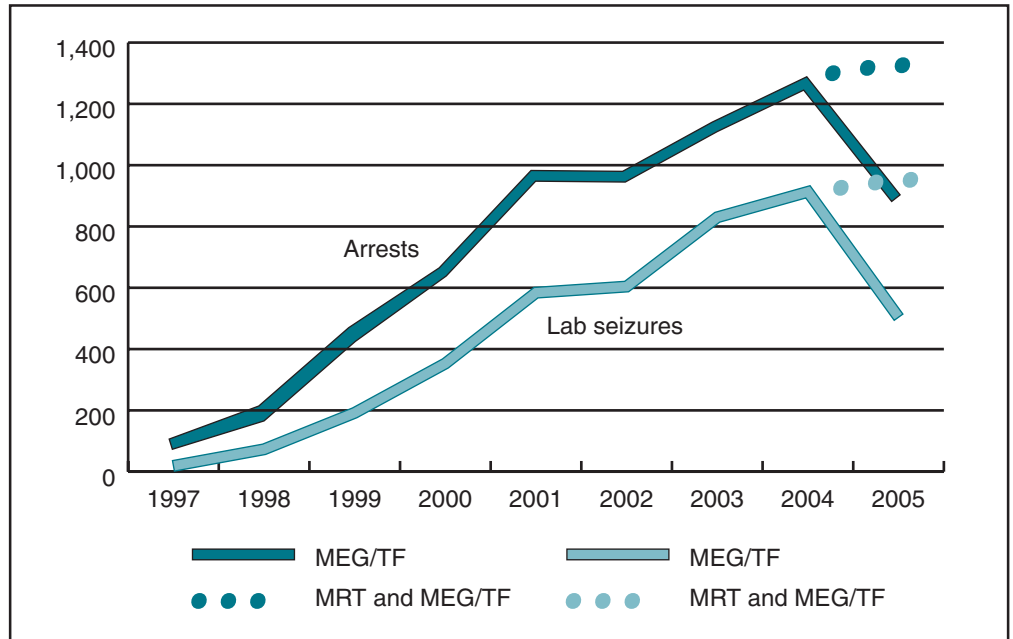
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Figure 2

Meth lab seizures and arrests in Illinois by multijurisdictional enforcement groups and task forces (MEG/TF) and methamphetamine response teams (MRT)



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