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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 Will 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

Will County, located in northeastern Illinois, covers an area of 837 square miles and had a 2003 population of 586,706, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Will County was the 13<sup>th</sup> largest county in Illinois geographically, but 4<sup>th</sup> largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Will County had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Will 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 lie 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, Will County is one of Illinois' five Collar counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Will County will be compared to those trends experienced in the other Collar 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 Will 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 Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad (MANS) also serves Will 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 Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad 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).

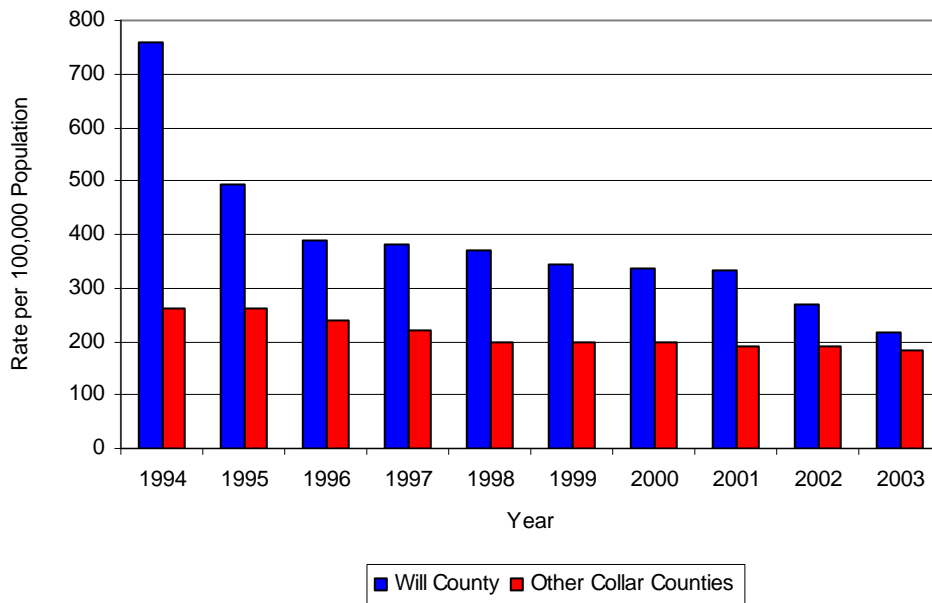
### *Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Will County*

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 58 percent in Will County between 1994 and 2003, from 3,057 to 1,273. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (nearly 63 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Will County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Will County decreased 71 percent, from 759 to 217 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Similarly, during that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other Collar counties also decreased, from 263 to 184 offenses per 100,000 population, a 30 percent decrease. Despite the decrease in the violent Index offense rate, Will County's 2003 violent Index offense rate was 18 percent higher than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 1**

### **Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Will and Other Collar Counties**



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

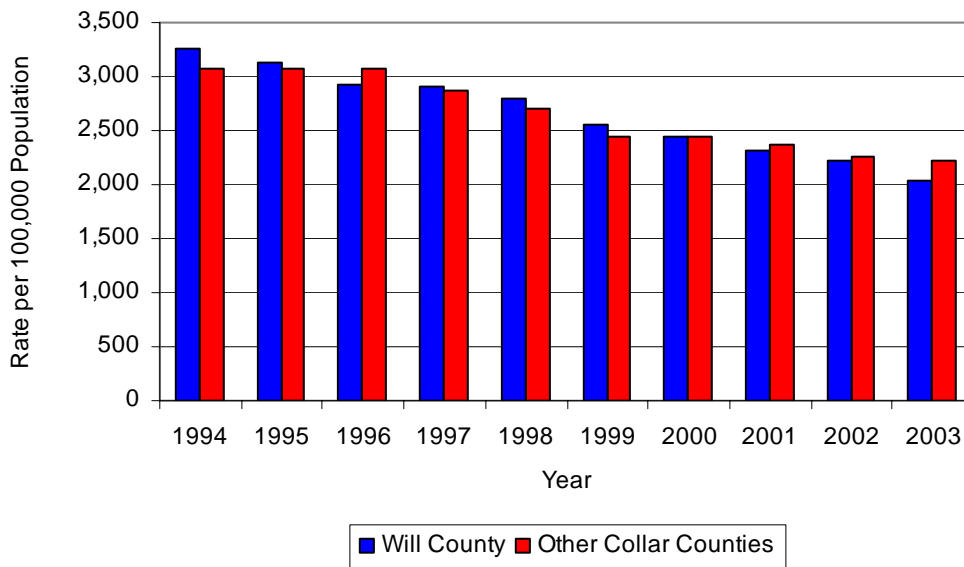
*Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Will County*

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Will County decreased 9 percent from 13,142 to 11,900. Thefts accounted for 74 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Will County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Will County decreased 38 percent, from 3,263 to 2,028 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the other Collar counties, the property Index offense rate decreased 28 percent, from 3,072 to 2,222 offenses per 100,000 population. Will County's 2003 property Index offense rate was nearly 9 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 2**

**Total Property Index Offense Rates in Will and Other Collar Counties**



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

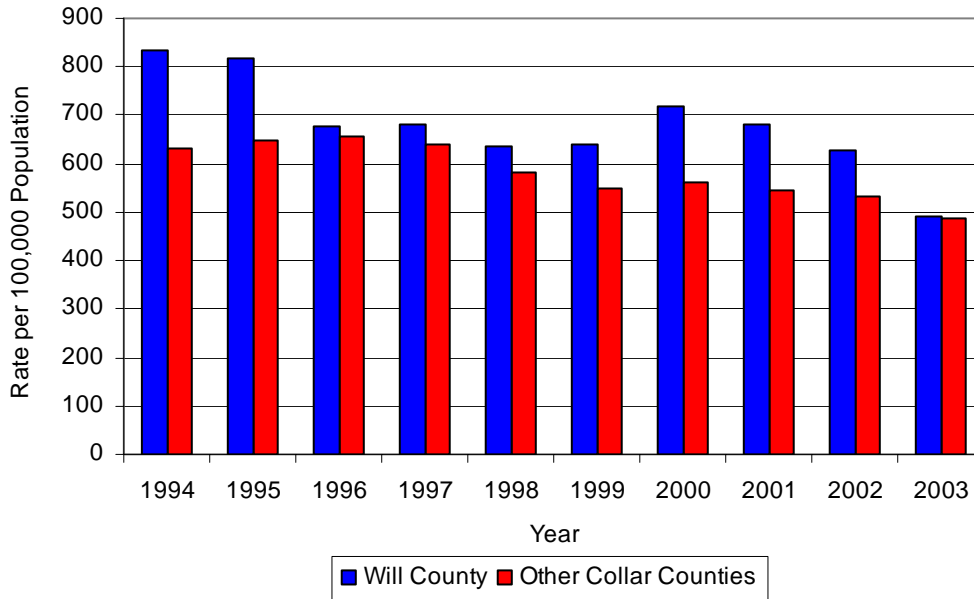
*Index Arrests by Will County Law Enforcement Agencies*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Will County decreased 15 percent, from 3,361 to 2,872. The majority of Index arrests was for property Index offenses. Of the 2,872 Index arrests made in Will County during 2003, 24 percent were for violent Index crimes and 76 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Will County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 76 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 84 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Will County decreased 41 percent, from 835 to 490 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other Collar counties decreased 23 percent, from 632 to 486 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Will County's Index arrest rate was less than 1 percent higher than the Index arrest rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 3**

**Index Arrest Rates in Will and Other Collar Counties**

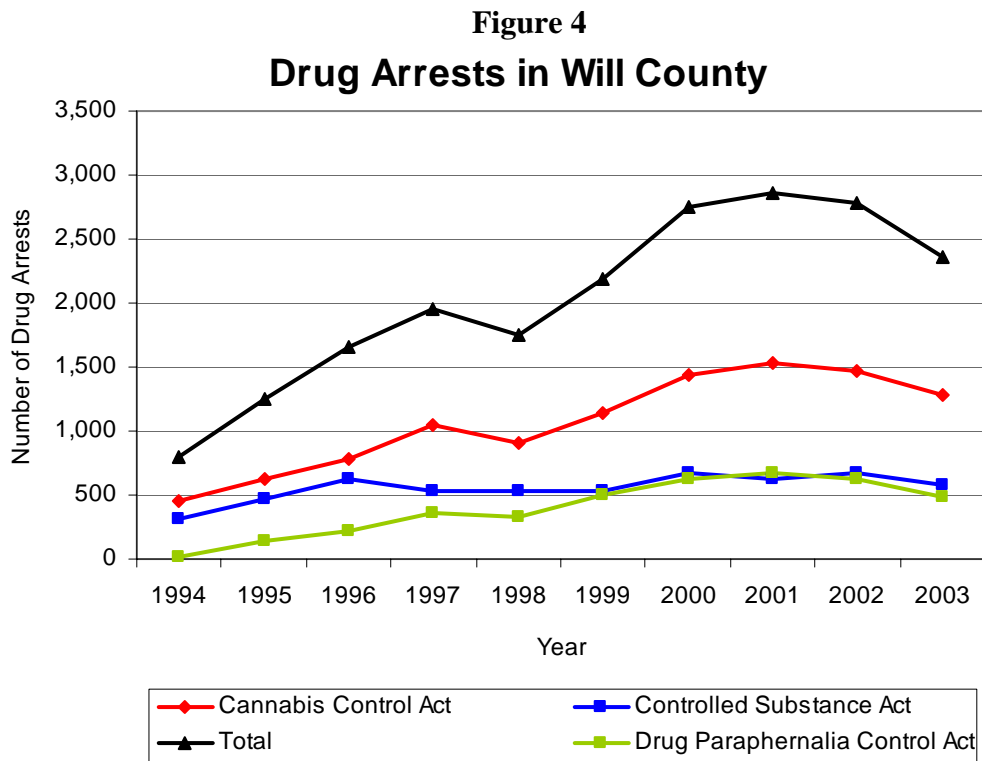


Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

### *Drug Offense Arrests in Will 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) nearly tripled in Will County, from 801 to 2,367 (Figure 4). Total drug arrests in Will County steadily increased between 1994 and 2003. Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase, jumping from nine arrests in 1994 to 478 in 2003, which amounts to nearly one out of every five drug arrests in 2003.

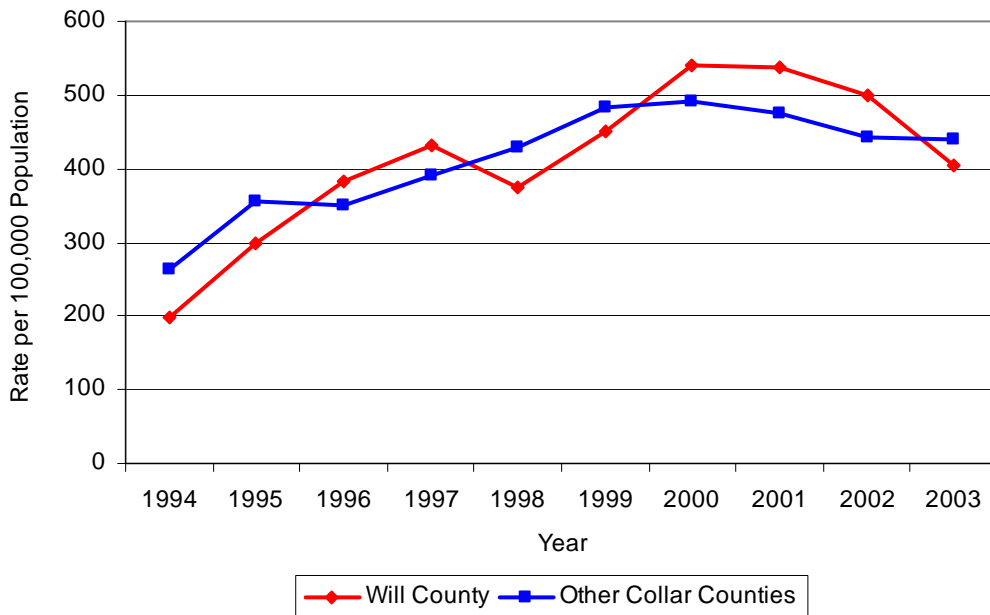
During the entire period, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Will County have out-numbered arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution, or manufacture of all other illegal drugs such as cocaine and opiates). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act more than doubled in Will County, increasing from 452 to 1,286, while arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act, increased from 319 to 579, an 82 percent increase (Figure 4).



Source: Illinois State Police

The arrest rate for all drug law violations between 1994 and 2003 in Will County more than doubled, from 199 to 403 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other Collar counties also increased between 1994 and 2003, from 264 to 441 per 100,000 population, a 67 percent increase. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Will County was 9 percent less than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 5**  
**Drug Arrest Rates in Will and Other Collar Counties**



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

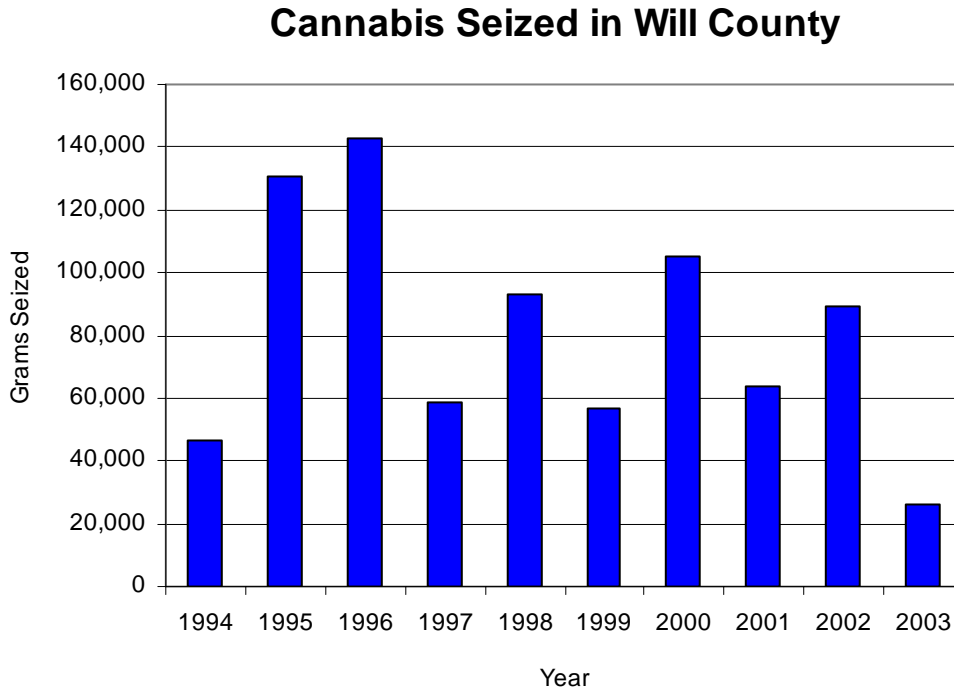
### Drugs Seized in Will County

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 Will County.

*Cannabis Seized in Will County*

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Will County and in most Illinois jurisdictions, however, between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Will County decreased 44 percent, from 46,464 grams to 25,975 grams (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**



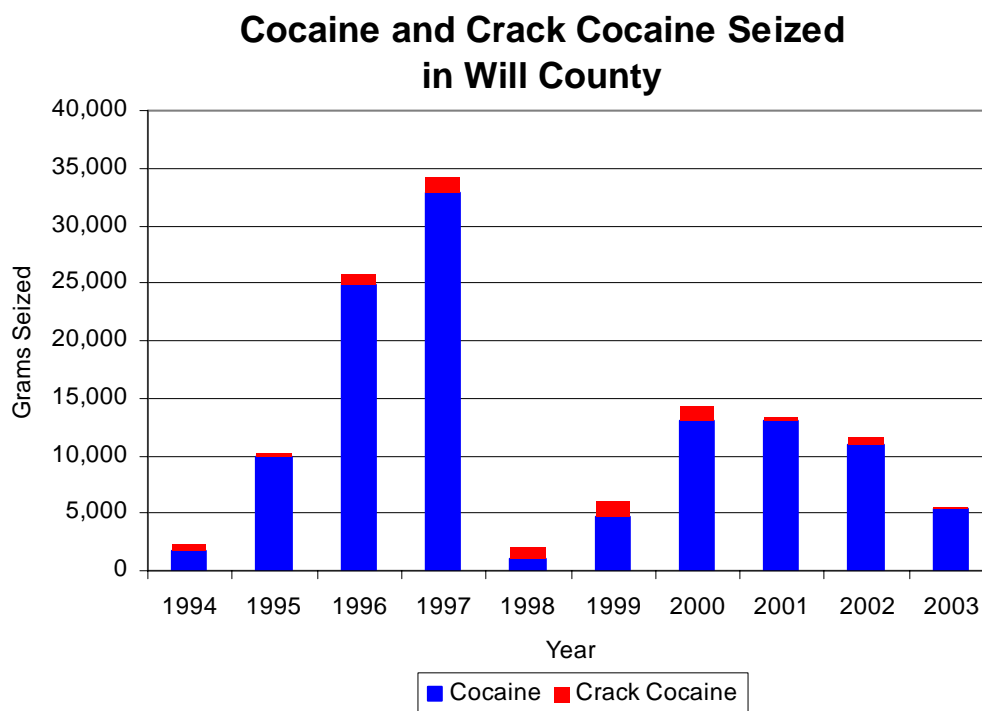
Source: Illinois State Police

During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other Collar counties more than doubled, from 161,045 grams to 344,922 grams. In 2003, Will County had a cannabis seizure rate of 4,427 grams per 100,000 population, compared to a rate of 14,656 grams per 100,000 population in the other Collar counties

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

The quantity of powder cocaine seized in Will County increased between 1994 and 2003, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased. The quantity of powder cocaine seized in Will County more than tripled, from 1,787 grams in 1994 to 5,456 grams in 2003, with a period high of 32,870 grams seized in 1997. Crack cocaine accounted for a relatively small portion of all cocaine seized in Will County. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of crack cocaine seized, decreased 66 percent from 510 grams to 174 grams (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of both powder and crack cocaine seized in the other Collar counties increased during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized in the other Collar counties increased 18 percent, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized in other Collar counties more than doubled, from 416 grams to 906 grams. In 2003, 1,625 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in the other Collar counties, 43 percent higher than the rate of 930 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in Will County.



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

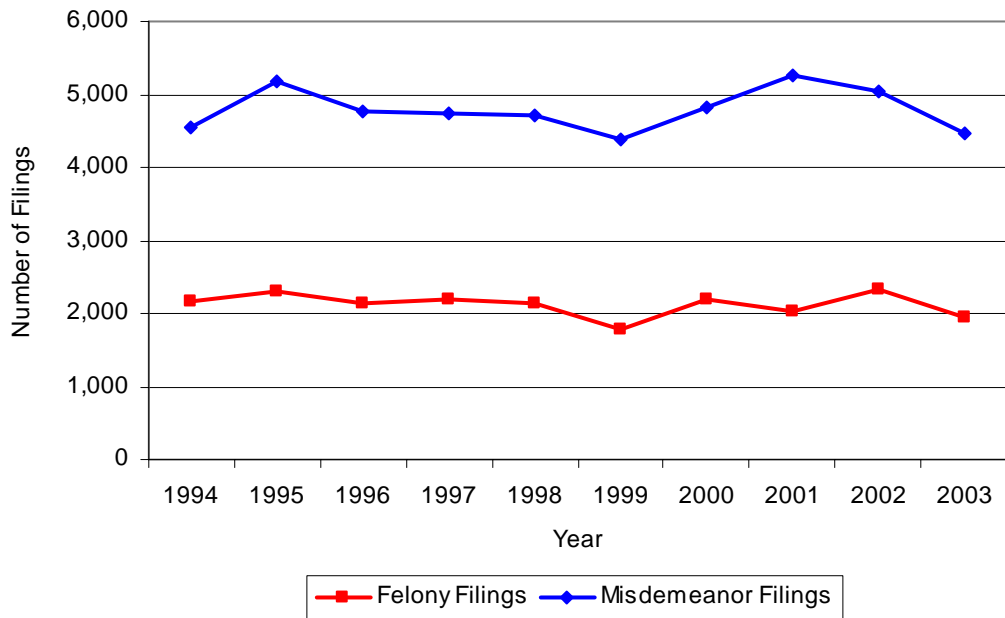
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Will County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

#### *Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Will 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 4 percent of all filings in Will County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Will County decreased 11 percent, from 2,178 to 1,945 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 2 percent from 4,548 in 1994 to 4,468 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by more than two to one.

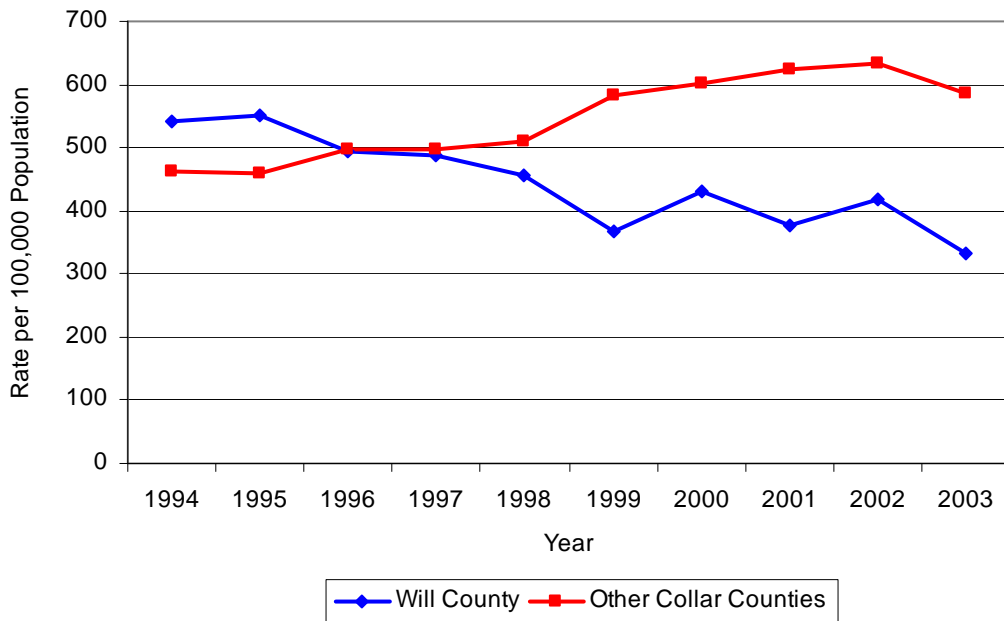
**Figure 8**  
**Felony and Misdemeanor Filings**  
**in Will County**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Will County decreased 39 percent, from 541 to 332 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other Collar counties, on the other hand, increased 27 percent during this period, from 463 to 588 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Will County was 44 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 9**  
**Felony Filing Rates in Will and Other Collar Counties**

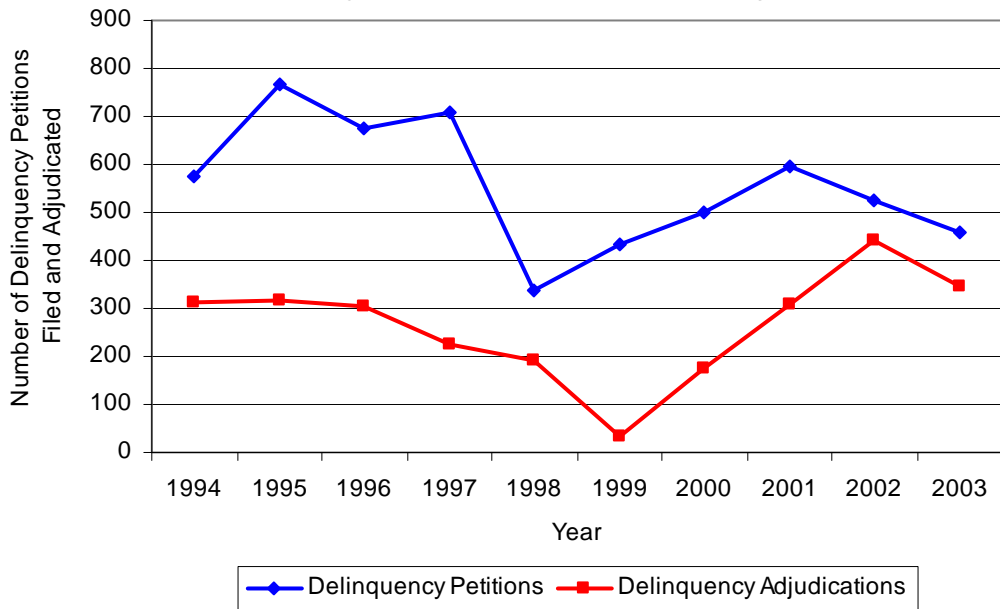


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Will County decreased 21 percent, from 575 to 457 (Figure 10). In 2003, 75 percent of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications increased 11 percent, from 311 to 345. The majority of cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

**Figure 10**  
**Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Will County**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

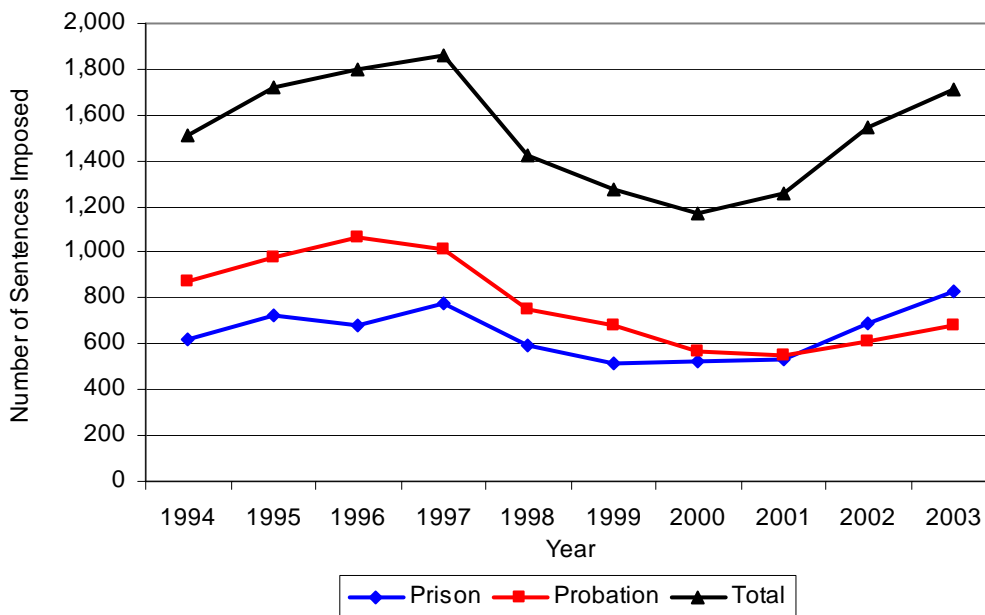
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Will County decreased 35 percent, from 1,234 to 806 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other Collar counties more than doubled, from 571 to 1,280 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Will County was 37 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar 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 Will County increased 13 percent, from 1,510 to 1,710 (Figure 11). While the number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period decreased 22 percent, from 869 to 677, felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 58 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 40 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison increased from 41 percent in 1994 to 48 percent in 2003. In 2003, 12 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

**Figure 11**

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

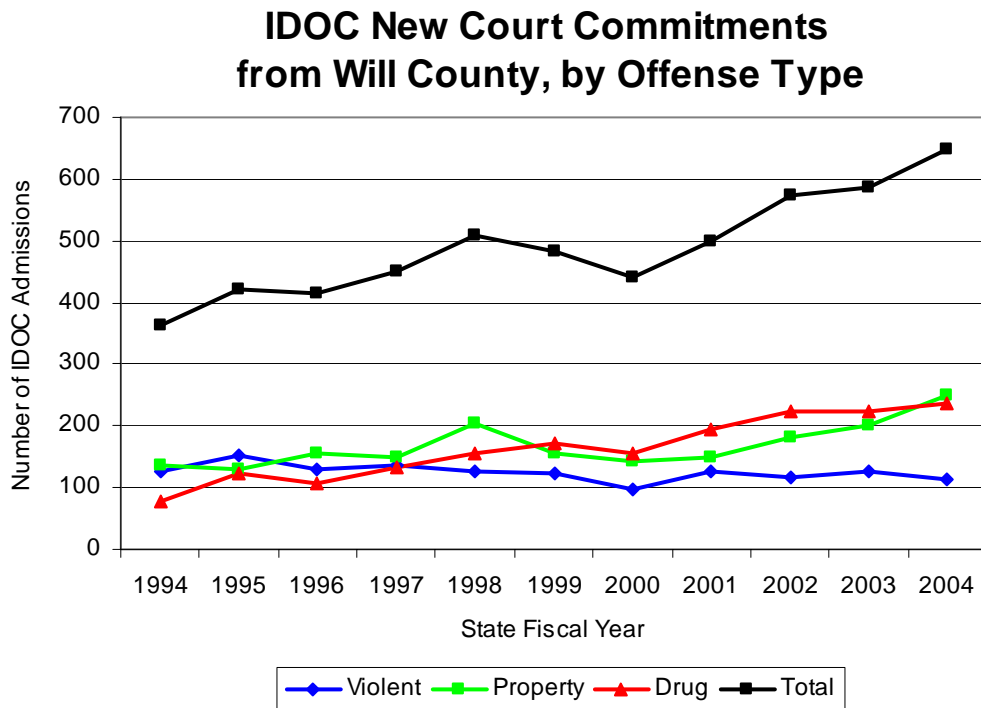


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

## Adult Prison Admissions from Will County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFY) 1994 and 2004 the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Will County increased 79 percent, from 362 to 647 (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 11 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 128 to 114. On the other hand, the number of property offenders admitted increased 83 percent; increasing from 136 to 249, while the number of drug offender admissions nearly tripled, from 79 to 235.

Figure 12



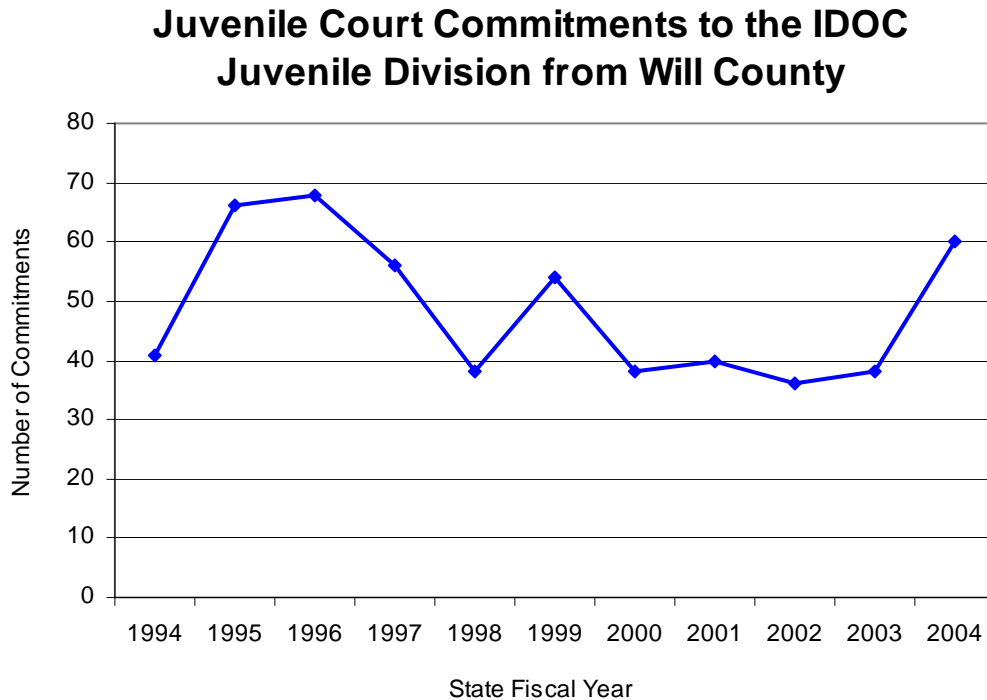
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 18 percent of all admissions from Will County, while property offenders accounted for 38 percent and drug offenders accounted for 36 percent of all admissions. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, violent offenders accounted for a decreased proportion of all admissions, decreasing from 35 percent to 21 percent, while property offenders accounted for the same proportion (38 percent) in both SFY 1994 and SFY 2004. Conversely, drug offenders accounted for an increased proportion of all admissions from Will County, increasing from 22 percent in SFY 1994 to 36 percent in SFY 2004. Property offenders accounted for the largest proportion of all admissions from Will County 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 Will County increased 46 percent, from 41 to 60 (Figure 13).

Figure 13



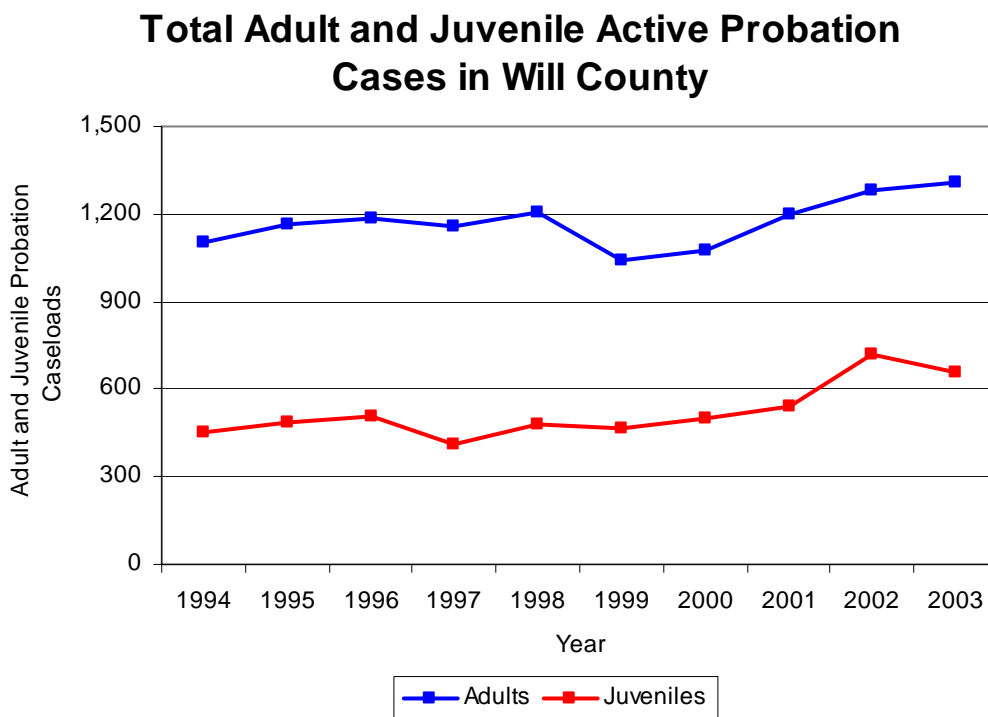
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, Will County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 131 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 59 percent higher than the 82 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other Collar counties.

## Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Will County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Will County increased 19 percent, from 1,103 to 1,311 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 90 percent of Will County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Will County Juvenile Probation Department increased 46 percent, from 451 to 657. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other Collar counties increased 46 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 51 percent.

Figure 14



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Despite an increase in the number of active adult probation cases between 1994 and 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Will County decreased 19 percent, from 274 to 223 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 23 percent in the other Collar counties, from 306 to 374 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Will County was 40 percent lower than in the other Collar counties.



#### IV. Jail Populations in Will 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.

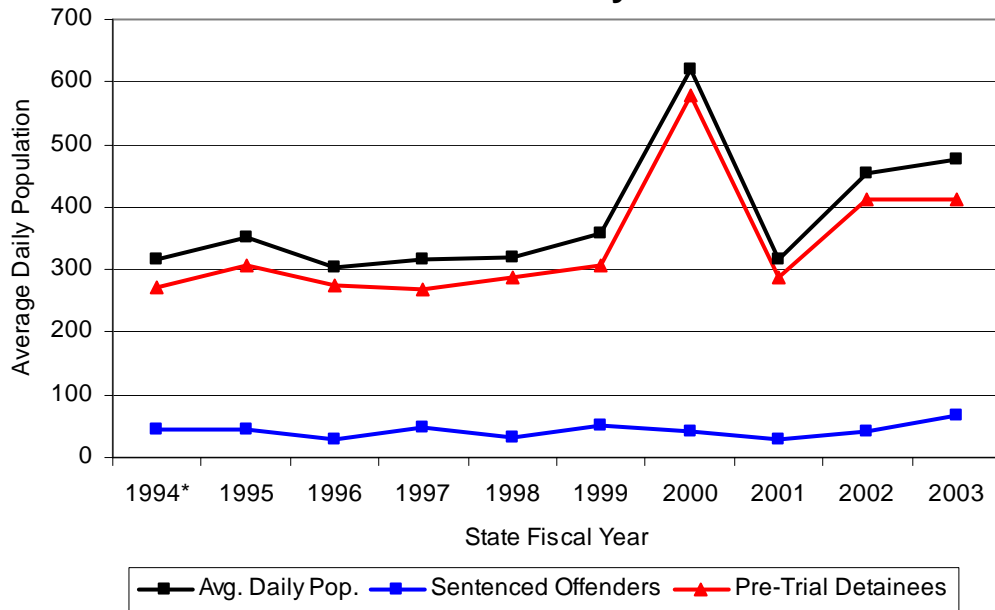
##### *Average Daily Population of the Will County Jail*

The Will County Jail was one of 91 county jails in operation in Illinois during SFY 3003. 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 Will County Jail increased 50 percent, from 317 to 477 inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for the same percentage of the average daily population; 86 percent in SFY 1994 and in SFY 2003. Sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for a slightly decreased percentage; 14 percent in SFY 1994, compared to 13 percent in SFY 2003.

**Figure 15**

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



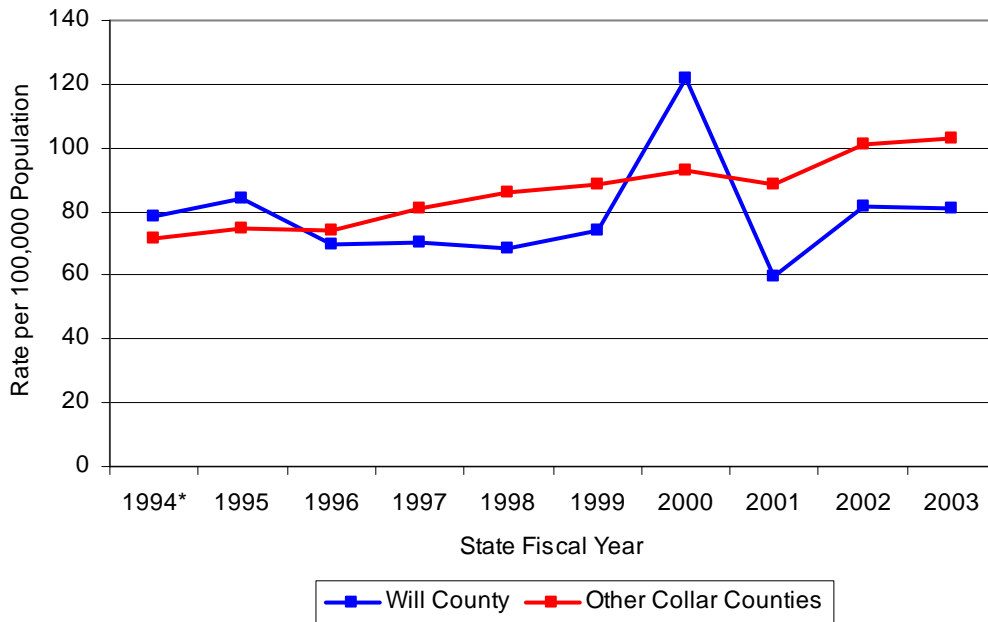
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

\* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Will County increased 3 percent, from 79 to 81 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other Collar counties increased 44 percent, from 71 to 103 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the Will County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 21 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 16**

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,  
Will and Other Collar Counties**



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

\* Information estimated by ICJIA

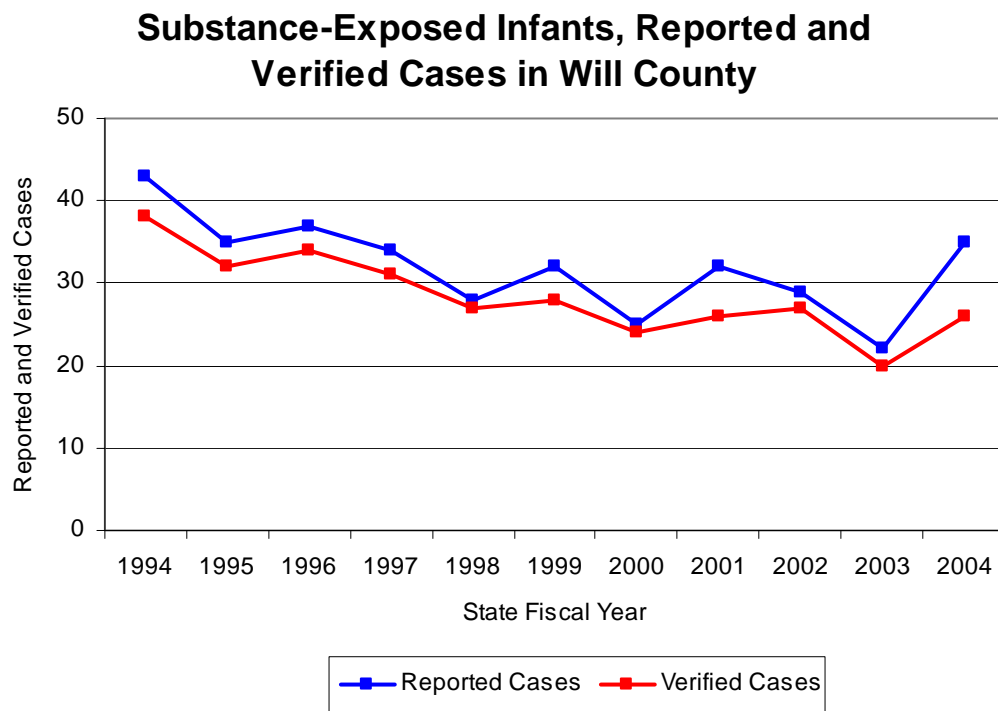
## V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in Will County

### Substance-Exposed Infants in Will 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 Will County decreased 19 percent, from 43 to 35. During the same period, the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 32 percent, from 38 in SFY 1994 to 26 in SFY 2004 (Figure 17).

Figure 17



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

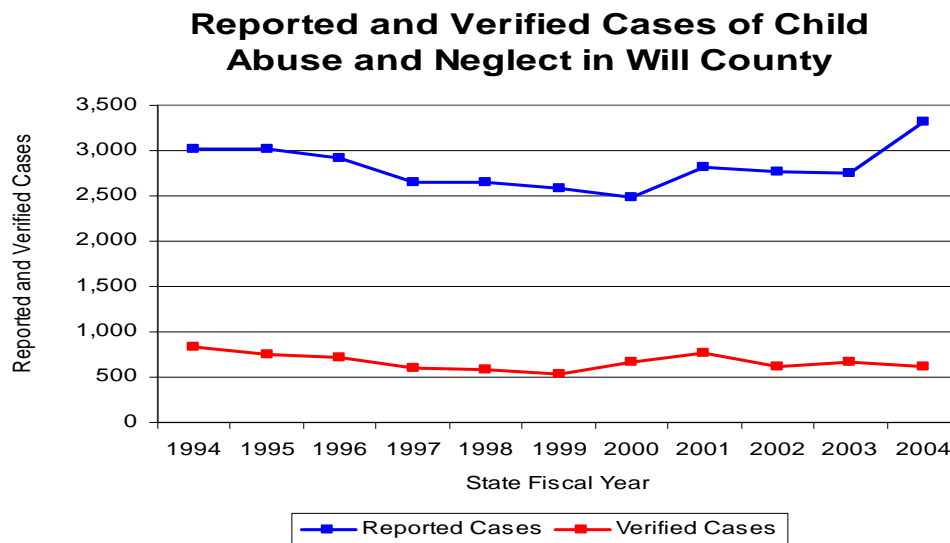
Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other Collar counties decreased 39 percent, from 132 to 81, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 41 percent, from 121 to 72.

## Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Will 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 Will County increased 10 percent, from 3,016 to 3,313 (Figure 18). During that same period, 7,345 cases, or 24 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Will County decreased 27 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 841 to 616.

**Figure 18**



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

<sup>1</sup> Thornberry, P. T., Huizinga, D. and Loeber R. 2004. “The Causes and Correlates Studies: Findings and Policy Implications.” Juvenile Justice Journal. 9:1. Washington, D.C. : U.S. Government Printing Office.

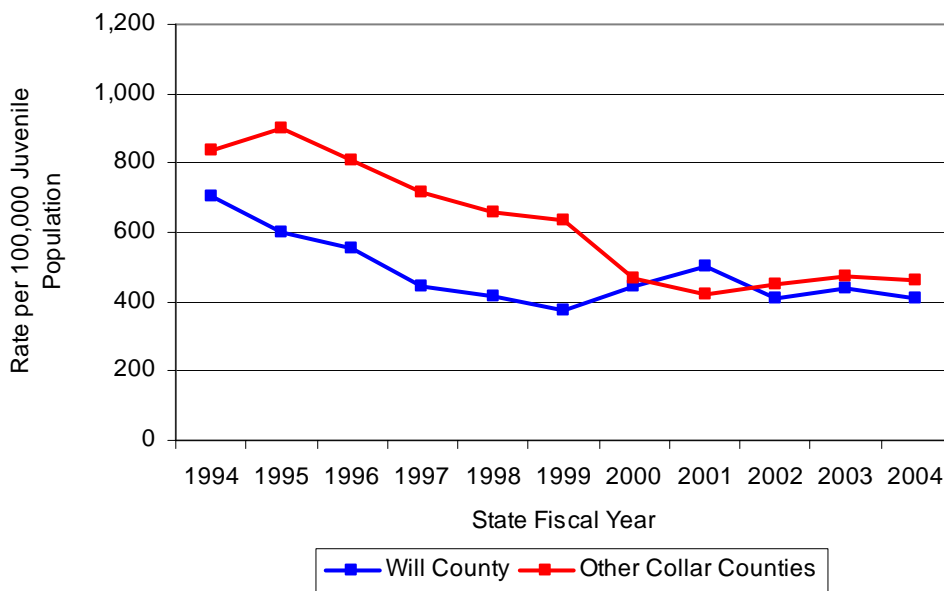
<sup>2</sup> Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” Juvenile Justice Bulletin. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<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 SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Will County decreased from 702 to 409 per 100,000 juveniles, a 42 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 45 percent in the other Collar counties, from 839 to 462 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Will County was 11 percent lower than in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 19**

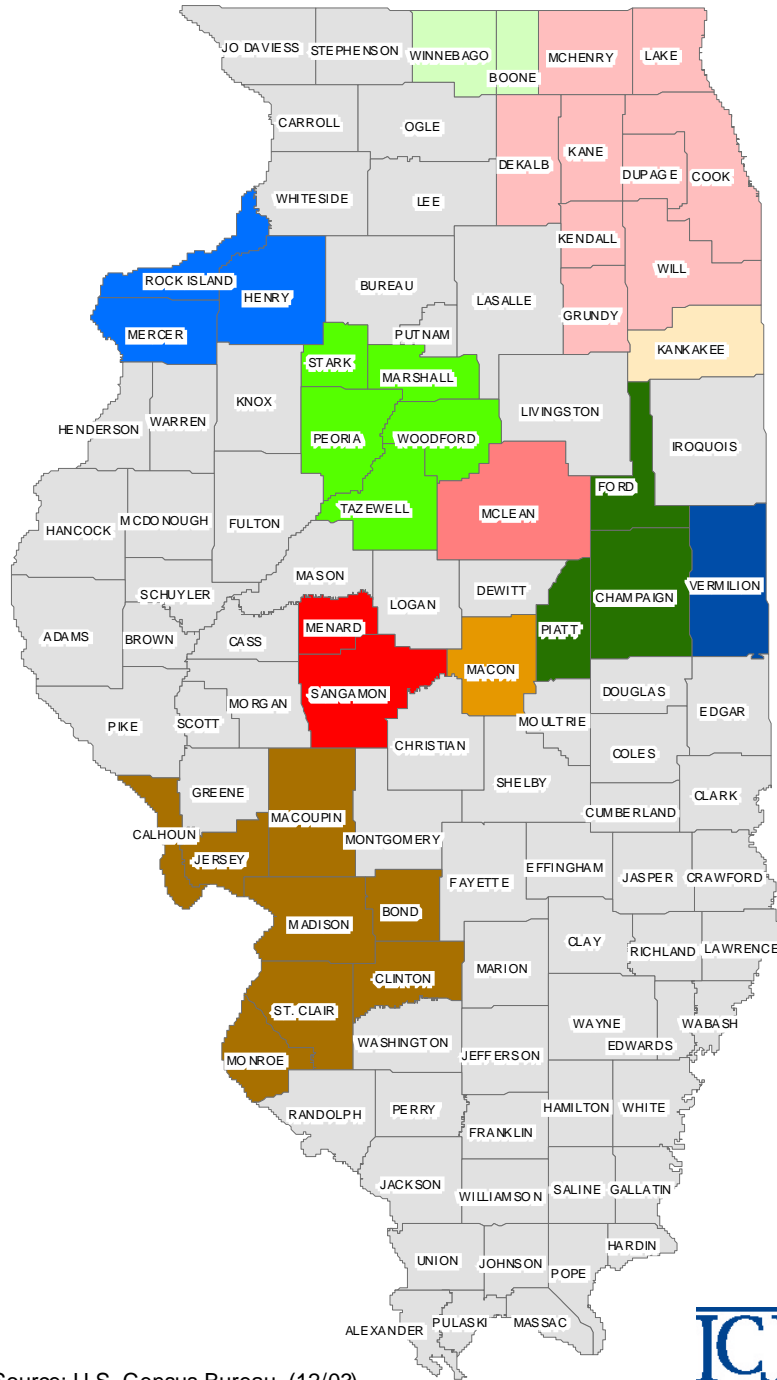
**Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Will and Other Collar Counties**



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

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

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



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



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