The Compiler

Inside

Order from chaos: Information in a police emergency

Last spring, the Winnetka Police Department faced an unprecedented crisis—Laurie Dann's outburst of violence. In this interview, Police Chief Herbert Timm describes how information helped his department stay on top of the situation.

—— By Kevin P. Morison ——

Friday, May 20, 1988, is a day law enforcement officials in Winnetka—and throughout Chicago's northern suburbs—are not likely to forget for a long time. It was a day Laurie Dann, a 30-year-old Glencoe woman, turned the normally serene suburban area upside down in a rampage that included dozens of attempted food poisonings; three actual or attempted arson incidents; the shooting of six schoolchildren (one of whom was killed) and a college athlete; a seven-hour police stand-off; and, ultimately, her own suicide.

It was also a day when, according to Winnetka Police Chief Herbert Timm, "we got a real education into what information is about, how much there could be, and the different nuances. How you separate it. How you get technically capable to handle it. We got such an overload."

Kevin P. Morison, senior editor of *The Compiler*, recently spoke with Chief Timm, along with Lieutenant Joe Sumner, director of police operations, and Officer Gary Schultz, who was working the communications desk that day, about the police department's response to this information overload and about the role information technology did—and sometimes didn't— play during the Laurie Dann incident.

Compiler: *How did you first learn about the incident? Was the 911 emergency system used?*
Timm: All calls originally came in on 911. The first call was the fire call, because she had set fire to a home [where she babysat in Winnetka] and attempted to kill three people. We had several units sent to that—frankly, a major response.

Then there were two 911 calls that came in from the [Hubbard Woods Elementary] school. The first call came in and Bill Saunders, our director of support services, answered it. [The caller] said there was a shooting at Hubbard Woods School, and obviously Bill was very surprised. He asked her to repeat it, and she did. Then he tried to keep her on the phone while we were dispatching calls, but she hung up. Following her protocol, she then called the superintendent of schools to let him know. Then she called back again on 911 because the second shooting of the five children in the one classroom had taken place.

Compiler: *The arson and then the shootings required a variety of responses—police, fire, ambulances, and the like. How did you handle the dispatching?*

Attorney General designates new Authority representative

Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan has designated First Assistant Attorney General Michael Ficaro as his representative on the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The attorney general is automatically a member of the Authority, but state law allows the attorney general to name a designee to the agency.

Mr. Ficaro has been with the Attorney General's Office since 1981, having served as chief of criminal prosecutions and director of enforcement. Prior to that he served for 10 years with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, where he was deputy state's attorney and chief of criminal prosecutions from 1979 to 1981.

Mr. Ficaro replaces Robert Schuff, who has gone into private practice, as the attorney general's designee on the Authority. Mr. Ficaro will serve on the Authority's Legislation and Regulations Committee and the Research and Policy Committee.

Jackson County installs computer systems

Two Jackson County agencies are acquiring information systems developed by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

The office of State's Attorney John Clemons is installing the Rapid Automated Prosecution System (RAPS), which maintains prosecution records and supports the notification of victims and witnesses. Clemons's office is the 27th prosecutorial agency in the state—and the eighth in southern Illinois—to receive RAPS.

And the office of Sheriff William Kilquist is the 10th county jail in Illinois to acquire the Authority's Correctional Institution Management Information System. CIMIS automates the booking process and maintains information about jail inmates, including their housing locations, medical histories, and court dates and other activities.

Both installations are being paid for by a combination of federal Justice Assistance Act funds administered by the Authority and matching county resources.

Criminal justice referrals stay in drug treatment programs longer

Research indicates that a person entering drug treatment as a result of a criminal justice referral may do better than those who enter voluntarily. Two recent papers—*Legal Pressure in Therapeutic Communities* by Dr. George Deleon for Phoenix House, a drug rehabilitation center in New York, and *Compulsory Treatment: A Review of Findings*, the proceedings of the 1987 National Institute on Drug Abuse meeting on drug treatment—review research that compare criminal justice referrals and voluntary admissions to drug treatment programs. The research shows that criminal justice referrals tend to do better primarily because they tend to stay in treatment longer.

The research also showed the following:

◆ Significant post-treatment improvements in criminality, drug use, and employment occur for all clients and are directly related to time spent in treatment.

◆ Some drug abusers require external pressure to seek, remain in, and benefit from treatment. For these individuals, legal pressure is viewed as having a limited but potent role in the recovery process. It can provide the initial force that sustains individuals through the early stages of treatment to the later stages of recovery.

◆ The impact of treatment is striking on all clients, voluntary and non-voluntary, during their stay in the therapeutic community. Regardless of the length of time in a program, there is virtually no crime or illicit drug use while clients are in residential treatment.

State spending on prisons and law enforcement increases

State spending on prisons and law enforcement in Illinois increased 86 percent from 1972 to 1986 in inflation-adjusted dollars, according to a new study by a University of Chicago research team led by political scientist Gary Orfield. The increase was mainly due to a 94 percent increase in the number of prison beds.

Overall spending on all government services climbed 9.7 percent in real dollars during the period studied, and all of the growth occurred before 1977. Spending for social services dropped 5.7 percent between 1972 and 1986, while transportation spending fell 10 percent, the study said.

Criminal justice, new technologies, and the Constitution

Technological innovations may contribute to reduced crime, a more equitable judicial system, and relief from prison crowding, but without cautious application, technology could expand the net of social control and infringe upon constitutional liberties, the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment has concluded in a special report, *Criminal Justice, New Tech-* *nologies and the Constitution.*

The report cited several developments most likely to affect criminal justice. Included are advances in information science, especially computers and telecommunications systems; the use of chemistry and genetics to test body fluids and tissue or to modify and control behavior; the use of social science research to develop statistical and behavioral models and decision-making guidelines; the use of technological alternatives to traditional correctional methods; and more automated record-keeping capabilities.

For a copy of the report (stock number 052-003-01105-1), send $2.75 to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

Illinois ranks fourth in jail suicides

Illinois ranked fourth in the number of suicides committed in jails during 1985 and 1986, according to a study released in June by the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives. The study gathered information on suicides in county jails, city jails, and lockups. Nationally, the study found 453 suicides in 1985 and 401 in 1986.

There were 51 suicides in Illinois jails in 1985 and 1986 combined. Only Texas (94), California (69), and New York (56) had more jail suicides during those two years.

Suicide, the study said, continues to be the leading cause of death in U.S. jails and is nine times more likely to happen among the inmate population then among the general population. For more information contact Lindsay M. Hayes, Project Director, National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, 635 Slaters Lane, Suite G-100, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314, 703-684-0373.

Half of all felony arrestees are convicted, study says

A person arrested on a felony charge has exactly a 50–50 chance of being convicted, according to a new study of felony arrests in 37 urban jurisdictions.

Abt Associates, a Cambridge, Massachusetts, research firm, found that of every 100 felony arrests, 49 are rejected by prosecutors, diverted to special programs, or dismissed at a preliminary hearing. Of the 51 cases that go to felony court, 47 result in guilty pleas, and the remaining four go to trial, with three resulting in conviction.

The study is based on tens of thousands of arrests and case filings in cities of various sizes and in suburban areas; rural jurisdictions were not represented, since they account for a small fraction of total crime.

Prescription control program expands

Illinois' triplicate prescription control program will soon be used by officials in Indiana.

Under the program, the Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) uses computerized data collection and processing techniques to produce reports on the prescribing, dispensing, and consuming of Schedule II designated prescription drugs. Schedule II drugs include such drugs as morphine, Demerol, amphetamines, methamphetamine, and phenmetrasine (Preludin).

"We believe that the Illinois program can serve as a model for a nationwide system," DASA Director William T. Atkins said. "By using Illinois' program, Indiana hopes to eliminate many loopholes that currently exist which allow drug diverters and traffickers to evade prosecution simply by crossing state lines."

Indiana's triplicate prescription control system will go into effect July 1, 1989.

Authority publication cited for excellence

The Authority's report, *Trends and Issues: Criminal and Juvenile Justice in Illinois*, received the 1988 Excellence in Analysis Award from the Criminal Justice Statistics Association at its annual meeting in August. The annual award recognizes the best criminal justice research and analysis publication among statistical analysis centers in the 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Entries were judged on the basis of policy impact, clarity of presentation, quality of analysis and conclusions, and originality of the publication. A panel of three research professionals judged the entries.

Two county agencies win national recognition

Two Chicago-area criminal justice agencies have been selected for 1988 achievement awards by the National Association of Counties. The Lake County Public Defender's Office has been recognized for its new bond court project, according to Chief Judge Fred A. Geiger of the 19th Judicial Circuit. And the DuPage County Circuit Court has been cited for its computerized court scheduling system. DuPage is the first county in the nation to use a computer program to schedule court dates for traffic and ordinance violation cases, according to John Cockrell, the court's clerk.

Protection for the vulnerable

In 1984, Illinois lawmakers created the Bill of Rights for all victims of violent crimes. Now, lawmakers are turning their attention to providing extra protection to certain groups of people especially vulnerable to crime.

————————— By Joseph H. Green —————————

Over the last two years the 85th Illinois General Assembly has continued a movement begun approximately 15 years ago here in Illinois and throughout the nation: protecting the rights of crime victims.

But while much of the early legislation established general protections for victims of violent crime, recent laws have focused more on specific classes of people, such as senior citizens, who are particularly vulnerable to being victimized.

"Years ago the criminal justice system woke up and realized that victims are an essential partner in the successful prosecution of criminals," said J. David Coldren, executive director of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. "As a result, the states, including Illinois, enacted many laws providing basic protections for all victims of crime."

In 1973, for example, the General Assembly passed the Crime Victims Compensation Act (Ill.Rev.Stat. ch. 70, par. 71, *et seq.*), which established a statewide program for reducing the financial burden of innocent victims of violent crime and their families. More than a decade later, in 1984, lawmakers enacted the Bill of Rights for Victims and Witnesses of Violent Crime (Ill.Rev.Stat. ch. 38, par. 1401, *et seq.*). This law provides victims of violent crimes with a variety of basic protections, including the right to be informed of the current status of cases they're involved in, to be notified about court appearances, to have

property used as evidence returned quickly, and to present written statements at the time of sentencing about the impact of the victimization on their lives.

"In recent years, legislators and other public officials have begun to realize that some people are especially vulnerable and need extra protection and help," Director Coldren said.

Last year, and in the spring session that concluded in July, the Illinois General Assembly passed—and Governor James R. Thompson signed into law—dozens of bills affecting victims of crimes. These laws are generally geared toward five groups:

◆ Victims in general
◆ Elderly victims
◆ Disabled victims
◆ Young victims
◆ Sexual assault victims

All victims of crime

In an attempt to make victims' rights legislation more sensitive to the needs of victims during trials, Illinois legislators recently addressed four fundamental problems facing crime victims: difficulty in acquiring information about pending criminal proceedings; fear of a suspect released on bail before trial and after prison, if convicted; difficulty in getting a case investigated or prosecuted; and payment of personal expenses incurred because of the crime.

Here is a summary of the new laws:

◆ The victims bill of rights has been

expanded to accommodate the rights of victims of violent crimes throughout court proceedings. In addition to previous requirements, such as notifying a victim of required court appearances and having an interpreter available, victims of violent crimes must now be notified of the date, time, and place of any hearing in the case, whether or not the victim's presence is required. Such victims are now entitled to a written, non-technical explanation of their rights under the law.

Victims of violent crimes may also ask to be notified before the state's attorney makes any offer of a plea bargain to the defendant or enters into negotiations with the defendant concerning a possible plea bargain. In addition, victims of violent crimes must be notified, upon specific request, of any hearings concerning an appeal or petition for post-conviction review filed by the defendant. (Public Act 85-550)

◆ People victimized by juvenile offenders can now obtain the name and address of the offender more easily than in the past. Formerly, victims could obtain that information only after the juvenile court had disposed of the case. But since many criminal matters involving juveniles are not formally disposed of in court, release of the information was often blocked. The new law is intended to make it easier for a victim to obtain restitution for damages in civil court. (P.A. 85-435)

◆ Legislators addressed victims' fears when suspects are released on bail before trial. A new law requires the courts to consider "any written statement submitted by the victim regarding the impact which the alleged criminal conduct has had on the victim and the victim's concern, if any, about further contact with the defendant if released on bail." The court uses the victim's statement to help decide whether the victim's safety would be compromised if the defendant were released before trial. (P.A. 85-513)

◆ Lawmakers also addressed the fears victims have of offenders after they are released from prison. Victims of violent

crimes now have the right to "be informed at the sentencing hearing of the minimum amount of time during which the defendant may actually be imprisoned." In other words, a victim must be told that an offender sentenced to four years in prison may actually serve less than two years after good-conduct credits are subtracted. The information is also made available to the defendant. (P.A. 85-482 and 85-674)

◆ Compensation for victims of violent crimes has been increased in some areas. For example, compensation for loss of earnings was increased by one-third to $1,000 per month. Allowable funeral and burial expenses were also increased, from $2,000 to $3,000. (P.A. 85-278)

Elderly victims

Lawmakers in recent years have taken two approaches toward helping elderly crime victims. First, they have expanded services to elderly victims who have been physically injured or had their property stolen or damaged. Second, those who commit offenses against senior citizens are being subjected to harsher penalties.

Several new laws address problems facing elderly crime victims.

◆ When a victim who is 65 years of age or older receives any physical injury or has any of his or her property damaged as a result of any crime, the court is now required to order restitution as part of the sentence. The court is also authorized to order the sheriff to seize any personal property of the offender and sell it to satisfy the amount of restitution required, if the offender fails to comply with the order of restitution. (P.A. 85-840)

◆ Lawmakers have made certain offenses more serious when committed against an elderly victim, and penalties for such crimes have been increased. For instance, any assault against an elderly victim becomes an aggravated assault, any battery becomes an aggravated battery. "It appears it not only deters individuals from committing these crimes," said Janet Otwell, director of the Illinois Department on Aging,

Other new legislation

Governor James R. Thompson has signed into law several other criminal justice bills passed by the 85th General Assembly this spring, including the following:

◆ Legislation allowing law enforcement officers to eavesdrop on suspected drug dealers and on people involved in hostage situations without the consent of one of the parties involved. Federal officials have been allowed to use eavesdropping techniques for about 20 years.

"Drug dealers will not be tolerated in Illinois, and we will do everything in our power to rid these people from our streets and neighborhoods," said Governor Thompson.

The new law, effective January 1, 1989, requires extensive reporting to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts by the state's attorney and any chief judge allowing the wiretap. (P.A. 85-1203)

◆ Legislation expanding the definition of theft to include obtaining property from undercover law enforcement agents

who describe the property as stolen. The law takes effect January 1, 1989. (P.A. 85-1296)

◆ Legislation permitting certain offenders and pretrial detainees to be sentenced to home confinement if connected to an electronic monitoring device. The new law, which goes into effect January 1, 1989, is expected to help alleviate crowding in county jails. (P.A. 85-1287)

◆ Legislation giving police the authority to impound for up to six hours the vehicle of someone arrested for drunken driving. The law, which has taken effect, allows impoundment only when no sober person can be found to drive the vehicle. (P.A. 85-1237)

◆ Legislation allowing the prosecution for homicide of anybody connected to a narcotics delivery if the drugs supplied cause a user's death. The law, which takes effect January 1, 1989, carries a minimum 15-year prison term for a convicted dealer. The bill also provides for a one-year driver's license suspension for people convicted of drug possession while operating a motor vehicle. (P.A. 85-1259) *J.G.*

Flanked by law enforcement and legislative leaders, Governor James R. Thompson in September signed a bill that permits state law enforcement officers to conduct electronic surveillance on suspected drug dealers without the consent of one of the parties involved.
(Photo by Matt Ferguson)

"but also offers encouragement and protection to elderly crime victims who can now feel more comfortable about reporting incidents of aggravated battery." (P.A. 85-691 and 85-753)

◆ The penalties against anyone who seriously injures a senior citizen during the commission of a crime are being increased. Effective January 1, 1989, criminals who inflict serious injury or permanent disability or disfigurement on a victim who is age 60 or older will receive a mandatory prison sentence. The maximum penalty allowed for this type of crime is now seven years in prison. (P.A. 85-1177)

◆ Lawmakers have also set up a voluntary system for reporting abuse and neglect of anyone 60 years of age or older. The reporting system includes the category of financial exploitation. (P.A. 85-1184)

Disabled victims

Like senior citizens, disabled people are particularly vulnerable to crime. As a result, Illinois lawmakers have recently passed a number of laws that increase penalties for those who commit crimes against disabled victims.

◆ Certain offenses have been made more serious when committed against a disabled victim. For instance, an assault against a disabled victim becomes an aggravated assault, a robbery becomes a Class 1 felony, and a battery becomes an aggravated battery. The battery law, also referred to as "the Joey law," was inspired by the 1986 attack on an Alton, Illinois, boy who has cerebral palsy. (P.A. 85-691 and 85-996)

◆ When determining aggravating factors in sentencing an offender, judges may now consider whether the victim was physically disabled. (P.A. 85-691)

◆ Lawmakers have made certain sex crimes more serious when committed against a mentally retarded victim. Effective January 1, 1989, the charges of criminal sexual assault and criminal sexual abuse will become aggravated if the victim is mentally retarded. (P.A. 85-1392)

Child victims

According to victim advocates, child victims are often physically incapable of defending themselves against criminals, and child victims often suffer a wider variety and greater degree of harm, especially psychological harm, than do adult victims.

One of the primary challenges facing legislators is to help children through the often draining judicial process, said Polly Poskin, executive director of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault. "We need to start thinking about restructuring the courtroom for trials involving children," said Ms. Poskin. "The courts are set up to be very formal and are scary for children."

In recent years, Illinois lawmakers have taken steps to aid child victims.

◆ Provided the defendant is present, the videotape is accurate, and the defendant's rights to cross-examine at the time of trial are safeguarded, videotaped testimony of victims 12 years old or younger may now be used as evidence in prosecutions of criminal sexual abuse, aggravated criminal sexual abuse, criminal sexual assault, or aggravated criminal sexual assault. (P.A. 85-881)

◆ During prosecution for any sex offense when a child under the age of 13 is the victim, the child is now, under certain circumstances, allowed to testify that he or she complained of the offense to another person. That person's testimony may also be introduced in certain instances. (P.A. 85-837)

◆ During prosecutions for most sex offenses when the victim is under 18, anyone—except the media—who does not have a direct interest in the case may be excluded from the court when the child victim is testifying. (P.A. 85-196)

◆ When a child under 18 is the victim of certain sexual offenses committed by a parent, guardian, or custodian, the spouse of the accused person is permitted to testify about communications or admissions made by either of them during the marriage. (P.A. 85-499)

◆ During prosecutions for most sex offenses committed against a minor, the court is now required to take into account the adverse impact delaying the trial would have upon a child victim or witness, before ruling on any motion for a delay or continuance of the proceedings. (P.A. 85-364)

◆ Lawmakers have expanded the definition of "crime of violence" in the Crime Victims Compensation Act to include child exploitation and child pornography. Effective January 1,1989, the expanded definition will allow victims of these crimes to be awarded compensation. (P.A. 85-1193)

◆ The General Assembly has created harsher penalties for a second offense of aggravated battery of a minor. If a person is convicted of aggravated battery of a child within three years following a prior conviction for aggravated battery of a child, the charge can be raised to a Class 1 (from a Class 2) felony. (P.A. 85-996)

◆ Lawmakers have made the offense of running a juvenile prostitution operation a Class 1 felony. In addition, the legislation requires defendants convicted of certain sex offenses to pay for the counseling costs of victims under the age of 18. (P.A. 85-1194)

Sexual assault victims

◆ Police officials and prosecutors are no longer allowed to require victims of sex offenses to submit to polygraph examinations as a condition for proceeding with an investigation, or for charging or prosecuting an offender. A victim's refusal to submit to a lie detector test may not be considered in deciding whether to investigate, charge, or prosecute the offense. (P.A. 85-664)

◆ Judges now have the option of ordering a defendant found guilty of a sex offense to pay, as restitution to the victim, all or part of any treatment expenses incurred by the victim as a result of the offense. (P.A. 85-688) ■

Joseph H. Green is an Antioch College student working as an editorial intern for the Authority.

Choosing a police computer system

The number and variety of computer systems for police agencies is increasing by leaps and bounds. Here are some pointers on identifying needs and then finding the right solution.

By Maureen Hickey

How does a law enforcement agency decide that it needs a computerized information system? How does it choose the best system to fit its needs?

According to interviews with people involved in developing and using criminal justice information systems, including several police officials in agencies that are considering automation or have recently installed systems, there are three important steps: a realistic assessment of the department's information needs, a detailed understanding of how information currently moves through the department and how it should move, and a careful look at the options offered by particular information systems.

Assess your needs

"The first and most important step is to assess your needs realistically," said Edward Maier, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's deputy director for information management and research. "It is especially important in medium-sized and smaller departments to look closely at what functions must be computerized and what you may just as well leave manual."

Mr. Maier urges departments to look at how long it takes personnel to do tasks that could be automated—such as responding to an inquiry or doing UCR reporting—to see if computerizing would materially affect the amount of time those tasks take. In addition, he said, the department should decide what investigative and management functions it would like that could be performed efficiently only by a computer, such as producing incident reports by time of day and by beat or searching a file of suspects.

What functions to automate and what not to may be difficult to determine, however.

"In law enforcement circles, you can never say that you have more than you need," according to Lawrence Burnson, deputy chief of the Matteson Police Department, which is currently enmeshed in the process of purchasing a computer system. "The more information that you can provide not only for the administrators, but for the officers on the street, the more effectively they can do their jobs. Anything we do to enhance data processing capabilities is going to enhance the officers' abilities to work more effectively on the street, and in turn that provides better service to the public."

Deputy Chief Burnson is also facing the fact that advances in computer technology have made many things possible that were unimaginable or unaffordable a few years ago. For example, databases that file a computerized picture along with text information are becoming available, allowing departments to keep "mug shots" in their computerized criminal history record.

Deputy Chief Burnson has been planning the automation of the Matteson department since 1982, but other projects, such as the building of a new police station, have
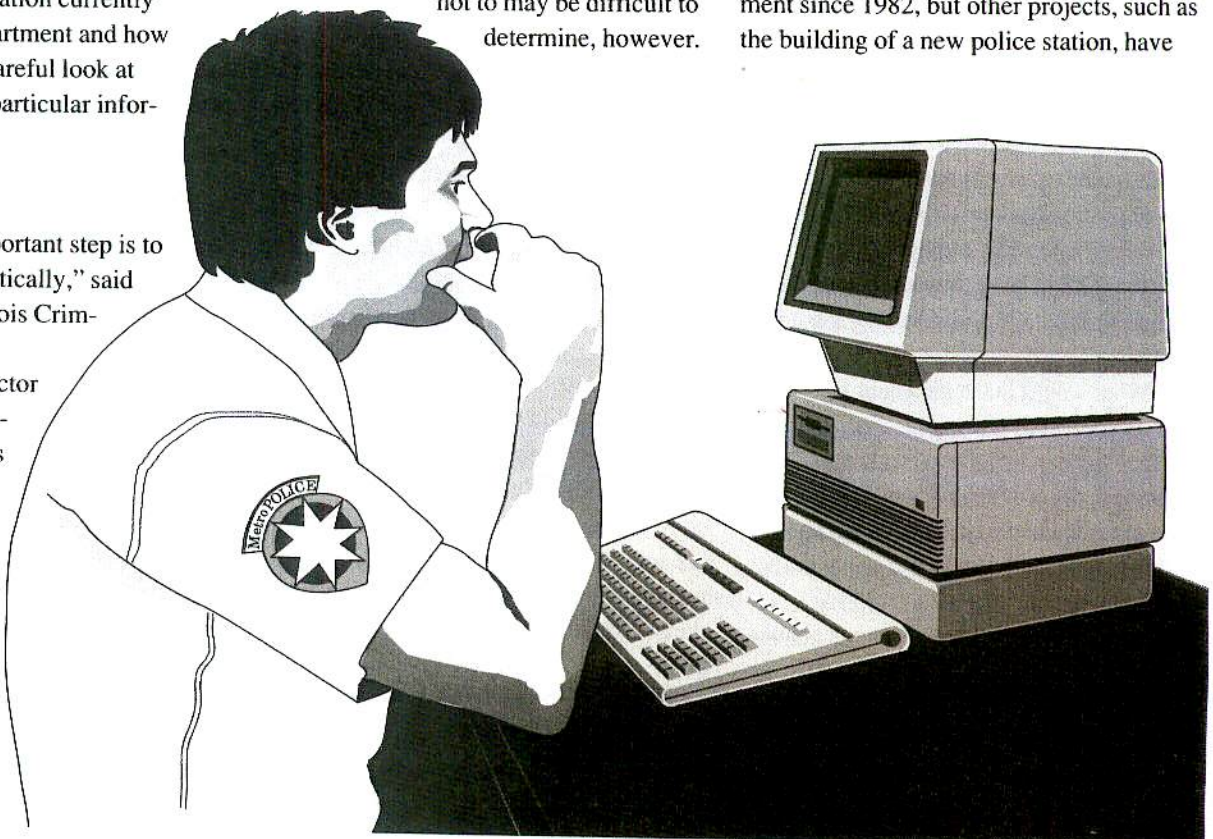
"Buying a computer system is a bit like buying dinner at a restaurant—this one comes with soup, salad, main course, and dessert, the other comes with appetizer, salad, main course, dessert, but no soup."

—Edward Maier, Deputy Director
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

come first. Every year he has proposed a computer system, and every year his proposal has expanded.

"Unfortunately, from my perspective, every year when I present a budget my goals continue to increase," he said. "Because I see more new and exciting things out there that are doing more than I had envisioned back when I first started."

Determine information flow

Any computer system is founded upon its database—the file of information maintained by the system. By entering records into a computerized database, police departments can have access to more information more quickly and do more with it than they could with paper files.

Once a department has determined what kinds of information go into the database, it has to determine in what form and how frequently it wants the information to go in and come back out.

According to Mr. Maier, the department should first identify what information it wants periodically and what it wants to have immediate access to.

"What would the department like to have on line? Shift reports? A master name list? Incident reporting and tracking? The department should break down each activity into what information it *has* to have and what information it would *like* to have," he said.

Finally, he said, the department should look at where the data comes from and where it has to go.

"You have to look at how your individual police department works, the way work

flows from where it initiates to where it ends," said Sergeant Anthony J. Starke of the Lansing Police Department. "Through whose hands does it pass, what do you do with it, how do you do it, who codes UCR, and what's the end result?"

According to Mr. Maier, one way to accomplish this is by diagramming the flow of information within the department. For example, information may come in the form of an arrest report filled out by an officer. That report may then be received and logged at one desk and reviewed at another desk before being filed in the master file. The information in the arrest report might later be used in a variety of other reports—a master name list of arrestees, officer activity reports, arrest location reports, and others.

Currently, the Matteson department has just a few personal computers, originally purchased to do LEADS checks and also used for limited statistical analysis of stolen autos. But incident, arrest, and other information is not automated.

"We want to automate our entire records system, from the juvenile report on the street, to the officers' activity, to arrest information," said Deputy Chief Burnson. He said the department wants to use the system to find patterns of criminal activity, to develop an alias file linked with a file of active warrants, to link officer warnings to hazardous locations on file, and to provide more detailed information to oncoming shifts on what has occurred during the previous shift, among other things.

Choose functions

Once a department has determined what kind of central database it wants, it must decide what other options it needs to go with it. So where does a department draw the line? What functions are vital, and what can be done without?

"Buying a computer system is a bit like buying dinner at a restaurant—this one comes with soup, salad, main course, and dessert, the other comes with appetizer, salad, main course, dessert, but no soup," Mr. Maier pointed out. "You get some functions that you want and you give up others."

One such option, computer-aided dispatch (CAD), is considered necessary by many departments, while others choose to do without it.

CAD maintains street address reference information, a list of vehicles in service and their status, and a response plan that matches vehicles to locations. When the dispatcher receives a call for service, he or she enters the address into the system, and the computer recommends the first available unit in its response plan for that area. Some CAD systems stand alone, while others are built into larger systems, where the CAD function also performs the initial entry of information into the department's database. Other large systems, such as the Authority's Police Information Management System (PIMS), do not include CAD at all.

What are the pros and cons of incorporating CAD into a police computer system?

The Lansing Police Department is planning to install a computer system in its new police station next spring. "We're going to go for CAD only because of mobile data terminals," said Sergeant Starke. "Officers will be able to do things like driver's license checks from their car, freeing up that much time for the radio operator."

Without mobile terminals taking over some of the radio traffic, according to Sergeant Starke, the dispatcher could become

overwhelmed by covering normal duties and taking care of the CAD system as well.

"In a small or medium-sized department, the radio dispatcher has to answer the telephone; filter the telephone calls; dispatch; answer all the calls from the cars calling in for licence checks, traffic stops, accidents, whatever; and they have to talk to people coming in off the street," Sergeant Starke said. "And now you're going to make them sit at a screen while they're talking to somebody on the phone or while they're talking on the radio and all this is going on, and type into a computer?"

In conjunction with mobile data terminals, however, CAD can help a department improve its database by automatically recording information from every call.

"Sixty percent of all police calls do not result in a written report," said Chief Joseph Bopp of the River Forest Police Department. "So we're looking into the avenue of having our management information system dispatch-initiated, and having the information entered via a CAD system. What we're looking for is a system where you have your CAD entry, and then you have all the factors you need for an I-UCR entry, and you also try to allow the officer to update that with a short narrative of maybe three or four lines."

According to Mr. Maier, the dispatching functions of CAD are less useful for smaller departments than for large ones simply because they have fewer patrol cars on the street at a given time.

Deputy Chief Tad Leach of the Lincolnwood Police Department agrees.

"We're not really interested in CAD— we're a smaller town with only four cars on the street at a time," he said. "With in-car terminals to relieve the radio traffic, we can just put a PIMS terminal in the dispatch room for immediate data entry."

The Lincolnwood Police Department recently joined the PIMS network. According to Deputy Chief Leach, the fact that PIMS users share a common database was one of the most important factors in choosing that system.

PIMS—A shared information solution

One information system available to Illinois police departments is the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's Police Information Management System.

"PIMS has many advantages for a small or medium-sized police department," said Stephen Tapke, manager of the Authority's Police Systems Unit. "For a department with a limited budget or one that doesn't want to commit a lot of resources to running a computer system, it can be ideal."

PIMS is developed, operated, and maintained by the Authority. Participating departments either access PIMS on the Authority's central computer via their own terminals, or they can run PIMS separately on their own computers as part of the PIMS network. PIMS departments participate in decisions about software development and other system policies.

Because PIMS users are networked through the Authority's computer, according to Mr. Tapke, departments are able to share information. Currently, all departments on the system share arrest, vehicle, and property information, as well as crime analysis data. Information that concerns only the department that created it is not shared on PIMS.

"Another big advantage of the shared central system," Mr. Tapke said, "is cost. All the participating departments share the system's operating costs, and the state helps to underwrite software development costs."

According to Mr. Tapke, the Authority is using this principle of lowering costs by centralizing expensive equipment in its new mobile data terminal system, ALERTS (the Area-wide Law Enforcement Radio Terminal System). Departments that use ALERTS, either alone or in conjunction with PIMS, will pay only the costs associated with the terminals themselves and a small user fee. The Authority will provide the central data radio equipment, computers, and antenna sites; develop software and communication interfaces; administer the program; and operate and maintain the system. *M.H.*

For more information about PIMS or ALERTS, contact Stephen Tapke at the Authority, 312-793-8550.

"We're getting an enclosed shopping mall in our community, and being on the network with other towns with big malls like Schaumburg and Mt. Prospect will really help us go after professional shoplifters," he said. "Plus, since we're so close to Chicago, being able to share arrest information with other communities in our area is important."

Ask questions

How does a department that is thinking about automating get the information to make all these decisions?

Mr. Maier suggests visiting similar-sized departments that have installed computer systems and finding out from them how well their systems meet their needs.

When asked how his department decided what functions it needed in a new computer system, Deputy Chief Harry Cramer of the Quincy Police Department responded, "A lot of traveling—a lot of talking to a lot of people."

Whenever the people in the Quincy department who were involved in the computerization project were in another city on any type of business, they visited the local police department to find out what kind of system it had. They would also discuss the pros and cons of various computer systems with representatives of other departments at regional conferences.

"That's where you get your best information," Deputy Chief Cramer said. "If you

> "If you talk to the person that's using the system—the guy that's got to fight the problems—and get them in a candid moment, you can say, 'O.K., just exactly what do you think of this system?'"
>
> *—Deputy Chief Harry Cramer*
> *Quincy Police Department*

talk to the person that's using the system—the guy that's got to fight the problems—and you get them in a candid moment when they're not pressured by the vendor standing right over them, you can say, 'O.K., just exactly what do you think of this system? Has it met your expectations?'"

Colleagues from other departments can also provide information about the reliability of vendors and how well they support their systems. Finding a vendor with which it can develop a productive relationship is a key component in a department's search for a computer system.

Deputy Chief Cramer said people from other police agencies were extremely helpful, including some who spent an entire day discussing computer systems when Quincy personnel were visiting them.

Besides colleagues from other departments, sources of information about computer systems include courses and seminars, consultants, and, of course, the vendors themselves.

Training programs, courses, seminars, conferences, and symposia on information systems in criminal justice are available from a number of sources. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) holds a law enforcement information systems symposium every year. The association is also revamping its management training courses to include hands-on computer experience, according to Chuck

Peltier, who manages IACP's information systems center.

The Criminal Justice Statistics Association, in cooperation with the SEARCH Group, also provides training in computer systems for criminal justice professionals.

Although none of the departments interviewed for this article had hired a professional computer consultant to help it determine what computer system it needed, the Quincy department was assisted by two persons from the community with experience in computers. One, from the computer department of the local community college, "was watching over our shoulders every step of the way," said Deputy Chief Cramer. And the other, a part-time programmer for the city, "was very much interested in making sure that we did something that was going to be good not only for the department but for the city as a whole," he said.

Finally, vendors can be an almost inexhaustible source of information about their computer systems.

"These vendors, if they start hearing that you're interested, they begin sending you all this information," Deputy Chief Cramer said. "That's great. I'd say, 'Fine, give us a proposed system.' So they would come in and spend some time, then they would shoot us a proposal. And then we took from those proposals the things we liked and used them to put together our [official] request for proposal."

But vendors, naturally, are not necessarily unbiased sources of information. According to Deputy Chief Cramer, it is possible to get information on a system's weaknesses from the vendor by asking the right questions. But other users of the system will be more likely to volunteer the information. ■

Resources: International Association of Chiefs of Police, 13 Firstfield Road, P.O. Box 4066, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878, 301-948-0922; Criminal Justice Statistics Association, 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 606, Washington, D.C., 20001, 202-624-8560.

Hot spots and isocrimes

Authority analysts have found a way to define the densest area of crime activity on a map, independent of official boundaries. And while developing a computer program to map the crime "hot spot," they created yet another way to define spatial patterns of crime.

By Margaret Poethig

Computer programs that can distinguish areas of high crime according to set boundaries, such as wards, police beats, blocks, or census tracts, have been available for several years now. So have computerized "pin map" programs that can plot the locations of individual crime incidents on a street map. But isolating an area of high crime *independent* of official boundaries—providing a more accurate picture of crime patterns in a community—has been impossible on a computer until now.

Recently, analysts at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority devised a way to isolate a crime "hot spot"—the area in a community where crime activity is concentrated—regardless of official boundaries, using pin map information. Now, Authority programmers are putting the finishing touches on a computer program that will draw an ellipse, or oval shape, on a map to define the hot spot.

As an offshoot of the hot spot research, Authority analysts have also begun developing the "isocrime." An isocrime is based on a different interpretation of crime incident information than the ellipse. It is similar to an isopleth, a traditional method of defining geographic patterns. An isocrime defines the boundary around a specific percentage of the crime incidents on a map, in the way that an isopleth shows a specific elevation on a contour map.

Geographic mathematics make the ellipse hot spot different from other methods

of defining crime patterns. Because the shape of the ellipse is based on a mathematical formula, Authority analysts were able to transform the hot spot into a sophisticated, fully automatic tool for spatial crime analysis.

Research on the spatial analysis of crime has been conducted at the Authority over the past several years, supported by federal Bureau of Justice Statistics funding that ended in August. Although Authority analysts have been testing various mathematical approaches for defining isocrimes, development of the isocrime application is suspended until further funding is made available for this research.

The hot spot: Phase I

The procedure for finding and defining the hot spot was developed in two phases, according to Carolyn Rebecca Block, senior research analyst at the Authority.

"When we began to explore the spatial analysis of crime, our goal was to develop a mathematical method for doing a systematic, automatic [computerized] search to isolate the single most dense area of crime activity in a community, based on the spatial distribution of individual incidents," said Dr. Block.

Former Authority analyst Sam Bates—a mathematician—developed the method for the search and automated the procedure as well. The initial hot spot computer program isolates the most dense circular area

of crime activity by repeating a procedure in which overlapping circles of a given radius are placed over a map of crime incident locations. Originally, the circle that contained the most crime incidents after the search was completed was called the hot spot.

The hot spot: Phase II

The initial hot spot procedure appeared to satisfy the researchers' goal of finding the single, densest area of crime activity, but closer scrutiny revealed where it fell short.

Authority research analyst James Spring—a geographer—discovered that in many cases, the circle with the most crime incidents was just one of a cluster of circles that shared many of the same incidents and in some cases differed in density by only one or two incidents.

"The word 'hot' implies an area with a much higher crime density than other areas, not merely one or two more crimes," said Mr. Spring. "If police patrols were to concentrate on the single spot with the most incidents, the high level of crime along the periphery, that is, the overlapping, less dense circles, would not be addressed."

Sticking to the original goal of the spatial analysis project, Mr. Spring searched for a single, mathematically formulated shape to describe the pattern of crime incidents within the overlapping circles. Enlarging the size of the circle to encompass all the incidents would only increase the target area for law enforcement and perhaps include large areas of low crime activity in the hot spot as well, according to Mr. Spring.

It became apparent that a different shape would be needed to define the area *of* a hot spot.
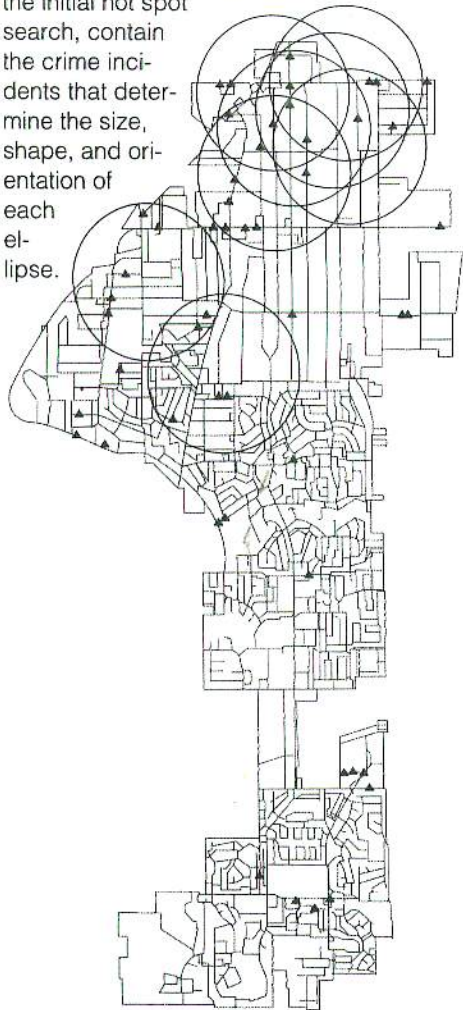
The ellipse hot spot

Using a geographic statistic called the standard deviational ellipse, Mr. Spring analyzed the pattern of crime incidents within the cluster of circles and found a more precise shape for the hot spot: the ellipse.

"An ellipse hot spot can be anything from a perfect circle to a straight line, de-
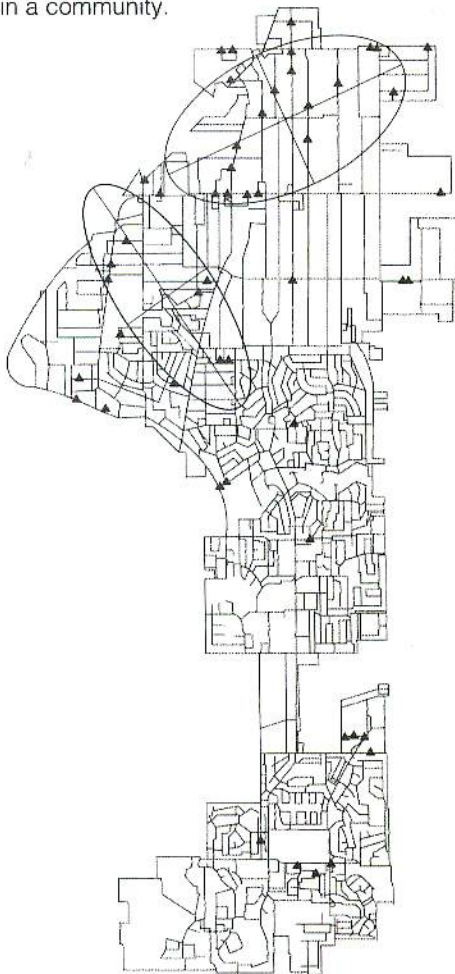
The initial hot spot search

Overlapping circles, produced by the initial hot spot search, contain the crime incidents that determine the size, shape, and orientation of each ellipse.

The ellipse hot spot

The ellipses define the areas of densest crime activity—the hot spots—in a community.

pending on the shape of the area of high crime activity," said Dr. Block.

Because its dimensions are flexible, the ellipse is a more functional shape for describing a hot spot. Based on its orientation on a map, the ellipse hot spot provides information about the direction of crime activity in a community, unlike the circle, which has no orientation.

"The ellipse shows directionality—it may show that crime is clustered along a street, for example," said Mr. Spring.

Defining the ellipse hot spot still depends on the original hot spot procedure to search for and identify the circle or overlapping cluster of circles containing the most dense crime activity. The size, shape, and orientation of the ellipse are determined by the pattern of events that occur within these circles.

"An excellent tool"

To confirm the validity of the mathematical theory behind the ellipse hot spot, Authority analysts called on the expertise of a team of artificial intelligence specialists.

Dr. Helmut Epp, chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems at DePaul University in Chicago, said the Authority had developed "a very slick and excellent tool" for identifying spatial crime patterns.

"The committee's impression was that the approaches that the Authority was using were the best approaches, given the nearly impossible problem of developing a purely mathematical method that works in all circumstances," he said. "We were really impressed by the technical sophistication of the Authority's work."

However, according to Dr. Epp and his colleagues, there is no perfect formal approach, or "deep mathematical theory," to discerning spatial patterns of crime.

"No matter how you try to [group incidents]—ellipses or some other shape—you can always perceive of some pattern that this kind of approach wouldn't capture. So the only reasonable way to approach this is to see whether or not you can capture a lot of the cases that occur," said Dr. Epp.

Microcomputer mapping

Last summer, a computer program that automates the ellipse hot spot procedure for the microcomputer was written by former Authority programmer Sharyn Barrington-Carlson.

"All the user needs to do is input the crime incident file," she said. The "space analyzer" program determines which incidents belong in the ellipse hot spot and provides the parameters of the ellipse.

Automating the ellipse hot spot procedure for the microcomputer was essential for transforming the ellipse hot spot from a theoretical tool for spatial crime analysis into a practical tool for law enforcement, according to Authority analysts.

"Spatial analysis and mapping are better done locally on a microcomputer than on a mainframe computer system because of the large amount of processing involved," said Ms. Barrington-Carlson "Graphics and mapping can tie up a mainframe computer for a long time."

Development of a graphics mapping component for the ellipse hot spot program is in its final stages. An interface between the space analyzer program and a commercial mapping program for the microcomputer is being written, and fully automatic mapping of the ellipse hot spot will be possible by the end of 1988.

Before the year is over, Authority ana-

lysts expect to submit to the Bureau of Justice Statistics the ellipse hot spot software package, which will be available in the public domain for use by law enforcement agencies.
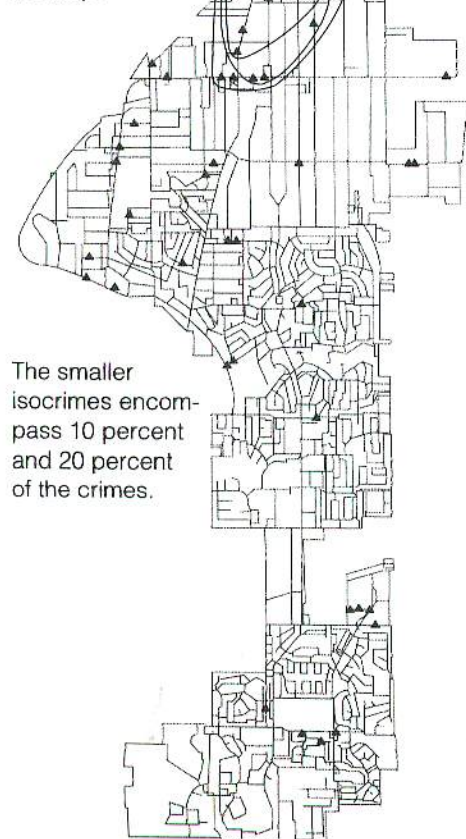
Isocrimes

Isocrimes are based on an interpretation of spatial crime patterns that is very different from the hot spot perspective. The ellipse hot spot is drawn using only those incidents that make up the densest area of crime in a community, while isocrimes describe the pattern of crime in the community as a whole, taking all incidents on the map into account.

"The isocrime answers the specific question, 'Which section of town contains,

Isocrimes

The outer isocrime defines the area that contains the most closely grouped 30 percent of all the crimes on the map.

The smaller isocrimes encompass 10 percent and 20 percent of the crimes.

for example, 25 percent of the crimes?'" said Mr. Spring.

By using an isopleth, a line connecting points that relate to one another (for example, the line used to show specific elevations on a contour, or topographical, map), the pattern of crime incidents can be defined in "rings of density."

First, according to Dr. Block, Authority analysts use a computer program to find the most tightly clustered 30 percent of crime incidents in a community. Then they can find 10 percent, 25 percent, 40 percent, or whatever percentage of crimes they want from the centroid—the point closest to every other point within the 30 percent range. The lines drawn around the various percentages of incidents are isopleths, or isocrimes.

The location of the initial isocrime's centroid depends on the percentage chosen, according to Dr. Block. "The centroid of the tightest 10 percent of crime incidents may be different than the centroid of the tightest 30 percent, depending on the pattern of crime," she said.

Unlike ellipses, isocrimes can be compared from map to map (as long as the centroids are based on the same percentage of crime incidents).

"This is helpful for observing the pattern of isocrimes in a community over time, or for comparing isocrimes for one type of crime to isocrimes for another type of crime," said Dr. Block.

Automatic mapping of isopleths is not viable until a mathematical formula for defining isopleths is developed, according to Dr. Block. Still, isocrimes present a useful interpretation of crime incident data in addition to the ellipse, and the problem of mapping isocrimes deserves further research, she said.

"Our ultimate goal is to develop a package of computer programs that will provide an array of spatial crime pattern interpretations," said Dr. Block. "The hot spot and the isocrime are different perspectives on the same important law enforcement question: where is crime happening in our community?" ■

Information in a police emergency

Schultz: I had already dispatched an ambulance to the fire. Then I had one shooting and had to have a second ambulance. When there was a report of multiple shootings, I knew we would need even more ambulances. So I just automatically went to a MABAS ambulance box. This got me ambulances from Wilmette and every place around within a given area here. They responded to their staging area. One of our firemen was out there to direct them [as to] which scene they should go to.

Timm: MABAS is a mutual aid box alarm system for fire personnel. MABAS takes in all the fire departments in Cook County and some in Lake County. When [a dispatcher] puts a box alarm in, they know how many people are supposed to respond. He no longer has to communicate. Red Center, which is in Glenview, does it. They take over control of the response in terms of fire.

Schultz: I couldn't have handled fire. After the main dispatch and that call for 10 ambulances, let's say, there was no way I could keep track of where these ambulances were coming from and everything else, and still be able to keep on top of what was happening in this town.

Compiler: *Besides equipment, you must have needed additional personnel, especially as you began to realize the gravity of the situation. How did you go about notifying your staff?*

Sumner: We can pick up 18 of our personnel, our key personnel, generally supervisors and evidence technicians, on pagers. We can dial one number to activate all pagers at once, which we wound up doing.

Timm: I was not hesitant to use the news media either. I realized this was becoming a very big situation. I felt that as the information went out, the news media would not only inform our citizens, but also get information out to law enforcement personnel

> "The SWAT team had to have certain information. Who do we have here? What's her background? What are her tendencies? Who does she know that we can bring here to help us with negotiations or whatever?"
>
> —Chief Herbert Timm
> Winnetka Police Department

throughout the area about the seriousness of this. And most of them started arriving on their own, rather than being called out.

Compiler: *What was the setup for directing officials arriving at the scene and for gathering and sharing information?*
Timm: We initially set up a command post at the school. Then about 40 minutes later, when we found out we had a hostage situation and a shooting [at the home on Kent Road], I sent Lieutenant Sumner over there to take charge of that. He set up a separate command post, actually two command posts.
Sumner: For the first command post we basically commandeered a house at 4 Kent Road [near the standoff]. And Illinois Bell started dropping separate [telephone] lines in the house for us. But from that location I really couldn't control the manpower coming in. I actually moved to a street corner. That way I could control the manpower.

Compiler: *What about communications capabilities?*
Timm: Had we not had a couple things— had we not had the portable radio systems and had we not had the portable telephones —we couldn't have operated. We had just installed portable telephones in two cars. We also had three additional portables that we could carry. And some of the responding units had portable telephones too. . . .

There were two offices at the command post in the Hubbard Woods School. I said, 'Great. We're going to have communications capability.' And I looked at the phone, and it was a simple telephone with eight buttons on it and all of them were lit up, so I

knew I couldn't use that phone. So without our portable telephones, we couldn't have operated.

Compiler: *With so many units responding, how were you able to handle radio communications?*
Sumner: Once we were at the scene, it was obvious we were going to have a lot of people. At that point, I told Gary [Schultz] to notify all people working this case to switch over to the tactical channel, which got us off the working frequency so we were by ourselves. That was a big help.

We gave radios to the SWAT team that we had there. I could have put them on 6 [the tactical channel], but I felt they needed more privacy and unobstruction than we did, so I put them on channel 1. Our dispatchers have the capabilities of reaching all those frequencies.
Timm: We're extremely lucky that we have multiple frequencies to jump to. If you had gone back 15, 20 years, when we had one frequency and that was it, it would have been chaotic. There's no way we could have worked this whole thing on one frequency.

Compiler: *When did you identify the offender as Laurie Dann, and how were you able to make that identification?*
Timm: About an hour into this situation, I was standing in front of the school, trying to handle the media and the parents and the crime scene that was going on there. The fire marshal came up to me and said, 'I think this arson is connected to the shooting because the woman indicates that her baby-

sitter apparently went berserk and she was the one who started that fire.' He said she's 30 years old, and her name is Laurie Porter.

Standing next to me was a Glencoe detective who had been working with Laurie Dann for over a year. He said, 'Oh my God,' got in his car and drove right to the scene [of the fire]. He said to the woman who was being taken care of by paramedics, 'What was the girl's name?' She said, 'Laurie Porter,' and he said, 'Boy, that's good.' Then he said, 'Wait a minute. Was her phone number 835-such-'n-such and such-'n-such?' And the woman said, 'Yeah. How did you know?' He said, 'My God, that's Laurie Dann.'

So he went back to Glencoe, which is about a mile away, got a photograph of Laurie Dann along with some identifiers, and came back to the scene [at the school]. He showed the photograph to Amy Moses, who is the teacher in the room where the shootings took place, and Amy said, 'That's her.' Eventually we would have gotten that information, but he [the Glencoe officer] just happened to be standing next to me.

Compiler: *So you had her identified. What next?*
Timm: The SWAT team had to have certain information. Who do we have here? What's her background? What are her tendencies? Who does she know that we can bring here to help us with negotiations or whatever? Now we got into some really interesting information sharing, because the Glencoe detective was already working with the FBI on Laurie Dann. You see, Laurie Dann had moved out of the jurisdiction and had been in Madison [Wisconsin]. The Glencoe officer was surprised she was back in town, so he called the FBI office.

About three or four [FBI] agents came from Des Plaines. They stayed with Joe Sumner at the command post and staging area, and began assisting in the development of intelligence information for us. They were in continual communication with their agents in Madison.

[The agents in Madison] went into her

flat and discovered a list of people and information on poisoning. Of course, we didn't know what significance it had then. The agents were also able to identify her psychiatrist up there and were able to get in touch with him about her tendencies. He gave us some information that she had a tendency to not answer, for even days if necessary. She would go into a closet and she would refuse to answer. So although we couldn't communicate with her, we found out that wasn't unusual.

Compiler: *Chief, with all of this information coming in to the hostage scene from so many sources and with you at the school, how were you getting the information that you in turn were communicating back to the media?*

Timm: [Joe and I] were constantly communicating by radio. Eventually, however, I cleared the school scene and went to the other tactical scene. There I stood next to Joe and to an FBI agent, who was communicating with the Chicago office, with Washington, D.C., and with Madison. . . .

The media themselves were very helpful to me sometimes. They'd ask a question, 'Well, chief, what about this?' And I'd say, 'We're looking into that right now,' and then go back to Joe and have him check on it. Sometimes they have better intelligence sources than we do.

Schultz: The media would come up later in the afternoon and try to get me to answer some questions. They'd come up with a question—things that I knew [our officers] didn't know in the field—and I'm thinking to myself, 'Where are you hearing this?' It's not information that's coming from the field because it's not that kind of information. I would listen to the question, but would not comment on it. If it sounded like anything [important], I would pass it on [to the field].

Compiler: *Did you run computerized background checks, LEADS and NCIC, on Ms. Dann, and what, if anything, did they tell you?*

Winnetka Police Chief Herbert Timm and Lieutenant Joe Sumner look over the 12 volumes of documentation compiled by a task force that investigted the Laurie Dann incident. *(Photo by Kevin P. Morison)*

Timm: We ran NCIC checks. We ran LEADS checks.

Schultz: She was facing charges at the time from other areas like Arizona, but those charges were not anywhere in the system yet. The FBI didn't have those types of files available through NCIC because those were pending cases.

Sumner: A big thing with her too is that because we identified her so early on, we had more personal contacts rather than computer contacts as far as who she was and what her background was. So there wasn't that much need to go into computer checks on her.

Compiler: *Should more of this type of intelligence information, the information you gathered through personal contacts, be centralized on a computer? Can it be?*

Timm: In this case, the information wasn't centralized. Certain parts were known in Glencoe. Certain parts were known in Madison. They did not get together. Had they gotten together with that information earlier, this might not have happened because she would have been housed in a mental institution.

Sumner: It was very very fortunate that the one particular officer from Glencoe wasn't on vacation that day. Glencoe knew who

she was. I'm sure any officer in Glencoe probably knew who she was. But we had nothing on her at all. The problem is: how often does [intelligence information] get into the computer? We could have run a computer check and gotten nothing back— we didn't get anything back.

Timm: I don't know the intricacies of all the proscriptions there are in terms of what records go into [criminal justice] computer systems, but the more information the better. There's a lot of paranoia about how we're going to abuse this, but we found out we've got to have greater access to a lot of that mid-point information that hasn't reached conviction and incarceration. The fact that she had a mental history, the fact that she had police contacts but no arrests— nobody knew all that.

Sumner: Another problem is that there's no way to check on mental hospital records. That's a big problem.

Compiler: *After the incident, you formed a task force to investigate the incident further. What information needs did you have, and what approaches did you use?*

Timm: Of course, we were not dealing with a shooting and a fire anymore. We were dealing with a poisoning situation. So we had to develop lines of communication

After the emergency— 12 volumes of documentation

Winnetka Police Sergeant Patricia McConnell was one of the nearly 300 public safety officials who responded in various capacities to the Laurie Dann incident last May 20. But for Sergeant McConnell, that day—and the weeks that followed—were particularly challenging, if not downright hectic.

Sergeant McConnell was one of the first officers to arrive at the Hubbard Woods Elementary School after Ms. Dann opened fire there, killing one child and seriously wounding five others. After quickly surveying the situation, the 10-year police veteran organized the crime scene and broadcast a description of the offender over the police radio.

Later, she helped coordinate the 26-member task force that produced 12 volumes of written documentation about the incident and the investigation that followed.

On September 25, Sergeant McConnell's efforts earned her some well-deserved recognition: the Illinois Female Police Officer of the Year Award from Illinois Women in Law Enforcement. FBI Director William Sessions presented the award during a ceremony in Atlanta.

Sergeant McConnell was nominated for the award by her chief, Herbert Timm, who called her "an inspiration to all women—and men—in police work." *K.M.*

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throughout he country, because there were [tainted] packages that went to Los Angeles, Phoenix, Madison, and of course throughout the North Shore. We had to coordinate getting information out, and again we used the press I think very well to do that, to advise people not to use this stuff.

We also had so much information that we had to coordinate and get on paper. We had to go to Madison, Wisconsin, to do a background investigation. We sent a team to Phoenix. We had the FBI, of course, coordinating with us in those locations. We were searching the rest of the country. We had to get background information on her, which included of course an autopsy, and which included personal contacts. We had to see if she worked alone. Were there accomplices? Could one person really do this? Analyzing all of this, getting the feelers out to every location, with the postal authorities, with individuals who had [tampered foods] hand-delivered at their homes . . . it was just an incredible operation. . . .

PIMS (the Authority's Police Information Management System) was used during the investigation, the follow-up, very extensively, especially for record checks of the other towns. There was another girl whose name came up in this. We used PIMS for checking up on her as well. We also ran some M.O. (modus operandi) checks.

Compiler: *You were dealing with dozens of agencies, both criminal justice and otherwise, throughout the incident and follow-up investigation. How would you describe the level of cooperation?*
Timm: Absolute cooperation. We got cooperation from state, federal, county, and local agencies, and from our citizens. We didn't have to ask half of these people; they volunteered many things. And they weren't afraid to share information. Very often in investigations, people hold information. There was none of that here. There was open cooperation, including from the FBI. They get a bum rap sometimes that they are reluctant to share information. But we got great cooperation from them, and that's essential.

The criminal justice community has got to learn—and in some cases we already have—there can't be a hesitancy to share information. Everyone was also willing to give us personnel. You just can't have the machinery. You have to have the personnel to operate it, to sift through the information,

to think of other media of information to access. Just the fact that you've computerized something, or put it on a system, isn't enough. You've got to have the people there.

Compiler: *What information tools proved to be most valuable?*
Timm: Obviously 911 was very important. The fact that we had sufficient telephones available to us in our command center here, even though those were totally overloaded, was also important. The portable telephones were absolutely critical, and so were the portable radios. We couldn't have operated without them. But those kinds of things just about everybody has now.

Compiler: *What information tools, then, didn't you have but could have used?*
Timm: We could have used greater access to computerized information through MDTs (mobile data terminals). That would have saved an awful lot of radio traffic back to our communications center if officers [at the scene] could have accessed files themselves.

We also have to develop in this area a more mobile and well-equipped mobile communications center for emergency operations. We realized there has to be a greater channeling of information—all communications—through the command post, rather than going from an individual at the scene to our telecommunicators [at the police station]. It got too confusing that way, and we weren't able to coordinate communications as well as we wanted to.

We're going to try to get a communications van that we can share with other agencies in the area that would have duplicated fire and police frequencies with everyone, with MABAS radios, with mobile telephones, and obviously able to house dispatch personnel that we would have come to the scene. And it would also have computer link-ups in there and adequate telephones, and be big enough to accommodate the number of command personnel that would have to be there. ■

Neighborhood Watch works

Logic says it should. Experience says it does.

"We are continuing to see a very encouraging trend in the area of residential burglary which started in the early part of 1987," Champaign police crime analyst Gary Spear recently wrote to Champaign Neighborhood Watch members.

Reported residential burglary declined by 35 percent from 1986 to 1987, according to Mr. Spear, and is continuing to decline in 1988. In the first five months of 1988, there were 242 residential burglaries, compared to 322 during the first five months of 1987, a reduction of 25 percent.

In the first five months of 1986 there were 487 residential burglaries, according to Mr. Spear—a total reduction from 1986 to 1988 of 50 percent.

"It is clear the partnership of citizens and police can have an impact on the city's crime rate," Mr. Spear concluded.

The Champaign experience echos the results reported in a recent National Institute of Justice publication. Researchers who surveyed more than 600 Neighborhood Watch groups found the following:

◆ Neighborhood Watch can produce at least short-term reductions in certain types of crime, particularly residential burglary.

◆ Neighborhood Watch programs are more likely to be effective when they are part of general issue or multi-issue community groups, rather than when they address crime problems in isolation.

◆ Participation in Neighborhood Watch tends to increase awareness of crime as a problem, but effects on fear of crime are uncertain.

Two other findings of the study are particularly interesting: virtually all of the programs surveyed received startup and ongoing advice from a local police or sheriff's department; and fewer than half of the responding programs received financial assistance during startup.

For copies of the study, *Improving the Use and Effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch*, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland, 20850, 800-851-3420. Ask for publication number NCJ-108618.

Wanted: Nominees for crime prevention awards

For the fourth straight year, Governor James R. Thompson and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority invite nominations for the Governor's Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Community Crime Prevention.

These annual awards recognize the efforts of citizens, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, businesses, and news media who work hard to keep our communities safe.

Each nomination must contain descriptive information about the nominee and a narrative justification describing the activities for which the person or organization is being nominated.

To obtain a nomination form, or for more information, call 1-800-4-MCGRUFF.

The Authority's Barbara McDonald presents a raffle prize at the kick-off of Chicago's No Crime Week in August. *(Photo courtesy of Chicago Police Department)*

October is Crime Prevention Month

Governor James R. Thompson on September 15, 1988, declared October 1988 to be Crime Prevention Month in Illinois. Here is the text of the Governor's proclamation:

WHEREAS, local law enforcement personnel in Illinois have been in the forefront of efforts to prevent crime; and

WHEREAS, police cannot be everywhere and need help to prevent crime; and

WHEREAS, citizens can take steps to protect themselves, their property and their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Illinois citizens and law enforcement personnel working together can prevent crime in their communities; and

WHEREAS, McGruff, the "Spokesdog" for the National Crime Prevention Council, encourages everyone to "Take a Bite Out of Crime" in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, crime prevention is truly everyone's business and merits the participation of citizens, law enforcement personnel, businesses, media, civic groups, and public officials;

THEREFORE, I, James R. Thompson, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim October 1988 as Crime Prevention Month in Illinois in conjunction with the national observance. I urge all citizens, law enforcement personnel, businesses, media, civic groups and public officials to make crime prevention their business and to join with McGruff in commemorating this month.

Turn the page for more crime prevention news.

Governor Thompson reappoints Court of Claims chief justice

Governor **James R. Thompson** has reappointed **James S. Montana** of Highland Park chief justice of the Illinois Court of Claims. ... The governor also appointed Champaign County Sheriff **Joseph T. Brown** and reappointed Mattoon Mayor **Roger W. Dettro**, Riverside Police Chief **Donald Doneske**, and Carbondale Police Chief **Edward Hogan** to the Illinois Local Governmental Law Enforcement Officers Training Board.

Daley to be new president of National District Attorneys Association

Cook County State's Attorney (and Authority Member) **Richard M. Daley** will become president of the 7,000-member National District Attorneys Association for 1989-1990. Lake County State's Attorney (and Authority Member) **Fred Foreman** is the group's current president. ... In addition, Mothers Against Drunk Driving presented a special appreciation award to State's Attorney Daley for victim assistance advocacy and for vigorously prosecuting drunken drivers.

LaSalle County prosecutors receive state arson awards

Governor Thompson's Arson Advisory Board has granted special awards to LaSalle County State's Attorney **Gary L. Peterlin** and three of his top assistants in recognition of "their diligent prosecutorial efforts, resulting in 100 percent conviction in nine arson cases tried in 1986 and 1987."

New leadership at INTERPOL, ACA

Illinois State Police Master Sergeant **Adron E. Cross** was appointed assistant chief of the U.S. National Central Bureau of INTERPOL in Washington D.C. Mr. Cross will be responsible for development and implementation of the State Liaison Program, which promotes the exchange of criminal investigative information between the 50 states and the other countries that belong to INTERPOL.

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Samuel Sublett, Jr., accreditation manager and juvenile policy advisor for the Illinois Department of Corrections, was sworn in as president of the American Correctional Association in August.

Upcoming events

The Albany County (N.Y.) Rape Crisis Center presents "Beyond Disclosure: The Aftermath of Sexual Assault," a discussion of the legal, mental health, and societal consequences of disclosure, November 2-3, in Albany, New York. For more information call 518-447-7100, or write the Albany County Rape Crisis Center, 112 State Street, Albany, New York, 12207.

The American Correctional Association will hold its 1989 winter conference, January 16-19, in San Antonio, Texas. For information contact the ACA at 4321 Hartwick Road, Suite L-208, College Park, Maryland, 20740, 301-699-7600.

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The 15th Annual North American Victim Assistance Conference will be held August 6-12, 1989, in Chicago. For information, call Eileen J. Murphy at 312-890-7200.

Crime Prevention, continued

October's crime prevention publication

McGruff's Home Safe Game offers tips for a safe Halloween, too.

Don't be left out...

It's time—time to order crime prevention materials for 1989. During 1989, as it has for the past three years, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority will be offering brochures and other publications in bulk to law enforcement departments throughout Illinois.

In 1988, 465 departments are distributing more than 5 million pieces of literature, bringing the total given to interested citizens, civic groups, and school children since 1986 to 12 million.

As in the past, topics of interest to children, senior citizens, and community groups will be included in the materials, which will be mailed directly to participating departments. These are the topics being considered for 1989:

◆ McGruff Child Safety Coloring Books
◆ Winners Don't Use Drugs
◆ Be Safe on the Streets
◆ Shoplifting Costs Us All
◆ Vacation Safety Tips
◆ Be a Smart Senior
◆ Halloween Safety Game
◆ Back to School Tips

For more information about participating in the Authority's crime prevention campaign, call 1-800-4-MCGRUFF.

Editor's Note

By now you've probably noticed something different about this issue of *The Compiler*. The newsletter has grown to 20 pages (up from 16), and it sports a new design that, we hope, makes the publication more inviting to read and easier to use.

Our front page now highlights what's inside the issue. Next come news briefs, followed by our more in-depth feature articles, and then information about crime prevention, people, events, and publications. Finally, our new back page, *Trends*, provides baseline statistics about Illinois' criminal justice system.

With all the changes, some things remain the same, however. *The Compiler* will continue to be published quarterly and distributed free of charge. We still welcome your comments about our newsletter and your ideas for how we can better serve our readers.

Kevin P. Morison, Senior Editor

Bureau of Justice Statistics on the state of crime and justice

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has released three new reports on the state of crime and justice in the country. *Report to the Nation on Crime and Justice, Second edition* (NCJ-105506) updates BJS's 1983 statistical portrait of crime and criminal justice. The new edition has expanded coverage of homicide, robbery, and burglary; drunken driving; white-collar crime; high-technology crime; organized crime; police deployment; sentencing practices; correctional crowding; recidivism; and the cost of crime.

Additional data on prison crowding, sentencing, victims, and other key issues facing criminal justice policymakers are summarized in BJS's *1987 Annual Report* (NCJ-109928). This report also describes BJS's services to state and local officials and the public. The data sections of the annual report have been excerpted into the *BJS Data Report 1987* (NCJ-100643).

For copies of any of these reports contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland, 20850, 800-732-3277.

Controlling drug abuse and crime: a manual for police chiefs and sheriffs

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has released a new publication outlining comprehensive enforcement and community approaches to more effective control of drug abuse and crime. *Reducing Crime by Reducing Drug Abuse: A Manual for Police Chiefs and Sheriffs* is a 166-page manual resulting from a cooperative effort between the IACP, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance. The manual contains four sections which discuss the link between drugs and crime, development of criminal justice and community plans to fight drugs, and perspectives on anti-drug efforts. For more information about the manual contact Dawn Phoubandith, IACP Drug Strategy Project, 13 Firstfield Road, P.O. Box 4066, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878, 301-948-0922.

Three new publications available from the Authority

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has published three new advisories—two on criminal history information in Illinois and one on electronically monitored home confinement.

◆ *Illinois' Computerized Criminal History Information System: An Overview* outlines recent reporting modifications to the state's Computerized Criminal History system, which maintains criminal history record information, and recent changes in the scope and content of responses to criminal history information requests.

◆ *The Illinois Facsimile Network* describes the role of the state's fingerprint facsimile network in identifying and processing criminal offenders and describes the Authority's recent upgrade and expansion of the network.

◆ *Electronically Monitored Home Confinement in Illinois* provides an overview of electronic monitoring, both in Illinois and the rest of the nation, and describes the basic types of monitoring systems in use in criminal justice today.

For free copies of any of these advisories, contact Olga McNamara at the Authority, 312-793-8550.

AIDS in prisons: Two informational brochures

The National Prison Project (NPP) of the American Civil Liberties Union has released two new publications on AIDS in prison.

AIDS & Prisons: The Facts for Inmates and Officers, is a 14-page educational booklet for prisoners, correctional staff, and AIDS service providers. Sample copies are free.

The summer 1988 issue of the NPP Journal contains a 1988 national survey of AIDS in prison. The survey gives a state-by-state breakdown of prison policies and procedures on the treatment of AIDS-infected prisoners. Copies of the journal are $5. For more information contact Judy Greenspan, National Prison Project, 1616 P Street, N.W., Suite 340, Washington, D.C., 20036, 202-331-0500.

Drug law enforcement equipment

The Technology Assessment Program (TAP) of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) recently prepared a list of publications to help law enforcement agencies select the most appropriate equipment for their drug law enforcement efforts.

The list includes 16 publications giving NIJ standards on topics ranging from body-worn FM transmitters to vehicle tracking devices. The list also includes publications on night-vision devices, voice privacy equipment, and 9mm/.45 caliber pistols.
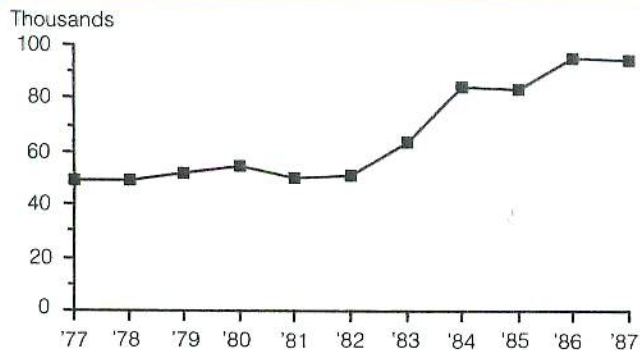
The list of TAP program publications is available from the National Institute of Justice/TAPIC, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland, 20850, 800-248-2742.

Trends

Trends is a new feature of The Compiler. It displays recent baseline statistics from various criminal justice agencies and program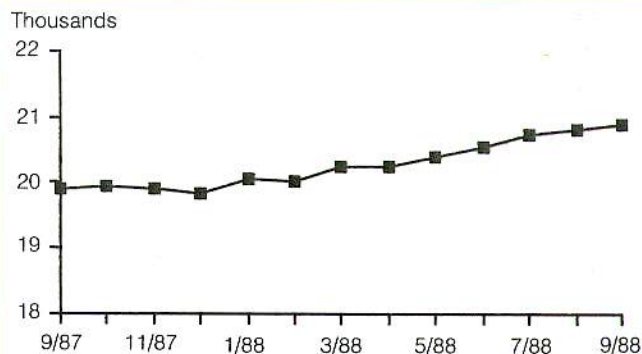s. Note that because graphs measure different aspects of the criminal justice system, the data from one graph should not be compared with data from other graphs.
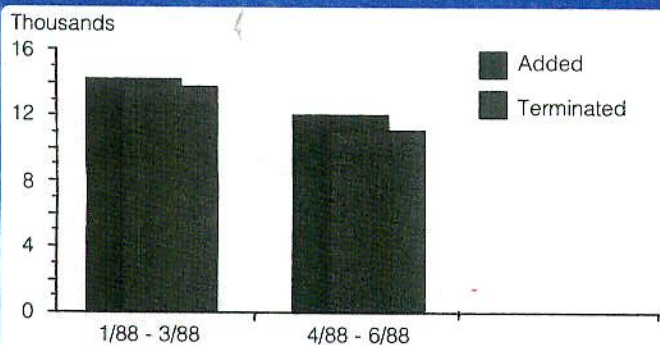
Reported violent crimes (statewide)

Thousands

(Line graph showing values from '77 to '87, starting near 48 in '77, relatively flat through '82, then rising to about 93 by '87)

Source: Illinois Uniform Crime Reports

State adult inmate population (end of month)

Thousands

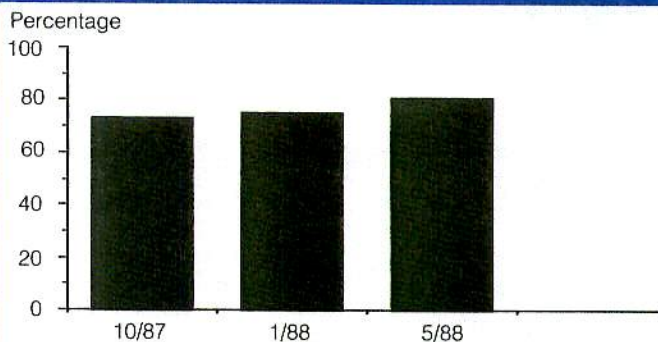(Line graph showing values from 9/87 to 9/88, starting near 20, rising to about 20.9 by 9/88)

Source: Illinois Department of Corrections
(Includes inmates in state and federal prisons and work release centers)

Felony court cases (statewide)

Thousands

Legend:
- Added
- Terminated

(Bar graph: 1/88 - 3/88 Added ~14, Terminated ~13.5; 4/88 - 6/88 Added ~12, Terminated ~11)

Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Drug-positive arrestees (all drugs)

Percentage

(Bar graph: 10/87 ~73, 1/88 ~74, 5/88 ~80)

Source: National Institute of Justice, Drug Use Forecasting
(Data obtained on each occasion from voluntary urine specimens from approximately 200 male arrestees in Chicago)

ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

120 South Riverside Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3997

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