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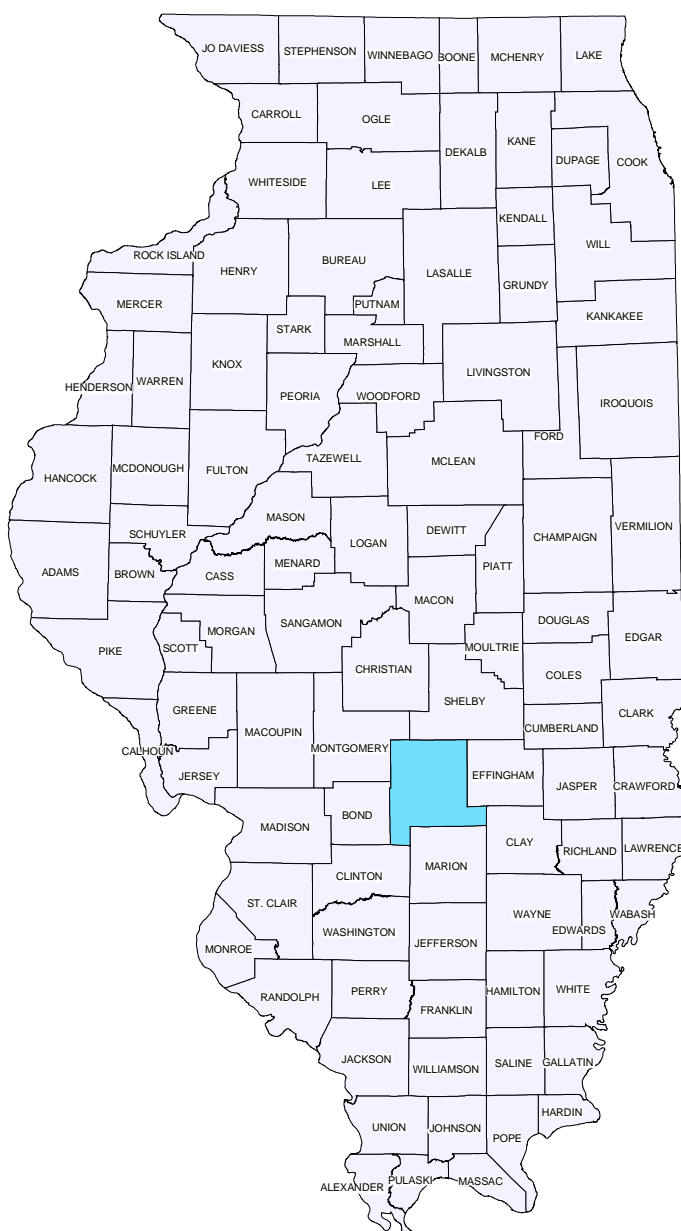
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## Research and Program Evaluation in Illinois: The Extent and Nature of Drug and Violent Crime in Illinois' Counties



## A Profile of the Fayette 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

Fayette County, located in southern Illinois, covers an area of 717 square miles and had a 2003 population of 21,539, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Fayette County was the 21<sup>st</sup> largest county in Illinois geographically, but 57<sup>th</sup> largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Fayette County had the 20<sup>th</sup> smallest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Fayette 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, Fayette County is one of Illinois' 66 rural counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Fayette County will be compared to those trends experienced in the other rural 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 Fayette 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 that 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.

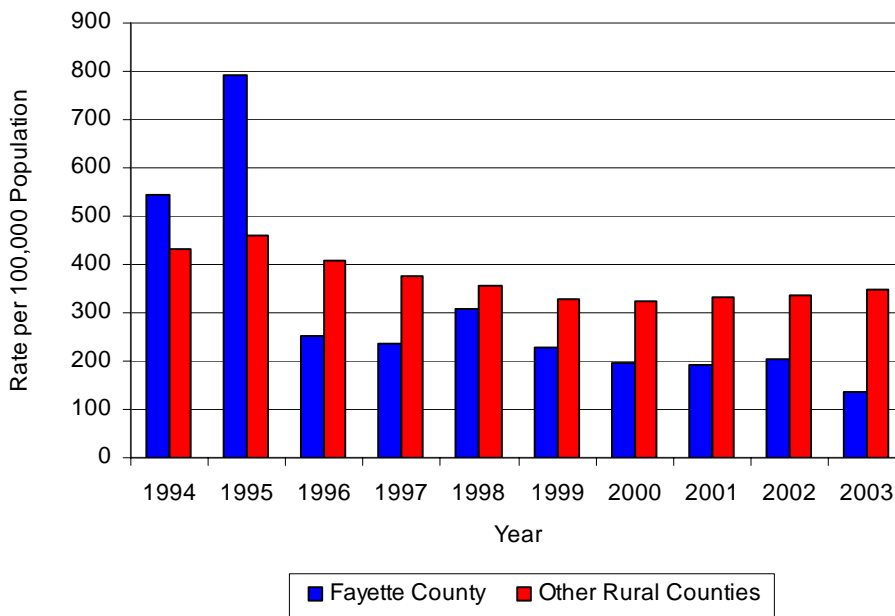
*Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Fayette County*

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 75 percent in Fayette County between 1994 and 2003, from 114 to 29. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (55 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Fayette County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Fayette County also decreased 75 percent, from 543 to 135 offenses per 100,000 population. During that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 19 percent, from 432 to 349 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Fayette County was 61 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 1**

**Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Fayette and Other Rural Counties**



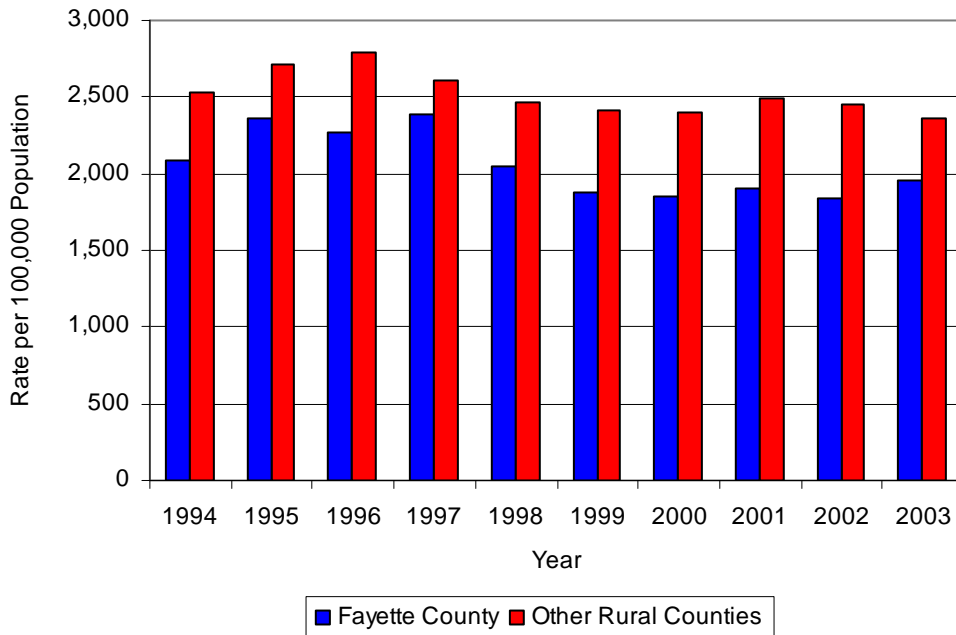
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

*Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Fayette County*

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Fayette County decreased 4 percent, from 438 to 421. Thefts accounted for 67 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Fayette County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Fayette County decreased 6 percent, from 2,085 to 1,955 offenses per 100,000 population. Similarly, the property Index offense rate in the other rural counties also decreased 6 percent, from 2,527 to 2,367 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). Fayette County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 17 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 2**  
**Total Property Index Offense Rates in Fayette and Other Rural Counties**



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

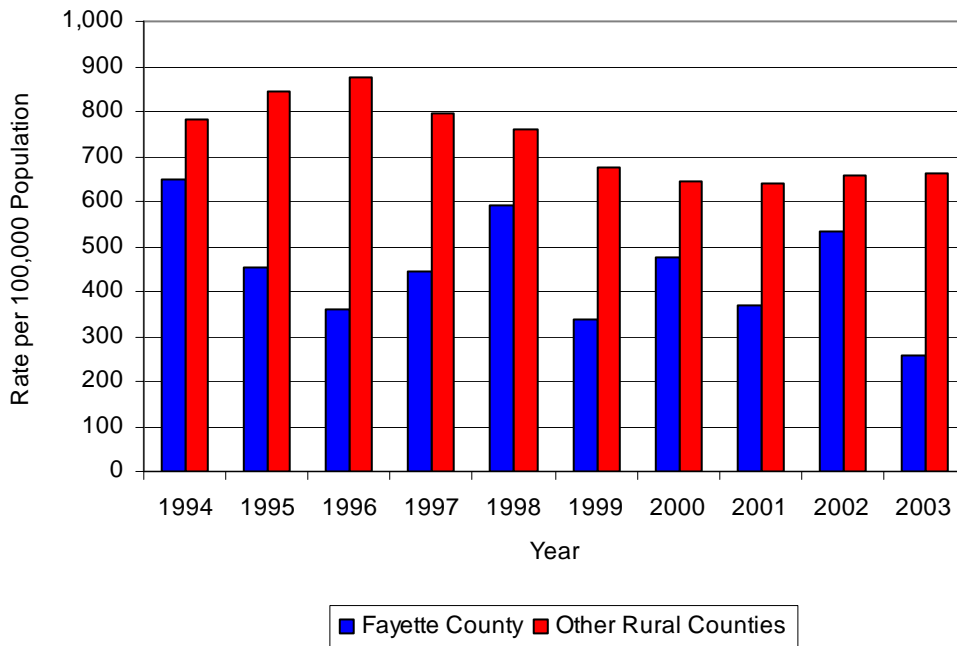
*Index Arrests by Fayette County Law Enforcement Agencies*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Fayette County decreased 59 percent, from 136 to 56. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 56 Index arrests made in Fayette County during 2003, 36 percent were for violent Index crimes and 64 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Fayette County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 90 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 69 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Fayette County decreased 60 percent, from 647 to 260 arrests per 100,000 population. During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 16 percent, from 784 to 662 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). In 2003, Fayette County's Index arrest rate was 61 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 3**

**Index Arrest Rates in Fayette and Other Rural Counties**



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

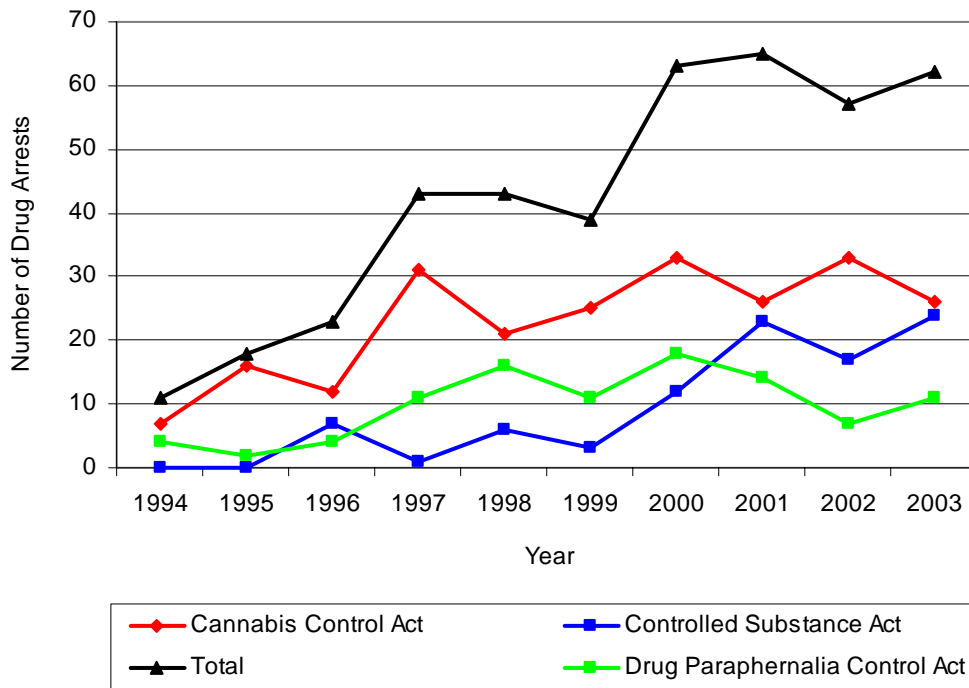
*Drug Offense Arrests in Fayette County*

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) increased nearly five-fold in Fayette County, from 11 to 62 (Figure 4). Similar to other counties, total drug arrests in Fayette County remained relatively stable between 1983 and 1992, before increasing annually nearly every year thereafter.

During the period analyzed, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Fayette County have consistently 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 Fayette County nearly quadrupled, from seven to 26. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased significantly in Fayette County, increasing from zero to 24, during the same period (Figure 4).

**Figure 4**

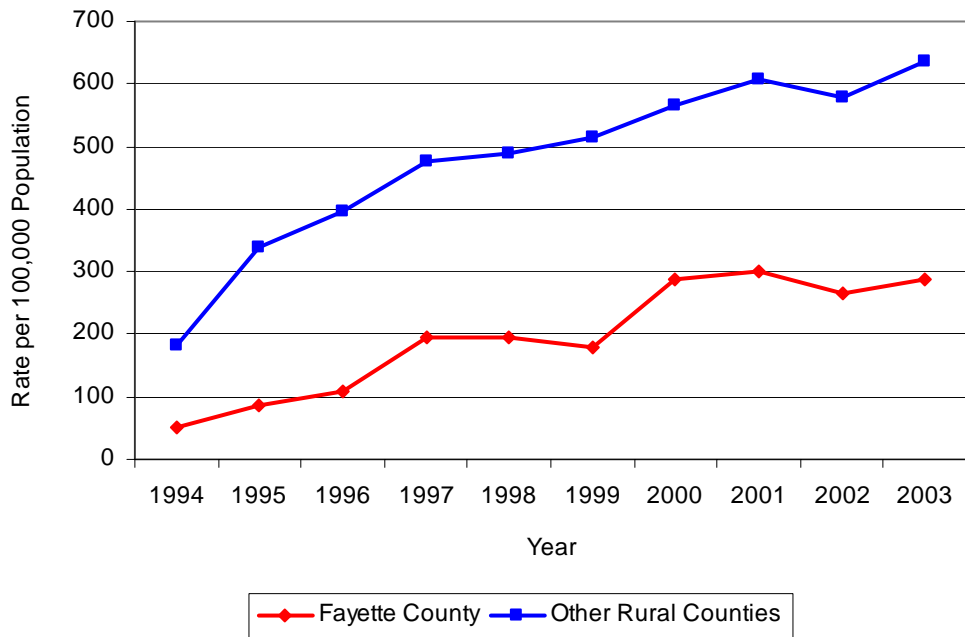
**Drug Arrests in Fayette County**



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Fayette County increased more than four-fold, from 52 to 288 per 100,000 population. The total drug arrest rate in the other rural counties also increased dramatically, more than doubling between 1994 and 2003, from 182 to 637 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 5). In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Fayette County was 55 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 5**  
**Drug Arrest Rates in Fayette**  
**and Other Rural Counties**



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

### Drugs Seized in Fayette County

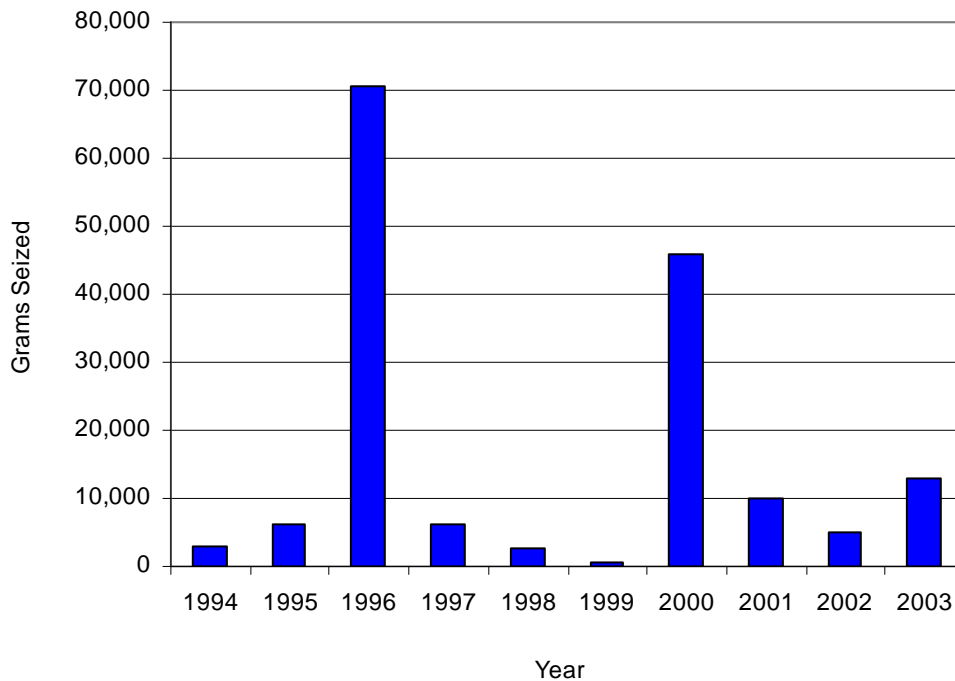
Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of the illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies in Illinois, they are submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois 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 Fayette County.

### *Cannabis Seized in Fayette County*

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Fayette County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Although there were large variations in the number of grams of cannabis seized between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Fayette County increased more than three-fold, from 2,959 grams to 12,960 grams, while reaching a period high of 70,675 grams seized in 1996 (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**

### **Cannabis Seized in Fayette County**



Source: Illinois State Police

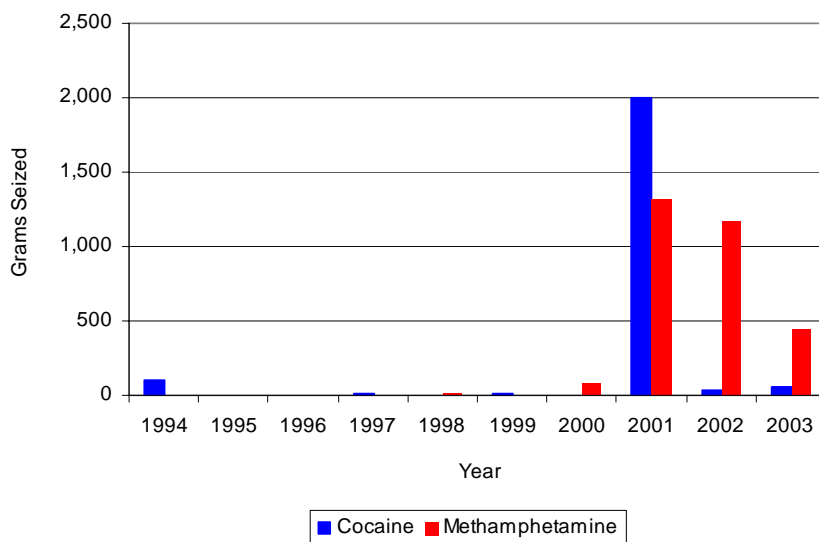
During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other rural counties decreased 57 percent, from 605,190 grams to 259,683 grams. In 2003, Fayette County had a cannabis seizure rate of 60,171grams per 100,000 population, more than triple the rate of 15,558 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

### *Cocaine and Methamphetamine Seized in Fayette County*

During the past decade, it is clear that methamphetamine “activity” in the state has increased drastically and has become a significant drug problem in many jurisdictions. Further, the extent to which law enforcement agencies are encountering methamphetamine has also dispersed across a large area of the state, with most of this being fueled by activities taking place in Illinois’ rural jurisdictions.

The quantity of cocaine seized in Fayette County decreased between 1994 and 2003, while the quantity of methamphetamine seized increased. The quantity of cocaine (cocaine includes both powder cocaine and crack cocaine) seized in Fayette County decreased 42 percent, from 98 grams in 1994 to 56 grams in 2003. Conversely, the quantity of methamphetamine seized in Fayette County jumped from zero grams in 1994 to 438 grams in 2003, while seizing a period high of 1,322 grams in 2001 (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**  
**Cocaine\* and Methamphetamine**  
**Seized in Fayette County**



Source: Illinois State Police  
\*Cocaine includes powder and crack

The quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased dramatically during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of total cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased 79 percent, from 71,181 grams to 15,113 grams. During the same period, the quantity of methamphetamine seized in the other rural counties increased from 2,619 grams in 1994 to 12,779 grams in 2003. In 2003, 262 grams of cocaine were seized per 100,000 population in Fayette County, dramatically lower than the 907 grams of cocaine seized per 100,000 population in the other rural counties. Conversely, in 2003, Fayette County had a methamphetamine seizure rate of 2,034 grams seized per 100,000 population, a rate nearly quadruple the rate of 766 grams of methamphetamine seized in the other rural counties.



### **III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Fayette 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.

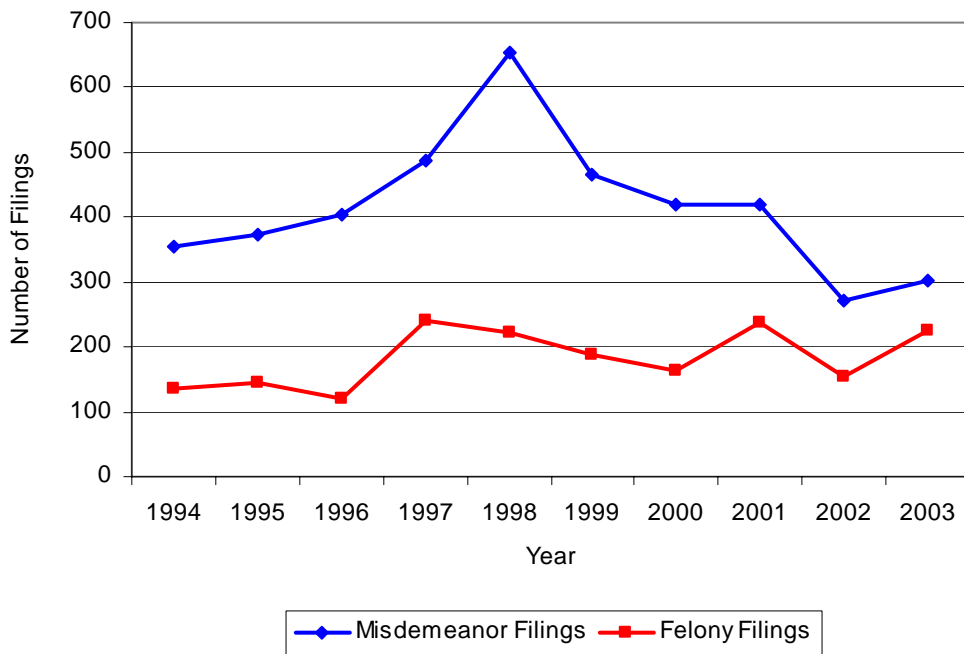
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Fayette County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

#### *Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Fayette 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 8 percent of all filings in Fayette County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Fayette County increased 64 percent, from 137 to 224. During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 15 percent, from 355 in 1994 to 301 in 2003 (Figure 8).

**Figure 8**  
**Felony and Misdemeanor Filings in Fayette County**

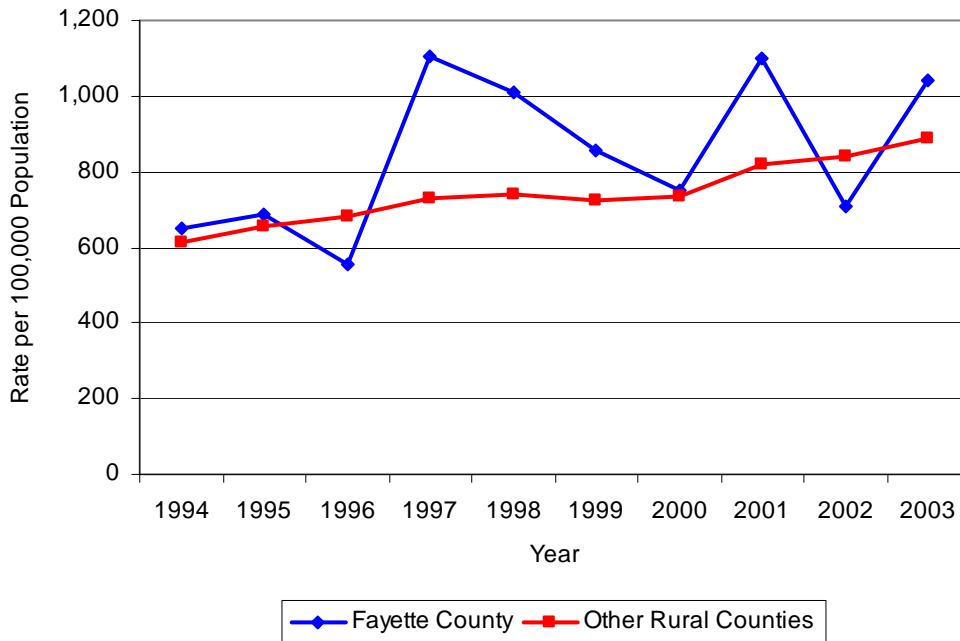


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Fayette County increased 60 percent, from 652 to 1,040 cases per 100,000 population. Similarly, the felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 45 percent during this period, from 614 to 887 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Fayette County was 17 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 9**

**Felony Filing Rates in Fayette and Other Rural Counties**



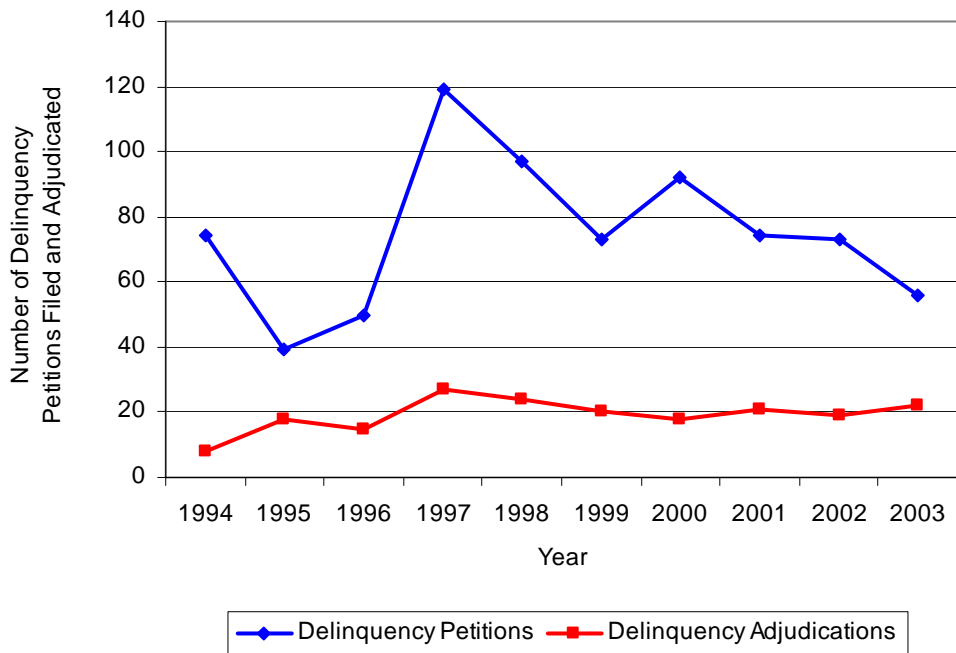
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 courts process the somewhat less formal and adversarial; authorities are given much more latitude in determining the proper responses 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 court 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 juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Fayette County decreased 24 percent, from 74 to 56. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of delinquency adjudications nearly tripled, from eight to 22 (Figure 10). In 2003, 39 percent of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. The majority of cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

**Figure 10**

**Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Fayette County**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

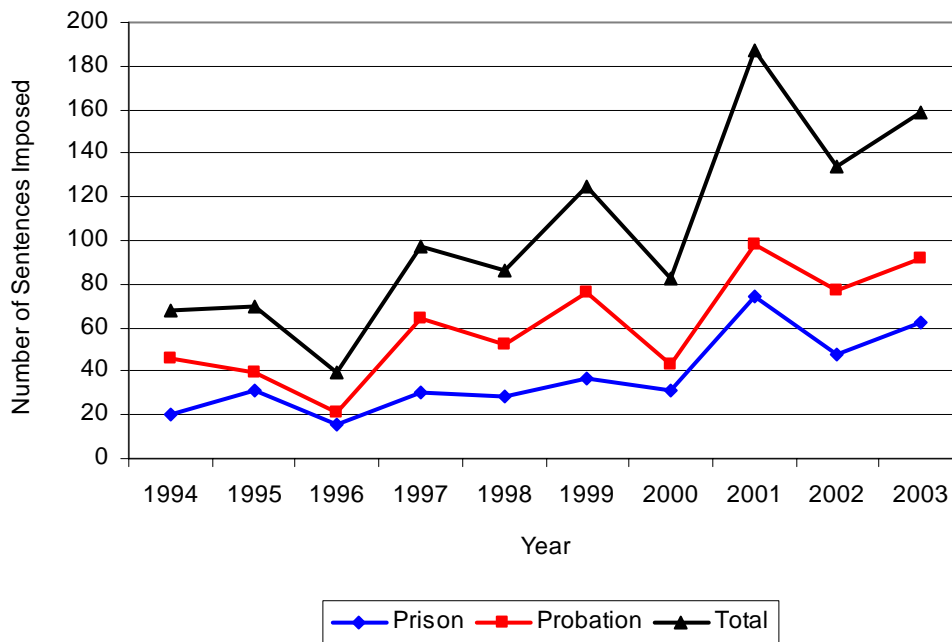
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Fayette County decreased 25 percent, from 3,439 to 2,587 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 13 percent, from 1,994 to 2,262 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Fayette County was 14 percent higher than the rate in the other rural 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 Fayette County more than doubled, from 68 to 159 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to prison during this period more than tripled, from 20 to 62, while the number of felony probation sentences doubled, from 46 to 92. Despite the increase, felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences, while prison sentences accounted for an increased proportion of felony sentences. In 1994, 68 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 58 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison increased from 29 percent to 39 percent. In 2003, 3 percent of convicted felons in Fayette County were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

**Figure 11**

**Sentences Imposed on Felons  
Convicted in Fayette County**



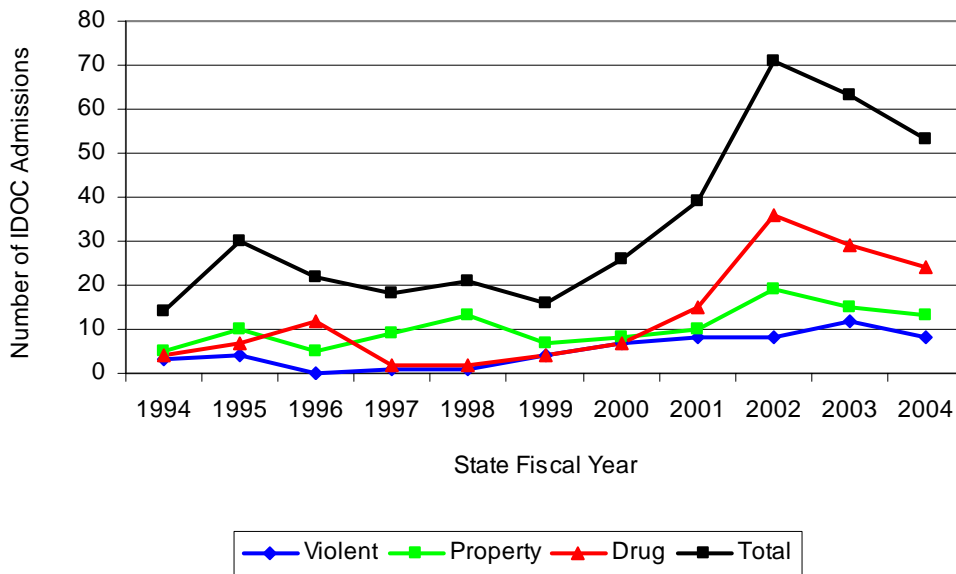
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

## Adult Prison Admissions from Fayette County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Fayette County nearly quadrupled, from 14 to 53 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent, property, and drug offender admissions increased. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of violent offender admissions increased from three to eight, while the number of property offender admissions increased from five to 13 and the number of drug offender admissions increased from four to 24.

Figure 12

### IDOC New Court Commitment from Fayette County, by Offense Type



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

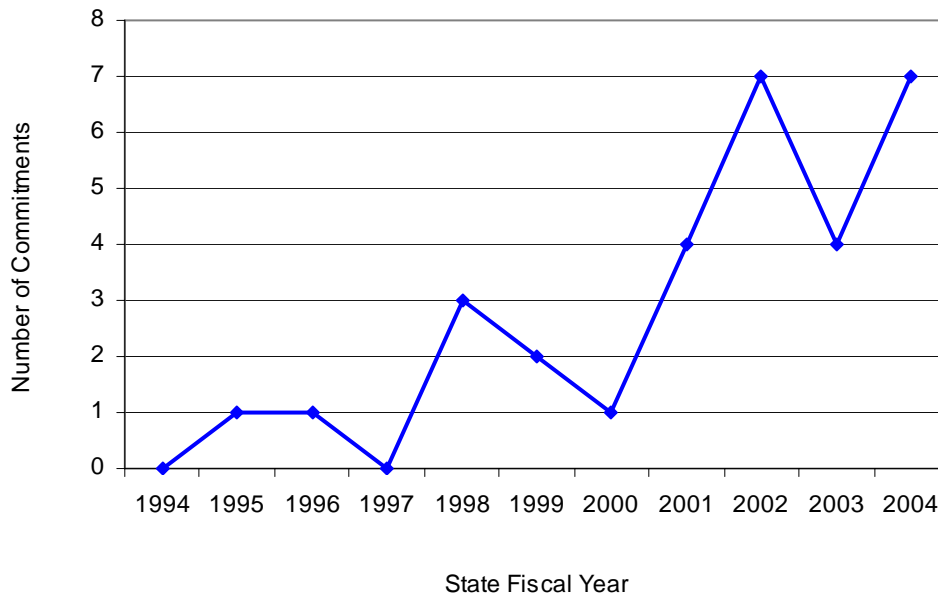
Despite these increases, violent and property offenders accounted for decreased proportions of all admissions from Fayette County between SFYs 1994 and 2004, decreasing from 21 percent and 36 percent, respectively, in 1994 to 15 percent and 25 percent, respectively, in SFY 2004. On the other hand, drug offenders accounted for an increased proportion of admissions, increasing from 29 percent in SFY 1994 to 45 percent in SFY 2004.

## 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 2004, the number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Fayette County increased from zero to seven (Figure 13).

Figure 13

### Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from Fayette County



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

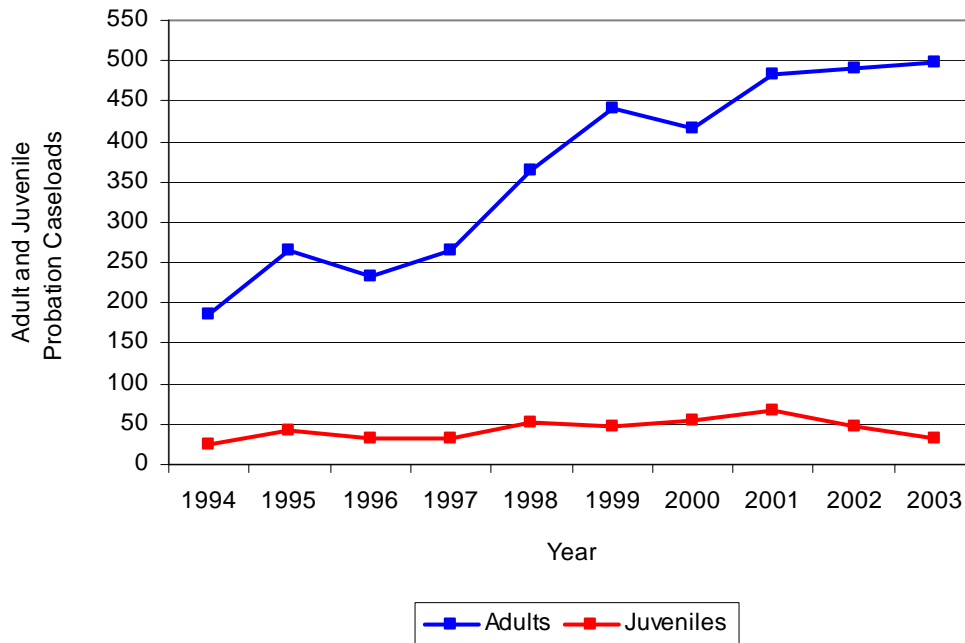
In SFY 2004, Fayette County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 336 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 47 percent higher than the rate of 228 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other rural counties.

## Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Fayette County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Fayette County more than doubled, from 185 to 498 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 18 percent of Fayette County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Department increased 23 percent, from 26 to 32. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other rural counties increased 37 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased less than 1 percent.

Figure 14

### Total Adult and Juvenile Active Probation Cases in Fayette County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Fayette County also more than doubled between 1994 and 2003, from 881 to 2,312 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 38 percent in the other rural counties, from 743 to 1,027 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Fayette County was more than double the rate in the other rural counties.



#### IV. Jail Populations in Fayette County

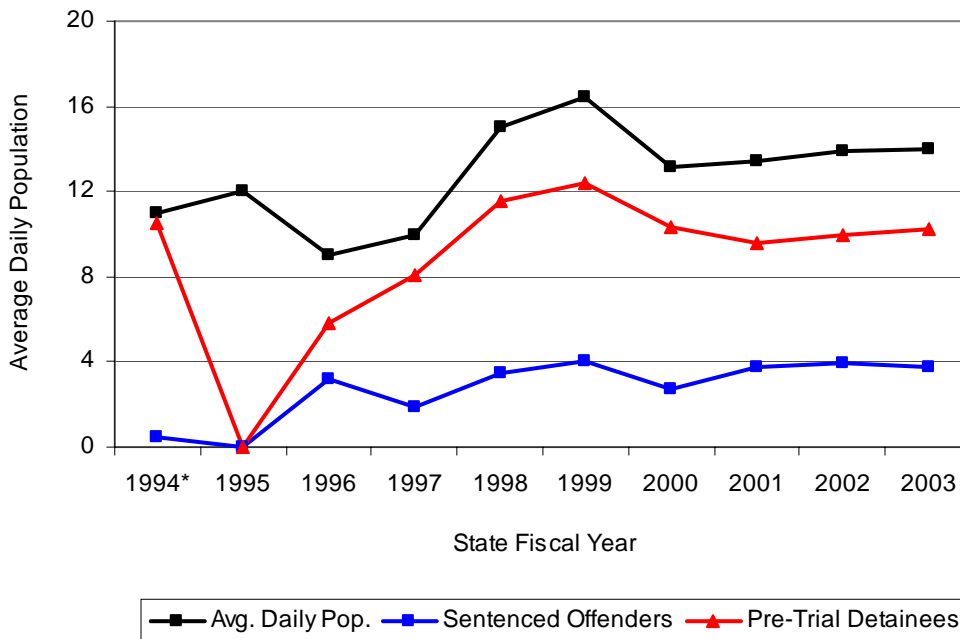
Jail data in Illinois are collected by the Illinois Department of Corrections' Bureau of Inspections and Audits. As with court data, data are not available detailing the specific offenses for which offenders were held in county jails. In addition, between SFYs 1992 and 1994, the IDOC did not collect 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 Fayette County Jail*

The Fayette 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 SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily population of the Fayette County Jail increased 27 percent, from 11 to 14 inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for a decreased percentage of the average daily population; decreasing from 96 percent in SFY 1994 to 73 percent in SFY 2003. Conversely, sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for an increased percentage; increasing from 4 percent in SFY 1994 to 27 percent in SFY 2003.

**Figure 15**  
**Average Daily Population of the Fayette County Jail**



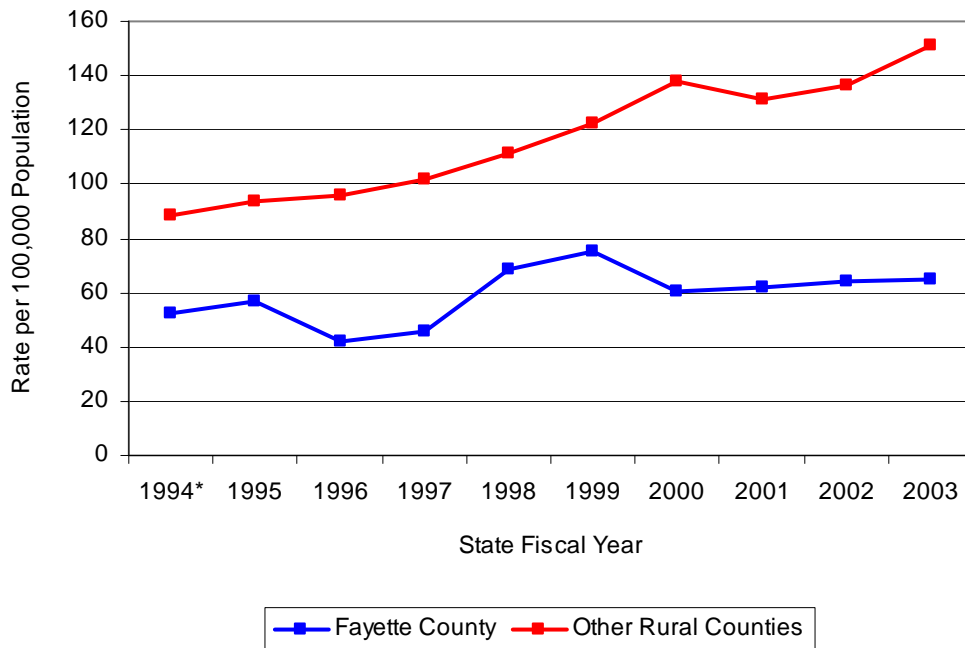
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

\* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Fayette County increased 24 percent, from 52 to 65 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other rural counties increased 71 percent, from 88 to 151 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Fayette County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 57 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 16**

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates, Fayette and Other Rural 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 Fayette County**

### **Substance-Exposed Infants in Fayette 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.

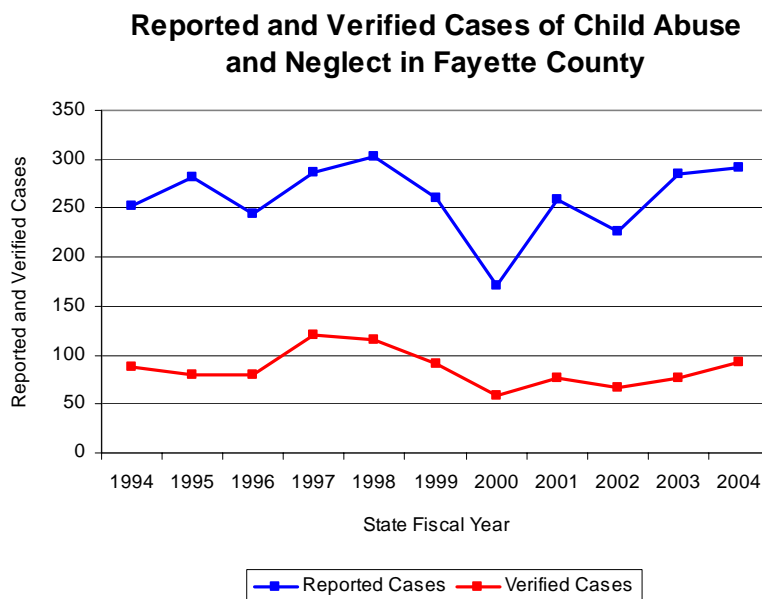
Between SFYs 1994 and 2004 (SFY 2003), there were two cases of substance-exposed infants reported and verified in Fayette County. During the same period, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 23 percent, from 83 to 102, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants increased 43 percent, from 44 to 63.

## Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Fayette 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> In Illinois, DCFS investigates reported cases of child abuse.

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Fayette County increased 15 percent, from 253 to 292 (Figure 17). During that same period, 946 cases, or 33 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Fayette County increased 6 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 88 to 93.

Figure 17



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

<sup>1</sup> 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.

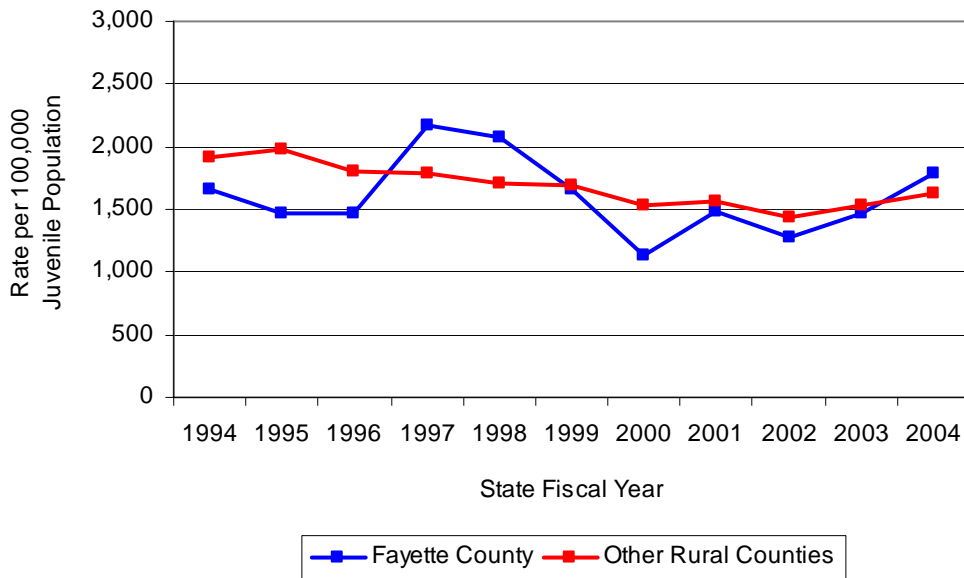
<sup>2</sup> Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. "In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>3</sup> Menard, S. 2002. "Short and Long-Term Consequences of Adolescent Victimization." *Youth Research Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Fayette County increased from 1,653 to 1,793 per 100,000 juveniles, an 8 percent increase (Figure 18). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 15 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,912 to 1,633 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Fayette County was 10 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 18**

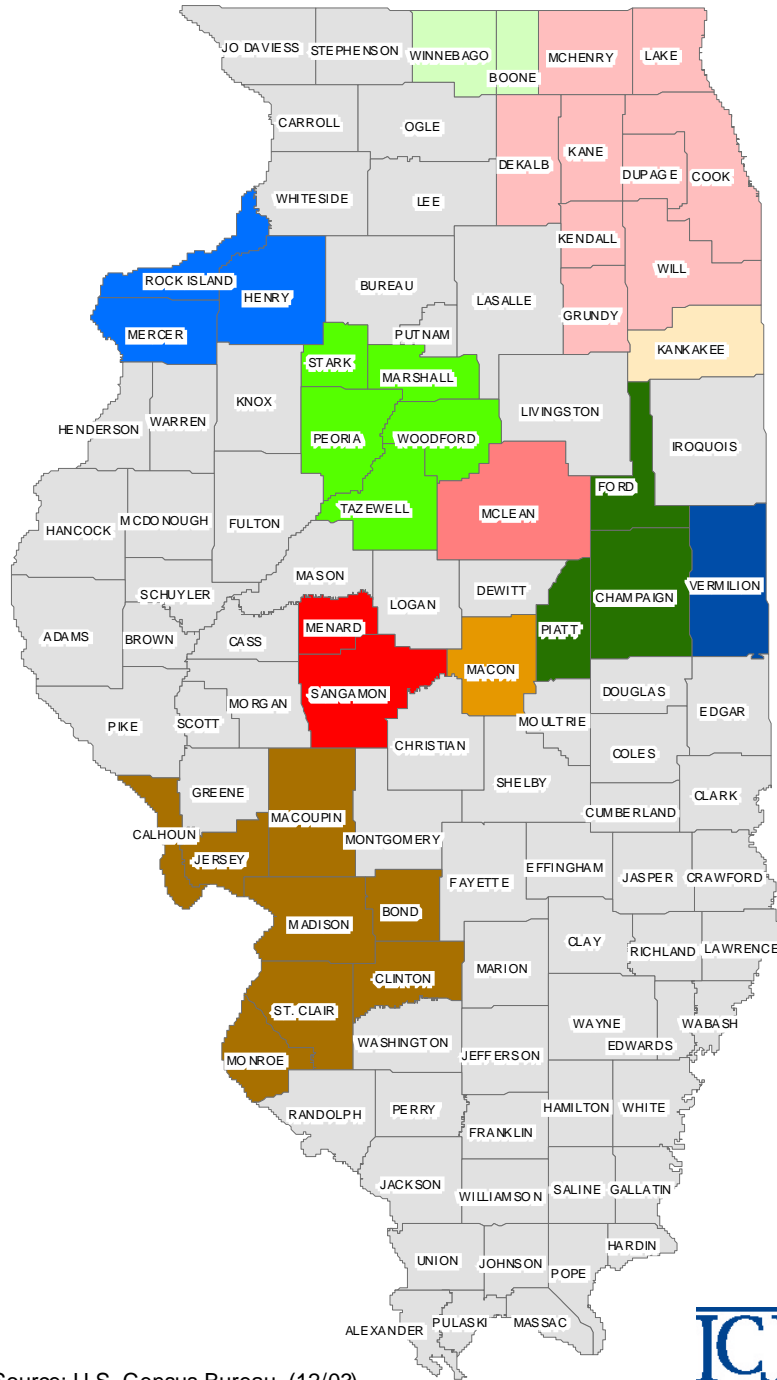
**Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Fayette and All Other Rural Counties**



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\*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (12/03)



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