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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 Stephenson County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems



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## FOREWORD

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

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

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

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



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

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

## I. Introduction

Stephenson County, located in northern Illinois, covers an area of 564 square miles and had a 2003 population of 48,151, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Stephenson County was the 43<sup>rd</sup> largest county in Illinois geographically, but 31<sup>st</sup> largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Stephenson County had the 29<sup>th</sup> highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Stephenson 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, Stephenson County is one of Illinois' 66 rural counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Stephenson 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 Stephenson 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 State Line Area Narcotics Team (SLANT) also serves Stephenson 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 State Line Area Narcotics Team 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).

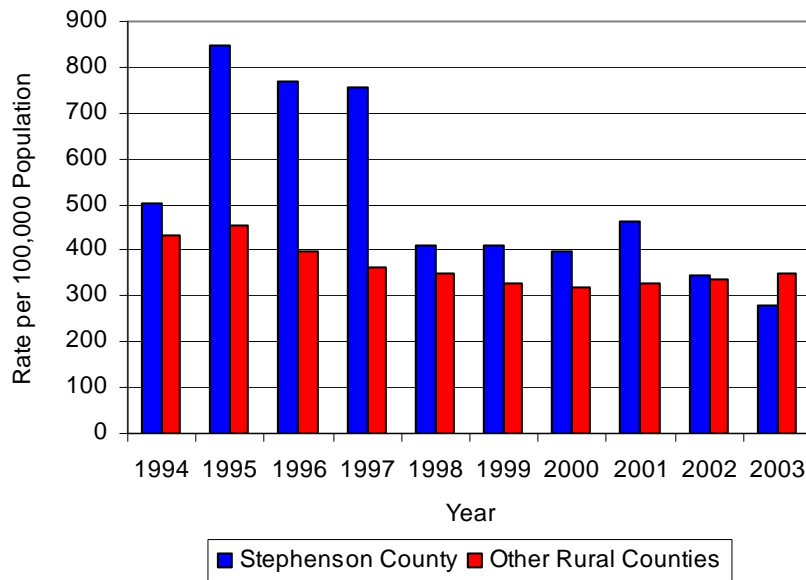
### *Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Stephenson County*

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 46 percent in Stephenson County between 1994 and 2003, from 247 to 134. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (73 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Stephenson County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Stephenson County also decreased 45 percent, from 503 to 278 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 431 to 348 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Stephenson County was 20 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 1**

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



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

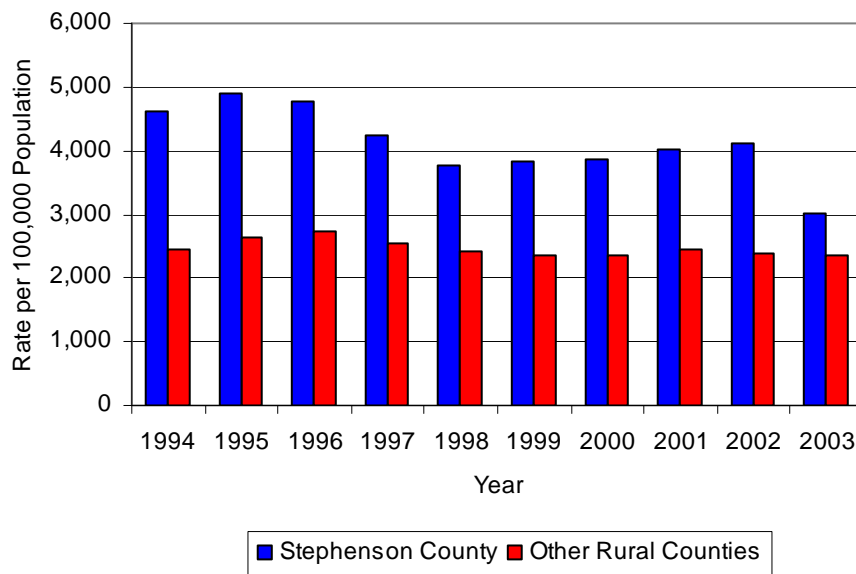
*Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Stephenson County*

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Stephenson County decreased 36 percent, from 2,264 to 1,447. Thefts accounted for 80 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Stephenson County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Stephenson County also decreased 35 percent, from 4,614 to 3,005 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). The property Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 5 percent, from 2,460 to 2,343 offenses per 100,000 population. Stephenson County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 28 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 2**

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



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

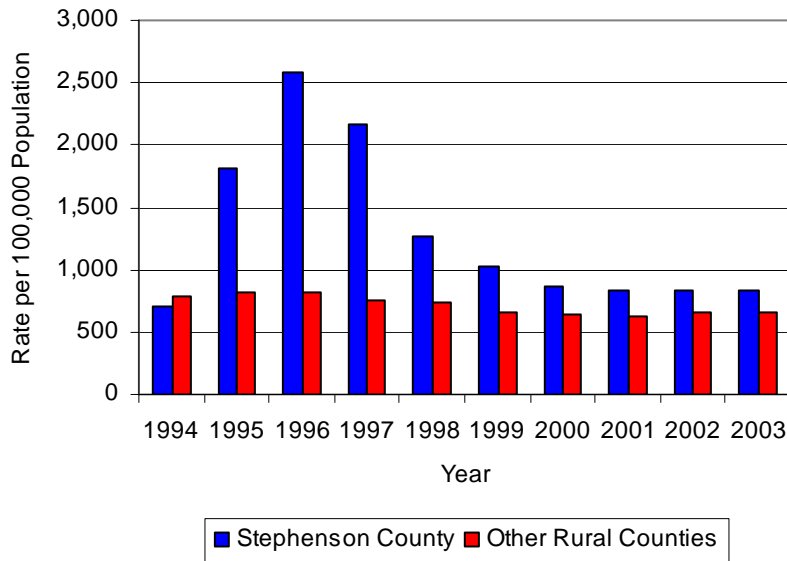
*Index Arrests by Stephenson County Law Enforcement Agencies*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Stephenson County increased 17 percent, from 345 to 402. The majority of Index arrests was for property Index offenses. Of the 402 Index arrests made in Stephenson County during 2003, 21 percent were for violent Index crimes and 79 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Stephenson County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 83 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 76 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Stephenson County increased 19 percent, from 703 to 835 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 17 percent, from 785 to 651 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Stephenson County's Index arrest rate was 28 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 3**

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



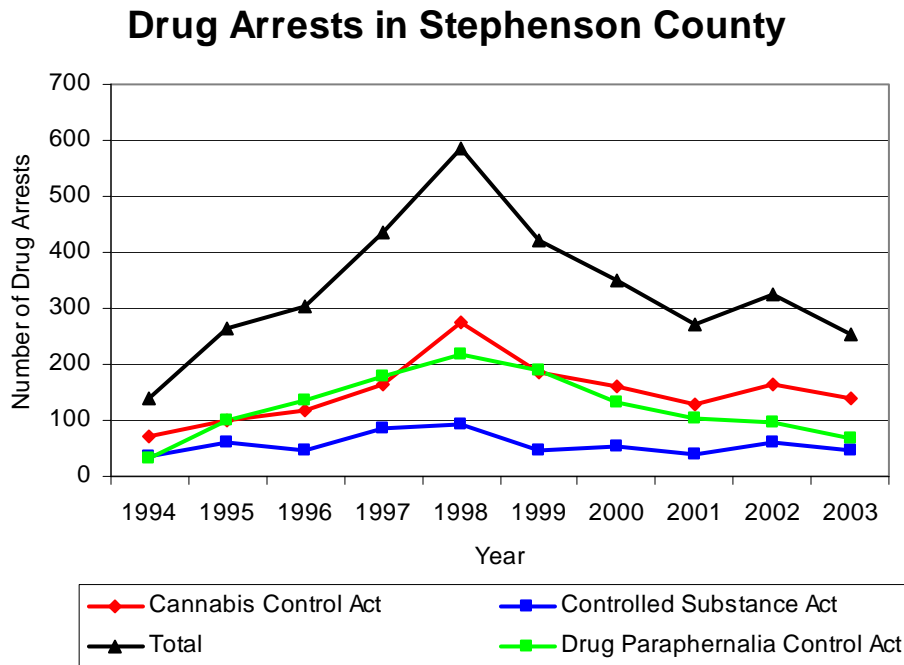
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

*Drug Offense Arrests in Stephenson County*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total drug offenses (including violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, and the Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act) increased 80 percent in Stephenson County, from 140 to 253 (Figure 4). Similar to other counties, total drug arrests in Stephenson County remained relatively stable between 1983 and 1992, before increasing nearly annually every year thereafter. Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests, increasing from 32 arrests in 1994 to 68 in 2003, or in other words, 27 percent of all drugs arrests in 2003.

During the period analyzed, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Stephenson 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 Stephenson County increased 89 percent, from 73 to 138. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 31 percent, from 35 to 46, during the same period (Figure 4).

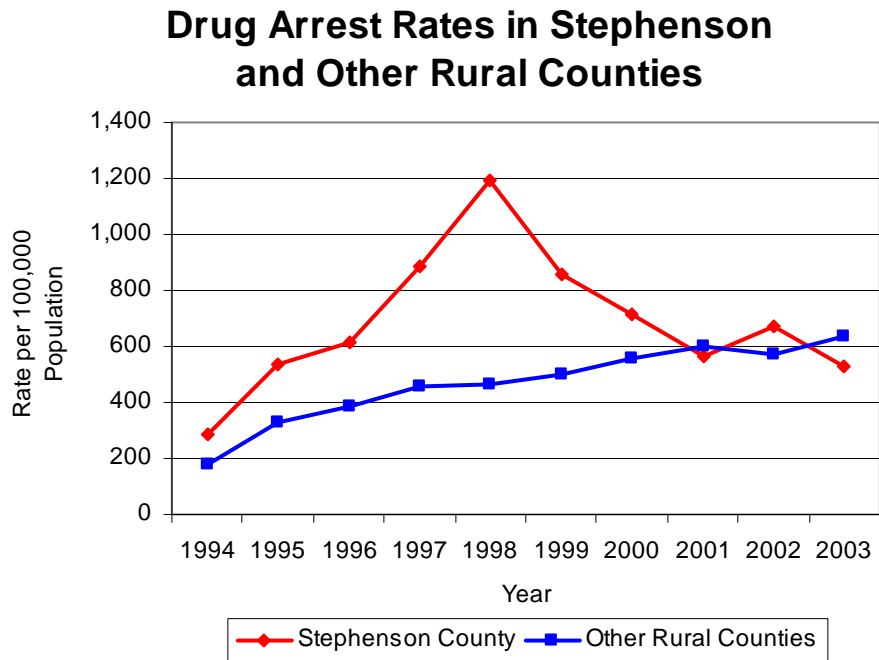
**Figure 4**



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Stephenson County also increased 84 percent, from 285 to 525 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other rural counties more than tripled between 1994 and 2003, from 178 to 635 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Stephenson County was 17 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

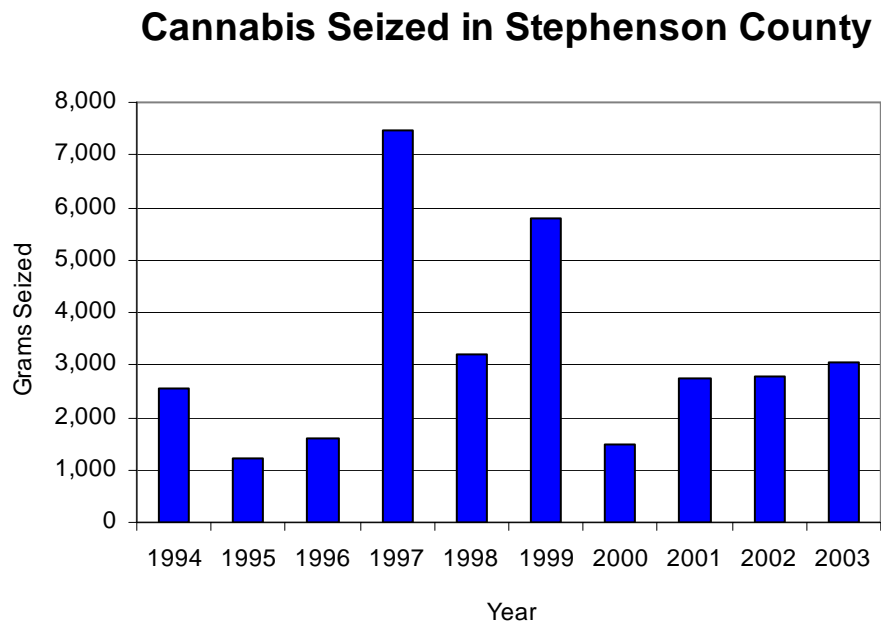
### **Drugs Seized in Stephenson County**

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 Stephenson County.

### *Cannabis Seized in Stephenson County*

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Stephenson 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 Stephenson County increased 21 percent, from 2,538 grams to 3,065 grams (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**



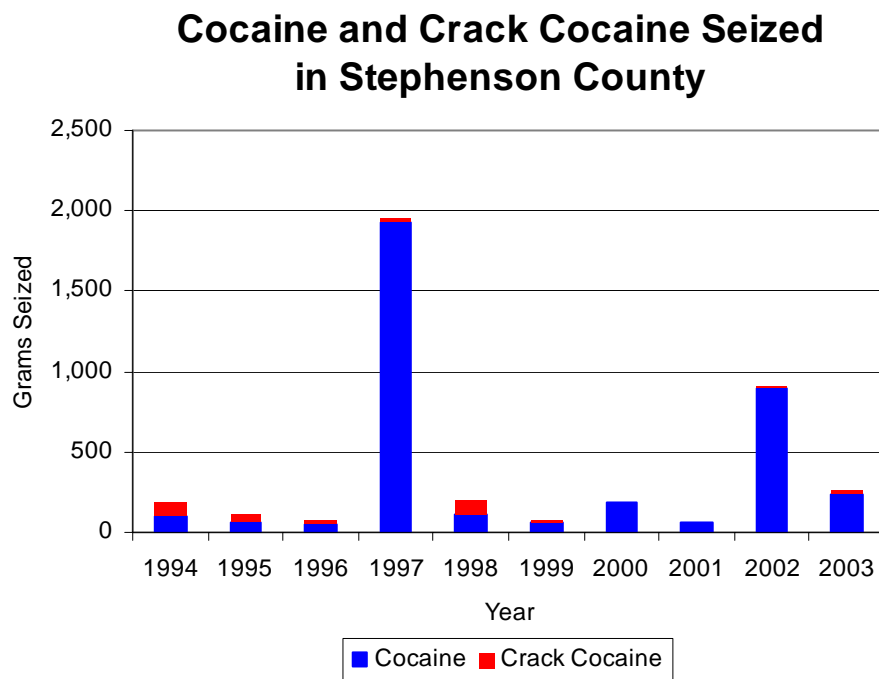
Source: Illinois State Police

During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other rural counties decreased 55 percent, from 605,610 grams to 269,578 grams. In 2003, Stephenson County had a cannabis seizure rate of 6,365 grams per 100,000 population, compared to a rate of 16,412 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

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

The quantity of powder cocaine seized in Stephenson County increased between 1994 and 2003, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased (Figure 7). The quantity of powder cocaine seized in Stephenson County more than doubled from 101 grams in 1994 to 232 grams in 2003. Crack cocaine accounted for a small portion of all cocaine seized in Stephenson County between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of crack cocaine seized in Stephenson County decreased from 83 grams to 24 grams (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of powder cocaine seized decreased while the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased dramatically in the other rural counties during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized decreased 82 percent in the other rural counties, from 70,001 grams to 12,832 grams, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased 90 percent, from 1,093 grams to 2,082 grams. In 2003, 481 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in Stephenson County, 38 percent lower than the 781 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other rural counties.



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

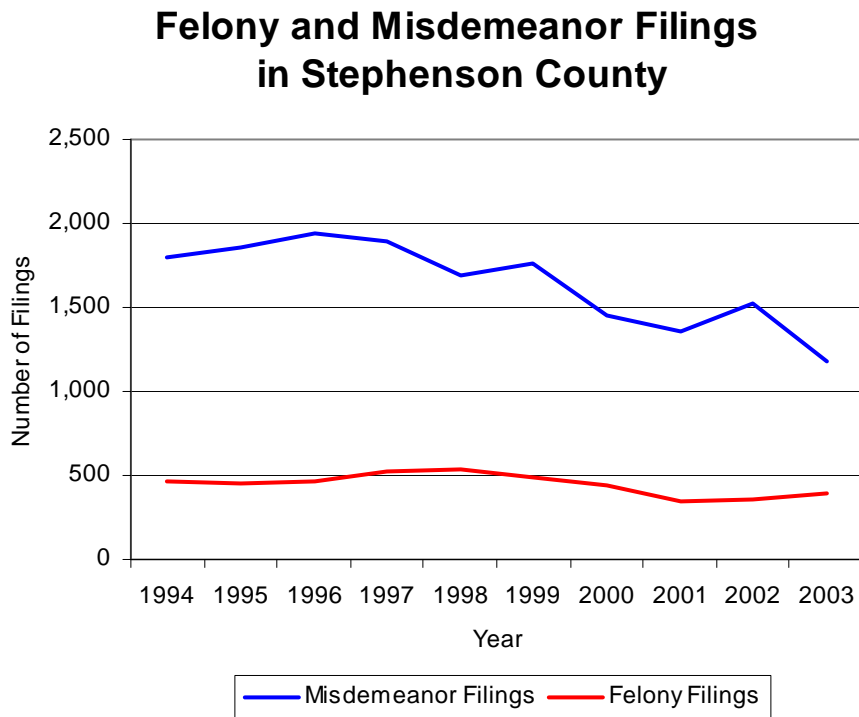
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Stephenson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

#### *Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Stephenson 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 9 percent of all filings in Stephenson County's courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Stephenson County decreased 15 percent, from 470 to 398 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 34 percent, from 1,799 in 1994 to 1,183 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings have out-numbered felony filings by almost three to one.

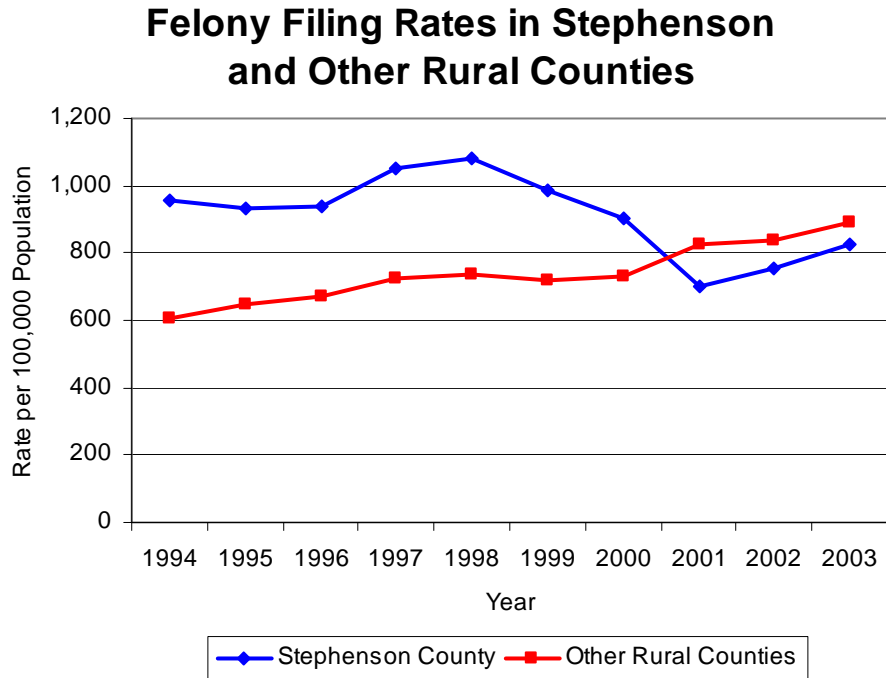
**Figure 8**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Stephenson County decreased 14 percent, from 958 to 827 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). In contrast, the felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 47 percent during this period, from 604 to 891 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Stephenson County was 7 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 9**



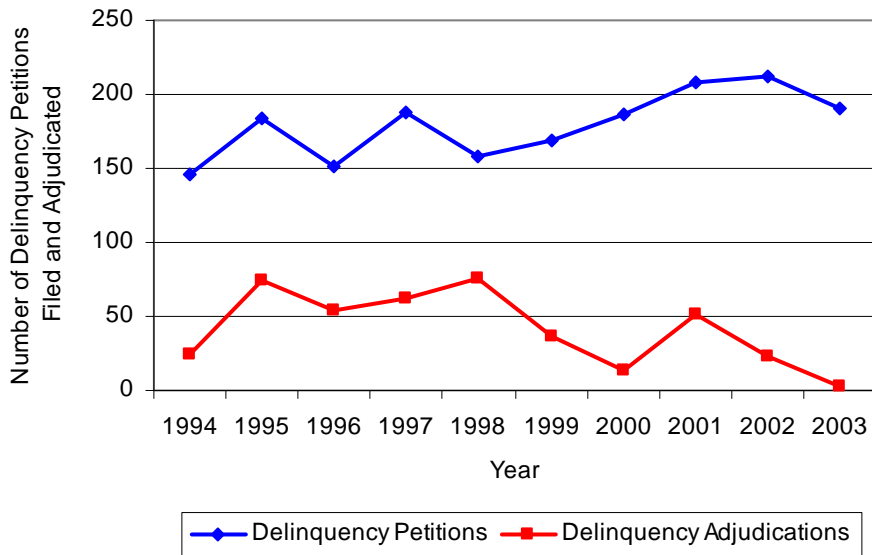
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 “adjudicatory hearing” and “dispositional hearing” terms.

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Stephenson County increased 31 percent, from 146 to 191 (Figure 10). In 2003, 2 percent of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications decreased 88 percent, from 24 to 3.

**Figure 10**

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



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

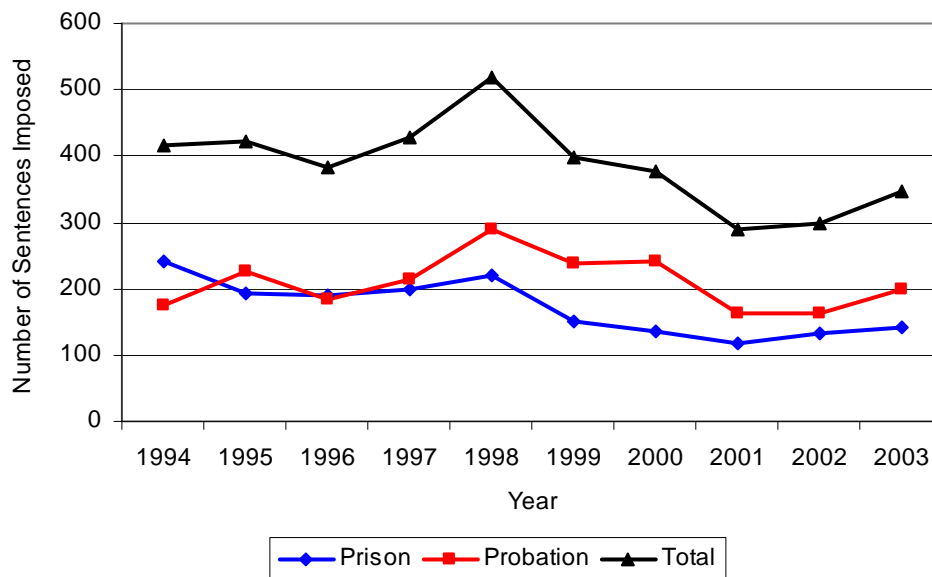
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Stephenson County increased 24 percent, from 2,976, to 3,678 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 12 percent, from 1,983 to 2,221 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition rate in Stephenson County was 66 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

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

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in Stephenson County decreased 16 percent, from 416 to 348 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to prison decreased, while felony probation sentences increased. The number of convicted felons sentenced to prison decreased 41 percent, from 241 to 141, while the number of convicted felons sentenced to probation increased 14 percent, from 175 to 199. As a result, felony probation sentences increased as a proportion of total sentences, increasing from 42 percent in 1994 to 57 percent of all convicted felons in 2003. On the other hand, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison decreased from 58 percent in 1994 to 41 percent in 2003. In 2003, 2 percent of convicted felons in Stephenson County were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

**Figure 11**

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

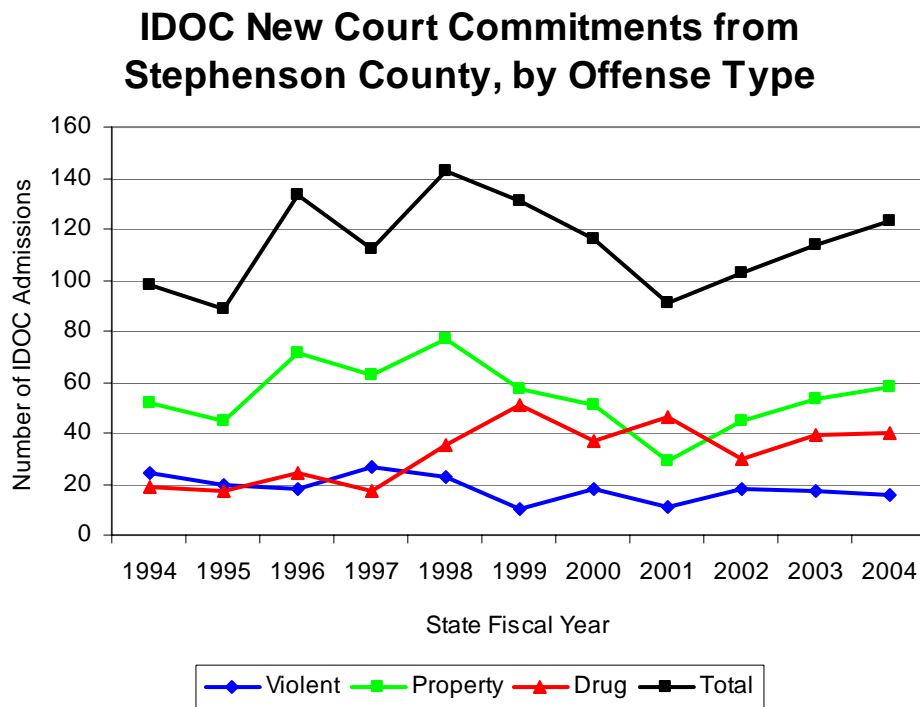


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

## Adult Prison Admissions from Stephenson County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFY) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Stephenson County increased 26 percent, from 98 to 123 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent offender admissions decreased, while the number of property and drug offender admissions increased. The number of violent offender admissions decreased 33 percent, from 24 to 16. On the other hand, the number of property offender admissions increased 12 percent, from 52 to 58, while drug offender admissions doubled, from 19 in SFY 1994 to 40 in SFY 2004.

Figure 12



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

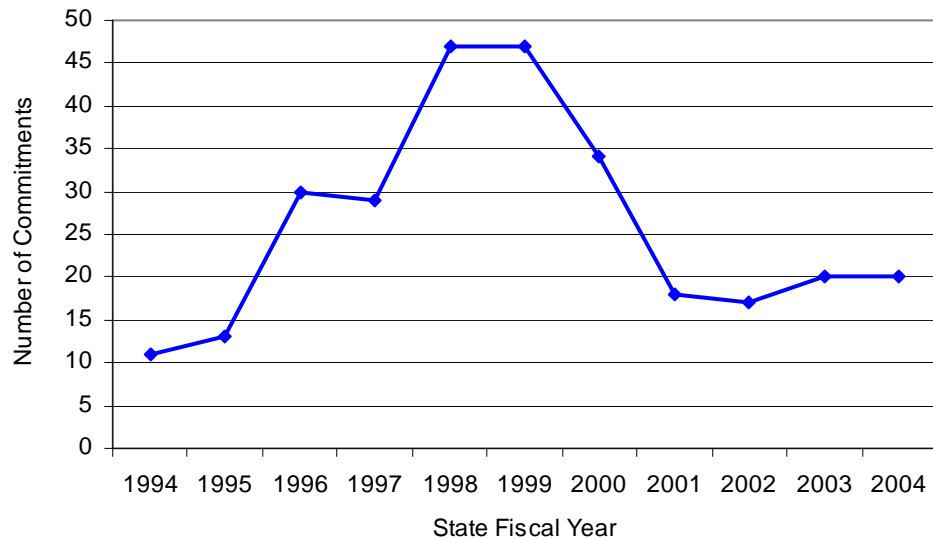
In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 13 percent of all admissions from Stephenson County, compared to 24 percent in SFY 1994. Similarly, property offenders also accounted for a decreased proportion, decreasing from 53 percent in SFY 1994 to 47 percent in SFY 2004. Drug offenders accounted for 19 percent of all admissions from Stephenson County in SFY 1994, compared to 33 percent in SFY 2004.

## Juvenile Court Commitments to the Illinois Department of Corrections

The Illinois Department of Corrections' Juvenile Division provides long-term custody for youths, 13 to 17 years old, who have been found delinquent by the juvenile court and committed to the IDOC. Youths may remain in an IDOC juvenile facility until they are 21. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Stephenson County increased 82 percent, from 11 to 20 (Figure 13).

Figure 13

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



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

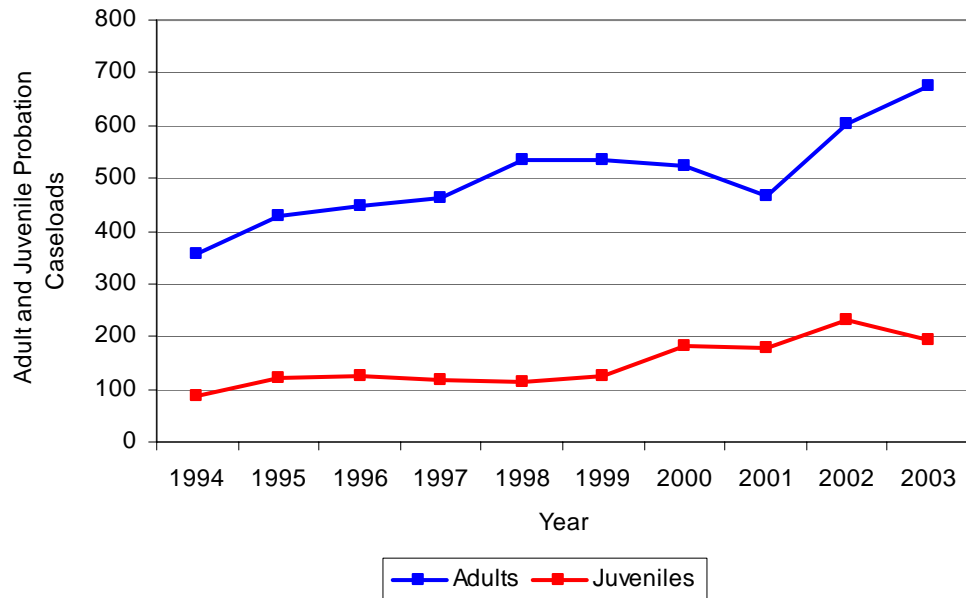
In SFY 2004, Stephenson County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 477 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was more than double the rate of 222 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other rural counties.

## Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Stephenson County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Stephenson County increased 89 percent, from 356 to 673 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 59 percent of Stephenson County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Stephenson County Juvenile Probation Department more than doubled, from 89 to 193. 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 decreased 3 percent.

Figure 14

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



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Stephenson County increased 93 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 725 to 1,398 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 39 percent in the other rural counties, from 745 to 1,033 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Stephenson County was 35 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.



#### IV. Jail Populations in Stephenson County

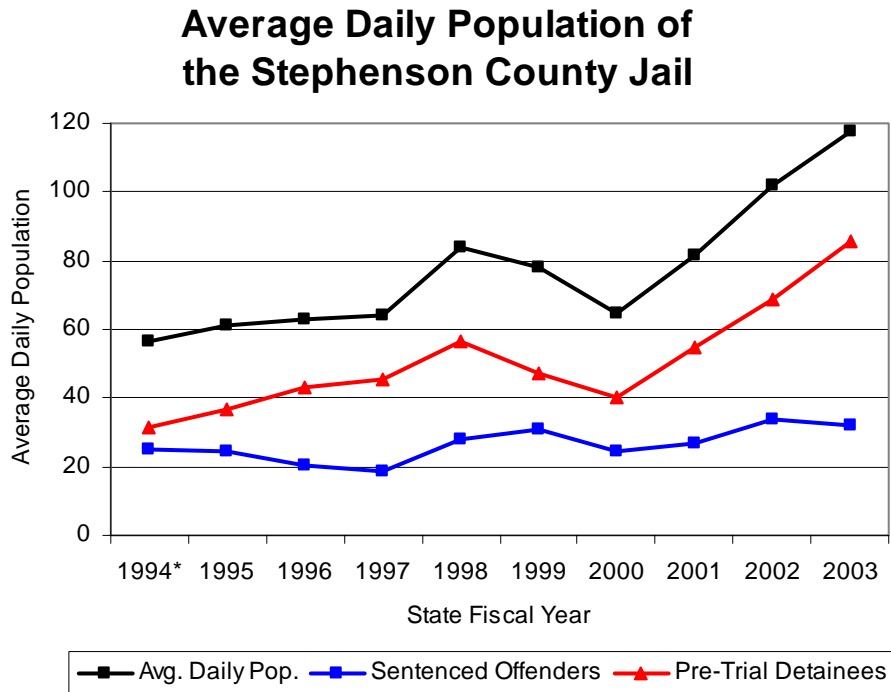
Jail data in Illinois are collected by the Illinois Department of Corrections' Bureau of Inspections and Audits. As with court data, data are not available detailing the specific offenses for which offenders were held in county jails. In addition, between SFYs 1992 and 1994, the IDOC did not collect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

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily population of the Stephenson County Jail doubled, from 57 to 118 inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) have accounted for an increased percentage of the average daily population, increasing from 56 percent in SFY 1994 to 73 percent in SFY 2003. Sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for a decreased percentage, decreasing from 44 percent in SFY 1994 to 27 percent in SFY 2003.

**Figure 15**

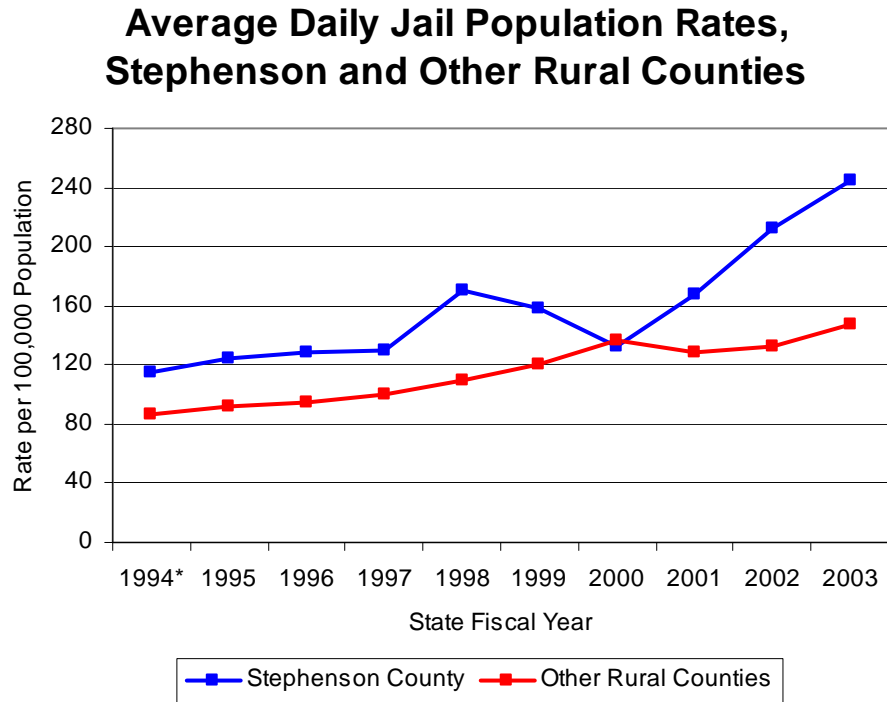


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

\* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Stephenson County more than doubled, from 115 to 245 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other rural counties increased 69 percent, from 87 to 148 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Stephenson County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 66 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 16**



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

\* Information estimated by ICJIA

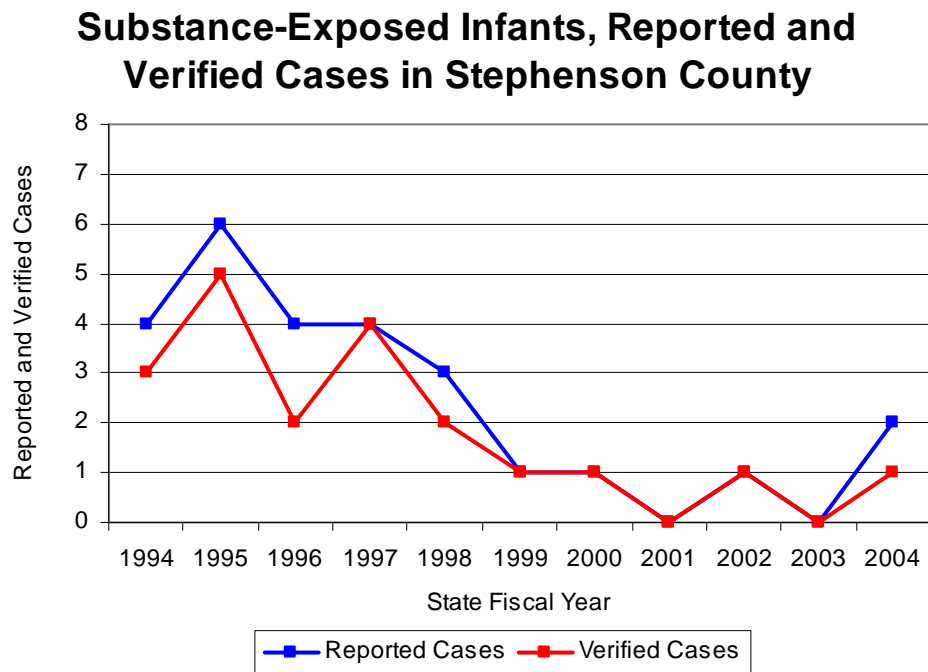
## V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in Stephenson County

### Substance-Exposed Infants in Stephenson County

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of cases of substance-exposed infants reported in Stephenson County decreased from four to two. During the same period, the number of verified cases decreased from three to one (Figure 17).

Figure 17



Source: Department of Children and Family Services

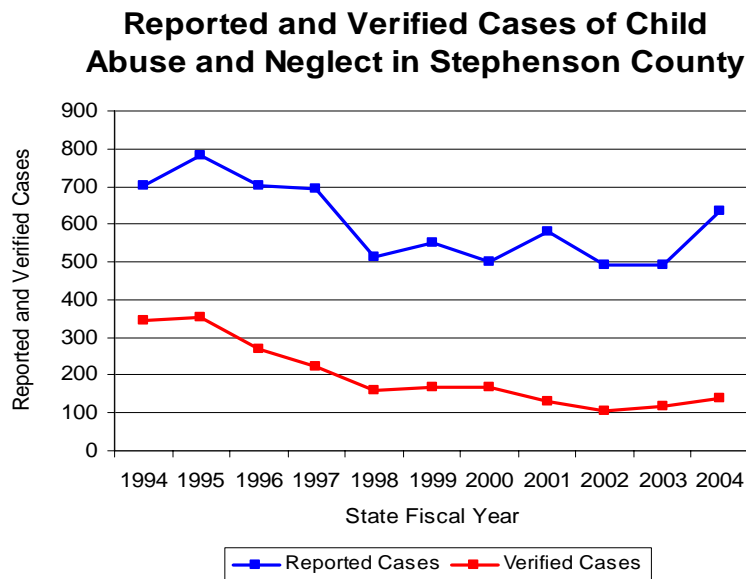
Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 27 percent, from 79 to 100, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants increased 51 percent, from 41 to 62.

## Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Stephenson 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 Stephenson County decreased 10 percent, from 704 to 636 (Figure 18). During that same period, 2,183 cases, or 33 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Stephenson County decreased 60 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 346 to 140.

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.

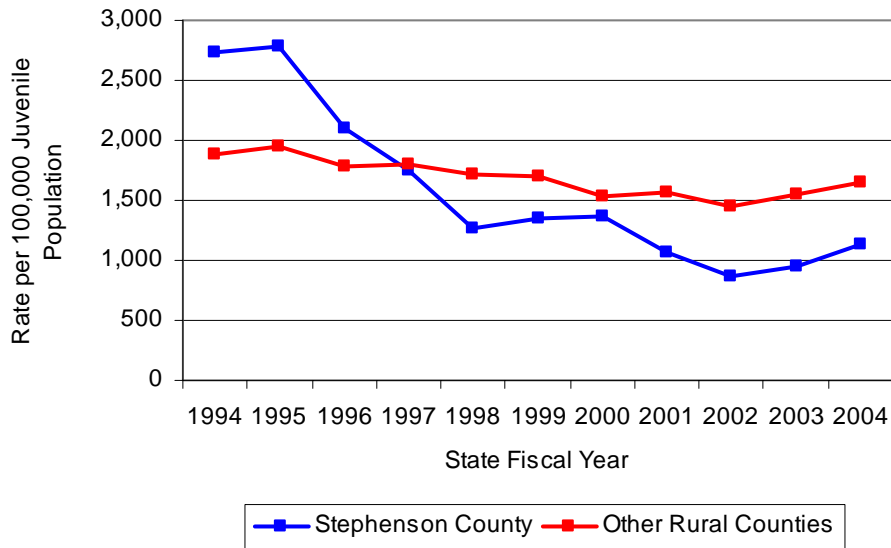
<sup>2</sup> Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>3</sup> Menard, S. 2002. 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 Stephenson County decreased from 2,726 to 1,134 per 100,000 juveniles, a 58 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 12 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,884 to 1,651 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Stephenson County was 31 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

**Figure 19**

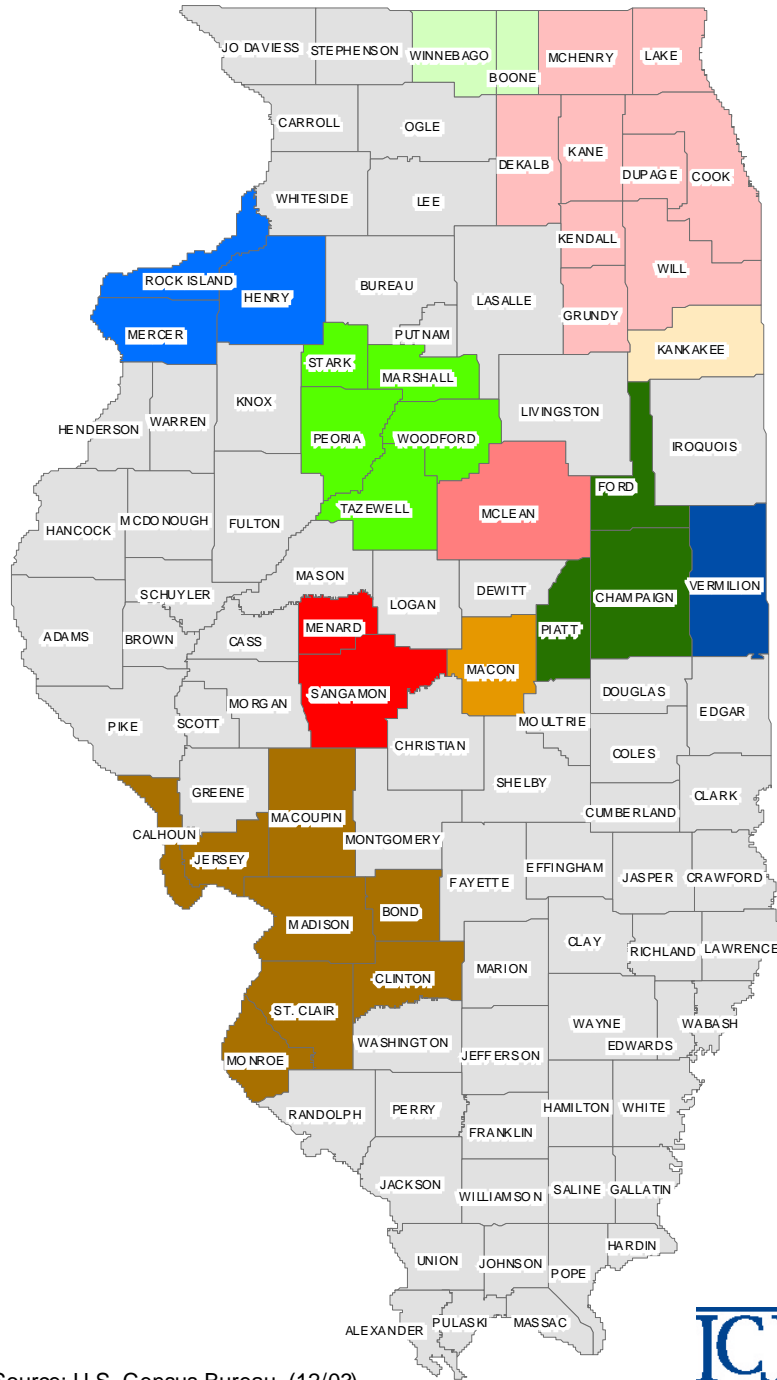
**Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Stephenson and All Other Rural Counties**



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

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

**Illinois Counties, by Metropolitan Statistical Area\***



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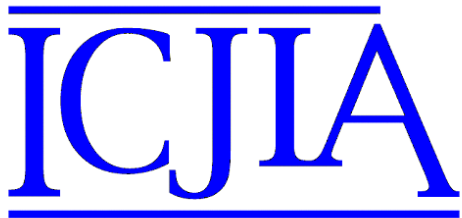
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