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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 Henderson 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

Henderson County, located in western Illinois, covers an area of 379 square miles and had a 2003 population of 8,073, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Henderson County was the 24th smallest county in Illinois geographically, but 12th smallest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Henderson County had the 8th lowest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Henderson 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 26). 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, Henderson County is one of Illinois' 66 rural counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Henderson 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 Henderson 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 Henderson County. Throughout most of the period analyzed, there were 21 Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and task forces operating in Illinois. A county is considered to be served by a MEG or task force if at least one law enforcement agency within that county participated in that MEG or task force either by providing personnel or financial resources.

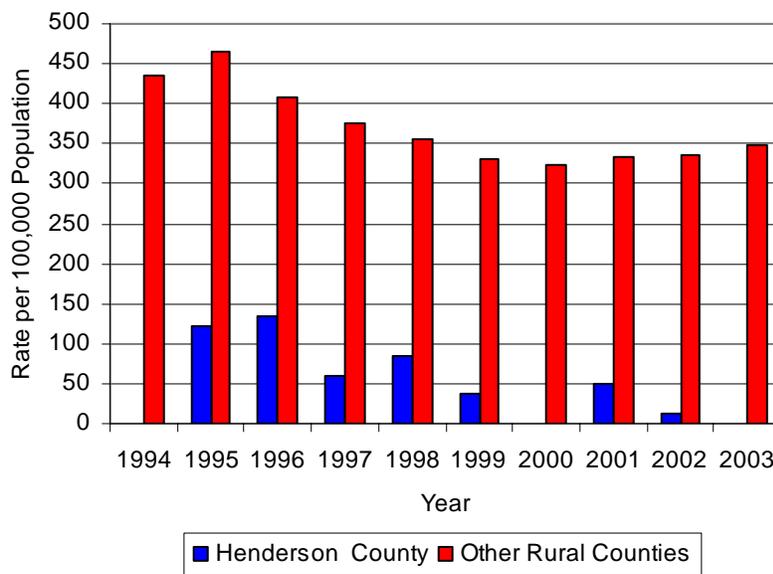
To learn more about the drug enforcement activities of the West Central Illinois Task Force and Illinois' other MEGs and task forces, profiles of each of the units were developed by the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit and are available through the Authority's Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse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

Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Henderson County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police remained the same at zero in Henderson County in both 1994 and 2003. In 1996, a period high of 11 violent Index offenses were reported in Henderson County. Aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority of violent Index offenses in most other counties and in most years prior to 2003 in Henderson County.

In 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Henderson County remained at zero offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). During that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 20 percent, from 435 to 348 offenses per 100,000 population.

Figure 1
Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Henderson and Other Rural Counties



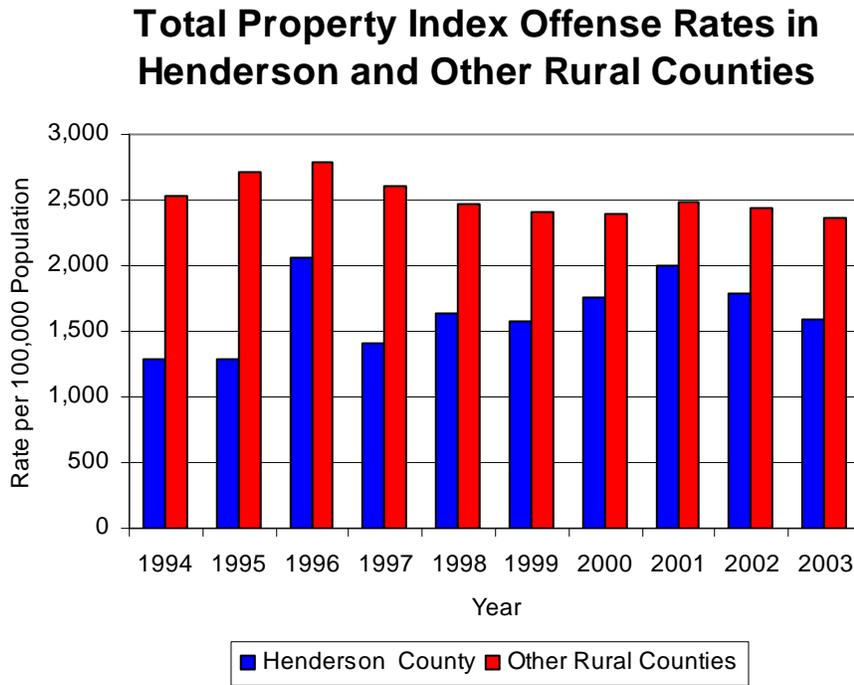
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Henderson County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Henderson County increased 23 percent, from 105 to 129. Thefts accounted for 75 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Henderson County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Henderson County also increased 23 percent, from 1,295 to 1,598 (Figure 2). The property Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 6 percent, from 2,528 to 2,366 offenses per 100,000 population. Henderson County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 32 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 2



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

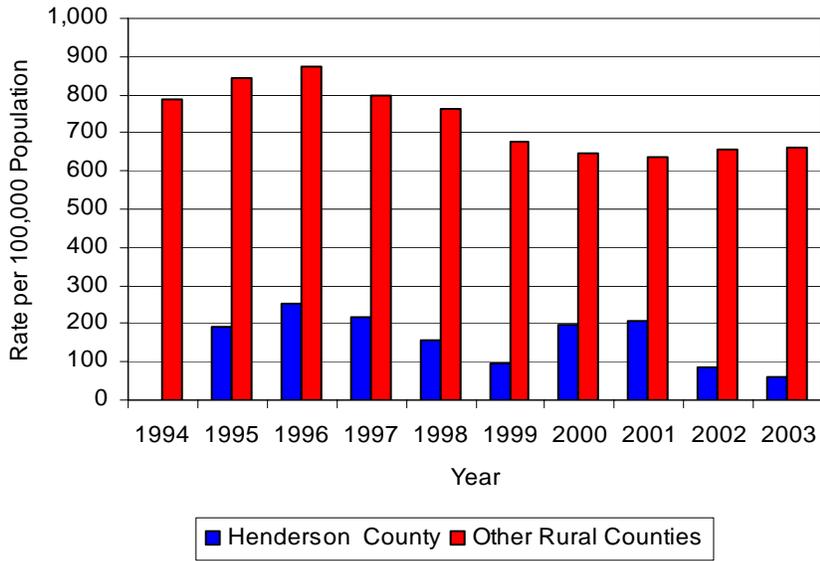
Index Arrests by Henderson County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Henderson County increased from zero to five. Unlike most other counties, each of the five arrests made in Henderson County in 2003 were for property Index offenses. Arrests for burglary accounted for two of the five arrests, and theft accounted for three of the arrests made in Henderson County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Henderson County increased from zero to 62 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 16 percent, from 786 to 659 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Henderson County's Index arrest rate was 91 percent lower than the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 3

Index Arrest Rates in Henderson and Other Rural Counties



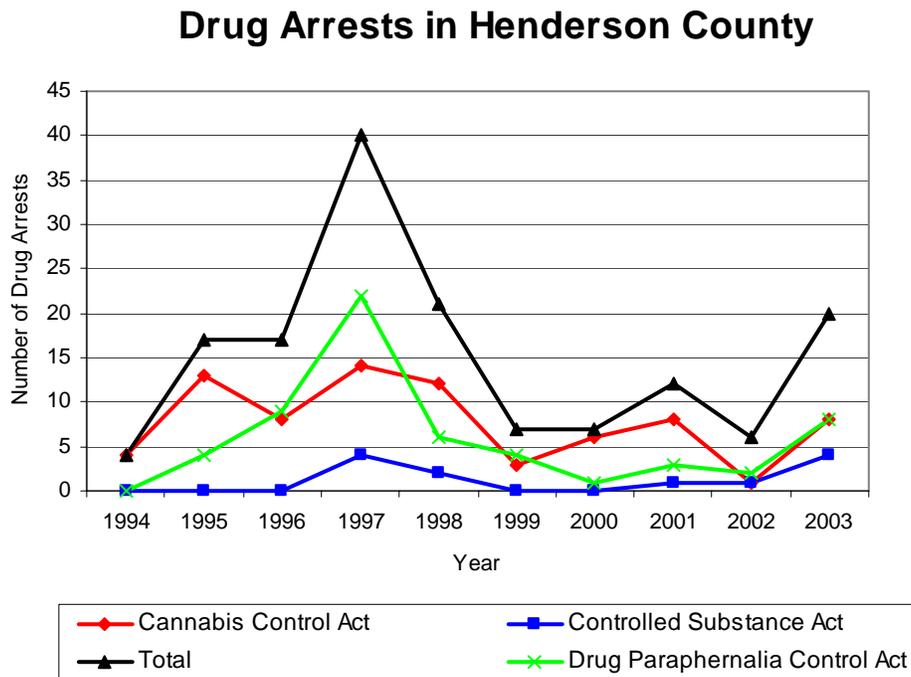
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Drug Offense Arrests in Henderson 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 four-fold in Henderson County, from four to 20 (Figure 4). Similar to other counties, total drug arrests in Henderson County remained relatively stable between 1994 and 2003, except for a dramatic increase in drug arrests in 1997. Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests, increasing from zero arrests in 1994 to eight in 2003, and accounted for the spike in drug arrests in 1997. Forty percent of all drugs arrests in 2003 were arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, and Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for 55 percent of total drug arrests in 1997.

Arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Henderson 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 Henderson County doubled, from four to eight. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased from zero to four in Henderson County during the same period (Figure 4).

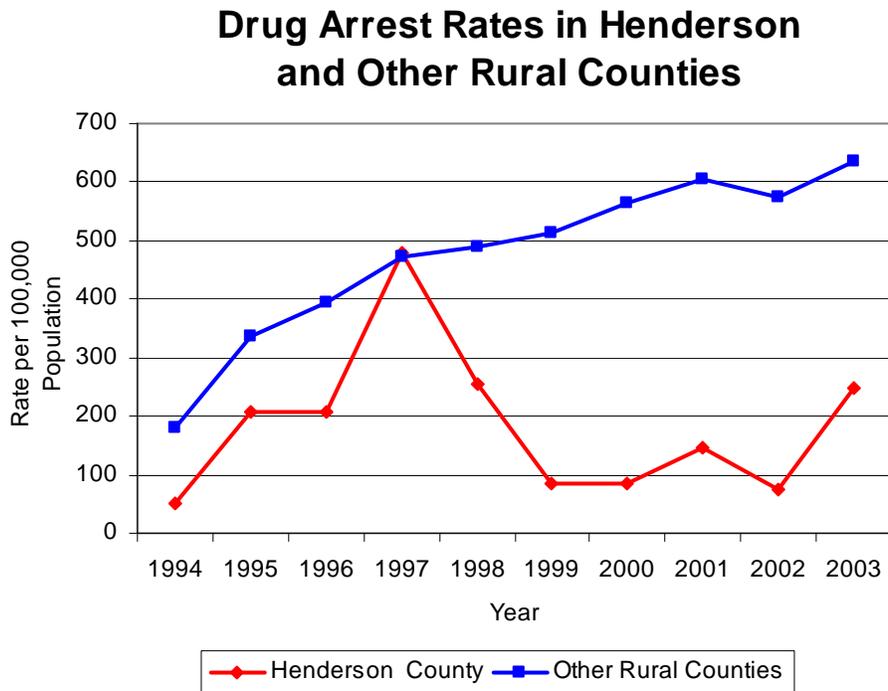
Figure 4



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Henderson County increased more than four-fold, from 49 to 248 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 634 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Henderson County was 61 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 5



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

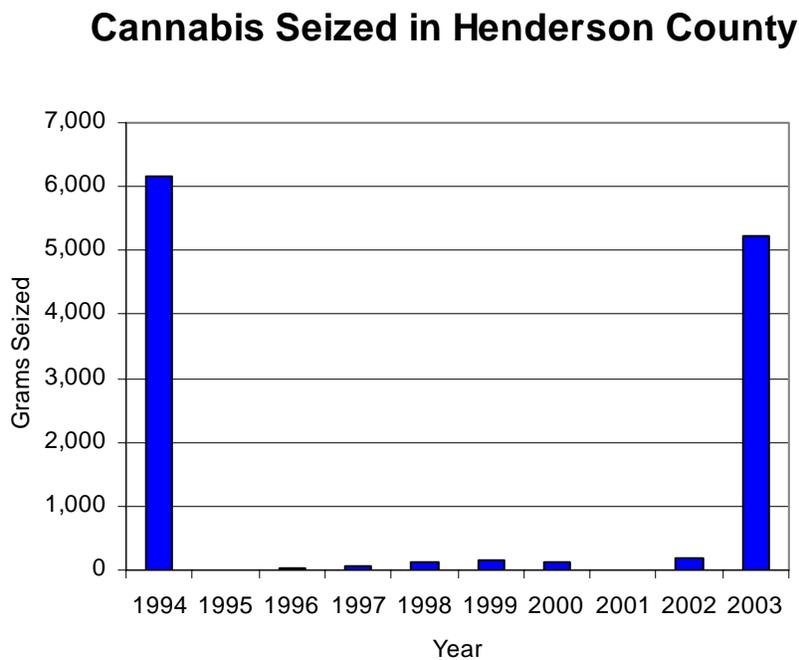
Drugs Seized in Henderson County

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 Henderson County.

Cannabis Seized in Henderson County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Henderson 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 Henderson County decreased 15 percent, from 6,165 grams to 5,217 grams (Figure 6).

Figure 6



Source: Illinois State Police

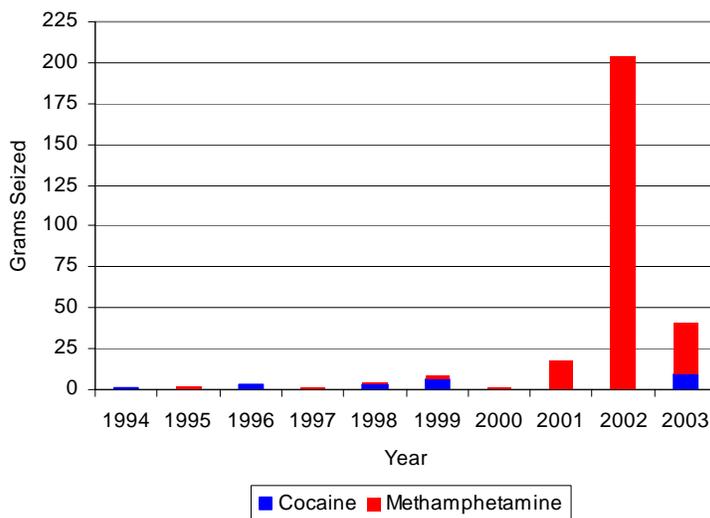
During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other rural counties decreased 56 percent, from 601,984 grams to 267,426 grams. In 2003, Henderson County had a cannabis seizure rate of 64,625 grams per 100,000 population, compared to a rate of 15,893 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

Cocaine and Methamphetamine Seized in Henderson County

During the past decade, it is clear that methamphetamine “activity” in the state has increased drastically 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.

The quantity of methamphetamine and cocaine (which includes both powder and crack cocaine), seized in Henderson County was limited between 1994 and 2003. Cocaine seizures in Henderson County reached a period high of nine grams in 2003, and the quantity of cocaine seized in Henderson County increased from less than one gram (0.6 grams) in 1994 to nine grams in 2003. Crack seizures comprised 26 percent of cocaine seizures in Henderson County between 1994 and 2003, a higher percentage than many other counties in Illinois. Methamphetamine seizures in Henderson County increased from less than one gram (0.4 grams) in 1994 to 31 grams in 2003, with a period high of 204 grams seized in 2002 (Figure 7).

Figure 7
Cocaine* and Methamphetamine
Seized in Henderson County



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

The quantity of cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased during the period analyzed, while the quantity of methamphetamine seized increased dramatically. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of cocaine seized decreased 79 percent in the other rural counties, from 71,278 grams to 15,161 grams, while the quantity of methamphetamine seized increased from 2,618 grams to 13,186 grams. In 2003, 937 grams of cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in the other

rural counties, compared to 15 grams seized per 100,000 population in Henderson County, while 389 grams of methamphetamine per 100,000 population were seized in Henderson County, compared to 784 grams per 100,000 population seized in the other rural counties.

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Henderson 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 Henderson County and the other rural counties.

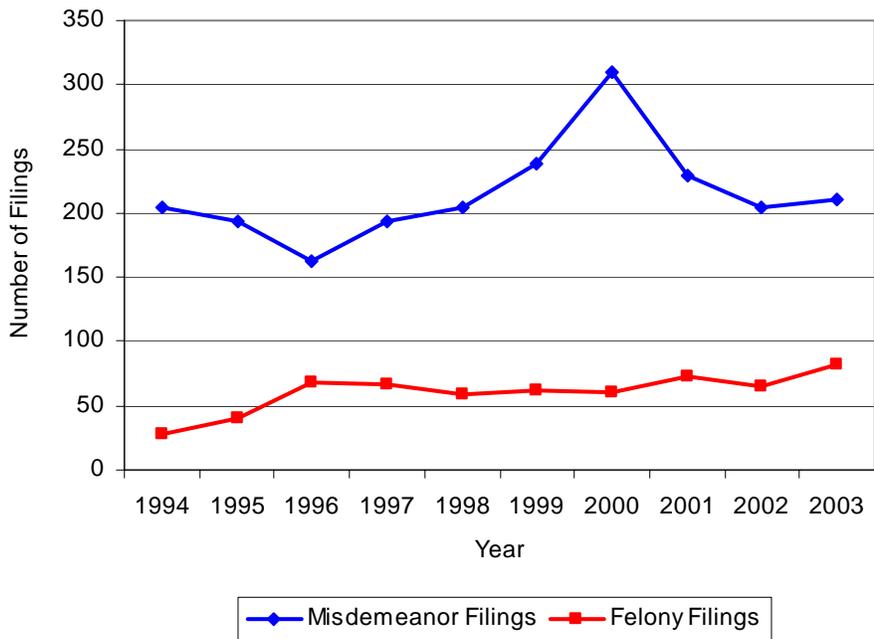
Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Henderson County

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 14 percent of all filings in Henderson County's courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Henderson County nearly tripled, from 28 to 82 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings increased 3 percent, from 205 in 1994 to 211 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by more than two to one.

Figure 8

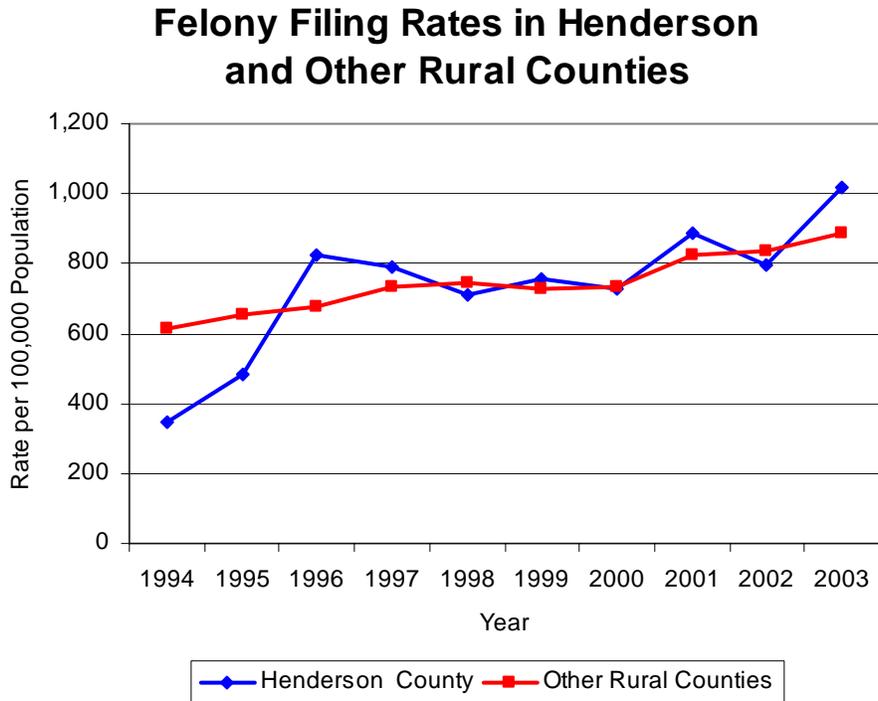
Felony and Misdemeanor Filings in Henderson County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Henderson County nearly tripled, from 345 to 1016 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 44 percent during this period, from 616 to 888 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Henderson County was 14 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 9



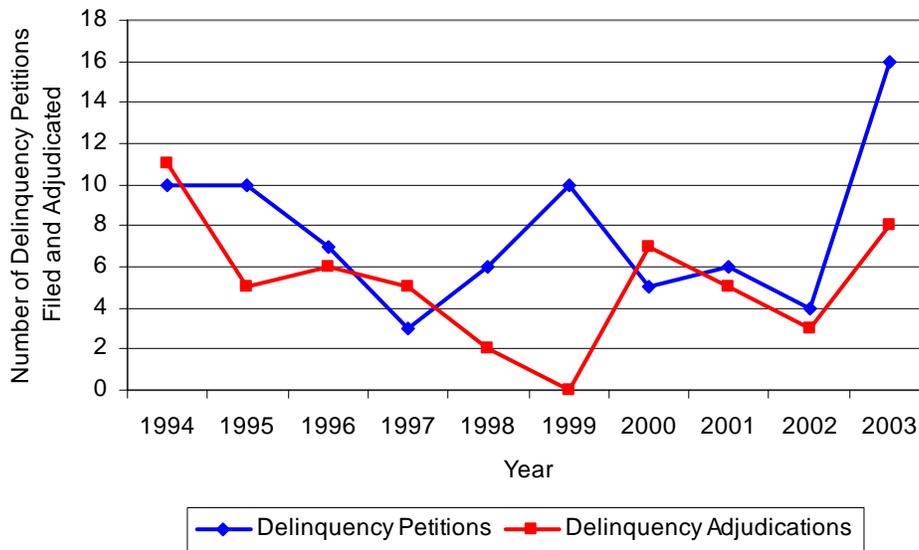
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 Henderson County increased 60 percent, from ten in 1994 to 16 in 2003 (Figure 10). In 2003, eight of the 16 juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications decreased 27 percent, from 11 to eight. The majority of cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

Figure 10

Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Henderson County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

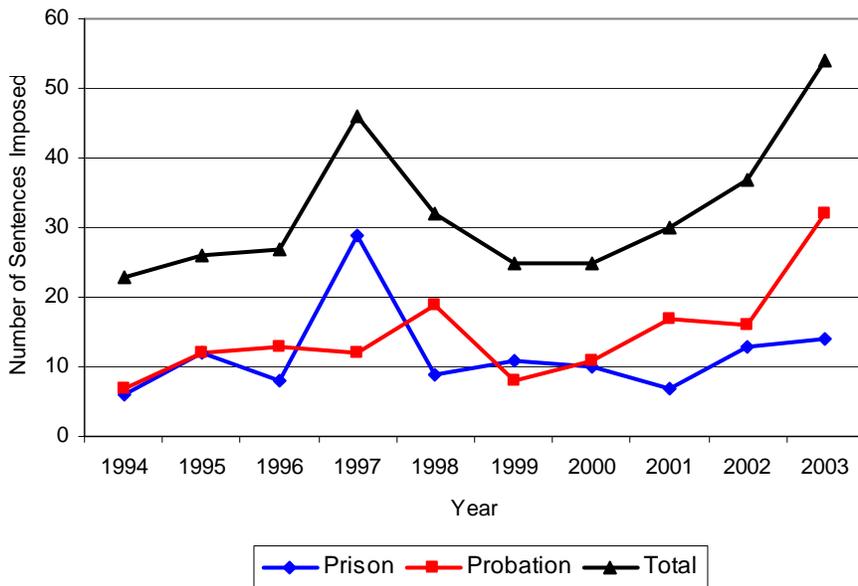
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Henderson County increased 75 percent, from 1,134 to 1,988 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 12 percent, from 2,016 to 2,268 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Henderson County was 12 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 Henderson County more than doubled, from 23 to 54 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period increased dramatically, from seven to 32, while the number of felony prison sentences more than doubled from six in 1994 to 14 in 2003. However, the proportion of total sentences accounted for by felony prison sentences remained unchanged at 26 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the proportion of felony probation sentences increased from 30 percent in 1994, to 59 percent in 2003. In 2003, 15 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

Figure 11

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Henderson County

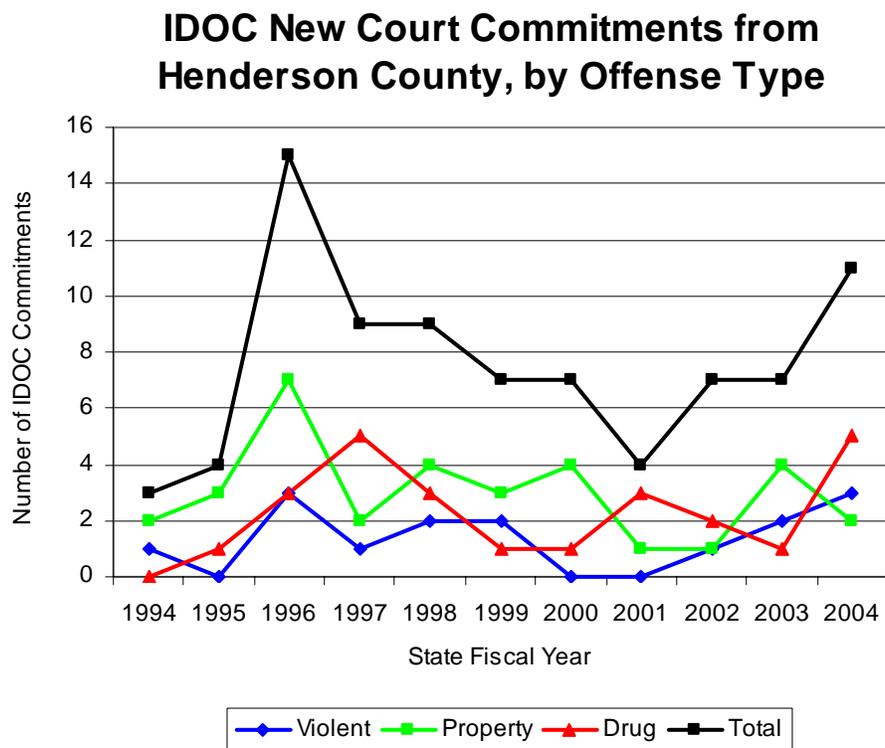


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Commitments from Henderson County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of commitments to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Henderson County increased from three to 11 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of commitments for violent and drug crimes increased, while the number of commitments for property crimes remained unchanged. The number of violent offender commitments increased from one in SFY 1994 to three in SFY 2004, the number of drug offenders committed increased from zero to five, while the number of property offender commitments remained unchanged at two in both SFYs 1994 and 2004.

Figure 12



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

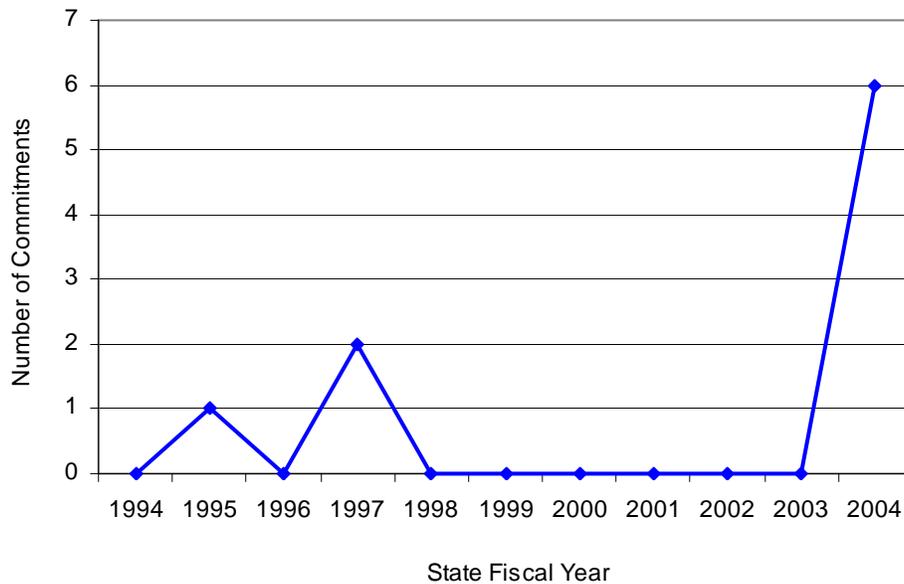
In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 27 percent of all commitments from Henderson County, while property offenders accounted for 18 percent and drug offenders accounted for 45 percent of all commitments.

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, nine juveniles were committed to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Henderson County (Figure 13).

Figure 13

Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from Henderson County



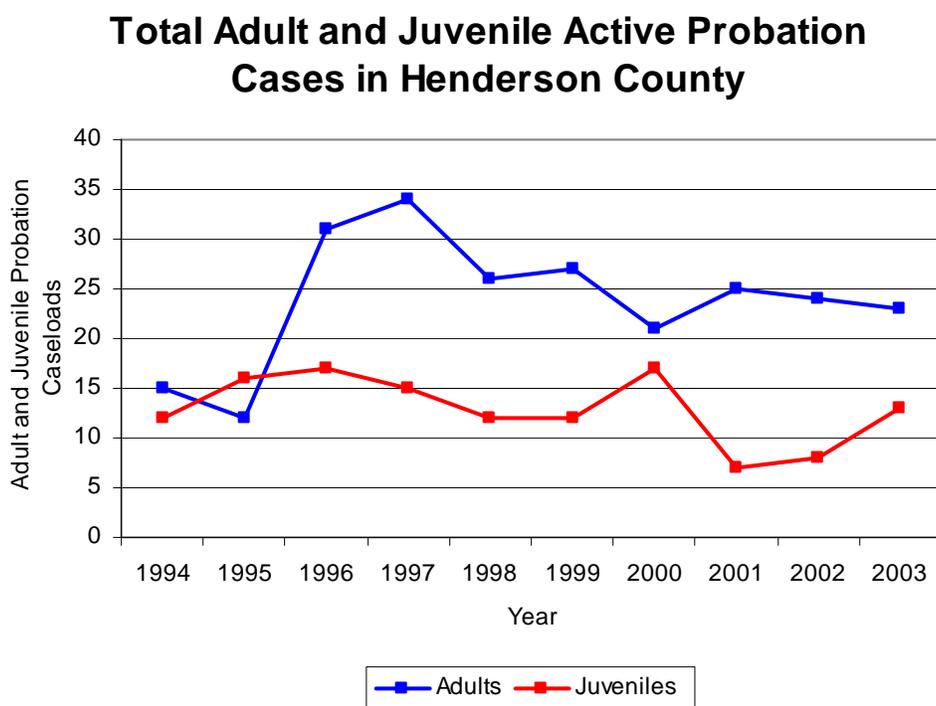
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, the rate of commitments from the other rural counties to the IDOC's Juvenile Division was 227 commitments per 100,000 juveniles, compared to a rate of 782 commitments per 100,000 juveniles in Henderson County.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Henderson County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Henderson County increased 53 percent, from 15 to 23 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 78 percent of Henderson County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Henderson County Juvenile Probation Department increased slightly, from 12 to 13, between 1994 and 2003. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other rural counties increased 39 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseload remained unchanged.

Figure 14



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Henderson County increased 54 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 185 to 285 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 40 percent in the other rural counties, from 747 to 1,047 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Henderson County was 73 percent lower than in the other rural counties.

IV. Jail Populations in Henderson 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.

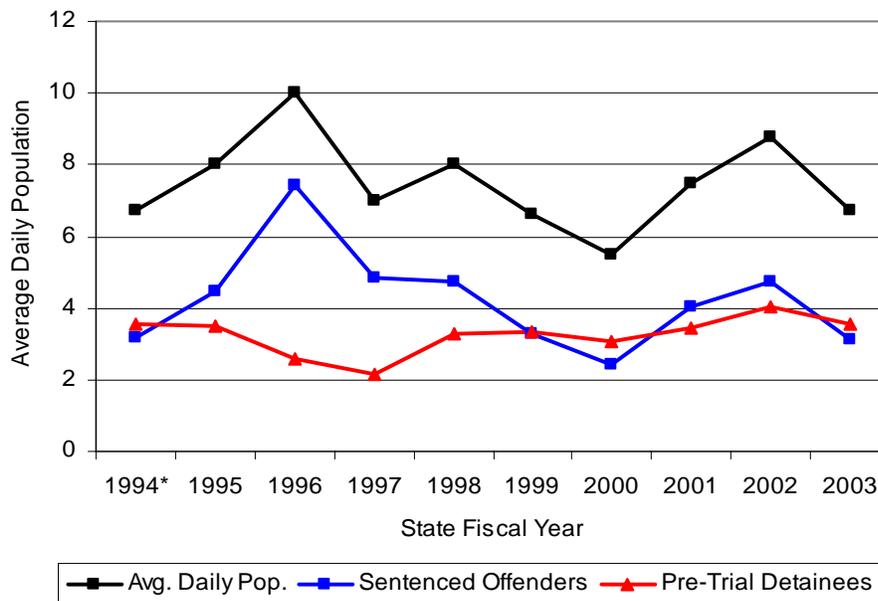
Average Daily Population of the Henderson County Jail

The Henderson 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 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 Henderson County Jail remained unchanged at seven inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for an unchanged percentage of the average daily population, 53 percent in both SFYs 1994 and 2003. The same was true for sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) who accounted for 47 percent of the average daily population in the Henderson County Jail in both SFYs 1994 and 2003.

Figure 15

Average Daily Population of the Henderson County Jail



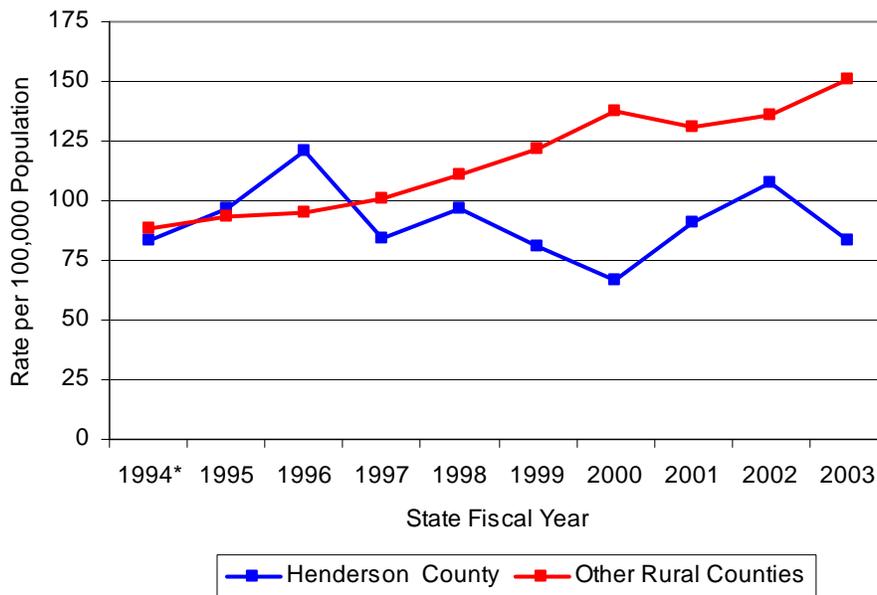
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

* Information estimated by ICJIA

In both SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Henderson County was 83 inmates per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other rural counties increased 71 percent, from 88 to 151 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Henderson County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 45 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 16

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,
Henderson and Other Rural Counties**



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 Henderson County

Substance-Exposed Infants in Henderson 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, there was one case of a substance-exposed infant reported in Henderson County, and this case was unverified. During the same period, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 23 percent, from 83 to 102, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants increased 43 percent, from 44 to 63.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Henderson 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.

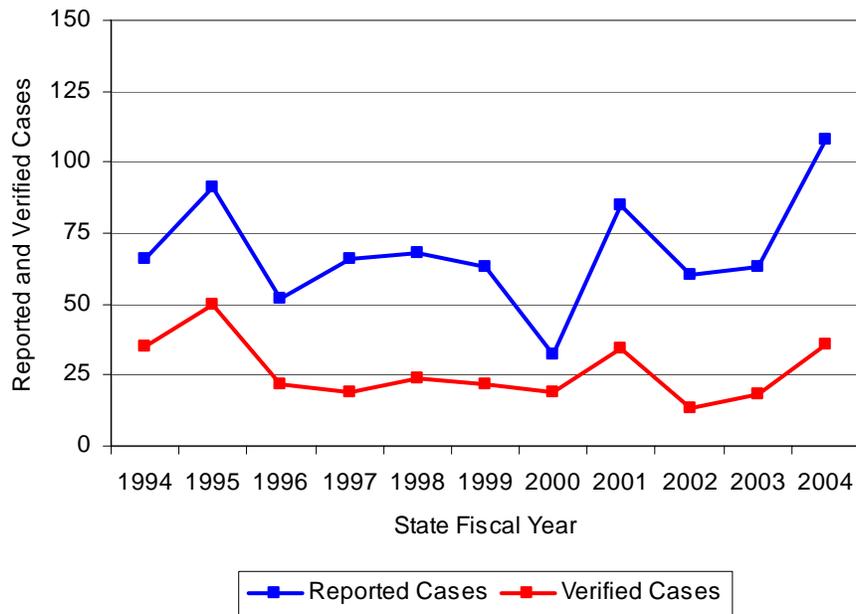
² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. "In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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 SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Henderson County increased 64 percent, from 66 to 108 (Figure 17). During that same period, 292 cases, or 39 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Henderson County increased slightly between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 35 to 36.

Figure 17

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

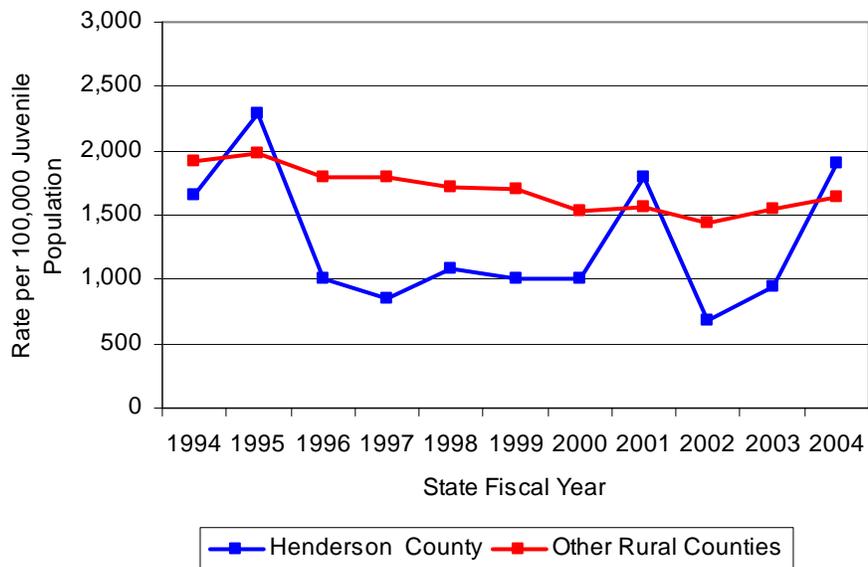


Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Henderson County increased 15 percent from 1,652 to 1,897 per 100,000 juveniles (Figure 18). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 14 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,910 to 1,634 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Henderson County was 16 percent higher than in the other rural counties.

Figure 18

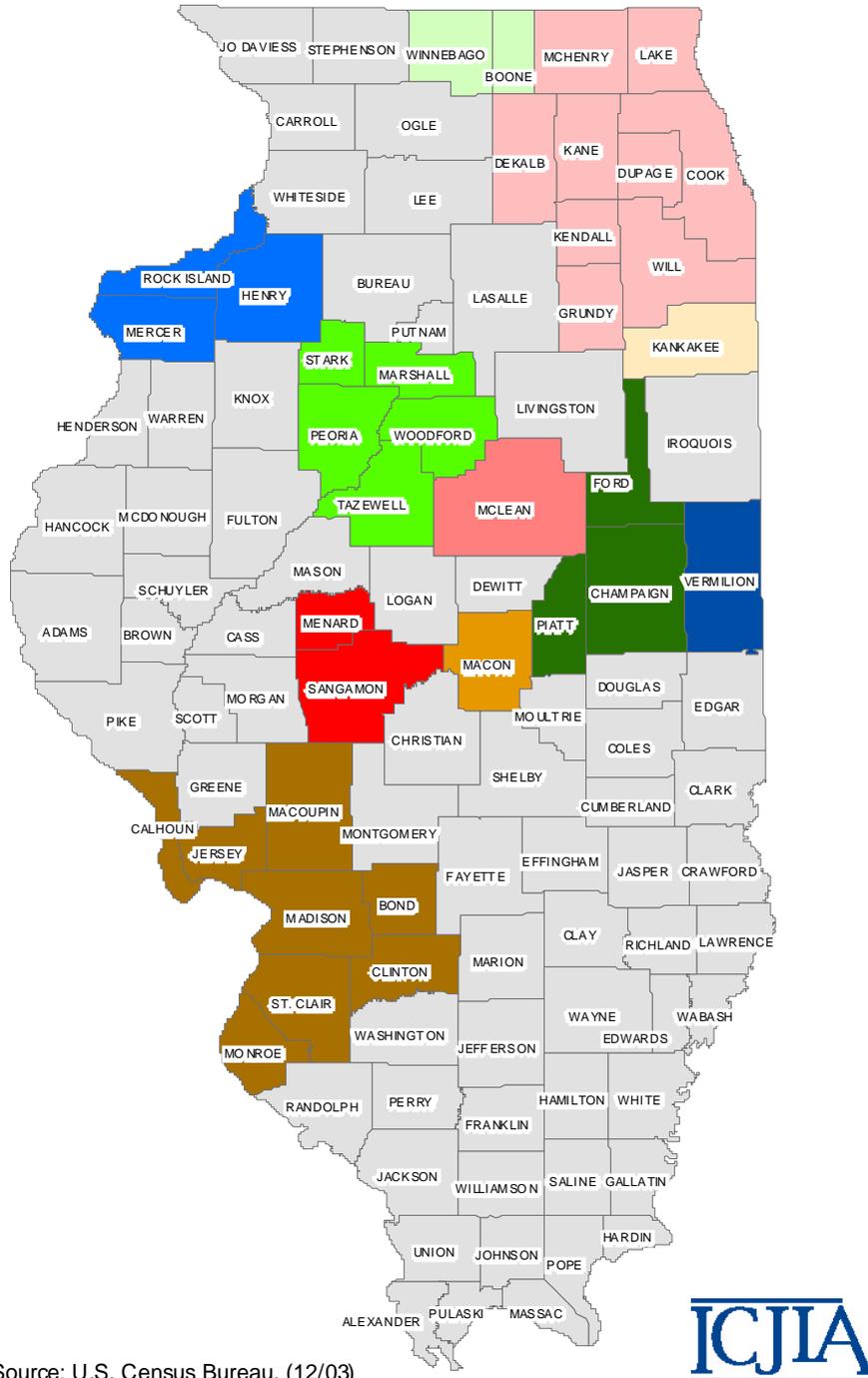
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Henderson and All Other Rural Counties



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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