The Compiler

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Spring 1993

Inside

Information technology for criminal justice

Criminal justice work is primarily about information. Reports, fingerprints, rap sheets, court proceedings, and countless other bits and pieces of data must be recorded, transferred from agency to agency, used in making decisions, and filed for future reference.

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Information technology can provide criminal justice agencies with some tools to help manage this data. This issue of *The Compiler* discusses some of those tools, from a "futuristic" device being used right now to read fingerprints directly from a suspect's hand into a computer (page 4) to a software program that any police department can run on a personal computer to help manage its community policing program (page 9).

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But tools are only as useful as the materials they work with. The article on Illinois' Computerized Criminal History system (page 6) discusses some of the shortcomings of the state's criminal history data "infrastructure." The Authority's latest audit of the CCH system has found that missing information plagues even the records of convicted inmates of the Illinois Department of Corrections.

From the editor:

After more than 10 years of managing communications for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority—and editing this newsletter—I am leaving the Authority to tackle a new set of challenges with the Chicago Police Department's Research and Development Division. *The Compiler* has gone through a lot of changes over the last decade: from the incorporation of desktop publishing technology and a more modern graphic design, to a move toward more in-depth coverage of more complex criminal justice issues. What hasn't changed, however, has been the support and loyalty of you, our readers. You have consistently embraced *The Compiler* as part of your regimen of professional education and development; for that, I am both thankful and humbled. I leave *The Compiler* in very capable editorial hands (especially those of Maureen Hickey), and ask that you continue to show the staff the same level of support and encouragement you always gave me.

Kevin P. Morison

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Success seen in expedited handling of drug cases

Expedited Drug Case Management (EDCM), a new docket management technique, has been successful in reducing court time spent on drug cases, according to a report by the National Institute of Justice. Under EDCM, a form of differentiated case management, each case is screened early in the process and a level of complexity is assigned. The more complex the case, the more time and resources are allotted for it.

In Philadelphia, where a pilot EDCM program was established in January, 1990, the average time from indictment to sentencing dropped from 209 days to 155 days. Guilty pleas increased by 18 percent, jury trials declined 42 percent, and the average number of days a defendant was detained declined 36 percent, giving the jail a possible net gain of 420 beds a day. The time savings also allowed the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas to adjudicate more cases in 1990 than were filed, reducing its inventory of cases by one-third.

The NIJ report, "Expedited Drug Case Management Programs: Issues for Program Development" (NCJ-136879), is available by writing to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland, 20850, or calling 800-732-3277.

Agencies join police systems

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's Area-wide Law Enforcement Radio Terminal System (ALERTS) has added several new users in recent months. The in-car terminal network, which provides police officers with instant access to national, state, and local crime information, now has 151 users in four different regions of the state.

The Galesburg and Peoria Heights police departments and the Illinois State Police District 8 have joined the Peoria, Knox, and Tazewell county regional network. The Bridgeview, Bull Valley, Forest Park, Hickory Hills, Hodgkins, Homewood, Justice, Mundelein, Park Forest, Summit, Tinley Park, and Willow Springs police departments and the Cook County Sheriff's Department have been added to the Chicago area network.

The Mundelein Police Department has also joined the Authority's Police Information Management System (PIMS), bringing to 50 the total number of agencies using PIMS statewide.

Drug night courts—good medicine?

Night courts are catching on as an innovative way to handle the overloaded judicial system, but are they effective for drug cases? *Drug Night Programs: Developing a Prototype*, a study sponsored by the American Bar Association, will address this issue and its related impact on the criminal justice system. The study will assess the effectiveness of existing drug night courts, including Cook County's, and develop a prototype for future drug night courts.

Studies show shift in demographics for law enforcement officers

Results from two separate studies have underscored the changing demographics of law enforcement officers in the State of Illinois and New York City.

The Dynamics of Aging in the Illinois Law Enforcement Officer Corps, a study published by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, examines the impact of aging within Illinois' law enforcement ranks. The study analyzed age, education, and training data on more than 11,000 active officers in Illinois, focusing on trends in retirement and other attrition factors that will affect police management and operations well into the future. Results showed that as older officers leave the ranks, gaps in critical skills and expertise will occur. This finding also demonstrates the increasing importance of recruiting quality personnel. Additional attention to the recruit selection criteria, education, and training will all be essential to address the changing needs of our law enforcement agencies.

For more information or a copy of the report, contact the Authority's Information Resource Center at 312-793-8550.

A Police Foundation study of New York City's innovative Police Cadet Corps found that the percentages of black and Hispanic officers brought onto New York's police force through that program over a four year period were significantly higher than those found in other groups of recruits, in all NYPD sworn personnel, and in the New York City population. The Cadet Corps program was established in 1985 to recruit, guide, and develop college-educated police officers to form the core of a new leadership group that will eventually rise through the ranks of the NYPD.

For more information or a copy of the report, write to the Police Foundation, 1001 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20037, or call 202-833-1460.

New counsel for Authority

Gerald A. Cooper, a 26-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, has been appointed general counsel of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Mr. Cooper has held positions ranging from street officer to the superintendent's general counsel. In 1979, he took leave from the department to form the law firm of Cooper and Litton. He returned to the police department in 1985 and most recently served as the deputy chief of the Detective Division.

A 1957 graduate of Englewood High in Chicago, Mr. Cooper received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Chicago State University and earned his Juris Doctor from Loyola University of Chicago.

"Gerald Cooper has seen law enforcement in Illinois from four perspectives: beat officer, police manager, private attorney and legislative liaison," said Dennis E. Nowicki, the Authority's executive director. "His understanding of the criminal justice system will be invaluable as the Authority continues to research and establish new, community-based approaches to fighting crime in Illinois," he said.

Governor announces appointments

Governor Jim Edgar appointed Arthur Smith Sr., of Glencoe, and Richard Joutras, of Northfield, to the Illinois State Police Merit Board. Mr. Smith, who is also a member of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, served with the Chicago Police Department for 18 years. He replaces Rich Mitchell on the board. Mr. Joutras is Executive Vice President of Columbia Graphics Corporation in Chicago. He replaces David Schippers on the board.

In other gubernatorial appointments, Joanne Perkins of Aurora and Cheryl Cesario of Chicago were added to the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, the state agency that implements the provisions of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Ms. Perkins, the deputy director of the Illinois Department of Corrections Juvenile Division in Springfield, replaces James Irving on the Commission. Ms. Cesario, the Juvenile Division supervisor for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, replaces Kathy Stansell on the Commission.

Governor Edgar also announced the promotion of Teresa M. Kettelkamp of Springfield to deputy director of the Division of Internal Investigation of the Illinois State Police—the highest position a woman has held in ISP. State Police Director Terrance Gainer selected Ms. Kettelkamp to become head of the division, which probes charges of wrongdoing by State Police employees as well as by administrators and employees of the executive branch of state government.

Governor's Award of Excellence winner announced

Patrick O'Shea has been awarded the "Governor's Award of Excellence" for 1992 by the Illinois Local Governmental Law Enforcement Officers Training Board. The award is presented annually to individuals or organizations within the State of Illinois who have made significant contributions to law enforcement training.

Mr. O'Shea served as director of the North East Multi-Regional Law Enforcement Training Unit from 1983 until his retirement in May 1992. He also served in or worked with the United States Coast Guard, the Chicago Police Department, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission Crescent Training and Education Project.

Officer of the Year winner named

Gene Klimek was named Officer of the Year by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. Sergeant Klimek, a 21-year veteran of the Tinley Park police force, was selected by the association out of dozens of nominations submitted by police chiefs across Illinois.

Klimek has been the department's crime prevention officer for 17 years. In that time, he has developed one of the largest neighborhood crime watch programs in Illinois, involving about 4,100 homes in 21 neighborhoods. Klimek has also worked with the block parent program in Tinley Park, which provides children a safe haven if they are lost, threatened, or injured.

Live-scan: Fingerprints go digital

Direct electronic fingerprinting—commonly known as live-scan—is emerging as one of the most promising new criminal justice technologies. The technology provides for cleaner, more legible fingerprints and the potential for faster, more accurate identification of criminal suspects. Many criminal justice agencies, however, will wait before jumping on the live-scan bandwagon—until data transfer standards are developed and equipment costs go down.

For nearly 100 years, law enforcement agencies have been using fingerprints, rolled onto paper using printer's ink, to identify criminal suspects. And for nearly 100 years, they've endured the same problems: smudged prints, bulky paper files, inky hands, and, more recently, degrading of images through multiple copying and faxing.

Direct electronic fingerprinting—live-scan—offers criminal justice agencies the opportunity to eliminate some redundant work, reduce paper file storage needs, and prolong the usable life of fingerprints kept on file. The new technology "reads" a person's fingerprints directly into a computer, bypassing the old ink-and-paper method of taking fingerprints. The fingerprints can then be transferred electronically to other agencies, stored on magnetic tape or disks, and printed out repeatedly with no loss of clarity.

How live-scan works

At the heart of a live-scan setup is a device that uses an optical scanner and image processing software to capture a digital image of a subject's finger that has been "rolled" over a clear platen. The image is then displayed on a video monitor to allow the operator to immediately determine if the image is acceptable. If the image is unacceptable, the operator can start again.

When the operator has determined that all the images are satisfactory, the prints are "saved" in the computer and are associated electronically with the subject's basic demographic information. In more sophisticated systems, arrest information that has been previously entered on a personal computer or the agency's incident and arrest information system can be linked with the fingerprint.

At this point, the information necessary to complete an arrest fingerprint card is in digital form and can be printed on a standard 8-inch by 8-inch preprinted card or be transmitted to another location for printing or further digital processing. In Illinois, the fingerprint card, along with the unique identifying number associated with it, then becomes the basis for the entry of that arrest into the state's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system.

Live-scan in Illinois today

Currently, the Chicago Police Department and the Illinois State Police's Bureau of Identification (BOI) are the only Illinois criminal justice agencies that have installed and are using live-scan. The Chicago Police Department, which began using the technology in early 1992, has 34 live-scan workstations in the department's 25 district stations. The workstations are connected via Centrex lines to six personal computers and laser printers at the department's Records Division at main headquarters. Between 600 and 750 arrest fingerprint cards are transmitted electronically from the districts to the Records Division each day.

According to police officials, use of live-scan at the Chicago Police Department has resulted in higher-quality fingerprint images, with far fewer prints being rejected by the department's automated fingerprint identification system. There has also been a significant reduction in arrestee processing time. Before the department began using live-scan, processing took between 15 and 30 hours for each arrestee. The average processing time is now about 10 hours for all arrestees.

In late 1992, the State Police's BOI established a communications channel to receive and print out fingerprints from the Chicago Police Department. A "store and forward" device at Chicago's Records Division, capable of holding about three days' worth of live-scan data, transmits the fingerprints continuously over a high-speed data telecommunication line to the BOI's computers in Joliet.

At the BOI, the data communication line is connected to a local area network of six personal computers connected to six laser printers (which originally had been installed at the Chicago Police Department).

Both the Chicago police and the BOI use the computerized information to print out arrest fingerprint cards for their own files. The Bureau of Identification also prints out cards for submission to the FBI.

Live-scan and CCH

A major benefit of live-scan technology lies in its ability to interface with computerized repositories of criminal history record information. With live-scan, identification and arrest data can be transferred automatically

from Chicago to the in-process files of the state's CCH system. This not only saves time and helps reduce error rates inherent in manual data entry, it also has helped reduce the BOI's backlog of arrest fingerprint cards awaiting processing. That backlog has been reduced from over 200,000 in 1992 to less than 85,000 as of May, 1993.

BOI officials also report that the Chicago Police Department's live-scan submissions are generally being posted to the CCH system within five days of being received. By contrast, most manual entries take much longer to post to CCH because of the backlog. This time is being diminished, however, as the backlog is reduced.

Live-scan and AFIS

Although early experience demonstrates that the electronic transfer of arrest and identification data to the CCH system works efficiently, the same cannot yet be said for use of live-scan fingerprinting technology with automated fingerprint identification systems, primarily because no interface yet exists. AFIS, also in use at the Chicago Police Department and the Illinois State Police, provide automated storage and classification of fingerprint files. This allows police records departments to quickly and easily match latent prints—those found at crime scenes—to fingerprint records, and AFIS can speed up the identification of criminal suspects brought into police custody.

Using live-scan data with the Chicago Police Department's or the Illinois State Police's AFIS, however, is still a multi-step process. The fingerprint card must be printed out on a laser printer, than scanned by the AFIS card reader. This digital-to-analog-to-digital conversion compromises the efficiency associated with computer technology.

This somewhat clumsy process may soon change, however. The National Institute of Standards and Technology soon will be issuing a revision of the American National Standard Data Format for the Interchange of Fingerprint Information. This will propel vendors of both live-scan and AFIS equipment toward open systems standards. With open systems standards, agencies that purchase equipment will be assured that their machines will be able to exchange data with equipment at other agencies, even if it has been purchased from different vendors. Another impetus for change may come with the advent of the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS). Experts agree that in order to meet the performance specifications set by the FBI, AFIS vendors may have to employ technology that is more powerful than what is in place at identification bureaus today. The FBI's procurement process and the technology that is developed for it therefore will also influence the future direction of state AFIS developments for at least the next decade.

> The new technology "reads" a person's fingerprints directly into a computer, bypassing the old ink-and-paper method of taking fingerprints.

Because the FBI envisions a nearly paperless environment eventually, it is evident that direct electronic fingerprint transmissions are an integral part of their plans.

Live-scan for other local agencies

For many medium-sized and smaller agencies, the question is probably not whether they will get into live-scan, but when. Costs are currently prohibitive for many right now. The installation of a live-scan device costs approximately $40,000. Additional equipment may also be needed for storage and printing of live-scan data. The ongoing operating costs of live-scan equipment (maintenance agreements, laser printer toner, platens, and communications costs) are probably substantially higher than what is now spent for ink, rollers, hand-cleaner, paper towels, and transmission costs (via fax or mail). However, because there are major differences in the way that live-scan systems may be configured, there is also significant cost variance.

While the ongoing costs of live-scan may be higher than other materials, the Chicago Police Department has achieved a substantial cost savings in personnel.

Still, a growing number of agencies, particularly sheriffs' departments that provide centralized booking procedures for their counties or at least have a high volume of arrestees, are looking into the technology. For example, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has awarded $50,000 in federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act funds to help the Cook County Sheriff's Department install live-scan in its Warrants Section. In addition, the Authority's Ad Hoc Committee on Disposition Reporting (see page 8) is currently researching jurisdictions that might benefit from live-scan. As part of the state's overall criminal history improvement plan, the committee is expected to recommend that the Authority fund live-scan installations in a selected number of jurisdictions that have the volume of arrests needed to justify the technology and the local resources to match federal grants.

Over time, the cost-benefit ratios of live-scan will change, as vendors reduce the costs of installing systems, as AFIS technology improves to further eliminate the amount of human intervention required to make a positive identification, and as the volume of fingerprints handled by agencies increases. Within five years, most experts predict, live-scan technology will be in routine use by large law enforcement agencies, central booking facilities, and major state agencies. It may not be much longer, some predict, that the ink and rollers used for the last 100 years will become collectors' items.

This article is primarily based on a report to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority by J. David Coldren, an official with the Office of International Criminal Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago and former executive director of the Authority. The information from that report has been updated with the assistance of officials at the Illinois State Police and the Chicago Police Department. ■

Inmate rap sheets missing data

New information technologies are only as good—and as efficient—as the information they have to work with. For technologies that rely on state rap sheets, serious data quality concerns remain.

By Mark Myrent

State and local criminal justice agencies have made substantial investments in recent years in such high-tech devices as mobile data terminals, automated fingerprint identification systems, and digital fingerprint scanning devices (see story p. 4). These and other technologies are making it much easier to report, store, and retrieve information, particularly criminal history record information.

But such technologies are only as good—and as efficient—as the information they have to work with. According to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, serious data quality problems with Illinois' Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system continue to restrict the potential of some new technologies and to impede the overall efficiency of criminal justice officials who have come to rely on state rap sheet information.

The Authority's most recent audit of the state's CCH system, released last December, found data quality problems to be acute even among the most serious and potentially "active" offenders—current prison inmates. Only one in seven Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) inmates the Authority sampled had state criminal history records—rap sheets—that clearly reflected all the criminal justice events leading up to their present incarceration: the originating arrest, the state's attorney's charges, the final court disposition specifying a prison sentence, and the IDOC custodial receipt.

More than one-quarter of the inmates sampled had rap sheets with no indication of their current incarceration; one in eight had no record of *ever* being incarcerated in IDOC. For many others, it was difficult, if not impossible, to link their current incarceration with the corresponding arrest and court case.

The audit concluded that problems such as these can impede criminal justice decision making and, ultimately, diminish public safety:

"Although Illinois prisons contain the state's most violent and chronic convicted felons, most will be returned to society at some time. When that occurs, criminal history records will be critical for effecting sound decisions which not only impact upon public safety, but also assist in the reintegration of ex-offenders back into our communities. The lack of accurate, complete, and timely rap sheets on these persons prevents us from reaching those goals."

Focus on correctional information

The 1992 audit marks the eighth time the Authority has examined the state's CCH system. Previous audits have focused on the overall completeness and accuracy of the entire CCH database. This audit is the first in several years to examine correctional information in any depth and to focus on the more narrow group of offenders incarcerated in state prison.

With Illinois facing record levels of prison crowding, officials more than ever need access to accurate and complete rap sheets to make appropriate decisions about which offenders can safely be placed in alternative correctional settings—so-called intermediate sanctions. But the audit found that not only was information missing from inmates' rap sheets, the information that was there was frequently fragmented, with no obvious links between events. Instead of containing a clear sequential picture of the offender's interaction with the criminal justice system, many rap sheets are simply lists of several disparate entries. In many cases, in fact, someone looking at a rap sheet could not even identify why the offender went to prison.

Phase one

The first phase of the Authority's audit was part of an assessment of the accuracy and completeness of criminal history record information for a sample of 362 inmates who were in IDOC custody on March 31, 1992. This phase focused on the criminal justice transactions relating to an inmate's incarceration at the time of the audit. Data from the CCH system and from IDOC's Offender Tracking System were analyzed to determine whether these specific transactions did indeed appear on inmates' state rap sheets.

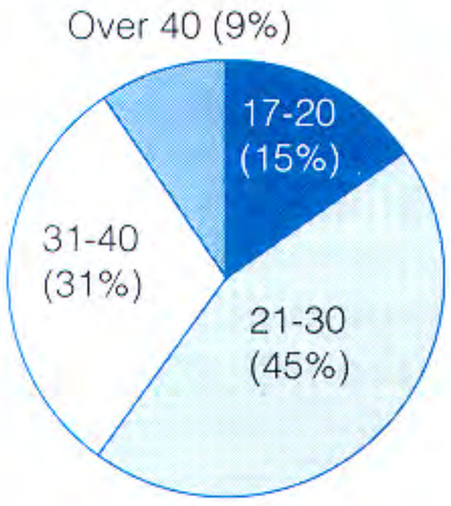
This phase of the audit revealed that information was often missing or difficult to interpret. For example:

With Illinois facing record levels of prison crowding, officials more than ever need access to accurate and complete rap sheets to make appropriate decisions about which offenders can safely be placed in alternative correctional settings—so-called intermediate sanctions.

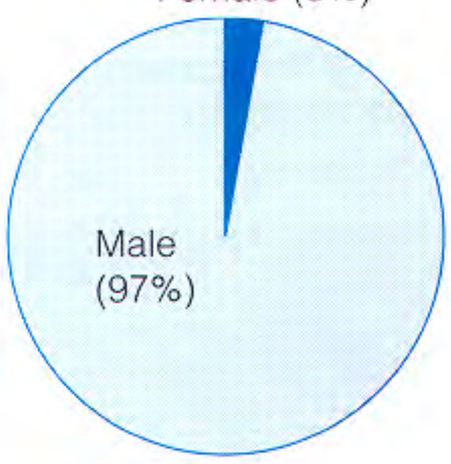
Demographic profile of inmates whose Computerized Criminal History records were used in Authority's audit

(Sample size: 362)

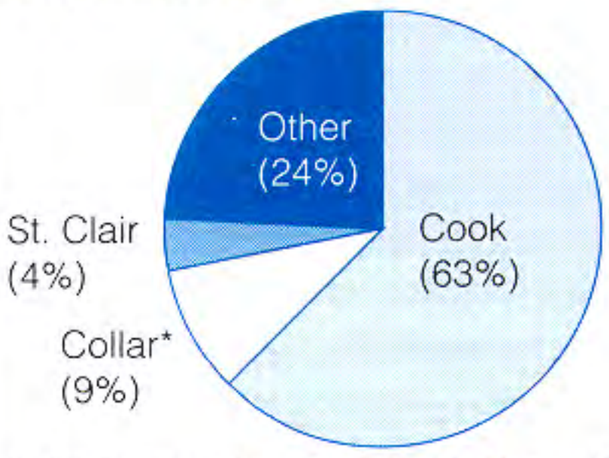
Age



Sex

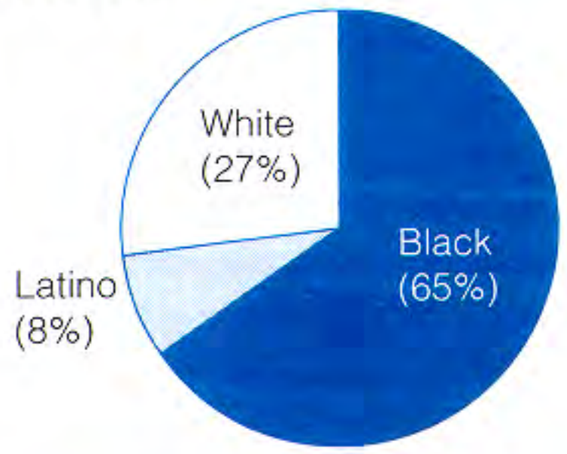


Committing county for present offense

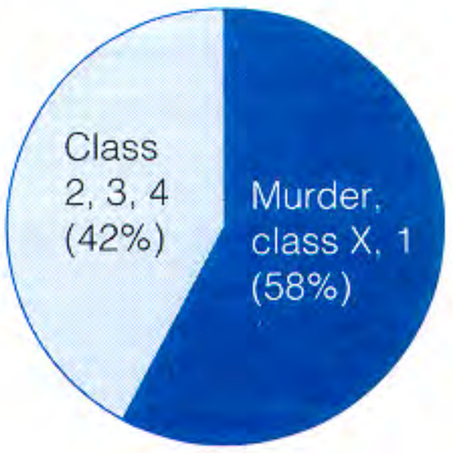


* Collar counties include DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will

Ethnicity



Felony class for present offense



◆ 26.2 percent of the inmates had rap sheets which did not convey that they had been admitted to IDOC custody for their present incarceration.

◆ Even when IDOC receipt information for the current incarceration was found on an inmate's criminal history record, it was often impossible to identify on the rap sheet the originating arrest that corresponded to that incarceration. Only 36.5 percent of the inmates had rap sheets that clearly reflected both the custodial receipt and the originating arrest. For the remaining inmates, there was no documentation of the specific underlying offenses that led to the incarceration.

◆ Disposition information relating to the current incarceration was also frequently missing from inmates' rap sheets. Only 14.1 percent had criminal history records that clearly reflected the custodial receipt, the originating arrest, the state's attorney disposition, and a final court disposition which specified a prison sentence.

Overall completeness of rap sheets

While the first phase of the audit focused on information related to the inmates' current incarceration, the second phase examined the *overall* completeness of the same 362 inmates' criminal history records, including all other events on their rap sheets.

Here, the Authority found that missing dispositional information continues to be a major problem with the state's CCH system (although not as much as it has been in previous years). For example:

◆ 56.2 percent of all arrests appearing on inmates' rap sheets lacked state's attorney dispositions indicating what charges, if any, were filed. An average of four state's attorney dispositions were absent per inmate. This is an improvement, however, since the Authority's 1990 audit, which found that 79.2 percent of all arrests recorded on the CCH system were lacking state's attorney dispositions.

◆ 46.3 percent of the arrests appearing on inmates' rap sheets lacked final court dispositions, an average of more than three court dispositions absent for each inmate. This is also an improvement over the 1990 audit, which found that 66.5 percent of arrests were missing final court dispositions.

◆ 42.2 percent of all prison sentences appearing on inmates' rap sheets lacked IDOC custodial receipts, an average of one per inmate.

The final phase of the audit assessed the existence of custodial *release* information on the rap sheets of 331 IDOC inmates who were released from institutional custody during 1991. The Authority found that nearly 20 percent of these inmates had rap sheets that did not reflect their release from prison—in other words, the rap sheets indicated the offenders were still in prison.

Recommendations

As part of the audit report, the Authority made several recommendations for improving the CCH system.

The Authority called upon the Illinois

State Police, which maintains and operates the state's CCH system, to develop "an implementation strategy and timetable for updating inmates' criminal histories, to ensure that all persons who are received at the Illinois Department of Corrections have accurate and complete criminal history records before they are released." The Authority suggested that the period of incarceration be viewed as a "window" during which this updating process can be completed.

Another recommendation urged the State Police to train criminal justice personnel in interpreting rap sheets, especially with respect to the linking of corresponding case events that appear in separate rap sheet segments. The Authority also recommended that the State Police take immediate steps to reduce its backlog of criminal history record submissions to be posted to the CCH system. As of mid-January, the state's Bureau of Identification had more than 168,000 arrests and nearly 130,000 dispositions in process waiting to be posted.

And the Authority recommended that the long-range criminal history records improvement plan being developed by the Authority's Ad Hoc Committee on Dispositional Reporting strive to implement a unified tracking mechanism which links all corresponding criminal justice case events — from arrest through incarceration. In order to eliminate errors and omissions associated with manual data handling, the records improvement plan should also seek to optimize the electronic transfer of data between criminal justice agencies that report criminal history record information, including IDOC.

In his official response to the Authority's audit, State Police Director Terrance Gainer said he concurs with the audit and hopes the ad hoc committee will help refine the recommendations into specific implementation plans.

"A successful criminal history system is dependent on those who report criminal history events, those who use the information, and those who operate the system," Director Gainer said. "As director of the agency responsible for the operation of the criminal history system, I am committed to a responsive, cost effective system."

To obtain a copy of the Authority's 1992 CCH system audit, contact Mark Myrent, head of the Authority's audit center, at 312-793-8550. ■

The Ad Hoc Committee

In 1991, the Authority convened the Ad Hoc Committee on Dispositional Reporting, made up of 18 state and local criminal justice officials. The committee, which includes representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, corrections, and other reporters and users of computerized criminal history data, is assessing the factors that contribute to poor criminal history data quality. The committee also serves as the state's criminal justice records improvement task force, and for developing and implementing Illinois' criminal history records improvement plan, as required by the Crime Control Act of 1990. Federal law requires the states to devote up to 5 percent of their federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act funds for criminal history improvement and to achieve a substantial improvement in record quality in the next few years.

The ad hoc committee has divided the problems with the state's Computerized Criminal History system into six areas: training and technical assistance; coordination and communication; legal issues; technology; data quality; and resource issues. The committee plans to address these problems with both long-term and short-term solutions.

As a long-term solution, the committee plans to develop and implement a master plan for a statewide unified criminal history record system which maximizes accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of criminal history record information reporting by reducing manual tasks.

At the same time, the committee has also proposed five short-term recommendations that are consistent with the master plan and should immediately reduce reporting errors that are attributable to ambiguous instructions, the increased volume of records submitted to the system, and unclear procedures at the local level which affect the quality of criminal history record information:

1. Formation of county work groups to identify and resolve data collection and transmission issues at the local level.

2. Development and distribution of a reference document for criminal history record information system users.

3. Testing of various applications of live-scan fingerprinting technology in fingerprinting alleged offenders, and electronically transferring data from local jurisdictions to the Illinois State Police and among local jurisdictions.

4. Establishment of electronic data transfer between at least one circuit court clerk's office and ISP.

5. Regular auditing of criminal history record information record-keeping to ensure quality and timeliness in future data reporting.

These approaches have been approved by the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance. Specific proposals are now being developed which detail the specific problems to be addressed, the outcomes to be achieved, the processes to be followed to reach those outcomes, and relevant cost information. The committee is currently facilitating the implementation of these strategies.

For more information about the ad hoc committee, contact Mark Myrent at 312-793-8550.

Data management for community policing

Information technology has become a major element of most incident-based policing strategies. As departments move toward more community-based approaches, the role of information technology may become more critical.

By Jeffrey Austin and Maureen Hickey

Incident-driven policing—in which patrols are dispatched on the basis of need and officers spend most of their time responding to calls for service—has seen a marked improvement in speed and efficiency with the advent of information technology for police departments. Through improved records systems, mobile data technology, and computer-aided dispatch, law enforcement agencies are able to respond more quickly to incidents and they are identifying and arresting more suspects. But this improved efficiency has become something of a mixed blessing. Even in large cities like Chicago, citizens have come to expect immediate response to even the most minor incidents at a time when departments are hard pressed just to meet the demands of actual emergencies.

Consequently, law enforcement agencies and local governments have begun to rethink traditional incident-driven approaches to policing. The most talked-about programs incorporate the evolving philosophies and strategies of community policing and problem-oriented policing. These programs attempt to address potential crime problems in communities *before* departments are required to react to specific incidents, either by focusing on the department's partnership with the community (community policing) or on the underlying problems within the community (problem-oriented policing). Most departments, in fact, are combining these approaches.

What the public sees in most community and problem-oriented policing programs are such "old-fashioned" concepts as foot patrol and neighborhood meetings. But what more law enforcement executives are realizing is that these programs, like their incident-driven predecessors, can also greatly benefit from modern information processing technology.

Effective community problem-oriented policing, like incident-driven policing, relies heavily on the efficient storage, retrieval, and use of information. Instead of a "narrow" information path of call, dispatch, response, and incident report, however, community problem-oriented policing relies on a wider variety of information. Community policing also requires a fresh approach in analyzing data—data that police departments may not have traditionally been concerned with, or data which have been technically cumbersome for the systems currently in use.

What kind of information?

In a recent report on information systems and community policing, Malcolm Sparrow, a fellow with the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, defined the types of information most valuable to a problem-oriented policing program as the kinds of information that "especially good neighborhood or community beat officers . . . have or use that makes them so good." Mr. Sparrow breaks that information into four general groups:

- Special skills, such as negotiation and mediation skills; time management; interviewing and interpersonal skills; the skills associated with mobilizing and building self-respect among communities; and analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Knowledge of resources available within the department, from outside agencies, and within the community itself.
- Local knowledge—the accumulated experience of an officer or officers with the history, problems, and tensions of one particular area.
- Local acquaintance with individual people in a neighborhood, enabling the officer to spot problems and enlist support through personal acquaintance and "the resulting accumulation of mutual respect."

Assuming these four types of information are present, the next problem becomes getting as much of this information as possible out of the individual officer's head and into a system that can disseminate it to others in the department who may be working on the same or similar problems.

Mr. Sparrow notes that of the four, only the last—local acquaintance—cannot be easily passed on from one officer to another. The first, special skills, can be provided through training programs. And specialized information systems can be developed to collect, codify, and communicate both "knowledge of resources," in the form of a resource directory, and "local knowledge," in the form of a method of tracking and analyzing local problems and the response to those problems.

"The Authority's Urban Enforcement Support project will be one of the first to provide police departments with computer software to support these vital aspects of community problem-oriented policing," said Authority Executive Director Dennis Nowicki.

UES software development

The Authority's Urban Enforcement Support (UES) project, funded by a $175,000 federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act grant matched with $48,000 in state funds, will provide police departments in Illinois with a tool for improving efficiency and managing resource allocation with community problem-oriented policing programs. The software package, which will run on a personal computer, will

Information support for problem-oriented policing

Malcolm Sparrow, a community policing and technology expert from Harvard University, identifies four principles of information support for problem-oriented policing:

◆ Clustering incident data along various dimensions—geographic, temporal, offender class, victim class, behavior type, and so on. According to Mr. Sparrow, this clustering requires flexible database structures and expert system management.

◆ Appropriate information and analytic support at many levels within the department—from quick street-level problems to major and protracted investigations or programs.

◆ Support for problems that are not necessarily (yet) crime-related.

◆ Support for problems "that have never been identified before, that might not look like any previous police business, that might not have any data readily available, and that might in fact be unique. Provision of the appropriate information support will require unprecedented creativity, improvisation, and innovation."

Mr. Sparrow also notes that departments must be wary of confusing "data" with "information":

"Information products are as different from raw data as a table is from a plank of wood. Data are the ingredients, the raw materials. Information, on the other hand, is the final product."

He notes that data that are not analyzed, given structure, and gotten into the right hands simply add to a department's "data warehouse." He advocates the use of specialized data analysts within departments, who could turn their analytical skills to a variety of problems as they are presented to them.

Mr. Sparrow, formerly detective chief inspector of the Kent County Constabulary, England, is a research fellow in the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management and a lecturer in public policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. His report, *Information Systems and the Development of Policing*, is available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, 800-851-3420.

also help facilitate the development of new partnerships between police, other service providers, and the community.

The Authority began planning for the UES project in 1992 with a survey of police departments in Joliet, Aurora, Elgin, Rolling Meadows, and Waukegan—all departments with established community problem-oriented policing programs. The survey was designed to determine the types of information a community policing software package should include. The Authority grouped the departments' needs into three general areas:

◆ Problem identification and tracking: Agencies need to be able to identify and keep track of problems in their communities. Based on how various problems, from minor ones such as graffiti to major ones such as gang-related violence, are clustered, agencies can then define areas or neighborhoods that may need specific attention. They also must be able to identify *emerging* problems or problem areas by analyzing records of previous events, such as calls for certain types of police service—vandalism, youth problems, neighborhood disputes, abandoned vehicles, or other calls. Departments then must be able to identify the source, nature, extent, and current status of community problems and chronologically track the actions taken to resolve the problems.

◆ Resource directory: The key assumption in community problem-oriented policing is that early resolution of neighborhood problems will improve the overall health of the community and reduce the level of crime. This means that community police officers must be able to draw on a wide variety of individuals and organizations—such as social service agencies, other city departments, neighborhood social and activist groups, churches, and other resources—that help resolve problems at an early stage. Software that will inventory categories of problems and the community resources that are available to solve them will make finding an appropriate referral faster and easier.

◆ Personnel performance assessment: Finally, departments need to keep track of the actions that officers take in solving community problems, not only as part of the analysis of the problem, but also to help identify the types of action that have been effective in solving various problems. Departments also need to be able to measure the performance of community policing officers by standards other than the more traditional indicators of number of arrests made or tickets written.

The UES system is being designed to address all three of these information needs. Once completed, it can be used by itself on any personal computer that uses a "windows" environment, plus it will also include "hooks" that will enable it to work with mapping software and other law enforcement software applications.

The software in use

Once it is operational, UES will be able to assist officers in a variety of situations. The power of the system will come from its ability to help police officers document community problems and to tap into a variety of resources for solutions. Here's a possible example:

A community policing officer, at a community meeting, hears complaints of teenagers hanging out in alleys after school. She has also noticed, on her walks through the neighborhood, a recent increase in graffiti on walls and garage doors, although she hasn't seen any recognizable gang symbols as yet. She thinks it's time to start some gang prevention work.

She reports in to the station house and accesses UES on the station house computer. She logs in the reports of teens congregating and her observations of graffiti, tying them to

specific locations. She then has a number of options open to her. She can use UES to look at similar reports in areas adjacent to her beat—to determine if other neighborhoods are experiencing similar problems, or perhaps even more severe problems that might be about to spill over into her beat. If her department has the capabilities, she can request a map of incidents over a period of time, to try to further pinpoint the problem geographically. She can call up a list of contacts in various youth service organizations to help her start working on the problem.

As the officer continues to work with the community on getting the teenagers out of the alleys, she continues to record her progress in the problem identification and tracking component of UES. She also uses this component to schedule and track the use of resources from both within and outside the department, such as meetings with officers from adjacent beats, and to record her plans for future actions she will take. This will become a valuable record for anyone who is faced with a similar problem on another beat, or for future officers assigned to her beat. As she discovers and develops new contacts among the youth services she is working with, she records those in the resource directory so that others can have access to them.

How individual agencies incorporate UES into their operations will be up to them. Some may use a decentralized approach, like the one described here; others may require officers to go through a centralized information reporting area. UES will be structured so that departments can allow personnel varying levels of access, from simply reading or printing out certain material to adding or changing information. In addition, the codes used to enter data will help make sure that information entered by different individuals in a more decentralized operation are compatible with each other.

Projected release

Authority staff expect to complete the first draft of the software late this spring. Representatives of some of the original departments that were interviewed for its development will then review the software and suggest changes that could make it more effective. The final software should be ready this summer, and will be made available to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

For more information, contact Terrance Gough at the Authority, 312-793-8550. ■

Police information systems

In addition to the upcoming Urban Enforcement Support software, the Authority develops and operates a set of information systems that help police agencies collect and share information.

◆ Mobile Data Systems. ALERTS (Area-wide Law Enforcement Radio Terminal System) is a cooperative venture among local law enforcement and the Authority providing in-car computer terminals to police departments. The Authority is responsible for research and development, and it operates and maintains the central computer hardware and telecommunications equipment. User agencies procure their own in-car terminals, and they pay the Authority a user fee for operating and maintaining the system. This arrangement allows individual agencies to keep their costs down, while gaining access to in-car terminals.

ALERTS allows officers to make on-the spot inquiries about motor vehicles, wanted or missing persons, and other national, state, and regional crime information—without leaving their patrol cars or tying up voice radio channels.

As of June 1, 1993, 151 law enforcement agencies in 11 Illinois counties were part of the ALERTS network. The bulk of ALERTS users are in the Chicago suburban area, but there are also smaller ALERTS networks in the Springfield, Champaign, and Peoria areas. ALERTS users include some of the state's largest law enforcement agencies, as well as some of the smallest—more than one-third of the law enforcement agencies using ALERTS have 10 or fewer full-time sworn officers.

◆ Communication Support Systems. In 1991, the Authority introduced the newest of its police information systems, the Automated Law Enforcement Communications System (ALECS), to support the communications and dispatching needs of local law enforcement. Twenty public safety agencies in Cook, Lake, and DuPage counties have since joined the system.

Developed as an adjunct to ALERTS, ALECS is similar to many computer-aided dispatching systems. One key difference, however, is that ALECS is designed especially for small and medium-sized departments that do not want (or cannot afford) large, full-function CAD systems.

ALECS supports interfaces to E-911 systems, the State Police's telecommunications network, and ALERTS. A "call taking" function allows for computer entry of calls for services and voiceless dispatching via ALERTS.

◆ Management Information Systems. The Police Information Management System (PIMS), first developed in 1981, provides police departments with low-cost access to a computerized information system specially designed for Illinois police departments. PIMS users share access to the Authority's centralized computer facilities either through terminals or through compatible stand-alone personal computers. The Authority develops and maintains all PIMS programs, and Authority staff provide system and software support.

Not only does the shared information system lower the cost of computerizing, but because they are part of a network, PIMS agencies can easily agencies can easily share valuable information with one another, while maintaining security over any sensitive data stored on the system.

As of June 1, 1993, 50 police agencies in the Chicago, Rockford, and Galesburg metropolitan areas were using PIMS to maintain information about criminal incidents, offenders, arrests, and other police operations. The system also has sophisticated crime analysis and mapping features, and it automatically prepares monthly Uniform Crime Reporting statistics.

The high-tech court of the future

It holds the promise of cheaper, fairer, quicker justice. But there will be a few hurdles along the way.

By Steve Polilli

A criminal-court judge sitting in her chambers mulls over a difficult fraud case. She picks up a pen-like device attached to a computer to select a case from an on-screen list. The computer displays videotaped trial testimony with captioned text. Using the computer pen, the judge writes a key phrase onto the screen and the computer fast-forwards to that portion of the testimony. After reviewing the video passage, the judge switches to a criminal records database before calling up an artificial-intelligence-based software program to determine the appropriate punishment.

Downstairs, several citizens ready to plead to traffic citations insert credit cards into slots in automatic-teller-style kiosks. After viewing a computer likeness of the ticket, each offender is told by an on-screen narrator the cost of a guilty plea.

At the same time, lawyers across the county transmit filings in civil cases to a courthouse computer from their firms' desktop computers. Other attorneys use touch-tone phones to access a voice-response docketing information system.

Meanwhile, a suspect at a rural jail some 40 miles distant is brought before a video conferencing console connected through telephone lines to a similar device at the county courthouse, where a judge conducts remote arraignment hearings.

Welcome to the courthouse of the future.

While all of the individual components of this high-technology scenario are available now and in use in government or the private sector, no courthouse yet embodies them all, or the range of other technologies that also promise to make the judicial process more efficient. In fact, judicial automation lags behind the other branches of government.

Many courts, for example, still shun the use of credit cards for payments of fees and fines, according to Phil Atkisson, president of a Bakersfield, California, information systems development firm. That, Atkisson thinks, will have to change. "Courts cannot continue doing business as they have," he says. "They must change their ways and look at things as businesses do, and technology is part of that."

Take collections, for example—Larry Webster, director of technology programs for the National Center for State Courts, tells of one jurisdiction that saw its collections from default judgments increase from $3 million to $7 million during the first year it began using computers to track them. Even after the court caught up with some long-overdue accounts, collections in subsequent years were still running about $5 million annually.

Success stories like that are a big part of the reason for the increasing interest in automating the judicial process. Another reason is the growing role and size of the court systems. "Courts haven't gotten a lot of attention in the technology arena until now because they didn't have the big payrolls and the big budgets, as did the executive and legislative branches," says Fred Dugger, a past president of the National Association of State Information Resource Executives. 'That's all beginning to change, particularly for civil courts."

The flow of paper, a prime target for the high-tech approach, is greater in the civil courts, and the number of related agencies to be integrated is fewer. In addition, high-tech equipment vendors have surely noted that civil-court budgets are bigger.

Technologically speaking, criminal courts are a tougher nut to crack. They must interface seamlessly with computers and databases at a number of agencies, including those of law enforcement, corrections, and prosecutors. Adding a further layer of difficulty are the largely unanswered questions about how to secure sensitive data when access is widespread.

Progress being made

Despite the barriers, the full-scale automation of the courts is getting under way. While it may be years before some technologies, such as automated speech recognition and artificial intelligence, will yield great benefit, others offer immediate help.

For most court administrators, the most immediate need is for ways to cope with the mountains of paper that clog the court systems. That's why many court systems are getting into imaging technology, in which paper documents are optically scanned and stored on laser disks.

The Los Angeles County Municipal Courts have installed an imaging system valued at over $1 million. A central site has an optical storage system with laser disk "jukeboxes," and several courts have terminals to access within seconds any of the more than 60,000 traffic citations issued monthly. Scores of file cabinets have been eliminated.

"Phone inquiries and various transactions can be handled much more quickly and easily, and the processing time for tickets is greatly reduced," says Peggy Mitchell of the court's information systems division.

But while captured images may be viewed or printed out, the information those images contain cannot be used as traditional computer data—searched, manipulated by database software, or compiled into reports. One solution is the use of optical character recognition systems. Like imaging systems, OCR systems scan in the image of a docu-

ment, but a computer program then "reads" the data contained by the document bit by bit to convert it to a digitized format.

Documents including court proceedings, penal codes, and state statutes can be scanned, digitized and stored on either optical or magnetic media in a central statewide computer. "The biggest payback on this is if a rule of law is changed. Instead of sending out replacement pages and instructions for making the change, the change is made centrally and everyone has immediate access to it," says Mary Lu Holter, IBM's Baltimore-based senior adviser for justice applications.

Of course, the courts would be better served if all of the raw material of justice—traffic tickets, filings, motions and other documents—didn't exist on paper at all. There have already been steps in that direction. Most large police departments already create offense reports from data keyed into a computer system. Hand-held citation computers and legal papers created and filed by computer could eliminate a lot of the burden on the court.

The process of creating such an integrated judicial automation scheme is highly specific to each jurisdiction, which must cope with data coming in from agencies that use incompatible computers and data formats. A nationwide judicial standard for an electronic data interchange format and access techniques would eliminate much of the work involved. An effort to create such a universal format is under way under the auspices of the American Bar Association and the American National Standards Institute.

Development costs coming down

Meanwhile, the rapidly declining cost of computing power is making increasingly viable many once-exotic technologies. Among those that the courts are beginning to put to use are multimedia computing, computer-aided transcription, and video conferencing.

Multimedia is a series of computer programs and powerful hardware that, when combined, allow integration of computer data, colorful graphics, voice, and video signals. The Long Beach Municipal Court in California uses multimedia for its automated court clerk kiosk system. The kiosks, located at the court building, look much like an automated bank teller machine, with a screen, credit card slot, and keypad. Attached to a personal computer and a video disk player, the color video monitor shows a narrator, speaking in either English or Spanish, advising the user of options on a given traffic offense. The citizen presses a touch-sensitive screen to choose a plea, method of payment or other options.

The bottom line is that the public will be better served by increased use of technology in the courtroom. Justice will be cheaper, fairer, and quicker in the automated court.

Video conferencing is particularly useful in rural areas or anywhere a courthouse is physically remote from the jail. Video conferencing units, some as small as a briefcase, include a television screen, camera, and microphone. A judge might sit before one unit, while another unit is put in the jail. These devices are typically used in pretrial hearings.

Computer-aided transcription hasn't moved legal stenographers from their familiar position in front of the bench, but it does eliminate the need for translation of the stenographic record. With CAT, the recording keypad is linked to a small computer that has been programmed to translate the keystrokes into text. The text, which on some available systems annotates a video recording, can be searched for key words; when a jury asks to review certain testimony, the system scans the data and replays the video or prints a partial transcript.

Other, still-evolving technologies hold a lot of promise for the courts. Voice recognition computers have a considerable development process ahead of them before they can recognize different speakers at one time, but such systems are now fairly adept at responding to a single speaker who has given speech samples. Within a decade, experts predict, voice recognition systems may replace court stenographers entirely.

Artificial intelligence, in which a computer replicates the knowledge and reasoning of a skilled professional, may someday assist judges in sentencing or attorneys in selecting jurors. While development of those applications is just beginning, a number of courts are already using a sophisticated computer program to evaluate the likelihood of substance abuser rehabilitation.

Substance Abuse Life Circumstance Evaluation, or SALCE, is a computerized questionnaire that provides judges and social workers with a tool for sentence recommendations. Bryan Ellis, president of Clarkston, Michigan-based ADE Inc., is a psychologist who used his background in substance abuse treatment to develop the personal computer-based program. He said SALCE has been used in 26 states to evaluate 300,000 substance abusers with a 98 percent degree of accuracy. "The program isn't perfect, but it's a much more sophisticated and accurate evaluation than a human can perform," Ellis says. "The computer has absolutely no biases that a human can bring to an evaluation of this sort."

SALCE is an example of the effort under way to bring the promise of information technology to bear on the problems and needs of the courts. The bottom line is that the public will be better served by increased use of technology in the courtroom. Justice will be cheaper, fairer, and quicker in the automated court.

"The bulk of the work of the courts is mindless and repetitive," says Larry Webster, the National Center for State Courts technology director. "That is exactly what the computer is good it. Technology makes the court more effective." ■

Steve Polilli is a Dallas-area freelance writer. Reprinted with permission, copyright 1992, Governing magazine.

Safe school zones: Raising the risk of "doing business"

"No, let's do the deal somewhere else. I heard the penalties are tougher if we get caught selling around a school," a drug dealer says to an undercover police officer trying to set up a drug buy.

Lately, this is what some undercover police officers in Evanston have been hearing when they try to set up drug buys on or near school property, said Lt. Michael Gresham, who heads the narcotics unit of the Evanston Police Department.

"Drug dealers now are leery of dealing drugs around school property because they realize they will get enhanced penalties," Lt. Gresham said. "We've tried to set up deals around the schools, but [the dealers] say to us 'meet me some place else.'"

This is just the attitude law enforcement professionals, educators and parents want. They want the drugs, gangs and dealers away from their children's schools. However, this attitude didn't just develop overnight in Evanston, Lt. Gresham said.

It happened shortly after the police department combined its gang and drug unit to form the pilot program Working to Eliminate Drugs and Gangs in Evanston (WEDGE) in 1990.

> A crucial element is the active support and involvement of people who live in the community.

WEDGE, now in its fourth year, was specifically designed to develop operations that target both gang members who deal in narcotics and the places where they set up their shops.

Many of the operations involve drug busts on, or within 1,000 feet, of school property. Selling a gram or more of cocaine that close to a school—in a safe school zone—is a Class X felony that carries a mandatory prison sentence of six to 30 years. The same crime committed in another location is a Class 1 felony, with the possibility of probation or a prison sentence of four to 15 years. In some cases, safe school zone laws have doubled the penalties for some drug offenses.

"When drug deals are made on or around 1,000 feet of school property, it gives the police department another tool to get stiffer penalties," Lt. Gresham said. "However, the court system, a lot of times, is very lenient with giving out sentences to drug dealers. The laws are only as effective as the judge who sits on the bench."

During a recent operation, undercover police officers successfully made nine drug buys around Evanston schools. One case involved nabbing the leader of a local street gang who sold a total of more than an ounce of cocaine, with a street value of $1,200, to an undercover police officer.

"This particular guy probably thought because [the buy] took place after school hours, it was probably safe," Lt. Gresham said. "What this guy didn't realize was that the safe school zone laws are in effect 24 hours a day, even when school is not in session."

The dealer now faces more than 10 years in prison.

Community involvement

A crucial element in the effort to eliminate drugs from schools and neighborhoods is the active support and involvement of people who live in the community, according to Gresham.

The safe school zone is not an isolated location, but part of the overall community, he said. In many neighborhoods, a large percentage of the communities fall within designated safe school zones. Now, more than ever, citizens have the opportunity to assist law enforcement agencies in ridding their communities of drugs.

Lt. Gresham said Evanston's WEDGE program provided the catalyst for community involvement. One community group to emerge was the Emerson Neighborhood Coalition that represented a predominantly African-American neighborhood in Evanston called the Mayfair Triangle.

Community leaders described the area as "physically separated" from the city by two railroad tracks—one on each side—where drug dealing was visible and gun shots commonplace.

Street gangs had taken over a six-block area in the neighborhood and residents witnessed drug-related activity on a daily basis, according to Lt. Gresham.

By creating a partnership with the community, the drug unit task force made numerous drug sweeps, making dealing drugs more risky to them in that area. Outfitted with car phones, the task force was in constant contact with local residents who helped direct them to illegal drug activity.

The department began emphasizing public education by encouraging residents to take back their neighborhoods. It increased foot patrol units, making law enforcement more visible to the community, and the number of car phones in units. Safe school zone signs were erected around area schools. Also, a chapter of Mothers Against Gangs was formed in Evanston to help bring groups to court to testify against street gang members, Lt. Gresham said.

WEDGE also provided an incentive to improve aesthetic conditions in the area as well. Residents took part in a neighborhood clean-up, and some even painted their homes, according to Lt. Gresham.

"This effort has increased the perception that [the community] is directly involved in helping the police do something in their neighborhood," Lt. Gresham said. "It works two ways. The community helps us a whole lot."

Although drug dealing around Evanston schools still exists, WEDGE has identified the problem, attacked it, and changed some attitudes about peddling drugs around schools.

"The more operations you do, the more it sticks in [the drug dealers'] minds," Gresham said. "We're raising the levels of risk of doing business."

Jamilah Owens

Authority publications available

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has published *The DuPage County State's Attorney's Drug Control Strategy Task Force: A Process Evaluation*. The report documents the process the state's attorney's office used to develop a multi-faceted, coordinated drug control strategy for DuPage County.

The Authority also added two ongoing publications to its resource list, *On Good Authority* and *STAC News*.

On Good Authority will be a continuing series of executive briefings on critical issues and trends facing the criminal justice system in Illinois. The first paper examines the use of asset seizure and forfeiture in drug cases. Future papers will cover subjects such as firearms, intermediate sanctions, and other criminal justice topics.

STAC News is designed for users and people interested in the use of the STAC (Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Crime) statistical software package. *STAC News* is a forum for these crime analysts and others to share ideas and learn from each other.

For more information on these publications, call the Authority at 312-793-8550.

Correctional system directory now available

The American Correctional Association has published the 1993 edition of the *Directory of Juvenile and Adult Correctional Departments, Institutions, Agencies and Paroling Authorities*. The directory contains current information on U.S. and Canadian provincial, state, and federal correctional systems. Entries include lists of wardens and administrators, security levels, inmate populations and capacities, and programs offered, as well as statistical analyses of budgets, populations, and personnel, to track trends and growth. For more information, contact the American Correctional Association at 800-825-2665.

Princeton University, Bureau of Justice Statistics, sponsor project

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is sponsoring a project with Princeton University to reexamine the goals and objectives of the criminal justice system and the traditional measures used to assess performance. The first two of a series of discussion papers on issues related to the project's work have been published.

Rethinking the Criminal Justice System: Toward a New Paradigm (NCJ-139670) presents an overview of the need to complement and expand the traditional criminal justice measures of crime rates and recidivism. *Criminal Justice Performance Measures for Prisons (NCJ-139458)* identifies practical criteria for corrections administrators striving to measure their performance. Additional papers in this series will cover such areas as policing and probation and parole. For ordering information, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at 800-732-3277.

Crime victim survey released

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has released "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1991" (NCJ-139563), the results of the bureau's survey of 83,000 U.S. citizens about whether and how they had been victimized by crime. Topics include: trends in crime rates; regional comparisons; trends in whether victims report crimes to police; sex, age, race, and other victim data; victim-offender relationships; offender and offense characteristics; use of weapons; victim self-protection; physical injuries; and time lost from work and other economic losses. For ordering information, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at 800-732-3277.

New kit helps communities and parents in gang prevention effort

The National Crime Prevention Council's newest kit, *Tools to Involve Parents in Gang Prevention*, includes materials to help communities reach parents, young children, preteens, and young teens with gang prevention messages and information. The kit was developed in cooperation with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Police Executive Research Forum. For more information, write to the National Crime Prevention Council, 1700 K Street, N.W., Second Floor, Washington, D.C., 20006-3817.

What do you do when a child reports a crime?

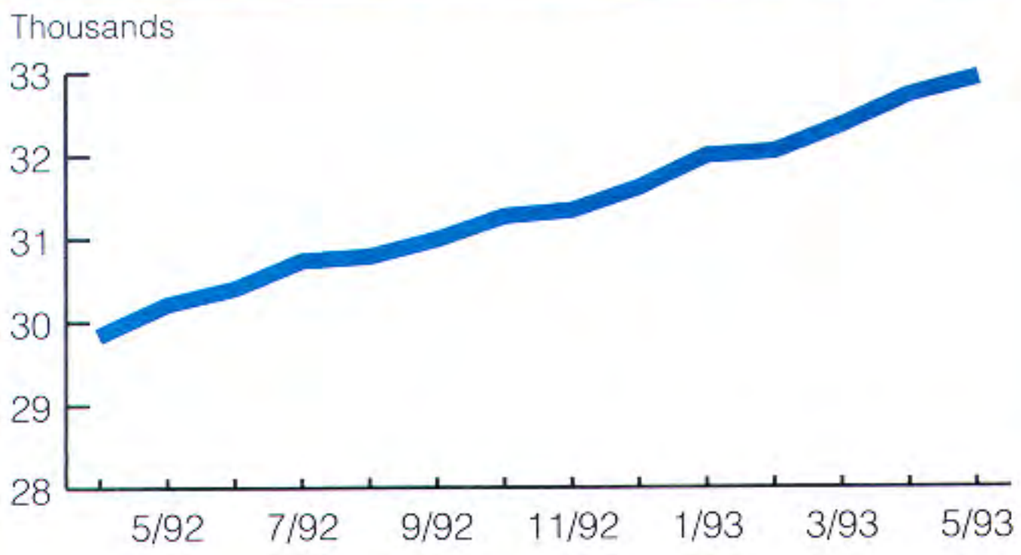
When a Child Reports a Crime: Encouraging Children To Report Crimes and Responding Effectively When They Do, published by the National Crime Prevention Council, takes an in-depth look at problems and issues encountered when children are involved in reporting a crime. Although written for law enforcement personnel, it can be useful to teachers, youth workers, counselors, medical personnel, and others who deal frequently with children. For more information, write to the National Crime Prevention Council, 1700 K Street, N.W., Second Floor, Washington, D.C., 20006-3817.

Prosecution Management Support System available

The Bureau of Justice Assistance has developed the Prosecution Management Support System (PMSS), a management tool to guide prosecutors in developing or acquiring an automated system. PMSS consists of a program brief and directory reference manual to recommend system functions, key data elements, and information requirements needed for an effective system. It also provides technical assistance resources and other reference material. For more information, contact the Bureau of Justice Assistance clearinghouse at 800-688-4252.

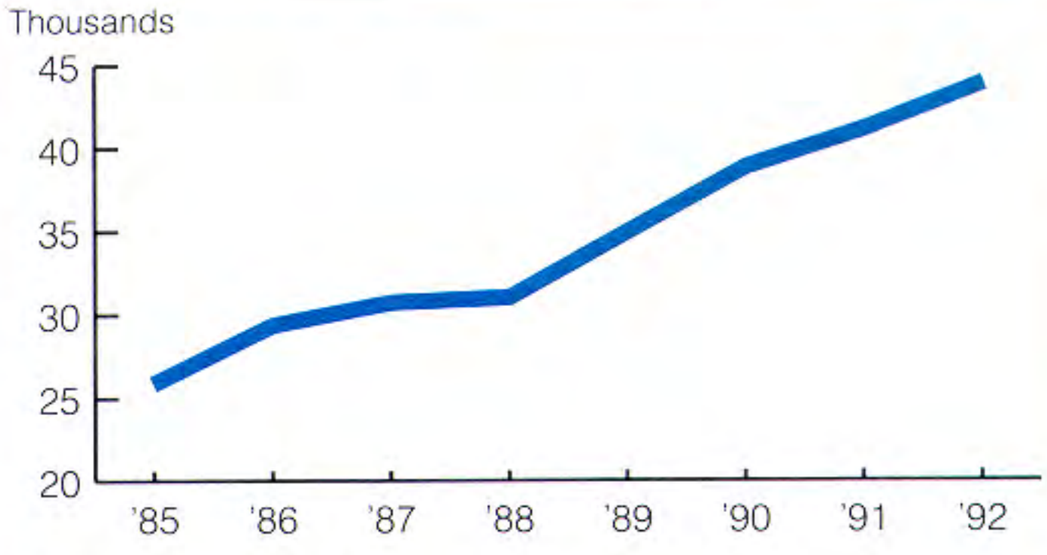
Trends

State adult inmate population (end of month)



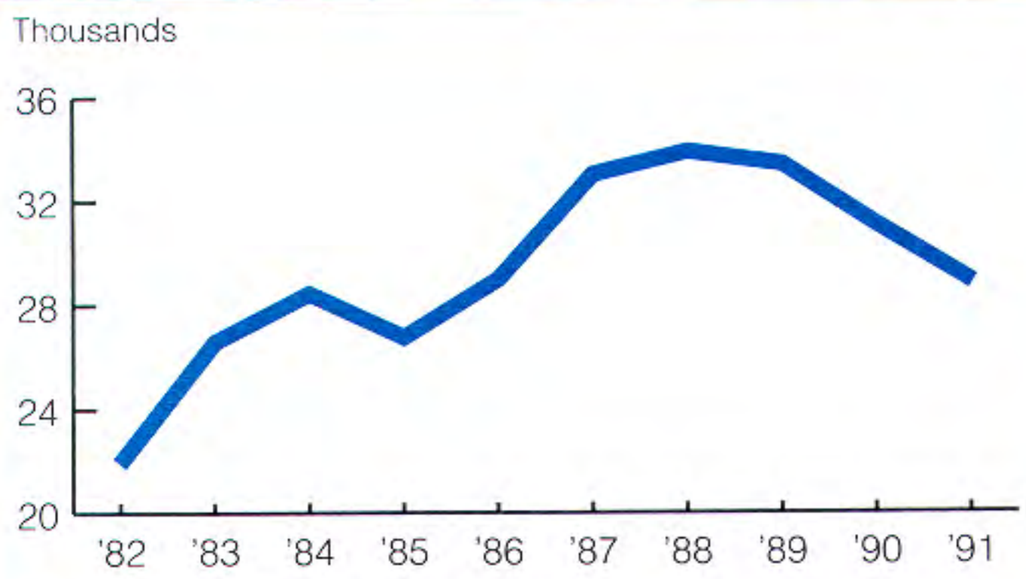
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections
(Includes inmates in state and federal prisons and work release centers)

State active adult probation caseloads



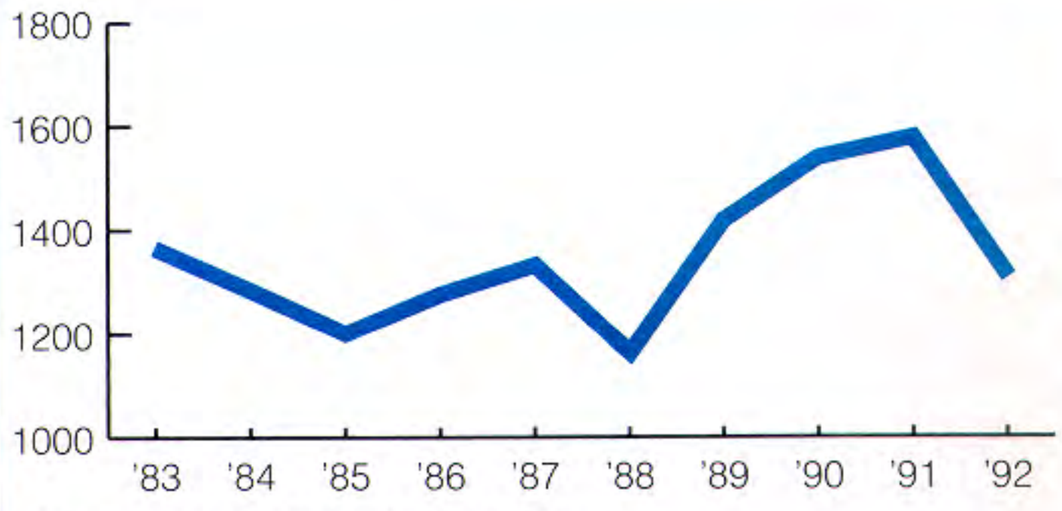
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

County jail adult inmate population (statewide)



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections
(Sentenced offenders only. Does not include arrestees awaiting trial.)

Juvenile admissions to IDOC



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

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