



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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**To:** Authority Members

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

**Date:** May 11, 2007

**Re:** Research and Analysis Unit Report for the June 2007 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. 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. Reintegration of Gang Offenders in the Community**

In collaboration with DePaul University's Department of Sociology, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center, a small-scale, pilot study of the reintegration process has been conducted. The study is largely qualitative, examining how gang and non-gang offenders go about reintegrating into their communities of origin. A final report and Research Bulletin are available on our website.

#### **2. Illinois Going Home Program Evaluation**

The University of Chicago is conducting 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 will determine if the program was implemented as designed, how it worked in the field and the effectiveness of the program. Evaluators completed a one-year interim report in September. This report identified a number of recommendations for increasing enrollment that Going Home staff is currently implementing. The final report was received and revisions requests were submitted. We are awaiting the final copy.

### **3. 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.

- *Analysis of Crime Victimization Data – Violent Crime and Victim’s Gender*, by Dr. Callie Rennison of the University of Missouri St. Louis. This analysis addresses whether individual and family level correlates of nonfatal victimization differ by gender, whether these correlates differ by type of nonfatal violent crime and whether they differ depending on the victim and offender relationship. This report was received in September and is available on our website, and a *Research at a Glance* is also available on our site.
- *Analysis of Drug Use, Treatment and Probationer Recidivism*, by Dr. Beth Hueber of the University of Missouri at St. Louis. This project identified the characteristics of drug-involved probationers, the prevalence of participation in treatment and the effect of treatment on probation outcomes. The report is available on our website.
- *Analysis of Methamphetamine and Domestic Violence in Illinois* under the direction of Dr. Gaylene Armstrong at Southern Illinois University. This project measures the impact of methamphetamine on domestic violence across Illinois counties. State and regional trends in meth use are detailed, as well as a descriptive assessment of statewide and regional trends in domestic violence. In addition, the study examines the effect of meth use indicators on variations in domestic violence, while controlling for other county level characteristics. This report is under review.
- *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 examines how victim’s characteristics influence the decision to contact the police following violence. The study is based on Illinois 2002 crime victimization survey data. This report is undergoing final revisions.
- *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 will address several issues in the identification of risk factors that contribute to violent and non-violent recidivism after discharge from probation. In addition, the study will address what types of offenders show evidence of refraining from new crimes for a longer-term period after they have successful treatment completion. They study will also test whether family only and generalized aggressors have unique risk factors associated with recidivism. This report was received in May and is under review.

#### **4. Safe Havens Domestic Violence Program evaluation project**

Staff is evaluating 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 has received IRB approval and data collection is almost complete. Staff has 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 as well as other data collected in client files (Data from these forms, together with data collected through the 11 interviews that are completed can help determine how accurately these forms reflect what happens during visits. Other client information found in their files can help 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.). All interviews have been completed. Most of the data have been collected from the family file folders in each center. All family court judges in Chicago participated in a training session 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.

#### **5. 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. Respondents from probation and court services indicated that in addition to supervision duties, pre-sentence investigations comprise a significant part of their workload, as do working with clients that present treatment and drug or alcohol use issues.

Drug cases comprised a significant portion of the workload for both public defenders and state's attorneys, as did domestic violence and juvenile crime cases. Additional or timelier crime lab processing was also noted as factor in the efficient movement of cases. The need for drug treatment, employment opportunities and youth prevention programs was noted by both the prosecution and defense sides, as well as victim service providers, as actions that may reduce drug use or violence.

Many of the respondents also noted the need for increased resources to combat identity theft, an increased need for bi-lingual personnel or language translation, and the need for better access to computerized information or information sharing systems. While the final results are still being studied, the responses and the final report have become an integral part of the JAG planning process. The report is on our website and an overall summary is in development. A series of summaries describing results by criminal justice component are planned.

## **6. 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. Open since January 2004, Sheridan operates as a fully dedicated therapeutic community for inmates in need of substance abuse treatment. Sheridan is the largest treatment prison in the country. The evaluation of Sheridan is a collaborative effort between the Authority, Loyola University, and the Illinois Department of Corrections. Using methods approved by an Evaluation Advisory Committee, the process and impact evaluation involves extensive quantitative data collection and qualitative information from interviews with staff and participants. The evaluation will seek to measure changes in participant attitudes, beliefs and psychological functioning, in addition to participants' preparedness for release. The study will also examine the extent and nature of institutional violations and measures of recidivism after release. Employment and access to services will also be studied. A summary of the project was released in October 2004 as a *Program Evaluation Summary* report, and Authority staff has completed analyses assessing program impact after two years of operation. A second *Program Evaluation Summary* report was completed in March 2006 reporting recidivism and post-release employment outcomes in addition to information contained in the first *Program Evaluation Summary* report. The Authority continues to assist the evaluation team in updating recidivism figures on a

continuous basis. Research will continue throughout much of 2007. A third program evaluation summary is expected to be published this year, as well as additional publications at a later date regarding the long-term impact of the program and the characteristics of participants that influence success in the program.

### **7. Evaluation of Redeploy Illinois sites**

The evaluation of two Redeploy Illinois sites began in March 2005. The first site, in Macon County, provides a series of services and treatments in an effort to keep juveniles in the community and out of the Illinois Department of Corrections. The second site, in the Second Judicial Circuit, also employs treatment and includes Multi-Systemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy and Aggression Replacement Training to keep youth in the community. Powered Performance, a Wheaton-based research and consulting firm, was awarded the contract to evaluate both Redeploy sites. The final report was received and is available on our website. The Macon County Redeploy *Program Evaluation Summary* and the summary for the Second Judicial Circuit are both now available on our website.

A request for proposals was issued in January 2006 for the evaluation of two new Redeploy Illinois sites in Peoria and St. Clair Counties. Southern Illinois University-Carbondale was awarded the contract in March 2006 to evaluate these sites. The evaluation report was received in July and is available on our website. Two program summaries are also available.

### **8. 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.

### **9. 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. The evaluation began in January 2006 and data collection and interviews are progressing. The final report was received May 2007 and is under review.

### **10. 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 was submitted in January and revision requests were made.

## **11. 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:

- *Corrections to Community: The collective reentry experience of juvenile offenders.* This study, under the direction of the University of Chicago, will examine a number of factors that play into the reentry experience of juveniles released from Illinois correctional facilities between 1996 and 2002.
- *Analysis of Domestic Violence Service Data.* Under the direction of Loyola University, this study will examine 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 in January and has been reviewed.

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:

- *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 12-month project began January 2007.
- *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. This 12-month project began in October 2006.

An additional Investigator-initiated RFP will be issued in June.

## **12. Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee**

Staff assisted the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee in the development of an RFP to secure a vendor for the development of a survey regarding capital punishment in Illinois. Loyola University was the selected Vendor.

## **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 Data Ad Hoc Connection. The CHRI data ad hoc connection is an electronic connection to criminal history record information housed by the Illinois State Police. Access to CHRI data allows ICJIA to query the data housed on the computerized criminal history database. Use of this data resource provides a rich data resource that may support fact based decision making as well continuous improvement of the data quality. Illinois is one of only a handful of states that has this technical ability to electronically access state criminal history record information for research purposes.

The CHRI Ad Hoc connection affords audit staff the ability to directly query the state police database for results that are current as of the previous day, and to download and store blocks of data for research purposes. A CHRI Ad Hoc Data Archive of all criminal history records from 1990-2005 has been created in formats that can be readily shared with researchers. This Archive currently holds close to a million records for each year. These data are stored in a secure environment and made available only for in-house research needs and to those researchers with user agreements. A Data Dictionary defining all available data elements and general user guidelines has been developed and reviewed by ISP staff.

Staff has worked cooperatively with the state police to develop and implement a research data request processing procedure and unified user agreement. 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 have been executed with researchers from University of Chicago, and the Vera Institute. Several others are pending approval.

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 continues to work on this multi-state research project examining the rate of recidivism of violent sex offenders released from prison. A sample of approximately 1,100 sex offenders has been identified from a data file of year 2001 exits received from the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), along with a control group of violent non-sex offenders. Recidivism rates for new offenses (for sex offenses and all other types of offenses) are being determined from CHRI data. The project is slated to be completed by September 30, 2007.

Uniform Conviction Information Act (UCIA) Cost Survey. The Authority is statutorily mandated to periodically assess if the maximum allowable fee charged for conviction information requests made by the private citizens adequately covers the costs incurred. Approximately 300 law enforcement agencies will be mailed a brief survey. Results of the survey and any recommendations for changes in the maximum allowable fee will be reported to the Authority Board.

### **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. In August 2005, staff completed a long-standing effort to update the dataset through 2000, and staff has been working to clean and archive the complete 36-year dataset. With the help of Richard Block, staff completed the geocoding of the new data and checked the geocoding of the earlier data. The updated dataset is 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.

The following paper have been accepted for publication during the last quarter:



- "Intimate partner violence and miscarriage: Examination of the role of physical and psychological abuse and PTSD" (with Leslie A. Morland, National Center for PTSD, Honolulu, Gregory A. Leskin, National Center for PTSD, Palo Alto, Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Johns Hopkins, and Matthew J. Friedman, National Center for PTSD and Dartmouth Medical School) was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
- "Non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for attempted and completed femicide" (with Nancy Glass, Oregon Health and Science University, Kathryn Laughon, University of Virginia, Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Johns Hopkins, and Ginger Hanson, Oregon Health and Science University) was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Emergency Medicine*.

## **2. Juvenile justice system and risk factor data: 2004 Annual Report**

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, R&A staff has completed work on the 2004 Annual Report. Staff has compiled county-level juvenile justice system and risk factor data into a single data report. Like the previous 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. The comprehensive report, which contains over 200 pages of juvenile justice information, was published in February 2007 and is available on the Authority website. Staff will also publish a *Research at a Glance* focusing on system and risk factor trends in rural counties.

## **3. 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 Lake, DuPage, Adams, Cook and Sangamon counties. Data collection continues in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit. The second wave of data collection will begin in mid 2007 at all sites. Partnership agreements have been executed for Sangamon, Cook, DuPage and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit

## **4. 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.

We will use three research methods: focus groups, interviews, and arrest records. The research will:

- 1) examine how law enforcement has responded to CSEC through an analysis of arrests of minors and adults for CSEC-related offenses,
- 2) survey law enforcement through one-on-one in-depth interviews to study their perceptions of the extent and nature of CSEC, and
- 3) hold focus groups to document the perceptions of adults who had experience in the sex trade as minors.

Professionals from entities with experience in the area of CSEC serve as an advisory group to help Authority staff plan the focus group project. These entities are: Alternatives, Inc.; Chicago Crime Commission; Cook County Sheriff's Department; Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center; Fraternal Order of Police; Ms. Jody Raphael, DePaul College of Law; Illinois Law Enforcement Education Foundation; Midwest Immigrant Human Rights Coalition; Office of the Illinois Attorney General; Dr. Schaffner, PhD, University of Illinois-Chicago; and Young Women's Empowerment Project. Researchers had a meeting with the advisory board in November 2006.

The Authority has contracted with Young Women's Empowerment Project (YWEP), which creates leadership opportunities and peer based dialogue and education by and for teen girls in the sex trade and to recognize the leadership, resilience and understanding girls already have. YWEP held one focus group on March 21, 2007 and another is scheduled for May 9, 2007. A focus group recruitment flyer, consent form, and questions were created. The Institutional Review Board approved this research project in March 2007.

##### **5. 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 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. Data has been obtained from IDOC and analysis will begin shortly.

##### **6. 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.

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority applied for and received a U.S. Department of Justice grant to develop CLARIS, a web interface and database to allow Illinois law enforcement agency personnel to enter meth lab seizure data, access these data, and extract these data from customized queries. It was originally designed as a tool to supplement ISP and EPIC data by providing a mechanism to electronically “push,” or share, the collected data with EPIC and also share these data with the Illinois State Police, the key feature and hidden by-product of the database. CLARIS allows us to ensure that the agencies using it submit required data both to EPIC and also supply any additional information required by ISP.

The database has been completed and ICJIA is currently awaiting clearance from EPIC in order to send data.

## **II. ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

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

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

- Staff attended the 34th National Conference on Juvenile Justice March 4-7
- Staff attended IDHS Rescue and Restore our Minors from Sexual Exploitation Steering Committee on March 20
- Staff attended meeting of Illinois Youth Court Association on April 18
- Staff attended the 34th National Conference on Juvenile Justice in San Diego March 4-8.
- Staff attended the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission meeting March 14 to introduce the Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data in Illinois, 2004 annual report.
- Staff participated in a conference call March 13 with National Institute of Corrections regarding the Evidence Based Practices Project.
- Staff attended the Illinois Department of Human Services Rescue and Restore steering committee meeting on March 20
- Staff attended a Chicago Public Schools peer jury meeting on March 22
- Staff participate in a Illinois Department of Human Services Rescue and Restore conference call on March 29
- Staff attended a Redeploy Illinois meeting on March 29
- Staff attended the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative partners group meeting on March 28 and the pilot sites meeting on March 29. Both meetings are in Springfield.
- Staff attended a DV Protocol Planning meeting on March 14
- Staff attended the Mental Health Juvenile Justice Colloquium on April 6 and served as a panel member on local detention screening practices.
- Staff attended the April 6 PROMISE (child sexual exploitation task force) meeting
- Staff (Jessica Ashley) served as guest lecturer regarding BARJ and the juvenile justice system at Governor's State University on April 10.

- Staff participated in a BARJ meeting in Paxton, IL on April 12
- The Research & Analysis Associate Director spoke with researchers from DePaul University regarding research that could be done on the topic of stalking.
- The Associate Director of Research & Analysis met with a number of agencies in Washington, DC on April 26 & 27, including JRSA, BJS and IACP.
- Staff hosted an Institutional Review Board Training meeting April 25
- Staff met with Lake County Probation April 24 to discuss their evaluation of transitional services for female offenders.
- Staff attended a meeting in Bloomington on April 30 to begin planning for a conference to explore connections between various juvenile justice initiatives, including Balanced & Restorative Justice (BARJ), Redeploy Illinois, Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), and Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC).
- Staff met with officials from the Illinois State Police Information Technology Command on May 3 to discuss the future audits of the Criminal History Record (CCH) system, and the use of CCH ad hoc files for research.
- Staff attended a meeting on May 11 in Chicago to begin laying groundwork for the BARJ conference to address connections between BARJ, JDAI, Redeploy Illinois, and DMC initiatives.
- Staff met with officials from IL Department of Human Services on May 8 to discuss strategies for enhancing data collection relating to the issue of human trafficking.

## **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 governmental agencies (29 percent) and private citizens (34 percent). Other requests came from private agencies, researchers, students, news media representatives, legislators, and prison inmates. Twenty-three percent of the requests originate in the Chicago metropolitan area. Forty-eight 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 14,172 Authority publications during the third quarter of SFY 07, not including those downloaded from our Website (277,917) [TABLE 1]. The volume of web users has continued to remain at high levels. For the third quarter of SFY 07, there were 2,077,688 “hits” on our website and more than 91,000 visitors (users that remained on the site for a period of time.) There were 277,917 downloads of information or publications for the third quarter of SFY 07 [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. 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 and, upon FSGU request, produced program status reports and/or profiles assessing performance over a given period of time. [Table 2 (attached) presents FSGU support statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]

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

- R&A staff is frequently asked to provide a variety of technical assistance on extra-agency research and evaluation, and program implementation projects. Since the last Authority meeting:
- Staff continued to provide limited assistance to several third-party research projects involving studies of individuals' criminal history records.
- Staff reviewed articles submitted for publication to professional journals, including *Homicide Studies*, *Feminist Criminology*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Social Service Review* and *Justice Research and Policy*.
- Staff provided technical assistance to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (IJDAI) regarding the collection of performance measurement data from IJDAI pilot sites.
- Staff continued to serve on an advisory board for the National Violent Injury Statistics System (NVISS), Harvard University, and Centers for Disease Control, consulting on how to make NVISS data accessible to a practical audience.
- Staff continued to participate with and support the Illinois Attorney General's Methamphetamine Healthcare Advisory Committee's Research Working Group.
- Staff aided FSGU staff in the redesign of data reports to better allow the reporting of JAG performance measures. Staff had already redesigned MEG/TF reports to capture information related to methamphetamine.
- Dr. Becky Block was asked to be on the Editorial Board of the journal of Justice Research and Policy. She is also on the Editorial Boards of *Homicide Studies* and *Feminist Criminology*. Dr. Block retired this month, but will continue to provide guidance on a number of projects.
- Staff continued to assist Abt Associates in the national evaluation of multijurisdictional drug task forces.
- Staff met with the Illinois State Police and the Department of Human Services to discuss how to better obtain better juvenile arrest data. Staff also discussed (and are now able to tap into) a data source that ISP put into place when the juvenile justice act went into affect. Staff discussed how to audit that data and determine how accurate/useful it is. It is a source other than criminal history records data.

- ISP asked staff to provide BJS with 2006 felony conviction data from the CHRI Ad Hoc Dataset for the National Judicial Reporting Program, a biennial national sentencing study.
- Staff began discussions with Northern Illinois University researchers to utilize juvenile arrest data needed for a research project regarding the impact of juvenile crime on the community and the criminal justice financial costs.
- Staff provided technical assistance regarding juvenile arrest data to the Juvenile Justice Initiative.
- Staff provided technical assistance to TASC, Inc. regarding available methamphetamine statistics in the 9th Judicial Circuit.
- Staff continued to participate with and support the Southern Illinois Methamphetamine Awareness Conference.
- Staff continued to serve on the Illinois Methamphetamine Advisory Panel, a joint project of the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Attorney's Office, Illinois Attorney General's Office, Illinois State Police, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, Illinois Sheriff's Association, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, and Illinois Drug Officer's Association to discuss the growing threat of Methamphetamine abuse in Illinois.
- Staff continued to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System, a joint project of the City of Chicago Mayor's Office, the city's Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Public Health, Chicago Police Department, and Cook County Medical Examiner's Office to develop better data regarding violent deaths in Illinois. Data collection has been completed for 2005 in the three participating counties. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee in December 6th.
- The SSN (Social Support Network scale, developed by the CWHRs project) has been accepted for inclusion in an archive of scales, the HaPI (Health and Psychosocial Instruments) database. Staff has been working with the Department of Human and Community Development at the University of Illinois, the Harvard Medical School, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and the Department of Human and Community Development at University of Illinois, Urbana. A graduate student at Loyola University Chicago is writing a dissertation proposal on the SSN, using the CWHRs data.
- Staff continued to advise users of the Chicago Homicide Dataset and the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study dataset, both of which are archived in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data.
- Staff continued to provide technical assistance to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in their annual Homicide Report.
- Staff continue to serve on the multi-state advisory board for the National Institute of Justice supported research project entitled "Evaluation of Multijurisdictional Task Forces-Phase II," an

evaluation being conducted by Abt and Associates, which includes the states of Colorado, Tennessee, and Georgia.

### **E. Balanced and Restorative Justice Trainings:**

Staff continues to plan seminars to give juvenile justice practitioners, policymakers, counselors, and treatment providers the tools they need to incorporate the balanced and restorative justice (BARJ) philosophy and its practices into juvenile substance abuse treatment to maximize the potential for rehabilitation. Topics include: delivering restorative substance abuse treatment, using BARJ to maximize offender rehabilitation potential, helping juvenile methamphetamine offenders, imparting empathy with victim impact panels, and the benefits and implementation of juvenile drug courts.

Staff is organizing a two-day seminar on “BARJ and Victims” to be held in Bloomington, Illinois for juvenile justice professionals. The seminar will build on previous statewide ICJIA sponsored events: the BARJ Summit held in Fall 2003, the conference, “Juvenile Justice in Illinois: Implementing Restorative Justice in Your Community” held in Spring of 2005, and the nine BARJ practices trainings held over the past two years in Illinois. In addition, training participants will build on the information obtained from the ICJIA’s BARJ implementation guides. In 1998, Illinois’ Juvenile Court Act was revised to include a purpose and policy statement adopting BARJ for all juvenile delinquency cases. Many jurisdictions have not complied with provisions of the Act. This seminar will help service providers incorporate the principles of BARJ in their work with crime victims.

Staff is also planning a one-day seminar on “BARJ and Substance Abuse” in Bloomington for juvenile justice professionals. This seminar was previously held in Elk Grove Village on September 28, 2006. The evaluation results showed that participants rated the seminar as “very good” and 90 percent felt that the seminar’s content was suitable to their background and experience. The agenda will be altered slightly based on the comments provided from participant evaluations. Dee Bell, a well-known national speaker on the topic of BARJ affiliated with the Department of Justice-funded National BARJ Project is again interested in doing a presentation on the topic in Illinois. These seminars will help courts, probation, and service providers incorporate the principles of BARJ in their work with young offenders. The seminar will build on other prior statewide ICJIA sponsored events: the BARJ summit held in Fall 2003 and the conference, “Juvenile Justice in Illinois: Implementing Restorative Justice in Your Community” held in Spring of 2005. In addition, seminar participants will build on the information obtained from the ICJIA’s BARJ implementation guides.

### **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).

Retrospective summary data on deaths in law enforcement custody during the period of January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 were submitted to BJS in the fall of 2004. Since then, staff has been reporting quarterly data on death in law enforcement custody to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

#### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

#### **DePaul Law School Human Trafficking Research Project**

The DePaul University College of Law's Family 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 will be collected in the summer and entered and analyzed in late summer/ early fall 2007.

## **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. Most recently, staff attended an in-house training on InfoNet, the reporting and database system that a number of victim service agencies in Illinois utilize.
- 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 Bulletins**

Community re-entry challenges daunt ex-offenders quest for a fresh start (March, 2007)

#### **Research Reports**

ICJIA Needs Assessment Survey Final Report (February, 2007)

ICJIA Needs Assessment Survey Appendix (February, 2007)

Juvenile Justice Data 2004 Annual Report Appendix H Data Tables (March, 2007)

ICJIA 2006 Annual Report (March, 2007)

#### **Program Evaluation Summary**

Redeploy Illinois program decreases incarceration rates among juveniles (March, 2007)

#### **Research at a Glance**

Minorities overrepresented in Illinois juvenile corrections facilities (February, 2007)

Corrections data illustrate juvenile incarceration trends in Illinois (March, 2007)

**TABLE 1. Information Request Handling Statistics  
January 1, 2007 – March 31, 2007**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>REQUESTS/Pct</b>
<b>Information requests handled:</b>	187
<b>Monthly average number of requests:</b>	62.3
<b>Geographic Origin of requesters:</b>	
Chicago metropolitan area	23%
Other region of Illinois	48%
U.S. other than Illinois	13%
Outside the U.S.	2%
Unknown	14%
<b>Type of requester:</b>	
Government agency	18%
Private agency	3%
Researcher	3%
Student	6%
Citizen	21%
Media	1%
Legislators	<1%
Inmates	<1%
<b>Method of request:</b>	
Telephone/fax	25%
Mail	<1%
Email/Internet	22%
In-person	<1%
ICJIA Website	15%
<b>Publications disseminated:</b>	
Mailed in response to requests	
Downloaded from Website	
Total	

Table 2. Authority Website Trends  
[www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us)  
 January 1, 2007 – March 31, 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		
Jan-07	696,605	26,222	89,590	2,890	17	30,153	25,118	5,035	91,443	2,252
Feb-07	655,980	27,322	89,378	3,192	17	29,395	24,480	4,987	88,689	2,288
Mar-07	725,103	25,503	101,097	3,261	17	31,868	26,788	5,090	97,785	2,296
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,077,688</b>	<b>26,349</b>	<b>280,065</b>	<b>3,114</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>91,416</b>	<b>76,386</b>	<b>15,112</b>	<b>277,917</b>	
<b>MONTHLY AVERAGE</b>	<b>69,256</b>		<b>94,387</b>			<b>30,811</b>	<b>25,727</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>95,436</b>	

**TABLE 3. FSGU Support Requested: Statistics**

Activities Requested by Federal and State Grants Unit	PROGRAM	Third Quarter Jan- Mar. 2007		
		REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING
<b>PROGRAM NARRATIVE REVIEW</b>	ADAA	3	3	0
	JAIBG	-	-	-
	VOCA/VAWA	0	0	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>DATA REPORT DEVELOPMENT</b>	ADAA	0	0	0
	JAIBG	-	-	-
	VOCA/VAWA	0	0	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>DATA REPORT ENTRY (Number of projects for which monthly/quarterly data reports were computerized)</b>	ADAA	79	79	0
	JAIBG	-	-	-
	VOCA/VAWA	Not applicable		
	MVTPC	21	21	0
	Other: MEG/TF	20	20	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PROJECT STATUS REPORT (Number of assessments completed)</b>	ADAA	-	-	-
	JAIBG	-	-	-
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-
	MVTPC	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>PROGRAM PROFILE</b> <b>(Number of profiles)</b>	ADAA	-	-	-
	JAIBG	-	-	-
	VOCA/VAWA	0	2	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>