



Authority Endorses Proposed CHRI Act

AT ITS LONGEST and most controversial meeting thus far, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in September unanimously endorsed the proposed Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Act that would guarantee public access to criminal conviction records in Illinois.

But the Authority approved the measure only after striking a major provision from the bill that would have allowed access to "arrest-only" information for one year and adding more stringent audit and reporting requirements for private companies that would use information freed by the act.

The proposal endorsed by the Authority would make conviction information contained on criminal records in Illinois available to the public through the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) repository in Joliet within two weeks of each request. A fee for processing all requests, to be established by the Authority, would be charged.

If adopted by the General Assembly, the Authority's proposal would mean that information related only to actual convictions could be lawfully disseminated by the State. Criminal record data relating to prior arrests that have not resulted in convictions would be protected from public scrutiny, although such items as chronologically-compiled police blotters and information identifying persons currently wanted or in custody would remain public.

CURRENT ILLINOIS law prohibits public access to all criminal history records, commonly known as "rap sheets," maintained by DLE, but does not restrict dissemination of records by local criminal justice agencies. Consequently, the availability of criminal record information varies throughout the State.

The CHRI Act would establish the first comprehensive, Statewide policy regarding public access to criminal records. The measure would also allow local agencies to refer any requests for criminal history information directly to DLE.

The proposal was originally recommended to the Authority by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Council (ICJIC), a predecessor of the Authority which spent five years studying various access and dissemination issues. ICJIC's proposal favored public dissemination of all conviction information and a compromise one-year period for access to rap sheet data related to arrests only.

THE AMENDMENT striking the one-year access to arrest information was one of several changes proposed by Chicago Police Supt. Fred Rice Jr., the newest member of the Authority. In a four-page statement read at the meeting, Supt. Rice said he and the Chicago Police Department "totally oppose" dissemination of arrest-only information to other than criminal justice agencies.

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Cynthia Myers of Chicago's Metro-Help center was one of two dozen witnesses to testify Oct. 28 in Schaumburg at the first of three public hearings on the problems of missing young adults sponsored by the Authority. Story on Page 7. (Photo by Kevin Morison)

Missing Dispositions: New Audit Detects the Same Old Problem

NEARLY 59 PERCENT of the arrests reported to the State's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system since 1976 have no disposition of any kind, and missing dispositions "continue to represent a serious problem for the system," an audit by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority concludes.

"Previous audits have documented this problem..., as did the Auditor General's (1982) recent audit," the Authority's Annual Audit Report states. "The lack of dispositional information seriously compromises the integrity of the CCH database."

The CCH system contains automated criminal history records, commonly known as "rap sheets," for offenders involved in approximately 1.24 million criminal arrests in Illinois. The system is maintained by the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement (DLE).

The Authority, which is the official state agency charged with auditing criminal record information, found that close to 724,000 of these arrests lack dispositions.

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AS EXPECTED, THE audit found that older arrests are the most likely to have dispositions, while arrests less than two years old are the least likely. Most felony cases in Illinois are resolved within two years.

However, the audit also revealed that approximately 32 percent of the arrests recorded in 1976 and 44 percent of those in 1977 do not have dispositions. In every year after 1977, the percentage of arrests without dispositions is greater than 55 percent, according to the audit.

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CHRI Act Endorsed

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"It should be quite apparent that the one-year accessibility of such information would tend to place a wrongfully or mistakenly arrested individual in jeopardy of an additional consequence of having such arrest available to public scrutiny," he said. Citing the proliferation and sophistication of computer technology in private industry, Supt. Rice argued that "the limitation of access to one year has no bearing on the potential wrong it can cause an individual--that is, its (the arrest record's) irretrievability from innumerable data banks."

OTHER AUTHORITY members argued that the growth of massive databases in private industry and the ability of many people to illegally obtain the information anyway provided all the more impetus for the State, rather than industry, to control dissemination of criminal history information. Several members also called the one-year provision a workable compromise between total dissemination and total protection.

"I do not believe that we are debating here whether criminal history record information is going to be public," said DLE Director James B. Zagel. "What we are debating here is whether the government is going to do it, and provide adequate safeguards to ensure its accuracy, or whether private industry is going to do it."

● **How New Freedom of Information Act Affects Criminal Justice Data; Page 8.**

Donald Hubert, a Chicago defense attorney and former ICJIC member, argued that many defense attorneys can now illegally obtain arrest information and that the information ought to remain available, but under State control. "Under our system of government, it always turns out to be better when public information is made 'more public'," he said.

The vote on the amendment striking the one-year clause for arrest-only information was 5-4. Joining Supt. Rice in approving the amendment were Peoria Public Safety Director Allen H. Andrews, Chief Cook County Circuit Judge Harry G. Comerford, Cook County Sheriff Richard J. Elrod and 10th Circuit Judge Richard E. Eagleton. Voting against the amendment were Chairman William Gould, Mr. Hubert, Department of Corrections Director Michael P. Lane and Director Zagel. The vote approving the amended act was 9-0.

BESIDES DROPPING access to arrest-only information, the Authority accepted several other amendments to the act proposed by Supt. Rice. These changes require stricter reporting by persons requesting criminal history information, especially large employers, and further protect against discriminatory or unlawful use the data. Employers doing background checks on prospective employees are expected to be among the most frequent users of open criminal records.

Under the proposed act, any employer with 25 or more workers would be required to: 1) notify prospective employees that a criminal record was received, the contents of the record and the effect the record had on the eventual employment decision; 2) submit to DLE fingerprints or other information that precisely identifies the individual about whom a criminal record is requested; and 3) maintain a chronological log noting the individuals whose records were received, the authority by which they were received and any notifications to individuals. In addition, authorized requestors would be subject to audits by DLE and would have to make available to the department copies of all notifications to prospective employees and request logs.

THE AUTHORITY'S approval of the CHRI Act comes as part of an agreement struck with the sponsors of the Freedom of Information Act passed by the General Assembly this year. Under the plan, the bill's sponsors agreed to exclude access to most criminal justice data from their legislation while the Authority completed work on its own access proposals. Governor James R. Thompson amended the Freedom of Information Act and approved it on Sept. 23.

News in Brief



Fred Rice Jr.



Richard M. Daley

RICE JOINS AUTHORITY: Chicago's new Police Supt. Fred Rice Jr. also became the newest member of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority when Mayor Harold Washington named him acting superintendent on Aug. 23. A Chicago native, Supt. Rice, 56, is a 28-year veteran of the police department, having served previously as a district commander and as chief of the Patrol Division. The new superintendent, who replaces former Acting Supt. James E. O'Grady on the 15-member Authority board, assumes duties on the Authority's Budget and Policy and Research Committees. Chicago's police superintendent is one of seven ex officio members of the Authority.

DALEY, ELROD NAMED: Two Authority members have been named to top positions in separate national law enforcement groups. Cook County State's Attorney Richard M. Daley was elected secretary of the 6,000-member National District Attorney's Association at its annual convention Aug. 14 in Nashville, Tenn. Also, Cook County Sheriff Richard J. Elrod was named one of 21 commissioners of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies at the group's September meeting in Kansas City.

"WE TIP" IN ILLINOIS: The national "We Tip" crime witness program is coming to Illinois, James B. Zagel, director of the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement and Authority member, announced in September. Illinois residents can call the toll-free, 24-hour phone number, 1-800-73-CRIME, to give tips about crimes. Callers may remain anonymous, and tips leading to convictions qualify for rewards ranging from \$25 to \$500, Director Zagel said.

"PROBATION AND PAROLE 1982": One of every 180 adults in the United States--a record 1.6 million people--was on probation or parole at the end of 1982, the Justice Department reported in September. Probationers (whose number increased 9 percent during 1982) and parolees (up 8 percent) comprised 72 percent of all adult offenders under correctional supervision last year, while 28 percent were incarcerated in prison or jail. Only Illinois, South Carolina and the District of Columbia did not report increases in the number of probationers, although the report said Illinois' number may be due to changes in reporting procedures.

NEW NIJ PUBLICATION: A new National Institute of Justice (NIJ) publication called "Putting Research to Work--Tools for the Criminal Justice Professional" was announced in October by NIJ Director James K. Stewart. The booklet provides summaries and availability sources for some 200 NIJ publications, Mr. Stewart said. Free single copies of the booklet can be ordered from the NIJ/National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Md., 20850. The NIJ also will include on request a subscription form for their new bimonthly journal "NIJ Reports."

UPCOMING: The Authority will hold its next regular meeting Dec. 9 at its headquarters in Chicago.

Governor Signs New Disposition Reporting Law

by PAUL FIELDS
General Counsel

THE ILLINOIS Criminal Justice Information Authority is helping criminal justice agencies throughout the State implement a new law designed to reduce the number of incomplete records on the State's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system.

The measure, called the Uniform Disposition Reporting Law (P.A. 83-752), was originally formulated by the Authority and was signed into law by Governor James R. Thompson in September. It takes effect Jan. 1, 1984.

The new law requires criminal justice agencies to report criminal arrest, charge, case and correctional dispositions to the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) in a uniform manner approved by the Authority. It also requires Circuit Court clerks to report dispositions under procedures approved by the Illinois Supreme Court. DLE is the State central repository for

criminal justice data and the administrator of the CCH system.

THE AUTHORITY'S Legislation and Regulations Committee has taken several steps to help agencies implement the new law efficiently and economically, said committee chairman James B. Zagel, DLE director.

The Authority published in October an "Advisory for Criminal Justice Agencies" and began distributing it to all law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and correctional facilities in the State. The advisory explains how the new law affects the reporting requirements of each of these agencies.

The Authority also established three working groups, with more than 30 State and local criminal justice officials, to recommend forms and procedures for reporting information to DLE. At meetings in September and October, the working groups resolved several technical issues related to linking of document control numbers and reporting of disposition information.

Authority staff is analyzing the recommendations from each working group and is drafting a report for review by the Legislation and Regulations Committee. Upon final approval by the full Authority, the newly-created forms will be sent to criminal justice agencies around the State so they can adhere to the new reporting procedures that go into effect the beginning of next year. The Authority's legal counsel also will be available to assist local agencies in interpreting and implementing the law.

DIRECTOR ZAGEL said the new law will "improve the quality of both the data maintained by DLE and the service we provide local agencies."

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For further information or to obtain a copy of the "Advisory for Criminal Justice Agencies," contact Paul Fields at the Authority office.

Working Groups' Members Listed

THE ILLINOIS Criminal Justice Information Authority has convened three working groups to help implement the new Uniform Disposition Reporting Law. The working groups—one each in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution and corrections—include representatives from more than 20 State and local criminal justice agencies.

Here is a list of members of the three working groups. Some people participate in more than one group.

James Bongovanni, Cook County Department of Corrections; Bob Brick and Winifred Lyday, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts; Capt. Michael Clark, Des Plaines police; John Downs, Department of Central Management Services; Tony Ficarelli and Michael Laird, Attorney General's office; and T. Jordan Gallagher, DeKalb County State's Attorney; Greg Ginex and Jim Piper, Cook County State's Attorney's office; John Gaggins and Robert Grossman, Cook County Circuit Clerk's office; and John Groves, Nola Joyce and Harold Thomas, Illinois Department of Corrections.

Other members include: Lt. Paul Harlow, Glencoe police; Helga Holdeman and Sgt. Joseph Joria, Chicago police; Neal Jacobson, Carbondale police; Paul Klincar, Prison Review Board; Teresa Law, Roy Lindsey, John Loverude and Karen Reeder of DLE; Ray McKoski, Lake County State's Attorney's office; J. William Roberts, Sangamon County State's Attorney; Frank Rushman, Peoria police; Walt Treiber, Kane County Sheriff's office; Maj. Anthony Yusevicius, Cook County Sheriff's police; and Shirley Brunner, Chip Coldren, Larry Dykstra, Paul Fields, Barry Rogers and Stephen Tapke, all of the Authority.



Members of the corrections working group meet in October at the Authority's office to discuss the Uniform Disposition Reporting Law. The group is one of three helping the Authority implement the new law. (Photo by Ben Zajac)

Telefax Device Available

THE ILLINOIS CRIMINAL Justice Information Authority said in October that it is looking for a qualified user for an available Telefax facsimile fingerprint transmission device.

The Telefax device allows local law enforcement agencies to transmit high-resolution copies of fingerprints over conventional telephone lines to the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement for comparison with fingerprints of previously arrested persons. If matching fingerprints are found, DLE sends the person's criminal history back to the local department via the system, most times in less than an hour.

THE ILLINOIS Telefax network also lets agencies send fingerprints directly to the FBI in Washington and receive criminal histories from FBI files.

The system was first installed in 1977 under a federal grant obtained by the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, one of the Authority's predecessor agencies. Since Jan. 1, the Authority has overseen the placement of Telefax devices in the State. Currently there are 36 police Telefax devices around Illinois, including 11 in Cook County.

The approximate cost to local agencies for maintaining the system is currently \$150 a month, according to Authority Deputy Director Scott Levin. Each agency must supply a dedicated phone line for processing information with DLE. The State in turn supplies paper and writing blades and a toll-free number for transmitting fingerprints to DLE.

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For further information, contact Scott Levin at the Authority's office.

Two Sources Agree — Serious Crime in the

How UCR, NCS Gauge Crime

by LARRY DYKSTRA
Assistant Deputy Director

WHEN THE FBI reported in September that serious crime in the United States decreased 3 percent in 1982 from the previous year, it followed by a week a Justice Department national victim survey that showed the number of crime victims dropped 4.1 percent last year.

Although both analyses reached the same conclusion—major crime declined at one of its most dramatic rates in a decade in 1982—each one arrived at that conclusion using a totally different statistical methodology.

How do the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and the National Crime Survey (NCS), conducted jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Justice Department, measure crime? What are the differences between the two, and what are the similarities? During the past 10 years, have the two methods generally agreed, as they did for 1982, on what the general crime trends in the country are?

UCR DATA HAVE been collected and disseminated by the FBI since the 1920s and are perhaps the most widely-used source of crime statistics in the United States. UCR data represent an official count of all offenses known to police.

Though tabulated and reported by the FBI, UCR data originate at the local level. Police departments throughout the country collect and report summary information on the number and types of criminal events that occur each month within their jurisdictions. These summary totals of reported crime are forwarded to the FBI, which aggregates them to produce national crime tabulations.

The NCS, on the other hand, is relatively new, having been conducted each year since 1973. The NCS estimates the level of serious crime based on yearly surveys of households throughout the country. A year of victimization estimates is based on interviews of 120,000 addresses with more than 200,000 people. Each address is re-interviewed every six months for three and one-half years, and survey

results are statistically weighted to create national estimates.

THE MAIN difference between the two lies in the source of information

each one uses. UCR data originate from official reports to police by victims, witnesses or police officers and, therefore, represent counts of only those crimes known to law enforcement agencies. The NCS, meanwhile, estimates crime based on sample data from victims, whether or not the crimes were ever reported to police.

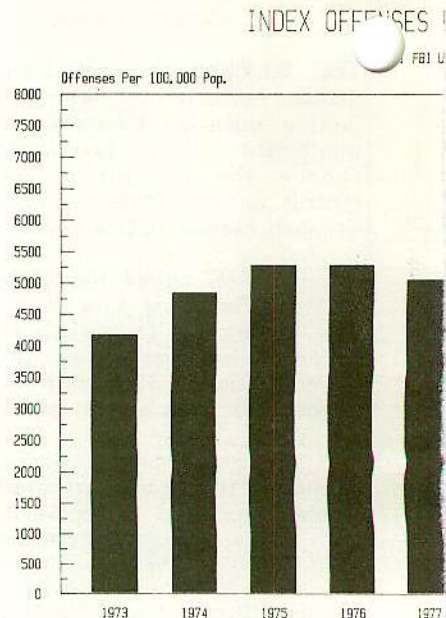
Thus, the NCS provides information on the so-called "hidden crime" that is never reported to police and is not included in official UCR crime totals. In its recent report "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1973-82 Trends," the Justice Department reported that only 35.7 percent of the crimes that victims recounted in the NCS were ever reported to police. Victims of violent crime reported their victimizations to police at a slightly higher rate of 48.2 percent, the report said.

OTHER IMPORTANT differences between the two systems include:

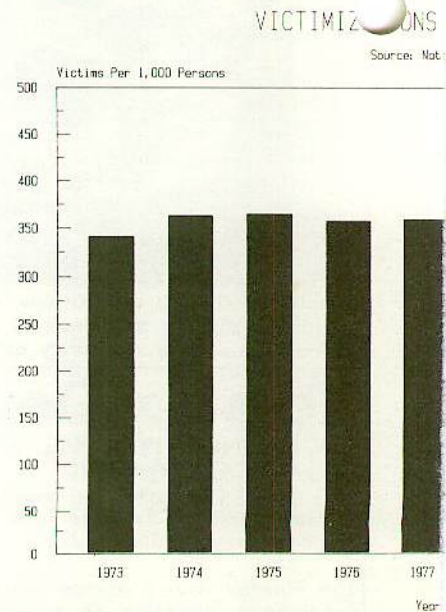
- **Illinois Data.** UCR data are collected and reported on both the national and the state level. In Illinois, the Department of Law Enforcement annually reports UCR statistics on reported crime within the State during the previous year. The NCS, meanwhile, is more strictly national in focus, and data for individual states cannot always be calculated because of small sample sizes. In the past, however, Illinois NCS data have generally mirrored national trends.
- **Types of Crimes Covered.** UCR include information on all crimes known to police. The NCS, on the other hand, covers only those offenses known as Index crimes in UCR (aggravated assault, rape, robbery, burglary, larceny-theft and auto theft), excluding murder and arson. In addition, the NCS does not cover commercial victims, but interviews only households.
- **Ages of Victims.** UCR data include offenses against victims of all ages. The NCS sample does not include people under age 12, and the Census Bureau conducts direct interviews only with persons 15 or older.

● **Accuracy of Data.** Despite the term "uniform," UCR data are influenced by differences in local police reporting and recordkeeping practices. Critics of the UCR program have charged that UCR data can easily be manipulated to serve the purposes of local officials. One of the reasons the NCS was created was to have a uniform measure of crime not dependent upon local police decision-making. Nevertheless, NCS data are subject to errors introduced by the biases of the interviewer and inaccurate recall by victims. NCS respondents are subject to "telescoping" their victimizations, saying they were victimized in a geographic area or at a time outside the limits of the survey. The Census Bureau designed its system of re-interviewing respondents every six months to combat this problem.

ALTHOUGH MANY OF these differences make a direct comparison between UCR and NCS data impossible, an analysis of their findings over the last 10 years shows that the two sources



Although methodological differences in crime in the United States preclude a direct comparison of the two data series, the two sets of figures for the past 10 years show a similar trend. UCR data, which represent official counts of crime, show a significant decline in crime nationwide over the period.



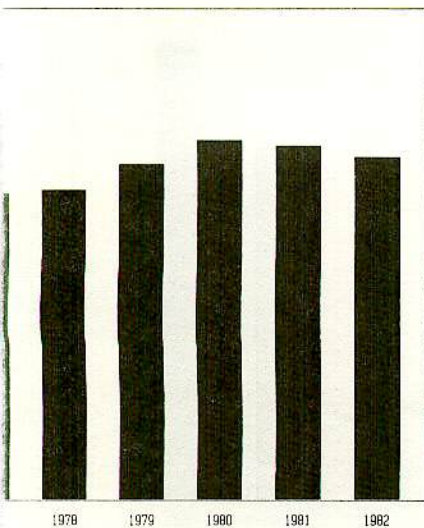
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The U.S. Was Down Sharply in 1982

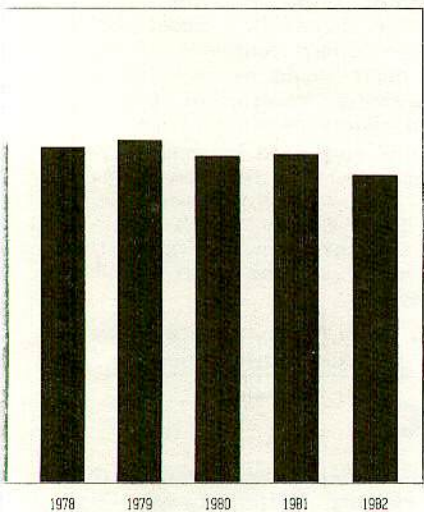
Several Reasons Cited For Last Year's Decline

PER 100,000 PERSONS
Uniform Crime Reports



Year
between the leading indicators of direct comparisons of the two, parallel they generally were in agreement Uniform Crime Reports data (above), crimes known to police, display more Crime Survey figures (below), which victims. Both sources showed a significant 1982.

PER 100 PERSONS
National Crime Survey



of Survey
for the most part agreed on general U.S. crime trends for Index offenses. On the whole, however, UCR data display more year-to-year variation than the NCS data do.

Both sources show a steady increase in crime nationally from 1973 to 1975. The NCS registers a slight decrease in 1976, while UCR data remain virtually unchanged from 1975 to 1976.

Both sources show a drop in crime from 1980 to the present.

THE SIGNIFICANT DECREASE in crime in the United States during 1982 can be attributed to several factors, including the maturing of the nation's "baby boom" generation, longer and tougher prison sentences, the record number of criminals in state and federal prisons and increased citizen prevention efforts.

That is the analysis from Steven R. Schlesinger, director of the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). BJS in September released a 10-year national crime victims study showing the number of victims of many serious crime declined 4.1 percent during 1982 from 1981 levels. Director Schlesinger's comments came a week before the FBI released its own assessment of crime during 1982, which showed the number of offenses known to police declined 3 percent last year.

Last June, the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement (DLE), the administrator of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) program in the State, reported that serious crime in Illinois outside Chicago also decreased last year and at a higher rate--7.6 percent--than the national drop. State officials then attributed the decrease to many of the same reasons offered by officials explaining the national dip. DLE's 1982 figures excluded statistics from Chicago because, DLE said, "reliable data from the city was not available."

"There are strong arguments in support of the belief that crime rates are declining as the so-called baby boom generation matures, since a high proportion of criminal offenders are young," Director Schlesinger said in announcing the BJS report, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1973-82 Trends." He also said that "longer, tougher sentences being handed down by many courts may act as a deterrent by the message they send to potential criminals," and that the record number of criminals in state and federal prisons "means that those individuals are at least temporarily unavailable to victimize the public."

BOTH THE FBI's 1982 "Crime in the United States" report and the National Crime Survey (NCS), conducted jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Justice Department, reveal that crime nationwide decreased during 1982 at one of the most rapid rates in the last decade.

The FBI's UCR data show that the number of crimes known to police fell from 13.3 million in 1981 to 12.9 million last year. Identical 3 percent declines were reported in both violent

and property crimes.

Decreases were also recorded in six of the seven Index offenses it reports. Aggravated assault was the only Index crime to increase, and it rose only 1 percent. Murder decreased 7 percent, robbery 6 percent and forcible rape 5 percent.

MEANWHILE, THE BJS report said the number of crime victims dropped 4.1 percent last year. There were 39.8 million criminal victimizations in 1982, the report said, compared with 41.5 million in 1981.

Household burglaries fell 10 percent and household larceny dropped 5 percent from 1981 to 1982, according to the report. The number of rape, robbery and assault victims did not change significantly between the two years.

UCR DATA are drawn from summary crime reports sent to the FBI by more than 15,000 local law enforcement agencies around the county which participate in the UCR program. These agencies cover more than 97 percent of the total U.S. population, including all of Illinois. Yearly NCS data are based on Census Bureau interviews at approximately 120,000 addresses--covering more than 200,000 people--nationwide.

UCR Software for TRS-80 Offered

POLICE AT THE University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) say they have developed software for the Radio Shack TRS-80 microcomputer that automatically generates Illinois-Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) system reports.

According to UIC police officer Hal Arnum, the programs, which operate on a TRS-80 model 3 with 48 kilobytes of memory, generate monthly I-UCR reports formatted properly for the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement, the administrator of the I-UCR system. The software also provides data input routines for entering incident and arrest information, he said.

UIC police are offering the software, free of charge, to any other police department in Illinois that uses the TRS-80, Mr. Arnum said. Ten sites around the State are already using the programs, which are written in PROFILE and BASIC, he said.

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For further information about the software, contact Hal Arnum at the University of Illinois at Chicago Police Department, (312) 996-2830.

Missing Dispositions, Other CCH Problems Noted

Continued from Page 1

"The Authority recognizes that up-to-date dispositional information is crucial to decisions made at various points in the criminal justice process—preliminary hearings, pre-sentence investigations, and sentencing," the report states. "It is recommended that the Department of Law Enforcement develop procedures to assure compliance with the Uniform Disposition Reporting Law."

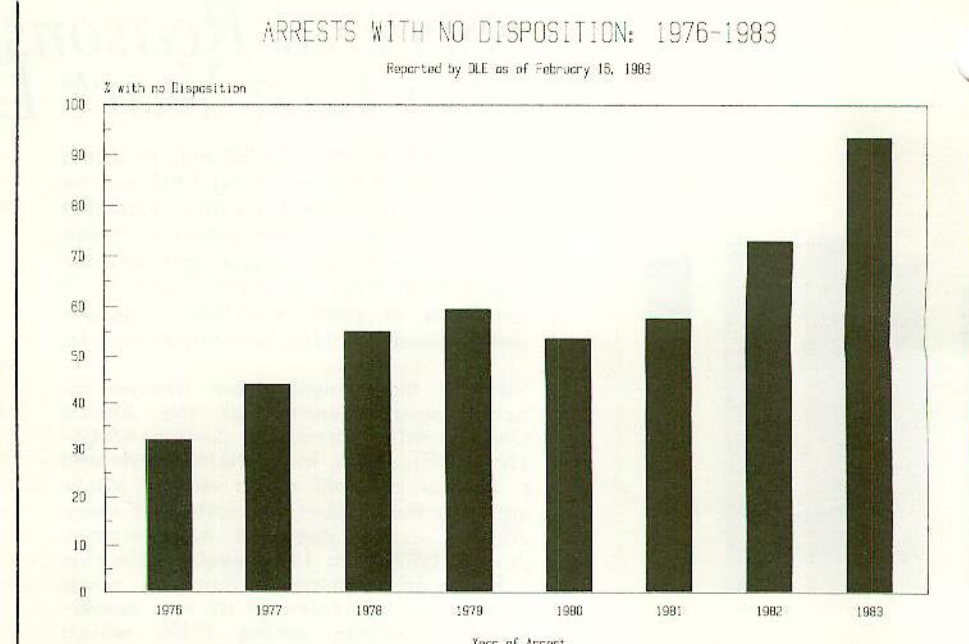
That law, which takes effect Jan. 1, 1984, should reduce the number of missing dispositions on the CCH system by mandating that police, state's attorneys, courts and correctional facilities report dispositions to DLE quickly and in a uniform manner (see page 3).

WHILE THE AUDIT focused mainly on the quality of criminal history record information, it also examined the accuracy and completeness of identification information of individuals on the CCH system.

In addition, Authority auditors for the first time used a cross-validation technique, developed by its Data Quality Control Center, for comparing independently-maintained criminal justice databases. Using this "triangulation" method, records of inmates on the Illinois Department of Corrections' Correctional Institution Management Information System (CIMIS) were checked against the CCH database via LEADS (the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System). LEADS is a network used by many Illinois law enforcement officials for accessing the CCH system.

This portion of the audit revealed that:

● Almost 96 percent of the inmates in Illinois prisons are on the CCH system, but nearly half of those inmates have "CCH Incomplete" records. "CCH Incomplete" means that an individual has only identification information on the computer system, while the full rap sheet is contained in a manual file.



Missing dispositions continue to plague the State's Computerized Criminal History system, a recent Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority audit concludes. Although some missing dispositions can be expected for the last two years (the time required to resolve many felony cases), the audit found that more than half the arrests reported between 1978 and 1980, and more than 30 percent in 1976 and 1977, lack dispositions.

"CCH Complete" records contain on-line criminal histories, which can be accessed quickly by officials making computerized inquiries.

The audit recommends that DLE increase the proportion of records that are complete, "especially for serious or repeat offenders. At a minimum, Illinois Department of Corrections inmates should have 'CCH Complete' records," the audit states.

● Approximately 1.5 percent of the rap sheets audited have inaccuracies in their identification information serious enough to preclude a "hit" when an inquiry was made through LEADS. Another 9 percent of the records have identification errors not serious enough to preclude a LEADS hit.

● With the exception of place of birth, descriptive items about individuals on the system were better than 99.5 percent complete.

IN HIS FORMAL response to the audit, DLE Director James B. Zagel said that recommendations contained in the Authority's audit would be included in his agency's current redesign of its entire criminal history record program.

Authority staff conducted the audit earlier this year under the direction of the Operations and Audits Committee, chaired by Lake County State's Attorney Fred L. Foreman. The full Authority approved the audit at its Sept. 26 meeting.

For further information, contact Chip Coldren at the Authority's office.

Palatine PD Becomes 11th PIMS Agency

UNDER AN AGREEMENT signed in October, Palatine becomes the newest police department in Illinois to begin using the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's computerized Police Information Management System (PIMS).

Palatine police have already ordered their hardware and are expected to begin on-line operation of the system by the end of the year, according to Stephen Tapke, PIMS project director at the Authority. At that time, Palatine will become the 11th community Statewide to join the two-year-old PIMS network, and the seventh northwest Chicago suburb to do so.

This clustering of PIMS agencies in the northwest suburbs is noteworthy, Mr. Tapke said, because PIMS not only automates police record keeping for individual agencies, but also allows neighboring departments to share arrest and crime analysis information through a common computer database maintained by the Authority.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN POLICE departments currently using PIMS include Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Park Ridge and Schaumburg. Police in north suburban Evanston and Glencoe, south suburban Harvey, and Joliet also use the system. These 10 agencies, along with the Palatine Police Department, provide police protection to more than half a million Illinois residents.

PIMS is providing sophisticated computer capabilities to medium- and small-sized police departments in Illinois that could not afford to develop or operate these systems on their own, according to Mr. Tapke. The Palatine Police Department has 50 sworn officers and serves more than 32,000 residents. Palatine is the 47th largest city in the State and the ninth largest community to use PIMS.

For more information about PIMS, contact Stephen Tapke at the Authority's office.

Missing Youths: Authority Seeks Answers

HOW CAN LAW enforcement officials in Illinois distinguish between an 18-year-old runaway and an 18-year-old who is missing and may be the victim of foul play? Should a missing-persons report be entered immediately on the State's main law enforcement computer for all 17-21 year olds who disappear? Should a more urgent message be transmitted over the system in some situations? How effective is the so-called "24-hour rule" of delaying action on reports of missing young adults?

These are the types of questions the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is trying to answer during three public hearings in the State on the law enforcement problems of missing 17-21 year olds.

At its first hearing Oct. 28 in Schaumburg, a panel of Authority members heard several witnesses urge that all missing-persons reports be entered on the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS) immediately and that the unofficial 24-hour rule used by many police departments be stopped.

"THE ILLINOIS Department of Law Enforcement has never referenced the 24-hour rule," said Darrell Bartz of DLE, which administers the LEADS system. He testified that the 24-hour waiting period is a local practice and not LEADS policy, adding, "Our philosophy has always been the prompt entry of missing-persons reports."

Preliminary research by the Authority and DLE revealed that approximately one-third of the police departments in

Illinois delay entry of missing-persons reports into LEADS for 24 hours in cases involving 17-21 year olds.

"The 24-hour rule is one I certainly would like to see done away with," Ethel Mull of the Aunt Martha's Youth Service Agency in Park Forest testified.

DLE Assistant Deputy Director James Finley told the panel DLE would be willing to create a special category on LEADS for identifying missing young adults, saying the addition would require a "minor change."

"The immediate entry of missing-persons reports into our data system is our main concern," Mr. Finley said. "We have the technology, and we are willing to assist."

ANOTHER KEY purpose of the hearings is to establish profiles of young adults not likely to be runaways and therefore more likely to be victims of foul play if they disappear.

"There have got to be criteria for determining whether people are runaways or not, whether they're going to be entered into the computer," said the father of a 17-year-old girl who disappeared from her Streamwood home last January and was found dead three days later. Donald Wright, who testified with his wife, said that "too many children are not coming home and too many parents are going through the hell we went through. Something has to be done."

Agnes Stirn, the mother of another apparent victim of disappearance and foul

play, told the panel, "The only criterion (for acting on a missing-persons report) should be a concerned parent. We are the ones who know our children best."

Several witnesses said that common characteristics of the young adult not likely to be a runaway include good school performance, a stable family life, enthusiasm about life goals and the absence of drug problems. But Cynthia Myers of Metro Help of Chicago warned that missing young adults who fit the typical profile are not the only ones who may need immediate attention.

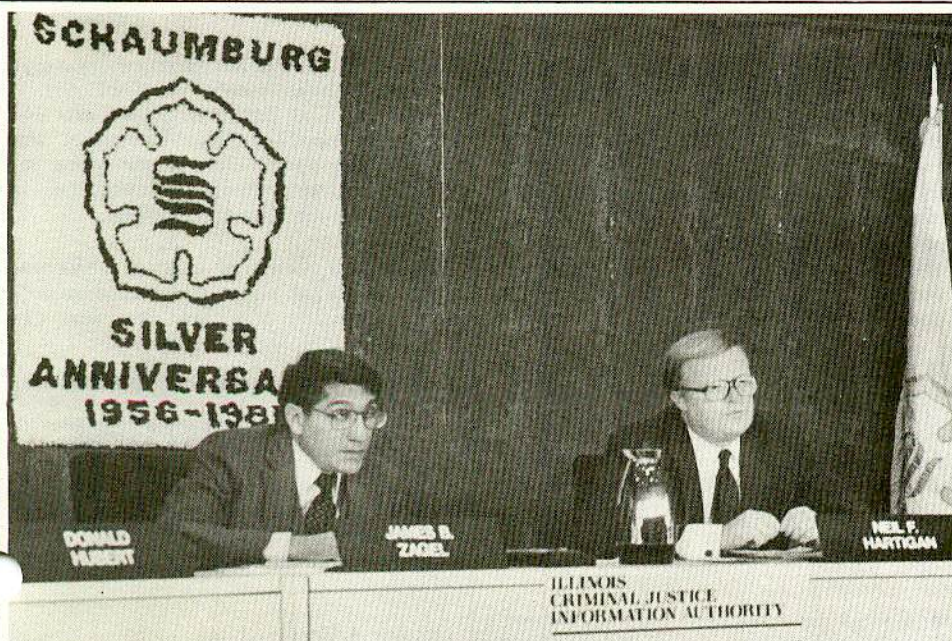
"An overwhelming percentage of runaways, if left alone, return home in three weeks," she said. "Unfortunately, they are seldom left alone. All young adults who disappear are in danger."

Several other witnesses urged police departments to gather information about missing young adults from their friends and employers, and not just from their families. Streamwood Police Chief Howard Cornell also suggested that profiles not necessarily be limited to any age group.

THE HEARINGS, which the Authority is holding in conjunction with DLE, are in response to a resolution introduced by Rep. Doris Karpel (R-Roselle) and passed by the Illinois House in June that expresses concern about 17-21 year olds who disappear and fall victim to serious crime. The final two hearings are scheduled for Nov. 17 in Carbondale and Dec. 2 in Springfield. Findings and recommendations will be presented to the General Assembly early next year.

The panel of Authority members hearing testimony in Schaumburg was led by Attorney General Neil Hartigan, and included DLE Director James Zagel, Lake County State's Attorney Fred Foreman and Chicago attorney Donald Hubert.

Those testifying included: Rep. Karpel; the Wrights; Special Agent Milt Ahlerich of the FBI; Mr. Finley, Mr. Bartz and Richard White of DLE; Capts. Michael Clark and Joseph Kozenczak and Sgt. Larry Zumbrock, Des Plaines police; Ms. Mull; Marianne West, Mary Bartelme Homes in Chicago; Ms. Myers; Commander Patrick M. Clark, Chicago police; Chief Cornell of Streamwood; Forest Park Police Sgt. Charles Whelpley; Sgts. Joseph Hein and Greg Bedoe, Cook County Sheriff's police; First Assistant Cook County State's Attorney William J. Kunkle; Delinda Chapman and Jim Winters, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Dr. Marvin J. Schwarz, Associates in Adolescent Psychology in Skokie; and Stanley Platadis of Hoffman Estates, Marion Doran of Naperville and Ms. Stirn of Woodridge, all parents of young adults who have disappeared.



Authority members James B. Zagel (left) and Neil F. Hartigan question a witness during the first of three public hearings in the State on missing young adults. Attorney General Hartigan, who presided at the meeting Oct. 28 in Schaumburg, said the issue of missing young adults particularly concerns him because he has three children ages 17 to 21. (Photo by Kevin Morison)

Criminal Justice Information Scorecard

Department of Law Enforcement

Activity	Year To Date*	Last Year To Date*	% Change
● Fingerprint Cards Received			
Total Arrest Cards	179,725	191,598	-6.2
Total Custodial Cards	12,928	17,233	-25.0
Total Applicant Cards	16,099	13,565	+18.7
● Total First Offenders Entered	47,116	68,757	-31.5
● Requests for CHRI			
Total Requested	160,971	187,795	-14.3
Percent CCH	74.8	78.2	-3.4
Percent Manual	7.9	9.8	-1.9
Percent No Record	17.3	12.0	+5.3
● Average Time in Days to Process Fingerprint Cards	8.3	14.1	-41.1
● Individual Review and Challenges			
Total Requests for Review	224	136	+64.7
Total Challenges	9	3	+200.0
Total Administrative Reviews	0	0	--

* "Year To Date" includes the months of January through September, except for "Time to Process Fingerprint Cards," which does not include figures for March 1982.

The Criminal Justice Information Scorecard is a regular feature of "the Compiler" displaying data from computerized information systems in Illinois.

Authority Gets Funds Supplement

THROUGH A supplemental appropriation approved during the General Assembly's fall "veto session," Governor James R. Thompson and legislative leaders acted to restore nearly \$331,000 to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's fiscal 1984 budget.

Authority Executive Director J. David Coldren said the restored funds would be used to rebuild staffing in the agency to its fiscal 1983 level and to permit scheduled upgrades to the Authority's computer hardware. The 1984 fiscal year began July 1.

IN OTHER ACTION AT its veto session, the General Assembly:

- Accepted the Governor's amendatory veto changes to a bill that replaces criminal offenses such as rape, deviate sexual assault and indecent liberties with a child with the offenses of criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual abuse. The new offense categories are meant to better gauge the seriousness of each crime.

- Also accepted the Governor's changes to a bill that allows restitution amounts paid to crime victims to be based on the out-of-pocket losses suffered by the victim, rather than the financial capacity of the defendant.



- Overrode the Governor's veto of the Violent Crime Victims Assistance Act. The new law creates an advisory commission, administered by the State attorney general, to assist victims of violent crimes and establishes a victims assistance fund to be underwritten by a surcharge added to fines on criminal and traffic violations.

- Failed to override the Governor's veto of a bill that would have allowed the Court Services Department to apply to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts for partial reimbursement of costs from delivery of probation and court services.

FOIA Makes Some CJ Data Public

by CAROLYN LEJA
Research Attorney

WHILE THE NEW Illinois Freedom of Information Act that takes effect July 1, 1984, makes most records of State and local government agencies public, the act exempts from public disclosure most criminal justice data, including criminal history record information and investigation records.

Nevertheless, the new law makes public certain police records, including:

- Chronologically-maintained arrest logs or blotters. Although many police departments now treat arrest blotters as public data, all will have to after next July.

- The name of any person being held in custody and the charges for which he or she is being held.

- Statistical records or reports that do not identify individuals or from which identities cannot be ascertained.

THE ACT ALSO requires that every government agency prepare and make available a brief description of itself and the methods by which the public may request information. In general agencies must answer a written request for data within seven days.

However, records related to the operation and security of correctional institutions and automated system documentation whose release could jeopardize the security of the system or its data are exempt from disclosure.

Finally, while the Freedom of Information Act makes some criminal justice data public, it does not make any information confidential. Therefore, any agency can decide to release more information than required by law, but it cannot release less information.

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority plans to release a bulletin analyzing how the new law affects criminal justice agencies.

the Compiler

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