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Research and Program Evaluation in Illinois: The Extent and Nature of Drug and Violent Crime in Illinois' Counties



A Profile of the DeKalb County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

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FOREWORD

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is a state agency created in 1983 to promote community safety by providing public policymakers, criminal justice professionals and others with information, tools and technology needed to make effective decisions that improve the quality of criminal justice in Illinois. The Authority provides an objective system-wide forum for identifying critical problems in criminal justice, developing coordinated and cost-effective strategies, and implementing and evaluating solutions to those problems. The specific powers and duties of the Authority are delineated in the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Ch. 20, Sec. 393/7). Two of the Authority's many responsibilities are serving as a clearinghouse of information and research on criminal justice and undertaking research studies to improve the administration of criminal justice.

Since 1989, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has received funds under the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to document the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the criminal justice system's response to these offenses. As a result of these efforts, the Authority has amassed a large amount of data measuring the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the impact these crimes have had on the criminal justice system. To put this information into the hands of Illinois' criminal justice policymakers in a useful summary format, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has developed profiles of the criminal justice system for each county in Illinois. In 1994, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority produced a series of reports detailing criminal justice system activity levels for each of Illinois' 102 counties. As a result of the positive response by local criminal justice officials, in 1996 the Authority updated and expanded the scope of these reports to reflect current criminal and juvenile justice activity. It is hoped that these 2004 updated reports will be as valuable, if not more, than the original versions. In addition to providing policymakers with an overview of activities across the components of the justice system in their county (law enforcement, courts and corrections), the profiles also provide perspective by including trends experienced in counties with similar population sizes.

While the data presented in this report are by no means inclusive of all indicators, they do provide a general overview of crime and the criminal justice system's response. In addition, these data are readily available and consistently defined through existing statewide data collection mechanisms.

The information presented in this profile has been provided to the Authority by a number of state agencies, specifically: the Illinois State Police, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The support and cooperation of these agencies and their staffs have helped make this report an informative and timely source of information on the activities of the criminal justice system in Illinois.



The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's
Web-based clearinghouse of criminal justice data available at:

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us>.

I. Introduction

DeKalb County, located in northern Illinois, covers an area of 634 square miles and had a 2003 population of 94,041 according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, DeKalb County was the 73rd smallest county in Illinois geographically, but 19th largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, DeKalb County had the 19th highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to DeKalb County is presented in comparison with similar counties. To provide more useful comparisons, counties have been separated into four types; 1) Cook County, 2) Collar counties, 3) urban counties (outside of Cook and the Collar counties), and 4) rural counties. Because of its size, Cook County is compared to the rest of the state. The Collar counties are the five that border Cook County (DuPage, Lake, Kane, McHenry, and Will). Urban and rural counties are defined by whether or not they lay within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (Appendix 1, page 24). Based on these definitions, there are 36 counties in Illinois that are part of a MSA (Cook, Collar, and urban counties) and 66 counties that are not part of a MSA (in other words, rural).

Recent changes to the standard definitions of MSAs have affected the classification of several Illinois counties. The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas according to published standards that are applied to Census Bureau data. The general concept of a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area is that of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Currently defined metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are based on the application of 2000 standards to 2000 decennial census data and were announced by OMB on June 6, 2003.

Standard definitions of metropolitan areas have changed over time. The term "metropolitan area" (MA) was adopted in 1990 and referred collectively to metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs), and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs). More recently, the term "core based statistical area" (CBSA) became effective in 2000 and refers collectively to metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

The 2000 standards require that each CBSA must contain at least one urban area of 10,000 or more population. Each metropolitan statistical area must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Each micropolitan statistical area must have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population.

Under the standards, the county (or counties) in which at least 50 percent of the population resides within urban areas of 10,000 or more population, or that contain at least 5,000 people residing within a single urban area of 10,000 or more population, is identified as a "central county" (counties). Additional "outlying counties" are included in the CBSA if they meet specified requirements regarding residents commuting to or from the central counties.

Changes in the definitions of these statistical areas since the 1950 census have consisted chiefly of: 1) the recognition of new areas as they reached the minimum required city or urbanized area

population, and 2) the addition of counties to existing areas due to new decennial census data. In some instances, formerly separate areas have been merged, components of an area have been transferred from one area to another, or components have been dropped from an area. The large majority of changes have taken place on the basis of decennial census data.

Because of these historical changes in geographic definitions, users must be cautious in comparing data for these statistical areas from different dates. For more information, contact the Population Distribution Branch at (301) 763-2419 (U. S. Census Bureau).

Based on these characteristics, DeKalb County is one of Illinois' 30 urban counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in DeKalb County will be compared to those trends experienced in the other urban counties. This comparison will be realized through the calculation of rates for the activities being analyzed, with the number per 100,000 population the format for all the rates.

II. Law Enforcement Activities in DeKalb County

One of the most commonly used indicators of the level of crime in a particular jurisdiction is the number of *Index offenses* reported to the police. There are eight separate offenses which constitute the Crime Index, including murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault (violent Index offenses), burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson (property Index offenses). Although these eight offenses do not account for all crimes reported to the police, they are considered to be the most serious, frequent, pervasive, and consistently defined by different law enforcement agencies.

An indicator of the workload that law enforcement agencies place on other components of the justice system is the number of arrests made by police, including those for violent and property Index offenses and drug offenses. Unlike offenses, which are what police must respond to, arrests represent those offenders who may eventually be processed through other components of the justice system, including the courts, county jails, and state and local correctional programs.

In addition to local law enforcement agencies, the North Central Narcotics Task Force (NCNTF) also serves DeKalb County. Throughout most of the period analyzed, there were 21 Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and task forces operating in Illinois. A county is considered to be served by a MEG or task force if at least one law enforcement agency within that county participated in that MEG or task force either by providing personnel or financial resources.

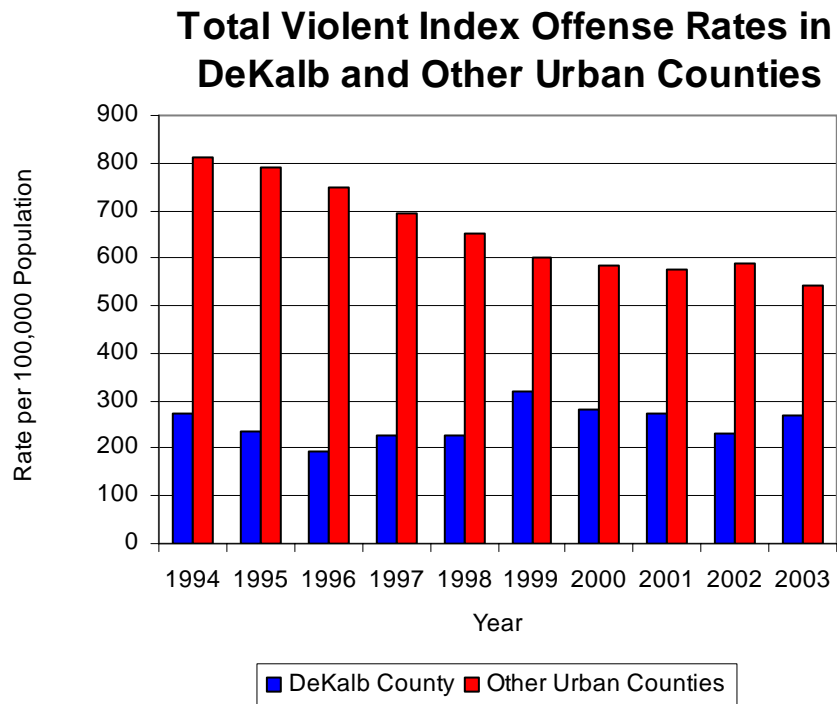
To learn more about the drug enforcement activities of the North Central Narcotics Task Force and Illinois' other MEGs and task forces, profiles of each of the units were developed by the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit and are available through the Authority's Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse or can be downloaded from the Authority's Website at www.icjia.state.il.us.

Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in DeKalb County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police increased 13 percent in DeKalb County between 1994 and 2003, from 226 to 255. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (74 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in DeKalb County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in DeKalb County decreased less than 1 percent, from 273 to 271 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Similarly, during that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other urban counties decreased 33 percent, from 810 to 543 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in DeKalb County was 50 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 1



Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

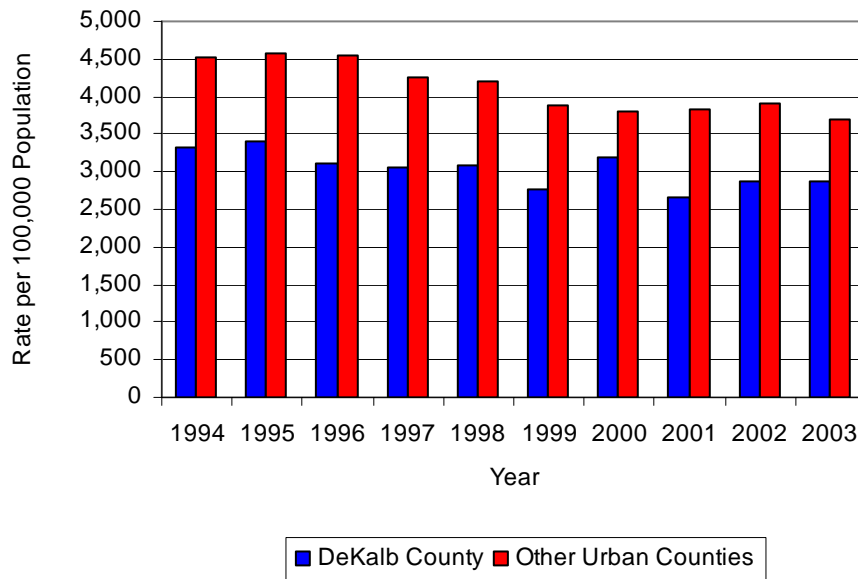
Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in DeKalb County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in DeKalb County decreased 2 percent, from 2,764 to 2,710. Thefts accounted for 80 percent of all property Index offenses reported in DeKalb County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in DeKalb County decreased 14 percent, from 3,336 to 2,882 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the other urban counties, the property Index offense rate decreased 18 percent, from 4,526 to 3,705 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 property Index offense rate in DeKalb County was 22 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 2

Total Property Index Offense Rates in DeKalb and Other Urban Counties



Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

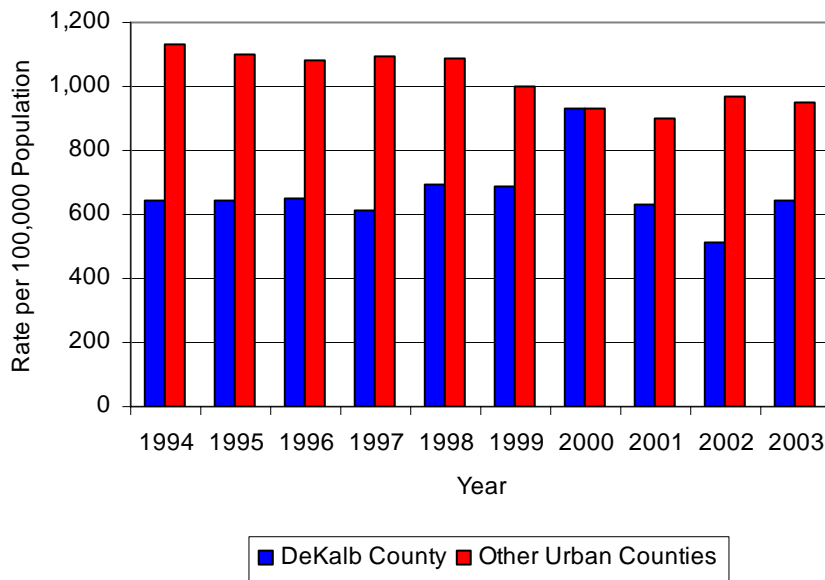
Index Arrests by DeKalb County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in DeKalb County increased 14 percent, from 531 to 606. The majority of Index arrests was for property Index offenses. Of the 606 Index arrests made in DeKalb County during 2003, 22 percent were for violent Index crimes and 78 percent was for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in DeKalb County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 83 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 78 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in DeKalb County increased less than 1 percent, from 641 to 644 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties decreased 16 percent, from 1,134 to 952 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, DeKalb County's Index arrest rate was 32 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 3

Index Arrest Rates in DeKalb and Other Urban Counties



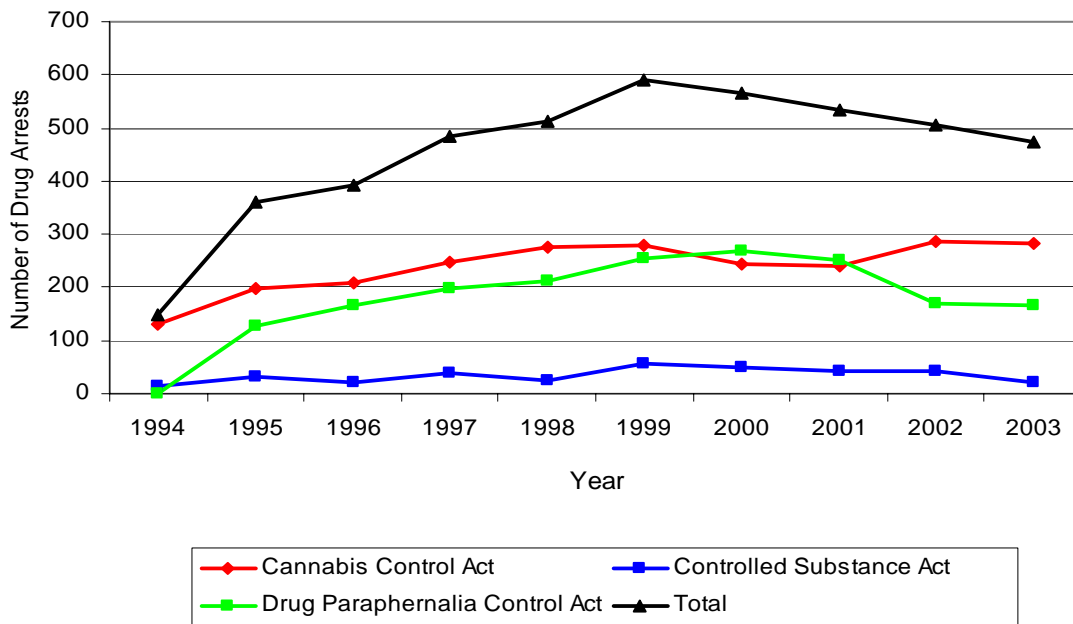
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Drug Offense Arrests in DeKalb County

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total drug offenses (including violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, and the Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act) more than tripled in DeKalb County, from 147 to 474 (Figure 4). Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of arrests for violation of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act increased dramatically, from one arrest in 1994 to 167 in 2003, or in other words, 35 percent of all drugs arrests in 2003.

During most of the period analyzed between 1994 and 2003, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale and cultivation of cannabis) in DeKalb County have out-numbered arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution or manufacture of all other illegal drugs such as cocaine and opiates). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act in DeKalb County more than doubled, from 131 to 282. Similarly, arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 57 percent, from 14 to 22 (Figure 4).

Figure 4
Drug Arrests in DeKalb County



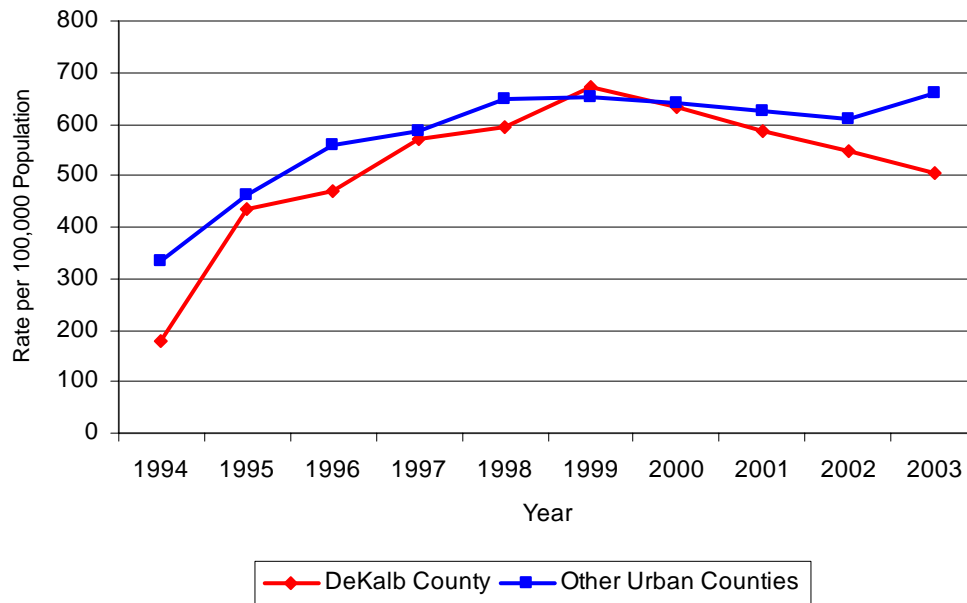
Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in DeKalb County almost tripled, from 177 to 504 per 100,000 population. The total drug arrest rate in the other urban counties nearly doubled during the same period, from 344 per 100,000 population in 1994 to 660

per 100,000 population in 2003, a 97 percent increase (Figure 5). In 2003, the drug arrest rate in DeKalb County was 24 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 5

Drug Arrest Rates in DeKalb and Other Urban Counties



Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

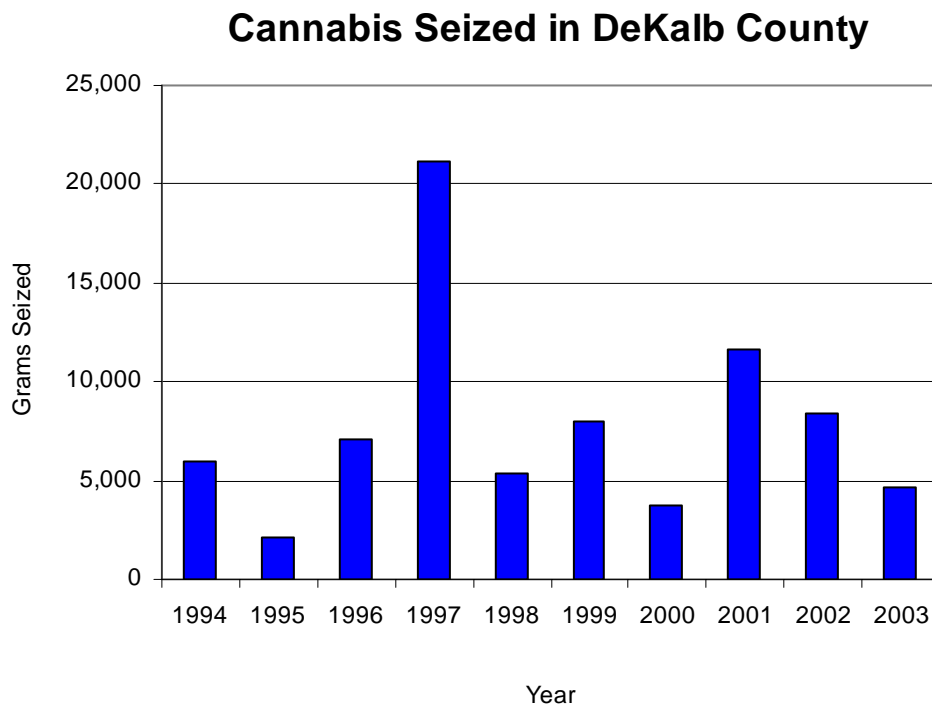
Drugs Seized in DeKalb County

Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of the illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies in Illinois, they are submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois State Police crime labs. These labs record the quantity of drugs submitted from each county. This section discusses the quantities of illegal drugs seized and submitted to the Illinois State Police from law enforcement agencies in DeKalb County.

Cannabis Seized in DeKalb County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in DeKalb County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in DeKalb County decreased 23 percent, from 5,977 grams to 4,611 grams (Figure 6). During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other urban counties decreased 61 percent from 1,305,789 grams to 510,023 grams.

Figure 6



Source: Illinois State Police

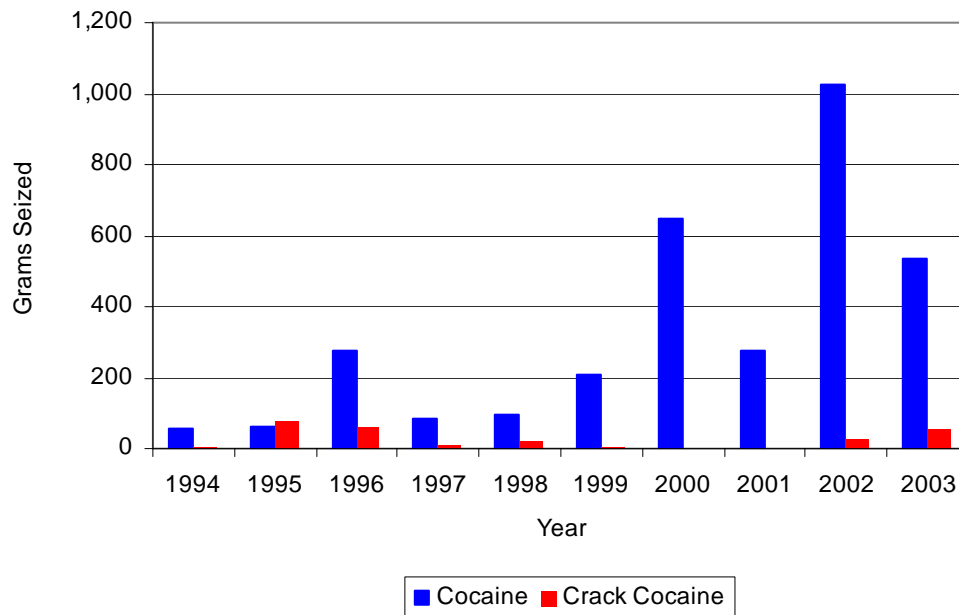
Between 1994 and 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in DeKalb County decreased 32 percent, from 7,214 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 4,903 grams in 2003. The cannabis seizure rate in the other urban counties decreased 62 percent, from 52,646 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 19,790 grams in 2003. In 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in DeKalb County was 75 percent lower than the rate in other urban counties.

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in DeKalb County

The quantity of powder and crack cocaine seized, in DeKalb County increased between 1994 and 2003. The quantity of powder cocaine seized increased more than eight-fold, from 57 grams in 1994 to 536 grams in 2003 (Figure 7). Although crack cocaine accounted for a relatively small portion of all cocaine seized in DeKalb County, the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased from less than seven grams in 1994 to 57 grams in 2003.

Figure 7

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in DeKalb County



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in the other urban counties decreased during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized decreased 25 percent, from 48,356 grams to 36,038 grams in the other urban counties, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased 45 percent, from 11,431 grams to 6,233 grams. In 2003, 570 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in DeKalb County, 59 percent less than 1,398 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other urban counties.

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in DeKalb County

Although Illinois has one of the best court reporting systems in the country, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts only collects information regarding the aggregate number of court filings, dispositions, and probation caseloads. Currently, there are no statewide data available on court filings, dispositions, and convictions by offense type. However, detailed offense data are available from the Illinois Department of Corrections for those convicted felons sentenced to prison.

Trends in the number of delinquency petitions filed and adjudicated in juvenile court are also presented. Illinois statutes define delinquency offenses as those committed by someone younger than 17 years old that would be considered crimes if committed by someone 17 years of age or older.

In Illinois, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division oversees county probation departments. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in DeKalb County and the other urban counties.

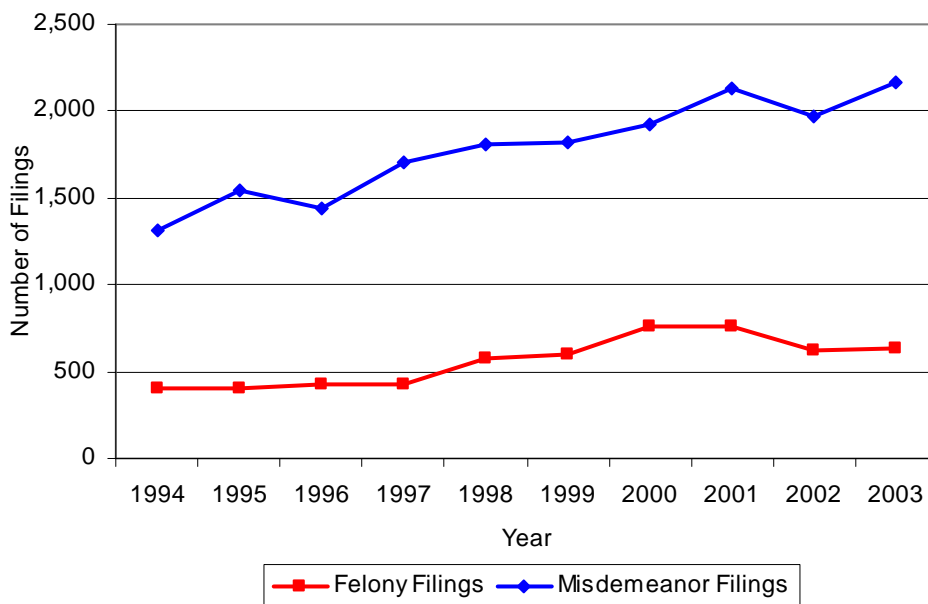
Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in DeKalb County

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts reports data on criminal court cases in two categories: misdemeanors and felonies. After screening a case and deciding it warrants further action, the state's attorney must file formal charges in court. Misdemeanor cases are less serious than felonies and can be punished by a probation sentence of one year or less and less than one year of incarceration. Felony cases, on the other hand, are more serious and can be punished by a probation term up to four years and incarceration for more than one year. When comparing the number of filings across time and across counties, it should be noted that differences in reporting practices exist. For example, when two or more defendants are involved in a single case, some state's attorneys file a single case charging all defendants, while others file a separate case for each suspect.

In 2003, felony and misdemeanor court filings accounted for nearly 9 percent of all filings in DeKalb County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in DeKalb County increased 57 percent, from 406 to 639 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings also increased, increasing 64 percent from 1,318 in 1994 to 2,162 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by more than three to one.

Figure 8

**Felony and Misdemeanor Filings
in DeKalb County**

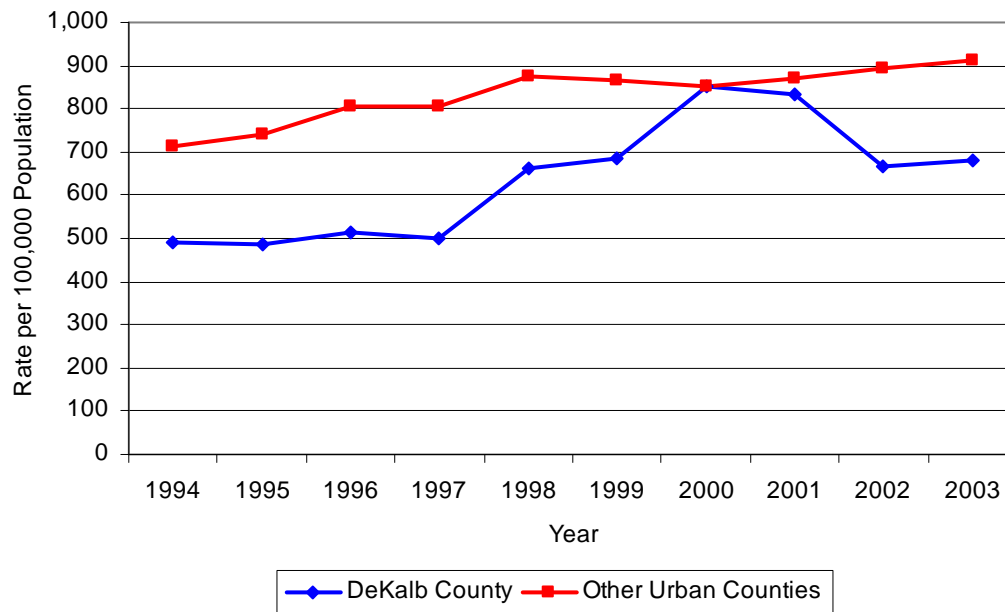


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in DeKalb County increased 39 percent, from 490 to 679 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other urban counties increased 28 percent during this period, from 715 to 914 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in DeKalb County was 26 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 9

Felony Filing Rates in DeKalb and Other Urban Counties



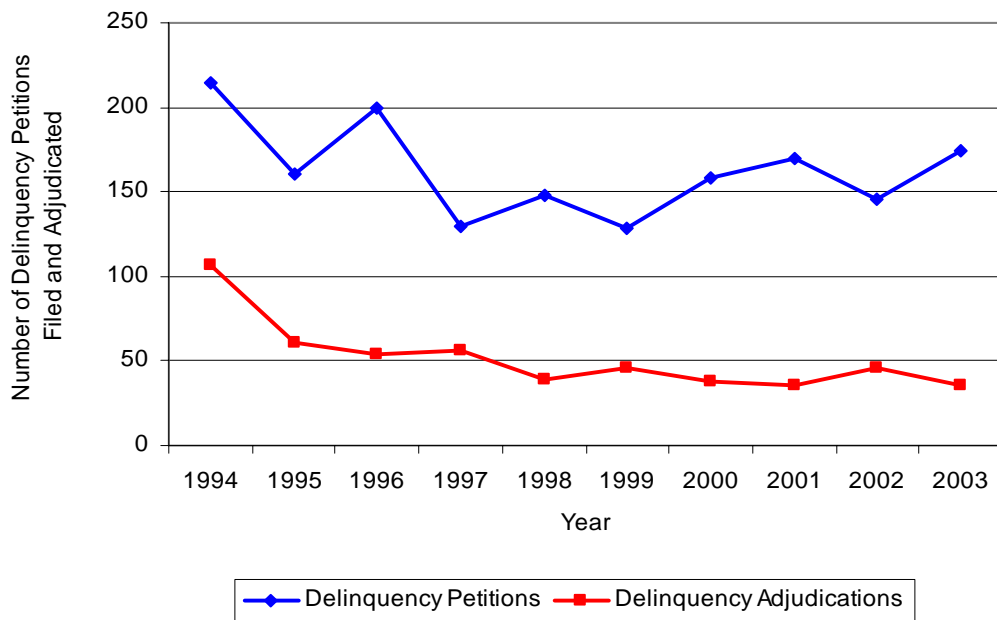
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

Illinois’ juvenile court system differs in several key aspects from the adult criminal court system. One aspect revolves around the difference in treatment between juveniles and adults: the juvenile court process is somewhat less formal and adversarial; authorities are given much more latitude in determining the proper response to each case. Traditionally, the terminology used to describe juvenile proceedings has been less harsh than that used for the adult criminal process. For example, Illinois’ juvenile courts accept “petitions of delinquency” rather than misdemeanor or felony criminal complaints. However, pursuant to the Juvenile Court Reform Act of 1998, criminal court terms, such as “trial” and “sentencing,” have replaced the less harsh “adjudicatory hearing” and “dispositional hearing” terms.

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of reported juvenile delinquency petitions filed in DeKalb County decreased 19 percent, from 215 to 174 (Figure 10). During the period analyzed, the number of reported delinquency adjudications decreased 66 percent, from 107 in 1994 to 36 in 2003. The majority of cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

Figure 10

Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in DeKalb County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

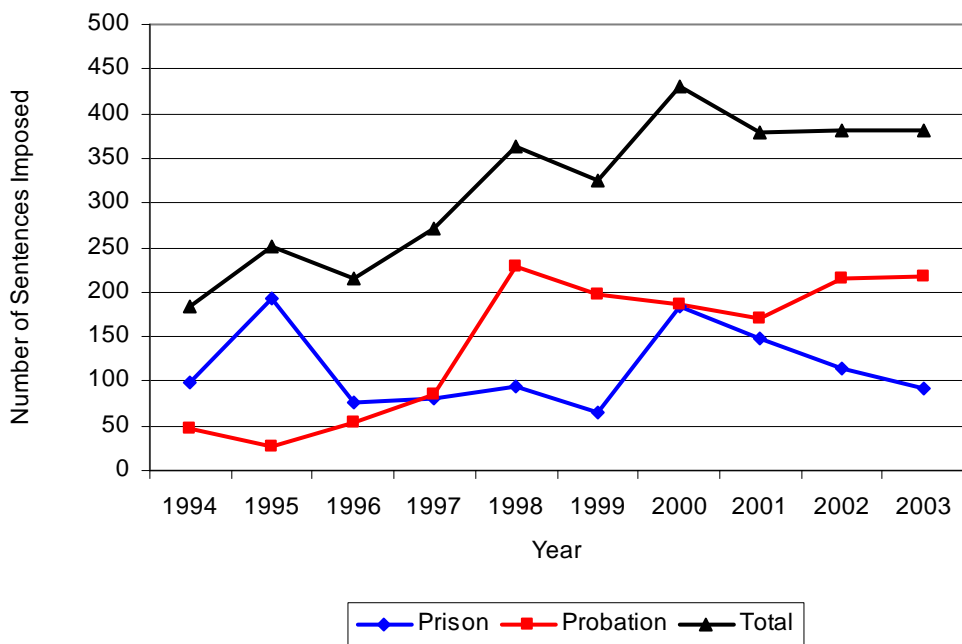
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in DeKalb County decreased 34 percent, from 3,255 to 2,160 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other urban counties decreased 6 percent, from 1,847 to 1,730 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in DeKalb County was 25 percent higher than the rate in the other urban counties.

Anyone convicted of a felony in Illinois can be sentenced either to prison or probation, or receive a conditional discharge. A number of factors influence the type and length of sentence imposed on convicted felons, including the severity of the crime, the offender’s criminal and social history, safety of the community, and legislation affecting certain types of offenses. For some types of convictions a sentence to prison is required by state statute.

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in DeKalb County more than doubled, from 184 to 382 (Figure 11). While the number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period more than quadrupled, from 48 to 217, felony probation sentences increased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 26 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 57 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison decreased from 53 percent in 1994 to 24 percent in 2003. In 2003, 19 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

Figure 11

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in DeKalb County



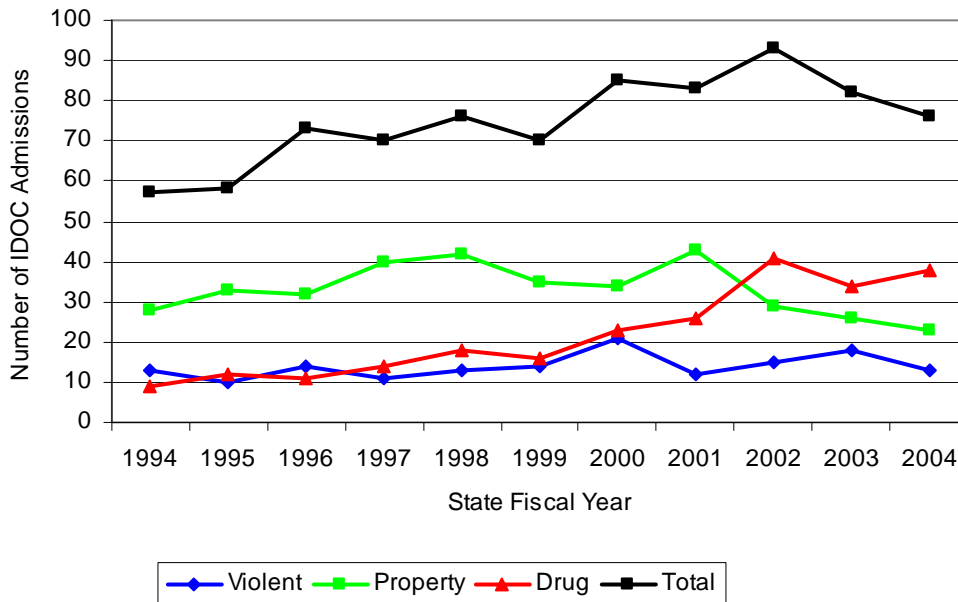
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from DeKalb County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from DeKalb County increased 33 percent, from 57 to 76 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent offender admissions remained the same, while property admissions decreased and drug offender admissions increased. The number of violent offender admissions remained unchanged at 13 between 1994 and 2003, while the number of property offender admissions decreased 18 percent, from 28 to 23, and the number of drug offenders more than quadrupled, from nine in 1994 to 38 in 2003.

Figure 12

IDOC New Court Commitments from DeKalb County, by Offense Type



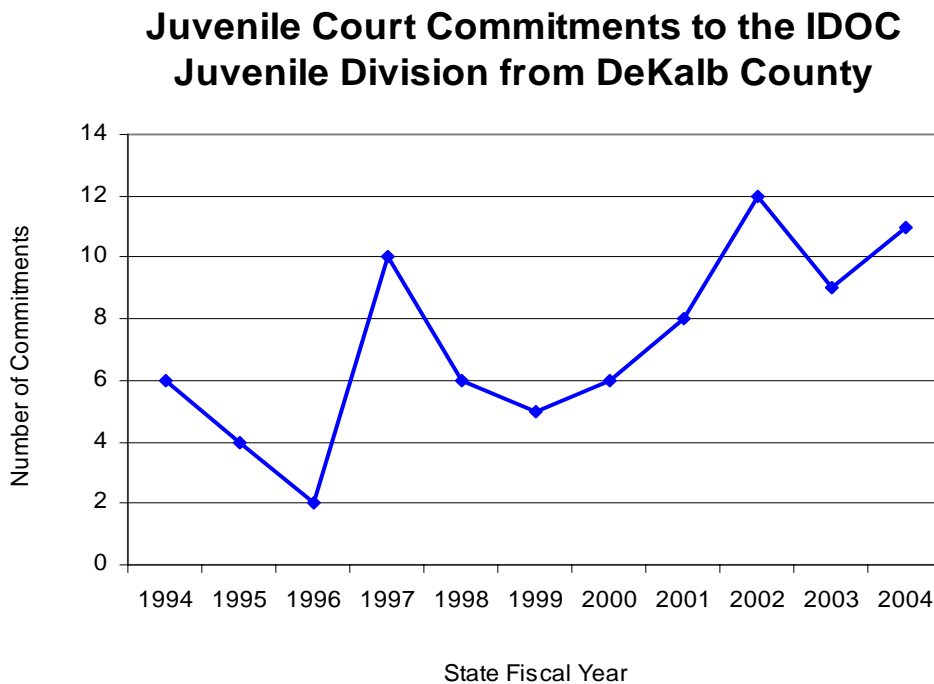
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In State Fiscal Year 2004, violent offenders accounted for 17 percent of all admissions from DeKalb County, while property offenders accounted for 30 percent and drug offenders accounted for 50 percent of all admissions. Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, drug offenders increased from 16 percent to 50 percent of all admissions from DeKalb County.

Juvenile Court Commitments to the Illinois Department of Corrections

The Illinois Department of Corrections' Juvenile Division provides long-term custody for youths, 13 to 17 years old, who have been found delinquent by the juvenile court and committed to the IDOC. Youths may remain in an IDOC juvenile facility until they are 21. Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from DeKalb County increased from six to 11 (Figure 13).

Figure 13



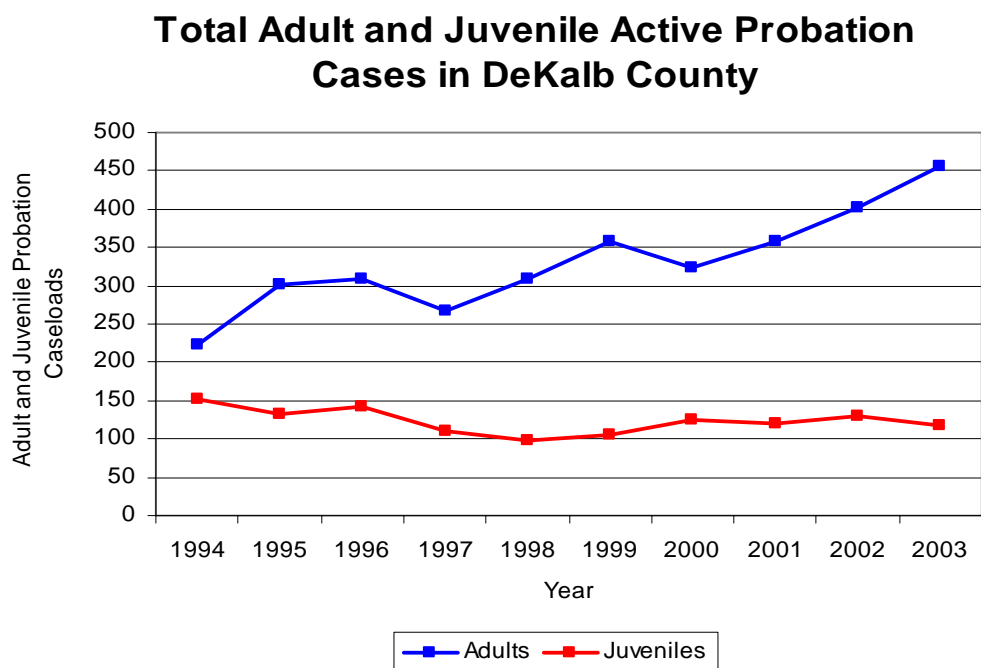
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

In State Fiscal Year 2004, DeKalb County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 189 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 37 percent lower than the rate of 298 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other urban counties.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in DeKalb County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in DeKalb County more than doubled, from 224 to 457 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 70 percent of DeKalb County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the DeKalb County Juvenile Probation Department decreased 23 percent, from 151 to 117. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other urban counties increased 28 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 38 percent.

Figure 14



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in DeKalb County increased 80 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 270 to 486 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 23 percent in the other urban counties, from 667 to 822 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in DeKalb County was 41 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

IV. Jail Populations in DeKalb County

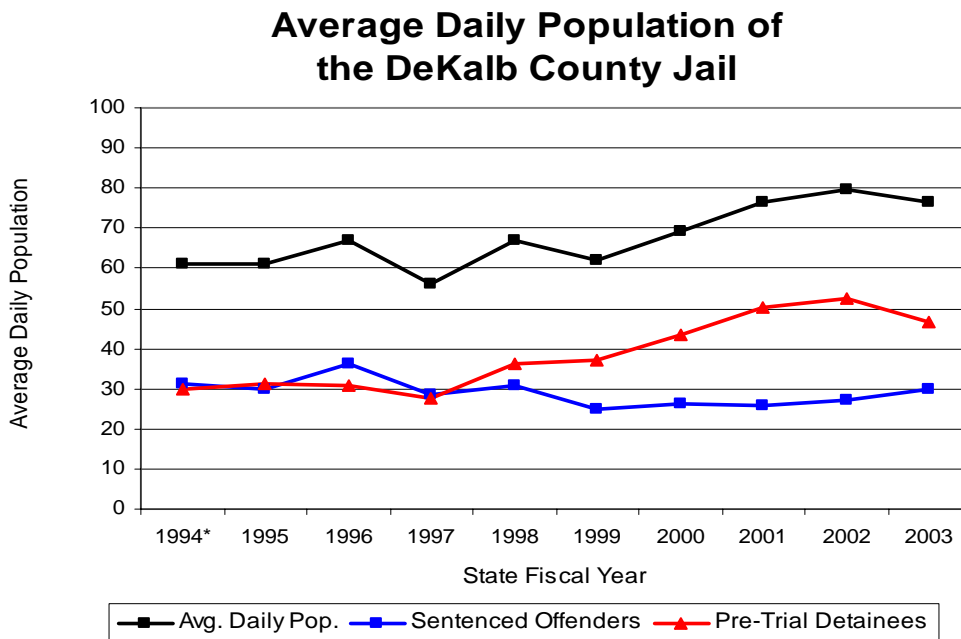
Jail data in Illinois are collected by the Illinois Department of Corrections' Bureau of Inspections and Audits. As with court data, data are not available detailing the specific offenses for which offenders were held in county jails. In addition, between SFYs 1992 and 1994, the IDOC did not collect Illinois jail population data. Data presented for SFY 1994 were estimated by the Authority using the reported SFYs 1991 and 1995 data.

Average Daily Population of the DeKalb County Jail

The DeKalb County Jail was one of 91 county jails in operation in Illinois during State Fiscal Year 2003. There are 11 counties that did not operate a jail of their own; they rely on other counties to house their pretrial detainees and sentenced offenders at either a per-diem or contracted rate.

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the average daily population of the DeKalb County Jail increased 25 percent, from 61 to 76 inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for an increased percentage of the average daily population; from 49 percent in SFY1994 to 61 percent in SFY 2003. On the other hand, sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for a decreased percentage; 51 percent in SFY 1994 compared to 39 percent in SFY 2003.

Figure 15

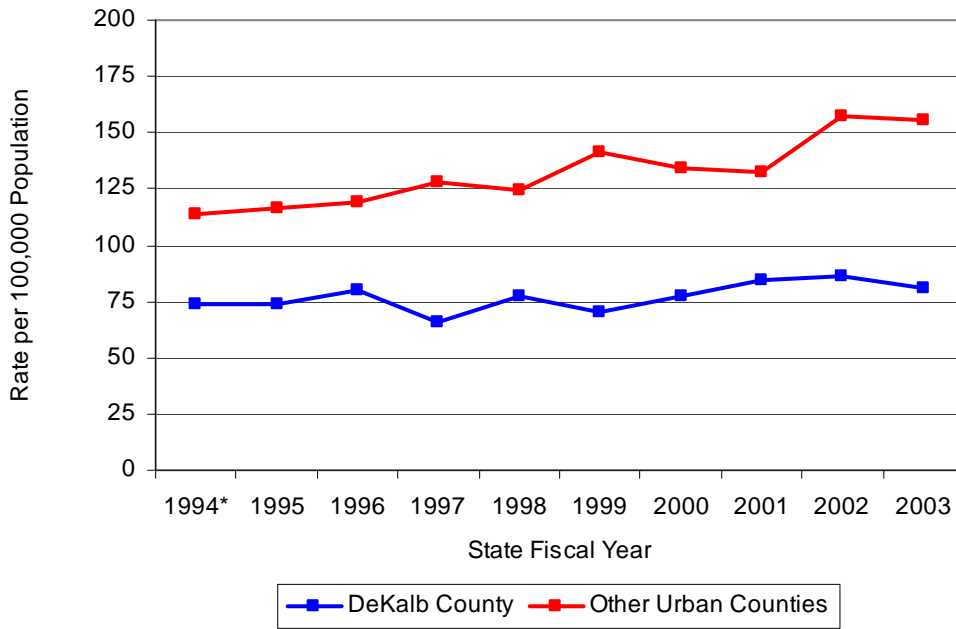


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections
 *Information estimated by ICJIA

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in DeKalb County increased 10 percent from 74 inmates per 100,000 population in SFY 1994 to 81 inmates per 100,000 population in SFY 2003 (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other urban counties increased 36 percent, from 114 to 155 inmates per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the DeKalb County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 48 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 16

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,
DeKalb and Other Urban Counties**



Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois Department of Corrections and U.S. Census Bureau data

* Information estimated by ICJIA

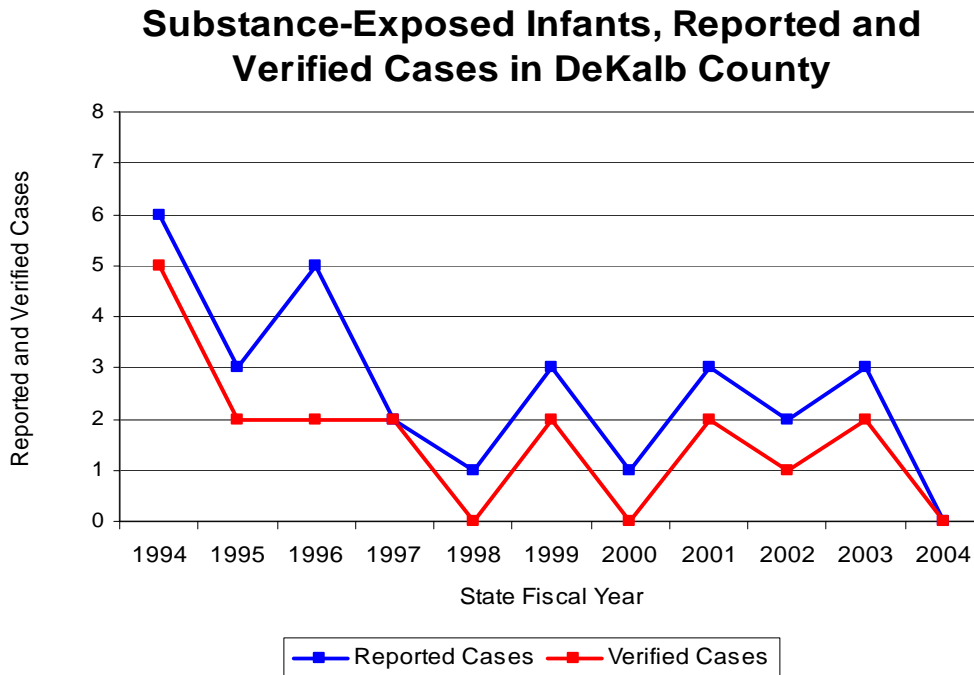
V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in DeKalb County

Substance-Exposed Infants in DeKalb County

Illinois continues to experience the effects of prenatal substance abuse. In Illinois, if a baby is born and thought to have been exposed to illegal substances or alcohol, either through observation by physicians or toxicology tests, the case is reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). These cases are then investigated by DCFS to verify the child's prenatal exposure to either alcohol or illegal substances. Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed infant.

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants reported in DeKalb County decreased from six to zero. During the same period, the number of verified cases decreased from five to zero (Figure 17).

Figure 17



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

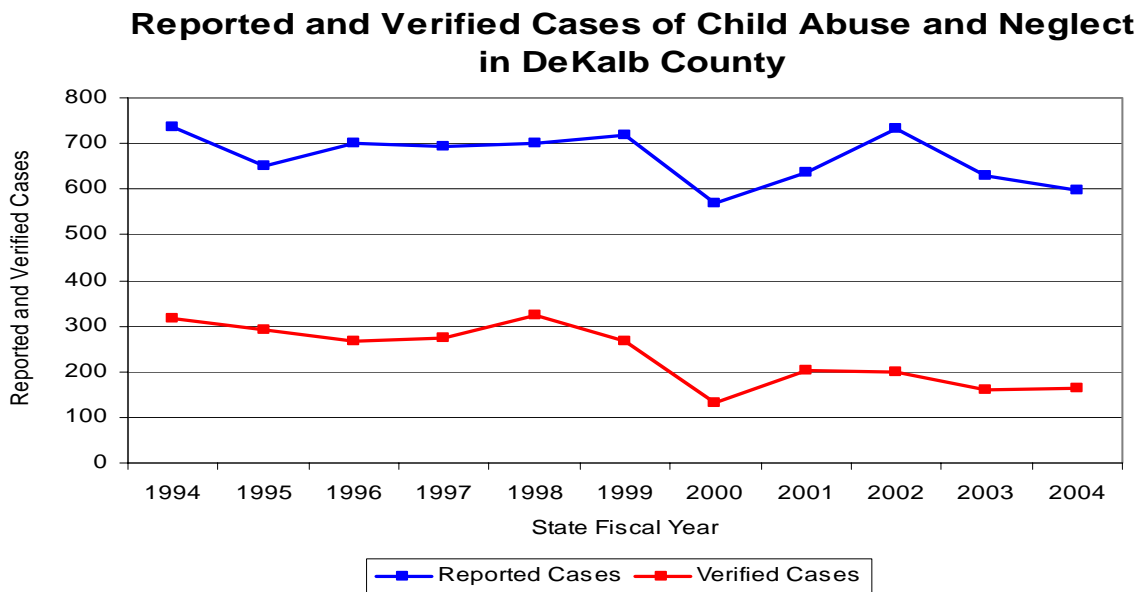
Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other urban counties decreased 40 percent, from 358 to 215, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 42 percent, from 337 to 196.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in DeKalb County

Recent research on the relationship between maltreatment of youth and delinquency has revealed an important distinction between child maltreatment and adolescent maltreatment. Using data from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency, researchers have found that youth that were abused during childhood (12 years of age or less) were no more likely to become delinquent than youth who were not abused, but youth who were abused during adolescence (after age 12) were significantly more likely to be delinquent.¹ While prior child abuse may not be linked to juvenile delinquency, studies examining prior child abuse have shown that childhood victimization may be linked to other poor outcomes in youth, including low academic achievement, teenage parenthood (particularly for females), drug use, and symptoms of mental illness.² Additionally, research examining adolescent victimization (including physical and sexual assaults) and adult outcomes has found a correlation between previous victimization and substance abuse, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder in adulthood.³ In Illinois, DCFS investigates reported cases of child abuse.

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in DeKalb County decreased 19 percent, from 737 to 597 (Figure 18). During that same period, 1,596 cases, or 35 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in DeKalb County decreased 48 percent between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, from 318 to 165.

Figure 18



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

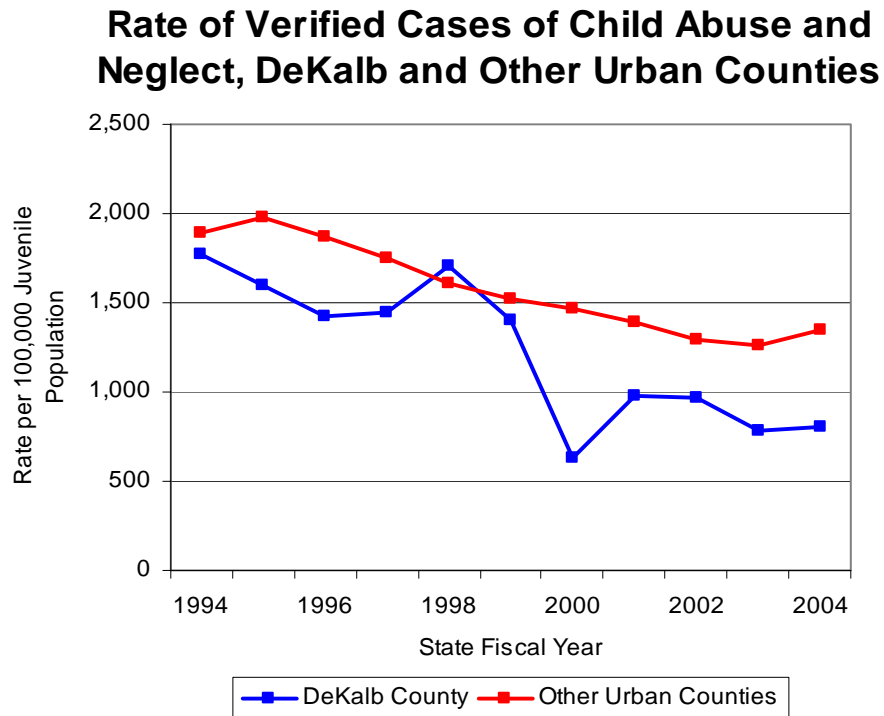
¹ Thornberry, Terence P., David Huizinga and Rolf Loeber. 2004. “The Causes and Correlates Studies: Findings and Policy Implications.” *Juvenile Justice Journal*. 9:1. Washington, D.C. : U.S. Government Printing Office.

² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

³ Menard, S. 2002. 2002. “Short and Long-Term Consequences of Adolescent Victimization.” *Youth Research Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Between State Fiscal Year s 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in DeKalb County decreased from 1,771 to 802 per 100,000 juveniles, a 55 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 29 percent in the other urban counties, from 1,896 to 1,353 per 100,000 juveniles. In State Fiscal Year 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in DeKalb County was nearly 41 percent lower than in the other urban counties.

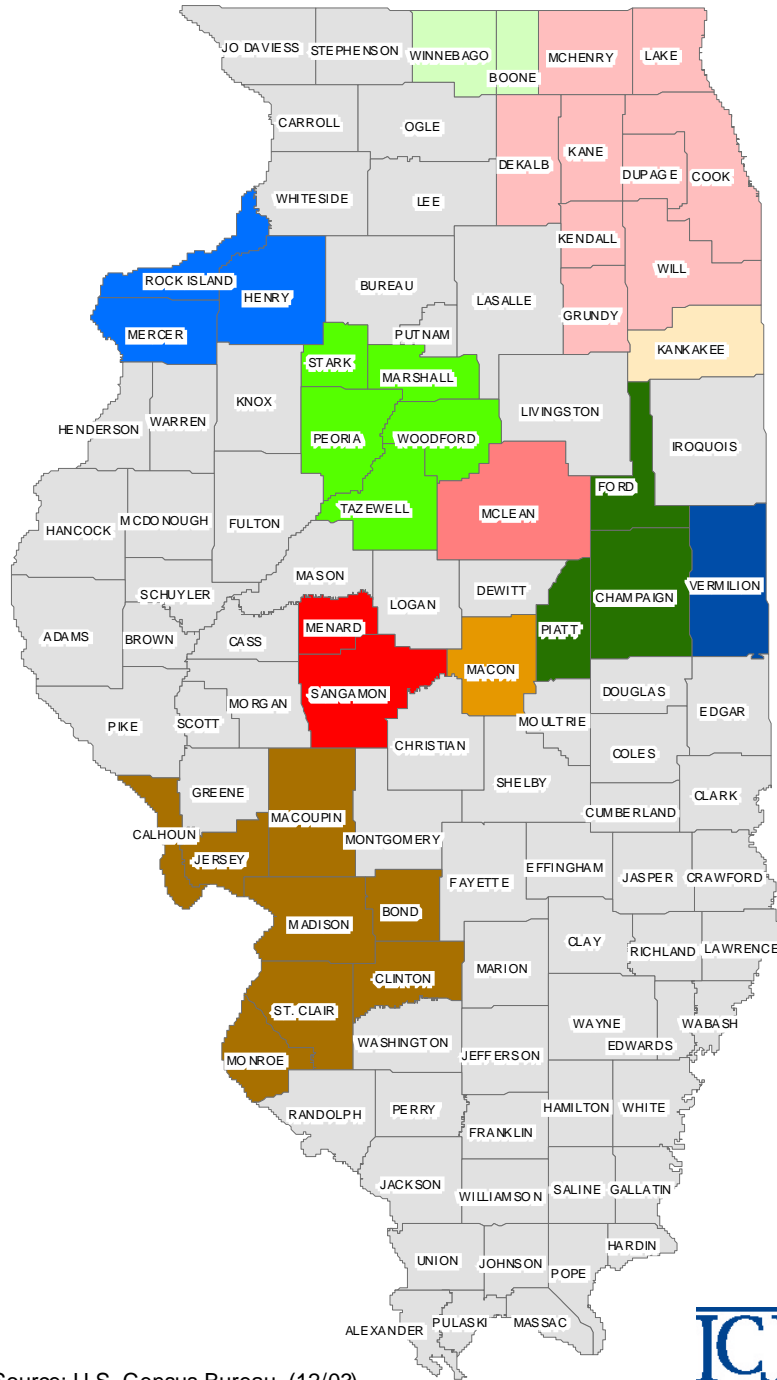
Figure 19



Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and U.S. Census Bureau data

VI. Appendix I (Map of Illinois Counties within a Metropolitan Statistical Area)

Illinois Counties, by Metropolitan Statistical Area*



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