

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

Prepared by

**The Research and
Analysis Unit**

**Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor**

**Sheldon Sorosky
Chairman**

**Lori G. Levin
Executive Director**

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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 St. Clair County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

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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>

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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

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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

St. Clair County, located in southeaster Illinois, covers an area of 664 square miles and had a 1998 population of 261,941, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, St. Clair County was the 28th largest county in Illinois geographically, but 7th largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, St. Clair County had the 8th highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to St. Clair 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 26). 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, St. Clair County is one of Illinois' 30 urban counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in St. Clair County will be compared to those trends experienced in the other urban counties. This comparison will be realized through the calculation of rates for the activities being analyzed, with the number per 100,000 population the format for all the rates.

II. Law Enforcement Activities in St. Clair County

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

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

In addition to local law enforcement agencies, the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois (MEGSI) also serves St. Clair 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.

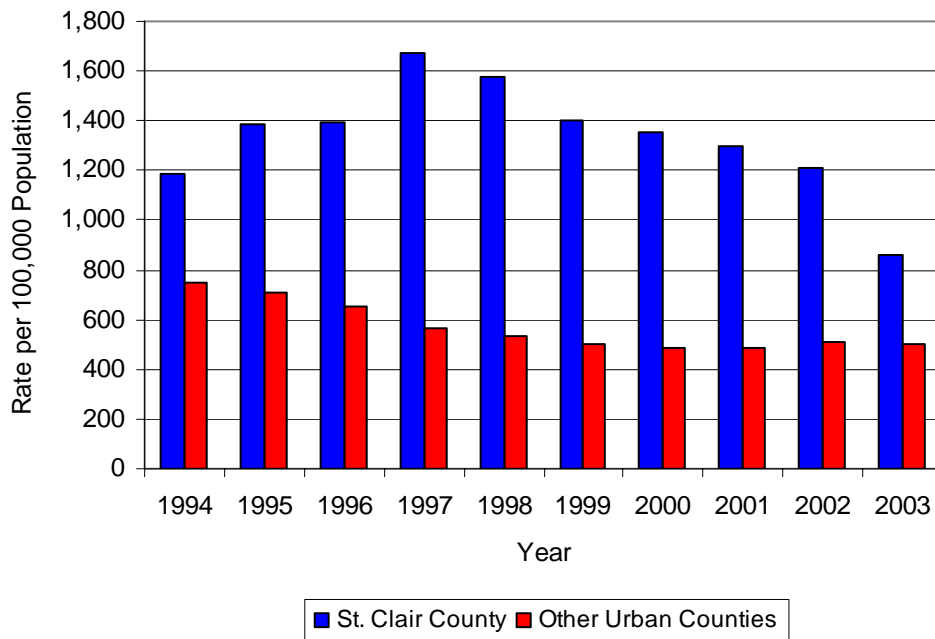
To learn more about the drug enforcement activities of the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois and Illinois' other MEGs and task forces, profiles of each of the units were developed by the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit and are available through the Authority's Criminal Justice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

Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in St. Clair County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police in St. Clair County decreased 29 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 3,124 to 2,231. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (80 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in St. Clair County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in St. Clair County decreased 27 percent, from 1,185 to 863 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). During that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other urban counties decreased 33 percent, from 747 to 498 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in St. Clair County was 73 percent higher than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 1
Total Violent Index Offense Rates in
St. Clair and Other Urban Counties



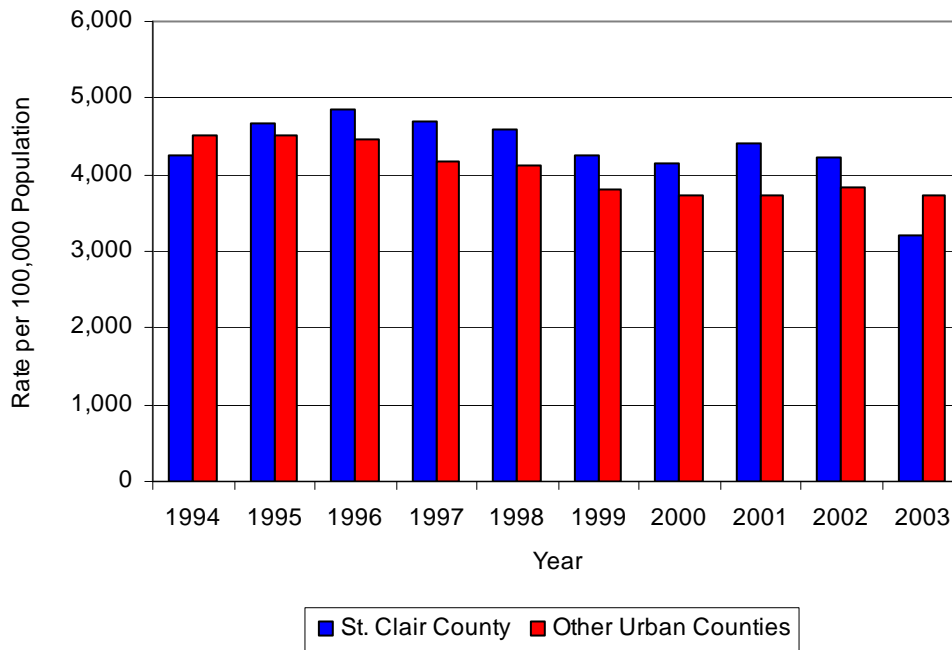
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in St. Clair County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in St. Clair County decreased 26 percent, from 11,189 to 8,328. Thefts accounted for 64 percent of all property Index offenses reported in St. Clair County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in St. Clair County decreased 24 percent, from 4,245 to 3,220 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the other urban counties, the property Index offense rate decreased 18 percent, from 4,515 to 3,724 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 property Index offense rate in St. Clair County was 14 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 2
Total Property Index Offense Rates in
St. Clair and Other Urban Counties



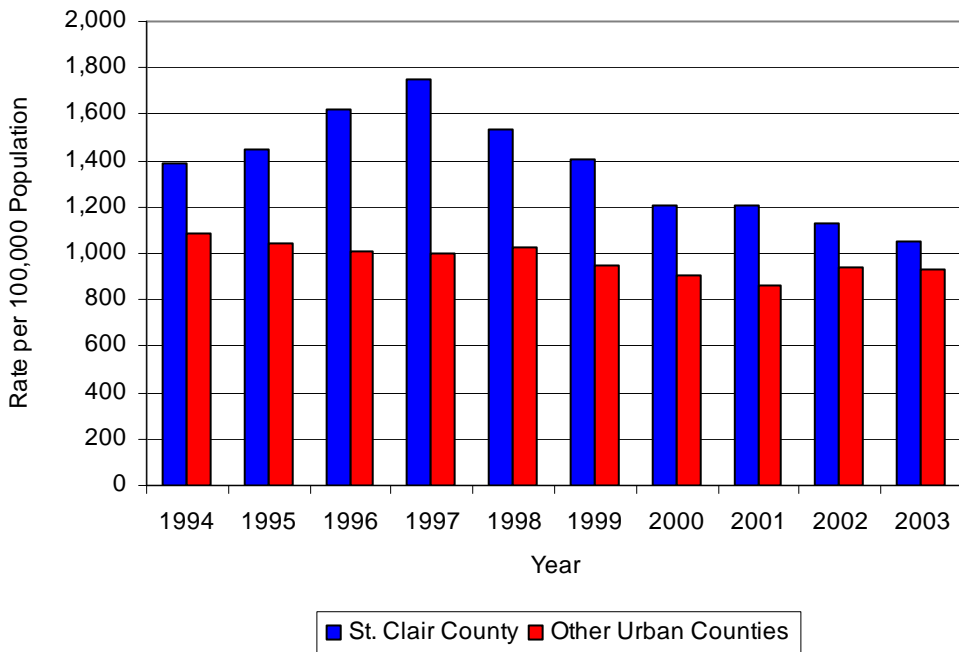
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Index Arrests by St. Clair County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in St. Clair County decreased 26 percent, from 3,649 to 2,709. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 2,709 Index arrests made in St. Clair County during 2003, 35 percent were for violent Index crimes and 65 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in St. Clair County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 88 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 81 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in St. Clair County decreased 24 percent, from 1,384 to 1,048 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties decreased 14 percent, from 1,088 to 930 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, St. Clair County's Index arrest rate was 13 percent higher than the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 3
Index Arrest Rates in St. Clair
and Other Urban Counties



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

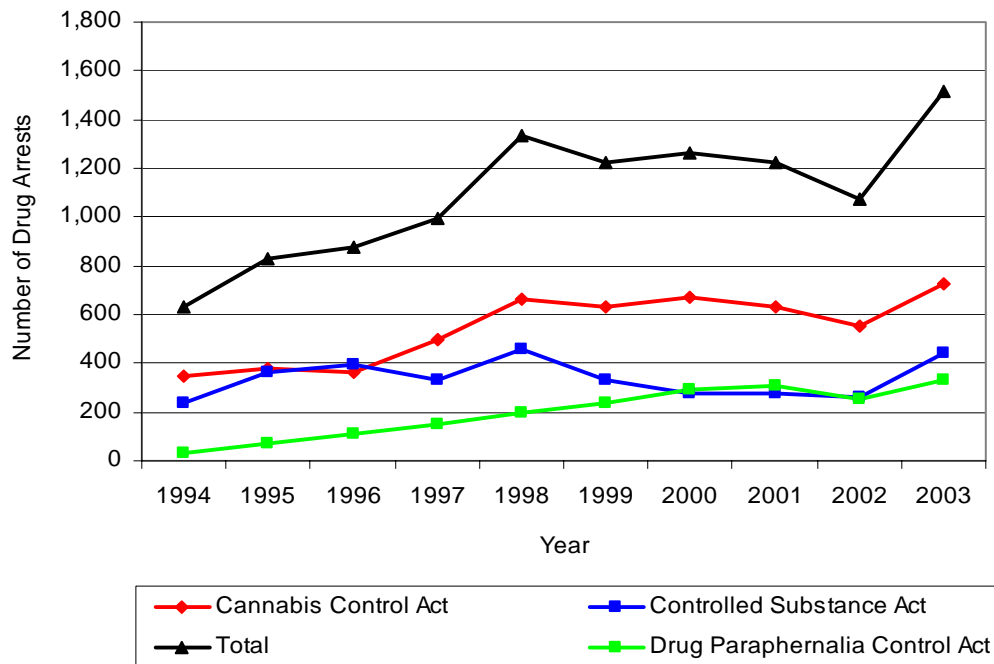
Drug Offense Arrests in St. Clair County

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total drug offenses (including violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, and the Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act) more than doubled, from 631 to a period high of 1,517 arrests (Figure 4). Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests between 1994 and 2003, increasing dramatically from 33 arrests in 1994 to 329 in 2003, or in other words, 22 percent of all drug arrests in 2003.

During most of the period between 1994 and 2003, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in St. Clair County 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 St. Clair County more than doubled, from 348 to 727, while arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 86 percent, from 238 to 442 (Figure 4). Cannabis Control Act arrests accounted for 48 percent of all drug arrests in St. Clair County in 2003, while arrests for Controlled Substances Act violations accounted for 29 percent of all drug arrests that year.

Figure 4

Drug Arrests in St. Clair County

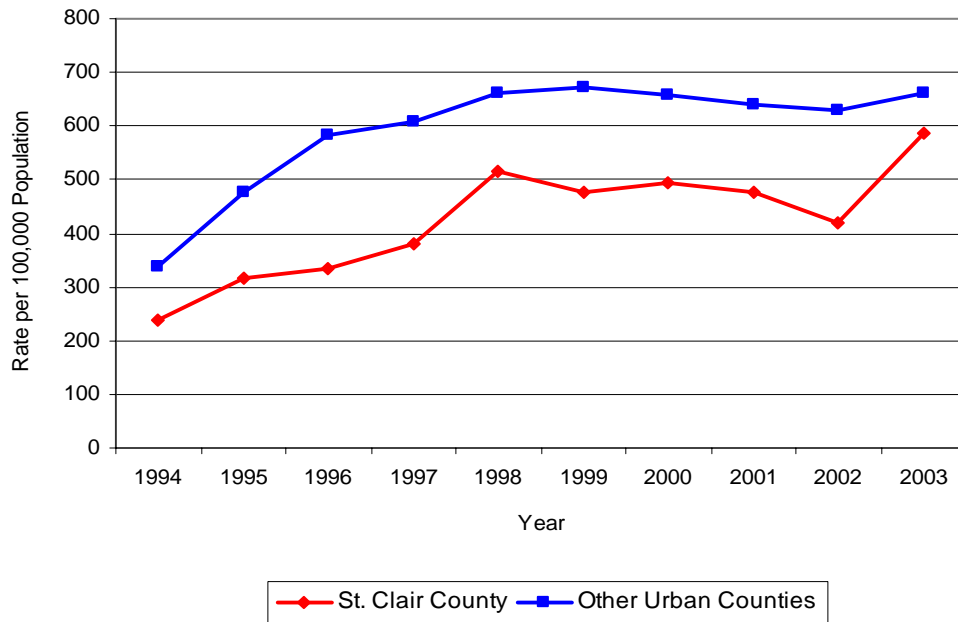


Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in St. Clair County also more than doubled, from 239 to 587 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other urban counties increased 95 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 339 to 661 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in St. Clair County was 11 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 5

Drug Arrest Rates in St. Clair and Other Urban Counties



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

Drugs Seized in St. Clair County

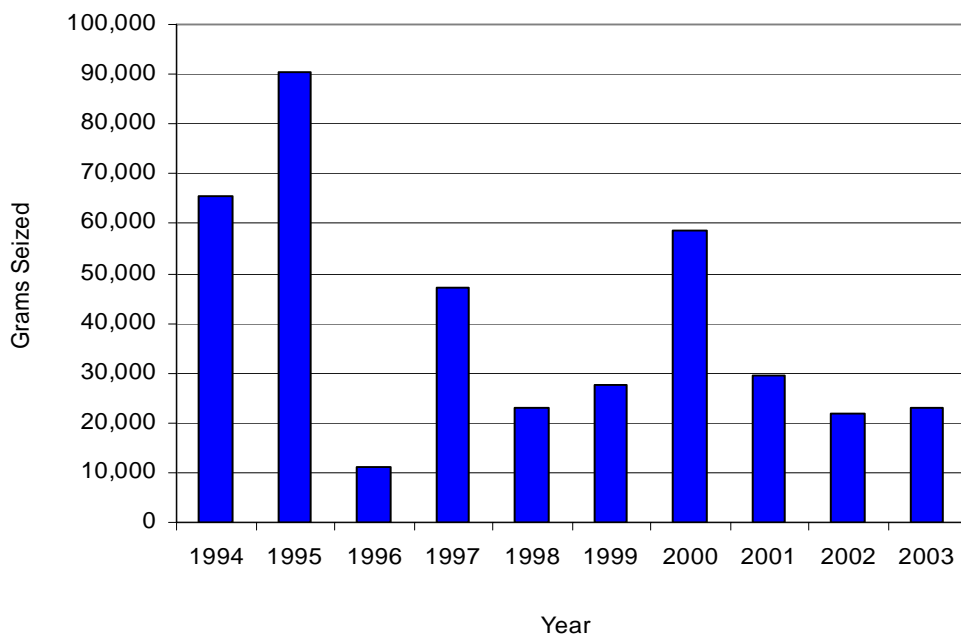
Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of the illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies in Illinois, they are submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois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

Cannabis Seized in St. Clair County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in St. Clair County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in St. Clair County decreased 65 percent, from 65,423 grams to 23,016 (Figure 6). During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other urban counties decreased 61 percent, from 1,246,343 grams to 491,618 grams.

Figure 6

Cannabis Seized in St. Clair County



Source: Illinois State Police

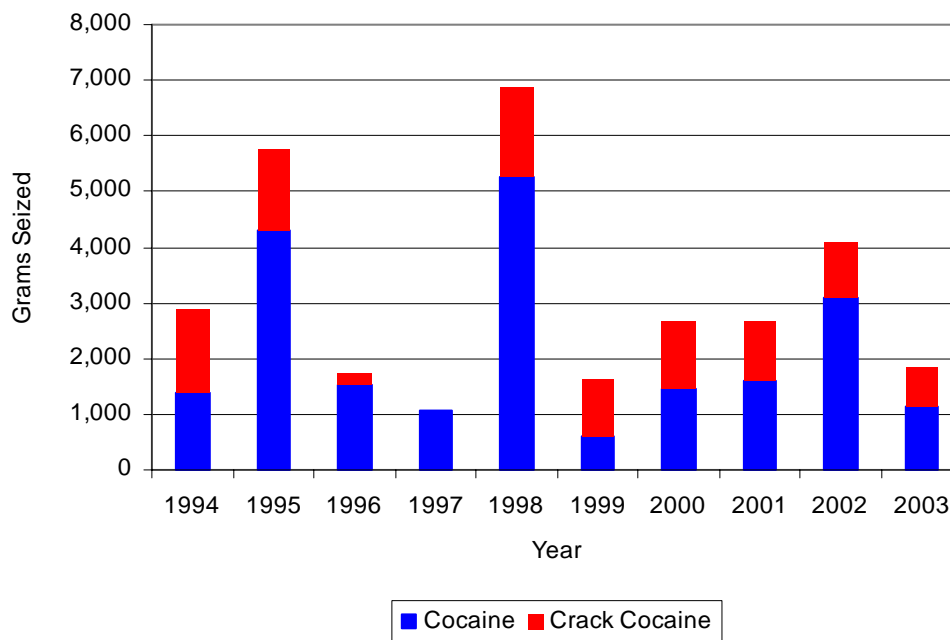
Between 1994 and 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in St. Clair County decreased 64 percent, from 24,818 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 8,900 grams per 100,000 population in 2003. The cannabis seizure rate in the other urban counties decreased 62 percent, from 54,199 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 20,378 grams per 100,000 population in 2003. In 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in St. Clair County was 56 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in St. Clair County

The quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in St. Clair County decreased between 1994 and 2003. The quantity of powder cocaine seized decreased 18 percent, from 1,382 grams in 1994 to 1,138 grams in 2003 (Figure 7). Unlike most other counties, crack cocaine accounted for a relatively significant proportion of total cocaine seized in St. Clair County, accounting for 31 percent of all cocaine seized in St. Clair County between 1994 and 2003. The quantity of crack cocaine seized in St. Clair County decreased 52 percent, from 1,493 grams in 1994 to 724 grams in 2003.

Figure 7

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in St. Clair County



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in the other urban counties also decreased during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized decreased 25 percent, from 47,032 grams to 35,437 grams in the other urban counties, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased 44 percent from 9,946 grams to 5,566 grams. In 2003, 440 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in St. Clair County, 70 percent lower than the 1,469 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other urban counties.

Methamphetamine Seized in St. Clair County

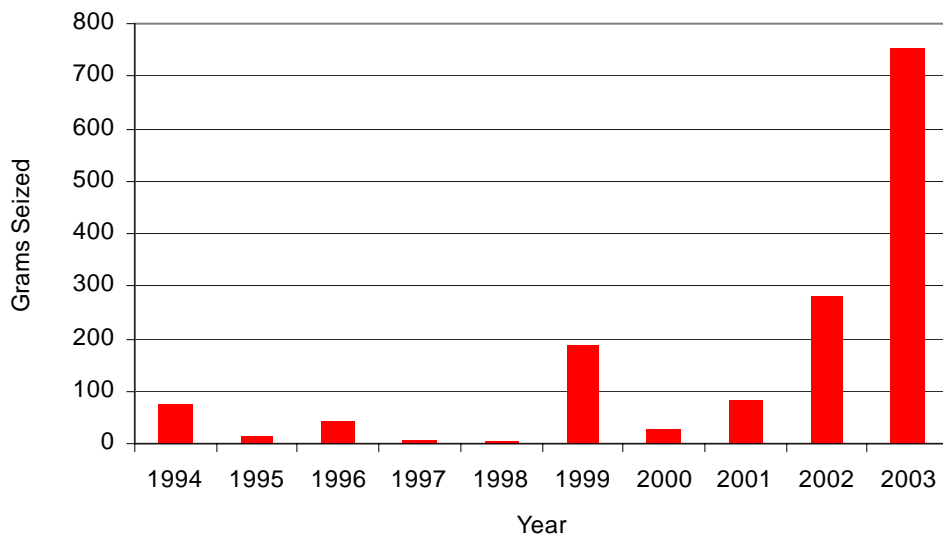
During the past decade, it is clear that methamphetamine “activity” in the state has increased dramatically and has become a significant drug problem in many jurisdictions. Further, the extent to which law enforcement agencies are encountering methamphetamine has also dispersed across a large area of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

Although methamphetamine is often characterized as a problem facing rural jurisdictions, methamphetamine seizures in St. Clair County increased significantly during the period analyzed, from 75 grams in 1994 to 753 grams in 2003 (Figure 8). Methamphetamine seizures in the other urban counties increased more than ten-fold between 1994 and 2004, from 545 grams to 7,333 grams during the same period.

The rate of methamphetamine seizures in St. Clair County increased more than nine-fold during the period analyzed, from 28 to 291 grams per 100,000 population. Between 1994 and 2003, the rate of methamphetamine seizures in the other urban counties increased from 24 to 304 grams per 100,000 population. In 2003, the methamphetamine seizure rate in St. Clair County was 4 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties. Among the 30 urban counties in Illinois, St. Clair County had the seventh highest methamphetamine seizure rate in 2003.

Figure 8

Methamphetamine Seized in St. Clair County



Source: Illinois State Police

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in St. Clair 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 St. Clair County and the other urban counties.

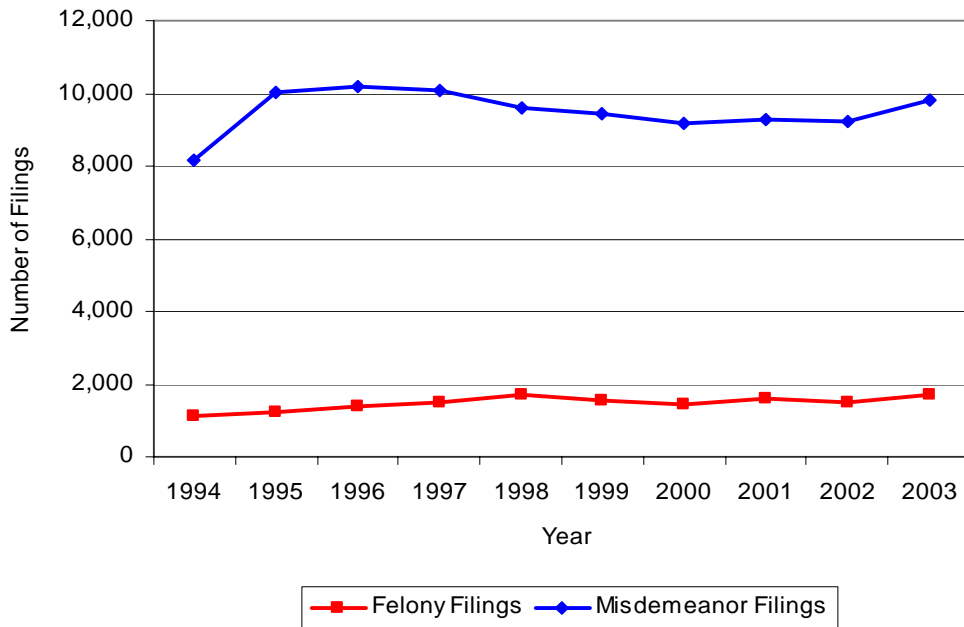
Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in St. Clair County

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 12 percent of all filings in St. Clair County's courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in St. Clair County increased 50 percent, from 1,137 to 1,707 (Figure 9). During the same period, misdemeanor filings increased 20 percent, from 8,164 in 1994 to 9,787 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings six to one.

Figure 9

Felony and Misdemeanor Filings in St. Clair County

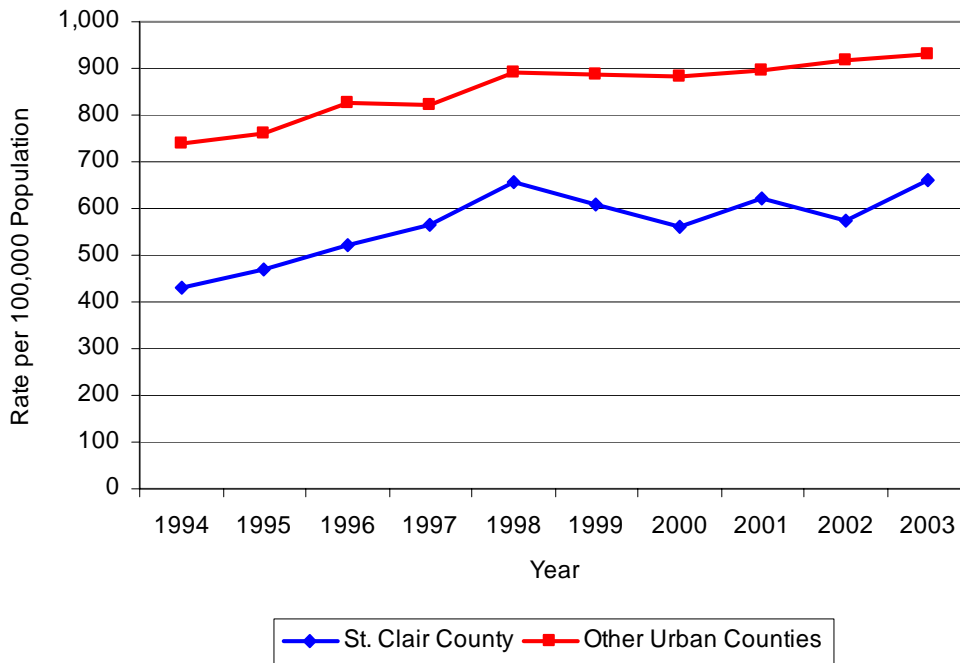


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in St. Clair County increased 53 percent, from 431 to 660 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 10). The felony-filing rate in the other urban counties increased 26 percent during this period, from 739 to 932 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in St. Clair County was 29 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 10

Felony Filing Rates in St. Clair and Other Urban Counties



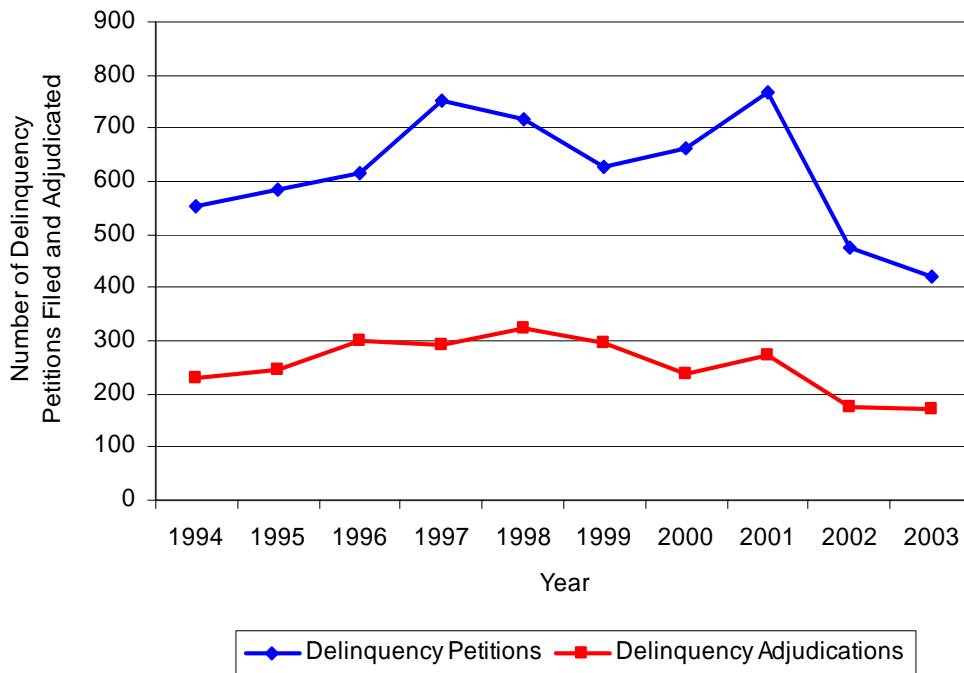
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of reported juvenile delinquency petitions filed in St. Clair County decreased 24 percent, from 554 to 419 (Figure 11). During the period analyzed, the number of reported delinquency adjudications decreased 26 percent, from 230 in 1994 to 170 in 2003. The majority of cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

Figure 11

Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in St. Clair County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

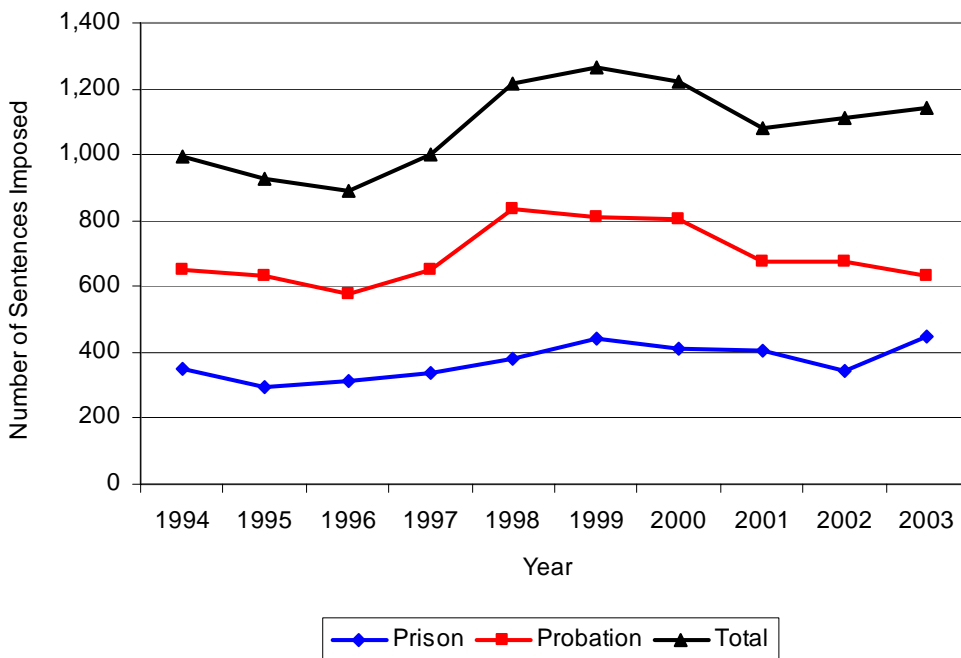
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in St. Clair County decreased 24 percent, from 1,898 to 1,438 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other urban counties decreased 5 percent, from 1,881 to 1,781 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in St. Clair County was 19 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

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

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in St. Clair County increased 15 percent, from 997 to 1,145 (Figure 12). The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation decreased 3 percent, from 650 to 631, while the number of convicted felons sentenced to prison increased 29 percent, from 347 in 1994 to 448 in 2003. As the number of convicted felons sentenced to prison during this period increased, felony prison sentences as a proportion of total sentences also increased. In 1994, 35 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to prison, compared to 39 percent in 2003. The proportion of convicted felons sentenced to probation, on the other hand, decreased from 65 percent in 1994 to 55 percent in 2003. In 2003, 6 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

Figure 12

**Sentences Imposed on Felons
Convicted in St. Clair County**

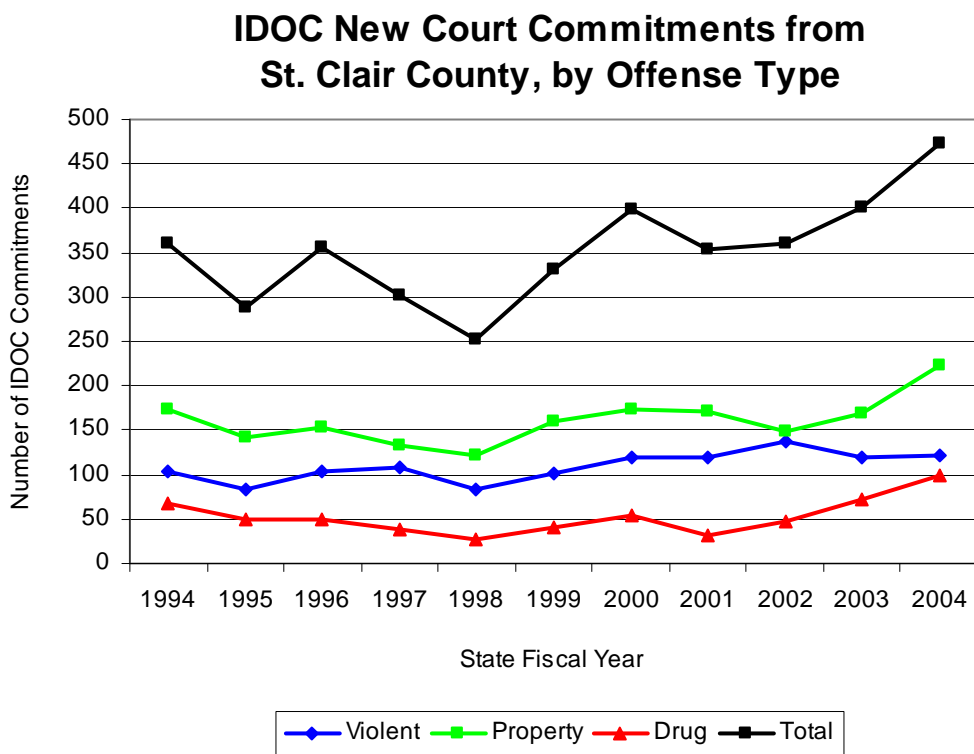


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from St. Clair County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of commitments to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from St. Clair County increased 31 percent, from 361 to 473 (Figure 13). During this period, the number of violent, property, and drug offender commitments also increased. The number of violent offender commitments increased 17 percent, from 103 in SFY 1994 to 121 in SFY 2004, while property offender commitments increased 28 percent, from 174 to 222, and drug offender commitments increased 47 percent, from 68 to 100 between SFYs 1994 and 2004.

Figure 13



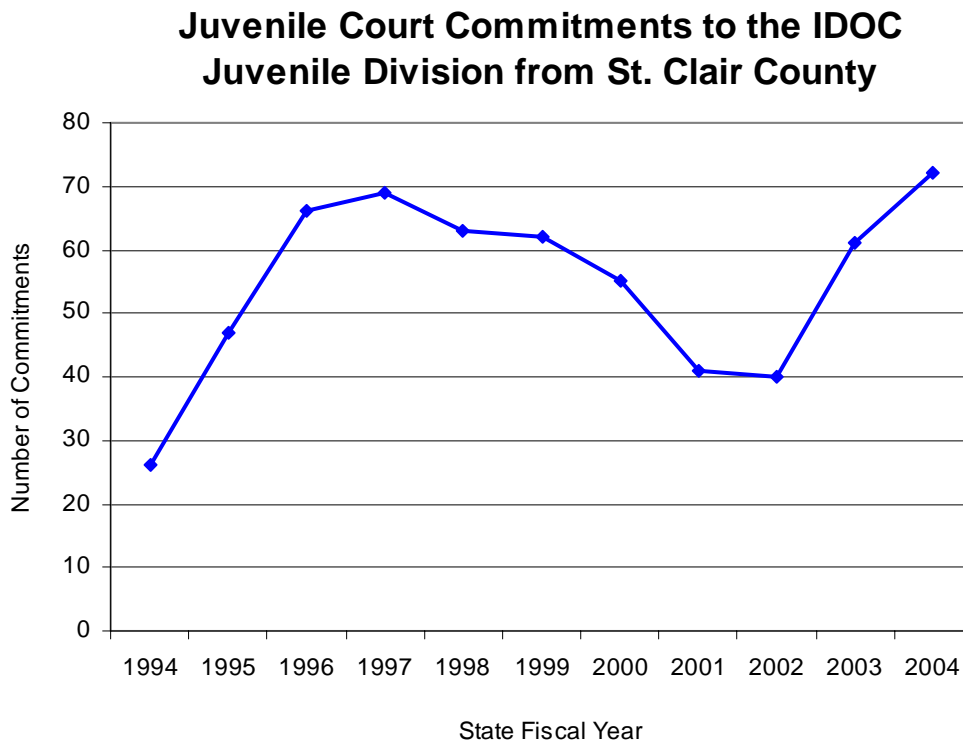
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 26 percent of all commitments from St. Clair County, while property offenders accounted for 47 percent of all commitments. Furthermore, while the proportions of violent and property offenders both decreased between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the proportion that drug commitments comprised of all commitments from St. Clair County increased from 19 percent to 21 percent during that time.

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 St. Clair County nearly tripled, from 26 to 72 (Figure 14).

Figure 14



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

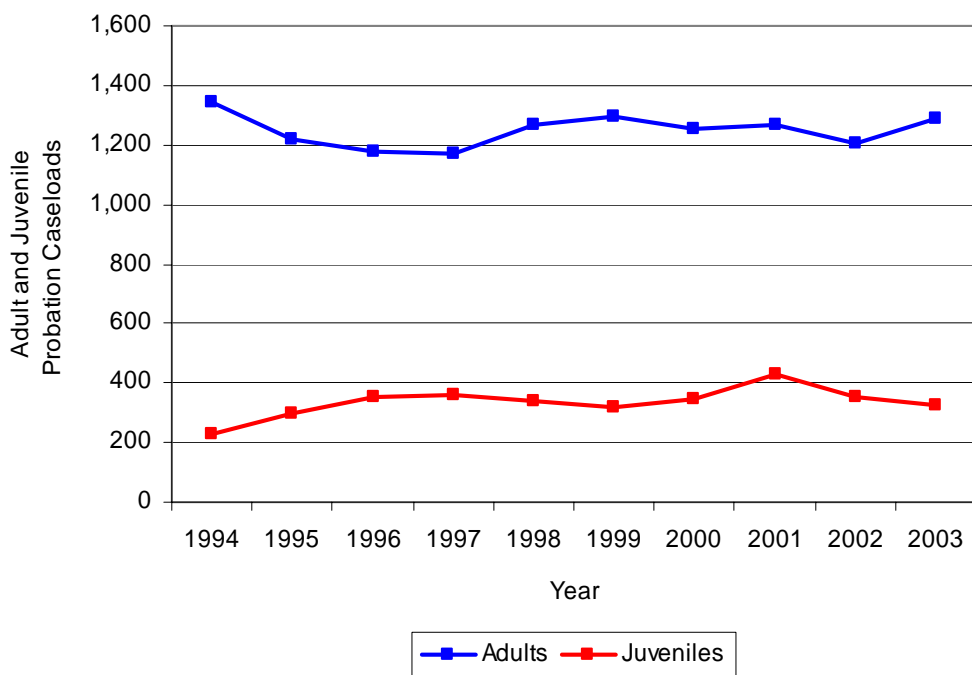
In SFY 2004, St. Clair County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 284 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 4 percent lower than the 297 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other urban counties.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in St. Clair County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in St. Clair County decreased 4 percent, from 1,344 to 1,291 (Figure 15). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 79 percent of St. Clair County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the St. Clair County Juvenile Probation Department increased 41 percent, from 232 to 327. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other urban counties increased 32 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 36 percent.

Figure 15

Total Adult and Juvenile Active Probation Cases in St. Clair County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in St. Clair County decreased 2 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 510 to 499 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 26 percent in the other urban counties, from 671 to 844 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in St. Clair County was 41 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

IV. Jail Populations in St. Clair 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.

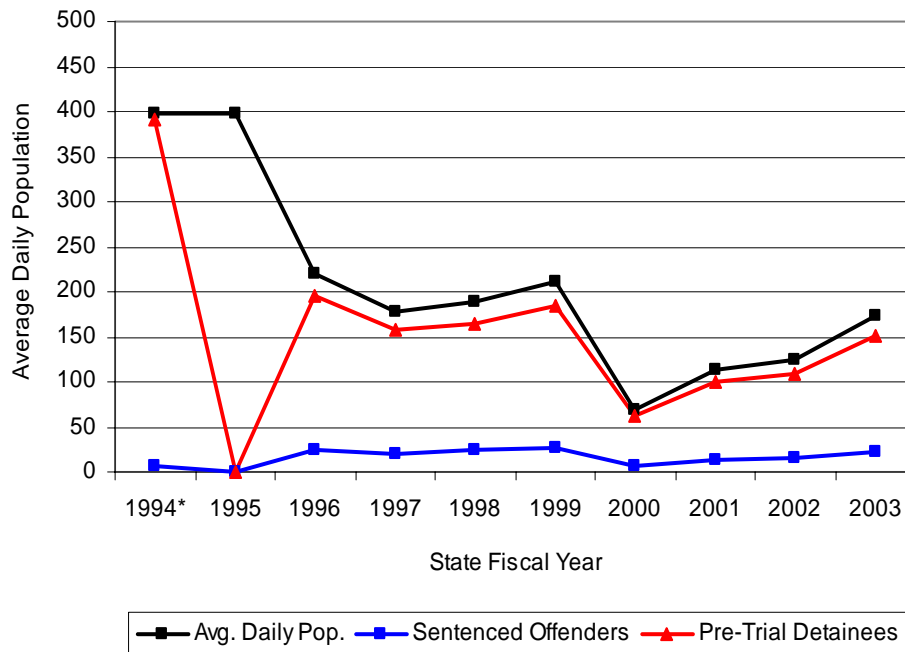
Average Daily Population of the St. Clair County Jail

The St. Clair 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 relied 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 St. Clair County Jail decreased 56 percent, from 397 to 174 inmates (Figure 16). 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, from 98 percent in SFY 1994 to 87 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; 2 percent in SFY 1994 compared to 13 percent in SFY 2003.

Figure 16

Average Daily Population of the St. Clair Jail



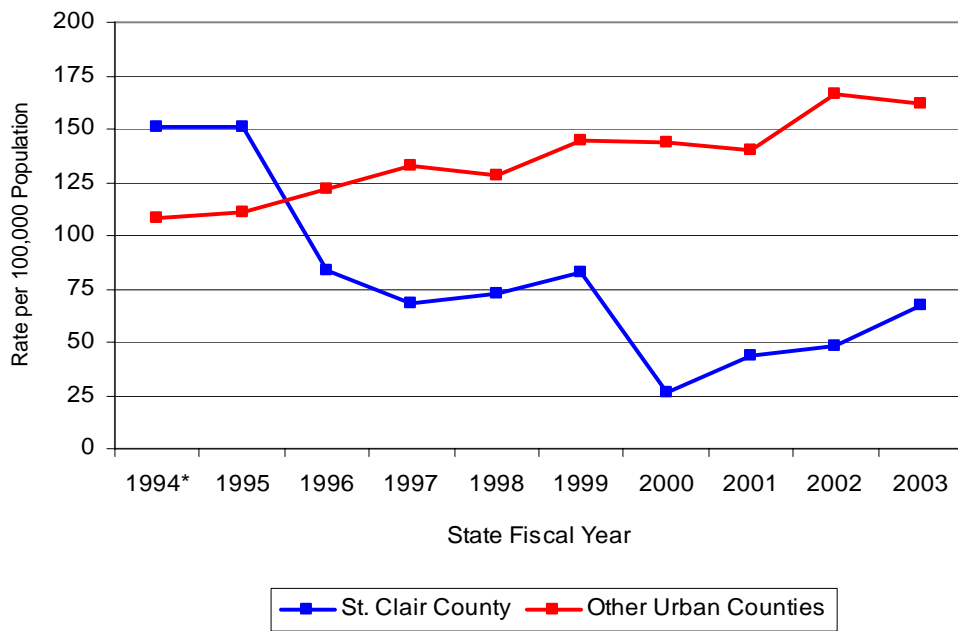
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

*Information estimated by ICJIA

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in St. Clair County decreased 58 percent, from 151 to 67 per 100,000 population (Figure 17). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other urban counties increased 49 percent, from 109 to 162 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the St. Clair County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 58 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 17

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,
St. Clair and Other Urban Counties**



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

* Information estimated by ICJIA

V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in St. Clair County

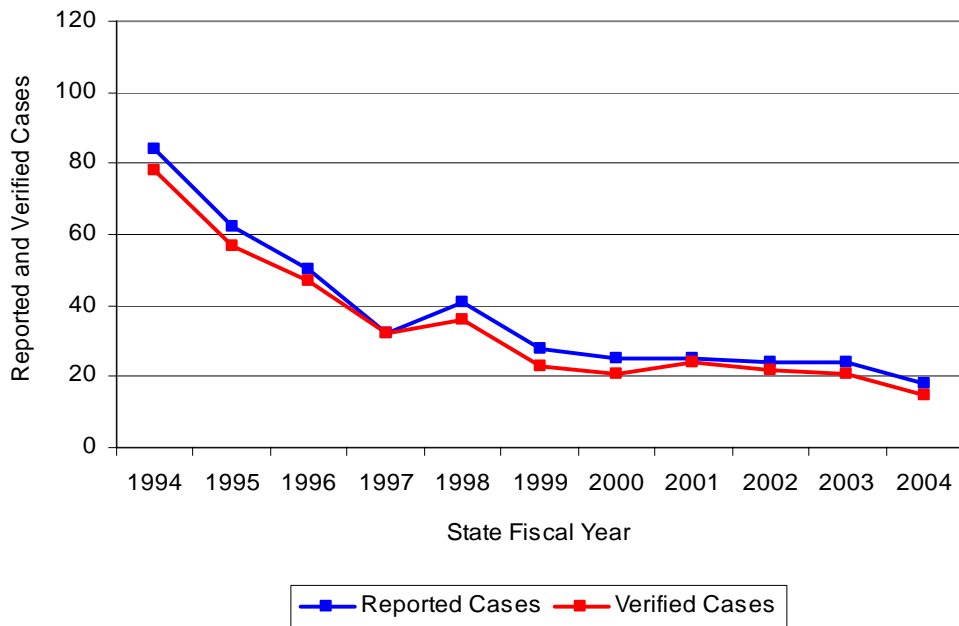
Substance-Exposed Infants in St. Clair County

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 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 St. Clair County decreased 79 percent, from 84 to 18. During the same period, the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 81 percent, from 78 to 15 (Figure 18).

Figure 18

Substance-Exposed Infants, Reported and Verified Cases in St. Clair County



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other urban counties decreased 30 percent, from 280 to 264, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 31 percent, from 253 to 181.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in St. Clair County

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

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

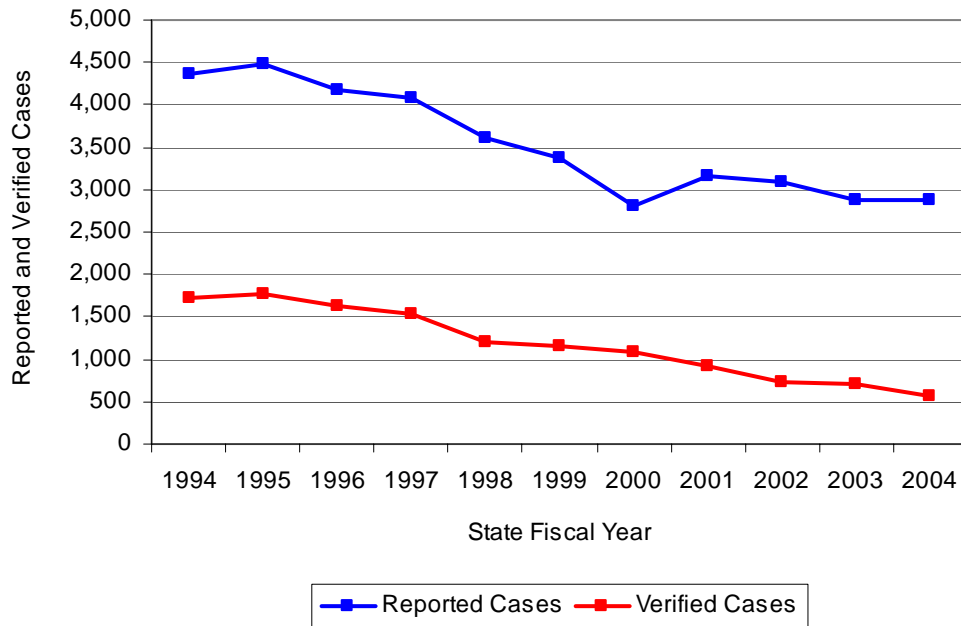
² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. "In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in St. Clair County decreased 34 percent, from 4,362 to 2,874 (Figure 19). During that same period, 13,025 cases, or 33 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in St. Clair County decreased 67 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 1,725 to 562.

Figure 19

Reported and Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in St. Clair County

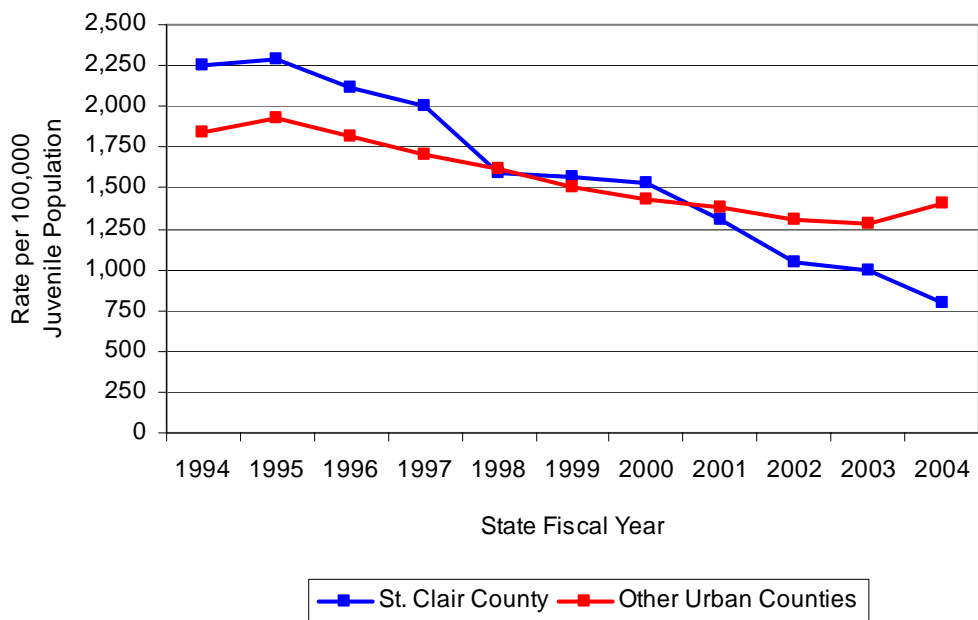


Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in St. Clair County decreased from 2,251 to 792 per 100,000 juveniles, a 65 percent decrease (Figure 20). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 24 percent in the other urban counties, from 1,846 to 1,401 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in St. Clair County was 43 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 20

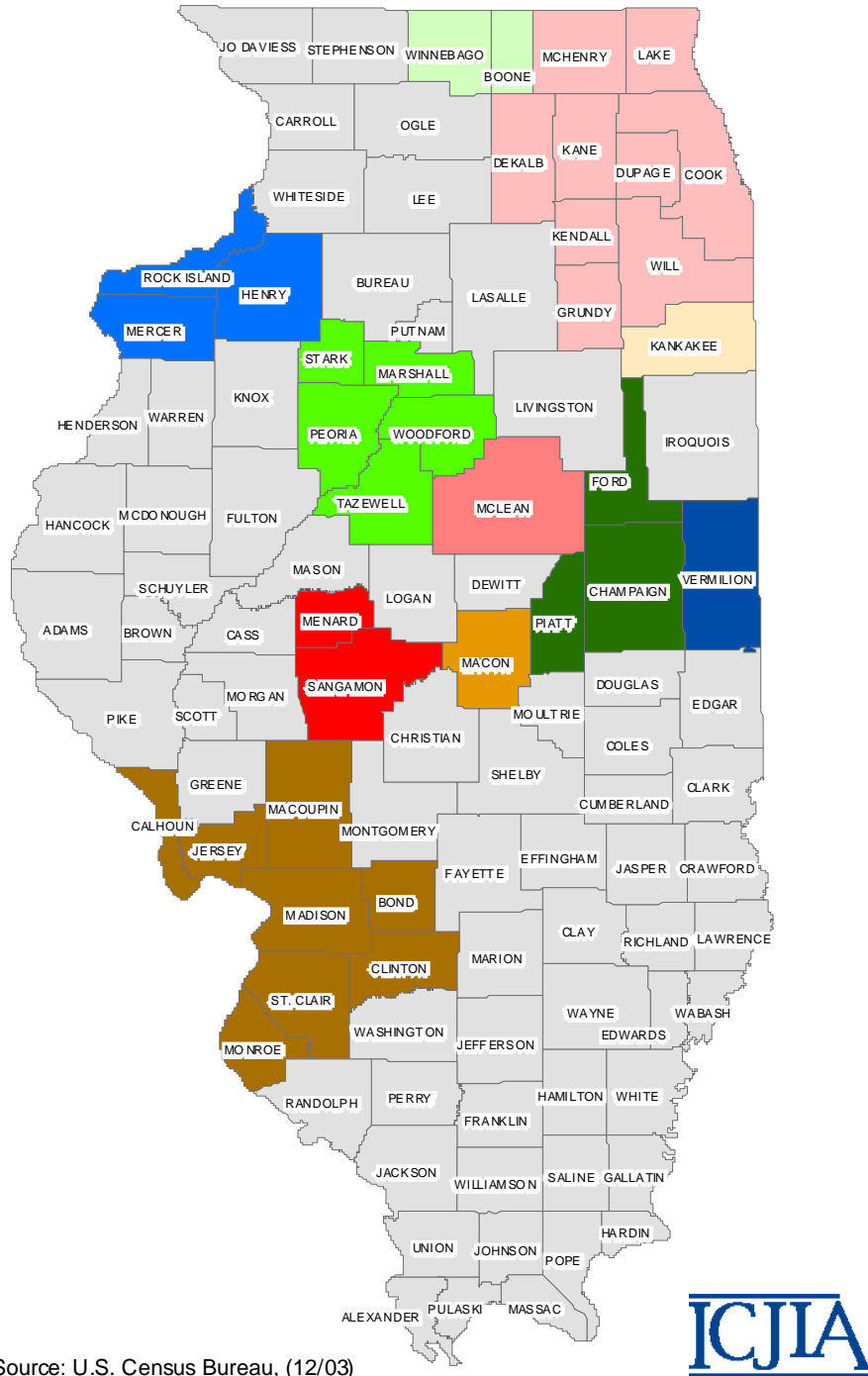
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, St. Clair and Other Urban Counties



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

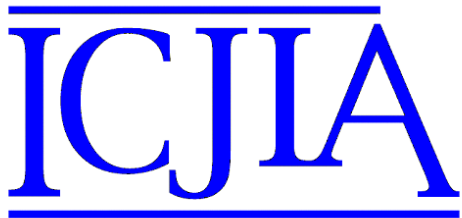
VI. Appendix I (Map of Illinois Counties within a Metropolitan Statistical Area)

Illinois Counties, by Metropolitan Statistical Area*



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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



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
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