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December
2004

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



A Profile of the Cook County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

This project was supported by Grant # 02-DB-MU-0017, awarded to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following programs, offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A number of organizations and individuals put a great deal of effort into the development of this document. The Authority's Research and Analysis Unit is very grateful for the assistance provided by the following organizations:

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
Illinois Department of Corrections
Illinois State Police

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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

Cook County, located in northeastern Illinois, covers an area of 946 square miles and had a 2003 population of 5,351,552, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Cook County was the 6th largest county in Illinois geographically, but the largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Cook County had the highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 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 and as with previous reports, information specific to Cook County is presented in comparison with the rest of the state. The Collar counties are the five that border Cook County (Cook, 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 28). 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, Cook County is unique in Illinois. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Cook County will be compared to those trends experienced in the rest of the state, and where relevant, Cook County is separated for comparison into two sections, Chicago and suburban Cook County. All comparisons 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 Cook 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.

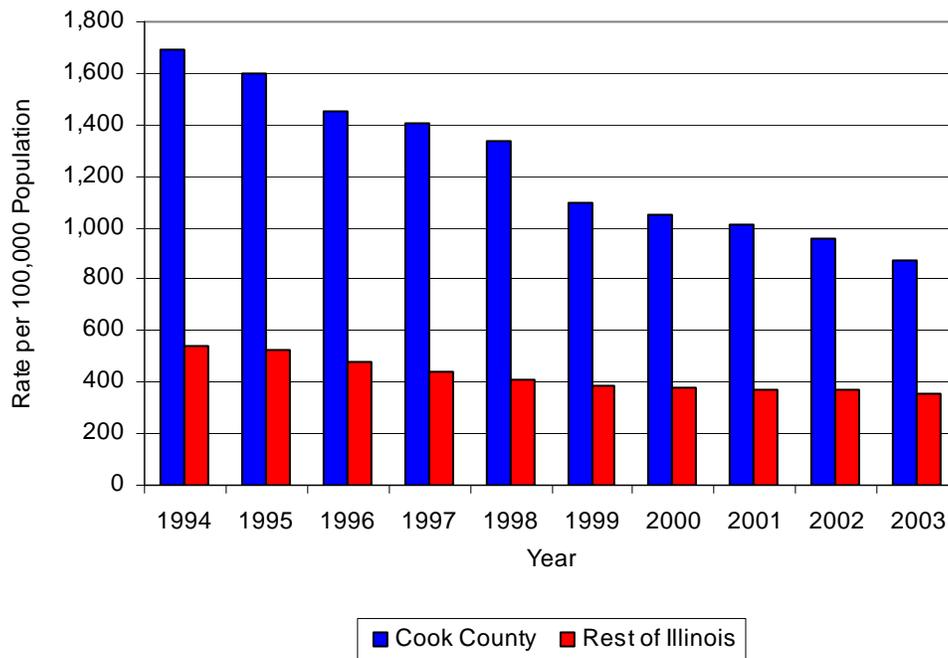
Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Cook County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 48 percent in Cook County between 1994 and 2003, from 89,006 to 46,578. Just over one-half (51 percent) of the violent Index offenses reported in Cook County in 2003 were aggravated assaults. In addition, the majority (85 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Cook County took place in Chicago, where they decreased 50 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 78,350 to 39,483. In suburban Cook County, the number of violent Index offenses reported to the police during that same period decreased 36 percent, from 11,033 to 7,095.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Cook County decreased 49 percent, from 1,691 to 870 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). During that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the rest of Illinois decreased 35 percent, from 541 to 352 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Cook County was about two-and-a-half times higher than the rate in the rest of Illinois.

Figure 1

Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Cook County and the Rest of Illinois



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

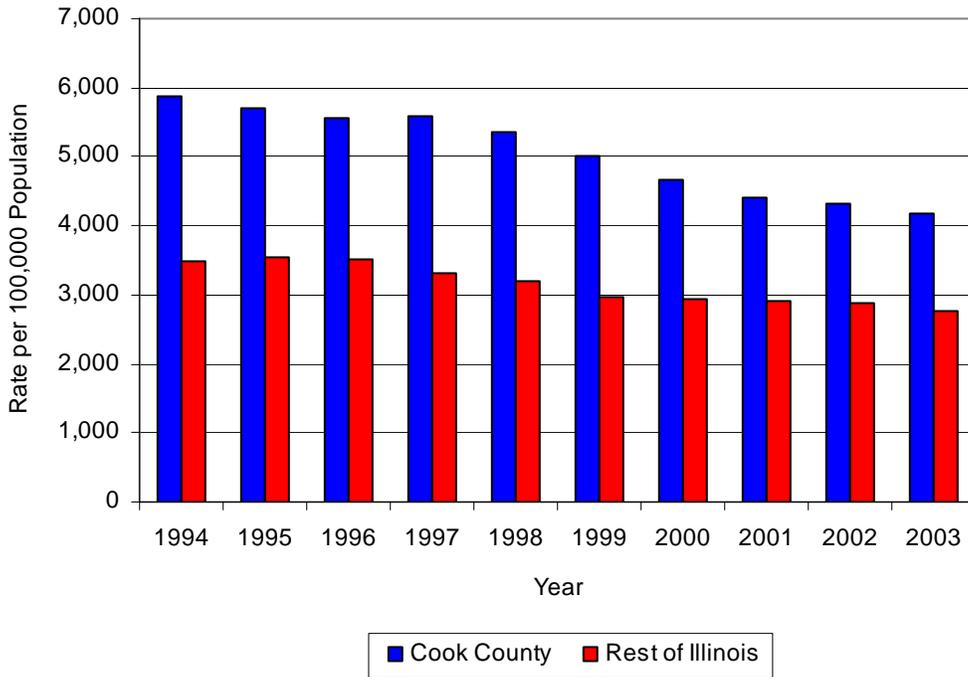
Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Cook County

The number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Cook County in 2003 totaled 308,996, which is 28 percent fewer than in 1994. Thefts accounted for 69 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Cook County during 2003. Although the majority (65 percent) of property Index offenses in Cook County took place in Chicago in 2003, between 1994 and 2003 the number of property Index offenses reported in Chicago decreased 29 percent, from 206,215 to 145,562. Similarly, the number of property Index offenses reported in suburban Cook County decreased 25 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 102,850 to 77,493.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate for all of Cook County decreased 29 percent, from 5,872 to 4,168 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the rest of Illinois, the property Index offense rate decreased 21 percent, from 3,488 to 2,771 offenses per 100,000 population. Although experiencing a similar decrease in the property Index offense rate, Cook County's 2003 property Index offense rate was still 50 percent higher than the rate in the rest of Illinois.

Figure 2

Total Property Index Offense Rates in Cook County and the Rest of Illinois



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

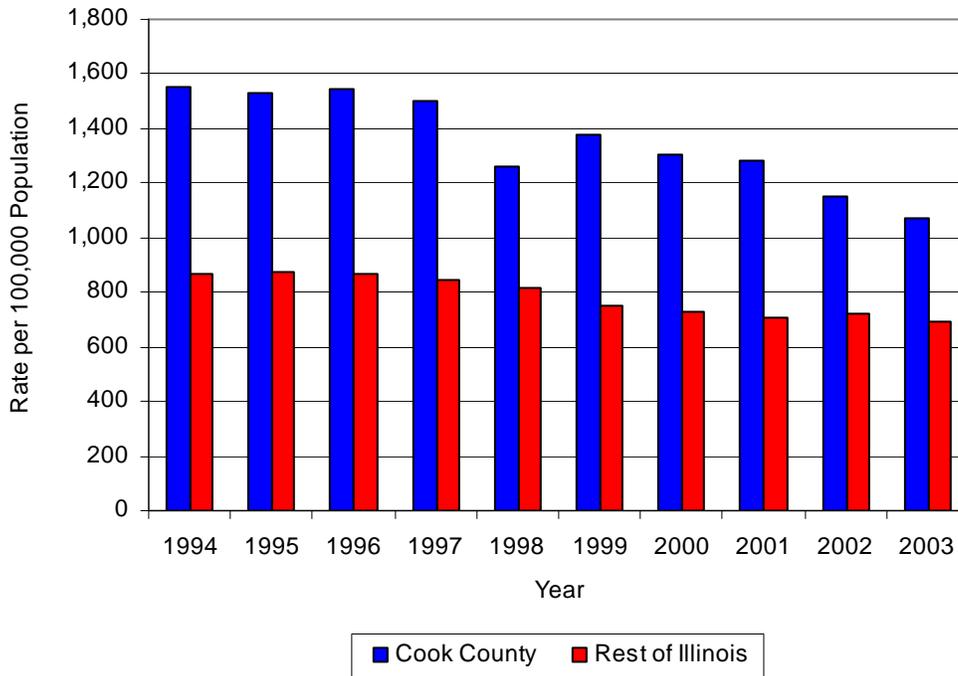
Index Arrests by Cook County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Cook County decreased 30 percent, from 81,696 to 57,427. In 2003, the majority of Index arrests was for property Index offenses and took place in Chicago. Of the Index arrests made in Cook County during 2003, 22 percent were for violent Index crimes and 78 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Cook County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 61 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for nearly 70 percent of all property Index arrests. Of the total Index arrests made in Cook County during 2003, 89 percent were made by the Chicago Police Department.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Cook County decreased 31 percent, from 1,553 to 1,073 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the rest of Illinois decreased 20 percent, from 870 to 693 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Cook County's Index arrest rate was 55 percent higher than the Index arrest rate in the rest of Illinois.

Figure 3

Index Arrest Rates in Cook County and the Rest of Illinois



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

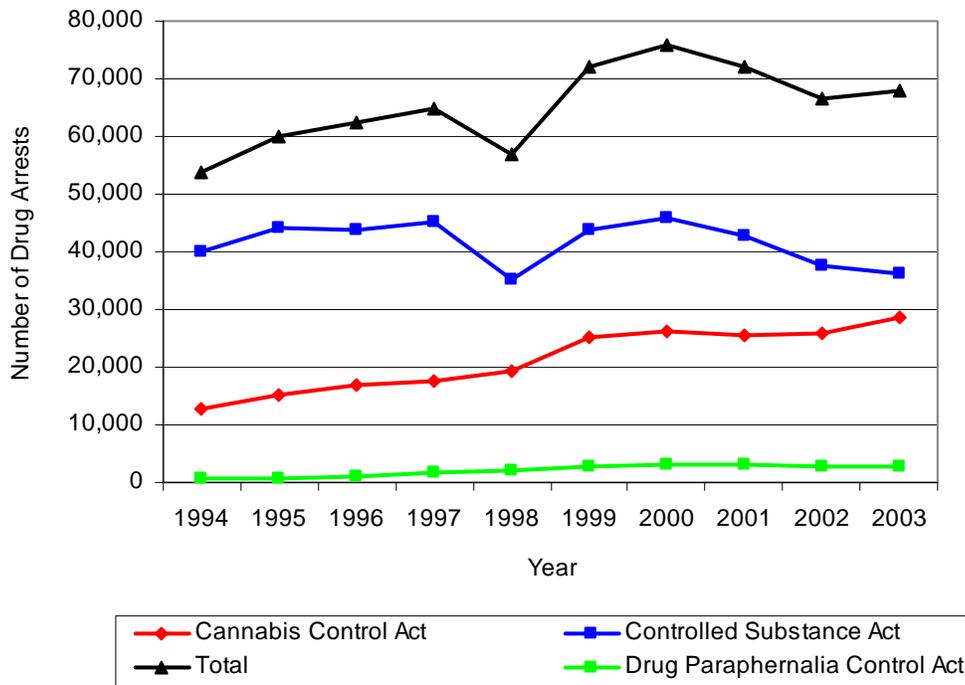
Drug Offense Arrests in Cook County

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 26 percent in Cook County, from 53,803 to 67,988 (Figure 4). In 2003, eight out of every ten drug arrests in Cook County were made by the Chicago Police Department. Between 1994 and 2003, drug arrests increased 22 percent in Chicago, compared to a 49 percent increase in suburban Cook County.

Since 1988, arrests for violations of Illinois' Controlled Substances Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution, or manufacture of all other illegal drugs such as cocaine and opiates) have consistently out-numbered arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Cook County. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act in Cook County more than doubled, from 12,844 to 28,524. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act have decreased 9 percent in Cook County between 1994 and 2003, from 39,949 to 36,188. Also striking is the increase in Cook County in arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act (DPCA). DPCA arrests in Cook County increased four-fold between 1994 and 2003, despite this increase, however, DPCA arrests accounted for a small percentage (3 percent) of all drug arrests during the time period analyzed (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Drug Arrests in Cook County

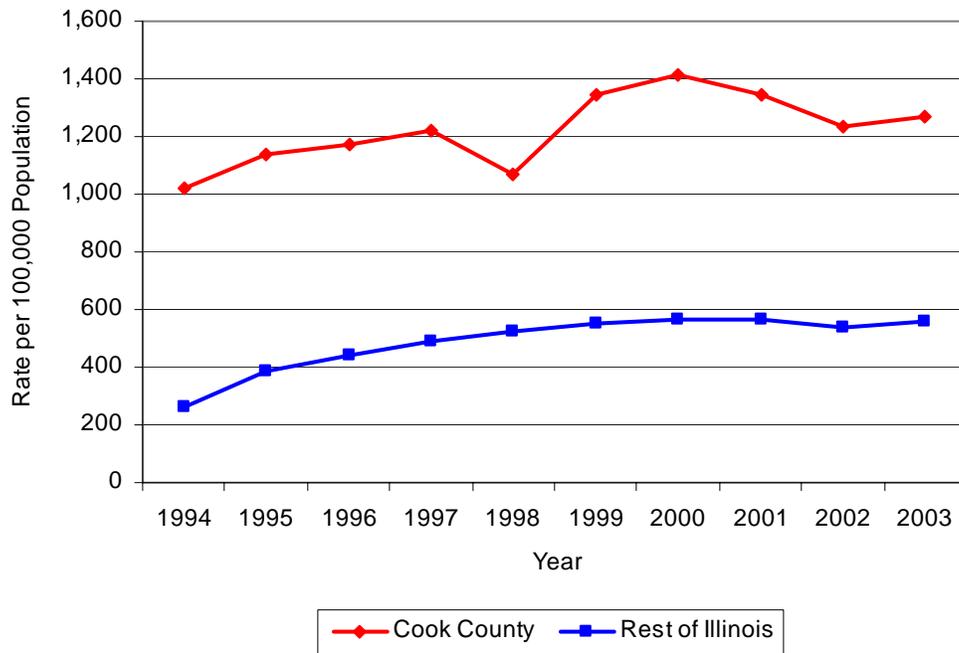


Source: Illinois State Police and Chicago Police Department data

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Cook County increased 24 percent, from 1,022 to 1,270 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the rest of Illinois more than doubled between 1994 and 2003, from 264 to 561 per 100,000 population. Despite the increase in the total drug arrest rate in the rest of Illinois, in 2003, the drug arrest rate in Chicago was still more than double the rate in the rest of Illinois.

Figure 5

Drug Arrest Rates in Cook County and the Rest of Illinois



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

Drugs Seized in Cook County

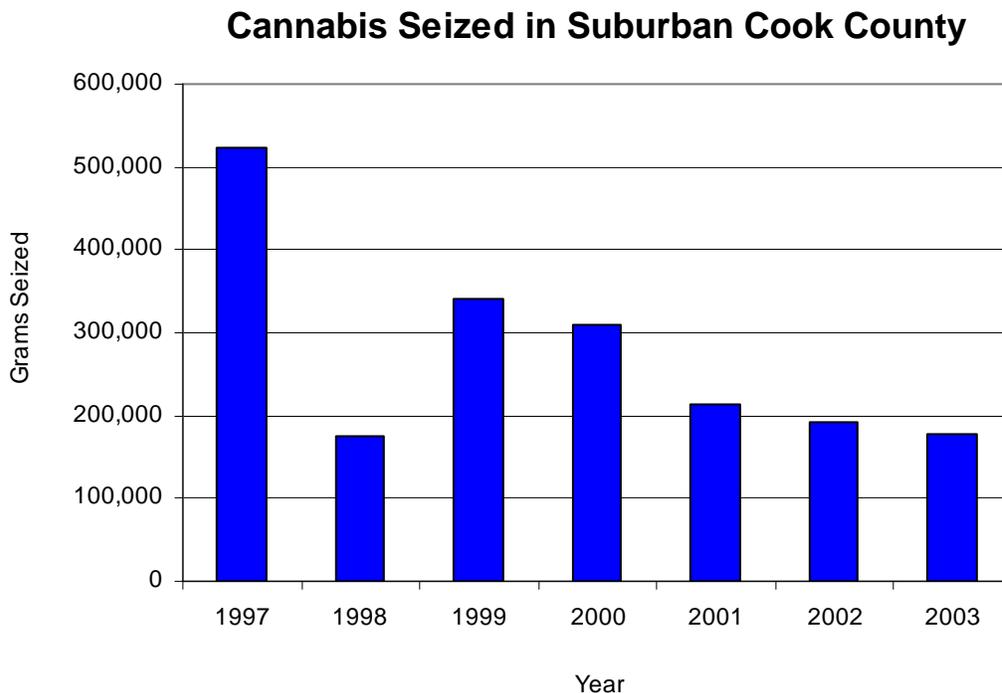
Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of the illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies in Illinois, they are submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most suburban Cook County agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois State Police crime labs. These labs record the quantity of drugs submitted from each county. Due to differences in the way the Chicago Police Department recorded the quantity of drugs seized, 1994 and 1995 drug seizure data from Chicago are not comparable to the rest of Cook County or Illinois. However, in the latter half of 1996, the Chicago Police Department began submitting seizures (which included seizures by the Chicago Housing Authority) to the Illinois State Police. Therefore, due to the lack of complete seizure

data in 1996, the graphs in this section include the quantities of illegal drugs seized and submitted to the Illinois State Police from law enforcement agencies in suburban Cook County and those Chicago seizures made after 1996.

Cannabis Seized in Cook County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Cook County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Between 1997 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Cook County decreased 23 percent, from 1,824,985 grams to 1,400,421 grams. During that same time period, cannabis seizures in suburban Cook County decreased 66 percent, from 524,113 grams to 178,323 grams (Figure 6). The quantity of cannabis seized in Chicago between 1997 and 2003 decreased 6 percent, from 1,300,872 grams to 1,222,098 grams (Figure 7).

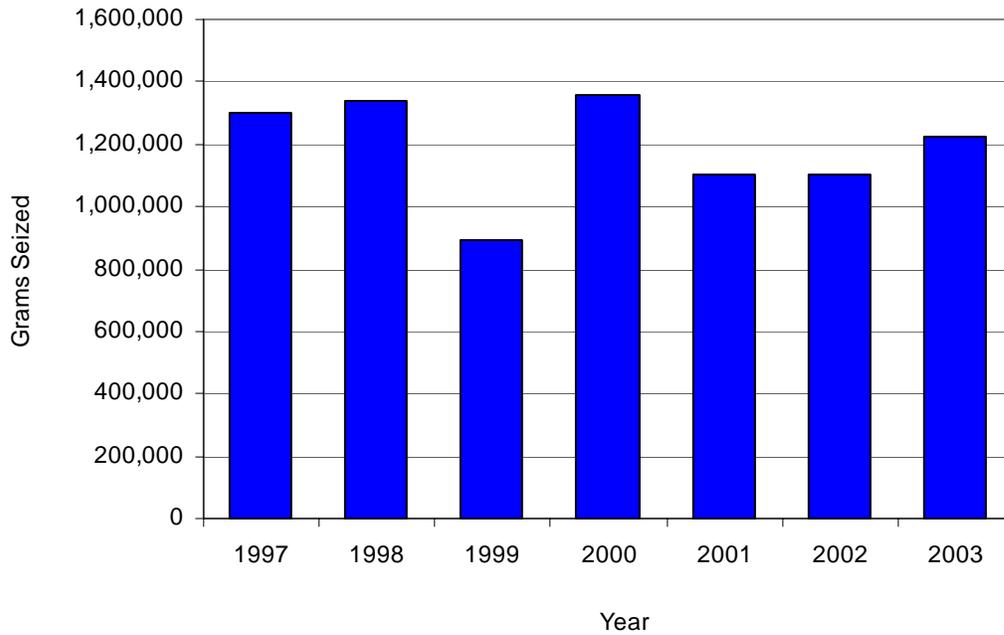
Figure 6



Source: Illinois State Police

Figure 7

Cannabis Seized in Chicago



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1997 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the rest of Illinois decreased 46 percent, from 2,162,499 grams to 1,158,174 grams. In 2003, Cook County had a cannabis seizure rate of 26,169 grams per 100,000 population, 65 percent higher than the rate of 15,861 grams seized per 100,000 population in the rest of the state, while the cannabis seizure rate in Chicago was 42,199 grams per 100,000 population.

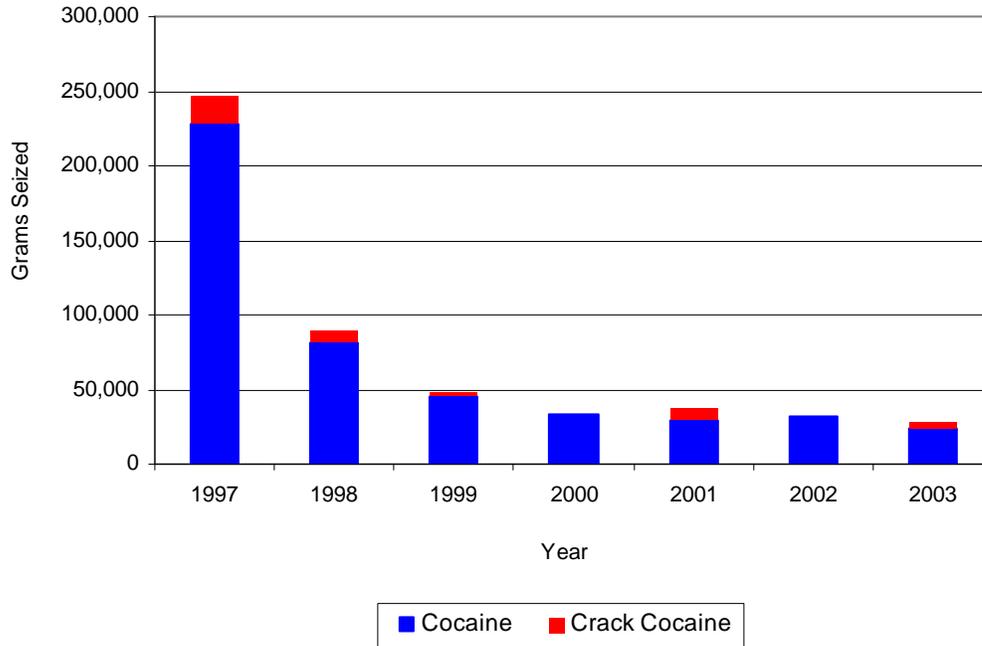
Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Cook County

The quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in Cook County increased between 1997 and 2003. Powder cocaine seizures in Cook County rose 54 percent during that time period, from 346,344 grams to 535,034 grams. Crack cocaine seizures in Cook County increased 1 percent, from 79,057 grams seized in 1997 to 79,862 grams seized in 2003.

On the other hand, powder and crack cocaine seizures in suburban Cook County decreased between 1997 and 2003. The quantity of powder cocaine seized decreased 89 percent, from 228,564 grams in 1997 to 24,293 grams in 2003. Similarly, the quantity of crack cocaine seized in suburban Cook County decreased 82 percent, from 17,550 grams in 1997 to 3,241 grams in 2003 (Figure 8).

Figure 8

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Suburban Cook County

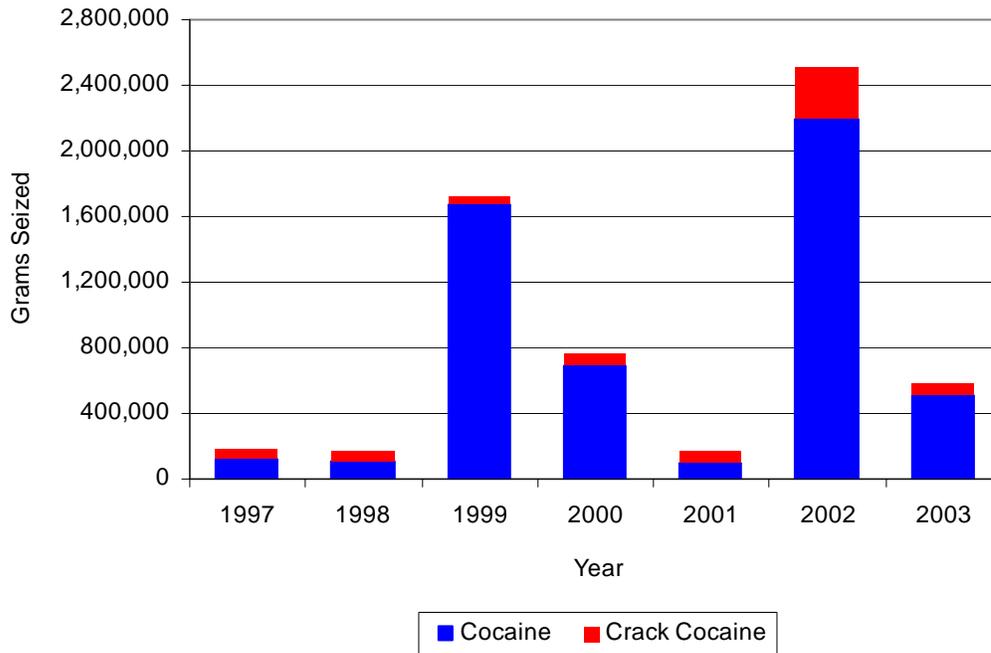


Source: Illinois State Police

Contrary to suburban Cook County, the quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in Chicago increased dramatically between 1997 and 2003. The quantity of powder cocaine seized increased more than three-fold from 117,779 grams in 1997 to 510,741 grams in 2003. While crack cocaine accounted for a relatively small portion of all cocaine seized in Chicago (15 percent), the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased 25 percent, from 61,507 grams in 1997 to 76,621 grams in 2003 (Figure 9).

Figure 9

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Chicago



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in the rest of Illinois decreased during the period analyzed. Between 1997 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized decreased 30 percent in Illinois outside of Cook County, from 133,165 grams to 93,342 grams, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased 6 percent, from 10,090 grams to 9,476 grams. In 2003, 989 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in suburban Cook County, 29 percent lower than the 1,278 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the rest of Illinois, both of which were dramatically lower than the rate of 17,636 grams per 100,000 population in Chicago.

Methamphetamine Seized in Cook 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.

Although methamphetamine is often characterized as a problem facing rural jurisdictions, Chicago had the largest quantity of methamphetamine seized when compared to the grams of methamphetamine seized by other Illinois counties in 2003.

Methamphetamine seizures in Cook County increased significantly between 1997 and 2003. In 1997, 478 grams of methamphetamine were seized in Cook County, and in 2003, 5,144 grams were seized. During that same time period, methamphetamine seizures in Chicago increased dramatically, from 202 grams seized to 5,131 grams seized. Methamphetamine seizures in Chicago alone comprised 19 percent of all methamphetamine seizures in Illinois in 2003. Contrast this with methamphetamine seizures in suburban Cook County and in the rest of Illinois: Methamphetamine seizures in suburban Cook County decreased 95 percent, from 276 grams seized in 1997 to 13 grams seized in 2003, while methamphetamine seizures in the rest of Illinois increased at a slower rate than methamphetamine seizures in Chicago, increasing nearly ten-fold between 1997 and 2003, from 2,470 grams to 26,615 grams.

The rate of methamphetamine seized in Cook County between 1997 and 2003 increased dramatically, from nine grams per 100,000 population to 96 grams per 100,00 population. The rate of methamphetamine seized in suburban Cook County between 1997 and 2003 decreased 96 percent, from 12 grams per 100,000 population to one gram per 100,000 population. During that same time period, the rate of methamphetamine seized in Chicago increased significantly, from seven grams to 178 grams per 100,000 population, while the methamphetamine seizure rate in Illinois outside of Cook County increased from 29 grams per 100,000 population in 1997 to 294 grams per 100,000 population in 2003.

Heroin Seized in Cook County

Although heroin seizures in both Illinois and Cook County have decreased between 1997 and 2003, between 2002 and 2003, heroin seizures statewide more than doubled, from 12,569 grams to 28,053 grams. In 2003, 71 percent of the heroin seized statewide was seized in Chicago. Between 2002 and 2003, heroin seizures in Chicago increased 69 percent, from 11,739 grams to 19,825 grams, while heroin seizures in suburban Cook County tripled, from 378 grams seized in 2002 to 1,274 grams seized in 2003.

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Cook 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, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. 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 Cook County and the rest of Illinois (outside of Cook County).

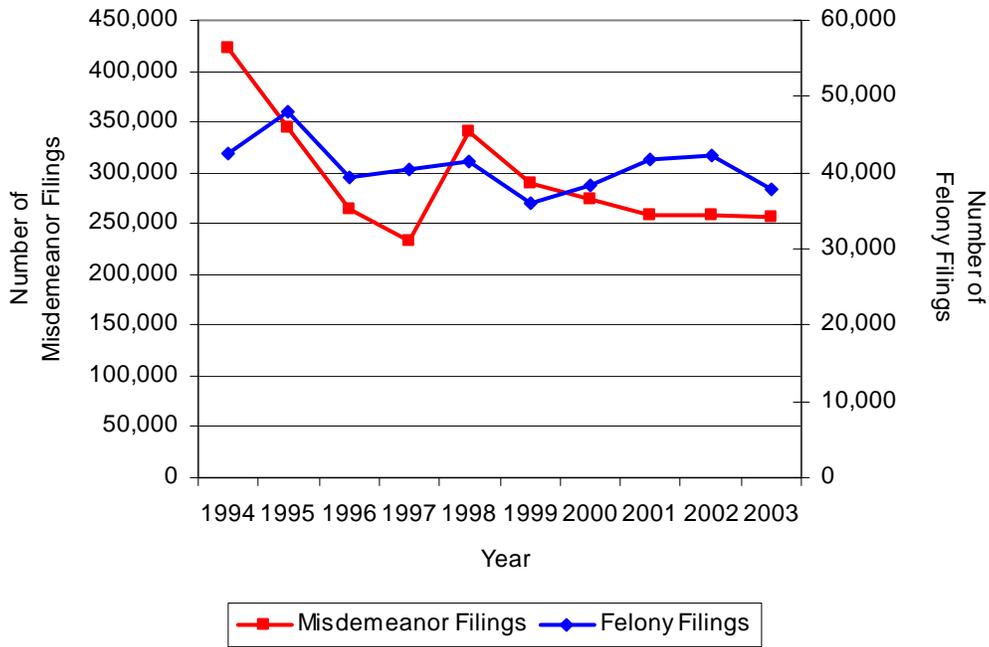
Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Cook County

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 16 percent of all filings in Cook County's courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Cook County decreased 11 percent, from 42,578 to 37,913 (Figure 10). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 39 percent, from 422,816 in 1994 to 256,097 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings six to one. 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 10, the misdemeanor filings are plotted against the right Y-axis and felony filings are plotted using the left Y-axis.

Figure 10

Felony and Misdemeanor Filings in Cook County

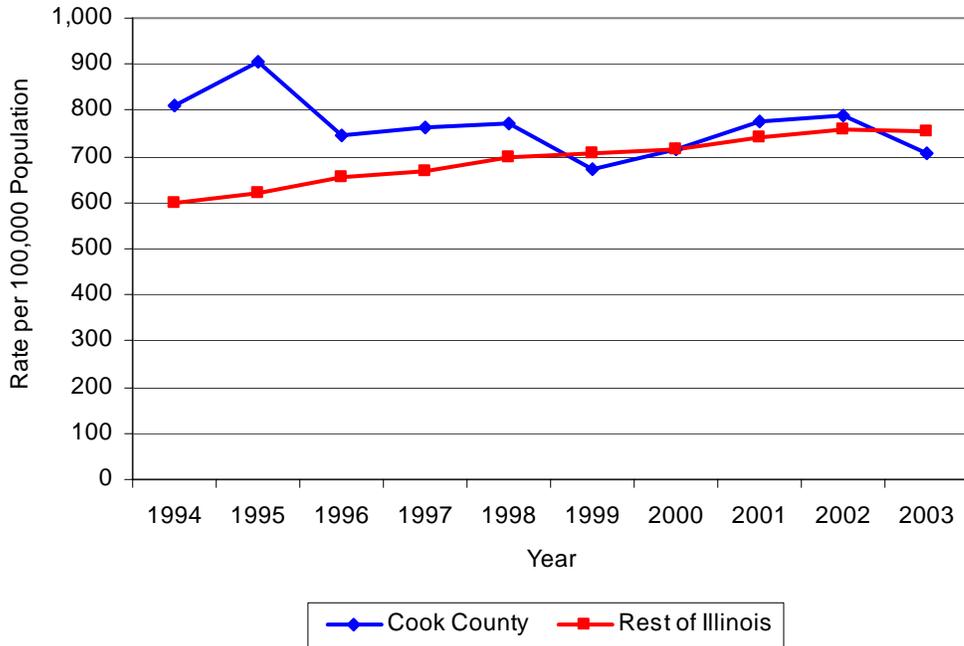


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Cook County decreased 12 percent, from 809 to 708 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 11). Conversely, the felony-filing rate in the rest of Illinois increased 25 percent during this period, from 601 to 753 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Cook County was 6 percent lower than the rate in the rest of the state.

Figure 11

Felony Filing Rates in Cook County and the Rest of Illinois

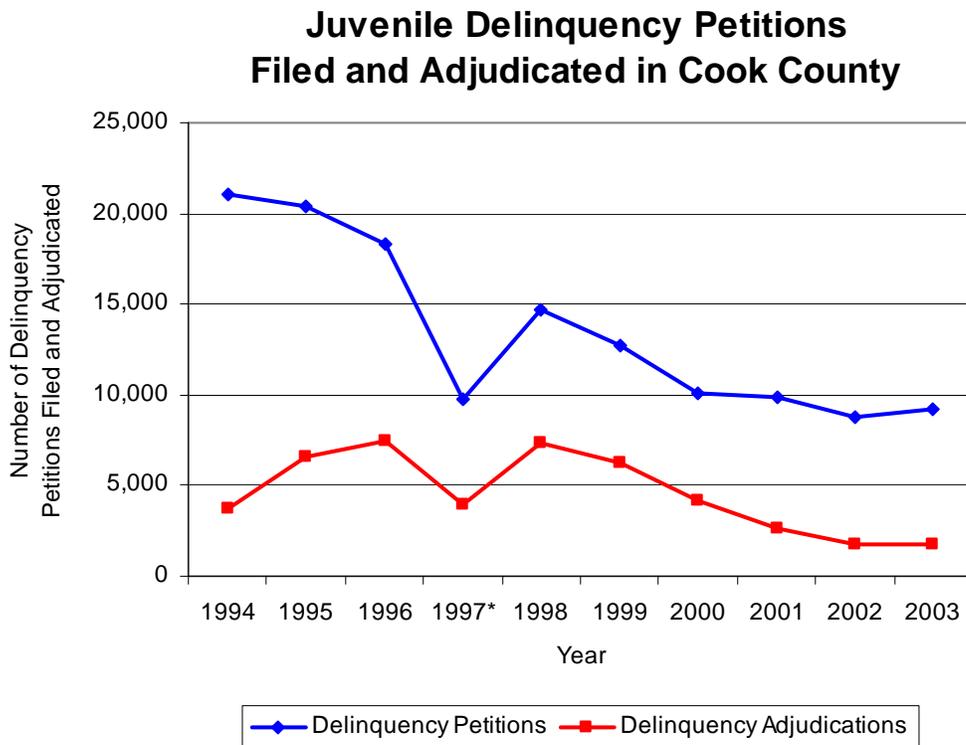


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 Cook County decreased 57 percent, from 21,078 to 9,168 (Figure 12). In 2003, 19 percent of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications decreased 52 percent, from 3,724 to 1,774. The majority of cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

Figure 12



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

*Data not available July-December 1997

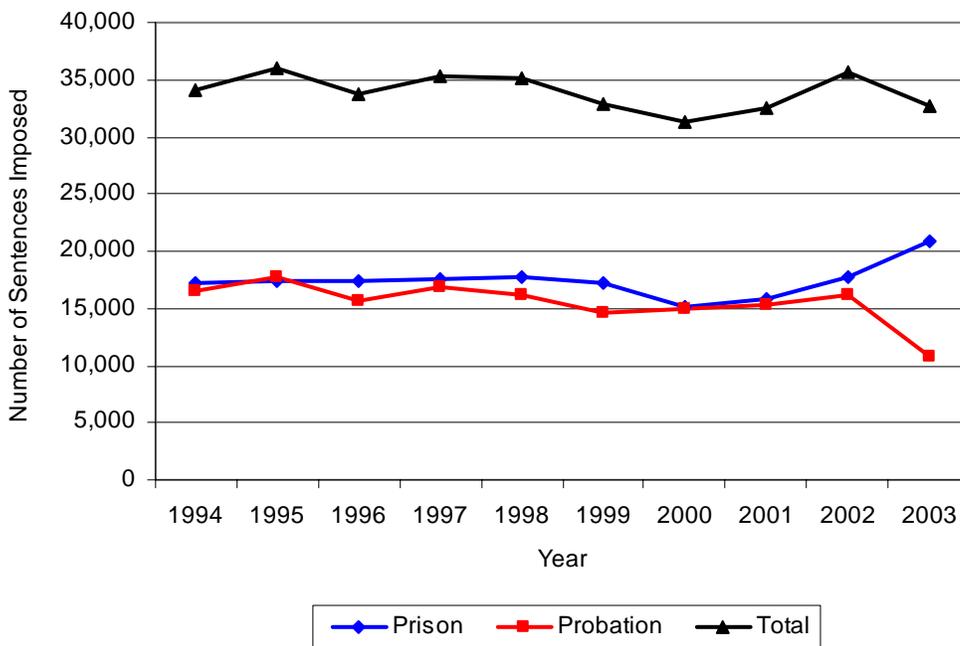
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Cook County decreased 60 percent, from 4,326 to 1,738 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the rest of Illinois increased 10 percent, from 1,485 to 1,639 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Cook County was 6 percent higher than the rate in the rest of Illinois.

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 Cook County decreased 4 percent, from 34,107 to 32,688 (Figure 13). The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period decreased 35 percent, from 16,497 to 10,753, and the proportion of total sentences accounted for by felony probation sentences also decreased from 48 percent in 1994 to 33 percent 2003. During that time period, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison increased from 51 percent in 1994 to 64 percent in 2003. In 2003, 3 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

Figure 13

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Cook County

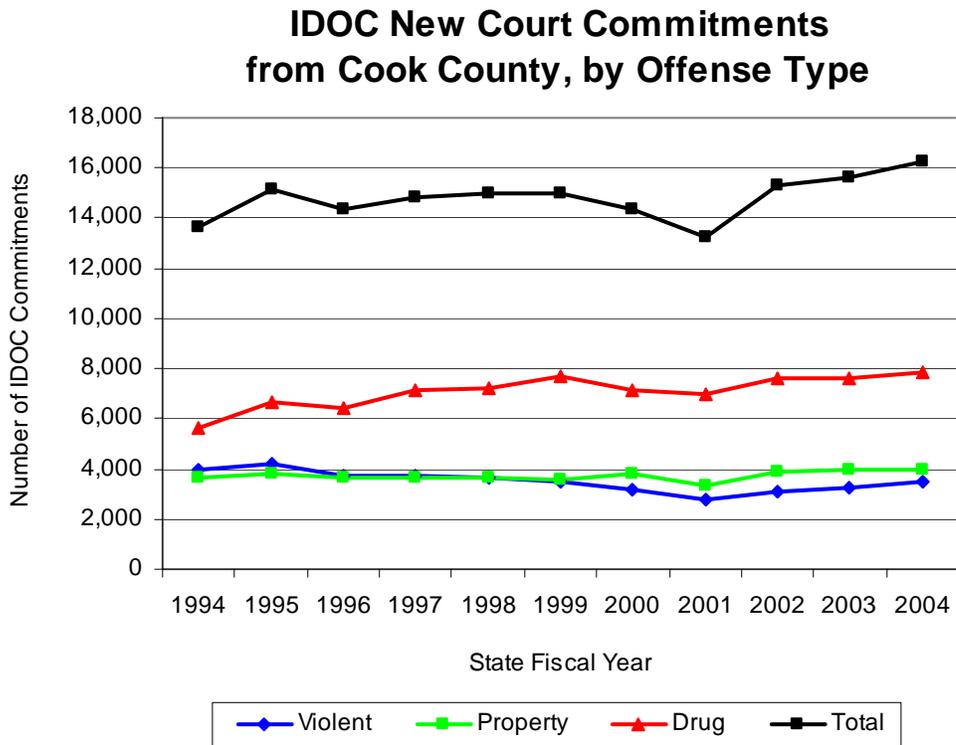


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from Cook County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2003, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Cook County increased 19 percent, from 13,637 to 16,217 (Figure 14). During this period, the largest percentage increase occurred in the number of drug offenders admitted; increasing 39 percent, from 5,644 to 7,831. The number of violent offender admissions on the other hand, decreased 11 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2003, from 3,976 to 3,521, while the number of property offender admissions increased 11 percent, from 3,615 to 3,997.

Figure 14



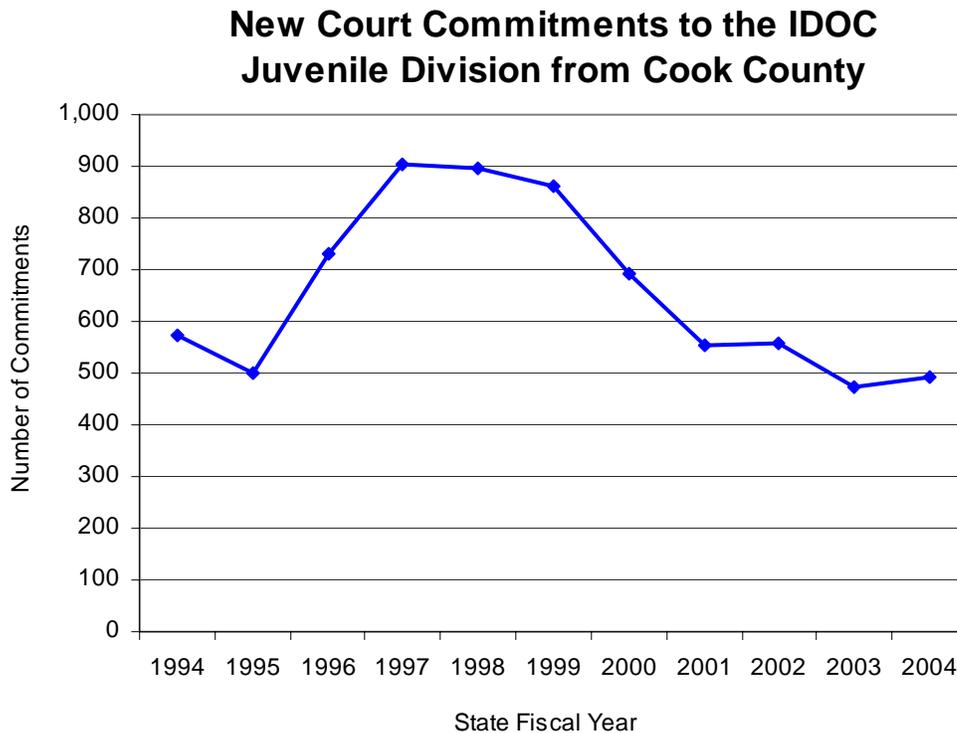
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2003, violent offenders accounted for 22 percent of all admissions from Cook County and property offenders accounted for 25 percent of all admissions from Cook County, compared to 29 percent and 27 percent, respectively, in SFY 1994. Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, drug offenders increased from 41 percent to 48 percent of all admissions from Cook 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 Cook County decreased 14 percent, from 572 to 493 (Figure 15).

Figure 15



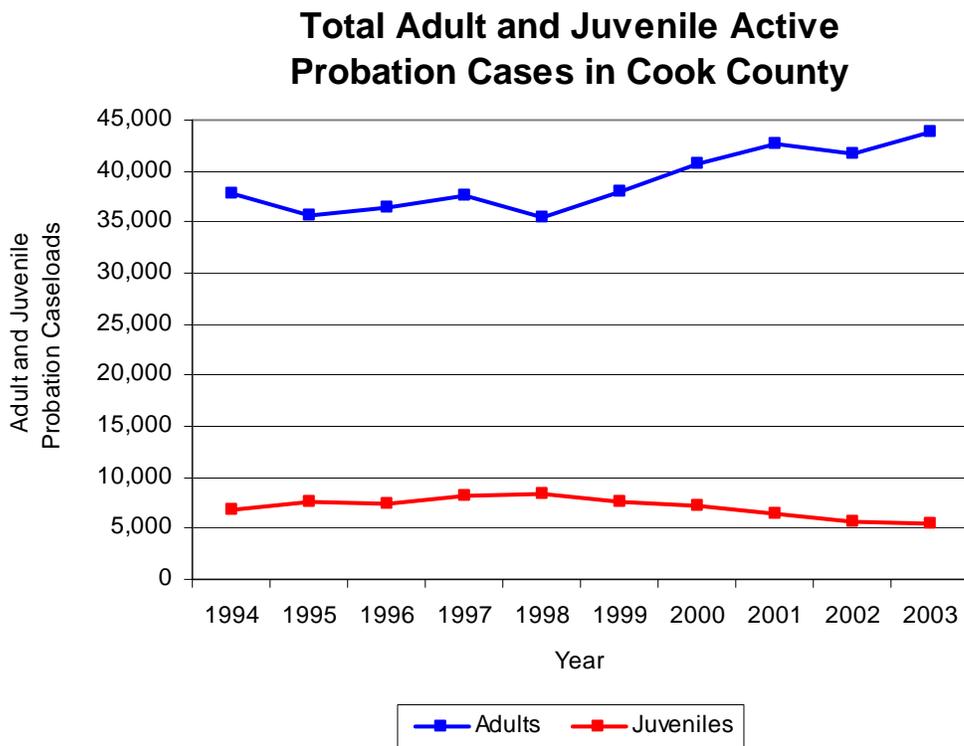
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, Cook County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 115 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 76 percent lower than the 203 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the rest of Illinois.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Cook County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Cook County increased 16 percent, from 37,706 to 43,814 (Figure 16). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 59 percent of Cook County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department decreased 19 percent, from 6,735 to 5,476. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the rest of Illinois increased 35 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 10 percent.

Figure 16



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate in Cook County increased 14 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 717 to 819 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 23 percent in the rest of Illinois, from 551 to 677 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Cook County was 21 percent higher than in the rest of the state.

IV. Jail Populations in Cook 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.

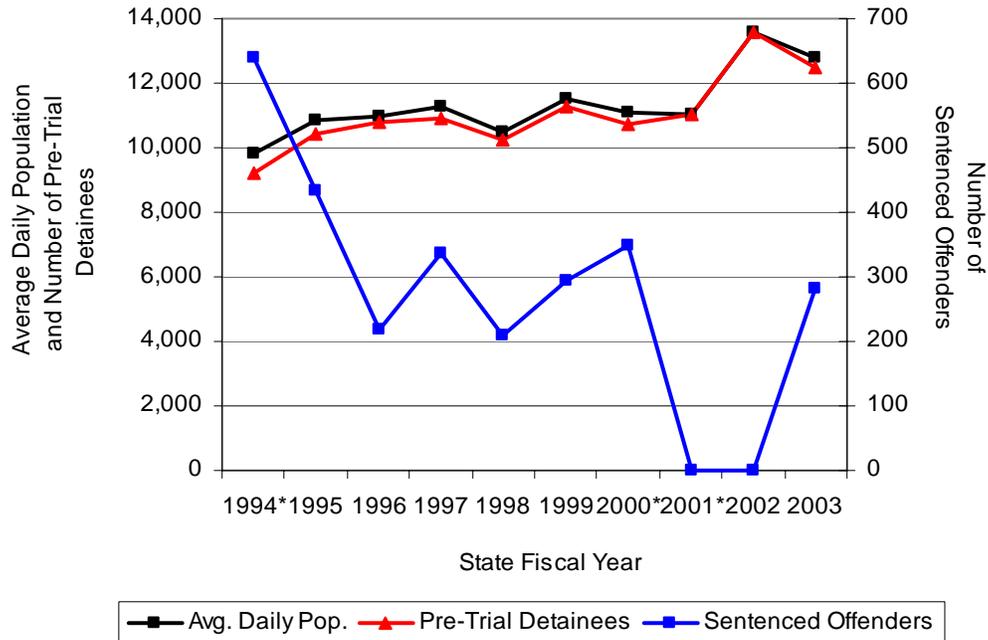
Average Daily Population of the Cook County Jail

The Cook County Jail was one of 91 county jails in operation in Illinois during State Fiscal Year 2003. There are 11 counties that do 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 Cook County Jail increased 30 percent, from 9,841 to 12,778 inmates (Figure 17). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for a relatively steady percentage of the average daily population, increasing slightly from 94 percent in 1994 to 98 percent in 2003. On the other hand, sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for a decreased percentage; 7 percent in 1994, compared to 2 percent in 2003.

Figure 17

Average Daily Population of the Cook County Jail



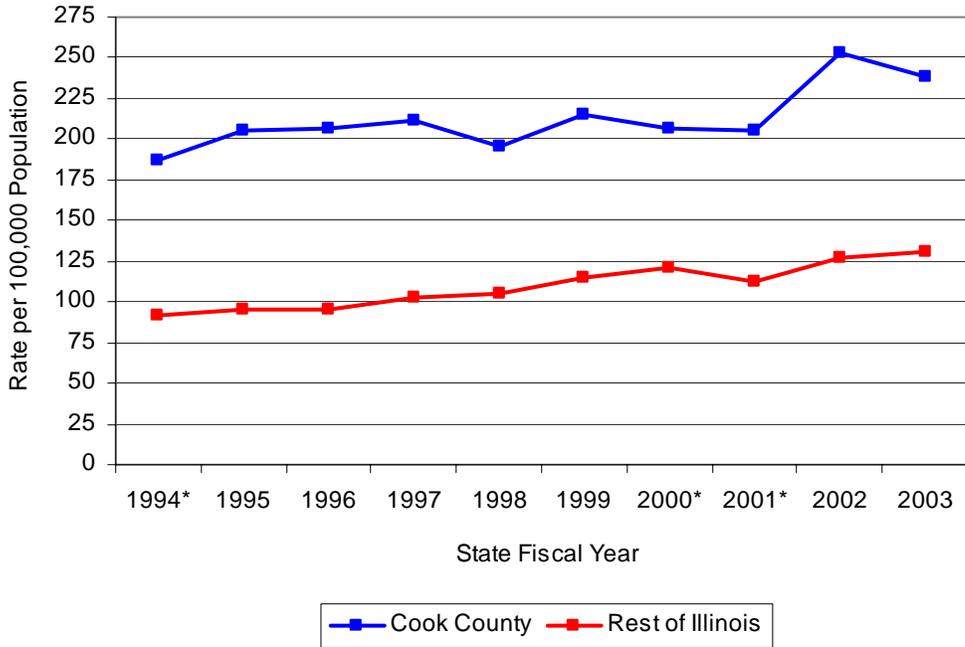
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Cook County increased 28 percent, from 187 to 239 per 100,000 population (Figure 18). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the rest of Illinois increased 42 percent, from 92 to 130 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Cook County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 83 percent higher than the rate for the rest of Illinois.

Figure 18

Average Daily Jail Population Rates, Cook and the Rest of Illinois



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

* Information estimated by ICJIA

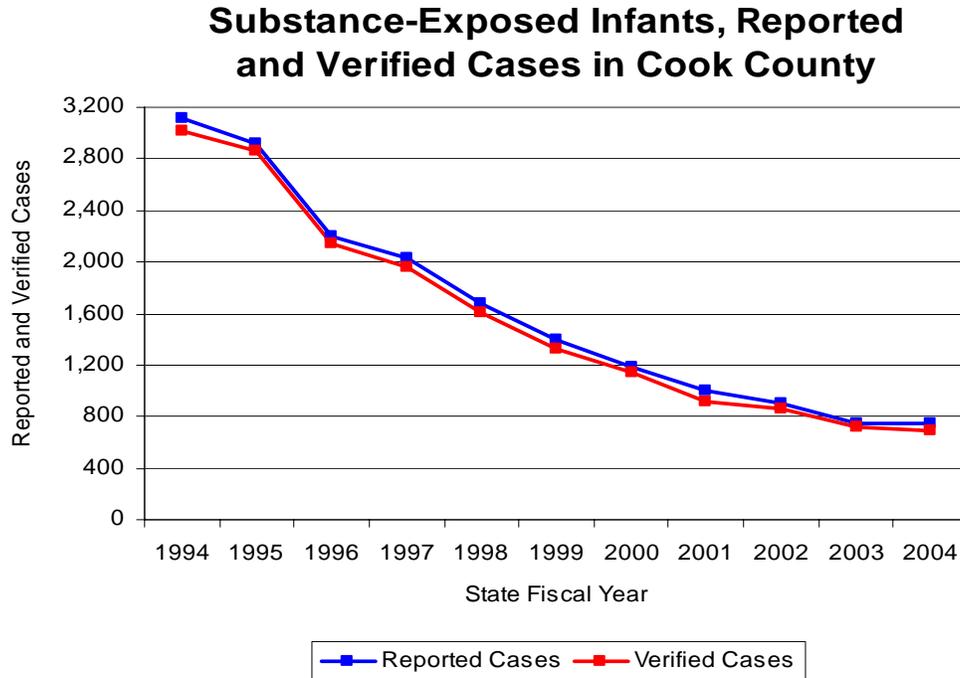
V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in Cook County

Substance-Exposed Infants in Cook 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 State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed infant.

The number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants has steadily decreased between SFYs 1994 and 2004, with an overall decrease of 76 percent. The number of reported cases decreased from 3,114 in SFY 1994 to 741 in SFY 2004 (Figure 19). During the same period, the trend in the number of verified cases nearly mirrored the reported cases of substance-exposed infants. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of verified cases decreased 77 percent, from 3,018 to 696.

Figure 19



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the rest of Illinois decreased 30 percent, from 622 to 433, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 34 percent, from 545 to 357.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Cook 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.

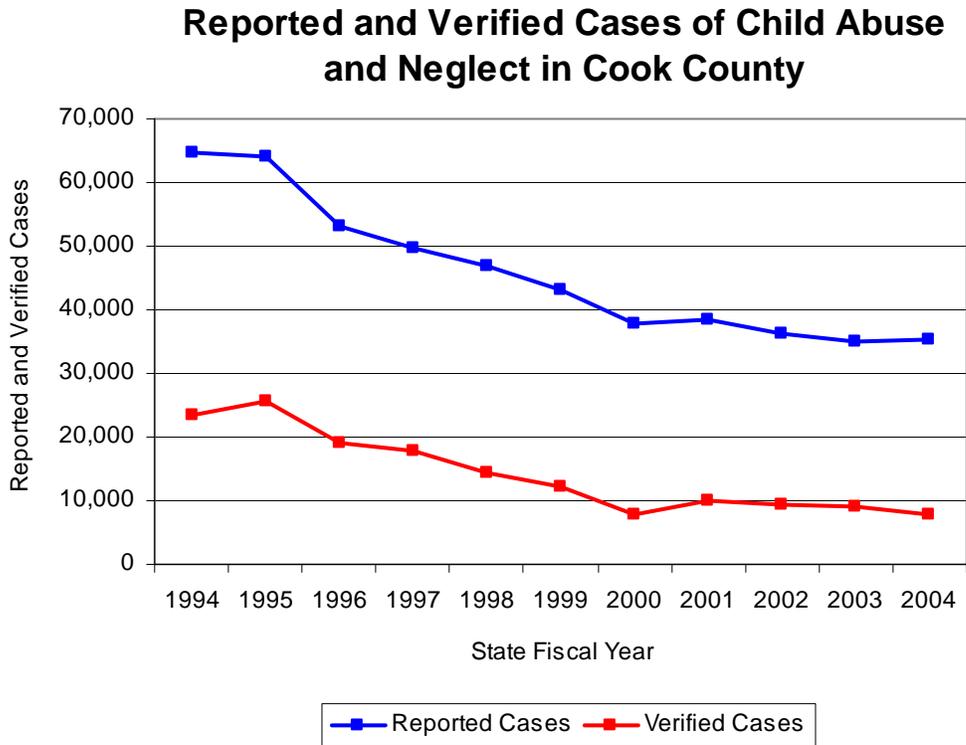
¹ Thornberry, Terence P., David Huizinga and Rolf Loeber. 2004. "The Causes and Correlates Studies: Findings and Policy Implications." *Juvenile Justice Journal*. 9:1. Washington, D.C. : U.S. Government Printing Office.

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 State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Cook County decreased 45 percent, from 64,602 to 35,442 (Figure 20). During that same period, 156,815 cases, or 31 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Cook County decreased 38 percent, from 23,312 in SFY 1994 to 7,966 in SFY 2004.

Figure 20

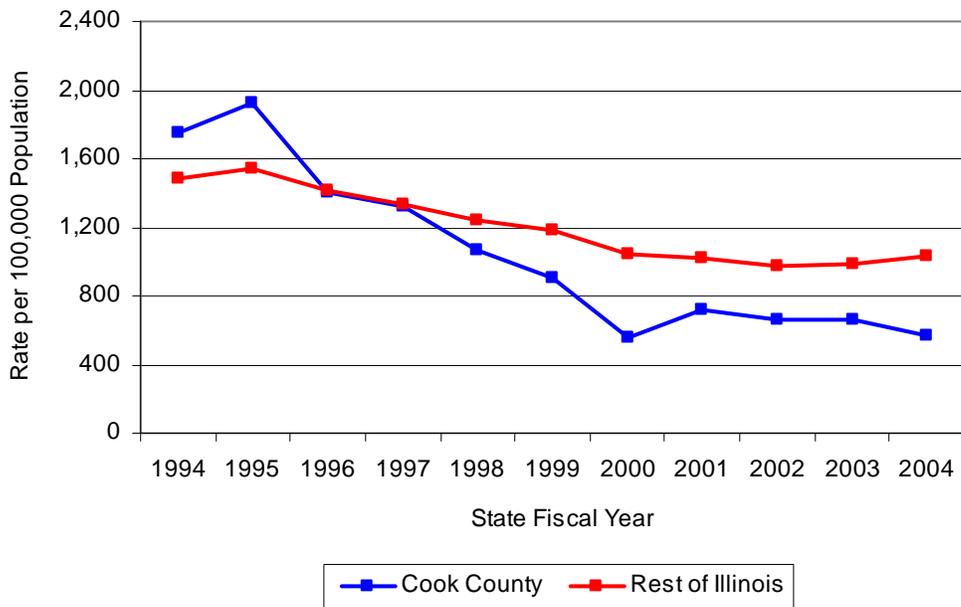


Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Cook County decreased from 1,755 to 570 per 100,000 juveniles, a 68 percent decrease (Figure 21). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 31 percent in the rest of Illinois, from 1,488 to 1,032 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Cook County was 81 percent lower than the rate for the rest of Illinois.

Figure 21

Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Cook County and the Rest of Illinois



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

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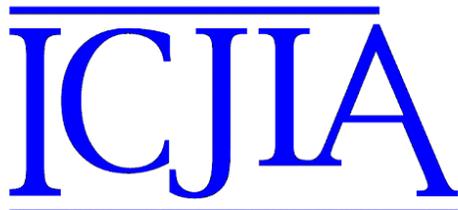
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