

Overview

Trends and Issues 2008 is a comprehensive guide to current Illinois crime and justice trends. The sixth document of its kind and first since 1997, *Trends and Issues 2008* provides valuable criminal and juvenile justice information to practitioners, policy makers, and the general public. The report describes the organization and operation of the state's justice system, tracks statewide and regional trends in crime and the processing of offenders, and presents important and emerging criminal and juvenile justice issues.

Trends and Issues 2008 was designed to serve as a reference guide on the criminal and juvenile justice systems, with sections on law enforcement, courts, corrections, victims, and juvenile justice. The report also highlights special issues of significance facing the criminal justice system today, including identity theft, DNA usage, specialized courts, inmate substance abuse treatment, human trafficking, and juvenile justice reform initiatives.

Data used in this report were derived from a variety of criminal justice sources and, in most cases, covered a 10-year period, from 1995 to 2005. When 2005 data elements were not yet available, the most current data was used. Other limitations also arose in compilation of this document, including missing and unreported data. These limitations are addressed in each section.

Data is presented in summaries, tables, trend graphs, and state maps, each illustrating state data trends over a 10-year period. Counties are color coded in state map graphics to create visual county comparisons. Trends in Cook County, collar counties, urban counties, and rural counties also are described. Collar counties include DuPage, Lake, Kane, McHenry, and Will. Urban and rural designations are based on population.