

Crime victims

Introduction

More than 23 million victimizations of people 12 years old and older were recorded nationally in 2005. Data indicates crime victims are increasingly more likely to report crime to police. A detailed look at crime reporting patterns revealed several factors that affected this trend, including that victims are more likely to report successful, rather than attempted, violent crimes, and crimes resulting in injury, theft of items valued at \$250 or more, and incidents of forcible entry.

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey:

- Completed robberies, simple assaults, and motor vehicle thefts were reported more often than attempts at these crimes.
- Violent crime victims reported victimization to police more often when the offender was a stranger.
- Women were more likely than men to report violent victimizations to police.
- The youngest victims of crime, those between ages 12 and 19, reported crimes to police least often.

According to a 2005 U.S. Department of Justice crime victimization study, 47 percent of violent crimes committed nationwide in 2005 were reported to police, a 5 percent increase from the 42 percent of violent crimes reported to police in 1995.ⁱ Reporting increases were seen in several areas of violent crime, including rape and other sexual assaults, with 38 percent reported in 2005 and 32 percent reported in 1995, robbery with 63 percent reported in 2005 and 55 percent reported in 1995, and assault with 62 percent reported in 2005 and 40 percent reported in 1995. In addition, 40 percent of property crimes committed nationwide were reported to the police in 2005 compared with 37 percent in 1995.

Of property crimes reported in 2005, 83 percent were motor vehicle thefts, compared with the 75 percent reported in 1995. About 32 percent of all other thefts were reported to police in 2005, compared with 25 percent of all other thefts reported in 1995.

Victims consistently indicated that they reported violent crimes to police to try to prevent further attacks against them by the same offender, and the most frequent reason for not reporting violent victimizations was that the offender was not successful. Victims said they'd reported property crimes in hopes of recovering their property, while the most common reason given for not reporting a property crime was that the stolen item was recovered.

Victimization surveys

Prior to conducting victimization surveys, the most common way of measuring crime in Illinois was through the use of official crime statistics from the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting program (I-UCR). The I-UCR is a compilation of data on crime reported by about 1,200 law enforcement agencies in the state. The drawback of measuring crime in this manner is that the I-UCR statistics only account for crimes known to the police, which are estimated to account for less than half of all crimes committed. Additionally, most I-UCR data are limited to aggregate numbers of crimes reported to law enforcement. Therefore, virtually nothing is known about the nature of these crimes—who committed them, how and why they were committed, where and when they occurred, who was victimized, and why they were reported to the police.

Annual victimization surveys are conducted nationally. A statewide victimization survey was completed in Illinois in 2002.

National survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey, a primary source for information on victim, is conducted annually as the Bureau of Justice collects data from a representative sample of households in the United States. The survey samples 77,200 households made up of nearly 14,000 people, asking them about the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization. The survey allows the Bureau of Justice Statistics to estimate the likelihood of violent and property crime victimization for the population as a whole and for population segments (such as women and the elderly), racial categories, and geographical population subdivisions (such as rural and urban) for comparison. The national survey provides the best opportunity for describing the impact of crime and the characteristics of violent offenders nationally.ⁱⁱ

Illinois victimization survey

In 2004, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority published a report based on the 2002 Illinois Crime Victimization Survey, which collected detailed information on the issue from 1,602 adult Illinois residents.

The survey's specific goals were to estimate the rate of overall crime victimization as well as specific types of victimization in Illinois, provide more details about the nature of crime victimization in the state, and assess statewide public knowledge and utilization of crime victim services. The survey provided an additional statistical measure of crime to complement other methods.

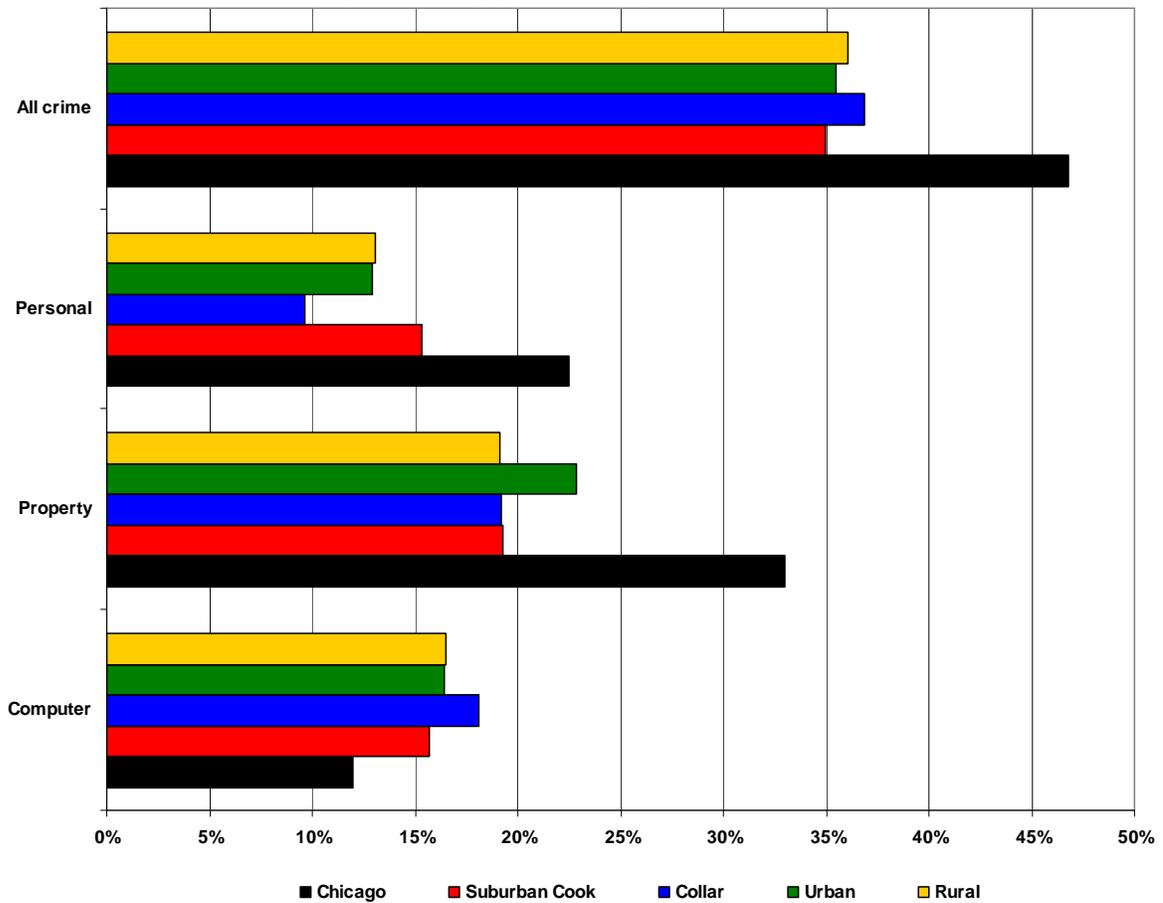
Estimates of crime victimization

During 2002, it was estimated that 39 percent of Illinois residents 18 or older were victims of at least one type of crime one or more times. Twenty-three percent of Illinois residents were victims of property crime (motor vehicle theft, burglary, theft, or

vandalism) and 13 percent of residents were victims of personal crimes (robbery, assault, and sex crimes). Computer crime was the most prevalent type of crime victimization among Illinois residents in 2002. Computer crimes can be included in person or property crimes, but for the purpose of this study, they were categorized separately.

When examining Illinois crime victims by region, Chicago residents had the highest rate of victimization in the state. An estimated 47 percent of Chicago residents were victimized in 2002, which was significantly higher statistically when compared to other regions. Victimization was similar among the other regions of the state, ranging between 35 and 37 percent (*Figure 71*).

Figure 71
Estimated crime victimization among Illinois residents
by crime type and region, 2002



InfoNet

InfoNet is a state-of-the-art, web-based data collection and reporting system used by victim service providers in Illinois. Recognized nationally for using the latest technologies facilitating data collection and reporting, the initial development and implementation of the system was a collaborative effort between the Authority, the

Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Since 2004, InfoNet has grown to include partnerships with the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois.

The purpose of InfoNet is to maintain a statewide system that:

- Standardizes data collection and reporting, thereby improving the ability to analyze information statewide, regionally, and locally.
- Provides a central repository for statewide victim service data.
- Facilitates mandatory reporting for victim service agencies that receive grants from multiple funding agencies. This often requires different types of information across funding agencies.
- Facilitates program planning for improving services and system response to victims.

InfoNet is used by domestic violence centers, sexual assault centers, and child advocacy centers. All data are maintained in the same database, but data elements and user interfaces are tailored to the unique needs of each agency type. As of April 2008, 70 domestic violence centers, 38 sexual assault centers and 16 child advocacy centers access InfoNet from 195 sites throughout Illinois. InfoNet is available to agencies and to domestic violence programs that receive grant funds from the Illinois Department of Human Services. In addition, Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois have access to the system.

Demographic information on all clients receiving services is entered into InfoNet, including whether the individual has health insurance, employment status, education level, marital status, income source, referral source, and the existence of any special needs. The type of victimization, or presenting issue, and severity of abuse also is captured, as well as what is known about victim interactions with the courts and any health care received.

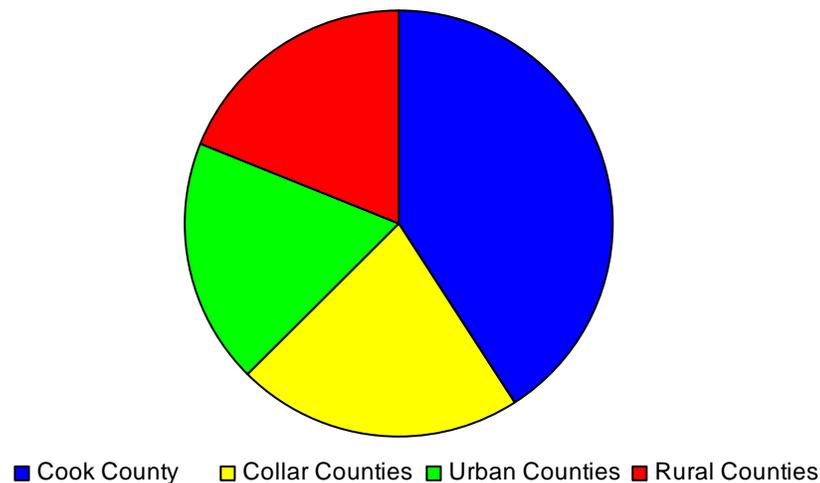
Advocates also enter data on the offender's involvement with the criminal justice system, including arrest, charge, case disposition, and sentencing information. Information is added to a client's record over time, creating a history of services and events. Information that could be used to identify a client, such as name or birth date, is not entered into InfoNet. Instead, a unique number is used to track each client.

Characteristics of domestic violence victims and incidents

The following is a summary of data entered into InfoNet between Jan. 1, 1998, and Dec. 11, 2005. The data were provided by nearly 70 domestic violence centers throughout Illinois that receive funding from either the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) or the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS).ⁱⁱⁱ

In 2005, 35,435 domestic violence victims were served by domestic violence centers receiving funding through either ICADV or DHS (*Figure 72*). In 2005, 94 percent of domestic violence victims receiving services in Illinois were female, a slight reduction from 1998 (96 percent). Most victims make their way to domestic violence agencies upon referral from law enforcement officers, social service programs and friends.

Figure 72
Percentage of domestic violence victims served
by county classification, 2005



Source: ICJIA-Infonet

According to data submitted by domestic violence shelters to InfoNet, the typical domestic violence victim was 33 years old, white, female, and had less than a college diploma. More than 25 percent had less than a high school education. Between 40 and 50 percent were unemployed in any given year, with the highest percentage of unemployed victims being in Cook County.

The proportion of victims with a language barrier doubled over time, from about 5 percent to 10 percent. Greater proportions of victims in Cook and the collar counties had language challenges, a possible result of the higher proportions of Hispanic and Asian Americans in the general populations of those regions.

When examining victim experiences, physical abuse was the primary presenting issue for most victims, but the proportion who sought help for emotional abuse increased. Sexual

abuse remained low as a primary presenting issue. The primary location of abuse was the victim's home, but the proportion abused in the abuser's home rose slightly through the years. Blacks had the greatest proportion of victims who were physically abused and the smallest proportion of victims emotionally abused. Most offenders were current or former husbands or current or former boyfriends. Race and ethnicity of the offender generally matched the race and ethnicity of the victim in most groups.

Among victims, those in a shelter had the greatest range of problems and the fewest resources from which to draw. Generally, they had fewer resources, less education, less likelihood of employment, and more reliance on social programs, such as Medicaid and public health insurance. They were slightly younger, more likely to be pregnant at the time of the abuse and more likely to have some type of disability.

InfoNet also captures data on children involved in domestic violence situations. Characteristics of children were fairly stable over time, reflecting the regional and racial/ethnic distributions of all victims of domestic violence as reported in InfoNet. The average age was between 6.5 and 7 years old, with 56 to 60 percent attending elementary school. About one-third of children documented in each year were zero to three years old.

Custody information and data on living arrangements indicated that the clear majority of children were living with the reported victim of domestic violence. Fewer children were living with both parents or in a joint custody situation and, as data on offenders indicated, and visitation was not limited for most offenders.

Data were collected on four problem areas: emotional problems, physical health, educational problems, and social difficulties. The greatest proportion of children had difficulty with emotional problems. The proportion of children with such difficulties varied from a high of 82 percent (in 2001) to a low of 69 percent in 2005.

Types of victimization reported to official sources

The extent of crime victimization can be determined through information reported to local police, Illinois State Police, which also collects information on offenses committed against certain vulnerable populations, and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, which collects data on child abuse and neglect cases in the state.

Victimization reported to Illinois State Police

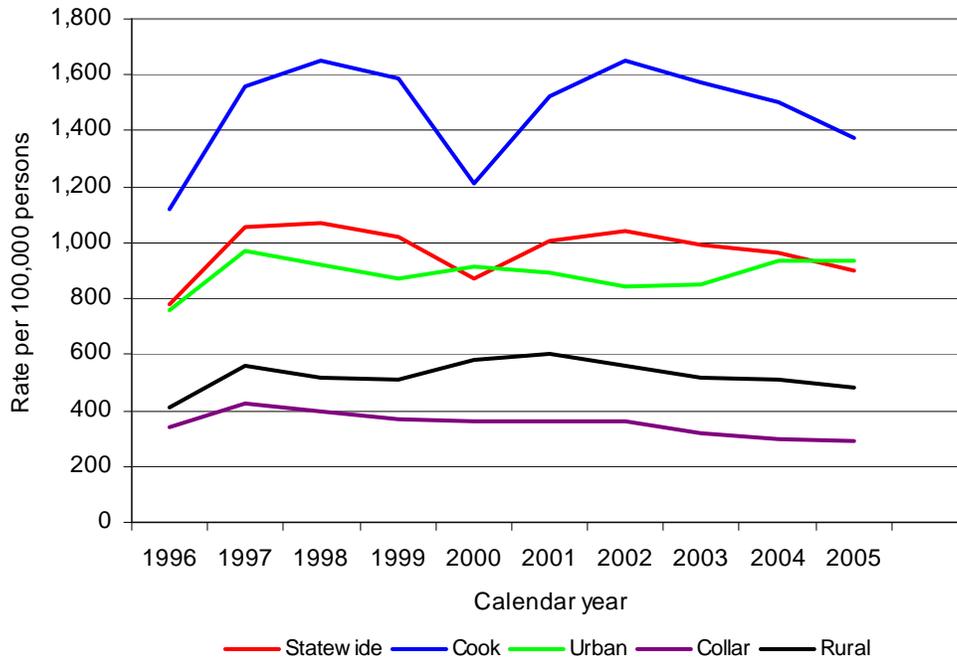
Illinois State Police began collecting supplemental crime victimization data in 1996. This data enriches aggregate Uniform Crime Report data reporting mandated by state law, and tabulates numbers of domestic offenses, crimes against children, and crimes against school personnel. Although the collection of this data is mandated, law enforcement agencies are not compelled to report their findings to the Illinois State Police, and data totals are incomplete. The supplemental data that is collected becomes important as another tool to estimate the extent of victimization in Illinois.

Domestic offenses

Domestic offenses include any crimes committed by a family or household member, defined as spouses, former spouses, parents, children, other people related by blood or marriage, people who have shared a common home, or people who share a child.

Figure 73 shows the rates of domestic offenses in Illinois between 1996 and 2005. Reporting began in April 1996. The statewide rate of domestic offenses decreased 17 percent between calendar years 1997 and 2005, primarily driven by Cook County, as the state's other regions remained relatively stable.

Figure 73
Rates of reported domestic offenses in Illinois,
1996-2005



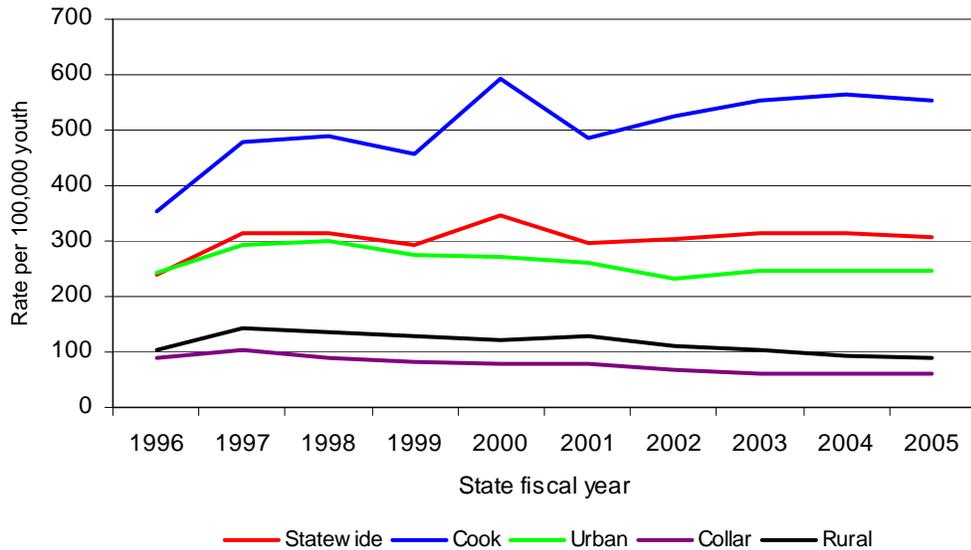
Source: Illinois State Police

Crimes against children

Crimes against children include all reported crimes in which the victims are 16 years old or younger. Reporting in this category of offenses is not mandated by state law.

Figure 74 depicts the rates of reported crimes against children in Illinois from 1996 to 2005. Data for 1996 was based on eight months of reporting. The statewide rate of reported crimes against children remained fairly stable between the years 1997 and 2005, decreasing only about 2 percent.

Figure 74
Rates of reported crimes against children in Illinois, FY96-FY05



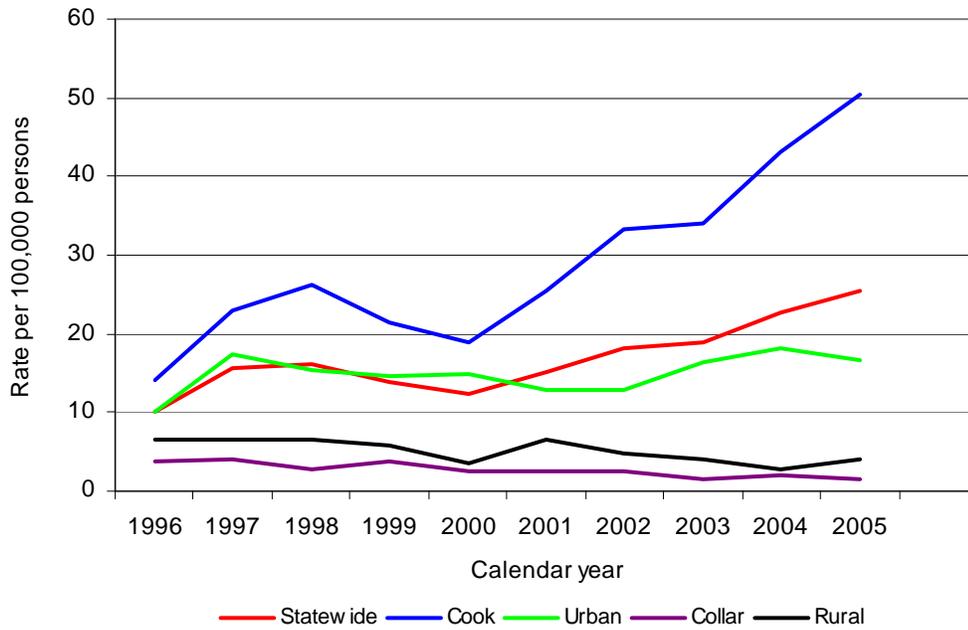
Source: Illinois State Police

Crimes against school personnel

According to Illinois State Police, data is collected on all crimes committed against school personnel, including teachers, administrators, aides, bus drivers, janitors, and anyone else employed by the school, as mandated by state law.

Figure 75 depicts the rates of all reported crimes against school personnel between 1996 and 2005 in Illinois. The statewide rate for reported crimes against school personnel rose nearly 40 percent during that time, but the jump could be due to increased reporting of these offenses.

Figure 75
Rates of reported crimes against school personnel, 1996-2005

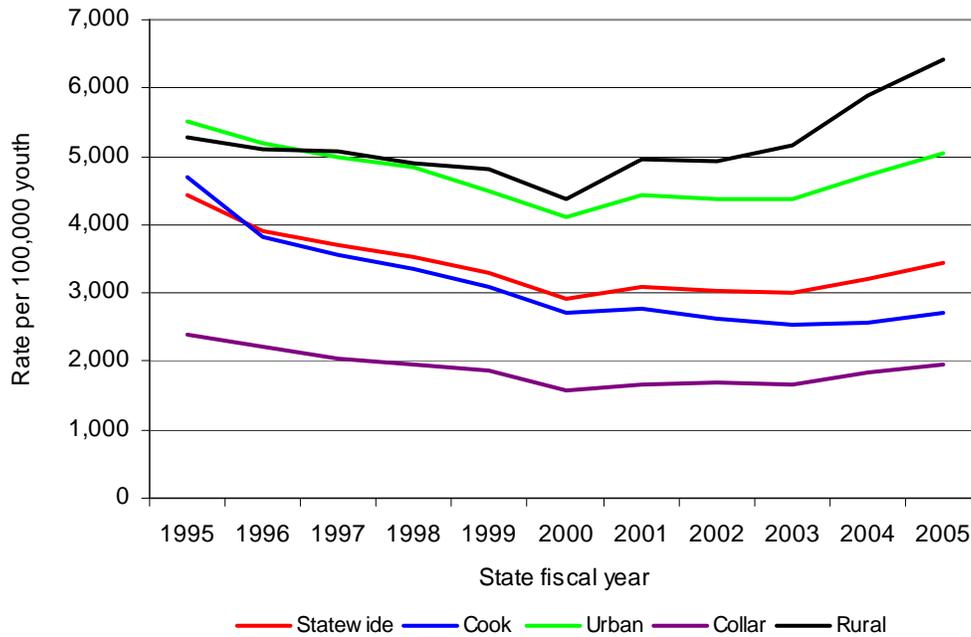


Source: Illinois State Police

Child abuse and neglect

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigates reported cases of child abuse. Between state fiscal years 1995 and 2005, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Illinois decreased 20 percent, from 139,726 to 111,830. *Figure 76* depicts the rate of child abuse and neglect reported to DCFS by region for FY95 to FY05. During that same period, 376,287 cases, or 31 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Illinois decreased 48 percent between state fiscal years 1995 and 2005, from 53,325 to 27,575. Although the number of verified cases of child abuse and neglect decreased 48 percent during the period from 1995 to 2005, the rate for verified child abuse has risen dramatically since 2000 (*Figure 76*).

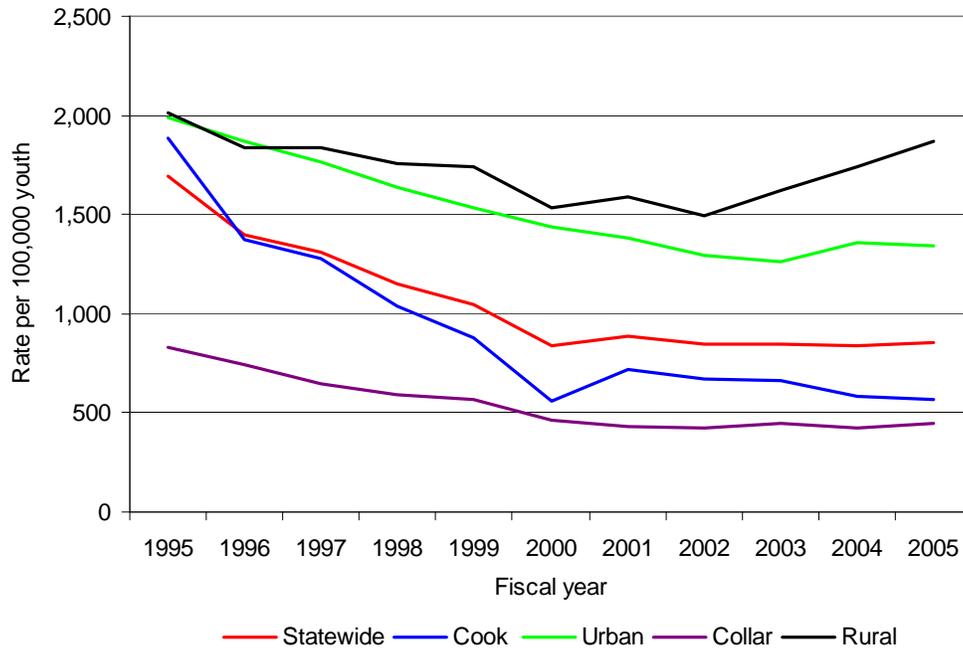
Figure 76
Rates of reported child abuse and neglect in Illinois between FY95-FY05



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between FY95 and FY05, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Illinois decreased from 1,691 to 852 per 100,000 juveniles as shown in *Figure 77*. During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased in each region of the state, most significantly in Cook County, but as shown on the graph is *up* dramatically since 2000 in urban and collar counties.

Figure 77
Rates of verified child abuse and neglect in Illinois between FY95-FY05



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Elder abuse

Illinois Department on Aging research indicates about 5 percent of Illinois residents 60 years of age and older have been subjected to some form of elder abuse. The department estimates that only about one in 13 instances of elder abuse is reported to the Elder Abuse and Neglect Program, a statewide program mandated by state law (320 ILCS 20/1/et. seq). Elder abuse is the least recognized form of family violence and includes:

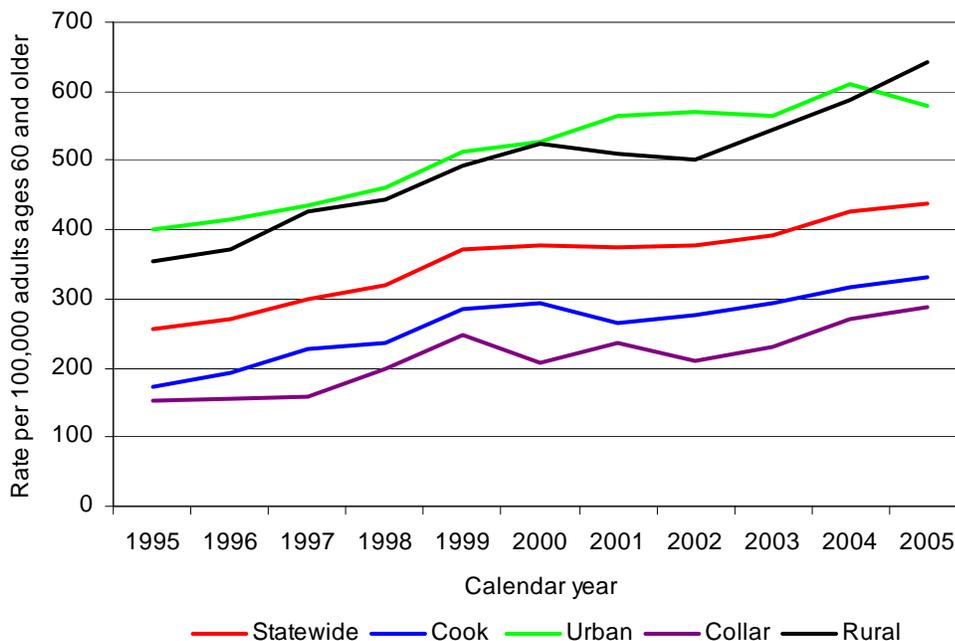
- Physical abuse.
- Sexual abuse.
- Emotional abuse.
- Confinement.
- Passive neglect.
- Willful deprivation.
- Financial exploitation.

In most cases elder abuse victims are subjected to more than one form of maltreatment. According to Department on Aging data, more than 50 percent of Illinois elder abuse cases involve some type of financial exploitation, about 2 percent involve physical abuse, 45 percent involve active or passive neglect, and 45 percent involve emotional abuse.^{iv}

Every county in Illinois is served by agencies that assist victims of elder abuse, but accessing services may be difficult for elderly victims who lack transportation options.

Figure 78 depicts trends of elder abuse between state fiscal years 1995 and 2005, during which the rate of reported elder abuse in Illinois increased 71 percent, from 255 to 437 per 100,000 elderly persons. During the same period, the rates of reported elder abuse cases increased in each region of the state, but were highest in urban and rural counties.

Figure 78
Rates of reported elder abuse in Illinois, FY95-FY05



Source: Illinois Department on Aging

Services offered to victims in Illinois

In Illinois, state law offers certain rights and protections to victims and witnesses of violent crime. The Illinois Constitution guarantees certain rights for crime victims, including:^v

- Obtaining a written explanation by the authorities of your rights under the law.
- Receiving notification of when court proceedings begin.
- Receiving information about social services, victim’s compensation, and application processes.
- Prompt return of property used as evidence or held for other purposes.
- Having a state’s attorneys and victim advocates work with employers to lessen loss of pay and benefits due to court appearances.
- Bringing a victim advocate and translator (if necessary) to court.

- Being informed of the minimum amount of time the offender could spend in prison at the time of the sentencing hearing.
- Being notified if the offender escapes from prison and when he or she is recaptured.

Several state-sponsored services are offered to victims of crime in Illinois. Program options vary across the state, and victims should contact the Office of the Illinois Attorney General or the state's attorney's office in the county where the case is being tried.

Victim notification

The Office of the Illinois Attorney General has operated a statewide automated victim notification system since 1999. This system provides victims and other concerned citizens with a toll-free number to call for case and custody status information on an offender. The system also provides automatic notification when there is a change in an offender's status.

This service is a collaboration of county jail booking systems, Illinois Department of Corrections, Illinois Department of Human Services, and circuit court clerks across the state.

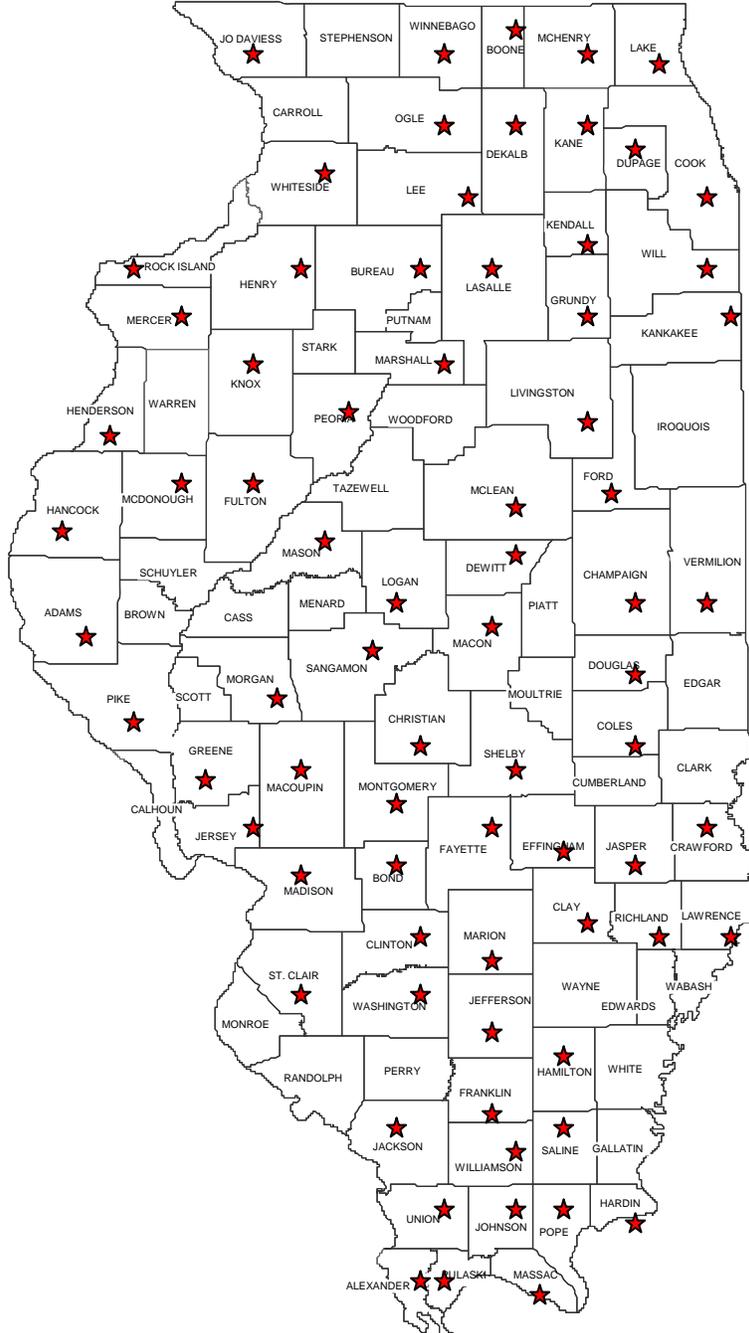
Victim compensation fund

The Illinois General Assembly established the Crime Victim Compensation Act in 1973, with the goal of helping to reduce the financial burden on victims of violent crime. The Illinois Crime Victim Compensation Program provides up to \$27,000 of financial assistance for expenses accrued as a result of a violent crime. The Office of the Illinois Attorney General investigates all claims to determine a victim's eligibility for compensation

Victim services unit

The Illinois Department of Corrections Victim Services Unit provides information and support to victims of incarcerated offenders. The unit also works in conjunction with other state agencies to advocate for victims rights through public forums and needed legislation.

Map 4 Prosecution-based victim witness programs providing services to victims of violent crimes, 2007



★ Indicates agency providing services

Source: Illinois Attorney General's Office

Victim services needs assessment survey

In 2005, the Authority completed a profession-specific survey assessing the needs of the criminal justice system. Surveys were sent to 112 victim service providers. A response rate of 51 percent was seen from victim service providers, representing the Illinois Coalition on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and child advocacy centers throughout the state. Providers indicated child sex abuse, sexual assaults, and domestic violence cases were major contributors to their workload. Services impacting that workload included providing information and referrals, criminal justice advocacy, case management, and personal advocacy.

Victim service providers recommended drug treatment and youth prevention programs to reduce violence, and listed identity theft and drug and alcohol abuse as worsening problems. Areas in need of major improvement, according to the respondents, included case continuance policies, victim involvement in decision-making, reviews of charging decisions, and the enforcement of victim rights.

Conclusion

Data on victimization in Illinois is gathered from a variety of official sources, including the National Crime Victimization Survey, Illinois Crime Victimization Survey, the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Illinois Department of Corrections, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Department on Aging, and Illinois State Police. Many Illinois victim service providers also report on services provided through InfoNet.

A study of data for 2005 showed:

- The statewide rate of domestic offenses was 903 per 100,000 persons.
- The statewide rate of crimes against children was 309 per 100,000 juveniles.
- The statewide rate of reported crimes against school personnel was 25 per 100,000 persons.
- The statewide rate of reported child abuse and neglect was 3,454 per 100,000 juveniles.
- The statewide rate of verified child abuse and neglect was 852 per 100,000 juveniles.
- The statewide rate of reported incidents of elder abuse was 437 per 100,000 adults 60 years old and older.

Victim advocates surveyed about the needs of the criminal justice system noted a desire for greater victim involvement in decision-making and greater enforcement of victims' rights.

Notes

ⁱ U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005*. <http://www.ojp.gov/bjs>.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict.htm>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Grossman, Susan F. and Lundy, Marta *Fact Sheet: Report to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Analysis of Infonet Data from Domestic Violence Agencies, January 1998 through December 11, 2005*. Loyola University: January 30, 2007.

^{iv} The difference between active and passive neglect lies in the intent of the caregiver. With active neglect, the caregiver intentionally fails to meet his/her obligations towards the older person. With passive neglect, the failure is unintentional; often the result of caregiver overload or lack of information concerning appropriate care-giving strategies. Retrieved February 1, 2008 from <http://www.webster.edu/~woolfm/abuse.html>.

^v For a complete list of Victims Rights and Responsibilities, see http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/pdf/brochures/bor_english.pdf.

Special issue

Human trafficking

Often referred to as modern day slavery, human trafficking for sex or labor is a growing national and international issue. Commercial sexual exploitation of children in the United States is a multimillion dollar industry supported with revenue from prostitution and pornography.

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) calls the commercial sexual exploitation of children one of the most overlooked and egregious forms of child abuse. OJJDP defines the commercial sexual exploitation of children as "a constellation of crimes of a sexual nature, committed against youthful victims younger than 18 years old, primarily or entirely for financial or other economic reasons."

Child sex exploitation crimes include trafficking for sexual purposes, prostitution, sex tourism, pornography, stripping, and sexual performances, and include schemes involving mail order brides and early marriages. Law enforcement and child protection groups say commercial sexual exploitation of children in the United States is a critical problem, with OJJDP reporting increasing numbers of children and youth sexually exploited through prostitution and pornography, .

Combating commercial sexual exploitation of children

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines sex trafficking as recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for the purposes of a sex act. The definition does not state that the victim must be transported from place to place. While it may be commonly believed that most or all victims of human trafficking were born in a foreign country, thousands U.S. nationals suffer at the hands of human traffickers each year.

Most trafficked youth are runaways who have experienced childhood abuse. Many engage in survival sex. Female prostitutes may be controlled, intimidated, socially isolated, and economically dependent on their pimps, making it difficult to leave a life of prostitution. Customers and pimps threaten and physically abuse prostitutes by sexual assaulting, kidnapping, stabbing, and beating them. Victims suffer physical and mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and low self-esteem.

A 2001 University of Pennsylvania study estimated that as many as 300,000 children were at risk for exploitation through prostitution in the United States, but a lack of consensus exists on the estimated number of prostituted youth. One study estimated that a minimum of 16,000 women and girls are regularly engaged in prostitution in the Chicago metropolitan area, but another study estimated the total of between 1,800 to 4,000. Official statistics offer much lower estimates of the problem. The U.S. Department of Justice estimated that only 1,300 juveniles were arrested for prostitution in the United States in 1995, a figure that was less than one percent of all juvenile arrests for that year.

Illinois response

Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich signed the Illinois Trafficking of Persons and Involuntary Servitude Act in June 2005. The Act established penalties for the offenses of involuntary servitude, sexual servitude of a minor, and trafficking of persons for forced labor. Also launched in 2005, the Illinois Department of Human Services Rescue and Restore program offers outreach services and provides training to law enforcement and other relevant professionals on human trafficking.

In 2006, the Authority was awarded a research grant by OJJDP to study the child sex trade. The study utilized arrest statistics, focus groups with individuals who were prostituted as juveniles, and interviews with law enforcement officers. The goal of the research was to gain a better understanding of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth. Collectively, the research methods addressed:

- Incidence and prevalence of victimization.
- Victim characteristics.
- Pathways to victimization.
- Needs of exploited youth exiting exploitative situations.
- Responses of law enforcement.

Arrest statistics

There have been few arrests related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children, but arrest data is limited due to a lack of reporting requirements on some juvenile offenses, including misdemeanors. Under-reporting of juvenile arrests also seems to be occurring. Between 1994 and 2004, only 45 arrests of juveniles for prostitution were reported. Also during that period, 162 arrests were made for soliciting a juvenile prostitute, 258 arrests were made for child pornography.

Table A depicts the total number of adult commercial sexual exploitation of children-related arrests from 1994 to 2004.

Table A
Total number of commercial child sexual exploitation arrests from 1994-2004

Offense	Number of arrests
Child pornography	258
Child exploitation	166
Juvenile pimping	80
Keeping a place of juvenile prostitution	3
Patronizing a juvenile prostitute	29
Soliciting a juvenile prostitute	162
Total	698