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Research and Program Evaluation in Illinois: The Extent and Nature of Drug and Violent Crime in Illinois' Counties



A Profile of the Adams County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

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FOREWORD

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is a state agency created in 1983 to promote community safety by providing public policymakers, criminal justice professionals and others with information, tools and technology needed to make effective decisions that improve the quality of criminal justice in Illinois. The Authority provides an objective system-wide forum for identifying critical problems in criminal justice, developing coordinated and cost-effective strategies, and implementing and evaluating solutions to those problems. The specific powers and duties of the Authority are delineated in the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Ch. 20, Sec. 393/7). Two of the Authority's many responsibilities are serving as a clearinghouse of information and research on criminal justice and undertaking research studies to improve the administration of criminal justice.

Since 1989, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has received funds under the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to document the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the criminal justice system's response to these offenses. As a result of these efforts, the Authority has amassed a large amount of data measuring the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the impact these crimes have had on the criminal justice system. To put this information into the hands of Illinois' criminal justice policymakers in a useful summary format, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has developed profiles of the criminal justice system for each county in Illinois. In 1994, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority produced a series of reports detailing criminal justice system activity levels for each of Illinois' 102 counties. As a result of the positive response by local criminal justice officials, in 1996 the Authority updated and expanded the scope of these reports to reflect current criminal and juvenile justice activity. It is hoped that these 2004 updated reports will be as valuable, if not more, than the original versions. In addition to providing policymakers with an overview of activities across the components of the justice system in their county (law enforcement, courts and corrections), the profiles also provide perspective by including trends experienced in counties with similar population sizes.

While the data presented in this report are by no means inclusive of all indicators, they do provide a general overview of crime and the criminal justice system's response. In addition, these data are readily available and consistently defined through existing statewide data collection mechanisms.

The information presented in this profile has been provided to the Authority by a number of state agencies, specifically: the Illinois State Police, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The support and cooperation of these agencies and their staffs have helped make this report an informative and timely source of information on the activities of the criminal justice system in Illinois



The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's
Web-based clearinghouse of criminal justice data available at:

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us>

I. Introduction

Adams County, located in western Illinois, covers an area of 857 square miles and had a 2003 population of 67,582, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Adams County was the 12th largest county in Illinois geographically, but 21st largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Adams County had the 30th highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Adams County is presented in comparison with similar counties. To provide more useful comparisons, counties have been separated into four types; 1) Cook County, 2) Collar counties, 3) urban counties (outside of Cook and the Collar counties), and 4) rural counties. Because of its size, Cook County is compared to the rest of the state. The Collar counties are the five that border Cook County (DuPage, Lake, Kane, McHenry, and Will). Urban and rural counties are defined by whether or not they lie within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (Appendix 1, page 25). Based on these definitions, there are 36 counties in Illinois that are part of a MSA (Cook, Collar, and urban counties) and 66 counties that are not part of a MSA (in other words, rural).

Recent changes to the standard definitions of MSAs have affected the classification of several Illinois counties. The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas according to published standards that are applied to Census Bureau data. The general concept of a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area is that of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Currently defined metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are based on the application of 2000 standards to 2000 decennial census data and were announced by OMB on June 6, 2003.

Standard definitions of metropolitan areas have changed over time. The term "metropolitan area" (MA) was adopted in 1990 and referred collectively to metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs), and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs). More recently, the term "core based statistical area" (CBSA) became effective in 2000 and refers collectively to metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

The 2000 standards require that each CBSA must contain at least one urban area of 10,000 or more population. Each metropolitan statistical area must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Each micropolitan statistical area must have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population.

Under the standards, the county (or counties) in which at least 50 percent of the population resides within urban areas of 10,000 or more population, or that contain at least 5,000 people residing within a single urban area of 10,000 or more population, is identified as a "central county" (counties). Additional "outlying counties" are included in the CBSA if they meet specified requirements regarding residents commuting to or from the central counties.

Changes in the definitions of these statistical areas since the 1950 census have consisted chiefly of: 1) the recognition of new areas as they reached the minimum required city or urbanized area population, and 2) the addition of counties to existing areas due to new decennial census data. In some instances, formerly separate areas have been merged, components of an area have been transferred from one area to another, or components have been dropped from an area. The large majority of changes have taken place on the basis of decennial census data.

Because of these historical changes in geographic definitions, users must be cautious in comparing data for these statistical areas from different dates. For more information, contact the Population Distribution Branch at (301) 763-2419 (U. S. Census Bureau).

Based on these characteristics, Adams County is one of Illinois' 66 rural counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Adams County will be compared to those trends experienced in the other rural counties. This comparison will be realized through the calculation of rates for the activities being analyzed, with the number per 100,000 population the format for all the rates.

II. Law Enforcement Activities in Adams County

One of the most commonly used indicators of the level of crime in a particular jurisdiction is the number of *Index offenses* reported to the police. There are eight separate offenses which constitute the Crime Index, including murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault (violent Index offenses), burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson (property Index offenses). Although these eight offenses do not account for all crimes reported to the police, they are considered to be the most serious, frequent, pervasive, and consistently defined by different law enforcement agencies.

An indicator of the workload that law enforcement agencies place on other components of the justice system is the number of arrests made by police, including those for violent and property Index offenses and drug offenses. Unlike offenses, which are what police must respond to, arrests represent those offenders who may eventually be processed through other components of the justice system, including the courts, county jails, and state and local correctional programs.

In addition to local law enforcement agencies, the West Central Illinois Task Force (WCITF) also serves Adams County. Throughout most of the period analyzed, there were 21 Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and task forces operating in Illinois. A MEG or task force serves a county if at least one law enforcement agency within that county participated in that MEG or task force either by providing personnel or financial resources.

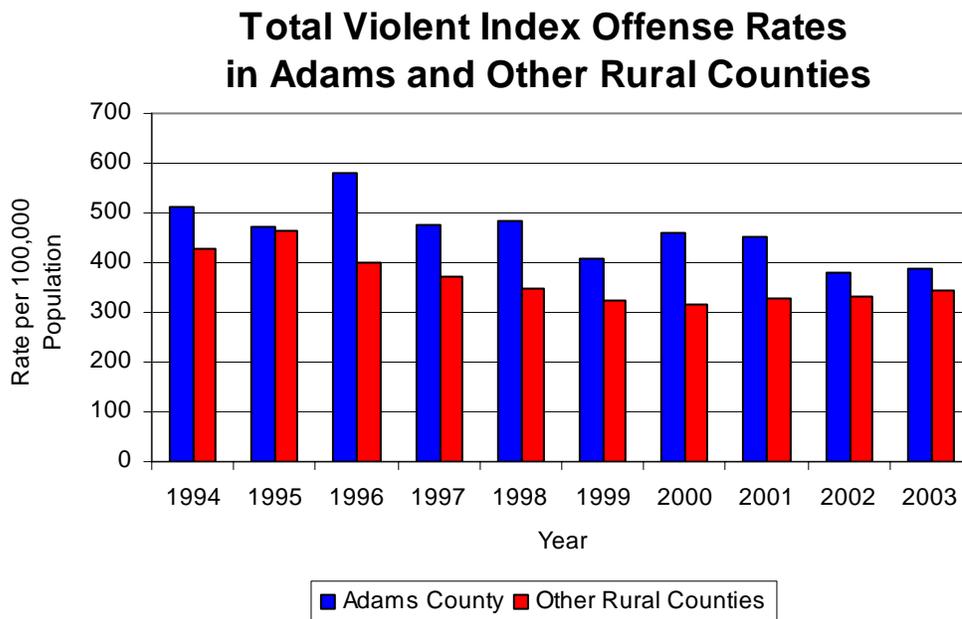
To learn more about the drug enforcement activities of the West Central Illinois Task Force and Illinois' other MEGs and task forces, profiles of each of the units were developed by the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit and are available through the Authority's Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse or can be downloaded from the Authority's Website at www.icjia.state.il.us.

Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Adams County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 25 percent in Adams County between 1994 and 2003, from 349 to 261. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (nearly 82 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Adams County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Adams County decreased 24 percent, from 510 to 386 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Similarly, during that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other rural counties also decreased 20 percent, from 430 to 344 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Adams County was 12 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 1



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

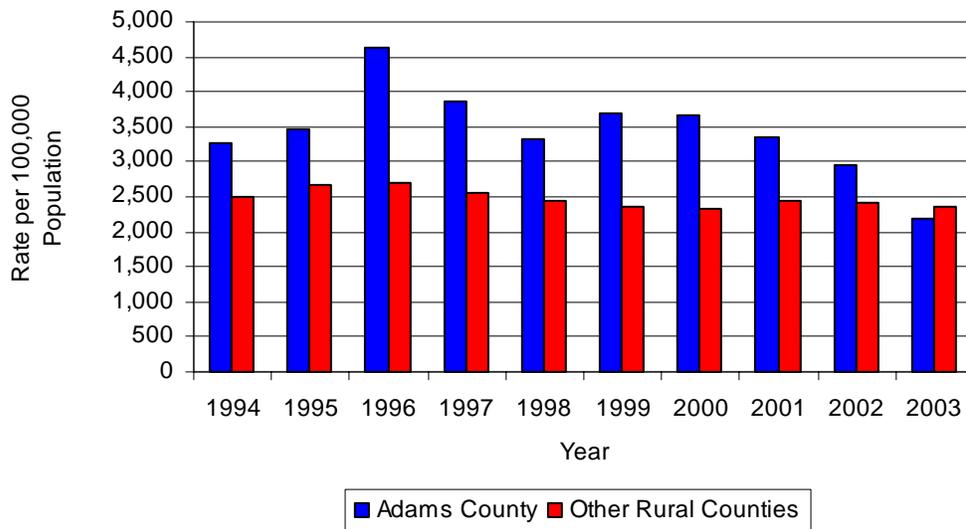
Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Adams County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Adams County decreased 34 percent from 2,232 to 1,471. Thefts accounted for 76 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Adams County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Adams County decreased 33 percent, from 3,263 to 2,177 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate has remained relatively stable in the other rural counties. The property Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 5 percent, from 2,491 to 2,367 offenses per 100,000 population. Adams County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 8 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 2

Total Property Index Offense Rates in Adams and Other Rural Counties



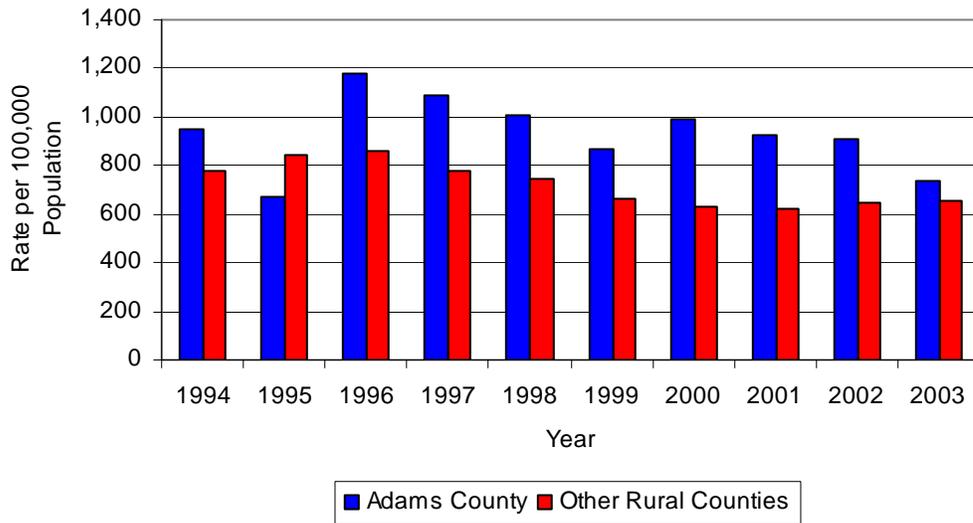
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Index Arrests by Adams County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Adams County decreased 23 percent, from 647 to 498. The majority of Index arrests was for property Index offenses. Of the 498 Index arrests made in Adams County during 2003, 26 percent were for violent Index crimes and 74 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Adams County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 84 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 89 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Adams County decreased 22 percent, from 946 to 737 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 16 percent, from 776 to 653 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Adams County's Index arrest rate was 13 percent higher than the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 3
Index Arrest Rates in Adams
and Other Rural Counties



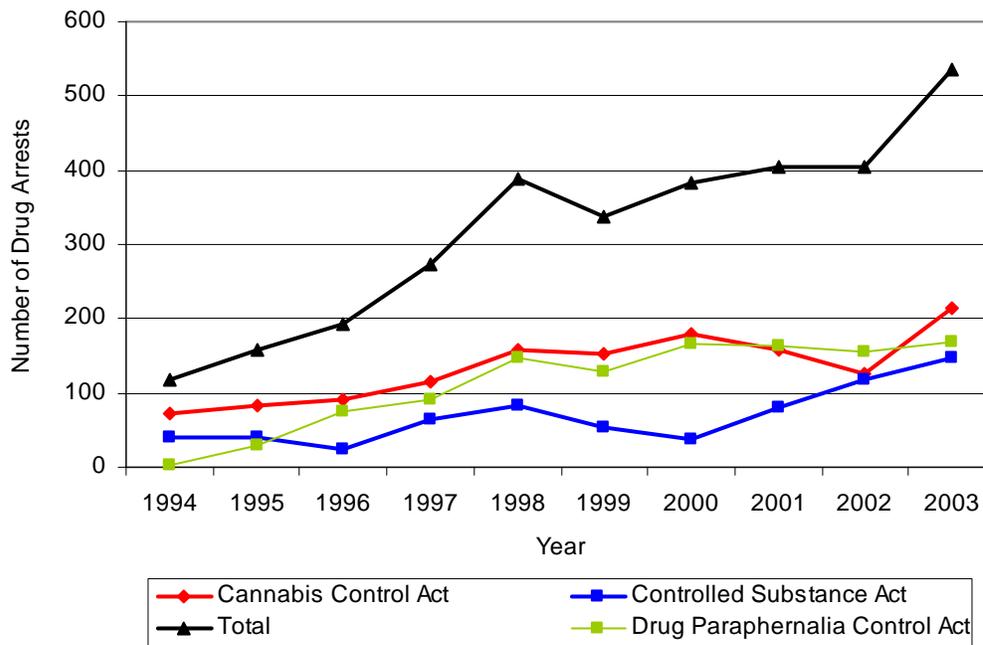
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Drug Offense Arrests in Adams County

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total drug offenses (including violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, and the Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act) increased more than three fold in Adams County, from 118 to 536 (Figure 4). Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests, jumping from two arrests in 1994 to 170 arrests in 2003, or in other words, 32 percent of all drug arrests in 2003.

Arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Adams County have consistently out-numbered arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution, or manufacture of all other illegal drugs such as cocaine and opiates). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act in Adams County nearly tripled, from 72 to 215. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act more than tripled in Adams County, from 39 to 148, during the same period (Figure 4).

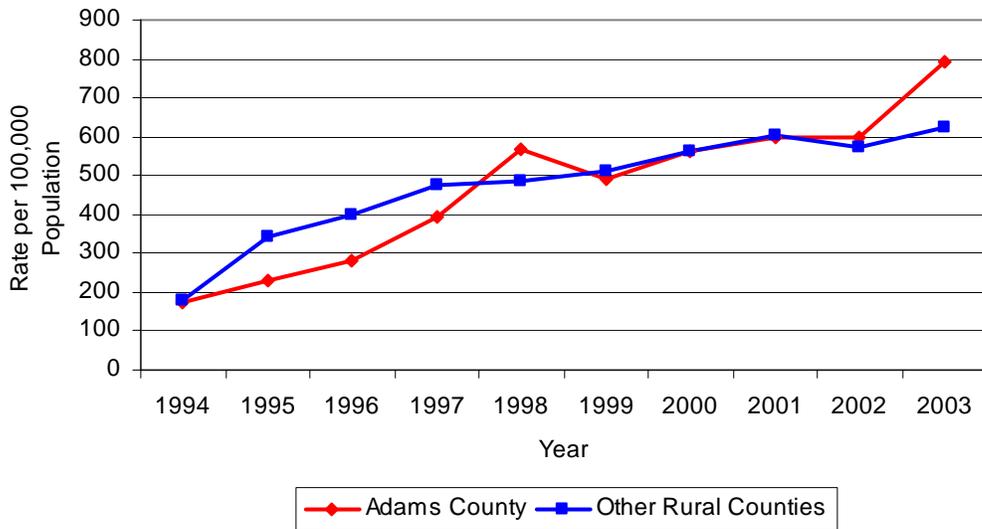
Figure 4
Drug Arrests in Adams County



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Adams County increased more than three-fold, from 173 to 793 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other rural counties more than tripled between 1994 and 2003, from 181 to 626 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Adams County was 27 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 5
Drug Arrest Rates in Adams and Other Rural Counties



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

Drugs Seized in Adams County

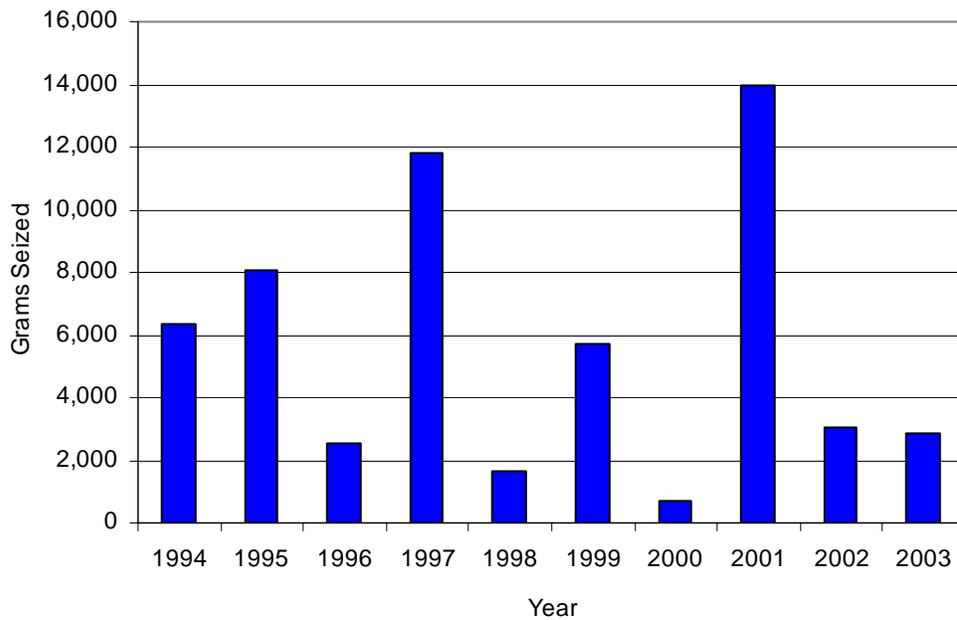
Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of the illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies in Illinois, they are submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois State Police crime labs. These labs record the quantity of drugs submitted from each county. This section discusses the quantities of illegal drugs seized and submitted to the Illinois State Police from law enforcement agencies in Adams County.

Cannabis Seized in Adams County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Adams County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Although there were large variations in the number of grams of cannabis seized between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Adams County decreased 55 percent, from 6,355 grams to 2,833 grams (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Cannabis Seized in Adams County



Source: Illinois State Police

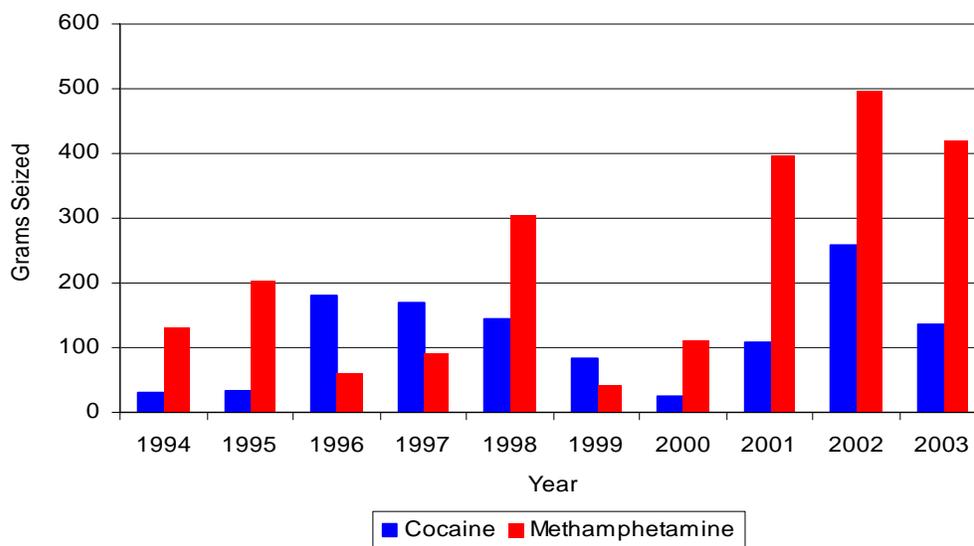
During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other rural counties also decreased 55 percent, from 601,793 grams to 269,810 grams. In 2003, Adams County had a cannabis seizure rate of 4,192 grams per 100,000 population, compared to a rate of 16,623 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

Cocaine and Methamphetamine Seized in Adams County

During the past decade, it is clear that methamphetamine “activity” in the state has increased dramatically and has become a significant drug problem in many jurisdictions. Further, the extent to which law enforcement agencies are encountering methamphetamine has also dispersed across a large area of the state, with most of this being fueled by activities taking place in Illinois’ rural jurisdictions. In Adams County, the quantity of methamphetamine seized between 1994 and 2003 more than tripled, from 132 grams to 419 grams, reaching a period high of 498 grams seized in 2002 (Figure 7)

Between 1994 and 2003 in Adams County, crack cocaine comprised 66 percent of all cocaine seizures. The combined quantity of powder and crack cocaine seized in Adams County increased more than three-fold between 1994 and 2003, from 31 grams seized in 1994 to 137 grams seized in 2003. The quantity of powder cocaine seized in Adams County increased 70 percent, from 17 grams seized in 1994 to 28 grams seized in 2003. The quantity of crack cocaine seized in Adams County increased more than six-fold, from 15 grams in 1994 to 109 grams in 2003.

Figure 7
Cocaine* and Methamphetamine Seized
in Adams County



Source: Illinois State Police
*Cocaine includes both crack and powder cocaine

The quantity of total cocaine, seized in the other rural counties decreased 79 percent during the period analyzed, from 71,808 grams seized in 1994 to 15,033 grams seized in 2003. Conversely, the quantity of methamphetamine more than tripled during the period analyzed, from 2,487

grams seized in 1994 to 12,798 grams seized in 2003. In 2003, the cocaine (powder and crack) seizure rate for Adams County was 78 percent lower than the seizure rate in the other rural counties and the methamphetamine seizure rate was 27 percent lower than in the other rural counties. The cocaine seizure rate in Adams County was 203 grams per 100,000 population, compared to 926 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties. The methamphetamine seizure rate in Adams County was 620 grams per 100,000 population, compared to 788 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Adams County

Although Illinois has one of the best court reporting systems in the country, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts only collects information regarding the aggregate number of court filings, dispositions, and probation caseloads. Currently, there are no statewide data available on court filings, dispositions, and convictions by offense type. However, detailed offense data are available from the Illinois Department of Corrections for those convicted felons sentenced to prison.

Trends in the number of delinquency petitions filed and adjudicated in juvenile court are also presented. Illinois statutes define delinquency offenses as those committed by someone younger than 17 years old that would be considered crimes if committed by someone 17 years of age or older.

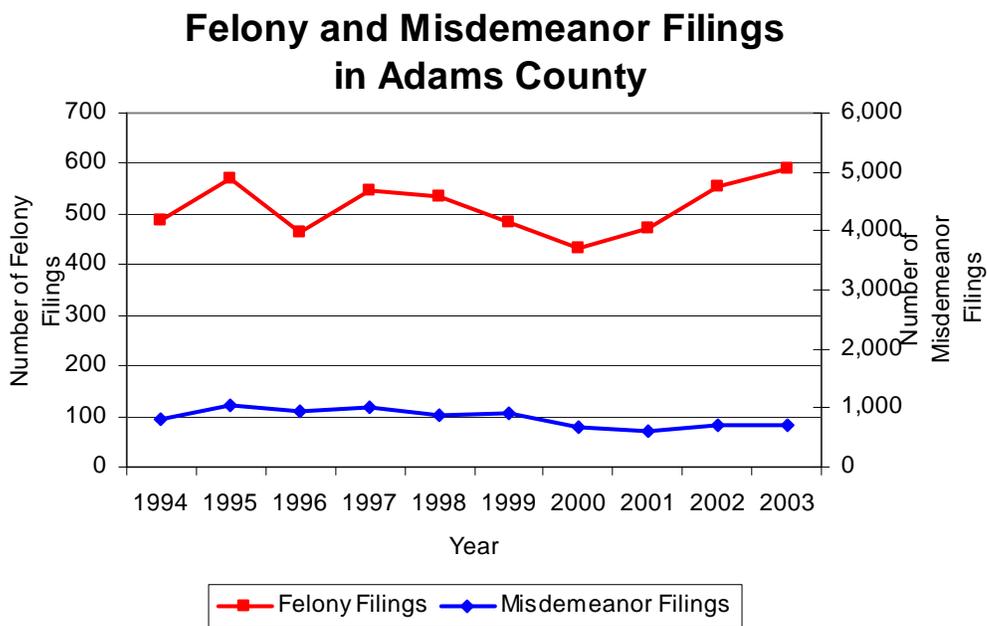
In Illinois, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division oversees county probation departments. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Adams County and the other rural counties.

Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Adams County

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts reports data on criminal court cases in two categories: misdemeanors and felonies. After screening a case and deciding it warrants further action, the state's attorney must file formal charges in court. Misdemeanor cases are less serious than felonies and can be punished by a probation sentence of one year or less and less than one year of incarceration. Felony cases, on the other hand, are more serious and can be punished by a probation term up to four years and incarceration for more than one year. When comparing the number of filings across time and across counties, it should be noted that differences in reporting practices exist. For example, when two or more defendants are involved in a single case, some state's attorneys file a single case charging all defendants, while others file a separate case for each suspect.

In 2003, felony and misdemeanor court filings accounted for less than 8 percent of all filings in Adams County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Adams County increased 20 percent, from 489 to 589 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 13 percent, from 800 in 1994 to 695 in 2003; however, since 1994, misdemeanor filings have out-numbered felony filings in Adams County. It is important to note that to include both misdemeanor and felony case filings on the same graph it was necessary to use two separate Y-axes. In Figure 8, the misdemeanor filings are plotted against the right Y-axis and felony filings are plotted using the left Y-axis.

Figure 8

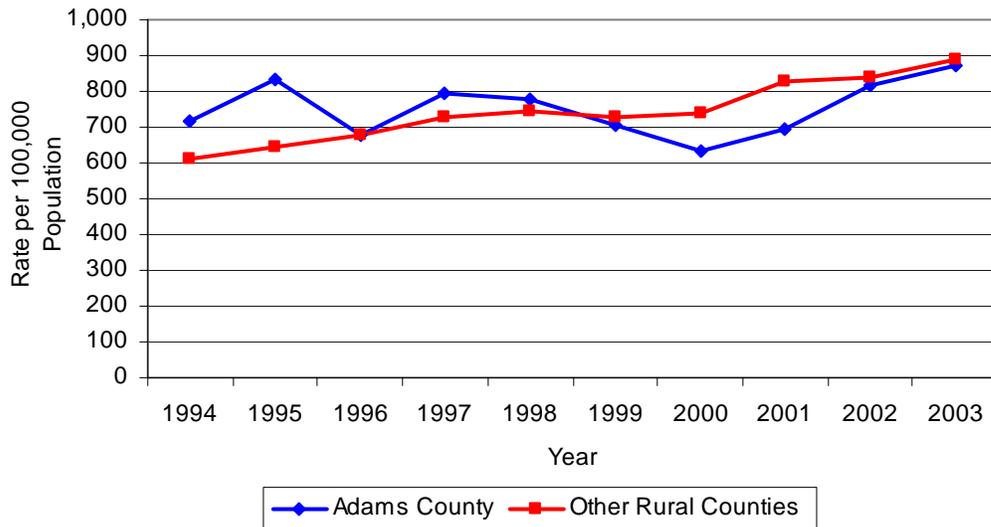


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Adams County increased 22 percent, from 715 to 872 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 46 percent during this period, from 610 to 890 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Adams County was 2 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 9

Felony Filing Rates in Adams and Other Rural Counties

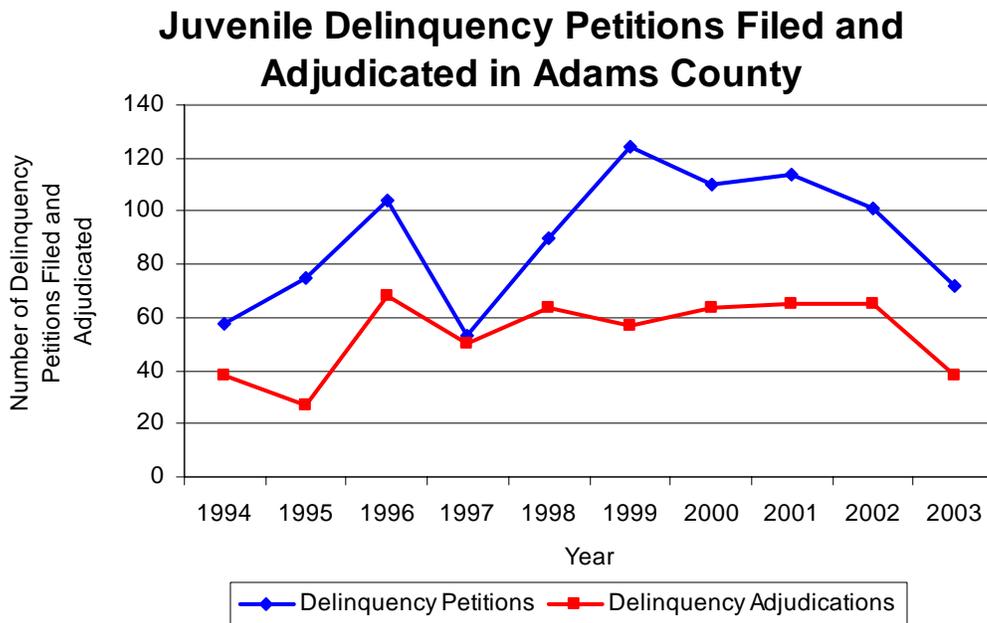


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

Illinois’ juvenile court system differs in several key aspects from the adult criminal court system. One aspect revolves around the difference in treatment between juveniles and adults: the juvenile court process is somewhat less formal and adversarial; authorities are given much more latitude in determining the proper response to each case. Traditionally, the terminology used to describe juvenile proceedings has been less harsh than that used for the adult criminal process. For example, Illinois’ juvenile courts accept “petitions of delinquency” rather than misdemeanor or felony criminal complaints. However, pursuant to the Juvenile Court Reform Act of 1998, criminal court terms, such as “trial” and “sentencing,” have replaced the less harsh “adjudicatory hearing” and “dispositional hearing” terms.

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Adams County increased 24 percent, from 58 to 72 (Figure 10). In 2003, 53 percent of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications remained the same, 38 juveniles were adjudicated in 1994 and in 2003. However, between 1995 and 2002, delinquency adjudications more than doubled, from 27 adjudications in 1995 to 65 adjudications in 2002. The majority of cases not resulting in adjudication were continued under supervision.

Figure 10



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

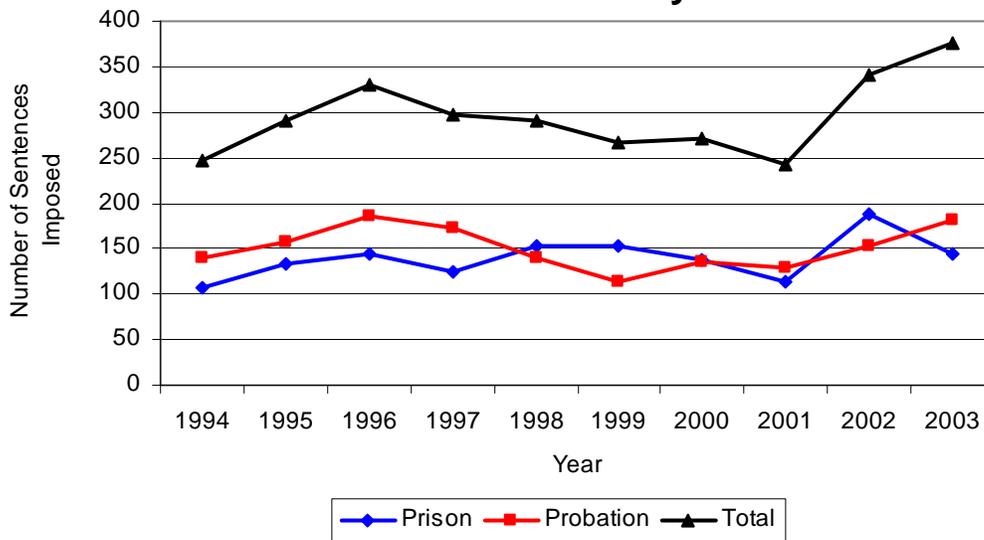
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Adams County increased 21 percent, from 845 to 1,021 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 13 percent, from 2,060 to 2,320 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Adams County was 56 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Anyone convicted of a felony in Illinois can be sentenced either to prison or probation, or receive a conditional discharge. A number of factors influence the type and length of sentence imposed on convicted felons, including the severity of the crime, the offender’s criminal and social history, safety of the community, and legislation affecting certain types of offenses. For some types of convictions a sentence to prison is required by state statute.

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in Adams County increased from 247 to 377 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period increased 29 percent, from 140 to 181; however, felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 57 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 48 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison decreased, from 43 percent in 1994 to 38 percent in 2003.

Figure 11

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Adams County

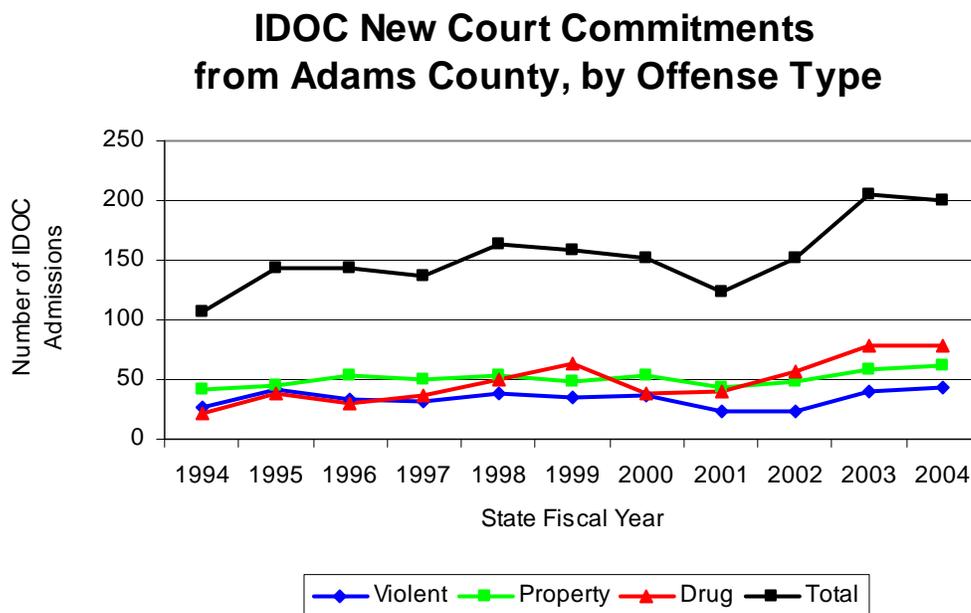


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from Adams County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Adams County increased 87 percent, from 107 to 200 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent, property, and drug offender admissions also increased. The number of violent offender admissions increased 63 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 27 to 44, while the number of property offender admissions increased 45 percent, from 42 to 61, and the number of drug offenders admitted more than tripled, increasing from 22 to 78.

Figure 12



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

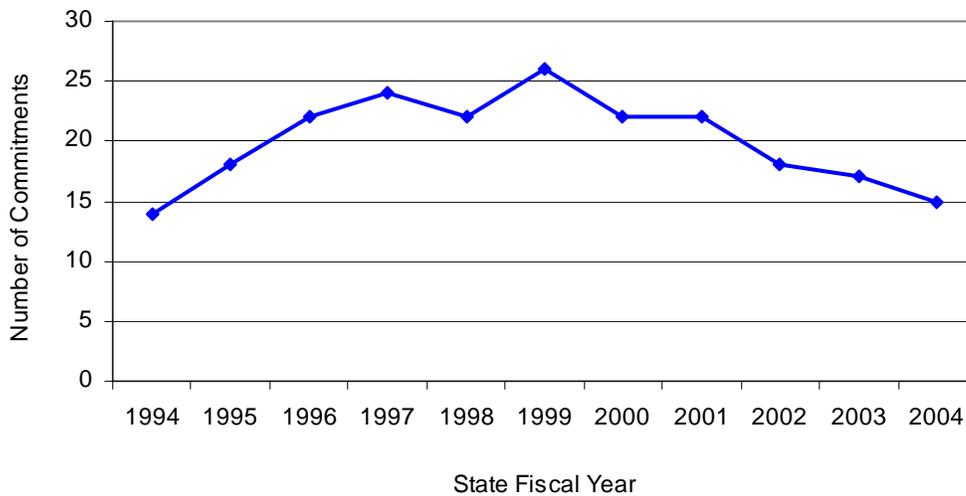
In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 22 percent of all admissions from Adams County compared to 25 percent in SFY 1994, while the proportion of all admissions accounted for by property offenders decreased from 39 percent in SFY 1994 to 31 percent in SFY 2004. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the proportion of drug offenders increased from 21 percent to 39 percent of all admissions from Adams County.

Juvenile Court Commitments to the Illinois Department of Corrections

The Illinois Department of Corrections' Juvenile Division provides long-term custody for youths, 13 to 17 years old, who have been found delinquent by the juvenile court and committed to the IDOC. Youths may remain in an IDOC juvenile facility until they are 21. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Adams County increased slightly, from 14 to 15 (Figure 13).

Figure 13

Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from Adams County



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

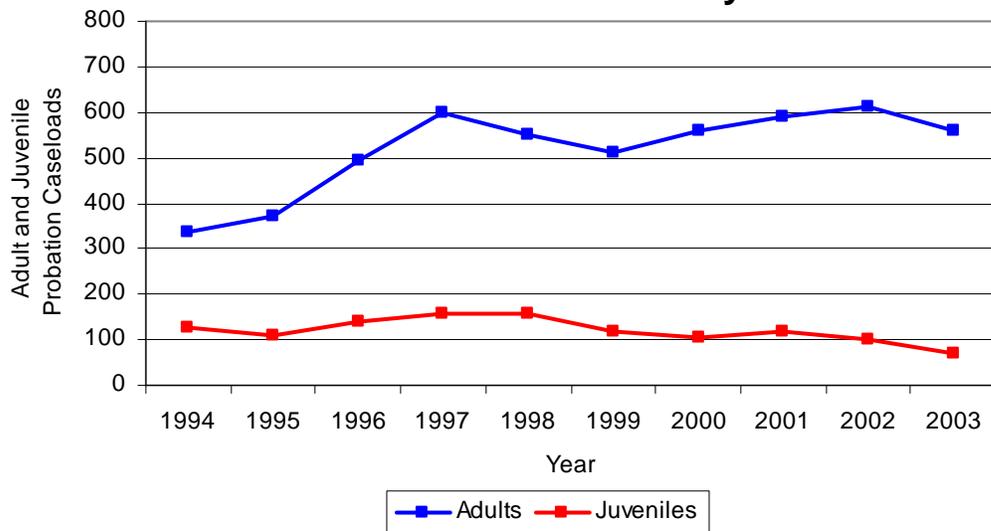
In SFY 2004, Adams County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 253 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 11 percent higher than the 228 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other rural counties.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Adams County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Adams County increased 66 percent, from 337 to 560 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 56 percent of Adams County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Adams County Juvenile Probation Department decreased 45 percent, from 128 to 70. The number of active adult probation cases in the other rural counties increased 38 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 2 percent.

Figure 14

Total Adult and Juvenile Active Probation Cases in Adams County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Adams County increased 68 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 493 to 829 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 39 percent in the other rural counties, from 756 to 1,053 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Adams County was 21 percent lower than in the other rural counties.

IV. Jail Populations in Adams County

Jail data in Illinois are collected by the Illinois Department of Corrections' Bureau of Inspections and Audits. As with court data, data are not available detailing the specific offenses for which offenders were held in county jails. In addition, between SFYs 1992 and 1994, the IDOC did not collect Illinois jail population data. Data presented for SFY 1994 were estimated by the Authority using the reported SFYs 1991 and 1995 data.

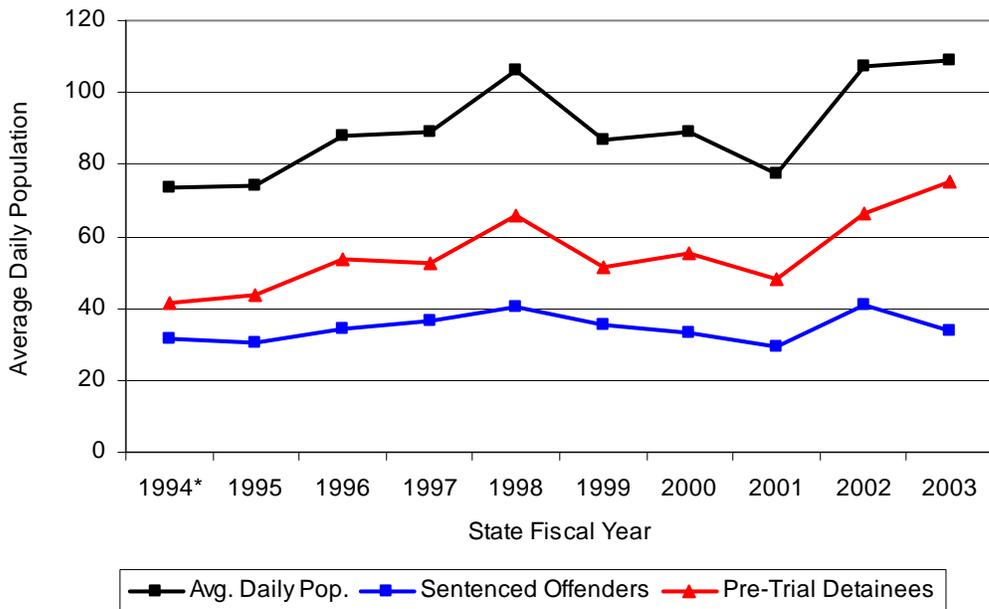
Average Daily Population of the Adams County Jail

The Adams County Jail was one of 91 county jails in operation in Illinois during SFY 2003. There are 11 counties that did not operate a jail of their own; they rely on other counties to house their pretrial detainees and sentenced offenders at either a per-diem or contracted rate.

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily population of the Adams County Jail increased 49 percent, from 74 to 109 inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for an increased percentage of the average daily population; from 57 percent in SFY 1994 to 69 percent in SFY 2003. On the other hand, sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for a decreased percentage; 43 percent in SFY 1994 compared to 31 percent in SFY 2003.

Figure 15

Average Daily Population of the Adams County Jail

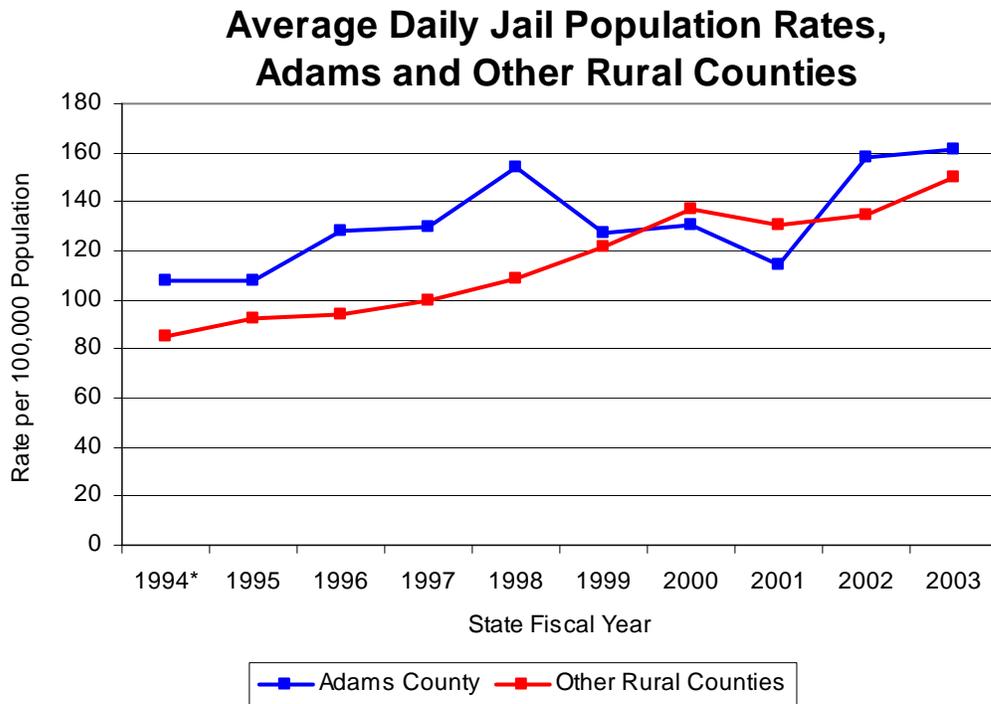


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Adams County increased 50 percent, from 107 to 162 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other rural counties increased 76 percent, from 85 to 150 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Adams County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 8 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 16



Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois Department of Corrections and U.S. Census Bureau data

* Information estimated by ICJIA

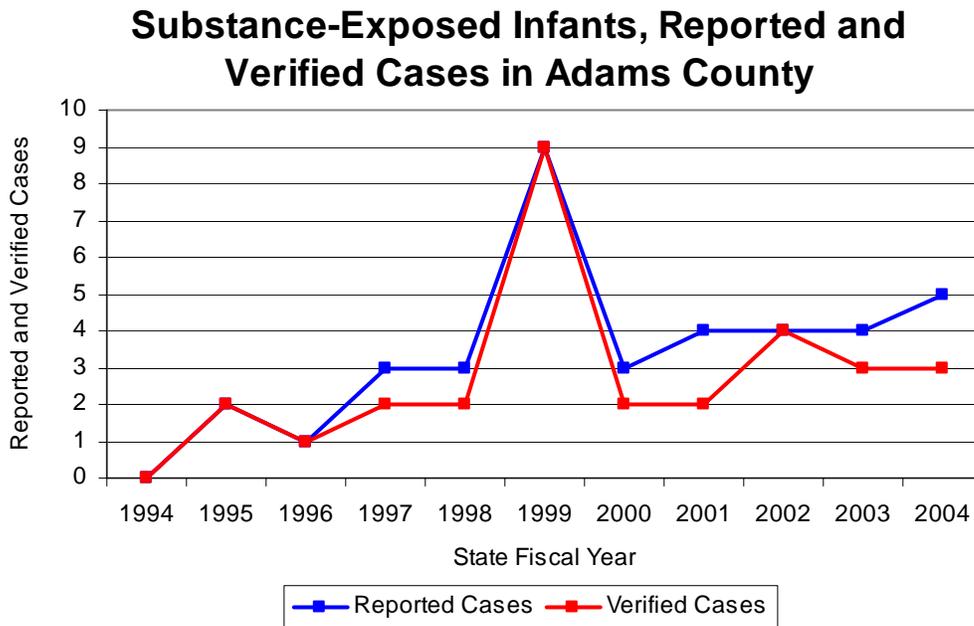
V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in Adams County

Substance-Exposed Infants in Adams County

Illinois continues to experience the effects of prenatal substance abuse. In Illinois, if a baby is born and thought to have been exposed to illegal substances or alcohol, either through observation by physicians or toxicology tests, the case is reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). These cases are then investigated by DCFS to verify the child's prenatal exposure to either alcohol or illegal substances. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed infant.

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, 38 cases of substance-exposed infants were reported in Adams County. During the same period, 30 of those cases were verified (Figure 17).

Figure 17



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 17 percent, from 83 to 97, and the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants increased 36 percent, from 44 to 60.

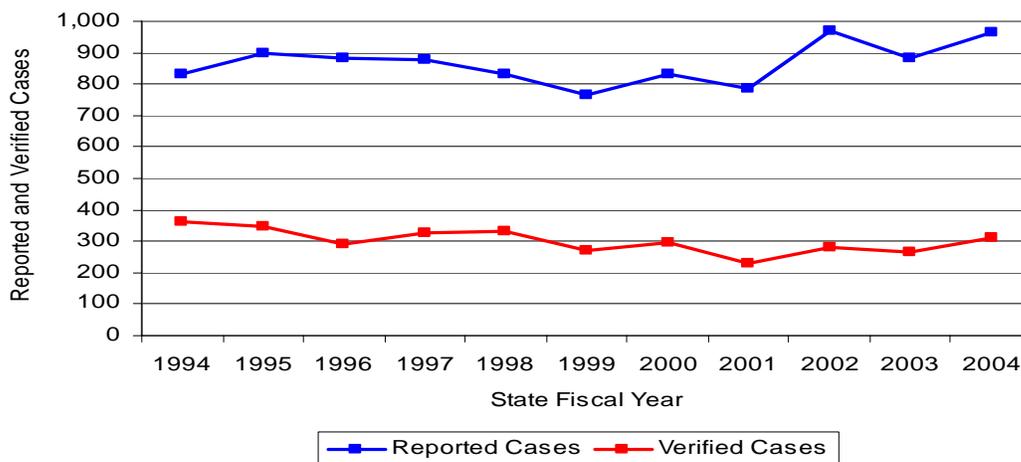
Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Adams County

Recent research on the relationship between maltreatment of youth and delinquency has revealed an important distinction between child maltreatment and adolescent maltreatment. Using data from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency, researchers have found that youth that were abused during childhood (12 years of age or less) were no more likely to become delinquent than youth who were not abused, but youth who were abused during adolescence (after age 12) were significantly more likely to be delinquent.¹ While prior child abuse may not be linked to juvenile delinquency, studies examining prior child abuse have shown that childhood victimization may be linked to other poor outcomes in youth, including low academic achievement, teenage parenthood (particularly for females), drug use, and symptoms of mental illness.² Additionally, research examining adolescent victimization (including physical and sexual assaults) and adult outcomes has found a correlation between previous victimization and substance abuse, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder in adulthood.³ In Illinois, DCFS investigates reported cases of child abuse.

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Adams County increased 15 percent, from 834 to 963 (Figure 18). During that same period, 3,310 cases, or 35 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Adams County decreased 14 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 361 to 311.

Figure 18

Reported and Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in Adams County



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

¹ Thornberry, Terence P., David Huizinga and Rolf Loeber. 2004. “The Causes and Correlates Studies: Findings and Policy Implications.” *Juvenile Justice Journal*. 9:1. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

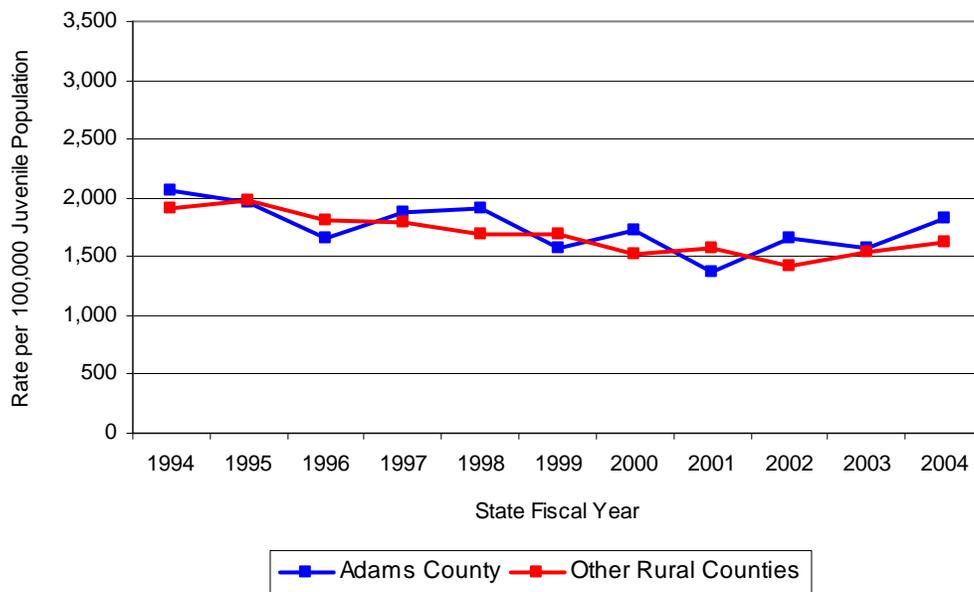
² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

³ Menard, S. 2002. 2002. “Short and Long-Term Consequences of Adolescent Victimization.” *Youth Research Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Adams County decreased from 2,060 to 1,829 per 100,000 juveniles, an 11 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 15 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,903 to 1,626 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Adams County was 12 percent higher than in the other rural counties.

Figure 19

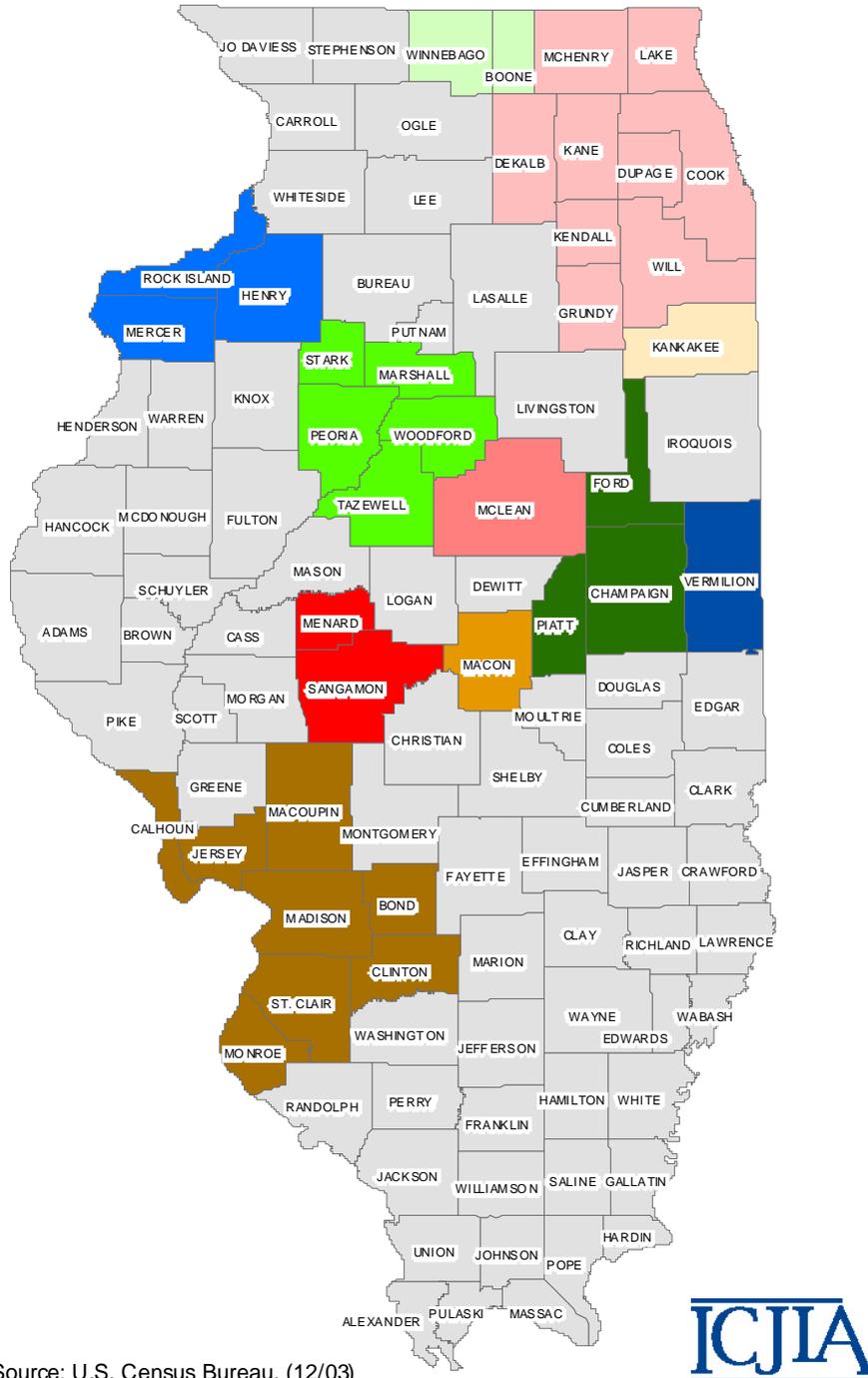
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Adams and All Other Rural Counties



Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and U.S. Census Bureau data

VI. Appendix I (Map of Illinois Counties within a Metropolitan Statistical Area)

Illinois Counties, by Metropolitan Statistical Area*



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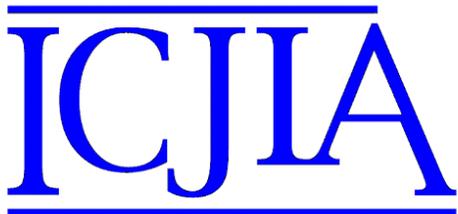
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