

Crime reported to law enforcement agencies continued to decline for the sixth consecutive year in Illinois. Total index offenses fell to 546,167 in 2000, compared to 643,717 in 1996. A decline in the number of violent offenses accounted for much of this drop. Although property offenses decreased 13.4 percent, the number of violent offenses decreased 23.7 percent.

Between 1996 and 2000, the number of violent index offenses reported to the police decreased across all Illinois regions. Cook County experienced the largest regional decrease in the number of violent offenses, dropping 25.9 percent (down 15.1 percent in *suburban* Cook County). During the same period, violent crime decreased 20.7 percent in the rural counties, followed by the urban counties (20.5 percent) and the Collar counties (10.6 percent).

Preliminary FBI figures released in May 2001 indicate that, nationally, crime remained relatively unchanged between 1999 and 2000. Violent crime is up slightly (0.1 percent) for the first time in nine years, while property crime remained unchanged.

## Highlights

Between 1996 and 2000:

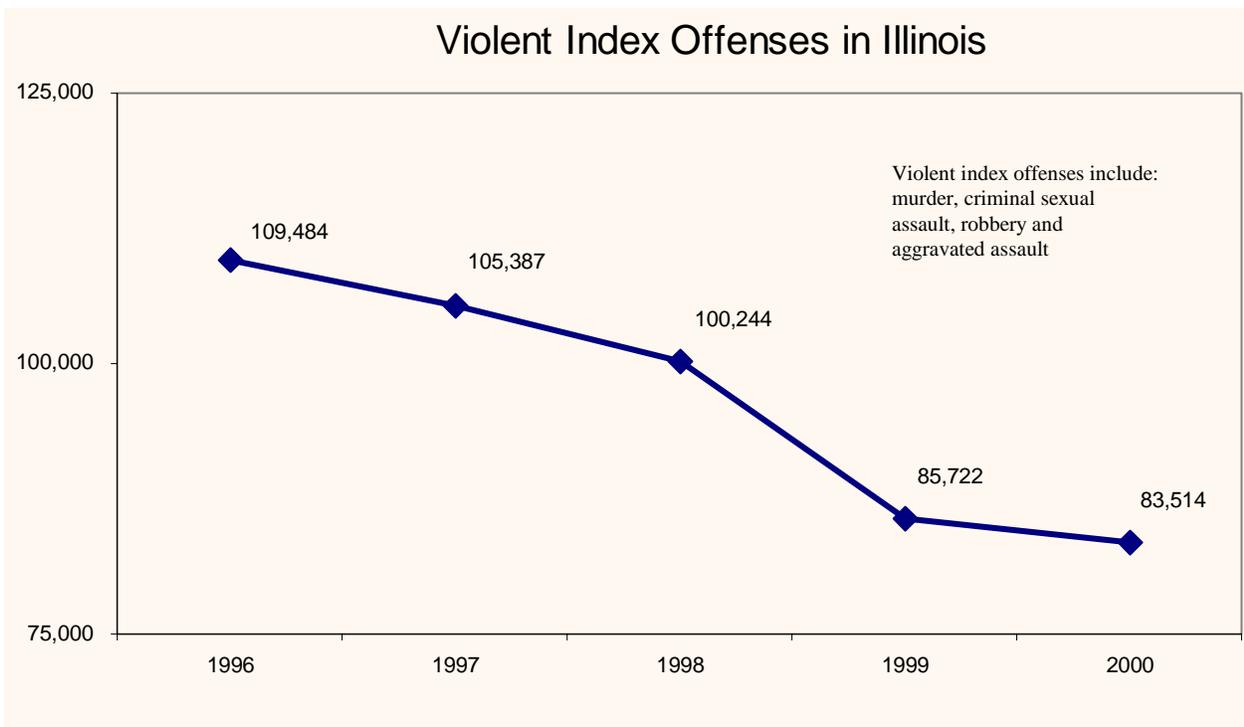
- In Illinois, the number of violent offenses declined 23.7 percent.
- Murders declined by 23.9 percent.
- Criminal sexual assaults fell 12.3 percent.
- Aggravated assaults, the most frequently reported violent offense, declined 23.1 percent.
- Robberies saw the greatest decrease among index crimes, falling 27 percent.
- The number of property offenses declined by 13.4 percent.
- The number of burglaries declined 22.7 percent.

## Reported crime and rates decline

Index crimes include violent and property offenses. Violent offenses are murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault. Property offenses are burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

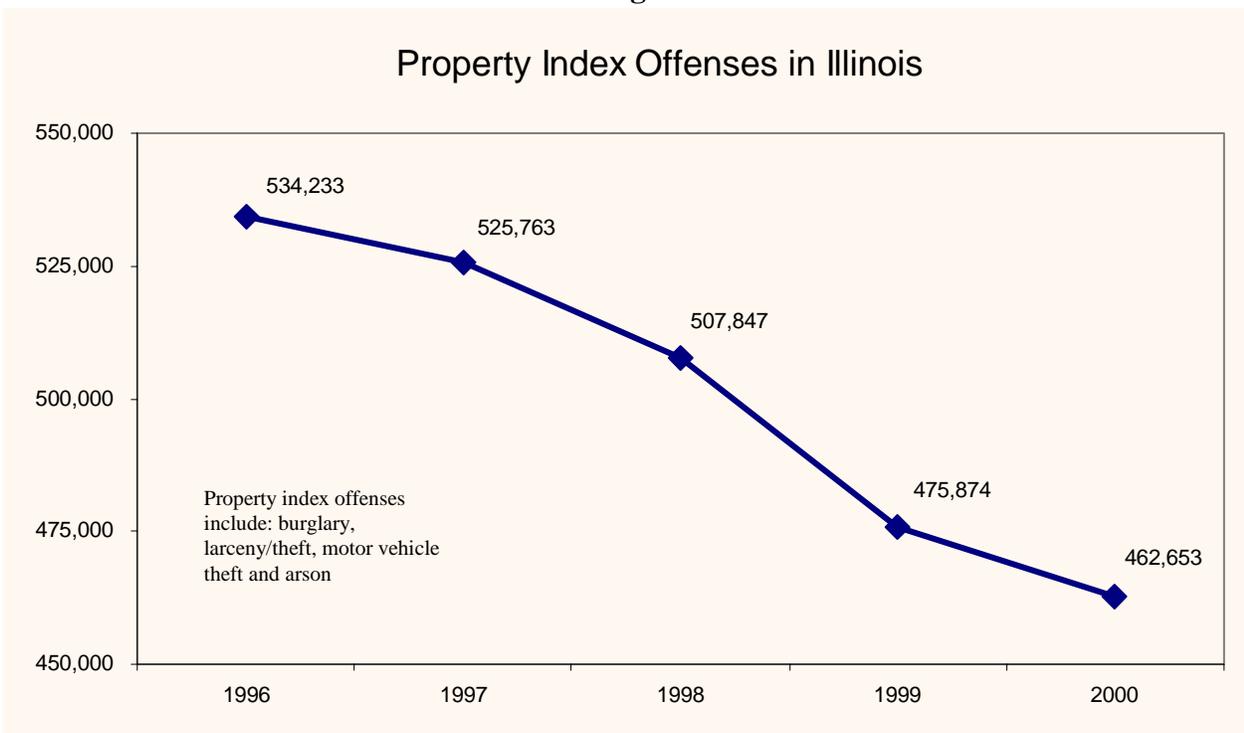
Between 1996 and 2000, the total number of index crimes reported to the Illinois State Police decreased 15.2 percent. The number of property offenses reported declined by 13.4 percent, and the number of violent offenses declined by 23.7 percent (Figures 1 and 2).

**Figure 1**



Source: Illinois State Police

**Figure 2**



Source: Illinois State Police

While Illinois' population continues to increase (nearly 4 percent between 1996 and 2000), the violent offense rate declined nearly 27 percent, from 916 offenses for every 100,000 persons in 1996, to 672 offenses for every 100,000 persons in 2000 (Table 1).<sup>1</sup>

**TABLE 1**  
**Number and Rate of Reported Index Offenses**  
**In Illinois 1996 – 2000**

VIOLENT INDEX CRIMES	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1996-2000
	Number (Rate per 100,000)	Percent Change In the Rate per 100,000				
Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	1,171 (9.66)	1,114 (9.19)	1,017 (8.39)	939 (7.74)	891 (7.17)	-25.7%
Criminal Sexual Assault	6,753 (56.50)	6,639 (55.27)	6,174 (51.15)	6,286 (51.83)	5,923 (47.69)	-12.3%
Robbery	35,318 (295.47)	33,434 (278.35)	30,229 (250.45)	26,398 (217.65)	25,786 (207.63)	-29.7%
Aggravated Assault	66,242 (546.17)	64,200 (529.34)	62,824 (517.99)	52,099 (429.56)	50,914 (409.96)	-23.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109,484</b> <b>(915.95)</b>	<b>105,387</b> <b>(877.38)</b>	<b>100,244</b> <b>(830.54)</b>	<b>85,722</b> <b>(706.79)</b>	<b>83,514</b> <b>(672.45)</b>	<b>-26.6%</b>
<b>PROPERTY INDEX CRIMES</b>						
Burglary	106,034 (874.26)	104,859 (864.58)	97,792 (806.31)	86,317 (711.69)	81,913 (659.56)	-24.6%
Larceny/Theft	366,400 (3,021.02)	360,344 (2,971.08)	352,170 (2,903.69)	329,198 (2,714.28)	321,205 (2,586.34)	-14.4%
Motor Vehicle Theft	57,937 (477.70)	56,898 (469.13)	54,504 (449.39)	57,115 (470.92)	56,545 (455.30)	-4.7%
Arson	3,862 (31.84)	3,662 (30.19)	3,381 (27.88)	3,244 (26.75)	2,990 (24.08)	-24.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>534,233</b> <b>(4,404.82)</b>	<b>525,763</b> <b>(4,334.98)</b>	<b>507,847</b> <b>(4,187.27)</b>	<b>475,874</b> <b>(3,923.64)</b>	<b>462,653</b> <b>(3,725.28)</b>	<b>-15.4%</b>

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

For additional information on crime trends in Illinois, visit the Authority's Website at: <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/>

Based on 2000 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, Illinois remains the fifth most populous state in the nation. California, Texas, New York and Florida are the four states with populations greater than Illinois. Table 2 shows the 1996-1999 violent index offense rates for the ten highest-ranking states (based on population). Based on estimated violent crime rates, Illinois had the second highest throughout the five-year period <sup>2</sup>, while Florida had the highest violent crime rate.

**TABLE 2**  
**Violent Offense Rates in the Ten Largest States**  
**1996-2000<sup>3</sup>**

State	2000 Estimated Population	1996 Viol. Index Offense Rate	1997 Viol. Index Offense Rate	1998 Viol. Index Offense Rate	1999 Viol. Index Offense Rate	2000 Viol. Index Offense Rate	Percent Change 1996- 2000
California	(33,871,648)	862.7	798.3	703.7	627.2	Data	
Texas	(20,851,820)	644.4	602.5	564.6	560.3	Not	
New York	(18,976,457)	727.0	688.6	637.8	588.8	Yet	
Florida	(15,982,328)	1051.0	1,023.6	938.7	854.0	Available	
Illinois	(12,419,293)	915.8	877.3	830.5	749.2	672.5	-26.6%
Pennsylvania	(12,281,054)	432.5	442.1	420.5	420.5	Data	
Ohio	(11,353,140)	428.7	435.4	362.5	316.4	Not	
Michigan	(9,938,444)	635.3	590.0	620.8	574.9	Yet	
New Jersey	(8,414,350)	531.5	492.6	440.1	411.9	Available	
Georgia	(8,186,453)	638.7	606.6	572.7	533.9		

Sources: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data  
FBI's 1996-1999 annual reports, *Crime in the United States*

In Illinois, the violent offense rate decreased 25.7 percent between 1996 and 2000. However, national crime statistics for 2000 are not yet available; therefore, Table 2 reflects the violent offense rates of comparison states for the years 1996-1999. Between 1996 and 1999, the largest decrease in the violent offense rate was reported in California (35.1 percent), followed by Ohio (34.4 percent) and New Jersey (31.3 percent).

In Illinois, the property offense rate decreased 15.4 percent between 1996 and 2000. California and New York experienced the greatest decreases in property offense rates between 1996 and 1999, 34.9 percent and 27.6 percent, respectively. Property offense rates also decreased 27 percent in New Jersey, 19.2 percent in Florida, 15.6 percent in Michigan, 15.4 percent in Illinois, 14.1 percent in Georgia, 11.1 percent in Texas, 8.5 percent in Pennsylvania and 6.1 percent in Ohio.

## Notes:

1. According to the most recent estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, Illinois' population increased nearly 4 percent between 1996 and 2000, from 11,953,003 to 12,419,293.
2. Illinois did not submit complete data to the FBI Uniform Crime Division for the years 1996-1999. Consequently, the FBI estimated Illinois' index crime rates. Therefore, the UCR data reported to the Illinois State Police were used.
3. 2000 national crime statistics are not yet available from the FBI.

## **Text Box on page 2**

### UCR program

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of nearly 16,000 city, county, and state law enforcement agencies. These agencies report police-level data on crime that is brought to their attention to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting section.

In 1972, Illinois instituted mandatory UCR reporting on a statewide basis. Since then, every law enforcement agency in the state has been required to report crime data monthly to the Illinois State Police (ISP). ISP creates and maintains computer files of the Illinois UCR data.

After reviewing the index crime data received from local agencies, the Illinois State Police submits this data to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Section for use in compiling national crime statistics. The FBI then uses this data, along with data reported by the other states, to publish *Crime in the United States* on an annual basis.

### Crime index

The Crime Index consists of eight crime categories that, when taken together, provide some indication of how much serious crime has occurred in a jurisdiction, region or state. Each of the eight offenses is called an "index crime." There are four violent index crimes – murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault – and four property index crimes – burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. In most research, violent crime is analyzed separately from property crime.

## Crime rates:

Raw crime figures are useful for many purposes, such as for looking at the number of offenses in a single jurisdiction. However, raw numbers are not standardized against the population at risk. In other words, they do not reveal whether a higher amount of crime in one jurisdiction compared with another is a function of the greater number of people who live there. A “crime rate” on the other hand, does provide this type of information. Crime rates are usually calculated as a rate per 100,000 population. The denominator for calculating a crime rate is the “population at risk.” In the case of this report, statewide population figures were used.

$$\frac{\text{Number of offenses} \times 100,000}{\text{State population}} = \text{Offense rate per } 100,000 \text{ population}$$