



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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Memorandum

To: Authority Members

From: *GR* Gerard F. Ramker, Ph.D.
Research and Analysis Unit

Date: May 17, 2004

Re: Research and Analysis Unit Report – June 4, 2004 Authority Meeting

This memorandum highlights some of the work performed by staff of the Research and Analysis Unit since the Authority's last quarterly meeting.

I. ONGOING ACTIVITIES

A. Publications

Since the last Authority meeting, R & A staff produced nine (9) publications:

- *The Compiler (Winter/Spring 2004)*: The Festering Problem of Methamphetamine in Illinois;
- *Research Report and Program Evaluation Summary*: Community Policing in Chicago, Year Ten: An Evaluation of Chicago's Alternative Policing Strategy;
- *Research Report*: The Little Village Gang Violence Reduction Project in Chicago;
- *Research Report*: An Impact Evaluation of Specialized Sex Offender Probation Programs in Coles, Vermilion and Madison Counties;
- *Research Report*: 2004 Summary of Drug Enforcement Activities Across Illinois' Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and Task Forces;
- *Annual Report*: ICJIA 2003 Annual Report;
- *Annual Report*: 2003 Annual Report of the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council; and
- *Research Bulletin*: Driving Under the Influence: DUI Laws and Enforcement in Illinois and the U.S.

B. Office of Public Information

The Office of Public Information (OPI) designs, edits and publishes the Authority's written materials, including: press releases; the agency's annual report; the agency's newsletter called, "The Compiler"; and other publications such as research reports, research bulletins, and evaluation summaries. OPI staff also respond to information and assistance requests from the public, the media, and others.

ICJIA Annual Report. Staff completed the Authority's annual report for 2003.

The Compiler. Staff completed the Winter/Spring 2004 issue of *The Compiler*, which focuses on Illinois' multijurisdictional drug task forces and their efforts at combating the proliferation of methamphetamine in the State.

Press Releases. OPI staff published one (1) press release since the last Authority meeting. The release, which is available on the Authority's website, is summarized below:

- March 10, 2004 - **Governor announces \$1.6 million to domestic violence programs**
CHICAGO -- Governor Rod Blagojevich today announced that the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) will provide more than \$1.6 million in federal funds to three counties for innovative programs that will enhance their response to domestic violence through law enforcement, prosecution, court, probation, and victim service efforts.

Three (3) other press releases have been drafted and are currently under review by the Governor's Office:

- the Authority's grant for the Chicago Police Department's Project Bridge;
- the Authority's ADAA grants for drug enforcement efforts; and
- the Authority's grants for state's attorney's offices efforts on domestic violence in underserved areas of the state.

OPI staff also edited and did layout work on several research bulletins. Staff also supported the Federal and State Grants Unit (FSGU) with editorial assistance on the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council's annual report for 2003, a request for public input on the ADAA statewide strategy, and meeting materials for the Budget Committee.

B. Briefings/Presentations

Since the last Authority meeting, R & A staff made presentations at and/or attended meetings of the:

- Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition data reporting workgroup;
- Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association;
- Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Summit;
- Attorney General Madigan's Methamphetamine Healthcare Advisory Committee research working group;
- Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and Grant Review Committee;
- Illinois Integrated Justice Information System (IIJIS) board, planning, technical, privacy and homeland security committees;
- Justice Research and Statistics Association's (JRSA) Executive committee;
- Crime Analysts of Illinois Association meetings;
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Partners;
- Illinois Youth Court Association advisory board meeting;

- Governor's Ex-Offender Employability Committee meeting;
- University of Chicago's Incarceration Research Group;
- Advisory Group for the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Formerly Incarcerated Employment Study;
- Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission's Disproportionate Minority Confinement subcommittee.
- Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Terrorism Private Sector Subcommittee;
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives grant sites meeting; and,
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives partners meeting;

C. Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse

The Authority serves as a statewide clearinghouse for statistics and other information about the criminal justice system. During the third quarter (1/1/04- 3/31/04) of SFY04, R&A staff responded to 301 requests from people seeking information — an average of 100 requests per month. Most came from the general public (39 percent) and government agencies (27 percent). Other requests came from private agencies (15 percent), researchers (7 percent), students (7 percent), news media representatives (2 percent), prison inmates (1 percent), and legislators (1 percent). About 20 percent of the requests originated in Chicago. Thirty-eight percent originated in other parts of the state. All other requests for information were received from outside Illinois. R&A distributed 9,208 Authority publications during this period. *[TABLE 1 (attached) provides statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

D. Web Site Development

R&A staff also contribute toward the continued development of the Authority's Web site (www.icjia.state.il.us). The Authority's website has been nominated for an 'E-gov Pioneer Award' for excellence in a state, local, or federal website. The E-gov awards are sponsored by Federal Computer Week magazine (<http://www.e-gov.com>). We continue to expand the criminal justice data and information available on the site. A new "Just the Facts" feature has been added to the Data portion of the site which allows visitors to view, print, or download key criminal justice statistical trends. Visitors can view and print color graphs and maps of this information. The publications portion of the site has also been improved with publication type, topic and keyword searching capabilities. We also continue to actively gather user satisfaction information and other feedback "on-line." The site averaged over 1,400 daily user sessions during this period, and we now have 1,510 registered users of the Authority's email program (called "CJ Dispatch"), which automatically alerts Web site visitors to new information added to the site. Staff continue work on database applications and new software for the site which will allow visitors to download, display and graph data in a variety of formats. *[Table 2 (attached) presents website statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

E. FSGU Support Efforts

Upon request, R&A staff review and comment on proposed program narratives submitted by potential grantees to FSGU. The focus of R&A comments are in the areas of proposed objectives, goals, and performance measures. FSGU staff also request R&A assistance in the development of data reports for proposed programs. R&A staff has also assumed responsibility for the computerization of some program performance data and, upon FSGU request, we produce program status reports and/or profiles assessing performance over a

given period of time. Some staff accompany FSGU staff on grant monitoring site visits as well. *[Table 3 (attached) presents FSGU support statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

F. Technical Assistance

R & A staff are frequently called on to provide a variety of technical assistance on extra-agency research and evaluation, and program implementation projects. For example, since the last Authority meeting:

- Staff continued to provide limited assistance to several third-party research projects involving studies of individuals' criminal history records;
- Staff continue working with the Illinois Department of Correction's Going Home Program's Reentry Steering Committee;
- Staff provide research and statistical support to the IDOC Sheridan Program interagency oversight group and its subcommittees;
- Staff are participating on the advisory board for the Illinois Department of Employment Security's Formerly Incarcerated Employment Study;
- Staff are participating in a working group to advise the Harvard Injury Control Research Center and the Centers for Disease Control on the best way to report homicide data for practical use at the local level;
- Staff continue to collaborate with FSGU staff on the research, development and testing of alternative funding formulas for the allocation of federal monies to Illinois' multijurisdictional drug enforcement units;
- Staff continue to participate with and support the Illinois Attorney General's Methamphetamine Healthcare Advisory Committee's Research Working Group;
- Staff have joined an advisory committee for the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS), a joint project of the City of Chicago Mayor's Office, the city's Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Chicago Police Department, and the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office to develop better data regarding violent deaths in Illinois;
- Staff participated with the Redeploy Illinois advisory board and are chairing the group's subcommittee on research and evaluation;
- Staff participated in the first meeting of the Cook County Circuit Court Clerk's DUI Task Force;

- Staff are participating on the advisory board for the evaluation of the Domestic Violence Helpline, City of Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence;
- Staff participated in the Administrative Office of the Illinois Court's Implementing Effective Correctional Management of Offenders in the Community Kickoff Conference; and
- Staff participated in Mayor Daley's Mayoral Policy Caucus on Prisoner Reentry.

G. Deaths in Custody Reporting

The Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (P.L. 106-297, effective 10/13/2000) requires states to compile and report quarterly to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) the number of deaths, and the circumstances surrounding the deaths, of persons in local jails, state prisons, juvenile correctional facilities, and law enforcement custody. Until recently, the information requested by BJS was limited to deaths in local jails, state prisons, and state juvenile facilities. Collection of DICRA information has now been expanded to include deaths that occur while a person is in police custody or in the process of arrest. Information on deaths that occur while a person is in police custody will supplement the annual data on prison inmate deaths that BJS already receives from the Illinois Department of Corrections as part of the National Prisoners Statistics Program and the National Corrections Reporting Program. In March 2004, the Research and Analysis Unit accepted the responsibility for the compilation and quarterly submission of information related to deaths that occur while in police custody or in the process of arrest, in part, due to the Authority's role as Illinois' administering agency for the Violent Offender Incarceration / Truth in Sentencing (VOI/TIS) federal grant program which requires States accepting VOI/TIS funds to participate in the Deaths in Custody reporting program. Beginning July 1, 2004, R&A staff will collect specific information requested by BJS for all deaths in Illinois that occur while the person is in police custody or in the process of arrest by local, county, and state law enforcement agencies regardless of cause of death. For reporting purposes, the "process of arrest" is defined to include:

- In the physical custody, or under the physical restraint, of law enforcement officers, even if the person was not formally under arrest;
- Any deaths that occur by natural causes, while in the physical custody, or under the physical restraint, of law enforcement officers, even if the person was not formally under arrest;
- Killed by any use of force by law enforcement officers prior to booking;
- At a crime/arrest scene or medical facility prior to booking;
- In transit to or from law enforcement facilities;
- Confined in lockups or booking centers (facilities from which arrestees are usually transferred within 72 hours and not held beyond arraignment).

In addition to the ongoing collection of information on deaths in police custody or in the process of arrest beginning July 1, 2004, staff have been instructed by BJS to conduct retrospective reporting of all deaths in Illinois that occurred while in police custody or in the process of arrest from January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Staff are presently finalizing plans for both of these efforts.

II. CURRENT PROJECTS

A. DUI Trends and Issues

This was a short term research project intended to describe significant statistical trends and issues related to driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Data has been collected from a number of national, state and local sources, and analysis has been completed. The *Research Bulletin* was published in April 2004.

C. Factors that Put Youth at Risk for Delinquency

This is a short term research project intended to describe Illinois data on “risk factors” associated with juvenile delinquency. Data has been collated at the county and state levels on a number of recognized risk factors. Analysis will be initiated shortly. A Research Bulletin is planned for publication in 2004.

D. Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

R&A staff, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services’ Office on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse established an Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network. This group functions as a special workgroup to facilitate the exchange and analysis of information regarding the nature and extent of drug use, drug abuse, and drug markets in Illinois. The group has met twice and the next meeting is being planned.

E. Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit

The unit’s Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit Center is an ADAA-funded in-house effort to continuously examine the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of this information, and to recommend strategies for its improvement.

2004 CHRI Audit. Staff have begun site visits and interviews at the sample of sheriff’s departments and state’s attorney’s office around the State. Requests for local agency records have been made and plans have been finalized for data collection to support the analysis of the timeliness of criminal history information. The final audit report is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2004.

McLean County Study. In response to a request from the Authority’s Information Systems Committee relative to the Authority’s criminal justice information system integration efforts, staff completed a study of criminal history reporting in McLean County prior to and after county-wide system integration implementation. The final report was submitted to the Illinois State Police.

CHRI Improvement Plan. Staff continue to work with the CHRI Improvement Workgroup to develop and submit an updated CHRI Improvement Plan. The plan is necessary to meet funding requirements from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs relative to national criminal history record improvement grant funding. The workgroup includes representatives from Illinois' local and state criminal justice agencies. Information flow documentation has been collected and staff are beginning to develop an improvement plan.

Juvenile Criminal History Reporting Study. Staff is analyzing the extent of reporting of juvenile arrest, charge, and disposition information mandated under 1998 reforms to the Illinois Juvenile Court Act. A final report will be completed by July 30, 2004.

F. Chicago Homicide Dataset Update Project

The R&A Unit maintains a comprehensive database containing information on every homicide that occurred in the City of Chicago between 1965 and 1996. This information is culled from Chicago Police Department files following a long-standing collaborative process developed with the department's Detective Division. Staff is completing an effort to update the dataset with information for the years 1997 through 2000, and will soon begin collecting 2001 data. A variety of research products from this dataset have been developed and an archive version for use by other researchers has been submitted to the University of Michigan's National Criminal Justice Data Archive. Staff also continues to collaborate on various third-party projects involving use of the Chicago Homicide Dataset. Current collaborations include:

- Child homicide victims in Chicago (Kim Vogt, University of Wisconsin)
- An evaluation of arson-associated homicide in Chicago (Dallas Drake)
- Couple age discrepancy and risk of intimate partner homicide (Todd Shackelford, Florida Atlantic University)

G. Statewide Crime Victimization Survey

Growing out of recommendations in the *State Criminal Justice Plan*, staff initiated a state crime victimization survey modeled on the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics' Crime Victimization Survey, and similar efforts in other states. A final report of this effort has been drafted and is undergoing staff review.

H. Program Evaluation and Research Projects

The R&A Unit pursues an aggressive program evaluation and research agenda through an in-house ADAA-funded grant program. Current/ongoing evaluation and research efforts supported by the Authority include the following:

1. Evaluation of the Jackson County School-Based Probation Program

Staff from the Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale began the evaluation of this probation project in April. A

preliminary meeting with project staff, the Authority and the evaluation team has taken place and the evaluators are working toward the design of instruments, data collection efforts and interviews with staff. A final report is due September 30, 2004.

2. Evaluation of Moral Reconciliation Therapy in the Franklin/Jefferson County Evening Reporting Center Program

Staff from the Public Administration and Policy Analysis Department at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville began the evaluation of this probation project in April. After a preliminary meeting with project staff and the Authority, the evaluation team has begun to create and review project databases. The evaluators are also working toward a documentary review of the project, refinement of outcome measures and the identification of a comparison group. A final report is due September 30, 2004.

3. Lake County Domestic Violence Probation Program Evaluation

This is an impact evaluation of a specialized probation program in Lake County focused on domestic violence offenders, and is being carried out by Justice Research Associates (JRA). The project is a follow-up to an implementation evaluation recently completed by JRA and is focusing on the outcome differences between the program participants and a comparison group. A final report is due shortly.

4. Study of Disproportionate Incarceration of Minorities for Drug Crimes

This project is a collaboration between the Authority and Loyola University Chicago, The John Howard Association and TASC, Inc. The study is examining the impact of sentencing laws and practices on the minority community, particularly in response to convictions for drug related crimes. Research bulletins planned include reports on national trends, drug law changes, the nature of addiction and treatment, the Illinois perspective on minority incarceration and policy recommendations. The first report in the series, dealing with the national perspective on the issue, has been published. The second report, describing significant changes in state and federal statutes, has been submitted and is undergoing staff review.

5. Reintegration of Gang Offenders in the Community Study

In collaboration with DePaul University's Department of Sociology, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center, a small-scale, pilot study of the reintegration process is being conducted. The study is largely qualitative, examining how gang & non-gang offenders go about reintegrating into their communities of origin. A final report on the study is due August 30, 2004.

6. Community Mobilization: Best Practices and Lessons Learned

This project involves the development of a series of four research briefs on different aspects of the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center Community Mobilization Program. The first of four research briefs is available on the topic of resident decision making versus representativeness in the community. The remaining report topics include the evolution of

program implementation, resident involvement/coalition building and integration into the surrounding community. These reports are currently undergoing staff review.

7. CAPS at Ten

Northwestern University has completed the last phase of the comprehensive multi-year assessment of the Chicago Police Department's community policing program. The final report and a summary of the evaluation are now available. Since 1993, the evaluation has surveyed over 48,500 resident and 13,600 police officers. In addition, over 1,000 in-depth personal interviews of police and residents were conducted over the course of the study. Observers attended 1,079 beat meetings, and data on more than 8 millions crime reports and 37 million 911 call records were collected and used for the study. The evaluation found that the department performed especially well in the areas of agency partnerships and reorganization. The department was able to implement a large-scale community policing effect within a major city and during times of dynamic change. While the evaluation noted that efforts in the area of public involvement were fairly successful, there were a number of improvements that should still be made in the area of problem-solving. The study noted that refocusing on problem-solving could provide an opportunity to re-engage the community in the active partnership promised by CAPS.

8. Returning Home-Illinois Research Project

This project was carried out by The Urban Institute. It involved the development of two reports: *A Portrait of Prisoner Reentry in Illinois*, and a research brief entitled, *Illinois Prisoners' Reflections on Returning Home*. The publications are available on the Urban Institute's website (www.ui.urban.org).

9. Returning Home: Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry in Illinois.

This project will be carried out by The Urban Institute. It will involve development of a policy briefing synthesizing findings from four waves of prisoner interviews, interviews with family members, focus groups with residents, and interviews with stakeholders to present the first systematic understanding of the process of prisoner reentry and the specific issues and challenges associated with reentry in Chicago. The report will be due in April 2005.

10. Illinois Going Home Program Evaluation

An implementation and preliminary impact evaluation of the Illinois Going Home Program is currently being conducted by the University of Chicago. The program is a major offender reentry effort funded through a partnership of contributing federal agencies and in concert with a number of Chicago-area government, community and faith-based organizations. The evaluation will determine if the program was implemented as designed, how it worked in the field and the effectiveness of the program. Evaluators are currently creating a database on returning ex-offenders, and are developing an impact study to measure the programs effectiveness in the areas of offender employability and recidivism.

11. Circuit Court of Cook County, Department of Social Service, Domestic

Violence Intervention Program

This project is being conducted by University of Illinois at Chicago under the direction of Larry Bennet and the West Side Domestic Abuse Project (WSDAP) in collaboration with the Social Service Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In 1999, UIC and WSDAP developed an assessment tool for batterers aimed to increase the safety of victims and improve the ability of staff to identify men who are at high risk and intervene to reduce their risk by assertive case management. This project will use existing Cook County PROMIS data and supplemental data collected from case records on men participating in the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Researchers will be able to collect longitudinal data on predictors of attrition and outcomes for men who batter that can be used by policy makers and staff to improve intervention services. Researchers will also be able to contribute important information to the larger criminal justice and violence against women communities about the effectiveness of justice-based intervention with batterers. Researchers are now examining data on nearly 11,000 male domestic violence clients. A final report on this project is due on October 31, 2004.

12. An Evaluation of the Chicago Police Department's CLEAR Initiative – Phase II

The continued evaluation of CLEAR, the Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting project, is scheduled to continue with a grant to the University of Illinois at Chicago. CLEAR is a major initiative of the Chicago Police Department to integrate information systems and processes within the department. The continued evaluation will focus on the efforts aimed at the introduction of high-priority applications, and the resources and processes needed to develop and implement the major components of CLEAR. A full report will be available in December 2004.

13. An Evaluation of Bloom Township's Neighborhood Restorative Justice Mediation Program

The Neighborhood Restorative Justice Mediation Program (NRJMP) is a volunteer-based, victim-offender mediation program. The purpose of the NRJMP is to utilize the Balanced and Restorative Justice approach in response to juvenile crime and provide an alternative to formal prosecution for first time juvenile offenders. The NRJMP brings victims and offenders together in a neutral setting with the goal being to develop a plan for repairing harm done to the victim that both the offender and victim can agree upon. Operating since 2000 in the 6th Municipal Court District of Cook County, the NRJMP expanded into the 5th Municipal Court District in the Spring of 2001, the 2nd and 3rd Municipal Districts in the Fall-Winter of 2001, and the 4th Municipal District in early 2003. The manner in which this program has evolved provides an opportunity for researchers to conduct meaningful process evaluations of the program in the 6th, 5th, 2nd, and 3rd districts and an impact evaluation of the NRJMP as it functions in the 6th district. A request for proposals has been under development with the expectation that the evaluation could begin in 2004.

14. Analysis of Datasets Maintained/Available Through the Authority

R&A staff have collaborated with external researchers on two projects that will focus on the analysis of InfoNet data. InfoNet is a database that maintains information from victim service providers and agencies:

- The first project, under the direction of Loyola University's Dr. Susan Grossman and Dr. Marta Lundy, will focus on the analysis of sexual abuse data and will provide much needed information on those that seek help and services for sexual assault in Illinois. The research questions will focus on the adult survivors and victims of sexual assault and abuse and will detail the following: basic demographics and income sources, relationship between the client and abuser, characteristics of the abuser, issues and circumstances of the abuse/assault, special needs, referral sources, experience with medical services, intensity and duration of support and social services, and legal actions taken in response to the abuse/assault. In addition, this project will generate a template for victim service centers to use so that they can complete a center-level analysis based on the study's statewide and regional analyses.
- An additional project under the direction of Dr. Karla Fischer will focus on information on those that seek help for domestic violence in Illinois. The study will include a profile of victims, offenders and children, and the types of services they seek and ultimately receive. The profiles will be generated on three levels—the individual service providing agencies, communities and the state. The findings will aid in identifying underserved populations and unmet social service needs in the area of domestic violence services.

Also, a Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently being developed to seek proposals for the analysis of other datasets currently available through the Authority. These small-scale projects will seek to answer a variety of research questions on offender reentry data, corrections data, victimization data, and domestic violence and victim services data. The RFP is scheduled to be released this Spring.

15. Safe Haven Domestic Violence Program Evaluation Project

Staff are currently evaluating the Chicago Safe Havens demonstration site, a project funded under the Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program. The Safe Havens Program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 to provide an opportunity for communities to support supervised visitation and safe exchange of children, by and between parents, in situations involving domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. The project enables custodial parents to drop off their children for court ordered visits and exchanges, without having to face the non-custodial parent. The visit with the non-custodial parent takes place at a visitation center, with social service staff observing and monitoring the visit. The purpose of the supervised visitation program is to enable custodial parents to comply with court ordered visitation, without having to fear that they or their children will be re-victimized. ICJIA research staff will serve as local evaluators for the demonstration initiative.

16. Criminal Justice Agencies Needs Assessment Survey Project

A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released in 2004 seeking proposals to conduct a criminal justice needs assessment in Illinois. The primary purpose of this study is to supply information that will demonstrate the needs of criminal justice organizations, and identify areas that need improvement. The information will also be used to guide decision-making regarding where to best allocate resources. A secondary purpose of this study is to provide

information that outlines if, and how, the needs of criminal justice organizations have changed over time by comparing the data collected as part of this study to the results of a needs assessment survey conducted in 1996. Major components of the criminal justice system will be surveyed on topics such as workload demands, training needs, staff retention, information systems and programming.

17. Chicago Public School Peer Jury Program Evaluation Project

An evaluation will be initiated this spring that focuses on the Chicago Public School's Peer Jury Program and its operation and development during the 2003/2004 school year. The study will focus on three schools that implemented the program, but will also involve the collection of some general descriptive data pertaining to the program as a whole. The evaluation will assist program practitioners and technical support staff in improving the program, and assist Chicago Public School's administrative staff in making future decisions regarding the program. In addition, the study will contribute to bodies of research examining restorative justice and programming for minors. As the result of a request for proposals process, Florida Atlantic University was selected as the evaluator for this project and staff are in the process of finalizing the contract for this effort.

18. Evaluation of IDOC's Sheridan Correctional Center Therapeutic Community Program

Research and Analysis staff are participating in the development and evaluation of the recently opened Sheridan Correctional Center. Open since January, Sheridan operates as a fully dedicated therapeutic community for inmates in need of substance abuse treatment. Sheridan will provide all participants access to a wide array of services, including substance abuse treatment, education and vocational programming. The program will also prepare inmates for release into the community and provide access to services and support following their release. In addition to Authority staff, a number of organizations assisted in the development of Sheridan, including treatment agencies, governmental agencies, community organizations, national experts and inmates. The prison will operate at a capacity of 1,300 inmates and include males that are projected to serve between 6 and 30 months, be eligible for placement in a medium security facility and be in need of substance abuse treatment. Sheridan is the largest treatment prison in the county. The evaluation of Sheridan will be a collaborative effort between the Authority and the Illinois Department of Corrections, and will be guided by an Evaluation Advisory Committee. The process and impact evaluation will involve extensive quantitative data collection and qualitative information from focus groups and interviews with staff and participants. The evaluation will seek to measure changes in participant attitudes, beliefs and psychological functioning, in addition to participants' preparedness for release. The study will also examine the extent and nature of institutional violations and measures of recidivism after release. Employment and access to services will also be studied.

19. The Impact of Methamphetamine on Illinois Communities: An Ethnography

This project will be carried by Dr. Ralph Weisheit of Illinois State University. It will involve site visits and interviews to examine the effects of methamphetamine in Edgar and Clark

counties. The study will address several research questions: What is the impact of methamphetamine on rural communities?; What resources in rural communities can be brought to bear on the problem of methamphetamine?; and, What additional resources might facilitate an effective response to the problem? A final report on the research will be due in November 2004.

I. Externally-Funded Research and Evaluation Projects

R&A staff have been successful in the pursuit of external discretionary grants to support research and evaluation efforts. Several current projects are or were supported by such grants:

1. NIJ Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRS) Follow-Up

The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project is a continuing collaboration of Chicago medical, public health, and criminal justice agencies, and domestic violence experts to identify factors that indicate a significant danger of life-threatening injury or death in situations of intimate partner violence. Collaborating agencies include the Chicago Department of Public Health, Erie Family Health Center, Cook County Hospital, Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, Chicago Police Department and the Authority. Project research included detailed interviews with abused women sampled as they entered a hospital, clinic, or health center for treatment, as well as interviews with people who knew victims of intimate partner homicide. By comparing data on abused women with similar data on people who have been killed by an intimate partner, the project helps agencies develop collaborative ways to identify and respond to potentially life-threatening intimate violence situations. A follow-up study looked at the effects of community capacity to determine whether the violence stopped or declined in the abused women's neighborhoods. The research provides vital information to beat officers, clinical staff, and other decision-makers in the field. The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project was supported with grants from the National Institute of Justice, the Authority, and other agencies. A number of reports, journal articles and other publications have been developed from the research. Staff continues to be solicited for presentations and briefings on the research and project tools, and data continue to be requested for use by other researchers. Most recently, Carolyn Rebecca Block was asked to present relevant findings as part of in-service training efforts in the Chicago Police Department. Current collaborations on reports from CWHRS include:

- *Risk Factors for Latina Women*. Eva Hernandez and Sara Naureckas.
- *Intimate Partner Violence and Miscarriage*. Gregory Laskin, Leslie Morland, and M.J. Friedman.
- *Social Support Network and Abuse*. UIC Ph.D. Dissertation, Perla Ilagan.
- *Seeking Help From the Criminal Justice System: Battered Women's Decisions and Experiences*. Kim Davies and Jacquelyn Campbell.
- *Domestic Violence Help Seeking: Implications for Intervention*. Michelle Fugate, Leslie Landis, Kim Riodan, Sara Naureckas and Barbara Engel.
- *Female Perpetrated Femicide and Attempted Femicide*. Nancy Glass, Jane Koziol McLain and Jacquelyn Campbell.
- *Ethnic Differences in Intimate Partner Violence and PTSD*. Gregory Laskin and Jacquelyn Campbell.

- *Spouse Abuse Against Older Women*. Yvonne Ulrich and Jacquelyn Campbell.

Staff also continues to operate The CWHRS Forum, a listserv focused on research and policy issues related to the risk of intimate partner homicide. It allows members to easily share information and technical assistance.

2. IJJC Study of Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System

This project is funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC) utilizing U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds. It is a study of disproportionate minority representation among juveniles in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System. Staff has completed the collection and analysis of aggregate data from various juvenile justice system contact points, and has presented a draft of those findings at a meeting of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission. Staff collected case-level data on a sample of juveniles to measure the possible influence of specific factors on decisions made as the juveniles are processed through the system. A final report was approved by the Commission and added to the Authority's website. A *Research Bulletin* drawing from these findings is also planned.

3. JRSA Detention Screening and Detainment Practices in Illinois Study

This project is funded through a grant from the Justice Research and Statistics Association. The grant funds a study of the validity, reliability and equity of scoreable screening instruments being used in Illinois in connection with juvenile detention decisions. The project involves a collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, local probation departments, and others. A final report on the study has been drafted and is undergoing internal and external review. It is due to JRSA on May 31, 2004.

III. GRANT PROPOSALS

R&A staff routinely pursue discretionary grants to support data collection, research, and evaluation activities. Frequently these projects involve collaborations with universities and/or other criminal justice agencies.

1. *Awarded* – Staff has been awarded a \$68,000 grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission through the Illinois Department of Human Services to produce a data report on the use of juvenile detention in Illinois.
2. *Submitted* – Staff collaborated with Dr. Kimberly A. Vogt of the University of Wisconsin on an application to the National Institute of Justice for a grant to support a study of homicides of infants and toddlers.
3. *Under development* - Staff will partner with INFONET staff and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault on a proposal for the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics to document the profile of Illinois sexual assault victims and their offenders, and to assess the outcome of sexual assault cases in Illinois. We hope to submit the proposal in December 2003.

4. *Under development* – Staff is consulting with JRSA on the submission of study proposals to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) that may involve several other states in an examination of the impact of methamphetamine abuse on local criminal justice systems.

IV. ONGOING STAFF DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

- Staff continues to conduct and/or take part in a variety of staff development and training programs and projects. These include: (a) observations/site visits to several key criminal justice agencies; (b) peer review process for project development and pre-publication; (c) partnerships with the academic community; (d) development of specific training classes including ArcView mapping, multivariate statistical analysis, basic SPSS use, data availability in criminal justice, among other topics; and (e) human subject research issues/concerns and practices.
- Several R&A staff persons are actively pursuing advanced academic degrees in graduate programs and post-graduate programs. Some staff also serve as adjunct faculty in criminal justice and other social science programs.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information on any of these activities.

GFR:r

Cc: Lori G. Levin
Robert P. Boehmer
R&A Supervisory Staff

TABLE 1. Information Request Handling Statistics

ITEM	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/2003	SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2003	THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2004	FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2004	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
Information requests handled:	320	308	301		929
Monthly average number of requests:	107	103	100		103
Pct of requests completed within two days:	85%	90%	81%		85%
Geographic Origin of requesters:					
Chicago metropolitan area	26%	23%	20%		23%
Other region of Illinois	48%	39%	38%		42%
U.S. other than Illinois	18%	22%	15%		18%
Outside the U.S.	2%	2%	1%		2%
Unknown	8%	14%	26%		16%
Type of requester:					
Government agency	43%	31%	27%		34%
Private citizen	24%	32%	39%		32%
Private agency	18%	16%	15%		16%
Researcher	7%	11%	7%		8%
Student	5%	7%	7%		6%
Media	2%	3%	2%		2%
Legislators	<1%	0%	1%		1%
Inmates	1%	1%	1%		1%
Unknown	-	-	-		-
Method of request:					
Telephone/fax	45%	36%	39%		40%
Mail	3%	5%	2%		3%
Email/Internet	26%	34%	49%		36%
In-person	1%	6%	1%		3%
ICJIA Web site	24%	17%	9%		17%
Publications disseminated:					
Mailed in response to requests	44,287	11,332	9,208		64,827
Downloaded from Web Site	35,718	49,422	45,255		130,395
Total	80,005	60,754	54,463		195,222

TABLE 2. Web Site Traffic Report

	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/03	SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2003	THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2004	FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2004	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
Hits for Home Page	1,111,871	1,230,829	1,632,944		3,975,644
Number of User Sessions	92,412	107,135	129,709		329,256
Average Hits Per Day	12,087	13,377	17,941		14,468
Average User Sessions Per Day	1,005	1,165	1,424		1,198
Average Use Session Length (minutes)	14	15	13		14
Unique Visitors	46,598	61,157	76,460		107,755
Visitors Who Visited Once	39,138	51,597	64,688		90,735
Visitors Who Visited More Than Once	7,460	9,560	11,772		17,020
Persons Registered for CJ Dispatch (Email notification of updates)	1,343	1,410	1,493		1,510

TABLE 3. FSGU Support Requested: Statistics

Activities Requested by Federal and State Grants Unit	PROGRAM	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/03			SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2003			THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2004			FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2004			FISCAL YEAR TO DATE		
		REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING
PROGRAM NARRATIVE REVIEW	ADAA	19	19	0	13	13	0	-	-	-				32	32	0
	JAIBG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-	2	2	0	7	7	0				9	9	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	Total	19	19	0	15	15	0	7	7	0				41	41	0
DATA REPORT DEVELOPMENT	ADAA	5	5	0	10	7	3	6	6	0				21	18	3
	JAIBG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-	3	3	0	11	11	0				14	14	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	Total	5	5	0	13	10	3	17	17	0				35	32	3
DATA REPORT ENTRY (Number of projects for which monthly/quarterly data reports were computerized)	ADAA	78	78	0	78	78	0	79	79	0				235	235	0
	JAIBG	14	14	0	-	-	-	-	-	-				14	14	0
	VOCA/VAWA	Not applicable			Not applicable			Not applicable						-	-	-
	MVTPC	7	7	0	7	7	0	7	7	0				21	21	0
	Other: MEG/TF	21	21	0	20	20	-	20	20	-				61	61	0
	Total	120	120	0	105	105	0	106	106	0				331	331	0
PROJECT STATUS REPORT (Number of assessments completed)	ADAA	-	-	-	4	4	0	-	-	-				4	4	0
	JAIBG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-	1	1	0	-	-	-				1	1	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0				5	5	0
PROGRAM PROFILE (Number of profiles)	ADAA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	JAIBG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	VOCA/VAWA	9	9	0	1	1	0	-	-	-				10	10	0
	MVTPC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				0	0	0
	Total	9	9	0	1	1	0	0	0	0				10	10	0