

# THE Compiler

Illinois Criminal Justice

Information Authority Winter/Spring 2007



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## The fight against human trafficking

### Global forces rally to fight modern-day slave market in laborers, children, and victims of the sex trade

By Adrienne Frederick

The slave trade is alive and well in 21<sup>st</sup> century America, preying particularly on women and children coerced into forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

Governments and social organizations worldwide have begun to fight back against human trafficking, which they say undermines human rights achievements in democratic societies, threatens public health and safety, fosters the growth of organized crime—which finds trafficking a lucrative revenue source—and may even constitute a potential terrorist tool.

### Data collection challenges

Victims of this ugly global enterprise are in this country in startling numbers, but available statistics vary among sources.

Worldwide, the Justice Department, Bureau of Justice Assistance, figures that the enslaved number 27 million, 80 percent of whom are women, and that as many as 2 million victims are each year trafficked across international borders. Between 18,000 and 20,000 victims also enter the U.S. every year, according to the Administration for Children and

*(Continued on page 2)*

LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

A victim of trafficking may look like many of the people you see everyday.

Ask the right questions and look for clues. You are vital because you may be the only outsider with the opportunity to speak with a victim.

There are safe housing, health, food, income, employment and interpretation services available to victims, but first they must be found.

If you think someone is a victim of trafficking, call 1.888.3737.888  
For more information about human trafficking visit [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking).

Photo credit: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## Survivor gives a voice to women, teens living in the shadows of the sex trade

By Cristin Monti Evans

After more than two decades of prostituting herself on the streets, Brenda Myers-Powell had been repeatedly shot, stabbed, and sexually assaulted before finally deciding she had to get out. After one last violent episode, she finally said, “Enough is enough.”

Myers-Powell left the streets after 25 years to build a new life as a health educator, sex trade victim advocate, motivational speaker, and daytime TV personality. Today she is a voice for other women struggling to survive on the streets and trying to exit the life of

*(See VOICE, page 7)*



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Created in 1983, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is a state agency dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice.

The Authority is governed by a 21-member board comprised of state and local leaders from the criminal justice system and members of the public.

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Families of the Department of Health and Human Services.

More than half of trafficking victims who cross international borders are children, the U.S. State Department reports. The International Labor Organization has set the number of children ages 5 to 17 who are coerced into prostitution, pornography, armed conflicts, and the illegal drug and arms trades, at 246 million worldwide.

The Salvation Army estimates that up to 150,000 foreign victims of slavery are in the United States from 49 countries in Africa, the Arab world, Southeast Asia, and nations formerly part of the Soviet Union, and that about 325,000 children are commercially sexually exploited in this country annually.

"These estimates are probably horribly low," said Michael Smith, National Consultant for Trafficking Survivor Services of the Salvation Army.

Governmental grants for research into acquisition of more accurate data on trafficking are just now becoming available, Smith said, adding that trafficking is big business due to globalization of information through the Internet, ease of travel, disparity between wealthy and poor nations, and the explosive growth of pornography and drug addiction. Corrupt governments and general social and political indifference to human rights also fuel the issue.

Data on sexually exploited youth both nationwide and in Illinois are limited and statistics are hard to gather due to the highly mobile nature of the trade, according to Mark Wallschlaeger, a Chicago-based FBI agent working in the field.

"Traffickers constantly haul the young people they control from city to city and across state lines based on whatever currently might affect the potential

client base—such as a locale's weather pattern, or a big convention," he said.

**Chicago a 'hub' for exploitation**

Child sex trafficking occurs in urban, suburban, and rural regions. In June 2003, the FBI identified 13 major cities that serve as hubs for the crime. They include Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, St. Louis, Tampa Bay, and Washington, D.C.

Illinois has the largest population of non-English speaking adults of all midwestern states, and Chicago has the highest volume of immigrants arriving at any midwestern port of entry, according to the National Immigrant Justice Center. Both circumstances benefit international human trafficking. Language barriers can help prevent the escape of victims from traffickers, and large numbers of immigrants can help hide the entry of illegals.

**The lure of human trafficking**

Trafficking pays well. The United Nations estimates trafficking's annual profits at \$9.5 billion, tying it with the illegal weapons trade as one of the most profitable criminal activities in the world.

Traffickers lure the poor of the world with promises of lucrative jobs, a better life for themselves that will also help their families back home, and even marriage. Victims encounter long hours in physically demanding, inhumane working conditions in sweatshops, as farm laborers, and in domestic servitude. Other victims are forced to work in construction, food service, or entertainment, or to peddle and transport drugs.

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They are slave laborers, trapped in debt bondage for an unspecified amount of money, or held against their will through beatings, starvation, mutilation, torture, and death threats against themselves or their families.

## **Victim intimidation, abuse**

Traffickers confiscate victims' identification and travel papers, and closely watch and control their movements. Often in victims' homelands, those who have endured molestation are stigmatized and treated as outcasts. In addition, victims whose destitute families had originally sold them into slavery are often similarly ostracized.

Exploited laborers have been found chained for hours to job stations, unable to use a washroom. Their bodies often suffer permanent physical damage due to abuse; many workers contract fatal illnesses. Abolishing child slave labor would bring annual economic gains in the tens of billions of dollars, a cost/benefits study by the International Labor Organization concluded, due to increased productive capacity of a future generation of educated workers, and from overall improved public health.

Conditions are perhaps more gruesome for those who experience sexual exploitation. Sometimes kidnapped, sometimes sold as slaves, youth of all ages as well as adults confront a world of prostitution, group rape, perverse sexual practices, communicable disease, systematic humiliation, imposed addiction, and unimaginable anguish.

Once a victim is ensnared, traffickers go to work with across-the-board abuse—physical, emotional, psychological and mental—isolating them, making them financially dependent, brutalizing them, breaking their spirit, and disabling their will. Many victims lack language skills, are made fearful of government officials, are methodically drugged, and are controlled through fear, according to reports from the Administration for Children and Families.

Trafficking victims often are so extremely physically and mentally abused they are not capable of describing their plight. Because the modern face of human bondage goes unrecognized by the average person, governmental agencies and other organizations are trying to

raise public awareness of this vicious business through legislation; training service personnel to recognize signs of victimization; enforcement and prosecution under existing anti-human trafficking laws; and educational and outreach services.

Trafficking in children for commercial sexual exploitation has been likened to slavery, a comparison with which Wallschlaeger agrees.

"These children, and they are *children*, are forced to work 15 hours a day, performing activities you'd never dream of doing," Wallschlaeger said. "I'd call that slavery."

## **A global fight**

The global issue of human trafficking has fueled efforts, many collaborative, on state, local, national, and international levels.

### **Illinois efforts**

In June 2005, Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed the Trafficking of Persons and Involuntary Servitude Act, making Illinois one of the first states to act in concert with the federal government in criminalizing trafficking. The law defines and establishes penalties for involuntary servitude, sexual servitude of a minor, and human trafficking for forced labor and services. Penalties may be up to 60 years imprisonment when kidnapping or injury are involved, and the law allows seizure of a convicted offender's assets.

The law also permits restitution to a forced labor victim, and authorizes the state to provide emergency aid that includes certification to the federal government for additional services. Under the Act, five state departments and a network of 112 social service agencies joined in a statewide Rescue and Restore Coalition linking with the federal Rescue and Restore Campaign. The Authority is leading data collection in this massive effort.

Illinois' commitment to help raise public awareness of trafficking includes sponsoring an annual Outreach Day in cities across the state, most recently held May 5. Another statewide training initiative included production of a DVD computer-based training video, *Anti-Human Trafficking for the Law Enforcement Professional*, sent to 1,400 law enforce-

# Publications

The following summaries and reports are available from the Authority. Most can be found online at [www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us).

## **Implementing balanced and restorative justice: A guidebook series**

The Authority published a series of seven profession-specific balanced and restorative justice guides. *Implementing balanced and restorative justice: A guidebook series* includes the following titles:

- *A guide for defense attorneys*
- *A guide for juvenile corrections*
- *A guide for juvenile detention*
- *A guide for juvenile court judges*
- *A guide for juvenile probation*
- *A guide for law enforcement officers*
- *A guide for prosecutors*

## **Macon County Redeploy Illinois pilot program aids juvenile offenders**

This **Program Evaluation Summary** describes an evaluation of Macon County's Redeploy pilot program. The program, Community ACCESS (Alternative Collaborative Change Education Support Success), was set up to offer individualized services to juvenile participants based on their specific risk factors and needs. Probation officers monitored participants, and a research team evaluated the program's implementation and impact between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31, 2005.

## **Forensic DNA evidence: 21<sup>st</sup> century criminal justice tool**

This **Research Bulletin** describes forensic DNA evidence and its ability to solve criminal cases and prevent future crime. Since its introduction as evidence in the courts, forensic DNA testing is one of the most thoroughly scrutinized and validated techniques in the history of forensic science. In addition to its crime solving capabilities, DNA can exonerate wrongly convicted offenders and identify human remains.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Research

## **Balanced and restorative justice efforts continue**

The Authority continues planning and implementation of a variety of balanced and restorative justice (BARJ) initiatives.

In September 2006, the Authority sponsored a training seminar entitled "Juvenile substance abuse and balanced and restorative justice: Exploring new interventions." The Elk Grove Village event focused on delivering substance abuse treatment in a restorative manner, using BARJ to maximize offender rehabilitation, the benefits and implementation of juvenile drug courts, and the impact of methamphetamine on young offenders.

The Authority also has published and made available on its Web site a series of seven profession-specific balanced and restorative justice guides. The *Implementing balanced and restorative justice* guidebook series was designed to assist juvenile justice practitioners across the criminal justice system as they incorporate BARJ. Guidebooks have been published for juvenile probation professionals, law enforcement officers, juvenile court judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and detention and corrections personnel.

The Illinois Juvenile Court Act adopts the BARJ philosophy for juvenile delinquency cases. BARJ engages victims, offenders, and the community and is guided by three principles: public safety, accountability, and competency development.

## **Annual report on juvenile justice system and risk factor data completed**

The Authority completed the Juvenile Justice Commission's 2004 Annual Report. County-level juvenile justice system and risk factor data were compiled. Recent and emerging juvenile justice system trends and issues in Illinois also were summarized, including balanced and restorative justice efforts, the Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, disproportionate minority contact, and the Redeploy Illinois program. The report is available on the Authority's website.

## **Model Domestic Violence Protocol update under way**

The Authority is coordinating an update of the 1996 Model Domestic Violence

*(Continued on page 5)*

ment organizations in Illinois. *(To view the video or obtain additional information about training, visit [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us) and <http://ricp.uis.edu>.)*

The Department of Human Services also broadcast a trafficking training session by satellite to more than 300 service and health care providers in November 2005. Staff of the departments of Children and Family Services, Labor, Public Health and Illinois State Police have received intensive in-house training on human trafficking. Additionally, the state launched an information Web site at [www.dhs.state.il.us/projects/initiatives/trafficking](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/projects/initiatives/trafficking).

## **Local efforts**

A variety of local efforts are under way to combat human trafficking.

The Cook County Sheriff's Child Exploitation Unit has achieved a 100 percent prosecution rate on over 200 arrested predators, most of whom prowled Internet chat rooms for victims, officials said. Anonymously posing as youngsters on various sites, police have snared Internet stalkers from as far away as Guam and Germany, alerting local police to make arrests.

Internet predators most often profiled by the department are white males over 40 years old who have successfully solicited minors for sex, and have been perpetrating the crime long enough to become confident they will not be caught.

Victim referrals in these cases most often come from social service agencies, schools, parents, and other sources.

Chicago Police Department established the Chicago Regional Human Trafficking Task Force in October 2004. The task force promotes better coordination among law enforcement agencies and service providers in the Chicago area to combat human trafficking.

Authority researchers participate in the Chicago-based Partnership to Rescue Our Minors from Sexual Exploitation (PROMISE). A Salvation Army initiative, PROMISE marshals comprehensive community resources to provide prevention, intervention, services, and public information on behalf of exploited children.

PROMISE will use federal grant funding to provide training to human traffick-

ing outreach workers. The training will include how to identify exploitation, understanding the supply and demand sides of human trafficking, risk factors for potential victims, and intervention practices.

## **National efforts**

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 provides federal protection and services to victims and prosecution of traffickers, and authorizes the creation of educational and public awareness programs. It defines trafficking as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person" for:

- 1) Labor or services, through use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.
- 2) The purpose of a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years.

Provisions of this law enable adult victims of trafficking to be certified to receive benefits and services under federal and state programs. Assistance is available for housing, food, income, employment, health care, language training, mental health, and recovery from torture. Certification gives victims refugee status, and they are eligible for a "T visa" that allows them temporary U.S. residency which can become permanent after three years. Victims who agree to testify against their perpetrators may also enter the Witness Protection Program. Children under the age of 18 receive all these services and benefits without undergoing the certification process.

The law carries life sentences for the most severe trafficker abuses (murder, kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation). And because the scope of the legal definition of coercion has been broadened, the law has enhanced its power to prosecute offenders.

In May, the 1,000th victim of human trafficking received federal certification status under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

An additional legal tool against trafficking is National Presidential Directive 22, signed in 2002 by President George W.

Bush, which directs all federal agencies to support policies combating human trafficking, and identifies prostitution as inherently harmful to women. The President's Interagency Task Force issues directives against trafficking that are enforced by various government agencies, including the departments of Homeland Security, Justice, Labor, and State, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the FBI.

Congress passed the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today Act in 2003, criminalizing sexual abuse of children both in this country by foreigners and outside the United States by American citizens traveling abroad.

Also in 2003, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act gave victims the right to bring federal civil suits against traffickers for actual and punitive damages, and included forced labor and sex trafficking as offenses under the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization statute.

The education and public awareness mandate of the Victims Protection Act called for creation of an initial outreach campaign, "Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking." Three outcomes of the campaign include:

- Making available informational materials to government and private agencies that instruct first responder personnel in recognizing trafficking victims.
- Setting up the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline, toll-free at 1.888.373.7888, to provide victims with instant referrals to prescreened aid agencies located near them.
- Establishing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Web site, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/>, to provide information on trafficking and legal assistance for victims. From November 2005 to June 2006, 249 e-mails were received.

In February 2006 the Justice Department made \$14 million in anti-trafficking grants available to city and county task forces, which are multidisciplinary teams representing local law enforcement, social service providers, non-governmental and faith-based organizations, human rights groups, and ethnic community

leaders. The department in November 2004 had awarded more than \$7.6 million to the task forces. The Chicago Police Department received \$450,000 of this funding to form and support the Chicago Regional Human Trafficking Task Force.

To help identify and assist victims of trafficking, more than \$2.2 million in grants from the Administration for Children and Families in 2006 were proposed to help agencies providing direct and support services. One such agency, the Salvation Army, sponsors anti-trafficking programs in the Philippines, India, African nations, China, and other countries worldwide.

### **Prosecution, victim assistance on the rise**

Since 2001 the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office have prosecuted 287 traffickers, almost a 260 percent increase over the previous five years. Of those prosecutions, 211 occurred after October 2003. As of February 2006, the Justice Department had 216 open trafficking investigations.

Since 2001, the Civil Rights Division has helped 926 trafficking victims from 55 countries obtain benefits provided under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and has helped 766 victims extend their stay in the U.S. to assist law enforcement in prosecuting their cases.

While these statistics are encouraging, victim advocates vow to remain vigilant in their fight against human trafficking and exploitation.

"Trafficking is so profitable, traffickers are so greedy, and poverty in many nations is so extreme that families exploit their children rather than protect them, while their governments look the other way," said the Salvation Army's Smith. "We have globally lost our moral compass."

*Adrienne Frederick is a public information officer with the Authority.*

## **Research** continued

Protocol for Law Enforcement, Prosecution, and the Judiciary.

The 1996 Model Domestic Violence Protocol was written in recognition of the devastating effects of domestic violence on victims, most often women and children. The effects prompted changes in legislation, judicial philosophy, and social norms.

Recognizing that coordinated intervention by the justice system was a significant factor in reducing domestic violence, in 1993, the legislature created the Task Force on Domestic Violence Training and Curricula to develop model protocols and training curricula for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges.

The 2006 Task Force on Domestic Violence Training and Curricula, comprised of members of the law enforcement, prosecution, victim service, and judicial communities, is reviewing and revising the document with the latest research findings, knowledge in the field, and related Illinois legislation.

Completion of the 2007 Model Domestic Violence Protocol is expected this summer.

### **Victimization among female inmates focus of new study**

The Authority has initiated an assessment of prior victimization and access to services among adult female inmates in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Researchers will use data collected during the reception and classification process at Dwight Correctional Center to gauge the prevalence of prior domestic violence and sexual assault victimization among female inmates. Inmate characteristics will be examined and correlated with prior victimization, including inmate demographic, socioeconomic status, criminal and substance abuse history, and mental health issues. Access to IDOC services will then be measured among those with histories of victimization.

Data collection is under way for this study, which is expected to be completed in the fall.

## Grants

### **Violence Against Women Act**

The Authority received \$4.6 million from the U.S. Department of Justice to administer the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** in federal fiscal year 2006 (FFY06). VAWA funds are used to improve the response of the criminal justice system to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

### **National Criminal History Information Improvement Program**

About \$408,000 was received to administer the **National Criminal History Information Improvement Program (NCHIP)** in FFY06. NCHIP was established in 1995 to promote the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of criminal history records.

### **Project Safe Neighborhoods**

The Authority received nearly \$346,000 in federal funding to administer the **Project Safe Neighborhoods** program in the northern and central Illinois districts in FFY06. Project Safe Neighborhoods was established to reduce gun crime by networking existing local programs that target gun crime and providing those programs with additional tools necessary to be successful.

### **National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act**

About \$435,000 was received to administer the **National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act (NFSIA)** in Illinois in FFY06. NFSIA program provides funding to crime laboratories and medical examiner's offices to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner services. Awards are based on population and crime statistics and may be used for expenses related to facilities, personnel, computerization, equipment, supplies, accreditation, and training.

### **VAWA Implementation Plan update**

In September and October 2006, meetings were convened to review past priorities and define new ones for the use of VAWA and Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funds. The Authority's Ad Hoc Victim Services Committee, comprised of criminal justice and victim services

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Data, prevention strategies to be compiled in Illinois juvenile exploitation study

By **Adrienne Frederick**

**T**he Authority has initiated a study to determine the scope and nature of juvenile commercial sex exploitation in Illinois.

Supported with an \$11,000 grant obtained by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the project will include data collection from individuals working directly with sexually exploited youths and individuals who were involved in the sex trade as youths.

The study will focus on how the perceptions of child sexual exploitation differ among law enforcement personnel and individuals who were involved in the sex trade as juveniles. Finally, strategies to prevent and combat sexual exploitation of youth will be compiled.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children includes crimes of a sexual nature committed against victims younger than 18 years old, primarily or entirely for financial or other economic reasons.

Data on sexually exploited youth both nationwide and in Illinois are limited and statistics are hard to gather due to the highly mobile nature of the trade.

But law enforcement and child protection personnel report that increasing numbers of American youngsters, as well as minors imported from other areas of the world, are being forced into prostitution and pornography.

In the study, Authority researchers will examine juvenile prostitution arrest data from 1995 to 2004, conduct 10 to 15 in-depth, one-on-one interviews with law enforcement personnel, and hold focus groups to document the perceptions of women who engaged in the sex trade as minors.

Data also will be collected on adults arrested for child sexual exploitation,

including offenses of child pornography, soliciting, patronizing, exploiting, and pimping for juvenile prostitution, and keeping a place of juvenile prostitution. The number of children arrested for prostitution will then be compared with the number of adults arrested for sexually exploiting children. Arrest data for criminal history record information will come from the Illinois State Police Computerized Criminal History System.

The Young Women's Empowerment Project was contracted to recruit focus group participants and moderate the focus groups. Participants were adults over 18 years old who, as juveniles, were involved in the sex trade. The groups allowed participants to discuss their involvement in the sex trade in order to better understand their perspectives and lives to respond to their needs and develop and offer support and/or assistance.

At the end of the study, researchers hope to describe the incidence and prevalence of victimization, pathways to victimization, and characteristics of victims and offenders. Resiliency factors that help youth overcome risky or exploitative situations, and the needs of youth exiting exploitative situations also will be examined.

With the information collected, researchers will attempt to determine prevention tactics and services needed to stop the sexual exploitation of minors.

The Authority study is in partnership with law enforcement representatives, youth, immigration and human rights advocates, and outside researchers with expertise in the area of sexual exploitation of women and girls.

Project completion is expected in summer 2007, with a final report to be released in the fall.

*Adrienne Frederick is a public information officer with the Authority.*

## VOICE, from page 1

prostitution. “I am fighting for women who can’t speak for themselves,” she said.

### Inspiration and recovery

Growing up with her grandmother on Chicago’s West side, Myers-Powell was molested at five years old by a trusted uncle. By 14, she was working the streets.

“Over the years I was brutally beaten, kidnapped, shot five times, and stabbed,” she said. “I endured a lot of violence, a lot of sexual abuse, a lot of pain before finally starting my journey to recovery.”

While living in the now-defunct Genesis House, a Chicago residential recovery program for prostitutes, she was surrounded by people who empowered her. She was inspired to leave the streets behind and became focused on helping others.

She underwent years of anger management and therapy for victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes, making connections along the way with individuals who encouraged her to leave the past behind and let the healing begin. She credits Edwina Gately, founder of Genesis House, with inspiring her to move forward with her life.

“I saw how passionate she was and how strong she was and she empowered me,” she said. “She gave me something that I guess I always had but I wanted to be in the journey, in the fight, with a woman like that.”

Today, Myers-Powell spends her time in a variety of advocacy capacities, including assisting women in prostitution who come to the Christian Community Health Center’s Last Footprints program.

### Working for change

Child sexual abuse, poverty, and lack of education are the most common characteristics of young women entering a life of prostitution and exploitation, Myers-Powell said.

Once women become enmeshed in the sex trade, homelessness becomes the hardest obstacle in making the jump from the streets to a safe and healthy lifestyle. Reliable housing is a must for prosti-

tutes wishing to leave life on the streets behind.

“When a woman knows her basic needs are met, she can work on getting her GED, job training, and other skills,” said Myers-Powell. “And then they still need time to address the issues that started them on their journeys in the first place—incest, rape, hurtful things that were never addressed that these women ran away from.”

Myers-Powell has teamed with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless to help address issues facing the city’s prostitutes. She also works with young women incarcerated for prostitution and has lobbied Congress for fair treatment of women involved in the sex trade. Lawmakers and policymakers should be educated on what causes an individual to enter the sex trade—poverty, homelessness and a history of being sexually abused—and direct women into mental health treatment rather than incarceration, she said.

Myers-Powell also lobbied for passing of the Predator Accountability Act, which allows victims of the sex trade to sue those who perpetuate and profit from the exploitation of women and children. “We need stiffer laws for the demand side of prostitution,” she said.

Those who exploit others for profit are among the worst in the sex trade, according to Myers-Powell. She recalled being stuffed into the trunk of a car and taken deep into the woods by men who held her captive for weeks until she had earned enough to leave.

“I was held for three, four weeks at a time, and I never saw a dime of that money,” she said.

Myers-Powell believes intervention also is needed for young people at risk for exploitation. She is a regular guest on “The Maury Show” where she shares her experiences and provides intervention support with young teens at risk for prostitution. Peer groups and other community outreach can open lines of communication with today’s youth, she said.

“If I’m at home and a stepfather is molesting me, who do I talk to?” she asked. “How do we make it easy for girls to start talking so that we can intervene?”

*Cristin Monti Evans is a public information officer with the Authority.*

## Grants continued

professionals as well as members of the community, reviewed crime and victimization trend data, information on current efforts, and data from funded programs, as well as the results from a statewide needs assessment survey of criminal justice practitioners commissioned in 2005.

The planning process included consideration of the needs:

- For development and/or enhancement of a criminal justice data infrastructure to include more information on incidents and the crime victims.
- For cross-training and interdisciplinary training.
- To create partnerships to coordinate the effective use of resources.
- To foster collaboration and support collaborative efforts.
- To support education efforts on victims’ rights.
- To explore the possibility of a system of recourse for victims whose rights have been violated.
- To ensure a minimum provision of basic services to all victims of crime and prioritize funding for direct services.

The committee recommended that FFY06 VAWA funds be used principally to continue to support programs that:

- Train criminal justice personnel and health care providers.
- Build successful multidisciplinary efforts.
- Promote multidisciplinary approaches to sexual assault or domestic violence in other communities
- Capture and share data and other information among justice system agencies.
- Support services that improve the justice system’s response to underserved or special needs groups.

# Technology

## Statewide meth reporting system implemented

The Authority completed development of the Clandestine Lab Reporting Information System (CLARIS), an online database allowing all law enforcement agencies in Illinois to report meth lab seizures.

The database will help eliminate existing gaps in the drug information network that records the growing methamphetamine problem in the U.S.

Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Teams and other drug task forces in Illinois are using the system to input data such as lab types, chemicals found, and weapons confiscated. Names of suspects, arrestees, and minors involved, and injuries received at the time of seizure also will be recorded.

The Authority is the state agency responsible for collecting monthly meth lab seizure incidents. Accurate meth data is needed to obtain federal funding in support of anti-drug efforts across Illinois.

# Publications, continued

## Technological innovation fuels identity theft fraud epidemic

Trends in identity theft are described in this **Research Bulletin**. Identity theft is defined as the taking of a person's identity for financial gain, to obtain credit or credit cards, steal money from a victim's accounts, apply for loans, establish accounts with utility companies, rent an apartment, or find employment. In response to this growing threat to the public, government officials seek to enhance detection, public awareness, citizen outreach and education, and criminal justice system training in this area.

## Audit shows improvement in record accuracy, timelines, completeness

The Authority's 2006 audit of the Illinois State Police computerized criminal history system audit is summarized in this **Research Bulletin**. The audit examined accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of electronic record transmissions to the system between 1991 and 2001. The Authority conducts periodic audits of the state's central criminal record repository

to verify compliance with government funding and statutory standards.

## Examining trends and data on incarcerated youth in Illinois

While Illinois began to experience a decline in commitments to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Juvenile Division in the late 1990s, the number of female commitments rose 65 percent between state fiscal years 1994 and 2004. Black juveniles also were committed at increasing rates. These trends are examined in this **Research Bulletin**.

## Examining incarceration trends among minority youth in Illinois

The racial makeup of those who come in contact with the criminal justice system has long been of interest to researchers and policymakers. This **Research Bulletin** describes findings of disproportionate representation of minorities in the Illinois juvenile justice system and in Illinois juvenile correctional facilities.

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