

# VIOLENT CRIME PROFILE

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Saint Clair 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.

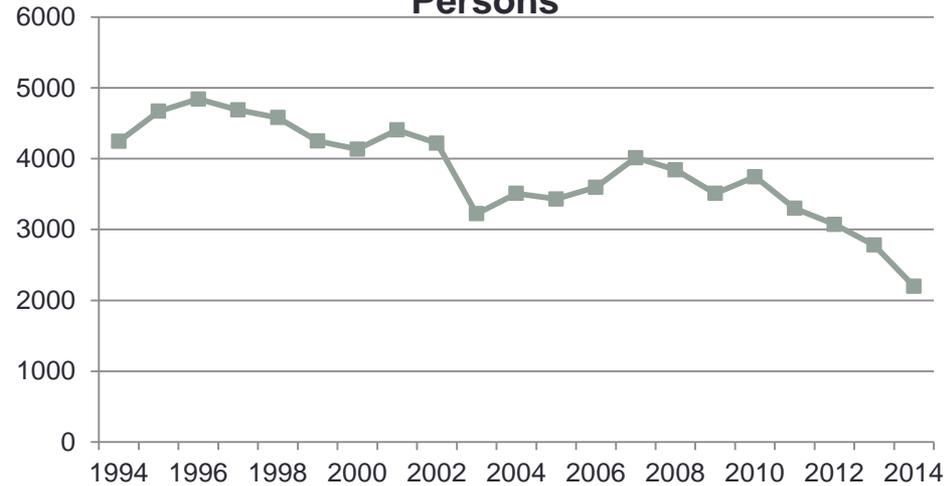
- John Maki, Executive Director



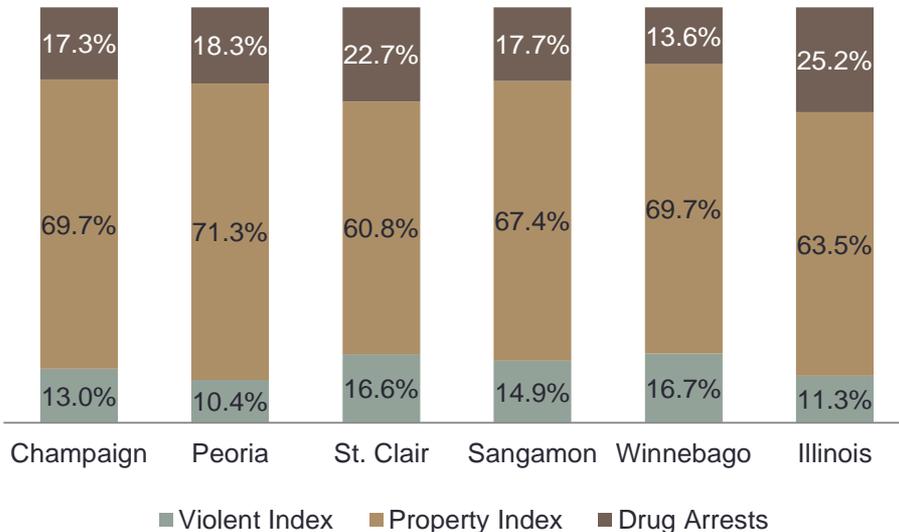
## Index Crime and Drug Arrests

- From 1994 to 2014, the property index crime and the violent index crime rates declined, and both decreased at a relatively similar proportion.
- The drug arrest rate, in contrast, increased. Arrests increased for violations of all five drug laws, but a particular increase was noted in the increase in the number of arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act. By 2014, arrest for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act accounted for 38% of arrests, up from 8% of arrest in 1994.
- Property crimes accounted for the largest percentage of 2014 crimes reported to the State Police Uniform Crime Reporting program.

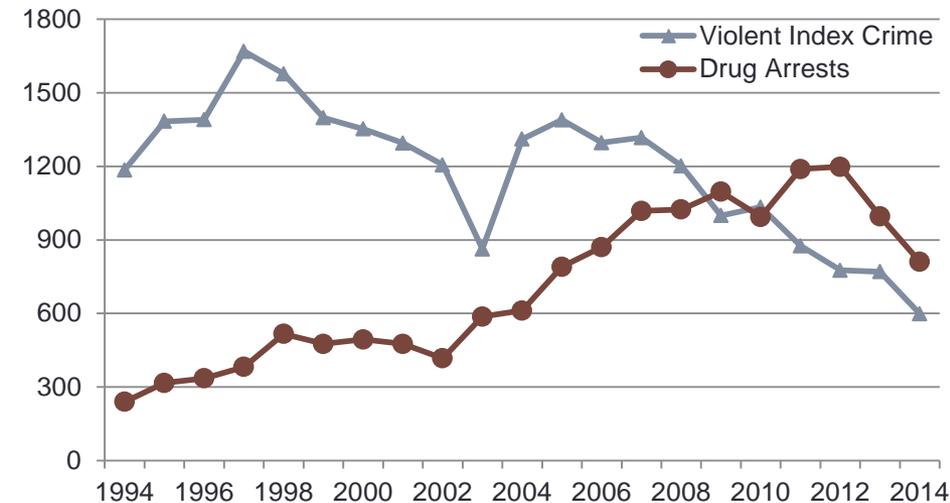
### Property Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Persons



### Index Crime and Drug Arrests - 2014



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

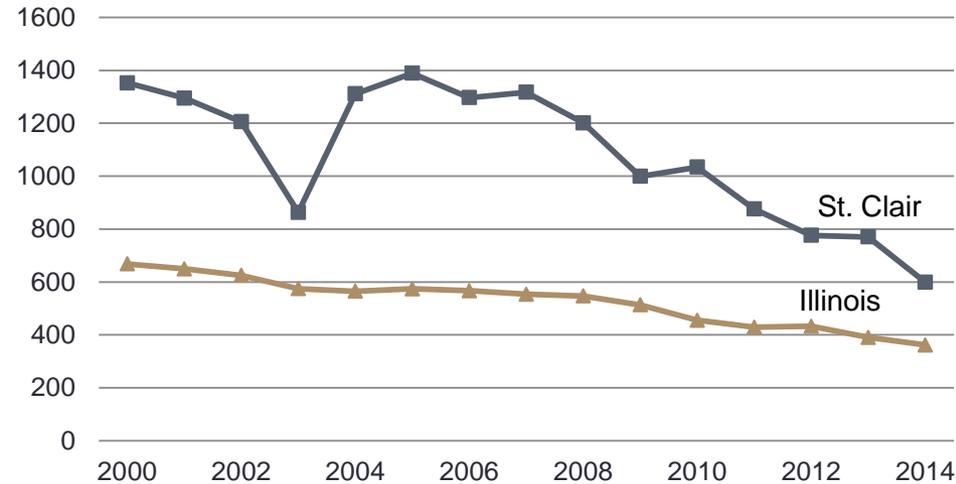


Source: Illinois State Police IUCR Annual Reports.

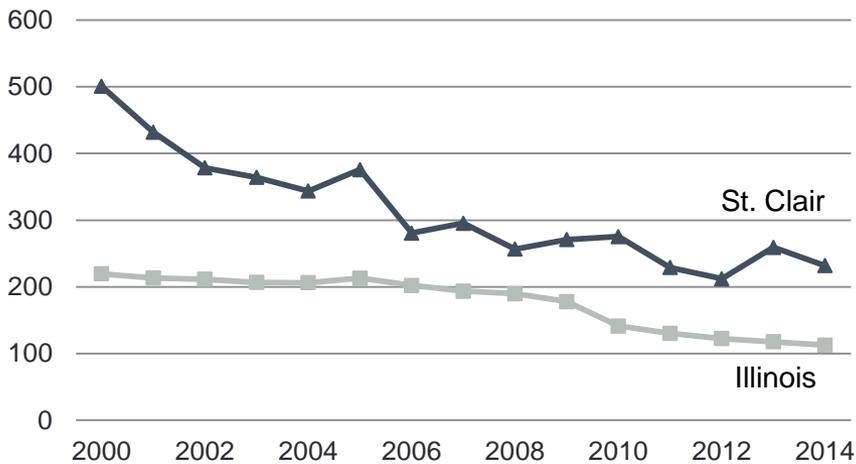
## Violent Index Crime

- The violent index crime and arrest rates for St. Clair County were higher than the statewide rates for the time period examined.
- Aggravated assault (and batteries) accounted for the largest percentage of reported violent index crimes and arrests, followed by robberies. Murders accounted for 2% of both crimes reported and arrests made from 2010 to 2014.

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

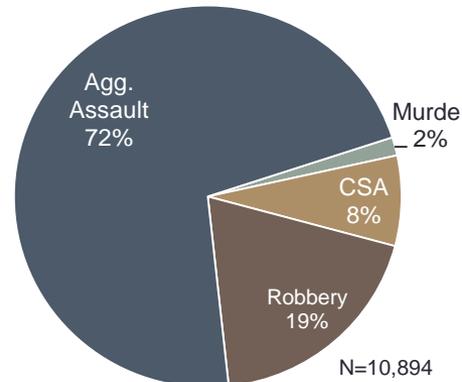


### Violent Index Arrest Rate per 100,000 Persons

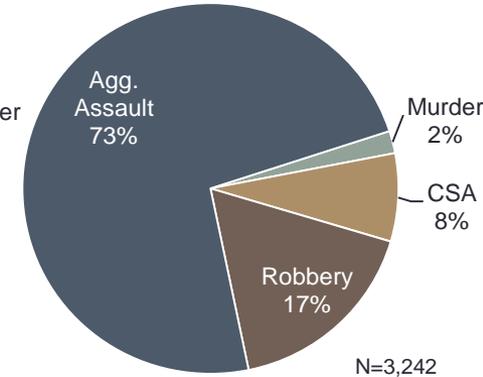


### St. Clair County: 2010 - 2014

#### Violent Index Crimes



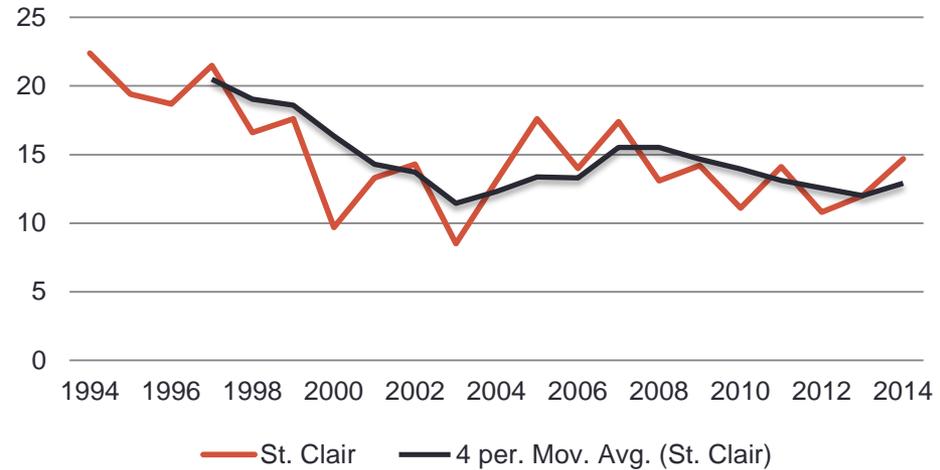
#### Violent Index Arrests



## Murder & Aggravated Assault

- The murder and aggravated assault rates for St. Clair County followed similar trend patterns, with the rates declining overall during the time period as well as most recently.

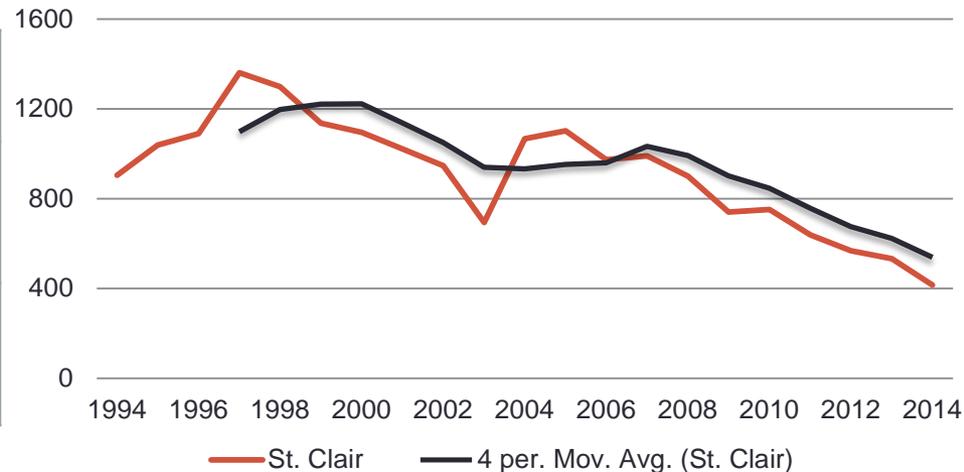
### Murder Rate per 100,000 Persons, 1994 - 2014



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

Offense Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Murders	46	37	46	35	38	30	38	29	32	39
Aggravated Assaults	2,881	2,565	2,623	2,400	1,989	2,034	1,725	1,527	1,424	1,105

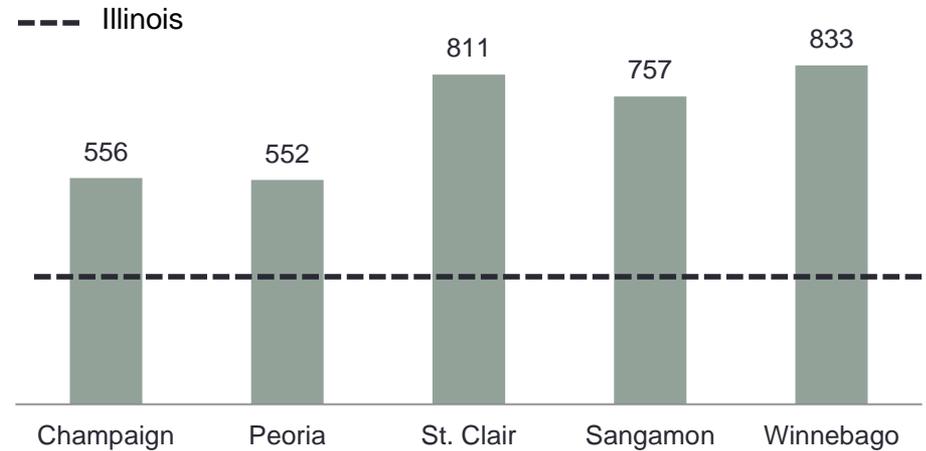
### Aggravated Assault Rate per 100,000 Persons, 1994 - 2014



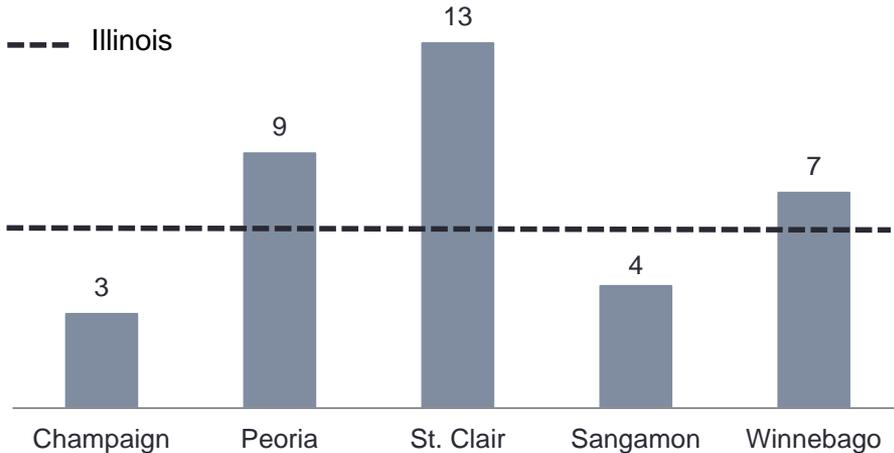
## Avg. Violent Crime Rates – 2010 to 2014

- The average violent crime rates for St. Clair County were higher than the average rates statewide and some of the rates for other counties with comparable residential populations.
- 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.

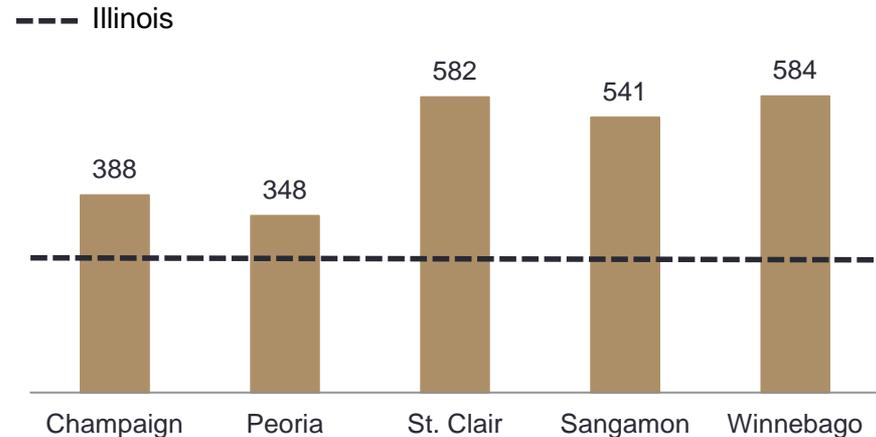
## Average Violent Index Crime Rate per 100,000 Persons



## Average Murder Rate per 100,000 Persons



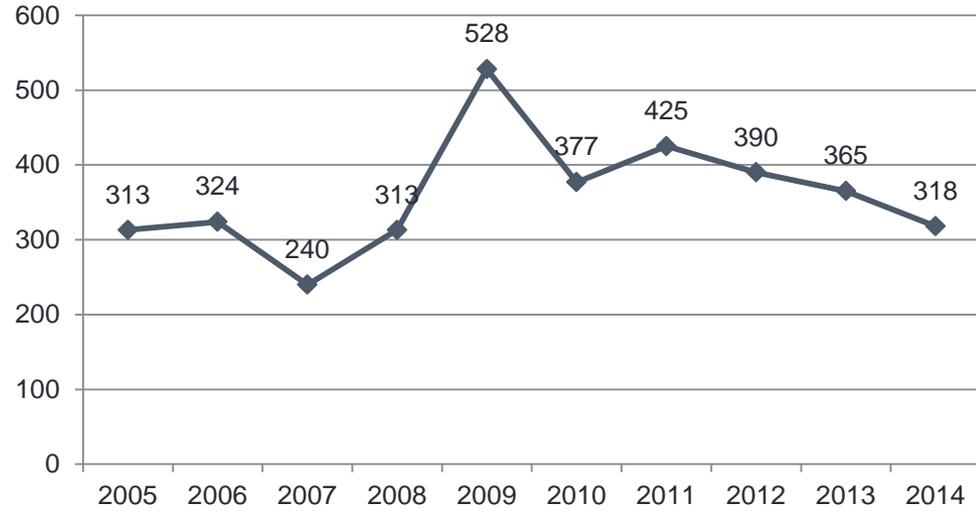
## Average Aggravated Assault Rate per 100,000 Persons



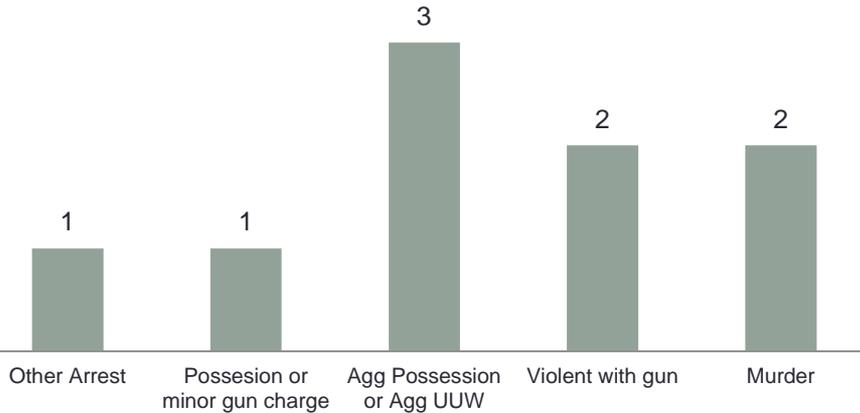
# Murders & Firearm Involved Arrests – 2014

- There were 318 murder or firearm-involved arrests in 2014. The typical arrestee was male, black (86%) and 25 years old (median age).
- 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, but tended to be more likely if the arrest charge was more serious.

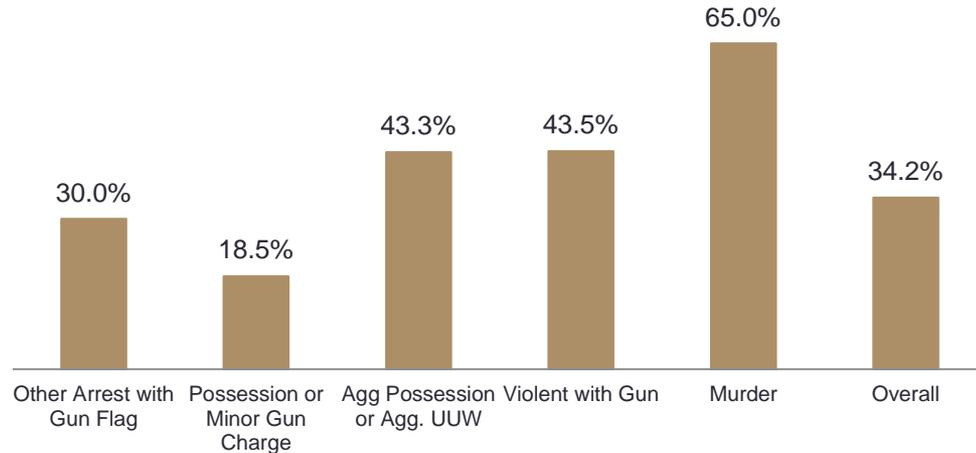
## Total Number of Murder and Firearm-involved Arrests



## 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.