



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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**To:** Authority Members

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

**Date:** November 16, 2009

**Re:** Research and Analysis Unit Report for the December 2009 Authority Meeting

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

**I. NEW PROJECTS**

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

Illinois House Bill 2474, which was recently signed into law, directs the Authority, under the direction of a task force, to review the statutes, administrative rules, policies, and practices that restrict employment of persons with a criminal history, and to report to the Governor and the General Assembly those employment restrictions and their impact on employment opportunities for people having those criminal records. All state agencies are required to submit a report that describes restrictions for employment within the agency; in facilities licensed, regulated, supervised, or funded by the agency; and in occupations that the agency licenses or provides certifications to practice. Agencies are required to report, among other data, specific disqualifying offenses delineated in these statutes, rules, and policies - and time limits for each offense. If the agency is afforded discretion in determining disqualifying offenses, the criteria used by the agency must be reported (for example, whether disqualifying offenses are related to the practice of a given profession, considered an act of "moral turpitude", or one that calls into question "good moral character"). Agencies are also required to describe any exemptions, waivers, or review mechanisms available to individuals to seek relief from disqualification. In addition to this reporting for all agencies, executive agencies are required to participate in an accounting of actual applicants who underwent criminal background checks, the number found disqualified, the number who sought waiver, those denied waiver. This research project is contingent on receipt of a state funding appropriation, which was not passed. However, alternate private funding is now being sought for the study, and staff have begun to construct the data collection tools for the inventory.

## **B. Study of the Costs of the Illinois Death Penalty**

Illinois Senate Resolution No. 297, which was also recently signed into law, directs the Authority to conduct a study of the costs of the death penalty in Illinois, including but not limited to the costs of seeking the death penalty, the costs of a capital trial, the costs of appeals, the costs of incarceration, and the costs of execution. In addition, the study is to provide parallel costs associated with sentencing persons convicted of first degree murder to life imprisonment, so as to provide a direct cost comparison on the same level of detail as the costs of the death penalty. This research is contingent on receipt of a state funding appropriation, which was not passed, Authority staff have begun, nonetheless, to prepare a preliminary outline of the scope of such a study, pending additional staffing resources. Staff are currently reviewing similar studies that have been carried out in other states – recording both the results of these studies as well as the cost estimation methodologies employed. It is anticipated that this preliminary exercise will yield summary findings of death penalty costs that may be somewhat comparable to those in Illinois while, at the same time providing a base of knowledge for determining the scope of work possible under varying funding scenarios. Funding for this work is being sought during the Fall 2009 Veto Session of the Illinois Legislature. If this funding is secured, a preliminary report on the average costs per capital case will be prepared for the Spring 2010 Session, with a final report due in Fall 2010.

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

Staff received \$58,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to enhance web access and on-line presentation formats of the Authority's holdings of criminal justice and social risk factor data. An added feature of the project is enhancements to the Federal Deaths in Custody Reporting process conducted by the Authority on behalf of Illinois law enforcement agencies.

During the last quarter, staff developed a Design Document for the analytic tools proposed for the new website. After listing the Authority's current data holdings, this 17 page document contains a description of all the chart types, maps, and statistical techniques to be included in the CJ Datanet. Project staff will use this as a springboard to discuss actual analysis scenarios and confront the actual issues found in the data to be presented over the web. Staff programmers will eventually use this design document to build the site. Staff also began investigating various software products that could achieve the functionality envisioned in the document. The mapping capabilities of Google, InstantAtlas and WebMathmatica are being tested for ease of use, cost effectiveness and compatibility with the Authority's website; the latter two products are also being tested as to graphing functions and other analytic possibilities.

In tandem with this project, staff are also re-evaluating the Authority's current website, particularly with respect to the publications and data offerings. A web page specifically dedicated to the Research & Analysis Unit in its role as a State Statistical Center (SAC) is also being developed with the assistance of the Authority's webmaster and public information officer.

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

Staff has been invited to participate on several working groups related to effective juvenile justice data collection. These include all members of the five juvenile initiatives currently in place in several counties across Illinois: 1) DMC, 2) Redeploy, 3) IJDAI, 4) Models for Change, and 5) BARJ.

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

During the last quarter the data template was modified by R&A staff with assistance from staff through the Juvenile Justice Initiative, the Pathways partners group and the Models for Change/DMC committee. Discussions at Pathways Group meetings have focused on the distribution and implementation of the template, as well as the need for technical assistance and training. Staff from the Illinois Department of Human Services has volunteered trainers to facilitate distribution and training on the data template once it is approved. Authority staff will assist in developing on-line training modules using Adobe Connect software to assist in this state-wide training effort. By the time this template is in wide use, over a third of the state will be using this tool for consistent data collection methods. The ultimate goal is to have it implemented statewide.

#### **E. Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Recidivism study**

Staff is currently working on a proposal to complete a research study on recidivism for juveniles admitted to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. This study, to be completed under the contractual agreement with the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and the Illinois Department of Human Services, will employ survival analysis techniques to examine the time between release from IDJJ custody and occurrences of recidivism. Recidivism will be measured both through readmission to correctional custody (derived from IDJJ and IDOC admissions data) and through re-arrest (derived from criminal history record information). Recidivism will be compared across various demographic and offense-type subgroups.

#### **F. Implementing Restorative Justice: A Guide for Schools**

This is a final guide a series of eight BARJ implementation guides. ICJIA staff created this series of BARJ implementation guides to provide profession-specific information on how the BARJ philosophy can be used across the juvenile justice system. The guide is specifically designed to provide Illinois school personnel and families with practical strategies to use BARJ in their daily activities. School districts in Illinois have been incorporating the BARJ philosophy and BARJ programs into their discipline codes. BARJ has also been implemented in schools in Illinois through peer juries, peer mediation, and circles. In particular, the Chicago Public Schools have implemented

peer juries the majority of its high schools. The PDF of the guide can be found on the ICJIA website and a limited number of hard copies are now available for school personnel.

### **G. BARJ and Schools seminars**

R&A received a JABG grant to plan and implement a series of three BARJ trainings for school administrators, social workers and teachers. These seminars were held in conjunction with the release of the latest BARJ implementation guide- BARJ and Schools. Similar BARJ seminars sponsored by ICJIA in the past have been very well received and had waiting lists to attend. The seminars were held in three regional locations across the state, northern, central, and southern in October. Seminar facilitators were chosen from professionals who are experts on how to incorporate BARJ into schools in Illinois. Seminars were held in Mount Vernon on October 2, Peoria on October 9, and Matteson on October 15. We had approximately 45 participants in Mount Vernon, 50 in Peoria, and 100 participants in Matteson.

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

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

### **I. Get the Facts**

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

The first publication, juvenile arrests, has been completed and is under review. It is expected to be available on the website in December. The second publication, juvenile pre-trial, will be available in January.

## **II. CURRENT PROJECTS**

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

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

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

Authority staff has been evaluating the implementation of the Safety Net Works Initiative, a violence prevention and youth development program taking place across 14 community areas (previously 17) in Illinois. 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; and to inform and guide similar undertakings. Sources of data for the evaluation include surveys, interviews, meeting observations, and implementation and progress reports submitted by the sites.

The implementation evaluation is focusing on 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 and change since the beginning of the initiative. Each of the 14 sites is being evaluated on their program setup, collaboration, and service delivery to the target population.

Authority staff has contributed community area profiles for each of the community areas that the sites are located in. These community profiles provide data on demographic, economic, housing, substance abuse, health, child assistance, and crime indicators collected from several city, state, non-profit, and academic organizations. Safety Net Works sites will be able to use the profiles to assist in strategic planning and program implementation. An online and print survey has been implemented and results have been analyzed and provided to each coalition that had enough responses to highlight potential areas for improvement. The survey primarily addresses the perceptions of collaboration and communication of coalition members and service provision. Authority staff has also been providing interim program reports, with information on coalition membership, services available, meetings, trainings, and outreach for each site to the program monitor. Technical assistance has also been provided to the Safety Net Works project manager regarding revisions to a reporting form and the integration of reporting forms with a database to simplify data collection and analysis. Authority staff delivered a presentation on evaluation issues for the project at the 2009 BJS/JRSA National Conference in late October. A telephone interview protocol is currently being reviewed and expected to be implemented in the winter.

## **2. Elder Abuse Collaboration Project evaluation**

Supported by a grant from the federal government, staff is conducting a process evaluation of a project aimed at coordinating responses to elder abuse among service providers, law enforcement and the courts. Participants include Metropolitan Family Service (an elder abuse service provider), the Chicago Police Department, and the Office of Public Guardian, among others. The goal of the program is to provide a coordinated response ensuring that victims receive needed services while abusers are held accountable in the criminal justice system. ICJIA staff is in the process of writing an IRB application for the research proposed in the evaluation (including interviews).

### **3. Juvenile justice system and risk factor data: 2007 Annual Report**

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, the 2007 Annual Report, a compilation of county-level juvenile justice system and risk factor data, is complete. Like the 2006 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 report is completed and currently under review and the final report is expected to be available by the end of 2009.

### **4. Go To 2040 Regional Comprehensive Planning Initiative**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) initiated a comprehensive, long-range planning project for the Chicago region (Cook, DuPage, Kane Will, Kendall, Lake and McHenry counties) entitled *Go To 2040*. With resources made available by the Chicago Community Trust, this planning process was enlarged to include multiple domains related to quality of life in the region, including education, health, workforce development, arts and culture, food security, human relations and public safety. The Authority, in partnership with the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Criminal Justice Department, was selected to provide leadership in the area of crime and justice within the public safety sphere. As lead agency, Authority staff was expected to identify indicators, report on existing conditions, make recommendations for action in the area of crime and justice, and with guidance from an Advisory Committee, produce a report that:

- a) states the present condition of the issue examined;
- b) identifies challenges and opportunities;
- c) sets targets for 2040;
- d) identifies strategies and their impact for the region;
- e) identifies federal, state and local policies and resources critical to the success of the region; and
- f) identifies all organizations working on the issue and other resources relevant to the issue.

During the last quarter, the final report was submitted to CMAP and published on the Authority's website. The report is part of an overall strategy by CMAP to recommend future directions for development growth and investment decisions in the seven-county region. Later this fall, the CMAP Board of Directors is expected to endorse a "preferred" scenario synthesized from the ideas that emerged from the project. The Chicago Community Trust will also use the recommendations to inform their future grant funding opportunities.

### **5. Illinois College Campus Crime and Safety Report**

Staff is working on a report that compares three sources of Illinois college campus crime data: 1) Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting program, 2) on-line Clery Act safety reports published by each college, and 3) Clery Act data submitted annually by Illinois colleges to the US Department of Education, Office of Post-Secondary Education. The report includes information on trends regarding

violent and property offenses, as well as arrests and school disciplinary referrals for alcohol, drug, and weapons violations, for the period 2001 through 2007. Triangulation of the three data sources will provide a richer picture of the issue of crime and safety within college communities. The report is slated for completion by the end of the year

## **6. County Profiles**

Staff has begun work on some of the most popular Authority publications, *Profiles in County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems*, which present the most recent crime and risk factor data for each county, along with statewide and regional comparisons. A detailed outline of contents has been prepared, along with a data template that will be used to generate standard profiles for all 102 counties. It is anticipated that a county profile template will be finalized by March 2010.

## **7. Trends and Issues**

*Trends and Issues 2008* is a report about crime and justice in Illinois. This report is an update to previous *Trends and Issues 1997* 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.

The primary distribution format for the *Trends and Issues 2008* report is via the Authority’s website [www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us). Table 1 below shows the total number of downloads for the full report or individual chapters from May 2009 through July 2009, as well as the cumulative total since the report’s publication in May, 2008.

**Table 1. *Trends and Issues 2008* Report Downloads from the Authority Website, November 2008 through January, 2009**

<b>CHAPTER SECTIONS</b>	<b>Total Downloads August, 2009 through October, 2009</b>	<b>Cumulative Downloads since publication in May, 2008</b>
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008</i> Full Report	403	5,631
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008</i> Chapter - Foreword	122	545
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008</i> Chapter - Executive summary	149	4,950
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008</i> Chapter - Overview	117	703

<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Introduction</i>	189	995
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Law Enforcement</i>	1,467	7,624
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - The courts</i>	256	1,561
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Corrections</i>	1,208	8,324
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Juvenile justice</i>	2,041	15,689
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Crime victims</i>	434	3,696
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Conclusion</i>	109	665

Over 50,000 copies of the full report or individual chapters have been downloaded since its publication in May 2008. There is particular interest in information on Illinois' juvenile justice system.

## **8. Trends and Issues Updates**

*Trends & Issues Update* reports are being drafted to highlight specific topic introduced in the main document include: hate crimes in Illinois; drug crime trends in Illinois and nationally; trends in violent crime; and trends in offenses against school personnel. These are scheduled for publication later in 2009.

## **9. 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 and is under the direction of Dr. David Olson of Loyola. The evaluation uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative data to gage 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 2007 report has been updated with 2008 data is and currently under review. Findings indicate that as a result of the treatment services and aftercare received, those inmates released from Sheridan had a 20 percent lower likelihood of being returned to prison after three years in the community than a statistically similar comparison group released from Illinois' prisons during the same time period. The largest reductions in recidivism – both in terms of rearrest and return to prison—were evident



among those Sheridan releasees who successfully completed aftercare treatment. The final report will be available on the website before the end of the year.

Dr. Olson is continuing the evaluation of the Sheridan program, as well as assessing the drug treatment therapeutic community operating at the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center. This continued research began in October 2008 and will continue through March 2010.

#### **10. 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 was submitted in August 2009 and is currently under review. The report addresses whether the program reduced recidivism, and assisted the women in obtaining employment, housing, food and childcare. The study also focused on the third service provider that the program enlisted. Findings show that those in the program are more likely to receive services and referrals, including mental health services and employment services. While there were little differences in some outcome aspects between the women in the program and a control group, those in the program were less likely to have had a violation of probation filed or have their probation revoked. The final report will be made available on the website in late 2009.

#### **11. Jail Data Link**

In May 2007, evaluators at the University of Illinois – Springfield began an evaluation of the Jail Data Link (JDL) 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. A draft final report was submitted in February 2009 and revisions and additional analysis on recidivism were conducted. While there were no differences in recidivism rates between JDL participants and non-JDL, there were a number of positive findings regarding the implementation and operation of program. The report is now available on the website.

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

Loyola University Chicago was selected to continue research and conduct a survey regarding capital punishment in Illinois for the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee. Work on this project began in October 2008 and a renewal to continue work was signed in October 2009. A final report will be available in June 2010.

### **13. Investigator Initiated Research**

Projects funded under an Investigator-initiated RFP address research in our priority areas of interest. Reviewers elected to fund the following projects in 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 has concluded and edits have been sent on the final report.
- *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 has been submitted for review.

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 examined 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 also looked at reported campus crime rates from the Cleary Act. The 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 final report was received and is available on our website.
- *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. Edits were sent in August and a final report will be available in 2009.
- *Methamphetamine and Violence* – Conducted by Illinois State University, this study conducted in-depth interviews with methamphetamine users from downstate Illinois and a select group of law enforcement and other officials to determine the extent to which methamphetamine and violence are associated, and to better understand the nature of that

association. The research provides a 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 final report was placed on the website in May 2009.

- *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 final report was placed on the website in July 2009.

An additional RFP was released in 2009 and the following projects were funded:

- *Safer Return Demonstration: A Research-Based Community Reentry Initiative – An Examination of the Family-Inclusive Case Management Service Component* - Conducted by the Urban Institute this project will provide an implementation and impact evaluation of the family-inclusive case management component of the Safer Return offender reentry initiative. Stemming from a larger evaluation of the reentry initiative, this study will focus on whether and to what extent the family-inclusive case management benefits offenders returning back to the community and their family and social support networks. Individual and family-level outcomes will be assessed. The project term is June 2009 thru May 2010.
- *Assessing Views of Critical Incident Prevention and Response* – Conducted by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, this project will determine the attitudes and perceptions of students regarding campus safety initiatives and campus preparedness for critical incidents. The study will conduct surveys of students in six Illinois campuses regarding the perceived likelihood of an incident occurring, fear of incidents and past exposure to types of incidents or offenses. A meeting was held in August to discuss the methodology and survey design. The project term is June 2009 through May 2010.

An additional Investigator Initiated Research RFP in the amount of \$150,000 was issued in September 2009. Two projects have been selected to begin in the fall of 2009.

- *Systematic Evaluation of the Peoria Drug Market Intervention* - Conducted by Southern Illinois University, this project seeks to assess the approach and effectiveness of a strategy to combat open air drug markets in the City of Peoria.
- *Growth of Illinois Prison Population and Assessment of Risk and Recidivism Among Prison Releasees* - Conducted by Loyola University, this multi-tiered project will examine trends in prison admissions, end of year populations, and prison exits. The project will also address the post-release recidivism of those released from Illinois prisons. The goal of the project is to

examine post-prison recidivism of offenders using the most current and appropriate statistical techniques, while ensuring that the findings and results are useful to practitioners and policy makers.

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

Loyola University Chicago was selected to conduct the assessment and evaluation of mental health courts in Illinois. The project will inventory the operating courts in Illinois and assess what barriers were in place for those courts that did not materialize. A more thorough evaluation will be conducted on specific courts in an effort to gauge their operations, effectiveness and outcomes. A final report will be due in September 2010.

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

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

#### **1. 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. 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.

Staff obtained a random sample of female inmates (stratified by the facility). Respondents were paid a \$10 stipend. Each interview lasted approximately 30 minutes. Staff have interviewed almost 200 women located in three IDOC institutions – Dwight, Decatur, and Lincoln.

The IRB approved the initial application in June 2008. After lengthy negotiations with Authority legal counsel, IDOC legal counsel, and the IRB on the language in the consent form, the project restarted in January 2009. Staff finished the interviews and reviewing prison case files in June 2009. Staff have completed data analysis and have written the findings in a final report. A draft of the report has been sent to the advisors for review and will be finalized in late December 2009/early January 2010.

## **2. Juvenile justice system and risk factor data: 2006 Annual Report**

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, the 2006 Annual Report, a compilation of county-level juvenile justice system and risk factor data, is complete. 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. The final report was completed in August 2009 and is available on the website.

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

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, staff is currently working on a report of the results of 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 were gathered through a survey of all juvenile detention centers, juvenile probation and court service offices, juvenile correctional facilities, and the Juvenile Officers Association. The survey received a 59 percent response rate. 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.

A draft of this report is in review and a final report is expected to be available on the website late December 2009/early January 2010.

## **4. Illinois juvenile justice system walkthrough**

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, staff developed a step-by-step walkthrough of the general practices, processes, and procedures of the Illinois juvenile justice system, from arrest through community supervision. The report was sent to an advisory committee around the state including juvenile court judges, attorneys (both private defense attorneys and state's attorneys), police officials, probation officers, and other juvenile justice system experts to review for accuracy. Edits from these reviewers are being processed and a draft of the report is expected to be submitted for review by mid-December 2009.

## **5. Redeploy Illinois County Profiles**

The Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board requested county profiles providing detention and corrections information for sites that are operational, as well as 15 additional potential sites. These profiles were presented at the September Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board meeting and distributed to the counties.

The data in the profiles are being updated and final updated reports should be available on the Authority website in Fall 2009.

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

In March of 2005, ICJIA research staff entered into a three-year cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in the amount of \$194,232 to evaluate Illinois' Evidenced-Based Practices (EBP) Initiative. This project will assist local probation departments participating in the EBP Initiative by providing them with data and analysis that gauges performance before and during the implementation of evidence-based practices, and will establish a process and protocol for ongoing assessment of probation performance through an effective state and local partnership. All three waves of data collection (years 2002, 2005 and 2006) have been completed in all six participating counties: Lake, DuPage, Adams, Cook, Sangamon and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit. Data analysis is currently being conducted and work on a draft final report has begun. The final report will be completed in January 2010.

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

The DePaul College of Law Schiller Du Canto & Fleck Law Center collaborated with Authority staff 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 to gain information about recruitment and violence by pimps in local sex trafficking. The final report has been posted on the ICJIA website.

The authors wrote a paper, *Pimp Control and Violence: Domestic Sex Trafficking of Chicago Women and Girls*, which has been tentatively accepted to appear in *Women & Criminal Justice's* special issue: *Trafficking of Women and Girls: Laws, Theories, Challenges and Impacts*. The special issue will be Vol 20 (1) January 2010. Staff received peer review comments and finalized the manuscript in September 2009.

## **C. Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit**

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

Staff has finally been hired to assist with the 2010 CHRI audit. Training and preliminary analyses are being conducted on the yearly CHRI data sets to develop the final audit proposal. It is anticipated that the proposal will be submitted to the State Police by the end of the year, with actual data collection and analysis to begin shortly afterwards. The tentative focus of the audit will be on court disposition reporting, since accurate and complete conviction information is a key component of decisions within the criminal justice system and an increasing number of decisions outside of criminal justice (employment, housing, student loans, and so on).

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 1990-2007 has been created in formats that can be readily shared with researchers. This Archive currently holds close to a million records for each year of data.

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

During the last quarter, several CHRI User Agreement were processed, including those received from the Disproportionate Justice Impact Study (DJIS) Commission, Carnegie-Mellon University, TASC, Inc, and University of Colorado. Since the inception of the CHRI Ad Hoc Connection Partnership, a total of thirty-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. Technical assistance on CHRI data interpretation and data manipulation was also provided to several researchers who received data in previously, including the Urban Institute, TASC, Inc. and the Disproportionate Justice Impact Study (DJIS) Commission.

Information requests answered using CHRI data. During the last quarter, all non-expunged arrests and associated arrest charges and court dispositions from 1999-2008 were loaded into a new SQL Server database to provide an immediate querying capability for these arrests, dispositions, and charges covering the entire ten year period. In combination with CHRI data already stored in SPSS files, these data were used to answer several media requests for criminal justice statistics. This new capability will be used during the next quarter to analyze drug arrests in Illinois, as part of the *Trends & Issues Update – Focus on Drugs* report. A request for conviction data regarding drug possession was requested by the Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) for an impact analysis of HB 4678.

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

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

1965 to 2000, and creating three linked CHD datasets – victim-level, incident-level and offender-level.

During this quarter, staff continued to collaborate with selected researchers on projects involving use of the Chicago Homicide Dataset. A paper on “Strangulation” was accepted for publication in *Violence Against Women* journal.

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

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

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

- Recently, staff presented the keynote address at the “Ending Violence Against Women” Policy Summit on October 6<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles CA, sponsored by three international women’s service organizations., as well as a presentation on strangulation at the UCLA Medical Center.

## **III. ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

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

Since the last Authority update for the September/October 2009 meeting, R&A staff made presentations at, and/or attended the following professional meetings:

- The Research Director and the Executive Director met with officials from the Ceasefire program at the Authority’s office on August 28 to discuss an evaluation strategy.
- Staff met with Loyola University faculty during the week of August 31 regarding the continuation of their work with the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee.
- Staff attended an IDHS Rescue and Restore meeting against human trafficking on September 1.



- The research director and staff attended the teleconference meeting of Redeploy Illinois on September 3 in Chicago.
- Staff attended Model for Change Data Committee meeting on September 8.
- Staff presented at the Juvenile Justice Commission quarterly meeting on September 9 to present work done on their behalf and to provide an update on the status of project.
- The research director and staff attended the Collaborative on Offender Reentry Juvenile Reentry Work Group meeting on September 10 in Chicago, and presented information on the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.
- The research director attended the Adler Institute presentation on Chicago's Project Safe Neighborhoods on September 16 in Chicago.
- Staff attended the End Demand Illinois Campaign Launch Event to transform our state's response to prostitution and sex trafficking on September 17.
- The research director met with officials from Metropolis 2020 and West Care on September 17 in Chicago to discuss future collaborative activities related to offender reentry.
- Staff attended a Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board meeting on September 18 at DHS.
- Staff attended the Collaborative on Reentry/Juvenile Reentry Workgroup meeting on September 20 in Chicago.
- Staff participated in a conference call regarding the data section of the Redeploy Illinois Annual Report on September 22.
- The research director attended a meeting of the Juvenile Reentry State/IDJJ Subcommittee of the Collaborative on Reentry in Chicago on September 24.
- Staff attended a meeting on September 29 in Chicago for the Policy Team of the Coordinated Response Initiative, an elder abuse program that Authority staff are evaluating.
- Staff met with Steve Karr of the Illinois Department of Corrections on September 29 in Chicago to review our procedures for processing offender records to produce statistical reports of incarcerated adult and juvenile offenders.
- The research director attended a meeting of the full Collaborative on Reentry in Chicago on September 30.
- Staff participated in a meeting concerning the Elder Abuse Pilot Program in Chicago on September 30.
- The research director attended a meeting of the Alternatives to Incarceration Committee of the Collaborative on Reentry in Chicago on October 2.
- Staff participated in the Authority's trainings in Mt. Vernon on October 2 on implementing BARJ practices in schools.
- On October 5, the research director, staff, and the executive director met with a consultant from the Annie Casey Foundation and sponsors of HB 2474 to discuss the Authority's role in an analysis of how criminal history records are used by state agencies for hiring and for certification of potential job applicants.
- On October 5, staff attended a Fiscal Mapping Workgroup meeting sponsored by the DHS Division of Alcoholism on Substance Abuse in Chicago.
- Dr. Carolyn Clock was the plenary speaker at the "Ending Violence Against Women" Policy Summit on October 6 in Los Angeles, sponsored by three international women's service organizations.
- Staff met with the Illinois Department of Corrections Research and Planning Unit on October 6 to discuss and receive updated IDOC and IDJJ data.

- Staff participated in a conference call with the Redeploy working group on October 7 regarding the Redeploy Annual Report (staff are doing the data analysis).
- Staff participated in a conference call with the Right to Council group on October 7. This group works with public defenders across the state. Staff provided formation on alternatives to detention so defenders know to ask for such alternatives, when appropriate, at detention hearings.
- Staff met with Dr. Arthur Lurigio of Loyola University on October 8 in Chicago to discuss the scope of work the Mental Health Court evaluation project selected through the recent RFP.
- Staff met with officials from the Illinois Department of Corrections and Dr. David Olson in Chicago on October 8 to discuss a proposal for Authority staff to conduct analysis of inmate success and failure factors at the Sheridan Correctional Center.
- Staff attended the City of Chicago Mayor's Office – Domestic Violence Summit Series on October 8.
- Staff attended a Pathways group meeting in Bloomington on October 8. The agenda includes updates on all juvenile initiative activity, work on data templates, regional juvenile conferences, and next steps.
- On October 8, staff met with Dr. Arthur Lurigio of Loyola University and Dr. Amy Watson of University of Illinois Chicago to discuss an upcoming evaluation of Illinois mental health courts.
- Staff met with officials from Loyola University, IDOC, and WestCare on October 8 in Chicago to plan a research study to conduct interviews with inmates from Sheridan Correctional Center to investigate inmates' assessments of program effectiveness.
- The second of our three RESTORATIVE JUSTICE in SCHOOLS seminars was held in Peoria on Friday October 9.
- Staff attended Model for Change Data Committee meeting on October 13 in Chicago.
- On October 14, staff presented research study findings at DePaul University College of Law in a presentation entitled "Women Behind Bars: Effects of Abuse on Criminal Behavior and Implications for Criminal Justice Interventions and Services."
- On October 15, staff hosted the Authority's Restorative Justice in Schools Training in Matteson, Illinois.
- Staff participated in a call on October 15 regarding the Right to Council legislation.
- Staff attended a Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board meeting on October 16 at DHS.
- The research director and staff attended the Justice Research & Statistics Association conference on October 21-23 in St. Louis and presented on the evaluation of the Safety Net Works Program and on the study of prior victimization of female inmates in IDOC.
- On October 26, staff met with staff at Westcare, Inc. to further develop a new Sheridan Therapeutic Community qualitative program evaluation.
- Staff participated in a conference call on October 27 focusing on the data template for the Pathways group.
- Staff toured the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice facility, Illinois Youth Center-Chicago, on October 28, 2009.
- Staff participated in a roundtable discussion on Collaborating with Practitioners at the American Society of Criminology Annual meeting, on Wednesday November 4, in Philadelphia, PA.

- Staff participated in a conference call on November 6 regarding the data analysis done for the Redeploy Illinois annual report.
- The research director presented the Final Report of the Go To 2040 Crime and Justice Planning Initiative to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning at their human service committee meeting on November 9 in Chicago.
- Staff attended a meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System, sponsored by Children’s Memorial Research Center on November 10 in Chicago.
- The research director accompanied the executive director to the Metropolis 2020 Systems Reform Planning Session on November 10 in Chicago.
- Staff attended an all sites Models for Change meeting at Loyola University on November 10 to hear updates on goals of their work plan pertaining to re-entry, sex offenders and other legislation, as well as upcoming a domestic batterer focus group.

**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) .

Many requests continue to come from government agencies (49 percent) and private citizens (28 percent). Other requests come from private agencies, researchers, students, news media representatives, legislators and prison inmates. Thirty percent of the requests originate in the Chicago metropolitan area, and another 36 percent originate in other states. All other requests for information were received from Illinois outside the Chicago metropolitan region, outside the United States, or unknown origin.

R&A published two research reports from staff and external researchers under contract to conduct research projects for the Authority during the first quarter of SFY 10 (July-September, 2009). The titles are listed in Appendix A. The volume of web users has remained at high levels. During this time period, there were 2,155,445 “hits” on our website and more than 82,229 visitors that remained on the site for a period of time. There were 317,270 downloads of information or publications, a ten percent increase over the last quarter (*Table 2*). The website continues to be a valuable resource for our constituents.

The following Table shows the publications that were downloaded most often from the Authority’s website from August thru October 2009.

**Top Downloaded Publications  
August – October, 2009**

<b>Publication</b>	<b>Total Downloaded</b>
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	5,123

(January, 2008)	
Final Report of the Go To 2040 Crime and Justice Planning Initiative (May, 2009)	4,673
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Annual Report FY 2008 (April, 2009)	4,365
Cook County Profile of the Juvenile Justice and Risk Factors (March, 2003)	3,364
Trends & Issues 2008 – Juvenile Justice Chapter (May, 2008)	3,020
Examining at-risk and delinquent girls in Illinois (May, 2009)	2,180
Implementing restorative justice: A guide for schools (October, 2009)	2,141
Domestic sex trafficking of Chicago women and girls (May, 2008)	1,825
Implementing restorative justice: A guide of juvenile probation (May, 2006)	1,753
Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Annual Report 2008 (April, 2009)	1,655

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

During the last quarter, staff continued to inventory and update core datasets data on all criminal justice and risk factor topics, in order to produce the CJ DataNet JUST THE FACTS web pages. Staff also began work on a comprehensive inventory and examination of sources of drug statistics and information, at the state, national, and international levels. This will result in several publications, including a *Trends & Issues Update*, and a report on drug data availability from various perspectives, spanning from surveys of drug usage in the general population to federal prosecution in Illinois of high level drug traffickers. Gaps in knowledge will be highlighted, to inform future funding for data collection systems. Staff is also working with research staff within the Illinois Department of Corrections to receive updated juvenile and adult admissions, release and parole data.

During October, the Illinois State Police released the 2008 Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program data. Staff will begin updating data tables with the new offenses, arrests and population figures. In addition, staff have begun work on a Hate Crime Fact Sheet and Research Bulletin focused on I-UCR Supplemental Data. Refreshed data on all I-UCR Supplemental datasets (Hate Crimes, Crimes Against Children, Domestic Violence, and Crimes Against School Personnel) were received for the period 2005-2008.

#### **C. FSGU Support Efforts**

Several R&A staff work in a partnership with the Authority's Federal and State Grants Unit (FSGU) to provide statistical technical assistance. Currently, R&A staff are working with FSGU to draft a protocol outlining staff roles. The protocol outlines the following purposes of the partnership:

- Help FSGU report statistical information to ICJIA boards and the public.
- Help guide decisions to best spend limited federal funding.
- Help ensure ICJIA collects and reports reliable statistics on grantees.
- Help hold grantees accountable for ICJIA administered federal funds.
- Help ensure ICJIA meets federal and auditor requirements.

Upon request, R&A staff review grant data reports, grant proposals, and data report forms; create grantee program profiles; report at FSGU grant meetings; participate in conferences; offer statistical information through presentations; attends relevant trainings; and create and update grant-related databases. R&A staff continued to work with FSGU staff responsible for the VAWA, VOCA, JABG, MVTPC, and MEG/TF funds. In addition, R&A staff assume responsibility for the computerization of some program performance for many grants.

During the last quarter:

- Staff launched 6 web-based online application forms for Federal Grants Programs that are administrated by the Federal State Grants Unit:
  1. ICJIA RFP Law enforcement equipment grant for FFY05 and FFY06 Justice Assistance Grants Program application.
  2. ICJIA RFP FFY2006 Juvenile Accountability Block Grant application.
  3. ICJIA RFP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act S\*T\*O\*P (Services Training Officers Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Training Program application.
  4. ICJIA RFP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Justice Assistance Police Equipment Grants application.
  5. ICJIA RFP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Justice Assistance Grants Programs application.
  6. ICJIA RFP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act S\*T\*O\*P (Services Training Officers Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Specialized Law Enforcement/Prosecution/Probation/Victim Service Personnel Program application.

Staff is currently developing one other web-based online application form for a federal Grants Program administrated by the Federal State Grants Unit:

1. ICJIA RFP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Planning, evaluation and technology application.

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

- Staff analyzed and provided data on detention quarterly admissions to Models for Change partners for their annual site reports.
- Staff provided and analyzed data on detention and corrections admissions to the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

- Staff worked with the various Juvenile Justice Initiatives (JDAI, Redeploy, Models for Change) to develop a data template and resource tool, for producing data reports on program participants and outcomes. Discussions are also being held with the developers of the JWATCH Data Collection Application currently in use in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit to add this data template as a standard feature in that system.
- Staff provided data analysis assistance to the IIJIS Project Manager regarding the IIJIS Survey response rates and open-ended responses regarding integration plans and needs.

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

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

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

Summary data on death in law enforcement custody for the year of 2008 was submitted to BJS in July of 2009. Pending approval for the 2009 reporting form and eligibility, Authority staff continue to identify likely DICRA cases using media sources and law enforcement contacts. BJS utilizes the data to produce reports of arrest fatalities in the United States, with updates planned as states submit data. The last report, Arrest-Related Deaths in the United States, 2003-2006, was released in July 2009.

As part of the SJS grant received from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, a new DICRA web page will be designed to facilitate reporting from law enforcement agencies, and a survey will be developed to determine a more efficient way to identify appropriate cases and collect medical examiner data on these incidents, including cause of death.

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

### **1. Webboard**

Webboard is an integrated discussion boards, online conferencing, it is also for online classes, providing threaded discussions, chat and the ability to post and download data, this message board tool allows valuable ideas and comments to be shared and stored.

Staff is currently developing the launch of a redesigned WebBoard Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRS) Forum. The CWHRS Forum is a discussion and information-sharing site for people interested in reducing levels of death and serious injury from intimate partner violence. Forum members are trying to apply findings from the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRS) and similar research to practical situations in the field. The WebBoard CWHRS Forum can be viewed at <http://webboard.icjia.org/WB/default.aspx?boardid=CWHRS>

Staff is currently developing the WebBoard INFONET Forum. The InfoNet (information network) is a web-based data collection system used by victim service providers in Illinois. The development and implementation of the system was a collaborative effort between the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the Illinois Coalition against Sexual Assault (ICASA) and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). The WebBoard INFONET Forum can be viewed at <http://webboard.icjia.org/WB/default.aspx?boardid=INFONET>

Staff is also developing the WebBoard CJ ACADEMIC Forum. The CJ ACADEMIC Forum will be a discussion and information-sharing site which will enable the Research and Analysis Unit to communicate with the academic community on criminal justice research issues and topics that practitioners and others can use in their work within Illinois and from the national perspective. The WebBoard CJ ACADEMIC Forum can be viewed at <http://webboard.icjia.org/WB/default.aspx?boardid=CJACADEMIC>

### **2. Adobe Acrobat Connect**

Adobe Acrobat Connect is software used to create information and general presentations, online training materials, web conferencing, learning modules, and user desktop sharing applications.

Staff recorded and produced an INFONET presentation on the Assessment of the Current Response to Domestic Violence in Chicago in cooperation with the Mayors Domestic Violence Advocacy Coordinating Council (DVACC) on October 22, 2009. The following four links are a post-recording of the presentation given at the DVACC Summit Series opening October 8, 2009 in Chicago. The links are listed in same order in which the information was presented.

Introduction to Summit Series, Purpose, Overview of Adult Victim Experience, Video Presentation: The Story of Rachel (22:39)

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

Reactions to Video, Chicago DV Help Line Data, NIJ Study (26:33)

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us/infonets/public/index.cfm?metaSection=Main&metaPage=FLVvideoseries2>

InfoNet Data (victims who received domestic violence services from state-funded providers) (16:03)

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

Shelter Utilization Study, Batterers, Current Service System Capacity, Conclusions and Considerations for Town Hall Deliberations (52:05)

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us/infonets/public/index.cfm?metaSection=Main&metaPage=FLVvideoseries4>

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

Staff is currently developing Webinar Training for Grantees Eligible for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act awards using this software, as well as developing other Research and Analysis Unit and other agency on-line applications.

### **3. SurveyGizmo**

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

Staff launched 3 web-based online application forms for the following grants programs administrated by the Federal & State Grants Unit:

1. ICJIA RFP STOP VAWA ARRA Specialized Law Enforcement/Prosecution/Probation/Victim Service Personnel Program application.
2. ICJIA RFP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act S\*T\*O\*P S\*T\*O\*P (Services Training Officers Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Training Program application.
3. ICJIA RFP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Justice Assistance Grants Programs application.

Staff is also currently developing a web-based online application form for the following grants program administrated by the Federal & State Grants Unit:

- ICJIA RFP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Planning, evaluation and technology application.



#### **4. Website Enhancements**

Staff has launched an upgrade/reorganization of the left panel of the ICJIA Public Website to enhance link access to assist web visitors to quickly locate information about the Authority. The website is located at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us>

Staff has launched a new redesign of Criminal Justice DataNet Website to enhance web access and on-line presentation formats of the Authority's holdings of criminal justice and social risk factor data. The website is located at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/data>

Staff has launched a second new redesign of Grants Website inside the left panel of the ICJIA Public Website to enhance link access to assist web visitors to quickly locate information about the Federal State Grants Unit administration of grants.

Staff has launched a new redesign of Publications Website to improve the searching capabilities to assist web visitors to quickly locate ICJIA Publications. The website is located at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/index.cfm?metasection=forms&metapage=SearchByTopic1new>

Staff has launched the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests Website. This new website will enable the public to access ICJIA records and documentation by submitting a request through an on-line form pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140). The website is located at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/index.cfm?metaSection=About&metapage=FOIA>

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

Staff is currently developing the Illinois Statistical Analysis Center website for the Research and Analysis Unit. The website is currently under development/construction at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/datanetdev2/>

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

#### **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.

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

- Staff attended Bureau of Justice Statistics/Justice Statistics Research Association pre-conference training session on program evaluation. in St. Louis on November 21.
- On November 10, staff attended a lecture on Mathematica software, a statistical software package that offers web-based analysis that may be useful for the Authority's website.

#### **VI. AWARDS/RECOGNITION**

The STAC (Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Crime) program, developed by the Authority, helps crime analysts identify and examine Hot Spot Areas where concentrations of crime occur. In the lead article of the first edition of "Crime Mapping: A Journal of Research and Practice" a comparative evaluation reported results showing that STAC was significantly more reliable and precise than the other hot spot software tested.

cc: Jack Cutrone  
Hank Anthony

**Appendix A – Most recent publications**

**RESEARCH REPORTS**

**Implementing restorative justice: A guide for schools (October 2009)**

**Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data 2006 Annual Report (and Data Tables)  
(September 2009)**

## Appendix B – Information Request Handling Statistics

May 1, 2009 to July 31, 2009

ITEM	REQUESTS/Pct
<b>Information requests handled:</b>	47
<b>Monthly average number of requests:</b>	16
<b>Geographic Origin of requesters:</b>	
Chicago metropolitan area	30%
Other region of Illinois	17%
U.S. other than Illinois	36%
Outside the U.S.	6%
Unknown	11%
<b>Type of requester:</b>	
Government agency	49%
Private agency	19%
Researcher	2%
Student	0%
Citizen	28%
Media	2%
Legislators	0%
Inmates	0%
<b>Method of request:</b>	
Telephone/fax	36%
Mail	2%
Email/Internet	0%
In-person	0%
ICJIA Website	75%
<b>Publications disseminated:</b>	
Mailed in response to requests	0
Downloaded from Website	317,223
Total	317,270

## **Appendix C – Authority Website Trends**

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

**May 1, 2009 to July 31, 2009**

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		
May-09	728,328	23,494	76,478	2,467	33	27,714	24,065	3,649	109,360	2,799
June-09	701,785	22,641	76,139	2,456	34	26,671	23,295	3,376	109,282	2,814
July-09	725,332	24,177	74,508	2,483	32	26,065	22,944	3,121	98,581	2,820
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,155,445</b>	<b>70,312</b>	<b>227,125</b>	<b>7,406</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>80,450</b>	<b>70,304</b>	<b>10,146</b>	<b>317,223</b>	
<b>MONTHLY AVERAGE</b>	<b>718,482</b>		<b>75,708</b>			<b>26,817</b>	<b>23,435</b>	<b>3,382</b>	<b>105,741</b>	