

# The Compiler



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Kay Knapp, executive director of the United States Sentencing Commission, describes how the commission arrived at its recently released draft guidelines, as Authority Deputy Director Ed Maier (left) and Associate Director John Firman listen. Ms. Knapp spoke to the Authority's research and analysis staff at a luncheon meeting on Oct. 16.

## Agency helps offenders get off drugs

By Maureen Hickey

Illinois courts are requiring more and more offenders with drug or alcohol addictions to receive treatment as a condition of probation, via a 10-year-old agency that places offenders in programs and monitors their progress. Since 1976, Treatment Alternatives to Street Crimes (TASC) Inc., a Chicago-based not-for-profit agency has placed nonviolent offenders in drug and alcohol treatment programs throughout Illinois. But the increased number of referrals to the agency has outstripped available treatment slots and strained treatment resources, according to TASC officials.

"The number of people on our waiting list for treatment more than doubled in the past year," said Pam Rodriguez, TASC's quality manager. "We are currently working constructively with the Illinois Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) to find ways to

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## Technology wave breaking over criminal justice

By Kevin Morison

Recent developments in computer technology, coupled with the emergence of increasingly sophisticated information databases, are shaping the way criminal justice officials in Illinois will fight crime during the rest of the 1980s and beyond. According to interviews with several experts, the impending changes will affect how law enforcement authorities investigate, analyze, and solve crimes and how researchers study the nature and extent of criminal activity.

"Technological change is happening so rapidly in criminal justice," said Gary D. Cooper, executive director of the SEARCH Group, a national consortium for justice information and statistics in Sacramento, Calif. "I think technology itself is going to be far ahead of solving the political problems, such as information-sharing and privacy issues, that are going to arise," he said.

"Technology in this field seems to come in waves, and a very big wave is about to break," added J. David Coldren, executive director of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. In Illinois, he said, three significant developments are emerging: the introduction of automated systems for analyzing and identifying fingerprints, the redesign of the state's computerized repository for criminal history records, and the revamping of the national — and consequently the state's — main program for crime statistics.

"These developments bring us great opportunities," Director Coldren said. "But they also present enormous challenges, particularly to the local law enforcement agencies that ultimately will have to use these systems."

To help local agencies deal with some of these changes, the Authority

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## News in brief

## Nation's prison population reaches record high

The number of inmates in state and federal prisons grew by more than 5 percent during the first half of 1986, while Illinois fell from sixth to seventh among states with the highest prison populations, according to figures released by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Illinois' prison population grew by 3.7 percent between Dec. 31, 1985, and June 30, 1986, from 18,634 to 19,317 inmates.

### Illinois' June prison population comes in seventh.

1	California	55,238
2	Texas	37,760
3	New York	36,100
4	Florida	29,712
5	Ohio	21,942
6	Michigan	19,437
7	Illinois	19,317
8	North Carolina	17,596
9	Georgia	16,812
10	Pennsylvania	15,027

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Illinois was replaced in sixth place by Michigan, whose prison population grew by 9.2 percent during the period studied.

Mid-year prison populations around the nation ranged from a low of 411 inmates in North Dakota to a high of 55,238 in California. The total population is now at a record high of 528,945 inmates nationwide. This rate of increase represents a demand of about 1,000 new prison beds a week, said BJS Director Steven R. Schlesinger.

BJS said the federal prison population increased at more than twice the state rate (10.2 percent vs. 4.6 percent), and the federal share of all inmates grew from about 7.7 percent a year earlier to 8.4 percent by June 30, 1986.

## More agencies join computer networks

Several agencies have signed agreements to install three different informa-

tion systems developed by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

The St. Charles Police Department is the 33rd law enforcement agency in Illinois to acquire the Police Information Management System. PIMS maintains crime information and allows agencies to share data with one another.

Ten more prosecutorial agencies have agreed to install the Rapid Automated Prosecution System, which automates many functions, including the process of notifying victims and witnesses about the cases in which they are involved. The 10 include state's attorney's offices in nine counties — Adams, DeKalb, Macon, Madison, Marion, McHenry, Stephenson, Vermilion, and Winnebago — and the Office of the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor, a state agency that assists county prosecutors with appeals. The LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office has already installed RAPS.

Finally, the sheriff's offices in Lake and St. Clair counties will install the Correctional Institution Management Information System. CIMIS speeds up the booking of jail inmates and maintains information on those inmates. Adams County recently installed CIMIS.

## Hearings cover use of federal money

More than 50 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and crime victim advocates from throughout the state testified at a series of four statewide hearings held to gather ideas on how Illinois should spend approximately \$3.2 million in federal funds for criminal justice and crime victims' programs.

J. David Coldren, executive director of the Authority, said the agency will use the testimony to help establish priorities for allocating the federal dollars. He said the hearings were especially important this year because Illinois' share of the federal money was cut by 20 percent from last year's level.

The funds are included in two block grant programs approved by Congress and President Reagan in late 1984: the Justice Assistance Act and the Victims of Crime Act. This year Illinois will receive \$1.8 million in justice assistance funds, which are aimed at fighting crime

and improving criminal justice operations, and \$1.4 million for assisting crime victims. Governor James R. Thompson designated the Authority to administer both programs in Illinois.



Deputy Robert Lickiss of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department testifies at the Authority's public hearing in Springfield on Oct. 9.

## Warrant mileage policy recommended

The Department of State Police and the Authority should set up a committee to write and implement a policy on the use of mileage limitations on arrest warrants entered on a statewide computer network. That's the recommendation that resulted from a panel discussion organized by the Authority, at the LEADS (Law Enforcement Agencies Data System) conference Oct. 1 in Springfield.

The panel, which consisted of Coles County Sheriff Charles Lister, Steve Miller of DSP's LEADS unit, Chicago Police Captain John Morrissey, Charles Schmadeke of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and Ogle County State's Attorney Dennis Schumaker, identified several problems with current practices on entering mileage limitations, which inform other agencies how far a department is willing to travel to pick up a fugitive. Panel moderator John Firman, the Authority's associate director for research and analysis, said he hoped the policy-writing committee

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# Is crime predictable?

By Maureen Hickey

What can crime statistics really tell us about how much crime there has been in a community and how much there is likely to be in the future?

In a study to be published soon, Carolyn Rebecca Block and Sheryl Knight of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority ask the question, "Is crime predictable?" Their answer: yes, but only for some crimes and some communities.

Unlike other studies of its kind, the team's analyses were based solely on the data available from crime reports.

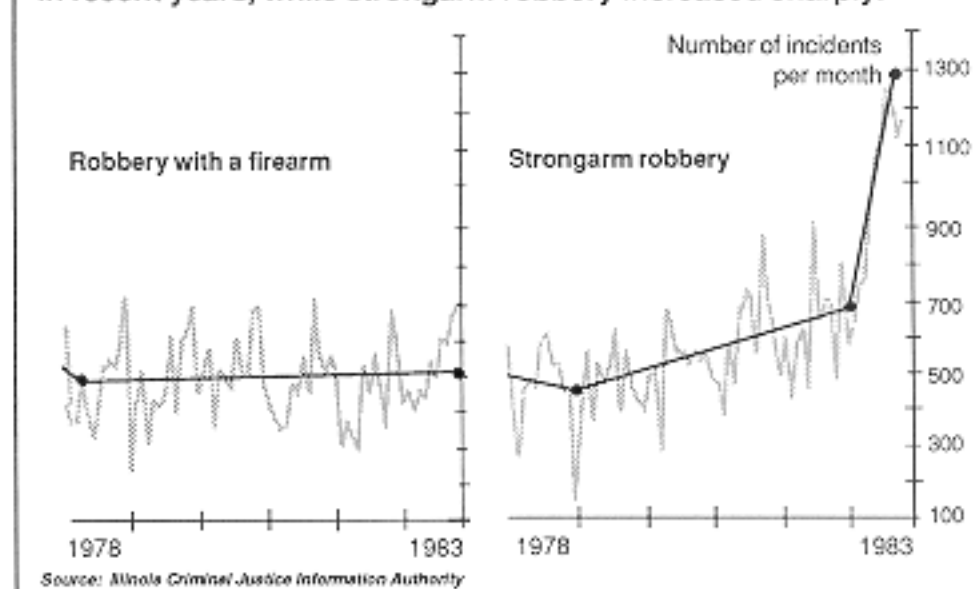
"People usually try to predict crime using complex models that may include information on population, race, unemployment, drugs, firearms, etc.," Dr. Block said. "We wanted to see what we could get if we just used information in the data itself."

The research team's first task was to find out whether crime was predictable at all. They created graphs using the Authority's time series pattern description program, along with a standard statistical modeling technique called Autoregressive Moving Average (ARIMA), to analyze historical data for four types of index crimes — larceny/theft, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary in 14 different Illinois communities. They used historical data to describe month-to-month patterns in the number of offenses that occurred in the past. These patterns included both regular monthly fluctuations and more gradual long-term increases or decreases.

"We wanted to find out how regular the patterns of crime are over time, and whether we could use those patterns to accurately predict how much crime there will be in the future," explained Dr. Block. "To test this, we projected crime for past years and then compared the projections with the actual amount of crime that occurred."

For most of the communities they studied, the team was able to predict, within 5 percent to 10 percent of the actual number of offenses, the levels of at least one type of crime for the year following the last year of actual data. Projections for the month following the last month of data were generally less

Reports of robbery with a firearm in Chicago showed little change in recent years, while strongarm robbery increased sharply.



accurate, within 10 percent to 20 percent in many cases.

The projections might have been even more accurate if demographic information, like unemployment or population growth rates, were included, according to Dr. Block. She said the team's "bare bones" study could serve as a baseline standard of comparison to find out just how much and in what ways additional information would make the predictions more accurate.

Crime statistics that do not behave as predicted by the model can also be sources of information, Dr. Block said. According to the team's theory, a change in reporting methods or in the number of victimizations should result in a shift in the actual amount of crime away from the predicted level. Dr. Block terms this shift an "intervention."

To test how how much information could be obtained about such a change — its causes and its effects on the rest of the data — the team decided to look for an intervention where they knew they were likely to find one: in Chicago crime statistics for 1983.

"The only additional information we used, besides actual crime data, was the fact that the Chicago Police Department's reporting methods changed significantly in 1983," Dr. Block said. "So we went in looking for an intervention. We looked at data for only two types of

crimes, assault and robbery. However, to get an idea of just what effect the change had on Chicago's statistics, we looked at eight specific kinds of aggravated assault and robbery that differed by the type of weapon used."

She found that, despite opinions to the contrary, pre-1983 data may not have been rendered entirely useless by the change in reporting methods. She found that only certain types of crimes had been significantly underreported before 1983 and that it may be possible to quantify just how much they had been underreported.

"Unlike what many people thought, it seems that it was not the most serious crimes that were underreported before 1983, but rather the less serious ones," Dr. Block said. "For example, the numbers of homicides and robberies using firearms hardly changed [from pre-1983 figures to post-1983] at all. Robberies committed with a knife or with another weapon went up slightly, and less serious crimes, like strongarm robbery, went up dramatically."

Localizing the effect of the change and quantifying it may make it possible to analyze the pre-1983 Chicago data in conjunction with the figures compiled under the revised reporting procedures, she said.

In addition to the expected shifts in

See *Predicting crime*, page 4

## Finding patterns in the "where" and "when" of crime

By Maureen Hickey

A computerized crime analysis program being developed by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority may soon give Illinois law enforcement agencies an easier and more accurate means of finding patterns in the times and locations of crimes.

The Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Crime (STAC) program uses data from the Authority's Police Information Management System (PIMS) to find patterns in the locations of crimes and the times they occur. The program then graphically displays the patterns using both bar charts and maps.

The bar charts show the number of occurrences of a certain type of crime by time of day or by day of the week. Information about the locations of crimes is displayed on computer-generated maps similar to those already created by

PIMS. The STAC maps are unique, however, because they also show the location, or "hot spot," around which the largest number of incidents is clustered.

"STAC is actually a group of methods and computer programs designed to condense large amounts of crime information into a manageable form," said Samuel Bates, a statistical analyst with the Authority who is directing the project. "For the temporal analysis, our approach involved mostly the use of probability theory and its applications. The spatial analysis used geometric techniques."

According to the Authority's PIMS manager, Stephen Tapke, the goal of STAC is to help law enforcement agencies pinpoint clusters of related crimes, both geographically and with respect to time. "We want to be able to help find the area of highest density of activity so

that police can target their resources. It may be possible to use STAC alone to find these clusters, or STAC could possibly be used to establish patterns based on other information, such as M.O. [*modus operandi*], that suggests that a group of crimes are related," said Mr. Tapke.

The STAC program, which was funded by a grant from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, was developed by the Authority's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) using two and one-half years of crime data from four Chicago-area law enforcement agencies that use PIMS. The program is soon to be tested in a working environment at one of the agencies.

During the test, the STAC development team will work closely with the police department to determine precisely

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## Predicting crime

Continued from page 3

the Chicago data, the research team found a number of unexpected interventions in the data for many of the other 14 communities. A few communities had an intervention in each type of crime. The data for some crimes, such as burglary, contained unexpected shifts in many communities, even those in which other crime types were very predictable.

Because of the number of interventions across the board in burglary, Dr. Block considers it to be the least predictable type of crime. For robbery and aggravated assault, she found that the predictability of crime levels varied depending on the community — the number of incidents in some communities was very predictable for both types of crime, but in other communities they were not predictable. Larceny/theft was the most predictable type of crime. It was predicted within 10 percent in each of two years in nine of the 14 communities studied, she said.

When the levels of all crime types in a community are unpredictable, Dr. Block suggested that the reporting techniques of the community's police department may have been inconsistent —

that the changes in the data are caused by changes in reporting methods and not by changes in crime. But when a community with generally steady and predictable crime rates, signifying consistent reporting methods, shows a sudden intervention in the data for some type of crime, the change was likely to have been in the actual number of crimes and not in the reporting method, she said.

"Being able to spot interventions could prove useful in looking for the causes of changes in crime in two ways," she explained. "If you spot an unforeseen intervention in the crime data, you guess that something happened and you try to find out what it was — a change in street gang leadership, for example. And if you know that something is going to happen, like a new anti-burglary program, you can test its effect."

In fact, one of the unexpected shifts in data found by the research team may have been due to just such a program, said Dr. Block. "We got a sharp intervention in the number of burglaries for the community. It wasn't until later that we found out that the police department had begun a major crackdown on burglary right at that time." □

### Which crimes are predictable?

**Most predictable — Larceny/theft** was predicted within 10 percent in at least one year in 11 cities. In four cities, both 1982 and 1983 were predicted within 10 percent.

**Least predictable — Burglary** was completely unpredictable in two cities, and showed interventions, or sudden changes, in the data for nine cities. Burglary was predictable in only three cities.

**Sometimes predictable — Aggravated assault** was very predictable in some jurisdictions and not predictable in others. **Robbery** was more predictable in cities with more robberies per month. In some cities with fewer than 30 but more than 10 robberies per month, robberies were predictable on the yearly scale, if not on the monthly scale.

**Chicago —** The predictability of robbery and aggravated assault after the 1983 changes in data recording depended on the seriousness of the crime. Strongarm robberies and assaults with hands, fists or feet increased about 40 percent. Assaults with a firearm, however, went up only 20 percent, and firearm robberies showed no increase at all.

## Patterns

*Continued from page 4*

what types of analyses best meet its needs. The Authority will also be looking into what other types of analyses should be considered for future development of the STAC program.

STAC uses innovative techniques to avoid arbitrarily and artificially weighting the data it is using. For example, the standard method of recording the time an incident occurred has been to assign it to a specific hour. When the precise time of the incident is known, as with a robbery or a traffic accident, this method works well.

But, said Mr. Tapke, problems can arise when the exact time is not known, as commonly occurs with burglaries or auto thefts. Standard crime analysis programs usually assign such incidents to the hour that falls midway in the range of time in which the incident could have occurred. The problem with this method, according to Mr. Tapke, is that it reveals nothing about the quality of the estimation.

"If I leave my house at eight in the morning and come back at four, and my house has been burglarized, I know less about when the burglary actually occurred than if I left at eleven and came back at one," he said. "But in both cases the burglary will usually be recorded as having happened at noon, regardless of the fact that in one case I know that it happened sometime during an eight-hour period, whereas in the other case I can narrow it down to two hours."

To get around this problem, STAC records the incidents as *probabilities*. The program carves up the total number of hours in which the crime could have occurred and assigns an equal probability value to each hour. For example, instead of recording a crime that happened between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. as having occurred at noon, STAC would record the incident as 0.5 for both the 11 a.m. and noon hours. A crime that occurred between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. would be recorded as .125 for each hour within that eight-hour period. A crime for which the exact time is known would be recorded as a 1 for the hour in which it occurred.

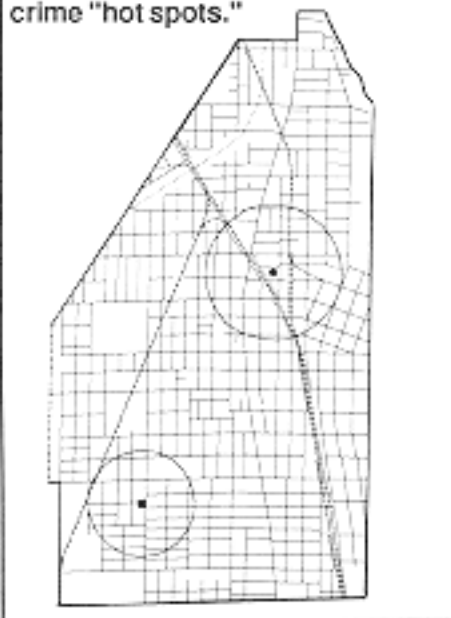
According to Mr. Bates, this method of recording incidents makes the charts

that STAC produces reflect much more accurately the relative numbers of incidents that occur in different time periods.

By fine tuning the way these times are recorded, law enforcement agencies may be able to pinpoint more precisely the hours and days in which certain crimes tend to occur, when they are analyzing multiple occurrences that may be part of a pattern, said Mr. Tapke.

STAC also uses the location data in

Maps produced by STAC show crime "hot spots."



PIMS to determine mathematically the geographic "hot spot" for a given type of crime during a given time period, showing the point around which the greatest number of incidents is clustered.

"STAC's maps, like the bar charts used in temporal analysis, use an innovative analysis approach," said Mr. Bates. "Crime statistics are often analyzed by counting the number of incidents within predefined sections of a town, like beat areas or wards. But when you do that, you can miss a cluster of events that happens to overlap two areas. The STAC program finds 'naturally occurring' clusters of events without reference to predefined boundaries."

To accomplish this, said Mr. Bates, the program lays down overlapping circles of a given size on a map of the town. The program then counts the number of occurrences of a certain type of crime within each circle. The center point of the circle containing the most crimes is the hot spot for that type of

crime. Because the circles overlap, the hot spots reflect how the crimes are actually clustering, without interference from any artificial boundaries, such as ward or beat borders.

The size of the circle can be changed, so the program can show varying levels of detail. A circle with a small radius can "zoom in" on the hot spot for a large number of incidents, or a circle with a large radius can be used to get a rough idea of a hot spot for a small number of incidents.

"We want to investigate the theory that criminals commit crimes in a fairly small geographic area, often close to where they live," said Mr. Tapke. "So finding clusters of crimes could help you find a criminal. But when you look at a 'pin map' — whether it's hanging on the wall with incidents marked by pushpins or it's computer-generated, like the maps created by PIMS — sometimes you see clusters and sometimes you don't. The geographic part of STAC looks at the pin map for you and automatically finds and identifies the area of highest density of whatever activity it is you're looking at."

Test results so far show that STAC works well on long-term aggregate data. It has found peak times for crimes — such as late afternoon and early evening for residential burglaries — that other types of research have shown to be generally true. And the hot spots it has found in the communities providing the test data confirm those police departments' long-term experience with trouble spots. When the program is tested further in a local law enforcement agency, it will be refined to respond to the necessities of more immediate situations.

STAC's success in finding long-term, general patterns suggests it will be a useful tool for law enforcement agencies, either alone or in combination with other kinds of information, such as M.O. Using the time charts and maps separately or in combination with each other, police departments will be able to see exactly where and when the largest numbers of incidents, like burglaries or traffic accidents, are occurring. Then they can project where future incidents are likely to occur and allocate their resources accordingly, said Mr. Tapke. □

## Authority audits state's CCH system

By Sarah Dowse

As State Police officials prepare to put a new version of the state's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system on-line, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority released its final audit of the current system. Authority auditors said their findings should help managers of the redesigned system with the handling of disposition reports.

The CCH system, maintained by the Illinois Department of State Police (DSP), is the central repository for criminal history information in the state. Law enforcement officers, prosecutors,

judges, and correctional managers rely on the system to provide them with "rap sheet" information about individuals they deal with every day.

The 1985-1986 audit focused on how DSP handles court dispositions. The Authority analyzed some 12,000 disposition reports that could not be posted to the system for various reasons. Authority auditors tried to find out why the system could not accept these problematic dispositions.

Auditors found that part of the problem is procedural. Currently, disposition reports are sent to DSP's facility in

Springfield, where data entry operators try to enter them into the system. If for any reason the reports cannot be posted, they are set aside in boxes and eventually forwarded to the department's Joliet facility for resolution of the problem and entry into the system.

The Authority said these procedures did not make sense. It recommended that all data entry take place in Joliet, because that facility contains the volume of source documentation needed to resolve many disposition reporting problems.

DSP Director James B. Zagel, however, said significant problems with the building in Joliet prevent the department from consolidating the operations at that facility. "At this stage it's premature to determine where things are going to be," he said.

"Generally speaking we agree that things should not be sent to a place other than the place where they're going to be processed," he said. "There is no need to have internal transportation of these documents once there is a clear permanent home."

The Authority's audit also found that:

- The current system cannot handle the variety of disposition outcomes encountered in routine criminal justice processing. More than 40 percent of the problems occurred because the system cannot post records containing more than one disposition for a given charge or set of charges.

The audit team found the method DSP used to process these dispositions — creating new arrest segments to go with the subsequent dispositions — was complicated and could not be interpreted by criminal justice personnel.

"When the system was designed years and years ago, it wasn't designed to start at any place but the legal beginning of a criminal history," Director Zagel said. "Unfortunately, the world does not cooperate with us in sending papers starting from the absolute beginning. We have some cases where we have dispositions sent to us when we have no record of the arrest."

## Crime prevention awards presented

Governor's Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Community Crime Prevention were presented at four one-day crime prevention seminars hosted by the Authority in Rosemont, Collinsville, Springfield and Moline. Illinois Inspec-

tor General Jeremy Margolis presented the awards to individuals, law enforcement agencies, businesses, media organizations, and civic groups representing northeastern, southern, central and northwestern regions of the state. □

### NOMINEES AND WINNERS \*

#### NORTHEAST (Rosemont, June 19)

**INDIVIDUAL** — Curt Kuempel - Evanston Police Department; Mike Harkins - Aurora Police Department; Thomas Gibbons - Rockford Police Department; Leonard Kieftka - Calumet City Police Department  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT** — Evanston Police Department; Mt. Prospect Police Department; Broadview Police Department; Skokie Police Department; Cook County Sheriff's Department; Palatine Police Department; Chicago Police Department  
**BUSINESS** — Southland Corporation; Greenlee Tool Company  
**MEDIA** — Deborah Norville, WMAQ-TV - Chicago  
**CIVIC GROUP** — Chicago Alliance for Neighborhood Safety; Boy Scouts of America, East Central Region

#### SOUTH (Collinsville, Aug. 20)

**INDIVIDUAL** — Sue Doolen - Mt. Vernon; Key Mayberry - Hamilton County; William Warren - Hamilton County Sheriff; Ronald Weger - Robinson  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT** — Fairview Heights Police Department; Mt. Vernon Police Department; Robinson Police Department; SIU at Carbondale Police Department; SIU at Edwardsville Police Department  
**BUSINESS** — Regal Inn; Scott Air Force Base Credit Union  
**MEDIA** — Mt. Vernon Register News; WCCE-TV - Mt. Vernon; WMIX Radio, Mt. Vernon; WTAY Radio - Robinson  
**CIVIC GROUP** — Ernest Coulter Post 69, American Legion - Robinson; Mt. Vernon Business and Professional Women's Club

#### CENTRAL (Springfield, Sept. 3)

**INDIVIDUAL** — Cynthia Aussieker - Lincoln; Barney Elias - Jacksonville; Owen Fabert - Champaign; Jack Finch - Jacksonville; John Hecker - Champaign; Kerry

Turner - Jacksonville; Joseph Butcher - Bloomington Police Department; Joseph Mathy - Iroquois County Sheriff; Gary Spear - Champaign Police Department; Harry Stourmyer - Springfield  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT** — Coles County Sheriff's Department; Logan County Sheriff's Department; Morgan County Sheriff's Department; Quincy Police Department  
**BUSINESS** — Chuck E. Cheese's - Normal; Domino's Pizza - Champaign; Golden Coral Family Steakhouse - Jacksonville; Southland Corporation Distributor Center - Champaign  
**MEDIA** — WGFA Radio - Watsela; WICD-TV - Champaign; WJL Radio - Jacksonville  
**CIVIC GROUP** — Champaign County Crime Prevention Council; Crime Stoppers of Morgan County

#### NORTHWEST (Moline, Sept. 25)

**INDIVIDUAL** — Robert Lickles, Jr. - Tazewell County Sheriff's Department; Jerry Mertes - Peru Police Department; William Sowards - Rock Island Police Department; Robert Clevenger - Peoria; Joan R. Gustafson - Galesburg; Robert Lintz - East Moline  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT** — Galesburg Police Department; Moline Police Department; Rock Island Police Department  
**BUSINESS** — Adolph's Mexican House - East Moline; Bob's Meat Market - Rock Island; Central Telephone Company of Illinois - Galesburg and Pekin offices; Pekin Insurance  
**MEDIA** — The Daily Dispatch - Moline; Rock Island Argus  
**CIVIC GROUP** — Altrusa Club - Galesburg; East Moline Recreational Council; Rock Island Community Caring Conference

\*Winners are in *italic print*

See Audit, page 7

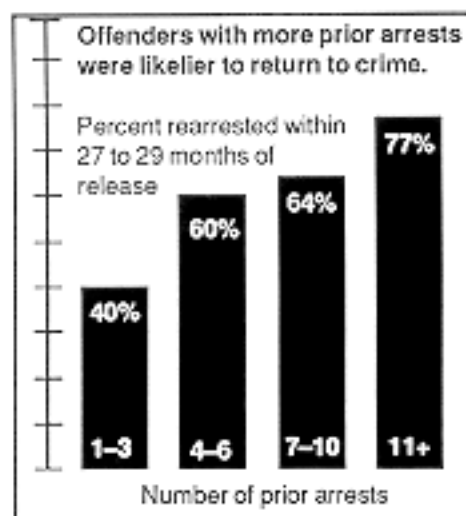
## Study identifies best indicator of recidivism

How extensive an offender's prior criminal history is — not the person's age, race, or the types of crimes he or she previously committed — is the best indicator of whether that person will resume a criminal career after being released from prison, according to a study by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Regardless of whether "prior criminal history" is defined as the number of prior arrests or the number of prior state prison incarcerations an offender has, a strong relationship exists between prior criminal history and subsequent criminal activity, according to the report.

For example, among offenders in the Authority's study who had 11 or more arrests in their prior criminal histories, 77 percent were arrested at least once during the 27 to 29 months following their release from prison. By comparison, 64 percent of the offenders with 7 to 10 prior arrests and 60 percent of those with 4 to 6 prior arrests were rearrested. Among offenders with 1 to 3 prior arrests, the percentage rearrested within 27 to 29 months fell to 40 percent.

Similar results were found when the number of prior incarcerations and recidivism were analyzed. Seventy-six percent of the offenders with three or more prior



state prison incarcerations were arrested at least once during the 27- to 29-month follow-up period. Sixty-six percent of the offenders with two prior incarcerations and 53 percent of those with only one prior incarceration were rearrested.

The study did uncover differences in

recidivism rates among offenders having different demographic or criminal history variables. For example, offenders aged 17 to 20 were more likely to be rearrested or reincarcerated than were persons aged 21 or older. Similarly, blacks, offenders who were single when they entered prison, and those who had a history of property crimes were more likely to resume criminal activity than were white or married offenders, or those convicted of violent crimes.

The Authority found, however, that the best indicator of future criminal activity was still prior criminal history.

The report is the third in a series of Authority publications analyzing 539 inmates who were released from the Illinois Department of Corrections between April 1 and June 30 of 1983. In the latest report, the Authority analyzed all arrests and state prison incarcerations during the 27 to 29 months following their 1983 release from prison. □

For free copies of the report *The Impact of Prior Criminal History on Recidivism in Illinois* contact the Authority at 312-793-8550.

## Audit

*Continued from page 6*

The Authority recommended that the redesigned CCH system permit the entry of multiple dispositions for a single arrest charge.

- The current system cannot accommodate the entry of dispositions relating to more than eight charges. Occasionally when data entry operators encounter this problem, they simply omit specific charges, the audit found. Other times they do not enter any dispositional information, or they create additional arrest segments to capture the extra charge information. This last method inflates the number of arrests and missing dispositions on the system, the Authority said.

The audit team recommended that the redesigned system be able to handle more than eight charges for a single disposition report. It also suggested that any additional records that were created be revised to accurately reflect the number of arrests and charges involved.

- Disposition report forms used by the Cook County Circuit Court clerk do not contain fields for reporting several data elements needed to track court cases and offenders through the criminal justice system. Instead, these elements must be hand-written into the margins of the forms. This tends to undermine the completeness and consistency of the reports, the Authority said.

The audit recommended that the county's "Notification of Felony Conviction" form be revised so that arrest document control numbers and personal identification numbers used by the State Police and the Chicago Police Department can be captured on the form.

- In instances where DSP entered available dispositional information from a custodial fingerprint card from the Department of Corrections, rather than from the disposition report itself, the resulting data posted to the CCH system tended to be inaccurate and incomplete. In approximately one-fifth of these CCH

entries, the information about sentence type and sentence term disagreed with the data on the court disposition report. The Authority recommended that the DSP rely on court records, not custodial reports, to post dispositions.

Director Zagel said the current CCH system has shortcomings but said the redesign will correct most of the problems identified in the Authority's audit.

"The fact remains that there are some significant structural shortcomings in the design of the entire program," Director Zagel said. "We believe the CCH redesign will resolve most — but not all — of the issues raised here. But it is, of course, a major undertaking and while that major undertaking is going on some problems are inevitably going to remain."

The Authority conducts annual audits of the system to ensure that it complies with federal and state laws regarding privacy and security of criminal history information, and to establish procedures to identify and correct errors. □

# Child protection heads new criminal justice laws

By Sarah Dowse

Child protection topped the list of criminal justice issues the Illinois General Assembly tackled during its spring 1986 session. Legislators approved measures requiring habitual child-sex offenders to register with police, extending the statute of limitations in sexual assaults against minors, and strengthening treatment services for child-abuse victims.

Lawmakers also voted to establish pretrial services agencies to conduct extensive background checks on defendants and to upgrade counseling and educational opportunities for certain convicted criminals. Following are summaries of these and other bills the General Assembly and Governor James R. Thompson acted on this year.

● **Sex offender registration.** The Habitual Child Sexual Offender Registration Act (Senate Bill 2292; Public Act 84-1279) requires anyone convicted two or more times of sexual assault crimes against victims under age 18 to register with his local law enforcement agency upon release from prison or probation.

Senator Doris Karpel (R-Bloomington), who sponsored the bill, said it is intended to discourage recidivism and to aid law enforcement officials in the apprehension of repeat offenders who have not been deterred.

The law, which became effective upon receiving the Governor's signature on Aug. 15, requires law enforcement officials to notify offenders of their duty to register, which applies for a 10-year period following their release. Failure to register is a Class A misdemeanor.

● **Statute of limitations and child pornography.** The Child Pornography Act (Senate Bill 2293; Public Act 84-1280) broadens the coverage of existing legislation to protect sex-crime victims who reach their 18th birthday before prosecution of their offenders is initiated.

Many child victims of sexual assault and abuse do not report the crimes

until long after they turn 18. The new law, sponsored by Senator Adeline Geokaris (R-Zion), allows prosecutors to file charges in these cases up to one year from the date the crimes are eventually reported. The limitation period ends at the victim's 21st birthday.

The new law, which Governor Thompson signed on Aug. 15, also mandates that film and photographic print processors report immediately any film, photograph, videotape, negative, or slide that depicts children engaged in pornographic activity. The penalty for businesses that fail to report such activities is a \$1,000 fine.

In addition, the law requires that all property acquired through child pornography be forfeited upon conviction. This provision is designed to diminish any financial incentives for committing child pornography.

Finally, the law adds the child's relationship to the defendant to the factors of aggravation a judge may consider at sentencing. If the defendant held a position of trust or supervision over a victim under age 18 at the time of the offense, the court may elect to impose a more severe sentence. This package took effect on Aug. 15.

● **Child abuse.** One law (House Bill 3591; Public Act 84-1371) revises the 1963 act establishing the Department of Children and Family Services by authorizing DCFS to administer abuse prevention shelters and service programs for abused and neglected children. The department also can permit not-for-profit corporations, community-based organizations, or units of local government to administer these programs. Funding will come from the Child Abuse Prevention Fund, which the act establishes. The law was sponsored by Representative Thomas McCracken (R-Westmont) and became effective when Governor Thompson signed it into law on Sept. 12.

Another law (Senate Bill 1491;

Public Act 84-1318) orders the department to offer protective services to other children in the same environment or family as an abused child and to protect the health and safety of children in all situations in which they are vulnerable to child abuse or neglect.

The act, sponsored in its original form by Senate President Philip Rock (D-Oak Park) and signed by Governor Thompson on Sept.

3, also provides for expanded investigations of day care centers and schools. It will take effect Jan. 1, 1987.

● **Domestic violence.** The Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986 (House Bill 2409; Public Act 84-1305) expands the use of protection orders to include persons in private homes or shelters that house victims.

The law, sponsored by Representative Alan Greiman (D-Skokie), redefines "abuse" to exclude reasonable parental direction of a child. The act also includes certain provisions for transferring judicial proceedings to the county in which a party resides, if different from the county that issued the protection order.

Furthermore, the act expands protection from legal harassment for both victims and alleged abusers. A copy of an order entered by the court may be directed to the state's attorney for determining whether to prosecute the alleged victim for false claims of abuse. The law took effect upon receiving the Governor's signature on Aug. 29.

● **Comprehensive criminal justice measure.** One of the most complex pieces of legislation the General Assembly considered during the spring session, this measure (Senate Bill 2003; Public Act 84-1426) addresses a wide variety of criminal justice issues. These include prosecution and trial of child abductors; testimony of child victims of sexual offenses; access to FBI criminal records; criminal background checks by private organizations; educational, social, and



Sen. Rock



Sen. Karpel



Rep. McCracken



## Legislation

*Continued from page 8*

vocational counseling programs for convicted offenders; use of Firearm Owners Identification monies; participation in the Probation Challenge Act; and Victims Bill of Rights definitions.

Among its more significant components, the law creates an intensive program of educational instruction and social and vocational counseling for certain convicted criminals.

Governor Thompson, who signed the bill on Sept. 24, said he supported the concept of the program, but he vetoed its funding on the grounds that the state's existing probation agency can provide the same services. The Governor urged the program's sponsors to work within the existing framework without creating a new system or ignoring available resources.

The law, which became effective immediately, also authorizes the state Supreme Court to establish a training program to educate Circuit Court judges on methods to reduce or eliminate the painful trauma for children who have to testify at trial as victims or witnesses in criminal sexual offense cases.

The measure also redefines police use of deadly force to make it consistent with the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision *Tennessee v. Garner* (1985). Finally, it clarifies statutory language governing access by non-criminal justice agencies (such as DCFS and local liquor-control commissions) to FBI criminal history information. Private organizations providing child-care services also will be able to obtain state conviction records. This change was needed because of increasing legislative mandates to check backgrounds of individuals in certain positions of trust or authority. The law was sponsored in its original form by Senator William Marovitz (D-Chicago).



Sen. Marovitz

● **Background checks.** This measure (House Bill 2648) authorizes the Department of State Police to provide conviction

information to military installations about persons seeking access to arms-storage facilities. Governor Thompson amendatorily vetoed the bill, saying provisions would have to be incorporated to ensure that DSP is reimbursed for the cost of processing criminal history checks. The bill was sponsored by Representative Donald L. Saltsman (D-Peoria).

● **Pretrial services.** This bill, sponsored by Representative John Cullerton (D-Chicago), directs Circuit Courts throughout the state to set up pretrial services agencies to screen defendants and to present recommendations to the court regarding their release awaiting trial. Governor Thompson amendatorily vetoed the measure (House Bill 3573) to limit the services to felony cases only.



Rep. Cullerton

The agencies will be responsible for interviewing and assembling verified information concerning the community ties, employment, residency, criminal record, and social background of arrested persons appearing in court on criminal charges. Especially important is the agency's role in developing programs to minimize unnecessary pretrial detention and protect the public against breaches of pretrial release conditions.

● **Computer crime.** This measure (Senate Resolution 787) urges the Illinois attorney general to investigate the problem of computer-related crime. Sponsor Arthur Berman (D-Chicago) said computer crime is a serious and growing concern of the business community and law enforcement agencies.

The senator said police agencies agree that existing criminal statutes are inadequate for prosecuting computer fraud and theft and have little, if any, deterrent effect. The resolution calls for public hearings to determine community sentiment on the issue. It cites the millions of dollars in losses that computer fraud and theft cost financial institutions, brokerage firms, insurance companies, and the telecommunications industry. □



## Holiday Safety Tips from McGruff

The holidays are a special time of year, but they're also a time when busy people become careless and individuals are especially vulnerable to theft and other crimes. Take some tips from me, McGruff the Crime Dog, and make your holidays safe and happy.

### OUT AND ABOUT

- \* Even though you're rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- \* Lock your car and close the windows, even if you're only gone a few minutes. Lock packages in the trunk.
- \* Teach your children to go to a store clerk and ask for help if you become separated in a shopping mall. They should never go into the parking lot alone.
- \* Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.

- \* Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside pocket.

### AT HOME

- \* Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes. Leave the lights and a radio or television on so the house looks occupied.
- \* Don't display gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.

- \* If you go away, get an automatic timer for your lights. Have a neighbor watch your house and pick up the mail and newspapers.

## Cook County goes after serious offenders

By Sarah Dowse

Research shows that a relatively small percentage of offenders commit a disproportionately high number of crimes. But identifying these serious, repeat criminals remains a problem, especially in large jurisdictions that process thousands of offenders each year.

Now, using a combination of federal and local funds, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and local agencies are attacking the problem of identifying and prosecuting Cook County's hard-core criminals through a three-part program. Joining the Authority are the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and two dozen suburban law enforcement agencies.

J. David Coldren, the Authority's executive director, said the program has three goals:

- To incapacitate more repeat and violent offenders by improving the resources and management capabilities of criminal justice officials;
- To upgrade the quality of information available on alleged repeat offenders by correcting errors detected during criminal history checks; and
- To ensure that accurate information about a suspect's criminal history and current status, including probation or parole status or the existence of outstanding warrants, is available to officials. This means making the information available to police and correctional officers during the time the offender is in their custody, to state's attorneys and judges at the time of bail hearings, and to judges before sentencing hearings.

"We're particularly interested in

making sure criminal history information on defendants is available when it can have the most impact — before preliminary hearings and in time for sentencing," Director Coldren said. "It's during these times that we have the best opportunity to identify repeaters and prevent them from victimizing more people."

**"We're particularly interested in making sure criminal history information on defendants is available when it can have the most impact."**

— J. David Coldren  
Illinois Criminal Justice  
Information Authority

He said a study by the Authority of 407 arrestees in Cook County revealed that 10 percent of these people accounted for 30 percent of the total arrests among the group. It also found that three-quarters of all persons arrested in Chicago have prior arrest records.

The Authority has allocated approximately \$700,000 in federal funds to the Cook County program. The money, which comes from the Justice Assistance Act (JAA) block grant program, is being matched dollar-for-dollar with local and state funds.

Here's a breakdown of how the funds are being used.

### Chicago Police Department's records update

The Authority in September awarded the Chicago Police Department a \$100,000 grant for updating the criminal

records of local offenders to include information from other jurisdictions around the state and country.

"By having information from other jurisdictions on Chicago's rap sheets, criminal justice officials in Cook County will get a better idea of exactly who they are dealing with," Director Coldren said. "It may turn out the suspect is wanted in another state, or the person may have a history of victimizing people and then skipping bail."

The grant includes an equal amount of federal and local funds. The federal portion is being used primarily to hire 10 specially trained students to update the department's manual records with out-of-city data. The local matching funds cover the costs of supervisory personnel and office supplies.

The updating project is expected to eliminate the backlog of 35,000 records that have accumulated in the department's identification section, which manages criminal history information. The department each month receives approximately 5,000 national rap sheets of offenders who were arrested in Chicago and whose fingerprints were forwarded to the FBI.

Director Coldren said police departments are not required to maintain data about events that occur in other jurisdictions, but he said having this information readily available, particularly in a city of Chicago's size, improves the system's ability to identify and process repeat offenders.

### Upgrade and expansion of telefacsimile network

To help law enforcement agencies, not only in Cook County but throughout Illinois, process serious, repeat offenders, the Authority recently upgraded and expanded a statewide network of telefacsimile devices that are used to transmit fingerprints and criminal history data between local agencies and state and federal criminal history repositories. The upgrade is being especially welcomed in suburban Cook County because telefacsimile devices are often the only means

See *Serious offenders*, page 11

## Crime File

*Crime File*, a 22-part videotape series on some of the most critical crime issues facing the public, is now available from the Authority.

The series covers such topics as deadly force, the death penalty, the exclusionary rule, juvenile offenders, search and seizure, and TV and violence. It was sponsored by the National Institute of Justice through a grant to the Police Foundation.

Interested agencies or individuals may borrow the VHS tapes from the Authority. For more information contact Janet Drouin at 312-793-8550.

## Serious offenders

*Continued from page 10*

available to positively identify an offender through fingerprint checks and to gain access to a full criminal history record.

This upgrade, which is being supported by matching state and local funds, contains three components:

- Providing the 36 existing telefacsimile sites with faster, more reliable, higher-resolution equipment;
- Increasing from 15 to 24 the number of telefacsimile sites in Cook County; and
- Offering law enforcement agencies in Cook County that do not have facsimile equipment the opportunity to purchase their own devices at a discounted rate.

Statewide, there are now 45 telefacsimile sites in 22 counties. These sites are linked to two criminal history repositories: the Illinois Bureau of Identification (BOI) in Joliet and the FBI's Identification Section in Washington, D.C. The equipment itself consists of two parts: a fingerprint transmitter and a receiver. Local agencies can send fingerprint facsimiles over ordinary telephone lines to either the BOI or the FBI. Fingerprints are then identified and classified by state or federal technicians and a search is made for the suspect's criminal history. If a transcript is available, it can be returned to the local agency via the telefacsimile device.

High-quality, high-speed digital transceivers have replaced outmoded receivers in the 36 existing sites. These devices can transmit and receive documents at a fraction of the time necessary using the old equipment (30 seconds per page vs. at least seven minutes per page).

The new transceivers also produce high-resolution copies not only of criminal history transcripts but of a variety of other documents as well, including crime reports and photographs. "This feature,

### Notice

The Authority is seeking to hire analysts to work on some of its research projects. To obtain descriptions of the positions and other information, contact Olga McNamara at 312-793-8550.



The "war room," which is directed by Assistant State's Attorney Jim Piper (standing), is helping prosecutors in Chicago courts obtain criminal history information in time for bail hearings. With the help of federal money, the state's attorney's office wants to get this information to prosecutors in suburban courts as well. (Photo by Ben Zajak.)

which the old system was not equipped to handle, has transformed a group of individual telefacsimile sites into a network of law enforcement agencies that can communicate and exchange many types of written information," Director Coldren said.

## Cook County bond court information

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office is carrying out the third part of the program by focusing on ways to improve the quality and amount of criminal history information available for bail hearings, especially in suburban courts. The office is hoping to achieve more efficient, rapid access to both computerized criminal history information and manual records to be used in preparing their cases at bail hearings.

State's Attorney Richard M. Daley has already established a centralized information unit, known as the "war room," that supplies assistant state's attorneys with a range of information for bond hearings.

Until now, however, only Chicago bond courts had quick access to the avail-

able criminal history information.

Getting the data to suburban courts has been inefficient and time-consuming.

The state's attorney will use JAA funds to expand the war room in two ways: by acquiring the equipment needed for more thorough and faster background checks on defendants and by upgrading the transmission of information to suburban courts in the county. The goal is to be able to supply suburban courts with more information on serious offenders, including Chicago, state, and FBI rap sheets, a list of pending cases, and any outstanding warrants. Included in the new equipment the state's attorney's office plans to acquire are 16 high-speed laser printers to be placed in bond courts throughout the county. With the printers and accompanying telecommunications links, information could be sent quickly — and legibly — from the war room to the remote sites.

Finally, the state's attorney intends to use the war room's information for other purposes beyond bail hearings. Complete criminal history sheets will be included in case files for arraignment and trial and then sent to police to accompany defendants in their custody. □

## Technology

*Continued from page 1*

has proposed a new program of technical assistance and data quality consulting. Under the proposal, which is included in the agency's budget request for the state fiscal year that begins in July, the Authority would visit agencies to explain new developments in information processing and to help the agencies report accurate and complete data.

In the meantime, state and local officials are preparing to implement the new systems and databases. Here's a review of these changes.

### Automated fingerprint identification systems

For years, the script has been familiar: a detective arrives at the scene of a

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**"The ability to take a single latent print from a crime scene and, without a suspect already in mind, quickly compare it with the millions of impressions we have in Joliet is simply mind boggling."**

— **Sam W. Nolen**  
*DSP Official*

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crime, lifts some fingerprints, and returns to headquarters to identify the culprit a few hours later. The problem is that traditional methods of analyzing fingerprints rarely produce such dramatic results. But now, with automated fingerprint identification systems, or AFIS, the make-believe world of crime novels and gangster movies is coming true.

"The ability to take a single latent print from a crime scene and, without a suspect already in mind, quickly compare it with the millions of impressions we have in Joliet is simply mind boggling," said Sam W. Nolen, superintendent of the Division of Forensic Sciences and Identification at the Illinois Department of State Police (DSP), which is acquiring an AFIS. "It's a huge stride forward for criminal justice in Illinois, and it's something that's in our grasp," he said.

"As police chiefs have come to recognize the benefits of this system, they've been calling to get first in line to

solve some of their outstanding crimes," added Deputy Superintendent Joseph E. Ginter.

Superintendent Nolen said the high-profile cases — the murders solved by matching a fingerprint found several years earlier — will probably overshadow another benefit of AFIS: the ability to positively identify arrestees who are still in police custody. The automated system will be particularly useful in identifying suspects who supply police with aliases, he said.

The system will also help DSP process the increasing number of fingerprints it must analyze as part of background checks required by law for certain employees and license applicants. Approximately half of the prints run through California's year-old AFIS have been for background checks initiated by organizations outside the criminal justice system, said Mr. Cooper of SEARCH.

DSP hopes to have its AFIS up and running by next October at its central records site in Joliet and at seven State Police facilities around the state. Mr. Ginter said the department also plans to allow other sites, including local agencies, to gain access to the system.

So far, the Chicago Police Department is the only other agency in Illinois currently installing an AFIS. Its system is scheduled to be operational by the end of 1986.

### Computerized Criminal History system

Criminal history records in Illinois have been stored on a central computer system since 1976. But even officials of DSP, which maintains the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system, say it has not always managed criminal history data very effectively. One particularly persistent problem has been the absence of dispositions for many arrests.

Now, DSP is attacking this problem, as well as other shortcomings, through a major redesign of the current CCH system. The new system is expected to be fully operational by the end of 1986.

"This is a huge accomplishment in state government," Superintendent Nolen said. "The redesigned CCH will allow the criminal justice system to handle

criminal history information for the first time in an effective, efficient way."

The new system will require only minor changes in the arrest information that law enforcement agencies report to the system. The big change will be in the information arresting agencies and others get back from the system.

The information contained on a rap sheet will match more closely the original data the local agencies reported to the system. For example, transcripts from the new system will include items such as any precautions agencies should follow when handling a suspect, better physical description information, and more alias data. The transcripts will also include two new parts, in addition to the actual rap sheet: a cover page telling the agency why it is receiving the transcript and a separate page containing all identifiers for the person.

The greatest impact, however, will be on disposition reporting, especially by the courts. Because the number of court disposition codes is being expanded from five to 66, the system will contain more precise information about how cases are ultimately resolved.

Superintendent Nolen said the trademark of Illinois' new system will be its flexibility. "The redesign puts the system in a mode where a new law demanding additional services can be handled. The system will be flexible enough to meet our needs into the future."

### Uniform Crime Reports

Two years ago, the federal government hired Abt Associates, a Cambridge, Mass., consulting firm, to conduct a

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**"The fun is going to be exploring the possibilities."**

— **William Bowers**  
*Northeastern University,  
Boston*

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complete review of the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) program, the often-criticized national database of crime statistics. The result of that effort is a blueprint for changing the system, and researchers, who have been the primary users of UCR data, seem pleased with

*See Technology, page 13*

## TASC

*Continued from page 1*

increase the availability of treatment in the state."

From July 1, 1985, to June 30, 1986, 4,004 substance-abusing adult and juvenile offenders were referred to TASC. Of these, 1,590 (39.7 percent) were found acceptable for treatment. Of those accepted, 1,205 (75.8 percent) were placed in treatment programs. The remaining 385 (24.2 percent) make up a placement waiting list that has more than doubled in size since the previous fiscal year.

TASC was founded in 1976 to serve adult, opiate-using offenders in Cook County. TASC's placement services have expanded to serve nonviolent adult and juvenile substance-abusing offenders throughout Illinois. In addition, TASC

now serves substance-abusing high-school students, domestic violence perpetrators, and those charged with driving under the influence (DUI).

According to Ms. Rodriguez, TASC has been very successful in its drug- and alcohol-treatment programs for non-violent offenders. Only 5 percent of TASC's clients, once accepted by the agency, are rearrested while in the program, she said. The rate of successful completion of treatment for TASC clients is approximately twice that of offenders who are simply placed directly in treatment programs by the courts or for those who enter substance-abuse treatment programs voluntarily, according to Ms. Rodriguez.

TASC's philosophy is that substance abuse treatment can be effective only if offenders acknowledge their

problems and follow through with the program. Therefore, TASC first carefully screens all offenders referred to the program to ensure that it accepts only clients with a good chance of success in a treatment program. Second, TASC monitors its clients throughout the treatment process.

"The TASC program is strict," said Melody Heaps, TASC's executive director. "Violent offenders and anyone convicted of the sale or delivery of illegal drugs are ineligible for the TASC program. In addition, those offenders who are mandated to TASC are required to strictly adhere to all TASC and treatment program rules and regulations. Failure to do so can, and does, result in the offender's termination from the TASC program. This action can result in the offender's resentencing and a subsequent prison sentence."

Lorin Pritikin, TASC's public information associate, credited the two components of TASC's case management system — screening and follow-up — with much of TASC's success. "If you're an offender in one of our programs, you know you're being given a chance because the assessment has determined that you have a significant problem and that you want to do something about the problem," she said. "And you know that if you fail you have to accept the responsibility of failing, which may mean going back to jail."

Here's how the approach works.

TASC's court services personnel interview each offender referred by the courts, a public defender, a family member, a private attorney, or the offender himself. They also review each offender's rap sheet. The interview determines whether the offender's criminal history makes him ineligible, either statutorily or by TASC's own criteria, for treatment in a TASC-monitored program. The eligibility information gathered from clients ultimately placed in the TASC program is verified through rap sheets and other court records, said Ms. Pritikin.

The interview also determines whether the offender is acceptable for placement in a program according to what Ms. Pritikin termed "psychosocial criteria." This aspect of the interview de-

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## Technology

*Continued from page 12*

the proposal.

"The fun is going to be exploring the possibilities," said William Bowers, director of the Center for Applied Social Research at Northeastern University in Boston. "We've been operating within the constraints and shortcomings of the existing system. Now I think there's a sense of liberation."

The main improvement, according to Dr. Bowers and others, is that the new system will contain information on individual incidents, instead of just aggregate totals by jurisdiction. This is known as incident-based reporting.

"They're finally disaggregating this useless aggregate data set," said James Lynch, a researcher from Washington, D.C. "With incident-based information you can look *within* jurisdictions. Previously you could look only *at* jurisdictions."

The new UCR system will also include more demographic data about victims and their relationship to offenders, and it will measure secondary crimes that occur in the same incident. Under the current system, only the most serious offense in an incident is counted.

Officials said law enforcement agencies will probably benefit from some of

the proposed changes as well, especially in the area of crime analysis. But local officials, who must collect and report the UCR data, said they want to make sure their needs are not ignored in the redesign. "This is an important event, but we must make sure any changes benefit the reporting agencies," said W.C. Overton, director of the UCR program for the Idaho Department of Law Enforcement and president of the National Association of State UCR Programs.

Jo Ellyn Reeder, Illinois' UCR program manager, said the national blueprint will not affect Illinois as much as some other states because Illinois already has an incident-based system. The state's biggest expense, she said, will be the data processing resources needed to program the 38 new data elements that will have to be collected. DSP recently submitted a grant proposal to the federal government to cover those costs.

Ms. Reeder said DSP has not begun publicizing the UCR changes because it is waiting to see what happens in South Carolina, where the blueprint is being tested. However, she said the department hopes to expand the state's UCR program even beyond the changes included in the national redesign. "We're looking to make it a true on-line system," she said, "where agencies can retrieve data on-line." □

## TASC

*Continued from page 13*

termines that the offender is indeed addicted and not just a casual user, and that there is a likelihood that he can be rehabilitated, she said. "We may find that, yes, he's an addict, but he doesn't recognize he has a problem and so he's not likely to succeed in treatment," she said.

TASC then presents its findings to the court. If the individual is found to be an addict and likely to be rehabilitated, TASC recommends the most appropriate

**"If not for the availability of TASC's services, many of these offenders would be sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections."**

— *Melody Heaps*  
*Executive Director*

treatment. The judge makes the final determination on sentencing.

Once a client is sentenced to TASC by a judge, the case is closely monitored by the agency's tracking staff, said Ms. Pritikin. TASC staff follow the client's treatment progress by means of telephone contact and visits to the treatment site, where they meet with the counselor or client or both. TASC's tracking staff then submit monthly written progress reports to the court.

One serious violation of the program's regulations, such as bringing a weapon to a treatment facility, or three less-serious violations, such as missing a scheduled appointment, may result in expulsion from the program, said Ms. Pritikin. If a client is expelled, TASC's tracking staff notify the court within 24 hours of the client's discharge. This can result in the offender's resentencing and a subsequent prison sentence.

Ms. Pritikin described TASC's role as one of advocacy both for its clients and for the courts. "I believe that one of the reasons why the courts have really accepted TASC and respect TASC is because we have very efficient coordination between systems," she said. "We link the treatment system effectively with the judicial system."

According to Ms. Pritikin, TASC has a philosophical commitment to the

theory that there is an important link between drug abuse and crime. "We think you have to effect a change in substance abuse if you're going to effect a change in criminal behavior," she said. "Our premise is that the correlation is significant and must be addressed in policies of crime control." But, she said, although nationwide research has shown a correlation, no research has yet shown whether there is a cause-and-effect relationship.

TASC's treatment programs help keep a number of offenders out of the state prison system. "If not for the availability of TASC's services," said Ms. Heaps, "many of these offenders would be sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections."

In addition to its nonviolent offender treatment programs, TASC has expanded recently in three new areas.

- **DUI.** Illinois' new DUI law requires all DUI offenders to undergo a substance-abuse assessment. Of the 3,572 persons referred to TASC in fiscal year 1986 for placement in an education or treatment program, 2,439 (68.3 percent) have enrolled in a program. TASC's services to DUI offenders differ from the case management services provided for its other programs. The DUI offender is entitled to choose any facility in the state that provides the service he must receive according to the assessment. In addition, TASC monitors DUI offenders less intensively than its clients in other programs.

- **School Intervention Program (SciP).** TASC's first nonoffender program, for substance-abusing high school students, began this school year in Cahokia. According to Ms. Pritikin, TASC hopes to start similar programs in other areas of the state, including Cook County. The program will start out working with youngsters who have already been caught violating school drug and alcohol policies, and later expand to include any student who is considered to have a problem.

- **Domestic violence.** TASC's program for domestic violence offenders began this year in Danville. TASC worked with local mental health treatment centers, victims' advocacy groups, and other resources to develop the program. Domestic violence offenders receive vio-



TASC Executive Director Melody Heaps  
lence counseling and, if necessary, substance-abuse treatment.

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is providing TASC with technical assistance in developing a computer system that will link all its offices throughout the state. According to John Firman, who directed the technical assistance project for the Authority, the system will help TASC manage its expanding services and enable it to conduct research on the long-term effects of its programs.

"The system will provide information management services and an automated link among TASC's offices, saving the agency enormous amounts of paperwork," said Mr. Firman. "And, if legislative barriers can be overcome, it will also give TASC a link to criminal justice and social service agencies so that it can get follow-up statistical data on its clients once they complete their treatment programs."

TASC depends largely on the state for its funding. Most of it comes from DASA, with the remainder coming from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and the Department of Children and Family Services. According to Ms. Pritikin, however, TASC has spent the past year exploring private-sector funding that would enable the agency to further expand its services. □

## News briefs

*Continued from page 2*

would include representatives from the legislature and the judiciary.

### Fees set for background checks

The Authority has set the fees the Department of State Police may charge for providing conviction information used for background checks on local liquor license applicants, security guards, and private detectives. DSP may charge \$10 for a background check on a liquor license applicant and \$8 for a check on an applicant for a security guard or private detective license.

The Authority's decision was based on information obtained at a public hearing last spring and from written comments from state and local government officials. State statute gives the Authority responsibility for setting fees for background checks. Individual law enforcement agencies that help local liquor control commissioners file the background checks may add on their own fee.

### Victim coordinators receive training

More than 50 victim service coordinators from state's attorney's offices and private agencies throughout the state learned how to help crime victims

through the criminal justice process during a three-day seminar in October. The Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor hosted the seminar, which was held at the Springfield Hilton. The victim coordinator program and the training are both funded by the Authority under the federal Justice Assistance Act.

"The seminar offered instruction to victim coordinators on the interpersonal techniques they need to perfect in order to help crime victims, who are often traumatized by their experience, get through the criminal justice process," said Barbara McDonald, head of the Authority's Office of Federal Assistance Programs. "Crime victims are also witnesses, and therefore an important part of the prosecution process. The victim coordinator program is a sign that the criminal justice system is recognizing that."

The seminar also provided training in legislation relevant to crime victims, and representatives of various victim services organizations discussed how victim coordinators can use such organizations as resources.

### Appellate defender's office honored

The Office of the Illinois State Appellate Defender was honored in October as the outstanding public defender's office in the country. The award, presented at the annual convention of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association in Atlanta, Ga., is given each year by NLADA and the American Bar Association.

The state appellate defender's office was created in 1972 to provide criminal appeals representation for indigent defendants. In a six-month period last year, courts appointed 681 cases to the 80-lawyer office, nearly a 15 percent increase from the previous year.

### People

Authority staff member Stephen F. Tapke has been appointed to the LEADS Advisory Policy Board. The board advises the Illinois Department of State Police on issues concerning the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System, a state-

wide telecommunications network. Mr. Tapke oversees the Authority's Police Information Management System. . . . **John Firman**, the Authority's associate director for research and analysis, has been invited to serve on the Salvation Army's Correctional Services Advisory Council. The Salvation Army runs several correctional programs, including a work- and community-release program with the Illinois Department of Corrections. . . . **Carolyn Rebecca Block**, head of the Authority's Statistical Analysis Center, was honored by the Criminal Justice Statistics Association at its Sept. 12 annual meeting in Philadelphia. Dr. Block received an award for excellence in analysis for her study *Specification of Patterns over Time in Chicago Homicide: Increases and Decreases, 1965-1981*. . . . **Gerry Ramker**, head of the Authority's Data Quality Control Center, chaired a panel on police planning, analysis, and simulation at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association in Chicago on Oct. 2. . . . **Jerry Kopecky**, the Authority's associate director for information technology, chaired a panel on Hewlett-Packard's Multi-Programming Executive operating system at the Interex conference in Detroit, Sept. 29 - Oct. 3. At the same conference, Mr. Kopecky participated in a panel discussion on data communications.

### Publications

*Crime in Illinois 1985*, a summary of crime statistics for the state, is now available from the I-UCR unit at the Illinois Department of State Police, 726 S. College, Springfield, Ill., 62704, (217-782-3310). □

### Scoreboard

*Continued from page 16*

ors, although available data do not indicate whether the reductions occurred because of the severity of the crime itself or as part of plea bargaining arrangements. However, a 1980 study of 7,500 cases in nine counties, including three in Illinois, found that most defendants pleaded guilty to original charges, not reduced ones.

Finally, more than 10 percent of the defendants failed to appear in court, and warrants were issued for their arrest. These cases were stricken from the record, but can be reinstated if the defendant is later apprehended. □

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## Few defendants actually go to trial

Only one of every 10 defendants charged with a felony in Illinois during 1984 ended up with a bench or jury trial on that particular charge, while the majority of defendants either pleaded guilty or were dismissed.

### Statistical scoreboard —

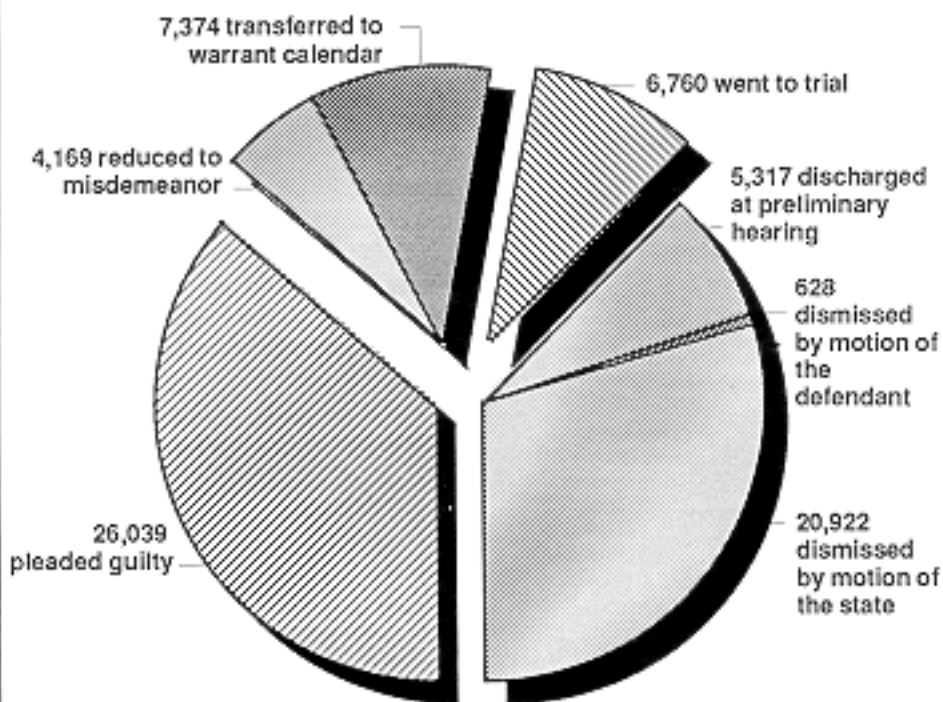
Trials are one of the most resource-intensive parts of the criminal justice process, particularly for state's attorneys. If a high percentage of cases are resolved through other avenues, resources can be focused on the most serious, contested cases.

Of the 71,209 defendants charged with felonies who received dispositions during 1984, nearly 37 percent pleaded guilty. Defendants can enter guilty pleas either at the preliminary hearing or at the arraignment, after probable cause has been established. Often, defendants plead guilty when there are no arguable issues of fact or because they think a lighter sentence will be imposed after a guilty plea than after a full trial.

About the same number of defendants, 37.8 percent, were dismissed. This happened in one of three ways:

- The state moved to dismiss more than 29 percent of all defendants.

Only one out of 10 defendants charged with a felony stood trial in 1984.



Source: Administrative Office of the Courts' 1984 Annual Report to the Supreme Court of Illinois

Reasons for this action include the failure of key witnesses to testify, the introduction of new evidence, or the fact that the defendant was indicted by a grand jury on the same charges. Even after the state dismisses a case, however, the state's attorney can still file a subsequent information or seek an indictment against the defendant for the same offense at a later date.

- Less than 1 percent of all defendants were dismissed based on a motion

of the defendant. This usually occurs when the state fails to establish that the defendant committed the offense or if the defendant's due process rights were violated.

- The court found no probable cause against 7.5 percent of all defendants, and they were dismissed during the preliminary hearing.

Another 6 percent of the defendants had their charges reduced to misdemeanors.

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