

ICJIA

**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
INFORMATION
AUTHORITY**

120 S. Riverside Plaza,
Suite 1016
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Tel: (312) 793-8550
Fax: (312) 793-8422
TDD: (312) 793-4170

www.icjia.state.il.us

Prepared by

The Research and
Analysis Unit

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Sheldon Sorosky
Chairman

Lori G. Levin
Executive Director

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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 Jefferson County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

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Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1016
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3997
Telephone (312) 793-8550
Telefax (312) 793-8422
World Wide Website <http://www.icjia.state.il.us>

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This document was put together by the following Research and Analysis Unit staff:

Sharyn Adams
Jessica Ashley
Robert Bauer
Christopher Humble
Christine Martin
Adriana Perez
Idetta Phillips
Michelle Repp

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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

Jefferson County, located in southern Illinois, covers an area of 571 square miles and had a 2003 population of 40,334, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Jefferson County was the 41st largest county in Illinois geographically, but 34th largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Jefferson County had the 36th highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Jefferson 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 24). 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, Jefferson County is one of Illinois' 66 rural counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Jefferson 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 Jefferson 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.

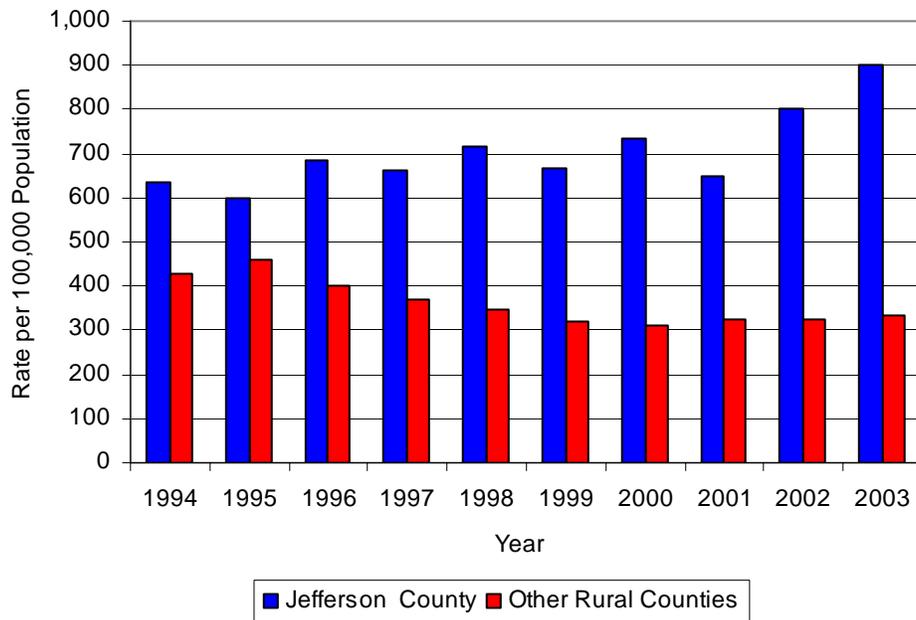
Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Jefferson County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police increased 47 percent in Jefferson County between 1994 and 2003, from 248 to 364. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (75 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Jefferson County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Jefferson County increased 42 percent, from 634 to 902 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). During that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 22 percent, from 428 to 332 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Jefferson County was nearly triple the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 1

Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Jefferson and Other Rural Counties



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

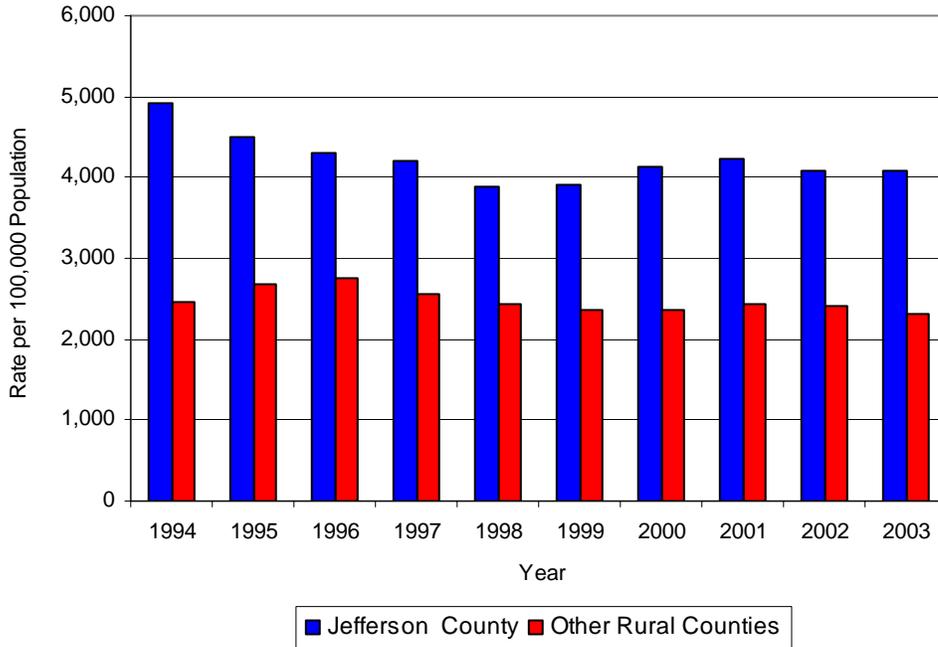
Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Jefferson County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Jefferson County decreased 14 percent, from 1,925 to 1,649. Thefts accounted for 68 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Jefferson County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Jefferson County decreased 17 percent, from 4,924 to 4,088 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). During the same period, the property Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 6 percent, from 2,465 to 2,320 offenses per 100,000 population. Jefferson County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 76 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 2

Total Property Index Offense Rates in Jefferson and Other Rural Counties



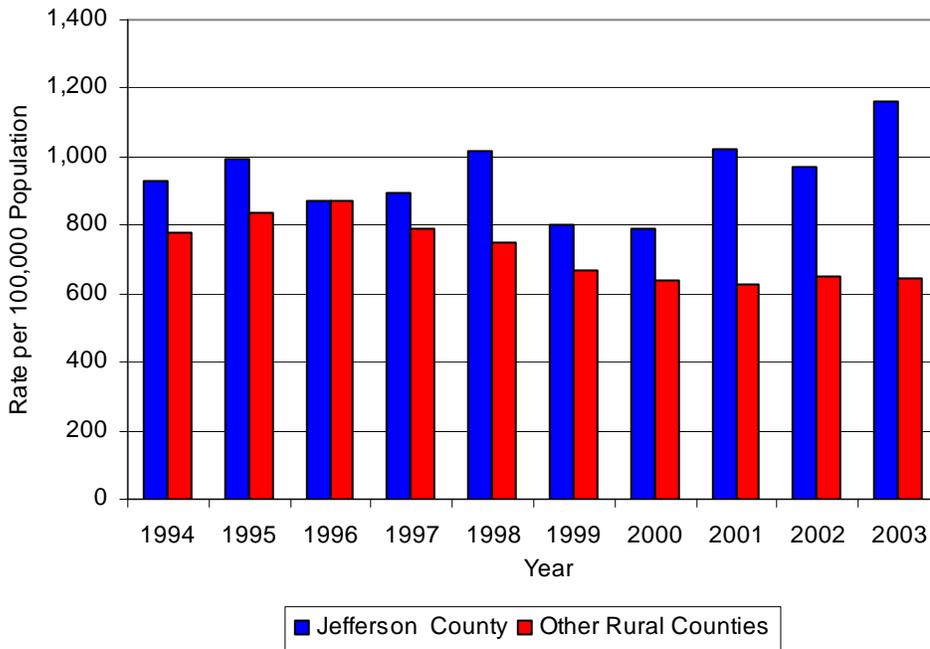
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Index Arrests by Jefferson County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Jefferson County increased 29 percent, from 363 to 468. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 468 Index arrests made in Jefferson County during 2003, 43 percent were for violent Index crimes and 57 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Jefferson County during 2003. Of all violent index arrests, 36 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 44 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Jefferson County increased 25 percent, from 926 to 1,160 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 17 percent, from 779 to 644 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Jefferson County's Index arrest rate was 80 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 3
Index Arrest Rates in Jefferson and Other Rural Counties



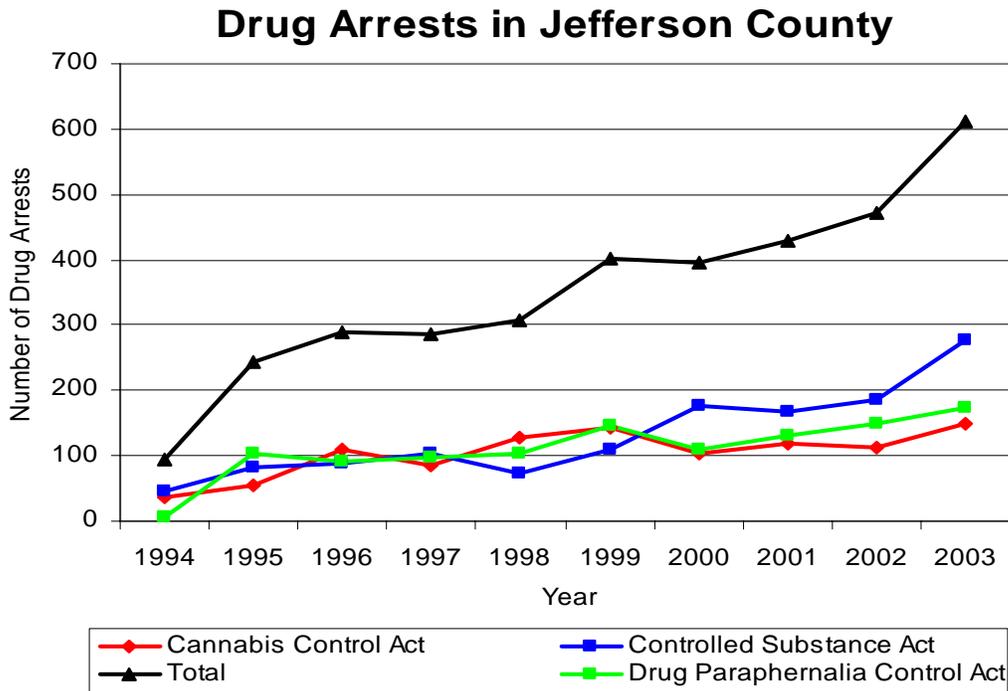
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Drug Offense Arrests in Jefferson County

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total drug offenses (including violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, and the Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act) increased more than five fold in Jefferson County, from 93 to 611 (Figure 4). Total drug arrests in Jefferson County increased steadily each year between 1994 and 2003. Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests, increasing from five arrests in 1994 to 172 in 2003, or in other words, 28 percent of all drugs arrests in 2003.

During most of the period analyzed, arrests for violations of the Controlled Substance Substances Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution, or manufacture of all other illegal drugs such as cocaine and opiates) out-numbered arrests for violation of the Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Jefferson County. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act in Jefferson County quadrupled from 37 to 149. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased nearly five-fold between 1994 and 2003, from 47 to 276 (Figure 4).

Figure 4

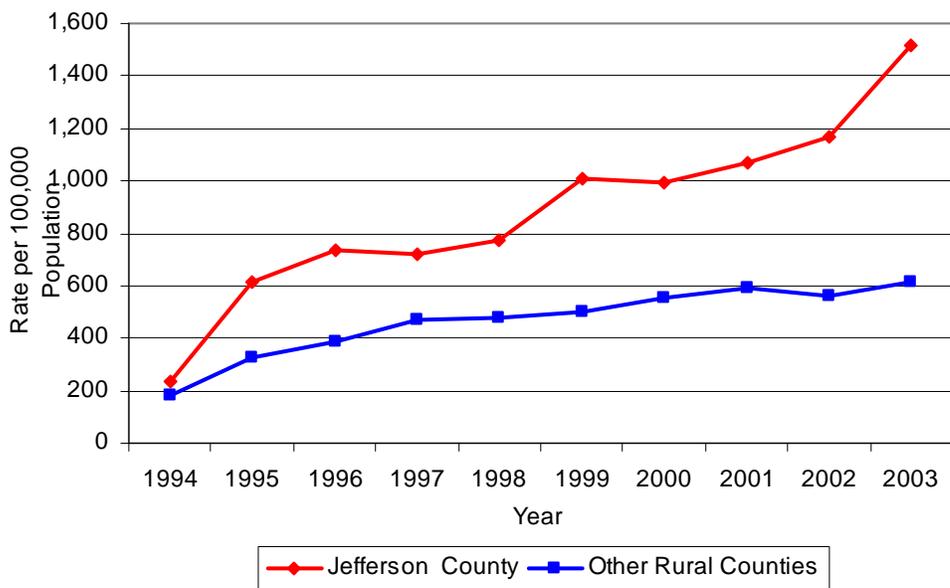


Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003 the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Jefferson County increased more than five-fold from 238 to 1,515 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other rural counties more than tripled between 1994 and 2003, from 180 to 611 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Jefferson County more than doubled the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 5

Drug Arrest Rates in Jefferson and Other Rural Counties



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

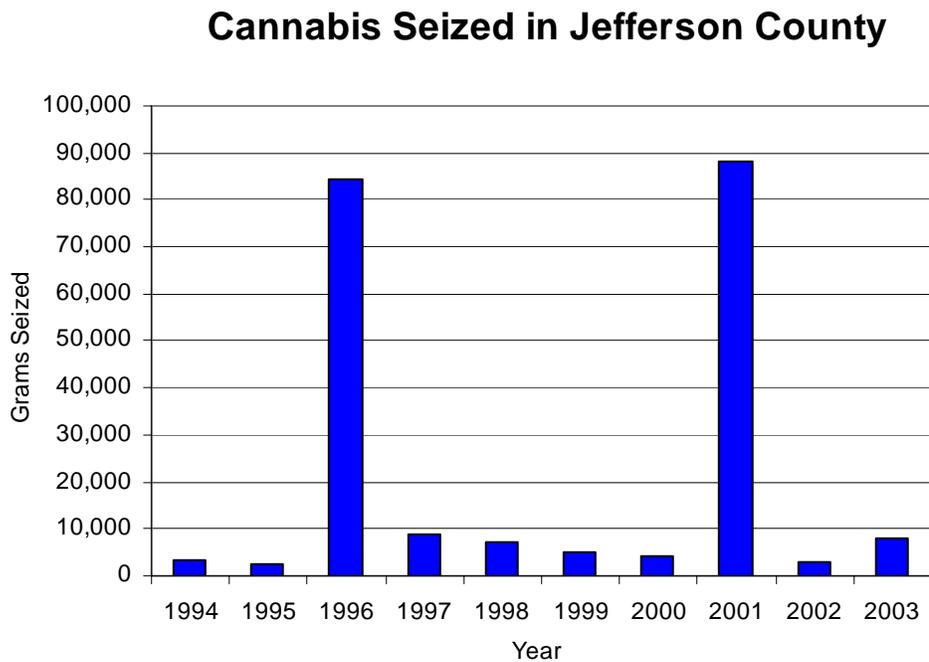
Drugs Seized in Jefferson County

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 Jefferson County.

Cannabis Seized in Jefferson County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Jefferson 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 Jefferson County more than doubled from 3,506 grams to 8,044 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 606,643 grams to 264,599 grams. In 2003, Jefferson County had a cannabis seizure rate of 19,944 grams per 100,000 population, 24 percent higher than the rate of 16,033 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

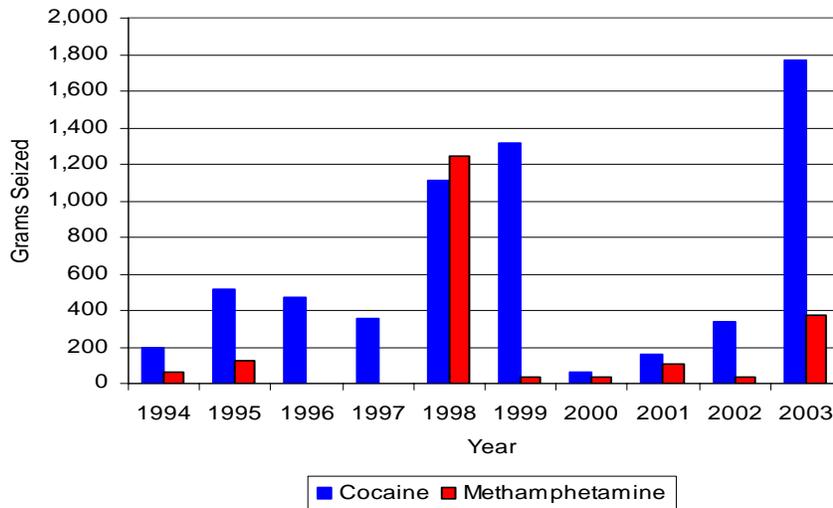
Cocaine and Methamphetamine Seized in Jefferson County

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 cocaine seized in Jefferson County increased more than eight-fold between 1994 and 2003, from 192 grams to 1,771 grams. The quantity of methamphetamine seized in Jefferson County increased more than five-fold between 1994 and 2003, from 59 grams to 369 grams. Crack cocaine accounted for a small portion of all cocaine seized between 1994 and 2003 therefore; the amount of crack cocaine seized has been combined with the total amount of cocaine seized in Jefferson County (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Cocaine* and Methamphetamine Seized in Jefferson County



Source: Illinois State Police

* Cocaine includes powder cocaine and crack cocaine

The quantity of cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased dramatically during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased 84 percent from 69,910 grams to 11,293 grams, while the quantity of methamphetamine seized in the other rural counties increased more than four-fold, from 2,560 grams to 12,848 grams. In 2003, 4,391 grams of cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in Jefferson County, more than six times the 684 grams of cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other rural counties. In 2003, 915 grams of methamphetamine per 100,000 population were seized in Jefferson County, 18 percent higher than the 778 grams of methamphetamine seized per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Jefferson 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.

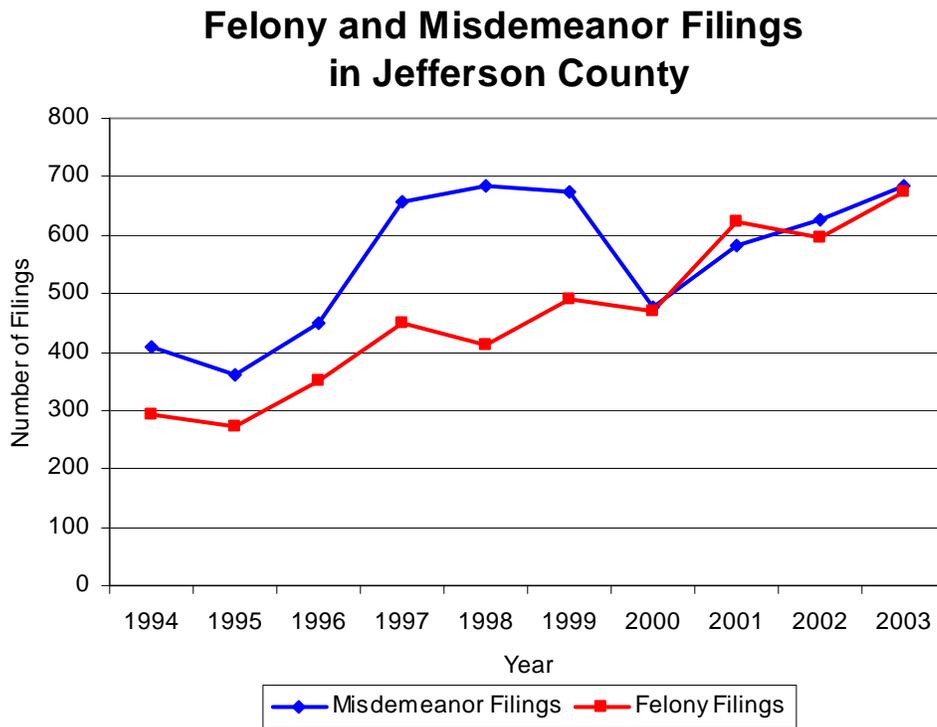
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Jefferson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

Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Jefferson 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 nearly 12 percent of all filings in Jefferson County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Jefferson County more than doubled, from 292 to 674 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings increased 68 percent, from 407 in 1994 to 683 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings have out-numbered felony filings by less than 1 percent.

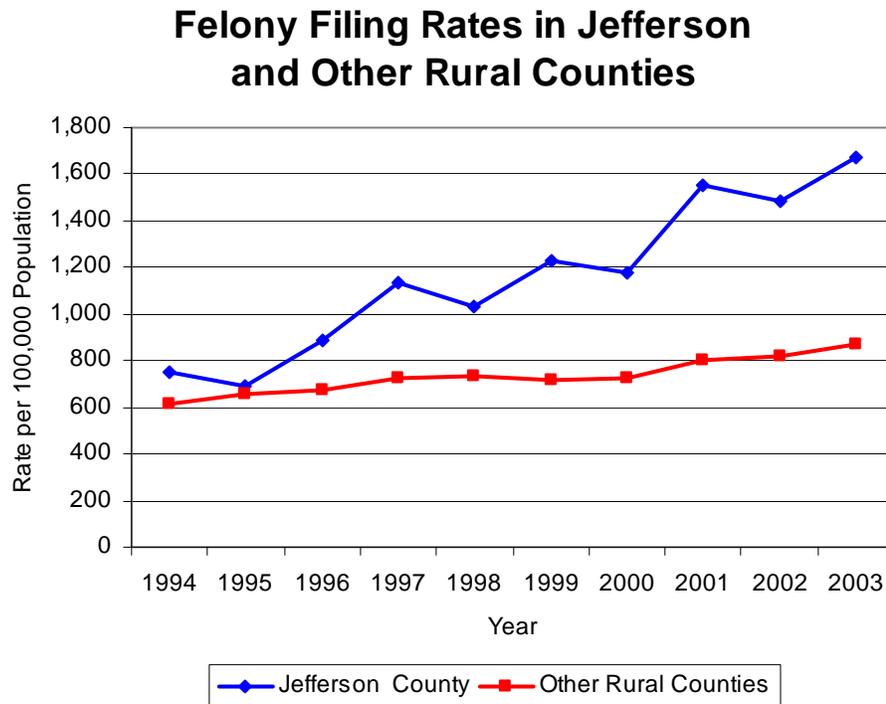
Figure 8



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Jefferson County more than doubled, from 747 to 1,671 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 42 percent during this period, from 611 to 870 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Jefferson County was 92 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 9

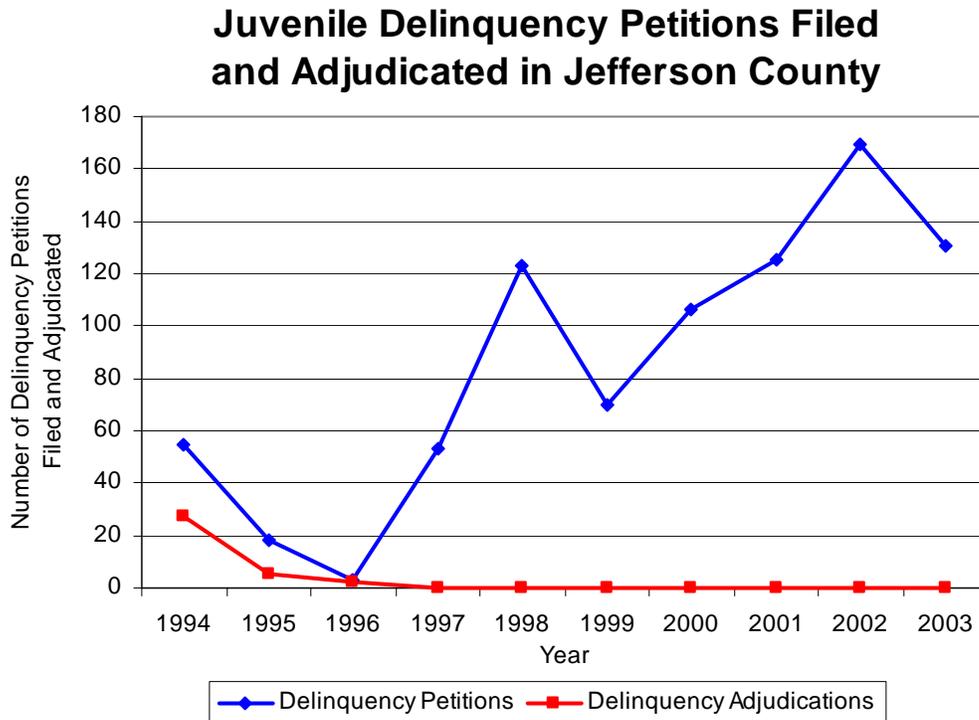


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 Jefferson County more than doubled, from 55 to 131, while reaching a period high of 169 in 2002 (Figure 10). In 2003, none of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications decreased from 27 to zero. The majority of cases not resulting in adjudication were continued under supervision.

Figure 10



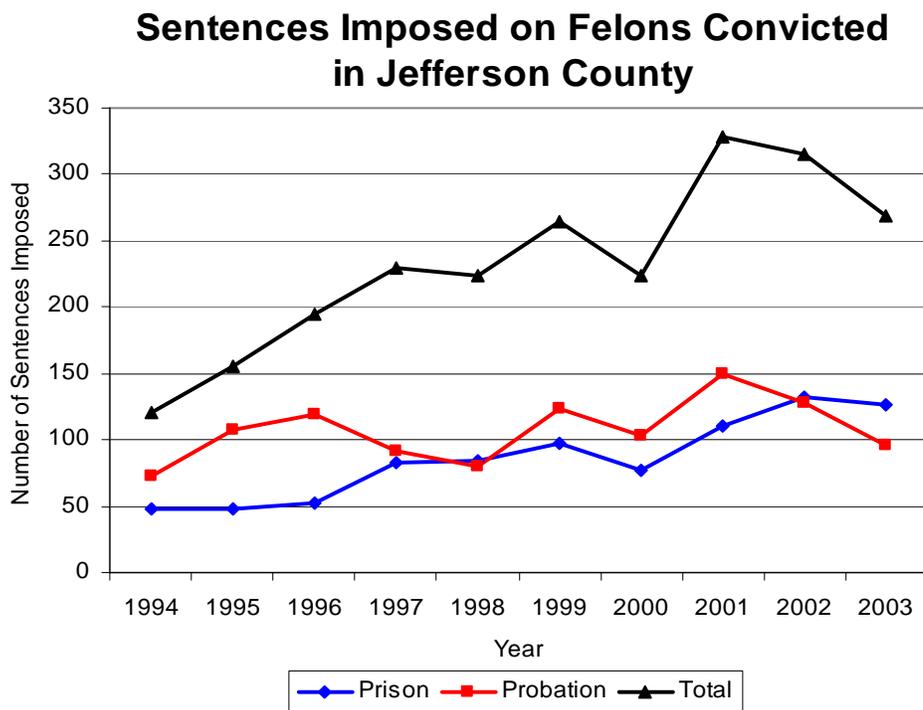
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Jefferson County also more than doubled, from 1,369 to 3,183 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 11 percent, from 2,027 to 2,243 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition rate in Jefferson County was 42 percent higher 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 Jefferson County more than doubled, from 121 to 269 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to either prison or probation during this period increased. Throughout the period analyzed, felony probation sentences have consistently out-numbered felony prison sentences. The number of convicted felons sentenced to prison more than doubled, from 48 in 1994 to 126 in 2003. The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation increased 33 percent, from 72 to 96. As a result, felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences, decreasing from 60 percent in 1994 to 36 percent of all convicted felons in 2003. Conversely, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison increased from 40 percent in 1994 to 48 percent in 2003. In 2003, 17 percent of convicted felons in Jefferson County were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

Figure 11

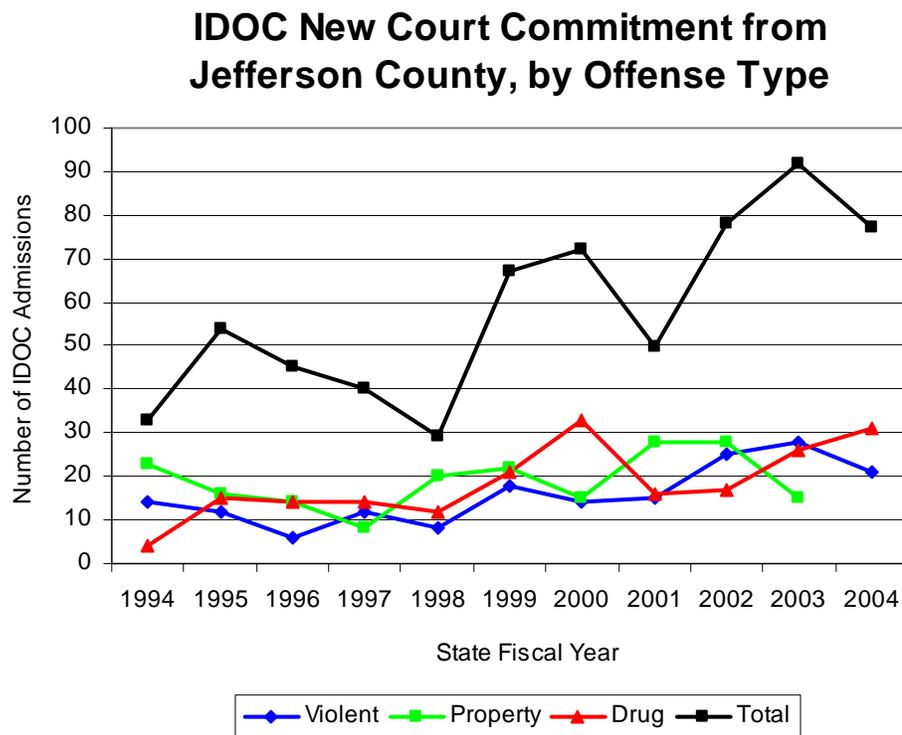


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from Jefferson County

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Jefferson County more than doubled, from 33 to 77 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of admissions increased for all offense types. The number of violent offender admissions increased 50 percent, from 14 to 21, while the number of property offender admissions increased 25 percent, from 12 to 15. The number of drug offender admissions increased more than six-fold, from four in SFY 1994 to 31 in SFY 2004.

Figure 12



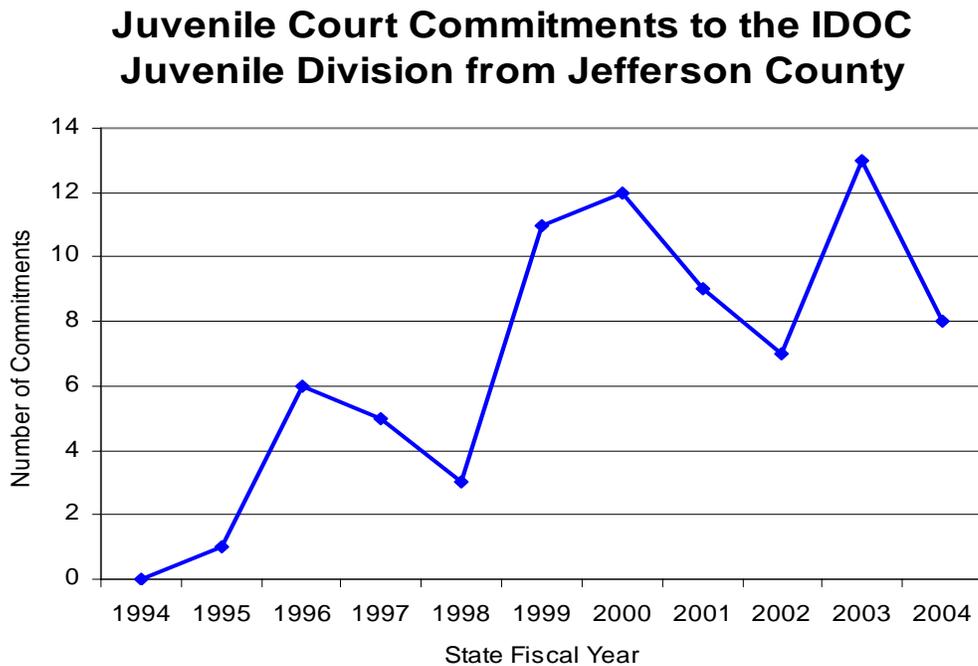
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 27 percent of all admissions from Jefferson County, compared to 42 percent in SFY 1994, while property offenders accounted for a decreased proportion of admissions, decreasing from 36 percent to 19 percent. The proportion of all admissions accounted for by drug offenders from Jefferson County more than tripled during the same period, from 12 percent in SFY 1994 to 40 percent in SFY 2004.

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. The number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Jefferson County increased from zero to eight between SFYs 1994 and 2004 (Figure 13).

Figure 13



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

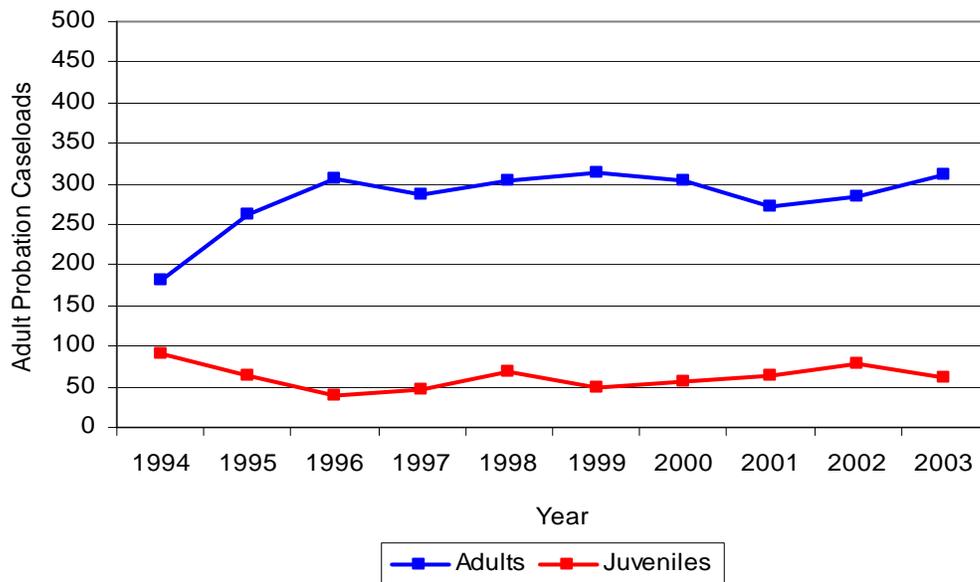
In SFY 2004, Jefferson County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 227 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 1 percent lower than the 229 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other rural counties.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Jefferson County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Jefferson County increased 71 percent, from 182 to 311 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 65 percent of Jefferson County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Jefferson County Juvenile Probation Department decreased 32 percent, from 90 to 61. 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 caseloads decreased 32 percent during the same period.

Figure 14

Total Adult and Juvenile Active Probation Cases in Jefferson County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

* 1984 data not available

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Jefferson County increased 66 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 466 to 771 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 40 percent in the other rural counties, from 751 to 1,050 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Jefferson County was 27 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

IV. Jail Populations in Jefferson 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.

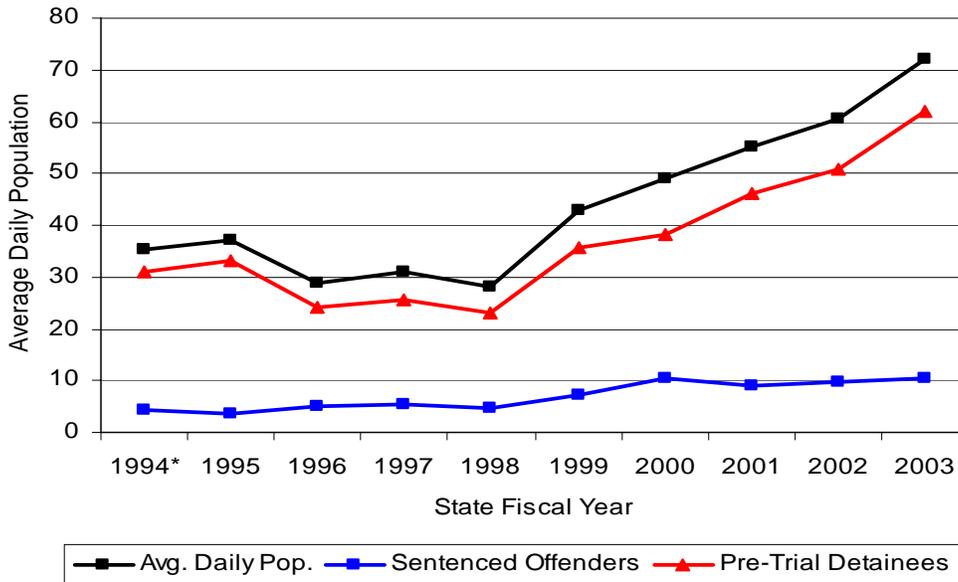
Average Daily Population of the Jefferson County Jail

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily population of the Jefferson County Jail more than doubled from 35 to 72 inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for a decreased proportion of the average daily population, decreasing from 88 percent in SFY 1994 to 86 percent in SFY 2003. Sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for an increased percentage, increasing from 12 percent in SFY 1994 to 14 percent in SFY 2003.

Figure 15

Average Daily Population of the Jefferson County Jail



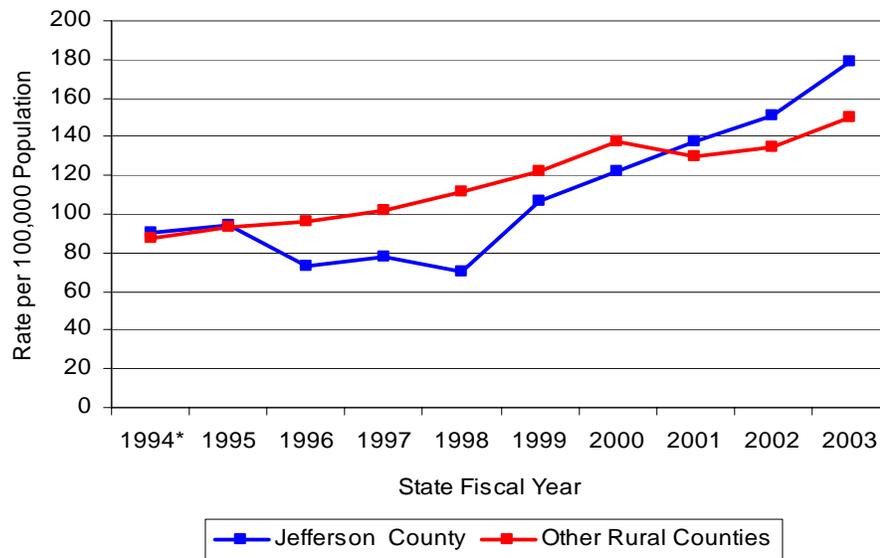
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Jefferson County nearly doubled, from 90 to 179 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 Jefferson County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 20 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 16

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,
Jefferson 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 Jefferson County

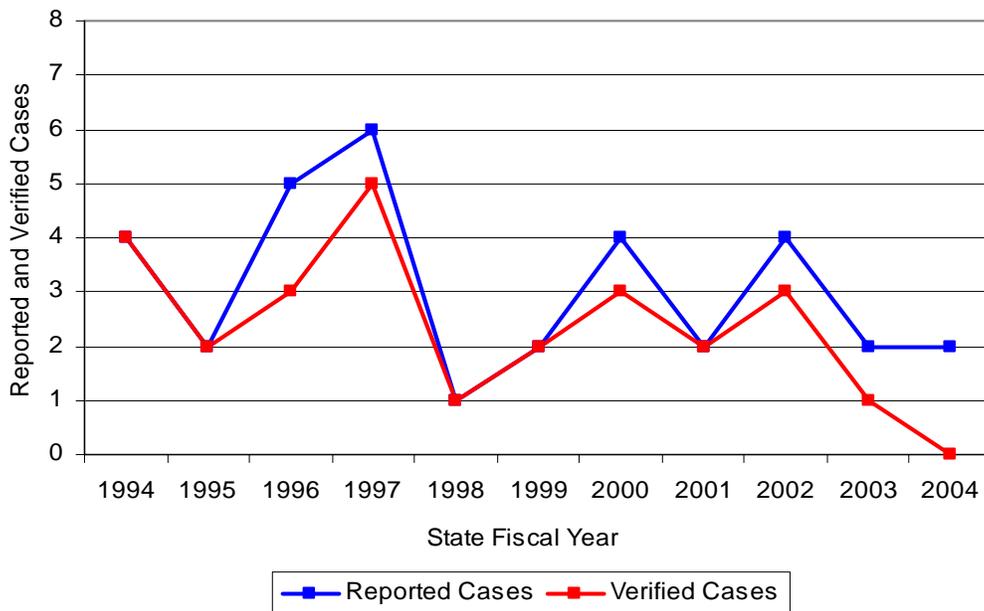
Substance-Exposed Infants in Jefferson County

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, the number of cases of substance-exposed infants reported in Jefferson County decreased from four to two. During the same period, the number of verified cases also decreased, from four to zero (Figure 17).

Figure 17

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



Source: Department of Children and Family Services

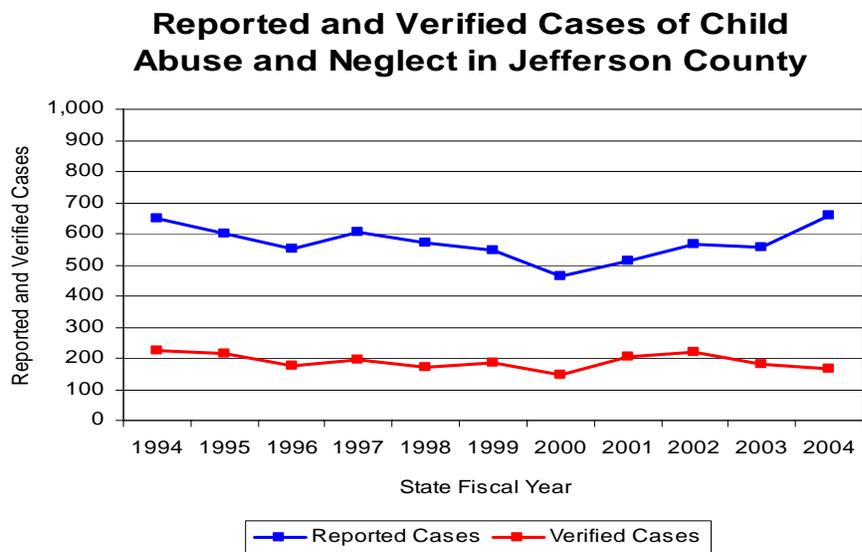
Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 27 percent, from 79 to 100, and the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants also increased, from 40 to 63, a 58 percent increase.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Jefferson County

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Jefferson County increased 1 percent, from 650 to 657 (Figure 18). During that same period, 2,076 cases, or 33 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Jefferson County decreased 27 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 225 to 164.

Figure 18



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

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

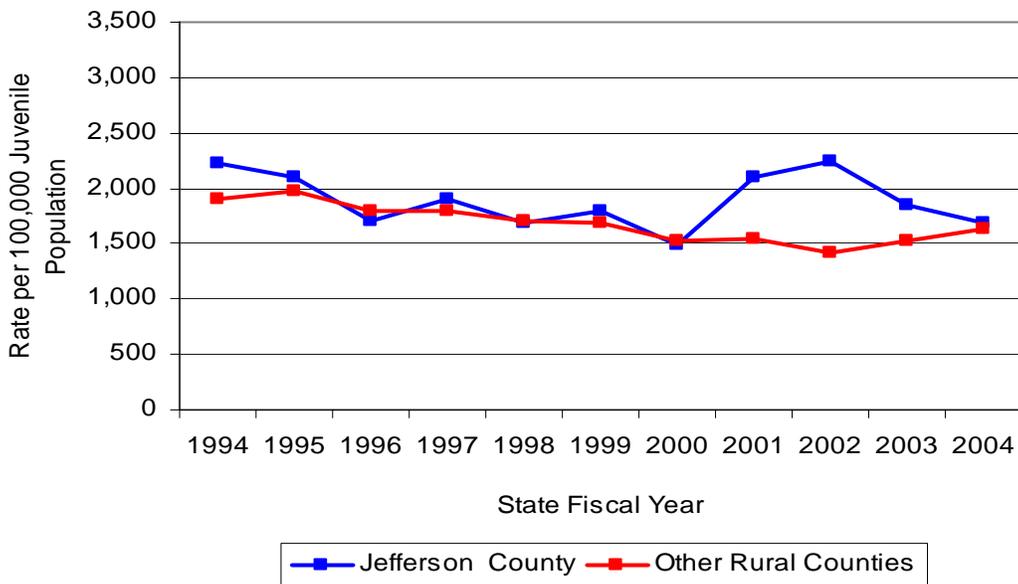
² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Jefferson County decreased from 2,226 to 1,691 per 100,000 juveniles, a 24 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 14 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,901 to 1,634 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Jefferson County was 4 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 19

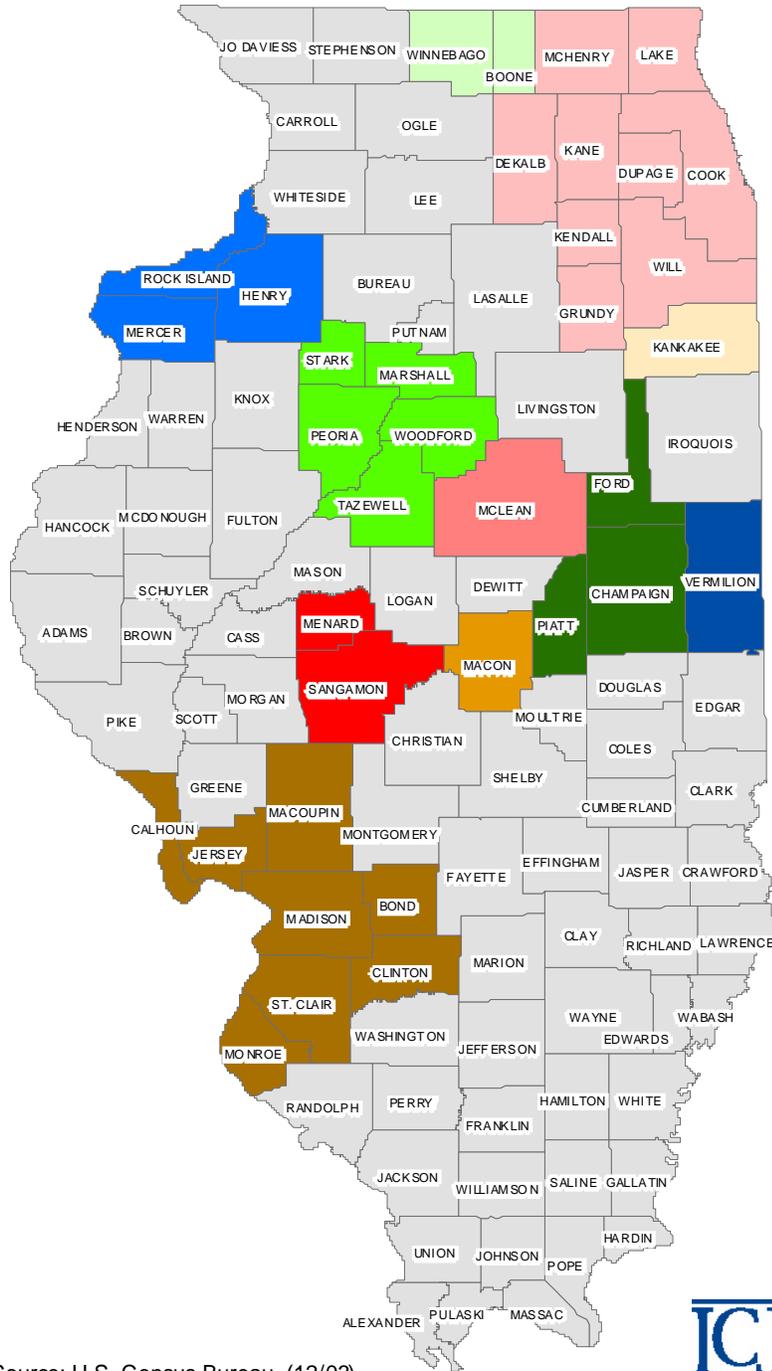
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Jefferson and All Other Rural Counties



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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ICJIA

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1016
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312-793-8550
TDD: 312-793-4170
Fax: 312-793-8422
www.icjia.state.il.us

