



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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**To:** Authority Members

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

**Date:** May 19, 2008

**Re:** Research and Analysis Unit Report for the June 2008 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. 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 currently available on our website.

#### **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 and summary are available on our website.
- *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. The final version of the report is expected in June.

### **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. 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 assisted 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 were also produced. These reports address the long-term impact of the program and the characteristics of participants that influence success in the program. The report and summary will undergo final revisions this spring and be available on our website this summer.

##### **5. 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 report outlines 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. The final report is available on our website and a summary is forthcoming.

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.

##### **6. 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.

## **7. 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 was 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 is available on our website. In addition to the full analysis report, an appendix and full executive summary are also available on our website.

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 July 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 early summer.

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 users 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.

## **8. Jail Data Link**

In May 2007, evaluators at the University of Illinois – Springfield began an evaluation of the Jail Data Link project. Implemented in three sites in Illinois, the Jail Data Link project identifies jail detainees who are recipients of Department of Human Services mental health

services and links them up with continued services and treatment while they are incarcerated in the jail. This identification and continuation of treatment assists jails in the care of inmates who are in need of mental health services and / or medication. The final report is due in January 2009.

### **9. Trends and Issues 2008**

*Trends and Issues 2008* 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 was presented at the March 2008 Authority meeting. The report is now available on the Authority's website.

### **10. 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, four *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, 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 late 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. Due to staffing constraints, this will consist of smaller-scale examinations of State Police CHRI data that do not require collecting corroborating data from local agency contributors. For example, one project will involve assessing the quality of juvenile arrest data with respect to county-level reporting trends, using data downloads from the CHRI AdHoc connection as the audit source.

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, three user agreements were initiated with researchers from University of Illinois at Springfield, and Loyola University. In addition, completed agreements were executed with researchers from University of Chicago. 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.

## **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.

During this quarter, discussions were initiated with Chicago Police Department's Research and Development Division to resume the process of obtaining homicide records for the years since 2000.

Staff continues to collaborate with selected researchers on projects involving use of the Chicago Homicide Dataset. Using the newly-updated CHD data from 1965 to 2000, staff will present at the Homicide Research Working Group in June, and the American Society of Criminology in November. Both presentations will deal with "connected" homicides, such as serial murders and retribution murders. In addition, staff have been asked to present the keynote address at the International Conference on Homicide, sponsored by the Australian Institute of Criminology, which will be held in December.

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

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

The 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.

During the last quarter, staff have been asked to present the keynote address at a conference for professionals and practitioners, co-sponsored by John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the largest provider of DV support in New York City, on femicide and the role that CJ and other agencies play in prevention.

The following articles using CWHRs data have been recently published:

- An article using CWHRs data, "Non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for homicide of women," was published in the Journal of Emergency Medicine.
- Davies, Kim, Carolyn R. Block & Jacquelyn C. Campbell (2007). Seeking help from the police: Battered women's decisions and experiences. *A Critical Journal of Crime, Law and Society* 20 (1, Winter, 2007).



- The article, “Intimate partner violence and miscarriage: Examination of the role of physical and psychological abuse and PTSD,” was published in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence.
- 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.

### **E. 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.

### **F. 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. 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 June.

#### **2. 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 Fall 2008.

### **3. Mental health screening and assessment practices in the Illinois juvenile justice system**

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, R&A staff is currently working on a survey of the mental health screening and assessment practices in the Illinois juvenile justice system. The goal of the project is to determine what screening and assessment tools are being used by whom, and at what point in the system. These data will be gathered through a survey of all juvenile detention centers, juvenile probation and court service offices, juvenile correctional facilities, and the Juvenile Officers Association. This research will prove useful to juvenile justice practitioners, community-based mental health providers, and researchers who want to explore further the issue of screening and assessment in Illinois. In addition, it will guide them in the selection of the most current and appropriate tools for their facilities. Furthermore, the results of the study will inform future research in the area of mental health and juvenile justice. The development of the survey instrument is being finalized and will be submitted to IRB for expedited review in late June 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit. The second wave of data collection has been completed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit, Lake, and Adams counties. Data collection is complete in Sangamon county and the third wave of data collection has begun in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit, Lake and Adams counties. Partnership agreements have been executed for Sangamon, Cook, DuPage and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit. A six-month no-cost extension has been obtained from NIC to complete data collection and analysis.

### **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. In the first phase, Staff examined existing data collected during the Reception and Classification (R&C) process at the Dwight Correctional Center 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.

Phase two of the research study will collect information on the extent and nature of victimization and treatment episodes of female prison inmates in Illinois. The research involves detailed face-to-face interviews with current female prisoners. The questions will explore prior help seeking strategies, substance use, and physical and sexual abuse during the course of the person's life history. The data will provide information to criminal justice and social service agencies, funding entities, policy makers, and the general public. The research will be able to offer treatment recommendations to IDOC to further help women in corrections.

The research goals are to:

- Learn the extent and nature of victimization of incarcerated women.
- Increase general knowledge of the female inmate population in Illinois.
- Address data limitations, program needs, and offer recommendations.
- Help current and future female population with treatment needs and issues.
- Aid victimized women and girls prior to corrections to try to reduce female inmate population.

Staff will interview 200 women located in three IDOC institutions—Dwight, Decatur, and Lincoln. Staff will obtain a random sample of female inmates (stratified by the facility). We will pay a \$20 stipend to respondents. Each interview will last approximately 60-90 minutes. A psychologist will be made available to participants if necessary. As encouraged by the advisory committee a, two interviewers, who are ex-offenders, will be identified by IDOC and paid as contractual employees through the Authority. We plan to have a three-day training for all interviewers. We will obtain participants' criminal histories and examine their prison case files after they agree to participation in the interview. We have created a data collection form.

Staff met with IDOC staff at Dwight Correctional Center on January 18, 2008 to discuss phase two of the 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 on February 6, 2008. Staff traveled to Dwight in March and continue to collaborate with IDOC on the project. A draft of the interview packet was sent to the advisory group for the project on April 11, 2008. The Institutional Review Board will meet to review the project on May 22, 2008.

## **6. Domestic Sex Trafficking of Chicago Women and Girls**

The DePaul College of Law Schiller Du Canto & Fleck Law Center collaborated with Authority to conduct data entry and analysis for a research project on sex trafficking. Ms. Jody Raphael, Senior Research Fellow, received a grant from the Chicago Foundation on Women for this research. The project administered questionnaires to 100 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 co-authored the final report which was released at an event at DePaul Law School on May 7, 2008. The final report has been posted on the IJICA Website.

## II. ONGOING ACTIVITIES

### A. Briefings/Presentations

Since the last Authority update for the March 2008 meeting, R&A staff made presentations at, and/or attended the following professional meetings:

- The Research Director participated in a teleconference meeting of the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) Training, Technical Assistance, and Technology Committee on February 21.
- On February 20-21, 2008, staff attended interview and selection training in Springfield.
- Staff met with other state agency representatives on February 26 to discuss the Safety Net Works initiative and evaluation. An implementation evaluation overview, a guide for the collection of program documentation, and reporting form for program implementation processes were developed and discussed.
- Staff attended the Safety Net Works Orientation for program sites on March 6 in Chicago, and will provide an overview of the evaluation plan.
- Staff attended the Children's Mental Health Partnership Assembly in Springfield on March 4.
- Staff met with representatives of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and Loyola University on March 4 to discuss the development of an analytical template for use by probation departments in analyzing case-level data in conjunction with the Evidenced-Based Practices (EBP) project.
- Staff attended the National Conference on Juvenile Justice on March 9-11 in St. Louis and presented a report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.
- Staff met with the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault data subcommittee on March 18.
- R&A staff met with staff from the Authority's Grants Unit on March 12 & 13 to review protocols for submitting grant proposals to federal agencies.
- Dr. Block was asked to be the keynote speaker at a Femicide Conference to be held at John Jay University in NYC in early November 2008.
- Staff presented on the topic of BARJ and peer juries at Chicago Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee Luncheon on March 28.
- Staff participated in the Women, Girls & Trauma training on April 9.

- Staff participated in the Gendered Justice: Restoring the Health of Court Involved Girls training on April 10.
- Staff met with staff at Dwight on April 10 for the Female Inmate Victimization research study.
- On April 11, 2008, staff attended a task force meeting of PROMISE, Partnership to Rescue Our Minors from Sexual Exploitation, in Chicago.
- Staff participated in a local partners group meeting for Safe Havens on April 3.
- Staff met with the Illinois State Police on April 1 to discuss data availability.
- The Research Director and Executive Director met with Chicago Alderman Bob Fioretti on April 3 to discuss strategies for combating gun violence.
- Staff coordinated a meeting of the Safety Net Works Evaluation Committee during on April 15.
- Staff submitted and had accepted the following paper, “Circumstances of Connected Homicides: An Analysis of the Chicago Homicide Data Set, 1965 to 2000” for a session entitled The Scope of Homicide Studies for the 2008 American Society of Criminology Meeting.
- Staff attended an “Abuse Later in Life” Workgroup meeting on April 8.
- Staff attended the Juvenile Detention and Alternatives Initiative partnership meeting in Springfield on April 10.
- Staff attended the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission meeting on April 11 to provide an update on the annual risk factor report and mental health screening project.
- Staff attended a Human Rights of Children symposium at Loyola University on April 17 and 18.
- The research director attended a symposium on the new Illinois criminal code at John Marshall Law School on April 18.
- Staff attended Loyola University’s Human Rights of Children Symposium on April 17 and 18.
- Dr. Becky Block was invited to be a plenary speaker at the Australian Institute of Criminology International Conference on Homicide in December.

- Staff attended a juvenile justice/mental health initiative meeting on February 25 and April 21 at the Voices for Illinois Children offices
- Staff met with Jody Rafael of DePaul University on April 16 to regarding a collaborative report on Human Trafficking.
- Staff attended a Chicago Public Schools Peer Jury Advisory Board meeting on April 28.
- Staff met with Chicago Police Department Research and Development Division officials on April 22 to discuss data availability and access.
- Staff met with Chapin Hall (University of Chicago) on May 1 to discuss their juvenile justice database and potential for data sharing of community-level data.
- Staff participated in a teleconference meeting on May 1 to plan training for Safety Net Works sites on completing program implementation forms.
- Staff attended the *Sex Trafficking of Chicago Women and Girls* report release event at DePaul School of Law on May 7.
- On May 14, staff attended a meeting of the Illinois Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependency at the State of Illinois Building.
- On May 5, staff presented on “Risk Factors for Death in Intimate Partner Violence” to advanced students and staff of Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada.
- Staff participated in the Safety Net Works State Agency Resource Fair in Chicago on May 14. This includes an exhibit table to inform site managers of available services from ICJIA and participation on a panel discussion of the justice perspective on youth violence.
- The research director participated in a justice panel for the Safety Net Works Resource Fair on May 14 in Chicago.
- Staff met with Safety Net Works staff on May 8 to prepare for the May 15 training regarding reporting requirements for SNW sites.
- Staff provided training to Safety Net Works site managers on May 15 regarding reporting requirements in conjunction with the program evaluation.

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

The Authority serves as a statewide clearinghouse for statistics and other information about crime and the criminal justice system. The Clearinghouse Center within R&A maintains and regularly updates many county-level datasets related to crime and the criminal justice system, as well as social risk factor data. These datasets are used for in-house research projects and publications, such as

*Trends and Issues* and *County Profiles of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems*. The Clearinghouse is also responsible for answering requests for criminal justice data and information, as well as maintaining the publications on the Authority's website: [www.icjia.il.state.us](http://www.icjia.il.state.us).

### *Information requests*

Many requests continue to come from governmental agencies (34 percent) and private agencies (23 percent). Other requests came from private citizens, researchers, students, news media representatives, legislators, and prison inmates. Twenty-three percent of the requests originate in the Chicago metropolitan area. Thirty 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 5,353 Authority publications during the third quarter of SFY 08 (January – March 2008), not including those downloaded from our Website (230,650) [TABLE 1]. Due to our recent move and limited amount of space available in our current location, the amount of publications mailed out will be drastically reduced. The volume of web users has continued to remain at high levels. For the third quarter of SFY 08, there were 3,219,947 “hits” on our website and more than 97,771 visitors (users that remained on the site for a period of time.) There were 230,650 downloads of information or publications for the third 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.

### *Acquiring/updating/documenting dataset holdings*

During the last quarter, staff developed a hierarchy of criminal justice and social risk factor datasets: 39 **core data sets** most recently used in the *Trends and Issues 2008* report and the *Juvenile Justice System and Risk factor Data: 2004 Annual Report*; 5 **newly identified** datasets, including campus crime, elder abuse data, community-level police data, drug treatment data, and drug lab seizure data; and **potentially useful** datasets to be investigated further, such as DEA drug enforcement data for Illinois. Staff is painstakingly checking the quality and documenting data issues on the core datasets, and establishing contacts for the new data sources, including the Illinois Department on Aging, the Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA), and the Chicago Police Department.

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.

## **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 not only for VAWA and JAIBG, but also ADAA/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. Staff also revised VOCA grant materials and data reports to clarify definitions and streamline grantees' reporting processes.

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

- Staff provided training to Safety Net Works site managers on April 24 regarding the evaluation methodology, reporting requirements and reporting forms.
- During the last quarter, staff provided technical assistance to the CLARIS system in reconciling data elements with the national EPIC system, in order for CLARIS reports to be successfully submitted to the national database.
- During the week of May 5th, staff conducted a training on risk factors for death in intimate partner violence, for police officers in departments in British Columbia, Canada.
- Staff is providing technical assistance to the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention in regards to definitions and data availability regarding crimes against the elderly (also known as victimization later in life).
- Staff is providing technical assistance regarding juvenile justice data collection and analysis issues for Illinois Pathways to Change, the DMC data workgroup, and the Redeploy planning grants project.
- Staff provided technical assistance to the IIJIS project regarding a survey of criminal justice technology.

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

The Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DICRA) (P.L. 106-297, effective Oct. 13, 2000) requires states to compile and report quarterly to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) the number of deaths, and the circumstances surrounding the deaths, of people in local jails, state prisons, juvenile correctional facilities, and law enforcement custody. Until recently, the information requested by BJS was limited to deaths in local jails, state prisons, and state juvenile facilities. Collection of DICRA



information has been expanded to include deaths that occur while a person is in police custody or in the process of arrest. Information on deaths that occur while a person is in police custody will supplement the annual data on prison inmate deaths that BJS already receives from the Illinois Department of Corrections as part of the National Prisoners Statistics Program and the National Corrections Reporting Program. R&A staff began in July 2004 collecting specific information requested by BJS for all deaths in Illinois that occur while the person is in police custody or in the process of arrest by local, county, and state law enforcement agencies regardless of cause of death. For reporting purposes, the data include the following:

- 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.

#### **F. 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**

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

The first phase in evaluating the Safety Net Works Initiative will focus on program implementation in each of the 17 sites. This implementation evaluation will place emphasis on project planning, design, implementation and operation, and span all stages of project evolution. The primary purpose of this implementation evaluation will be to assess the extent to which project implementation is conducted in accordance with pre-operational expectations; to document the progress and limitations of the program's implementation; to provide recommendations and guide refinement of the project; to

prepare for a future impact assessment and build evaluation capacity; and to inform and guide similar undertakings.

The implementation evaluation will pay special attention to practical, management-oriented issues, as well as interpersonal and group dynamics. The methodology will include assessments of program set-up and development, the nature and extent of collaboration among participating agencies and organizations, program operations and service delivery. During this reporting period, programs were informed and educated on the purpose of the evaluation. They were also made aware that information on the program's development and progress should be carefully documented, since evaluators may not make frequent site visits to all sites.

In addition, the implementation evaluation will address program performance measures to measures will be captured on program data reports and be related to program objectives. Sources of data will include interviews, focus groups, and surveys. Specifically, instrument such as the TCU Survey of Organizational Functioning may be useful in assessing individual perception of needs as it pertains to continued successful implementation. Additionally, program documentation, as well as program and baseline data, may be used. A determination will also be made as to the level of assessment for each of the sites and whether a select number of sites will be targeted for a more thorough evaluation.

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

Staff applied for funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to enhance web access to the Authority's holdings of criminal justice and social risk factor data. 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, the grant will fund development of 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. The decision to fund this project will be made by BJS in June.

### **C. Campus Crime Report**

Data collected from the US Department of Education, Office of Post-Secondary Education was downloaded via their website and cleaned for purposes of analysis of crime on Illinois' college campuses. The data include arrests, offenses, hate crimes, and incidents that go through a school disciplinary process for violent, property, alcohol/drug related and gun related crimes. Data for 399 schools in Illinois was downloaded for the years 2001-2006. Staff are in the process of writing a research report on the nature and extent of crime on Illinois college campuses, as well as information on changes being made in policy and practice regarding campus crime. Publication is expected this summer.

#### 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 applied 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 8<sup>th</sup> police district in Chicago for prostitution. Grant was submitted 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.

- On April 9, staff attended the training: *Women, Girls and Trauma: Creating Gender-Responsive Services*, held by the Institute for Relational Development, Center for Gender and Justice.
- 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 are hired to perform a variety of information functions relating to critical issues facing the Illinois criminal justice system. There is no compensation for these positions, but interns may be able to use the experience as course credit. Three interns have been identified for the summer term, and are scheduled to begin in May, assisting primarily with the Evidence Based Practices in Probation project.

cc: Lori G. Levin  
Hank Anthony

## **Appendix A**

### **Most recent publications**

#### **RESEARCH REPORTS**

ICJIA 2007 Annual Reports (March, 2008 44pp)

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth in Illinois (January, 2008, 76pp)

#### **RESEARCH BULLETINS / BRIEFS / TECHNICAL MANUALS**

Disproportionate Reporting of Violent Victimization Impedes Justice, Services (March, 2008)

Child Sex Exploitation Study Probes Extent of Victimization in Illinois (January, 2008)

#### **THE COMPILER**

**Winter 2008:** The Response to Domestic Violence – Updated Protocol aids Law Enforcement Officials, State’s Attorneys, and the Judiciary in Addressing Abuse Issues

**TABLE 1. Information Request Handling Statistics  
January 1, 2008 – March 30, 2008**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>REQUESTS/Pct</b>
<b>Information requests handled:</b>	119
<b>Monthly average number of requests:</b>	40
<b>Geographic Origin of requesters:</b>	
Chicago metropolitan area	23%
Other region of Illinois	30%
U.S. other than Illinois	29%
Outside the U.S.	3%
Unknown	14%
<b>Type of requester:</b>	
Government agency	34%
Private agency	23%
Researcher	12%
Student	6%
Citizen	22%
Media	3%
Legislators	1%
Inmates	<1%
<b>Method of request:</b>	
Telephone/fax	34%
Mail	0%
Email/Internet	0%
In-person	1%
ICJIA Website	65%
<b>Publications disseminated:</b>	
Mailed in response to requests	5,353
Downloaded from Website	230,650
Total	236,003

Table 2. Authority Website Trends

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

January 1, 2008 – March 30, 2008

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-08	1,428,819	46,090	77,684	2,505	24	32,644	27,702	4,962	79,197	2,530
Feb-08	777,772	26,818	69,192	2,385	19	31,347	26,695	4,652	75,561	2,558
Mar-08	1,013,356	32,688	80,006	2,580	28	33,780	27,532	6,248	75,892	2,569
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,219,947</b>	<b>35,199</b>	<b>226,882</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>97,771</b>	<b>81,929</b>	<b>15,862</b>	<b>230,650</b>	
<b>MONTHLY AVERAGE</b>	<b>1,073,316</b>		<b>75,627</b>			<b>32,590</b>	<b>27,310</b>	<b>5,287</b>	<b>76,883</b>	