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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 Morgan County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems



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## CONTENTS

Section	Page Number
I. Introduction .....	1
II. Law Enforcement Activities in Morgan County .....	3
III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Morgan County .....	11
IV. Jail Populations in Morgan County .....	19
V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in Morgan County .....	21
VI. Appendix I (Map of Illinois Counties within a Metropolitan Statistical Area) .....	24
VII. Bibliography .....	25

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page Number
Figure 1. Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Morgan and Other Rural Counties.....	4
Figure 2. Total Property Index Offense Rates in Morgan and Other Rural Counties.....	5
Figure 3. Index Arrest Rate in Morgan and Other Rural Counties .....	6
Figure 4. Drug Arrests in Morgan County .....	7
Figure 5. Drug Arrest Rates in Morgan and Other Rural Counties .....	8
Figure 6. Cannabis Seized in Morgan County .....	9
Figure 7. Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Morgan County .....	10
Figure 8. Felony and Misdemeanor Filings in Morgan County.....	12
Figure 9. Felony Filing Rates in Morgan and Other Rural Counties .....	13
Figure 10. Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Morgan County.....	14
Figure 11. Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Morgan County .....	15
Figure 12. IDOC New Court Commitments from Morgan County, by Offense Type .....	16
Figure 13. Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from Morgan County .....	17
Figure 14. Total Active Adult and Juvenile Probation Cases in Morgan County .....	18
Figure 15. Average Daily Population of the Morgan County Jail .....	19
Figure 16. Average Daily Jail Population Rates, Morgan and Other Rural Counties.....	20
Figure 17. Reported and Verified Cases of Substance-Exposed Infants, Morgan County .....	21
Figure 18. Reported and Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in Morgan County .....	23
Figure 19. Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Morgan and Other Rural Counties .....	24

## 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

Morgan County, located in central Illinois, covers an area of 569 square miles and had a 2003 population of 35,990, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Morgan County was the 42<sup>nd</sup> largest county in Illinois geographically, and 41<sup>st</sup> largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Morgan County also had the 41<sup>st</sup> highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

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

In addition to local law enforcement agencies, the Central Illinois Enforcement Group (CIEG) also serves Morgan 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 Central Illinois Enforcement Group 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](http://www.icjia.state.il.us).

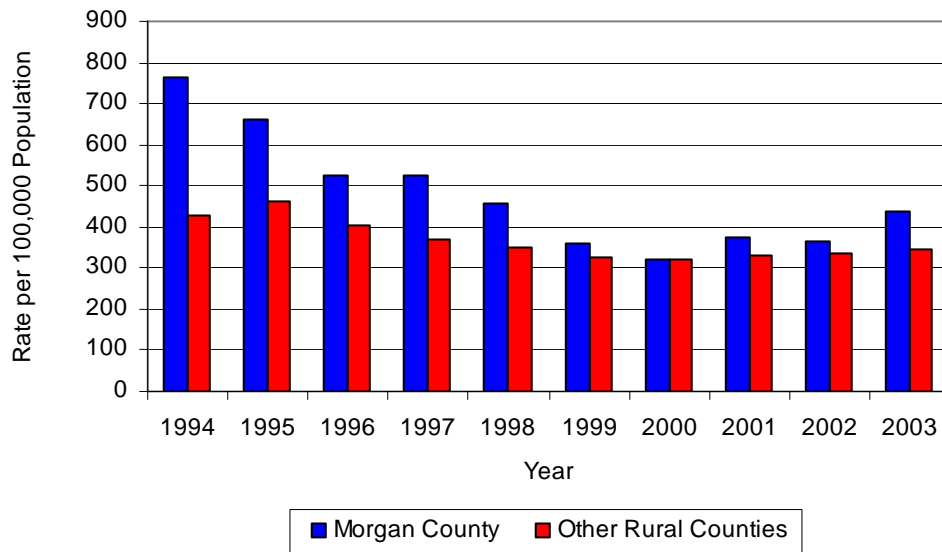
### *Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Morgan County*

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 44 percent in Morgan County between 1994 and 2003, from 284 to 158. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (64 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Morgan County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Morgan County decreased 43 percent, from 766 to 439 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). During that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 19 percent, from 426 to 344 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Morgan County was 28 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 1**

### **Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Morgan and Other Rural Counties**



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

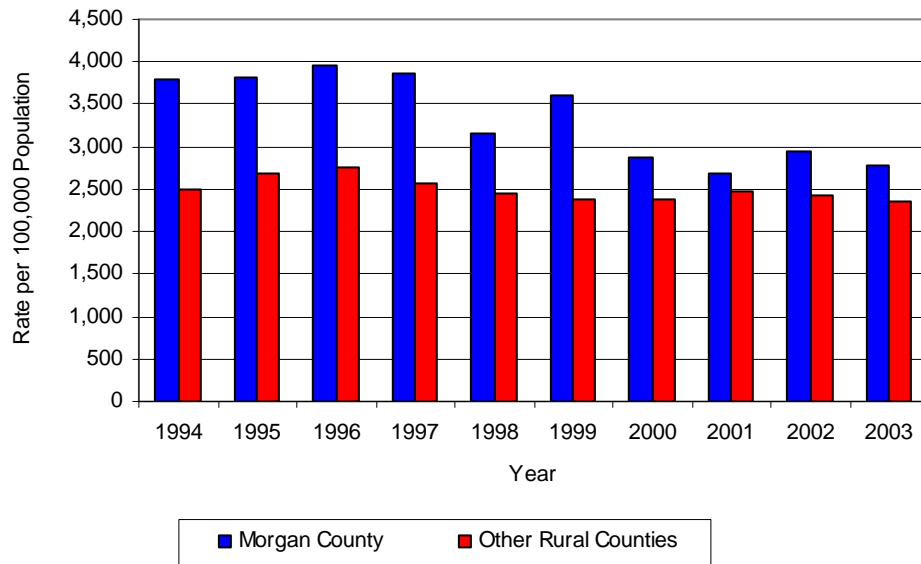
*Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Morgan County*

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Morgan County decreased 29 percent, from 1,405 to 1,004. Thefts accounted for 67 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Morgan County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Morgan County decreased 26 percent, from 3,789 to 2,790. The property Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 6 percent, from 2,494 to 2,353 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). Morgan County has consistently had a property Index rate higher than the rate in the other rural counties. As a result, Morgan County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 19 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 2**

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



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

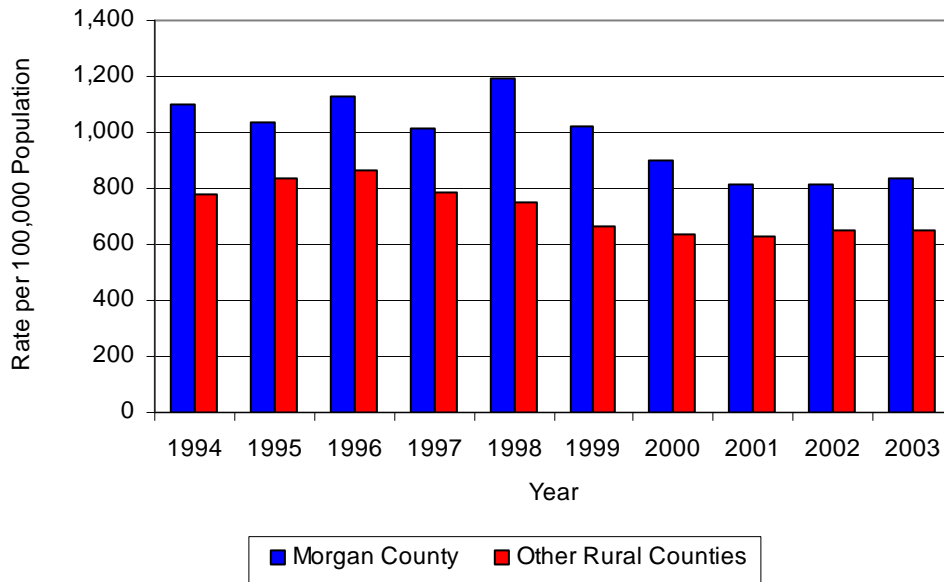
*Index Arrests by Morgan County Law Enforcement Agencies*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Morgan County decreased 26 percent, from 409 to 301. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 301 Index arrests made in Morgan County during 2003, 32 percent were for violent Index crimes and 69 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Morgan County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 90 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 86 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Morgan County decreased 24 percent, from 1,103 to 836 arrests per 100,000 population. During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 16 percent, from 775 to 653 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). In 2003, Morgan County's Index arrest rate was 28 percent higher than the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 3**

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



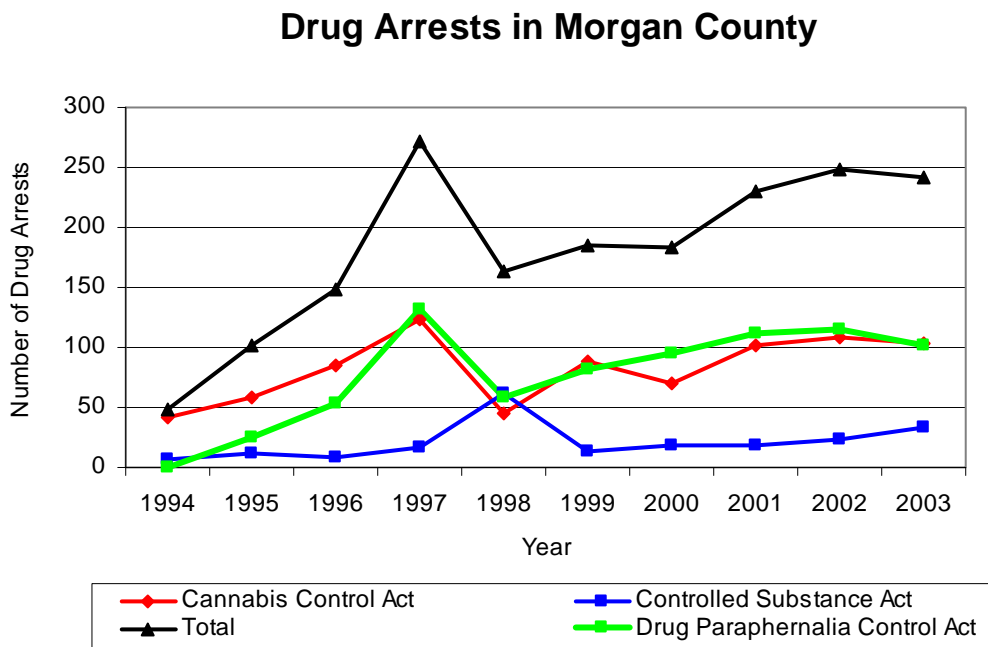
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

### Drug Offense Arrests in Morgan County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of 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) in Morgan County, increased nearly two-fold from 49 to 241 (Figure 4). The number of drug arrests increased in the late 1990s to a period high of 272 in 1997, and then dropping to 164 in 1998. Since 1998, drug arrests have been on a relatively steady increase. Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests, increasing from zero arrests in 1994 to 102 in 2003, or in other words, 42 percent of all drugs arrests in 2003.

With the exception of 1998, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Morgan 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 Morgan County more than doubled from 42 to 103. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased nearly four-fold in Morgan County, from seven in 1994 to a period high of 34 in 2003 (Figure 4).

Figure 4

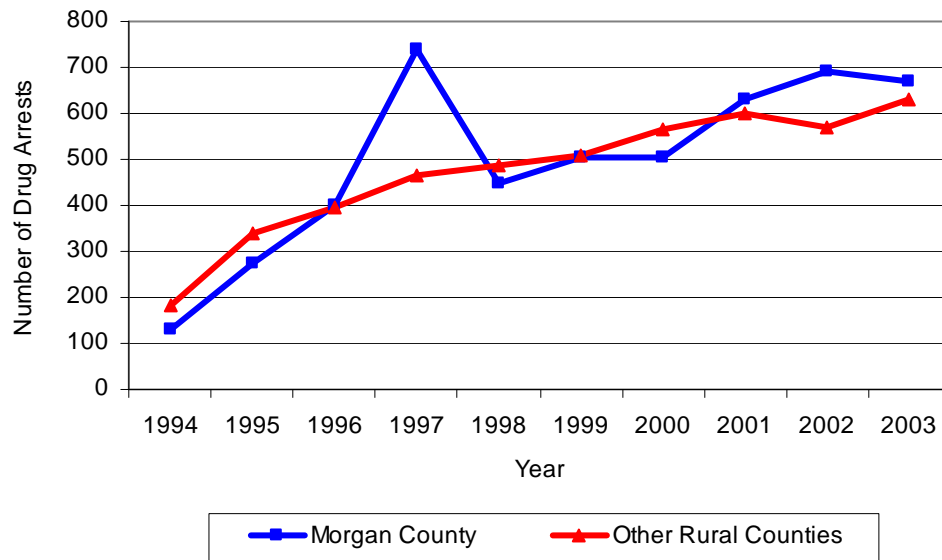


Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Morgan County increased more than four-fold, from 132 to 669 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other rural counties more than tripled between 1994 and 2003, from 182 to 632 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Morgan County was 6 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 5**

**Drug Arrest Rates in Morgan and Other Rural Counties**



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

**Drugs Seized in Morgan 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 Morgan County.

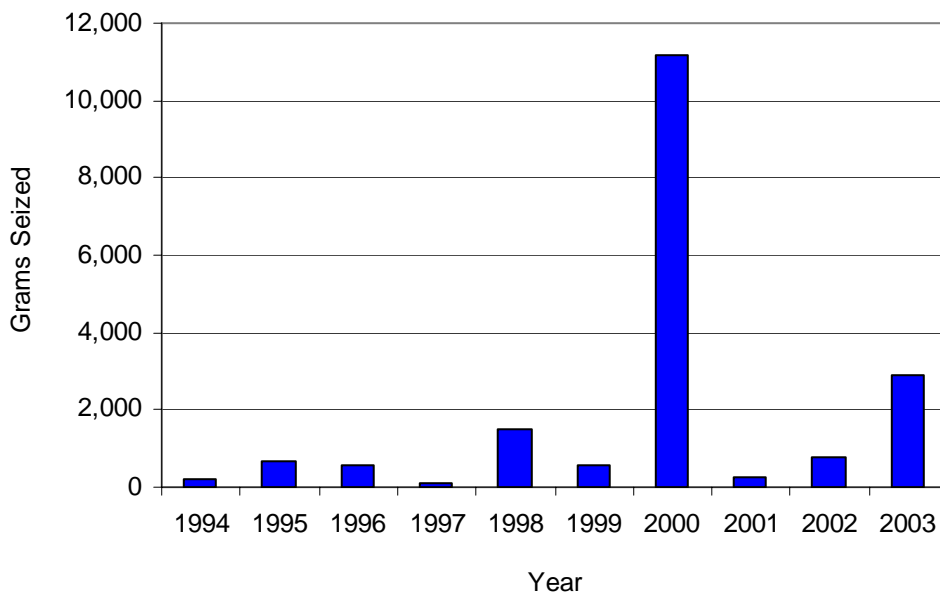
During the past decade, it is clear that methamphetamine “activity” in the state has increased dramatically and has become a significant drug problem in many jurisdictions. Further, the extent to which law enforcement agencies are encountering methamphetamine has also dispersed across a large area of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

### *Cannabis Seized in Morgan County*

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Morgan 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 Morgan County increased more than 13-fold, from 205 grams to 2,879 grams, while reaching a period high of 11,170 grams seized in 2000 (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**

### **Cannabis Seized in Morgan County**



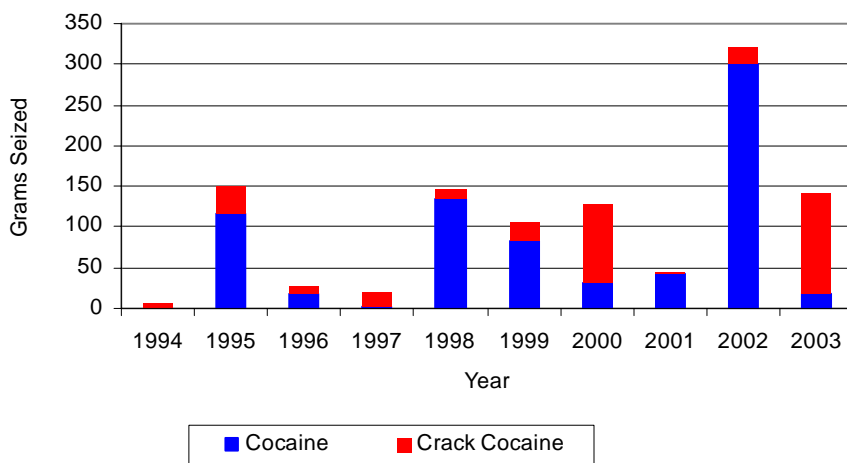
Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other rural counties decreased by 56 percent, from 607,944 grams to 269,764 grams. In 2003, Morgan County's cannabis seizure rate of 8,000 grams per 100,000 population was 51 percent lower than the rate of 16,303 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

### *Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Morgan County*

Both the quantity of powder cocaine and the quantity of crack cocaine seized in Morgan County increased between 1994 and 2003. While the quantity of powder cocaine seized in Morgan County fluctuated from 1994 to 2003, there was an increase from less than one-half (0.3) of a gram in 1994 to 18 grams in 2003. In 2003, crack cocaine accounted for the largest portion of cocaine seized in Morgan County. The quantity of crack cocaine seized in Morgan County increased dramatically from seven grams in 1994 to 124 grams in 2003 (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**  
**Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized**  
**in Morgan County**



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of powder cocaine seized decreased, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized in the other rural counties increased during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized decreased 81 percent in the other rural counties, from 70,102 grams to 13,047 grams, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased 69 percent from 1,169 grams to 1,982 grams. In 2003, 344 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in Morgan County, nearly triple the 120 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other rural counties.

### *Methamphetamine Seizures*

The quantity of methamphetamine seized in Morgan County increased dramatically from 1994 to 2003, from three grams to 108 grams, with only 11 grams of methamphetamine seized between 1994 and 2002. However, the 108 grams were seized, which may indicate the start of a trend indicative in many rural areas. For example, in the other rural counties during the period analyzed, there was a dramatic increase in methamphetamine seizures, from 2,616 grams in 1994 to 13,094 grams in 2003.



### III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Morgan 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.

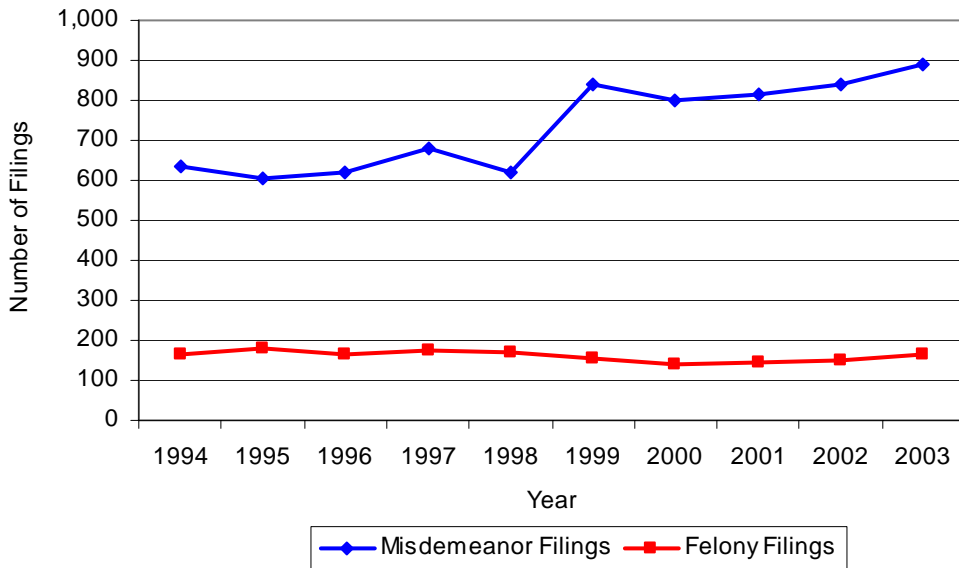
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Morgan County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

#### *Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Morgan 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 11 percent of all filings in Morgan County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Morgan County remained constant at 167 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings increased from 637 in 1994 to 889 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by more than five to one.

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

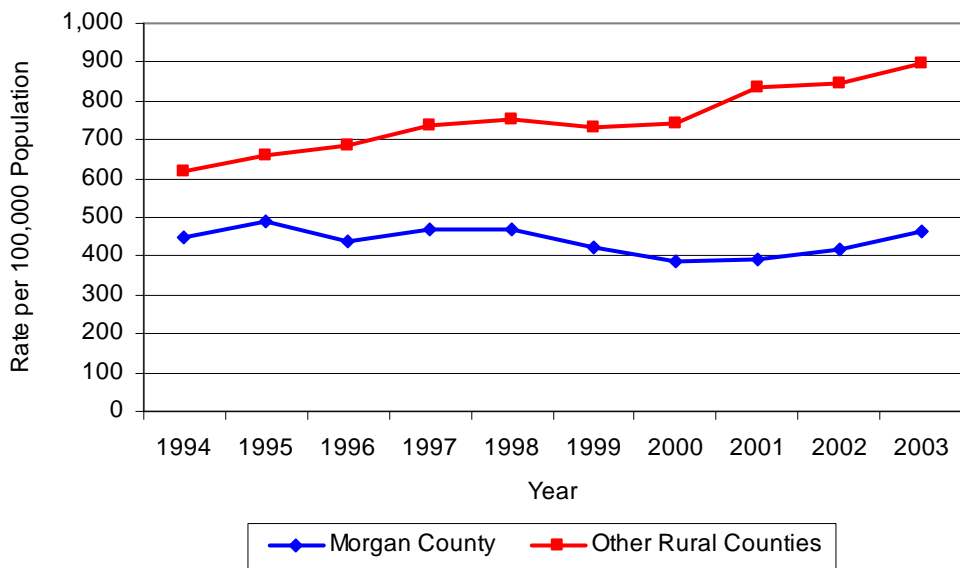


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Morgan County increased 3 percent, from 450 to 464 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 45 percent during this period, from 618 to 898 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Morgan County was 94 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 9**

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



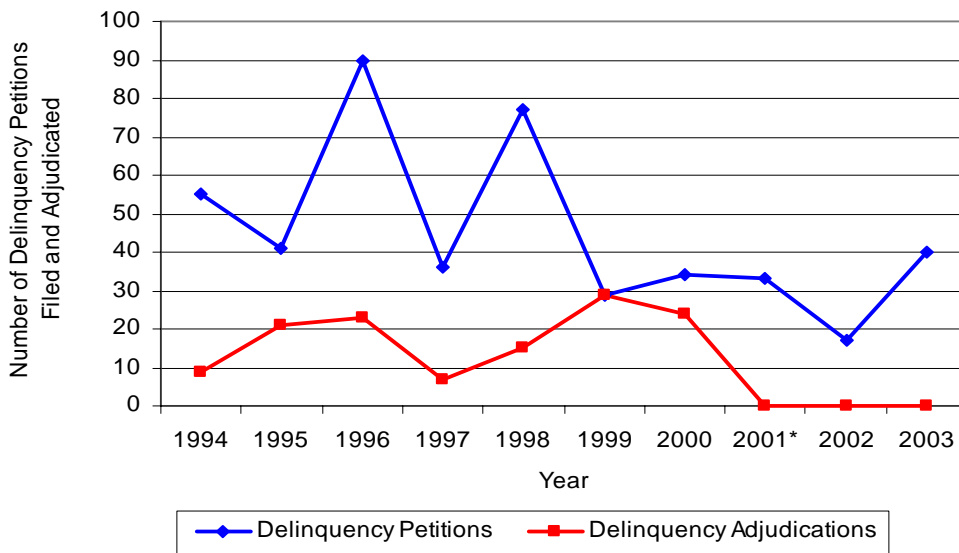
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 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.

Although juvenile adjudication data were not available for 2001, between 1994 and 2003, the number of juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Morgan County decreased 27 percent, from 55 to 40, while delinquency adjudications decreased from nine to zero, during the same time period (Figure 10). Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions and who were subsequently adjudicated delinquent declined. In 2003, none of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent, compared to 16 percent in 1994.

**Figure 10**

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



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

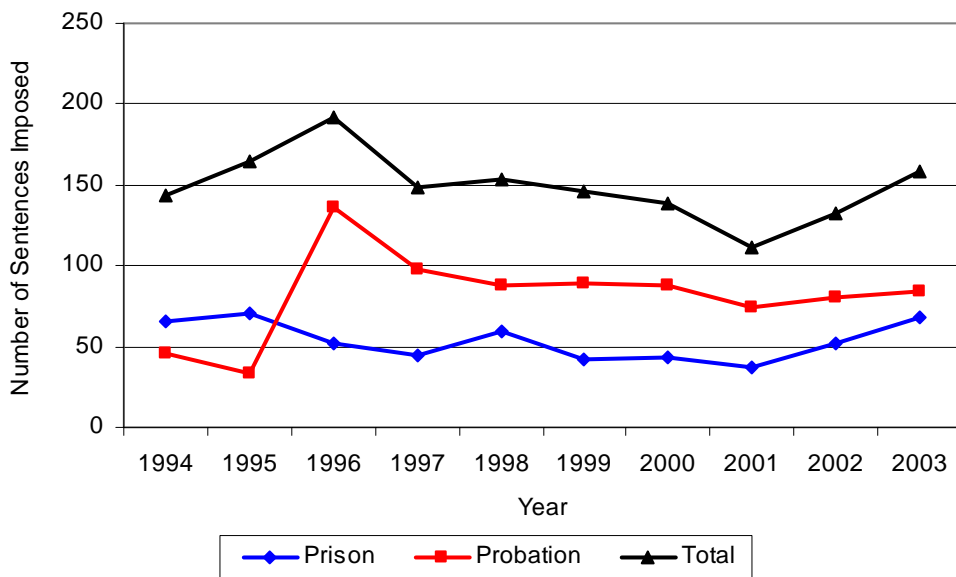
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Morgan County decreased 27 percent, from 1,534 to 1,355 per 100,000 juveniles. Conversely, during the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 13 percent, from 2,022 to 2,291 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency-petitioning rate in Morgan County was 69 percent lower 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 Morgan County increased 11 percent, from 143 to 159 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period increased 83 percent, from 46 to 84, while the number of felony prison sentences increased slightly, from 65 in 1994 to 68 in 2003. As a result, felony probation sentences increased as a proportion of total sentences, increasing from 32 percent in 1994 to 52 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison decreased slightly from 45 percent in 1994 to 43 percent in 2003. In 2003, 4 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

**Figure 11**

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



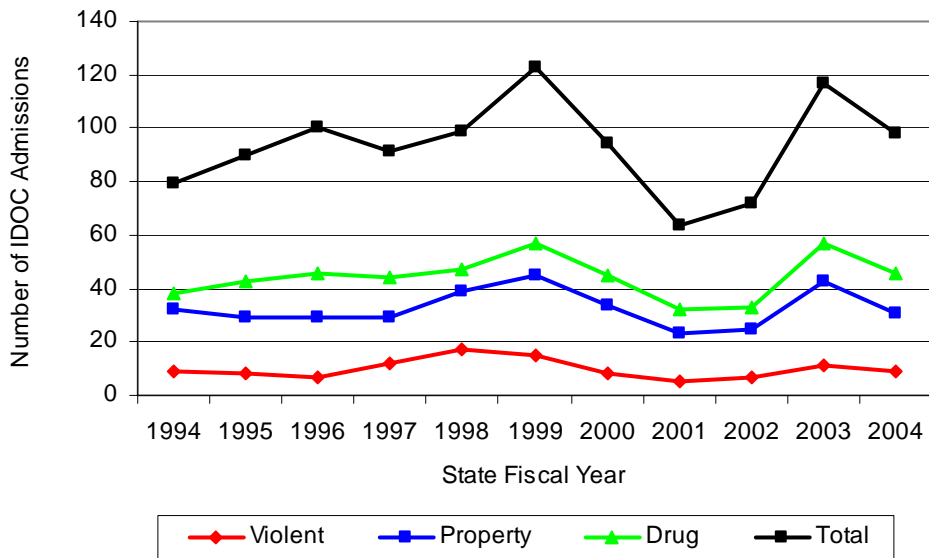
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

## Adult Prison Admissions from Morgan County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Morgan County increased 27 percent, from 41 to 52 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of admissions for violent and property crimes remained constant, but drug admissions increased. There were nine violent crime admissions in both SFYs 1994 and 2004 and the number of property crimes declined slightly from 23 to 22 in the same time period. During the same period, the number of drug offenders admitted more than doubled, from six to 15.

Figure 12

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



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

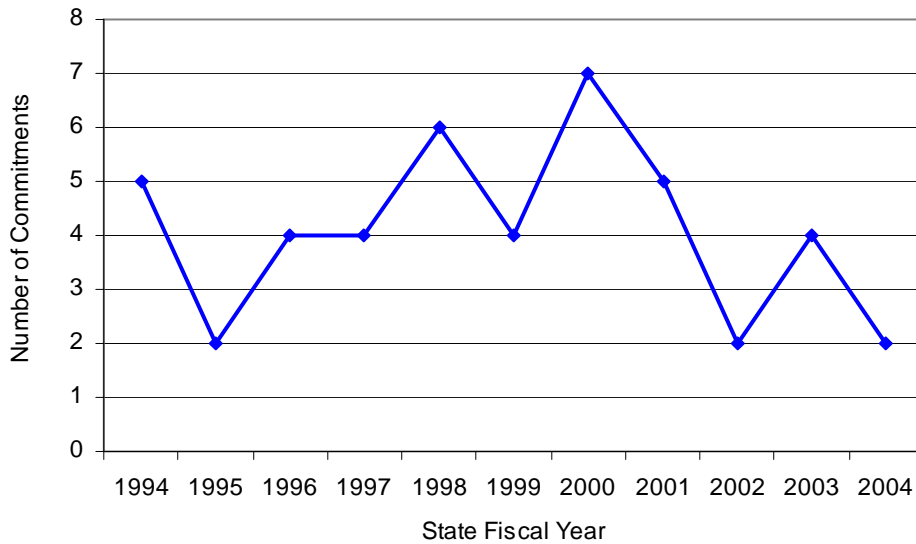
Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, drug offenders accounted for an increased proportion of all admissions to IDOC from Morgan County. In SFY 2004, drug offenders accounted for 29 percent of all admissions from Morgan County, compared to 15 percent in SFY 1994. In SFY 1994, violent offenders accounted for 22 percent of all admissions, compared to 17 percent in SFY 2004, while the proportion property offenders accounted for decreased from 56 percent in SFY 1994 to 42 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 State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Morgan County decreased from five to two (Figure 13).

**Figure 13**

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



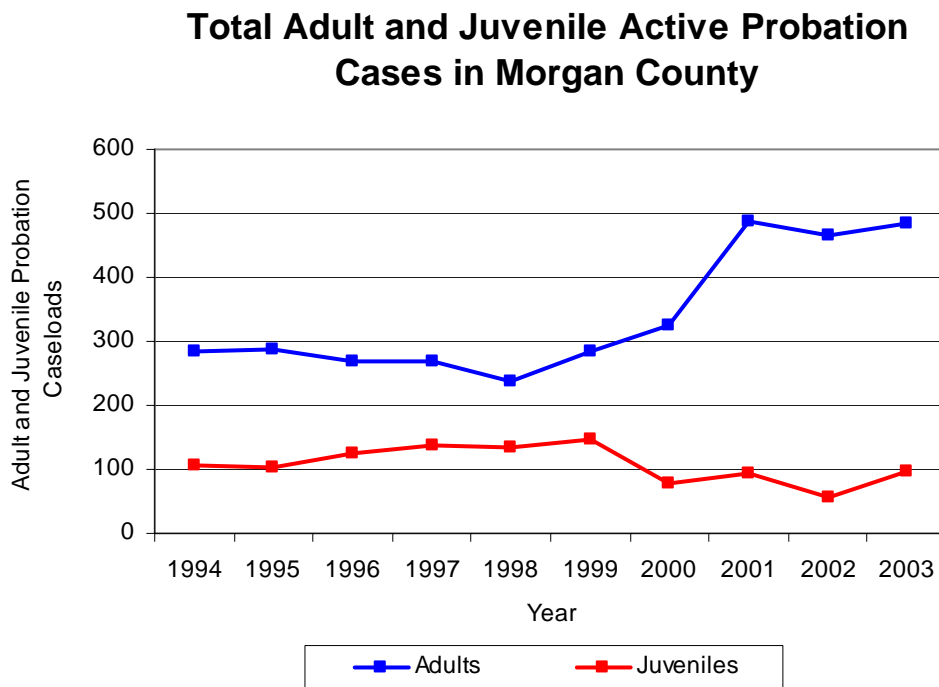
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, Morgan County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 67 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was nearly one-quarter the rate of 233 commitments per 100,000 juveniles in the other rural counties.

## Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Morgan County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Morgan County increased 71 percent, from 283 to 484 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 37 percent of Morgan County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Morgan County Juvenile Probation Department decreased 9 percent, from 106 to 96. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other rural counties increased 38 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 1 percent.

Figure 14



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Morgan County increased 76 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 763 to 1,345 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 39 percent in the other rural counties, from 744 to 1,037 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Morgan County was 23 percent higher than in the other rural counties.



#### IV. Jail Populations in Morgan 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.

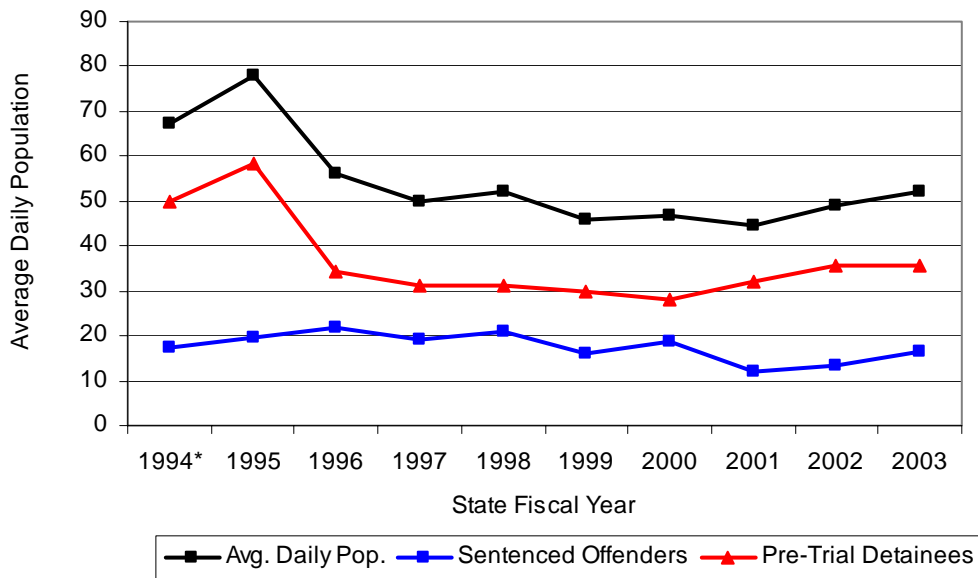
##### *Average Daily Population of the Morgan County Jail*

The Morgan County Jail was one of 91 county jails in operation in Illinois during SFY 2003. There were 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 Morgan County Jail decreased 23 percent, from 68 to 52 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 74 percent in SFY 1994 to 69 percent in SFY 2003. On the other hand, sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for an increased percentage; 26 percent in SFY 1994 compared to 31 percent in SFY 2003.

Figure 15

#### Average Daily Population of the Morgan County Jail

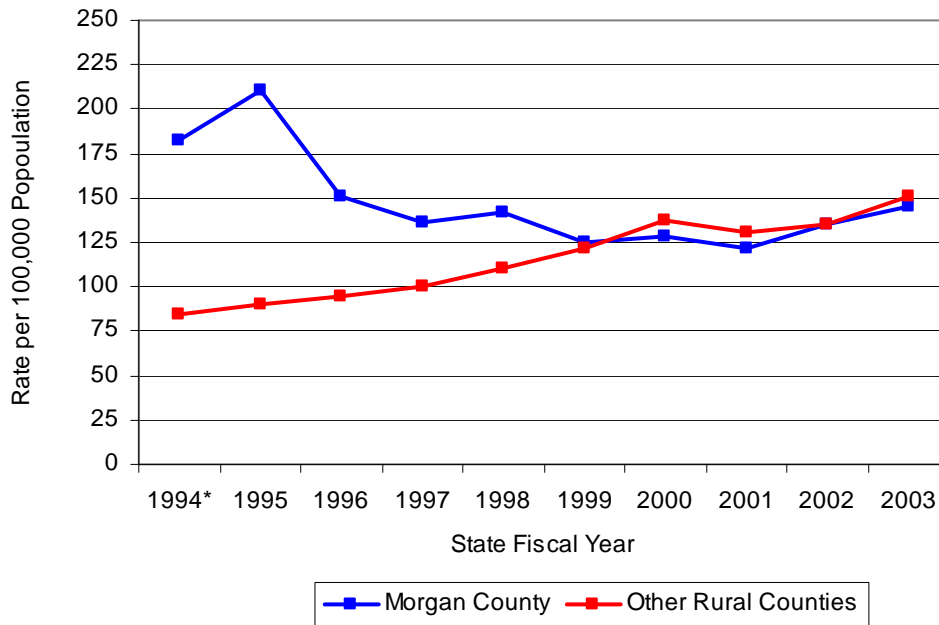


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

\* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Morgan County decreased 20 percent, from 182 to 145 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other rural counties increased 79 percent, from 84 to 150 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Morgan County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 4 percent less than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 16**  
**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,**  
**Morgan 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 Morgan County

### *Substance-Exposed Infants in Morgan County*

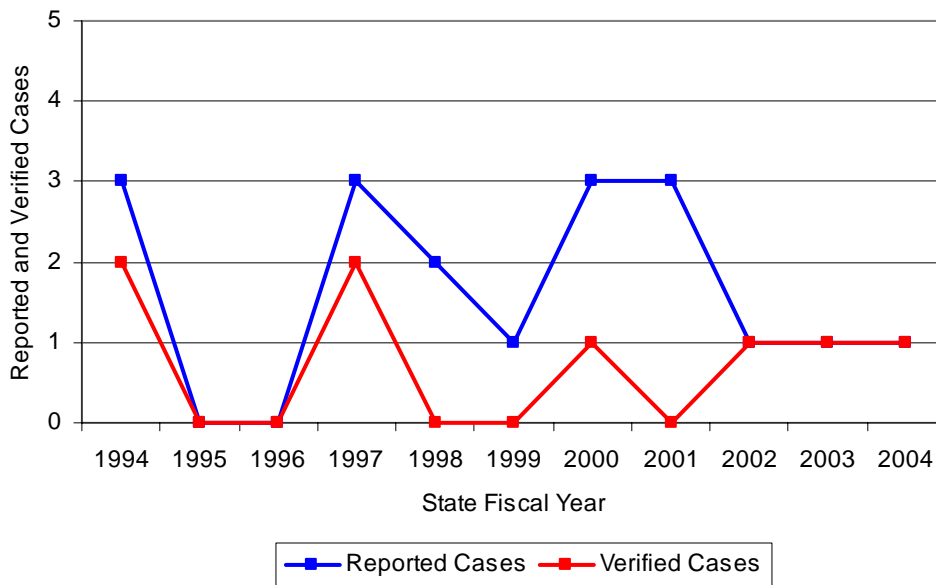
Illinois continues to experience the effects of prenatal substance abuse. In Illinois, if a baby is born and thought to have been exposed to illegal substances or alcohol, either through observation by physicians or toxicology tests, the case is reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family 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 (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed infant.

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants reported in Morgan County decreased from three to one. During the same period, the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants also decreased slightly from two in SFY 1994 to one in SFY 2004. The number of reported and verified cases remained constant over the past three years (Figure 17).

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 26 percent, from 80 to 101, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants increased 48 percent, from 42 to 62.

**Figure 17**

### **Substance-Exposed Infants, Reported and Verified Cases in Morgan County**



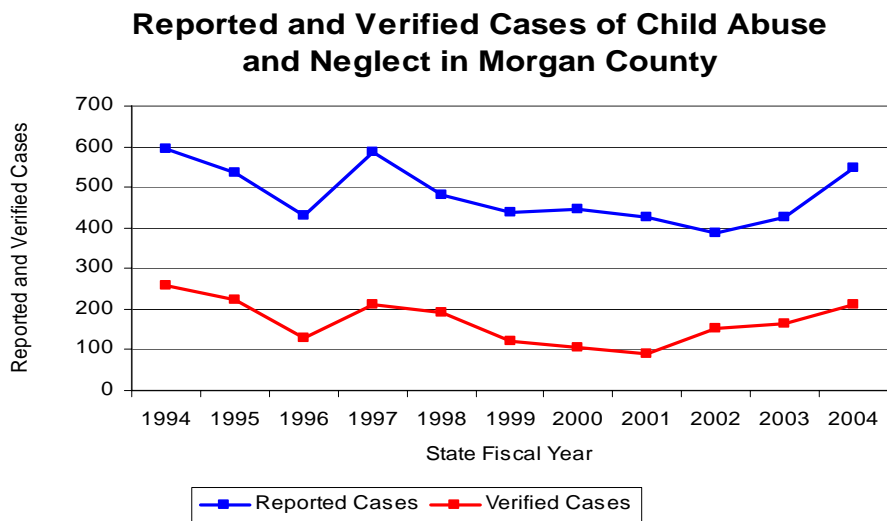
Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

## Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Morgan 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 Morgan County decreased 8 percent, from 593 to 546 (Figure 18). During that same period, 1,865 cases, or 35 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Morgan County decreased 19 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 259 to 211.

Figure 18



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.

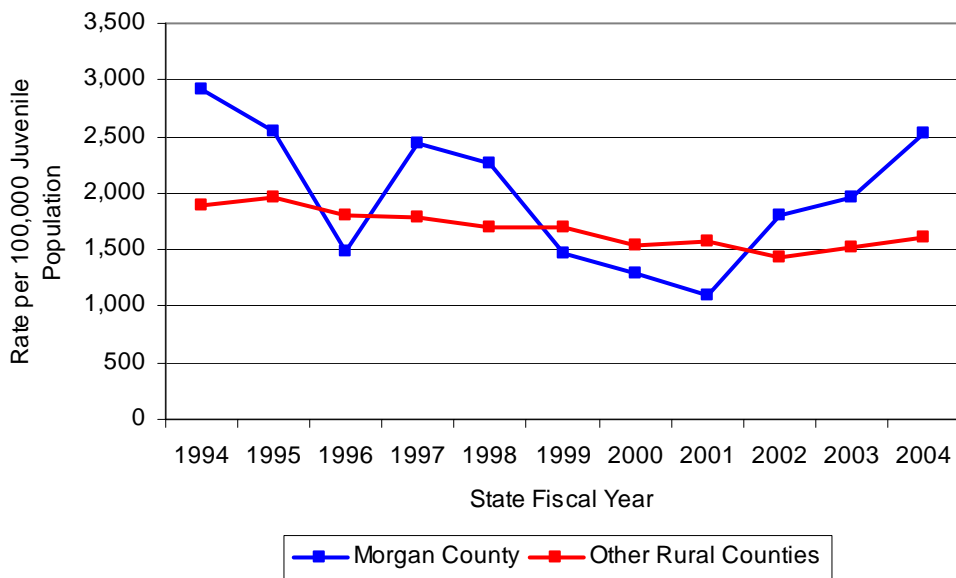
<sup>2</sup> Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. "In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<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 SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Morgan County decreased from 2,918 to 2,529 per 100,000 juveniles, a 13 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 14 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,888 to 1,616 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Morgan County was 56 percent higher than in the other rural counties.

**Figure 19**

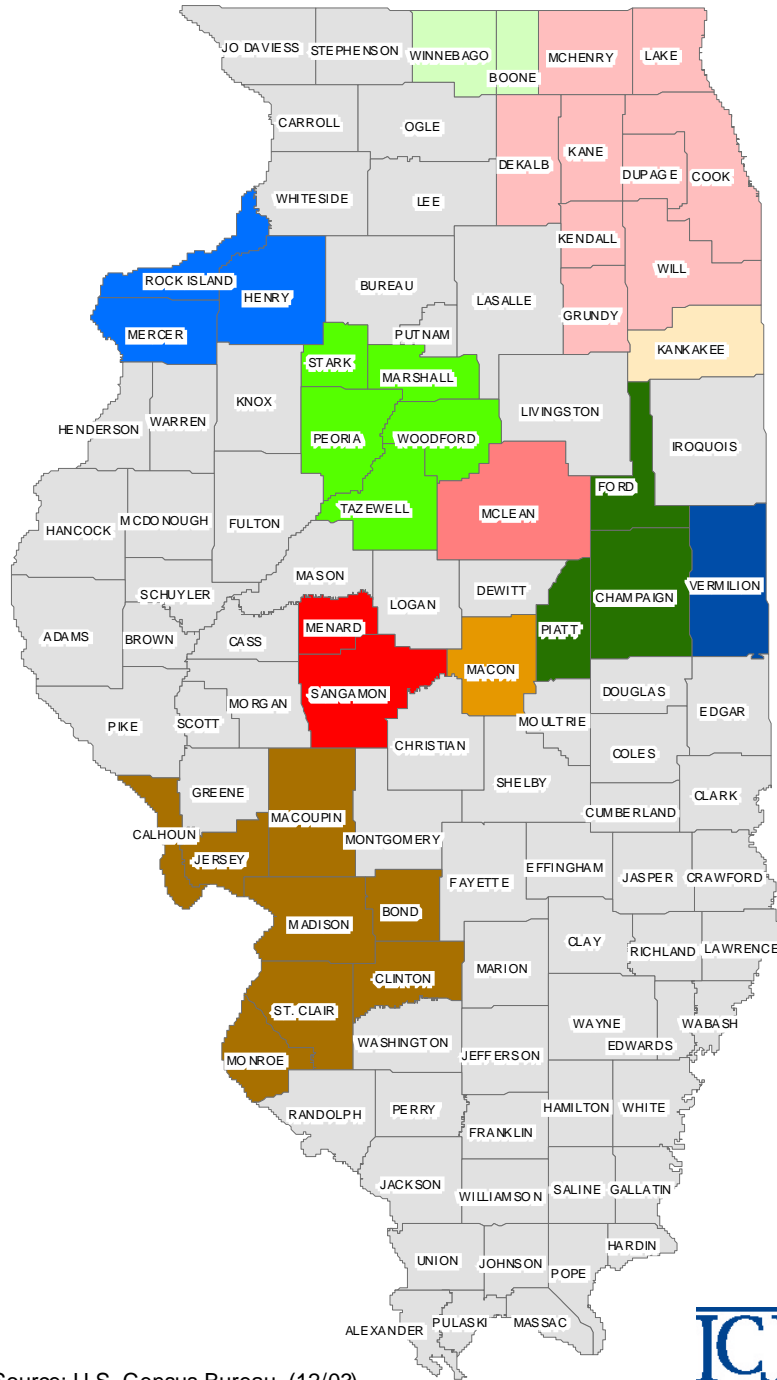
**Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Morgan and Other Rural Counties**



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\*



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