



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

---

120 South Riverside Plaza • Suite 1016 • Chicago, Illinois 60606 • (312) 793-8550

---

**To:** Authority Members

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

**Date:** November 15, 2007

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

---

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

## **I. CURRENT PROJECTS**

### **A. Program evaluation and research projects**

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

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

The University of Chicago is conducting an implementation and preliminary impact evaluation of the Illinois Going Home Program. The program is a major offender reentry effort funded through a partnership of contributing federal agencies and in concert with a number of Chicago-area government, community and faith-based organizations. The evaluation will determine if the program was implemented as designed, how it worked in the field and the effectiveness of the program. Evaluators completed a one-year interim report in September. This report identified a number of recommendations for increasing enrollment that Going Home staff is currently implementing. The report is now undergoing final revisions.

#### **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.

- *Analysis of Methamphetamine and Domestic Violence in Illinois* under the direction of Dr. Gaylene Armstrong, formerly at Southern Illinois University, now at Sam Houston University. This project measures the impact of methamphetamine on domestic violence across Illinois counties. State and regional trends in meth use are detailed, as well as a descriptive assessment of statewide and regional trends in domestic violence. In addition, the study examines the effect of meth use indicators on variations in domestic violence, while controlling for other county level characteristics. This report has been reviewed and we are awaiting final revisions.
- *Victim Characteristics and Reporting Violence to the Police* (Illinois Crime Victimization Data) under the direction of Dr. Callie Rennison of the University of Missouri at St. Louis. This project examines how victim's characteristics influence the decision to contact the police following violence. The study is based on Illinois 2002 crime victimization survey data. The final report is available and a summary is forthcoming.
- *Comparing Risk Factors Associated with Violent and General Recidivism while on Probation and After Discharge – Implications for Risk Management* under the direction of Dr. Loretta Stalans and Dr. Paul Yarnold. This study will address several issues in the identification of risk factors that contribute to violent and non-violent recidivism after discharge from probation. In addition, the study will address what types of offenders show evidence of refraining from new crimes for a longer-term period after they have successful treatment completion. They study will also test whether family only and generalized aggressors have unique risk factors associated with recidivism. This report was received in May and is under review.

### **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 by the end of the year.

#### **4. Criminal justice agencies Needs Assessment Survey project**

Orbis Partners was assigned to conduct a criminal justice needs assessment in Illinois and the Authority has recently received the results of the survey in a draft report. The primary purpose of this study is to supply information that will demonstrate the needs of criminal justice organizations, and identify areas that need improvement. The information will also be used to guide decision-making regarding where to best allocate resources. The study's secondary purpose is to provide information that outlines if, and how, the needs of criminal justice organizations have changed over time by comparing the data collected as part of this study to the results of a needs assessment survey conducted in 1996.

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

After multiple strategies were employed to encourage participation, a total of 602 questionnaires were returned for an overall response rate of 38.6%. Results indicate that law enforcement feel that domestic violence crimes, property crime and juvenile crime are the most significant contributors to their workload. Law enforcement also noted a need for resources and training related to methamphetamine investigations. Respondents from probation and court services indicated that in addition to supervision duties, pre-sentence investigations comprise a significant part of their workload, as do working with clients that present treatment and drug or alcohol use issues.

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

Many of the respondents also noted the need for increased resources to combat identity theft, an increased need for bi-lingual personnel or language translation, and the need for better access to computerized information or information sharing systems. While the final results are still being studied, the responses and the final report have become an integral part of the JAG planning process. The final report, as well as a research bulletin is available on our website.

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

Research & Analysis staff is continuing to support the operation of the Sheridan Correctional Center through a process and impact evaluation. Sheridan is currently the largest correctional facility in the country that is entirely committed to substance abuse treatment. The prison, designed as a therapeutic community for substance abuse users, has been expanded with a new unit designed to house and treat methamphetamine users beginning in FY2008. 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 as well as while they are released to their communities and under supervision to reduce recidivism rates in Illinois. The Sheridan inmate population is scheduled to reach full capacity (1,300 inmates) during this fiscal year.

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 services offered for inmates released. Authority staff contributes to analyses of program completion and recidivism of Sheridan participants compared to a matched sample of inmates released from other prisons in Illinois.

Two Program Evaluation Summaries have been completed on Sheridan indicating benefits from reduced recidivism and increased employment for participants. The Authority continues to assist the evaluation team in updating recidivism figures on a continuous basis. A comprehensive program evaluation report and a third program evaluation summary is expected to be published around mid-FY2008, as well as additional publications intended for scholarly journals at a later date regarding the long-term impact of the program and the characteristics of participants that influence success in the program.

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

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

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

Loyola University, under the direction of Dr. Loretta Stalans, was awarded a grant to evaluate the Lake County probation program that provides specialized services to women probationers who exhibit post-traumatic stress disorder. The evaluation began in January 2006 and the final report was received May 2007. Suggested revisions have been sent and the final report should be available on our website in December.

A follow-up study to further assess the impact of the program is scheduled to begin 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. The study will also focus on the third service provider that the program enlisted.

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

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

## **9. Investigator Initiated Research**

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

- *Corrections to Community: The collective reentry experience of juvenile offenders.* This study, under the direction of the University of Chicago, will examine a number of factors that play into the reentry experience of juveniles released from Illinois correctional facilities between 1996 and 2002. The final report was received and is under review.
- *Analysis of Domestic Violence Service Data.* Under the direction of Loyola University, this study will examine InfoNet service data to describe victim service use patterns over time and describe the characteristics of victims and their service needs. The report was reviewed by staff, and we are awaiting final revisions.

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

- *Assessing the Risk of Sexual and Violent Recidivism and Identifying Differences in Risk Factor.* This study is under the direction of Loyola University and will seek to inform the criminal justice system's probation and parole officers, treatment professionals, and judges as to the accuracy of assessment tools for predicting the risk of sexual or violent reoffending. Comparisons between offenders from the

prison system and those on probation will be conducted. The project will conclude in May 2008.

- *A Study of Co-occurring Conditions and Treatment Coordination of Jail Detainees.* Conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago, this study will select and interview 300 adult male and 150 adult female detainees in the psychiatric residential treatment units at the Cook County Department of Corrections jail facility. The project will seek to better understand the needs of this high-risk and resource-intensive population and provide a basis for developing better coordinated systems of care within the jail, community and transition to prison for those sentenced detainees. The final report will be submitted for review in December.

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

- *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.

## **10. Trends and Issues**

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

There are five sections: law enforcement, courts, corrections, victims, and juvenile justice. In addition, each section highlights special issues of significance facing the criminal justice system today, including identity theft, gangs, DNA, specialized courts, substance abuse treatment in prison, human trafficking, and juvenile justice reform initiatives. The report provides valuable crime and justice information to inform the general public, criminal justice professionals, and policy makers.

Numerous Authority staff are working on this project. A draft of the report is near completion and the final report is estimated to be published by the end of the year.

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

Legislation passed both the Illinois House and Senate to establish a Capital Crimes Database to be overseen by the Authority, however that mandated has gone unfunded. Staff had previously assisted the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee in the development of an RFP to secure a vendor for the development of a survey regarding capital punishment in Illinois. Loyola University was the selected Vendor. The project is now on hold, pending restoration of funding. At such time, staff will begin to determine data collection strategies and feasibility, as well as a framework for analysis under various data collection scenarios.

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

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

The 2008 CHRI Audit methodology development is currently underway.

CHRI Ad Hoc Data Connection Partnership. The Authority has entered into a data sharing partnership with the Illinois State police, whereby CHRI data is made available to us via a permanent on-line connection. All data entered on state "rap sheets", as housed on the State Police Computerized Criminal History system, are accessible to staff in electronic format. These data provide a unique resource for answering information requests from legislators, the media, and other interested parties, in-house research projects and studies being conducted by others around the country. A CHRI Ad Hoc Data Archive of all criminal history records from 1990-2006 has been created in formats that can be readily shared with researchers. This Archive currently holds close to a million records for each year of data.

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

During the last quarter, user agreements were executed with researchers from University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Urban Institute. Several others are pending approval. Since the inception of the CHRI Ad Hoc Connection Partnership, a total of twenty-six outside research projects have received CHRI data from the Authority.

Staff is also working with several university-based researchers to develop appropriate methodologies for their research using CHRI Ad Hoc data, and is reviewing drafts of completed research projects for appropriate interpretation of the CHRI data used.

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

Uniform Conviction Information Act (UCIA) Cost Survey. The Authority is statutorily mandated to periodically assess if the maximum allowable fee charged for conviction information requests made by the private citizens adequately covers the costs incurred. Approximately 300 law enforcement



agencies were mailed a brief survey. Results of the survey are currently being tabulated. Preliminary findings suggest that most local law enforcement agencies do not process these UCIA requests, or that they do not charge citizens for this service. Any recommendations for changes in the maximum allowable fee will be reported to the Authority Board.

2006 National Judicial Reporting Program (NJRP). Staff is providing data on Illinois felony convictions recorded in the CHRI Ad Hoc database for this biennial study sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) of the U.S. Department of Justice. The NJRP compiles sentencing data from 300 court jurisdictions across the country. Data from five pre-selected counties are being submitted to this national project, and include demographic information on sentenced felons, conviction charges, sentence types and sentence length.

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

The Chicago Homicide Dataset has been collected and maintained for many years in close cooperation with the Crime Analysis Unit, Detective Division, of the Chicago Police Department. The CHD is a comprehensive database containing information on every homicide that occurred in Chicago between 1965 and 2000. The updated dataset is currently being archived with the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, to allow wider access to the data for research.

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

### **D. Externally-funded research and evaluation projects**

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

#### **1. Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRs)**

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

The goal of the CWHRs project is now to "get the word out" about important and potentially life-saving results, to the public and to practitioners and legislators who can use those results to help save lives. The CWHRs Forum, housed on the Authority's web site, currently has 90 members, most of them practitioners or researchers in the field, plus welcomes visits from people seeking information. A number of reports, journal articles and other publications have been developed

from the research, most of them collaborations. Staff is frequently solicited for presentations and briefings on the research and project tools, and data continue to be requested for use by other researchers.

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

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

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

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, R&A staff is in the process of 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. The comprehensive report, which contains over 200 pages of juvenile justice information, is scheduled for completion this winter and will be available on the Authority website.

- Staff attended JJ Fall Conference Planning meetings on September 14, October 3, October 12, and October 16. (planning sessions for the collaborative juvenile justice conference held in Fall 2007)
- Staff provided training on data collection and analysis for juvenile probation and detention center staff in St. Clair County on September 18.
- Staff attended and presented at the Victim Services Ad Hoc Committee meeting held October 9
- Staff presented and participated in a session on data collection and analysis at the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association Annual meeting on October 18.

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

In March of 2005, ICJIA research staff entered into a three-year cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in the amount of \$194,232 to evaluate Illinois' Evidenced-Based Practices (EBP) Initiative. This project will assist local probation departments participating in the EBP Initiative by providing them with data and analysis that gauges performance before and during the implementation of evidence-based practices, and will establish a process and protocol for ongoing assessment of probation performance through an effective state and local partnership. The first wave of data collection has been completed in 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, will be conducted in Lake County in December 2007, and will also begin in late 2007 at the remaining sites. Partnership agreements have been executed for Sangamon, Cook, DuPage and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit. A part-time research analyst, Ebony Evans, was hired in October to assist with data collection, entry, and analysis.

#### **4. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Research Grant**

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

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

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

A review of the literature was completed with over 70 reference notes in the final report draft. The final report and a research bulletin were completed in October 2007 and submitted to OJJDP for peer review. The review is estimated to be completed by November 2007 and publication of the report and bulletin will follow.

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

This project is designed as an assessment of the prevalence of prior victimization, primarily domestic violence and sexual assault/abuse, among adult female inmates within the Illinois Department of Corrections. Through an examination of existing data collected during the Reception and Classification (R&C) process at the Dwight Correctional Center, the research team will determine the prevalence of these forms of prior victimization, examine those inmate characteristics correlated with prior victimization (i.e., demographic, socio-economic, criminal and substance abuse history, and mental health), and gauge the access to IDOC services among those with histories of victimization.

A summary was drafted on research of prior domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault victimizations of female inmates, as well as their need for services. The information derived from

prison intake assessments includes almost 4,000 female admissions from 2004. The summary warrants more in-depth research to learn further about the extent and nature of victimization and treatment episodes of female inmates. The next step is to share the summary with IDOC and gain support/access to collect further victimization data from women housed at Dwight Correctional Center with IDOC approval. More in-depth interviews completed by Authority staff will be able to address some of the limitations of the basic R&C data.

## **6. CLARIS Web-based Application for methamphetamine lab reporting**

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has asked each state to identify a single agency to be responsible for collecting monthly information regarding meth lab seizure incidents. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has been identified as the agency to collect this information.

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

Authority staff worked with personnel from Illinois State Police to standardize the classification of lab seizures into the federal (EPIC) categories of (productive) labs, glassware, and dumpsites. This will enable the ISP internal monthly reports to be primarily (80%) generated directly from the reports already filed with EPIC and stored in CLARIS. (As previously stated, the ISP produces its internal monthly meth lab prevention and seizure reporting through CLARIS.)

Staff wrote and tested the utility to transfer data between the tables used for EPIC transmission and the tables used for ISP internal reporting. Data for overtime spent and prevention activities such as speeches to school and other groups is not reported to EPIC and will continue to be input as it is now. However data concerning lab seizures, drug seizures, ingredient and pill seizures, arrests, weapons, and child involvement can now be transferred under computer control. As police officers adopt the standardized incident classification, the utility will be released in early 2008.

## **II. ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

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

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

- Staff met on September 6 with Office of the Attorney General's Youth Court Association Advisory Board meeting in Aurora.
- Staff attended a planning meeting on September 4 in Bloomington for the "Connecting the Pathways" juvenile justice collaborative conference, which was held October 31 – November 2, 2007 in Springfield. The Authority is a co-sponsor.
- Staff met with Loyola University Chicago's Center for Urban Research and Learning the week of September 4 to discuss methodology and other project issues for their Authority-funded project, *Analysis of Shelter Utilization by Victims of Domestic Violence*.
- Staff hosted an Illinois Evidenced-Based Practice Evaluation Transition Meeting on September 10 & 11 with national program coordinators, as well as representatives of Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, representatives from pilot sites, and from university partners.
- Staff attended a planning meeting on September 14 in Bloomington for the "Connecting the Pathways" juvenile justice collaborative conference, which was held October 31 – November 2, 2007 in Springfield.
- Staff attended a conference in Arlington, VA on September 24-25 for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children grantees and will present on research.
- On September 21, staff attended a Rescue our Minors from Sexual Exploitation (PROMISE), which is coordinated by the Salvation Army and Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services.
- Staff attended a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children - Train the Trainer Institute at Dominican University on September 26-28.
- Staff met with auditors from the Auditor General's office to demonstrate the CLARIS system on September 18.
- Research Director attended the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board Retreat in Zion on September 20.
- On Friday, September 28, staff will present "Long-Term Patterns of Offending in Adult Women" at the European Developmental and Life-Course Workshop, held at the meetings of the European Society of Criminology. After revision, the paper was presented at the American Society of Criminology meetings in November.
- Staff attended the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System Advisory Board meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> in Chicago.

- Staff attended an ISBA seminar on October 4, *Justice for Girls: Delivered or Denied?* The research director presented on characteristics of girls who enter the juvenile justice system.
- Staff attended a Justice Research and Statistics Association conference on Oct 10-12 in Pittsburg, PA to present panel sessions on human trafficking and on disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system, and a table session on evidence-based practices in probation. Findings from the CSEC study will be presented at the panel on human trafficking.
- Staff participated in a teleconference to help plan the Connecting the Pathways juvenile justice conference, scheduled for Oct. 31 – Nov. 2.
- The Balanced and Restorative Justice training seminar on the topic of victims was held October 15-16 in Bloomington.
- In preparation of an October 12 meeting, Staff prepared data and program summaries to assist in the violence reduction initiative that is being developed.
- Staff presented at the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association meeting on October 18 on data and research issues.
- The Balanced and Restorative Justice training seminar on the topic of victims, sponsored by the Authority, was held October 15-16 in Bloomington. 27 Criminal justice professionals, school personnel, and community outreach workers that provide services to juveniles participated. The seminar was designed to assist in the development of BARJ practices in accordance with the Juvenile Court Acts Purpose and Policy Statement.
- The research director attended a teleconference meeting of the Redeploy Illinois Data Committee on October 18, and a full meeting of the Redeploy Oversight Board on October 19 in Chicago.
- Staff attended a teleconference planning meeting on October 16 for the Connecting Pathways juvenile justice conference.
- Staff attended and participated in the “Connecting the Pathways” collaborative juvenile justice reform conference on October 31 through November 2, 2007. Presentations made by the research director and staff included data workshops for local juvenile justice planners and data issues related to disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system..
- Staff held a teleconference meeting with Col. Michael Snyders and Carol Gibbs of the Illinois State Police on October 23 to review work on the criminal history record system audit, and the use of criminal history information for research and statistics.
- Staff trained the Southeast Illinois Drug Task Force on the use of the CLARIS system the week of October 24.

- Staff met with researchers from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale the week of October 24 regarding their Critical Incident Preparedness and Response on Campuses study.
- Staff met with Karrie Reuter of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission on November 7 to discuss the juvenile justice research partnership and specific project plans surrounding the 2005 Juvenile Justice and Risk Factor Data Report as well new research on mental health issues in the juvenile justice system.
- The research director and the Executive Director met with Malcolm Young of the John Howard Association on November 8 to discuss the availability of juvenile justice statistical information.
- Staff attended the Models for Change DMC Committee meeting on November 8 at Loyola University.
- Staff met with IDOC officials on November 9 to discuss data access issues.
- Staff participated in a conference call with the Illinois Youth Court Association Survey on November 13 to discuss the progress of a survey mailed to the approximately 130 youth court programs in the state in October.
- The week of November 8, staff attended a meeting with Partnership to Rescue our Minors from Sexual Exploitation (PROMISE), which is coordinated by the Salvation Army and Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services.
- Staff attended the LEAD Advisory Board meeting in Joliet on November 20.
- Staff attended the AOIC's Probation and Court Services Managers' Symposium in Oak Brook on November 14 and 15.
- On November 16, staff met with a member of Northwestern University's Bluhm Legal Clinic on the Dignity in Schools Campaign, a project of the Education Subcommittee of the ABA. The aim of the Campaign is to expose systemic problems in our nation's school systems and provide solutions to improve responses to school discipline.
- Staff participated in a conference call with the Illinois Youth Court Association Survey on November 13 to discuss the progress of a survey mailed to the approximately 130 youth court programs in the state in October.
- Staff presented the paper "Long-term Patterns of Offending in Adult Women" at the American Society of Criminology in Atlanta, Georgia on Thursday, November 15.

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

The Authority serves as a statewide clearinghouse for statistics and other information about crime and the criminal justice system. Many requests continue to come from private agencies (21 percent) and private citizens (46 percent). Other requests came from governmental agencies, researchers, students, news media representatives, legislators, and prison inmates. Twenty-two percent of the requests originate in the Chicago metropolitan area. Thirty-nine 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 5,604 Authority publications during the first quarter of SFY 08, not including those downloaded from our Website (255,392) [TABLE 1]. The volume of web users has continued to remain at high levels. For the first quarter of SFY 08, there were 2,398,334 “hits” on our website and more than 81,595 visitors (users that remained on the site for a period of time.) There were 255,392 downloads of information or publications for the first quarter of SFY 08 [TABLE 2]. The website continues to be a valuable resource for our constituents. Appendix A lists the publications that have been recently posted on the website since the last Authority Board meetings.

## **C. 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, MVTTPC 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 now working with staff to refine protocols for this R&A partnership with FSGU.

## **D. Technical Assistance**

- Staff helped test MARS (motor vehicle theft) on-line reporting system during much of September and October.
- Staff provided technical assistance for the audit of the CLARIS system.



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

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

On October 15 and 16, 2007, staff held a two-day seminar on “BARJ and Crime Victims” in Bloomington, Illinois for juvenile justice professionals. The seminar built on previous statewide ICJIA sponsored events: the BARJ Summit held in Fall 2003, the conference, “Juvenile Justice in Illinois: Implementing Restorative Justice in Your Community” held in Spring of 2005, and the nine BARJ practices trainings held over the past two years in Illinois. In addition, training participants built on the information obtained from the ICJIA’s BARJ implementation guides. In 1998, Illinois’ Juvenile Court Act was revised to include a purpose and policy statement adopting BARJ for all juvenile delinquency cases. Many jurisdictions have not complied with provisions of the Act. This seminar helped service providers incorporate the principles of BARJ in their work with crime victims.

### **F. Deaths in Custody Reporting**

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

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

Summary data on death in law enforcement custody for the year of 2005 was submitted to BJS in July 2007. Once their records are finalized, BJS will be able to move forward with a special three-year (2003-2005) study of arrest fatalities in the United States. The report, Arrest-Related Deaths in the United States, 2003-2005, is expected to be released in October 2007.

As of May 2007, data collected for 2007 can be submitted to BJS either annually or quarterly; with a deadline of March 2008.

#### **G. Web-based training curriculum (Breeze)**

Staff continues to explore development of a web-based application that will serve as a medium to users to present interactive training curricula for criminal justice practitioners, social service professionals, and the general public.

### **III. NEW PROJECTS**

#### *Data on Victims of Human Trafficking*

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

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

### **IV. GRANT PROPOSALS**

R&A staff routinely pursues discretionary grants to support data collection, research, and evaluation activities. Frequently these projects involve collaborations with universities and/or other criminal justice agencies. However, there was no activity in this area for the reporting period.

### **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.

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

cc: Lori G. Levin  
Hank Anthony

## **Appendix A**

### **Publications**

#### **Research Bulletins**

State Criminal Justice Survey Seeks Methods to Stem Drug Use (September 2007)

#### **Research Reports**

CLEAR and I-CLEAR: A Report on New Information Technology in Chicago and Illinois (October 2007)

An Evaluation of the Cook County Community Based Transitional Services for Female Offenders Program (August 2007)

#### **Program Evaluation Summary**

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

#### **The Compiler**

Juvenile Reform Specialized Services help fuel fight against probation recidivism (Summer 2007)

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

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>REQUESTS/Pct</b>
<b>Information requests handled:</b>	112
<b>Monthly average number of requests:</b>	37
<b>Geographic Origin of requesters:</b>	
Chicago metropolitan area	22%
Other region of Illinois	39%
U.S. other than Illinois	20%
Outside the U.S.	1%
Unknown	18%
<b>Type of requester:</b>	
Government agency	19%
Private agency	21%
Researcher	5%
Student	7%
Citizen	46%
Media	1%
Legislators	<1%
Inmates	<1%
<b>Method of request:</b>	
Telephone/fax	46%
Mail	1%
Email/Internet	8%
In-person	1%
ICJIA Website	45%
<b>Publications disseminated:</b>	
Mailed in response to requests	5,604
Downloaded from Website	255,392
Total	260,996

Table 2. Authority Website Trends

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

July 1, 2007 – September 30, 2007

Month/Year	Hits		User Sessions			Visitors			File Downloads	CJ DISPATCH SUBSCRIBERS
	Entire Site	Average Per Day	Sessions	Average Per Day	Average Length (min)	Unique	One-Time	Repeat		
July-07	768,035	27,519	134,731	4,346	17	31,535	25,350	6,185	99,259	2,368
Aug-07	769,423	29,529	106,344	3,430	19	30,701	24,813	5,888	82,375	2,385
Sept-07	860,876	24,547	81,682	2,722	18	31,131	25,817	5,314	73,758	2,417
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,398,334</b>	<b>81,595</b>	<b>322,757</b>	<b>10,498</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>93,367</b>	<b>75,980</b>	<b>17,387</b>	<b>255,392</b>	<b>7170</b>
<b>MONTHLY AVERAGE</b>	<b>799,445</b>	<b>27,198</b>	<b>107,586</b>	<b>3,499</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31,122</b>	<b>25,367</b>	<b>5,796</b>	<b>85,130</b>	