

The Compiler



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Megan Moeller of Oak Lawn joins McGruff in Chicago's annual McDonald's Charity Christmas Parade in November. For more crime prevention news, see pages 6 and 7.

Statewide drug fight gains support from new federal program

By Sarah Dowse

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is preparing a statewide strategy for fighting drugs in Illinois, using more than \$10 million in federal, state, and local funds for criminal justice programs. Once completed, the plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice. State and local programs funded with the new money could begin by late spring, said J. David Coldren, executive director of the Authority.

"When Governor Thompson outlined his drug-abuse program last September, he made it clear that the battle against illegal drugs must be fought by local, state, and federal agencies alike," Director Coldren said. "These funds will accomplish that goal by allowing both state and local governments in Illinois to carry out

effective criminal justice programs aimed at drug traffickers and abusers."

The \$10.3 million grant includes \$7.7 million in federal funds, which are part of approximately \$20 million Illinois is receiving under the first year of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. The rest of the funding, which Congress and President Reagan approved last October, is for treatment, prevention, and education efforts being coordinated by the Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and the State Board of Education.

The federal legislation establishes seven areas in which the criminal justice funds may be used: apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, and detention of drug offenders; plant eradication efforts; rehabilitation for drug-dependent offenders; and demonstration programs in areas of

See *Drugs*, page 9

Broader access to conviction records urged by Authority

By Maureen Hickey

A bill that would allow private employers, citizens, the media, and government agencies to see the state conviction records of Illinois offenders is one of several measures the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority plans to submit to the Illinois General Assembly this spring.

The Authority's legislative package covers three broad information issues:

- Access to conviction information by non-criminal justice agencies.
- Access to juvenile justice information by victims.
- The quality of criminal history record information in Illinois.

All proposals have been submitted to the Governor's Office with the recommendation that they be introduced as administration bills during this legislative session.

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News in brief

DSP director nominated for federal judgeship

Illinois Director of State Police (and Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority member) **James B. Zagel** was nominated to a U.S. District Court judgeship by President Reagan in January. The appointment is subject to U.S. Senate confirmation. Director Zagel previously served as executive director of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, one of the Authority's predecessor agencies, and as Illinois director of revenue.



Director Zagel

Two PIMS sites win accreditation

The Palatine and Wilmette police departments — both users of the Authority's Police Information Management System — received the seal of approval from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in November, bringing the total number of accredited agencies in Illinois to four. The Illinois Department of State Police and the Schaumburg Police Department, also PIMS users, were accredited earlier in 1986.

"Accreditation is nationwide recognition that these agencies meet state-of-the-art standards for their policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services," said Ken Medeiros,

executive director of CALEA. "If they are accredited, their communities can rest assured that their law enforcement agency is doing everything currently recognized to provide professional, high-quality services."

Illinois, Florida, and Ohio currently lead the nation in law enforcement agencies seeking accreditation, with 49 each.

Danville prison accredited in record time

The Danville Correctional Center in September became the first prison in the nation to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections within one year of opening. The 900-bed, medium-security prison received its first inmates on Oct. 10, 1985. The commission found the prison to be in full compliance with 44 mandatory standards and to have an overall rating of 98 percent for all 495 standards it has established. The standards cover all prison operations, including security and fire-safety procedures, medical and dietary facilities, and visitation restrictions.

"We are very proud of the efforts made by the staff and inmates at the Danville prison," said Illinois Director of Corrections (and Authority member) **Michael P. Lane**. "Accreditation in such a short period of time is no small feat."

All IDOC facilities and programs — adult prisons, youth centers, work-release programs, and parole systems — are now accredited, with the exception of the Henry C. Hill Correctional Center in Galesburg, which opened in October.

DOJ establishes research and development board

U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III has created a criminal justice research and development board within the Department of Justice. "The board represents a major effort on our part to intensify and expand the application of science and technology to the problems of crime control," he said in a speech before the National Academy of Sciences.

The chairman of the new board is **Stephen S. Trott**, assistant attorney general for the department's criminal division, who will work with the heads of major criminal justice agencies to develop

scientific and research capabilities. The board will have three primary functions, Mr. Meese said: to coordinate and direct research activities within DOJ; to improve relations with private sector researchers; and to assess and review research needs with criminal justice practitioners.

Victim-offender program directory published

The National Victim-Offender Reconciliation Resource Center has published its second directory of victim-offender reconciliation and mediation programs in the United States, Canada, and England. The directory includes a variety of information about 47 programs currently operating and 13 more that are being developed.

Victim-offender reconciliation is a growing field, with attention focusing both on victims' needs and on increased offender accountability, said **John Gehm**, the directory's editor. Copies of the directory can be ordered from the PACT (Prisoner and Community Together) Institute of Justice, 901 Washington St., Box 177, Michigan City, Ind., 46360. The directory is also available through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service database.

People

Lake County State's Attorney (and Authority member)

Fred Foreman has been elected president of the Illinois State's Attorneys Association. Cook County State's Attorney **Richard M. Daley**, another member of the Authority, was chosen as the group's third vice president....

J. David Coldren, executive director of the Authority, has been named to the Law Enforcement Information Systems Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The committee serves as a liaison to the IACP regarding the use, development, and enhancement of high-technology data processing.... Authority



State's Attorney Foreman

States with most agencies seeking accreditation

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Illinois | 49 |
| Florida | 49 |
| Ohio | 49 |
| Massachusetts | 42 |
| Texas | 40 |
| Georgia | 28 |
| Virginia | 26 |
| New Jersey | 20 |
| Colorado | 19 |
| South Carolina | 12 |

Source: CALEA

Quality of arson statistics to improve

By Sarah Dowse

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has implemented a new reporting system designed to improve the quality of arson data across the nation.

Traditionally arson statistics have lacked the reliability and accuracy of other crime figures, largely because of changes in definitions and haphazard reporting by local agencies. But according to FBI officials, the new arson database will provide arson investigators, fire and law-enforcement officials, and legislators with better, more complete information. This in turn should improve their ability to identify the causes of arson and develop ways to deter it.

"Dependable arson data is essential for a successful, strategic, and defensive arson resistance program," the FBI said in a statement sent to agencies participating in the new program. "It is hoped that the information obtained may be utilized by local agencies in policy setting, planning efforts, and managerial decision-making regarding arson prevention, detection, and investigation."

When a fire breaks out and arson is suspected, local police often join fire officials in trying to determine details about the crime.

But when it comes to reporting data about arson incidents, the cooperation often ends, and lack of uniformity in reporting can be the result.

Police and sheriff's departments in Illinois report arson — since 1980 a Part I index crime — along with the other Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) statistics. This information is sent to the Illinois Department of State Police, which then forwards it to the FBI. The UCR information on arson provides only basic incident and arrest data.

Most fire departments, on the other hand, report statistics on all types of fires through another program, the National

Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), which is administered in Illinois by the State Fire Marshal's Office and nationally by the U.S. Fire Administration. These reports, however, contain virtually no details about arson fires.

The main weakness of both UCR arson reports and NFIRS reports is that neither provides much help to investigators trying to pinpoint long-term trends

specifically for arson investigators. Traditionally, he said, only aggregate data has been compiled: the number of arson incidents reported, the number of arrests that resulted from them, and property damage.

For the new database, agencies will collect incident-by-incident details of every arson incident, including:

- Background information about the suspected perpetrator.
- The suspected motive.
- The type of device used to start the fire and the accelerant that spread it.
- Injuries or deaths that resulted from the fire.
- The value of property damaged or lost due to "exposure fires" (when an adjacent building, automobile, etc., catches fire as part of the incident).
- The perpetrator's progression through the criminal justice system, including court dispositions and sentences.

"This information will be of tremendous value to fire and law enforcement officials, who we expect will benefit most from this improved reporting system," Mr.

Wilson said. State and local legislators — as well as the insurance industry — may also find the data useful, he added.

In return for using the new reporting system, participating agencies will receive periodic statistical reports from the FBI. Mr. Wilson also said the FBI plans to produce its first annual report this year containing aggregate arson information from around the country. □

For more information about the new arson reporting program, write the Special Programs Unit-Arson, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., 20535, or call 202-324-2614.

| ARSON INCIDENT REPORT | | FD-204 (4-4-85) Form Approved OMB No. 1110-0013 | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Report <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental/Amended Report | | | |
| Name of the reporting agency: _____ | | | |
| Agency: _____ | | Telephone Number: _____ | |
| Address: _____ | | City/State/Zip: _____ | |
| OFFENSE DATA | | | |
| 1. Date of Offense: _____ | | | |
| 2. Location: _____ | | | |
| 3. Type of Offense: _____ | | | |
| 4. Description of Offense: _____ | | | |
| 5. Value of Property Damaged: _____ | | | |
| 6. Injuries or Deaths: _____ | | | |
| 7. Other Information: _____ | | | |
| OFFENDER DATA | | | |
| 8. Name of Offender: _____ | | | |
| 9. Address of Offender: _____ | | | |
| 10. Date of Birth: _____ | | | |
| 11. Sex: _____ | | | |
| 12. Race: _____ | | | |
| 13. Height: _____ | | | |
| 14. Weight: _____ | | | |
| 15. Hair Color: _____ | | | |
| 16. Eye Color: _____ | | | |
| 17. Other Information: _____ | | | |

The FBI's new arson reporting form will collect detailed information about both offenses and offenders.

in the nature of arson and the behavior of arsonists, according to officials.

"A police department doesn't have the same incentive as a fire department to get the best information possible on arson," said FBI Special Agent Harper Wilson, the bureau's assistant UCR chief. "That's why we don't have confidence in arson statistics as opposed to others."

The new arson system will collect detailed information about both arson offenses and offenders. Mr. Wilson said the new reporting form differs from previous UCR arson reports and from the NFIRS system because it includes a wider variety of information designed speci-

Priorities set for criminal justice, victims' programs

By Kevin Morison

A statewide crime prevention campaign, information systems for state and local criminal justice agencies, and direct services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are among the activities that Illinois' share of federal funds for criminal justice and crime victims' programs should support, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has decided.

For a second year, the Authority is administering two federal block grants in Illinois: the Justice Assistance Act (JAA) and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). The state is receiving approximately \$1.8 million in JAA funds and \$1.4 million in VOCA money during the current federal fiscal year. Both amounts represent about a 20 percent decrease from first-year funding levels.

Eighteen types of programs are eligible for funding under the JAA. In December, Authority members voted to concentrate second-year JAA money on the same four program areas funded during the first year. The U.S. Department of Justice, which administers both the JAA and VOCA programs nationally, awarded the Illinois block grant in February, and specific programs could begin in early spring, said Authority Chairman William Gould.

The four JAA priorities are:

- *Community crime prevention efforts.* Last year, the Authority kicked off a statewide crime prevention campaign featuring McGruff, the "spokesdog" of the National Crime Prevention Council. As

part of that campaign, 3 million crime prevention brochures were distributed to more than 350 local law enforcement agencies throughout the state, and approximately 500 people attended four training seminars held throughout the state.

- *Information and workload management systems.* With the first-year funds, information systems are already being installed in the offices of 11 state's attorneys, three sheriffs, and one state agency, and several more criminal justice agencies have been designated to receive such systems.

- *Identification and processing of serious offenders.* Cook County and Chicago authorities are using first-year funds to gather and update information about serious offenders in that part of the state.

- *Training and technical assistance for criminal justice personnel.* Specialized domestic violence training for state's attorneys and crime prevention courses for police and citizens are among the training programs supported during the first year.

Also in December, the Authority voted to stick with the same four VOCA priorities funded during the first year of that program:

- *Direct services to crime victims, especially victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse.* Among other things, first-year funds were used to help domestic violence victims obtain orders of protection and to encourage rape victims to participate in

court proceedings.

- *Victim assistance efforts.* Using first-year funds, 10 state's attorneys hired staff devoted specifically to coordinating the role of crime victims in their counties.

- *Training of people who serve crime victims.* Programs to explain the needs of crime victims to both service providers and criminal justice professionals were funded during the first year.

- *Victim education and recruitment of volunteer helpers.* First-year efforts included publicizing Illinois' Bill of Rights for Victims and Witnesses of Violent Crimes and other legislation affecting victims.

The Authority's decision to continue the same JAA and VOCA programs was based in part on the testimony of 57 people who participated in four public hearings the Authority held last October, Chairman Gould said.

"Witnesses generally endorsed our current priorities," he said. "Many law enforcement officials said crime prevention materials simply would not be available in their communities without the federal support. Others said VOCA funds, besides helping victims directly, were indirectly helping the system as well by prompting victims to cooperate with criminal justice authorities."

The chairman said some witnesses also suggested new ideas for using the federal funds. For example, the Authority was urged to use JAA money to support interdisciplinary training, not just specialized courses for one part of the criminal justice system. Other witnesses said services to both male crime victims and gay and lesbian victims needed to be strengthened. Chairman Gould said these ideas will be considered within the context of the endorsed priorities.

"I think our JAA and VOCA priorities are focused enough to effectively carry out Illinois' programs, yet broad enough to accommodate new ideas or approaches," he said. □

For a copy of the statewide plan, Report on the Justice Assistance and Victims of Crime Acts of 1984: Priority Program Recommendations, contact the Authority's Office of Federal Assistance Programs at 312-793-8550.

JAA/VOCA funding priorities

The Authority will concentrate second-year Justice Assistance Act and Victims of Crime Act funds on the following areas:

Justice Assistance Act

- ✓ Community crime prevention efforts.
- ✓ Information and workload management systems.
- ✓ Identification and processing of serious offenders.
- ✓ Training and technical assistance for criminal justice personnel.

Victims of Crime Act

- ✓ Direct services to crime victims, especially victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse.
- ✓ Victim assistance efforts.
- ✓ Training of people who serve crime victims.
- ✓ Victim education and recruitment of volunteer helpers.

Authority approves new fingerprint form

By Kevin Morison

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has approved a new arrest fingerprint form that agencies throughout the state will soon begin using to report arrests and dispositions to the Illinois Department of State Police (DSP).

Under Illinois law, the Authority is responsible for approving the format and manner of reports that arresting, prosecutorial, and correctional agencies submit to the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system, the state's central rap-sheet repository which is operated by DSP.

"Throughout the process of revising and approving the new arrest fingerprint card, the Authority tried to make sure the needs of local criminal justice agencies were met," said J. David Coldren, the Authority's executive director. "The new form not only includes the information the system needs, it also streamlines the data-gathering process."

Director Coldren said the new form was needed because the CCH system is being redesigned and because of problems with the existing arrest fingerprint card.

He said the biggest change in the new form is that the same multiple-copy document will be used by law enforcement agencies, state's attorneys, and courts alike. When police make an arrest and complete the form, they will send the appropriate copies to DSP and pass the remaining copies on to the state's attorney. Once the prosecutor decides whether or not to file charges, he will complete the appropriate copy of the form, mail it to DSP, and send the remaining copies to the court clerk. The courts will then use their copies to report both the initiation of the court case and the disposition. Having the court clerk report both case initiations and dispositions will make it easier to report and monitor dispositions.

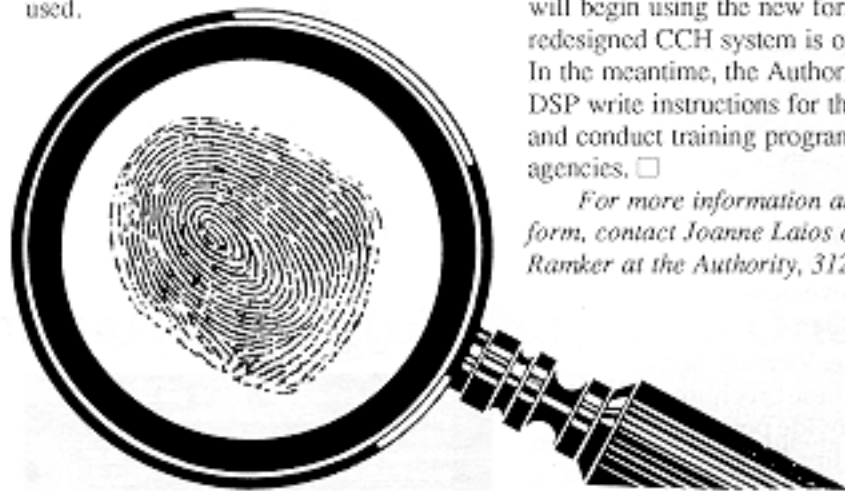
The main advantage of having a single form with multiple copies is that basic information the arresting agency collects about each suspect — name, race, sex, date of birth, etc. — will show up on all other copies of the form, according to Director Coldren. This prevents state's attorneys and court clerks from having to gather the same data again. In addition,

the document control number, which is used to link all criminal justice events associated with the same offender, will automatically appear on all copies of the form.

Another improvement is that most of the information collected on the new form will also appear on the rap sheets that local agencies get back from the state. Currently, agencies report certain information to the state that never shows up on CCH transcripts.

In addition, the new form will:

- Permit more than 65 specific codes for reporting dispositions, instead of the five general codes that are now used.



- Differentiate between arrests that originate with an arrest warrant and those that do not. This will provide criminal justice agencies with better information about a suspect's bail history.

- Enable law enforcement agencies not only to report arrests but also to request record checks.

- Identify more easily those cases in which a juvenile is being charged or tried as an adult.

- Allow arresting agencies to specify both misdemeanor charges they refer to the state's attorney and those they file directly with the court.

Director Coldren said local agencies will begin using the new form once the redesigned CCH system is operational. In the meantime, the Authority will help DSP write instructions for the new form and conduct training programs for local agencies. □

For more information about the new form, contact Joanne Laios or Gerry Ramker at the Authority, 312-793-8550.

Whiteside County prosecutor to install computerized information system

With the help of Justice Assistance Act (JAA) funds, the office of Whiteside County State's Attorney Gary L. Spencer will soon be installing a computerized information system that maintains prosecution records and automates the process of notifying victims and witnesses about pending cases.

Under an agreement signed with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in January, the prosecutor's office will receive \$23,000 in federal money to acquire the Authority's Rapid Automated Prosecution System (RAPS). The JAA funds will be used to purchase much of the equipment needed to operate the microcomputer-based system. Whiteside County will match the federal money with local resources to cover personnel

assigned to the system, users' fees, and miscellaneous supplies.

RAPS collects information about all criminal cases a state's attorney is prosecuting, generates schedules of upcoming events in each case, and maintains criminal history files on offenders who have been prosecuted. The system also stores information about victims and witnesses associated with each case and automatically produces notices informing them when specific events occur in their cases.

So far, 10 other state's attorneys' offices and the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, a state agency that assists county prosecutors with appeals, have been awarded JAA funds for RAPS. □

1987 crime prevention materials offered

This year, law enforcement agencies participating in the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's crime prevention campaign may order seven different crime prevention publications for distribution in their communities. The materials will be issued throughout the year, a different one about every other month.

The 1987 materials are the following:

☞ **February: Home Safety Checklist.** These brochures, which are intended for older children and adults, offer suggestions on how to secure your home against burglars.

☞ **March: "How not to be Conned" Bookmarks.** McGruff gives tips to adults on how to avoid being taken by con artists.

☞ **May: Bicycle Safety Bookmarks.** Designed for children, these bookmarks offer tips on safe riding and theft prevention; they can also be used as rulers.

☞ **June: Vacation Safety Brochures.** These brochures, aimed at adults, provide personal and property safety tips for travelers.

☞ **August: Neighborhood Watch Brochures.** These brochures tell neighbors how to work together to watch out for suspicious activities

in their communities.

☞ **September: Child Safety Tips.** McGruff's one-column safety tips are designed for "latchkey" children returning to school in the fall.

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST from McGRUFF



Look around your home. Would you be able to get in and out quickly and undetected? If your answer is yes, so could a burglar. Use this checklist to identify features in your home or daily routine of your family which might make your home an easy target for a burglar.

The Home Safety Checklist is the newest McGruff publication available from the Authority.

☞ **November: Holiday Safety Brochures.** These brochures for adults include information on how to watch for pickpocketing, con games, and other holiday-related crimes.

So far in 1987, approximately 400 Illinois police and sheriffs' departments have already ordered their McGruff materials from the Authority.

In 1986, Illinois law enforcement agencies distributed more than 3 million McGruff brochures and other materials covering a variety of topics.

Officers from many departments took these materials to schools to supplement safety talks they gave to children. Publications were also distributed at shopping malls, at county and local fairs, and to neighborhood watch and senior citizen groups. Law enforcement agencies found that just about anywhere people gather is a good place to talk about crime prevention. ☞

To order the 1987 materials, call Louise Miller at 1-800-4-MCGRUFF. There is room on the backs of all materials (except the bookmarks) for a department's name, address, or other safety message. There is no charge for any of these materials, which are available in bulk quantities.

New name reflects association's new image

The former Illinois Crime Prevention Officers Association officially unveiled its new name, the Illinois Crime Prevention Association, at the group's quarterly state meeting Feb. 25 in Pekin.

Last June, the association's membership voted to change the name to reflect the organization's evolution from a group representing mostly law enforcement officers to one including all types of crime prevention practitioners. At the same time, the group said it would attempt to continue to expand its membership by recruiting more citizens, businesses, and civic organizations that practice crime prevention in Illinois.

The association, formed in 1973 to promote statewide citizen participation in crime prevention methods and programs, originally included officers from law enforcement agencies with crime prevention bureaus.

The association provides in-service training in crime prevention and promotes communication among all types of crime prevention practitioners. At its statewide and regional meetings, members learn about new crime prevention techniques, programs, and other information. The association also publishes a monthly newsletter, the *Bureau Broadcaster*, which reports on member activities and other crime prevention news. ☞

For more information about the Illinois Crime Prevention Association, contact its president, Jim Kintz of the St. Charles Police Department, at 312-377-4435, or write ICPA, P.O. Box 426, Tinley Park, Ill., 60477.

Beginning with this issue, a special section of each *Compiler* will be devoted to crime prevention news. We welcome news about local crime prevention programs (including black-and-white photographs). Send to McGruff, 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Chicago, IL 60606-3997.

Louise Miller
Crime Prevention Editor

Message from McGruff

Want to know the best way to fight crime in your community? Be a good neighbor. All you need to stop many neighborhood crimes are your eyes, your ears, a little of your time, and a lot of caring about the well-being of your community. Good neighbors watch out and help out.

Since 1979, my crime prevention tips have helped people throughout the country reduce their chances for property loss and avoid injury and victimization. An impressive number of my friends in law enforcement, schools, and community groups have put these tips into practice.

But that's just a start. Take it from me — crime can still strike anyone, so crime prevention must be everyone's business.

Besides my general safety tips, every year I stress a particular message, like child safety, home burglary prevention, or neighborhood

watch. In 1987, through my new public service announcements featuring Dick Cavett, citizens are encouraged to "Watch Out and Help Out."

What do I mean by Watch Out, Help Out? I mean you should continue to take responsibility for your own personal safety, the safety of your family, and the security of your property and possessions. You should continue to watch out for yourself.

But your responsibility does not end there. Watch Out, Help Out also means that you are responsible for looking out for *your neighbors* as well. It means calling the police when you notice something suspicious in your neighborhood. And this works both ways: Your neighbors are responsible for looking out for you too! That's why citizens throughout Illinois and the United States have formed neighborhood watch groups and have cooperated with their

local law enforcement agencies.

When neighbors organize against crime, fear goes down, crime goes down, and neighbors get to know and trust one another. Confidence and pride increase, community ties grow stronger, and your neighborhood becomes a better place to live.

You folks out there have been doing a terrific job "taking a bite out of crime." People working together — people helping people — is a sure-fire way to keep crime down. I'm sure that 1987 will be another banner year for crime prevention as we all "Watch Out and Help Out."

Sincerely,



McGruff

Theme for '87 seminars is "Watch Out, Help Out"

For the second consecutive year, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is sponsoring a series of one-day seminars around the state for criminal justice officials, community leaders, citizens, and others interested in learning more about preventing crime. And again this year, each seminar will include the presentation of the Governor's Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Community Crime Prevention.

The 1987 seminars will be held April 7 in Decatur; May 14, Rock Island; May 29, Arlington Heights; and June 2, Mt. Vernon.

The theme of this year's seminars is "Watch Out, Help Out . . . Take a Bite Out of Crime." Seminar workshops will cover such topics as neighborhood watch, advanced program organizing, use of volunteers, and maintaining community efforts.

"At last year's seminars, law enforcement officials stressed the important role organized citizen groups play in helping them prevent crime," said J. David Coldren, the Authority's executive director.

"This year, we want to emphasize neighborhood watch by showing people how to organize and operate programs in their communities."

At each seminar, achievement awards will be presented to individuals and groups, both private and public, who have made outstanding contributions to crime prevention in their communities. Nominations

were solicited from hundreds of individuals and organizations throughout the state, and winners will be selected by an independent crime prevention advisory committee established by the Authority. ☺

There is no charge for attending either the seminars or the awards luncheons. If you are interested, call Louise Miller at 1-800-4-MCGRUFF.



McGruff waves to the crowd during Chicago's annual McDonald's Charity Christmas Parade in November.

Illinois juveniles arrested in disproportionate number

By Maureen Hickey

How much juvenile crime is there in Illinois? This question is difficult to answer, for two reasons.

First, there are no statewide statistics on the number of offenses committed by juveniles. An offense is recorded by the police when it is reported, before its perpetrator is known. The only measure of juvenile crime is the number of young people arrested in the state. In 1985, juveniles were involved in more than 89,400 arrests statewide, or slightly more than 20 percent of all arrests. More than 15,000 juvenile arrests, or about 17 percent of the juvenile total, were for felonies.

[Technically, juveniles in Illinois are not "arrested;" they are "taken into custody." "Arrest" is used as a record-keeping term for measuring the number of juveniles that police apprehend for unlawful activity in the state.]

Second, even arrest figures probably don't give an accurate picture of juvenile crime because many juvenile cases are handled informally by police without ever being recorded as arrests. This results in an undercounting of the actual number of juveniles taken into custody.

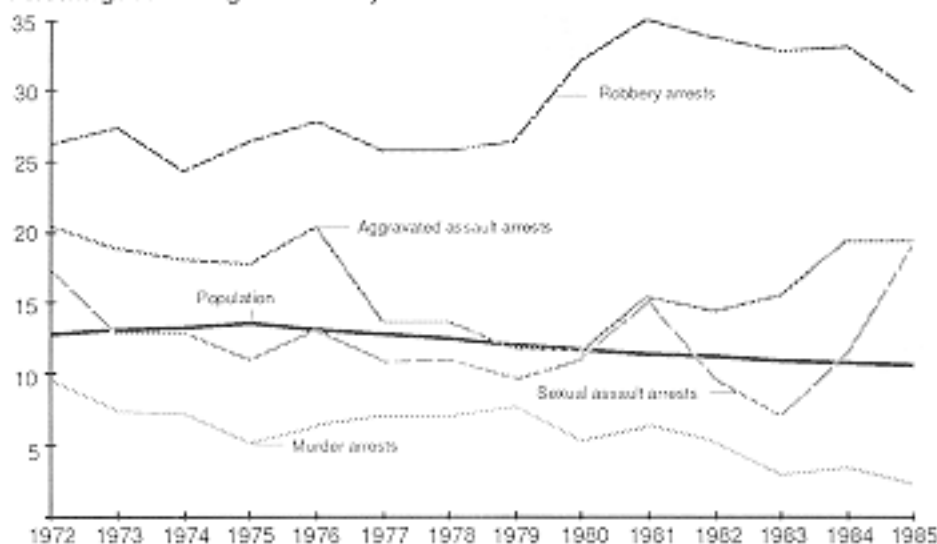
Despite these problems, statistics analyzed recently by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority show that juveniles are responsible for more than their statistical share of arrests in the state. In fact, juveniles have been involved in a disproportionately high number of arrests for most types of crimes since at least the early 1970s, according to figures contained in the Authority's forthcoming report, *Trends and Issues: Criminal and Juvenile Justice in Illinois*.

Juveniles aged 10 to 16 made up 13 percent of the total Illinois population in 1972. That percentage dropped to 11 percent in 1985.

But juveniles accounted for 42 percent of all arrests for burglary in 1972 and nearly 40 percent in 1985. The proportions of juveniles among those arrested for motor vehicle theft and larceny/theft have been similarly high. In 1985, juveniles accounted for 33 percent of all motor vehicle theft arrests and nearly 30 percent of all larceny/theft arrests.

Juveniles account for many violent crime arrests in Illinois.

Percentage consisting of 10- to 16-year-olds



Source: Illinois Uniform Crime Reports; Bureau of the Budget

Juveniles accounted for 70 percent of arrests for vandalism in 1975. Since then, that percentage has dropped significantly, but juveniles still account for 37 percent of vandalism arrests.

Juvenile arrests for most violent crimes are also disproportionately high. In addition, the proportion of violent crime arrests involving juveniles appears to be growing, even though their proportion of the population has declined in recent years.

From 1972 through 1979, juveniles accounted for between 24 percent and 28 percent of all robbery arrests. In 1980, that percentage rose to more than 32 percent, and has remained between 29 percent and 35 percent since then. Nearly 30 percent of all robbery arrests in 1985 involved juveniles.

Juveniles have also been involved in a disproportionately high number of aggravated-assault and sexual-assault arrests in recent years. After decreasing from 1972 to 1980, their percentage of aggravated-assault arrests has increased ever since, reaching 19 percent in 1985. And the percentage of sexual-assault arrests involving juveniles, which remained roughly proportional to their percentage of the population until 1984, rose sharply to 19 percent in 1985.

The percentage of juveniles involved

in murder arrests has always been less than their percentage of the population. Ten percent of all arrests for murder in 1972 involved juveniles. That figure gradually declined to 2 percent in 1985.

Surprisingly, the percentage of juveniles involved in drug-related offenses has remained close to or lower than their percentage of the population. In 1985, juveniles accounted for 13 percent of all cannabis arrests and 4 percent of all controlled substance arrests.

Still, some researchers suspect that these arrest figures do not accurately measure juvenile crime, since many juveniles who are taken into custody by police have their cases informally adjusted by youth officers without being sent to court. Not all local law enforcement agencies report these "station adjustments" to the Illinois Department of State Police, so it is impossible to determine the percentage of cases handled this way.

Chicago statistics, however, show how common station adjustments are. Three out of every four juveniles taken into custody in Chicago receive station adjustments, according to Lt. William Bransfield of the police department's Youth Division. That percentage has remained steady for the past several years, he said.

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Juveniles

Continued from page 8

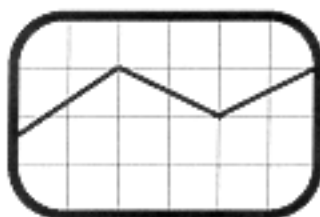
Station adjustments can be as simple as requiring a juvenile to cooperate more closely with his parents or as detailed as assigning a juvenile to a structured rehabilitation or counseling program. Such arrangements are not legally binding, but they require the cooperation of the juvenile. Station adjustments are used primarily for less serious cases, although there is no breakdown of the types of offenses in which they are used in Chicago.

Lt. Bransfield said the Chicago Police Department's juvenile officers learn during their training course the criteria for issuing station adjustments. These criteria include the seriousness of the crime, the juvenile's attitude, and any previous offenses on the juvenile's record.

The remaining 25 percent of the juveniles taken into custody in Chicago are referred to juvenile court.

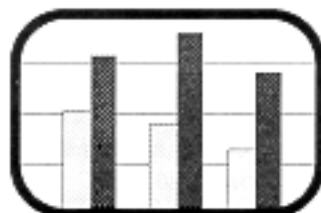
Attention to the difficulties in measuring juvenile crime comes at a time of heightened public concern over it. A 1986 study by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Institute of Justice warned that a significant number of juvenile offenders become career criminals as adults. The study recommended that adult and juvenile records be "connected" so that officials can better understand the relationship between juvenile delinquency and adult criminality. In this way, the study said, criminal patterns can be detected and interrupted earlier in offenders' lives. □

Good decisions start with good information.



Private industry has followed this principle for years. But it applies to law enforcement as well.

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority can help law enforcement professionals in Illinois get the information they need to make good management and operational decisions. Our Information Resource Center can provide a variety of information, including:



- Population statistics — county, regional or statewide.
- County- or municipal-level offense and arrest data.
- Information on regional trends — what your neighbors are doing.
- Statewide crime patterns.
- Law enforcement staffing levels.
- Referrals to other experts.

Most information can be displayed either as raw numbers or as professional-looking graphics suitable for presentations to county boards, city councils or other groups.

And for bigger management or systems problems, the Authority can also offer limited technical assistance.

So the next time you're faced with an important decision — about your budget, your staffing levels, even your tactical or enforcement strategies — get the information you need to make your decision a good one. Call the Authority's Information Hotline at 312-793-8550 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. *The service is free.*

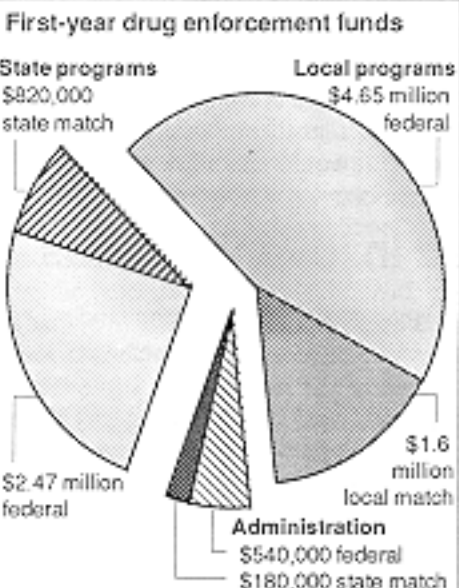
Drugs

Continued from page 1

widespread drug traffic and abuse.

Illinois' plan will be based largely on testimony the Authority gathered during public hearings in Collinsville and Chicago in February. More than 100 state and local officials either testified in person or submitted written comments. The Authority also analyzed a variety of statistics about drug offenses and arrests in Illinois.

In January, the Authority received \$536,000 of the federal funds for administering the drug program. By law, 65 percent of the remaining \$7.1 million, or about \$4.6 million, must be allocated to units of local government, while \$2.5 million will be awarded to state agencies.



Since every \$3 in federal funds must be matched with \$1 in state or local money, the actual first-year program in Illinois will total \$10.3 million.

In addition to the grants for state and local governments, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 also contains tougher penalties for offenders who violate federal drug laws, including possible life terms for key players in major drug enterprises. In Illinois, Governor Thompson has proposed several laws increasing penalties for drug-related crimes, including a death-penalty provision for drug conspirators whose activities involve murder. □

For more information about Illinois' drug enforcement program, call Barbara McDonald at 312-793-8550.

Legislation

Continued from page 7

Access to conviction information

The proposals would allow wider access to conviction records, establish uniform procedures for conducting background checks, and require school districts conducting background checks on prospective employees to submit fingerprints of the applicants to the Illinois Department of State Police (DSP).

- *Illinois Uniform Conviction Information Act.* Under this proposal, information about all felony convictions and Class A and B misdemeanor convictions maintained by DSP would be available to anyone in the state for a fee to be established by the Authority. The proposal, which would go into effect in July 1988, would not allow the release of arrest information maintained by the state, and it would not affect dissemination policies on criminal records maintained by local law enforcement agencies.

The conviction information would most likely be used for background checks on potential employees or license applicants, said State Police Director James B. Zagel, who chairs the Authority's Legislation and Regulations Committee.

"Employers ought to know if potential employees have been convicted of a crime," said Director Zagel. "After all, those convictions are public acts, made in open court, and paid for with public funds," he added.

- *Uniform procedures for background checks by non-criminal justice agencies.* A group of bills would empower the Authority to set uniform procedures and fees for how non-criminal

justice agencies conduct criminal background checks. In recent years, the General Assembly has permitted local liquor control commissions, military installations, private child-care organizations, and state and local units of government to review state criminal records as part of employee background checks.

However, the legislature created a different set of regulations for each group. The Authority's proposals would attempt to standardize these procedures, reducing administrative and operational costs to the state, according to Paul Fields, the Authority's general counsel.

- *Changes to background checks for prospective school district employees.* In addition to establishing uniform procedures and fees for background checks by school districts, this bill would require school districts conducting checks to submit fingerprints of job applicants to DSP.

"The only way to make a positive, reliable identification for criminal history in any case is to have fingerprints," said Director Zagel. "Anything short of fingerprints gives rise to the possibility of significant error."

Director Zagel warned that basing background checks on name only, as school districts are permitted to do under current law, may allow a potential employee who uses an alias to avoid detection as a convicted criminal.

Access to juvenile records

The Authority is also proposing a bill that would give crime victims greater access to juvenile records.

The measure would amend the Juvenile Court Act to grant victims' insurance agencies access to the same juvenile information victims themselves are allowed to obtain. It would also allow crime

victims to get information about both informal court adjustments and formal adjudications of juvenile offenders.

Currently, the Juvenile Court Act stipulates that a victim and his legal representatives may obtain the name and address of a juvenile offender as well as the court disposition. But, according to several witnesses who testified during hearings the Authority held in 1985 on juvenile justice information policies, the law is unclear on whether the victim's insurance agency may obtain the information, even though the insurers may need it to obtain proper restitution from the offender.

In addition, the law does not grant the victim access to court disposition information when there is no formal adjudication, witnesses said. In many cases juvenile courts establish informal, alternative treatment plans for young offenders.

"Currently, a victim can't get access to information about a juvenile offender whose case has been informally adjusted unless the victim files a petition with the court to obtain a formal adjudication," said John Firman, the Authority's associate director for research and analysis and the author of its report *Juvenile Justice Information Policies in Illinois*. "That defeats the whole purpose of informal adjustments, by creating a permanent court record for the juvenile."

Data quality

The Authority's package also contains two bills designed to help improve the accuracy and completeness of criminal history record information.

- *Technical amendment to the Pretrial Services Act.* The proposed legislation would require pretrial services agencies to meet federal and state laws governing the accuracy and completeness of criminal history record information they gather. Pretrial services agencies are being established in all judicial circuits in Illinois to collect background information on suspects in time for bail hearings.

- *Clarification of the Authority's audit responsibilities.* This proposal would authorize the Authority to audit local repositories of criminal history record information in Illinois to ensure they comply with federal and state laws and regulations governing such information. □

"Felony limitation" lifted in juvenile cases

Governor James R. Thompson in January signed into law a bill allowing Illinois criminal justice agencies to share information they have on juveniles suspected of committing any type of offense.

Previously, state law had limited the sharing of juvenile records to investigations of juvenile offenses that would be felonies if committed by adults.

The Authority, in its May 1986 report *Juvenile Justice Information Policies in Illinois*, had recommended that the General Assembly relax this felony limitation rule.

News briefs

Continued from page 2

General Counsel **Paul Fields** addressed the American Society for Industrial Security at the group's "Vendors' Night" in November. In his speech, Mr. Fields described the rights of security companies and businesses to gain access to criminal history record information in Illinois...

Governor **James R. Thompson** has named five members to the Local Governmental Law Enforcement Officers Training Board. **Donald J. Turner** of Cairo, a switchman for the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, was appointed to his first term. The Governor also reappointed **Winston Brass**, Rochelle police chief; **Donald Doneske**, Riverside police chief; **J. Neil Nielsen**, Oak Park city manager; and **Allen H. Schertz**, Libertyville village manager... **William E. Dye**, chief of the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, has been appointed vice chairman of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Chief Dye formerly served as chief of police in East St. Louis and Champaign... **John O'Malley**, head of the Child Pornography Protection Unit of the U.S. Customs Service in Chicago, recently received a special achievement award from the National Association of Federal Investigators. O'Malley started the anti-pornography unit three years ago. Since then it has conducted more than 70 criminal investigations resulting in more than 30 arrests for child exploitation... **Mack M. Vines** resigned his position as administrator of the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance in November to become chief of police in Cape Coral, Fla.

Events

The Authority will hold its regular meetings in 1987 on March 13, June 19, Sept. 18, and Dec. 11.

MARCH: The National Symposium on Community Institutions and Inner-City Crime will be held March 5 through 8 in Washington, D.C. The symposium will feature 18 successful community programs, including two from Chicago: the Cabrini-Green Youth Options Program, which attempts to reduce youth involvement in gangs by providing constructive alternatives, and the Sunbow Foundation, which trains economically disadvantaged women in the construction trades.

APRIL/MAY: National Victim

Rights Week 1987 will take place the week of April 26 through May 2. The theme of the 13th annual commemoration is "Victimization: A Common Bond." For more information, write the National Organization for Victim Assistance at 717 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20004, or call 202-393-NOVA.

MAY: The Illinois Correctional Association will hold its spring conference from May 18 to 20 at the Mt. Vernon Ramada Inn. Authority staff will demonstrate CIMIS, a personal computer-based information system for correctional records in both small and large counties. Call Bonnie Ruby at 618-786-3396 for more information about the conference.

The Police Foundation is sponsoring a seminar on arrest procedures in Chicago on May 28 and 29. The seminar, which is one of a series of police litigation prevention seminars planned by the foundation, will cover issues including domestic violence, mental illness, homelessness, execution of warrants, holding facilities, and the "good faith" defense. For further information write Sheila Bodner, PLAN Seminar Coordinator, Police Foundation, 1001 22nd St., N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC, 20037, or call 202-833-1460.

JUNE: The Second National Conference on Missing and Exploited Children will take place June 7 through 11 in Chicago. Sponsored by the Illinois Department of State Police and the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children, the conference will include presentations on program administration, investigations, legal issues, and public awareness and education. For more information, contact the National Conference on Missing and Exploited Children, 201 E. Adams St., Suite 300, Springfield, Ill., 62701.

AUGUST: The National Town Watch Association will sponsor its fourth annual "National Night Out" crime prevention project on August 11. More than 16.5 million people from 4,700 cities and towns in 49 states participated last year. "National Night Out" is designed to generate support and awareness for local crime-prevention programs and demonstrate community solidarity against crime and criminals. Communities interested in participating this year may write the National Town Watch Association, P.O. Box 769, Havertown, Penn., 19083. □

Sheriff O'Grady is newest Authority member

James E. O'Grady became the newest member of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority when he was sworn in as Cook County sheriff on Dec. 1. The Cook County sheriff automatically serves on the 15-member state agency.



Sheriff O'Grady

Sheriff O'Grady has spent nearly his entire career in law enforcement in Cook County. He worked

for 26 years in the Chicago Police Department, starting as a patrolman in 1952 and becoming chief of detectives in 1975. He served as Chicago police superintendent in 1978 and 1979 and as acting superintendent for a brief period in 1983. He also worked in the Internal Affairs and Court Services divisions of the Cook County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff O'Grady holds a bachelor's degree from DePaul University in Chicago. He has been active in several professional organizations, including the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Chicago Crime Commission, the Crime Prevention Committee of the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, and the law enforcement advisory board of the City Colleges of Chicago.

Authority Chairman William Gould has assigned Sheriff O'Grady to the agency's Operations and Audits Committee and its Research and Policy Committee. □

the Compiler

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Most felony convictions result from guilty pleas

The overwhelming majority of convictions for all classes of felonies in Illinois, except murder, are the result of guilty pleas rather than bench or jury trials, according to statistics from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

Courts' data also show that as the seriousness of the charge increases, the

Statistical scoreboard —

likelihood of a guilty plea diminishes. In 1984, the most recent year for which data are available, nearly 85 percent of the convictions statewide for Class 1 felonies, and more than 90 percent of the convictions for Class 2, 3, and 4 crimes, involved guilty pleas. Class 1 felonies include crimes such as residential burglary and voluntary manslaughter; Class 2, arson and strongarm robbery; Class 3, aggravated battery and motor vehicle theft; and Class 4, bribery and unlawful restraint. Even among the more serious Class X offenses, which include armed robbery, attempted murder, and home invasion, about two-thirds of the convictions in 1984 involved guilty pleas.

Only for Class M (murder) offenses did the majority of convictions come about through trials. In 1984 slightly more than half of these convictions involved jury trials, while 22 percent involved bench trials.

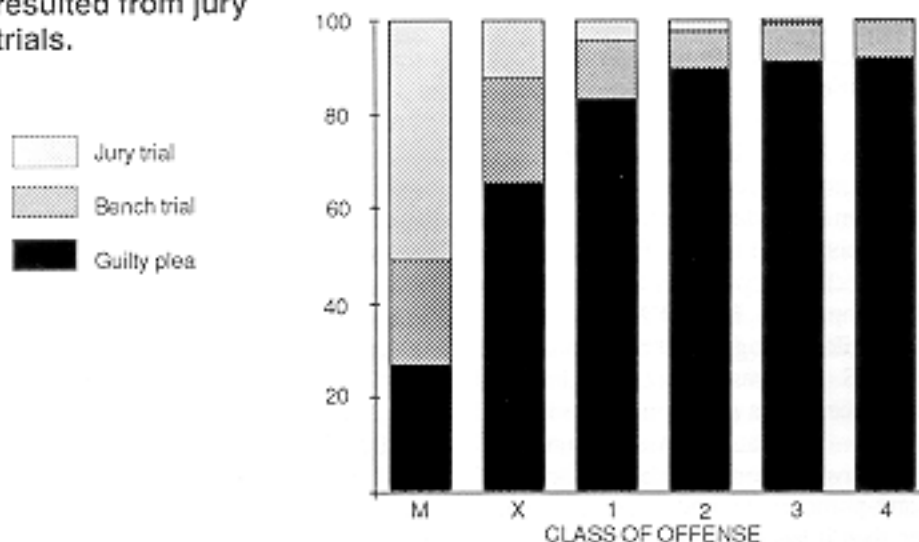
Many defendants plead guilty when there are no arguable issues of fact in a case or because they think a lighter sentence will be imposed after a guilty plea than after a bench or jury trial that results in a guilty verdict. This may explain why a greater proportion of convictions

for less serious felonies are the result of guilty pleas, and why plea bargaining is also common.

Although the number of felony convictions in Illinois has risen in recent years, the proportion of all convictions involving guilty pleas remained fairly constant between 1979 and 1984, ranging from 86 percent to 89 percent. In any one of these years, jury trials never accounted for more than 5 percent of the statewide convictions, and bench trials never made up more than 9 percent. □

In 1984, most murder convictions resulted from jury trials.

PERCENTAGE OF CONVICTIONS RESULTING FROM...



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