

# VIOLENT CRIME PROFILE

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Vermilion County

## Introduction

Problem analysis is the basic building block for creating an effective, strategic approach to crime prevention. Many criminal justice agencies collect a vast amount of data, yet few use these data in ways that can fully inform their policies and practices. Understanding your community's crime problem will require analysis of various types of information, some of which may be already collected and some of which will require additional data collection efforts. The purpose of this document is to provide your community with a starting point for assessing, understanding, and discussing its violent crime problems, particularly those stemming from firearm-related violence. The packet contains analyses of data that are accessible to researchers working at the state-level and include data submitted to the Illinois State Police Uniform Crime Reporting and Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) programs.

At the end of this pack is a glossary of terms to aid interpretation and understanding of the data points presented. The packet also provides suggestions for what other types of data should be collected and examined. Research staff at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority are available to talk more with you about the data presented here as well as what additional data that might exist and next steps for data collection and analysis.

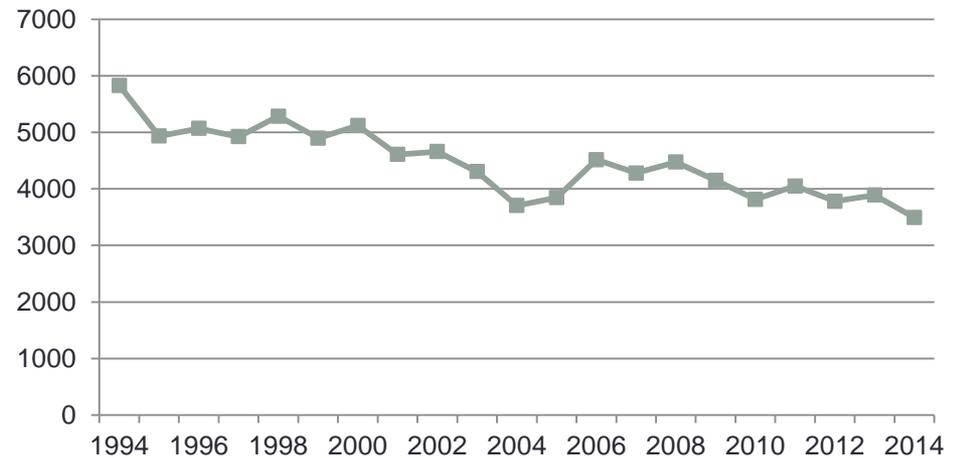
- John Maki, Executive Director



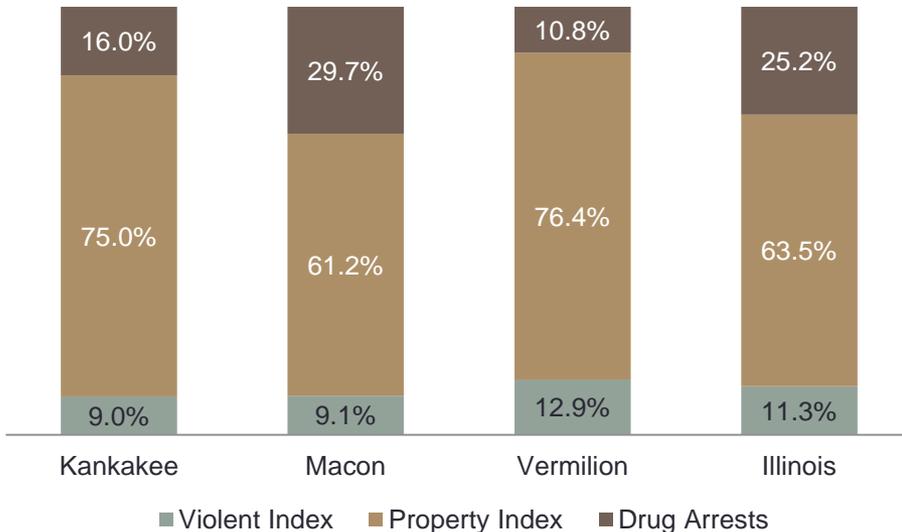
# Index Crime and Drug Arrests

- Both the property index crime and the violent index crime rates decreased from 1994 to 2014.
- The magnitude of the decrease in the violent index crime rate was slightly larger than that for the property index crime rate from 1994 to 2014.
- The drug arrest rate also declined from 2001 to about 2008, after which it has remained relatively stable.
- Property index crimes accounted for the largest percentage of crimes reported to the State Police Uniform Crime Reporting program in 2014.

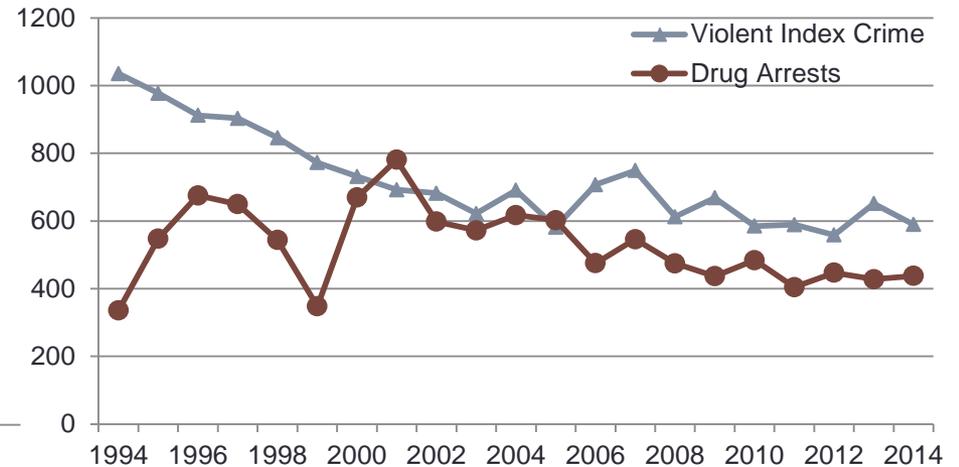
## Property Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Persons



## Index Crime and Drug Arrests - 2014



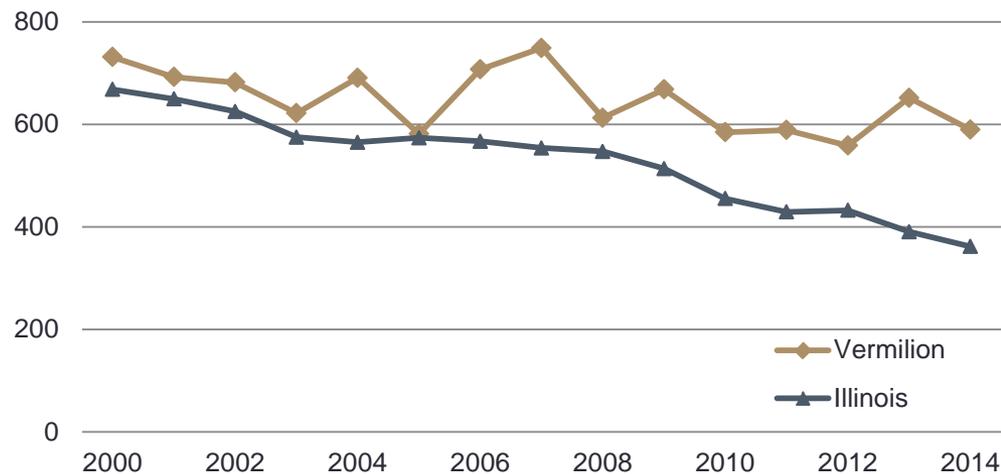
## Violent Index Crime and Drug Arrest Rates per 100,000 Persons



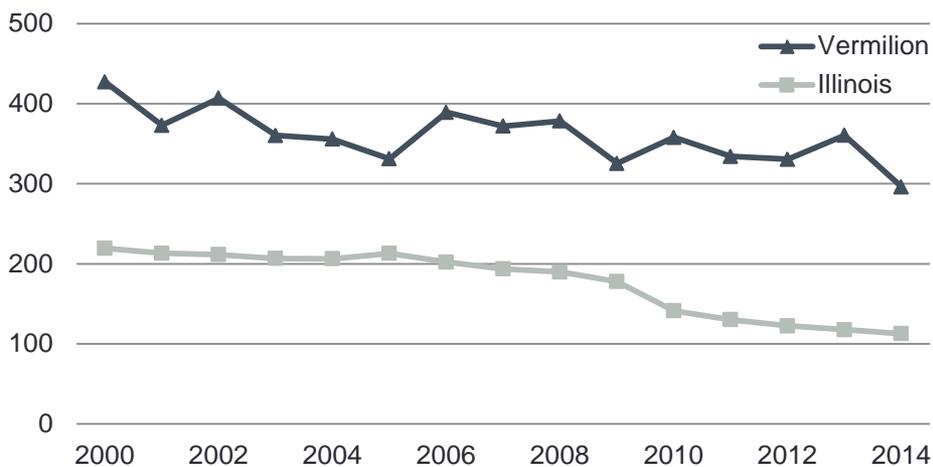
## Violent Index Crime

- The violent index crime rate for Vermilion County was higher than the statewide rate, particularly after the early 2000s. This occurred because the decline in the Vermilion rate was slower than the rate for the state as a whole.
- Aggravated assaults (and batteries) accounted for the largest percentage of violent index crimes and arrests. Robberies accounted for the next highest percentage of crimes and arrests; murders accounted for the lowest percentage of crimes and arrests.

## Violent Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Persons

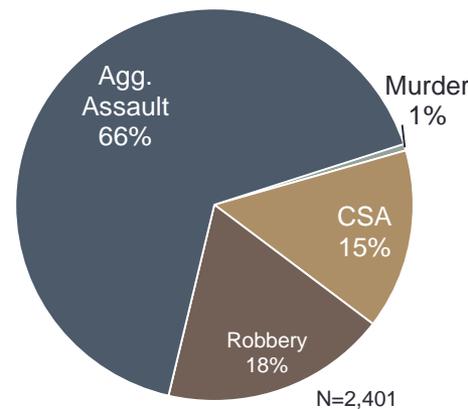


## Violent Index Arrest Rate per 100,000 Persons

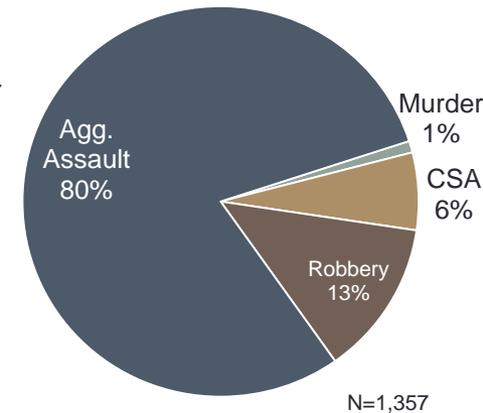


## Vermilion County: 2010 - 2014

### Violent Index Crimes



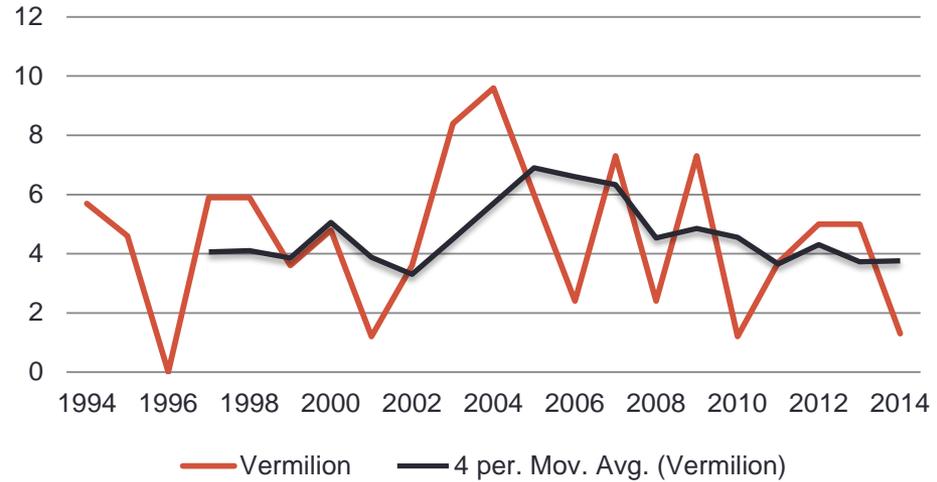
### Violent Index Arrests



## Murder & Aggravated Assault

- Although the murder rate appears to fluctuate dramatically from 1994 to 2014, these large changes are a by-product of examining relatively small murder numbers and therefore caution should be taken when trying to interpret year to year changes. Overall the trend line, when taking into account these small numbers, indicates few changes from 1994 to 2014.
- In contrast, the aggravated assault (and battery) rate declined from 1994 to around 2006, after which the rate has remained relatively stable.

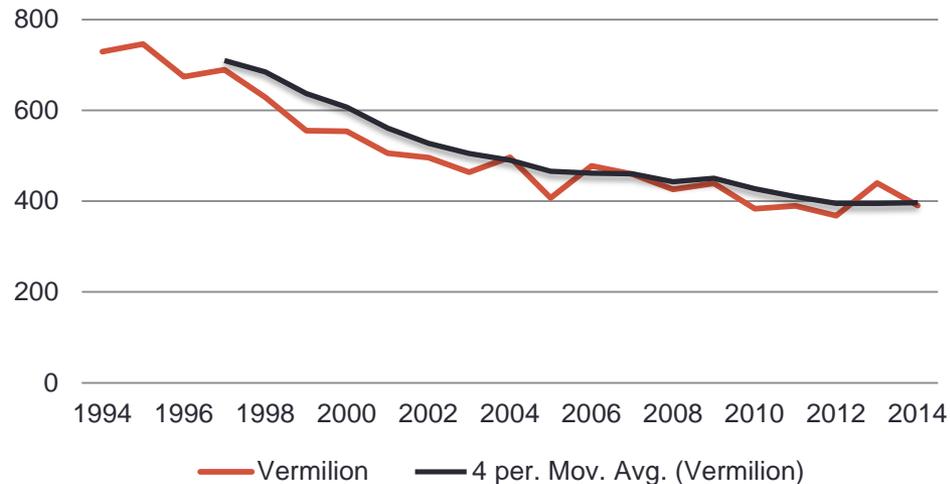
### Murder Rate per 100,000 Persons, 1994 - 2014



### Number of Murders and Aggravated Assaults, 2005-2014

Offense Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Murders	5	2	6	2	6	1	3	4	4	1
Aggravated Assaults	337	395	378	349	359	313	317	297	354	311

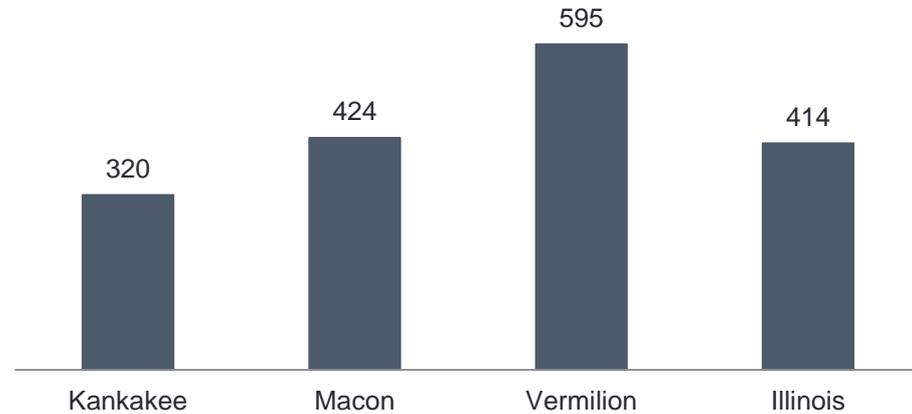
### Aggravated Assault Rate per 100,000 Persons, 1994 - 2014



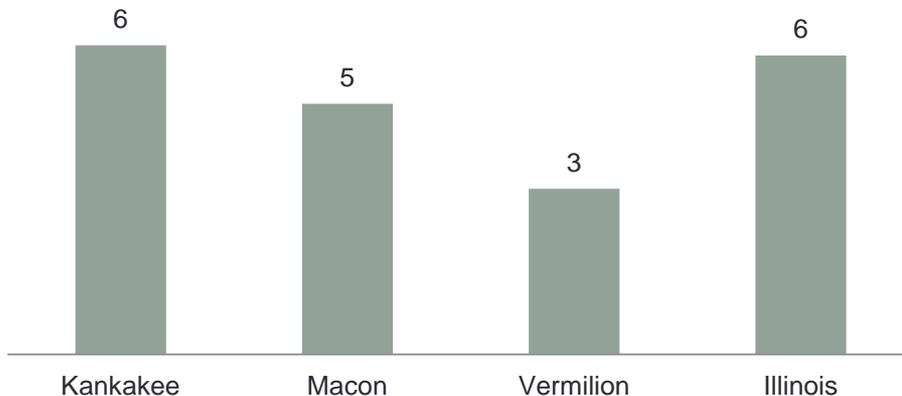
## Avg. Violent Crime Rates – 2010 to 2014

- The average violent index crime and aggravated assault rates were higher in Vermilion County than the average statewide rates and for those of counties of comparable residential populations. The average murder rate from 2010 to 2014 was lower.
- Direct comparisons between counties of comparable population sizes is somewhat challenging and caution should be taken when drawing conclusions. Community-level factors, such as the rate of poverty, unemployment, and residential mobility, are associated with crime prevalence and may explain the differences noted.

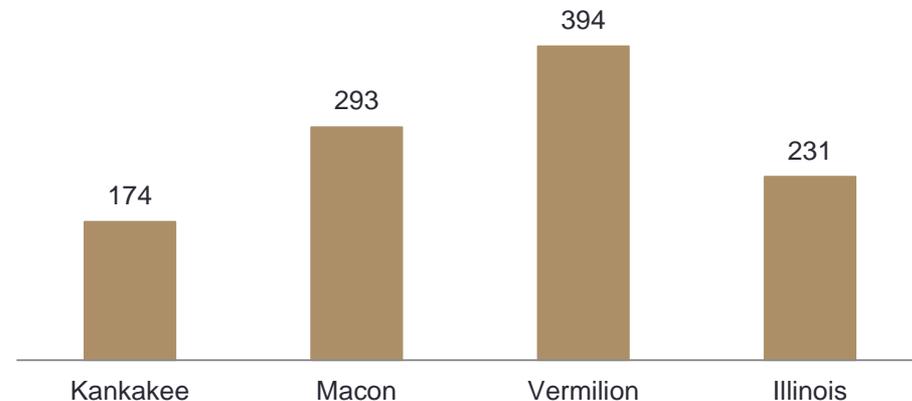
### Average Violent Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Persons



### Average Murder Rate per 100,000 Persons



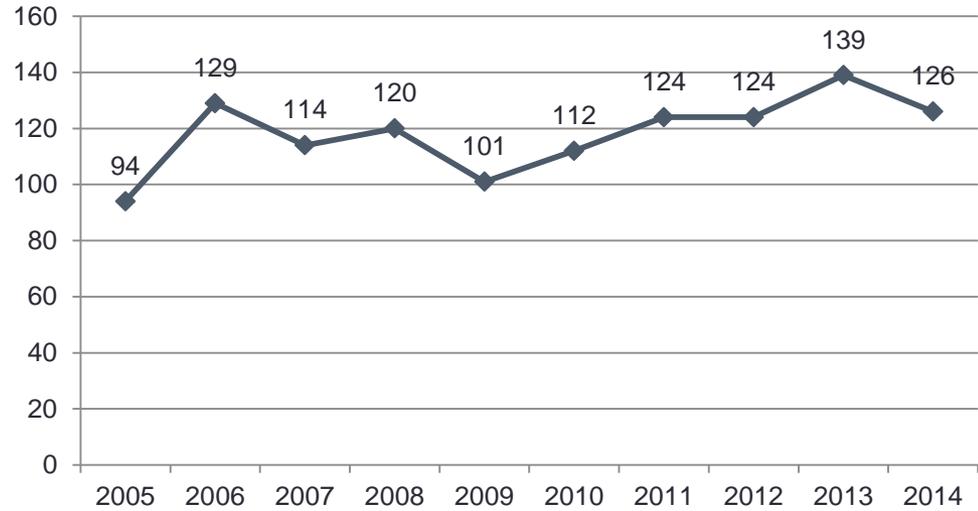
### Average Aggravated Assault Rate per 100,000 Persons



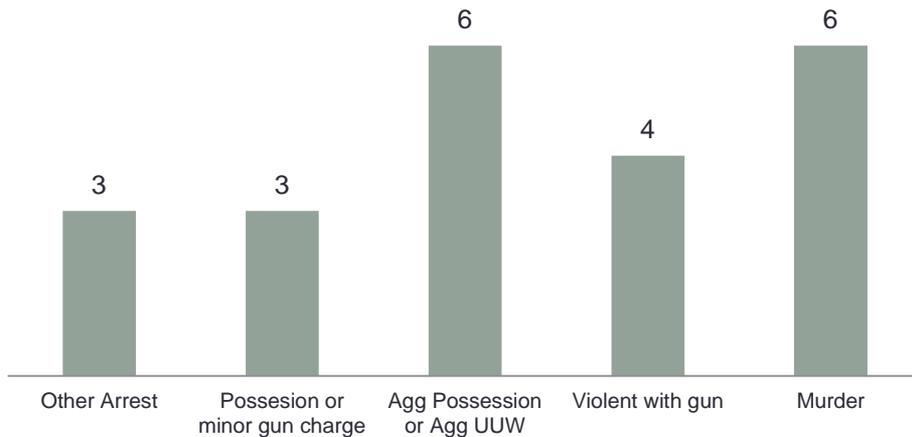
# Murders & Firearm Involved Arrests – 2014

- There were 126 arrests for murders or firearm-involved arrests in 2014. The typical arrestee in 2014 was 25 years old (median age), male, and Black (70%).
- Those arrested for more serious, violent offenses tended to have more significant criminal histories, both in terms of the number of prior arrests, but also the type of prior arrests.
- Conviction rates varied by type of arrest charge, with more serious arrest charges somewhat more likely to result in conviction.

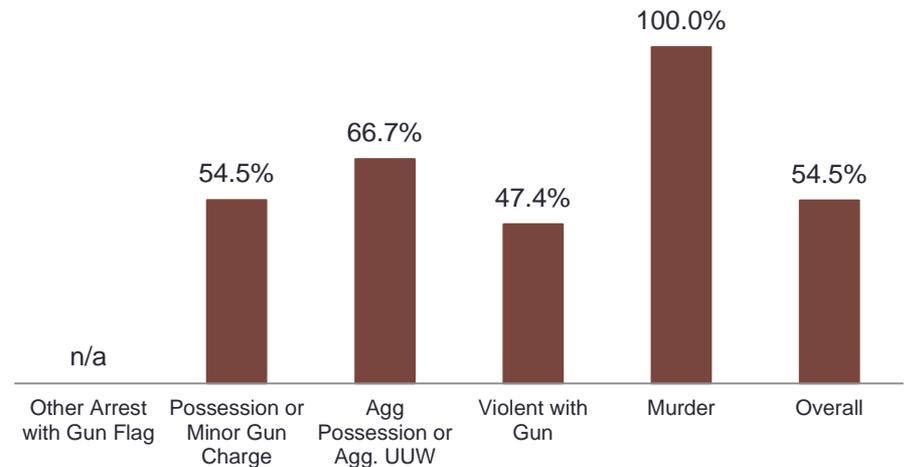
## Total Number of Murder and Firearm-involved Arrests



## Median Number of Prior Arrests by Current Arrest Charge\*



## Percent of Arrests in 2010 Resulting in a Conviction by 2014



\*Includes all arrests from 2005 to 2014.

Source: Illinois Criminal History Record Information system.

## Suggested Additional Data Analysis

Communities interested in implementing the programs identified during this conference are encouraged to consider analyzing and potentially collecting additional data. Regardless as to whether communities are considering focused deterrence or the swift, certain, and fair approach, we strongly urge that you collect information that helps facilitate a discussion about the relationship between the residents of your community and criminal justice agencies.

- **Police data (Focused Deterrence):**
  - Calls for service by crime type, date/time, neighborhood
  - Crime data by victim and suspect characteristics (NIBRS data)
  - Shootings by date/time, suspect(s) and victim(s) involved, group(s) involved, neighborhood, motive, weapon(s) used
  - Individual and group-specific data for targeted intervention
- **Probation data (Swift, Certain, Fair):**
  - Probation trends in use and compliance
  - Profile of probationers who violate terms of probation, including demographics, violation types and reasons for violations, offense history, previous history on probation
  - Assessment of existing probation processes and sanctioning practices
- **Neighborhood perceptions and legitimacy:**
  - Neighborhood conditions, crime, fear of crime
  - Police and the criminal justice system response
  - Police-community relationship (legitimacy, support)
- **Police and other CJS personnel perceptions:**
  - Police-community relationship
  - Collaborative relationship between criminal justice stakeholders (police, prosecutors, probation, parole, community service providers)
  - Barriers to effective crime prevention and intervention

## Glossary of Terms

Violent Index crimes:	Includes all incidents of murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault/battery reported to the police.
Property Index crimes:	Includes all incidents of burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson reported to the police.
Drug arrest violations:	Includes all arrests made for violations of the Illinois Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act, Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, and the Methamphetamine Control Act.
Moving average:	A moving average is simply the average of a specific number of data points across the time period examined. In the data provided to you we calculated a 4-year moving average. The first moving average would represent years 1994 to 1997, the second moving average would be for years 1995 to 1998 and so forth. A moving average allows one to “smooth” out trend lines, which can aid in interpretation of overall trends.
Firearm-involve arrests:	Includes any crime in which the fingerprint arrest card indicated a firearm flag or the offense for which the individual was charged involved a firearm.
Median:	The middle point of a range of sorted values. The median is sometimes preferred over an average score when the range includes extreme numbers because those extreme numbers pull the average score higher or lower.