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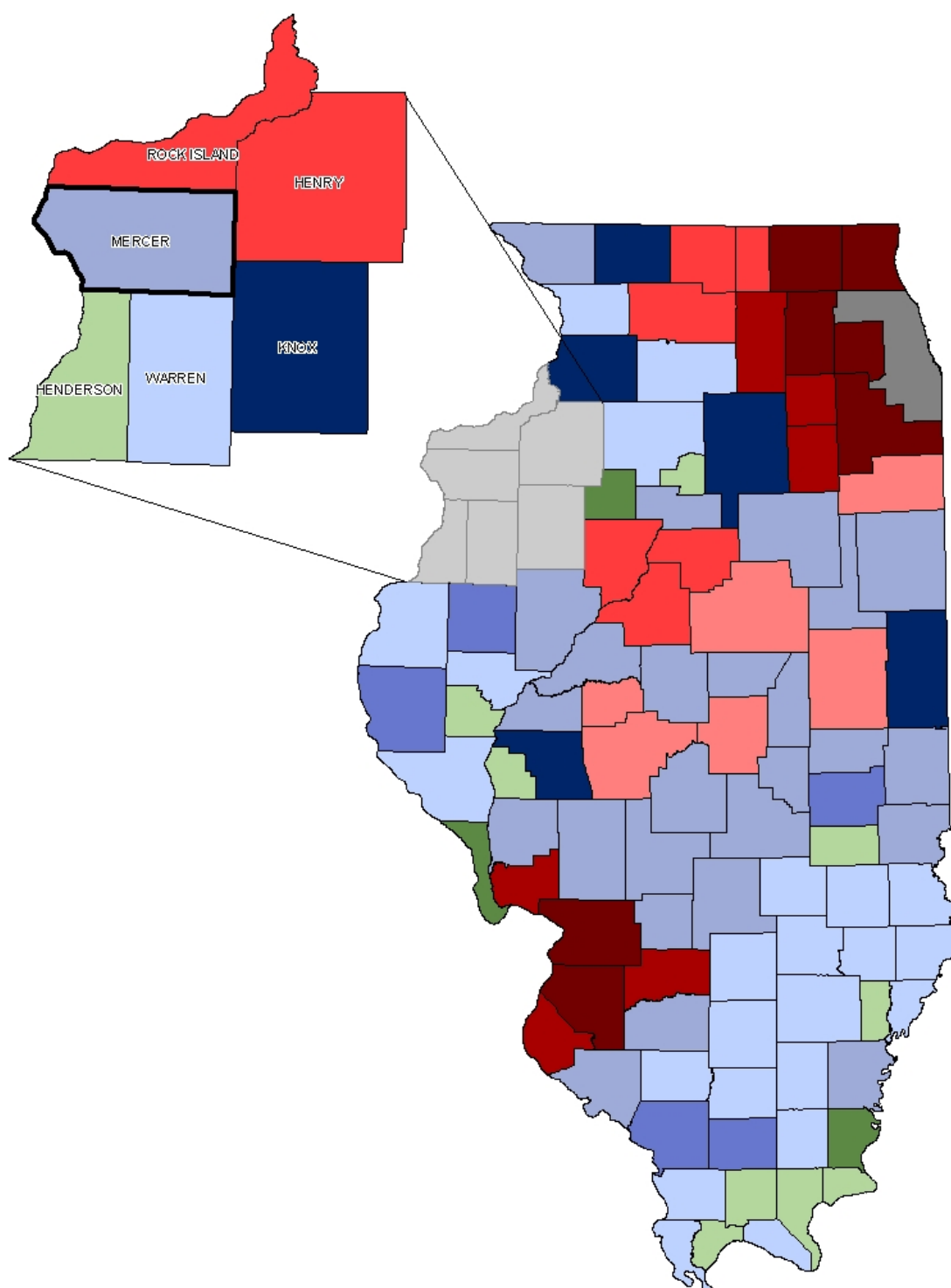
The Research and
Analysis Unit

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Candice M. Kane
Executive Director

March 2003

A Profile of Juvenile Justice System Activities and Juvenile Delinquency Risk Factors in Mercer County





Legend – Rural-Urban Continuum 1993

Cook County

 Chicago and suburban Cook County

Metro Counties

 Central Counties, Metro Area > 1 million


 Fringe Counties, Metro Area > 1 million

 Counties in Metro Area 250,000 to 1 million


 Counties in Metro Areas < 250,000 pop

Non-Metro Counties


 Urban Pop ≥ 20,000, Adjacent to Metro

 Urban Pop ≥ 20,000, Not Adjacent to Metro

 Urban Pop 2,500 to 19,999, Adjacent to Metro

 Urban Pop 2,500 to 19,999, Not Adjacent to Metro

 Completely Rural or Pop < 2,500, Adjacent to Metro

 Completely Rural or Pop < 2,500, Not Adjacent to Metro

The map on the front page is based on an 11-category classification scheme that was adopted for this profile. This classification scheme is based on the 1993 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) developed the Rural-Urban Continuum Codes to measure and evaluate the economic and social diversity of counties and to provide classifications that are meaningful for developing public policies and programs (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2000). The codes classify counties based on "population size, proximity to a metropolitan area, degree of urbanization, population of the largest city, commuting patterns, as well as primary economic activity and policy relevancy" (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2000). Although the Rural-Urban Continuum Codes were primarily developed to classify rural areas, this scheme also distinguishes between urban counties. For a more in-depth discussion of why this classification scheme was used, please refer to the Method section of the Introduction.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent years, there has been growing concern regarding juvenile crime and the desire to develop preventive strategies to reduce juvenile delinquency. This profile contains information about the characteristics of Mercer County residents and juvenile justice system activities, juvenile delinquency risk factors, and community-based programs that serve youth living in the county. This profile includes a section on risk factors based on recent research about juvenile delinquency in an effort to help county officials identify ways to prevent juvenile crime in their jurisdictions.

Using this Profile

The purpose of this profile is to assist county practitioners, policymakers, and community members in learning, discussing, and making decisions about their county's juvenile justice system *and* the youth living in their communities.

The profile consists of four main sections. The first section, *Mercer County*, provides a description of the county's population. The second section, *Juvenile Justice System*, provides an in-depth description of Mercer County's juvenile justice system activities. The third section, *Juvenile Risk Factors*, examines risk factors that have been linked to juvenile delinquency. The fourth section, *Community-Based Programs*, provides a description of programs available in Mercer County. **Overall conclusions are available at the end of the Juvenile Justice System and Juvenile Risk Factor sections. The conclusions are based on those findings that were identified by Authority staff as being the most important issues that emerged from our analyses.**

Although this summary was developed to provide readers with a short overview, **juvenile justice councils or professionals wishing to use the information provided below to make decisions about their county's juvenile justice system or youth are strongly encouraged to review the full report, as it contains additional information and analyses for the data points presented below.**

When reviewing the overall findings presented below, readers should consider the following questions.

- ***What are some explanations for the findings (e.g., increases, decreases, no changes) presented in this report?***

Although some patterns or trends were identified (see the conclusions at the end of the Juvenile Justice System and Juvenile Risk Factors sections), Authority staff were unable to provide decisive reasons why these patterns or trends exist because we are not intimately involved in the day-to-day operations of the juvenile justice system or work directly with youth living in Mercer County. Several factors, including departmental policies and procedures or the ways in which the data were collected, may account for why specific patterns or trends emerged from our analyses. Juvenile justice practitioners, service providers, and community members should consider the findings presented in this document in light of what they know about and have experienced in their communities.

- ***What other factors influence youth involvement with the juvenile justice system?***

Most of the data presented in this report are limited to juvenile justice system activities and juvenile risk factors in Mercer County. Although the risk factor section was included to help juvenile justice councils and practitioners identify ways to prevent juvenile crime, it is important to note that experiencing risk factors does not necessarily mean a youth will become involved in the juvenile justice system. Other factors, such as protective factors—factors found to “protect” youth from engaging in delinquent activities—or departmental policies and other system factors unique to Mercer County may influence the trends presented in this report. Thus, it is important that the patterns and trends identified in this document are supplemented with additional data on factors that could potentially influence youth's involvement in the system.

- ***Given the information presented in this profile, what are the most pressing issues in Mercer County and how should those issues be addressed?***

Identifying the most important issues in your county is difficult. To best determine which issues should be addressed in your county, it is important to collect and examine information not only regarding the needs and issues facing the juvenile justice system and youth in Mercer County, but also what programs currently exist, what programs are effective, and what policies have been implemented that might have impacted the trends identified. Although this profile contains a vast amount of information, this profile is not a comprehensive overview of all the issues that youth or the juvenile justice system face in Mercer County. It is important that juvenile justice council members and practitioners consider collecting additional data before making any decisions about which issues to address first. In fact, this profile should be only considered the first step in identifying *possible* issues facing the juvenile justice system or youth in Mercer County.

- ***What additional data are available that can provide important information about the juvenile justice system or youth residing in Mercer County?***

The data presented in this profile represent those that were available to the Authority staff and believed important. Juvenile justice councils and practitioners utilizing this document should consider collecting additional and more detailed, individual-level data to aid the interpretation of the analyses presented below. This may entail contacting local agencies to determine what additional types of juvenile justice system, juvenile risk factor, or protective factor data are available.

Method

The analyses conducted for the full report were used to (1) examine trends in Mercer County; (2) examine trends in bordering counties, similar counties, and the state as a whole; and (3) compare Mercer County to bordering counties, similar counties, and the state as a whole.

In many instances, the data examined are presented in figures. Although figures are a useful tool, it is possible for figures to visually display changes or differences that seem large, but are actually less important than they appear. Conversely, it is also possible for figures to visually display changes or differences that appear small, but are actually important. To circumvent relying exclusively on the visual inspection of figures or on simple numbers such as percent change from one year to the next, a statistical process was adopted to provide researchers with the ability to identify if changes across time or the differences between Mercer County and the other groups examined were significant.

Caution should be also taken when interpreting trends that are identified as having no significant change between the time periods analyzed. One assumption readers often make is that no significant change means that the trend or pattern is not important. This assumption could cause readers to overlook important trends and patterns.

Mercer County

This section describes demographic characteristics and trends in Mercer County.

From 1990 to 2000, the population density in Mercer County remained stable (31 persons per square mile in 1990 and 30 persons per square mile in 2000). When compared to the other 101 Illinois counties, Mercer County ranked 82nd in population density in 2000.

When examining only those persons at-risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system (i.e., juveniles ages 5 to 16 years), it was found that from 1990 to 2000 the juvenile population in Mercer County decreased eight percent. In 2000, juveniles ages 5 to 16 years accounted for 17 percent of Mercer County's total population.

Racial comparisons between 1990 and 2000 data could not be made due to differences in the way the U.S. Census Bureau collected data in 2000. Of the total non-Hispanic population in Mercer County in 1990, over 99 percent identified themselves as white. Those identifying themselves as Hispanic constituted less than one percent of the total population in Mercer County in 1990.

Of the total non-Hispanic population in Mercer County in 2000, approximately 99 percent identified themselves as only white. Additionally, approximately one percent identified themselves as Hispanic.

Juvenile Justice System

The Juvenile Justice System section focuses on various system activities including: juvenile delinquency petitions; delinquency adjudications; active, end-of-year probation caseloads; transfers to adult court; temporary detention admissions; and admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' (IDOC) Illinois Youth Centers (IYC).¹

Important Note:

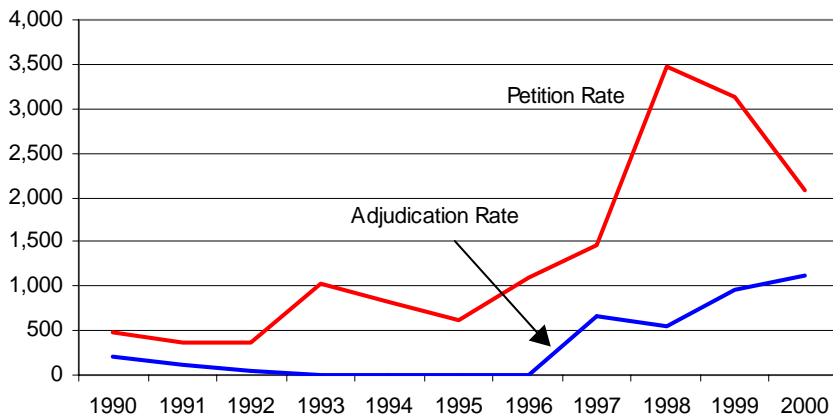
Authority researchers were unable to obtain data for several decision points in the Mercer County juvenile justice system. One critical decision point researchers were unable to examine was juvenile arrests. This decision point is important to understanding how the juvenile justice system works because it is the entrance point into the juvenile justice system for most youth.

Under the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program, all law enforcement agencies in the state are required to report monthly offense and arrest data to the Illinois State Police (ISP). Although in the past ISP collected more detailed offense and arrest information, since 1993, ISP has collected only *aggregate-level* offense and arrest data from law enforcement agencies across the state. These aggregate totals combine offense and arrest data across sex, race, ethnicity, *and* age. The collection of offense and arrest data at the aggregate-level prevents researchers from examining juvenile offenders (offenders 16 years or younger).

Below are figures for those decisions points in the Mercer County juvenile justice system for which data were available.

¹ The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998 changed some of the language of the juvenile justice system (Public Act 90-590; 750 ILCS 405/5-105). Specifically, "taken into custody" is now "arrested," "adjudication hearing" is a "trial," and "dispositional hearing" is now a "sentencing hearing." This report reflects these language changes with the exception of the term adjudication. The term "adjudication" is used in this report to reflect those youth who have been petitioned to court and found delinquent (guilty). This term is used because we felt it was the best word to describe juveniles found delinquent and it is a common word used by juvenile justice practitioners.

Figure S.1
Delinquency Petition and Adjudication Rates for Mercer County



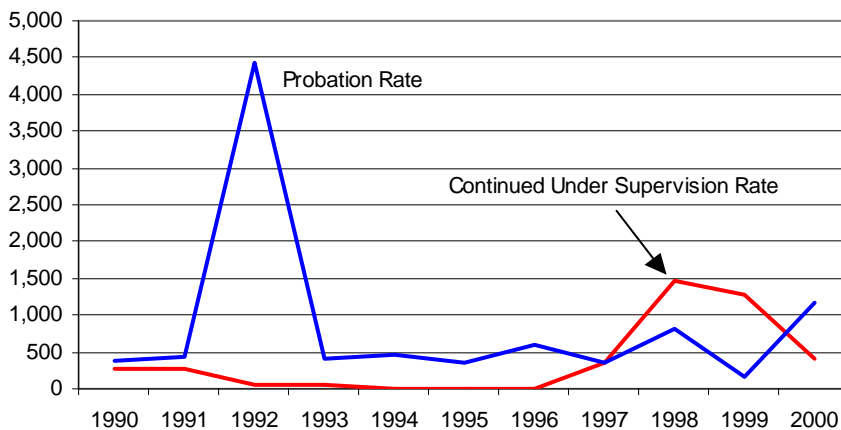
Rate per 100,000 persons ages 10 to 16 years.
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts; U.S. Census Bureau.

A delinquency petition is a formal filing in juvenile court for a delinquent offense. Delinquency adjudications are instances when there has been a trial, or a hearing to determine whether allegations in a delinquency petition are true beyond a reasonable doubt, and a minor has been found delinquent by a judge. According to AOIC, delinquency adjudications exclude plea agreements and dispositions resulting from other types of hearings.

From 1990 to 2000, the Mercer County delinquency petition rate significantly increased. Mercer County reported only 23 delinquency petitions filed from 1990 to 1992. From 1990 to 2000, Mercer County delinquency petition rates were significantly lower than rates in similar counties and statewide.

From 1990 to 2000, the Mercer County delinquency adjudication rate significantly increased. However, Mercer County reported few delinquency adjudications from 1990 to 1996, and none from 1993 to 1996. This may reflect inaccurate data reporting. From 1990 to 2000, Mercer County delinquency adjudication rates did not significantly differ from rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.

Figure S.2
Continued Under Supervision and Annual Active Juvenile Probation Caseload Rates for Mercer County



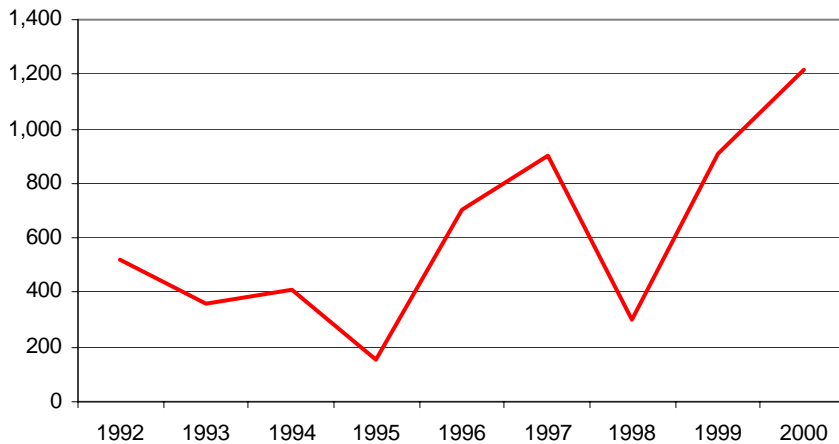
Rate per 100,000 persons ages 10 to 16 years.
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts; U.S. Census Bureau.

Juveniles whose cases were continued under supervision have had their cases petitioned to court, but have not been adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Juveniles placed on juvenile probation have been adjudicated delinquent.

The 1990 Mercer County continued under supervision rate did not significantly differ from the 2000 rate. Of the 81 cases continued under supervision in Mercer County from 1990 to 2000, 54 were continued under supervision during 1998 or 1999.

From 1990 to 2000, the Mercer County active probation caseload rate significantly increased. From 1990 to 2000, Mercer County active probation caseload rates were significantly lower than rates in similar counties.

Figure S.3
Total Admission Rate to Temporary Detention Centers
for Mercer County



Rate per 100,000 persons ages 10 to 16 years.

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

Juvenile detention is used as temporary placement for juvenile offenders either prior to (pre-adjudicatory) or following sentencing (post-adjudicatory).

From 1992 to 2000, the Mercer County total admission rate to temporary detention centers increased significantly. From 1992 to 2000, Mercer County detention center admission rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide, and did not significantly differ from rates in similar counties. Differences between Mercer County rates and rates in bordering counties and statewide may, in part, have occurred because Mercer County does not have its own detention center, whereas Knox County (a bordering county), and 16 counties statewide have detention centers. Research has indicated that having a detention center is significantly correlated with detention center admissions.

A majority (82 percent) of Mercer County detention center admissions from 1992 to 2000 were pre-adjudicatory admissions.

Important Trends or Patterns: Juvenile Justice System

- The Mercer County delinquency petition rate significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time period examined. That is, the 2000 rate was significantly higher than the 1990 rate. This may suggest that, across the time period examined, more juveniles had their cases resolved in court. On the other hand, from 1990 to 1992, Mercer County reported only 23 delinquency petitions filed. This total was much smaller than totals later in the time period examined, and may reflect inaccurate data reporting.
- The Mercer County delinquency adjudication rate significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time period examined. However, Mercer County reported very few delinquency adjudications earlier in the time period examined, and no delinquency adjudications from 1993 to 1996. Thus, the significant increase may reflect inaccurate data reporting.
- Mercer County active probation caseload rates and detention center admission rates significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time periods examined. Rates in the last year examined were significantly higher than rates in the first year examined. This suggests that, across the time period examined, more Mercer County juveniles received sentences involving probation or detention.
- Across the time periods examined, Mercer County juvenile justice system rates tended to either be similar to or significantly lower than rates in the other groups examined.
- The quality and consistency of the data available at most of the decision points in the juvenile justice process inhibits our ability to draw strong conclusions. Moreover, there are no easily available data on the actual number of juveniles arrested in Mercer County.

Juvenile Risk Factors

The Juvenile Risk Factor section includes an examination of four types of risk factors: individual risk factors, social risk factors, school risk factors, and environmental risk factors. Trend and comparison analyses were conducted for each of the risk factors examined.

Individual Risk Factors

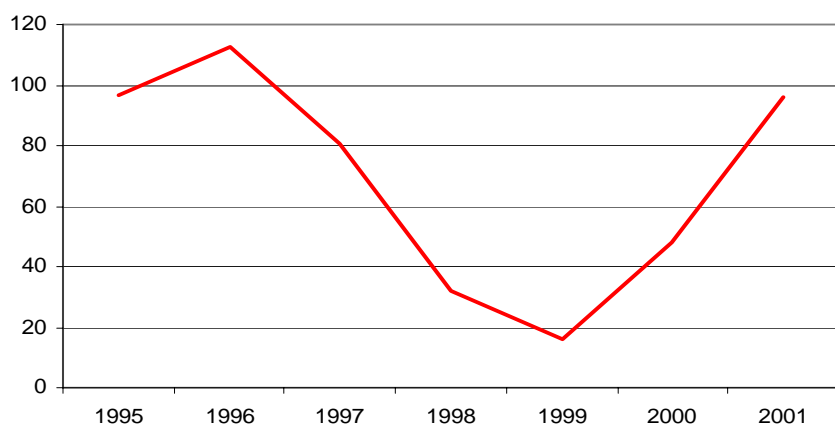
Individual risk factors are personal traits or qualities that may be related to juvenile delinquency, including various types of mental and physical health problems. Only one individual risk factor was examined for this profile: emergency room admissions for completed or attempted suicides.

From 1998 to 2000, hospitals reported no suicides attempted or completed by minors ages 17 years and younger in Mercer County.²

Social Risk Factors

Social risk factors are factors present in minors' immediate social environments that may be related to juvenile delinquency. The data points described below measure five distinct social risk factors, each of which pertain to family relationships: (1) parental criminality, (2) family or home conflict, (3) prior abuse, (4) separation of family, and (5) family mobility.

Figure S.4
Drug Treatment Rate for Females with Children for Mercer County



Rate per 100,000 females ages 13 to 70 years.
Source: Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse; U.S. Census Bureau.

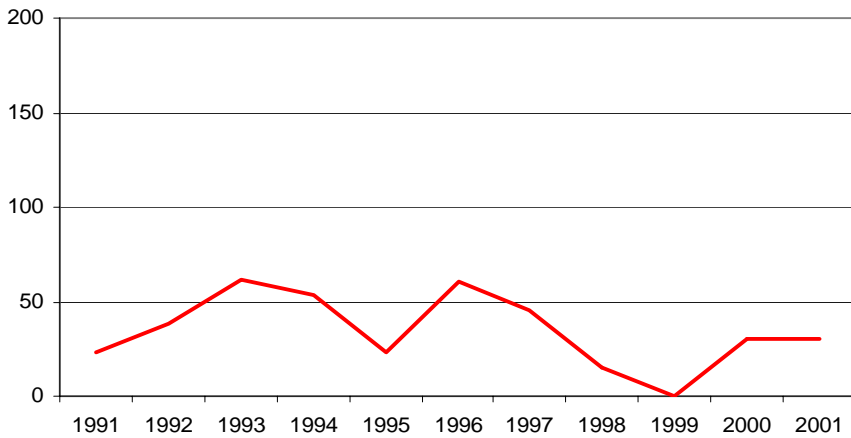
One indirect measure of parental criminality examined in this profile is drug treatment rates for females with children.

The 1995 Mercer County drug treatment rate for females with children did not significantly differ from the 2001 rate, although there was fluctuation throughout the time period examined. This fluctuation was precipitated by calculating rates based on small numbers. When rates are calculated based on small numbers, then small changes in numbers can result in large changes in rates.

From 1995 to 2001, Mercer County drug treatment rates for females with children were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.

² It is important to note that although the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported that compliance with the reporting mandate has been high, the totals for 1998 may be low, as it took hospitals a period of time after the March 10 startup date to understand the violent injury-coding scheme provided to them by IDPH and to develop a system for collecting the data.

Figure S.5
Rate of Inmates with Children for Mercer County

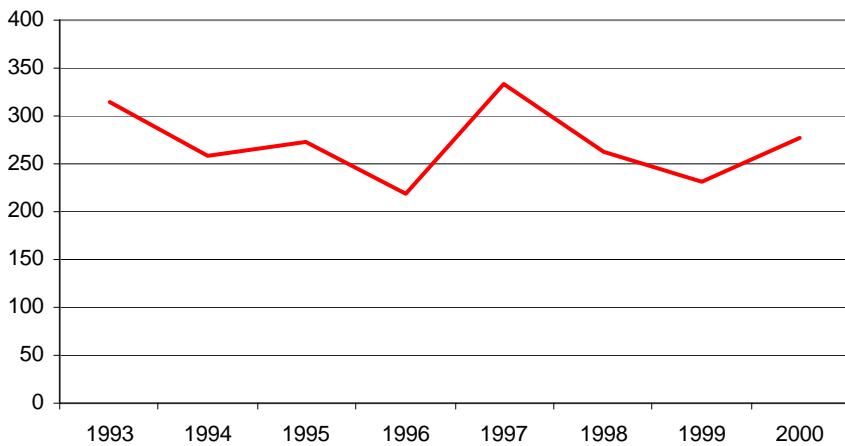


Rate per 100,000 persons 17 years and older.
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections; U.S. Census Bureau.

Another indirect measure of parental criminality examined in this profile is the rate of prison inmates with children.

The state fiscal year (SFY) 1991 Mercer County rate of inmates with children did not significantly differ from the SFY 2001 rate. From SFY 1991 to SFY 2001, Mercer County rates of inmates with children were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide.

Figure S.6
Order of Protection Rate for Mercer County



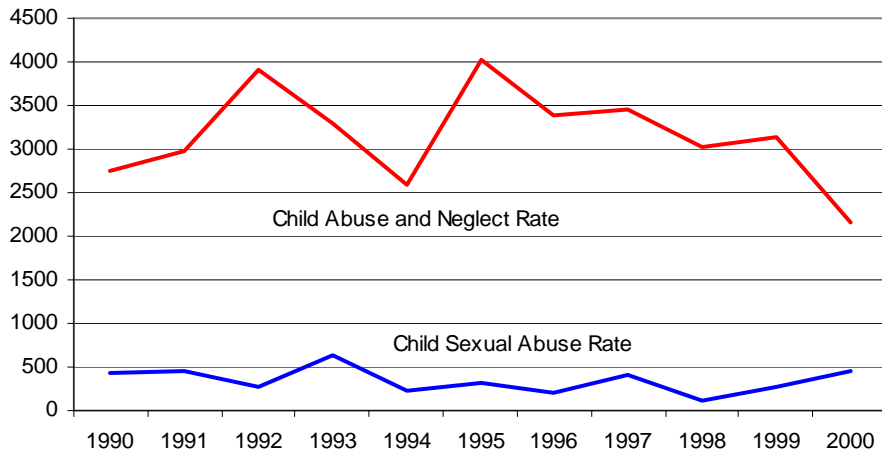
Rate per 100,000 persons ages 18 years and older.
Source: Illinois State Police Department; U.S. Census Bureau.

One indirect measure of family or home conflict examined in this profile is the Order of Protection rate. Orders of Protection are court orders that are intended to protect those seeking the order from family or other household members (e.g., a spouse from his or her abuser). Orders of Protection can also be used to protect children.

The 1993 Mercer County Order of Protection rate for Orders likely to protect minors did not significantly differ from the 2000 rate. From 1993 to 2000, Mercer County Order of Protection rates did not significantly differ from rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.

Another indirect measure of family or home conflict examined in this profile was the reported domestic offense rate. From 1997 to 2000, Mercer County reported domestic offense rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide (table not shown). Differences in reported domestic offenses may reflect either changes in the reporting practices of law enforcement agencies (although mandated by law to report these data, to date, no systematic examination of compliance with this requirement has been conducted) or changes in the actual number of reported domestic offenses.

Figure S.7
Reported Child Abuse and Neglect and Child Sexual Abuse Rates for Mercer County



Rates per 100,000 persons ages 0 to 17 years.
 Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; U.S. Census Bureau.

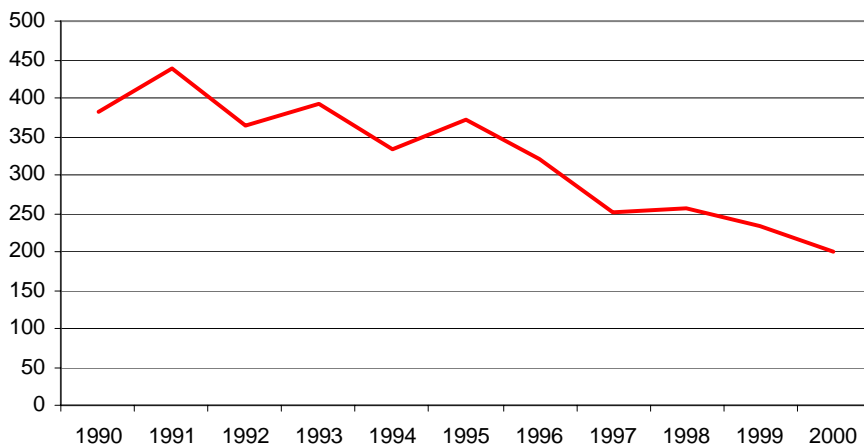
Two measures of family or home conflict examined in this profile are the child abuse and neglect and child sexual abuse rates.

The SFY 1990 Mercer County reported child abuse and neglect rate did not significantly differ from the SFY 2000 rate. From SFY 1990 to SFY 2000, Mercer County reported child abuse and neglect rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.

The SFY 1990 Mercer County reported child sexual abuse rate did not significantly differ from the SFY 2000 rate. From SFY 1990 to SFY 2000, Mercer County reported child sexual abuse rates did not significantly differ from rates in bordering counties and statewide.

In Mercer County, the percentage of reported child abuse and neglect cases that were indicated as abuse did not change from SFY 1990 to SFY 2000 (figure not shown). Similarly, the percentage of reported child sexual abuse cases that were indicated as abuse did not change from SFY 1990 to SFY 2000.

Figure S.8
Divorce and Annulment Rate for Mercer County



Rates per 100,000 persons in the total population.
 Source: Illinois Department of Public Health; U.S. Census Bureau.

The divorce and annulment rate was used to indirectly measure family separation.

From 1990 to 2000, the divorce and annulment rate in Mercer County significantly decreased. From 1990 to 2000, Mercer County divorce and annulment rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and similar counties, and did not significantly differ from statewide rates.

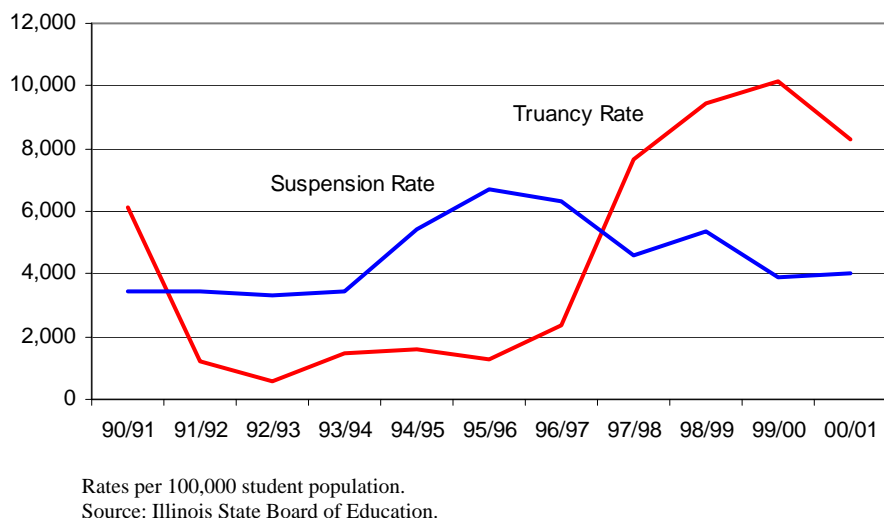
This profile examines one data point that indirectly measures family mobility: net domestic migration. Based on these data it was found that in Mercer County, there was in-migration across the 1990s (table not shown). Should this pattern continue, it suggests that there may be a small subset of minors in Mercer County who may be in need of increased support while they acclimate to a new community (table not shown).

School Risk Factors

School risk factors are factors related to minors' academic performances and their commitment to school. This profile includes information on five data points measuring school risk factors. These data points measure two distinct types of school risk factors: (1) academic achievement and (2) school commitment.

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) scores were used to measure academic achievement in Mercer County (table not shown). The test performance of Mercer County students compared to students in the other groups examined differed by academic year (1998/1999, 1999/2000, and 2000/2001) and test type (reading, writing, and mathematics). Overall, Mercer County students appeared to have met or exceeded reading standards about as often as students in bordering counties and similar counties, and more often than students statewide.³

Figure S.9
Truancy and Suspension Rates for Mercer County



Two measures of school commitment examined in this profile were the truancy and suspension rates.

The 1990/1991 Mercer County truancy rate did not significantly differ from the 2000/2001 rate. From 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, Mercer County truancy rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.

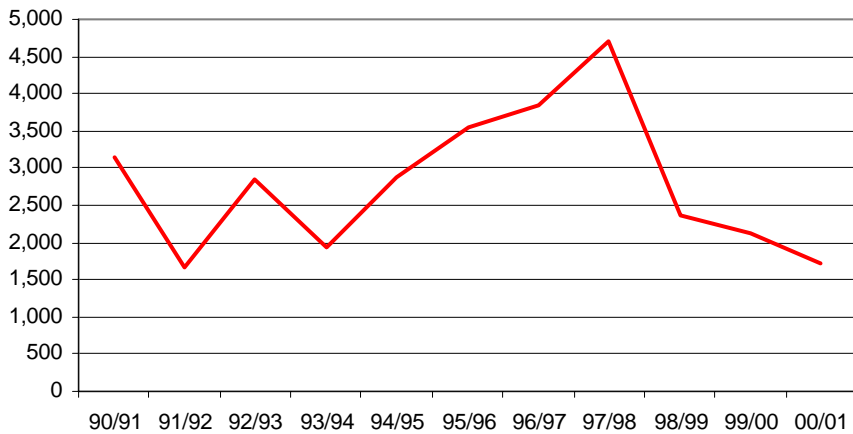
Of the total number of truants in Mercer County from 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, four percent were chronic truants who persistently missed school (of the 1,002 truants in Mercer County from 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, 38 were chronic truants who persistently missed school).

The 1990/1991 Mercer County suspension rate did not significantly differ from the 2000/2001 rate. From 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, Mercer County suspension rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide, and did not significantly differ from rates in similar counties.

From 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, students suspended more than once accounted for 63 percent of students suspended in Mercer County (of the 969 students suspended, 609 were suspended more than once).

³ The statistical approach was not adopted to make comparisons between Mercer County and the other groups examined. Caution should be taken when interpreting these results because it is unclear what constitutes a large enough disparity in percents to make this claim.

Figure S.10
High School Dropout Rate for Mercer County



Rate per 100,000 student population.
Source: Illinois State Board of Education.

Another measure of school commitment examined in this profile was the high school dropout rate.

The 1990/1991 Mercer County high school dropout rate did not significantly differ from the 2000/2001 rate. From 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, Mercer County high school dropout rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide.

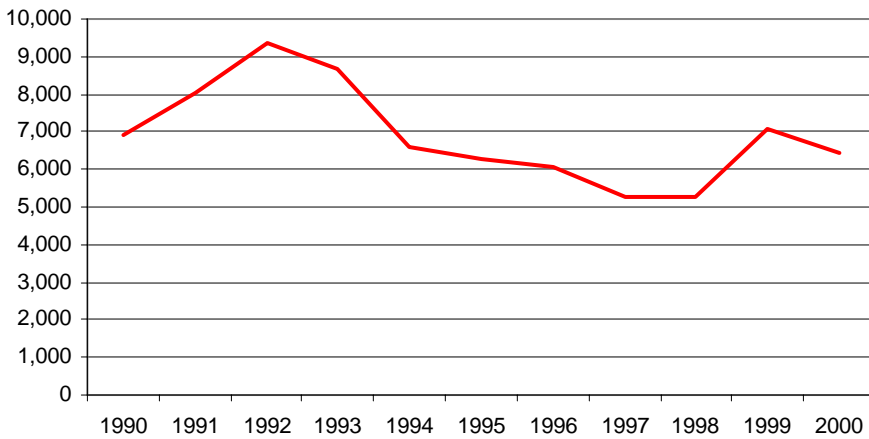
Environmental Risk Factors

Environmental risk factors are factors related to the broad social environment in which minors reside. Ten data points measuring environmental risk factors were described in this profile. Eight of these data points measure three distinct types of environmental risk factors: (1) community poverty, (2) drug availability, and (3) exposure to violence. In addition, because race/ethnicity and births to female adolescents can be linked with other environmental risk factors, these data points were included as environmental risk factors.

Three measures of community poverty examined in this profile are the percentage of persons living in poverty, the percentage of minors living in poverty, and the median household income (tables not shown). Based on these data it was found that:

- Across the years for which the U.S. Census Bureau made estimates (1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998), approximately 10 percent of the persons living in Mercer County were living in poverty. For the most part, there were no significant differences between percentages of persons living in poverty in Mercer County, and percentages in the individual bordering counties, individual similar counties, and statewide.
- Across the years for which the U.S. Census Bureau made estimates (1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998), approximately 13 percent of the persons under 18 living in Mercer County were living in poverty. For the most part, there were no significant differences between percentages of persons under 18 living in poverty in Mercer County, and percentages in the individual bordering counties and individual similar counties. Statewide percentages of persons under 18 living in poverty were significantly higher than percentages in Mercer County for two of the four years examined (and similar for the other two years examined).
- Across the years for which the U.S. Census Bureau made estimates (1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998), there were, for the most part, no significant differences between median household incomes in Mercer County, and median household incomes in the individual bordering counties, individual similar counties, and statewide (although five of the individual similar counties had significantly lower median household incomes for at least three of the four years examined).

Figure S.11
Unemployment Rate for Mercer County



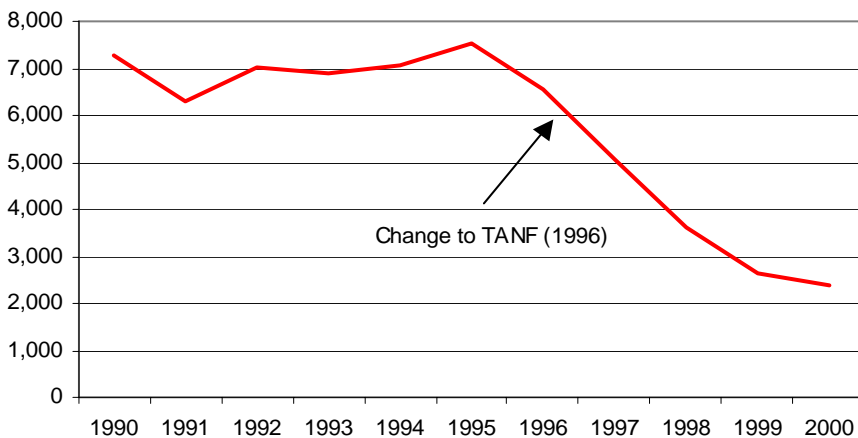
Rate per 100,000 persons eligible for labor.

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security; U.S. Census Bureau.

Another measure of community poverty examined in this profile was the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate reflects the number of individuals unemployed divided by the number of persons eligible for labor. Individuals not interesting in working or who want to work, but are discouraged, or face barriers to entering the labor force are considered ineligible for labor.

The 1990 Mercer County unemployment rate did not significantly differ from the 2000 rate. From 1990 to 2000, Mercer County unemployment rates were significantly higher than rates in bordering counties and statewide.

Figure S.12
Family Public Assistance Rate in Mercer County



Rate per 100,000 persons ages 0 to 18 years.

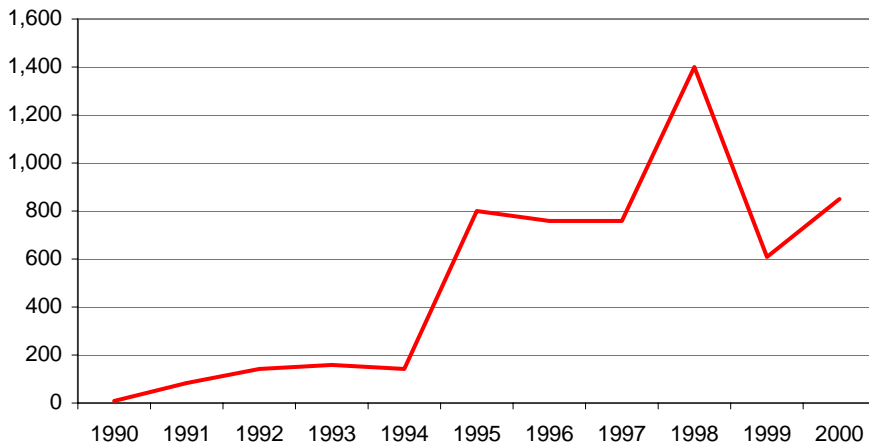
Source: Illinois Department of Human Services; U.S. Census Bureau.

Another measure of community poverty examined in this profile was the family public assistance rate. The family public assistance rate reflects the number of individuals receiving assistance through the state public welfare program per youth ages 18 years and younger.

From SFY 1990 to SFY 2000, there was a significant decrease in the family public assistance rate in Mercer County. From SFY 1990 to SFY 2000, Mercer County family public assistance rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide.

It is important to note that the decrease experienced in Mercer County was most likely due to changes in the family public assistance requirements when Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) in SFY 1996.

Figure S.13
Total Drug Arrest Rate for Mercer County



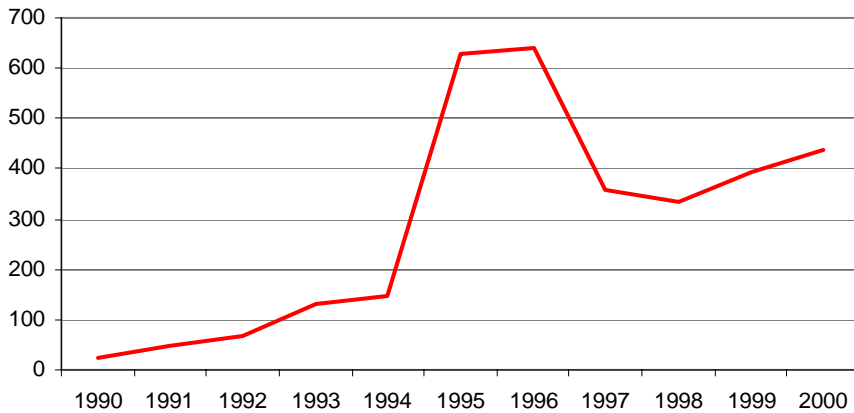
Rate per 100,000 population.
Source: Illinois State Police; U.S. Census Bureau.

The total drug arrest rate (adult and juvenile arrests combined) was used to measure drug availability in Mercer County.

From 1990 to 2000, there was a significant increase in the Mercer County total drug arrest rate. From 1990 to 2000, Mercer County total drug arrest rates did not significantly differ from rates in bordering counties and statewide, and were significantly higher than rates in similar counties.

From 1990 to 2000, arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act accounted for 48 percent of drug arrests in Mercer County.

Figure S.14
Total Reported Violent Index Offense Rate for Mercer County



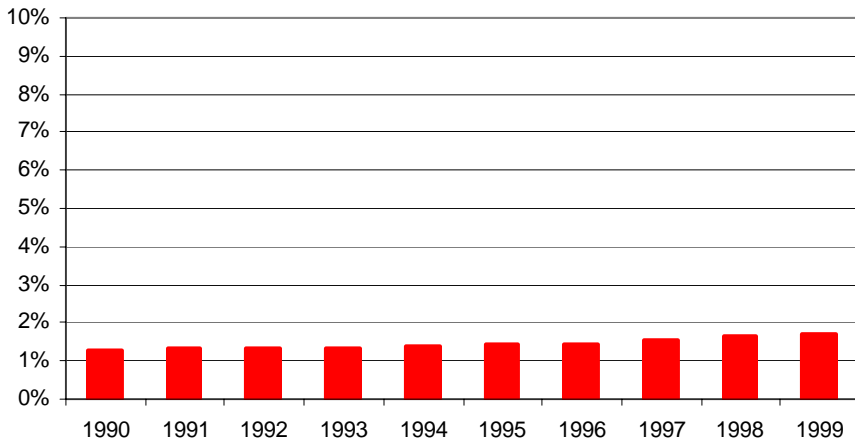
Rate per 100,000 population.
Source: Illinois State Police; U.S. Census Bureau.

The total violent index offense rate (adult and juvenile offenses combined) was used to measure community violence in Mercer County.

From 1990 to 2000, the Mercer County total reported violent index offense rate significantly increased. From 1990 to 2000, Mercer County total reported violent index offense rates did not significantly differ from rates in bordering counties, and were significantly lower than statewide rates.

From 1990 to 2000, aggravated assaults accounted for 80 percent of reported violent index offenses in Mercer County, and criminal sexual assaults accounted for 19 percent. Both the aggravated assault rate and criminal sexual assault rate significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time period examined.

Figure S.15
Percentage of the Population in Mercer County that is Accounted for by Minorities

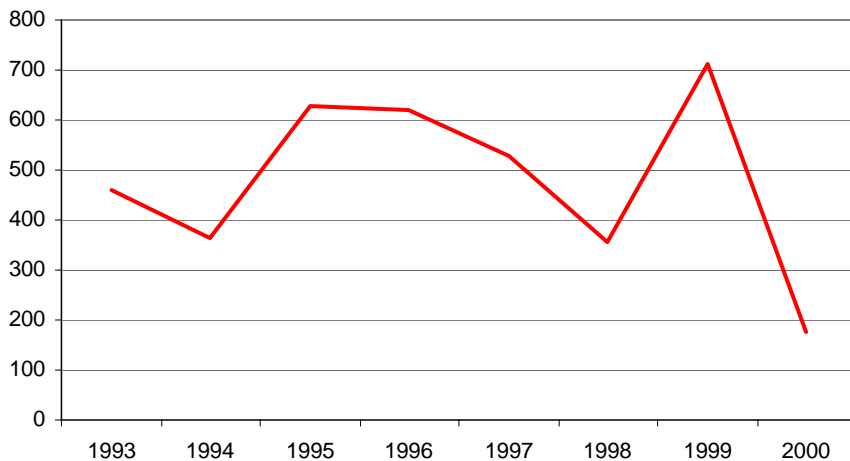


Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Race/ethnicity was also examined as an environmental factor. Readers should note that although there is evidence indicating that race/ethnicity is related to juvenile delinquency, this evidence tends to suggest this relationship may be due to the high correlation between race/ethnicity and other environmental factors (socio-economic factors, poverty). For instance, areas with high concentrations of poverty also tend to have high concentrations of minorities.

From 1990 to 1999, there was no significant change in the percentage of the population accounted for by minorities in Mercer County. From 1990 to 1999, Mercer County percentages of the population accounted for by minorities were significantly lower than the percentages in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.

Figure S.16
Mercer County Birth Rate by Females Ages 10 to 17 Years



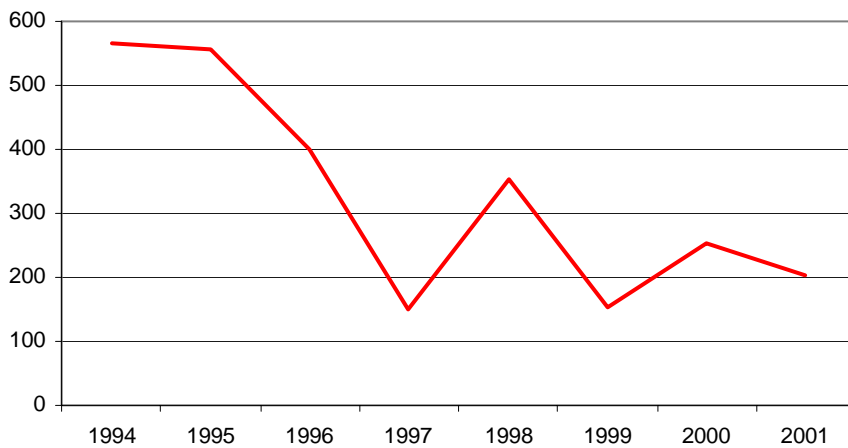
Rate per 100,000 females ages 10 to 17 years.

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health; U.S. Census Bureau.

The birth rate by females ages 10 to 17 years was also examined as an environmental issue because it was correlated with a number of environmental factors described in this profile.

The 1993 Mercer County birth rate by females ages 10 to 17 years did not significantly differ from the 2000 rate. From 1993 to 2000, Mercer County birth rates by females ages 10 to 17 years did not significantly differ from rates in similar counties and were significantly lower than statewide rates.

Figure S.17
Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Treatment Admission Rate for Mercer County



Rate per 100,000 persons ages 10 to 16 years.
 Source: Illinois Department of Human Services; Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse; U.S. Census Bureau.

The adolescent drug and alcohol treatment admission rate was examined as a separate risk factor.

The 1994 Mercer County adolescent drug and alcohol treatment rate did not significantly differ from the 2001 rate. From 1994 to 2001, Mercer County adolescent drug and alcohol treatment rates did not significantly differ from rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.

In Mercer County, 57 percent of adolescent substance abuse treatment services were provided to youth who identified alcohol as the primary substance abused. Thirty-eight percent of adolescent substance abuse treatment services were provided to youth who identified cannabis as the primary substance abuse. It is unknown how many adolescents were receiving treatment for abusing multiple substances.

Important Trends and Patterns: Juvenile Risk Factors

- Two of the social risk factors examined provide indirect measures of parental criminality (drug treatment rates for mothers, and rates of inmates with children). Mercer County rates for these two social risk factors were almost uniformly significantly lower than rates for the other groups examined.
- Two of the social risk factors examined provide indirect measures of family violence (Order of Protection rates for Orders likely to protect minors and reported domestic offense rates). Mercer County Order of Protection rates did not significantly differ from rates for the other groups examined. On the other hand, Mercer County reported domestic offense rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide.
- The Mercer County truancy rate did not significantly change from the beginning to the end of the time period examined (the 1990/1991 rate did not significantly differ from the 2000/2001 rate), although there was fluctuation throughout the time period examined, and the Mercer County truancy rate tended to increase from 1996/1997 to 2000/2001. From 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, Mercer County truancy rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.
- The Mercer County suspension rate did not significantly change from the beginning to the end of the time period examined (the 1990/1991 rate did not significantly differ from the 2000/2001 rate). From 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, Mercer County suspension rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide.
- The Mercer County total drug arrest rate significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time period examined (the 2000 rate was significantly higher than the 1990 rate). This may suggest that, across the time period examined, drugs became more available to Mercer County minors (although it may also reflect changes in law enforcement practices). In addition, across the time period examined, Mercer County total drug arrest rates were significantly higher than rates in similar counties.
- Across the time period examined, Mercer County total drug submission rates to Illinois State Police drug labs were significantly lower than rates in similar counties and statewide.

INTRODUCTION

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 improve the quality of criminal justice in Illinois. The Authority provides a systemwide 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 responsibilities are serving as a clearinghouse for research and information on criminal and juvenile justice and undertaking research studies to improve the administration of 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 justice systems' responses to these offenses. To place this information into the hands of Illinois' criminal and juvenile justice practitioners, the Authority created county profiles to highlight justice system activities. Historically, these profiles focused on both the criminal *and* juvenile justice systems. However, with the growing concern surrounding juvenile crime and the desire to develop preventative strategies to combat juvenile delinquency, the Authority elected to create juvenile justice profiles that would provide more in-depth analyses of juvenile justice trends and the youth residing in each of the 102 counties in Illinois.

Using this Profile

The purpose of this profile is to assist juvenile justice professionals, policy makers, and community members in learning, discussing, and making decisions about their county's juvenile justice system *and* the youth living in their communities. It is also hoped that this profile will aid juvenile justice councils in creating county-level juvenile justice plans.⁴ Unlike previous versions produced by the Authority that focused primarily on justice system activities, this profile includes a section on risk factors that are linked to juvenile delinquency. Risk factors are aspects of juveniles' environments that impact the likelihood of youth committing delinquent offenses. By including a description of risk factors, it is hoped this profile will help county officials identify ways to prevent juvenile crime.

This profile consists of four main sections. The first section, *Mercer County*, provides a description of the county's population size and the demographic characteristics. The second section, *Juvenile Justice System*, provides an in-depth description of Mercer County's juvenile justice system activities. This section includes analyses of delinquency petitions, delinquency adjudications, juvenile transfers to adult court, probation caseloads, admissions to temporary detention centers, and admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Illinois Youth Centers.⁵ The third section, *Juvenile Risk Factors*, examines risk factors that have been linked to juvenile delinquency. This section includes an overview of research on juvenile risk factors, the data available for each risk factor identified in the research, and the trends in the risk factors examined. The fourth section, *Community-Based Programs*, provides a description of programs available in Mercer County as identified through a statewide survey of service providers and an Internet search for programs located in Mercer County.

⁴ The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998 included a section encouraging the creation of juvenile justice councils (Public Act 90-590; 705 ILCS 405/6-12). Juvenile justice councils are collaborative bodies composed of juvenile justice professionals, community members, service providers, and other relevant individuals. The duties of the juvenile justice council include the development of a prevention-based plan to address juvenile crime.

⁵ The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998 changed some of the language of the juvenile justice system (Public Act 90-590; 750 ILCS 405/5-105). Specifically, "taken into custody" is now "arrested," a "adjudication hearing" is a "trial," and a "dispositional hearing" is now a "sentencing hearing." This report reflects these language changes with the exception of the term adjudication. The term "adjudication" is used in this report to reflect those youth who have been petitioned to court and found delinquent (guilty). This term is used because we felt it was the best word to describe juveniles found delinquent and it is a common word used by juvenile justice practitioners.

When reviewing this profile, readers should consider the questions listed below. These questions were developed to help readers critically examine the data and conclusions presented in this report.

- ***What are some explanations for the findings (e.g., increases, decreases, no changes) presented in this report?***

For the data points examined below, researchers attempted to identify specific patterns and trends in Mercer County. Overall conclusions based on the data presented in both the *Juvenile Justice System* and *Juvenile Risk Factor* sections are available at the end of each section. These conclusions are based on an examination across multiple data points. By examining multiple data points together, researchers are able to make stronger conclusions about the patterns or trends in Mercer County. For instance, if most of the drug arrests are for cannabis, most of drug submissions to state crime laboratories are tested and identified as cannabis, and most youth enter drug treatment for cannabis abuse, then one could conclude that cannabis use may be an important issue to address.

It is important to note that although we were able to identify some patterns or trends, we were unable to provide decisive reasons why these patterns or trends exist because we are not intimately involved in the day-to-day operations of the juvenile justice system or work directly with youth living in Mercer County. Several factors, including departmental policies and procedures or the ways in which the data were collected, may account for why specific patterns or trends emerged from our analyses. Although multiple indicators examined together can provide a rough indication of patterns and trends in juvenile delinquency, the juvenile justice system's efforts, and risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency, the context in which these factors exist is important. In other words, the analyses provided in this document should be considered in light of what juvenile justice practitioners, service providers, and community members know about and have experienced in their communities.

- ***What other factors influence youth involvement with the juvenile justice system?***

Most of the data presented in this report are limited to juvenile justice system activities and juvenile risk factors in Mercer County. Although the risk factor section was included to help juvenile justice councils and practitioners identify ways to prevent juvenile crime, experiencing risk factors does not necessarily mean a youth will become involved in the juvenile justice system. In fact, researchers have found no single risk factor that causes serious or violent offending (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency, 1995). Rather, researchers have found experiencing several risk factors in combination can produce high levels of offending (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency, 1995). Additionally, many youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system never fully penetrate the system (i.e., are placed on probation or in a correctional facility) or become serious, chronic, or violent offenders. In fact, researchers have found only a small percentage (most studies have found between 5 to 7 percent) of the youth studied were chronic or serious offenders (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency, 1995).

There may be several reasons why youth who experience risk factors do not become involved in the juvenile justice system. One explanation may be that these youth also experience protective factors that actually “protect” them from engaging in crime. Researchers examining protective factors and juvenile delinquency have found the presence of multiple protective factors can have a considerable impact on reducing delinquency (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency, 1995). Thus, understanding the influence of protective factors is an important component to addressing juvenile delinquency. Unfortunately, this profile focuses primarily on risk factors because Authority staff were unable to obtain data on protective factors. When reviewing this profile, it is important to keep in mind that youth in Mercer County may also experience several protective factors. Juvenile justice council members and juvenile practitioners should consider collecting data on protective factors to obtain a more complete picture of the needs of youth residing in Mercer County.

Departmental policies and other system factors may also impact which youth become involved with the juvenile justice system. For instance, counties having an extensive number of treatment options may have more resources to divert youth from formal involvement in the juvenile justice system, while counties with fewer resources may be forced to place similar youth on formal probation, in a residential facility, or in a correctional institution. Therefore, it is important for juvenile justice councils and practitioners to understand what, how, and why departmental policies and other system factors influence the trends presented in this report.

- ***Given the information presented in this profile, what are the most pressing issues in Mercer County and how should those issues be addressed?***

Identifying the most important issues in your county is difficult. To best determine which issues should be addressed in your county, it is important to collect and examine information not only regarding the needs and issues facing the juvenile justice system and youth in Mercer County, but also what programs currently exist to address these needs and issues, what programs are effective, and what policies have been implemented that have impacted the trends identified. This profile was intended to provide readers with a vast amount of information on demographic characteristics of Mercer County residents, juvenile justice system activities, juvenile risk factors, and community-based youth programs. To help readers interpret the data presented, the *Juvenile Justice System* and the *Juvenile Risk Factor* sections include overall conclusions based on an examination of multiple data points in combination. Authority staff also attempted to collect information on community-based programs serving youth in Mercer County. However, the information in this profile is not comprehensive. Before addressing any of the issues identified in this profile it is important to consider collecting additional data. In fact, this profile should be considered the first step to identifying *possible* issues facing the juvenile justice system or youth in Mercer County.

- ***What additional data are available that can provide important information about the juvenile justice system or youth residing in Mercer County?***

The data presented in this profile represent those available to the Authority staff and believed important. This profile should not be considered a comprehensive summary of all data available on juvenile delinquency and youth in Mercer County.

Authority researchers were unable to obtain data for several decision points in the Mercer County juvenile justice system. One critical decision point researchers were unable to examine was juvenile arrests. This decision point is important to understanding how the juvenile justice system works because it is the entrance point into the juvenile justice system for most youth.

Additionally, the data examined in this profile were only available at the aggregate-level. That is, the data were not collected in a manner that would allow an examination of the characteristics of specific juvenile offenders or youth. For example, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) collects data on the number of juveniles whose delinquency cases have been petitioned to court. These data can be used to determine if juvenile delinquency cases filed in court have increased or decreased over time. However, these data do not allow one to examine changes in the types of juveniles whose cases have been filed in court, potentially masking important trends. For example, without detailed information on gender, we are unable to determine if more girls are referred to court today than in the past, and at what points in the system these changes have occurred.

Juvenile justice councils and practitioners utilizing this document should consider collecting additional and more detailed, individual level data to aid the interpretation of the analyses presented below. This may entail contacting local agencies to determine what additional types of juvenile justice system, juvenile risk factor, or protective factor data are available.

Method

There are three main analyses presented in this profile. First, analyses were conducted to examine trends in Mercer County. Second, analyses were conducted to examine trends in bordering counties, similar counties, and the state as a whole. Third, analyses were conducted that compared Mercer County to bordering counties, similar counties, and the state as a whole.

Mercer County is compared to bordering counties to show readers how Mercer County compares to other counties in the same geographical area. Table 1 lists counties bordering Mercer County. In the following sections, the term “bordering counties” is used to reflect trends and figures for the bordering counties combined. Mercer County is also compared to “similar” counties to show readers how Mercer County compares to other counties that are similar in population, degree of urbanization, commuting patterns, and economic activities. Table 1 lists those counties with the same classification as Mercer County. In the sections that follow, the term “similar counties” is used to reflect trends and figures for those counties that are similar to Mercer County. Appendix A contains a more detailed description of how counties were classified as being similar, why this classification scheme was used (as this scheme is different than that used in the past), and lists each county with their corresponding classification code. Finally, counties were compared to the state as a whole. In the sections that follow, the term “statewide” is used to reflect trends and figures for the state as a whole.

Table 1
Mercer County Comparison Groups

Bordering Counties	Similar Counties
Henderson, Henry, Knox, Rock Island, Warren	Bond, Cass, Christian, Clark, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Fayette, Ford, Fulton, Greene, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Livingston, Logan, Macoupin, Marshall, Mason, Montgomery, Moultrie, Piatt, Randolph, Shelby, Washington, White

Unless otherwise noted, rates per 100,000 persons in the applicable population were calculated when examining trends in Mercer County and the other groups examined and when comparing Mercer County to bordering counties, similar counties, and to the state as a whole.⁶ When data were unavailable across a sufficient number of years (i.e., 5 or more years) trends were not examined; however, comparisons between Mercer County and the other groups were still conducted. Table 2 lists the data point examined and the corresponding populations used to calculate the rates. Appendix B contains the rates and the corresponding ranking for every data point examined in this profile for every county in Illinois.

⁶ Rates were calculated in the following manner: Rate=Total Number multiplied by 100,000 and divided by the Total Population.

Table 2
Populations Used to Calculate Rates

Rates	Populations Used for Calculations*
Delinquency Petition Filing Rates	10 through 16 years
Delinquency Adjudication Rates	10 through 16 years
Informal Probation Supervision Rates	10 through 16 years
Continued Under Supervision Rates	10 through 16 years
Annual Active Juvenile Probation Caseload	10 through 16 years
Total Admission Rates to Temporary Detention Centers	10 through 16 years
Juvenile Admission Rates to IDOC	13 through 16 years
ER Admission Rates for Attempted and Completed Suicides	0 through 17 years
Drug Treatment Rates for Females with Children	Females 13 through 70 years
Rates of Inmates with Children	17 years and Older
Rates of Orders of Protection that Protect Minors	18 years and Older
Reported Domestic Offense Rates	ICJIA Population Estimates
Reported Child Abuse and Neglect Rates	0 through 17 years
Reported Child Sexual Abuse Rates	0 through 17 years
Divorce and Annulment Rates	Total County Population
Truancy Rates	School Enrollment (K-12)
Suspension Rates	School Enrollment (K-12)
Expulsion Rates	School Enrollment (K-12)
High School Dropout Rates	School Enrollment (9-12)
Unemployment Rates	Persons Eligible for Employment
Family Public Assistance Rates	0 through 18 years
Total Drug Arrest Rates	ICJIA Population Estimates
Drug Submission Rates	ICJIA Population Estimates
Total Reported Violent Index Offense Rates	ICJIA Population Estimates
Violent Offense Rates in Mercer County by Offense Type	ICJIA Population Estimates
Birth Rates by Females Ages 10 to 17 years	Females 10 through 17 years
Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Treatment Rates	10 through 16 years

*The populations used are based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

In instances when data were available across a sufficient number of years, the sections below include figures that show trend lines for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Although figures are a useful tool, it is possible for figures to visually display changes or differences that seem large, but are actually less important than they appear. Conversely, it is also possible for figures to visually display changes or differences that appear small, but are actually important. To circumvent relying exclusively on visual inspection of figures or on simple numbers such as percent change from one year to the next, a statistical process was adopted. The statistical process relies heavily on statistics called confidence intervals, or upper and lower bounds. Appendix C explains what confidence intervals are and how they were used to examine trends. In every instance when the statistical process utilizing confidence intervals was adopted, the results reported are based entirely on the conclusions indicated by the statistical process. Instances when the statistical process *was not* adopted are noted in the applicable sections.

Caution should be taken when interpreting trends that are identified as having no significant change between the time periods analyzed. One assumption readers often make is that no significant change means that the trend or pattern is not important. However, this assumption could cause readers to overlook important trends and patterns. For example, if Mercer County's truancy rate is higher than the truancy rates of all other groups examined and the truancy rate in Mercer County has not changed during the time periods examined, then this may be an important issue to study more closely.

With a few exceptions, summary tables of the overall findings based on the statistical procedures described above follow the figures or tables presenting the data analyzed. These tables present the overall changes during the time period examined for Mercer County, bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide and significant differences or similarities between bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide numbers, rates, or percentages and the numbers, rates, and percentages in Mercer County. In some instances, a conclusive determination of similarity or difference could not be made when comparing the numbers, rates, or percentages in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide to the numbers, rates, or percentages in Mercer County. In such instances, dashes (--) were placed in the table and a description of the comparison follows the table under the heading “*Note*.” In some instances, there is also additional information provided under the heading “*Note*” about the trends examined that is important to consider when reviewing the findings presented in the table.

I. MERCER COUNTY

To better understand the information discussed in this profile and to place the data presented in this study into context, the following description of Mercer County was prepared. This section provides readers with an overview of the general population characteristics of Mercer County, relevant changes in the juvenile population at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system (youth ages 5 to 16 years), and the racial and ethnic characteristics of Mercer County residents.

Mercer County is located in northwestern Illinois along the Mississippi River, and encompasses a 561 square mile area. From 1990 to 2000, the population density in Mercer County remained stable (31 persons per square mile in 1990, and 30 persons per square mile in 2000). When compared to the other 101 Illinois counties, Mercer County ranked 68th in total population and 82nd in population density in 2000.

From 1990 to 2000, the population in Mercer County decreased 2 percent, from 17,290 to 16,957. In both 1990 and 2000, 21 percent of individuals living in Mercer County lived in urban areas.

Age

When examining only those persons at-risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system (i.e., juveniles ages 5 to 16 years), it was found that from 1990 to 2000 the juvenile population in Mercer County decreased 8 percent, from 3,205 to 2,957. Individuals ages 5 to 16 accounted for 19 percent of the total Mercer County population in 1990, while they accounted for 17 percent of the total population in 2000.

Race/Ethnicity

Due to differences in the way the U.S. Census Bureau collected data in 2000, racial comparisons between 1990 and 2000 data could not be made. In 1990, individuals completing the census were required to select only one race (e.g., white, black, Asian). In 2000, individuals who completed the census were able to identify themselves as being up to seven different racial groups. For instance, an individual could indicate being white, black, and Native American in 2000, but in 1990 they could only select one of those races. In 1990 and 2000, individuals were also allowed to indicate whether they were Hispanic or non-Hispanic. Table 3 shows census data by race and ethnicity for 1990 and 2000.

Of the total non-Hispanic population in Mercer County in 1990, 99.4 percent identified themselves as white. Those identifying themselves as Hispanic constituted 0.6 percent of the total population in Mercer County in 1990.

Of the total non-Hispanic population in Mercer County in 2000, 98.9 percent identified themselves as only white. Those identifying themselves as Hispanic constituted 1.3 percent of the total population in 2000.

Table 3
Racial and Ethnic Characteristics of Mercer County Residents in 1990 and 2000

Race	Ethnicity		
	Non-Hispanic N=17,181	Hispanic N=109	Total N=17,290
1990			
White	99.4%	67.0%	99.2%
Black	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Other Race	<0.1%	33.0%	0.2%
Total	100%	100%	100%
2000	Non-Hispanic N=16,741	Hispanic N=216	Total N=16,957
White	98.9%	59.7%	98.4%
Black	0.3%	0.9%	0.3%
Asian	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.1%	1.4%	0.1%
Hawaiian Native/ Other Pacific Islander	<0.1%	0.0%	<0.1%
Other	0.1%	25.5%	0.4%
2 or more Races	0.5%	12.5%	0.7%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

May not equal 100% due to rounding.

II. JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Similar to most juvenile justice systems across the United States, the “juvenile justice system” in Illinois is comprised of various agencies that deal with minors. These organizations often operate as a loose network of agencies at the state, county, and municipal level. These agencies include:

- Law enforcement agencies, such as municipal police departments, county sheriffs, and the Illinois State Police;
- Juvenile and criminal court service agencies (e.g. juvenile probation departments);
- Judges, state’s attorneys, public defenders, and private attorneys;
- The Illinois Department of Corrections;
- Locally operated temporary detention centers;
- The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and child welfare service agencies;
- Private social service organizations that provide crisis intervention, foster care, residential placement, counseling, and other services;
- Schools; and,
- Neighborhood-based organizations and coalitions.

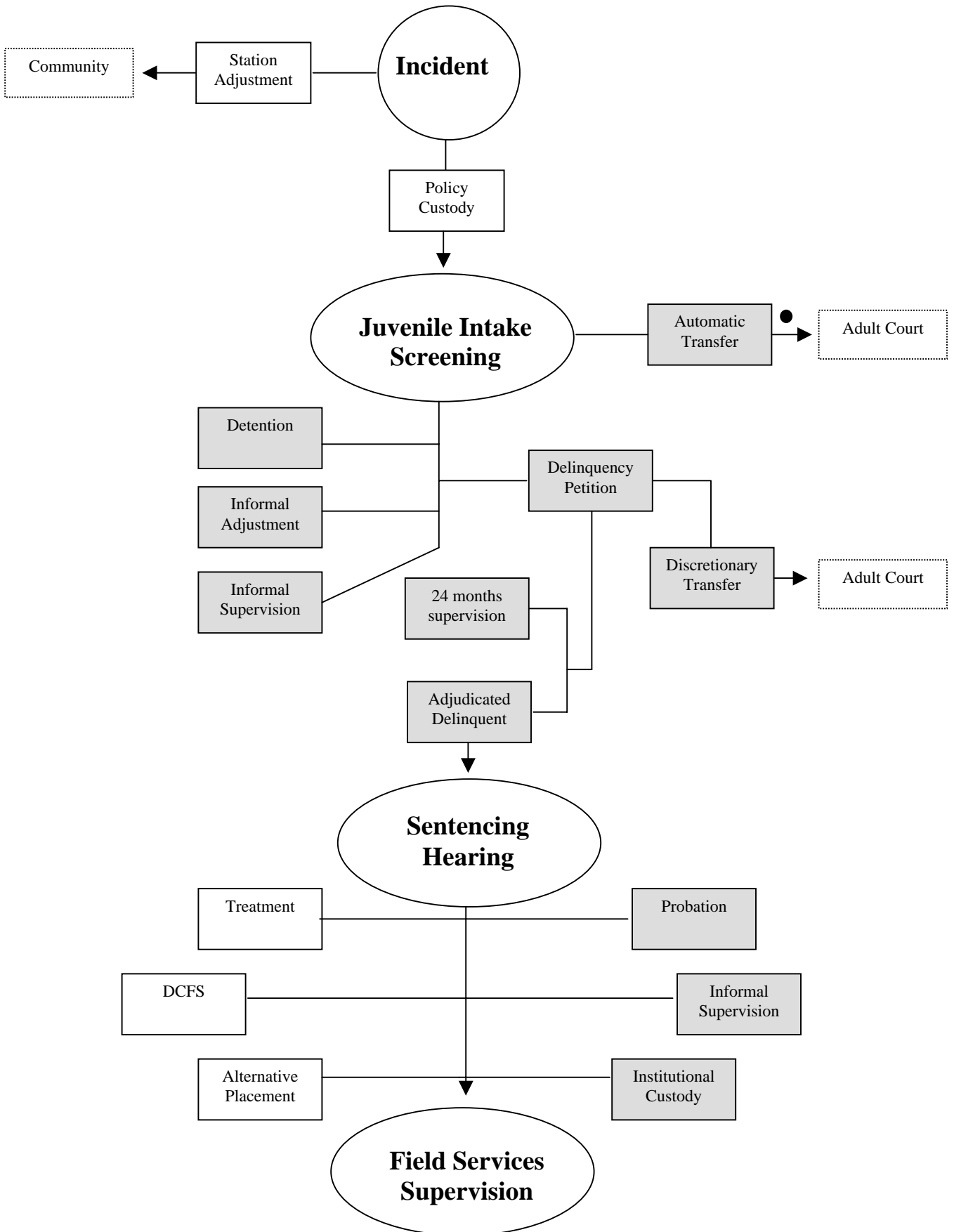
Each entity has different responsibilities within the juvenile justice system and come into contact with juveniles at different stages in the justice process. The flowchart presented in Figure 1 provides a general sketch of the different decision points of the juvenile justice system. Because juvenile justice in Illinois is administered at the local and county level, the decision points illustrated in Figure 1 may look different across the many juvenile justice systems in Illinois. For instance, some counties may have several types of diversionary programs available for youth who have delinquency petitions filed in court, whereas other counties may have few resources available to divert youth. These differences may impact how juvenile justice professionals address delinquency in their counties. Those boxes that are shaded represent points in the system in which data were available for Mercer County.

This section will highlight juvenile justice system activities in Mercer County, bordering counties, similar counties, and for the state as a whole. Table 4 lists the data examined in this section of the profile, the data source, and the years the data were available.

Table 4
Juvenile Justice System Data Examined

Data	Source	Years
Juvenile delinquency petitions	Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts	1990-2000
Juvenile delinquency adjudications	Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts	1990-2000
Juvenile probation caseloads	Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts	1990-2000
Juvenile transfers to adult court	Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts	1990-1999
Juvenile detention admissions	Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts	1992-2000
Juvenile detention admissions	Illinois Department of Human Services	1998-2000
Juvenile admissions to IDOC	Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)	1993-2000

Figure 1
Flowchart of the Juvenile Justice System Process



As indicated in Table 4 and Figure 1, Authority researchers were unable to obtain data for several decision points in the Mercer County juvenile justice system. One critical decision point researchers were unable to examine was juvenile arrests. This decision point is important to understanding how the juvenile justice system works because it is the entrance point into the juvenile justice system for most youth.

Under the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program, all law enforcement agencies in the state are required to report monthly offense and arrest data to the Illinois State Police (ISP). Although in the past ISP collected more detailed offense and arrest information, since 1993, ISP has collected only *aggregate-level* offense and arrest data from law enforcement agencies across the state. These aggregate totals combine offense and arrest data across sex, race, ethnicity, *and* age. The collection of offense and arrest data at the aggregate-level prevents researchers from examining offender characteristics, including offenders' ages.

To compensate for the lack of information about offenders arrested in Illinois Authority staff, with the cooperation of local agencies, collected separate adult and juvenile arrest data for the years 1996 to 1999 from a representative sample of law enforcement agencies across the state (see ICJIA, 1997). These arrest estimates include arrests for violent index crimes (murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault), property index offenses (burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson), unlawful use of a weapon (UW), and specific drug offenses (possession of cannabis, manufacture/delivery of cannabis, possession of controlled substances, and manufacture/delivery of controlled substances). Additionally, offender characteristics, such as sex, age group, race, and the arrest outcomes (station adjusted or referred to court) were collected. Unfortunately, analyses of arrest data for Mercer County could not be conducted due to the sampling strategy employed. Juvenile justice council members or juvenile justice practitioners are encouraged to identify and collect offense and arrests data.

Delinquency Petitions and Adjudications⁷

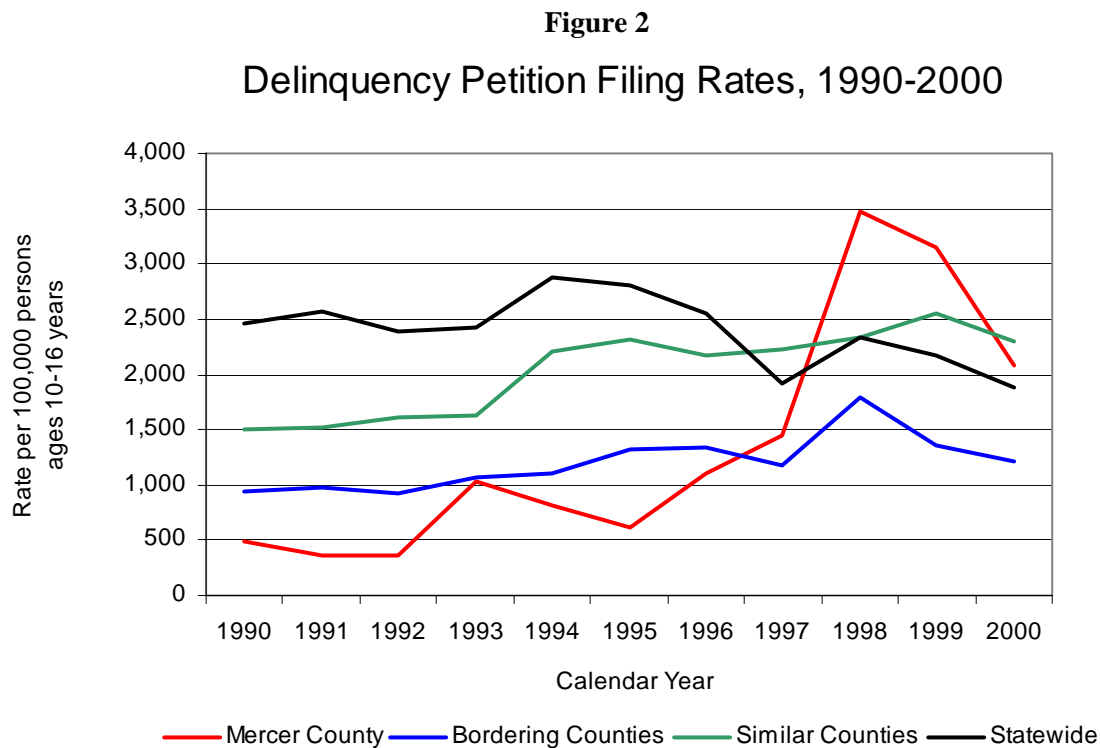
Juveniles who are arrested, but not issued station adjustments, are referred to the county state's attorney or the county probation department for screening, where many options are available. One option is to file a delinquency petition in juvenile court. Once a delinquency petition is filed, many different types of hearings ensue. These include hearings to set conditions minors must comply with while waiting for a trial or sentence and detention hearings to determine if a minor should be held in secure detention. In some instances when a delinquency petition is filed, the minor is diverted from the court system, and instead, is required to attend a program intended to address the issues that resulted the minor's criminal behavior. In other instances, the case is resolved through a trial, or a hearing to determine whether allegations in a delinquency petition are true beyond a reasonable doubt. In yet other instances, the minor avoids a trial by pleading guilty to the offense.

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) asks each probation department in Illinois to submit aggregate county-level juvenile justice system data to them. The data includes the number of juveniles whose delinquency cases are petitioned to juvenile court and the number of juveniles who are adjudicated delinquent. When asking counties to submit data to them, AOIC provides definitions of what each data element constitutes. According to AOIC, a delinquency adjudication is a case which has been resolved through a trial, and the judge has found the minor guilty. The AOIC definition does not include plea agreements or court-based diversions. Thus, AOIC does not intend for counties to include plea agreements or court-based diversions in the delinquency adjudication totals that are submitted to them.

From 1990 to 2000, AOIC reported that 294 delinquency petitions were filed in Mercer County. Of the 294 delinquency petitions, a majority were reported from 1993 to 2000 (23 delinquency petitions were reported from 1990 to 1992).

⁷ The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998 changed some of the language of the juvenile justice system (Public Act 90-590; 750 ILCS 405/5-105). Specifically, "taken into custody" is now "arrested," a "adjudication hearing" is a "trial," and a "dispositional hearing" is now a "sentencing hearing." This report reflects these language changes with the exception of the term adjudication. The term "adjudication" is used in this report to reflect those youth who have been petitioned to court and found delinquent (guilty). This term is used because we felt it was the best word to describe juveniles found delinquent and it is a common word used by juvenile justice practitioners.

Figure 2 shows delinquency petition filing rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 5 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in delinquency petitions filing rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 5 also shows how rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to rates in Mercer County.



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

Table 5
Delinquency Petition Filing Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County	X		
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	--	--	--
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		

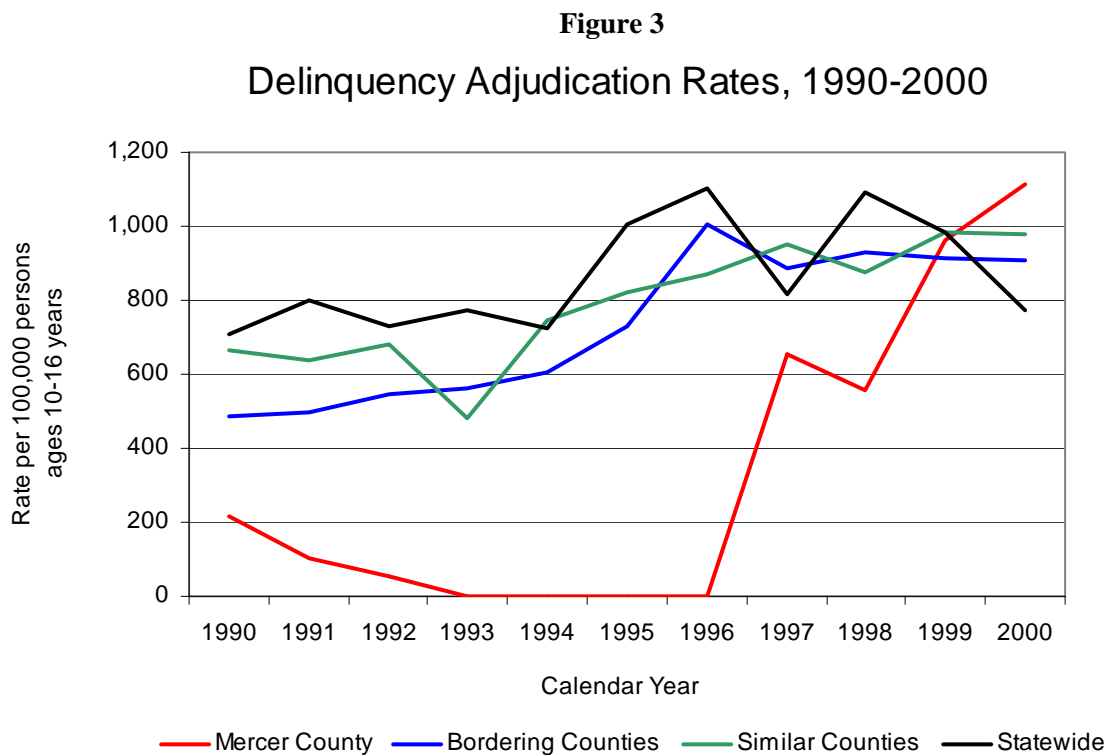
Note:

- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding comparisons between delinquency petition filing rates in bordering counties, and Mercer County rates. From 1990 to 1998, Mercer County rates were either similar to or significantly lower than rates in bordering counties. In 1999 and 2000, Mercer County rates were significantly higher than rates in bordering counties.
- From 1990 to 1996, Mercer County delinquency petition filing rates were significantly lower than rates in similar counties and statewide. These trends were used to guide conclusions in Table 5 regarding

comparisons between delinquency petition filing rates in similar counties and statewide, and Mercer County rates. From 1997 to 2000, Mercer County delinquency petition filing rates were either similar to or significantly higher than rates in similar counties and statewide.

From 1990 to 2000, 72 juvenile cases were adjudicated delinquent in Mercer County. However, from 1993 to 1996, Mercer County reported no delinquency adjudications. This may reflect inaccurate data reporting.

Figure 3 shows delinquency adjudication rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 6 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the delinquency adjudication rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 6 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.



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

Table 6
Delinquency Adjudication Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County	X		
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide		X	

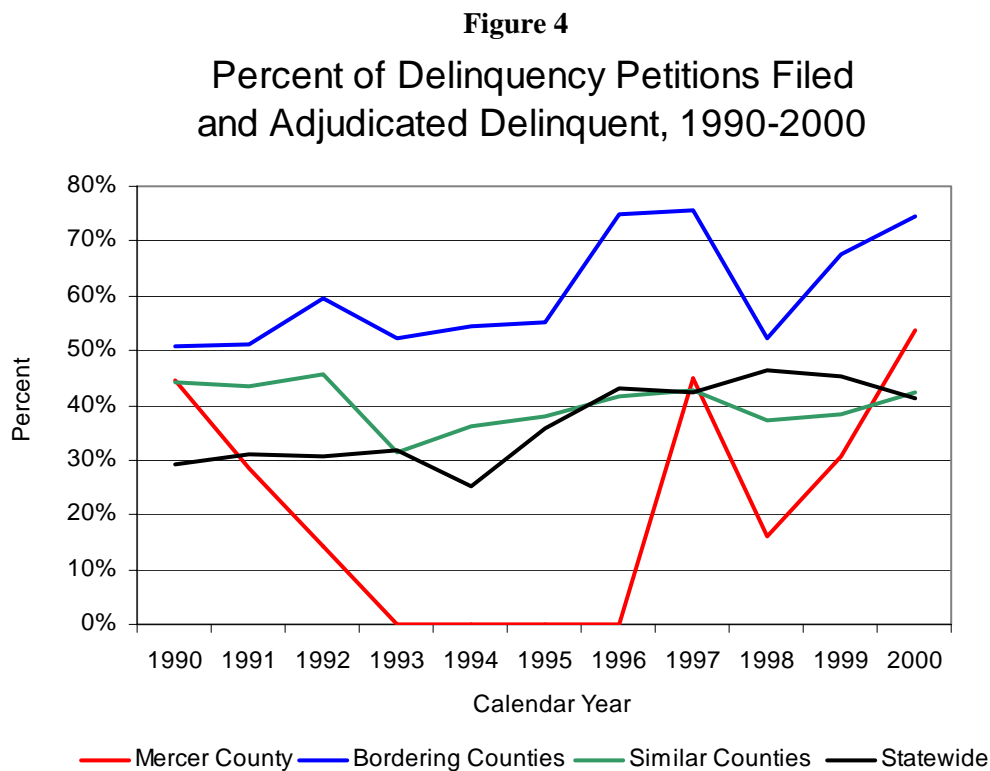
Note:

- Mercer County reported no delinquency adjudications from 1993 to 1996. This may reflect inaccurate data reporting.
- From 1997 to 2000, delinquency adjudication rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide, did not, on the whole, significantly differ from Mercer County rates. These trends were used to guide conclusions in Table 6 regarding comparisons between Mercer County rates and rates in the other groups examined.

Another way to analyze delinquency adjudications is to examine the number of delinquency petitions that result in adjudications. It is important to remember, however, that there are many different reasons why cases do not result in adjudication. As mentioned earlier, some juveniles whose cases have been petitioned to court are diverted after petitions are filed.

In Mercer County, 25 percent of the delinquent petitions filed resulted in adjudication from 1990 to 2000 (of the 294 delinquency petitions filed, 74 were adjudicated delinquent). However, Mercer County reported no delinquency adjudications from 1993 to 1996. Excluding 1993 to 1996, 32 percent of the delinquency petitions filed resulted in adjudication.

Figure 4 shows the percent of delinquency petitions filed that were adjudicated delinquent from 1990 to 2000 for Mercer County, similar counties, bordering counties, and statewide. Table 7 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the percent of delinquency petitions filed that were adjudicated delinquent in Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 7 also shows how the percentages in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the percentages in Mercer County.



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

Table 7
Percent of Delinquency Petitions Filed and that were Adjudicated Delinquent:
Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide	--	--	--

Note:

- Mercer County reported no delinquency adjudications from 1993 to 1996. This may reflect inaccurate data reporting.
- It was not possible to draw clear conclusions regarding comparisons between percents in similar counties and statewide, and Mercer County percents. Overall, Mercer County percents were either similar to or significantly lower than percents in similar counties and statewide.

Juvenile Transfers to Adult Court

Although most juvenile arrestees in Illinois are handled by the juvenile court, those charged with more serious crimes can be transferred to adult criminal court. Juveniles ages 13 years or older can be transferred to adult criminal court. There are three circumstances when the court will order a juvenile to be tried in the Illinois criminal courts: petitioned transfer, presumptive transfer, and automatic transfer/excluded jurisdiction. Petitioned transfer occurs when a motion has been made by the county's state's attorney to transfer the case to criminal court has been granted. Presumptive transfer occurs when a juvenile has committed a Class X felony and the juvenile is unable to convince a juvenile court judge that he or she is amenable to the care, treatment, and training programs available to the juvenile court. Similar to a petitioned transfer, the county's state's attorney has the authority to petition for a presumptive transfer. Juveniles are automatically transferred to adult criminal court or excluded from the juvenile court's jurisdiction if they commit certain offenses as mandated by law. The exclusion from the jurisdiction of juvenile court means that the criminal (adult) court is established as the original court of jurisdiction rather than the juvenile court as in petitioned and presumptive transfers. That is, cases in which the juvenile is automatically transferred or excluded from the juvenile court's jurisdiction are not originally heard in juvenile court.

The AOIC Probation Division collects aggregate-level information on the number of juveniles transferred to criminal court. Due to the manner in which these data are collected, however, it is not possible to determine the offenses for which the transfers took place, the eventual sentences of the cases once they were transferred, or the demographic characteristics of the juveniles transferred. Additionally, Cook County, which accounts for a majority of transfers to adult court, was not included in the statewide rate due to inconsistent reporting.

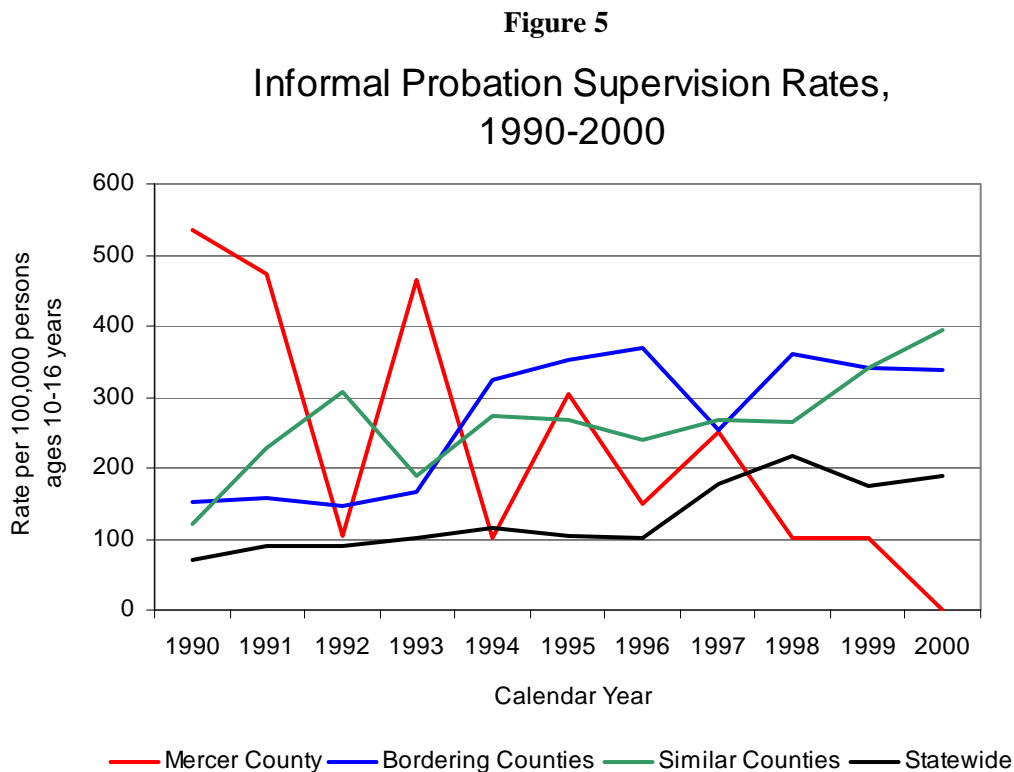
From 1990 to 1999, 1,132 juveniles were transferred to adult court statewide (excluding Cook County). During this time period, 10 juveniles were transferred to adult court in Mercer County (7 of whom were transferred during 1998).

Juvenile Probation

All counties in Illinois provide probation services for both alleged and adjudicated delinquents. For instance, probation departments may provide informal supervision to juveniles for whom no delinquency petition has been filed. In this role, a probation department provides a number of intervention strategies designed to divert juvenile offenders from the formal court process. Additionally, probation departments may oversee juveniles whose cases are petitioned to court but have not been formally adjudicated. These types of cases are called “continued under supervision.” Probation officers also serve juveniles that are adjudicated delinquent. For adjudicated delinquents the primary function of juvenile probation is to provide the court with investigative and case supervision services. Juveniles adjudicated delinquent can be sentenced to probation for a maximum of five years or until age 21, whichever comes first. The AOIC collects aggregate-level active, end of the year probation caseload information on the number of juveniles receiving informal supervision, continued under supervision, or formal probation from county probation departments.

From 1990 to 2000, Mercer County reported 50 informal supervision cases. Of the 50 informal probation supervision cases, 19 were reported during 1990 and 1991.

Figure 5 shows informal probation supervision rates for Mercer County, bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide. Table 8 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in informal probation supervision rates in Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 8 also shows how rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the percentages in Mercer County.



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

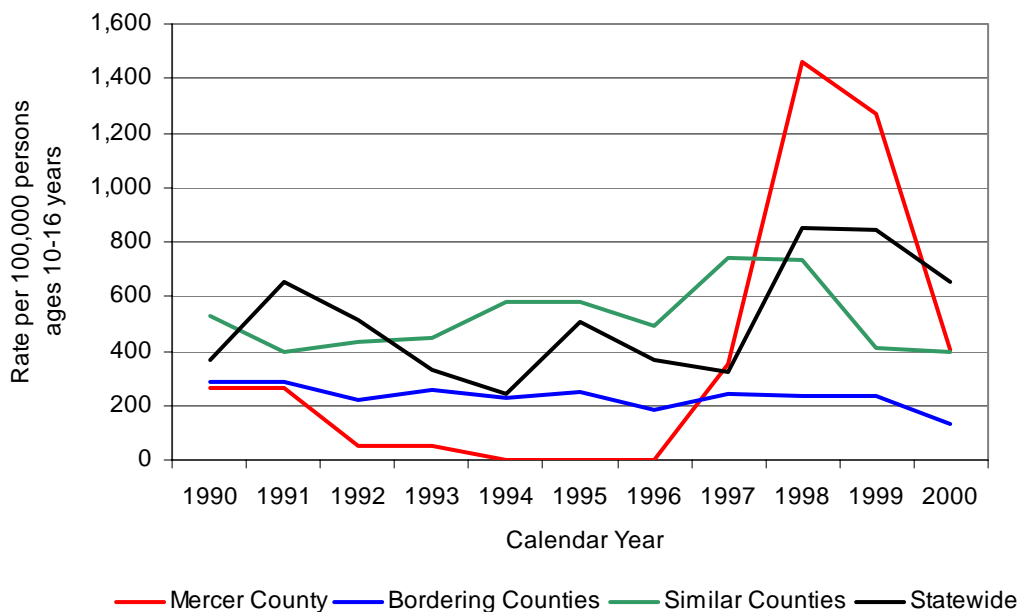
Table 8
Informal Probation Supervision Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County			X
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide		X	

As noted above, cases can also be continued under supervision. From 1990 to 2000, 81 juvenile cases were continued under supervision in Mercer County. Of the 81 cases continued under supervision, 54 were continued under supervision during 1998 or 1999.

Figure 6 shows the continued under supervision rates for Mercer County, bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide. Table 9 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the continued under supervision rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 9 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 6
Continued Under Supervision Rates,
1990-2000



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

Table 9
Continued Under Supervision Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties			X
Similar Counties			X
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	--	--	--
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide	--	--	--

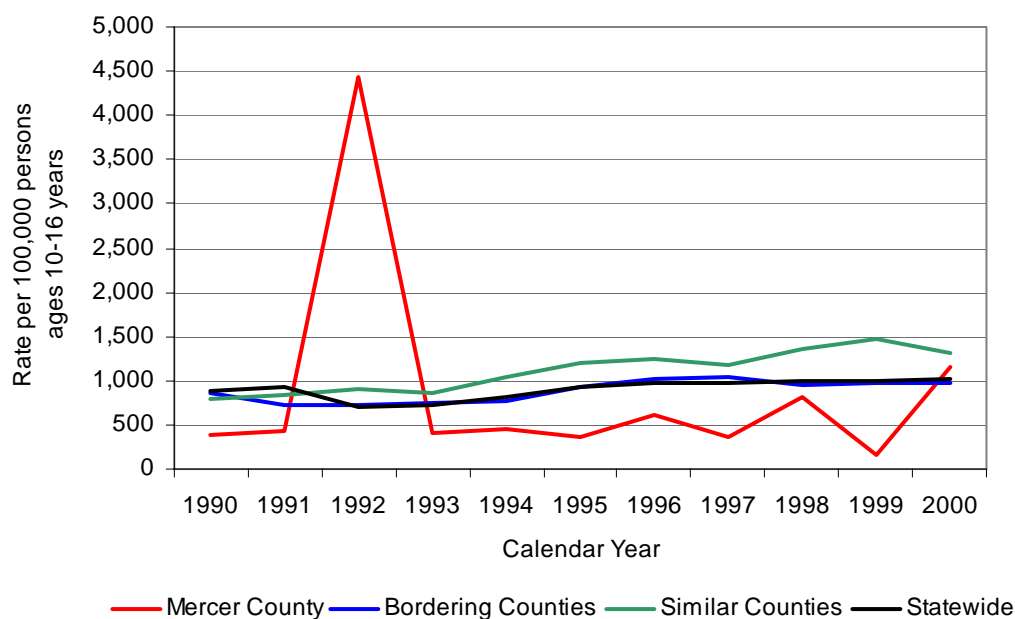
Note:

- Because of fluctuations in Mercer County continued under supervision rates, it was not possible to draw clear conclusions regarding comparisons between Mercer County rates, and rates in the other groups examined. From 1997 to 2000, Mercer County rates tended to either be similar to or significantly higher than rates in the other groups examined.

As noted above, juveniles adjudicated delinquent can also be sentenced to probation. From 1990 to 2000, the Mercer County probation department reported that 185 juveniles were on their annual active caseload. Of the 185 cases, 85 were sentenced to probation during 1992.

Figure 7 shows the annual active probation caseload rate for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 10 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the annual active probation caseload rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 10 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 7
Annual Active Juvenile Probation Caseload
Rates, 1990-2000



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

Table 10
Annual Active Probation Caseload Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County	X		
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	--	--	--
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	--	--	--

Note:

- Of the 185 cases sentenced to probation in Mercer County from 1990 to 2000, 85 were sentenced to probation during 1992.
- It was not possible to draw clear conclusions regarding comparisons between active probation caseload rates in bordering counties and statewide, and Mercer County rates. Overall, Mercer County rates were either similar to or significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide.

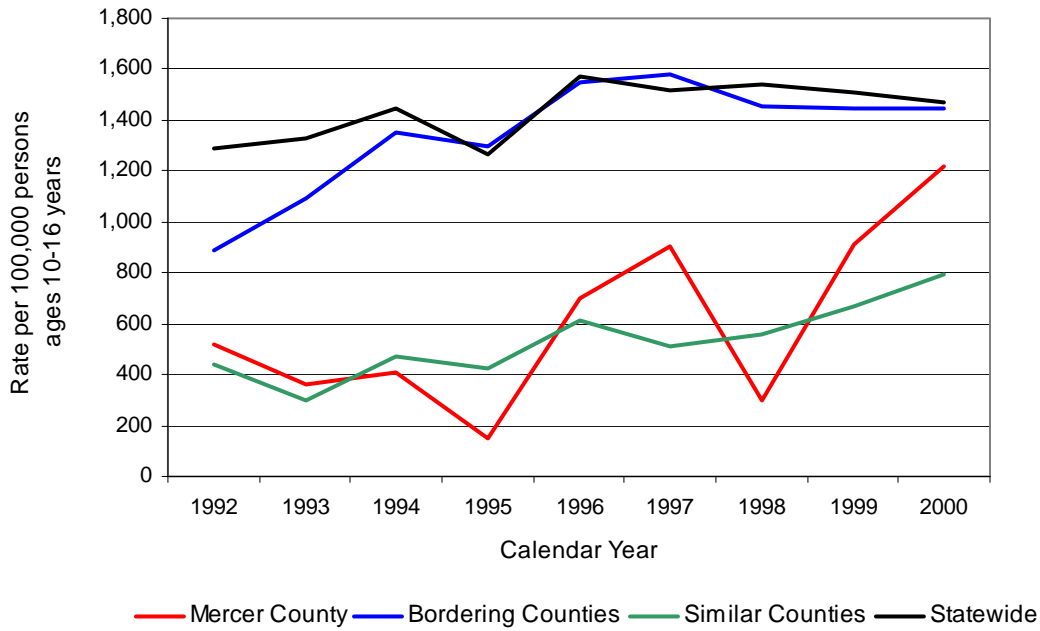
Juvenile Detention

After a juvenile is arrested and the decision has been made to refer the juvenile to court, authorities must determine if temporary detention is necessary. If the decision to securely (e.g., place the minor in a secure facility such as a temporary juvenile detention center) or non-securely (e.g., place the minor on home confinement) detain the juvenile is made, a detention hearing must be held within 40 hours of detention. Once there is probable cause to believe that the minor is delinquent, detention authorization can be based on any of the following reasons: (1) secure custody is of immediate and urgent necessity for the minor's protection or the protection of another person or his or her property; (2) the minor is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court; or (3) the minor was arrested under a warrant. Only juveniles 10 years of age or older can be held in a juvenile detention center. Most admissions to temporary juvenile detention centers are for juveniles who have been accused of committing delinquent acts. Detainment of juveniles who have been accused of delinquent acts, but have not yet had an adjudicatory hearing, are considered *pre-adjudicatory* admissions. Juvenile detention centers can also be used for short periods of detention that are part of a sentence following a finding of delinquency. Juveniles sentenced to juvenile detention following adjudication are considered *post-adjudicatory* admissions. Juveniles adjudicated delinquent can be ordered to serve up to 30 days in a county juvenile detention center, which includes time served prior to sentencing; those ordered to longer periods of incarceration are committed to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Illinois Youth Centers.

It is important to note that Mercer County does not have its own detention center. This is important to remember because research has found having a detention center is significantly correlated with an increase in detention rates (Smith, 1998). Because Mercer County does not operate its own detention center, Mercer County must transport juveniles to one of 16 detention centers in Illinois. From 1998 to 2000, most juveniles detained from Mercer County were admitted into the Knox County Mary Davis Detention Center.

Data collected by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division were used to examine admissions to Illinois' temporary detention centers for the years 1992 to 2000. Based on data reported to AOIC, it was found that there were 108 reported commitments to temporary detention centers by Mercer County from 1992 to 2000. These numbers include admissions for pre- and post-adjudicatory detention. Figure 8 shows the total admission rate (pre-and post-adjudicatory admissions) for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 11 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the total detention admission rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 11 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 8
Total Admission Rates to Temporary Detention
Centers, 1992-2000^a



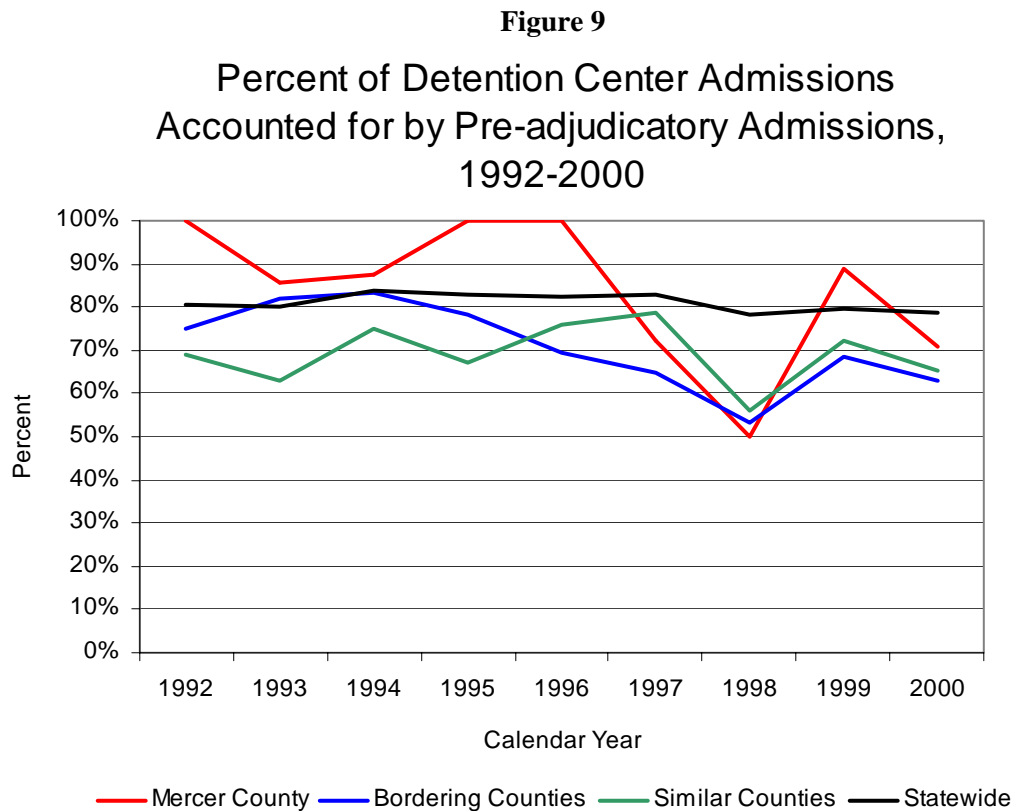
a. Total admissions include pre- and post-adjudicatory admissions.
 Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 11
Total Admission Rates to Temporary Detention Centers: Overall Findings^a

Change from 1992 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County	X		
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide	X		

a: Total admissions include pre- and post-adjudicatory admissions.

In Mercer County, pre-adjudicatory admissions accounted for approximately 82 percent of all juvenile detention admissions from 1992 to 2000. Figure 9 shows the percentage of admissions accounted for by pre-adjudicatory admission from 1992 to 2000. Table 12 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the percent of admissions accounted for by pre-adjudicatory admissions for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 12 also shows how the percentages in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the percentages in Mercer County.



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

Table 12
Percent of Detention Center Admissions Accounted for by Pre-adjudicatory Admissions: Overall Findings

Change from 1992 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide		X	

Juvenile Admissions to Illinois Youth Centers

Unlike county-level secure juvenile detention that is relatively short-term, the Illinois Department of Corrections' (IDOC) Illinois Youth Centers provides long-term custody for youths' ages 13 to 21 years. Juveniles committed to IDOC are detained in one of eight Illinois Youth Centers (IYC) located throughout Illinois. Adjudicated juveniles can be committed to the IDOC for several different reasons, including delinquency commitments and court psychological evaluations. Delinquent commitments are those juveniles who were adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to the IDOC. A delinquent commitment is not a determinate sentence, but an indeterminate sentence that is assessed during the youth's stay at an IYC. Juveniles sent to the IDOC as a delinquent commitment represent the largest proportion of juveniles committed to the IDOC (IDOC, 2000b). Adjudicated delinquents can also be sent to the IDOC for court evaluations. Court evaluations are used to assess the needs of delinquent juveniles. Based on the court evaluation a juvenile can be released or returned to the IDOC to serve an indeterminate term in an IYC (IDOC, 2000b). The IDOC collects and maintains data on the numbers and types of juveniles committed to the IDOC.

From state fiscal year (SFY) 1993 to SFY 2000, eight juveniles from Mercer County were committed to IDOC as new court admissions. This number reflects only those juveniles with new sentences to IDOC and does not include juveniles that returned to IDOC as parole violators.

Figure 10 shows the juvenile admission rates to IDOC for the other groups examined. Because there were relatively few IDOC admissions from Mercer County during the time period examined, Mercer County was excluded from Figure 10. Table 13 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the juvenile admissions rates to IDOC for the other groups examined.

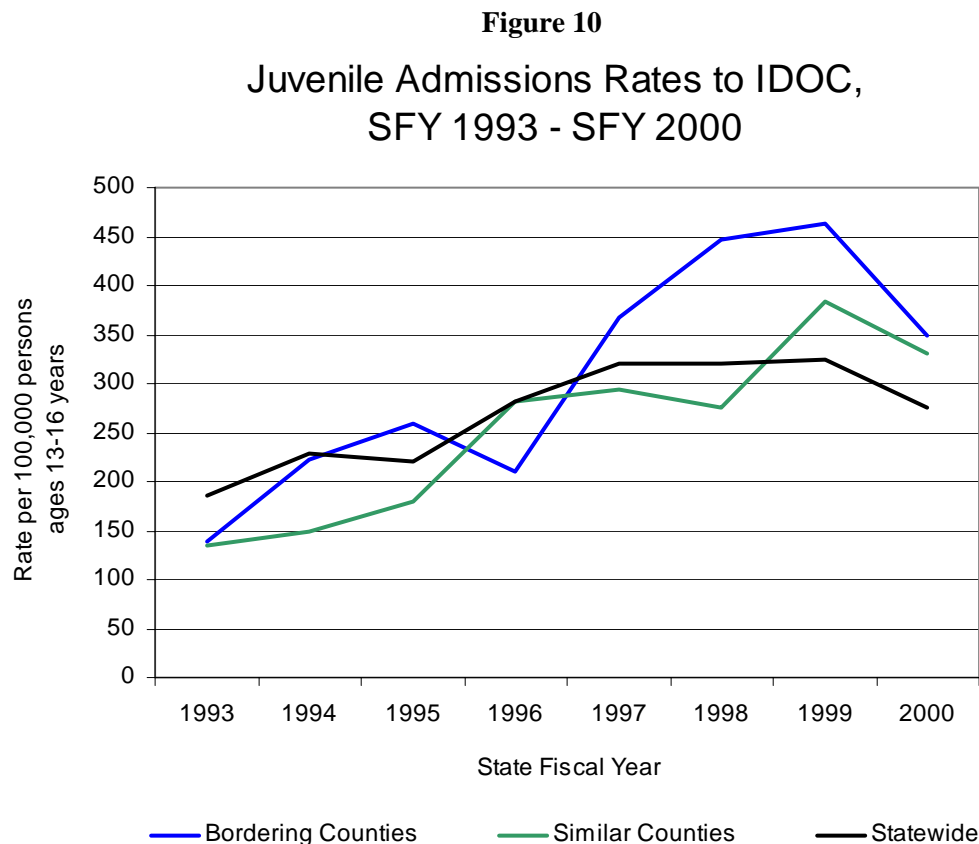


Table 13
Juvenile Admission Rates to IDOC:
Overall Findings

Change from SFY 1993 to SFY 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		

Confinement in Secure Facilities by Race/Ethnicity

During the past several decades, researchers and policy-makers have begun focusing on selection bias in the juvenile justice system. The rising rate of minority over-representation in the juvenile justice system, especially in detention centers, has resulted in greater scrutiny of the juvenile justice system (e.g., the use of discretion to arrest, prosecute, and detain certain youth) and examinations of how other factors correlated with race, such as poverty, attribute to the over-representation of minorities.

To address growing concerns regarding the over-representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system, the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act was amended in 1988 to require each state participating in formula grant programs, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), to assess the extent of over-representation of minority juveniles confined within all secure facilities. In 1992, Congress expanded the mandate regarding disproportionate minority confinement and required states that have an over-representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system in proportion to minorities in the general population to develop and implement plans to reduce disproportionate minority confinement (Howell, 1998). According to OJJDP, over-representation occurs when the proportion of juveniles at a particular point in the juvenile justice process is larger than their representation in the general juvenile population.

For Mercer County, representation in the juvenile justice system by race/ethnicity could only be determined for two juvenile justice system data points, admissions to temporary detention centers and admissions to IDOC, because individual level data by race/ethnicity were not available at any other decision point.

Detailed data on juveniles admitted to temporary detention centers is available for more recent years from the Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS). JMIS data are maintained by the Illinois Department of Human Services, and contain individual-level data reported by each of the 16 county juvenile temporary detention centers. Although the system has existed since the early 1980s, complete and accurate data are available only for the years 1998 to 2000. Although these data do not allow long-term trend analyses, the data can be used to examine the race/ethnicity of juveniles admitted to detention centers from 1998 to 2000.

JMIS data indicated that, from 1998 to 2000, 46 minors from Mercer County were admitted to detention centers. Of the 46 minors, 40 were white and 4 were African-American. The Mercer County population ages 10 to 16 from 1998 to 2000 was 5,933. Of the 5,933 minors, 5,790 were white and 27 were African-American.

Illinois Department of Corrections data was used to determine that, from SFY 1993 to SFY 2001, there were eight juveniles from Mercer County admitted to IDOC Illinois Youth Centers, all of whom were white.

Conclusion

This section highlights some of the more noteworthy patterns found across all of the juvenile justice decision points examined. To identify these patterns, two different tables were developed to aid interpretation. Table 14 shows the overall differences and similarities between Mercer County and the other groups examined for each data point discussed in the sections above. Table 15 shows the overall changes in Mercer County for each data point.

For Table 14, the rates for Mercer County were compared to the rates of the other groups examined for most of the data points analyzed. The terms “higher,” “similar,” and “lower” were used to indicate when the rates of the other groups examined were higher, similar, or lower than the rates in Mercer County. There were several instances, however, when it was not possible to conclude that the rates for the other groups examined were clearly higher, similar or lower than the rates in Mercer County. In such instances, the symbol “- -” was placed in the table to indicate that no clear determination of higher, similar, or lower could be made.

Table 15 shows the overall changes in Mercer County for each data point examined. To determine if there was a significant increase or decrease or if no significant change occurred, the rates for the first year examined were compared to the rates of the last year examined (e.g., 1990 and 2000).

Admissions to IDOC Illinois Youth Centers were examined in this section. However, there were relatively few admissions to Illinois Youth Centers from Mercer County during the time period examined. Thus, Mercer County trends were not examined and Mercer County rates were not compared to those for the other groups examined. IDOC Illinois Youth Center admissions were excluded from Table 14 and Table 15.

Below are some of the patterns found for the remaining juvenile justice system data points:

- The Mercer County delinquency petition rate significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time period examined. That is, the 2000 rate was significantly higher than the 1990 rate. This may suggest that, across the time period examined, more juveniles had their cases resolved in court. On the other hand, from 1990 to 1992, Mercer County reported only 23 delinquency petitions filed. This total was much smaller than totals later in the time period examined, and may reflect inaccurate data reporting.
- The Mercer County delinquency adjudication rate significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time period examined. However, Mercer County reported very few delinquency adjudications earlier in the time period examined, and no delinquency adjudications from 1993 to 1996. Thus, the significant increase may reflect inaccurate data reporting.
- Mercer County active probation caseload rates and detention center admission rates significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time periods examined. Rates in the last year examined were significantly higher than rates in the first year examined. This suggests that, across the time period examined, more Mercer County juveniles received sentences involving probation or detention.
- Across the time periods examined, Mercer County juvenile justice system rates tended to either be similar to or significantly lower than rates in the other groups examined.
- The quality and consistency of the data available at most of the decision points in the juvenile justice process inhibits our ability to draw strong conclusions. Moreover, there are no easily available data on the actual number of juveniles arrested in Mercer County.

Table 14
Overall Differences and Similarities between Mercer County and Bordering Counties, Similar Counties,
and Statewide for each Data Point Examined

Justice System Data Point	Bordering Counties	Similar Counties	Statewide
Delinquency Petitions	--	Higher	Higher
Delinquency Adjudications	Similar	Similar	Similar
Informal Supervision	Similar	Similar	Similar
Continued Under Supervision	--	--	--
Probation Caseloads	--	Higher	--
Detention Admissions	Higher	Similar	Higher

"--" indicates no clear determination of higher, similar, or lower could be made.

Table 15
Overall Changes in Mercer County for each Juvenile Justice System Data Point

Justice System Data Point	Increase	No Change	Decrease
Delinquency Petitions	X		
Delinquency Adjudications	X		
Informal Supervision			X
Continued Under Supervision		X	
Probation Caseloads	X		
Detention Admissions	X		

III. JUVENILE RISK FACTORS

Any serious attempt to address juvenile delinquency at the local or county level may be aided by an understanding of *risk factors*. Risk factors are aspects of juveniles' environments that impact the likelihood of their committing delinquent acts. The purpose of this section is to identify risk factors that may need to be addressed in Mercer County.

This section is divided into three parts. The section begins with a general review of empirical research examining juvenile delinquency risk factors. We relied heavily on the efforts of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Study Group on Serious and Violent Juvenile Offenders (Loeber & Farrington, 1998) for this review.⁸ The next part describes results of statistical analyses demonstrating relationships between juvenile delinquency risk factors and juvenile justice system data for Illinois as a whole. The final part describes juvenile delinquency risk factors in Mercer County and, for each of the risk factors, compares Mercer County to bordering and similar counties and to the state as a whole. Similar to the *Juvenile Justice System* section, the trend analyses and comparisons made were based on the statistical methods outlined in the introduction of this profile and described in Appendix C.

Types of Risk Factors

Research examining juvenile delinquency risk factors has focused on distinct types of risk factors, four of which include the following: (1) individual risk factors, (2) social risk factors, (3) school risk factors, and (4) environmental risk factors. Below is a description of each of these four types of risk factors. These risk factors were used to help us select which data to analyze and how to group data points together in a logical manner.

Individual risk factors are individual traits or qualities that may be related to juvenile delinquency, including various types of mental and physical health problems. Studies examining the effects of individual risk factors on juvenile delinquency have found aggressive behaviors, anti-social attitudes or beliefs, hyperactivity, impulsiveness, attention deficits, and risk taking behaviors are strongly linked to juvenile delinquency. Several studies have also found evidence linking medical or physical conditions impacting development, general problem behavior (e.g., temper tantrums), and negative internalizing behaviors (e.g., nervousness, worrying, anxiety) to juvenile delinquency. IQ, low resting heart rate, depression, substance abuse, and obsessive-compulsive behavior have also been identified as potential risk factors, although further research is still needed before strong conclusions can be made about the relationship between these variables and juvenile delinquency.

Social risk factors are factors present in minors' immediate social environments that may be related to juvenile delinquency. Research examining social risk factors has typically examined two types of social relationships: family relationships and peer relationships. There is strong evidence suggesting poor parent-child relationships (e.g., poor parental discipline style, lack of parental involvement), and relationships with anti-social peers or peers who engage in criminality, are related to juvenile delinquency. Lipsey and Derzon contributed a chapter to the study group's book in which they completed a statistical review of longitudinal research examining juvenile delinquency risk factors. They found that there was a tendency for certain family-related risk factors (i.e., antisocial parents or parent criminality) to be more predictive of serious and violent juvenile delinquency for 6-11

⁸ The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention brought together a study group of 22 juvenile justice system researchers to review and synthesize research on juvenile delinquency risk factors. One byproduct of this collaboration is the book referenced above. Because the book was published relatively recently (1998), was written by well-established juvenile justice researchers, and synthesized a large amount of research, we opted to rely on the study group's book in this section. It should be noted that the book focuses exclusively on risk factors for *serious and violent* juvenile offenders. Nonetheless, it is our intent that this section be applicable to those who are interested in learning about risk factors for less serious and status offenders as well. Research has indicated that: (1) a small number of chronic juvenile offenders commit over half of all juvenile crime, (2) there is a relationship between chronic offending and serious and violent offending, (3) serious and violent offenders are likely to have committed less serious or status offenses prior to committing serious and violent offenses, and (4) once a minor has committed a serious or violent offense, he or she is still greatly at risk to commit less serious or status offenses. Based on all this, it appeared to us that the risk factors described in the study group's book are applicable to all juvenile offenders.

year olds than for 12-14 year olds. Peer-related social risk factors (e.g., antisocial peers or peer criminality) were more predictive of serious and violent juvenile delinquency for 12-14 year olds. This suggests that, for younger juveniles, the family is a stronger predictor of juvenile delinquency, while peer relationships become stronger predictors of delinquency as minors grow older.

Research has also found anti-social parents or parental criminality, family and/or marital conflict, separation from family (e.g., broken homes due to divorce), and sibling delinquency may be related to juvenile delinquency. In addition, abusive parents, low family bonding, high family stress, weak social ties (e.g., unpopularity with peers, low levels of social activity), and high family residential mobility may be linked to juvenile delinquency, although more research is still needed before strong conclusions regarding these potential risk factors can be made.

School risk factors are factors related to minors' academic performances and their commitment to school. Research on predictors of serious and violent juvenile delinquency has found truancy, dropping out of school, and poor academic performance are related to juvenile delinquency. Some evidence also suggests school delinquency, occupational expectations, and school transitions (e.g., attending more than one school per year) are also related to juvenile delinquency.

Environmental risk factors are factors related to the broad social environment in which minors reside. Studies examining the impact of environmental factors on juvenile delinquency have found some evidence to suggest communities with high levels of poverty are disorganized, have low levels of neighborhood attachment, and tend to have high levels of juvenile delinquency. Research has also found some evidence that juvenile delinquency may be related to drug availability in the community, high levels of adult criminality in the community, exposure to violence, and exposure to racial prejudice.

Risk Factors Examined

This section uses available data to describe risk factors in Mercer County and in Illinois as a whole. Table 16 lists the data examined in this section of the profile, the risk factors the data reflects, the data source, and the years the data were available. Table 16 also shows the strength of the relationship between each risk factor and juvenile delinquency based on research described and reviewed in Loeber and Farrington (1998). Risk factors for which there is strong evidence linking the risk factor to juvenile delinquency are printed in **bold**, while risk factors for which there is moderate evidence linking the risk factor to juvenile delinquency are printed in *italics*. For data listed in Table 16 that are not italicized or listed in bold, there is little evidence linking the data to juvenile delinquency, although the data may still be relevant (i.e., more research examining the factor is needed).

The Authority has no data available on several factors that the review above noted are strongly related to juvenile delinquency. These include: aggressive behavior, anti-social attitudes or beliefs, hyperactivity, impulsiveness, attention deficits, risk taking behaviors, parent/child relations, and peer relations. Counties may be interested in obtaining their own data on these risk factors.

Table 16 also includes three types of data that were not mentioned in the brief review above because they do not fit neatly into one of the four risk factor categories. First, there is strong evidence indicating that illicit substance use is related to juvenile delinquency. Thus, data pertaining to adolescent substance use is also examined in this section. Second, there is evidence indicating that race/ethnicity is related to juvenile delinquency, although this relationship is due to a strong correlation between race/ethnicity and other environmental factors (e.g., socio-economic factors, poverty). For instance, areas with high concentrations of poverty also tend to have high concentrations of minorities. Thus, data pertaining to race/ethnicity is described in this section as an environmental factor. Finally, this section examines births to females ages 10 to 17 years. Births to young females may be related to a number of risk factors such as poor academic performance (young mothers likely have less time to devote to school, may not be allowed to attend school while pregnant, etc.), engaging in risky behavior (unprotected sex), or live in communities with high levels of poverty. Correlations between births to females ages 10 to 17 years and the other data described in this section (the results of these correlations will be described below) revealed that births to females ages 10 to 17 years tended to be related to environmental risk factors. Thus, births to females ages 10 to 17 years will be described in this section as an environmental risk factor.

Table 16
Juvenile Delinquency Risk Factor Data that were Examined

Data	Risk factor the data reflects^a	Source	Years
Individual-level Variable			
Emergency room admissions for suicide (minors ages 0 to 17)	Depression	Illinois Dept. of Public Health	1998-2000
Social Variables			
Mothers admitted to drug treatment	<i>Parental criminality</i>	Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse ^b	1995-2001
Inmates committed to IDOC that reported having children	<i>Parental criminality</i>	Illinois Dept. of Corrections	1991-2001
Orders of protection (for orders that protect minors)	<i>Family or home conflict</i>	Illinois State Police	1993-2000
Reported domestic offenses	<i>Family or home conflict</i>	Illinois State Police	1996-2000
Reported and indicated child abuse and neglect (minors ages 0 to 17)	Prior abuse	Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services	1990-2000
Reported and indicated child sexual abuse (minors ages 0 to 17)	Prior abuse	Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services	1990-2000
Divorces and annulments	<i>Separation of family</i>	Illinois Dept. of Public Health	1990-2000
Net domestic migration	Family mobility	U.S. Census Bureau	1990-1999
School Variables			
Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) scores, grades 3, 5, 8, 10	Academic achievement	Illinois State Board of Education	96/97-00/01
Truant students, grades K-12	School commitment	Illinois State Board of Education	90/91-00/01
Suspensions, grades K-12	School commitment	Illinois State Board of Education	90/91-00/01
Expulsions, grades K-12	School commitment	Illinois State Board of Education	90/91-00/01
High school dropouts, grades 9 to 12	School commitment	Illinois State Board of Education	90/91-00/01
Environmental Variables			
Estimated number of persons living in poverty	<i>Community poverty</i>	U.S. Census Bureau	93,95,97,98
Estimated number of minors living in poverty (minors ages 0 to 17)	<i>Community poverty</i>	U.S. Census Bureau	93,95,97,98
Unemployment per eligible labor force	<i>Community poverty</i>	Illinois Dept. of Employment Security	1990-2000
Estimated median household income	<i>Community poverty</i>	U.S. Census Bureau	93,95,97,98
Minors in families receiving public assistance (minors ages 0 to 18)	<i>Community poverty</i>	Illinois Dept. of Human Services	1990-2000
Reported number of drug arrests	<i>Drug availability</i>	Illinois State Police	1990-2000
Number of drug submissions to Illinois State Police labs	<i>Drug availability</i>	Illinois State Police	1998-2001
Number of reported violent offenses	Exposure to violence	Illinois State Police	1990-2000
Total number of minority residents	Racial composition	U.S. Census Bureau	1990-1999
Births to females ages 10 to 17 years	Risk taking behavior	Illinois Dept. of Public Health	1993-2000
Other Variables			
Drug and alcohol treatment admissions (minors ages 0 to 17)	Adolescent substance use	Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse	1994-2001

a: Bold text indicates that there is strong evidence linking the risk factor to juvenile delinquency. Italicized text indicates that there is moderate evidence linking the risk factor to juvenile delinquency. Standard text indicates that there is little evidence linking the risk factor to juvenile delinquency, but it still may be a viable risk factor.

b: The Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse is a department within the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Risk Factors in Illinois

This section will describe relationships between the juvenile delinquency risk factors listed in Table 16, as well as the relationships between the juvenile delinquency risk factors and four of the juvenile justice system data points described above (juvenile delinquency petitions, delinquent adjudications, post-adjudicatory juvenile detention admissions, and active, end-of-year juvenile probation caseloads), for Illinois as a whole. Because the data were only available at the aggregate level, it was not possible to calculate correlations for specific counties. The state-level results are presented at the beginning of each section prior to presenting data for Mercer County as a reminder of how each factor was related to the four juvenile justice system data points at the statewide level.

Correlations were calculated between each of the juvenile delinquency risk factors and between the risk factors and the four juvenile justice system data points across all of Illinois' 102 counties.⁹ The correlations between the risk factors provide an indication of the extent to which problems or issues facing juvenile justice systems in Illinois tend to occur together. The correlations between the risk factors and the juvenile justice system data elements provide an indication of the extent to which the risk factors are related to juvenile justice system involvement. However, these correlations cannot be used to infer that the risk factors *cause* involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Correlations Between Juvenile Delinquency Risk Factors

For this part of the section and the next part of the section, the data listed in Table 16 were converted to rates per 100,000 persons in the applicable population. Rates enable one to make comparisons across counties with very different populations.¹⁰ For various reasons, the correlations calculated in this section did not use all of the data listed in Table 16. Appendix D lists the exact risk factor and juvenile justice system measures for which rates and then correlation coefficients were calculated.

Appendix D also includes a correlation matrix, or a table that shows correlations between each of the risk factors. The correlation coefficients in the matrix provide a general, albeit imperfect, indication of the extent to which juvenile risk factors co-occur in Illinois. A large number of the correlation coefficients in Appendix D are statistically significant in an intuitive direction (several correlation coefficients were significant in the opposite direction than one would expect; see Footnote 9 for a description of the direction of correlation coefficients), suggesting that juvenile risk factors do not occur in isolation in Illinois.¹¹ Counties with higher levels of a particular risk factor tend to have higher levels of other risk factors as well. For some of the risk factors in Appendix D, this may have been expected. For example, one may expect that risk factors of the same type (family, school, etc.) would be correlated. In many instances, this was the case. However, there were also many statistically significant relationships between risk factors of different types. Appendix D shows that there were statistically significant relationships between various social, school, and environmental risk factors.

⁹ Pearson's correlation coefficients were calculated. The coefficient measures positive and negative linear relationships. Positive linear relationships (indicated by Pearson's coefficients ranging from 0 to 1, with 1 representing a perfect positive linear relationship and zero representing no relationship between the two measures) occur when two measures consistently increase and decrease together. Negative linear relationships (indicated by Pearson's coefficients ranging from 0 to -1, with -1 indicating a perfect negative linear relationship and zero representing no relationship between the two measures) occur when there is a consistent relationship such that one measure increases as the other decreases (and vice versa). Because the Pearson's correlation coefficient is weakened when there are outlying or extreme scores on the measure, a number of juvenile risk factors and juvenile justice system data elements were altered to reduce the influence of extreme scores. In practice, this required using the square root or the log of the measure to calculate the Pearson's correlation coefficient.

¹⁰ Rates require the use of population numbers. At the time this report was being written, 2000 census data were not available by age. Thus, for each rate that was calculated using 2000 and 2001 data, 1999 population estimates were used to calculate the rates.

¹¹ Statistical significance means that the correlation coefficient was large enough to be able to make the statement that a linear relationship exists between the two risk factors. A threshold is used to determine statistical significance. Some correlation coefficients that are statistically significant barely exceed the threshold, while others exceed the threshold by a great deal.

Correlations Between Risk Factors and Juvenile Justice System Data

Table 17 shows correlation coefficients describing relationships between juvenile delinquency risk factors and juvenile justice system data. Correlation coefficients, listed in bold in Table 17, are statistically significant in a logical direction (several correlation coefficients were statistically significant in the opposite direction than one would expect; Footnotes 9 and 11 define directions of correlation coefficients and statistical significance). The statistically significant correlations are moderately strong, ranging from .21 to .40. This moderation is expected, given that the measures are broad county-level indicators.

Delinquency adjudications were only significantly correlated with one juvenile risk factor. With the exception of delinquency adjudications, Table 17 reveals several interesting patterns whereby groups of qualitatively similar juvenile risk factors are all correlated with particular juvenile justice system data elements. Some notable patterns of results for social, school, and environmental risk factors are described below.

Table 17
Correlation between Juvenile Delinquency Risk Factors and
Juvenile Justice System Data for all Illinois Counties

Juvenile Delinquency Risk Factor	Juvenile Justice System Data			
	Delinquency Filings	Delinquency Adjudications	Post-adjudicatory Detention	Probation Caseloads
<i>Individual Risk Factor</i>				
Suicide Admissions	-.26	.11	.27^a	-.04
<i>Social Risk Factors</i>				
Drug/Alcohol Admissions--Mothers	.25	.16	.09	.21
Inmates with Children	.09	.19	.29	.35
Orders of Protection	.11	.15	.20	.31
Reported Domestic Offenses	-.06	.04	.40	.17
Indicated Abuse and Neglect	.10	.07	.30	.29
Indicated Sexual Abuse	.23	.00	.07	.26
Divorce and Annulments	.34	.10	-.06	.11
Domestic Migration	-.20	-.15	-.18	-.22
<i>School Risk Factors</i>				
Standardized Test Scores	.26	.24	-.09	.17
Truancy	.02	.08	.18	.21
Suspensions	.01	.17	.29	.19
Expulsions	-.04	.08	.08	.17
High School Dropouts	.03	.11	.27	.25
<i>Environmental Risk Factors</i>				
Minors Living in Poverty	.30	.20	-.05	.21
Unemployment	.26	.01	-.19	-.01
Median Household Income	-.37	-.14	-.21	-.12
Public Assistance	.11	.13	.11	.17
Drug Arrests	-.04	-.02	.22	.13
Drug Submissions	-.01	.13	.23	.27
Violent Offenses	.04	.09	.29	.20
Minority Residents	-.06	.16	.39	.14
Teenage Births	.21	.24	.13	.34
<i>Other Risk Factor</i>				
Drug/Alcohol Admissions--Minors	.38	.17	-.03	.25

a. Correlations in bold are statistically significant.

Social Risk Factors

- Each of the social risk factors was significantly correlated with at least one juvenile justice system data element.
- Juvenile delinquency risk factors measuring family conflict (domestic offense incidents, orders of protection) and prior abuse (indicated cases of child abuse and neglect) all measure, more generally, violence in the home. Each of these risk factors was significantly correlated with post-adjudicatory detentions.

School Risk Factors

- Although the research presented by Loeber and Farrington (1998) has shown that school risk factors tend to be strongly related to juvenile delinquency, most of the correlations between school risk factors and juvenile justice system data were not significant.
- The correlations revealed some evidence suggesting that school risk factors measuring school commitment (truancy, suspensions, and high school dropouts) are related to post-adjudicatory detentions and the active end-of-year juvenile probation caseload.

Community Risk Factors

- Three measures of community poverty (minors living in poverty, unemployment, and median household income) were all significantly correlated with delinquency filings.
- Births to females ages 10 to 17 years were significantly correlated with three of the four juvenile justice system data elements (delinquency filings, adjudications and probation caseload).
- Community crime risk factors measuring drug availability and exposure to violence (drug arrests, drug submissions, violent offenses) tend to be significantly correlated to post-adjudicatory detentions and active end of year probation caseload. This may suggest that minors living in communities in which drug and violent crimes are more prevalent are more likely to commit crimes serious enough to warrant detention or probation.

Risk Factors in Mercer County

This part of the risk factor section describes the juvenile delinquency risk factors listed in Table 16 for Mercer County and then, for each of the Table 16 risk factors, compares Mercer County to bordering counties, similar counties, and Illinois as a whole. The purpose of this part of the risk factor section is to identify juvenile delinquency risk factors that may need to be addressed in Mercer County. Similar to the juvenile justice system section, this section relies heavily on the statistical procedures to calculate confidence intervals that allows us to make more confident conclusions about the changes experienced over time and the differences between the rates or percentages in Mercer County and those in bordering and similar counties and the state as a whole. See Appendix C for a more detailed review of the statistical analyses used.

Individual Risk Factors

As indicated in Table 16, only one individual risk factor will be described in the profile: emergency room admissions for completed or attempted suicides. Suicide data may provide an indirect indication of the extent to which depression is a problem in the community. Table 16 shows that there is little evidence linking depression to juvenile delinquency, yet it still may be a risk factor. In fact, studies examining depression in juveniles have found a link between depression in youth and juvenile delinquency, but too few studies have been conducted to infer that there is a moderate or strong relationship between depression and juvenile delinquency. Table 17 shows that,

at the county level in Illinois, emergency room admissions for suicide were significantly related to post-adjudicatory detention.

Effective March 1998, the Illinois General Assembly mandated all hospitals with emergency departments to report victims of violent injury to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). In turn, IDPH was mandated to compile all the information they obtained in the Illinois Violent Injury Registry. The purpose of the registry is to provide accurate information that can be used for various purposes, including assessing the impact of violent injuries on the healthcare system. Although IDPH reported that compliance with the mandate has been high, the totals for 1998 may be low, as it took hospitals a period of time after the March 10 startup date to understand the violent injury-coding scheme provided to them by IDPH and to develop a system for collecting the data.

The Illinois Violent Injury Registry includes data for suicides *attempted* and *successfully committed* by various means. As an indirect measure of depression, data on emergency room admissions for both suicide attempts and completed suicides were examined for minors ages 0 to 17 years. Across all Illinois counties, from 1998 to 2000, there were 1,250 reported emergency room admissions for suicides for minors ages 0 to 17 years. From 1998 to 2000, hospitals reported no suicides attempted or completed by minors ages 0 to 17 years in Mercer County.

Social Risk Factors

Table 16 shows that seven data points measuring social risk factors will be described in this section. The seven data points measure five distinct social risk factors, each of which pertain to family relationships: (1) parental criminality, (2) family or home conflict, (3) prior abuse, (4) separation of family, and (5) family mobility.

Parental Criminality

As Table 16 indicates, there is a moderate amount of evidence from past research linking parental criminality to juvenile delinquency. The profile examines two types of data that may indirectly measure parental criminality: (1) drug treatment rates for females with children and (2) individuals that are incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) who reported having children at the time of incarceration. Table 17 shows that, at the county level in Illinois, drug treatment rates for females with children were significantly correlated with delinquency petitions and probation caseload and the rate of inmates with children were significantly related to post-adjudicatory detention and probation caseload.

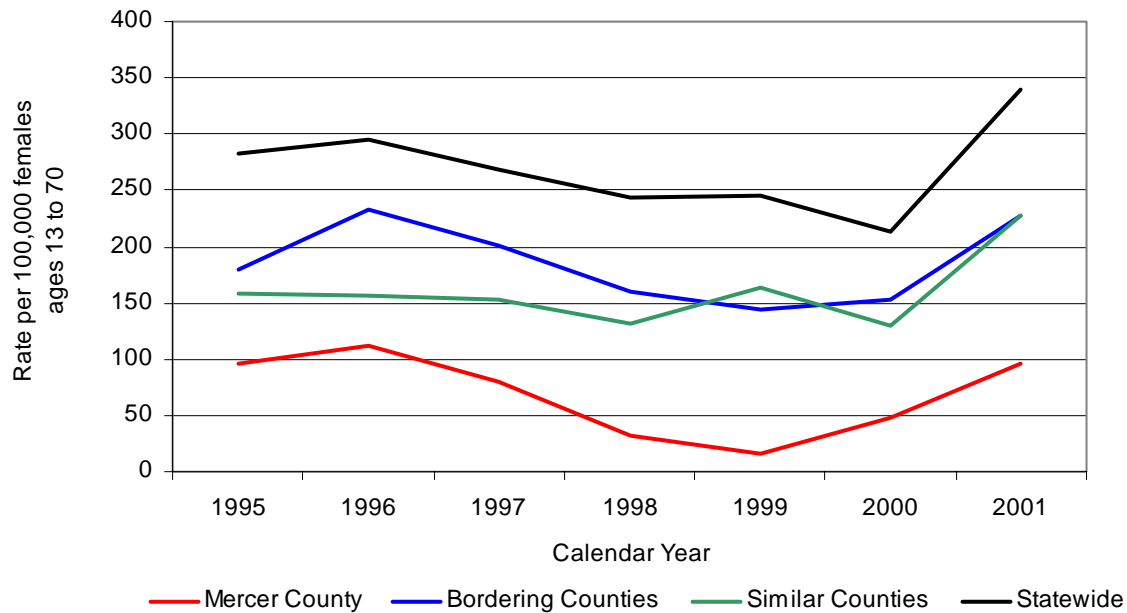
The Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASA), a department overseen by the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), collects information from OASA-funded substance abuse treatment providers on the clients they serve. Substance abuse treatment providers are required to report to OASA using the Department's Automated Reporting and Tracking System (DARTS). This system collects a vast amount of information about their clients, including the clients' ages, race, sex, primary substance abused, treatment provided, and length of treatment. Programs that are Medicaid certified to deliver substance abuse treatment also report service information through DARTS. These data are collected to aid reimbursements to treatment providers, help OASA during their statewide planning process, and assist the federal government in determining the substance abuse problem across the nation. The DARTS program has been fully operational since 1994.

The data collected by OASA were used to examine parental drug treatment rates, an indirect measure of parental criminality. The DARTS system includes data indicating whether the client receiving services is a woman with a child. DARTS data for 1994 were excluded because it was the first year the data were collected and an examination of the data revealed inconsistencies. The data examined does not exclusively include women who have committed a crime. Rather, it includes women receiving treatment for alcohol *and* illicit drug use. The data examined was limited to instances when DARTS data indicated that the woman was between 13 and 70 years of age. The rates described in this sub-section will underestimate the rate of parental drug or alcohol abusers, as the rates exclude men and are limited to individuals receiving treatments included in the DARTS system. Data on males with children who were receiving treatment were not available.

From 1995 to 2001, 30 females in Mercer County ages 13 to 70 with children received some type of services through OASA or through a Medicaid-funded program.¹² Figure 11 shows drug treatment rates for females with children in Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 18 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the drug treatment rates for females with children for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 18 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 11

Drug Treatment Rates for Females with Children, 1995-2001



Source: Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 18
Drug Treatment Rates for Females with Children: Overall Findings

Change from 1995 to 2001			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		

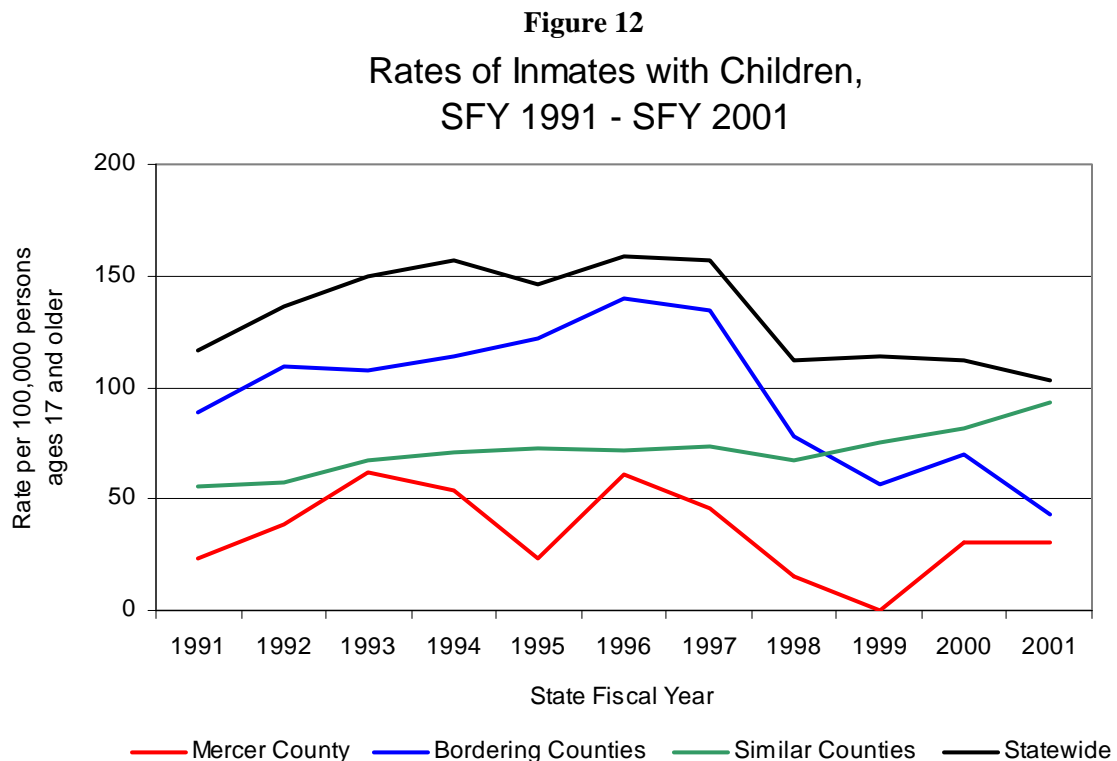
¹² This number may overestimate the actual number of clients because we were unable to exclude those clients who received services during two consecutive years. For instance, a woman may receive services in 1995 and 1996 for the same episode.

Note:

- From 1998 to 2001, drug treatment rates for females with children in similar counties were significantly higher than Mercer County rates. This trend was used to guide the conclusion in Table 18 regarding comparisons between Mercer County rates and rates in similar counties.

The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) collects information on individuals committed to IDOC. Inmates are asked to complete a self-report intake questionnaire, which includes a question asking whether or not they have children. Answers to this question were used as a measure of parental criminality. It is important to note that inmates are not asked whether or not they are caring for children at the time they are committed. In addition, the information on inmates with children described is based on the county in which the committing offense occurred. The trend analyses describing inmates with children include data from state fiscal year (SFY) 1991 to SFY 2001.

Of the 118 inmates committed to IDOC from Mercer County during the time period examined, 42 percent (50 inmates) reported that they had children. Figure 12 shows rates of inmates with children for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 19 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in rates of inmates with children for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 19 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 19
Rates of Inmates with Children: Overall Findings

Change from SFY 1991 to SFY 2001			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties			X
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide	X		

Note:

- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding comparisons between rates of inmates with children in similar counties, and Mercer County rates. Overall, Mercer County rates were either similar to or significantly lower than rates in similar counties. Mercer County rates were significantly lower than rates in similar counties from 1998 to 2001.

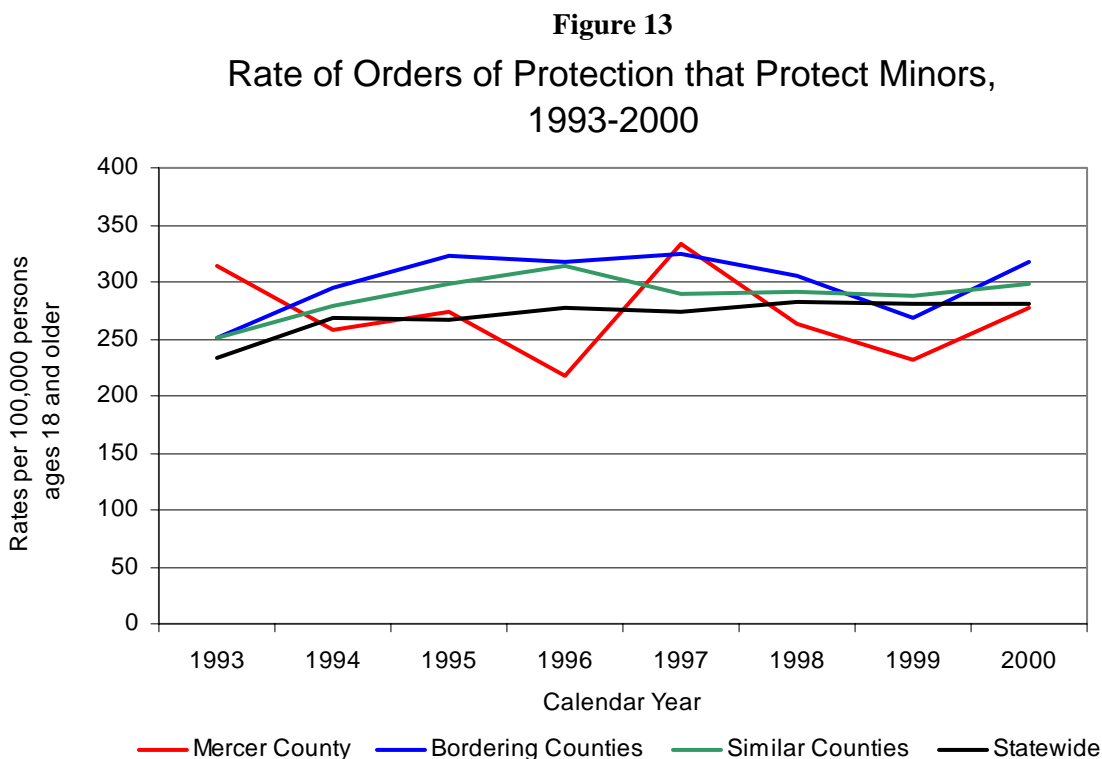
Family or Home Conflict

Table 16 shows that there is a moderate amount of evidence from past research linking family or home conflict to juvenile delinquency. The profile examines two types of data, which may be indirectly linked to family or home conflict: (1) orders of protection issued that protect children, and (2) reported domestic offenses. Table 17 shows that, at the county level in Illinois, these two types of data were significantly related to one or two juvenile justice system data elements.

When courts accept a petition for an Order of Protection, the information is provided to local law enforcement agencies. Since 1991, local law enforcement agencies have been mandated to enter information on Orders of Protection in their jurisdictions into the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). LEADS is a centralized statewide database operated by the Illinois State Police (ISP) that is intended to assist law enforcement officers who are making traffic stops, etc. Many law enforcement officers have access to LEADS in their vehicles, enabling them to enter vehicle license plate numbers and learn whether any LEADS entries have been filed on the owner of the vehicle (in addition to Orders of Protection, LEADS also houses other information, such as pending arrest warrants). LEADS data include information describing the relationship between the person who requested the order (the petitioner) and the perpetrator of the behaviors that precipitated the order, as well as the relationship(s) between the petitioner and all other individuals protected under the order (as many as eight

individuals can be protected under the same order). This information was used to limit the description in this subsection to instances when the Order of Protection was likely to have involved a minor.¹³ This section reports LEADS data from 1993 to 2000. 1991 and 1992 data were excluded from the trend analyses because very few Orders of Protection were entered into LEADS during these years.

From 1993 to 2000, 279 Orders of Protection likely to protect minors were entered into LEADS in Mercer County. Figure 13 shows the Order of Protection rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 20 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the Order of Protection rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 20 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.



¹³ The LEADS data do not include information that enables us to determine with certainty whether a minor was protected under the Order because law enforcement officers are not required to enter the ages of those protected into LEADS. Because no information was available on age, information describing the relationship between the petitioner and others protected on the Order was used to infer whether the Order may have protected a minor. Rates were calculated based on the number of Orders of Protection in which: (1) the relationship between the petitioner and others included on the petition was “child,” “stepchild,” or “grandchild,” and (2) only one residence was included on the Order. Because ages were unavailable, some of the “children,” “stepchildren,” or “grandchildren” may be adults. However, it was surmised that if only one residence was included on the Order, then the individuals included on the Order were likely living in the same residence. Further, it was assumed that if everyone included in the Order was living in the same residence and some were defined as children, then those defined as children were likely to be fairly young (adult children are less likely to live with their parents). Finally, Orders were excluded in which no child was protected because it was surmised that, if parents file an Order of Protection, they were likely to include their children in the Order; if no children were included in the Order, then the petitioner likely does not have care-taking responsibility for any children.

Table 20
Order of Protection Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1993 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide		X	

Since April 1996, data on reported domestic offenses have been submitted by local law enforcement agencies to the Illinois State Police (ISP) as part of the supplemental Uniform Crime Reports program. These data reflect the number of instances in which law enforcement officers respond to a call regarding a domestic disturbance, irrespective of whether the law enforcement officers who respond to the call make an arrest. Incidents classified as domestic offenses include *any* offense that occurs between family members, household members, or intimate partners (e.g., boyfriends/girlfriends, spouses, etc.). It is mandatory for law enforcement agencies to submit reported domestic offense incidents to ISP. However, to date, there has been no systematic examination of compliance with this requirement. Thus, fluctuations in reported domestic offenses may reflect changes in the reporting practices of law enforcement agencies or changes in the actual number of reported domestic offenses.

The trend analyses describing reported domestic offenses include data from 1997 (the first full year of reporting) to 2000. From 1997 to 2000, 169 reported domestic offenses occurring in Mercer County were reported to ISP. Table 21 shows the reported domestic offense incident rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Because only four years of data were available, analyses of changes experienced over time in Mercer County, bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide were not conducted. Table 22 shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Table 21
Reported Domestic Offense Rates, 1997-2000

Region	1997	1998	1999	2000
Mercer	334.79	188.21	309.18	201.60
Bordering	805.12	684.64	753.42	835.78
Similar	363.39	360.16	348.41	361.53
Statewide	1,069.03	1,089.44	1,042.45	848.78

Source: Illinois State Police; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 22
Reported Domestic Offense Rates: Overall Findings

Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide	X		

Note:

- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding reported domestic offense rates in similar counties, and Mercer County rates. Overall, Mercer County rates were either similar to or significantly lower than rates in similar counties.

Prior Abuse

Table 16 shows that past research has indicated that there is little evidence linking prior abuse to juvenile delinquency, but that prior abuse may still be a viable juvenile delinquency risk factor. While prior abuse may not be strongly linked to juvenile delinquency, studies examining prior abuse have shown 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 (Kelly, Thornberry and Smith, 1997). 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 posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in adulthood (Menard, 2002).

Two different types of data were used to examine prior abuse in the profile: child abuse and neglect, and child sexual abuse. The profile includes reported child abuse and neglect and child sexual abuse incidents, as well as indicated incidents—incidents that have been investigated and have been determined to be actual instances of abuse. Table 17 shows that, at the county level in Illinois, indicated child abuse and neglect was significantly related to post-adjudicatory detention and probation caseload, while indicated child sexual abuse was related to delinquency filings and probation caseload.

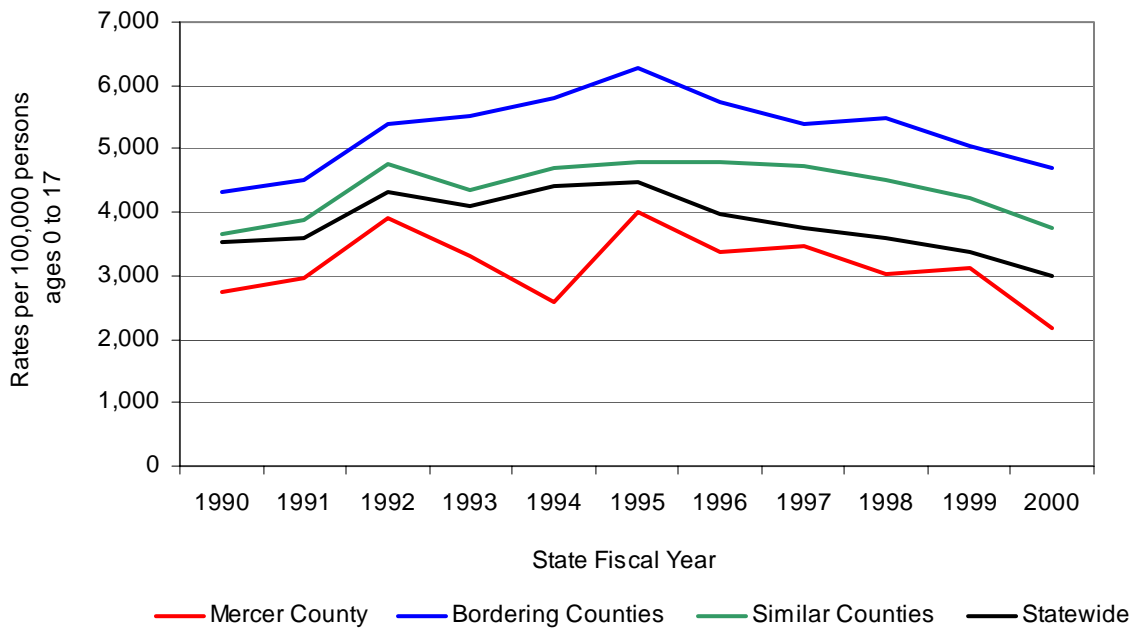
The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) collects data on reported and indicated cases of child abuse and neglect and child sexual abuse. Child abuse (i.e., physical, sexual, or emotional abuse) is defined as “mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caretaker, someone living in their home, or someone who works with or is around children.”¹⁴ The mistreatment must cause injury or place the child at risk for physical injury. Neglect occurs when a parent or guardian fails to provide adequate shelter, food, or other needs of the child. Additionally, in Illinois, several types of professionals are mandated to report child abuse and neglect to DCFS. These include, but are not limited to, medical, school, and criminal and juvenile justice professionals.

From SFY 1990 to SFY 2000, 1,615 cases of child abuse and neglect in Mercer County were reported to DCFS. Figure 14 shows child abuse and neglect rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 23 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the reported child abuse and neglect rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 23 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

¹⁴ See the Department of Children and Family Services’ website at: www.state.il.us/dcfs/cp_child.shtml for a complete description of child abuse and neglect, the list of individuals who are required to report cases of child abuse and neglect, and additional information.

Figure 14

**Reported Child Abuse and Neglect Rates,
SFY 1990 - SFY 2000**



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 23

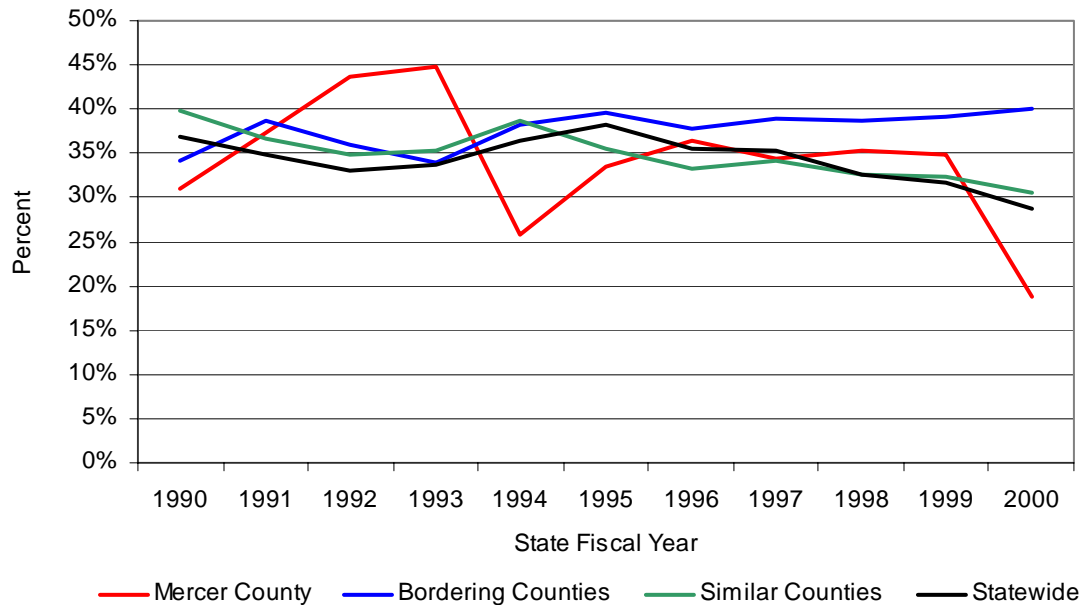
Reported Child Abuse and Neglect Rates: Overall Findings

Change from SFY 1990 to SFY 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		

From SFY 1990 to SFY 2000, 35 percent of all reported cases of child abuse and neglect in Mercer County were indicated as abuse or neglect (565 cases were indicated out of 1,615 cases reported). Figure 15 shows the percent of child abuse and neglect cases that were indicated in Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 24 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the percent of child abuse and neglect cases that were indicated for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 24 also shows how the percentages in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the percentages in Mercer County.

Figure 15

Percent of Child Abuse and Neglect Cases that were Indicated SFY 1990 - SFY 2000



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 24

Percent of Child Abuse and Neglect Cases that were Indicated: Overall Findings

Change from SFY 1990 to SFY 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties			X
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide		X	

From SFY 1990 to SFY 2000, 177 cases of child sexual abuse in Mercer County were reported to DCFS. Figure 16 shows reported child sexual abuse rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 25 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the reported child sexual abuse rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 25 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

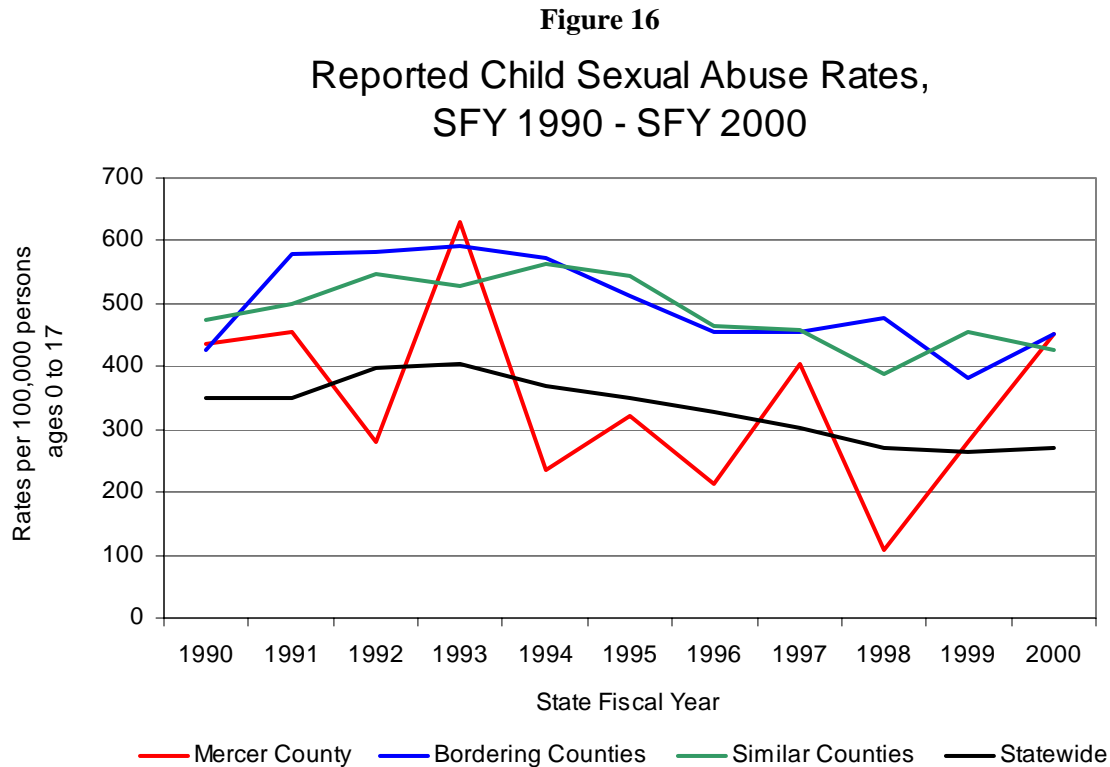


Table 25
Reported Child Sexual Abuse Rates: Overall Findings

Change from SFY 1990 to SFY 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide		X	

Note:

- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding comparisons between reported child sexual abuse rates in similar counties, and Mercer County rates. Overall, Mercer County rates were either similar to or significantly lower than rates in similar counties.

From SFY 1990 to SFY 2000, 44 percent of all reported cases of child sexual abuse were indicated as abuse in Mercer County (i.e., 78 cases were indicated out of 177 reported cases). Figure 17 shows the percent of child sexual abuse cases that were indicated in Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 26 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the percentages of child abuse cases that were indicated for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 26 also shows how the percentages for bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the percentages in Mercer County.

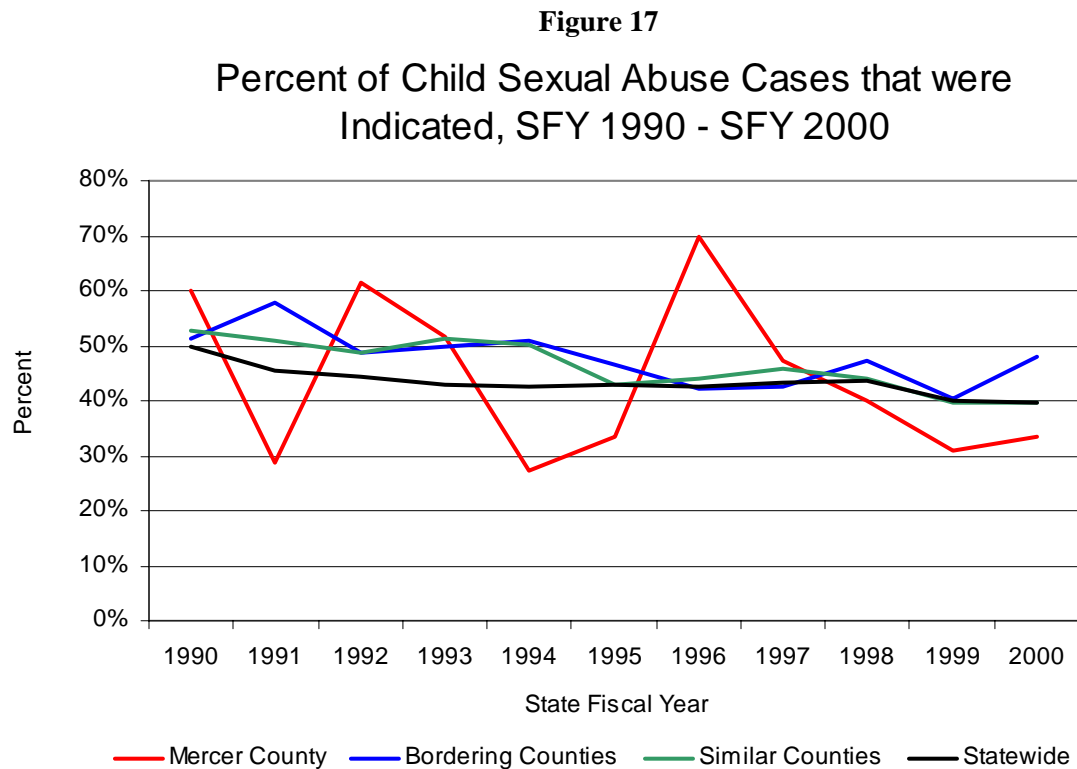


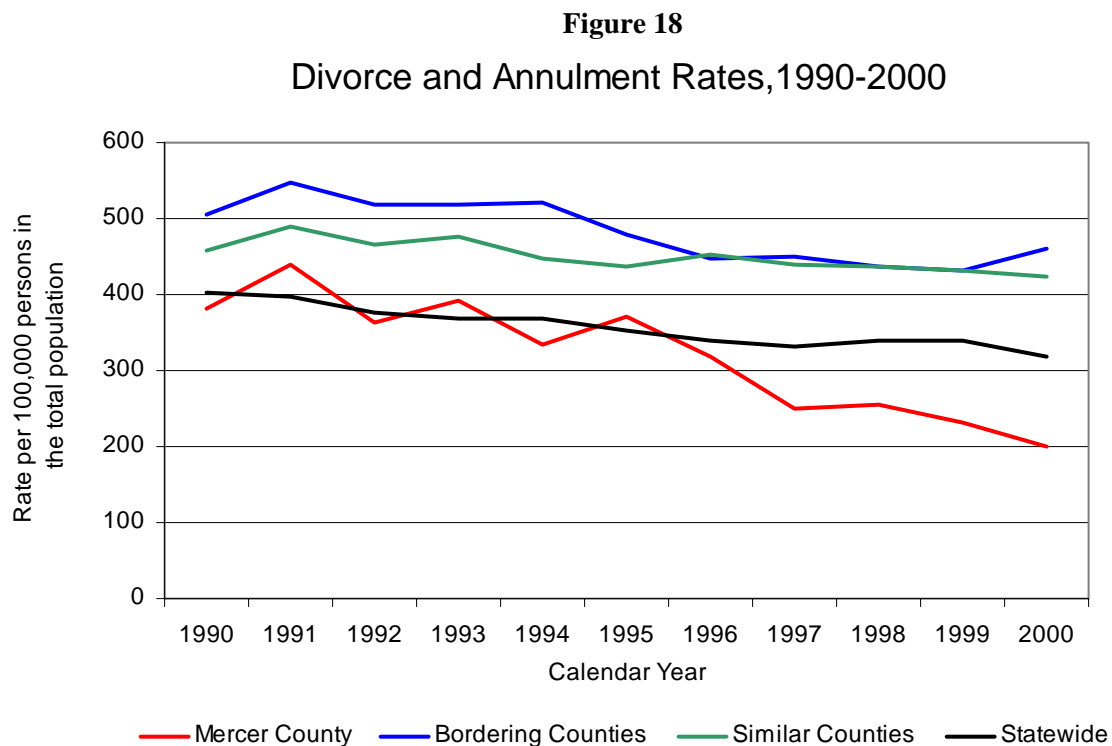
Table 26
Percent of Child Sexual Abuse Cases that were Indicated: Overall Findings

Change from SFY 1990 to SFY 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties			X
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide		X	

Separation of Family

Table 16 shows that past research has indicated that there is a moderate amount of evidence linking separation from family (e.g., broken homes, separation from parents) to juvenile delinquency. Table 16 shows that the profile examines one data point related to separation of family: the number of divorces and annulments. Table 17 shows that, at the county level in Illinois, divorces and annulments were significantly related to delinquency filings. Data on divorces and annulments are collected and reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The trend analyses describe divorce and annulment data from 1990 to 2000.

Figure 18 shows divorce and annulment rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 27 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the divorce and annulment rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 27 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 27
Divorce and Annulment Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County			X
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties			X
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide		X	

Note:

- Although the statewide divorce and annulment rate was similar to the rate in Mercer County throughout most of the time period examined, statewide rates were significantly higher than Mercer County rates during 1999 and 2000.

Family Mobility

Table 16 shows that past research has indicated that there is little evidence linking family mobility to juvenile delinquency, but that family mobility may still be a viable juvenile delinquency risk factor. More research may be needed to determine whether family mobility is a viable juvenile delinquency risk factor. Table 16 shows that the profile examines one data point that indirectly measures family mobility: net domestic migration. Table 17 shows that, at the county level in Illinois, net domestic migration was significantly related to delinquency filings and probation caseload.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects and reports data on net domestic migration from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the subsequent year. This section describes data reported by the U.S. Census Bureau on total net domestic migration from July 1, 1990 to July 1, 1999.

Any link between family mobility and juvenile delinquency would likely exist as a result of minors being thrust into new environments and, perhaps, feeling isolated or not being involved in the community. The U.S. Census Bureau, however, does not report migration patterns specifically for minors, and therefore, the data reported in this section are the total net migration for the general population. Thus, it is perhaps surprising that two of the correlation coefficients in Table 17 were significant.

Table 28 shows total net domestic migration from July 1, 1990 to July 1, 1999 for Mercer County and for each of the other groups examined. Table 28 shows that there was a great deal of disparity in the migration patterns in the individual bordering and similar counties. For this reason, we opted not to examine the average net migration for the bordering and similar counties.¹⁵ Nor was the statistical process adopted for the total net domestic migration data.

Table 28 shows that, in Mercer County, there was in-migration across the 1990s. Should this pattern continue, it suggests that there may be a subset of minors in Mercer County who may be in need of increased support while they acclimate to a new community.

¹⁵ It was also not possible to calculate rates, as the net migration data ran from the middle of one year to the middle of the next year, while available population data ran from the beginning to the end of each calendar year. This created a contradiction in time periods for the two primary elements necessary to calculate rates.

Table 28
Total Net Domestic Migration, July 1, 1990 to July 1, 1999

County	Domestic Migration
Mercer	318
<i>Bordering Counties</i>	
Henderson	508
Henry	350
Knox	-958
Rock Island	-6,217
Warren	-239
<i>Similar Counties</i>	
Bond	2,003
Cass	-258
Christian	1,158
Clark	748
DeWitt	-70
Douglas	-410
Edgar	300
Fayette	1,010
Ford	-39
Fulton	1,109
Greene	508
Iroquois	419
Jo Daviess	-542
Livingston	-38
Logan	769
Macoupin	1,927
Marshall	237
Mason	456
Montgomery	785
Moultrie	913
Piatt	821
Randolph	-1,060
Shelby	54
Washington	275
White	-390
Statewide	-560,003

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

School Risk Factors

Table 16 shows that five data points measuring school risk factors will be described in this section. These data points measure two distinct types of school risk factors: (1) academic achievement and (2) school commitment.

Academic Achievement

Table 16 shows that past research has indicated that there is strong evidence linking academic achievement levels to juvenile delinquency. Table 16 shows that the profile examines one type of data that measures academic achievement: Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) scores. Despite the strong evidence linking academic achievement to juvenile delinquency, Table 17 shows that, at the county level in Illinois, ISAT scores were not significantly related to any of the juvenile justice system data elements.

Since the 1998/1999 academic year, the ISAT has been administered annually to grade school students (3rd and 5th grade students) and middle school students (8th grade students). The ISAT was also administered on a voluntary basis to high school students (10th grade students) in academic years 1998/1999 and 1999/2000. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) reported that, in the 1999/2000 academic year, nearly one third of high schools did not administer the ISAT to their students. For the 2000/2001 academic year, ISBE required high school students (11th graders) to take a new standardized test: the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE). When describing results for the 2000/2001 academic year, data pertaining to the PSAE are used as a substitute for ISAT data for high school students.

The ISAT is a standardized test that, for 3rd, 5th, and 8th graders, measures various dimensions of reading (e.g., comprehension, vocabulary), writing (e.g., grammar, composition), and mathematics (e.g., arithmetic, algebra). Public school students in every county in Illinois take the test. The ISBE reported that, in academic year 1999/2000, approximately 800,000 students in Illinois' public schools took the ISAT. The PSAE is a standardized test that measures English, mathematics, reading, science and science reasoning, writing, and social science. The test includes both an ACT assessment (developed by American College Testing, Inc.) and test components developed by the ISBE.

This section reports the percent of students who met or exceeded ISAT and PSAE standards for reading, writing, and mathematics, established by the ISBE, for academic years 1998/1999, 1999/2000, and 2000/2001. The statistical process was not adopted for analyses of these data. Table 29 shows the percent of students who met or exceeded Illinois State Board of Education standards on the ISAT or PSAE for academic years 1998/1999, 1999/2000, and 2000/2001. The percents in Table 29 were averaged across grades 3, 5, 8 and 10 for academic years 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 and across grades 3, 5, 8 and 11 (with percentages based on the PSAE for 11th graders) for academic year 2000/2001.¹⁶

The percentages in Table 29 suggest that the test performance of Mercer County students relative to students in the other groups examined differed by test type and academic year. Overall, Mercer County students appeared to have met or exceeded reading standards as often as students in bordering counties and similar counties, and more often than students statewide.¹⁷ Overall, Mercer County students appeared to have met or exceeded mathematics test standards as often as students in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide. Overall, Mercer County students appeared to have met writing test standards less often than students in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.

¹⁶ Average ISAT scores were available from ISBE for individual schools. To calculate county level percentages, weighted means were calculated that take into account the number of students enrolled in each school within a county.

¹⁷ The statistical approach was not adopted to make comparisons between Mercer County and the other groups examined. Caution should be taken when interpreting these results because it is unclear what constitutes a large enough disparity in percents to make these claims.

Table 29
Percent of Students Who Met or Exceeded ISAT or PSAE Standards

Region	Academic Year	Test		
		Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Mercer	1998/1999	69.8	57.2	56.6
	1999/2000	72.7	50.1	61.8
	2000/2001	64.1	47.9	62.8
Bordering	1998/1999	66.5	60.2	56.9
	1999/2000	66.5	61.4	60.3
	2000/2001	62.0	56.5	63.6
Similar	1998/1999	70.0	64.2	58.7
	1999/2000	71.2	67.0	62.7
	2000/2001	65.2	61.5	64.9
Statewide	1998/1999	64.3	62.5	54.1
	1999/2000	64.3	65.2	57.2
	2000/2001	59.3	60.1	58.6

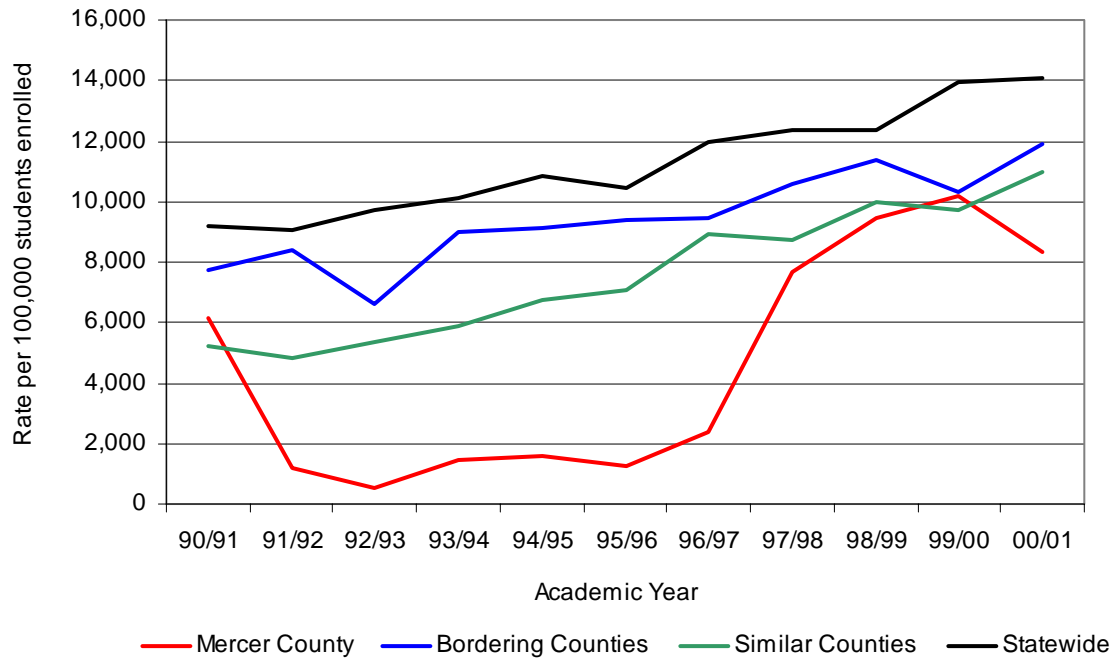
Source: Illinois State Board of Education.

School Commitment

Table 16 shows that past research has indicated that there is strong evidence linking school commitment (i.e., involvement in school) to juvenile delinquency. This profile examines four data points that measure school commitment: (1) truant students (grades kindergarten through 12), (2) suspensions (grades kindergarten through 12), (3) expulsions (grades kindergarten through 12), and (4) high school dropouts (grades 9 through 12). Despite the strong evidence linking school commitment to juvenile delinquency, a majority of the county-level relationships in Table 17 were not significant. ISBE collects and reports information on the four data points that measure school commitment.

Students are considered truant if they are required to attend school but are absent without valid cause for one or more days during the 180 day academic year. Between the 1990/1991 and 2000/2001 academic years, a total of 21,629 students attended public school in Mercer County. Students who were identified as being truant accounted for approximately five percent of all the students attending public school in Mercer County during this time period (1,002 students). Figure 19 shows truancy rates in Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 30 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the truancy rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 30 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 19
Truancy Rates, 1990/1991-2000/2001



Source: Illinois State Board of Education.

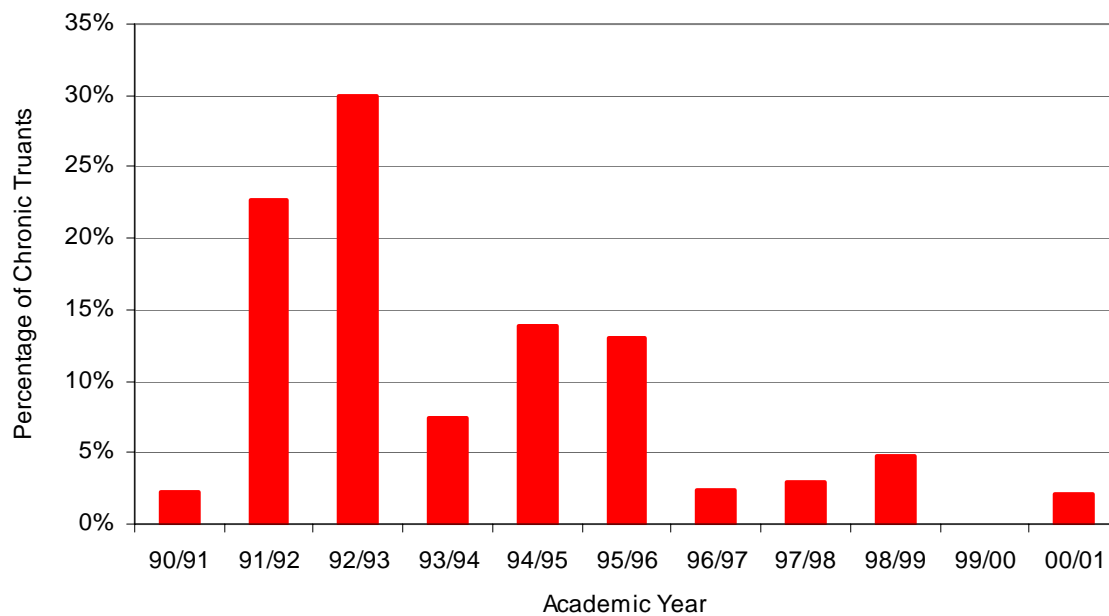
Table 30
Truancy Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990/1991 to 2000/2001			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		

ISBE distinguishes between truancy and chronic truancy. Chronic truants are students who are required to attend school but are absent without valid cause for *18 or more* of the previous 180 school days. Thus, a truant student need only have at least one unexcused absence, while a chronic truant must have 18 unexcused absences. Of the total number of truants in Mercer County from the 1990/1991 to 2000/2001 academic years, approximately 4 percent were chronic truants (of the 1,002 truants, 38 were chronic truants). Figure 20 shows the percent of truants in Mercer County who were chronically truant. Figure 20 shows that there was fluctuation in the percent of truants in Mercer County who were chronic truants, although percents were higher during years for which there were relatively few truants in Mercer County.

Figure 20

Percent of Truants in Mercer County who were Chronic Truants, 1990/1991-2000/2001



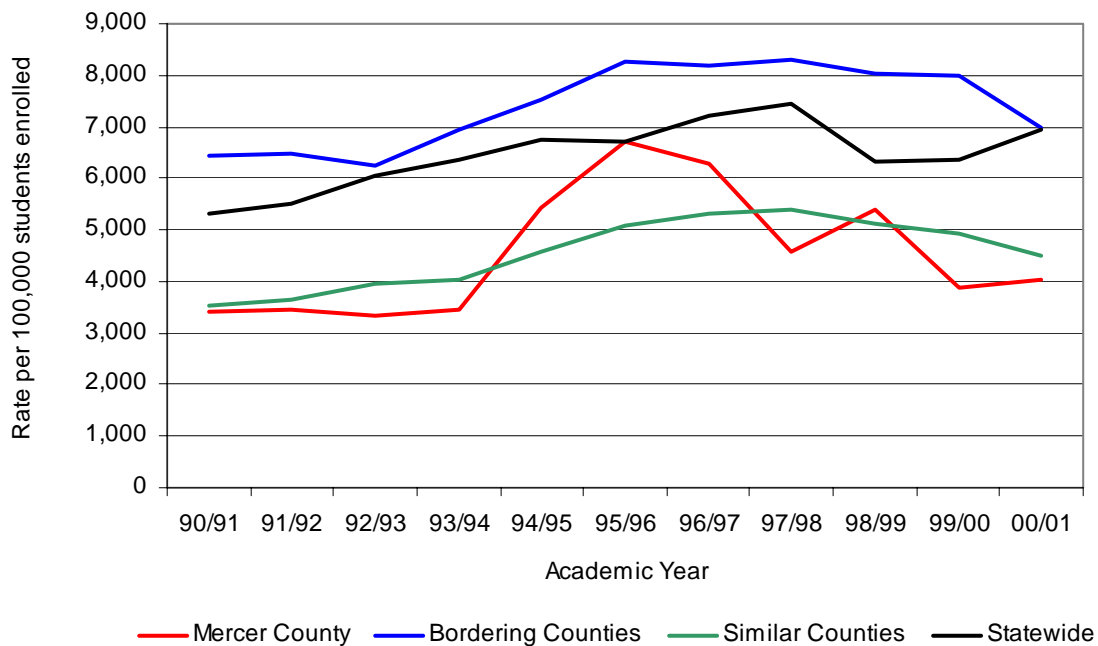
Source: Illinois State Board of Education.

ISBE also collects and reports information on students suspended. Suspensions may result from many different types of student behaviors (e.g., fighting, acting out, etc.) and they typically last a specified number of days, after which the suspended students are allowed to return to school.

From the 1990/1991 to the 2000/2001 academic years, approximately 5 percent of the student population in Mercer County had been suspended at least once (962 students).¹⁸ Figure 21 shows suspension rates in Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 31 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the suspension rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 31 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 21

Suspension Rates, 1990/1991-2000/2001



Source: Illinois State Board of Education.

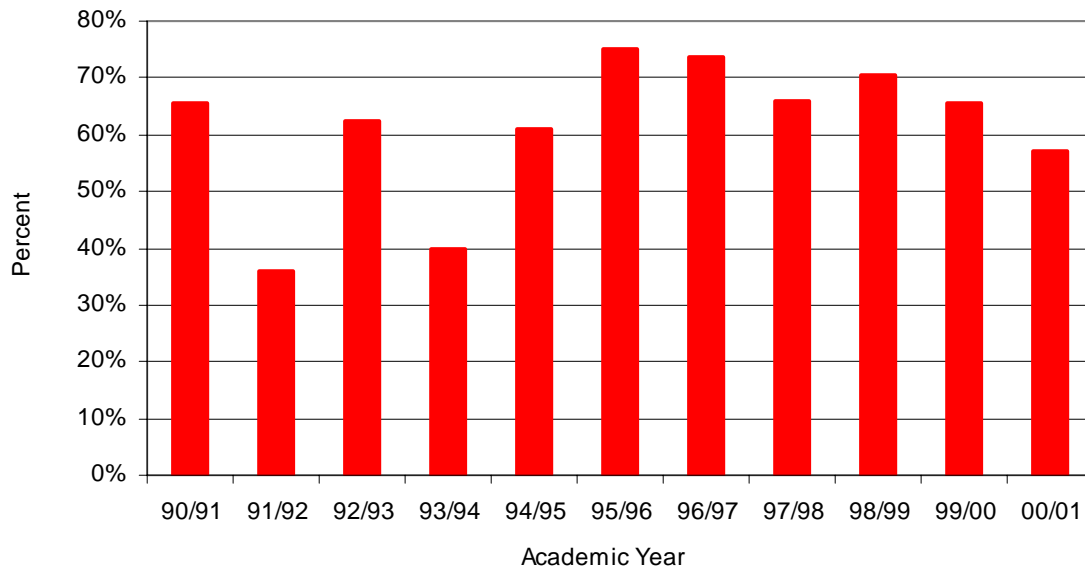
¹⁸ The suspension data reflects students that were suspended at least once during the school year. Students that were suspended more than once during the school year are only counted once.

Table 31
Suspension Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990/1991 to 2000/2001			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide	X		

Figure 22 shows the percent of all students suspended who were suspended more than once. Students who were suspended more than once accounted for 63 percent of the suspensions in Mercer County (of the 962 students suspended, 609 were suspended more than once). Overall, the percent of students who were suspended more than once in Mercer County during the 1990/1991 academic year did not significantly differ from the percent during the 2000/2001 academic year.

Figure 22
Percent of Suspended Students in Mercer County
who were Suspended More than Once,
1990/1991-2000/2001



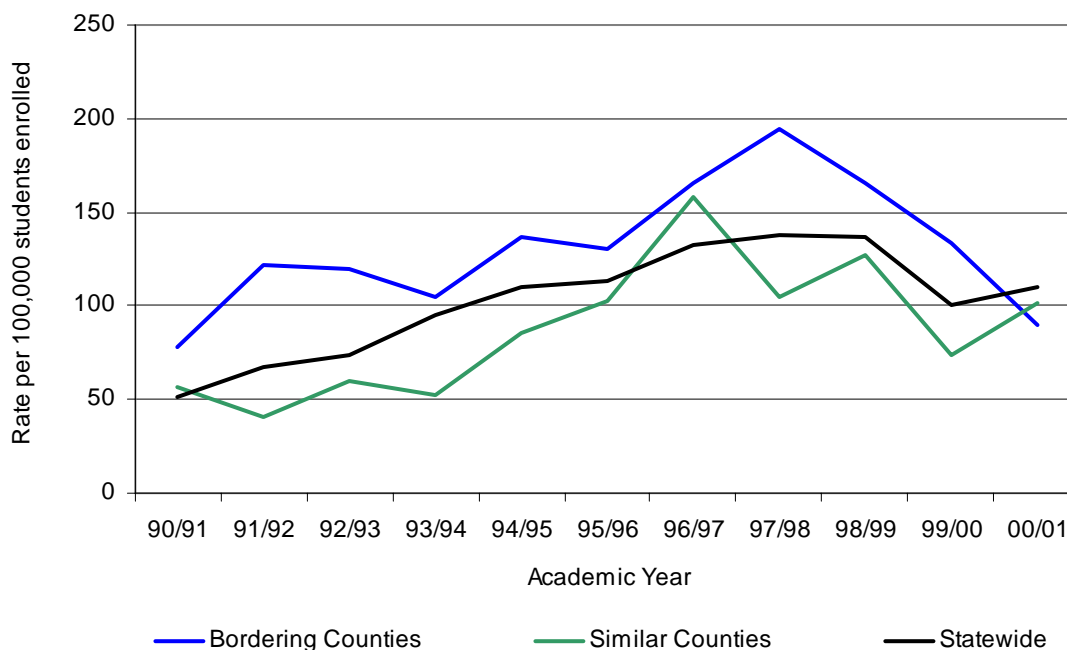
Source: Illinois State Board of Education.

Students who are expelled are not allowed to return to school for a lengthy period of time following the expulsion. During the expulsion period, students are offered alternative education. However, parents may also choose to transfer expelled students to private schools or home schooling during the expulsion period.

From the 1990/1991 to 2000/2001 academic years, nine students were expelled in Mercer County. Figure 23 shows expulsion rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 32 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the expulsion rates for the other groups examined. Because there were so few expulsions in Mercer County during the time period examined, Mercer County was excluded from Figure 23.

Figure 23

Expulsion Rates, 1990/1991-2000/2001



Source: Illinois State Board of Education.

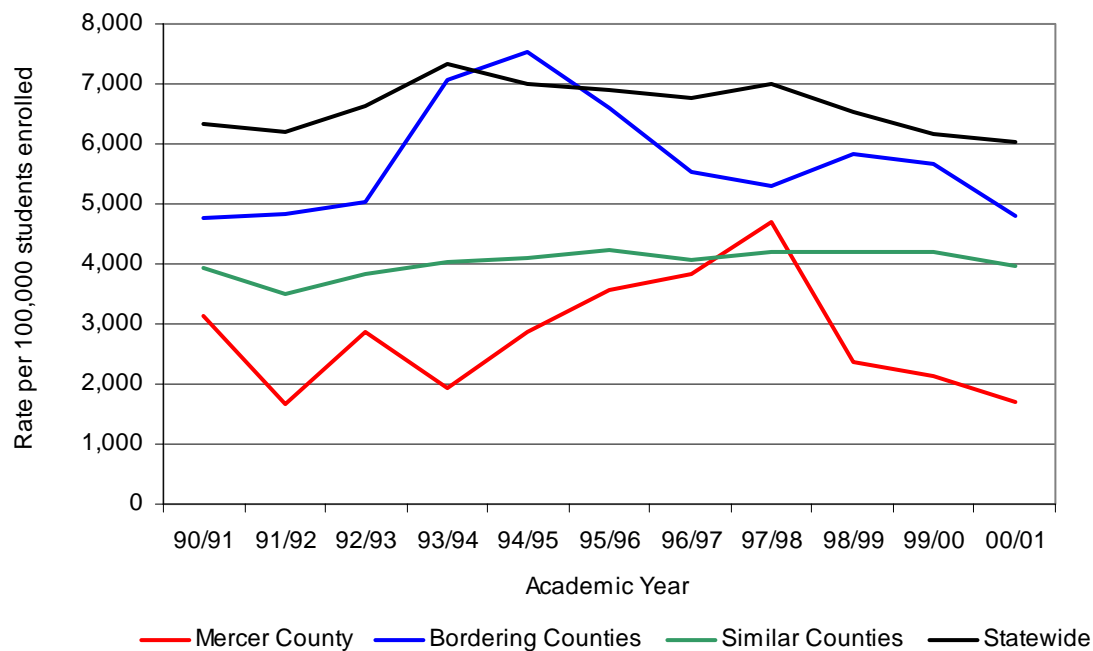
Table 32
Expulsion Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990/1991 to 2000/2001			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		

The Illinois State Board of Education defines dropouts as “students in grades 9 through 12 whose names have been removed from the district-housed roster for any reason other than death, extended illness, graduation/completion of a program of studies, transfer to another public/private school, or expulsion.” From the 1990/1991 and 2000/2001 academic years, 186 students dropped out of school in Mercer County. Figure 24 shows the high school dropout rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 33 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the high school dropout rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 33 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 24

High School Dropout Rates, 1990/1991-2000/2001



Source: Illinois State Board of Education.

Table 33
High School Dropout Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990/1991 to 2000/2001			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide	X		

Note:

- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding comparisons between high school dropout rates in similar counties, and Mercer County rates. Overall, Mercer County rates were either similar to or significantly lower than rates in similar counties. Mercer County rates were significantly lower than rates in similar counties from 1998/1999 to 2000/2001.

Environmental Risk Factors

Table 16 shows ten data points measuring environmental risk factors that will be described in this section. Eight of these data points measure three distinct types of environmental risk factors: (1) community poverty, (2) drug availability, and (3) exposure to violence. In addition, because race/ethnicity and births to female adolescents can be linked with other environmental risk factors, these data points will be described in this part of the profile.

Community Poverty

Table 16 shows past research has indicated that there is a moderate amount of evidence linking community poverty to juvenile delinquency. Research has also found areas with high concentrations of poverty experience high levels of other indicators related to juvenile delinquency, such as poor physical health, low-birth weight, teenage pregnancy, unemployment, and child abuse and neglect (Sampson, 1998). This profile examines five data points measuring community poverty: (1) the number of persons living in poverty, (2) the number of minors living in poverty, (3) unemployment rates, (4) estimated median household income, and (5) the number of individuals receiving public assistance. Table 17 shows that correlation coefficients were calculated between four of these community poverty measures (the number of persons living in poverty was excluded) and juvenile justice system data points. At the county level in Illinois, the number of minors living in poverty was correlated with delinquency filings and probation caseload, unemployment was correlated to delinquency filings, and median household income was correlated to delinquency filings and post-adjudicatory detention. Public assistance was not significantly correlated with any of the justice system data elements.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects data on family income, which is used to calculate estimates of poverty in the U.S. The official poverty definition only considers cash income before taxes when calculating a family's poverty status; it does not include other sources of income, such as capital gains and other non-cash benefits (e.g., public housing and food stamps). To calculate the estimated number of individuals living in poverty, the U.S. Census Bureau first creates poverty thresholds based on the size of the family and the number of related children under the age of 18 living in the home. If a family does not exceed the poverty threshold, that family is considered poor, or in poverty. The U.S. Census Bureau used these thresholds to estimate the number of persons and the number of minors living in poverty for 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998. Because the data were limited to these years and the data are estimates, the statistical procedures used for the other data points examined (see the description of the method used in the Introduction) were not adopted for the poverty data. Instead, confidence intervals calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau were used to determine if statistical differences existed between Mercer County, the statewide percents, and the percent for each of the individual bordering and similar counties. Percentages across counties bordering and similar to Mercer County were not combined because these data are based on estimates of persons living in poverty.

Table 34 shows the estimated percent of persons living in poverty in Mercer County and the other groups examined. Across the years for which the U.S. Census Bureau made estimates, approximately 10 percent of the persons living in Mercer County were living in poverty. Across the years examined, percents of persons living in poverty in Mercer County did not significantly differ from percents in the individual bordering counties. Of the 25 individual similar counties, 24 had similar percents of persons living in poverty as Mercer County for at least three of the four years examined (White County had significantly higher percents for three of the four years examined). Across the four years examined, statewide percents of persons living in poverty did not significantly differ from percents in Mercer County.

Table 35 shows the estimated percent of persons under 18 living in poverty for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Across the years for which the U.S. Census Bureau made estimates, approximately 13 percent of persons under 18 in Mercer County were living in poverty. Across the years examined, percents of persons under 18 living in poverty in Mercer County did not significantly differ from percents in the individual bordering counties. Of the 25 individual similar counties, 24 had similar percents of persons under 18 living in poverty as Mercer County for at least three of the four years examined (White County had significantly higher percents for all four years examined). Statewide percents of persons under 18 living in poverty were significantly higher than percents in Mercer County for two of the four years examined.

Table 34
Estimated Percent of Persons Living in Poverty,
1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998

County	1993	1995	1997	1998
Mercer	10.8%	9.0%	9.3%	8.9%
<i>Bordering Counties</i>				
Henderson	11.7%	9.9%	11.0%	10.8%
Henry	10.5%	8.8%	8.5%	8.4%
Knox	13.3%	12.2%	12.7%	12.3%
Rock Island	13.0%	11.5%	11.8%	11.0%
Warren	13.0%	12.5%	13.3%	12.3%
<i>Similar Counties</i>				
Bond	12.0%	11.6%	12.5%	11.7%
Cass	11.9%	10.7%	11.2%	11.3%
Christian	11.1%	10.1%	10.7%	11.0%
Clark	11.5%	11.0%	11.0%	11.2%
DeWitt	9.9%	9.1%	10.4%	10.5%
Douglas	9.4%	8.9%	9.4%	9.3%
Edgar	14.2%	12.5%	13.4%	13.2%
Fayette	14.6%	12.9%	14.3%	13.7%
Ford	9.2%	8.5%	8.6%	8.8%
Fulton	14.6%	13.0%	13.2%	12.8%
Greene	14.6%	13.6%	13.9%	13.8%
Iroquois	9.7%	9.1%	9.5%	9.8%
Jo Daviess	8.0%	7.2%	7.8%	8.1%
Livingston	9.8%	8.8%	9.7%	9.5%
Logan	11.0%	10.3%	11.6%	10.8%
Macoupin	12.3%	11.6%	12.1%	11.4%
Marshall	9.4%	8.0%	9.0%	9.3%
Mason	12.8%	11.6%	12.1%	12.2%
Montgomery	13.4%	12.6%	13.7%	13.2%
Moultrie	9.0%	8.1%	8.3%	8.0%
Piatt	6.9%	6.1%	6.7%	6.3%
Randolph	12.2%	11.2%	12.0%	11.6%
Shelby	9.7%	9.1%	10.0%	9.7%
Washington	8.8%	7.7%	8.1%	7.6%
White	15.1%	14.8%	15.3%	15.3%
Statewide	13.4%	11.3%	11.3%	10.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 35
Estimated Percent of Persons Under 18 Living in Poverty,
1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998

County	1993	1995	1997	1998
Mercer	13.7%	12.9%	14.1%	12.2%
<i>Bordering Counties</i>				
Henderson	15.1%	14.3%	16.5%	15.1%
Henry	14.3%	13.6%	12.7%	12.5%
Knox	18.7%	19.0%	19.0%	17.3%
Rock Island	19.6%	19.2%	19.2%	16.7%
Warren	17.4%	18.6%	18.3%	14.9%
<i>Similar Counties</i>				
Bond	14.6%	15.3%	17.0%	14.6%
Cass	15.7%	16.0%	16.4%	15.85
Christian	15.4%	15.6%	16.1%	15.9%
Clark	14.1%	15.5%	17.3%	16.1%
DeWitt	13.3%	13.8%	16.1%	15.1%
Douglas	12.8%	13.4%	15.0%	13.6%
Edgar	19.8%	19.1%	20.1%	18.3%
Fayette	18.5%	18.1%	21.0%	17.3%
Ford	12.6%	13.0%	12.9%	12.8%
Fulton	20.4%	20.5%	20.0%	17.8%
Greene	19.2%	19.8%	20.6%	18.1%
Iroquois	12.8%	13.5%	15.2%	14.4%
Jo Daviess	10.0%	9.7%	11.6%	10.8%
Livingston	12.8%	13.0%	13.5%	12.8%
Logan	13.6%	14.2%	16.1%	14.0%
Macoupin	16.8%	18.0%	17.9%	15.6%
Marshall	11.5%	11.3%	13.3%	14.4%
Mason	17.9%	18.4%	18.3%	18.1%
Montgomery	17.5%	18.2%	19.7%	17.2%
Moultrie	12.2%	12.3%	11.5%	10.4%
Piatt	8.5%	8.6%	9.6%	8.5%
Randolph	15.3%	15.8%	16.7%	14.8%
Shelby	12.3%	12.9%	14.6%	12.5%
Washington	10.0%	9.9%	11.0%	9.6%
White	21.8%	23.9%	23.7%	21.9%
Statewide	20.4%	18.5%	17.5%	15.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) collects data on unemployment in Illinois. IDES uses the following criteria to determine who is employed, who is unemployed, and who is considered “out of the labor force.”

Employed persons include individuals who:

- (1) worked at least one hour for pay or profit,
- (2) were temporarily away from work due to reasons such as labor disputes, vacation, or illness, or
- (3) worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business.

Unemployed persons include individuals who:

- (1) have lost their jobs involuntarily;
- (2) have quit their jobs;
- (3) have entered the labor market for the first time or re-entered the labor market after a period of absence; or
- (4) have been laid off but are expected to be recalled.

Individuals who are considered “*not in the labor force*” include:

- (1) individuals who are not interested in working (e.g., students, homemakers, retirees); or
- (2) individuals who want to work, but who are either discouraged or face barriers to entering the labor force (e.g., child care, transportation) (Reinhold, 1998).

To calculate the unemployment rate, the number of individuals unemployed is divided by the number of persons eligible for labor (employed individuals + unemployed individuals; individuals not in the labor force are considered ineligible).

Figure 25 shows unemployment rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 36 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the unemployment rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 36 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

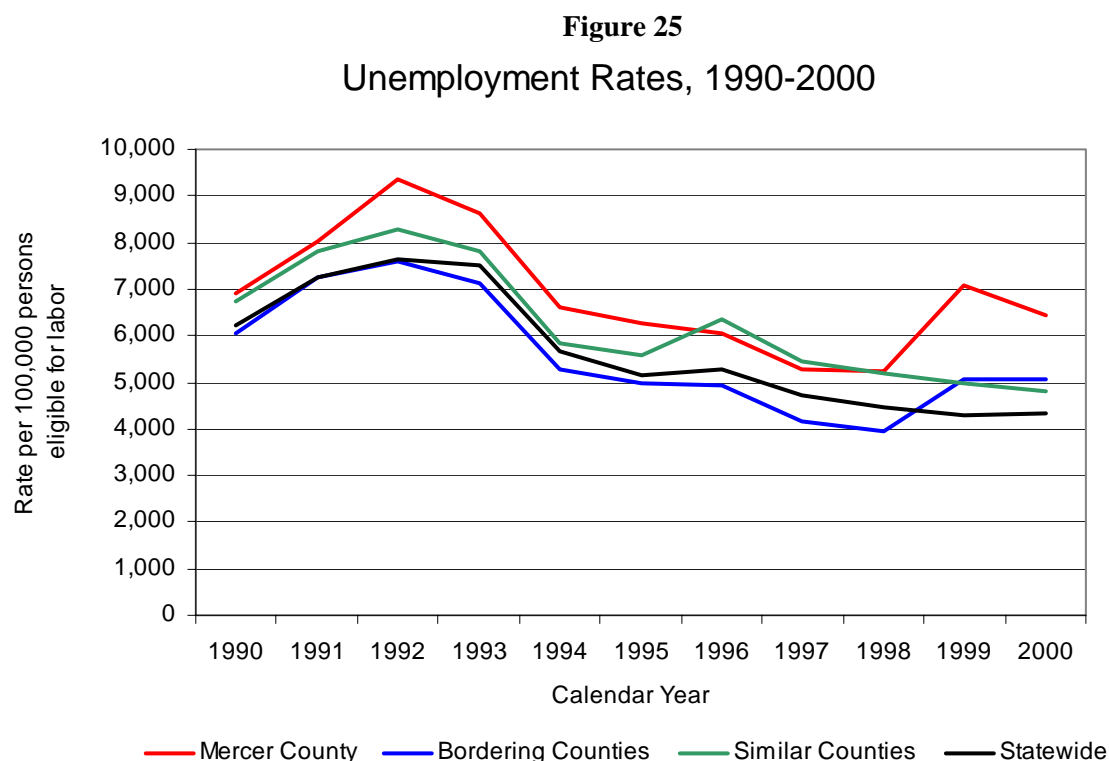


Table 36
Unemployment Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties			X
Similar Counties			X
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties			X
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide			X

Note:

- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding comparisons between unemployment rates in similar counties, and Mercer County rates. Overall, Mercer County rates were either similar to or significantly higher than rates in similar counties. Mercer County rates were significantly higher than rates in similar counties during 1999 and 2000.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects information on household incomes. This information is then used to calculate estimated median household incomes for states and counties across the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated median household incomes for 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998. Because the data were limited to these years, the statistical process was not adopted for the median household income data. Instead, confidence intervals calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau were used to determine if statistical differences existed between Mercer County, the median household income statewide, and the median household incomes for each of the bordering and similar counties.

Table 37 shows median household incomes for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Across the years examined, median household incomes in Mercer County were similar to median household incomes in the individual bordering counties for at least two of the four years examined. Of the 25 individual similar counties, 5 had significantly lower median household incomes than Mercer County for at least three of the four years examined (the remaining 20 individual similar counties had similar median household incomes as Mercer County for at least three of the four years examined). Across the four years examined, statewide median household incomes did not significantly differ from Mercer County median household incomes.

Table 37
Estimated Median Household Income, 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998

County	1993	1995	1997	1998
Mercer	\$31,321	\$34,007	\$38,584	\$40,244
<i>Bordering Counties</i>				
Henderson	\$26,888	\$29,614	\$33,363	\$35,221
Henry	\$31,095	\$34,947	\$38,644	\$39,730
Knox	\$28,688	\$30,938	\$33,536	\$34,382
Rock Island	\$31,242	\$33,893	\$37,213	\$38,417
Warren	\$27,453	\$28,810	\$31,412	\$32,636
<i>Similar Counties</i>				
Bond	\$28,098	\$31,038	\$33,762	\$35,077
Cass	\$27,952	\$29,725	\$32,897	\$34,365
Christian	\$29,152	\$31,379	\$34,836	\$36,105
Clark	\$27,689	\$29,915	\$32,800	\$33,488
DeWitt	\$31,813	\$34,787	\$38,385	\$39,289
Douglas	\$31,381	\$33,709	\$36,640	\$37,629
Edgar	\$26,505	\$27,856	\$31,089	\$32,234
Fayette	\$25,038	\$28,040	\$30,256	\$30,942
Ford	\$30,523	\$32,819	\$36,681	\$37,539
Fulton	\$25,727	\$28,204	\$30,723	\$32,316
Greene	\$24,056	\$25,900	\$29,129	\$29,530
Iroquois	\$29,414	\$31,718	\$34,287	\$34,827
Jo Daviess	\$31,592	\$33,960	\$37,575	\$39,444
Livingston	\$35,160	\$38,207	\$41,414	\$42,255
Logan	\$31,993	\$33,711	\$37,223	\$38,896
Macoupin	\$28,540	\$31,122	\$33,934	\$35,362
Marshall	\$31,244	\$33,977	\$38,347	\$39,901
Mason	\$28,209	\$29,995	\$33,274	\$35,280
Montgomery	\$27,924	\$30,145	\$33,368	\$33,950
Moultrie	\$32,197	\$34,047	\$37,859	\$39,377
Piatt	\$37,116	\$38,621	\$43,109	\$45,299
Randolph	\$29,707	\$30,882	\$33,754	\$35,199
Shelby	\$30,475	\$31,826	\$34,827	\$35,532
Washington	\$30,268	\$32,554	\$36,681	\$38,372
White	\$24,785	\$26,257	\$29,569	\$30,212
Statewide	\$33,592	\$38,078	\$41,179	\$43,141

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) collects data on the number of persons receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), a state public assistance program. TANF is a temporary public assistance program for families with children 18 years and younger living in the home. TANF replaced the previous family public assistance program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) during 1996.

The primary differences between TANF and AFDC are that TANF limits the amount of time individuals can receive cash benefits and that TANF imposes work requirements. In general, applicants that participate in TANF receive assistance for approximately 60 months (5 years). Once the 60-month period is surpassed, applicants may no longer qualify for TANF funds, although applicants may receive other public assistance benefits such as food stamps and medical assistance. TANF also restricts certain individuals from receiving benefits. For instance, individuals who have been convicted of state or federal felony offenses for use or sale of drugs may not qualify for TANF benefits (although their children may qualify for benefits). In 2000, 116 children were living in families that were receiving public assistance in Mercer County.

The trend analyses describing family public assistance include data from 1990 to 2000. Figure 26 shows family public assistance rates (AFDC and TANF) for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 38 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the family public assistance rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 38 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

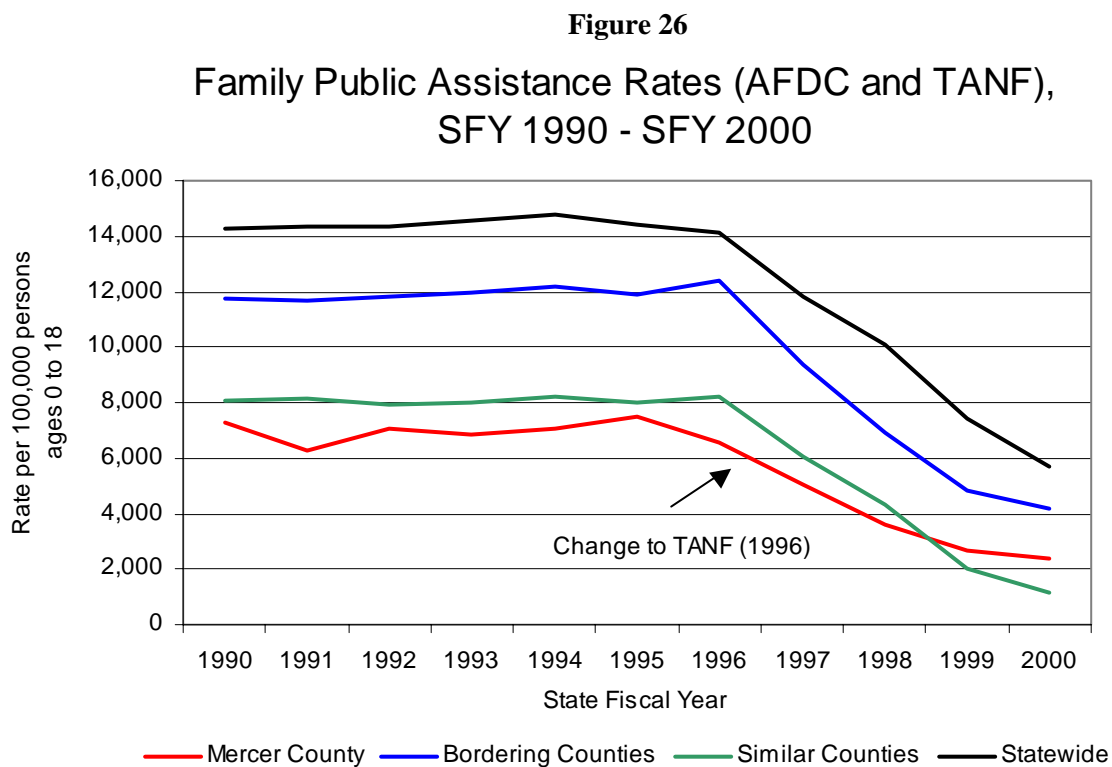


Table 38
Family Public Assistance Rates: Overall Findings

Change from SFY 1990 to SFY 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County			X
Bordering Counties			X
Similar Counties			X
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide	X		

Note:

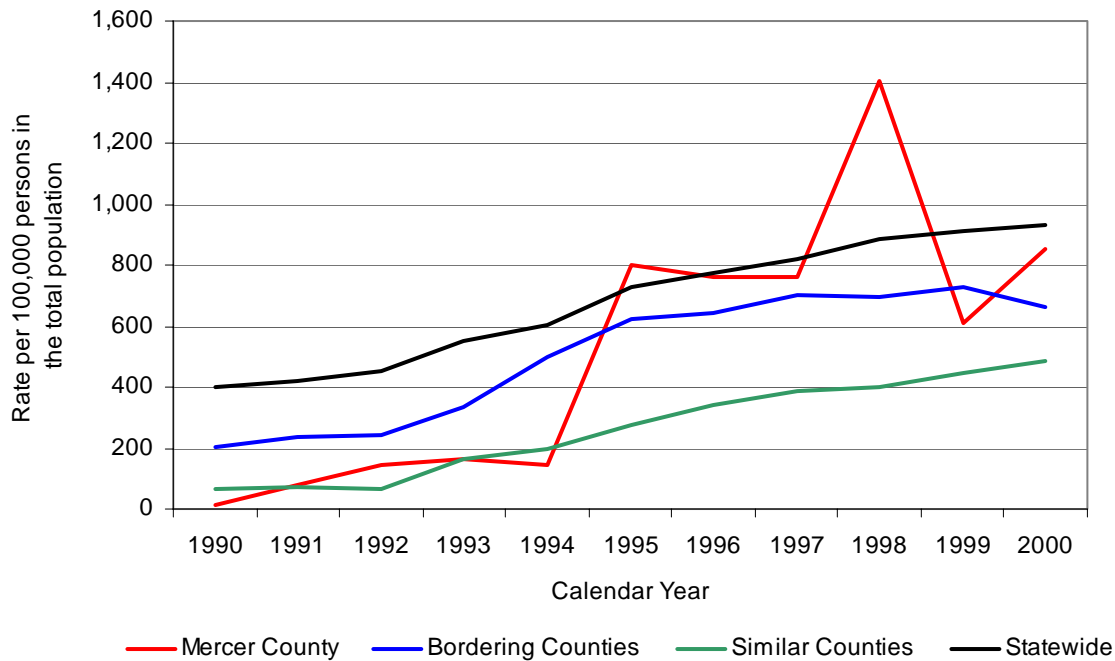
- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding comparisons between family public assistance rates in similar counties, and Mercer County rates. Mercer County rates were significantly lower than rates in similar counties for a majority of the years examined, but were significantly higher than rates in similar counties during SFY 1999 and SFY 2000.
- The large decreases experienced may reflect changes in state and local economies, but also may reflect the fact that TANF is a more restrictive program than AFDC.

Drug Availability

Table 16 shows that past research has indicated that there is a moderate amount of evidence linking drug availability to juvenile delinquency. The profile examines two data points that indirectly measure drug availability in neighborhoods: reported drug arrests to the Illinois State Police (ISP) and drug submissions to the Illinois State Police Crime Labs. Table 17 shows that, at the county level in Illinois, these two measures were significantly correlated with post-adjudicatory detentions and with end-of-year active probation caseloads. This may suggest that minors living in communities in which drug crimes are more prevalent are more likely to commit crimes serious enough to warrant detention or probation.

Law enforcement agencies across the state report aggregate drug arrest numbers to ISP as part of the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program. The data submitted to ISP represents the number of persons arrested for violations of Illinois' drug laws, including violations of the Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act, and Drug Paraphernalia Control Act. A majority of the drug arrests in Illinois are for violations of either the Cannabis Control Act (720 ILCS 550), which prohibits the possession, sale and cultivation of marijuana, or the Controlled Substances Act (720 ILCS 570), which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution or manufacture of all other illegal drugs, such as cocaine and opiates. Arrests for violations of the Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act (720 ILCS 630), which prohibits the possession or sale of hypodermic instruments, and the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act (720 ILCS 600), which prohibits the possession, sale or delivery of drug paraphernalia, are more infrequent.

The trend analyses describing drug arrests include data from 1990 to 2000. Figure 27 shows the total drug arrest rate (which includes arrests for violations of all four drug laws) for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 39 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the total drug arrest rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 39 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 27**Total Drug Arrest Rates, 1990-2000**

Rates were calculated using ICJIA population estimates.
Source: Illinois State Police; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 39
Total Drug Arrest Rates: Overall Findings

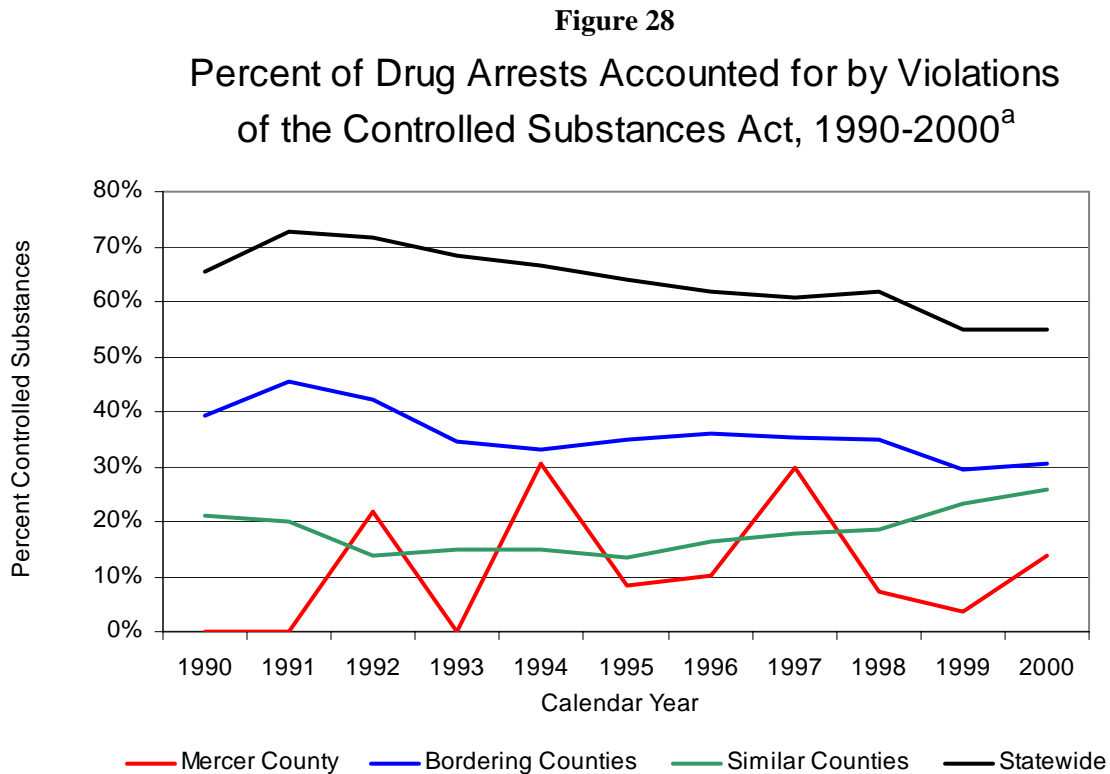
Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County	X		
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties			X
Statewide		X	

Note:

- Because of a pronounced increase in the Mercer County total drug arrest rate from 1994 to 1995, comparisons between Mercer County rates and rates in the other groups examined differed from 1990 to 1994, as opposed to 1995 to 2000. The conclusions in Table 39 regarding comparisons between Mercer County total drug arrest rates, and rates in the other groups examined were based on trends from 1995 to 2000.

Most drug arrests are made for violations of either the Cannabis Control Act or the Controlled Substances Act. Between 1990 and 2000, violations of the Controlled Substances Act accounted for approximately seven percent of drug arrests in Mercer County (of the 943 total drug arrests in Mercer County, 64 were for violations of the Controlled Substances Act).

Figure 28 shows the percent of Cannabis Control Act and Controlled Substance Act violations, combined, accounted for by Controlled Substance Act violations. Table 40 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the percent of arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 40 also shows how the percentages in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the percentages in Mercer County.



a. This figure shows the percent of arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act out of the total number of arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substances Act and Cannabis Control Act, combined.
 Source: Illinois State Police; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 40
Percent of Drug Arrests accounted for by Violations of the
Controlled Substances Act: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County	X		
Bordering Counties			X
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide	X		

Note:

- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding comparisons between percents in similar counties, and Mercer County percents. Overall, Mercer County percents were either similar to or significantly lower than percents in similar counties.

ISP also collects and reports data on the number and types of drugs submitted by law enforcement agencies across the state to one of the ISP crime labs for drug analysis. When a law enforcement agency submits a drug for analysis at one of the state's crime labs, ISP documents the type of drug submitted (following an analysis of the drug), the quantity of the drug submitted, the law enforcement agency that submitted the drug, and the county where the law enforcement agency is located. The data reported in the profile are the total number of submissions, regardless of the amount of drugs involved in each submission.

Table 41 shows drug submission rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Trend analyses could not be conducted because the data are only available from 1998 to 2001, although comparisons between Mercer County and the other groups examined could be conducted.

Across all four years examined, total drug submission rates in bordering counties did not significantly differ from Mercer County rates. For three of the four years examined, cannabis submission rates in bordering counties did not significantly differ from Mercer County rates. For all four years examined, cocaine submission rates in bordering counties were significantly higher than Mercer County rates.

For three of the four years examined, total drug submission rates in similar counties were significantly higher than Mercer County rates. For two of the four years examined, cannabis submission rates in similar counties were significantly higher than Mercer County rates (and were similar to Mercer County rates for the other two years examined). For three of the four years examined, cocaine submission rates in similar counties did not significantly differ from Mercer County rates.

Across all four years examined, statewide total drug submission rates were significantly higher than Mercer County rates. For two of the four years examined, statewide cannabis submission rates were significantly higher than Mercer County rates (and were similar to Mercer County rates for the other two years examined). Across all four years examined, statewide cocaine submission rates were significantly higher than Mercer County rates.

Table 41
Drug Submission Rates, 1998-2001

County	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total Drug Submission Rates				
Mercer County	394.63	272.81	359.73	306.66
Bordering Counties	410.93	372.81	367.26	371.50
Similar Counties	387.05	436.71	485.77	506.96
Statewide	839.34	803.33	809.64	791.10
Cannabis Submission Rates				
Mercer County	309.64	230.37	288.97	229.99
Bordering Counties	199.81	182.34	188.93	191.05
Similar Counties	278.81	330.07	343.83	321.78
Statewide	348.63	363.78	370.09	364.56
Cocaine Submission Rates^a				
Mercer County	42.50	36.37	47.18	23.59
Bordering Counties	173.64	162.86	150.79	140.55
Similar Counties	64.39	61.73	63.39	56.85
Statewide	361.76	317.40	300.00	283.08

Rates calculated using ICJIA population estimates.

a: Cocaine includes crack and powder cocaine.

Source: Illinois State Police.

Exposure to Violence

Table 16 shows past research has indicated there is little evidence linking exposure to violence to juvenile delinquency, but that exposure to violence may still be a viable juvenile delinquency risk factor. The study group included relatively little research in their reviews that examined exposure to violence in the community. The research that was included found that exposure to violence was significantly correlated with violent behavior among adolescents. More research, however, is needed to determine if in fact exposure to violence in the community is related to juvenile delinquency.

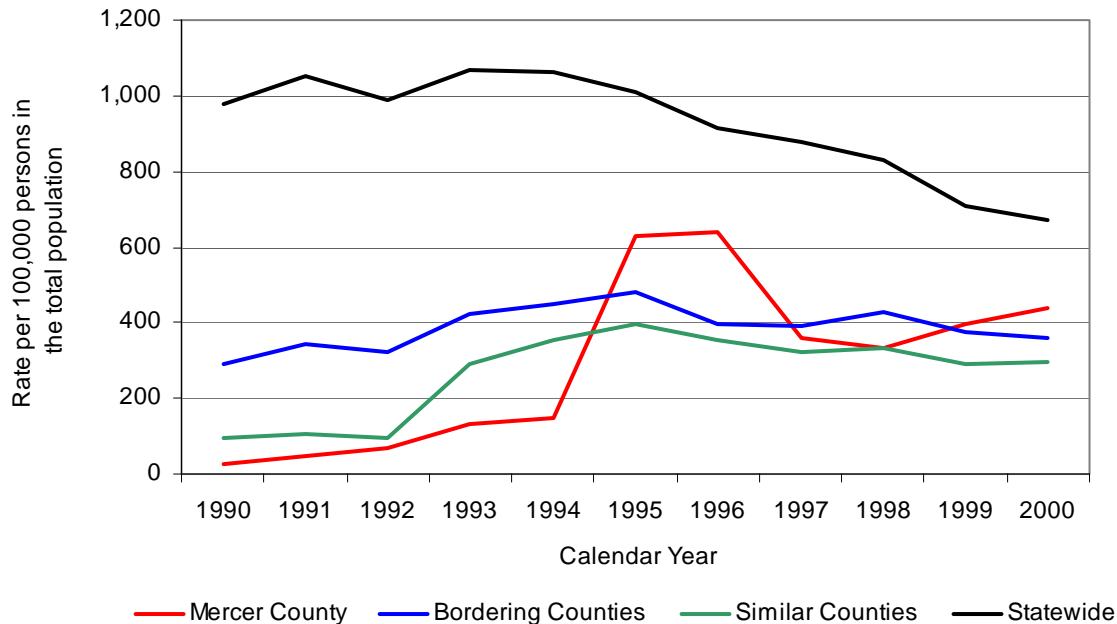
This profile examines one type of data that measures exposure to violence: reported violent index offenses. Table 17 shows that, at the county level in Illinois, reported violent index offenses were significantly correlated with post-adjudicatory detentions and end-of-year active probation caseloads. This may suggest that minors living in communities in which violent crimes are more prevalent are more likely to commit crimes serious enough to warrant detention or probation.

As part of the Uniform Crime Reporting program in Illinois, law enforcement agencies are required to report violent index offenses to the Illinois State Police. Violent index offenses include murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

The trend analyses describing reported violent index offenses include data from 1990 to 2000. Figure 29 shows the reported violent index offense rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 42 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the violent index offense rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 42 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 29

**Total Reported Violent Index Offense Rates,
1990-2000**



Rates were calculated using ICJIA population estimates.
Source: Illinois State Police; U.S. Census Bureau.

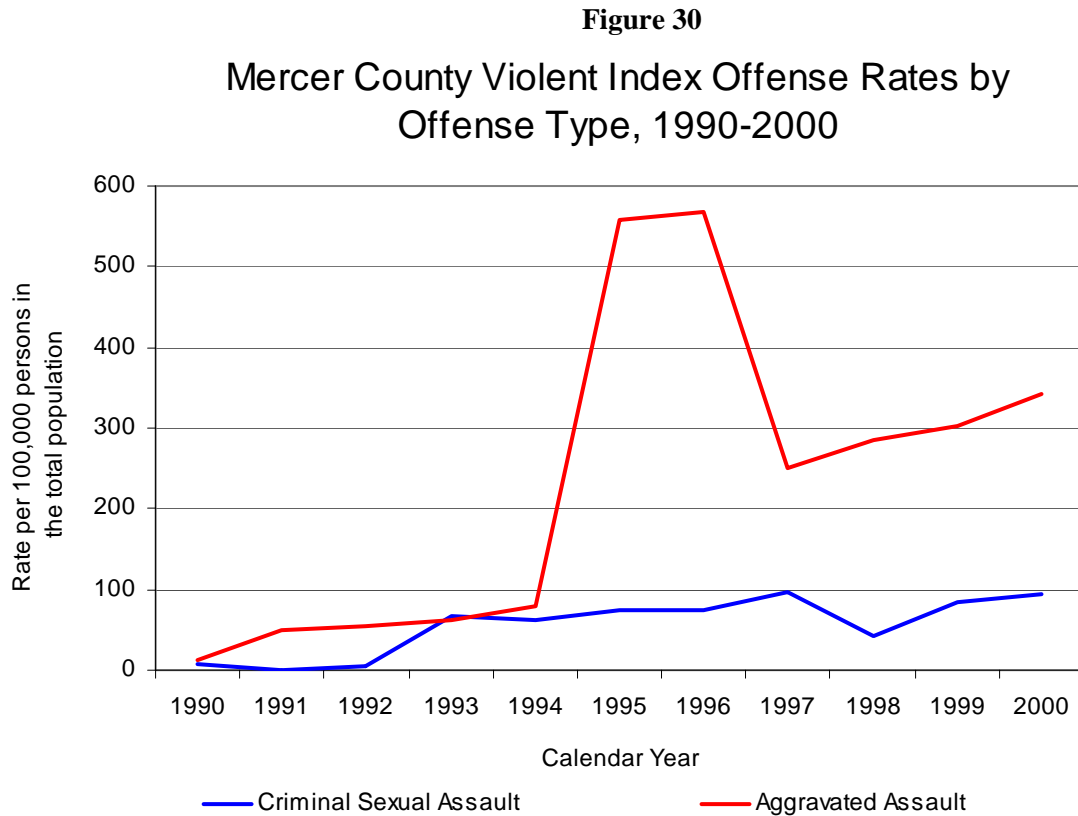
Table 42
Total Reported Violent Index Offense Rates: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County	X		
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties	--	--	--
Statewide	X		

Note:

- From 1995 to 2000, total reported violent index offense rates in bordering counties were, overall, similar to Mercer County rates. This trend was used to guide the conclusion in Table 42 regarding comparisons between total reported violent index offense rates in similar counties, and Mercer County rates.
- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding comparisons between total reported violent index offense rates in similar counties, and Mercer County rates. From 1995 to 2000, Mercer County rates were either similar to or significantly higher than rates in similar counties.

From 1990 to 2000, Aggravated assaults accounted for 80 percent of reported violent index offenses in Mercer County, and criminal sexual assaults accounted for 19 percent. Figure 30 shows Mercer County reported violent index offense rates separately for aggravated assaults and criminal sexual assaults. Both the aggravated assault rate and criminal sexual assault rate significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time period examined (2000 rates were significantly higher than 1990 rates).



Racial Composition

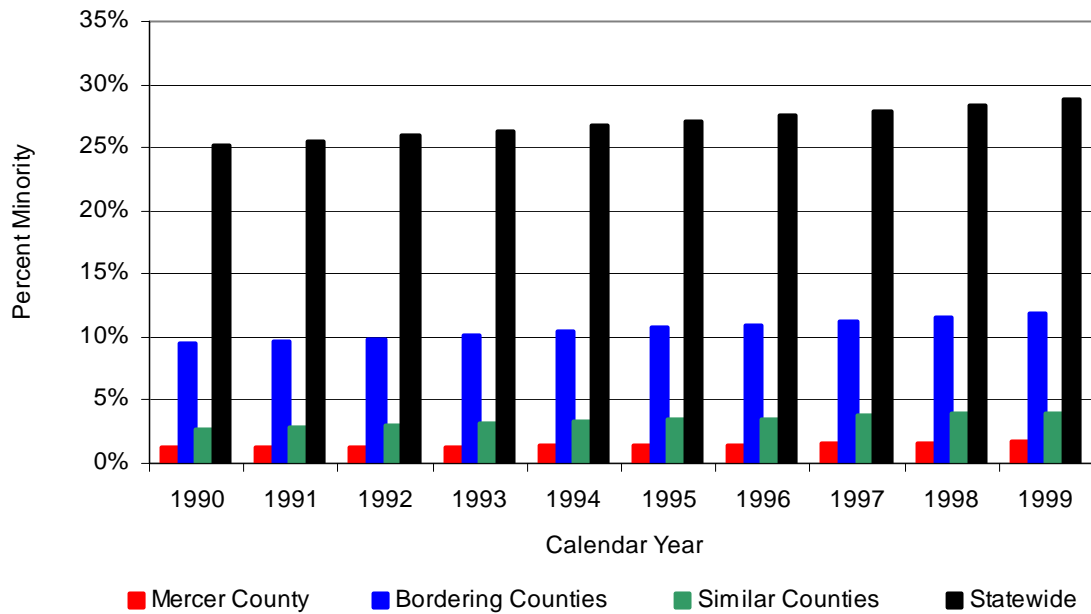
Although there is evidence indicating that race/ethnicity is related to juvenile delinquency, this evidence tends to suggest this relationship may be due to the high correlation between race/ethnicity and other environmental factors (socio-economic factors, poverty). For instance, areas with high concentrations of poverty also tend to have high concentrations of minorities. Thus, as Table 16 indicates, race/ethnicity is described in the profile as an environmental factor. Table 17 shows, at the county level in Illinois, racial composition is significantly correlated with post-adjudicatory detentions.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects, calculates, and reports data on race and ethnicity for every county in Illinois and statewide. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates populations in various racial and ethnic groups.

The trend analyses describing racial composition include data from 1990 to 1999. Figure 31 shows the percent of the population that is accounted for by minorities in Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 43 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the percentages of the population that is accounted for by minorities for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 43 also shows how the percentages in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the percentages in Mercer County.

Figure 31

**Percent of the Population Accounted for by Minorities,
1990-1999**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 43

Percent of the Population that is Accounted for by Minorities: Overall Findings

Change from 1990 to 1999			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	X		
Similar Counties	X		
Statewide	X		

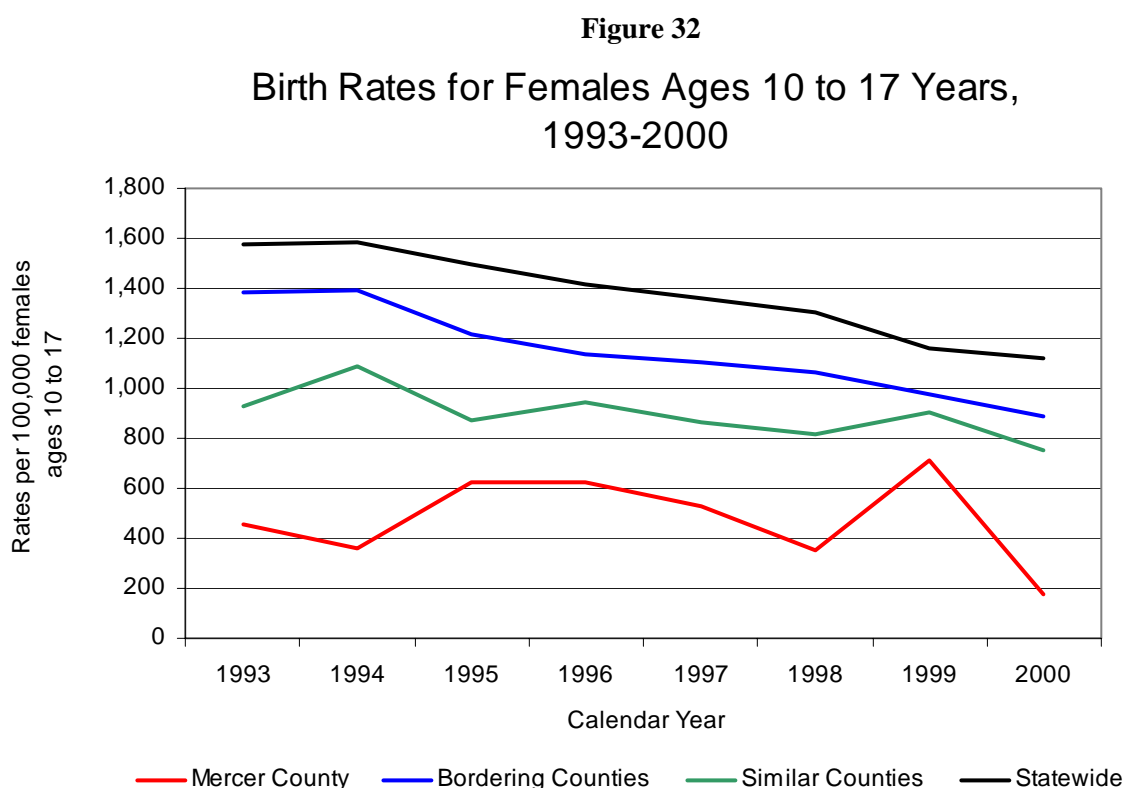
Female Youth Pregnancy

Although the study group did not examine the relationship between births by females ages 10 to 17 years and juvenile delinquency, births by females ages 10 to 17 years are included in the profile because it may be a type of data that is related to other risk factors. As noted in Appendix D, births to females ages 10 to 17 years was correlated with a number of environmental factors. Research has also found that females who have children during adolescence may experience other negative outcomes, including financial difficulties and social and other health-related problems (Maynard and Garry, 1997).

Table 17 shows that births by females ages 10 to 17 years were significantly correlated with three of the four juvenile justice system data elements (delinquency filings, delinquency adjudications, and probation caseloads). Pregnancy may place females going through the juvenile justice system at an even greater disadvantage than their counterparts because they exhibit behavior that may be considered deviant in the eyes of juvenile justice practitioners (e.g., early sexual behavior).

Although teen birth is generally described in terms of the pregnant females, studies on teenage fatherhood have found that fathering children may be correlated with subsequent delinquency (Thornberry, Wei, Stouthamer-Loeber and Van Dyke, 2000). While this section only discusses births by minors in terms of female parenthood (data were not available on teen fatherhood), parenthood may also impact male teenagers.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) collects data on the number of births by females ages 10 to 17 years. The trend analyses describing births by females ages 10 to 17 years include data from 1993 to 2000. From 1993 to 2000, 43 females ages 10 to 17 years gave birth in Mercer County. Figure 32 shows birth rates by females ages 10 to 17 years for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 44 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the birth rates by females ages 10 to 17 years for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 44 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 44
Birth Rates by Females Ages 10 to 17 Years: Overall Findings

Change from 1993 to 2000			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties			X
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide			X
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties	--	--	--
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide	X		

Note:

- It was not possible to draw a clear conclusion regarding comparisons between birth rates by females ages 10 to 17 in bordering counties, and Mercer County rates. Overall, Mercer County rates were either similar to or significantly lower than rates in bordering counties.

Other Risk Factors

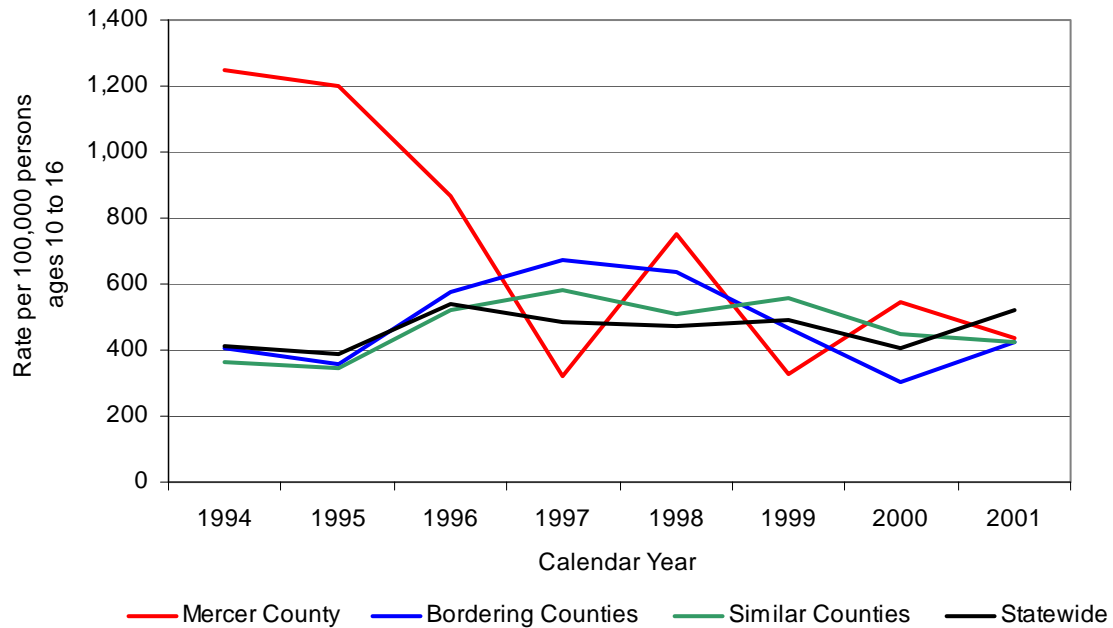
Adolescent substance use is included in this profile, although this type of data does not fit easily under the four types of risk factors described above (i.e., individual-level, social, school and environmental risk factors). Admissions of minors to drug and alcohol treatment facilities were used as a measure of adolescent substance use. Table 17 shows that this measure was significantly correlated with two of the four juvenile justice system data elements (delinquency petitions and probation caseload).

The Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASA), a department overseen by the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), collects information from OASA-funded substance abuse treatment providers on the clients they serve, using the Department's Automated Reporting and Tracking System (DARTS). DARTS data were used to examine adolescent substance use.

The trend analyses describing admissions of minors to drug and alcohol treatment facilities include data from 1994 to 2001. The rates pertain to minors ages 10 to 16 years and, in addition to including admissions to OASA-funded facilities for drug and alcohol treatment, also include admissions for nicotine use. Figure 33 shows the adolescent drug treatment admission rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 45 presents the overall findings after examining the changes in the adolescent drug treatment admission rates for Mercer County and the other groups examined. Table 45 also shows how the rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide compared to the rates in Mercer County.

Figure 33

**Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Treatment Rates,
1994-2001**



Source: Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse; U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 45

Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Treatment Admission Rates: Overall Findings

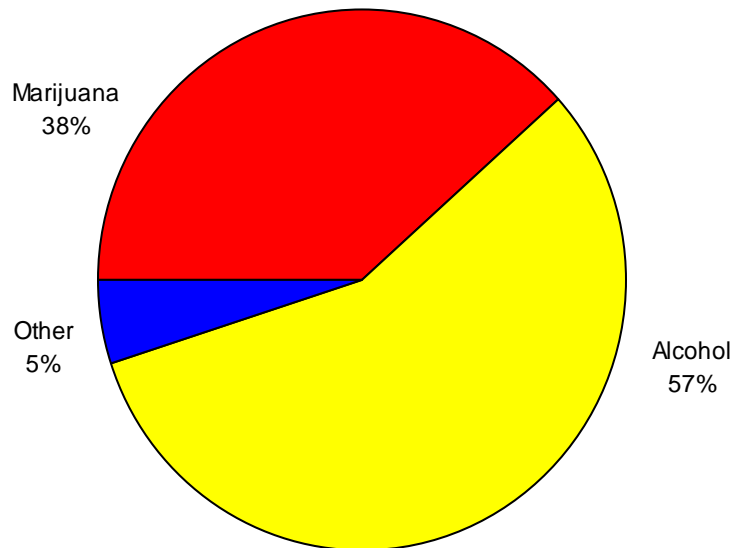
Change from 1994 to 2001			
	Significant Increase	No Significant Change	Significant Decrease
Mercer County		X	
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide	X		
Compared to Mercer County			
	Significantly Higher	Similar	Significantly Lower
Bordering Counties		X	
Similar Counties		X	
Statewide		X	

From 1994 to 2001, 60 treatment services were provided to 52 adolescent clients in Mercer County. Figure 34 shows the percent of Mercer County services from 1994 to 2001 to minors ages 10 to 16 years for alcohol, nicotine, marijuana, and other types of drugs. Other primary substances of abuse include, but are not limited to, heroin, cocaine, PCP, inhalants, methamphetamine, barbiturates, and hallucinogens. Figure 34 shows the primary substance of abuse precipitating the service, although individuals may be admitted and receive treatment for more than one type of substance.

Approximately 57 percent of all the treatment services provided to Mercer County minors ages 10 to 16 years were for alcohol, and 38 percent were for marijuana. Services provided to clients who received treatment for other primary substances abused accounted for five percent of all services from 1994 to 2001.

Figure 34

**Percent of Services Provided to Adolescent Clients
Living in Mercer County by Primary Substance Abused,
1994-2001**



Source: Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

Conclusion

This section highlights some of the more noteworthy patterns found across all of the risk factors examined. To identify these patterns, two different tables were developed to aid interpretation. Table 46 shows the overall differences and similarities between Mercer County and the other groups examined for each risk factor analyzed. Table 47 shows the overall changes in Mercer County for each risk factor.

For Table 46, the rates for Mercer County were compared to the rates of the other groups examined for most of the risk factors analyzed. However, for four variables (domestic migration, persons living in poverty, minors living in poverty, and median household income) comparisons were based on either raw numbers (domestic migration and median household income) or percentages (persons living in poverty and minors living in poverty). There were several instances, however, when it was not possible to conclude that the rates for the other groups examined were clearly higher, similar or lower than the rates in Mercer County. In such instances, the symbol “-” was placed in the table to indicate that no clear determination of higher, similar, or lower could be made.

Table 47 shows the overall changes in Mercer County for each risk factor examined. To determine if there was a significant increase or decrease or if no significant change occurred, the rates for the first year examined were compared to the rates of the last year examined (e.g., 1990 and 2000). In several instances, however, it could not be determined if there were significant differences between the years examined. The variables for which changes could not be determined include suicide admissions, domestic offenses, standardized test scores, persons living in poverty, minors living in poverty, median household incomes, and drug submissions. In general, this occurred because these data were only available for less than five years.

Expulsions were examined as a school risk factor. However, across the time period examined, there were relatively few expulsions in Mercer County. Thus, Mercer County trends were not examined and Mercer County rates were not compared to those for the other groups examined. Expulsions were excluded from Table 46 and Table 47.

Below are some of the patterns found for the remaining risk factors:

- Two of the social risk factors examined provide indirect measures of parental criminality (drug treatment rates for mothers, and rates of inmates with children). Mercer County rates for these two social risk factors were almost uniformly significantly lower than rates for the other groups examined.
- Two of the social risk factors examined provide indirect measures of family violence (Order of Protection rates for Orders likely to protect minors and reported domestic offense rates). Mercer County Order of Protection rates did not significantly differ from rates for the other groups examined. On the other hand, Mercer County reported domestic offense rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide.
- The Mercer County truancy rate did not significantly change from the beginning to the end of the time period examined (the 1990/1991 rate did not significantly differ from the 2000/2001 rate), although there was fluctuation throughout the time period examined, and the Mercer County truancy rate tended to increase from 1996/1997 to 2000/2001. From 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, Mercer County truancy rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties, similar counties, and statewide.
- The Mercer County suspension rate did not significantly change from the beginning to the end of the time period examined (the 1990/1991 rate did not significantly differ from the 2000/2001 rate). From 1990/1991 to 2000/2001, Mercer County suspension rates were significantly lower than rates in bordering counties and statewide.

- The Mercer County total drug arrest rate significantly increased from the beginning to the end of the time period examined (the 2000 rate was significantly higher than the 1990 rate). This may suggest that, across the time period examined, drugs became more available to Mercer County minors (although it may also reflect changes in law enforcement practices). In addition, across the time period examined, Mercer County total drug arrest rates were significantly higher than rates in similar counties.
- Across the time period examined, Mercer County total drug submission rates to Illinois State Police drug labs were significantly lower than rates in similar counties and statewide.

Table 46
Overall Differences and Similarities between Mercer County and the Bordering Counties, Similar Counties and Statewide for each Risk Factor Examined

Risk Factor	Bordering Counties	Similar Counties	Statewide
Individual Risk Factor			
Suicide Admissions	--	--	--
Social Risk Factors			
Drug Treatment—Mothers	Higher	Higher	Higher
Inmates with Children	Higher	--	Higher
Orders of Protection	Similar	Similar	Similar
Domestic Offense	Higher	--	Higher
Child Abuse and Neglect	Higher	Higher	Higher
Child Sexual Abuse	Similar	--	Similar
Divorce and Annulments	Higher	Higher	Similar
Domestic Migration	--	--	--
School Risk Factors			
Standardized Test Scores	--	--	--
Truancy	Higher	Higher	Higher
Suspensions	Higher	Similar	Higher
High School Dropouts	Higher	--	Higher
Environmental Risk Factors			
Persons Living in Poverty	Similar	Similar	Similar
Minors Living in Poverty	Similar	Similar	--
Unemployment	Lower	--	Lower
Median Household Income	Similar	Similar	Similar
Public Assistance	Higher	--	Higher
Drug Arrests	Similar	Lower	Similar
Drug Submissions ^a	Similar	Higher	Higher
Violent Offenses	Similar	--	Higher
Minority Residents	Higher	Higher	Higher
Births to Females Ages 10 to 17 years	--	Similar	Higher
Other Risk Factor			
Adolescent Drug/Alcohol Treatment	Similar	Similar	Similar

a: This was based on total drug submissions.

Table 47
Overall Changes in Mercer County for each Risk Factor Examined

Risk Factor	Increase	No Change	Decrease
Individual Risk Factor			
Suicide Admissions*	--	--	--
Social Risk Factors			
Drug/Alcohol Treatment—Mothers		X	
Inmates with Children		X	
Orders of Protection		X	
Domestic Offense*	--	--	--
Child Abuse and Neglect		X	
Child Sexual Abuse		X	
Divorce and Annulments			X
Domestic Migration	X		
School Risk Factors			
Standardized Test Scores*	--	--	--
Truancy		X	
Suspensions		X	
High School Dropouts		X	
Environmental Risk Factors			
Persons Living in Poverty*	--	--	--
Minors Living in Poverty*	--	--	--
Unemployment		X	
Median Household Income*	--	--	--
Public Assistance			X
Drug Arrests	X		
Drug Submissions*	--	--	--
Violent Offenses	X		
Minority Residents		X	
Births to Females Ages 10 to 17 years		X	
Other Risk Factor			
Adolescent Drug/Alcohol Treatment		X	

* Changes across years were not examined because these data were only available for less than five years.

IV. COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS

The following section is a list of service programs serving youth in Mercer County. This list is based on surveys of community-based service providers and an Internet search for programs that serve youth in Mercer County or are located in Mercer County. This list is not exhaustive. Each entry below provides the program name, contact information, counties served, and program description where available. The information provided below is not intended as an endorsement of the programs.

Name of Program: Bethany for Children & Families

Contact Information:

220 11th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265
309-797-7700

Counties served by program: Rock Island, Henry, Mercer

Program Description/Programs Available: Services to intact families at risk of having children removed from home; Special Education; Therapeutic recreation for at risk youth; in-home services to youth who have been station adjusted or on probation supervision; placement services (Foster Care); counseling; Prevention Education, teen parent services

Name of Program: Comprehensive Youth Services Network

Contact Information:

525 16th Street
Moline, IL 61265-2152
309-764-7017

Counties served by program: Mercer, Rock Island

Program Description/Programs Available: Provide crisis services to runaway/ homeless youth (18 years and younger) in Rock Island and Mercer counties. Child Abuse Council is contracted to provide case-coordination services.

Name of Program: Regional Office of Education #26-Hancock/McDonough

Contact Information:

130 South Lafayette, Suite 200
Macomb, IL 61455
309-837-4821

Counties served by program: Hancock, McDonough, Cass, Brown, Schuyler, Warren, Henderson, Mercer, Fulton, Knox

Program Description/Programs Available: Truancy prevention/intervention; homeless educational vocational; professional development; education to careers; tech prep; curriculum; teacher certification; tobacco

Name of Program: T.A.S.C. (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities)

Contact Information:

2100 18th Avenue, Suite 5
Rock Island, IL 61201
309-788-0816

Counties served by program: Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Knox, McDonough, Mercer, Rock Island, Warren, Whiteside

Program Description/Programs Available: TASC has developed a number of intervention and education programs targeted specifically to juveniles in the justice system. These programs are designed for youth who are involved in delinquent activity and who are also abusing drugs or alcohol. Programs include Juvenile Court Services Juvenile, Court Drug Program, State's Attorney's Drug Abuse Program, Evening Reporting Center, On the Books (OTB), which is a program that addresses the behavior of youth who are arrested for possession but do not appear to have substance abuse issues, and the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) Program.

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APPENDIX A

County Urban-Rural Designations

In the past, the Authority has compared counties based on their designations as collar, urban, or rural counties. Cook County has traditionally been designated as its own category because of its population size. Collar counties include the five counties (McHenry, Lake, DuPage, Kane, and Will) surrounding Cook County. Urban counties are those counties that lie within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The U.S. Census Bureau defines a MSA as an area that has a city of at least 50,000 residents or if it includes an urbanized area of at least 50,000 people within a metropolitan area that has a population of at least 100,000 persons. Counties included in the MSA may also have strong economic or social ties to other counties in the MSA. Although by definition Cook County and collar counties are considered urban counties, the Authority has historically viewed Cook County and collar counties separately from other urban counties. In all, there are 22 urban counties in Illinois (excluding Cook and collar counties). Rural counties are those counties that are not part of a MSA. There are a total of 74 rural counties in Illinois.

For this profile, however, the Authority used a different classification scheme to determine “similar” counties. The new classification method was used because it is believed not all urban or rural counties are the same. For instance, as stated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (2000), some rural counties have very small populations and still depend on farming, mining or other rural industries; these counties may face declining job opportunities and population loss as farms and mines shut down. Other rural counties have much larger populations and are experiencing rapid influxes of population; these counties may struggle to develop additional schools, housing, and roads and to provide additional public services (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2000). Given such differences, counties, despite similar urban or rural county designations, may face distinct challenges when dealing with and providing services to juvenile offenders.

Counties were compared using an 11-category classification scheme. This classification scheme is based on the 1993 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service (ERS) developed the Rural-Urban Continuum Codes to measure and evaluate the economic and social diversity of counties and to provide classifications that are meaningful for developing public policies and programs (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2000). The codes classify counties based on “population size, proximity to a metropolitan area, degree of urbanization, population of the largest city, commuting patterns, as well as primary economic activity and policy relevancy” (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2000). A more detailed description of ERS’s Rural-Urban Continuum Codes can be found at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/rurality/RuralUrbCon/>. Although the Rural-Urban Continuum Codes were primarily developed to classify rural areas, this scheme also distinguishes between urban counties. The Rural-Urban Continuum Codes are listed in the Legend on the inside cover (the Legend corresponds to the map on the front page of the profile). Table A.1 lists each county with their corresponding Rural-Urban Continuum Code and designation based on the collar, urban and rural continuum used in previous profiles (see above).

Although the ERS’s Rural-Urban Continuum Codes use a 10-category classification scheme, because Cook County is unique in population size it was designated its own category. This resulted in an 11-category classification scheme.

Table A.1
Urban-Rural Continuum and Traditional Classification for Illinois' 102 Counties

County	Urban-Rural Continuum	Traditional Classification
ADAMS	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more, not adjacent to metro	Rural
ALEXANDER	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
BOND	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
BOONE	metro - 250,000 to 1 million pop	Urban
BROWN	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
BUREAU	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
CALHOUN	nonmetro - <2500 urban, adjacent to metro	Rural
CARROLL	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
CASS	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
CHAMPAIGN	metro - less than 250,000 pop	Urban
CHRISTIAN	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
CLARK	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
CLAY	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
CLINTON	metro - fringe county or 1 million or more	Urban
COLES	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more, not adjacent to metro	Rural
COOK ^a	metro - central county 1 million or more	Cook
CRAWFORD	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
CUMBERLAND	nonmetro - <2500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
DEKALB	metro - fringe county or 1 million or more	Urban
DEWITT	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
DOUGLAS	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
DUPAGE	metro - central county 1 million or more	Collar
EDGAR	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
EDWARDS	nonmetro - <2500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
EFFINGHAM	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
FAYETTE	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
FORD	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
FRANKLIN	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
FULTON	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
GALLATIN	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, adjacent to metro	Rural
GREENE	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
GRUNDY	metro - fringe county or 1 million or more	Urban
HAMILTON	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
HANCOCK	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
HARDIN	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
HENDERSON	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
HENRY	metro - 250,000 to 1 million pop	Urban
IROQUOIS	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
JACKSON	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more, not adjacent to metro	Rural
JASPER	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
JEFFERSON	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
JERSEY	metro - fringe county or 1 million or more	Urban
JODAVIESS	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural

County	Urban-Rural Continuum	Traditional Classification
JOHNSON	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
KANE	metro – central county 1 million or more	Collar
KANKAKEE	metro - less than 250,000 pop	Urban
KENDALL	metro - fringe county or 1 million or more	Urban
KNOX	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more - adjacent to metro	Rural
LAKE	metro – central county 1 million or more	Collar
LASALLE	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more - adjacent to metro	Rural
LAWRENCE	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
LEE	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
LIVINGSTON	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
LOGAN	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
MCDONOUGH	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more, not adjacent to metro	Rural
MCHENRY	metro - central county 1 million or more	Collar
MCLEAN	metro - less than 250,000 pop	Urban
MACON	metro - less than 250,000 pop	Urban
MACOUPIN	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
MADISON	metro - central county 1 million or more	Urban
MARION	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
MARSHALL	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
MASON	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
MASSAC	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
MENARD	metro - less than 250,000 pop	Urban
MERCER	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
MONROE	metro - fringe county or 1 million or more	Urban
MONTGOMERY	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
MORGAN	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more - adjacent to metro	Rural
MOULTRIE	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
OGLE	metro - 250,000 to 1 million pop	Urban
PEORIA	metro - 250,000 to 1 million pop	Urban
PERRY	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
PIATT	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
PIKE	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
POPE	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
PULASKI	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
PUTNAM	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
RANDOLPH	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
RICHLAND	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
ROCK ISLAND	metro - 250,000 to 1 million pop	Urban
ST CLAIR	metro - central county 1 million or more	Urban
SALINE	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
SANGAMON	metro - less than 250,000 pop	Urban
SCHUYLER	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
SCOTT	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, not adjacent to metro	Rural
SHELBY	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
STARK	nonmetro - <2,500 urban, adjacent to metro	Rural
STEPHENSON	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more - adjacent to metro	Rural

County	Urban-Rural Continuum	Traditional Classification
TAZEWELL	metro - 250,000 to 1 million pop	Urban
UNION	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
VERMILION	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more - adjacent to metro	Rural
WABASH	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
WARREN	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
WASHINGTON	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
WAYNE	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - not adjacent to metro	Rural
WHITE	nonmetro - urban pop 2,500 to 19,999 - adjacent to metro	Rural
WHITESIDE	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more - adjacent to metro	Rural
WILL	metro - central county 1 million or more	Collar
WILLIAMSON	nonmetro - urban pop 20,000 or more, not adjacent to metro	Rural
WINNEBAGO	metro - 250,000 to 1 million pop	Urban
WOODFORD	metro - 250,000 to 1 million pop	Urban

a. Cook County was designated its own category.

APPENDIX B
Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Rates, 2000

Juvenile Justice System Rates

County	Delinquency Petitions	Delinquency Adjudications	Informal Supervision	Continued Under Supervision	Juvenile Probation Caseloads	Juvenile Detention Admissions	Admissions to IDOC
	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate(Rank)	Rate(Rank)
Adams	1,617 (68)	941 (36)	323 (40)	132 (59)	1,147 (43)	3,793 (5)	520 (25)
Alexander	2,678 (32)	2,031 (8)	185 (50)	462 (37)	1,200 (37)	739 (56)	790 (10)
Bond	2,724 (29)	1,238 (22)	248 (47)	929 (20)	929 (52)	1,115 (36)	940 (7)
Boone	1,542 (74)	2,232 (6)	345 (38)	46 (73)	1,933 (13)	1,358 (28)	597 (21)
Brown	1,613 (69)	1,254 (20)	0	0	717 (74)	179 (92)	324 (44)
Bureau	2,596 (36)	514 (69)	26 (64)	1,414 (6)	771 (70)	1,671 (23)	532 (23)
Calhoun	3,854 (9)	642 (62)	0 (67)	2,784 (1)	642 (79)	428 (80)	727 (13)
Carroll	2,011 (55)	1,034 (31)	920 (10)	977 (15)	1,552 (23)	920 (48)	492 (29)
Cass	5,337 (1)	4,986 (1)	0	0	1,194 (39)	211 (90)	367 (39)
Champaign	1,133 (85)	780 (50)	345 (39)	90 (68)	893 (55)	3,872 (3)	689 (14)
Christian	2,406 (43)	962 (35)	0	255 (49)	3,000 (2)	198 (91)	392 (36)
Clark	3,380 (16)	1,750 (12)	0	785 (22)	1,750 (17)	0	756 (11)
Clay	397 (102)	661 (61)	595 (17)	397 (42)	661 (76)	0	348 (42)
Clinton	1,495 (75)	490 (71)	180 (52)	747 (24)	541 (86)	490 (74)	92 (82)
Coles	2,775 (28)	0	532 (23)	0	1,480 (26)	1,295 (29)	291 (47)
Cook	2,041 (54)	842 (43)	133 (57)	1,119 (12)	971 (48)	1,288 (30)	243 (54)
Crawford	4,897 (4)	1,910 (10)	0	979 (14)	2,644 (6)	392 (81)	171 (66)
Cumberland	3,893 (8)	0	0	0	649 (78)	649 (61)	421 (35)
DeKalb	2,220 (49)	534 (67)	0	1,405 (7)	379 (96)	2,122 (15)	150 (70)
DeWitt	1,973 (57)	929 (37)	116 (58)	0	1,335 (30)	1,219 (33)	212 (59)
Douglas	1,304 (80)	495 (70)	405 (34)	360 (43)	764 (72)	315 (85)	0
DuPage	1,014 (89)	313 (78)	1 (65)	8 (78)	611 (82)	968 (45)	74 (90)
Edgar	3,372 (18)	0	0	0	2,309 (10)	878 (49)	1,200 (4)
Edwards	4,735 (5)	975 (34)	279 (42)	975 (16)	1,114 (45)	139 (96)	1,282 (2)
Effingham	1,307 (79)	0	0	0	915 (53)	261 (88)	284 (49)
Fayette	4,094 (7)	801 (46)	223 (48)	89 (69)	2,003 (12)	490 (75)	77 (87)
Ford	2,556 (40)	0	262 (46)	0	1,900 (14)	655 (60)	474 (31)
Franklin	1,699 (64)	260 (82)	1,038 (7)	71 (71)	849 (59)	613 (64)	197 (63)
Fulton	2,415 (42)	195 (87)	488 (28)	951 (18)	586 (83)	854 (50)	0
Gallatin	1,084 (87)	310 (79)	0	155 (56)	1,858 (15)	155 (95)	259 (51)
Greene	702 (97)	0	0	117 (63)	58 (101)	58 (99)	0
Grundy	2,051 (53)	739 (55)	262 (45)	620 (27)	787 (69)	835 (52)	84 (84)
Hamilton	906 (94)	0	0	0	906 (54)	453 (76)	193 (64)
Hancock	1,672 (65)	792 (47)	1,012 (9)	264 (48)	616 (81)	924 (47)	78 (86)
Hardin	3,719 (12)	207 (86)	0	413 (39)	620 (80)	0	0
Henderson	543 (100)	761 (53)	435 (31)	0	1,196 (38)	435 (79)	0
Henry	802 (96)	563 (66)	0	136 (58)	853 (58)	767 (55)	90 (83)
Iroquois	2,653 (35)	1,006 (33)	1,067 (6)	213 (55)	1,433 (28)	945 (46)	736 (12)
Jackson	1,580 (72)	1,151 (24)	497 (26)	1,128 (11)	767 (71)	609 (66)	120 (77)
Jasper	3,288 (21)	722 (56)	1,123 (4)	1,363 (8)	1,123 (44)	160 (94)	143 (71)
Jefferson	2,588 (39)	0	0	0	1,172 (40)	3,857 (4)	515 (26)
Jersey	1,916 (60)	522 (68)	348 (37)	1,654 (3)	827 (62)	609 (65)	77 (88)
JoDaviess	965 (92)	0	746 (13)	0	175 (100)	263 (87)	74 (89)
Johnson	2,589 (38)	1,250 (21)	804 (12)	0	1,161 (42)	804 (54)	155 (69)
Kane	1,919 (59)	484 (72)	98 (60)	242 (53)	1,082 (47)	1,437 (27)	110 (79)
Kankakee	2,664 (34)	1,345 (18)	660 (14)	248 (51)	1,842 (16)	1,602 (25)	578 (22)
Kendall	2,158 (51)	578 (65)	0	516 (30)	797 (68)	1,094 (38)	82 (85)
Knox	1,585 (71)	1,142 (25)	369 (35)	37 (75)	1,308 (31)	3,114 (7)	254 (52)
Lake	1,378 (76)	759 (54)	0	98 (67)	929 (51)	1,149 (35)	231 (55)
LaSalle	1,982 (56)	786 (48)	143 (56)	464 (36)	661 (77)	2,179 (11)	427 (33)

County	Delinquency Petitions	Delinquency Adjudications	Informal Supervision	Continued Under Supervision	Juvenile Probation Caseloads	Juvenile Detention Admissions	Admissions to IDOC
	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate(Rank)	Rate(Rank)
Lawrence	2,210 (50)	1,072 (28)	1,072 (5)	938 (19)	871 (57)	134 (97)	0
Lee	4,699 (6)	783 (49)	270 (44)	1,566 (5)	1,728 (19)	1,863 (16)	385 (38)
Livingston	3,807 (11)	2,329 (5)	851 (11)	250 (50)	2,655 (4)	1,703 (20)	299 (46)
Logan	2,595 (37)	1,742 (13)	0	498 (32)	1,635 (22)	2,169 (13)	126 (74)
McDonough	1,273 (82)	694 (60)	1,388 (2)	501 (31)	424 (95)	733 (57)	133 (73)
McHenry	954 (93)	451 (73)	433 (32)	318 (45)	518 (88)	555 (72)	186 (65)
McLean	1,114 (86)	773 (52)	99 (59)	53 (72)	1,683 (20)	1,501 (26)	884 (8)
Macon	2,702 (31)	1,469 (17)	92 (61)	571 (29)	1,544 (24)	4,280 (2)	599 (20)
Macoupin	1,558 (73)	600 (64)	1,220 (3)	1,351 (9)	826 (63)	600 (67)	228 (56)
Madison	3,122 (25)	612 (63)	589 (19)	1,755 (2)	566 (85)	2,669 (9)	170 (67)
Marion	3,134 (24)	22 (90)	493 (27)	45 (74)	2,910 (3)	2,149 (14)	513 (27)
Marshall	2,296 (47)	215 (84)	359 (36)	646 (26)	430 (93)	574 (71)	0
Mason	1,797 (62)	817 (45)	654 (15)	0	817 (66)	381 (82)	464 (32)
Massac	2,722 (30)	886 (41)	506 (25)	759 (23)	1,203 (36)	443 (78)	645 (17)
Menard	1,234 (83)	891 (40)	0	411 (40)	960 (50)	617 (63)	120 (75)
Mercer	2,077 (52)	1,114 (26)	0	405 (41)	1,165 (41)	1,216 (34)	0
Monroe	1,172 (84)	426 (74)	0	462 (38)	533 (87)	249 (89)	0
Montgomery	1,017 (88)	699 (59)	445 (29)	476 (35)	1,207 (35)	1,112 (37)	222 (58)
Morgan	1,000 (90)	706 (58)	1,029 (8)	29 (76)	823 (64)	970 (44)	357 (40)
Moultrie	2,285 (48)	1,174 (23)	185 (49)	247 (52)	1,421 (29)	1,791 (17)	421 (34)
Ogle	1,832 (61)	0	53 (63)	0 (93)	1,210 (34)	1,690 (21)	249 (53)
Peoria	3,332 (20)	1,962 (9)	439 (30)	328 (44)	2,343 (9)	3,459 (6)	496 (28)
Perry	1,373 (77)	215 (85)	0	987 (13)	472 (92)	1,030 (43)	522 (24)
Piatt	514 (101)	171 (88)	571 (22)	114 (64)	343 (98)	171 (93)	100 (80)
Pike	2,677 (33)	892 (39)	0	0	2,510 (7)	446 (77)	688 (15)
Pope	3,632 (14)	0	0	0	427 (94)	641 (62)	352 (41)
Pulaski	5,208 (2)	2,083 (7)	0	0	2,431 (8)	1,620 (24)	642 (18)
Putnam	3,172 (23)	2,671 (3)	1,503 (1)	1,169 (10)	835 (61)	668 (59)	855 (9)
Randolph	1,288 (81)	1,024 (32)	0	29 (77)	819 (65)	263 (86)	157 (68)
Richland	3,365 (19)	236 (83)	0	118 (62)	885 (56)	590 (70)	209 (60)
Rock Island	994 (91)	874 (42)	420 (33)	107 (66)	814 (67)	1,067 (41)	475 (30)
St. Clair	2,311 (46)	828 (44)	0	703 (25)	679 (75)	2,802 (8)	330 (43)
Saline	3,099 (26)	709 (57)	523 (24)	485 (34)	485 (89)	1,680 (22)	0
Sangamon	637 (99)	390 (75)	184 (51)	111 (65)	374 (97)	1,722 (19)	299 (45)
Schuyler	2,881 (27)	1,681 (14)	0	0	720 (73)	600 (68)	0
Scott	2,451 (41)	0	163 (53)	0	0	327 (84)	0
Shelby	647 (98)	324 (76)	0	81 (70)	485 (90)	81 (98)	141 (72)
Stark	1,946 (58)	3,293 (2)	150 (55)	299 (46)	1,497 (25)	599 (69)	1,023 (6)
Stephenson	3,812 (10)	287 (81)	574 (21)	123 (61)	1,640 (21)	1,742 (18)	1,220 (3)
Tazewell	1,636 (66)	778 (51)	596 (16)	487 (33)	1,229 (33)	1,069 (40)	201 (62)
Union	2,366 (45)	901 (38)	56 (62)	0	845 (60)	1,239 (32)	96 (81)
Vermilion	2,402 (44)	1,280 (19)	0	281 (47)	1,089 (46)	853 (51)	273 (50)
Wabash	3,701 (13)	1,057 (30)	0	1,586 (4)	1,737 (18)	378 (83)	1,075 (5)
Warren	3,414 (15)	1,583 (15)	594 (18)	594 (28)	1,435 (27)	2,177 (12)	612 (19)
Washington	3,253 (22)	2,530 (4)	0	0	964 (49)	1,265 (31)	1,292 (1)
Wayne	3,372 (17)	291 (80)	0	872 (21)	581 (84)	814 (53)	201 (61)
White	4,910 (3)	1,873 (11)	0	969 (17)	2,649 (5)	2,261 (10)	226 (57)
Whiteside	1,592 (70)	1,061 (29)	0	152 (57)	1,304 (32)	1,092 (39)	387 (37)
Will	889 (95)	315 (77)	162 (54)	226 (54)	474 (91)	1,051 (42)	120 (76)
Williamson	1,326 (78)	1,110 (27)	580 (20)	0	282 (99)	679 (58)	115 (78)
Winnebago	1,618 (67)	1,514 (16)	271 (43)	130 (60)	3,077 (1)	5,222 (1)	658 (16)
Woodford	1,766 (63)	93 (89)	302 (41)	0	2,068 (11)	534 (73)	285 (48)
Statewide	1,874	774	190	653	1,011	1,468	275

Risk Factor Rates

County	Emergency Room Admissions ^a	Drug Tx for Females with Children	Inmates with Children	Orders of Protections with Minors	Domestic Offenses	Reported Child Abuse and Neglect	Reported Child Sexual Abuse
	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate(Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)
Adams	58 (5)	42 (92)	207 (3)	231 (65)	934 (16)	4,878 (20)	392 (52)
Alexander	0	323 (10)	124 (18)	0	532 (37)	5,035 (17)	704 (7)
Bond	0	282 (14)	52 (66)	315 (37)	34 (90)	4,035 (36)	625 (10)
Boone	27 (15)	106 (66)	14 (97)	296 (46)	500 (39)	2,368 (86)	341 (65)
Brown	0	0	71 (52)	234 (64)	0	4,026 (39)	73 (102)
Bureau	0	114 (64)	26 (84)	107 (91)	425 (48)	2,163 (89)	323 (73)
Calhoun	0	0	0	162 (84)	0	4,034 (37)	258 (82)
Carroll	0	154 (45)	39 (69)	167 (83)	672 (25)	3,949 (42)	751 (5)
Cass	29 (10)	216 (25)	149 (10)	254 (61)	153 (79)	3,723 (50)	322 (74)
Champaign	11 (42)	183 (38)	134 (15)	210 (71)	1,949 (5)	4,281 (33)	356 (61)
Christian	0	24 (99)	105 (28)	587 (9)	311 (60)	3,591 (55)	403 (51)
Clark	0	242 (22)	94 (36)	177 (79)	123 (83)	3,665 (53)	244 (86)
Clay	0	121 (59)	202 (4)	543 (13)	172 (78)	3,881 (45)	468 (36)
Clinton	11 (41)	109 (65)	89 (39)	171 (81)	234 (71)	1,872 (97)	340 (66)
Coles	0	336 (9)	93 (37)	287 (49)	568 (33)	5,167 (11)	504 (28)
Cook	11 (39)	292 (12)	162 (9)	274 (55)	1,209 (10)	2,803 (79)	224 (90)
Crawford	0	185 (35)	25 (87)	433 (19)	1,281 (9)	3,552 (58)	548 (18)
Cumberland	0	105 (68)	24 (88)	300 (44)	258 (68)	3,476 (59)	451 (44)
DeKalb	37 (8)	78 (83)	30 (77)	146 (87)	779 (19)	2,983 (73)	215 (92)
DeWitt	0	172 (41)	126 (16)	532 (14)	6 (94)	5,343 (8)	492 (30)
Douglas	0	130 (54)	75 (51)	153 (86)	336 (55)	2,935 (75)	344 (64)
DuPage	24 (19)	36 (97)	27 (82)	110 (90)	276 (66)	1,055 (102)	102 (101)
Edgar	20 (24)	248 (21)	148 (12)	384 (26)	2,147 (2)	3,869 (46)	544 (19)
Edwards	0	168 (42)	189 (6)	288 (47)	0	3,108 (69)	538 (20)
Effingham	20 (25)	228 (24)	87 (42)	615 (8)	546 (35)	2,574 (84)	258 (80)
Fayette	0	70 (85)	77 (49)	296 (45)	1,151 (11)	3,120 (67)	511 (27)
Ford	28 (13)	125 (56)	19 (93)	259 (58)	253 (70)	3,102 (70)	194 (94)
Franklin	20 (22)	229 (23)	19 (92)	572 (11)	302 (62)	5,988 (3)	623 (11)
Fulton	11 (40)	153 (46)	30 (80)	241 (62)	306 (61)	4,273 (34)	468 (37)
Gallatin	0	376 (7)	39 (70)	0	31 (91)	5,951 (5)	453 (42)
Greene	0	75 (84)	59 (59)	173 (80)	312 (59)	4,345 (32)	386 (54)
Grundy	10 (45)	92 (74)	25 (86)	301 (41)	757 (21)	1,934 (95)	155 (96)
Hamilton	0	134 (52)	30 (78)	0	0	4,350 (31)	621 (12)
Hancock	0	41 (94)	38 (71)	300 (43)	184 (77)	3,348 (61)	244 (85)
Hardin	0	118 (61)	52 (65)	0	0	3,720 (51)	531 (23)
Henderson	0	0	31 (76)	654 (6)	0	1,471 (99)	552 (17)
Henry	29 (11)	122 (58)	64 (57)	213 (69)	496 (40)	3,041 (71)	370 (58)
Iroquois	13 (35)	83 (79)	4 (98)	353 (34)	99 (87)	3,014 (72)	289 (78)
Jackson	67 (4)	183 (37)	51 (67)	92 (94)	315 (58)	5,380 (7)	411 (50)
Jasper	0	84 (78)	91 (38)	185 (78)	109 (85)	2,584 (83)	331 (69)
Jefferson	20 (26)	292 (13)	182 (7)	269 (57)	267 (67)	4,564 (25)	610 (13)
Jersey	0	156 (44)	68 (55)	442 (18)	651 (26)	3,135 (66)	366 (59)
JoDaviess	0	94 (73)	24 (89)	130 (89)	283 (65)	2,425 (85)	202 (93)
Johnson	0	104 (69)	98 (33)	191 (75)	0	3,455 (60)	384 (55)
Kane	17 (28)	88 (76)	48 (68)	288 (48)	434 (47)	2,134 (91)	224 (91)
Kankakee	68 (3)	216 (26)	59 (60)	375 (29)	698 (23)	3,568 (56)	488 (31)
Kendall	19 (27)	61 (87)	67 (56)	254 (59)	578 (31)	1,379 (101)	151 (97)
Knox	16 (30)	213 (27)	69 (54)	219 (68)	740 (22)	5,982 (4)	583 (15)
Lake	15 (31)	185 (34)	52 (64)	277 (54)	437 (46)	1,917 (96)	228 (89)
LaSalle	43 (7)	118 (60)	55 (62)	301 (42)	451 (43)	4,622 (23)	442 (46)
Lawrence	0	151 (47)	179 (8)	460 (17)	634 (27)	4,417 (28)	469 (35)
Lee	0	249 (20)	22 (90)	225 (66)	394 (51)	3,766 (48)	362 (60)

County	Emergency Room Admissions ^a	Drug Tx for Females with Children	Inmates with Children	Orders of Protections with Minors	Domestic Offenses	Reported Child Abuse and Neglect	Reported Child Sexual Abuse
	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate(Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)
Livingston	0	176 (40)	56 (61)	68 (96)	963 (15)	6,309 (2)	729 (6)
Logan	0	124 (57)	148 (11)	280 (51)	2,758 (1)	4,473 (26)	631 (8)
McDonough	0	106 (67)	89 (40)	209 (72)	346 (54)	3,284 (62)	465 (38)
McHenry	24 (17)	62 (86)	18 (95)	197 (73)	222 (73)	2,129 (92)	135 (98)
McLean	26 (16)	161 (43)	112 (24)	142 (88)	348 (53)	4,619 (24)	339 (68)
Macon	28 (12)	255 (19)	453 (1)	947 (2)	1,944 (6)	4,375 (30)	320 (76)
Macoupin	8 (47)	58 (88)	86 (43)	193 (74)	424 (49)	3,944 (43)	521 (25)
Madison	15 (32)	191 (33)	125 (17)	328 (35)	1,412 (8)	4,386 (29)	383 (57)
Marion	0	445 (2)	242 (2)	254 (60)	230 (72)	6,551 (1)	801 (2)
Marshall	0	45 (91)	0	389 (25)	364 (52)	3,115 (68)	249 (84)
Mason	0	51 (89)	71 (53)	369 (31)	574 (32)	3,939 (44)	484 (32)
Massac	0	212 (28)	84 (44)	282 (50)	798 (18)	4,899 (19)	511 (26)
Menard	0	88 (77)	53 (63)	423 (20)	256 (69)	2,977 (74)	315 (77)
Mercer	0	48 (90)	30 (79)	277 (53)	189 (76)	2,170 (88)	451 (43)
Monroe	28 (14)	41 (93)	64 (58)	189 (76)	148 (80)	1,384 (100)	180 (95)
Montgomery	51 (6)	197 (32)	138 (14)	238 (63)	476 (41)	3,793 (47)	461 (39)
Morgan	12 (38)	275 (15)	114 (23)	168 (82)	634 (28)	5,335 (9)	444 (45)
Moultrie	0	79 (82)	101 (29)	383 (27)	301 (63)	2,796 (80)	388 (53)
Ogle	14 (33)	116 (62)	19 (94)	303 (40)	615 (29)	2,931 (76)	329 (71)
Peoria	21 (20)	197 (31)	97 (34)	666 (5)	2,077 (3)	5,152 (13)	458 (41)
Perry	0	82 (80)	111 (26)	101 (92)	147 (81)	4,442 (27)	384 (56)
Piatt	0	100 (70)	31 (74)	410 (21)	403 (50)	2,334 (87)	238 (88)
Pike	0	34 (98)	83 (45)	410 (22)	86 (88)	3,565 (57)	536 (22)
Pope	0	380 (6)	26 (85)	0	544 (36)	3,197 (64)	888 (1)
Pulaski	0	434 (3)	76 (50)	1,357 (1)	449 (44)	5,172 (10)	792 (3)
Putnam	0	147 (49)	0	160 (85)	16 (92)	2,079 (93)	537 (21)
Randolph	12 (36)	133 (53)	112 (25)	279 (52)	145 (82)	3,656 (54)	480 (34)
Richland	0	258 (18)	95 (35)	793 (4)	316 (57)	5,127 (14)	606 (14)
Rock Island	35 (9)	148 (48)	80 (46)	365 (32)	1,060 (12)	5,118 (15)	429 (47)
St. Clair	20 (23)	262 (17)	138 (13)	306 (39)	555 (34)	3,766 (49)	351 (63)
Saline	0	207 (29)	119 (19)	649 (7)	1,522 (7)	5,153 (12)	458 (40)
Sangamon	10 (43)	94 (71)	114 (21)	96 (93)	1,060 (13)	5,007 (18)	355 (62)
Schuyler	107 (2)	115 (63)	35 (72)	568 (12)	320 (56)	5,048 (16)	322 (75)
Scott	136 (1)	206 (30)	0	0	0	2,716 (82)	339 (67)
Shelby	0	270 (16)	100 (31)	365 (33)	205 (75)	2,851 (78)	276 (79)
Stark	0	94 (72)	21 (91)	212 (70)	521 (38)	2,735 (81)	573 (16)
Stephenson	16 (29)	144 (50)	100 (30)	374 (30)	2,005 (4)	4,034 (38)	241 (87)
Tazewell	12 (37)	82 (81)	27 (83)	473 (16)	912 (17)	2,898 (77)	256 (83)
Union	24 (18)	140 (51)	107 (27)	320 (36)	104 (86)	3,714 (52)	494 (29)
Vermilion	5 (49)	346 (8)	77 (48)	271 (56)	773 (20)	5,848 (6)	415 (49)
Wabash	0	408 (4)	116 (20)	504 (15)	116 (84)	4,143 (35)	628 (9)
Warren	0	179 (39)	28 (81)	382 (28)	689 (24)	4,009 (41)	480 (33)
Washington	0	39 (96)	114 (22)	80 (95)	13 (93)	2,066 (94)	124 (100)
Wayne	0	467 (1)	199 (5)	390 (24)	443 (45)	3,179 (65)	530 (24)
White	0	129 (55)	99 (32)	890 (3)	286 (64)	3,232 (63)	329 (72)
Whiteside	6 (48)	184 (36)	87 (41)	308 (38)	605 (30)	4,026 (40)	329 (70)
Will	13 (34)	91 (75)	34 (73)	223 (67)	452 (42)	1,735 (98)	134 (99)
Williamson	20 (21)	299 (11)	31 (75)	188 (77)	1,044 (14)	4,798 (21)	784 (4)
Winnebago	9 (46)	405 (5)	79 (47)	586 (10)	55 (89)	4,695 (22)	417 (48)
Woodford	10 (44)	40 (95)	15 (96)	408 (23)	211 (74)	2,162 (90)	258 (81)
Statewide	16	213	112	281	876	2,985	270

	Divorce and Annulments	Truancy (K-12)	Suspensions (K-12)	Expulsions (K-12)	Dropouts (9-12)	Unemployment	Public Assistance
County	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)
Adams	461 (44)	13,252 (40)	4,424 (60)	29 (73)	4,090 (40)	3,334 (92)	2,774 (21)
Alexander	177 (102)	32,935 (4)	9,623 (11)	120 (30)	5,909 (12)	8,193 (5)	14,552 (1)
Bond	272 (91)	6,469 (81)	4,313 (62)	42 (60)	3,667 (53)	4,240 (68)	1,109 (61)
Boone	340 (67)	17,865 (21)	6,457 (29)	13 (81)	1,116 (101)	5,192 (45)	429 (93)
Brown	475 (39)	6,404 (82)	4,557 (58)	123 (29)	3,260 (68)	2,719 (99)	788 (75)
Bureau	338 (69)	4,984 (89)	5,080 (45)	16 (79)	2,653 (86)	5,504 (36)	1,102 (62)
Calhoun	197 (100)	6,944 (78)	3,333 (82)	0	3,308 (64)	4,736 (57)	1,634 (41)
Carroll	408 (50)	4,412 (95)	4,948 (49)	32 (71)	2,702 (85)	6,360 (24)	1,205 (56)
Cass	526 (23)	17,269 (25)	6,828 (24)	176 (15)	3,858 (45)	4,763 (55)	931 (68)
Champaign	360 (62)	7,435 (74)	6,653 (26)	17 (78)	4,493 (33)	2,435 (102)	3,416 (17)
Christian	472 (41)	7,884 (71)	6,591 (28)	328 (6)	5,126 (24)	5,408 (39)	1,045 (64)
Clark	441 (47)	19,518 (18)	2,600 (93)	0	2,824 (79)	4,268 (67)	550 (87)
Clay	625 (9)	22,349 (14)	4,000 (72)	110 (33)	3,375 (62)	7,101 (12)	791 (74)
Clinton	284 (87)	12,211 (49)	1,729 (100)	141 (25)	5,332 (19)	4,093 (73)	1,213 (55)
Coles	457 (46)	17,375 (24)	4,294 (64)	28 (74)	8,050 (2)	4,108 (72)	1,122 (59)
Cook	258 (95)	12,592 (46)	7,535 (19)	116 (31)	9,675 (1)	4,654 (59)	10,364 (2)
Crawford	601 (11)	4,493 (93)	2,080 (99)	139 (26)	3,083 (76)	6,065 (28)	768 (76)
Cumberland	773 (1)	7,998 (70)	2,424 (97)	48 (55)	2,611 (87)	5,204 (44)	662 (82)
DeKalb	329 (74)	12,917 (44)	4,782 (52)	40 (64)	2,324 (91)	3,245 (93)	695 (80)
DeWitt	518 (26)	14,125 (35)	4,708 (54)	61 (48)	4,392 (35)	7,347 (9)	2,287 (28)
Douglas	266 (94)	2,226 (100)	2,545 (94)	0 (86)	3,118 (73)	3,436 (90)	883 (70)
DuPage	304 (84)	11,152 (53)	3,570 (78)	15 (80)	2,310 (92)	2,636 (100)	488 (91)
Edgar	538 (20)	9,357 (61)	1,210 (101)	0	3,853 (46)	4,037 (74)	1,150 (58)
Edwards	746 (3)	1,395 (102)	3,721 (75)	93 (37)	1,661 (97)	5,220 (42)	661 (83)
Effingham	496 (33)	6,508 (80)	2,329 (98)	324 (7)	1,383 (99)	4,379 (63)	527 (89)
Fayette	560 (15)	17,948 (20)	5,478 (38)	303 (8)	3,410 (61)	7,008 (14)	1,516 (43)
Ford	281 (88)	24,263 (10)	6,823 (25)	0	4,761 (26)	3,562 (87)	1,177 (57)
Franklin	646 (8)	8,634 (64)	5,153 (43)	46 (56)	3,741 (50)	7,430 (8)	2,898 (20)
Fulton	473 (40)	22,369 (13)	5,346 (39)	272 (11)	5,707 (15)	7,245 (10)	1,381 (47)
Gallatin	481 (37)	6,556 (79)	8,317 (15)	0	5,263 (22)	6,762 (17)	1,411 (46)
Greene	237 (97)	7,015 (76)	2,750 (90)	279 (10)	4,430 (34)	5,000 (51)	1,422 (45)
Grundy	312 (80)	8,939 (63)	5,162 (42)	61 (46)	3,272 (66)	5,828 (33)	407 (97)
Hamilton	766 (2)	7,436 (73)	3,612 (77)	142 (24)	3,752 (49)	5,621 (35)	2,561 (23)
Hancock	542 (19)	8,467 (65)	4,673 (55)	25 (76)	4,003 (43)	4,294 (65)	1,364 (48)
Hardin	583 (12)	13,174 (42)	10,928 (7)	299 (9)	5,314 (20)	7,082 (13)	817 (73)
Henderson	463 (43)	32,160 (6)	3,355 (81)	0	6,284 (8)	4,023 (75)	1,908 (36)
Henry	368 (56)	6,366 (83)	5,143 (44)	52 (53)	3,285 (65)	5,680 (34)	1,939 (35)
Iroquois	335 (71)	6,315 (84)	4,651 (56)	36 (67)	3,514 (57)	4,574 (61)	1,695 (39)
Jackson	290 (86)	15,481 (29)	5,656 (35)	13 (83)	2,993 (77)	3,469 (88)	5,543 (8)
Jasper	326 (76)	9,703 (59)	3,197 (86)	0	3,145 (71)	7,786 (7)	460 (92)
Jefferson	544 (18)	16,351 (26)	11,681 (6)	60 (50)	3,453 (59)	5,961 (30)	3,441 (16)
Jersey	240 (96)	32,448 (5)	4,528 (59)	156 (21)	3,261 (67)	5,181 (46)	498 (90)
JoDavie	202 (98)	2,433 (99)	2,516 (95)	83 (40)	3,655 (54)	4,424 (62)	418 (96)
Johnson	513 (28)	7,076 (75)	3,206 (84)	0	1,359 (100)	6,132 (26)	1,676 (40)
Kane	334 (72)	13,864 (37)	7,568 (18)	73 (42)	3,647 (56)	3,943 (80)	1,234 (53)
Kankakee	306 (82)	27,119 (8)	9,578 (12)	22 (77)	4,213 (38)	4,850 (54)	4,835 (10)
Kendall	323 (78)	12,104 (50)	4,368 (61)	68 (45)	3,102 (75)	2,767 (98)	347 (99)
Knox	410 (49)	14,899 (31)	6,065 (31)	110 (34)	6,408 (6)	4,623 (60)	3,256 (18)
Lake	322 (79)	27,475 (7)	5,311 (41)	131 (27)	2,820 (80)	3,589 (85)	1,222 (54)
LaSalle	575 (13)	2,222 (101)	5,738 (33)	92 (38)	4,740 (28)	5,981 (29)	903 (69)
Lawrence	621 (10)	33,550 (3)	5,334 (40)	244 (14)	7,792 (3)	7,199 (11)	1,626 (42)
Lee	471 (42)	10,723 (55)	4,293 (65)	54 (52)	5,528 (17)	4,160 (70)	715 (78)
Livingston	433 (48)	8,303 (67)	4,713 (53)	13 (82)	3,794 (48)	3,360 (91)	1,096 (63)

	Divorce and Annulments	Truancy (K-12)	Suspensions (K-12)	Expulsions (K-12)	Dropouts (9-12)	Unemployment	Public Assistance
County	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)
Logan	481 (36)	13,291 (39)	7,139 (22)	25 (75)	1,876 (95)	3,607 (84)	696 (79)
McDonough	352 (64)	11,149 (54)	4,087 (69)	0	2,410 (89)	2,889 (96)	2,036 (33)
McHenry	345 (65)	13,233 (41)	4,232 (66)	42 (63)	3,104 (74)	3,230 (94)	143 (100)
McLean	365 (58)	10,104 (57)	4,582 (57)	61 (47)	4,156 (39)	2,458 (101)	877 (71)
Macon	484 (35)	7,640 (72)	10,194 (10)	43 (58)	6,880 (5)	5,007 (50)	6,102 (6)
Macoupin	524 (25)	11,215 (52)	4,104 (68)	173 (18)	4,384 (36)	4,918 (53)	985 (66)
Madison	179 (101)	19,720 (17)	7,142 (21)	97 (36)	5,396 (18)	4,715 (58)	4,789 (11)
Marion	672 (6)	14,751 (33)	7,096 (23)	50 (54)	5,589 (16)	6,609 (18)	4,250 (13)
Marshall	372 (55)	4,474 (94)	4,897 (50)	60 (49)	3,157 (70)	4,129 (71)	2,151 (31)
Mason	374 (53)	6,250 (85)	5,073 (46)	56 (51)	4,360 (37)	6,098 (27)	2,497 (24)
Massac	686 (5)	14,843 (32)	8,633 (13)	38 (65)	6,392 (7)	4,974 (52)	4,325 (12)
Menard	360 (61)	6,162 (87)	3,803 (74)	35 (69)	2,070 (94)	3,626 (83)	1,310 (49)
Mercer	201 (99)	8,309 (66)	4,039 (70)	0	1,707 (96)	6,433 (22)	2,366 (26)
Monroe	333 (73)	9,225 (62)	3,807 (73)	0	1,030 (102)	3,136 (95)	379 (98)
Montgomery	476 (38)	9,675 (60)	6,643 (27)	72 (43)	3,225 (69)	5,851 (32)	664 (81)
Morgan	336 (70)	11,960 (51)	3,128 (87)	36 (68)	3,137 (72)	3,981 (77)	1,978 (34)
Moultrie	357 (63)	4,656 (91)	3,249 (83)	0	3,812 (47)	3,930 (81)	424 (94)
Ogle	341 (66)	14,636 (34)	3,439 (79)	76 (41)	2,393 (90)	4,169 (69)	591 (86)
Peoria	339 (68)	21,088 (16)	14,306 (3)	640 (4)	7,152 (4)	4,333 (64)	7,146 (4)
Perry	515 (27)	10,278 (56)	2,618 (92)	0	4,573 (32)	9,685 (1)	2,103 (32)
Piatt	312 (81)	4,620 (92)	4,006 (71)	146 (22)	2,767 (82)	3,468 (89)	598 (84)
Pike	374 (54)	22,621 (12)	3,364 (80)	0	3,907 (44)	5,482 (37)	1,705 (38)
Pope	567 (14)	16,042 (27)	16,342 (2)	1,049 (1)	5,970 (11)	8,347 (3)	1,007 (65)
Pulaski	272 (92)	40,656 (1)	18,151 (1)	268 (12)	4,040 (42)	8,509 (2)	6,912 (5)
Putnam	329 (75)	13,069 (43)	5,034 (48)	484 (5)	3,691 (52)	5,347 (41)	69 (102)
Randolph	457 (45)	12,542 (47)	3,199 (85)	42 (62)	3,310 (63)	5,425 (38)	2,182 (30)
Richland	557 (16)	22,218 (15)	6,105 (30)	36 (66)	4,074 (41)	6,801 (15)	2,247 (29)
Rock Island	509 (30)	12,451 (48)	8,435 (14)	108 (35)	5,066 (25)	5,209 (43)	5,676 (7)
St. Clair	364 (59)	17,572 (22)	13,476 (4)	157 (20)	4,742 (27)	5,866 (31)	9,936 (3)
Saline	741 (4)	15,300 (30)	5,511 (36)	45 (57)	4,677 (29)	8,343 (4)	2,474 (25)
Sangamon	271 (93)	17,414 (23)	10,621 (8)	129 (28)	1,606 (98)	3,584 (86)	3,077 (19)
Schuyler	501 (32)	8,153 (69)	7,571 (17)	250 (13)	3,651 (55)	5,371 (40)	102 (101)
Scott	361 (60)	2,887 (97)	2,502 (96)	0	2,446 (88)	5,151 (47)	1,301 (50)
Shelby	406 (51)	15,621 (28)	4,296 (63)	69 (44)	3,692 (51)	5,129 (48)	594 (85)
Stark	300 (85)	2,455 (98)	4,173 (67)	655 (3)	2,724 (84)	6,363 (23)	841 (72)
Stephenson	274 (90)	26,565 (9)	10,227 (9)	176 (16)	4,656 (31)	6,250 (25)	1,781 (37)
Tazewell	527 (22)	6,189 (86)	5,664 (34)	175 (17)	2,752 (83)	3,682 (82)	954 (67)
Union	656 (7)	7,007 (77)	6,010 (32)	85 (39)	5,744 (14)	6,464 (21)	3,787 (15)
Vermilion	391 (52)	12,846 (45)	7,442 (20)	712 (2)	6,087 (9)	6,553 (20)	5,187 (9)
Wabash	510 (29)	17,987 (19)	1,093 (102)	0	5,202 (23)	8,042 (6)	1,292 (51)
Warren	491 (34)	8,250 (68)	5,040 (47)	32 (70)	2,845 (78)	4,271 (66)	2,325 (27)
Washington	323 (77)	10,017 (58)	2,697 (91)	43 (59)	5,761 (13)	3,948 (79)	420 (95)
Wayne	525 (24)	4,688 (90)	3,059 (88)	0	2,797 (81)	6,794 (16)	1,121 (60)
White	553 (17)	13,949 (36)	3,710 (76)	0	6,011 (10)	5,072 (49)	1,268 (52)
Whiteside	533 (21)	13,830 (38)	4,848 (51)	29 (72)	4,662 (30)	3,979 (78)	739 (77)
Will	277 (89)	5,935 (88)	8,083 (16)	162 (19)	3,419 (60)	4,012 (76)	1,499 (44)
Williamson	506 (31)	23,130 (11)	5,501 (37)	42 (61)	3,498 (58)	6,578 (19)	4,061 (14)
Winnebago	367 (57)	39,108 (2)	12,534 (5)	114 (32)	5,294 (21)	4,740 (56)	2,566 (22)
Woodford	304 (83)	4,404 (96)	2,998 (89)	145 (23)	2,310 (93)	2,772 (97)	542 (88)
Statewide	318	14,112	6,934	110	6,022	4,353	5,697

County	Total Drug Arrests	Total Drug Submissions	Reported Violent Index Offenses		Teen Births (10-17)	Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Treatment
	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)		Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)
Adams	562 (48)	495 (40)	458	(23)	510 (88)	470 (37)
Alexander	115 (100)	490 (42)	980	(4)	1,510 (6)	1,108 (8)
Bond	221 (92)	151 (89)	198	(67)	788 (50)	372 (52)
Boone	787 (17)	678 (15)	196	(70)	780 (51)	414 (45)
Brown	273 (86)	964 (5)	72	(99)	650 (67)	179 (80)
Bureau	358 (75)	56 (98)	144	(82)	627 (69)	334 (58)
Calhoun	275 (85)	20 (102)	275	(51)	0	0
Carroll	342 (79)	162 (88)	168	(77)	407 (91)	690 (20)
Cass	591 (42)	299 (65)	153	(80)	1,673 (3)	492 (34)
Champaign	697 (30)	924 (8)	711	(9)	800 (46)	503 (31)
Christian	413 (71)	537 (30)	498	(19)	907 (38)	991 (11)
Clark	500 (57)	282 (69)	206	(63)	862 (43)	966 (12)
Clay	130 (99)	419 (51)	96	(94)	1,153 (22)	331 (59)
Clinton	177 (94)	244 (76)	113	(90)	795 (48)	206 (78)
Coles	624 (39)	759 (13)	280	(50)	879 (40)	1,064 (9)
Cook	1,411 (3)	1,316 (1)	1,050	(3)	1,549 (4)	468 (38)
Crawford	587 (43)	372 (57)	215	(61)	612 (73)	686 (21)
Cumberland	524 (52)	507 (34)	267	(52)	1,062 (30)	730 (16)
DeKalb	634 (36)	271 (71)	283	(49)	579 (78)	309 (62)
DeWitt	631 (37)	577 (24)	298	(45)	659 (64)	638 (26)
Douglas	627 (38)	520 (32)	316	(41)	642 (68)	135 (86)
DuPage	468 (66)	29 (100)	139	(83)	374 (93)	62 (95)
Edgar	579 (45)	137 (91)	528	(17)	565 (82)	1,247 (4)
Edwards	760 (20)	80 (93)	115	(88)	990 (34)	418 (44)
Effingham	645 (35)	803 (10)	309	(44)	946 (36)	496 (33)
Fayette	289 (83)	486 (44)	197	(68)	1,074 (29)	0
Ford	365 (73)	176 (86)	197	(69)	1,208 (17)	459 (39)
Franklin	310 (82)	328 (60)	536	(16)	1,113 (24)	566 (29)
Fulton	698 (29)	246 (74)	518	(18)	394 (92)	317 (61)
Gallatin	1,086 (4)	109 (92)	109	(91)	2,432 (1)	155 (82)
Greene	257 (89)	164 (87)	542	(15)	677 (60)	0
Grundy	765 (19)	653 (18)	200	(65)	522 (87)	72 (93)
Hamilton	174 (96)	151 (90)	116	(87)	1,455 (8)	113 (89)
Hancock	258 (88)	59 (97)	124	(85)	625 (70)	264 (68)
Hardin	167 (97)	21 (101)	188	(73)	1,527 (5)	1,240 (5)
Henderson	85 (102)	212 (80)	0		1,156 (21)	109 (90)
Henry	835 (13)	338 (59)	114	(89)	567 (81)	222 (77)
Iroquois	364 (74)	491 (41)	370	(35)	798 (47)	1,372 (3)
Jackson	473 (64)	480 (46)	596	(12)	814 (45)	632 (27)
Jasper	623 (40)	613 (21)	385	(33)	571 (80)	642 (25)
Jefferson	991 (6)	974 (4)	737	(7)	1,302 (13)	684 (22)
Jersey	1,071 (5)	406 (53)	258	(53)	471 (89)	174 (81)
JoDaviess	731 (26)	310 (63)	215	(60)	552 (83)	395 (49)
Johnson	955 (7)	435 (50)	427	(26)	1,389 (10)	893 (13)
Kane	549 (49)	455 (48)	360	(36)	1,081 (27)	146 (84)
Kankakee	738 (25)	496 (38)	490	(20)	1,206 (18)	454 (40)
Kendall	697 (31)	238 (78)	161	(79)	340 (94)	78 (92)
Knox	706 (28)	657 (17)	315	(42)	656 (65)	369 (53)
Lake	564 (47)	46 (99)	199	(66)	774 (53)	412 (46)
LaSalle	752 (21)	490 (43)	248	(56)	904 (39)	304 (63)
Lawrence	751 (22)	395 (55)	78	(98)	584 (77)	134 (87)
Lee	935 (9)	269 (73)	421	(29)	677 (61)	378 (51)

County	Total Drug Arrests	Total Drug Submissions	Reported Violent Index Offenses	Teen Births (10-17)	Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Treatment
	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)	Rate (Rank)
Livingston	466 (67)	603 (23)	166 (78)	776 (52)	301 (65)
Logan	497 (59)	779 (11)	337 (38)	736 (57)	249 (70)
McDonough	489 (62)	340 (58)	638 (10)	613 (72)	537 (30)
McHenry	326 (81)	288 (68)	150 (81)	461 (90)	94 (91)
McLean	903 (10)	630 (20)	470 (21)	571 (79)	655 (23)
Macon	790 (16)	949 (6)	575 (13)	1,158 (20)	1,030 (10)
Macoupin	341 (80)	824 (9)	231 (58)	794 (49)	143 (85)
Madison	831 (14)	532 (31)	411 (30)	1,033 (31)	272 (67)
Marion	580 (44)	457 (47)	192 (71)	1,286 (14)	1,519 (2)
Marshall	349 (78)	206 (82)	243 (57)	661 (63)	231 (75)
Mason	355 (77)	178 (85)	399 (31)	586 (75)	296 (66)
Massac	739 (24)	765 (12)	455 (24)	1,743 (2)	500 (32)
Menard	264 (87)	296 (66)	256 (54)	750 (54)	69 (94)
Mercer	849 (12)	384 (56)	436 (25)	178 (97)	253 (69)
Monroe	518 (55)	326 (61)	65 (100)	268 (95)	249 (71)
Montgomery	470 (65)	1,149 (3)	284 (48)	1,165 (19)	222 (76)
Morgan	503 (56)	281 (70)	322 (39)	739 (56)	353 (55)
Moultrie	224 (91)	399 (54)	91 (97)	0	247 (72)
Ogle	606 (41)	564 (28)	104 (92)	531 (86)	409 (47)
Peoria	518 (54)	939 (7)	751 (6)	1,319 (12)	487 (35)
Perry	411 (72)	303 (64)	212 (62)	1,089 (25)	472 (36)
Piatt	281 (84)	204 (83)	122 (86)	197 (96)	343 (56)
Pike	943 (8)	639 (19)	178 (75)	828 (44)	0
Pope	770 (18)	68 (95)	181 (74)	0	2,137 (1)
Pulaski	218 (93)	504 (35)	1,266 (2)	1,222 (16)	810 (14)
Putnam	493 (61)	66 (96)	49 (101)	0	0
Randolph	487 (63)	611 (22)	189 (72)	743 (55)	732 (15)
Richland	861 (11)	495 (39)	291 (46)	867 (42)	1,181 (6)
Rock Island	661 (33)	295 (67)	470 (22)	1,024 (32)	340 (57)
St. Clair	495 (60)	486 (45)	1,355 (1)	1,476 (7)	187 (79)
Saline	441 (68)	550 (29)	322 (40)	1,121 (23)	432 (43)
Sangamon	529 (51)	661 (16)	752 (5)	1,021 (33)	360 (54)
Schuyler	1,627 (2)	1,168 (2)	97 (93)	698 (59)	0
Scott	163 (98)	199 (84)	217 (59)	877 (41)	243 (73)
Shelby	441 (69)	313 (62)	92 (96)	1,077 (28)	654 (24)
Stark	253 (90)	79 (94)	95 (95)	549 (84)	0
Stephenson	715 (27)	568 (25)	396 (32)	952 (35)	697 (18)
Tazewell	798 (15)	245 (75)	285 (47)	653 (66)	320 (60)
Union	497 (58)	454 (49)	126 (84)	704 (58)	451 (42)
Vermilion	669 (32)	566 (26)	730 (8)	1,408 (9)	696 (19)
Wabash	750 (23)	240 (77)	170 (76)	532 (85)	1,133 (7)
Warren	358 (76)	225 (79)	427 (27)	1,320 (11)	148 (83)
Washington	86 (101)	206 (81)	548 (14)	670 (62)	301 (64)
Wayne	653 (34)	513 (33)	426 (28)	615 (71)	698 (17)
White	2,075 (1)	697 (14)	377 (34)	584 (76)	452 (41)
Whiteside	566 (46)	496 (37)	252 (55)	1,084 (26)	379 (50)
Will	547 (50)	564 (27)	339 (37)	603 (74)	128 (88)
Williamson	176 (95)	413 (52)	201 (64)	910 (37)	580 (28)
Winnebago	519 (53)	497 (36)	622 (11)	1,275 (15)	405 (48)
Woodford	420 (70)	271 (72)	313 (43)	126 (98)	232 (74)
Statewide	934	810	669	1,119	406

APPENDIX C

Identifying Significant Changes or Differences Between Numbers

To determine if there are noteworthy increases or decreases over time or if two numbers are significantly different it is imperative that researchers take into consideration the natural fluctuation of numbers (i.e., we do not expect the same number of cases, offenses, or crimes to be reported every year). Researchers typically consider two standard errors the range in which there is uncertainty of whether or not a number has notably increased or decreased. To calculate two standard errors of a number, one would use the following equation, with t = total number.

$$SE = 2\sqrt{(t)}$$

After calculating the standard error, the upper and lower bounds are calculated. The equations used to calculate the upper and lower bounds are listed below, with t = total number.

$$\text{Upper bound} = (t + SE)$$

$$\text{Lower bound} = (t - SE)$$

If the number of interest is the rate rather than the total number, the following equations are used to calculate the upper and lower bounds of the rate, with t = total number and p = population used to calculate the rate.

$$\text{Upper bound} = \frac{(t + SE) * 100,000}{p}$$

$$\text{Lower bound} = \frac{(t - SE) * 100,000}{p}$$

Upper and lower bounds can also be calculated for percentages using the following equation, with t=number of interest and t₂=total number.

$$\text{Upper bound} = \frac{(t + SE)}{t_2} * 100$$

$$\text{Lower bound} = \frac{(t - SE)}{t_2} * 100$$

Once the calculations have been completed, they can be used to determine: (1) if and when significant changes occurred between two years and (2) if one county's rate is significantly different than the rate in another county.

Changes between Two Years

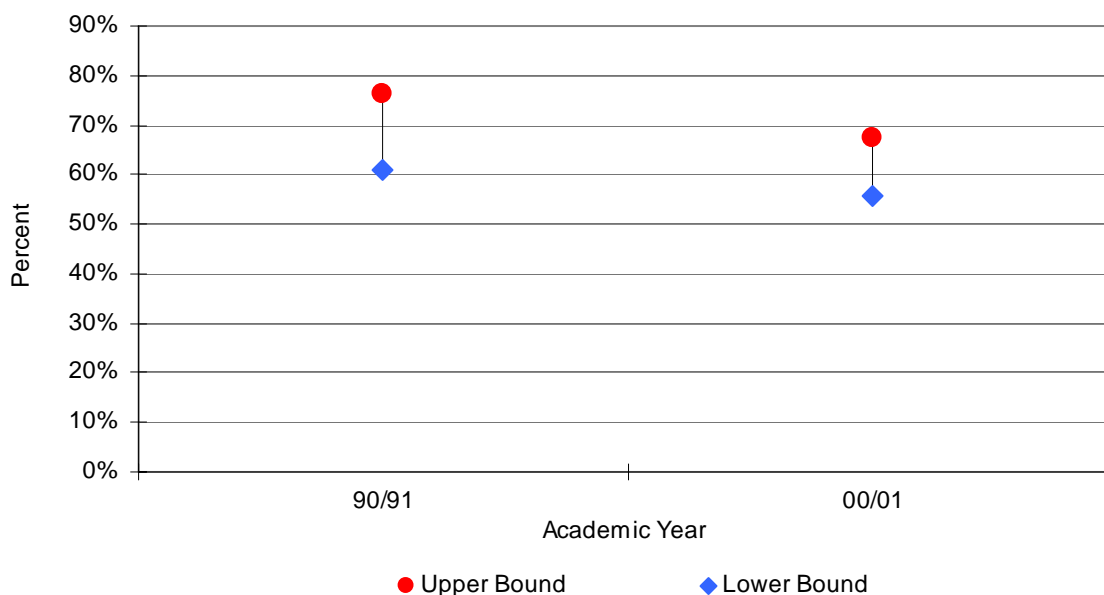
Researchers and practitioners often ask: how has the rate or percent changed from one year to the next. In other words, has the rate increased, decreased, or remained the same between time 1 and time 2. Calculating the upper and lower bounds for those years of interest is one way to determine not only if the rate has increased or decrease, but also if that change is statistically significant. For instance, one may want to know if the percent of students suspended that were suspended more than once in the 1990/1991 academic year was significantly different than

the percent in the 2000/2001 academic year. By examining the upper and lower bounds, one can identify if a significant change has occurred.

To determine if there was a significant increase or decrease, the upper and lower bounds for each of the years examined are analyzed. If the upper or lower bounds for time 1 (e.g., 1990) overlap with the upper or lower bounds at time 2 (e.g., 2000), then these points are not considered different. If there is no overlap, the points are considered significantly different.

Figure C.1 shows the percent of students suspended that were suspended more than once for the 1990/1991 and 2000/2001 academic years. As Figure C.1 illustrates, the upper bound for the 2000/2001 academic year overlaps with the lower bound for the 1990/1991 school year. That is, the upper bound value for the academic year 2000/2001 (68 percent) falls within the upper and lower bounds of the 1990/1991 academic year (76 and 61 percent). Therefore, it can be concluded that the percent of students suspended that were suspended more than once in the 1990/1991 academic year is not notably different than the percent in the 2000/2001 academic year.

Figure C.1
Comparing the Percent of Students Suspended in
1990/1991 and 2000/2001 that were Suspended
more than Once



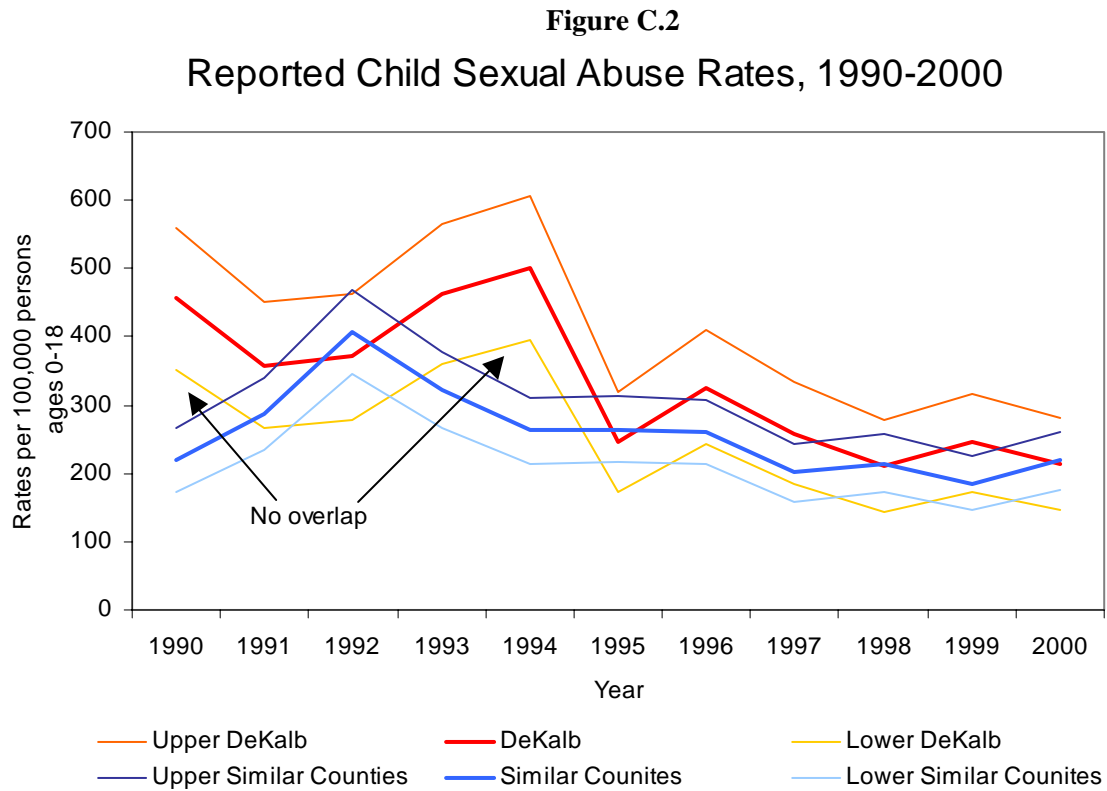
Difference between Rates

Not only is it important to determine if there are noteworthy increases or decreases over time, but it is also important to know if one county's rate is different than the rate of another county. Again, calculating the upper and lower bounds of the rate can help one determine if there are real differences between counties (this analysis can also be used when examining differences between numbers and percents).

Figure C.2 shows DeKalb County's and the similar counties' child sexual abuse rates and the corresponding upper and lower bounds for those rates. The thicker trend lines are the actual child sexual abuse rates for DeKalb County and similar counties.

When there is no overlap between the three trend lines for DeKalb County (i.e., the upper bound, the DeKalb County rate and the lower bound) and the three trends lines for the similar counties (i.e., the upper bound, the

actual rate and the lower bound), then the rates are considered different. For instance, as shown in Figure C.2, in 1990 and 1994, the upper bounds of the similar counties' child sexual abuse rate does not overlap with the lower bounds of DeKalb County's child sexual abuse rate. However, throughout the rest of the time period examined, there is considerable overlap. Thus, it can be concluded that overall, DeKalb County's child sexual abuse rate was comparable to the rate experienced in the similar counties, with two exceptions. In 1990 and 1994, the child sexual abuse rate in DeKalb County was notably higher than the rate in similar counties.



APPENDIX D
Measures That Were Correlated and Correlations Between Juvenile Risk Factors

Measures that were Correlated

The measures listed in bold were altered to reduce the influence of extreme scores.

Juvenile Risk Factors

- 1. Rate of emergency room admissions for suicide (attempts and completed) per 100,000 individuals ages 0 to 17, averaged from 1998-2000.**
- 2. Rate of inmates who reported having children per 100,000 individuals ages 17 and over, averaged from 1991-2001.**
- 3. Rate of Orders of Protection that protect children per 100,000 individuals ages 18 and over (as one must be 18 in order to request that an Order of Protection be filed), averaged from 1993-2000.**
4. Rate of women with children receiving OASA-funded services for alcohol or illicit substance use per 100,000 women ages 13 to 70, averaged from 1995-2001.
- 5. Rate of reported domestic offenses per 100,000 in arrest and offense population, averaged from 1996-2000.**
6. Rate of indicated child abuse and neglect per 100,000 individuals ages 0 to 17, averaged from SFY 1990 to SFY 2000.
7. Rate of indicated child sexual abuse per 100,000 individuals ages 0 to 17, averaged from SFY 1990 to SFY 2000.
8. Divorce rate per 100,000 in total population, averaged from 1990-2000.
9. Net domestic migration rate per total population, from 1990-1999.
- 10. Weighted average percentage of 8th graders who met or exceeded Illinois State Board of Education standards for the ISAT standardized test, averaged across math, reading, and writing tests for academic years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001. School level data were used to calculate the average percentages. Weighted averages were used to calculate percentages across schools in the same county, as weighted averages take into account the size of the school (large schools are weighed more heavily).**
- 11. Truancy rate per 100,000 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, averaged from academic years 1990/1991 to 2000/2001.**
- 12. Suspension rate per 100,000 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, averaged from academic years 1990/1991 to 2000/2001.**
- 13. Expulsion rate per 100,000 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, averaged from academic years 1990/1991 to 2000/2001.**
- 14. High school dropout rate per 100,000 enrolled high school students, averaged from academic years 1990/1991 to 2000/2001.**
- 15. Rate of minors living in poverty per 100,000 individuals ages 0 to 17, averaged for 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998.**

16. Unemployment rate per 100,000 individuals in the eligible labor force, averaged from 1990-2000.
17. **Average median household income, averaged for 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1998.**
18. **Rate of minors living in families receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) per 100,000 individuals ages 0 to 18, averaged from 1997-2000.**
19. **Drug arrest rate per 100,000 individuals in the arrest and offense population, averaged from 1990-2000.**
20. **Rate of drug submissions to ISP labs, per 100,000 individuals in the arrest and offense population, averaged from 1998-2001.**
21. **Violent index offense rate (violent index offenses reported) per 100,000 individuals in the total population, averaged from 1990-2000.**
22. **Percent of total county population that are minorities, calculated based on populations from 1990-1999.**
23. Rate of minors receiving OASA (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse) funded services for alcohol or illicit substance use per 100,000 individuals ages 10 to 16, averaged from 1994-2001.
24. **Teenage pregnancy rate per 100,000 females ages 10 to 17, averaged from 1993-2000.**

Juvenile Justice System Measures

1. Juvenile delinquency petition rate per 100,000 individuals ages 10 to 16, averaged from 1999-2000.
2. **Juvenile delinquency adjudication rate per 100,000 individuals ages 10 to 16, averaged from 1999-2000.**
3. **Post-adjudicatory juvenile detention rate per 100,000 individuals ages 10 to 16, averaged from 1998-2000.**
4. Active juvenile probation caseload rate per 100,000 individuals ages 10 to 16, averaged from 1990-2000.

Correlations between Juvenile Risk Factors

The table below shows correlations between the juvenile risk factors. To conserve space, the 23 juvenile risk factors are labeled using the numbers above (1 for emergency room suicide admissions, 2 for Orders of Protection, etc.). The cells in the table show the Pearson's correlation coefficients for the corresponding juvenile risk factors. The correlation coefficients listed in bold were statistically significant. Statistical significance means that the correlation coefficient was large enough to be able to make the statement that a linear relationship exists between the two risk factors. A threshold is used to determine statistical significance. Some correlation coefficients that are statistically significant barely exceed the threshold, while others exceed the threshold by a great deal. Consistent with this, the table shows that statistically significant correlations between juvenile risk factors range from 0.20 (a moderate linear relationship) to 0.87 (a strong linear relationship).

Table D.1
Correlations between Juvenile Risk Factors

	Juvenile Risk Factors																							
	1 ^a	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1		-.03	-.05	-.02	.25^b	-.04	-.27	-.26	-.07	-.07	-.04	.20	.16	-.02	-.16	-.20	.29	-.05	.17	.13	.10	.14	-.10	.02
2	-.03		.24	.52	.51	.51	.38	.23	-.35	.20	.45	.46	.17	.58	.51	.51	.19	-.23	.61	.38	.52	.61	.42	.37
3	-.05	.24		.05	.31	.17	.19	.17	-.03	.10	.25	.14	.17	.27	.06	-.01	.07	.10	.15	.26	.09	.02	.04	.18
4	-.02	.52	.05		.26	.42	.41	.38	-.34	.24	.41	.40	.13	.49	.64	.50	-.46	.67	.24	.31	.60	.28	.58	.65
5	.25	.51	.31	.26		.35	.09	-.02	-.27	.07	.34	.50	.42	.52	.10	-.15	.21	.32	.48	.46	.53	.44	.14	.44
6	-.04	.51	.17	.42	.35		.71	.29	-.42	.30	.45	.40	.23	.61	.57	.15	-.41	.58	.18	.36	.49	.27	.26	.59
7	-.27	.38	.19	.41	.09	.71		.57	-.21	.40	.33	.26	.14	.52	.66	.46	-.62	.53	.07	.19	.21	.08	.44	.50
8	-.26	.23	.17	.38	-.02	.29	.57		.05	.22	.11	-.02	-.15	.34	.46	.51	-.51	.26	-.05	.13	-.03	-.14	.44	.31
9	-.07	-.35	-.03	-.34	-.27	-.42	-.21	.05		-.21	-.21	-.11	-.13	-.32	-.49	-.11	.37	-.48	-.06	-.13	-.40	-.02	-.12	-.42
10	-.07	.20	.10	.24	.07	.30	.40	.22	-.21		.31	.38	.37	.36	.54	.30	-.44	.45	.13	.28	.24	.16	.21	.49
11	-.04	.45	.25	.41	.34	.45	.33	.11	-.21	.31		.47	.25	.57	.35	.17	-.14	.46	.23	.25	.39	.45	.21	.57
12	.20	.46	.14	.40	.50	.40	.26	-.02	-.11	.38	.47		.49	.57	.32	.09	-.01	.53	.44	.47	.61	.67	.28	.66
13	.16	.17	.17	.13	.42	.23	.14	-.15	-.13	.37	.25	.49		.34	.14	.07	.05	.29	.24	.26	.33	.37	.06	.37
14	-.02	.58	.27	.50	.52	.61	.52	.34	-.32	.36	.57	.57	.34		.52	.27	-.19	.65	.30	.41	.55	.45	.32	.75
15	-.16	.51	.06	.64	.10	.57	.66	.46	-.49	.54	.35	.32	.14	.52		.63	-.87	.86	.00	.35	.49	.12	.45	.72
16	-.20	.19	-.01	.50	-.15	.15	.46	.51	-.11	.30	.17	.09	.07	.27	.63		-.65	.47	-.09	.05	.11	-.06	.29	.37
17	.29	-.23	.07	-.46	.21	-.41	-.62	-.51	.37	-.44	-.14	-.01	.05	-.19	-.87	-.65		-.58	.26	-.11	-.15	.21	-.37	-.43
18	-.05	.61	.10	.67	.32	.58	.53	.26	-.48	.45	.46	.53	.29	.65	.86	.47	-.58		.14	.40	.67	.39	.42	.79
19	.17	.38	.15	.24	.48	.18	.07	-.05	-.06	.13	.28	.44	.24	.30	.00	-.09	.26	.14		.40	.43	.45	.25	.19
20	.13	.52	.26	.31	.46	.36	.19	.13	-.13	.29	.25	.47	.26	.41	.35	.05	-.11	.40	.40		.53	.40	.13	.49
21	.10	.61	.09	.60	.53	.49	.21	-.03	-.40	.24	.39	.61	.33	.55	.49	.11	-.15	.67	.43	.53		.59	.31	.66
22	.14	.42	.02	.28	.44	.27	.08	-.14	-.02	.16	.45	.67	.37	.45	.12	-.06	.21	.39	.45	.40	.58		.19	.47
23	-.20	.37	.04	.58	.14	.26	.44	.44	-.12	.21	.21	.28	.06	.32	.45	.29	-.37	.42	.25	.13	.31	.19		.42
24	.02	.67	.18	.68	.44	.59	.50	.31	-.42	.49	.57	.66	.37	.75	.72	.37	-.43	.79	.19	.49	.66	.47	.42	

a: Numbers in the rows and columns correspond to numbers in the list of juvenile risk factors above.

b: Statistically significant correlations appear in bold.



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