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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 Effingham 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

Effingham County, located in southern Illinois, covers an area of 479 square miles and had a 2003 population of 34,529, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Effingham County was the 57th largest county in Illinois geographically, but 45th largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Effingham County had the 34th highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Effingham 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 lay 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, Effingham County is one of Illinois' 66 rural counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Effingham 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 Effingham 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.

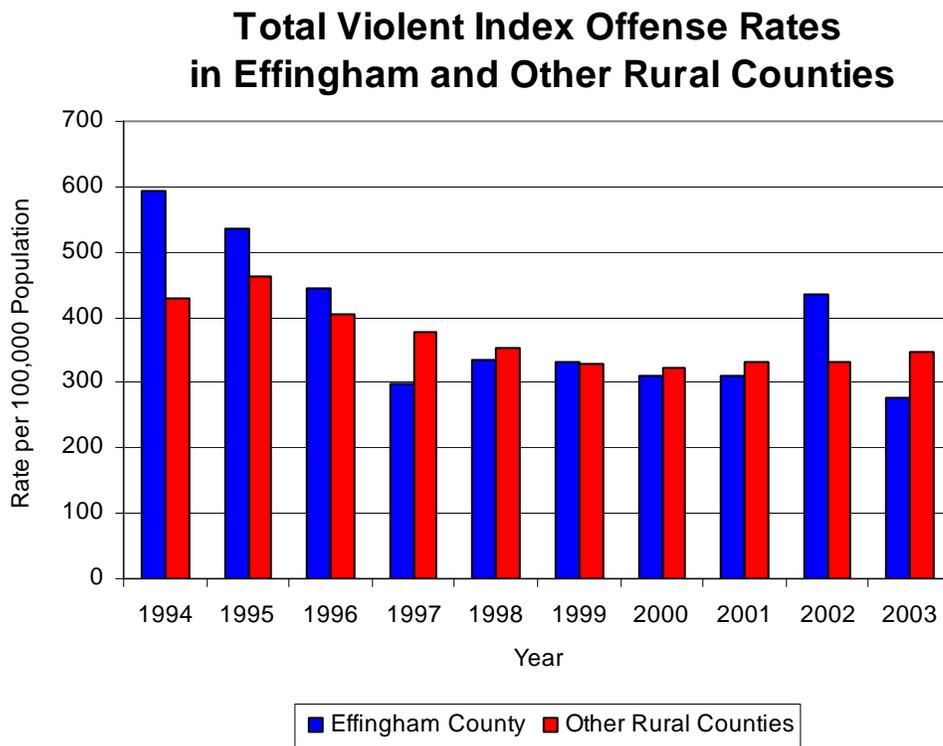
An indicator of the workload that law enforcement agencies place on other components of the justice system is the number of arrests made by police, including those for violent and property Index offenses and drug offenses. Unlike offenses, which are what police must respond to, arrests represent those 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 Effingham County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 51 percent in Effingham County between 1994 and 2003, from 195 to 96. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (84 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Effingham County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Effingham County decreased 53 percent, from 594 to 278 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). During that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 19 percent, from 430 to 347 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Effingham County was 20 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 1



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

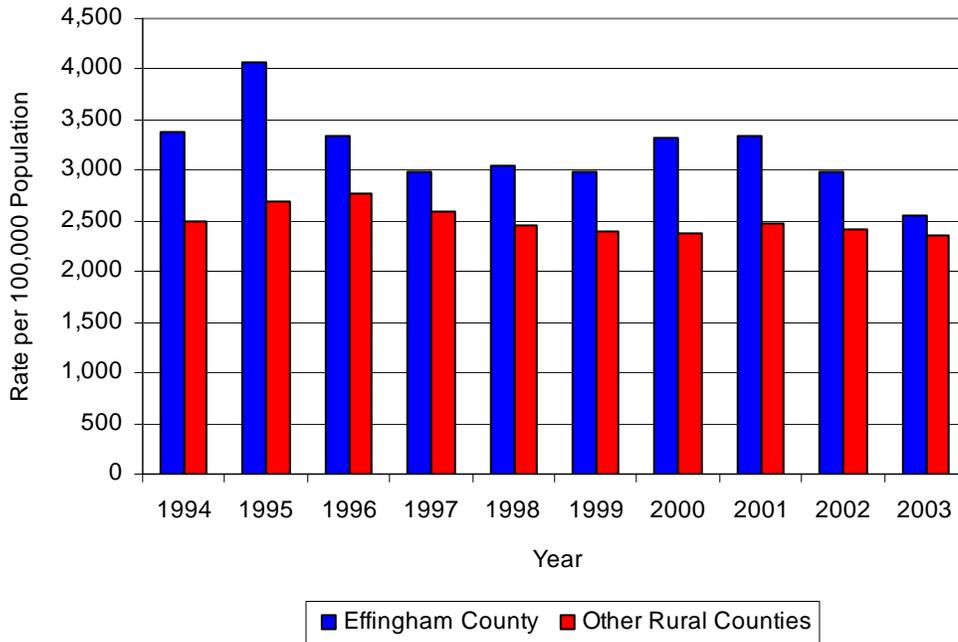
Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Effingham County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Effingham County decreased 21 percent, from 1,110 to 880. Thefts accounted for 78 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Effingham County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Effingham County decreased 25 percent, from 3,381 to 2,549 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). Similarly, the property Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 6 percent, from 2,505 to 2,358 offenses per 100,000 population. Effingham County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 8 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 2

Total Property Index Offense Rates in Effingham and Other Rural Counties



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

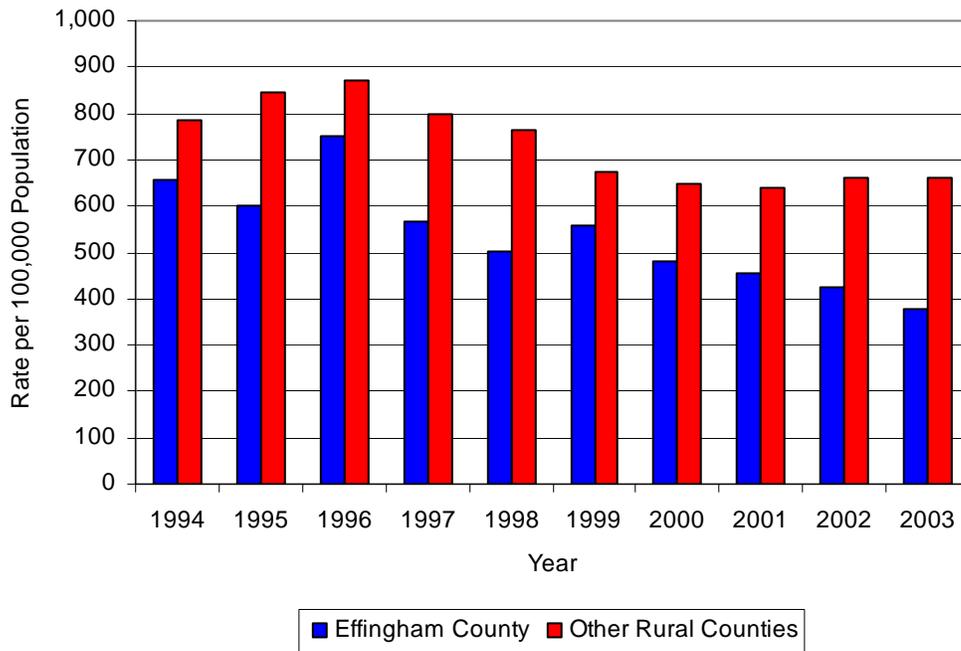
Index Arrests by Effingham County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Effingham County decreased 40 percent, from 215 to 130. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 130 Index arrests made in Effingham County during 2003, 36 percent were for violent Index crimes and 64 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Effingham County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 87 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 76 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Effingham County decreased 43 percent, from 655 to 377 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 16 percent, from 785 to 662 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Effingham County's Index arrest rate was 43 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 3

**Index Arrest Rates in Effingham
and Other Rural Counties**



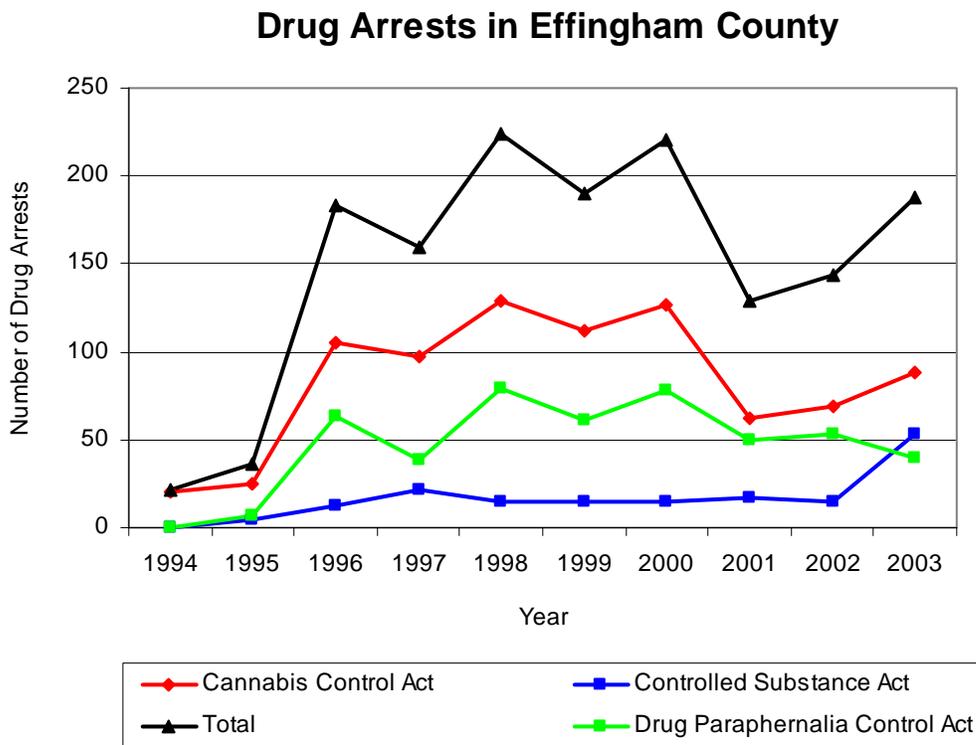
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Drug Offense Arrests in Effingham 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 nearly eight-fold in Effingham County, from 21 to 188 (Figure 4). Similar to other counties, total drug arrests in Effingham County remained relatively stable between 1983 and the early 1990s, before jumping to 183 in 1996. Cannabis Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests.

During the period analyzed, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Effingham 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 Effingham County increased more than three-fold, from 20 to 88. Drug Paraphernalia Control Act (DPCA) violations also increased significantly, increasing from zero in 1994 to 40 in 2003. DPCA arrests accounted for 21 percent of all drug arrests in 2003. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act also increased in Effingham County, increasing from zero to 53, during the same period (Figure 4).

Figure 4

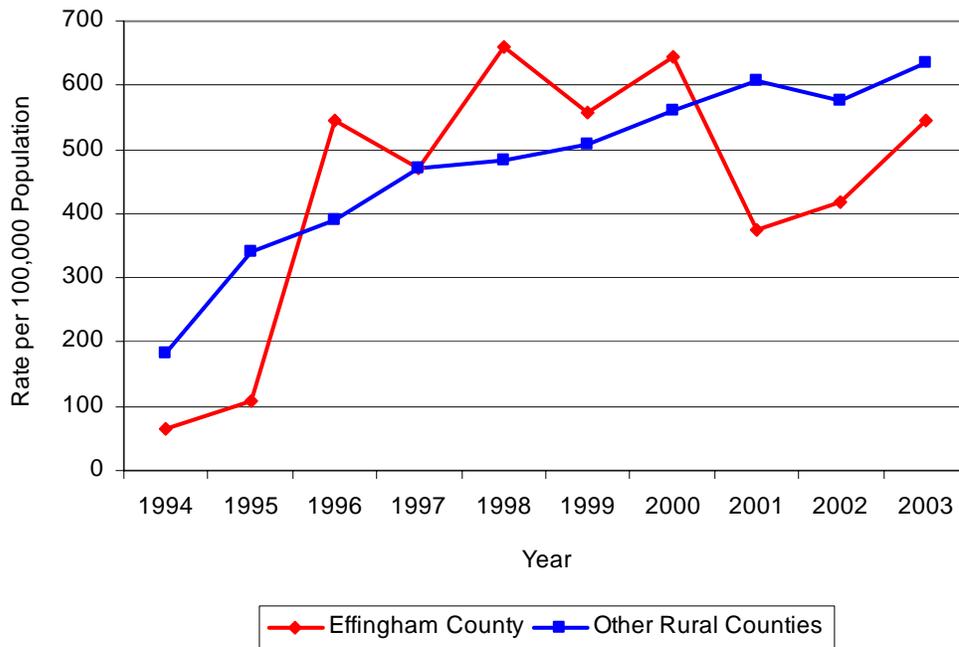


Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Effingham County also increased dramatically, from 64 to 544 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other rural counties tripled between 1994 and 2003, from 183 to 634 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Effingham County was 14 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 5

Drug Arrest Rates in Effingham and Other Rural Counties



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

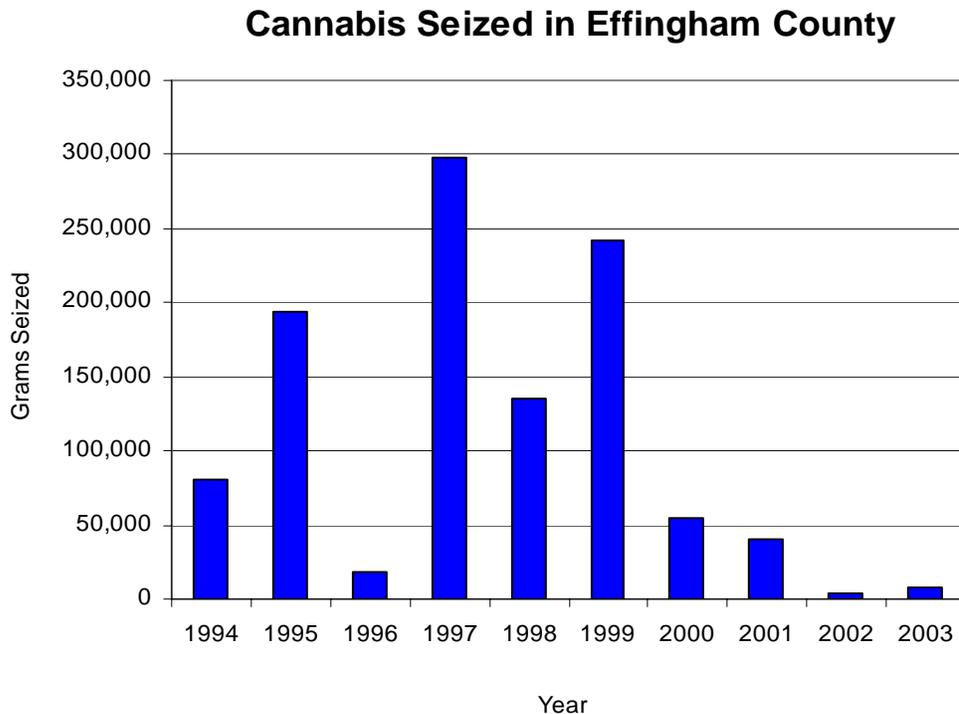
Drugs Seized in Effingham County

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 Effingham County.

Cannabis Seized in Effingham County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Effingham 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 Effingham County decreased 90 percent, from 81,217 grams to 8,328 grams, while reaching a period high of 298,286 grams seized in 1997 (Figure 6).

Figure 6



Source: Illinois State Police

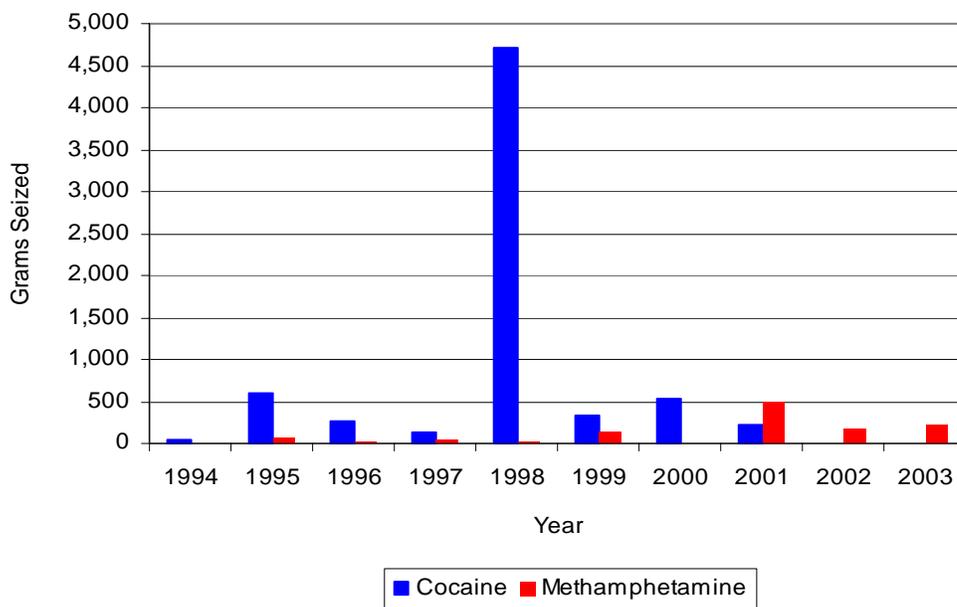
Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other rural counties decreased 50 percent, from 526,932 grams to 264,316 grams. In 2003, Effingham County had a cannabis seizure rate of 24,117 grams per 100,000 population, 51 percent higher than the rate of 15,959 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

Cocaine and Methamphetamine Seized in Effingham County

Similar to cannabis seizures, the quantity of cocaine seized in Effingham County, which includes both powder and crack cocaine, decreased 80 percent, from 36 grams in 1994 to seven grams in 2003 (Figure 7). Crack cocaine accounted for a relatively small portion (9 percent) of all cocaine seized between 1994 and 2003 in Effingham County. Methamphetamine, on the other hand, increased dramatically in Effingham County, from five grams seized in 1994 to 227 grams in 2003 (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Cocaine* and Methamphetamine Seized in Effingham County



Source: Illinois State Police

*Cocaine includes both powder and crack cocaine.

The quantity of cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased 79 percent between 1994 and 2003. During the period analyzed, the amount of cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased 79 percent, from 71,243 grams to 15,163 grams. Crack cocaine comprised less than 1 percent of cocaine seizures between 1994 and 2003. Contrary to the trend in cocaine seizures, methamphetamine seizures in the other rural counties increased significantly, from 2,614 grams in 1994 to 12,990 grams in 2003. In 2003, Effingham County had a cocaine seizure rate of 20 grams per 100,000 population, compared to a rate of 916 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties. In addition, Effingham County had a methamphetamine seizure rate of 659 grams per 100,000 population, 16 percent less than the rate of 784 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Effingham 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.

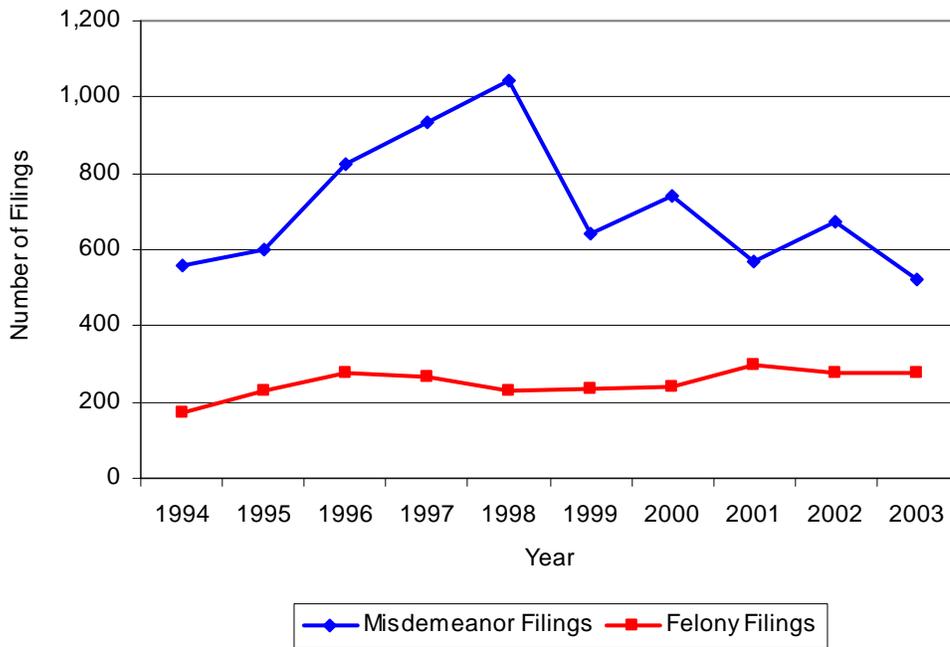
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Effingham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

Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Effingham 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 7 percent of all filings in Effingham County's courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Effingham County increased 58 percent, from 174 to 275 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 6 percent, from 558 in 1994 to 524 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by nearly two to one.

Figure 8
Felony and Misdemeanor
Filings in Effingham County

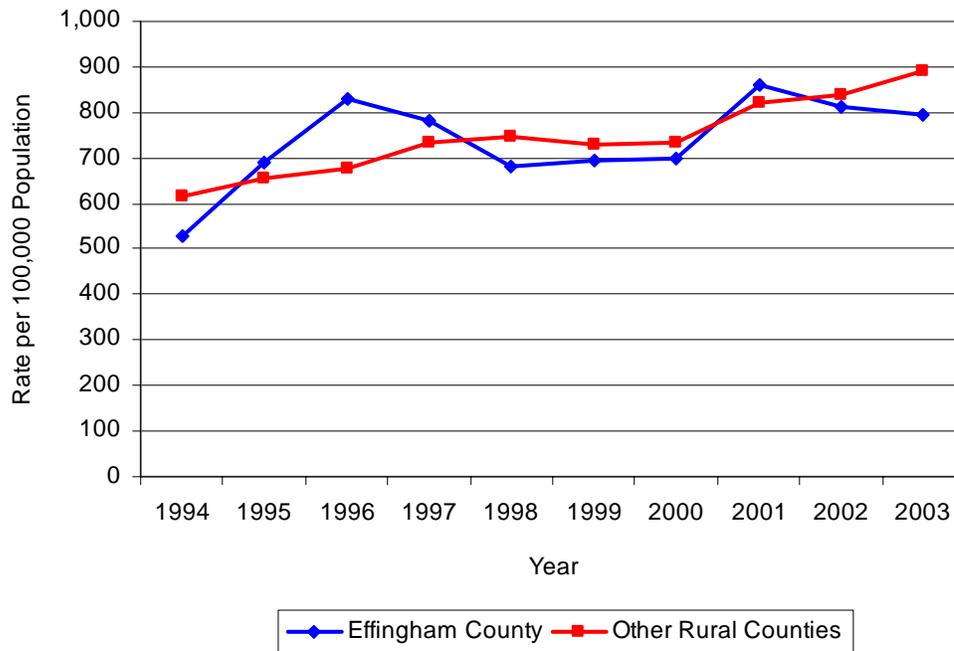


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Effingham County increased 50 percent, from 530 to 796 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). Similarly, the felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 45 percent during this period, from 616 to 891 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Effingham County was 11 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 9

Felony Filing Rates in Effingham and Other Rural Counties



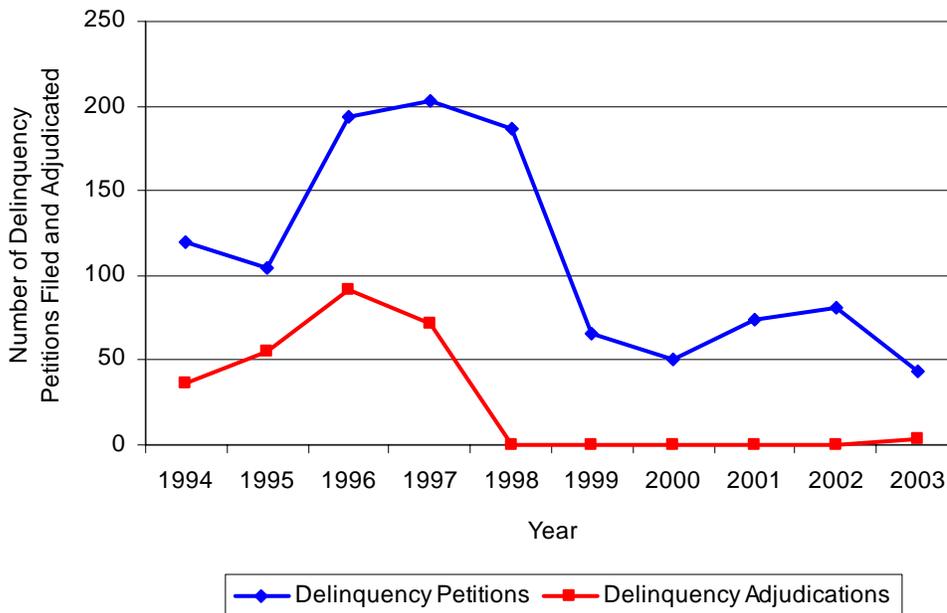
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 Effingham County decreased 64 percent, from 120 to 43 (Figure 10). In 2003, 7 percent of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications decreased 92 percent, from 36 to three.

Figure 10

Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Effingham County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

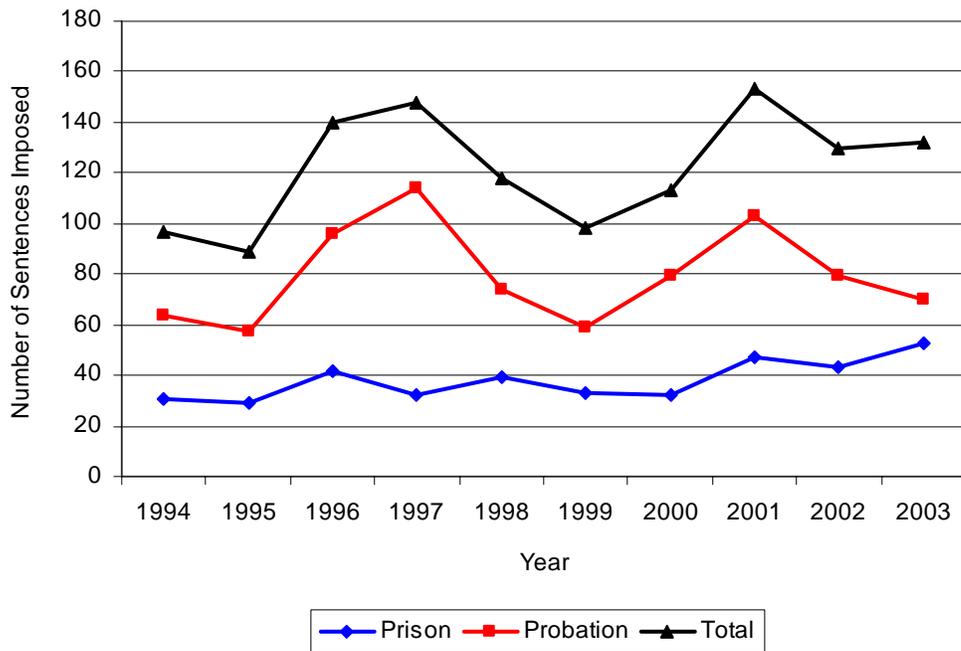
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Effingham County decreased 67 percent, from 3,268 to 1,073 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 16 percent, from 1,984 to 2,295 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties was more than twice as high as the rate in Effingham County.

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 Effingham County increased 36 percent, from 97 to 132 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to either probation or prison increased during the period. The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation increased 9 percent, from 64 to 70, while the number of prison sentences increased 71 percent, from 31 to 53. Despite this increase, felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 66 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 53 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison from 32 percent to 40 percent. In 2003, 7 percent of convicted felons in Effingham County were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

Figure 11

**Sentences Imposed on Felons
Convicted in Effingham County**



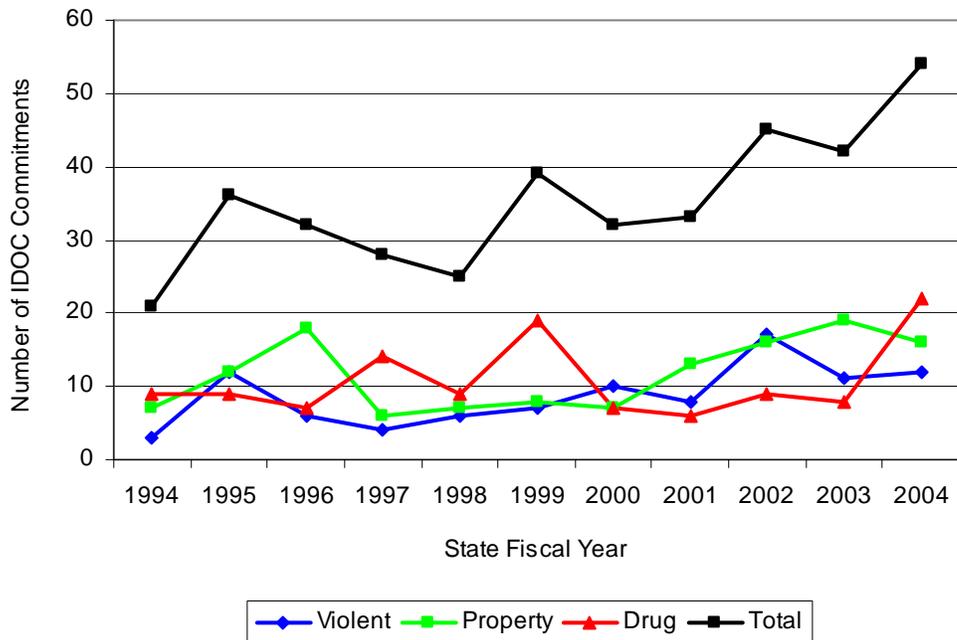
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from Effingham County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Effingham County more than doubled, from 21 to 54 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent, property, and drug offender admissions increased. The number of violent offender admissions increased from three to twelve, while the number of both property and drug offenders admitted more than doubled, from seven to 16 and nine to 22, respectively.

Figure 12

IDOC New Court Commitment from Effingham County, by Offense Type



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

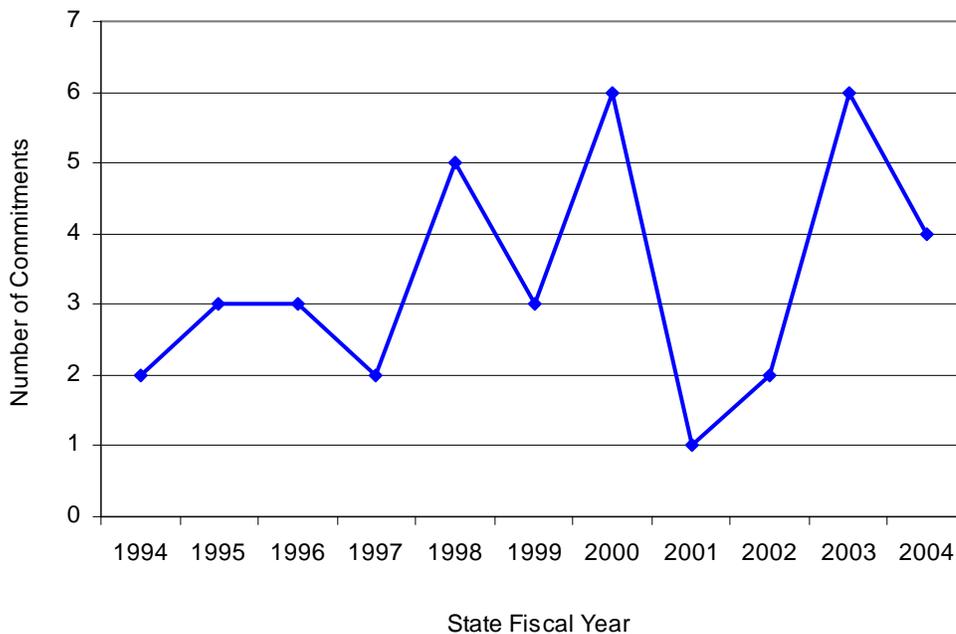
In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 22 percent of all admissions from Effingham County, compared to 14 percent in 1994, while the proportion accounted for by property offenders decreased from 33 percent in SFY 1994 to 30 percent in SFY 2004. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, drug offenders decreased from 43 percent to 41 percent of all admissions from Effingham 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, there were 37 court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Effingham County.

Figure 13

Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from Effingham County



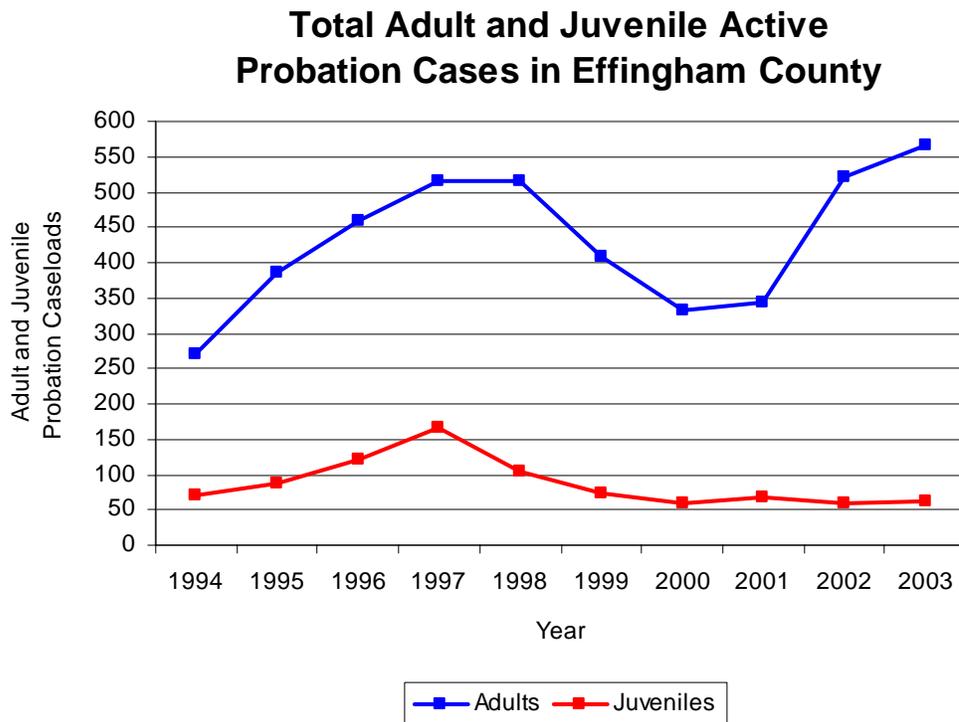
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, Effingham County's rate of 122 commitments per 100,000 juveniles to the IDOC's Juvenile Division was 47 percent lower than the commitment rate of 232 commitments per 100,000 juveniles in the other rural counties.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Effingham County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Effingham County more than doubled, from 270 to 566 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 23 percent of Effingham County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Effingham County Juvenile Probation Department decreased 14 percent, from 71 to 61. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other rural counties increased 37 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 1 percent.

Figure 14



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Effingham County nearly doubled between 1994 and 2003, from 822 to 1,639 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 39 percent in the other rural counties, from 743 to 1,031 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Effingham County was 59 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

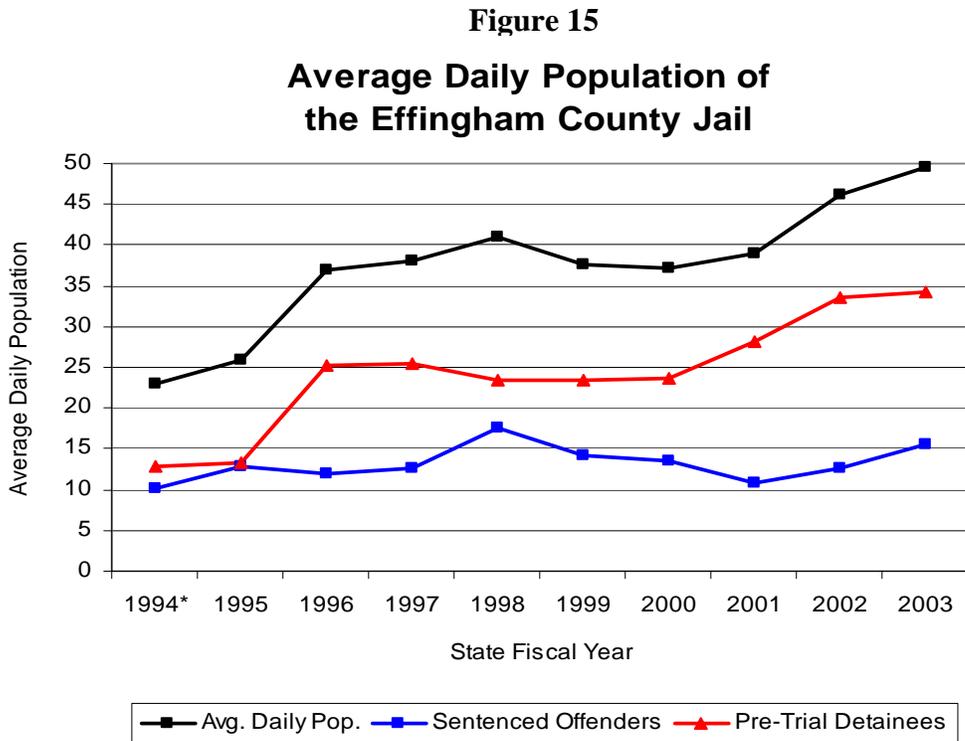
IV. Jail Populations in Effingham County

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 State Fiscal Years (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 SFY 1991 and SFY 1995 data.

Average Daily Population of the Effingham County Jail

The Effingham County Jail was one of 91 county jails in operation in Illinois during SFY 2003. There were 11 counties that did not operate a jail of their own; they relied 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 Effingham County Jail more than doubled, from 23 to 50 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, increasing from 56 percent in SFY 1994 to 69 percent in SFY 2003. Sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for a decreased percentage, decreasing from 44 percent in SFY 1994 to 31 percent in SFY 2003.

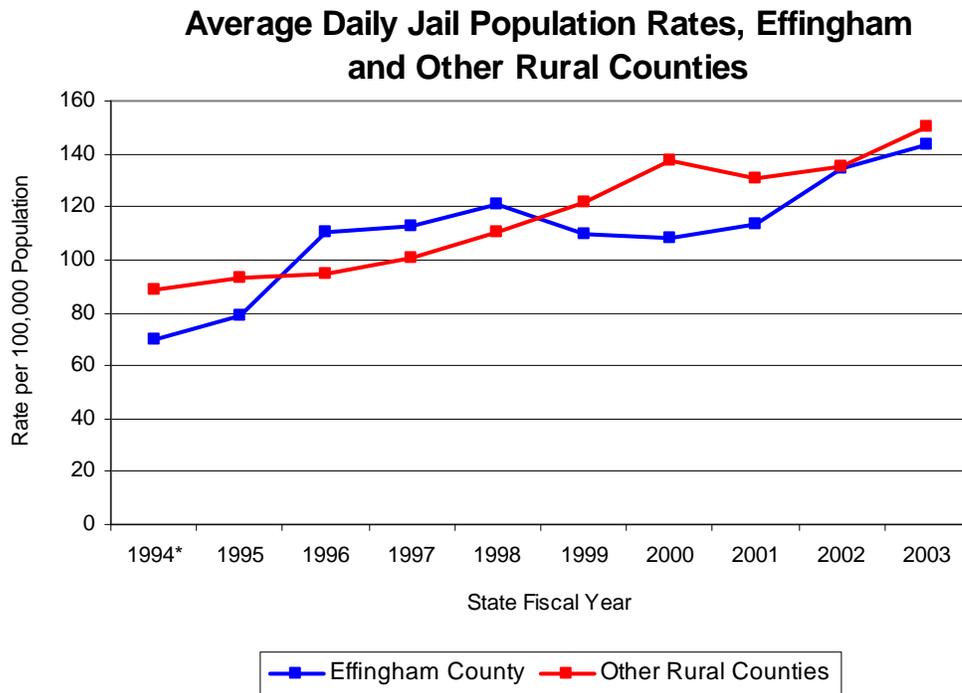


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Effingham County also more than doubled, from 70 to 144 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other rural counties increased 70 percent, from 88 to 150 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Effingham County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 5 percent lower 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 Effingham County

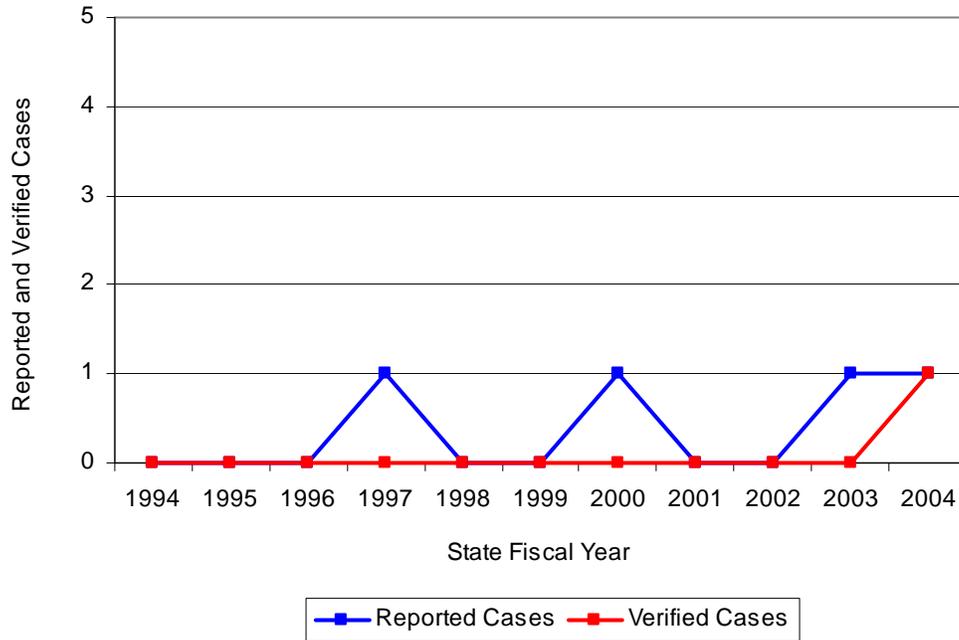
Substance-Exposed Infants in Effingham County

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 (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed infant.

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, there were four cases of a substance-exposed infant reported in Effingham County, only one of which was verified. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 22 percent, from 83 to 101, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants increased 41 percent, from 44 to 62.

Figure 17

Substance-Exposed Infants, Reported and Verified Cases in Effingham County



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Effingham 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.

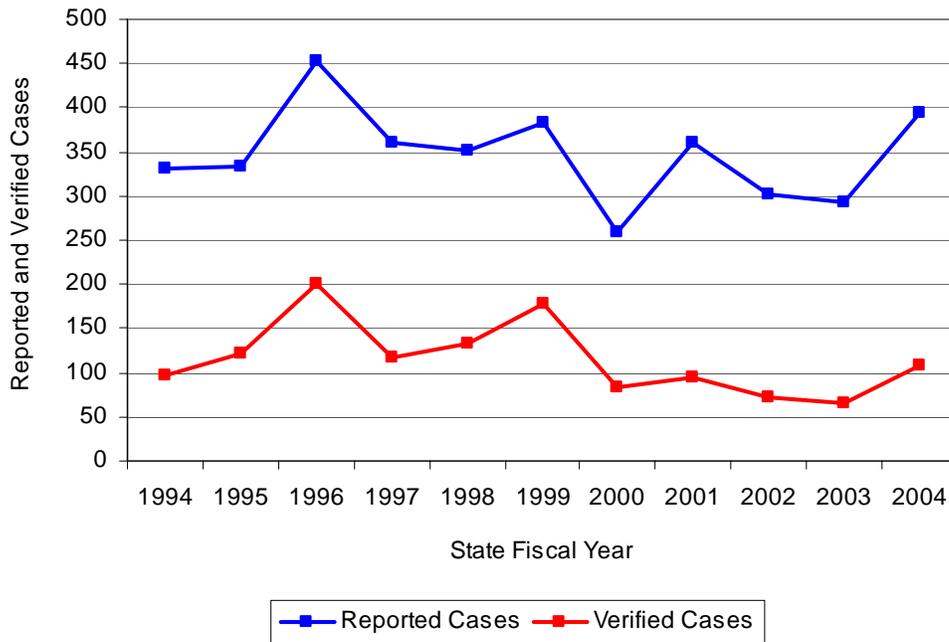
² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. "In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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 (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Effingham County increased 19 percent, from 331 to 395 (Figure 18). During that same period, 1,270 cases, or 33 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Effingham County increased 13 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 96 to 108.

Figure 18

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

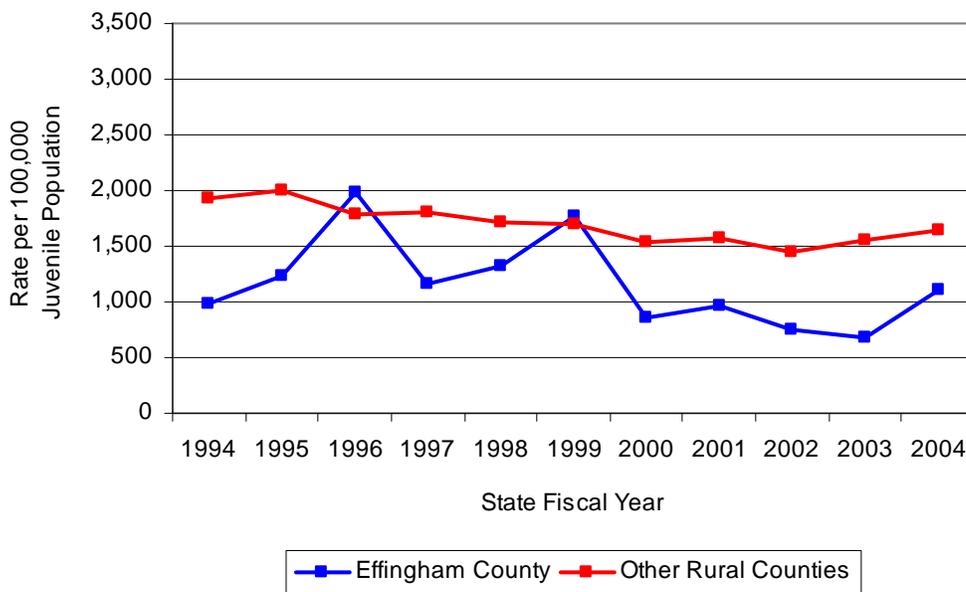


Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Effingham County increased from 977 to 1,104 per 100,000 juveniles, a 13 percent increase (Figure 17). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 15 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,931 to 1,648 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Effingham County was 33 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 19

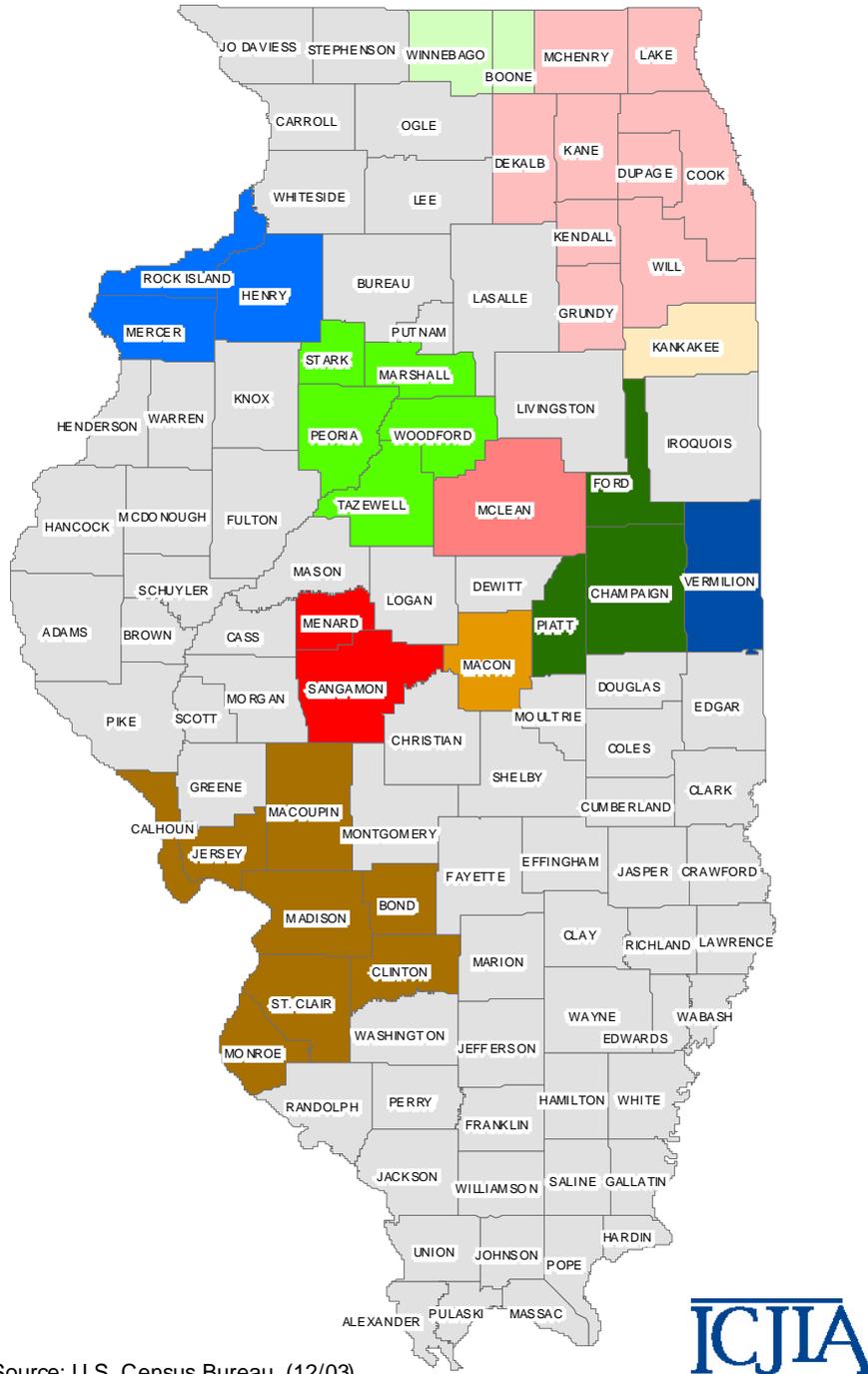
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Effingham and All Other Rural Counties



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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