



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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**To:** Authority Members

**From:** Mark Myrent, Associate Director  
Research and Analysis Unit

**Date:** February 14, 2011

**Re:** Research and Analysis Unit Report for the March 2011 Authority Meeting

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This memorandum highlights some of the work performed by staff of the Research and Analysis Unit since the Authority's last quarterly meeting.

**I. NEW PROJECTS**

**A. Anne's House Program Evaluation**

ICJIA staff will complete a process evaluation of Anne's House during year one of program operations. The residential home, operated by Salvation Army can accommodate up to eight women and girls aged 12-21 years old who are domestic (non-international) victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The home provides a safe nurturing residential environment along with long-term trauma treatment, life skills training, spiritual support, education, anger management, money management, and recreational activities. The evaluation will describe the program's services and its participants, as well as gain input from staff.

There will be five components to the research: Component 1 will be a description of the program and its participants; Component 2 will be case file review of program participants; Component 3 will be a client satisfaction survey; Component 4 will be interviews with adult program staff; and Component 5 will be a description of similar homes around the country. The Institutional Review Board will review the application for the research at its February 2011 meeting. A final report will be completed by May 2012.

**B. Inventory of Employment Restrictions on Persons with Criminal Records**

Illinois Senate Bill 2109, which was recently signed into law, directs the Authority, under the direction of a task force, to review the statutes, administrative rules, policies, and practices that restrict employment of persons with a criminal history, and to report to the Governor and the General Assembly those employment restrictions and their impact on employment opportunities for people having those criminal records. All state agencies are required to submit a report that describes

restrictions for employment within the agency; in facilities licensed, regulated, supervised, or funded by the agency; and in occupations that the agency licenses or provides certifications to practice. Agencies are required to report, among other data, specific disqualifying offenses delineated in these statutes, rules, and policies - and time limits for each offense. If the agency is afforded discretion in determining disqualifying offenses, the criteria used by the agency must be reported (for example, whether disqualifying offenses are related to the practice of a given profession, considered an act of “moral turpitude”, or one that calls into question “good moral character”). Agencies are also required to describe any exemptions, waivers, or review mechanisms available to individuals to seek relief from disqualification. In addition to this reporting for all agencies, executive agencies are required to participate in an accounting of actual applicants who underwent criminal background checks, the number found disqualified, the number who sought waiver, those denied waiver. The next steps are to formulate the task force, get IRB approval for the project, and design the web-based survey, which will commence in Spring 2011.

### **C. Assessment of First Defense Legal Aid**

In December of 2010, staff began working with the First Defense Legal Aid (FDLA) program, a non-profit that provides education on individual rights at arrest and legal representation at interrogation, to provide technical assistance and basic outcome evaluations for these services. The project has been divided into multiple sections.

The first, providing technical assistance in examining the efficacy of the StreetLaw program, received IRB exemption in December and was started in January. StreetLaw is a program whereby lawyers volunteer to go into Chicago Public Schools classrooms or community group meetings and provide a basic lesson on how to interact with police officers when stopped for questioning, including individual rights and responsibilities in such situations. Students are given a test before the lesson to gauge their baseline level of knowledge of the subject matter, and then given the same test after the lesson to determine how much was learned during the presentation. As well, staff members in these classrooms and community groups were given a survey to determine their level of satisfaction with the presentation, and provide feedback for FDLA. Both the test results and the survey results were examined by staff, and the analyses were presented to FDLA in January.

The next phase will be to examine the efficacy of FDLA’s station representation program, which utilizes on-call volunteer lawyers to provide legal counsel during the interrogation of an arrestee. The service is provided free to the individual, and requires either the arrestee or a friend or family member to call FDLA and request representation. This phase will examine records kept by the volunteers and entered into a database maintained by FDLA. It is expected that this phase will be initiated next quarter.

### **D. Prescription Drug Research Bulletin**

This research bulletin will provide up-to-date information on the status of illegal prescription drug use in Illinois using existing statewide data. It is an update to an earlier report on this topic that was produced by the Authority in 2008. A partial draft has been completed and will be finalized following

receipt of additional data from the Illinois Department of Human Services. The final report is expected in April 2011. The bulletin will describe the types of prescription drugs, the prevalence of illegal use, and overdoses and deaths. Illinois-specific information will include prescription drug-related treatment admissions and emergency room visits, as well as the State's efforts to combat illegal use – such as new laws and its prescription drug monitoring program.

### **E. Drug Task Force Research**

ICJIA staff have reviewed the literature concerning drug task forces (Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and Task Forces), and found that much is still unknown about their processes and outcomes. This research will allow us to learn more about the operations of these units in Illinois - specifically what and how information is used to develop strategic priorities. Besides informing the field and advancing the literature on drug task forces, staff hope to identify the core components of program success. That information will be used to inform ICJIA's grant review and grant administration process for this program area. Researchers will complete two focus groups with task force members in a central Illinois location. Participants will be drawn from all ICJIA-funded drug task forces, and participation will be voluntary. There will be structured questions based on the nine research questions. The questions address the development of drug task forces' goals, objectives, and strategic priorities; identification of problems and needs in the community; the ways in which program effectiveness or success are measured; collaboration with local police departments, probation, parole, and service providers; changes to task forces in the past ten years; and advice for other drug task forces or for agencies wanting to start a task force. A summary of the focus group responses will be shared with the task force officials and published on the web. The Institutional Review Board will review this research in February 2011. A final report is expected in early 2012.

### **F. Survey of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Programs**

The Authority has supported Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) programs in the juvenile justice system for several years by sponsoring BARJ trainings for police, prosecutors, detention centers and probation departments, as well as service providers and school officials. Staff have also produced several BARJ guides that contain detailed instructions for incorporating BARJ principles into the operations of these agencies and institutions. This project is a continuation of that effort by surveying to determine how many of these agencies have adopted BARJ principles and practices, and the extent to which these programs adhere to the evidence-based models. Staff will then compile this information and publish a statewide index. This report is expected to be finalized in Spring 2011.

### **G. Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) 2010 Audit**

The unit's Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit Center is a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funded in-house effort to continuously examine the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of the criminal history record information reported to the state repository maintained by the Illinois State Police, and to recommend strategies for improvement.

Preparations for the 2011 CHRI audit have begun. The focus of the audit will be on court disposition reporting, since accurate and complete conviction information is a key component of decisions within the criminal justice system and an increasing number of decisions outside of criminal justice (employment, housing, student loans, and so on).

During this quarter, staff conducted preliminary analyses of CHRI data for the years 2005-2009, to identify potential counties of interest for the 2011 audit, particularly those found to have higher-than-average numbers of missing court dispositions. Ten counties consistently ranked as those with the highest proportion of missing court dispositions. Analyses of these missing dispositions by court charge class of offense were also conducted, to further refine the extent of missing dispositions for felony cases. Discussions were also held with Illinois State Police Staff as to the availability of court disposition data before it is processed by the CHRI system, which looks like a highly promising approach. It is anticipated that the audit proposal will be finalized and submitted to the State Police during the next quarter, with actual data collection and analysis to begin shortly afterwards.

## **II. CURRENT PROJECTS**

### **A. Program evaluation and research projects/ internally funded**

The R&A Unit pursues a program evaluation and research agenda through an in-house Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)-funded grant program. Evaluation and research efforts conducted, supported, or monitored by R&A staff include:

#### **1. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Strategic Planning Initiative – Summit Follow-up**

On September 22-23, 2010, ICJIA staff convened a large group of criminal justice professionals, lawmakers, and policymakers from across Illinois at the Criminal Justice Planning Summit. At this event, participants reviewed current challenges in the adult justice system based on the experiences of policymakers, practitioners, and others in the field, and on the latest research. They also identified priorities for a statewide strategy for criminal justice policy, funding initiatives, and justice research in the coming years. This effort is the first since 2001 to create and implement a strategic criminal justice plan for the state of Illinois. Several panelists, from both Illinois and across the country, presented strategies from law enforcement, courts, probation, and community members that can potentially be adopted within local Illinois jurisdictions.

ICJIA partnered with several key state and national criminal justice and human services agencies to gather information and guide planning for the summit, including the Illinois Department of Corrections, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Child and Family Services, and the National Criminal Justice Association, Justice and Research Statistics Association, and Pew Research Center. Other partners include representatives of the state's mental health, law enforcement, judicial and court services, and criminal justice associations.

Staff completed several fact-finding strategies to pinpoint critical criminal justice issues and the most effective and efficient evidence-based policies, practices, and programs in Illinois and across the nation. These include reviewing existing statewide strategic plans from around the country to identify areas for potential replication and lessons learned, interviews with state justice and human service association leaders to solicit information about critical issues facing their communities, and workgroups with representatives of the academic and policy advocacy communities. Staff also collected existing needs assessment data, reports, survey findings, and other information reflective of current justice trends in Illinois that could be used to support the development of the summit agenda and the strategic plan.

In the end, this initiative will result in a coordinated statewide, data-driven strategic approach to crime reduction and justice system investment. This effort and the subsequent working sessions, which will take place in January and February 2011, will increase the investment all facets of the justice system have in planning for a more organized and strategic effort to reduce crime and increase public health and safety. The plan will be released in July 2011.

During this reporting period, the Authority hosted five working meetings with over 140 stakeholders from all sectors of the justice and human services fields to review the draft plan resulting from the Summit. The five groups began identifying action steps for programs and practices, professional development, public policy, and research and evaluation that will become the guiding document for the Authority's activities, and will be offered to as well as for other justice-related agencies in the state. The next round of meetings will be held in February and March 2011.

## **2. Evidence Based Practices Initiative**

As part of ICJIA's movement toward endorsing promising and evidence-based practices, staff have begun to develop an online portal of promising and evidence-based juvenile and criminal justice practices. The resource will serve as a tool for potential and current grantees and other state and local program administrators. The components of this online resource will include:

- Descriptions of and links to existing online repositories and searchable databases of promising and evidence-based practices.
- Descriptions of and links to existing online technical assistance manuals and guides for identifying promising and evidence-based practices.
- Summaries of selected promising and evidence-based practices from meta-analyses and evaluations.
- Snapshots of selected current Illinois practices, resulting from current promising and/or evidence-based initiatives, which can be applied to the implementation of other promising or evidence-based programs. To contextualize the snapshots in order to provide an effective mechanism for knowledge transfer, program officials were asked to address the following implementation issues:
  - √ How did you know you had a problem?
  - √ What was the problem you needed to address?
  - √ Who was the leader in addressing the problem? Has that changed through the life of the strategy?

- √ How did you determine your strategy (policy, program, or practice) for addressing the problem?
- √ What are the core components of your strategy that make it effective?
- √ Who are the key partners?
- √ How much did it cost?
- √ What type of reorganization of existing resources did you undertake?
- √ How did you garner public support for your strategy?
- √ In retrospect, what would you have done differently to plan for, develop, and implement your strategy?
- √ How do you know your strategy is working?

Local contact information for program leaders was also provided. This information has begun to be placed on the agency website. More will be posted as additional evidence-based practices material is identified, and as tools are developed to facilitate the implementation process. During this quarter, staff compiled a web portal with links to over 50 reports, searchable data bases and technical assistance documents about identifying and using evidence-based practices. This portal is currently being enhanced to include summary explanations of evidence-based practices being employed in Illinois and will be complemented by a series of Authority-sponsored webinars and roundtables about effective practices to take place over the next 24 months.

### **3. Risks, Assets, and Needs Assessment (RANA) Task Force Support**

The Crime Reduction Act, signed into law in August 2009, created the Risks, Assets, and Needs Assessment (RANA) Task Force to adopt a standardized assessment instrument for the state criminal justice system. The goal of the Task Force is to find the best possible assessment instrument/system to be used at all levels of the Illinois criminal justice system to improve public safety outcomes. The task force has conducted a national overview of commonly used assessment tools, including LSI-R (which is used in Illinois), COMPAS, and Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS), and how they are used to structure case plans and supervision/sanction strategies. They have also reviewed the assessment instruments currently used by the courts and corrections agencies in Illinois. To aid in these objectives, the task force convened an advisory group with community-level representatives, researchers, the bar association, sex offender management board, and legislators. Authority staff serve on the task force, and have assisted in selecting criteria by which to assess the different instruments including: the inclusion of criminogenic domains, the validity and reliability of the assessment instrument, its utility at different points in the justice system, its adaptability to existing agency data systems, costs, and ease of implementation and training. A Request for Information (RFI) was issued in order to identify the overall capabilities of vendors to meet these criteria. Following a review of the RFI responses, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was prepared, and will be issued with the goal of selecting an instrument for implementation by June 2011.

### **4. Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data: 2008 Annual Report**

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, the annual report entitled “Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data” is a compilation of county-level juvenile justice system and risk factor data. Research staff are now amassing the 2008 data sets for the 2008 Annual Report. Similar to previous editions, this report summarizes recent trends in these data over time and

discusses emerging juvenile justice system issues in Illinois, including Balanced and Restorative Justice, the Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, Disproportionate Minority Contact, and Redeploy Illinois. This report is slated for publication in March 2011.

## **5. Policies and Procedures of the Illinois Criminal Justice System**

Staff have completed an initial draft of a step-by-step walkthrough of the general practices, processes, and procedures of the Illinois criminal justice system, from arrest through community supervision. The report is intended to mirror the already published Juvenile Walkthrough and will include detailed information on assessments, diversion, and special issues. The report will be provided to an advisory committee of experts including judges, police, attorneys, and professionals in the field to review for accuracy. A report is expected to be complete by May 2011.

## **6. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Victimization among Adult Female Inmates in the Illinois Department of Corrections**

In 2009, ICJIA interviewed 163 female inmates housed in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Researchers gathered information on prior help seeking strategies, substance use, and physical and sexual abuse during the course of the person's life history. The findings in a report, *Victimization and Help Seeking Behaviors Among Incarcerated Women*, released April 2010. Study participants were also administered the PTSD Symptoms Checklist (PCL) to gauge PTSD symptoms. A second report will share the level and correlates of PTSD symptomology of female inmates. The report will help inform prisons and parole agents on the level and correlates of PTSD symptomology to better assist women housed in prisons and those released from prison deal with this problematic mental illness which can impact basic functioning including the ability to hold a job, have healthy relationships, and avoid the abuse of drugs and alcohol. The IRB approved the research as exempt as it uses existing data. The final report was published in December 2010 and is on the Authority's website.

## **7. Sheridan Correctional Center National Drug Prison and Re-entry Therapeutic Community Recidivism Study**

The goal is to evaluate the post-prison outcomes for graduates of Sheridan by interviewing re-incarcerated graduates of the Sheridan program and learning the factors that contribute to a Sheridan program graduate's failure at re-entry. Failure includes a return to drug use or other technical violations, or committing a new crime. Data will be collected through 50 face to face interviews with successful graduates of the Sheridan who have been re-incarcerated since their release from Sheridan. The information will allow for a better understanding of what happens with Sheridan graduates after release in order to offer recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Sheridan program.

Opened in January 2004, Sheridan Correctional Center is a medium security prison operated by the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), which uses a Therapeutic Community model. Every inmate at Sheridan participates in substance abuse treatment. Before enrolling in the program, inmates agree to participate in the in-prison therapeutic community and 90 days of community substance abuse treatment (aftercare) as a condition of their parole. A successful Sheridan graduate includes anyone who completes the in-prison portion of the Sheridan program and is released from

Sheridan Correctional Center on Mandatory Supervised Release. This study enhances prior research on Sheridan by providing quantitative and qualitative information from former participants themselves. This information could then be used to enhance programming both internally at Sheridan Correctional Center and externally with partner agencies and parole in order to improve a Sheridan graduate's re-entry experience. Data collection was completed in January 2011 and the final report is estimated to be completed in Spring 2011.

#### **8. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)/Chicago Police Department (CPD) Juvenile Crisis Intervention Training Fidelity Assessment**

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) established its Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) in 2004 to address the high prevalence of mental illness among incarcerated adults. All CIT members volunteered to attend a 40-hour training to become certified. The purpose of the CIT-training is to teach law enforcement officers how to (a) identify signs and symptoms of mental illnesses and (b) exercise skills to defuse crisis situations. In May 2009, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) held its first advanced CIT training on addressing mental health issues among the youth population. ICJIA research and analysis staff is currently evaluating the extent to which the training curriculum is helpful for officers, as they respond to situations involving youth in crisis. The evaluation project has the following objectives: (1) measure officer pre-and post-training knowledge; (2) measure officer retention of the training material; (3) measure officer satisfaction with the training; (4) measure officer intention to use the training material; and (5) measure officer use of the training curriculum in the field. The evaluation project was approved by the Authority's Institutional Review Board (IRB) in June 2010; data collection began shortly after. The evaluation project will be completed by June 2013. The findings will be conveyed to the Juvenile—CIT, training staff in a way that allows them to improve and enhance their training practices.

#### **9. River Valley Juvenile Detention Center (RVJDC) Mental Health Program Evaluation**

River Valley Juvenile Detention Center (RVJDC) is a nationally accredited facility located in Joliet, Illinois. It serves both Will and Kankakee Counties and includes 102 beds, as well as a 24-hour on-site medical unit. RVJDC is a temporary placement center for juveniles, between the ages of ten and seventeen, awaiting court decisions on their cases. Only minors who have allegedly committed a delinquent offense and are determined to be a danger to the community or themselves may be detained. In 2008, a total of 911 juveniles were admitted and received medical and mental health care. In addition, the mental health department staff provided Will and Kankakee Counties juvenile justice courts with psychological reports on approximately 40 percent of the youth detained, as ordered by the judges. RVJDC mental health department staff plans to expand their program by providing Will and Kankakee Counties' juvenile-court judges with psychological reports on all detained youth. The psychological reports provide the juvenile-court judges with an extensive amount of information on youth backgrounds.

ICJIA research and analysis staff partnered with RVJDC administrative staff in March 2010 for the purpose of evaluating the facility's mental health program. An evaluation plan was finalized in July 2010 and has the following objectives: (1) measure youth satisfaction with the conditions and treatment provided by RVJDC staff, (2) measure the use of court-ordered psychological reports, and



(3) measure the influence psychological reports have on juvenile justice system outcomes. ICJIA research and analysis staff obtained approval for the evaluation project in August 2010 from the Authority's Institutional Review Board (IRB). Data collection began in September 2010 and the evaluation project will be completed by September 2013.

#### **10. Illinois' Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and Task Forces Profiles**

In 2009, the Authority funded 19 Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEG) and Task Forces which pooling resources, knowledge and personnel to more efficiently and effectively fight the proliferation of illicit drugs. All MEGs and task forces are staffed by officers representing federal, state, county, and local police agencies. Periodically, the Authority creates profiles of each MEG and task force in order to provide a general overview of the drug and violent crime problem in their jurisdictions and share their response to these problems. Updated profiles will be published in early 2011.

#### **11. Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC) Technical Assistance**

SPAC, which was created by Public Act 96-0711, will draw on criminal justice information collected by state and local justice agencies and use that information to explore sentencing issues and how these practices impact the criminal justice system as a whole. The Council consists of a nonpartisan group of 18 key stakeholders from across the state and local criminal justice systems, including members from all three branches of government: legislators (from both political parties and houses), retired judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, corrections and administrators of the court officials, law enforcement, victim's rights advocates and academics. There are also ex-officio members from the agencies providing data to SPAC (Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, and Illinois Department of Corrections).

During this quarter, ICJIA staff contributed to an Illinois "portrait" of historic trends in criminal justice indicators produced by researchers at Loyola University. This report aims to inform SPAC of how previous sentencing laws have contributed to the current corrections populations. This Portrait Report will be distributed to legislators during the 2011 legislative session.

#### **12. Adult Redeploy Illinois Utilization-Focused Evaluation**

The Crime Reduction Act (Public Act 96-0761 effective on January 1, 2010) establishes the Adult Redeploy Illinois program, which provides financial incentives to local jurisdictions for designing community-based programs to treat offenders in the community instead of sending them to state prisons. Under the Act, financial incentives will be offered to counties/groups of counties/judicial circuits to increase programming in their areas, in exchange for reducing the number of people they send to the Illinois Department of Corrections (with penalties if they do not meet the reduction goal).

The goal of Adult Redeploy is to establish pilot sites to increase access to community-based services and decrease commitments to the Illinois Department of Corrections. In Phase I, counties or judicial circuits craft local program plans that specify how to reduce commitments of non-violent offenders to prison and implement these plans in Phase II. The counties or judicial circuits must negotiate an agreement with the Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board (AROIB) to limit the number of Adult

Redeploy Illinois eligible commitments from that area to 75% of the average number of commitments of the three previous calendar years.

ICJIA Research and Analysis Staff have worked closely with the AROIB and IDOC and IDHS staff to track the policy implementation process, to guide the development of performance and outcome measures, and to provide relevant technical assistance toward insuring the program model aligns with the language describing the initiative in the Crime Reduction Act.

Additionally, ICJIA worked with the AROIB to draft the required standard planning document and ensured the incorporation of existing legislated alternatives to incarceration programs in Illinois. In November 2010, five standard plans were approved by the AROIB, and these sites will go on to apply for implementation grants out of JAG ARRA.

Based on the program performance measures, staff began in February 2010 to craft an implementation analysis in partnership with the AROIB. The evaluation of Adult Redeploy will consist of the following:

- an overall assessment of each site's progress toward a 25% reduction in commitments to IDOC;
- site specific performance measures related to caseload sizes, types of services offered to participants, the use of evidence-based practices, and other measures relevant to each site's program model; and
- a short term outcome evaluation for each site, assessing the effectiveness of the interventions. The interventions include mental health court, drug court and intensive probation for technical violators.

### **13. Adult Redeploy Illinois Website Data**

As technical support for the Adult Redeploy Illinois program, planning grants issued by the Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board (ARIOB), staff has developed a new website to simplify and standardize access to county-level data required for the planning process. The counties and judicial circuit (encompassing 12 counties) currently accepting planning grants can access the county census and criminal justice system data available through the Authority's website. This information is to be used to guide their identification of target populations eligible for the program, and serve as a starting point for the community corrections and service gap analysis to be conducted in the planning process. Data for all 102 counties are also available as print-friendly PDF documents as well.

During the last quarter, staff has continued to provide technical support regarding data interpretation and identification of target populations for participating counties. Staff also worked with IDOC staff to verify the methodology used to determine the corrections information available on the website, so that counties would obtain the same numbers regarding potentially eligible Adult Redeploy participants from either IDOC or the Adult Redeploy website.

### **14. Hate Crime in Illinois and across the United States Report**

Staff completed a report that compares incidences of reported hate crime throughout Illinois and the United States over an 11-year period, 1997-2007. Using ISP-UCR supplemental case level data as well as FBI-UCR data, staff is analyzing data to determine trends in the number of reported hate

crimes within Illinois and throughout the United States from 1997 to 2007. The report involves analysis and evaluation of regional and county-level reporting of hate crime throughout Illinois, as well as the specific hate related offenses (i.e., against persons / property) committed and explicit locations where such crimes are occurring. Also, victim and offender characteristics (e.g., bias motivation, race, gender, religious affiliation, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical/mental handicap, victim type, etc.) are being compared in an effort to identify relationships between victims and offenders of hate related offenses. The report is in executive review and is slated for publication in March 2011

### **15. Illinois College Campus Crime and Safety Issues Series**

Staff is working on a series of reports on the issues of emergency preparedness on college campuses, and general crime as reported through various sources of data. The first report, *Issues on Illinois College Campus –History of College Campus Emergency Preparedness and Safety Planning* was published on the Authority’s website in March, on the new *College Campus Resource Center* web page. Two other reports, *Trends in Illinois Campus Crime at Four Year Colleges, 2005-2008*, and *A Comparison of Campus Crime Trends at Illinois Four Year and Two Year Colleges, 2003-2007* are under review and are slated for publication in March 2011.

Other reports in the series include: arrests and referrals for school disciplinary action for weapons, drugs and alcohol offenses, the prevalence of sexual assault on campus, and hate crimes reported on college campuses compared to the state in general.

### **16. Get the Facts**

Staff continues to work on updating existing and create new “Get the Facts” publications. These popular publications explain processes and components of the Illinois criminal and juvenile justice systems, and have not been updated since 2000. Topic areas of the publications include: victims’ rights; the court system; criminal sentencing; juvenile sentencing; the juvenile court system; juvenile pre-trial; juvenile corrections; adult pre-trial; adults arrests; juvenile arrests; criminal records; and adult corrections.

The Get the Facts on expungement of adult records, adult arrests, corrections, and the rights of crime victims were published in November and are available on the Authority’s website. Other still under development are adult pre-trial procedures and the expungement of juvenile records.

### **17. Juvenile Justice Data Coordination Partnership**

Staff participates on several working groups related to effective juvenile justice data collection, including DMC, Juvenile Redeploy Illinois, IJDAI, and Models for Change. During the last quarter, staff has also been requested to participate on various workgroups initiated by the Governor’s Office related to the merger of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Service (DCFS).

Juvenile Redeploy Illinois monthly data reporting form. Staff has been asked to develop new data reporting form for the Juvenile Redeploy Illinois Program. Staff will also develop the policy around

submission of the report. The data reports will be submitted to the Authority on a monthly basis and quarterly reports will be developed and sent to each Redeploy Illinois site to provide information to participants/staff of the programs. Use of the form by the Redeploy sites will begin in January 2011.

Data repository template. During discussions at meetings, it was determined that a data template, or a standardized local criminal justice data and risk factor analysis and graphical presentation tool, is needed in order to help local practitioners better understand the communities in which they work in and the people with whom they work. As a result of numerous calls for technical assistance regarding proper data analysis as well as discussions within the various initiatives, it was determined that a uniform data template was something those participating in initiatives would benefit from. Work on this data template is ongoing.

### **18. Juvenile Justice Information Request database**

Staff completed a database to track juvenile justice system information requests from agencies, legislators, and the public. This database will help the Authority determine what information is requested, what it is used for, and how it can be made more available through our website. During the last quarter, 30 substantial requests for juvenile justice data and information were received and processed.

### **19. Safety Net Works – Implementation Evaluation**

Authority staff concluded its evaluation of the implementation of the Safety Net Works Initiative, a violence prevention and youth development program currently taking place across 14 community areas in Illinois. The primary purpose of this implementation evaluation is to assess the extent to which project implementation is conducted in accordance with pre-operational expectations; to document the progress and limitations of the program's implementation; to provide recommendations and guide refinement of the project; and to inform and guide similar undertakings. Sources of data for the evaluation include surveys, interviews, meeting observations, and implementation and progress reports submitted by the sites. A final project report on the implementation process of the SNW programs was completed and published in March 2011.

### **20. Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Merger Committees**

Staff from ICJIA have been participating in and providing assistance to different subcommittees created by the Office of the Governor to facilitate the merger of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Staff participate on subcommittees including: assessment tools; reports and best practices; data collection; aftercare; programs and internal services; and steering committee.

### **21. Evaluation of IDOC's Sheridan Correctional Center Therapeutic Community Program**

In response to increases in Illinois' prison population, low rates of access to substance abuse treatment services while in prison, and high rates of recidivism, on January 2, 2004, the Illinois Department of Corrections opened the Sheridan Correctional Center as a fully-dedicated, modified therapeutic community for incarcerated adult male inmates. Since the program began, a process and impact

evaluation has been supported by ICJIA and conducted by researchers from Loyola University Chicago, the Illinois Department of Corrections, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC), the Safer Foundation, and WestCare. After 6 ½ years of operation, covering the period from January 2, 2004 through the end of State Fiscal Year 2010 (June 30, 2010), the evaluation has found the following:

- The pre-operational target population identified for the program is being served, with those admitted to Sheridan having extensive criminal and substance abuse histories, and a substantial unmet need for treatment, vocational and educational programming;
- The earned good conduct credits many of the inmates received at Sheridan for their participation in treatment during the first six full state fiscal years of operation (SFY 2005-2010) translates into a savings of 714 years of incarceration, which equates to \$16.7 million, or \$2.78 million per year, in reduced incarceration costs;
- Sheridan participants who earned a vocational certificate were almost twice as likely to have job starts than those released from Sheridan who did not earn a vocational certificate;
- As a result of the treatment services and aftercare received, those inmates released from Sheridan had a 16 percent lower likelihood of being returned to prison after three years in the community than a statistically similar comparison group of inmates released from Illinois' other prisons during the same time period, and a 25 percent lower recidivism rate than those removed from Sheridan due to disciplinary reasons; and,
- The largest reductions in recidivism—both in terms of rearrest and return to prison--were evident among those Sheridan releasees who successfully completed aftercare treatment. Those Sheridan graduates who also completed aftercare had a 44 percent lower likelihood of being returned to prison after three years in the community than a statistically similar comparison group. Given that rates of aftercare treatment completion have improved substantially over the past year, it is likely that in the future the overall reductions in recidivism associated with Sheridan will be even larger.

Numerous other findings are documented in the full report, available on the ICJIA website.

## **22. Mental Health Courts in Illinois**

Loyola University Chicago was selected to conduct the assessment and evaluation of mental health courts in Illinois. The project will inventory the operating courts in Illinois and assess what barriers were in place for those courts that did not materialize. A more thorough evaluation will be conducted on specific courts in an effort to gauge their operations, effectiveness and outcomes. Loyola's methodology and study design includes a mixed methods approach, including quantitative data from program operations and client outcomes, as well as qualitative data stemming from interviews and focus groups with the court stakeholders.

A component of the study that includes client surveys will assess the perceptions of those that participate in the courts. Loyola will collect data and assess the implementation and operation of each court in Illinois, including those that are in the planning stages. Factors that contributed to the failure of some jurisdictions to implement a court will also be outlined. A more detailed in-depth analysis of three (3) courts will be conducted. This analysis will involve a thorough assessment as to the operation, impact and outcomes of the courts. Special attention will be paid to the multi-disciplinary roles of the MHC teams and the "boundary-spanning" that they are required to do. An additional extension was processed

in order to complete data collection so that all counties with a MHC could be included. A final report is scheduled for June 2011.

### **23. Investigator Initiated Research**

Projects funded under an Investigator-initiated RFP address research in our priority areas of interest. A number of projects have been completed and final reports are available on our website. The following projects are in progress or near completion.

- *Assessing the Risk of Sexual and Violent Recidivism and Identifying Differences in Risk Factor.* This study is under the direction of Loyola University and will seek to inform the criminal justice system's probation and parole officers, treatment professionals, and judges as to the accuracy of assessment tools for predicting the risk of sexual or violent reoffending. Comparisons between offenders from the prison system and those on probation will be conducted. The project has concluded and the final report is available on the ICJIA website.
- *A Study of Co-occurring Conditions and Treatment Coordination of Jail Detainees.* Conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago, this study interviewed approximately 300 adult male and 150 adult female detainees in the psychiatric residential treatment units at the Cook County Department of Corrections jail facility. The project identified ways to better understand the needs of this high-risk and resource-intensive population and provide a basis for developing better coordinated systems of care within the jail, community and transition to prison for those sentenced detainees. The final report has been reviewed and is available on our web site.
- *Analysis of Shelter Utilization by Victims of Domestic Violence* – Conducted by Loyola University School of Social Work, Loyola researchers in collaboration with the City of Chicago Mayor's Office will conduct a study of the dynamics of shelter utilization and how it relates to the process of, and readiness for, change among women who are victims of domestic violence. The project will aim to better identify the housing and service needs and utilization patterns, as well as the outcomes of women who are in the domestic violence shelter system in Chicago. The project will also identify stages in the help seeking process, including the characteristics of readiness for change that lead women to shelter and/or to end the abusive situation. The report was revised in 2010 and the final version is available on our website.
- *Safer Return Demonstration: A Research-Based Community Reentry Initiative – An Examination of the Family-Inclusive Case Management Service Component* - Conducted by the Urban Institute this project will provide an implementation and impact evaluation of the family-inclusive case management component of the Safer Return offender reentry initiative. Stemming from a larger evaluation of the reentry initiative, this study will focus on whether and to what extent the family-inclusive case management benefits offenders returning back to the community and their family and social support networks. Individual and family-level outcomes will be assessed. Due to delays in obtaining DOC parole data, the project was extended through May 2011. Urban Institute staff received data on May 7 but the project experienced delays in enrollment. A further extension into early 2012 is being processed.

- *Assessing Views of Critical Incident Prevention and Response* – Conducted by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, this project will determine the attitudes and perceptions of students regarding campus safety initiatives and campus preparedness for critical incidents. The study will conduct surveys of students in six Illinois campuses regarding the perceived likelihood of an incident occurring, fear of incidents and past exposure to types of incidents or offenses. Staff from SIUC presented the findings to Authority staff on April 20 and the final report is now available on our website.

An additional Investigator Initiated Research RFP in the amount of \$150,000 was issued in September 2009. Two projects were selected and began in December 2009.

- *Systematic Evaluation of the Peoria Drug Market Intervention* - Conducted by Southern Illinois University, this project assesses the approach and effectiveness of a strategy to combat open air drug markets in the City of Peoria. The Peoria Police Department (PPD) implemented a proactive policing strategy in response to open-air drug markets in a high crime neighborhood. The PPD more specifically implemented a “pulling levers” intervention that relies on a combination of incapacitation for serious, chronic and violent offenders as well as a deterrent-based message combined with increased social support mechanisms for less serious offender who have been deemed suitable for diversion and have the potential to be diverted from a lifestyle of offending. The pulling levers framework is implemented at the local level and is designed to strengthen relationships and communication between criminal and social justice agencies. The evaluation the implementation and preliminary impact of the effort and will be available on our website in the spring of 2011.
- *Growth of Illinois Prison Population and Assessment of Risk and Recidivism Among Prison Releasees* - Conducted by Loyola University, this multi-tiered project examined trends in prison admissions, end of year populations, and prison exits. Using existing data available from IDOC and the CHRI system, the research examined, in detail: 1) trends in admissions, exits and the end-of-year populations within prison and 2) the post-release recidivism of those released from prison. For both of these research activities, there was emphasis on the similarities and differences between female versus male inmates and releasees. The research sought to further the understanding within Illinois regarding the risk and recidivism of those released from prison, and assess the utility if existing information collected by DOC for determining post-release risk. It extends the potential predictive validity of risk assessment by examining community-level risk factors such as indicators of social disadvantage, social cohesion, and police surveillance as well as individual level characteristics, such as age, criminal history, substance abuse, and other factors. The research also examined post-prison recidivism of offenders using the most current statistical techniques and ensuring that the findings and results are useful to practitioners and policy makers. A number of presentations have been given on findings to date - including a presentation to the annual Justice Research and Statistics Association conference held this past October. The report will be available on our website in the early 2011.

## **24. Multidisciplinary Team Evaluations**

ICJIA has identified the operation of multidisciplinary team (MDT) programs as potentially promising programs and that an evaluation of such programs is consistent with the current need to identify evidence based programming and practices in the criminal justice system. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released in February to accept proposals that address the evaluation of the MDT programs currently operating in McLean, Kankakee, St. Clair and Peoria counties in Illinois. The topics of evidence based programming and collaborative approaches are areas of continuing interest within the criminal justice system in Illinois and the evaluation of such approaches will assist in guiding ICJIA policy and practices. Multidisciplinary teams aim to bring together several components of the criminal justice and victim service systems in a coordinated approach to effectively process cases and provide support and service to victims. Three of the MDTs were formed to address domestic violence and one to address sexual assault cases. Proposals are due March 14, with projects scheduled to begin May 1, 2011.

### **B. Program evaluation and research projects/ externally funded**

R&A staff has been successful in the pursuit of external discretionary grants to support research and evaluation efforts. Several current projects are or were supported by such grants:

#### **1. Redesign of Criminal Justice DataNet**

The Authority received continued funding for this project, in the amount of \$68,000, bring the total award to \$127,000 over two years from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to enhance web access and on-line presentation formats of the Authority's holdings of criminal justice and social risk factor data. An added feature of the project is enhancements to the Federal Deaths in Custody Reporting process conducted by the Authority on behalf of Illinois law enforcement agencies. The grant is scheduled to end on September 30, 2011.

Two Flash-based Instant Atlas applications for the Strategic Planning Initiative became live and available for the public. This application will be used as a prototype for upcoming applications to be included in the SAC website. An HTML-based alternative to this application was also created to allow users who cannot use Adobe Flash to access the same data, regardless of accessibility issues. On-line users (and Authority staff) will be able to access the Authority's holdings of criminal justice data to create maps and explore relationships among the various data sets across time and counties. Usability testing will be conducted on a sample of ICJIA staff and likely website users to obtain feedback and refine the application. A more advanced area profile was also prototyped for the Adult Redeploy Initiative to examine multiple indicators at once. Instant Atlas applications were demonstrated at the Strategic Planning Initiative as well as the JRSA annual conference.

Staff redesigned and updated the Illinois Criminal Justice Statistics Fact Sheets with new data and a new template. The goal of the fact sheet is to provide a geographic display of data for the latest year, a trend chart for the past ten years, and summary information related to the specific data being analyzed. The fact sheets are in pdf format and are currently available on the Authority's website:



[www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us) . New features on these fact sheets include hyperlinks to data sources as well as improved accessibility and file size.

## **2. Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Recidivism Study**

Staff are conducting a research study on recidivism for juveniles admitted to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice which was funded for \$19,575 by the American Statistical Association/Bureau of Justice Statistics Small Grants program. This study will employ various statistical techniques including multilevel modeling, survival analysis, and markov modeling to examine recidivism in-depth. Further, recidivism will be measured through readmission to either juvenile or adult correctional custody (derived from IDJJ and IDOC admissions data) and through re-arrest (derived from criminal history record information). Recidivism will be compared across various demographic and offense-type subgroups, with special attention paid to neighborhood of release indicators using U.S. Bureau of the Census data. The study was approved by the IRB. The study period and funding award will be finished in July 2011. Staff are in the final stages of data cleaning and linking the datasets. Staff will begin running analyses in February.

## **3. Illinois Juvenile Justice System Walkthrough**

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, staff developed a step-by-step walkthrough of the general practices, processes, and procedures of the Illinois juvenile justice system, from arrest through community supervision. The report was sent to an advisory committee around the state including juvenile court judges, attorneys (both private defense attorneys and state's attorneys), police officials, probation officers, and other juvenile justice system experts to review for accuracy. The report was published in August 2010.

## **4. Elder Abuse Collaboration Technical Assistance**

Supported by a grant from the federal government, staff provided technical assistance to this project aimed at coordinating responses to elder abuse among service providers, law enforcement and the courts. Participants include Metropolitan Family Service (an elder abuse service provider), the Chicago Police Department, and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, among others. The goal of the program was to provide a coordinated response ensuring that victims receive needed services while abusers are held accountable in the criminal justice system. The project ended in November 2010, and a final report summarizing project activities is slated for completion in the spring of 2011. The policy team had hoped to expand the program to other Chicago Police Department Districts. However, layoffs of senior service officers by the department and cuts within the Cook County State's Attorney's Office have forced those plans to be abandoned until such time as staff levels can be restored.

## **5. Evaluation of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts Evidence-Based Practices**

In March of 2005, ICJIA research staff entered into a three-year cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in the amount of \$194,232 to evaluate Illinois' Evidenced-Based Practices (EBP) Initiative. This project will assist local probation departments participating in the EBP Initiative by providing them with data and analysis that gauges performance before and

during the implementation of evidence-based practices, and will establish a process and protocol for ongoing assessment of probation performance through an effective state and local partnership. All three waves of data collection (years 2002, 2005 and 2006) have been completed in all six participating counties: Lake, DuPage, Adams, Cook, Sangamon and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit. Data analysis is currently being conducted and work on a draft final report is nearing completion. The final report will be completed and available in early 2011.

### **C. Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Ad Hoc Data Connection Partnership**

The Authority has entered into a data sharing partnership with the Illinois State Police, whereby CHRI data is made available to staff via a permanent on-line connection. All data entered on state “rap sheets”, as housed on the State Police Computerized Criminal History system, are accessible to staff in electronic format. These data provide a unique resource for answering information requests from legislators, the media, and other interested parties, in-house research projects and studies being conducted by others around the country. A CHRI Ad Hoc Data Archive of all criminal history records from 1990-2009 has been created in formats that can be readily shared with researchers. This Archive currently holds close to a million records for each year of data.

The CHRI Ad Hoc data partnership with the State Police has progressed to the point where the Authority is now considered the sole source for electronic CHRI data for research purposes. (The State Police still generate paper versions for a fee.) Outside researchers can enter into a User Agreement to gain access to CHRI data which is distributed through the Authority. The process incorporates verification of bona fide research and appropriate protection of confidential data. The unified user agreement facilitates accountability for the research use of criminal history data records.

During the last quarter, several new CHRI User Agreements were processed, including those received from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and the University of Chicago. Since the inception of the CHRI Ad Hoc Connection Partnership, at least 46 outside research projects have received CHRI data from the Authority.

Staff is also working with several university-based researchers to develop appropriate methodologies for their research using CHRI Ad Hoc data, and is reviewing drafts of completed research projects for appropriate interpretation of the CHRI data used. Technical assistance on CHRI data interpretation and data manipulation was also provided to several researchers who received data in previously, including those from the Disproportionate Justice Impact Study (DJIS) Commission, Loyola University, University of Chicago, and DuPage County Probation.

Information requests answered using CHRI data. During the last quarter, updating of all non-expunged arrests and associated arrest charges and court dispositions from 1999-2009 continued for loading into a new SQL Server database to provide an immediate querying capability for these arrests, dispositions, and charges covering the entire ten year period. In combination with CHRI data already stored in SPSS files, these data were used to answer several media requests for criminal justice statistics. During this quarter, CHRI data was examined to answer user questions about juvenile arrests, domestic violence convictions in McHenry County, and a request regarding drug arrests for the DEA.

#### **D. Chicago Homicide Dataset Update Project**

The Chicago Homicide Dataset (CHD) has been collected and maintained for many years in close cooperation with the Crime Analysis Unit, Detective Division, of the Chicago Police Department. The CHD is a comprehensive database containing information on every homicide that occurred in Chicago between 1965 and 2000. CHD data from 1965 to 1995, with all victim identifiers and addresses removed, is archived with the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Staff is currently cleaning the entire dataset from 1965 to 2000, and creating three linked CHD datasets – victim-level, incident-level and offender-level.

During this quarter, staff continued to collaborate with selected researchers on projects involving use of the Chicago Homicide Dataset.

#### **E. Chicago Women's Health Risk Study**

The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project is a continuing collaboration of medical, public health, and criminal justice agencies, and domestic violence experts to identify factors that indicate a significant danger of life-threatening injury or death in situations of intimate partner violence. Collaborating agencies include the Chicago Department of Public Health, Erie Family Health Center, Cook County Hospital, Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, Chicago Police Department and the Authority.

The current goal of the CWHRs project is to "get the word out" about important and potentially life-saving results, to the public and to practitioners and legislators who can use those results to help save lives. The CWHRs Forum, housed on the Authority's web site, currently has 209 members, most of them practitioners or researchers in the field. The CWHRs Forum also welcomes visits from people seeking information. A number of reports, journal articles and other publications have been developed from the research, most of them collaborations. Staff is frequently solicited for presentations and briefings on the research and project tools, and data continue to be requested for use by other researchers.

### **III. ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

#### **A. Briefings/Presentations**

Since the last Authority update for the December 2010 meeting, R&A staff made presentations at, and/or attended the following professional meetings:

- Staff visited the River Valley Juvenile Detention Center January to collect data for the River Valley Juvenile Detention Center Mental Health Program Evaluation on numerous dates during the reporting period.

- Staff administered pre- and post-test to Youth—CIT training participants on November 15 and 19 for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)/Chicago Police Department (CPD) Juvenile Crisis Intervention Training Fidelity Assessment.
- Staff met with officials of the Safer Foundation on November 18 at the Authority's offices to help plan the scope of work for the Inventory of Employment Restrictions on Persons with Criminal Records, as directed by Public Act 096-1360.
- Staff participated in a Juvenile Redeploy Illinois Board meeting on November 19 and presented the monthly data report they designed.
- Staff met with Leslie Landis, Court Administrator for Cook County Domestic Violence Court on November 22 in Chicago to discuss data analysis strategies for improving services to DV victims.
- On November 29, staff attended a meeting of the DCFS/IDJJ merger subcommittee on assessment tools.
- Faculty from Southern Illinois University and Rutgers University presented findings from their evaluation of the Peoria Drug Market Intervention (DMI) strategy on November 30.
- On December 1, staff were interviewed by Susan Witkin (Center for Prevention Research and Development) and the Models for Change initiative to discuss juvenile data sources, uses, and needs in Illinois.
- Staff participated in a conference call with the Juvenile Justice Commission communications subcommittee on December 1.
- Staff met with researchers from Loyola University on December 1 at the Authority's Office to discuss data analysis to support the work of the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council.
- Staff attended a meeting of the Adult Redeploy Oversight Board on December 2 in Chicago.
- On December 2, staff attended the Risk, Assets, and Needs Assessment task force meeting in Chicago.
- Staff participated in a conference call regarding the status of the Illinois mental health court evaluation on December 2.
- Staff participated in a Juvenile Redeploy Illinois Board conference call on December 3.
- On December 3, staff presented the findings of the study *Post-traumatic stress disorder and victimization among female prisoners in Illinois* to the board of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.
- Staff attended a meeting of the CHRI background Check Task Force in Pontiac, IL on December 6.
- Staff completed data collection at East Moline Correctional Center on December 6 and 7 for the Sheridan Research project.
- On December 9, staff attended the Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board meeting.
- Staff attending the Council of Advisors to Reduce Recidivism through Employment (CARRE) conference in Chicago on December 13. The research director participated on a panel and discussed the Authority's Inventory of Employment restrictions for persons with criminal records.
- Staff met with members of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission on December 14 to discuss development of a juvenile justice component to the Authority's Strategic Plan for the Criminal Justice System.
- Staff attended the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority meeting in Chicago on December 16.
- Staff presented a final draft of monthly data report and provided JMIS detention data at the Juvenile Redeploy Illinois Board meeting on December 17.

- Staff prepared data trend charts and graphs for the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC) report to the legislature, and met with the SPAC Executive Director and Loyola University researchers on December 17 to discuss the data.
- Staff met with Hank Steadman from the national GAINS Center on December 20 to discuss the possible participation of the Authority in developing a Center for Excellence in promoting programs for criminal justice agencies to address mental health issues.
- Staff participated in a conference call on December 20 with officials from IDOC and the Council of State Governments to talk about possible implementation of Justice Reinvestment in Illinois.
- Staff held conference calls with Summit work group chairs on December 20 and 21 to discuss plans for the post-Summit work groups beginning in January 2011.
- Staff met with the co-chairs of the Summit work group on information sharing on December 21 to discuss coordination with the IJIS project.
- Staff participated in a DMC Juvenile Justice sub-committee on December 20 via conference call.
- On January 5, staff attended the post-summit workgroup meeting for Jails and Prisons.
- On January 6, staff attended the post-summit workgroup meeting for Victim Services.
- On January 7, staff attended the post-summit workgroup meeting for Law Enforcement.
- On January 7, staff attended a meeting of the DCFS/IDJJ merger subcommittee on screening and assessment.
- On January 11, staff met with First Defense Legal Aid to get updated data and discuss the technical assistance/evaluation project.
- Staff participated in the victim services summit workgroup meeting on January 11.
- On January 11, staff attended the post-summit workgroup meeting in Rockford for Information Sharing.
- On January 13, staff attended the post-summit workgroup meeting in McLean County for Alternatives to Incarceration and Community Supervision.
- Staff held focus groups, at Chicago Police Department Headquarters, January 13 & 14 to collect data for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)/Chicago Police Department (CPD) Juvenile Crisis Intervention Training Fidelity Assessment.
- Staff participated in a DMC Juvenile Justice sub-committee meeting on January 13.
- Staff participated in a Pathways (juvenile collaboration group) meeting via telephone on January 18.
- Staff called in to the Crime Reduction Act weekly update meeting on January 18.
- Staff attended a training webinar on cost-benefit analysis on January 18.
- Staff participated in a Juvenile Justice Commission meeting on January 19.
- On January 20, staff traveled to Pontiac Correctional Center to collect the final data for the Sheridan evaluation study.
- On January 21, staff attended the meeting of the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council.
- Staff attended the Juvenile Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board meeting in Chicago on January 21.
- Staff attended the inaugural National Instant Criminal Background Check System Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) meeting in Springfield on January 26.
- On January 26, staff attended a training provided by an R&A staff member on factor analysis and principle components analysis.
- Staff met with officials from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition on January 27 in Chicago.

- Staff participated in an Illinois Collaboration – Mental Health/Juvenile Justice workgroup meeting via conference call on January 28.
- On February 2, staff attended a webinar on random and fixed effects and multi-level analysis.
- Staff attended a meeting to discuss a parole study funded by the Juvenile Justice Commission at the University of Chicago Crime Lab on February 2.
- On February 7, staff attended the Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board meeting.
- Staff attended the S.T.O.P. VAWA Administrators conference in Miami, February 7 – 9.
- Staff attended the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission meeting and data presentation on February 9 in Chicago.
- On February 9, staff attended the Adult Redeploy Illinois performance measures subcommittee meeting in Bloomington.

## **B. Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse**

The Authority serves as a statewide clearinghouse for statistics and other information about crime and the criminal justice system. The Clearinghouse Center within R&A maintains and regularly updates many county-level datasets related to crime and the criminal justice system, as well as social risk factor data. These datasets are used for in-house research projects and publications, such as *Trends and Issues* and *County Profiles of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems*. The Clearinghouse is also responsible for answering requests for criminal justice data and information, as well as maintaining the publications on the Authority's website: [www.icjia.il.state.us](http://www.icjia.il.state.us) .

### Information Requests

Many requests continue to come from government agencies (12 percent) and private citizens (71 percent). Other requests come from private agencies, researchers, students, news media representatives, legislators and prison inmates. Thirty-two percent of the requests originated in the Chicago metropolitan area, and another 26 percent originate in other parts of the state. All other requests for information were received from other states, outside the United States, or unknown origin (*Appendix B*).

### New Publications

R&A published one research report and four fact sheets in the Criminal Justice GET THE FACTS Series during the period November through January 2010. The titles are listed in Appendix A.

### Website

The volume of web users has remained at high levels. Using a new website analytics tool (Google Analytics), it was determined that the website had 20,800 new visitors, and that all new and returning visitors viewed 53,799 pages of content on the site (*Appendix C*). The website continues to be a valuable resource for our constituents.

The following Table shows the publications that were downloaded most often from the Authority's website from November through December 2010.

**Table 1**  
**Top Downloaded Publications**  
**November 2010 through December 2010**

<b>Publications</b>	<b>Downloads</b>
Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data 2007 Annual Report (December 2009)	10,744
The commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth in Illinois (January 2008)	5,143
Mental health screening and assessment practices in the Illinois juvenile justice system (March 2010)	4,050
2009 ICJIA Annual Report (March 2009)	2,915
Implementing Restorative Justice: A Guide for Schools (October 2009)	2,796
An Evaluation of the Moral Reconciliation Therapy of the Franklin/Jefferson County Evening Reporting Center Program (April 2005)	2,668
Victimization and help-seeking behaviors among female prisoners in Illinois (April 2010)	2,578
The Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Project in Chicago (March 2004)	1,977
2007 IJIS Summit STIC Presentation (June 2007)	1,378
Capital Punishment Reform Study Council Sixth and Final Report	1,327
Policies and Procedures of the Illinois Juvenile Justice System (August 2010)	1,106
Get the Facts: Criminal History Records (November 2010)	1,022

*Acquiring/updating/documenting dataset holdings*

During the last quarter, staff continued to inventory and update core datasets data on all criminal justice and risk factor topics, including Illinois State Police Drug Seizure data. Staff is also working with research staff within the Illinois Department of Corrections to document updated juvenile and adult admissions, release and parole data that were received earlier this year.

**C. FSGU Support Efforts**

Several R&A staff work in a partnership with the Authority's Federal and State Grants Unit (FSGU) to provide statistical technical assistance. Upon request, R&A staff review grant data reports, grant proposals, and data report forms; create grantee program profiles; report at FSGU grant meetings; participate in conferences; offer statistical information through presentations; attends relevant trainings; and create and update grant-related databases. R&A staff continued to work with FSGU staff responsible for the VAWA, VOCA, JABG, MVTPC, and MEG/TF funds. In addition, R&A staff assumes responsibility for the computerization of some program performance for many grants.

During the last quarter, staff assisted extensively on the development of materials for the VAWA Implementation plan, the S.T.O.P. VAWA annual report and the VAWA ARRA annual report (submitted to the Office of Violence Against Women) Activities included:

- Pulling crime data to determine trends of domestic violence in Illinois (VAWA implementation plan)

- Comparing funding trends with crime trends to determine gaps and the need for services statewide for the VAWA implementation plan.
- Analyzing program data to show who S.T.O.P. VAWA and VAWA ARRA programs serve and the services they receive for the respective annual report.
- Attended site visits with program monitors to assist in technical assistance regarding program data and data reporting.
- Prepared data reports and aggregate program data for the Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO) site visit in Chicago on December 2
- Participated in the SASP Administrators Webinar/Teleconference in Chicago on February 14

#### **D. Technical Assistance**

- As planning and implementation for Adult Redeploy Illinois sites have progressed, staff has provided technical support to participating counties to assist with target population identification.
- Staff continues to analyze and provide data to various State juvenile justice initiatives.
- Staff participated in extensive technical assistance to the Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board and staff of IDOC, DHS, and Metropolis 2020 regarding implementation issues with this new program to be initiated as part of the Crime Reduction Act of 2009.
- Staff provided research support for the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council.
- Staff has provided technical support to the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network in establishing measurable outcomes/goals
- Staff has provided technical support to the Cook County Domestic Violence Court in establishing a data collection tool for tracking clients seeking services at the courthouse.

#### **E. Deaths in Custody Reporting**

The Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DICRA) (P.L. 106-297, effective Oct. 13, 2000) requires states to compile and report quarterly to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) the number of deaths, and the circumstances surrounding the deaths, of people in local jails, state prisons, juvenile correctional facilities, and law enforcement custody. Until recently, the information requested by BJS was limited to deaths in local jails, state prisons, and state juvenile facilities. Collection of DICRA information has been expanded to include deaths that occur while a person is in police custody or in the process of arrest. Information on deaths that occur while a person is in police custody will supplement the annual data on prison inmate deaths that BJS already receives from the Illinois Department of Corrections as part of the National Prisoners Statistics Program and the National Corrections Reporting Program. R&A staff began in July 2004 collecting specific information requested by BJS for all deaths in Illinois that occur while the person is in police custody or in the process of arrest by local, county, and state law enforcement agencies regardless of cause of death. For reporting purposes, the data include the following:

- Deaths occurring when an individual is in the physical custody, or under the physical restraint, of law enforcement officers, even if the person was not formally under arrest.



- Deaths that occur by natural causes, while in the physical custody, or under the physical restraint, of law enforcement officers, even if the person was not formally under arrest.
- Those killed by any use of force by law enforcement officers prior to booking
- People who died at a crime/arrest scene or medical facility prior to booking.
- Deaths occurring in transit to or from law enforcement facilities.
- Deaths of those confined in lockups or booking centers (facilities from which arrestees are usually transferred within 72 hours and not held beyond arraignment).

Cases occurring in 2010 were identified and assessed for eligibility, an on-going process that will continue through 2011. Forms were sent to law enforcement shortly after cases were identified through newspaper searches or law enforcement agency self-report.. BJS has officially closed all cases in Illinois for 2010. BJS utilizes the data to produce reports of arrest fatalities in the United States, with updates planned as states submit data. The last report, Arrest-Related Deaths in the United States, 2003-2006, was released in July 2009.

As part of the SJS grant received from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of justice Statistics, a new DICRA web page was designed to facilitate reporting from law enforcement agencies. A permanent graphical link has been added to the ICJIA homepage sidebar that allows users easier access to a new web page regarding how to report a death that would be eligible for reporting. The page consists of three main sections (general information, information for law enforcement agencies, information for coroners/medical examiners) that each contain more detailed information. Forms provided by the Department of Justice are available for users to fill out and return to the Authority. The website can be accessed here: [www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us) . A short survey targeting coroners and their knowledge and willingness to participate in the reporting process is being developed.

## **F. Web-based applications**

### **1. Nefsis Video Conferencing**

Nefsis is an internet based video conferencing service that is used to create information and general presentations, online training materials, web conferencing, learning modules, and user desktop sharing applications.

Staff is currently developing other INFONET User Training using this software.

Staff is currently developing other Research and Analysis Unit and other agency on-line applications.

### **2. SurveyGizmo**

SurveyGizmo is an online survey software solution that provides a variety of features to help in conducting a multitude of tasks including advanced market research, quick polling and quizzing, embedding forms into websites.

Staff has created the Infonet Calendar webpage at:

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us/infonets/public/index.cfm?metaSection=TrainCalendar> with the new Infonet training schedule for 2011, and creating the registration form through SurveyGizmo for Infonet users to register for training. Beta tested the registration form successfully. Send out a message to the Domestic Violence Programs Staff e-mail distribution list, and Sexual Assault Programs Staff e-mail distribution lists announcing the 2011 training schedule and how to register for the training (The registration form created through SurveyGizmo is embedded within an Infonet webpage located at:

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us/infonets/public/index.cfm?metaSection=TrainCalendar&metaPage=Trainingregist2011>).

Staff has launched application process through SurveyGizmo for the REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FFY 2007 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANTS (JAG) PROGRAM Law Enforcement Equipment Program Cover Page, application, and general information webpages. Created all 3 website pages associated to this grant announcement which are located under the following links at: SurveyGizmo application, part one: <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/html/RFP07JAGLEECover.htm>, SurveyGizmo application part two: <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/html/RFP07JAGLEEapplication.htm>, and the General information webpage:

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/index.cfm?metaSection=Grants&metaPage=RFP07JAGLEEgeninfo>.

### **3. CJ Dispatch**

CJ Dispatch is an e-mailing that we send out to subscribers to announce and highlight ICJIA publications, Request for Proposals for grants that ICJIA administrates, and other newsworthy items.

Staff is currently researching a service to provide us with a better method to send out CJ Dispatches to subscribers which would enable subscribers to edit their individual subscriber profiles, seeking the ability to forward the CJ Dispatches to other interested parties which would enable them to subscribe to receive these e-mails, seeking to give the subscriber the ability to receive HTML-based e-mails or text based e-mails, and seeking the ability to track subscriber activity on whether they receive the e-mail and if they read it. Staff is also looking into updating our current template with the assistance of the web based software the vendor will provide us with. We are currently beta testing VerticalResponse e-mail marketing service, and AWeber Communications as a viable option.

### **4. Website Enhancements**

Staff is currently working on updating various sections and pages of the ICJIA Public Website.

Staff has created and launched the *Sentencing Policy Advisory Council Website*. The Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC), created by Illinois Public Act 96-0711, draws on criminal justice information collected by other agencies to explore sentencing issues and practices and how they impact the criminal justice system as a whole. SPAC is charged with objectively informing sentencing and corrections policy decisions. To perform this function, the SPAC is responsible for collecting and analyzing data, conducting correctional population projections based on simulation models, and producing fiscal impact statements for the legislature. In addition, SPAC is charged with ensuring that effective evidence-based practices are used in policy decisions and within the criminal justice system. SPAC will report in writing annually to the General Assembly,

the Governor and the Supreme Court. Visit the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council website at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/index.cfm?metasection=spac>.

Staff is currently developing the *Illinois Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Website*. The Illinois Statistical Analysis Center will serve as criminal justice data collection and analysis center for the Research and Analysis Unit the research arm of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA). The website is currently under development/construction at <http://www.icjia.org/sac>.

Staff also created and launched the *Illinois County Queries Website*. The Illinois County Queries Data Center is an interactive enabled website clearinghouse of criminal justice statistics about Illinois counties. These statistics can be used to go research broad issues facing the criminal justice system or to simply examine crime problems in the 102 county regional areas of Illinois. This webpage will be an upgrade to the CJ DataNet and will the part of the Illinois Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Website. Visit the website at: [http://www.icjia.org/public/sac/cq\\_test2.cfm](http://www.icjia.org/public/sac/cq_test2.cfm)

Staff is currently developing a new redesign of the Illinois Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS) Website to enhance web access to further the mission of the IJIS Implementation Board. IJIS is an intergovernmental effort dedicated to improving the administration of justice in Illinois by facilitating the electronic sharing of justice information throughout the state. It is a collaborative effort charged with enhancing public safety by making complete, accurate, and timely offender-based information available to all justice decision makers.

Staff updated the Illinois Criminal Justice Statistics: Fact Sheets under the CJDataNet section of the ICJIA public website which are located at: <http://www.icjia.org/public/index.cfm?metasection=data>.

Staff have developed the first draft of the Evidence-based Practices Information webpage located at: <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/index.cfm?metaSection=Publications&metaPage=EBPInfo> (this page is currently under review by staff).

Staff also will be developing a new redesign of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority main public website and associate websites (Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council website, InFoNet website, and the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee website). The beta version of the redesigned website can be viewed at: <http://www.icjia.org/icjiadev/index.cfm>

## **G. Authority's Institutional Review Board (IRB)**

During the reporting period, Sandra Costello was appointed as Chair of the Authority's Institutional Review Board (IRB), while Authority member Barbara Engel will serve as Vice Chair. Two new members were also appointed to the board: Dr. Gretchen Cusick from Chapin Hall at University of Chicago and Dr. Evan Harrington from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. An IRB meeting was scheduled for February 18. Three projects were scheduled for review at that meeting - Anne's House Program Evaluation, Adult Redeploy Illinois Utilization-Focused Evaluation, and the Balanced and Restorative Justice Survey. These projects will be reviewed with the use of the revised

IRB Approval Application that was developed by staff. Along with revisions to the Renewal Request Application, and a newly created Amendment Application, the purpose was to provide a clearer and more streamlined process for IRB review.

#### Initial IRB application

The initial IRB application was revised to clarify some form questions, combine others, and streamline the components for easier reading. The proposed form utilizes components from existing university IRB applications and these components were modified to fit the needs of the Authority. The proposed form was also vetted to ensure it followed protocols outlined in the *Code of Federal Regulations* regarding research involving human subjects.

#### IRB renewal application

The renewal application was modified to mirror the proposed changes to the initial application. It begins with a brief project summary and then requests answers to: amendments made, subject recruitment and retention, special populations, and written consent.

#### IRB amendment application

The IRB amendment application is a newly created form. This form covers any substantive changes to the approved research that might affect previously approved components, including changing investigators or project staff, or project start or end dates. This form emulates the proposed initial application form and is split into nine sections: investigator changes; protocol changes; consent procedures; consent documents; project sites and study participants; changes in confidentiality, privacy or security; funding or sponsorship; start or end dates; or changes not otherwise specified. A final section asks all requests for amendments to complete a risk/benefits assessment.

## **IV. GRANT PROPOSALS**

R&A staff routinely pursues discretionary grants to support data collection, research, and evaluation activities:

- A proposal was submitted on February 28 to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, for another State Justice Statistics (SJS) grant to create a searchable statistical database to explore patterns of prior criminal history of convicted felons admitted to the Illinois Department of Corrections over the past 10 years.

## **V. CONTINUING STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

- Staff attended free on-line training sessions to learn ARC-GIS software for the creation of statistical maps.
- Staff attended a webinar on cost-benefit analysis.
- Staff attended a training provided by an R&A staff member on factor analysis and principle components analysis.
- Staff attended a webinar on random and fixed effects and multi-level analysis.
- Staff attended a webinar hosted by Harvard University on elder abuse.

## **VI. INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Under the direct supervision of a senior staff member in the Research and Analysis Unit, interns are hired to perform a variety of information functions relating to critical issues facing the Illinois criminal justice system. There is no compensation for these positions, but interns may be able to use the experience as course credit. Michelle Mioduszewski of Loyola University began January 15, 2011 for the spring semester internship.

cc: Jack Cutrone  
Hank Anthony

## **Appendix A – Most recent publications**

### **RESEARCH REPORTS**

**Research Report: Assessing Risk of Sexual and Violent Recidivism and Identifying Differences in Risk Factors: Comparing Probation Supervised and Released Imprisoned Sex Offenders (12/10)**

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE *GET THE FACTS* SERIES**

Get the Facts: Victims (11/2010)

Get the Facts: Arrests (11/2010)

Get the Facts: Corrections (11/2010)

Get the Facts: Criminal History Records (11/2010)

## Appendix B – Information Request Handling Statistics

October 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>REQUESTS/Pct</b>
<b>Number of information requests handled:</b>	34
<b>Monthly average number of requests:</b>	11
<b>Geographic origin of requesters:</b>	
Chicago metropolitan area	32%
Other region of Illinois	26%
U.S. other than Illinois	12%
Outside the U.S.	0%
Unknown	29%
<b>Type of requester:</b>	
Government agency	12%
Private agency	6%
Researcher	0%
Student	12%
Citizen	71%
Media	0%
Legislators	0%
Inmates	0%
<b>Method of request:</b>	
Telephone/fax	21%
Mail	0%
Email/Internet	47
In-person	0%
ICJIA Website	32%

**Appendix C**

[www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us)

**November 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011**

**Google Analytics**

<b>Months</b>	<b>Visitors</b>			<b>Page Views</b>			
	<b>Total Visits</b>	<b>New Visitors</b>	<b>Returning Visitors</b>	<b>All Visit Page Views</b>	<b>Page Views New Visits</b>	<b>Page Views Return Visits</b>	<b>Average Page Views</b>
Nov-10	9,161	7,432	1,729	19,906	15,140	4,766	2.17
Dec-10	7,276	6,037	1,239	14,867	11,842	3,025	2.04
Jan – 11	8,857	7,331	1,526	19,026	15,193	3,833	2.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,294</b>	<b>20,800</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>53,799</b>	<b>42,175</b>	<b>11,624</b>	<b>2.12</b>
<b>MONTHLY AVERAGE</b>	<b>8,431</b>	<b>6,933</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>17,933</b>	<b>14,058</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>2.12</b>