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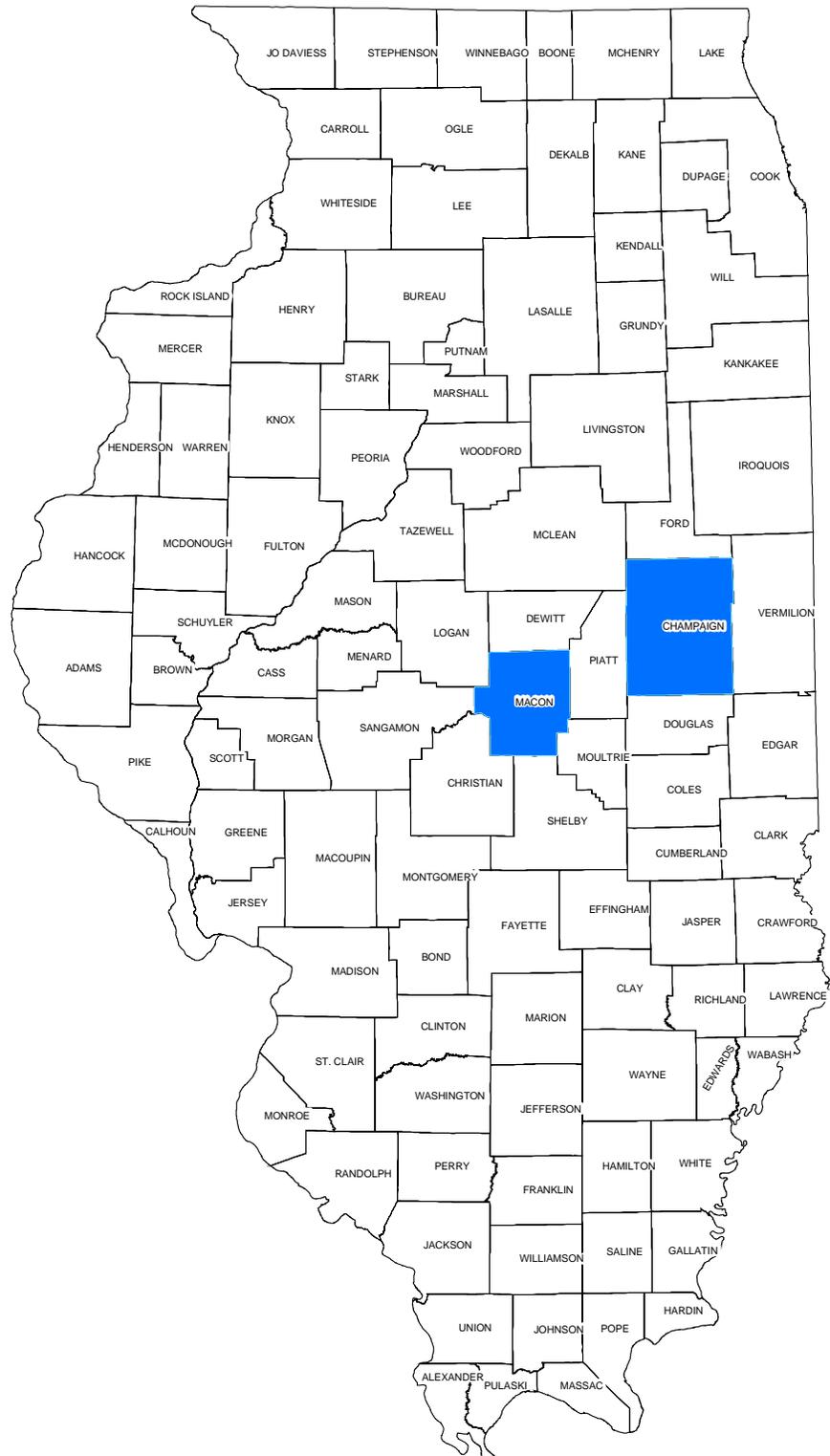
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March 2004

Assessing Illinois' Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and Task Forces



A Profile of Task Force X

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1989, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has received funds under the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to document the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the criminal justice system's response to these offenses. As a result of these efforts, the Authority has amassed a large amount of data measuring the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the impact these crimes have had on the criminal justice system. In addition, as part of its monitoring and evaluation efforts, the Authority also requires funded programs to submit monthly data reports describing their activities and accomplishments. This profile is intended to provide a general overview of the drug and violent crime problem in the jurisdictions covered by Illinois' MEGs and task forces, and the response to these problems by the units.

Although the data presented in this report are by no means inclusive of all indicators, they do provide a general overview of drug and violent crime and the response and impact of the criminal justice system. The following represent general conclusions that can be made based on the data analyzed for this report.

- In 2002, seven local Illinois police agencies participated in Task Force X (a participating agency is defined as one that contributes either manpower or financial resources to Task Force X). Officers assigned to Task Force X (totaling 14 in 2002, 12 from participating agencies) accounted for 3 percent of the total number of sworn police officers working for agencies participating in Task Force X (page 1).
- The violent Index offense rate was significantly higher across jurisdictions that participated in Task Force X than among the combined jurisdictions that did not participate in Task Force X (page 3).
- The drug arrest rate was significantly higher in those jurisdictions that participated in Task Force X than in those jurisdictions that did not participating in Task Force X. The drug arrest rate achieved by Task Force X during the same period was smaller than the rates achieved by participating agencies, but higher than the rate achieved by non-participating agencies (page 6).
- When comparing the types of drug offenders arrested by those agencies participating in Task Force X, those agencies not participating, and Task Force X, it was found that Task Force X tended to target and arrest more serious drug law violators in 2002, specifically violators of the Controlled Substances Act, which tend to be felony-level offenses (page 9).
- The majority of all drug arrests reported by Task Force X, for either violations of the Cannabis Control Act or the Controlled Substances Act, involve drug sale or delivery (page 14).
- Between 1993 and 2002, the amount of cannabis and cocaine seized by Task Force X increased (pages 15 and 16).
- Between 1991 and 2002, 97 percent of all drug arrests by Task Force X resulted in prosecution. Of these Task Force X drug offender prosecutions, 71 percent were for violations of Controlled Substances Act. In addition, between 1991 and 2002, 73 percent of all drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of Task Force X activity were convicted (page 18).
- In 2002, among those Task Force X drug offenders convicted and sentenced, prison sentences accounted for the largest proportion (53 percent), followed by probation sentences (45 percent) and jail sentences (2 percent) (page 20).

- Between 1991 and 1999, prison sentences resulting from Task Force X cases accounted for 37 percent of all drug-law violators sent to prison from the region where Task Force X operates (page 21).
- Unlike the arrests made by the participating and non-participating agencies, the arrests made by Task Force X tended to involve the substances considered to be most serious (i.e., felony versus misdemeanor) and the substances for which a large proportion of community residents were seeking and receiving substance abuse treatment in 2002 (page 25).

I. Introduction

The Task Force X (TF X) covers the Illinois counties of Champaign and Macon. Combined, these counties had a 2002 total population of 295,172 – 2 percent higher than in 1990. In 2002, seven local Illinois law enforcement agencies participated in Task Force X. These include the Champaign County Sheriff's Office and the Macon County Sheriff's Office and the following municipal police departments: Champaign, Decatur, Urbana, and Rantoul, as well as the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) Police Department. These agencies served 85 percent of the population in the two-county region covered by Task Force X in 2002 (see Map 1 on page 31). A participating agency is defined as one that contributes either manpower or financial resources to Task Force X.

In addition to agencies that participate in Task Force X, these Illinois counties are served by 16 additional police departments that do not participate in Task Force X. According to the Illinois State Police, county sheriffs and local police departments, in the two-county region covered by Task Force X, combined, employed 551 full-time police officers as of Oct. 31, 2002, 506 of which worked for agencies participating in Task Force X. In comparison, there were a total of just 18 officers assigned to Task Force X in 2002, 13 of which were assigned by participating agencies and five from the Illinois State Police (ISP). Thus, the officers assigned to Task Force X during 2002 accounted for a relatively small proportion—3 percent—of the total number of sworn police officers working in the participating police departments.

Since 1989, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has received funds under the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to document the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the criminal justice system's response to these offenses. As a result of these efforts, the Authority has amassed a large amount of data measuring the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the impact these crimes have had on the criminal justice system. In addition, as part of its monitoring and evaluation efforts, the Authority also requires funded programs to submit monthly data reports describing their activities and accomplishments. To put this information into the hands of Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) and drug task force directors and policy board members, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has developed profiles – of which this is one – for each MEG and task force. The profile is intended to provide a general overview of the drug and violent crime problem in the jurisdictions covered by Illinois' MEGs and task forces, and the response to these problems by the units.

In addition to administering federal block-grant funds that come to Illinois for crime control initiatives, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is also responsible for providing policymakers, criminal justice professionals and others with information, tools and technology needed to make effective decisions that improve the quality of criminal justice in Illinois. The Authority provides an objective system-wide forum for identifying critical problems in criminal justice, developing coordinated and cost-effective strategies, and implementing and evaluating solutions to those problems. The specific powers and duties of the Authority are delineated in the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Ch. 20, Sec. 3930). Two of the Authority's many responsibilities are serving as a clearinghouse of information and research on criminal justice and undertaking research studies to improve the administration of criminal justice.

While the data presented in this report are by no means inclusive of all indicators, they do provide a general overview of drug and violent crime and the response and impact of the criminal justice system. In addition, these data are readily available and consistently defined through existing statewide data collection mechanisms. Some data presented in this profile have been analyzed differently than in previous years; therefore, caution must be taken when comparing numbers presented with previous profiles.

While a considerable amount of the information presented in this profile has been provided to the Authority by Task Force X, a number of state agencies have also provided data to the Authority that are included in this report. Specifically, the Illinois State Police, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, the Illinois Department of Corrections and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services all provided data used to develop this profile. The support and cooperation of these agencies and their staffs have helped make this report an informative and timely source of information on the activities of the criminal justice system in Illinois.

II. Trends in Violent Index Offenses and Arrests

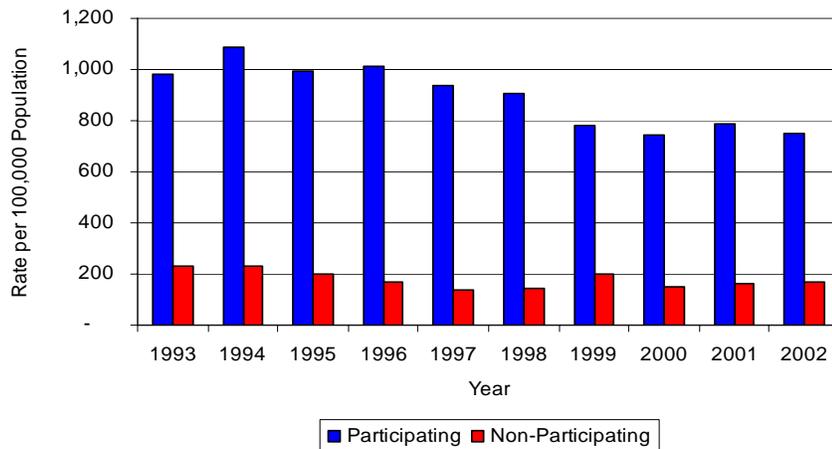
While most of Illinois' Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and drug task forces are primarily involved in drug enforcement activities, it is clear that the relationship between drugs and violence is particularly evident in a number of Illinois communities. In addition, a number of MEGs and task forces have increased their involvement in the investigation of violent crime, particularly that associated with gang activity and violence related to drug distribution, sale and turf battles. One of the most commonly used indicators of the level of crime in a particular jurisdiction is the number of Index offenses reported to the police. In Illinois, as part of the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program, every law enforcement agency in the state is required to report crime data monthly to the Illinois State Police (ISP), either directly or through another law enforcement agency, usually the county sheriff's office. There are eight separate offenses that constitute the Crime Index, including murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault (violent Index offenses), burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson (property Index offenses). Although these eight offenses do not account for all crimes reported to the police, they are considered to be the most serious, frequent, pervasive and consistently defined by different law enforcement agencies.

In 2002, the number of violent Index offenses reported to the police in the two-county region covered by Task Force X totaled 1,950 a 23 percent decrease from the 2,529 offenses reported in 1993. The majority (70 percent) of violent Index offenses reported to the police between 1993 and 2002 were aggravated assaults, while 20 percent were robberies.

During the period analyzed, the violent Index offense rate for the region covered by Task Force X decreased 25 percent, from 878 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 661 offenses per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the violent Index offense rate in the participating agencies decreased 24 percent, from 981 to 748 offenses per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies decreased 27 percent, from 230 to 169 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Thus, the violent Index offense rate across jurisdictions participating in Task Force X was significantly higher than the violent Index offense rate across jurisdictions not participating in Task Force X.

Figure 1

Violent Index Offense Rates for Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force X

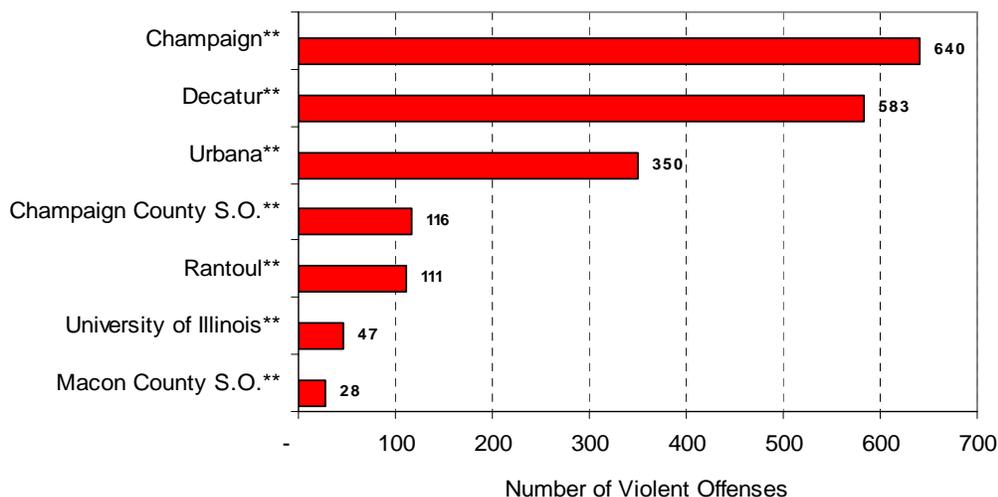


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Across the individual local law enforcement agencies covered by Task Force X's jurisdiction, two agencies, the Champaign Police Department and the Decatur Police Department accounted for 63 percent of all violent Index offenses reported to the police in 2002 (Figure 2). Agencies reporting fewer than 20 violent Index offenses in 2002 are excluded from Figure 2. When controlling for differences in the populations served by these law enforcement agencies, the violent Index offense *rate* ranged from 1,841 violent Index offenses per 100,000 population in Ludlow to 133 offenses per 100,000 population in Ogden.

Figure 2

2002 Violent Index Offenses* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force X



Source: Illinois State Police

*Agencies reporting 20 or more violent offenses
 **Agencies participating in TF X

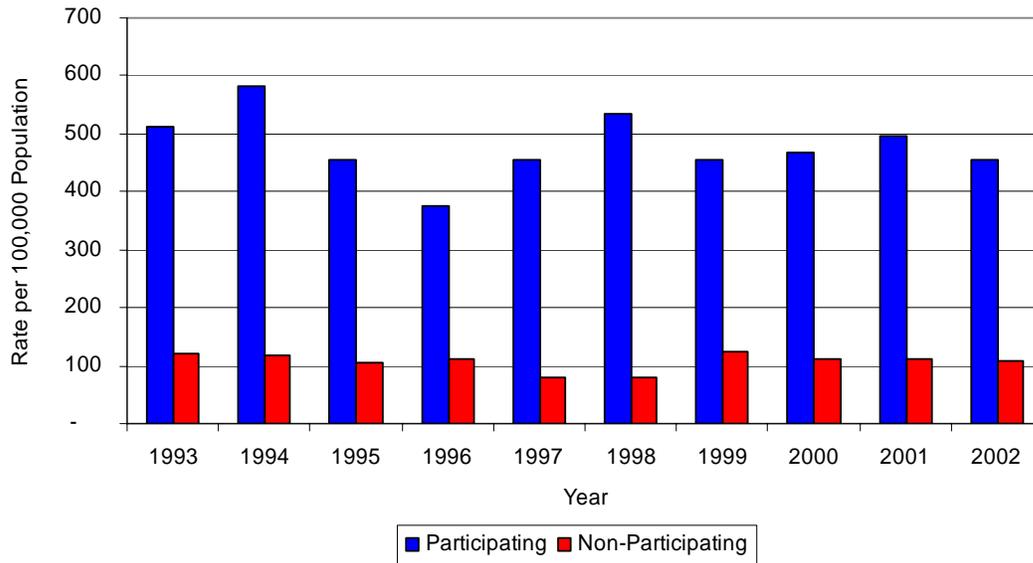
An indicator of the workload that law enforcement agencies place on other components of the justice system is the number of arrests made by police, including those for violent and property Index offenses and drug offenses. Unlike offenses, which are what police must respond to, arrests represent those offenders who may eventually be processed through other components of the justice system, including the courts, county jails, and state and local correctional programs.

Between 1993 and 2002, the number of arrests for violent Index offenses made by law enforcement agencies in the region covered by Task Force X decreased 10 percent, from 1,321 to 1,188. As with reported violent Index offenses, the majority (77 percent) of violent Index arrests were for aggravated assaults, followed by robberies (16 percent).

During the period analyzed, the violent Index arrest rate for the region covered by Task Force X decreased 12 percent, from 459 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 402 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the violent Index arrest rate in the participating agencies decreased 11 percent, from 512 to 455 offenses per 100,000 population, and the rate in the non-participating agencies also decreased 11 percent, from 122 to 108 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Violent Index Arrest Rates for Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force X

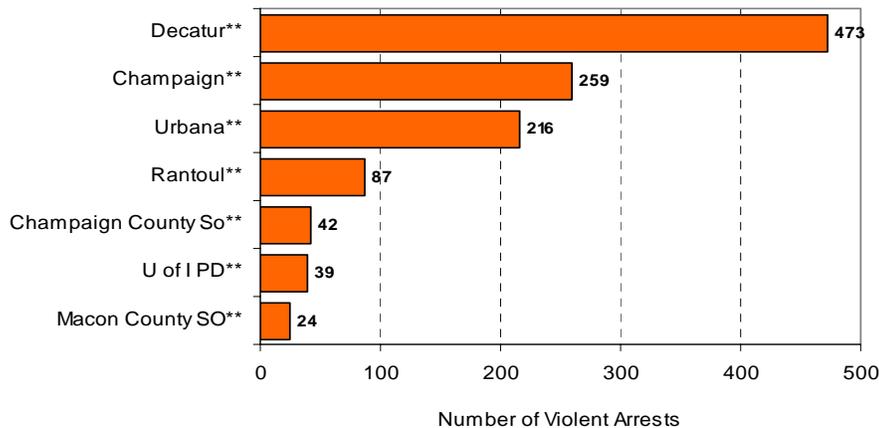


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U. S. Census Bureau data

The majority (80 percent) of arrests for violent Index offenses occurring in the two-county region covered by Task Force X were made by three agencies. Agencies reporting fewer than 15 arrests for violent Index offenses in 2002 are excluded from Figure 4. Of the 1,188 violent Index arrests made in 2002, the Decatur Police Department accounted for the largest proportion (40 percent), the Champaign Police Department accounted for 22 percent, and the Urbana Police Department accounted for 18 percent of violent Index arrests made in the region (Figure 4).

Figure 4

2002 Violent Index Arrests* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force X



Source: Illinois State Police

*Agencies reporting 15 or more violent arrests
 **Agencies participating in TF X

III. Trends in Drug Arrests

There are two sources of drug arrest data presented in this section. One source is the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program that includes information submitted by local law enforcement agencies on the number of persons arrested for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act, and Drug Paraphernalia Control Act. In addition, data on drug arrests made by Illinois' MEGs and task forces are reported to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. In some jurisdictions, arrests made by the MEG or task force may be reported by both local law enforcement agencies through the I-UCR and to the Authority by the unit. In other jurisdictions, arrests made by the MEG or task force are only reported to the Authority by the unit. Therefore, in some instances drug arrests may be double counted – included in both local agency statistics reported to I-UCR and those of the MEG or task force. Currently there is no mechanism in place to ensure that drug arrest statistics are not being duplicated at both the local agency and MEG/task force level. This should be kept in mind when interpreting the information presented in the following section.

The majority of drug offenses in Illinois are violations of either the *Cannabis Control Act* – which prohibits the possession, sale and cultivation of marijuana – or the *Controlled Substances Act* – which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution or manufacture of all other illegal drugs, such as cocaine and opiates. Illinois also has various other laws prohibiting other drug-related activity. These include the *Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act* – which prohibits the possession or sale of hypodermic instruments – and the *Drug Paraphernalia Control Act* – which prohibits the possession, sale or delivery of drug paraphernalia. In general, violations of Illinois Controlled Substances Act are considered to be more serious, since they primarily involve cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and hallucinogens, and are almost all classified under Illinois law as felonies. The majority of cannabis and drug paraphernalia offenses encountered by police, on the other hand, tend to be misdemeanor-level offenses.

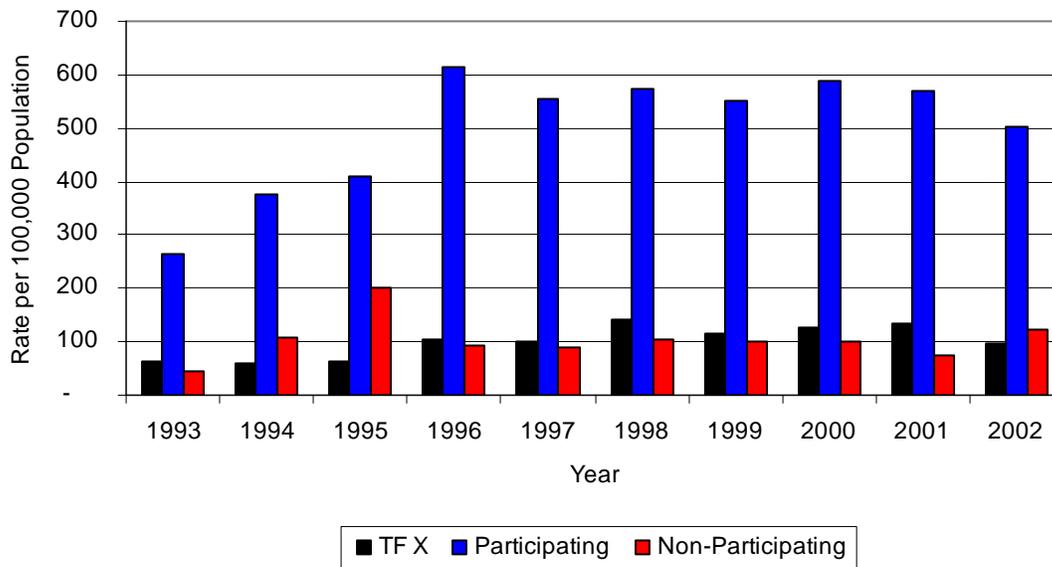
In 2002, local law enforcement agencies in the counties covered by Task Force X reported 1,644 arrests for drug law violations, more than double the arrests made in 1993 (692 arrests). Between 1993 and 2002, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act out-numbered arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act every year analyzed in Champaign and Macon counties, combined. During the same period, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act in these two counties, combined, more than doubled, from 371 to 809. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act in the two counties, combined, increased 69 percent, from 299 to 504. In addition, arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, enacted in 1993, increased from six in 1993 to 319 in 2002. Much of this increase can be attributed to a 1994 addition to the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, which included the possession of drug paraphernalia as a violation.

Because arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act are frequently made in conjunction with other drug offense arrests, these arrests may be double-counted, thus skewing the actual number of drug arrests. Therefore, only arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act and Controlled Substances Act will be used for drug arrest comparisons between Task Force X and the participating and non-participating agencies.

During the period analyzed, the drug arrest rate for violations of the Cannabis Control Act and Controlled Substances Act, combined, in the region covered by Task Force X, nearly doubled, from 233 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 445 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the drug arrest rate in the participating agencies nearly doubled, from 263 to 502, while the drug arrest rate for non-participating agencies nearly tripled from 43 to 124 arrests per 100,000 population. The arrest rate for Task Force X also increased 56 percent, from 63 to 98 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 5). Thus, the drug arrest rate in jurisdictions participating in Task Force X was significantly higher than the drug

arrest rate across jurisdictions not participating in Task Force X. The drug arrest rate achieved by Task Force X during the same period was lower than the drug arrest rates achieved by participating agencies but higher than those achieved by non-participating agencies for every year analyzed.

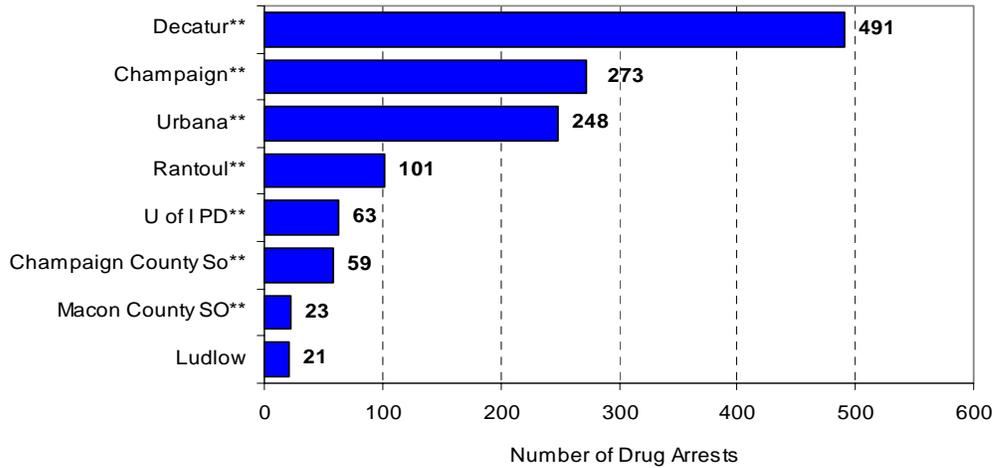
Figure 5
Total Drug Arrest Rates for Task Force X and Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force X



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, Task Force X and U.S. Census Bureau data

Across the local law enforcement agencies in the region covered by Task Force X, the total number of cannabis and controlled substance arrests ranged from zero to 491. Of the 1,313 drug arrests made during 2002 in the two-county region, three agencies accounted for 77 percent of these drug arrests. Agencies reporting fewer than 20 drug arrests in 2002 are excluded from Figure 6. Decatur accounted 37 percent of all drug arrests in Champaign and Macon counties, followed by the Champaign Police Department (21 percent) and the Urbana Police Department (19 percent) (Figure 6). Among those agencies listed in Figure 6, the top seven agencies with the highest drug arrests reported participated in Task Force X.

Figure 6
2002 Drug Arrests* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force X

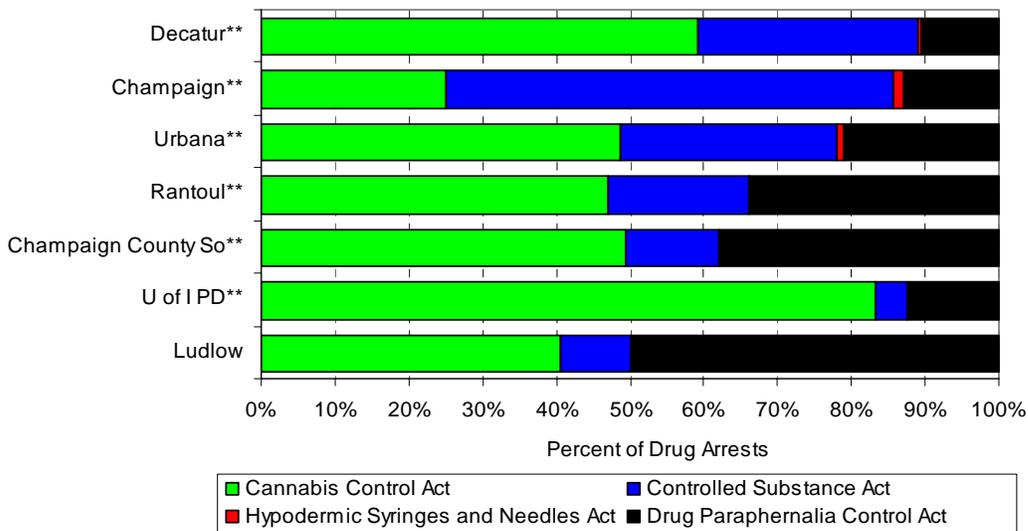


Source: Illinois State Police

*Agencies reporting 20 or more drug arrests
 **Agencies participating in Task Force X

In addition to the difference in the number of drug arrests made, there are also differences in the types of drug law violation arrests across the agencies in the region. In 2002, violations of the Cannabis Control Act accounted for the majority of arrests across most individual agencies in the region covered by Task Force X (Figure 7).

Figure 7
Total 2002 Drug Arrests* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by Task Force X, by Drug Type



Source: Illinois State Police

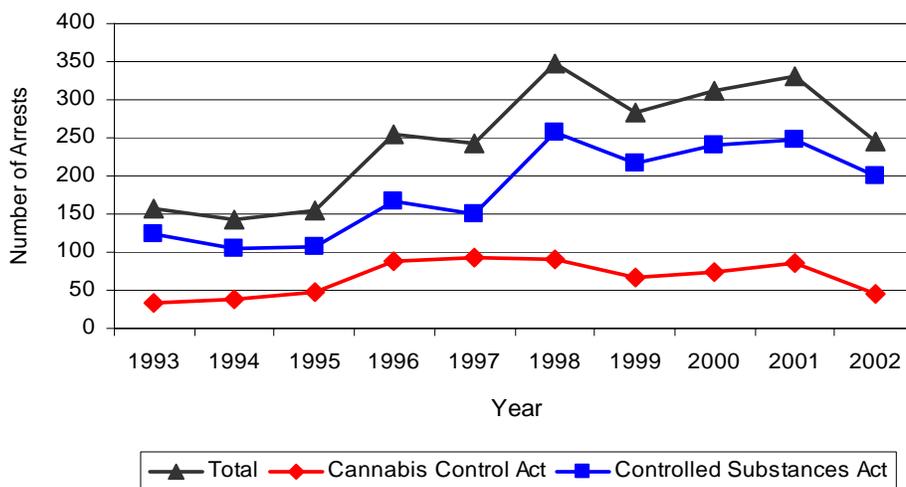
*Agencies reporting 20 or more drug arrests
 **Agencies participating in TF X

Between 1993 and 2002, the number of combined cannabis and controlled substances arrests made by Task Force X increased 57 percent, from 156 to 245 (Figure 8). Unlike drug arrests made by most local police departments in the region, violations of the Controlled Substances Act accounted for the majority of drug arrests made by Task Force X throughout most of the period analyzed. During the period analyzed, the number of Task Force X arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act increased 39 percent, from 33 to 46, while arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 62 percent, from 123 to 199 (Figure 8).

Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion of drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act decreased for participating agencies, from 45 to 39 percent. For non-participating agencies, the proportion of arrests for violation of the Controlled Substances Act decreased from 18 to 16 percent of all drug arrests. On the other hand, for Task Force X, the proportion of drug arrests accounted for by controlled substance violations increased slightly between 1993 and 2002. In 2002, 81 percent of the drug arrests made by Task Force X were for violations of the Controlled Substances Act, compared to 79 percent in 1993. Thus, arrests by Task Force X were more likely than arrests by either participating or non-participating agencies to involve violations of the Illinois' Controlled Substances Act, as opposed to the Cannabis Control Act. One interpretation of this pattern is that Task Force X is more focused in who they are targeting and arresting than local departments, and are also getting a more serious drug law violator, since violations of the Controlled Substances Act are more likely to involve felony-level offense.

Figure 8

Drug Arrests by Task Force X

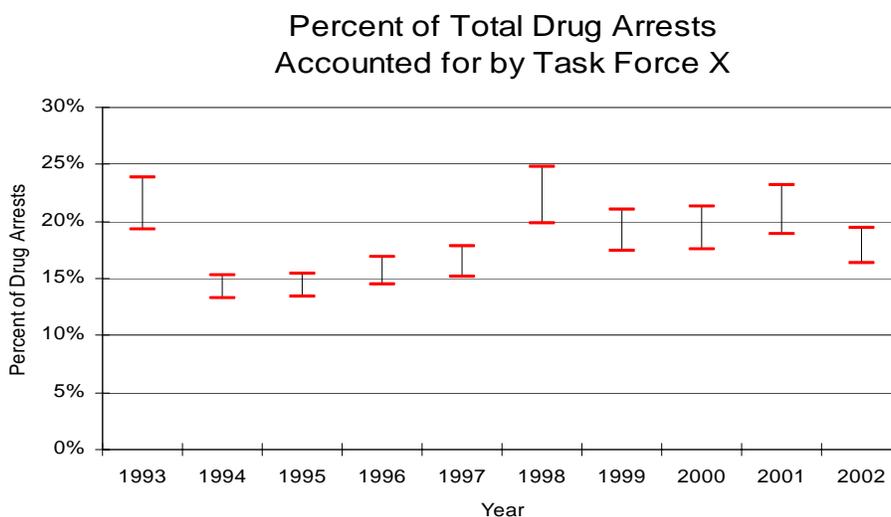


Source: Task Force X

The data presented below represent the percent of total drug arrests made by participating agencies that were accounted for by Task Force X. An upper and lower bound is shown in Figure 9, which accounts for whether or not the units numbers are counted as part of the UCR submissions made by participating departments (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the Task Force X arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the Task Force X arrests are included in the local UCR submissions.

It is estimated that the proportion of all drug arrests made in the jurisdictions of participating agencies, and accounted for by Task Force X, was between 19 to 24 percent in 1993, but decreased slightly to between 16 to 19 percent in 2002. Thus, despite the fact that the officers assigned to Task Force X accounted for a small proportion of the total number of officers in participating agencies, they accounted for a moderate proportion of the drug arrests made in the jurisdiction of the participating agencies in most of the years analyzed.

Figure 9



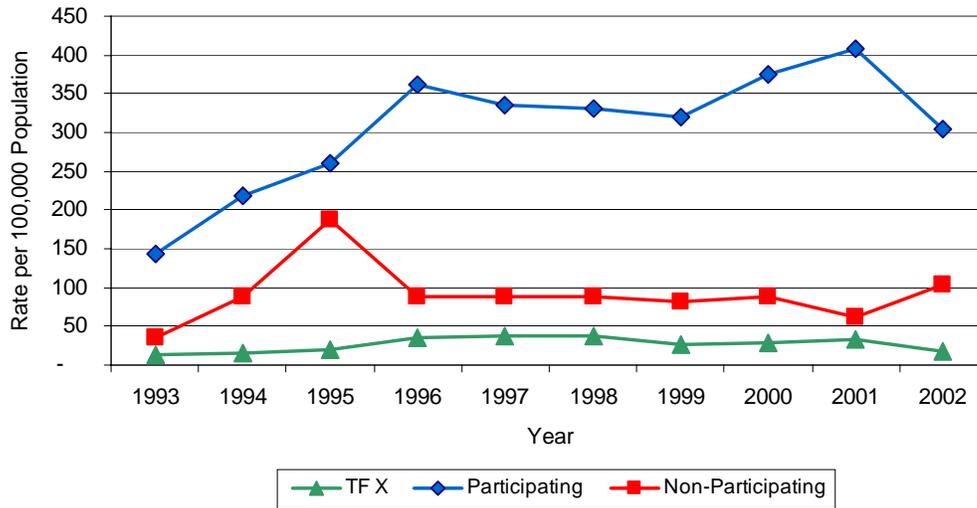
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and Task Force X

The number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act in Champaign and Macon counties totaled 809 in 2002, more than doubled the 371 arrests made for cannabis violations in 1993. Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion of all drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Cannabis Control Act in the two-county region increased from 55 percent to 62 percent. Agencies participating in Task Force X accounted for the largest portion (94 percent) of the total number of arrests for cannabis violations in 2002. Task Force X reported a total of 46 arrests for cannabis violations in 2002, 19 percent of the unit's drug arrests.

During the period analyzed, the cannabis arrest rate for the region covered by Task Force X more than doubled, from 129 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 274 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. The cannabis arrest rate in the participating agencies more than doubled, from 144 to 304 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies nearly tripled, from 35 to 104 arrests per 100,000 population. The cannabis arrest rate for Task Force X also increased, from 13 to 18 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 10). Thus, the arrest rate for violations of the Cannabis Control Act was higher in the area served by participating agencies than the combined jurisdictions of the non-participating agencies for every year analyzed.

Figure 10

**Cannabis Arrests Rates in the Region Covered
by Task Force X as Reported by Participating Agencies, Non-
participating Agencies, and Task Force X**



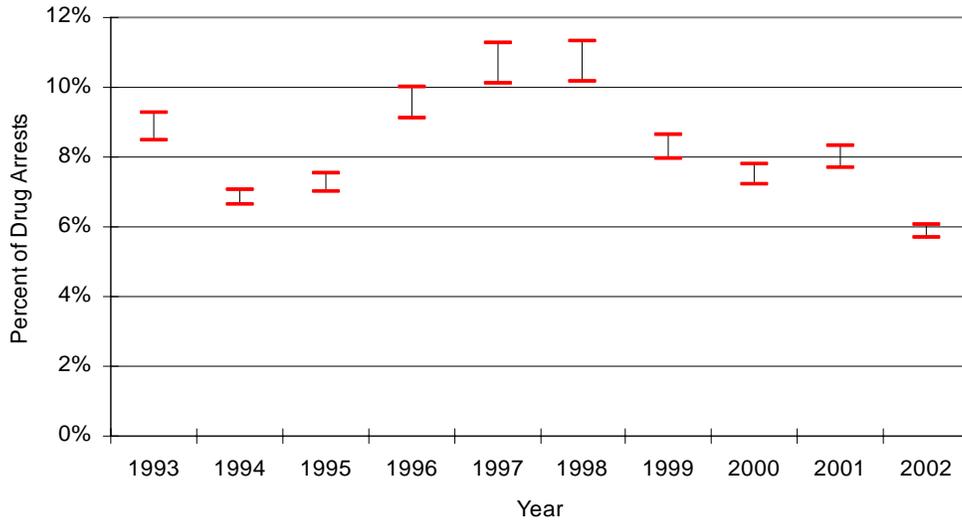
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, U.S. Census Bureau, and Task Force X data

The data presented below represent the percent of total arrests for the violation of the Cannabis Control Act made by participating agencies that was accounted for by Task Force X. An upper and lower bound is shown in Figure 11, which accounts for whether or not the units numbers are counted as part of the UCR submissions made by participating departments (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the Task Force X arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the Task Force X arrests are included in the local UCR submissions.

It is estimated that the proportion of all arrests for the violation of the Cannabis Control Act made in the jurisdictions of participating agencies, and accounted for by Task Force X, was between 8 and 9 percent in 1993 and decreased slightly to about 6 percent in 2002. Thus, arrests for the violation of the Cannabis Control Act made by Task Force X represent a small proportion of such arrests made in the jurisdictions of participating agencies.

Figure 11

**Percent of Cannabis Arrests
Accounted for by Task Force X**



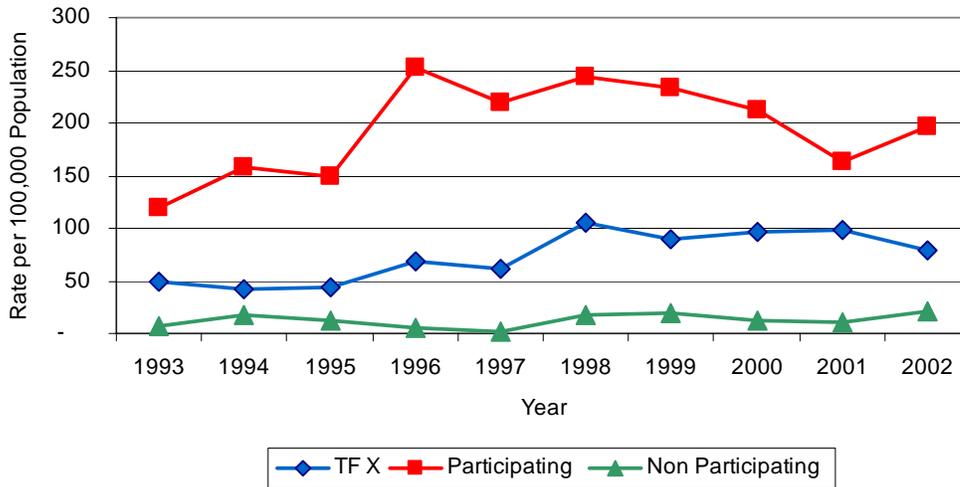
Source: ICJIA calculations using
Illinois State Police and Task Force X data

In Champaign and Macon counties, the number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Controlled Substances Act increased 69 percent between 1993 and 2002, from 299 to 504. Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion of all drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act in the two-county region decreased from 45 percent to 38 percent. In 2002, Task Force X reported 199 arrests for controlled substance violations, 81 percent of all drug arrests reported to the Authority by the unit.

Between 1993 and 2002, the arrest rate for controlled substances act violations for the region covered by Task Force X increased 65 percent, from 104 to 171 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). The controlled substances arrest rate in the participating agencies increased 66 percent, from 119 to 197 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies increased, from eight to 20 arrests per 100,000 population. During the period analyzed, the controlled substances arrest rate for Task Force X increased 60 percent, from 49 to 79 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). Thus, the arrest rate for violations of the Controlled Substances Act was collectively higher across jurisdictions participating in Task Force X than the jurisdictions of non-participating agencies.

Figure 12

Controlled Substances Arrest Rates in the Region Covered by Task Force X as Reported by Participating Agencies, Non-participating Agencies, and Task Force X



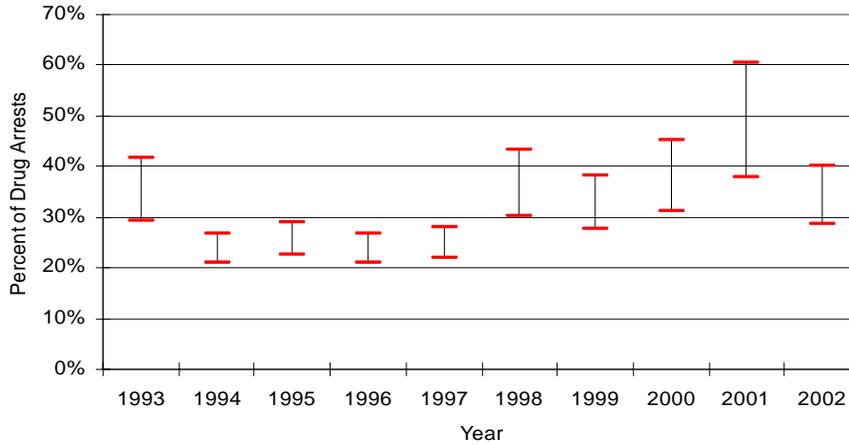
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, U.S. Census Bureau, and Task Force X data

The data presented below represent the percent of total arrests for the violation of the Controlled Substances Act made by participating agencies that was accounted for by Task Force X. An upper and lower bound is shown in Figure 13, which accounts for whether or not the units numbers are counted as part of the UCR submissions made by participating departments (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the Task Force X arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the Task Force X arrests are included in the local UCR submissions.

It is estimated that the proportion of all arrests for the violation of the Controlled Substances Act made in the jurisdictions of participating agencies, and accounted for by Task Force X, was between 29 to 42 percent in 1993, but decreased slightly to between 29 to 40 percent in 2002. Unlike the arrests made by Task Force X for the violation of the Cannabis Control Act, arrests made by Task Force X for the Controlled Substances Act represented a larger proportion of arrests for violation of the Controlled Substances Act made in the jurisdictions of the participating agencies. When examining the three figures together (Figures 9, 11, and 13), the data suggest that Task Force X focused on arresting individuals violating the Controlled Substances Act, most of which are felony offenses.

Figure 13

Percent of Controlled Substances Arrests Accounted for by Task Force X

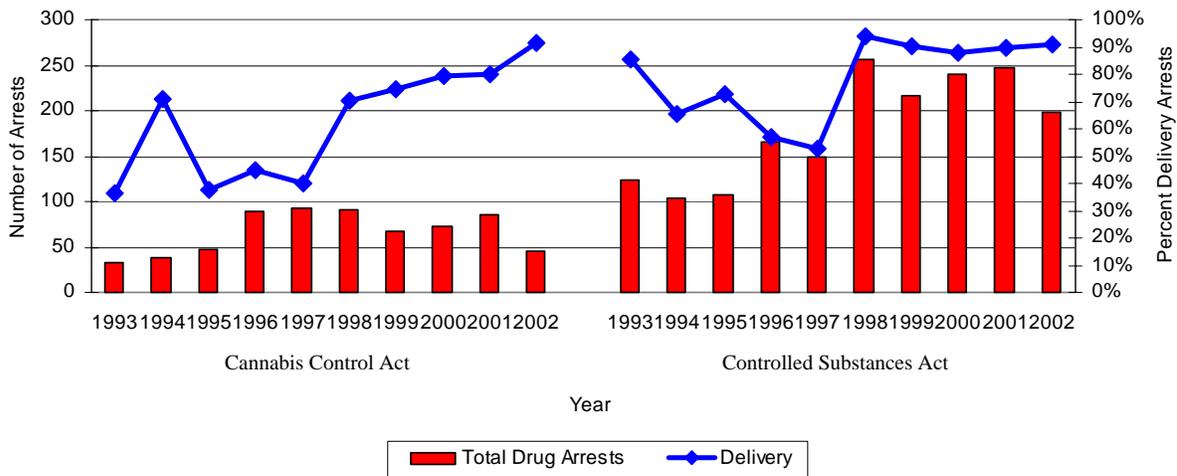


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and Task Force X data

The majority of all drug arrests reported by Task Force X are for delivery. Between 1993 and 2002, the number of drug delivery arrests made by Task Force X almost doubled, from 117 to 223, and drug delivery offenses accounted for increasing proportions of arrests. Arrests for drug delivery accounted for 77 percent of all drug arrests made by Task Force X between 1993 and 2002. When cannabis and controlled substance arrests were examined separately during the period analyzed, arrests for delivery of controlled substances accounted for 79 percent of the total number of arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substance Act, whereas, arrests for the delivery of cannabis accounted for 63 percent of all arrests for violations of the Cannabis Act.

Figure 14

Task Force X Drug Arrests for Possession versus Delivery, by Drug Type



Source: ICJIA calculations using Task Force X data

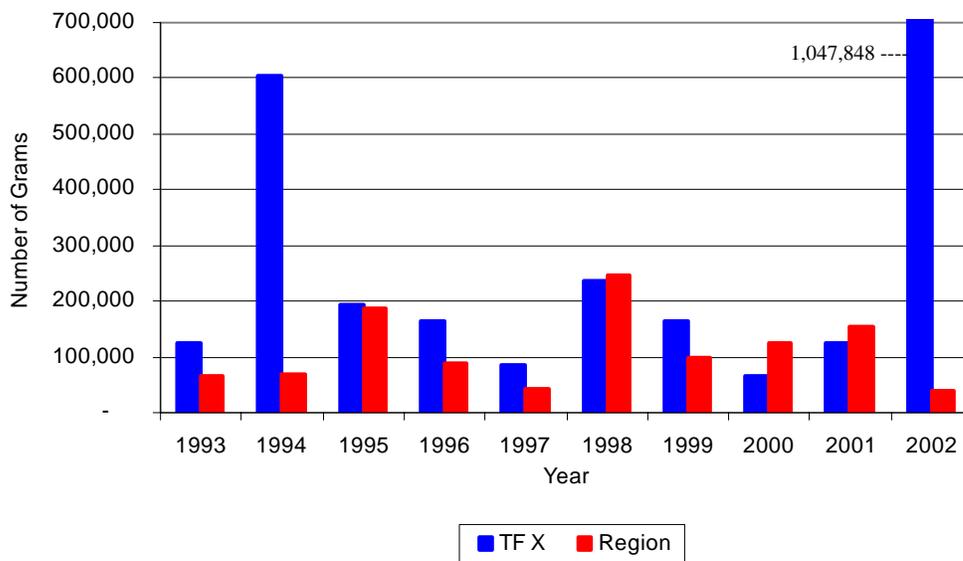
IV. Trends in Drug Seizures

Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies, all or a portion of the total amount seized is submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois State Police crime labs. These labs record the quantity of drugs submitted from each county. This section discusses trends in the quantities of illegal drugs seized and submitted to the Illinois State Police from local law enforcement agencies in Champaign and Macon counties as well as the quantities of drugs seized by Task Force X. It is important to note, however, that while Task Force X data report the total quantities of drugs actually *seized*, local agency data only represent the quantities of seized drugs that are *submitted* to the Illinois State Police for analysis. County-level cannabis, cocaine, crack, methamphetamine, and heroin seizure rates for Illinois' 102 counties are provided in maps located in the Appendix of this report.

As in most Illinois jurisdictions, cannabis accounts for the majority of illegal drugs seized in the two-county region covered by Task Force X. The quantity of cannabis seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in Champaign and Macon counties decreased 41 percent, from 64,805 grams in 1993 to 37,957 grams in 2002, with 246,656 grams being seized in 1998, the largest amount seized during the period analyzed. However, the quantity of cannabis seized by Task Force X increased 17 percent between 1993 and 2001, from 124,165 grams to 126,311 grams, before jumping to 1,047,848 grams seized in 2002 (Figure 15). In 2002, Task Force X 's cannabis seizure rate of 417,789 grams per 100,000 population was significantly higher than the statewide cannabis seizure rate of 19,437 grams per 100,000 population and the seizure rate of 12,859 grams per 100,000 population in the two-county region covered by Task Force X (Map 2). (Note: In order to display the seizure data for every year on the graph below, it was necessary to set the Y-axis scale to 700,000).

Figure 15

Cannabis Seized and Submitted to ISP by Champaign and Macon Counties and Seized by Task Force X



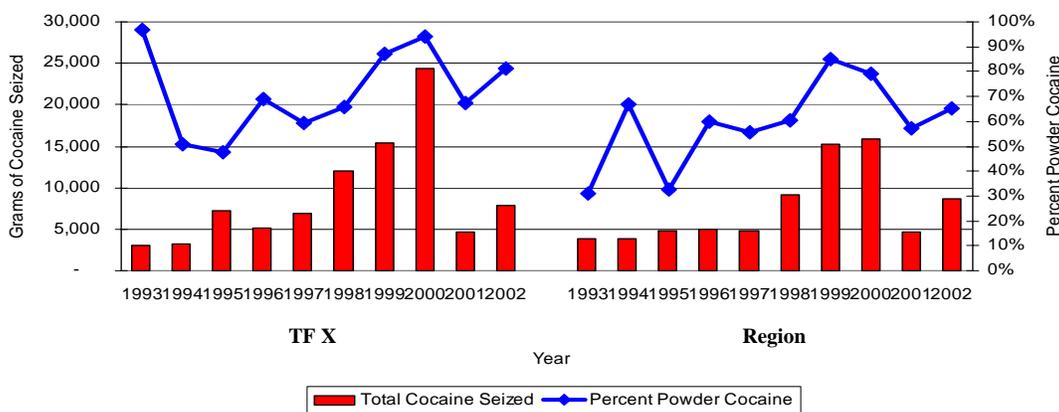
Source: Illinois State Police and Task Force X

Between 1993 and 2002, a combination of crack and powder cocaine has accounted for a small but increasing proportion of drugs seized in the two-county region covered by Task Force X. The quantity of cocaine seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in Champaign and Macon counties more than doubled, from 3,881 grams in 1993 to 8,682 grams in 2002. Between 1993 and 2002, the quantity of cocaine seized by Task Force X also more than doubled, from 3,042 grams to 7,857 grams. During the period analyzed, the proportion of total drug seizures accounted for by cocaine in the two-county region covered by Task Force X increased from 5 percent in 1993 to 18 percent in 2002.

The proportion of all cocaine seized accounted for by powder cocaine varied by year in the two-county region covered by Task Force X as well as Task Force X. In 1993, powder cocaine accounted for 31 percent of all cocaine seized in the two-county region covered by Task Force X, compared to 65 percent in 2002. In contrast, for Task Force X, although powder cocaine accounted for the largest proportion of total cocaine seizures during the period examined, the proportion accounted for by powder cocaine decreased from 97 percent in 1993 to 81 percent in 2002 (Figure 16). In 2002, Task Force X's cocaine seizure rate of 3,133 grams per 100,000 population was 6 percent higher than the cocaine seizure rate of 2,941 grams per 100,000 population in the two-county region covered by Task Force X, but 86 percent less than the statewide cocaine seizure rate of 21,891 grams per 100,000 population (Maps 3 and 4).

Figure 16

**Powder and Crack Cocaine Seized and Submitted to ISP
by Champaign and Macon Counties and Seized
by Task Force X**



Source: Illinois State Police and Task Force X

The total quantity of illegal drugs seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in Champaign and Macon counties decreased 30 percent between 1993 and 2002, from 68,789 grams to 47,908 grams. Also, the total quantity of illegal drugs seized by Task Force X increased from 127,464 grams in 1993 to 1,056,605 grams in 2002.

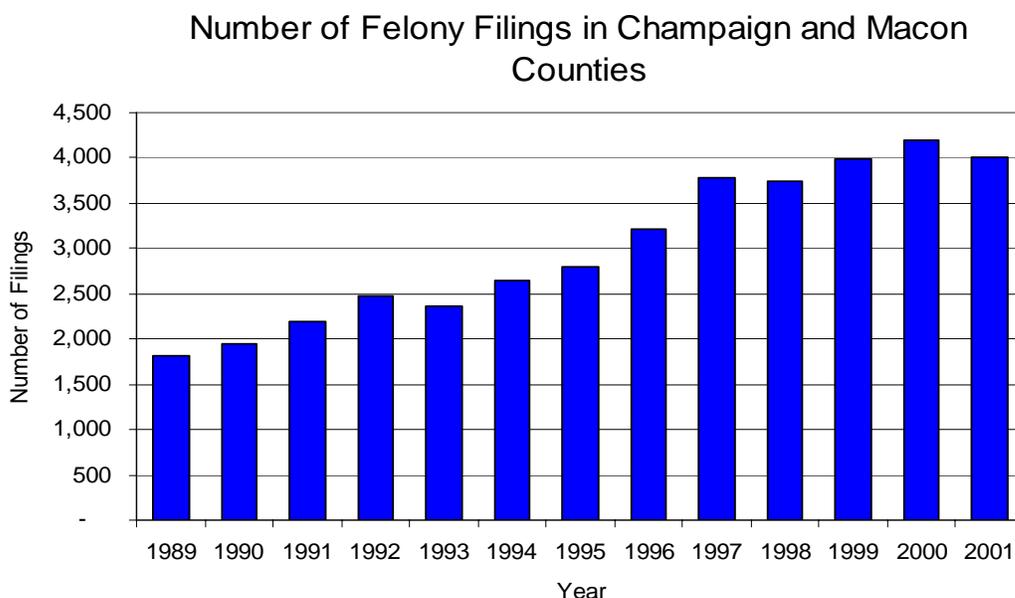
Between 1994 and 1997, Task Force X did not seize any methamphetamine. However, between 1998 and 2002, the quantity of methamphetamine seized by Task Force X increased from two grams to 693 grams, while seizing a period high of 1,369 grams in 1999. Between 1994 and 2002, the quantity of methamphetamine seized in Champaign and Macon counties increased from two grams to 594 grams. In 2002, Task Force X's methamphetamine seizure rate of 276 grams per 100,000 population was 37 percent higher than the 201 grams seized per 100,000 population in the region covered by Task Force X and 24 percent higher than the statewide rate of 222 grams seized per 100,000 population (Map 5).

V. Trends in Prosecutions for Drug Offenses and All Felonies

Although Illinois has one of the best court reporting systems in the country, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Court only collects information regarding the aggregate number of court filings. Currently, there are no statewide data available on court filings by offense type. The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts reports data on felony criminal court cases. After screening a case and deciding it warrants further action, the state's attorney must file formal charges in court. Felony cases can be punished by a probation term up to four years and incarceration for more than one year.

Between 1989 and 2001, the number of felony filings in the two-county region covered by Task Force X increased nearly every year. The number of felony filings more than doubled, from 1,809 to 4,011 (Figure 17).

Figure 17

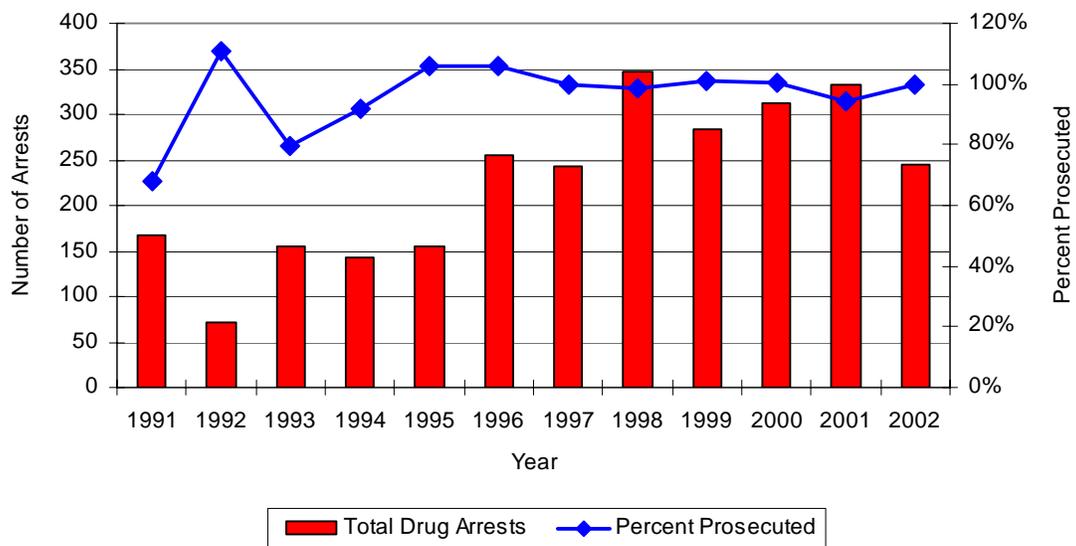


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1991 and 2002, there were a total of 2,626 drug prosecutions initiated as a result of Task Force X arrests in Champaign and Macon counties. During this time, the number of Task Force X drug arrests increased 46 percent, from 168 arrests in 1991 to 245 arrests in 2002 (Figure 18). Between 1991 and 2002, approximately 97 percent of drug arrests by Task Force X resulted in prosecution. Seventy-one percent of Task Force X drug offender prosecutions during this period were for violations of the Controlled Substance Act. In some years, the proportion of arrests resulting in a prosecution exceeded 100 percent. This may be due to some differences in the timing of an arrest and the filings of charges, or could be due to the number of charges, rather than the number of defendants being reported by the unit. In addition, some offenders have charges filed, and a subsequent warrant issued, without an arrest taking place.

Figure 18

Total Task Force X Drug Arrests and Percentage of Arrests Resulting in Prosecution



Source: Task Force X

Between 1991 and 2002, 73 percent (1,913) of the 2,626 drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of Task Force X activity were convicted. Convictions for controlled substances accounted for 76 percent of all Task Force X initiated convictions during the period analyzed.

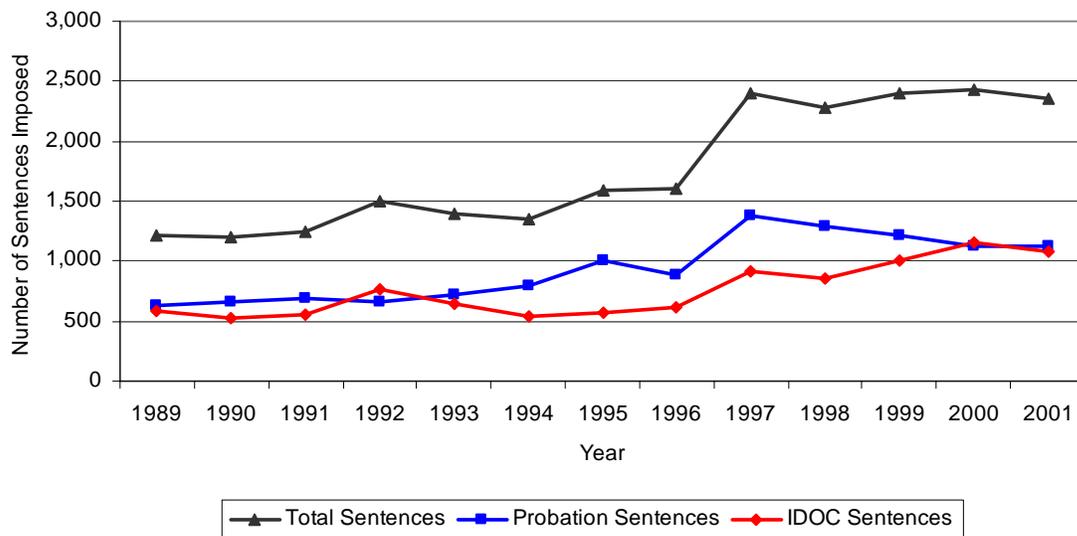
VI. Trends in Percent of Convicted Drug Offenders Sentenced to Prison

Anyone convicted of a felony in Illinois can be sentenced either to prison or probation, or receive conditional discharge. A number of factors influence the type and length of sentence imposed on convicted felons, including the severity of the crime, the offender's criminal and social history, safety of the community and legislation affecting certain types of offenses. For some types of convictions, a sentence to prison is required by state statute.

Between 1989 and 2001, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in the two-county region covered by Task Force X nearly doubled, from 1,210 to 2,352. Although the number of convicted felons sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) increased 84 percent between 1989 and 2001, from 586 to 1,080, the proportion of felons sentenced to IDOC decreased during the same period, from 48 percent to 46 percent of total felony sentences. In 2001, 1,122 probation sentences were imposed on convicted felons, an 80 percent increase from 1989 (Figure 19). However, the proportion of felons sentenced to probation decreased 7 percent from 52 percent in 1989 to 48 percent in 2001. Sentences other than prison or probation account for the remaining 6 percent of felony sentences imposed in 2001.

Figure 19

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Champaign and Macon Counties

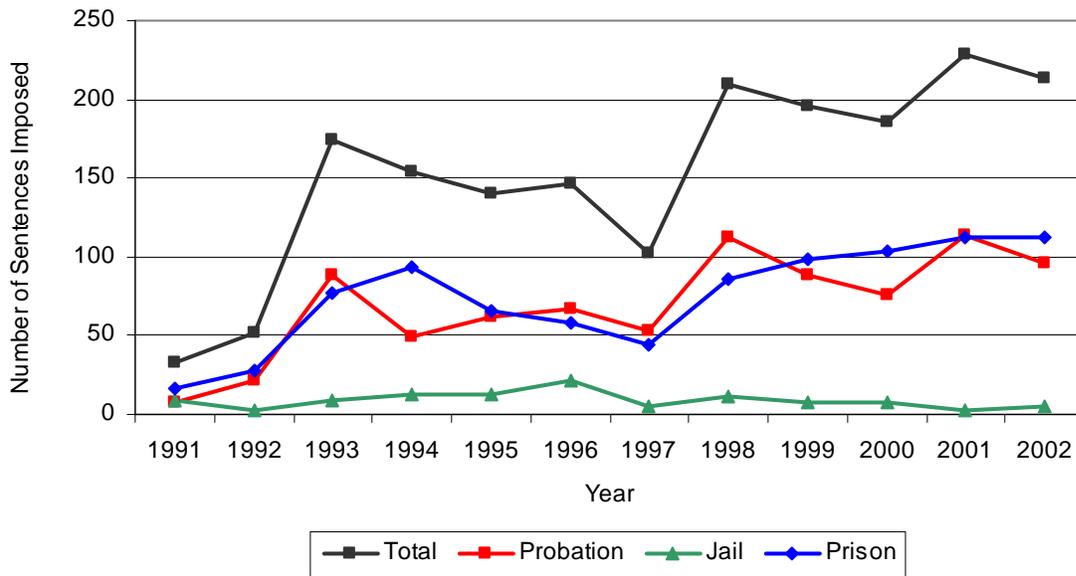


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1991 and 2002, the number of Task Force X drug offenders convicted and sentenced increased more than five-fold, from 33 to 214. During the period analyzed, the number of convicted Task Force X drug offenders sentenced to probation increased from seven to 96, while reaching a period high of 114 in 2001. The number of convicted Task Force X drug offenders sentenced to jail remained relatively stable during the period analyzed decreasing slightly from nine to five, while the number of drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from 17 to 113 (Figure 20). In 2002, among those Task Force X drug offenders convicted and sentenced, prison sentences accounted for the largest proportion (53 percent), followed by probation sentences (45 percent) and jail sentences (2 percent).

Figure 20

Sentences Imposed on Convicted Task Force X Drug Offenders

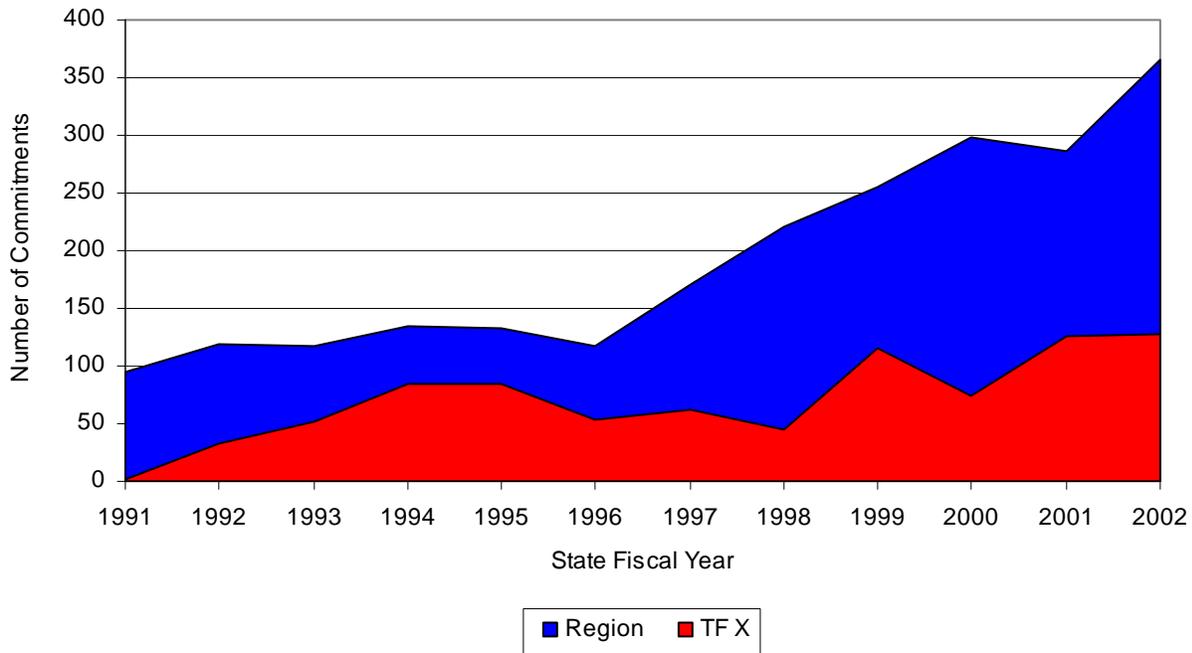


Source: Task Force X

Between state fiscal years¹ 1991 and 2002, the number of new court commitments to IDOC's Adult Division for drug offenses from the two-county region covered by Task Force X increased, from 94 to 365. The number of drug offender admissions by Task Force X increased from one to 127 between 1991 and 2002 (Figure 21). Task Force X commitments to IDOC, during the period analyzed, accounted for approximately 37 percent of all drug admissions from the region covered by Task Force X.

Figure 21

Number of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC by Task Force X and Region Covered by Task Force X



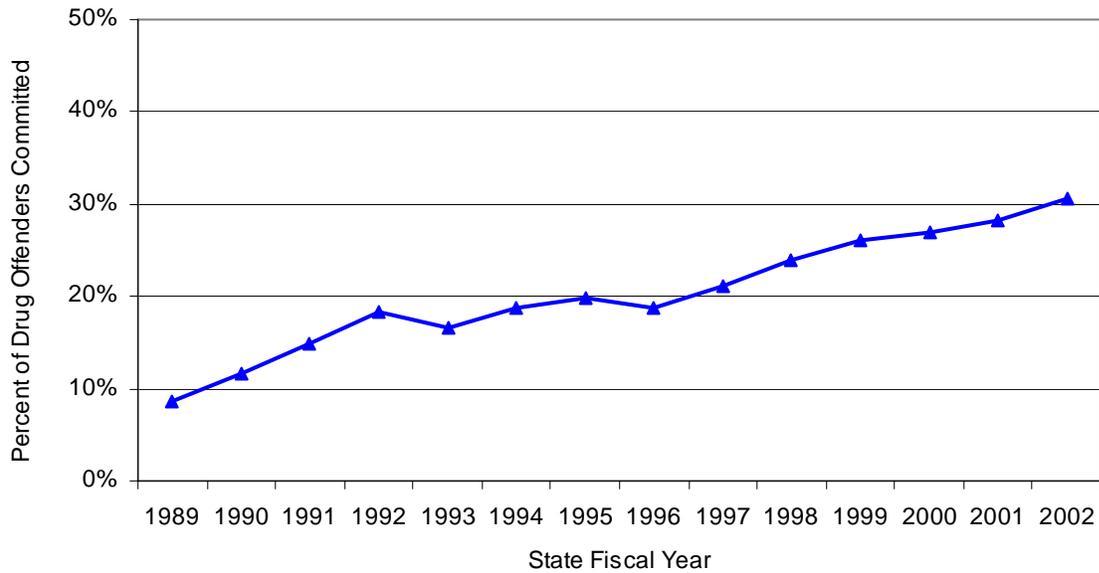
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections and Task Force X

¹ Some state data are collected according to State Fiscal Year (SFY) instead of calendar year. SFYs begin on July 1st and end the following June 30th, and are named according to the calendar year between January and June, e.g. state fiscal year 1991 was from July 1st, 1990 to June 30th, 1991.

During the period analyzed, drug offenders accounted for an increasing proportion of adults convicted and sentenced to prison from Champaign and Macon counties. In 1989, drug offenses accounted for 9 percent of all commitments to IDOC, compared to 31 percent in 2002 (Figure 22).

Figure 22

Percent of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC in Champaign and Macon Counties

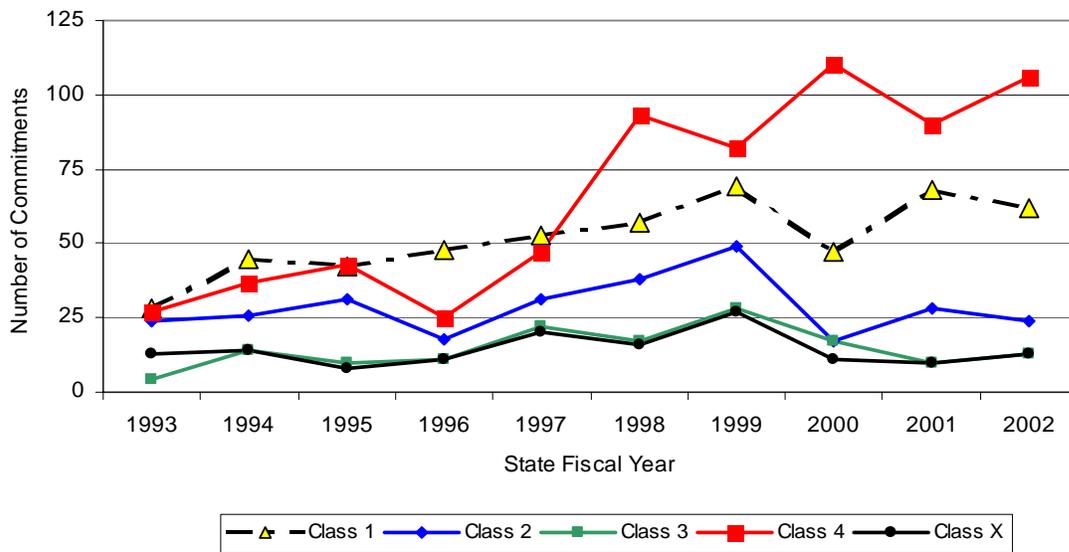


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Penalties for drug offenses were also examined between 1993 and 2002. Class 4 felonies accounted for the largest proportion (38 percent) of sentences to IDOC for drug offenses, followed by Class 1 felonies (30 percent), Class 2 felonies (16 percent), and Class X and Class 3 felonies (8 percent each). Between 1993 and 2002, the number of offenders held for Class 1, Class 3, and Class 4 felony drug offenses increased, while Class 2 and Class X felony sentences remained unchanged at 24 and 13, respectively. The number of Class 4 felony sentences nearly quadrupled from 27 to 106, while the number of Class 3 felony sentences increased from four to 13 and Class 1 sentences more than doubled from 28 to 62 (Figure 23).

Figure 23

**Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC from
Champaign and Macon Counties,
by Offense Class**



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Between 1993 and 2002, the mean sentence length for Class 2 and Class 3 felonies increased slightly, from 3.9 to 4.2 years and 2.6 to 2.9 years, respectively, while the mean sentence length for Class X felonies increased from 7.6 to 10.0 years and the mean sentence for a Class 1 felony increased from 4.4 to 6.2 years. Class 4 felony mean sentence lengths remained unchanged at 2.0 years between 1993 and 2002.

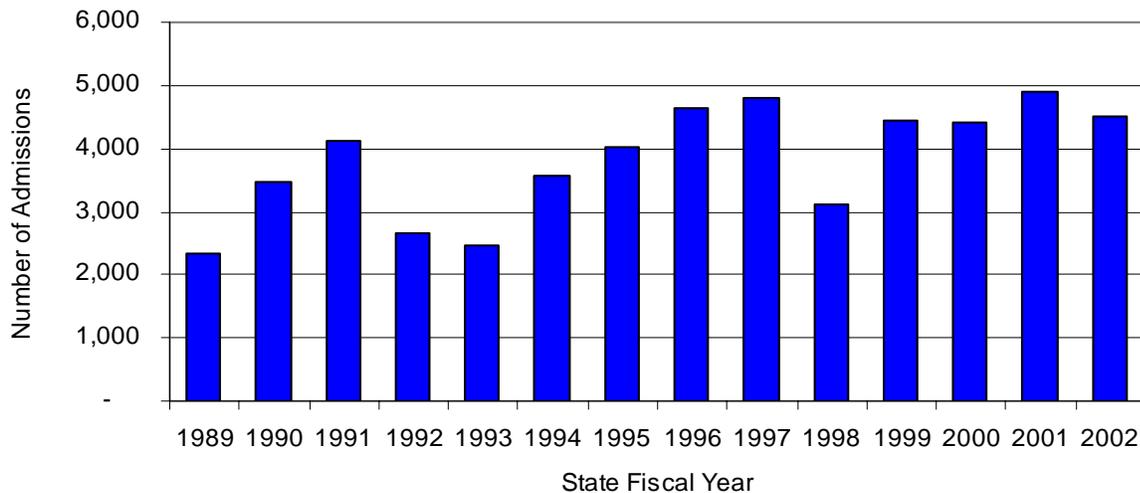
VII. Trends in Drug Treatment Admissions in Task Force X Region by Drug Type

In addition to considering indicators of the extent and nature of drug abuse as reported through the criminal justice system (for example, arrests and prison sentences), there are indicators of substance abuse available from other Illinois social service agencies. Overseeing and supporting treatment for substance users, whether they are referred from the criminal justice system or elsewhere, is the responsibility of the Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASA). It is important to note, however, that while OASA data represent the majority of the overall demand for substance abuse treatment in the state, some private programs provide treatment services to a smaller but significant number of clients who may not be included in the state's reporting system.

In state fiscal year 2002, OASA reported 4,517 admissions for alcohol or drug abuse treatment from Champaign and Macon counties, 93 percent more than the 2,339 admissions in 1989 (Figure 24). Among the 4,517 admissions to substance abuse treatment in state fiscal year 2002, 37 percent (1,664) reported alcohol as their primary substance of abuse, while abuse of illicit substances accounted for 54 percent.

Figure 24

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions from Champaign and Macon Counties



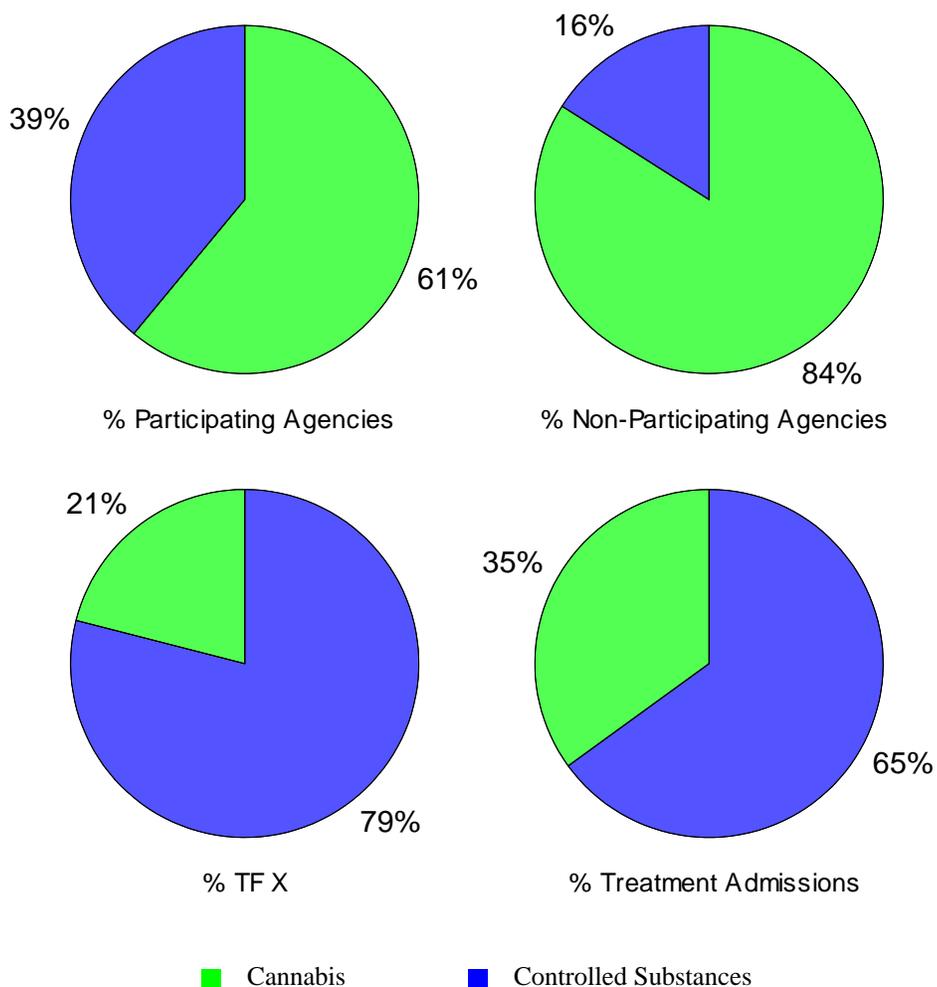
Source: Illinois Department of Human Services'
Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

While drug treatment admissions can be considered a measure of the demand placed on a specific component of the human services system within Illinois, the extent and nature of drug treatment admissions could also be indicative of the substance abuse problem within a particular region. In some respects, the characteristics of those admitted to drug treatment can be considered a profile of the most serious drug abusers in the community, since admission to treatment requires a documented, formal assessment of a drug problem and a level of substance abuse warranting treatment. By comparing the types of drugs of abuse reported by those admitted to substance abuse treatment with the types of drugs involved in law enforcement agency arrests, one can get a sense of the degree to which arrests reflect the drugs which are most problematic within a community.

In the following analyses, the percent of arrests accounted for by drugs classified under Illinois' Controlled Substances Act (primarily cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine) versus the Cannabis Control Act (marijuana) across the participating agencies combined, non-participating agencies combined and Task Force X are compared to the proportion of drug treatment admissions accounted for by these groups of substances. From these comparisons, a number of general conclusions can be made. First, the proportion of arrests made by Task Force X accounted for by drugs other than marijuana (Controlled Substances Act offenses) was greater than the proportion of drug treatment admissions from the covered region accounted for by these substances. However, there is some convergence between the drugs involved in Task Force X arrests and treatment admissions. On the other hand, the majority of arrests by local police departments (including those participating in Task Force X and non-participating agencies) were for cannabis offenses. Thus, while local arrests may reflect the most widely available and used drug in the region, they did not tend to involve the substances considered to be most serious (i.e., felony versus misdemeanor) nor the substances for which individuals were seeking and receiving treatment (Figure 25).

Figure 25

Comparison of Drug Arrests by Task Force X and Participating and Non-participating Agencies vs. Drug Abuse Treatment Admissions in Champaign and Macon counties, 2002



Source: Illinois Department of Human Service's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and Task Force X

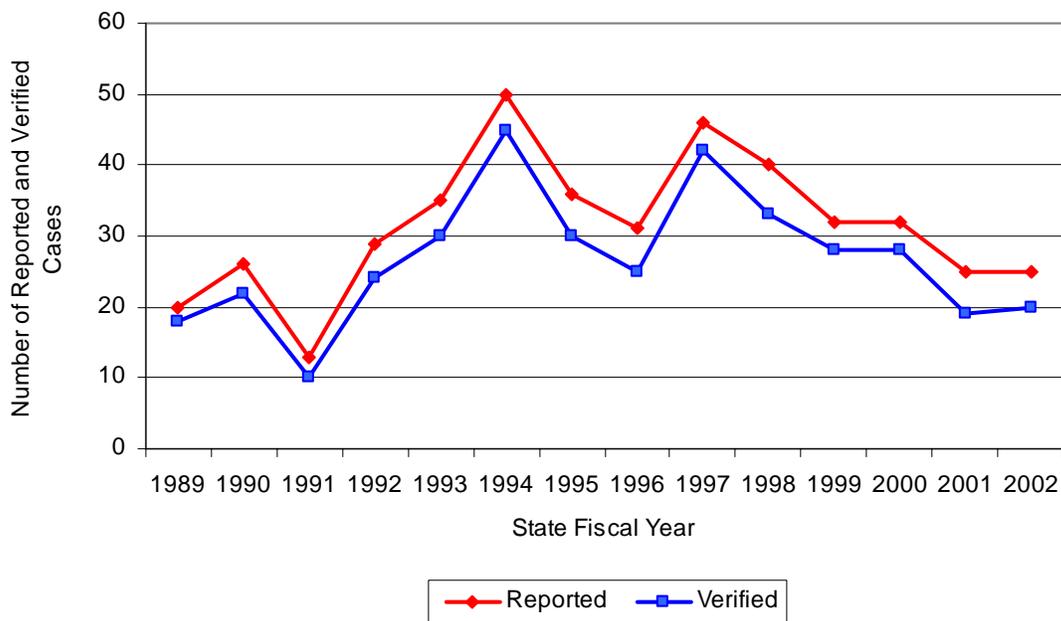
VIII. Trends in Substance-Exposed Infants

Illinois continues to experience the effects of prenatal substance abuse. In Illinois, if a baby is born and thought to have been exposed to illegal substances or alcohol, either through observation by physicians or toxicology tests, the case is reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. These cases are then investigated by DCFS to verify the child's prenatal exposure to either alcohol or illegal substances. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed infant.

Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1997, the number of substance-exposed infant cases reported in the two-county region covered by Task Force X more than doubled, from 20 to 46 reported cases, before decreasing nearly every year thereafter to 25 in 2002. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, 374 cases, or 85 percent of all cases reported, were verified as involving prenatal drug use by a DCFS investigation. Overall, both reported and verified cases of substance-exposed infants in the Task Force X region increased slightly between 1989 and 2002 (Figure 26).

Figure 26

Cases of Substance-Exposed Infants in Champaign and Macon Counties



Source: Department of Children and Family Services

IX. Summary of Drug Situation

Although the distribution of illegal drugs is difficult to measure precisely, data obtained from criminal justice sources can be helpful in estimating drug availability. Information from a recent survey of Illinois drug enforcement units, as well as the most up-to-date data available on drug price, are presented as indicators of the drug supply in Illinois.

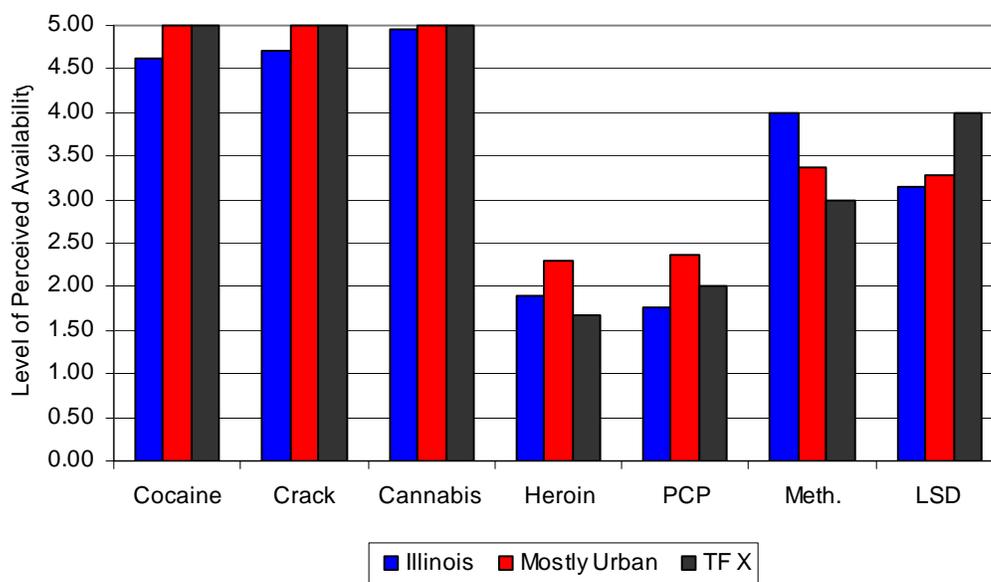
The Authority periodically conducts a survey of each MEG and task force in Illinois (the most recent being conducted in 2000) to gauge the perceived availability of drugs in the areas they cover. Questions were asked concerning the availability of specific drugs, and results were analyzed by region of the state. MEGs and task forces are classified as being either mostly urban, mostly rural, or mixed urban/rural based upon the classification of the county(s) that each unit covers, and, for purposes of this report, are compared to the average of similar units.

According to responses to the 2000 survey, cannabis, cocaine, and crack continued to be the most visible drugs on the street and were all reported to be “readily available” across all regions analyzed. While perceived availability of most drugs remained relatively unchanged in the two-county region covered by Task Force X, the perceived availability of heroin was reported as slightly less readily available in 2000 than in the 1998 survey. Crack, cocaine, and cannabis were reported as slightly less available across Illinois than in Task Force X and all MEGs and task forces in mostly urban regions. The perceived availability of methamphetamine remained unchanged at moderately available in the region covered by Task Force X, but increased statewide and in other regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces. The perceived availability of LSD also remained unchanged in the region covered by Task Force X, but remained more readily available than in other regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces and across the state (Figure 27).

Figure 27

Availability of Drugs in Illinois, 2000

1=Not Available 5=Easily Available



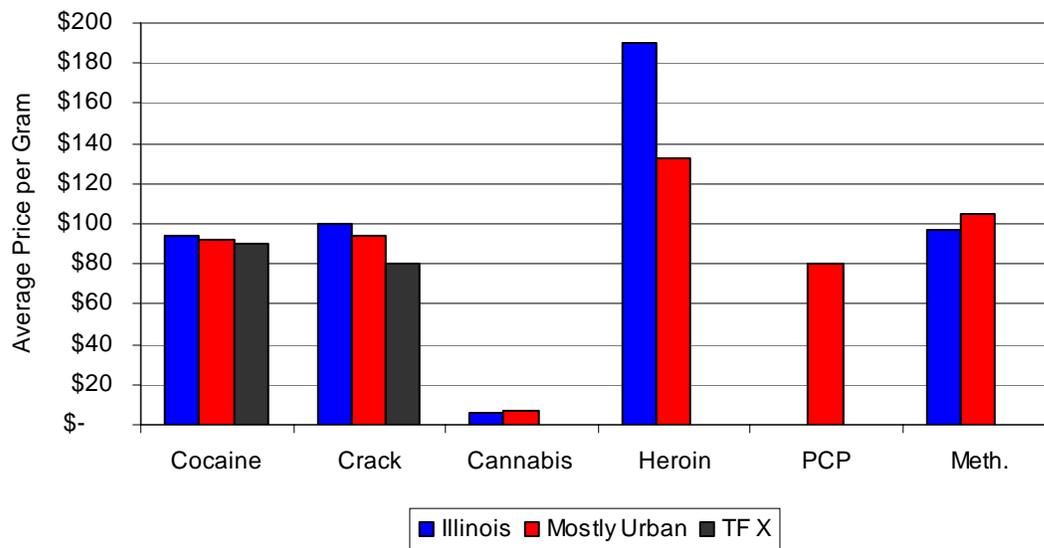
Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

Another market indicator that can be used to assess availability is drug price. Lower prices tend to suggest a sufficient supply to meet demand, while increasing prices indicate decreased availability.

Based on a statewide survey of MEG and task force units, the average price of cocaine and crack (the only drug types price data were provided by Task Force X) appear to be relatively stable across all regions surveyed in 2000, while prices for the remaining drug types appear to vary somewhat across the regions and Illinois. The average price of cocaine in the region covered by Task Force X decreased between 1998 and 2000, while the price of crack increased. The 2000 average price of cocaine reported by Task Force X was \$90 per gram in 2000, compared to \$100 per gram in 1998, while crack increased from \$60 per gram in 1998 to \$80 per gram in 2000. In addition, the average price of heroin increased across Illinois, from \$138 in 1998 to \$190 in 2000. The average price of heroin was also markedly higher across Illinois than in all MEGs and task forces in mostly urban regions. Between the 1998 and 2000 surveys, the average price of methamphetamine increased statewide and in other MEGs and task forces in mostly urban regions (Figure 28)

Figure 28

Price Per Gram in Illinois, 2000

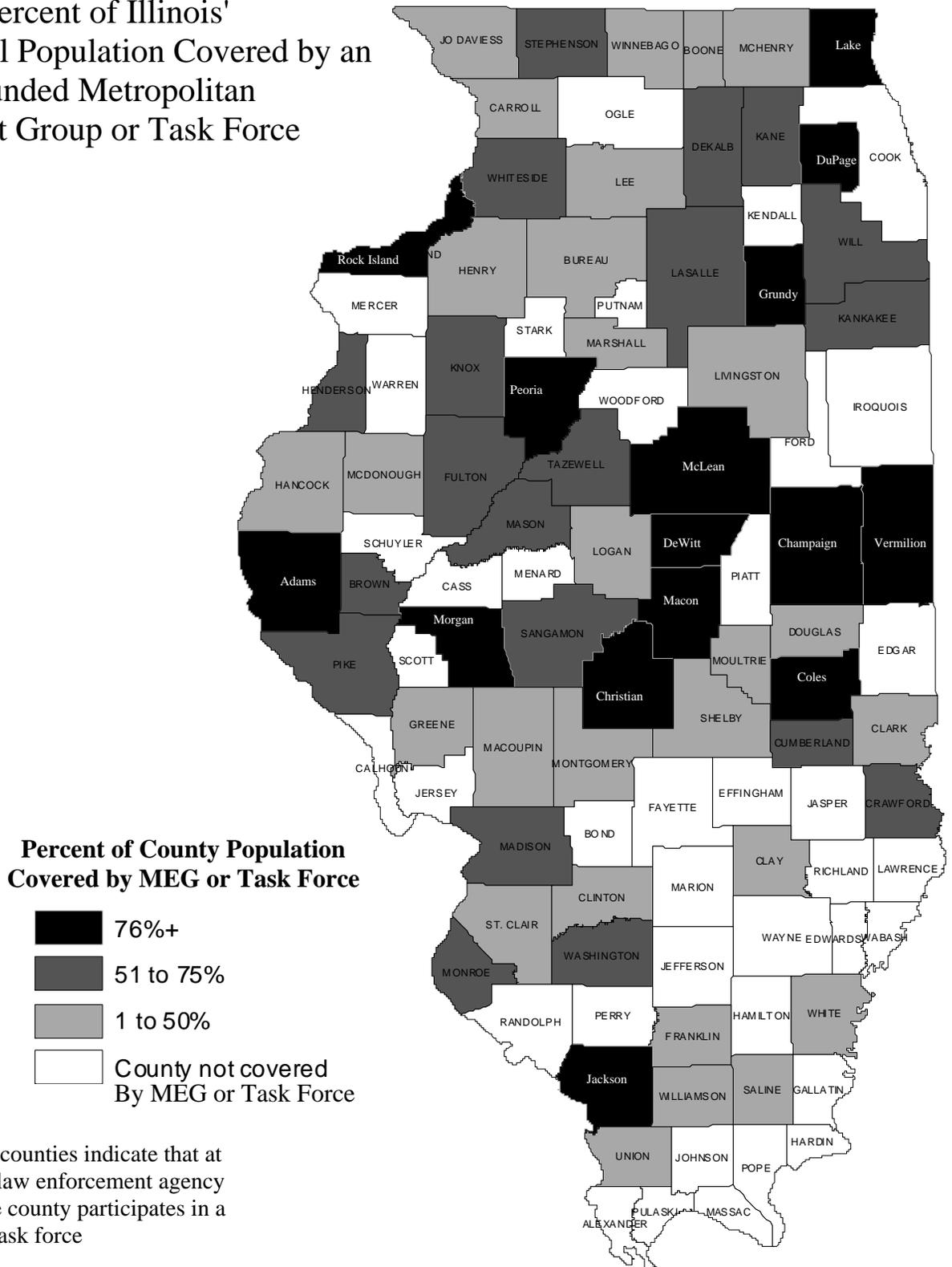


Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

X. Appendices

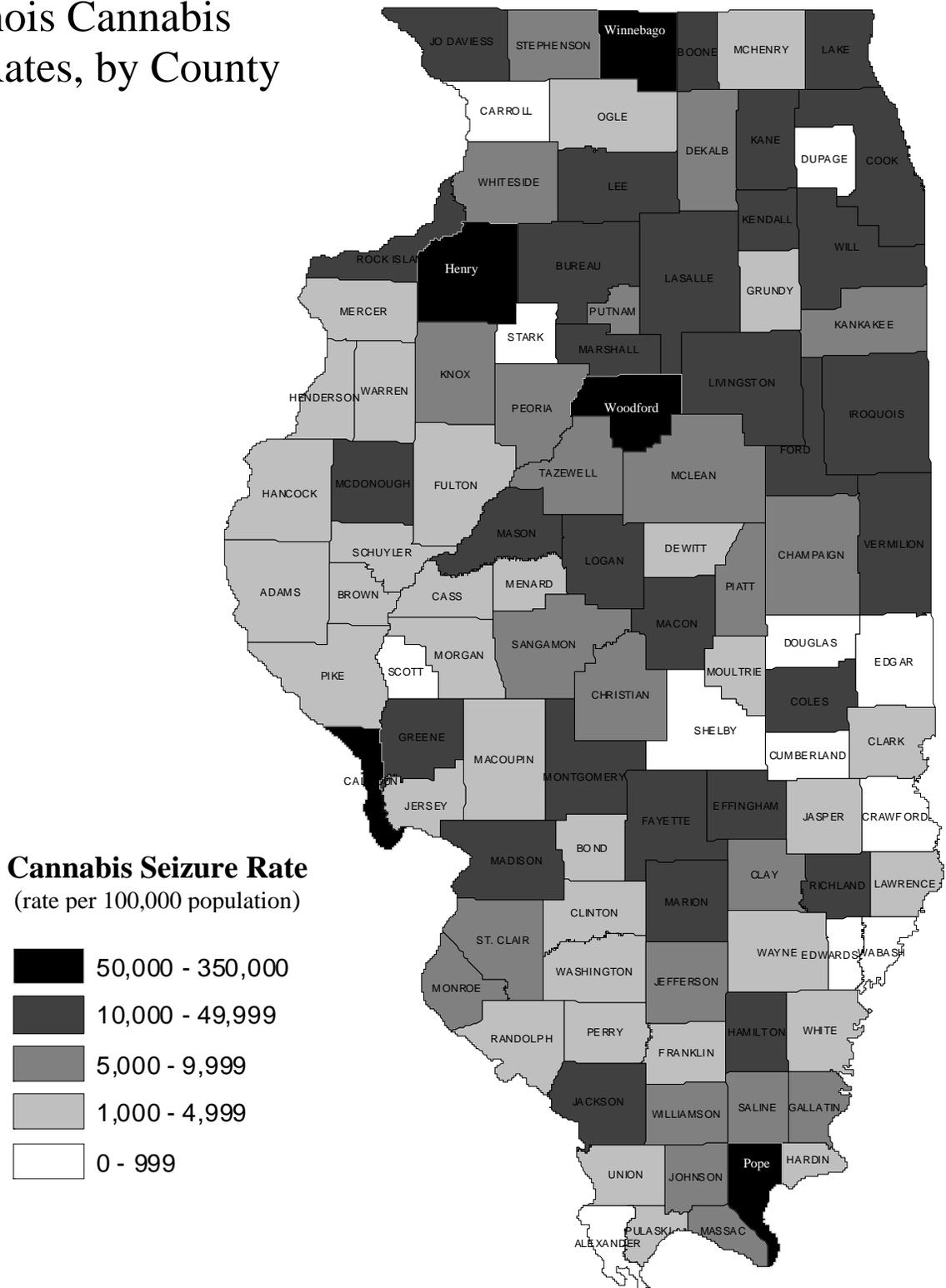
Map 1

SFY 2002 Percent of Illinois' County-level Population Covered by an Authority-funded Metropolitan Enforcement Group or Task Force

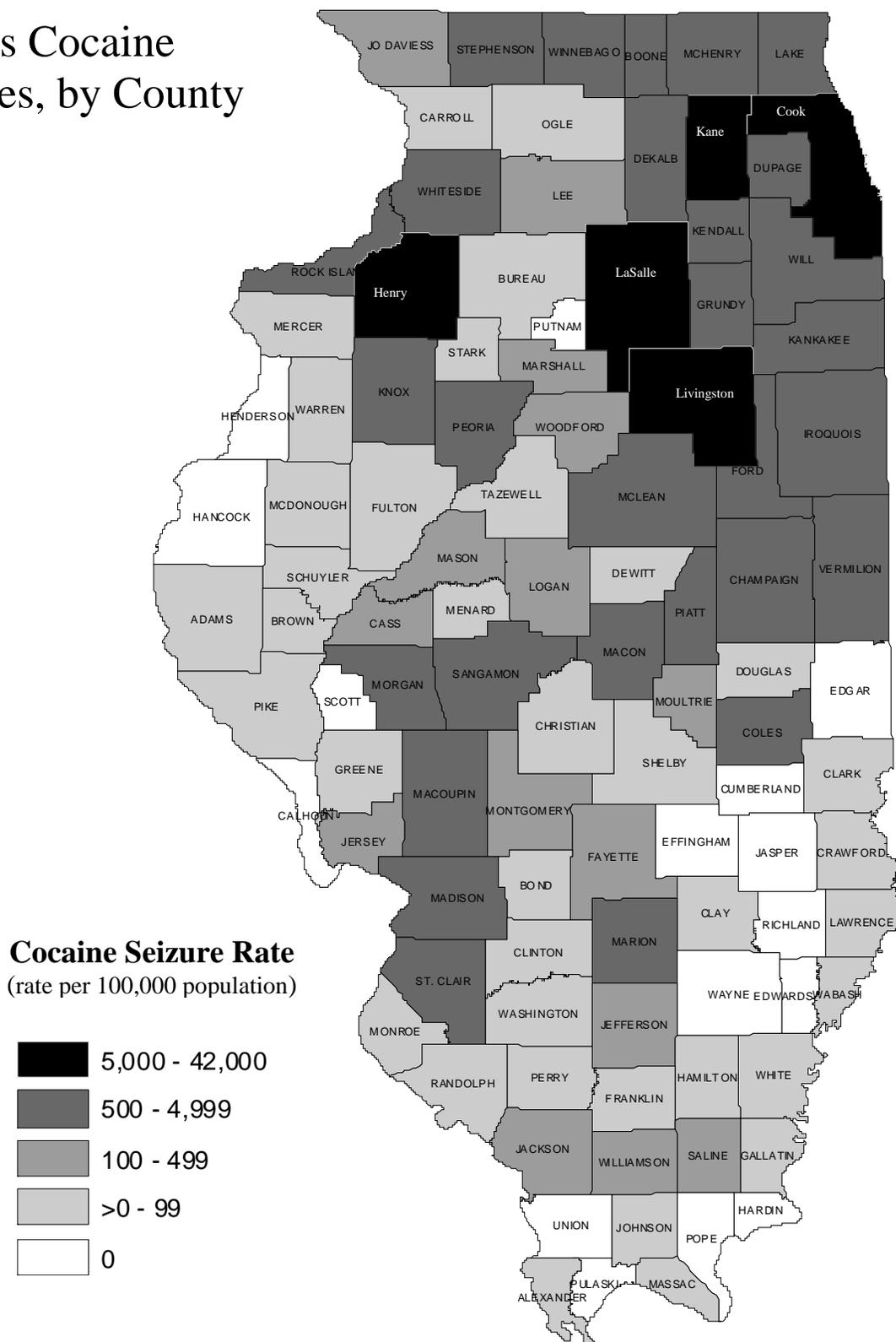


Map 2

2002 Illinois Cannabis Seizure Rates, by County



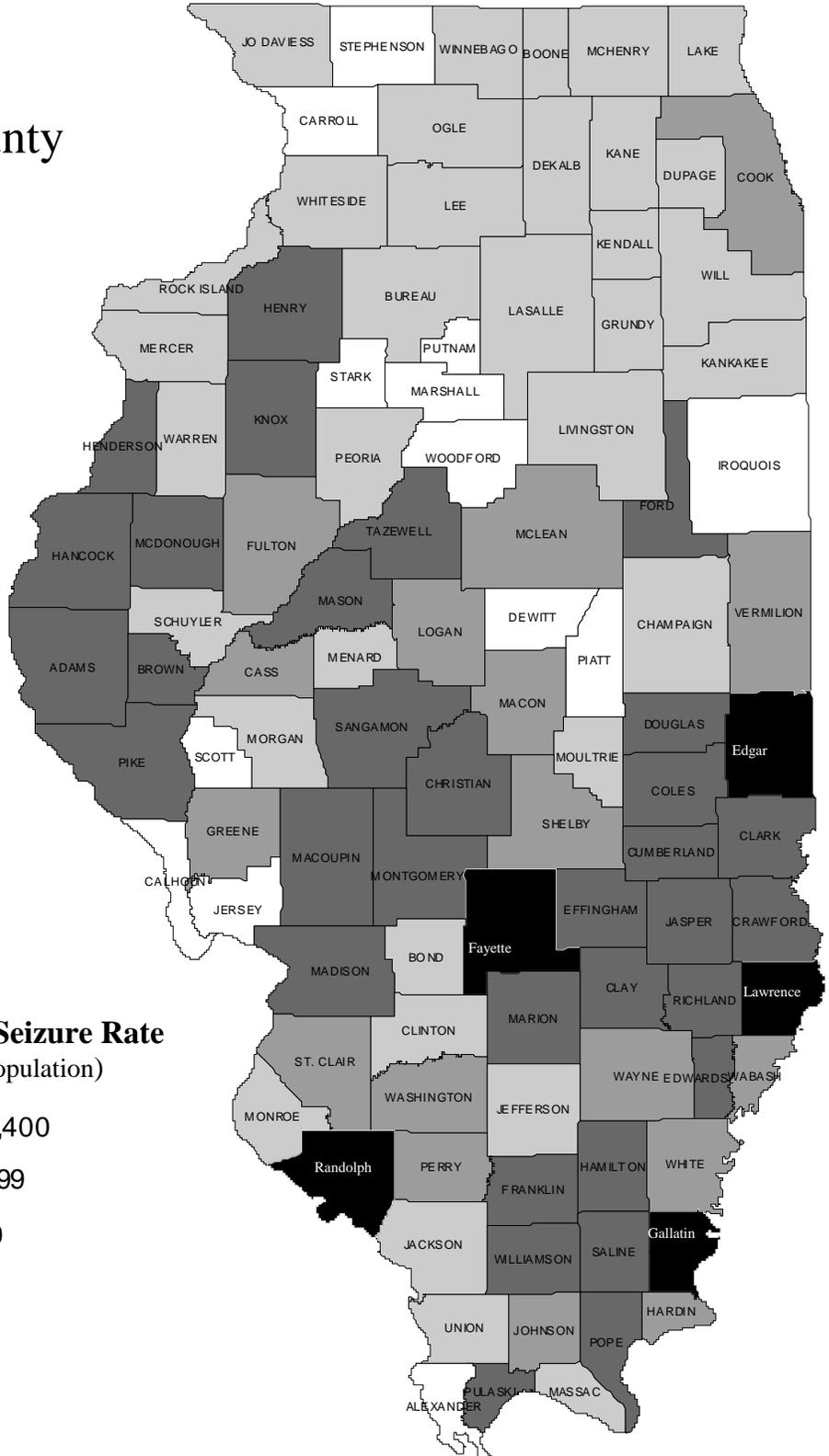
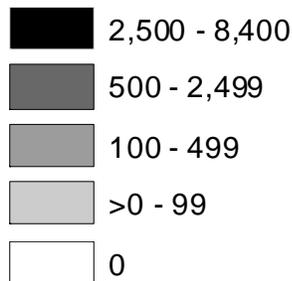
2002 Illinois Cocaine Seizure Rates, by County



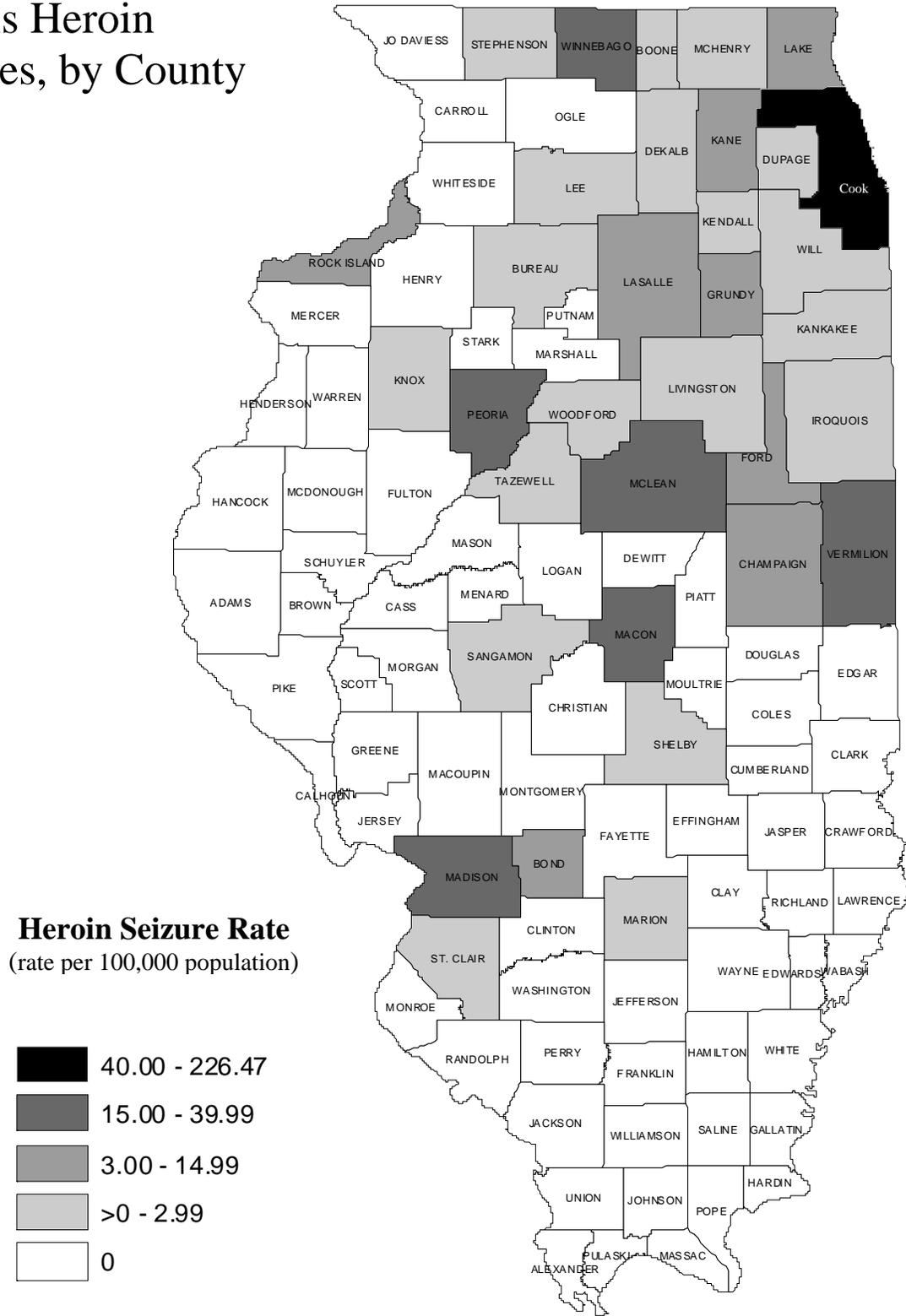
Map 5

2002 Illinois Methamphetamine Seizure Rates, by County

Methamphetamine Seizure Rate
(rate per 100,000 population)



2002 Illinois Heroin Seizure Rates, by County



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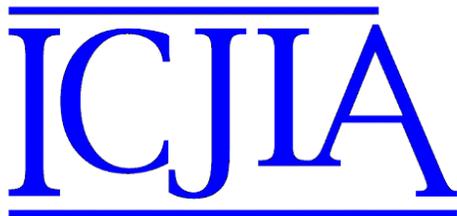
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