

120 S. Riverside Plaza,  
Suite 1016  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Tel: (312) 793-8550  
Fax: (312) 793-8422  
TDD: (312) 793-4170

[www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us)

*Prepared by*

**The Research and  
Analysis Unit**

**Rod R. Blagojevich  
Governor**

**Sheldon Sorosky  
Chairman**

**Lori G. Levin  
Executive Director**

**December  
2004**

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



## A Profile of the Hamilton County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems



This project was supported by Grant # 02-DB-MU-0017, awarded to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following programs, offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority  
120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1016  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3997  
Telephone (312) 793-8550  
Telefax (312) 793-8422  
World Wide Website <http://www.icjia.state.il.us>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A number of organizations and individuals put a great deal of effort into the development of this document. The Authority's Research and Analysis Unit is very grateful for the assistance provided by the following organizations:

*Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts*  
*Illinois Department of Children and Family Services*  
*U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census*  
*Illinois Department of Corrections*  
*Illinois State Police*

This document was put together by the following Research and Analysis Unit staff:

*Sharyn Adams*  
*Jessica Ashley*  
*Robert Bauer*  
*Christopher Humble*  
*Christine Martin*  
*Adriana Perez*  
*Idetta Phillips*  
*Michelle Repp*

## CONTENTS

Section	Page Number
I. Introduction .....	1
II. Law Enforcement Activities in Hamilton County .....	3
III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Hamilton County .....	11
IV. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in Hamilton County.....	19
V. Appendix I (Map of Illinois Counties within a Metropolitan Statistical Area).....	22
VI. Bibliography .....	23

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page Number
Figure 1. Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Hamilton and Other Rural Counties .....	4
Figure 2. Total Property Index Offense Rates in Hamilton and Other Rural Counties .....	5
Figure 3. Index Arrest Rate in Hamilton and Other Rural Counties.....	6
Figure 4. Drug Arrests in Hamilton County .....	7
Figure 5. Drug Arrest Rates in Hamilton and Other Rural Counties .....	8
Figure 6. Cannabis Seized in Hamilton County.....	9
Figure 7. Cocaine and Methamphetamine Seized in Hamilton County.....	10
Figure 8. Felony and Misdemeanor Filings in Hamilton County .....	12
Figure 9. Felony Filing Rates in Hamilton and Other Rural Counties.....	13
Figure 10. Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Hamilton County .....	14
Figure 11. Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Hamilton County .....	15
Figure 12. IDOC New Court Commitments from Hamilton County, by Offense Type.....	16
Figure 13. Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from Hamilton County.....	17
Figure 14. Total Active Adult and Juvenile Probation Cases in Hamilton County .....	18
Figure 15. Reported and Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in Hamilton County .....	20
Figure 16. Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Hamilton and Other Rural Counties .....	21



## 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

Hamilton County, located in southern Illinois, covers an area of 435 square miles and had a 2003 population of 8,334, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Hamilton County was the 66<sup>th</sup> largest county in Illinois geographically, but 13<sup>th</sup> smallest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Hamilton County had the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Hamilton 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 22). 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, Hamilton County is one of Illinois' 66 rural counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Hamilton 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 Hamilton 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.

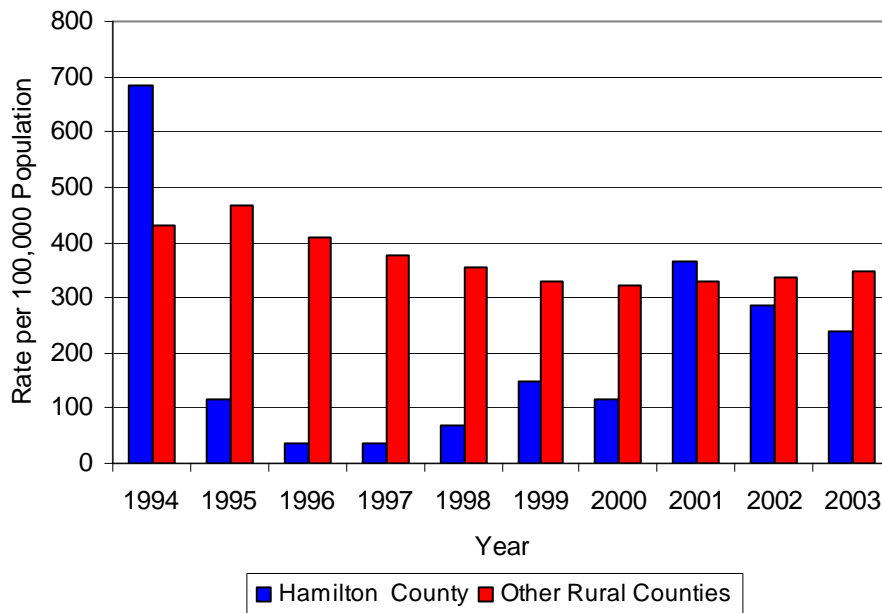
An indicator of the workload that law enforcement agencies place on other components of the justice system is the number of arrests made by police, including those for violent and property Index offenses and drug offenses. Unlike offenses, which are what police must respond to, arrests represent those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

### *Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Hamilton County*

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 66 percent in Hamilton County between 1994 and 2003, from 58 to 20. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority of violent Index offenses reported in Hamilton County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Hamilton County decreased 65 percent, from 683 to 240 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). During that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 20 percent, from 432 to 346 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Hamilton County was 31 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 1**  
**Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Hamilton and Other Rural Counties**



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

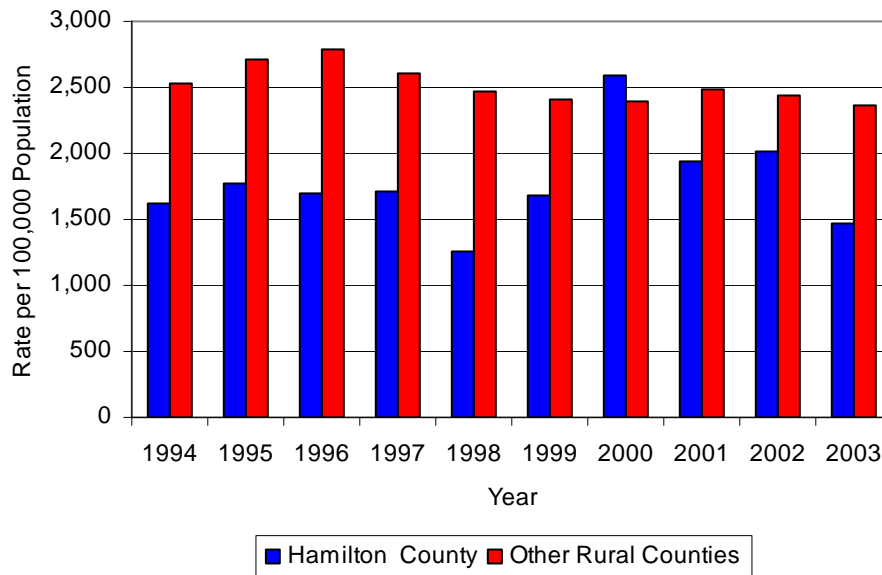
*Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Hamilton County*

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Hamilton County decreased 11 percent, from 138 to 123. Thefts accounted for 62 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Hamilton County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Hamilton County decreased 9 percent, from 1,625 to 1,476 offenses per 100,000 population. During the same period, the property Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 6 percent, from 2,526 to 2,366 offenses per 100,000 population. Hamilton County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 38 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties (Figure 2).

**Figure 2**

**Total Property Index Offense Rates in Hamilton and Other Rural Counties**



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

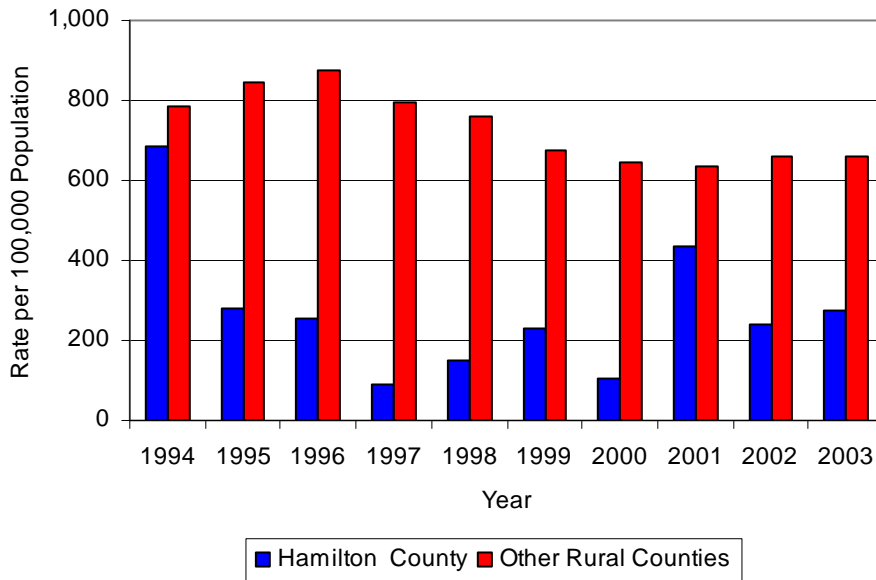
*Index Arrests by Hamilton County Law Enforcement Agencies*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Hamilton County decreased 60 percent, from 58 to 23. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 23 Index arrests made in Hamilton County during 2003, 14 were for violent Index crimes and nine were for property Index crimes. Arrests for burglary accounted for the majority of the property Index arrests, while aggravated assaults accounted for the majority of violent Index arrests in Hamilton County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003 the Index arrest rate in Hamilton County also decreased 60 percent, from 683 to 276 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 16 percent, from 783 to 658 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Hamilton County's Index arrest rate was 58 percent lower than the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 3**

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



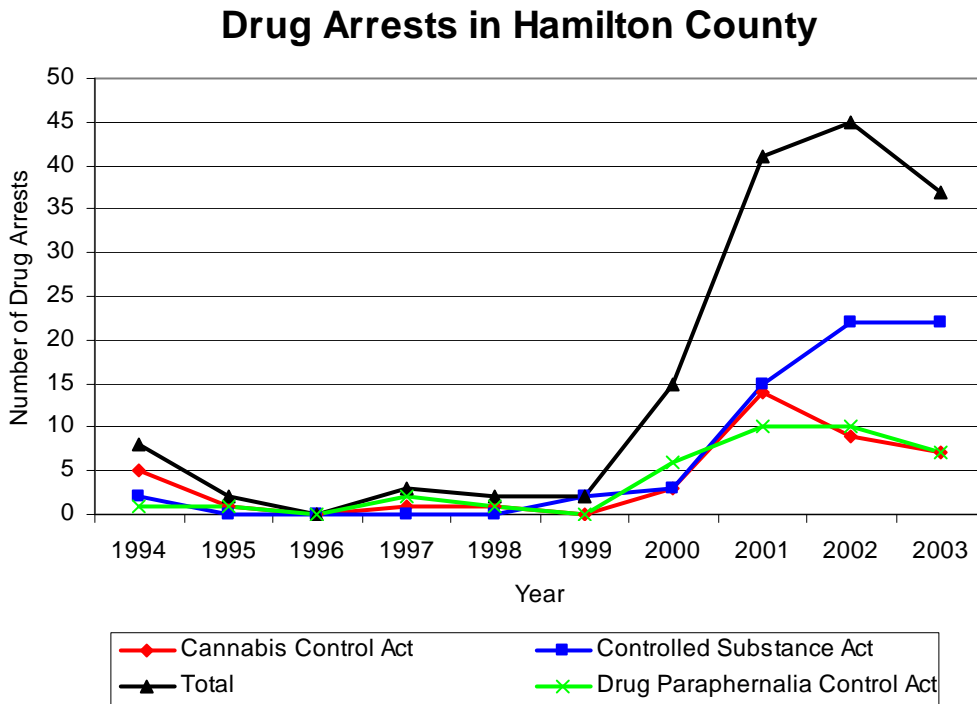
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

*Drug Offense Arrests in Hamilton County*

In 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 quadrupled from eight to 37 in Hamilton County (Figure 4).

Between 1994 and 2001, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Hamilton 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), but since 2001, that trend has reversed. Of the 155 total drug arrests in Hamilton County between 1994 and 2003, 22 (43 percent) were for violations of the Controlled Substance Act, followed by arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act (26 percent) and violation of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act (21 percent).

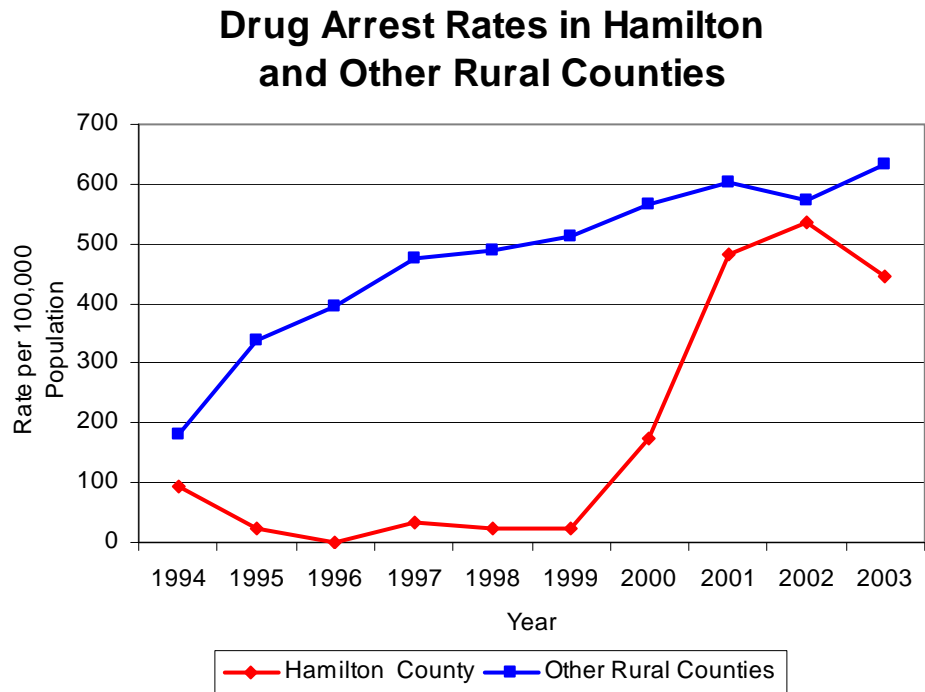
**Figure 4**



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Hamilton County more than quadrupled, from 94 to 444 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other rural counties more than tripled between 1994 and 2003, from 181 to 633 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Hamilton County was 30 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 5**



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

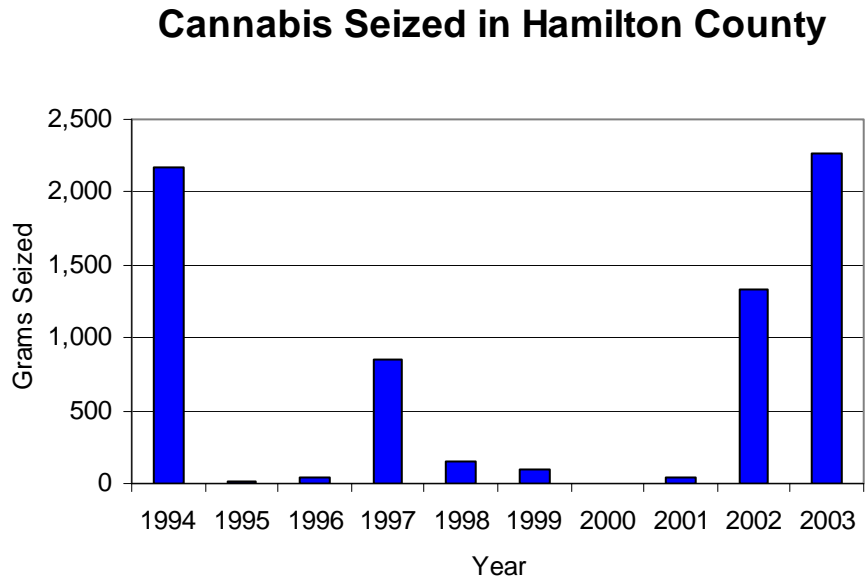
### Drugs Seized in Hamilton County

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 Hamilton County.

### *Cannabis Seized in Hamilton County*

Cannabis accounted for the second largest amount of drugs seized in Hamilton County. Although there were large variations in the number of grams of cannabis seized between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Hamilton County increased 4 percent, from 2,174 grams to 2,267 grams (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**



Source: Illinois State Police

During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other rural counties decreased 55 percent, from 605,974 grams to 270,377 grams. In 2003, Hamilton County had a cannabis seizure rate of 27,196 grams per 100,000 population, 69 percent higher than the rate of 16,071 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

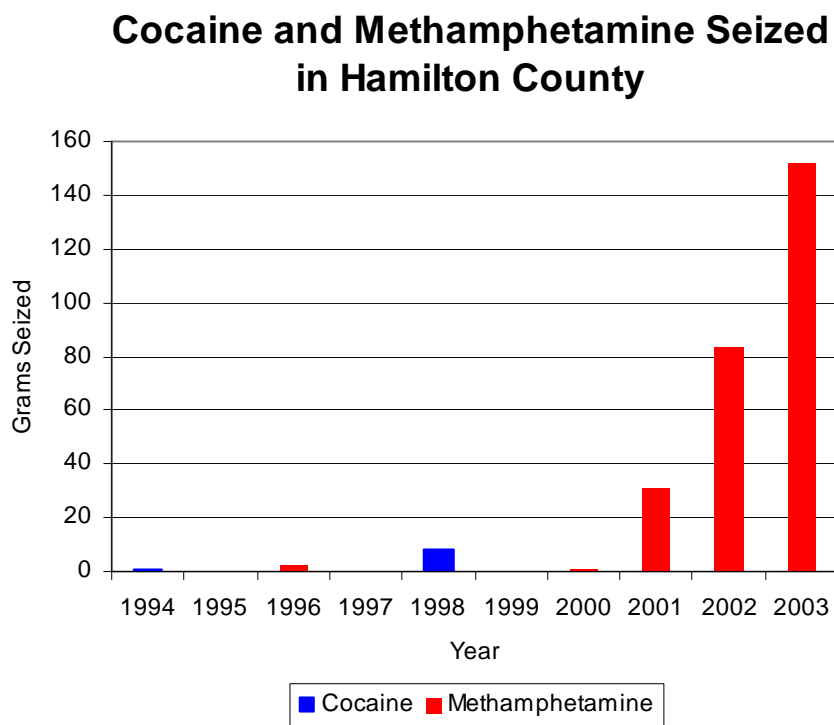


### *Cocaine and Methamphetamine Seized in Hamilton County*

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 seized methamphetamine in Hamilton County increased from zero grams in 1994 to 156 grams in 2003. Cocaine accounts for a small portion of the drugs seized in Hamilton County. Between 1994 and 2003, less than ten grams of Cocaine was seized in Hamilton County.

**Figure 7**



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of methamphetamine seized in other rural counties increased dramatically, from zero grams in 1994 to 1,824 grams in 2003, while the quantity of cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased 79 percent, from 71,279 grams in 1994 to 15,170 grams in 2003. In 2003, Hamilton County had a cocaine seizure rate of zero grams per 100,000 population, dramatically lower than the 902 grams per 100,000 seizure rate in the other rural counties. Conversely, in 2003, Hamilton County had a methamphetamine seizure rate of 1,824 grams per 100,000; more than double the 782 grams per 100,000 population seizure rate in the other rural counties.

### **III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Hamilton 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 Hamilton County and the other rural counties.

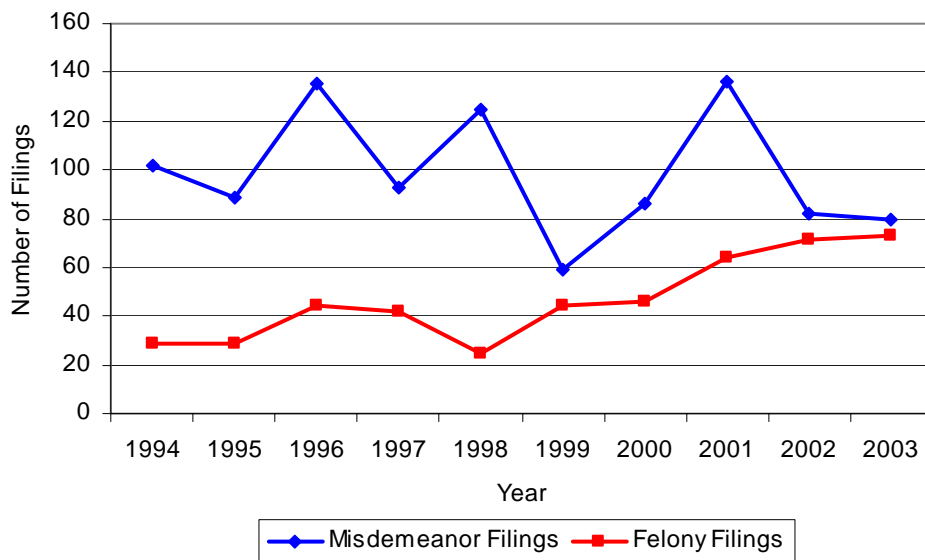
#### *Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Hamilton County*

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 Hamilton County's courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Hamilton County more than doubled, from 29 to 73 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 22 percent, from 102 in 1994 to 80 in 2003.

**Figure 8**

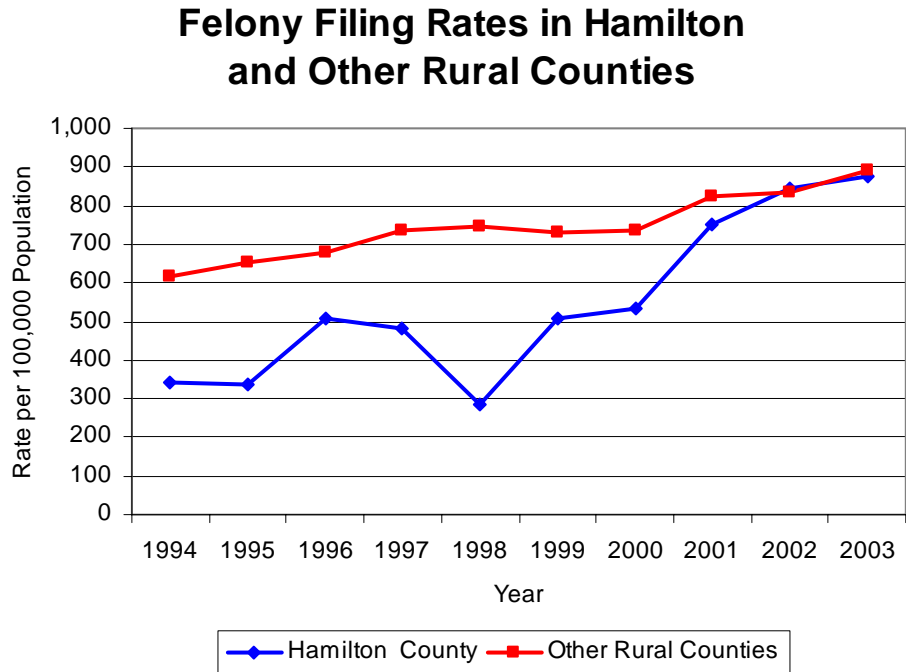
### Felony and Misdemeanor Filings in Hamilton County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Hamilton County also more than doubled, from 341 to 876 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 44 percent during this period, from 616 to 889 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Hamilton County was 1 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 9**

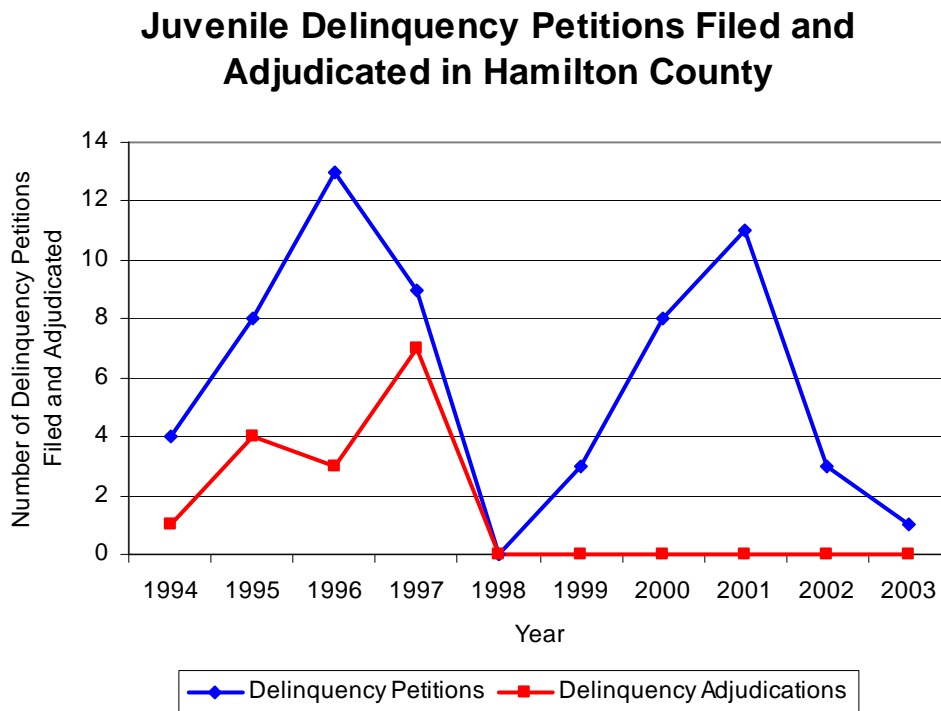


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 “ad judicatory hearing” and “dispositional hearing” terms.

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Hamilton County decreased from four to one (Figure 10). Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications decreased from one to zero.

Figure 10



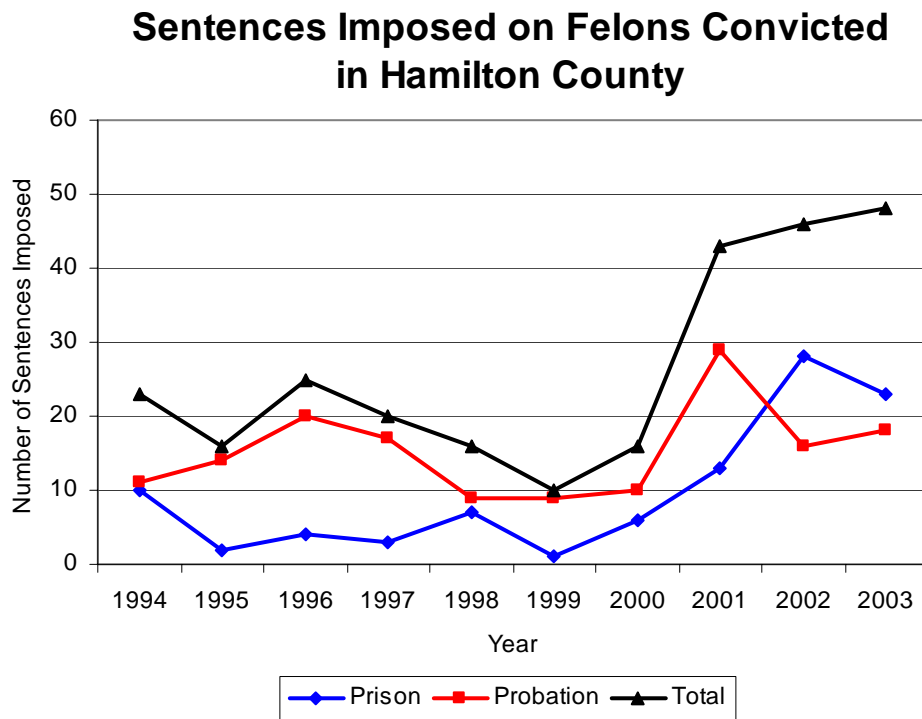
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Hamilton County decreased 75 percent, from 470 to 117 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 13 percent, from 2,019 to 2,277 petitions per 100,000 juveniles.

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 Hamilton County more than doubled, from 23 to 48 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period increased 64 percent, from 11 to 18, while the number of felony prison sentences more than doubled, from ten to 23. As a result, felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total felony sentences; decreasing from 48 percent in 1994 to 38 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison increased, increasing from 43 percent to 48 percent. In 2003, 14 percent of sentenced offenders were sentenced to something other than probation or prison.

**Figure 11**



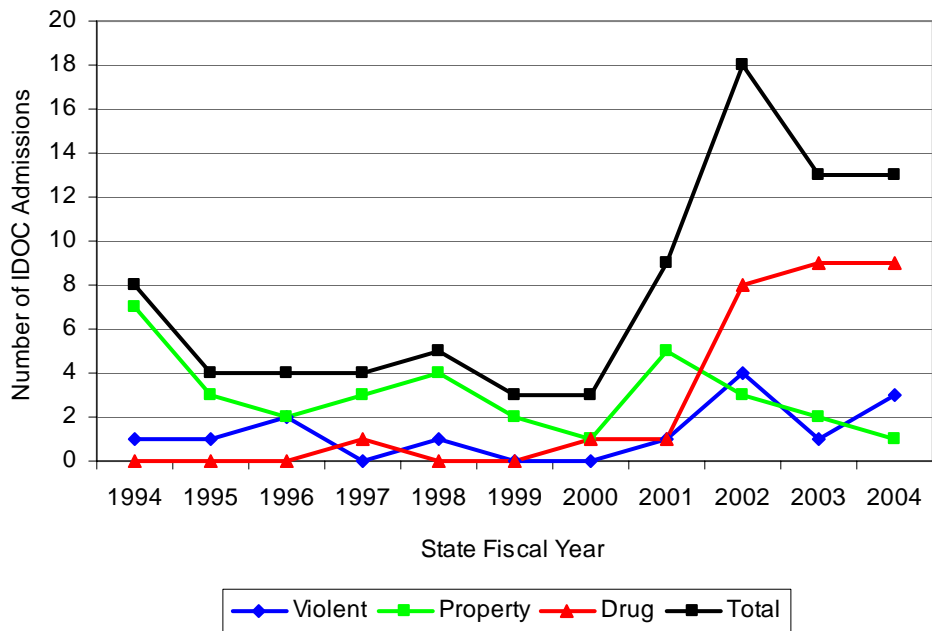
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

## Adult Prison Admissions from Hamilton County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Hamilton County increased 63 percent, from eight to 13 (Figure 12). The number of violent offender admissions increased from one to three, while drug offender admissions increased from zero to nine, during the same period. The number of property offender admissions decreased 86 percent between SFY 1994 to SFY 2004, from seven to one. In SFY 2004, property offenders accounted for 69 percent of new admissions, while violent offenders accounted for 23 percent and property offenders accounted for 8 percent of new admissions to IDOC from Hamilton County.

Figure 12

### IDOC New Court Commitments from Hamilton County, by Offense Type



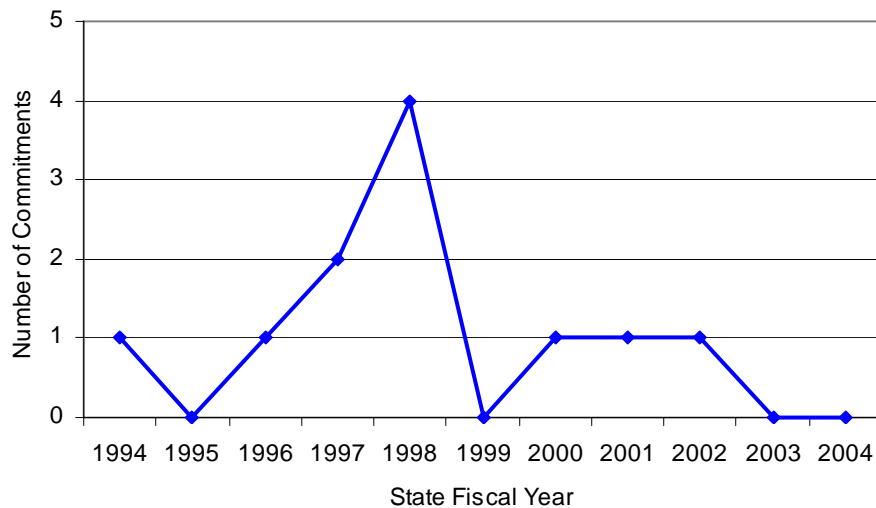
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

## 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 Hamilton County decreased from one to zero (Figure 13).

Figure 13

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



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

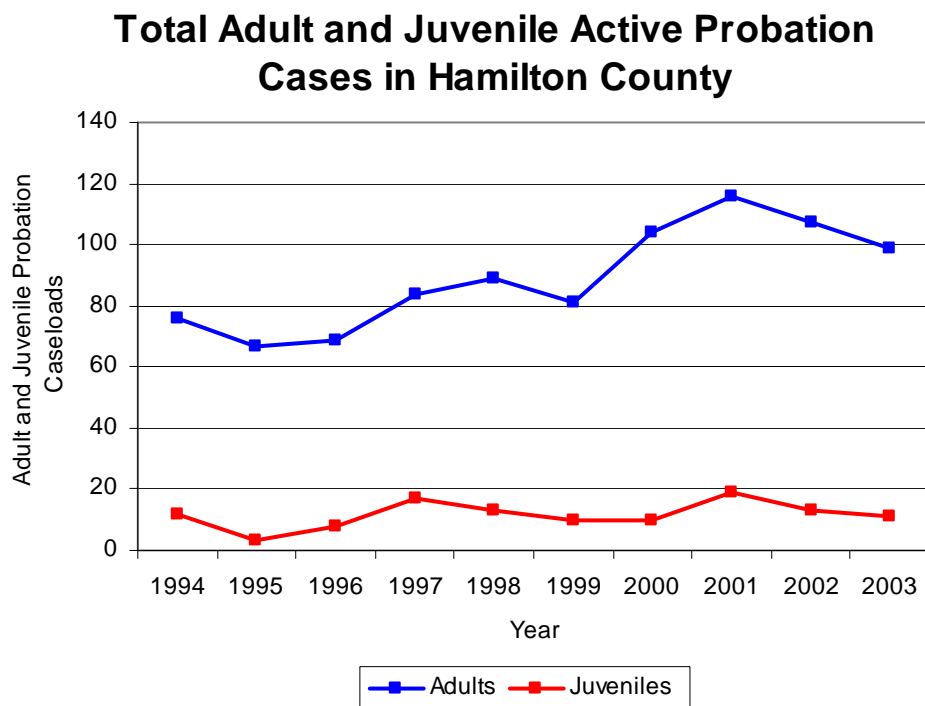
As a result, in SFY 2004, Hamilton County had a rate of zero commitments per 100,000 juveniles to the IDOC's Juvenile Division, compared to the rate of 231 commitments per 100,000 juveniles in the other rural counties.



## Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Hamilton County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Hamilton County increased 30 percent, from 76 to 99 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 26 percent of Hamilton County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Hamilton County Juvenile Probation Department decreased slightly, from 12 to 11. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other rural counties increased 39 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased less than 1 percent.

Figure 14



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Hamilton County increased 33 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 895 to 1,188 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 40 percent in the other rural counties, from 744 to 1,043 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Hamilton County was 9 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

## **IV. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in Hamilton County**

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

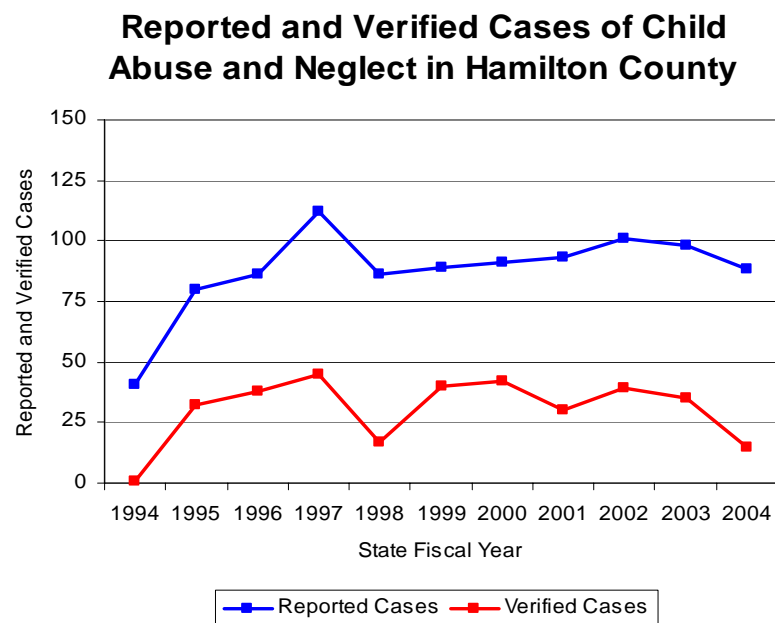
Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, there was one reported and verified case of a substance-exposed infant in Hamilton County (1998). During the same period, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 23 percent, from 83 to 102, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants increased 43 percent, from 44 to 63.

## Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Hamilton 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 State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Hamilton County more than doubled, from 41 to 88 (Figure 15). During that same period, 334 cases, or 35 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Hamilton County increased between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from one to 15.

**Figure 15**



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.

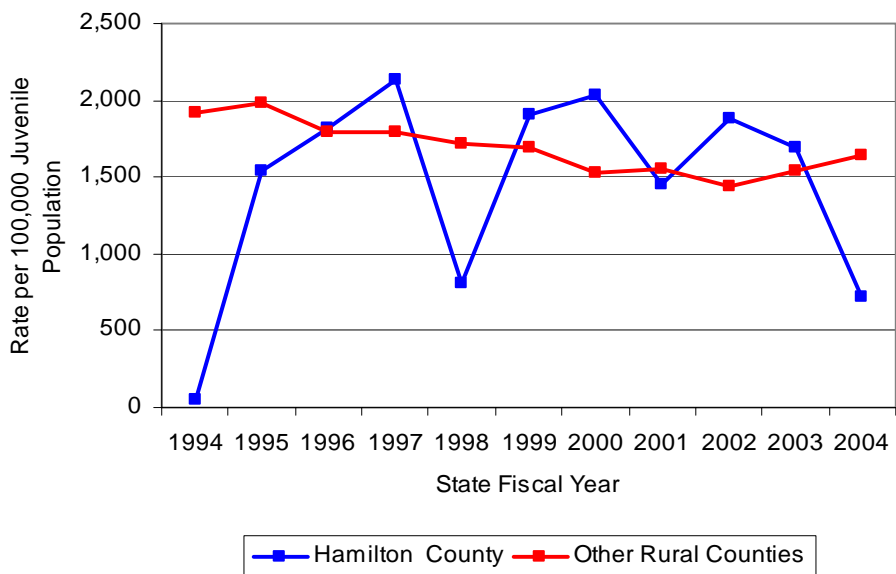
<sup>2</sup> Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>3</sup> Menard, S. 2002. 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 Hamilton County increased dramatically, from 49 to 726 per 100,000 juveniles (Figure 16). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 15 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,918 to 1,640 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Hamilton County was 56 percent lower than in the other rural counties.

**Figure 16**

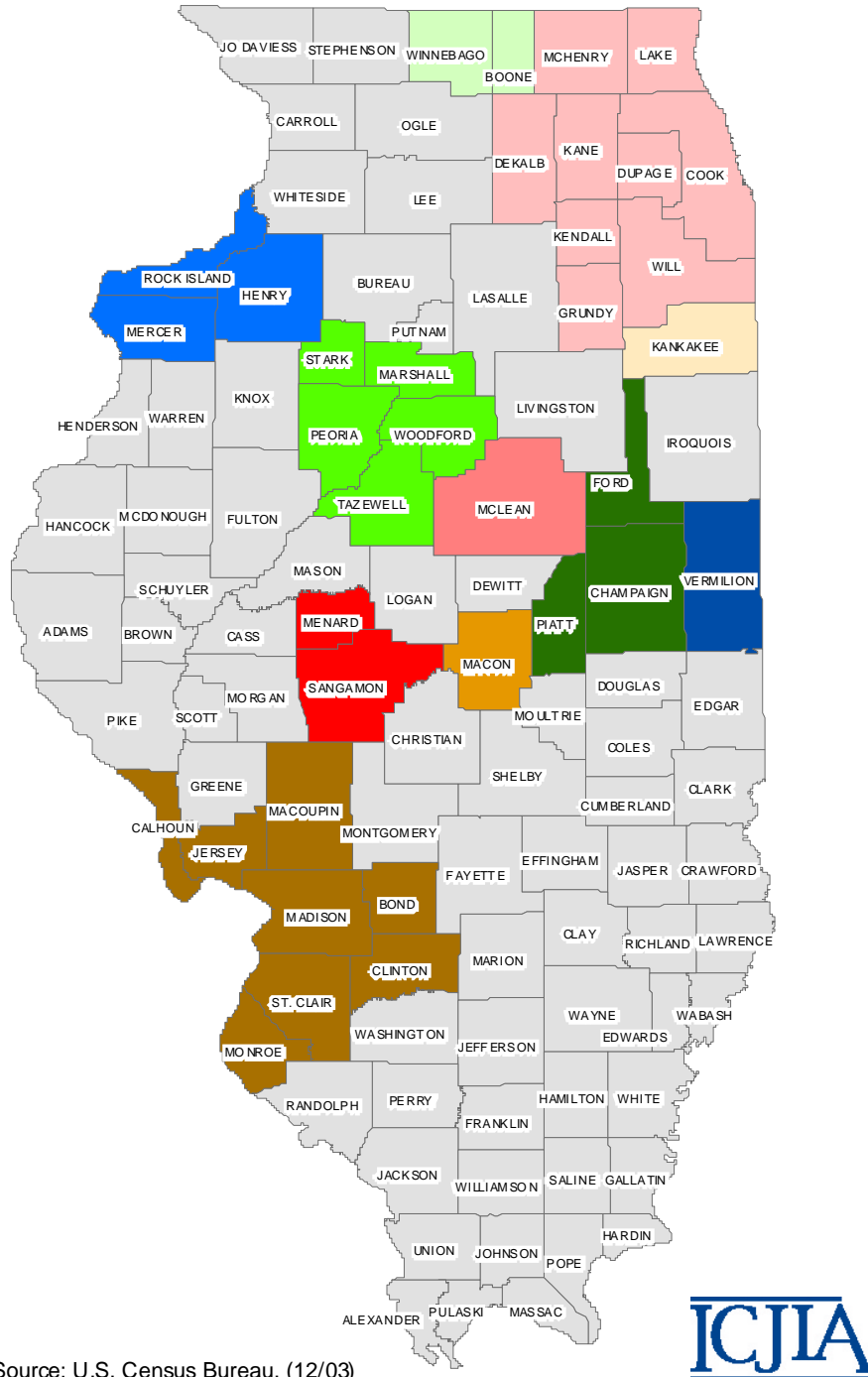
**Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Hamilton and All Other Rural Counties**



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

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

Illinois Counties, by Metropolitan Statistical Area\*



## VI. Bibliography

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, *Annual Report to the Supreme Court of Illinois*. 1994 through 2003 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division, *Statewide Probation Data Report*. 1994 through 2003 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, *Child Abuse/Neglect Statistics Report*. State Fiscal Years 1994 through 2003 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

Illinois Department of Corrections. *Jail and Detention Statistics and Information*. State Fiscal Years 1995 through 2003 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

Illinois Department of Corrections. Research and Planning Division, State Fiscal Years 1994 through 2004 Springfield, Illinois.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Illinois Population Estimates*. 1994-2003, Washington, D.C.

Illinois State Police, *Crime in Illinois*. 1994 through 2003 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

Illinois State Police, *Drug Statistics Report*. Monthly reports, January 1994 through December 2003, Springfield, Illinois.





**Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority**

120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1016  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone: 312-793-8550  
TDD: 312-793-4170  
Fax: 312-793-8422  
[www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us)



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
Sheldon Sorosky, Chairman  
Lori G. Levin, Executive Director