



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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To: Authority Members

From: Mark Myrent, Associate Director
Research and Analysis Unit

Date: February 11, 2007

Re: Research and Analysis Unit Report for the December 2007 Authority Meeting

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

I. CURRENT PROJECTS

A. Program evaluation and research projects

The R&A Unit pursues an aggressive program evaluation and research agenda through an in-house ADAA-funded grant program. Evaluation and research efforts supported, conducted or monitored by R&A staff include:

1. Illinois Going Home Program Evaluation

The University of Chicago has completed an implementation and preliminary impact evaluation of the Illinois Going Home Program. The program is a major offender reentry effort funded through a partnership of contributing federal agencies and in concert with a number of Chicago-area government, community and faith-based organizations. The evaluation report addresses how the program was implemented, how it worked in the field and the effectiveness of the program. The full report is schedule to be posted on our website in February 2008.

2. Reports on the analysis of datasets maintained/available through the Authority

In addition to collaborative research projects using the Chicago Homicide Dataset or the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study, R&A staff has also collaborated with external researchers on projects that focus on the analysis of our in-house data. This data includes InfoNet, which is a database that maintains information from victim service providers and agencies, and data from the Illinois Crime Victimization Survey and the 2000 Probation Outcome Study.

- *Victim Characteristics and Reporting Violence to the Police* (Illinois Crime Victimization Data) under the direction of Dr. Callie Rennison of the University of Missouri at St. Louis. This project examined how victim characteristics influence the decision to contact the police following violence. The study is based on Illinois 2002 crime victimization survey data. The final report is available on our website and a summary has been drafted.
- *Comparing Risk Factors Associated with Violent and General Recidivism while on Probation and After Discharge – Implications for Risk Management* under the direction of Dr. Loretta Stalans and Dr. Paul Yarnold. This study addressed several issues in the identification of risk factors that contribute to violent and non-violent recidivism after discharge from probation. In addition, the study addressed what types of offenders show evidence of refraining from new crimes for a longer-term period after they have successful treatment completion. The study tested whether family only and generalized aggressors have unique risk factors associated with recidivism. Revision comments on the draft report were sent in January and we are awaiting the final report.

3. Safe Havens Domestic Violence Program evaluation project

Staff has evaluated the Chicago Safe Havens demonstration site, a project funded under the Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program. The Safe Havens Program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 to provide an opportunity for communities to support supervised visitation and safe exchange of children, by and between parents, in situations involving domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. The purpose of the supervised visitation program is to enable custodial parents to comply with court ordered visitation, without having to fear that they or their children will be re-victimized. Staff identified the following priority areas of the evaluation: interviews with visitation center directors and staff (to determine changes in practice in policy and roles as collaborators), the issue of case termination (to determine why cases come to a close and what can be done in cases where visits should continue, but do not), observation forms used by staff at visitation centers during visits and other data collected in client files (Data from these forms, together with data collected through the interviews helped determine how accurately these forms reflect what happens during visits. Other client information found in their files helped identify who is referred to visitation services from court, how rule violations are handled, and in terms of termination, whether or not clients fail to show up for services, if they terminate visits due to court order, etc.). Also included in the final report are findings from an evaluation completed on a judicial training for judges in the Cook County Family Court division that focused on domestic violence in relation to custody and visitation rights. Staff distributed a pre-survey, a survey at the training itself, and a post-survey to determine whether or not the training had an affect on judges' beliefs or actions in the courtroom. The final draft of the report is in the process of being reviewed, and publication is expected this spring.

4. Criminal justice agencies Needs Assessment Survey project

Orbis Partners was assigned to conduct a criminal justice needs assessment in Illinois and the Authority has recently received the results of the survey in a draft report. The primary purpose of this study is to supply information that will demonstrate the needs of criminal justice

organizations, and identify areas that need improvement. The information will also be used to guide decision-making regarding where to best allocate resources. The study's secondary purpose is to provide information that outlines if, and how, the needs of criminal justice organizations have changed over time by comparing the data collected as part of this study to the results of a needs assessment survey conducted in 1996.

Major components of the criminal justice system were surveyed on topics such as workload demands, training needs, staff retention, information systems and programming. The needs assessment involved the distribution of surveys to approximately 1,700 practitioners in the Illinois criminal justice system, and included court clerks, detention center administrators, judges, police chiefs, probation, public defenders, state's attorneys, and victim service providers. While the surveys for each agency contained some of the same sections, the surveys were also tailored to address those issues that pertain specifically to the component of the system being surveyed. For example, the survey for detention centers offered questions regarding security issues, medical care and in-house programs; while the probation survey offered questions on assessment tools and supervision.

After multiple strategies were employed to encourage participation, a total of 602 questionnaires were returned for an overall response rate of 38.6%. Results indicate that law enforcement feel that domestic violence crimes, property crime and juvenile crime are the most significant contributors to their workload. Law enforcement also noted a need for resources and training related to methamphetamine investigations. A *Trends & Issues Update* is now being written to provide greater detail on other reported law enforcement needs.

5. Evaluation of IDOC's Sheridan Correctional Center Therapeutic Community Program

Research & Analysis staff is continuing to support the operation of the Sheridan Correctional Center through a process and impact evaluation. Sheridan is currently the largest correctional facility in the country that is entirely committed to substance abuse treatment. The prison, designed as a therapeutic community for substance abuse users, reopened at the beginning of 2004 and had an additional methamphetamine treatment unit built on in FY08. Drug offenders released from IDOC have relatively high recidivism rates if they are released without any form of treatment in prison or in their communities upon release. The Sheridan treatment plan is designed to treat offenders while incarcerated and while they are released to their communities under supervision to reduce recidivism rates across Illinois.

The evaluation of Sheridan is a collaborative effort between the Authority, Loyola University, and the Illinois Department of Corrections. The evaluation uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative data to gauge the process and impact of operations at Sheridan and the aftercare component required for inmates under mandatory supervised release. Authority staff contributed to analyses of program completion and recidivism of Sheridan participants compared to a matched sample of inmates released from other prisons in Illinois, including the compiling and organization of criminal history and arrest data on subjects in the research.

The final report detailing the progress and outcomes of the program from inception through 2007 is under review by Authority staff. Two Program Evaluation Summaries have been completed on Sheridan indicating benefits from reduced recidivism and increased employment for participants. The Authority continues to assist the evaluation team in updating recidivism figures on a continuous basis. A comprehensive program evaluation report and a third program evaluation summary was received in February and is under review. Additional publications intended for scholarly journals will be produced at a later date. These will address the long-term impact of the program and the characteristics of participants that influence success in the program.

6. An evaluation of Illinois-Citizen Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (I-CLEAR)

The evaluation of I-CLEAR has been awarded to Northwestern University. The evaluation will assess the statewide implementation of the CLEAR reporting system operating under the Chicago Police Department. I-CLEAR will offer a statewide criminal justice information system that is accessible to all of Illinois' criminal justice agencies. The two-year assessment began in May 2005. The final report was received May 2007 and is available on our website. A Research at a Glance summary publication is also drafted and is awaiting review.

7. Lake County Transitional Services for Female Offenders (PTSD)

Loyola University, under the direction of Dr. Loretta Stalans, was awarded a grant to evaluate the Lake County probation program that provides specialized services to women probationers who exhibit post-traumatic stress disorder. Suggested revisions on the draft report were sent and the final report is expected in February. The report will outline the development and adjustments that were made to the program to better accommodate and serve the female probationers' needs in an effort to prevent recidivism and improve their lives.

A one-year follow-up study to further assess the impact of the program began in January 2008. This follow-up study will address whether the program reduced recidivism, and assisted the women in obtaining employment, housing, food and childcare. Now in progress, the study is also focusing on the third service provider that the program enlisted.

8. Cook County Social Services, Transitional Services for Female Offenders

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, under the direction of Dr. Gaylene Armstrong, was awarded a grant to evaluate the Cook County Social Service Department program that provides specialized services to women probationers that are convicted of DUI. The final report has been received and is available on the website. A program evaluation summary was also posted on our website and outlines the development of the program and characteristics of program participants.

9. Investigator Initiated Research

Projects funded under an Investigator-initiated RFP address research in our priority areas of interest. The following two proposals were selected for funding in late 2006:

- *Corrections to Community: The collective reentry experience of juvenile offenders.* This study, under the direction of the University of Chicago, examined a number of factors that play into the reentry experience of juveniles released from Illinois correctional facilities between 1996 and 2002. The final report was received and will be posted on our website in March 2008.
- *Analysis of Domestic Violence Service Data.* Under the direction of Loyola University, this study examines InfoNet service data to describe victim service use patterns over time and describe the characteristics of victims and their service needs. The report was received and will be available on our website in early spring 2008.

An additional Investigator-initiated RFP was issued in July 2006 and we received a number of well-qualified proposals. Reviewers elected to fund the following projects in early 2007:

- *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 will conclude in May 2008.
- *A Study of Co-occurring Conditions and Treatment Coordination of Jail Detainees.* Conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago, this study will select and interview 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 will seek 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 will be submitted for review in the spring.

An additional Investigator-initiated RFP was issued in June 2007, and four new projects were selected for funding in October 2007:

- *Critical Incident Preparedness and Response on Campus* – Conducted by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, this study will examine the current state of critical incident preparedness, planning and response activities on a census of Illinois colleges and university campuses and a sample of campuses nationwide. This study will also look at reported campus crime rates from the Cleary Act. The proposed research will be valuable for state and national policymakers and the findings will provide information on current practices as they relate to campus security and how they differ from a national perspective. A report is due in October 2008.

- *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. A report is due in November 2008.
- *Methamphetamine and Violence* – Conducted by Illinois State University, this study will conduct in-depth interviews with 30 methamphetamine user from downstate Illinois to determine the extent to which methamphetamine and violence are associated, and to better understand the nature of that association. The research will provide a clearer picture of the epidemiology of methamphetamine and related violence in Illinois across communities of varying size and rural characteristics. The findings will inform law enforcement and social service providers regarding factors associated with an increased likelihood of violence by those who use and manufacture the drug. A report will be available in October 2008.
- *The Impact of Illinois’ Truth-in-Sentencing Legislation* – Conducted by Loyola University Department of Criminal Justice, this project will examine the impact that Illinois’ Truth-in-Sentencing (TIS) legislation has had on sentences imposed, projected lengths of time served in prison, and inmate behavior. The findings will allow policy makers to more accurately assess the impact the law has had on sentencing practices and on how inmates have adjusted to their incarceration. It will also inform practitioners of the implications of TIS on issues related to inmate reentry and the aging of the prison population, given the potential increased length of stay and release from prison at older ages of those sentenced under the law. A report will be available in October 2008.

10. Trends and Issues

Trends and Issues is a report about crime and justice in Illinois. This report is an update to previous *Trends and Issues* and is the sixth such publication. It describes the organization and operation of the state’s justice system, tracks statewide and regional trends in crime and the processing of offenders, and presents important criminal and justice issues that have emerged this decade. The report derived data from numerous criminal justice sources. Data is presented in several ways in the document through data summaries and descriptions, data tables and trend graphs, and state maps. The graphs depict state data trends over 10 years from 1995 to 2005.

There are five sections: law enforcement, courts, corrections, victims, and juvenile justice. In addition, each section highlights special issues of significance facing the criminal

justice system today, including identity theft, gangs, DNA, specialized courts, substance abuse treatment in prison, human trafficking, and juvenile justice reform initiatives. The report provides valuable crime and justice information to inform the general public, criminal justice professionals, and policy makers.

A final draft of the report is being prepared for presentation at the March 2008 Authority meeting.

11. Trends and Issues Updates

As referenced in the last section, *Trends and Issues* is a report about crime and justice in Illinois, which describes the organization and operation of the state's justice system, tracks statewide and regional trends in crime and the processing of offenders, and presents important criminal and justice issues that have emerged this decade. Data is presented in several ways in the document through data summaries and descriptions, data tables and trend graphs, and state maps. The graphs depict state data trends over 10 years from 1995 to 2005.

As follow-up to that report, five *Trends and Issues Updates* are being written to highlight specific topics that were introduced in the main document. Specific topics includes: Results of the Law Enforcement Needs Assessment Survey, Identity Theft, Offenses Against School Personnel, System-Wide Trends in Drug Crime, and System-Wide Trends in Violent Crime. These shorter research bulletins will be published in early Spring 2008.

B. Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit

The unit's Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit Center is an ADAA-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.

The 2008 CHRI Audit methodology development is currently underway.

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 us 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 1990-2006 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, user agreements were executed with researchers from University of Chicago, Pretrial Justice Institute, and the Urban Institute. Several others are pending approval. Since the inception of the CHRI Ad Hoc Connection Partnership, a total of twenty-seven 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.

Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from the Illinois Department of Corrections. Staff has completed this multi-state research project examining the rate of recidivism of violent sex offenders released from prison. A sample of approximately 500 sex offenders released from the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) in 2001 was analyzed to determine the characteristics of their prior criminal history and recidivism rates for new offenses (for sex offenses and all other types of offenses). Results from the project will be published on the Authority's website.

C. Chicago Homicide Dataset Update Project

The Chicago Homicide Dataset 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. The updated dataset is currently being archived with the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, to allow wider access to the data for research.

Staff continues to collaborate with selected researchers on projects involving use of the Chicago Homicide Dataset.

D. Externally-funded research and evaluation projects

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. Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRS)

Funded by NIJ with substantial in-kind support from the Authority and other collaborating agencies, 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 goal of the CWHRS project is now 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 90 members, most of them practitioners or researchers in the field, plus 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.

Dr. Carolyn Block had an article published in the journal, *Women's Health and Urban Life* based on data from the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study:

Block, C. R. and DeKeseredy, W. (2007). Forced sex and leaving intimate relationships: Results of the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study. *Women's Health and Urban Life*, 6 (1, May): 6-23.

2. Juvenile justice system and risk factor data: 2005 Annual Report

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, R&A staff is completing work on the 2005 Annual Report, which is a compilation of county-level juvenile justice system and risk factor data. Like the previous reports, this version also 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. A final draft of the comprehensive report, which contains over 200 pages of juvenile justice information, is under final review and will be available on the Authority website in late February.

3. Juvenile justice system and risk factor data: 2006 Annual Report

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, work is also underway on the 2006 Annual Report, a compilation of county-level juvenile justice system and risk factor data. Like the 2005 report, this version also 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. A final draft of the comprehensive report, which contains over 200 pages of juvenile justice information, is under final review and will be available on the Authority website in late Spring 2008.

4. 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. The first wave of data collection has been completed in all six participating counties: Lake, DuPage, Adams, Cook, Sangamon and the 2nd Judicial Circuit. The second wave of data collection has been completed in the 2nd Judicial Circuit, Lake, Adams, and Sangamon counties, and has begun at the remaining sites. Partnership agreements have been executed for Sangamon, Cook, DuPage and the 2nd Judicial Circuit. The third and final wave of data collection will begin in early March.

5. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Research Grant

On September 18, 2006, the Authority was awarded a Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant to conduct research on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth (award # 2006-JP-FX-K057). The overall goal of the research is to gain a better understanding of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth (CSEC). A final report will be completed in September 2007. The study utilizes three research methods: focus groups, interviews, and arrest records. The research will:

Professionals from entities with experience in the area of CSEC serve as an advisory group to help Authority staff plan the focus group project. Researchers had a meeting with the advisory board in November 2006. On January 25, 2007, a sub-contract was signed with Claudine O'Leary to serve as a national consultant on the project. On February 28, 2007, a sub-contract was signed for Young Women's Empowerment Project (YWEP), a non-profit agency in Chicago, to recruit focus group participants and moderate the focus groups.

On March 2, 2007, the Institutional Review Board (IRB) application was signed by the ICJIA IRB. One focus group was held on March 21, 2007 and one on May 9, 2007. Participants were adults over 18 years old who as juveniles were involved in the sex trade. The focus groups were audio-taped and each participant was paid a stipend of \$50. Both focus group sessions were transcribed. From April to August 2007, a total of ten federal and local law enforcement officers working in the Chicago Metropolitan area were interviewed on CSEC for this study from the following: Federal Bureau of Investigations, Office of the Attorney General, Chicago Police Department, Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Cook County Sheriff's Department, and suburban Cook County police departments.

The final report and a research bulletin were completed in October 2007 and submitted to OJJDP for peer review. The final report and research bulletin were published and put on the ICJIA website in January 2008.

6. Assessment of prior victimization and access to services among adult female inmates in the Illinois Department of Corrections

This project is designed as an assessment of the prevalence of prior victimization, primarily domestic violence and sexual assault/abuse, among adult female inmates within the Illinois Department of Corrections. Through an examination of existing data collected during the Reception and Classification (R&C) process at the Dwight Correctional Center, the research team

will determine the prevalence of these forms of prior victimization, examine those inmate characteristics correlated with prior victimization (i.e., demographic, socio-economic, criminal and substance abuse history, and mental health), and gauge the access to IDOC services among those with histories of victimization.

A summary was drafted on research of prior domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault victimizations of female inmates, as well as their need for services. The information derived from prison intake assessments includes almost 4,000 female admissions from 2004. The summary warrants more in-depth research to learn further about the extent and nature of victimization and treatment episodes of female inmates. The next step is to share the summary with IDOC and gain support/access to collect further victimization data from women housed at Dwight Correctional Center with IDOC approval. More in-depth interviews completed by Authority staff will be able to address some of the limitations of the basic R&C data.

Staff met with IDOC staff at Dwight Correctional Center on January 18, 2008 to discuss the phase two research plan. IDOC staff were supportive of further research of their female inmates on victimization issues. Staff toured Dwight and observed their reception and classification process on January 30, 2008. A video conference call to further explore the research plan and logistical issues is scheduled for February 6, 2008.

7. CLARIS Web-based Application for methamphetamine lab reporting

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has asked each state to identify a single agency to be responsible for collecting monthly information regarding meth lab seizure incidents. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has been identified as the agency to collect this information. CLARIS is the web interface and database that was developed by staff to allow Illinois law enforcement agency personnel to enter meth lab seizure data, access these data, and extract these data from customized queries. It is currently operational and successfully collecting data from ISP's Meth Response Teams (MRT), Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and Drug Taskforces, for a total of twenty-three agencies.

II. ONGOING ACTIVITIES

A. Briefings/Presentations

Since the last Authority update for the December 2007 meeting, R&A staff made presentations at, and/or attended the following professional meetings:

- On November 29, 2007, staff attended the seminar: *Safeguarding the Sexual Health of Children*, sponsored by the Center for Human Rights of Children, Loyola University Chicago.
- On November 30, 2007, staff attended the anti-CSEC Community Response Plan Day, coordinated by the PROMISE task force, Dominican University.

- During the week of November 27, 2007, staff participated in the following presentations/workshops at the American Society of Criminology November meeting:
 - “Long-term Patterns of Offending in Adult Women.”
 - "Workshop on Researcher/Practitioner Collaborations."
 - “Use, Mis-Use and Non-Use of Data.”
- Staff presented with Professor Jody Raphael, DePaul School of Law, on collaborative human trafficking research projects at “What Will It Take? Building the Safest State for All Women and Girls,” Grantee Partner Convening, held at IDHS in Chicago on December 14, 2007.
- Staff attended an ARC/GIS mapping training December 10 through December 14, 2007, in Naperville.
- The Research Director and the Executive Director met with Hon. Timothy Evans, Chief Judge of Cook County Circuit Court, on December 18, 2007 to discuss juvenile justice research program and policy issues.
- Staff attended the MacArthur Foundation’s Models for Change, Disproportionate Minority Confinement workgroup meeting at Loyola University on December 19, 2007.
- All R&A staff members attended a staff retreat on January 9 and 10 at Loyola University to conduct strategic planning, determine goals and priorities for the next year, and discuss other operational and training issues.
- Staff attended the Cook County Survivor Response Improvement Work Group Data Subcommittee on January 11.
- Staff attended the inaugural meeting of the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention’s Elder Domestic Violence Initiative on January 14, 2008 in Springfield
- Staff attended the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission meeting on January 17 to provide an update on the annual risk factor report.
- Staff attended a Female Inmates Victimization Research meeting with IDOC regarding collaboration at Dwight Correctional Center on the January 18.
- Staff met with officials from Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, National Institute of Justice, and several Illinois probation departments for an Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Data Committee meeting.
- Staff met with officials from IL Department of Human Services, IL Violence Prevention Authority, and IL Department of Public Health on January 24 to discuss the Safety Net Works initiative and proposed evaluation.

- Research and Analysis staff met with staff from the Juvenile Justice Initiative, Models for Change, and the AOIC in Springfield on January 28 to discuss data needs and training for juvenile justice professionals.
- Staff attended a juvenile justice/mental health initiative meeting on January 30 at the Voices for Illinois Children offices.
- Staff hosted a meeting with officials from IL Department of Human Services, IL Violence Prevention Authority, and IL Department of Public Health on January 24 to plan the evaluation of the Governor’s Safety Net Works initiative.
- Staff continued to meet with officials from IL Department of Human Services, IL Violence Prevention Authority, and IL Department of Public Health on January 31 to discuss the Safety Net Works initiative and evaluation.
- Staff attended the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) partnership meeting in Bloomington on February 5.
- Staff met with officials from IL Department of Human Services, IL Violence Prevention Authority, and IL Department of Public Health on February 7 to discuss the Safety Net Works initiative and evaluation. A draft implementation evaluation approach was developed.
- Staff hosted a meeting of the advisory board for the Study on Victimization of Female Inmates in IDOC on February 6.
- Staff participated in an Illinois Meth Project briefing conference call on February 6.

B. Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse

The Authority serves as a statewide clearinghouse for statistics and other information about crime and the criminal justice system. Many requests continue to come from private agencies (26 percent) and private citizens (36 percent). Other requests came from governmental agencies, researchers, students, news media representatives, legislators, and prison inmates. Twenty-seven percent of the requests originate in the Chicago metropolitan area. Thirty-five percent originate in other parts of the state. All other requests for information were received from outside Illinois, outside the United States, and unknown areas. R&A distributed over 628 Authority publications during the second quarter of SFY 08, not including those downloaded from our Website (205,540) [TABLE 1]. The volume of web users has continued to remain at high levels. For the second quarter of SFY 08, there were 2,407,369 “hits” on our website and more than 88,685 visitors (users that remained on the site for a period of time.) There were 215,680 downloads of information or publications for the second quarter of SFY 08 [TABLE 2]. The website continues to be a valuable resource for our constituents. Appendix A lists the publications that have been recently posted on the website since the last Authority Board meetings.

C. Redesign of Criminal Justice DataNet

The Authority's Website currently allows users to access datasets pertaining to population; offenses and arrests; court case filings; probation caseloads; court sentences; drug seizures, submissions, and treatment; prison sentences; county jail populations; juvenile justice indicators (petitions, adjudications, detention); and risk factor indicators (child abuse and neglect, divorce, poverty, substance exposed infants, school dropouts/truancies/suspensions/expulsions, teen births, unemployment). These data, however, are currently available as read-only files that limit their usefulness for analysis. To provide datasets in formats that are more useful for research, evaluation, and to provide more useful portraits of information for citizens and students, work has now begun to develop an enhanced web capacity. Once completed, users will be able to download county-level and some city-level data sets in spreadsheet and database formats, and to create customized graphs and maps interactively in a web-based environment.

Prior to implementing this capability, extensive work is first being conducted to inventory and update existing datasets maintained by the R&A Unit. Although the majority of those datasets are received from other state agencies and other governmental entities that serve as primary caretakers for the information, staff are assessing data quality through manual scanning, and by running automated diagnostics that identify unusual patterns over time that may indicate data error. Data quality concerns will be communicated to those source agencies, and we will offer to work collaboratively with them to resolve problems. Documentation of unresolved data usage concerns and cautions will be available to Website users as part of the overall documentation adjoining the data.

D. FSGU Support Efforts

Upon request, R&A staff review and comment on proposed program narratives submitted by potential grantees to FSGU. The focus of R&A comments are in the areas of proposed objectives, goals, and performance measures. FSGU staff also request R&A assistance in the development of data reports for proposed programs. R&A staff continued to work with FSGU staff responsible for the VAWA and JAIBG funds to develop data reports for grantees that include the federally mandated performance measures. This effort will allow federal agencies to improve their reporting of the performance of these grant programs at the state and federal level. R&A staff has also assumed responsibility for the computerization of some program performance data not only for VAWA and JAIBG, but also ADA/JAG, VOCA, MVTPC funds. Upon FSGU request, staff produce program status reports and/or profiles assessing performance for each of these funding areas over a given period of time.

The research director is working with staff to refine protocols for this R&A partnership with FSGU.

E. Technical Assistance

- During the week of November 27, 2007, staff trained the Joliet MANS unit and North Central Task force and both were added as CLARIS users.

- Provided technical assistance for juvenile probation officers in Lee, Ogle, and Stephenson counties on Excel and other data tools on January 31, 2008 in Dixon, Illinois
- The research director attended a meeting on January 23 at Cook County Juvenile Probation to provide technical assistance in reporting data for their Redeploy Illinois program.
- Staff helped test MARS (motor vehicle theft) on-line reporting system during much of the quarter.
- Staff provided technical assistance for the audit of the CLARIS system.

F. 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:

- o 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.
- o 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.
- o Those killed by any use of force by law enforcement officers prior to booking
- o People who died at a crime/arrest scene or medical facility prior to booking.
- o Deaths occurring in transit to or from law enforcement facilities.
- o Deaths of those confined in lockups or booking centers (facilities from which arrestees are usually transferred within 72 hours and not held beyond arraignment).

Summary data on death in law enforcement custody for the year of 2005 was submitted to BJS in July 2007. BJS utilized the data to produce a three-year (2003-2005) study of arrest fatalities in the United States. The report, Arrest-Related Deaths in the United States, 2003-2005, was released in October 2007.

G. Web-based training curriculum (Breeze)

Staff continues to explore development of a web-based application that will serve as a medium to users to present interactive training curricula for criminal justice practitioners, social service professionals, and the general public. Upgraded software has been purchased and a curriculum on data analysis and presentation has been developed. Preliminary work has begun to explore using the software application to assist in training InfoNet users and in providing technical assistance to county juvenile justice officials on use of data for management and planning purposes.

III. NEW PROJECTS

Data on Victims of Human Trafficking

Staff is participating in an initiative by the Illinois Department of Human Services to expand the scope of data collection, management, and reporting on victims of human trafficking. Staff will examine existing data sources, and make determinations regarding possible enhancements to those systems as well as the initiation of new data capture strategies.

The DePaul College of Law Schiller Du Canto & Fleck Law Center asked the Authority to conduct data entry and analysis for a research project on human sex trafficking. Ms. Jody Raphael, Senior Research Fellow, received a grant from the Chicago Foundation on Women for this research. The project will administer questionnaires to 80 girls and women currently in the sex trade industry (ages 13-25) to gain information about local trafficking, how the industry works, and how to better reach these particular victims. Data is being collected and entered, and will be analyzed in early 2008. The Authority will be able to use the data to complete publications.

IV. GRANT PROPOSALS

R&A staff routinely pursues discretionary grants to support data collection, research, and evaluation activities. Frequently these projects involve collaborations with universities and/or other criminal justice agencies.

Research on Human Trafficking

Staff is applying for a national Institute of Justice Grant on human trafficking. Staff is proposing to complete an evaluation of a pilot sex trafficking program for women arrested in the 8th police district in Chicago for prostitution. Grant is due on February 12, 2008.

V. CONTINUING STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Staff continues to conduct and/or take part in a variety of staff development and training programs and projects. These include: (a) observations/site visits to several key criminal justice agencies; (b) peer review process for project development and pre-publication; (c) partnerships with the academic community; (d) training classes including basic SPSS use and the use of mapping software. ICJIA

has contracted for training, starting in December of 2007, to train two research staff in the new version of the ARCGIS mapping software. One will attend additional training on server side technologies and the use of the mapping software over the internet in a .net environment. Both will provide assistance and training to all R&A and other interested staff in applying to most modern mapping technologies to the agency's analytical and **reporting/communicative** efforts.

- Staff attended Fred Pryor Supervisor Training in Chicago on January 25, 2008.
- Staff attended CMS performance evaluation training in Springfield on January 29, 2008.
- Several R&A staff are actively pursuing advanced academic degrees in graduate programs and post-graduate programs. Some also serve as adjunct faculty in criminal justice and other social science programs.
- Internship program. Under the direct supervision of a senior staff member in the Research and Analysis Unit, interns have been hired to perform a variety of information functions relating to critical issues facing the Illinois criminal justice system. These might include, for example, assembling data for analysis and writing a summary of results, developing data collection instruments and collecting data, writing press releases or editing documents for publication, converting spreadsheet data to web-friendly formats, assisting with the development of on-line training, staffing committees, or other tasks as appropriate. There is no compensation for these positions, but interns may be able to use the experience as course credit.

cc: Lori G. Levin
Hank Anthony

Appendix A

Publications

RESEARCH REPORTS

[]***71 RR** Victim and Household Characteristics: Reporting violence to the Police. Illinois Crime Victimization Survey 2002 Data Analysis (December, 2007, 32pp)

[]***70 RR** CLEAR and I-CLEAR: A Report on New Information Technology in Chicago and Illinois (October, 2007, 55pp)

Program Evaluation

[] * **14 PE** Cook County Pilot Program seek to Reduce Female DUI Recidivism (December, 2007)

**TABLE 1. Information Request Handling Statistics
July 1, 2007 – September 30, 2007**

ITEM	REQUESTS/Pct
Information requests handled:	129
Monthly average number of requests:	43
Geographic Origin of requesters:	
Chicago metropolitan area	27%
Other region of Illinois	35%
U.S. other than Illinois	31%
Outside the U.S.	2%
Unknown	19%
Type of requester:	
Government agency	22%
Private agency	26%
Researcher	9%
Student	5%
Citizen	36%
Media	1%
Legislators	<1%
Inmates	<1%
Method of request:	
Telephone/fax	37%
Mail	0%
Email/Internet	32
In-person	0%
ICJIA Website	31%
Publications disseminated:	
Mailed in response to requests	628
Downloaded from Website	205,540
Total	205,879

Table 2. Authority Website Trends
www.icjia.state.il.us
 October 1, 2007 – December 30, 2007

Month/Year	Hits		User Sessions			Visitors			File Downloads	CJ DISPATCH SUBSCRIBERS
	Entire Site	Average Per Day	Sessions	Average Per Day	Average Length (min)	Unique	One-Time	Repeat		
Oct-07	797,168	25,715	73,698	2,377	18	31,196	26,291	4,905	74,189	2,448
Nov-07	781,421	26,047	70,103	2,336	19	29,921	25,398	4,523	77,858	2,473
Dec-07	828,780	26,734	67,546	2,176	25	27,568	23,289	4,279	63,633	2,496
TOTAL	2,407,369	78,496	211,347	6,891	62	88,685	74,978	13,707	215,680	7,417
MONTHLY AVERAGE	751,103	26,165	70,449	2,297	21	29,561	24,992	4,569	71,893	