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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 Lake 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

Lake County, located in northeastern Illinois, covers an area of 448 square miles and had a 2003 population of 685,019, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Lake County was the 43<sup>th</sup> largest county in Illinois geographically, but 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Lake County had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Lake County is presented in comparison with similar counties. To provide more useful comparisons, counties have been separated into four types; 1) Cook County, 2) Collar counties, 3) urban counties (outside of Cook and the Collar counties), and 4) rural counties. Because of its size, Cook County is compared to the rest of the state. The Collar counties are the five that border Cook County (DuPage, Lake, Kane, McHenry, and Will). Urban and rural counties are defined by whether or not they lie within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (Appendix 1, page 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, Lake County is one of Illinois' five Collar counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Lake County will be compared to those trends experienced in the other Collar 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 Lake 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 that 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 Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (LCMEG) also serves Lake 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 Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group 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](http://www.icjia.state.il.us).

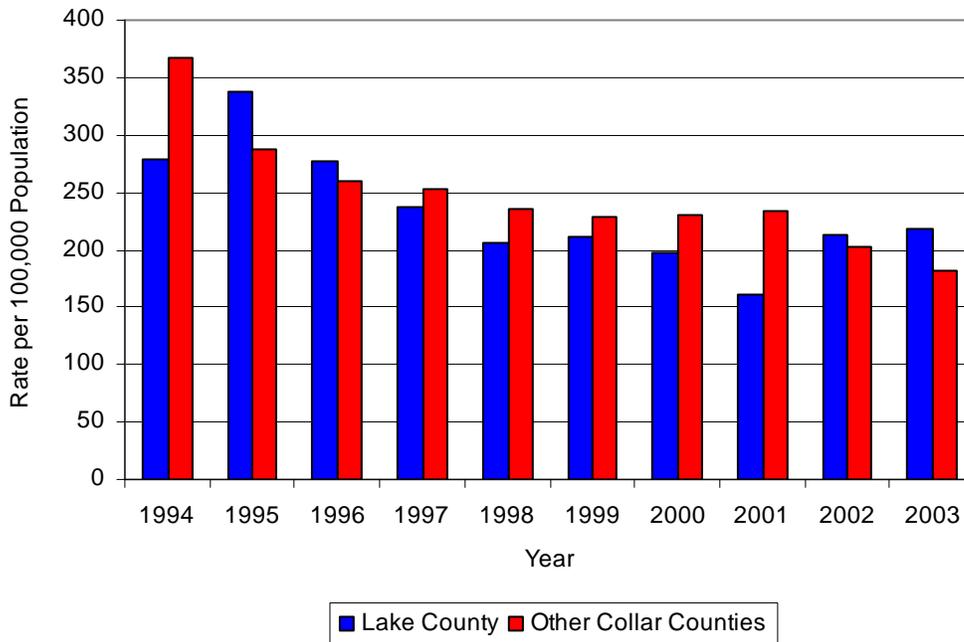
### *Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Lake County*

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 5 percent in Lake County between 1994 and 2003, from 1,581 to 1,498. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (62 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Lake County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Lake County decreased 22 percent, from 279 to 219 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Similarly, during that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other Collar counties decreased 51 percent, from 368 to 182 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Lake County was 20 percent higher than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 1**

### **Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Lake and Other Collar Counties**



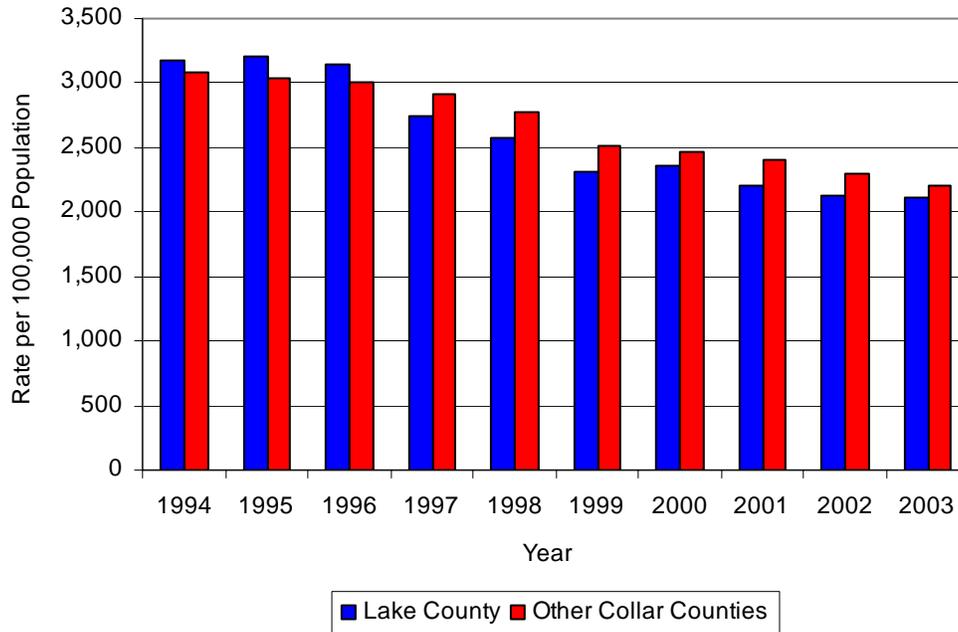
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

*Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Lake County*

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Lake County decreased 20 percent, from 18,049 to 14,442. Thefts accounted for 79 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Lake County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Lake County decreased 34 percent, from 3,181 to 2,108 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the other Collar counties, the property Index offense rate decreased 28 percent, from 3,081 to 2,207 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 property Index offense rate in Lake County was 5 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 2**  
**Total Property Index Offense Rates in Lake and Other Collar Counties**



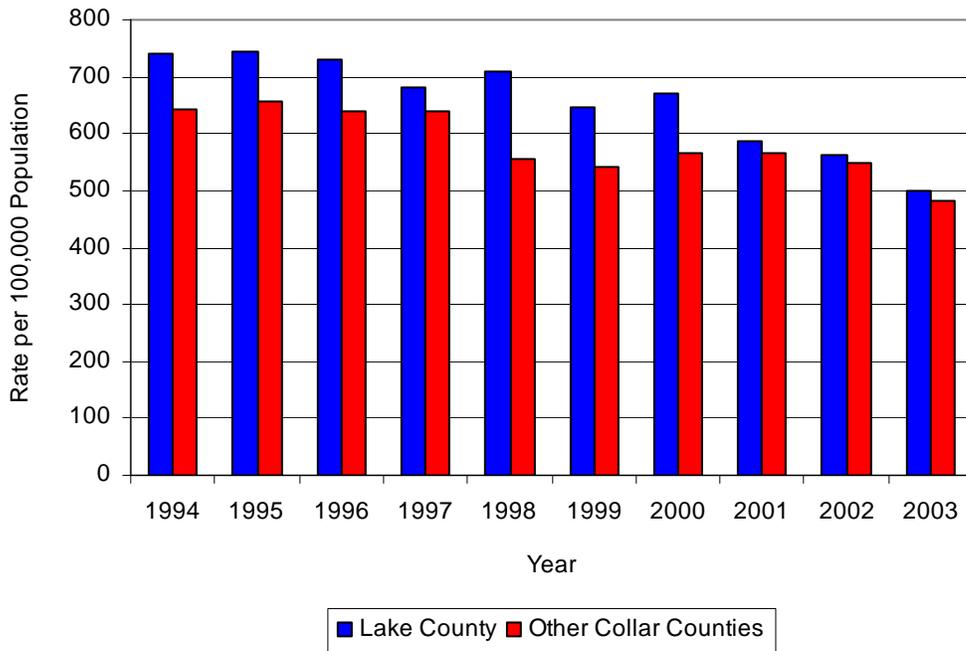
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

*Index Arrests by Lake County Law Enforcement Agencies*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Lake County decreased 18 percent, from 4,199 to 3,428. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 3,428 Index arrests made in Lake County during 2003, 21 percent were for violent Index crimes and 79 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Lake County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 78 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 86 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Lake County decreased 32 percent, from 740 to 500 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other Collar counties decreased 25 percent, from 643 to 482 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Lake County's Index arrest rate was 4 percent higher than the Index arrest rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 3**  
**Index Arrest Rates in Lake and Other Collar Counties**



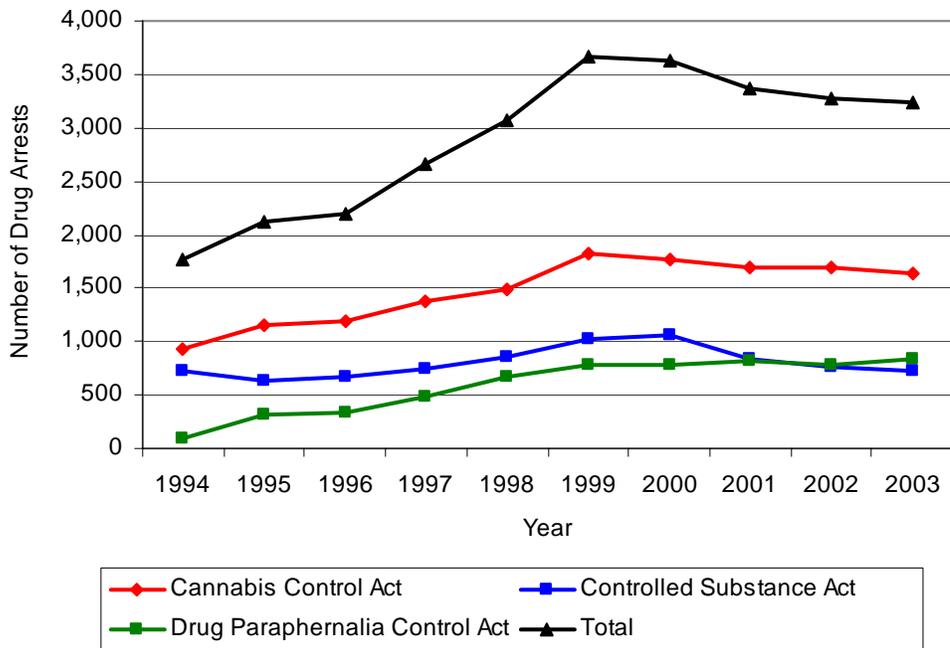
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

### Drug Offense Arrests in Lake 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 Syringe and Needles Act) increased 82 percent in Lake County, from 1,776 to 3,238 (Figure 4). Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations nearly eight-fold, from 98 arrests in 1994 to 844 in 2003, or in other words, 26 percent of all drugs arrests in 2003.

Arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Lake 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 Lake County increased from 930 to 1,631, a 75 percent increase (Figure 4). Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act remained constant in Lake County at 730 between 1994 and 2003 (Figure 4).

**Figure 4**  
**Drug Arrests in Lake County**

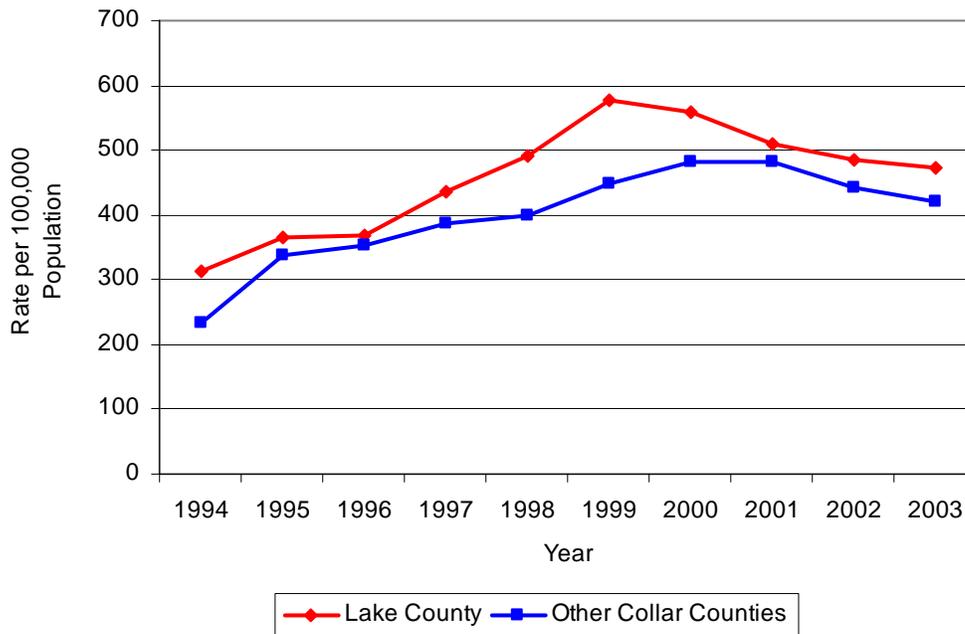


Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Lake County increased 51 percent, from 313 to 473 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other Collar counties also increased between 1994 and 2003, from 234 to 422 per 100,000 population, a 80 percent increase. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Lake County was 12 percent higher than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 5**

**Drug Arrest Rates in Lake and Other Collar Counties**



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

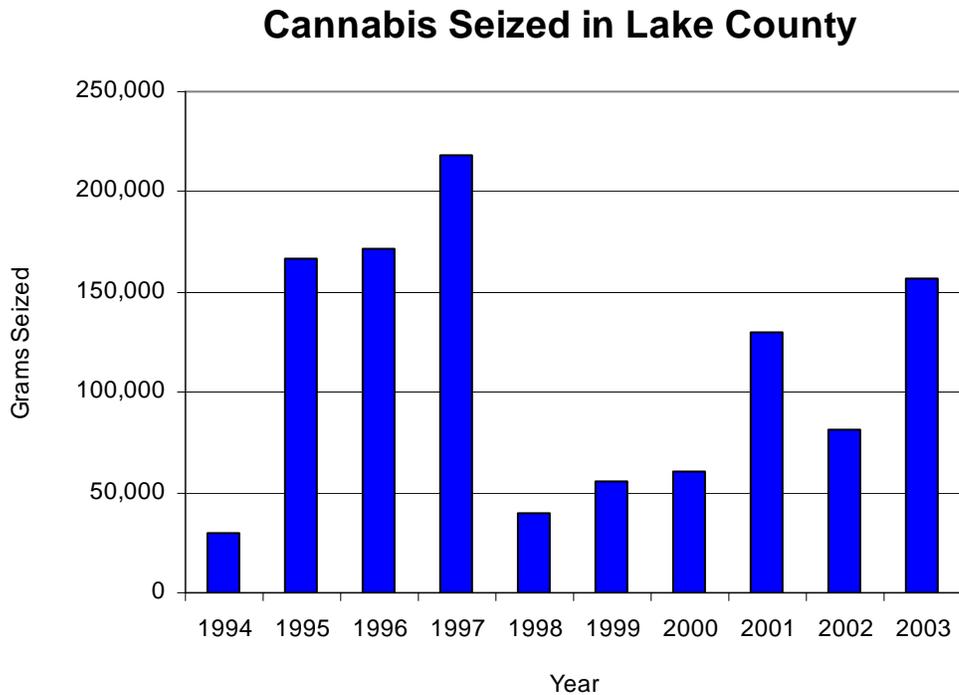
**Drugs Seized in Lake County**

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 and the Northern Illinois Police Crime Laboratory from law enforcement agencies in Lake County.

### *Cannabis Seized in Lake County*

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Lake County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Lake County increased more than four-fold, from 29,310 grams to 157,137 grams (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**



Source: Illinois State Police

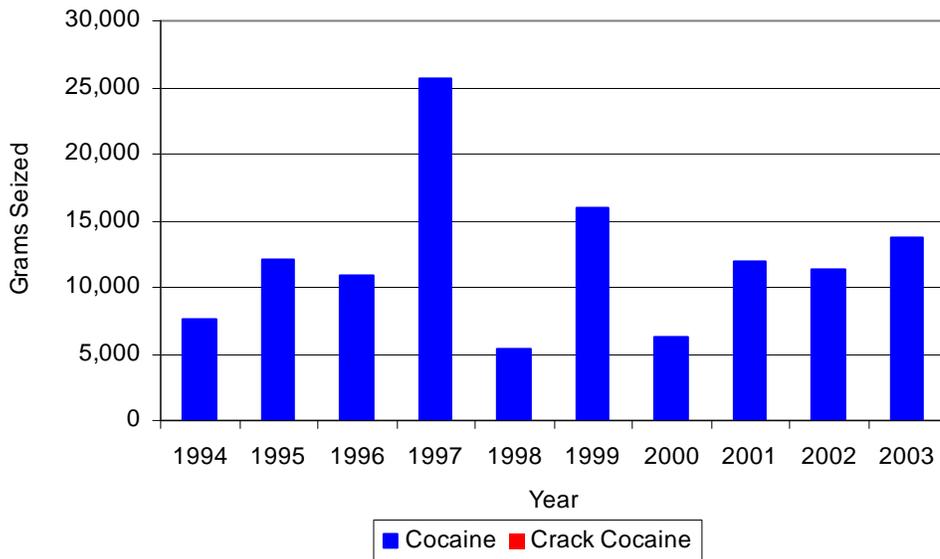
During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other Collar counties increased 20 percent, from 178,199 grams to 213,761 grams. In 2003, Lake County had a cannabis seizure rate of 22,939 grams per 100,000 population, compared to a rate of 9,479 grams per 100,000 population in the other Collar counties.

### *Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Lake County*

The quantity of powder cocaine seized in Lake County increased between 1994 and 2003, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased. The quantity of powder cocaine seized in Lake County increased 80 percent, from 7,664 grams in 1994 to 13,787 grams in 2003. Similar to most counties in Illinois, crack cocaine accounted for a relatively small portion of all cocaine seized in Lake County. The quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased from six grams in 1994 to 0.4 grams in 2003 (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**

### **Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Lake County**



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in the other Collar counties increased during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized increased 12 percent in the other Collar counties, from 26,604 grams to 29,916 grams, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased from 920 grams to 1,080 grams. In 2003, 2,013 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in Lake County, 51 percent higher than the 1,327 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other Collar counties.

### **III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Lake 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 Lake County and the other Collar counties (outside of Cook County).

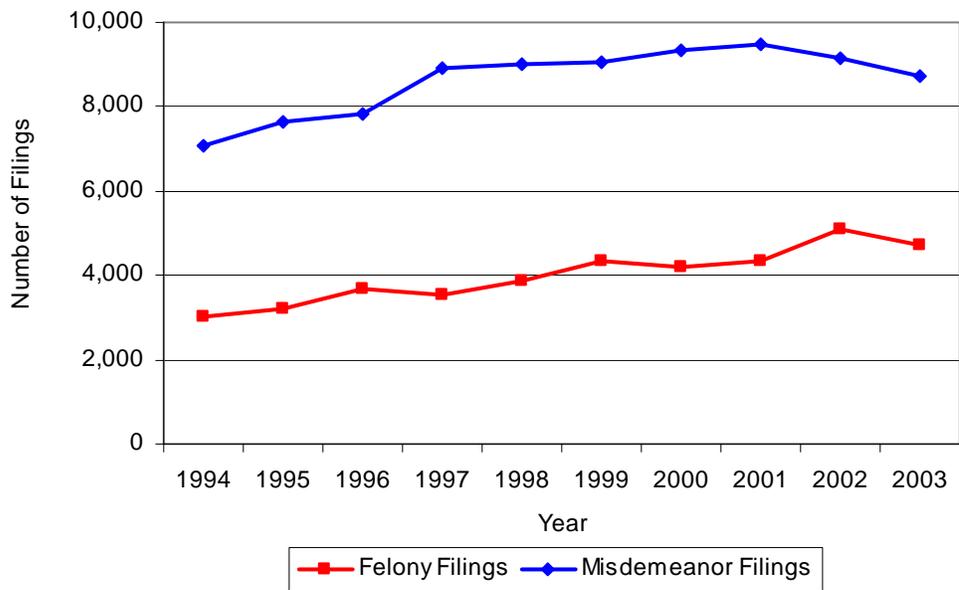
#### *Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Lake County*

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 5 percent of all filings in Lake County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Lake County increased 58 percent, from 3,006 to 4,740 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings also increased, increasing 23 percent from 7,069 in 1994 to 8,710 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by almost two to one.

**Figure 8**

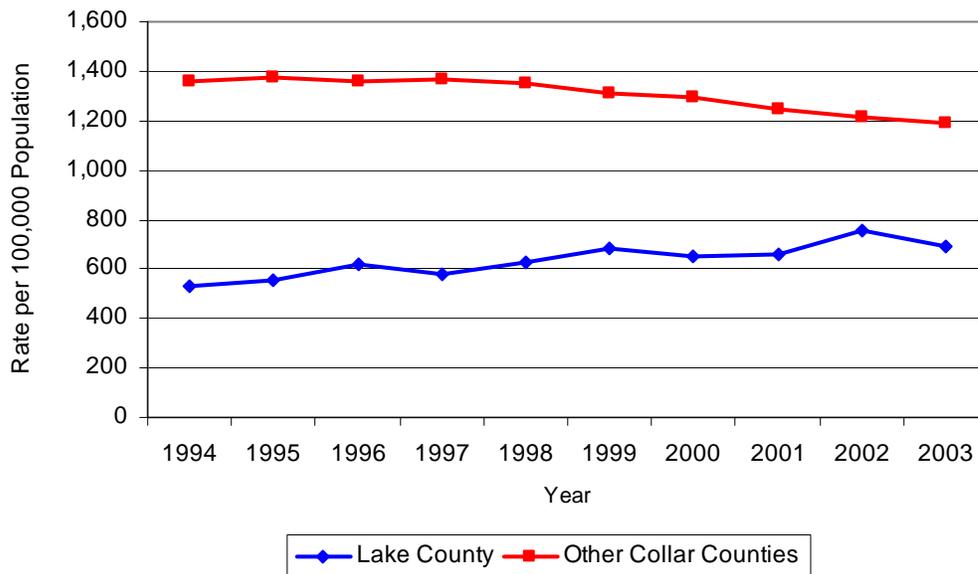
**Felony and Misdemeanor Filings  
in Lake County**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Lake County increased 31 percent, from 530 to 692 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other Collar counties decreased 13 percent during this period, from 1,357 to 1,186 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Lake County was 42 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 9**  
**Felony Filing Rates in Lake and Other Collar Counties**



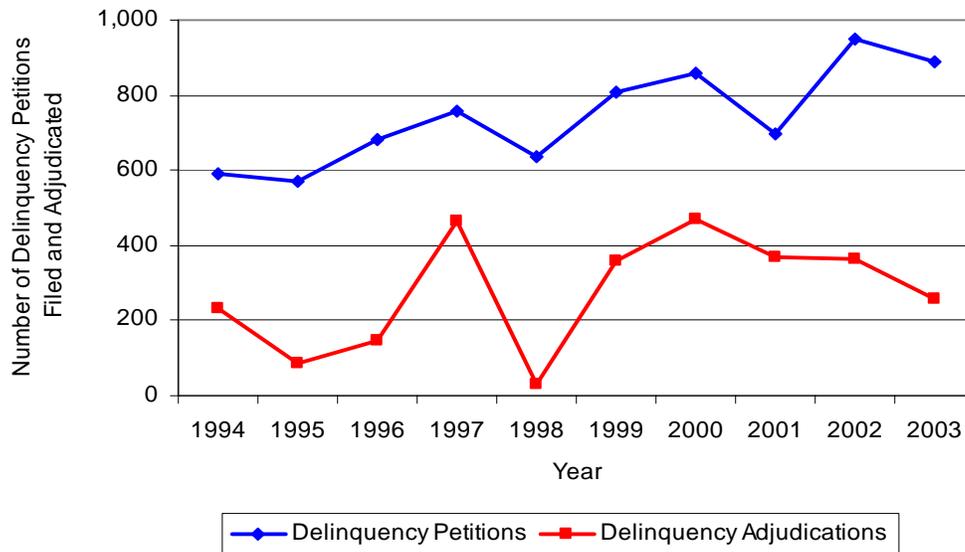
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 Lake County increased 51 percent, from 589 to 889, while delinquency adjudications increased 11 percent from 233 to 259, during the same period (Figure 10). Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions and who were subsequently adjudicated delinquent declined. In 2003, 29 percent of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent, compared to 40 percent in 1994.

**Figure 10**

**Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Lake County**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

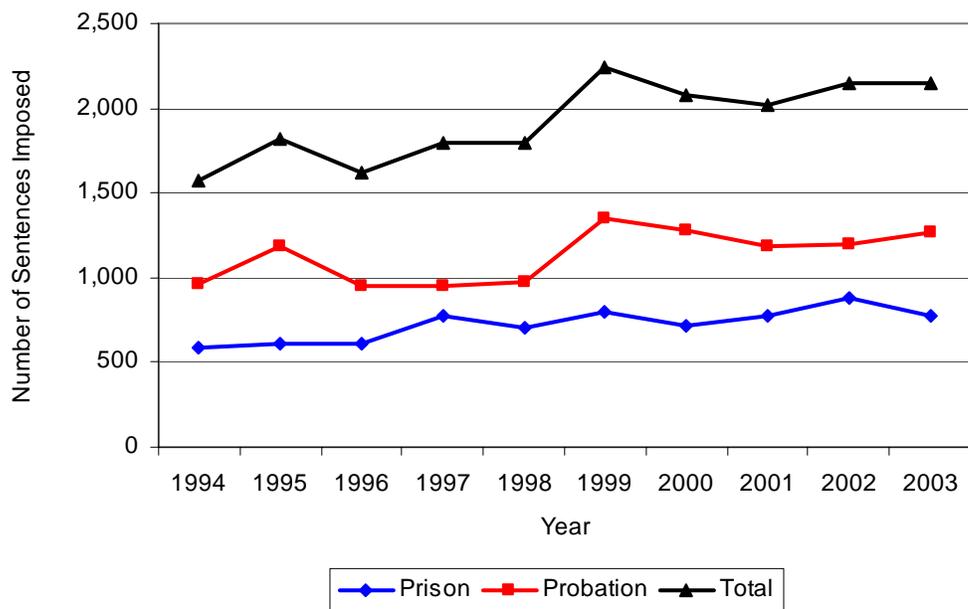
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Lake County increased 20 percent, from 1,047 to 1,255 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other Collar counties increased 97 percent, from 592 to 1,169 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition filing rate in Lake County was 7 percent higher than the rate in the other Collar 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 Lake County increased 36 percent, from 1,577 to 2,148 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to either probation or prison during this period increased 32 percent, from 962 to 1,272 and from 587 to 733, respectively. Despite these increases, felony probation and prison sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 61 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 59 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison increased from 37 percent in 1994 to 36 percent in 2003. In 2003, less than five percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

**Figure 11**

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

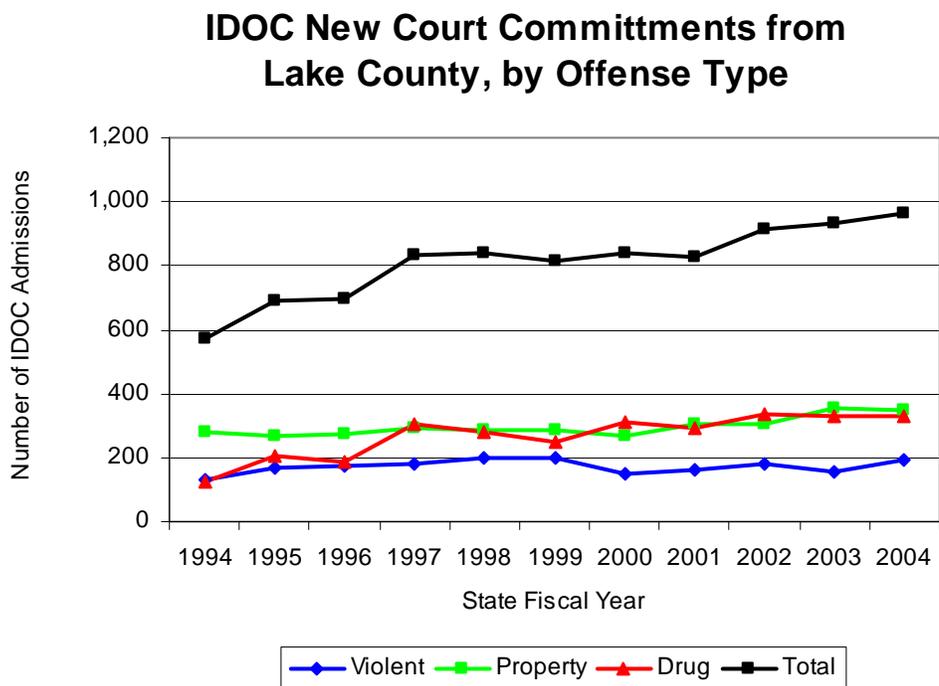


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

## Adult Prison Admissions from Lake County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Lake County increased 68 percent, from 573 to 963 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent, property, and drug offender admissions also increased. The number of violent offender admissions increased 47 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 132 to 194, while the number of property offender admissions increased 24 percent, from 280 to 346, and the number of drug offenders admitted almost tripled; increasing from 122 to 327.

Figure 12



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

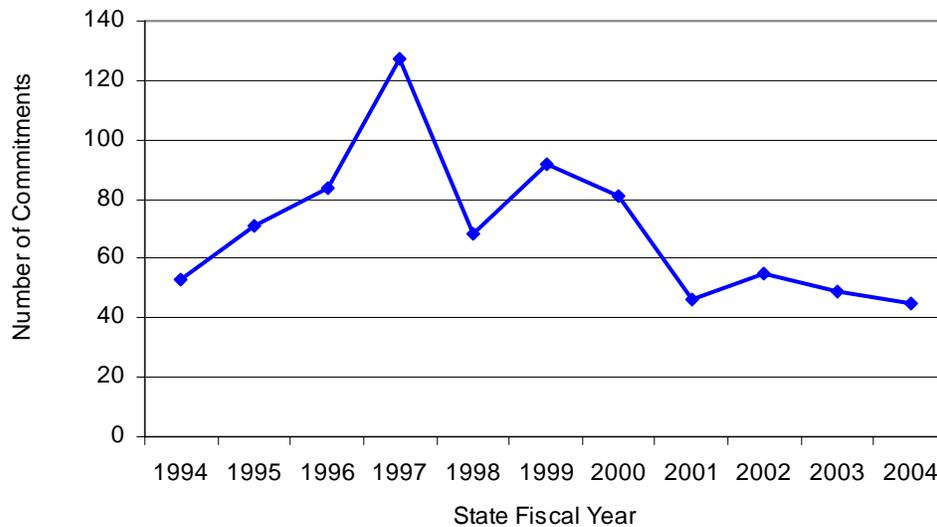
Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, drug offenders accounted for an increased proportion of all admissions from Lake County. In SFY 2004, drug offenders accounts for 21 percent of all admissions from Lake County, compared to 34 percent in SFY 1994, while the proportion of total admissions accounted for by violent offenders decreased from 23 percent to 20 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004. Property offenders also accounted for a decreased proportion of total admissions from Lake County, decreasing from 49 percent to 36 percent.

## 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 State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Lake County decreased 8 percent, from 53 to 45 (Figure 13).

Figure 13

### Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from Lake County



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

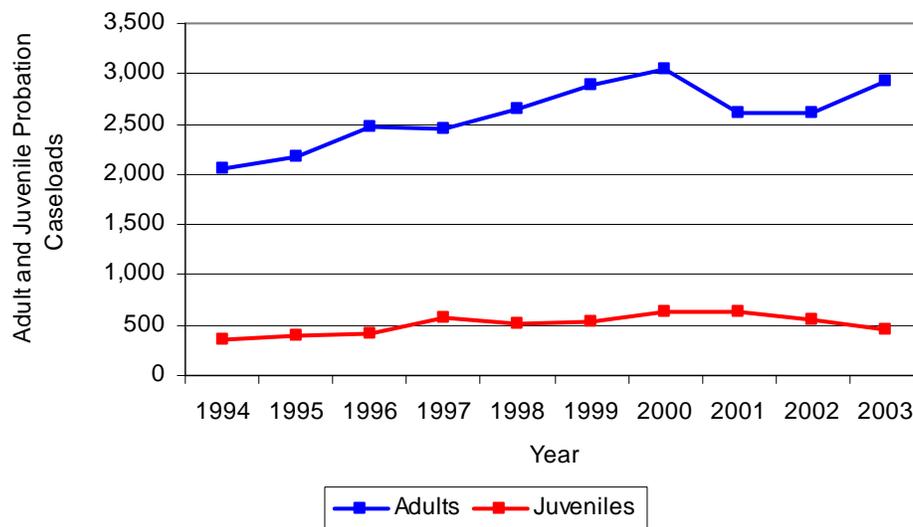
In SFY 2004, Lake County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 88 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was six percent lower than the 93 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other Collar counties.

## Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Lake County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Lake County increased 42 percent, from 2,052 to 2,924 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 56 percent of Lake County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Lake County Juvenile Probation Department increased 28 percent, from 352 to 451. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other Collar counties increased 41 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 54 percent.

Figure 14

### Total Adult and Juvenile Active Probation Cases in Lake County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Lake County increased 18 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 362 to 427 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 14 percent in the other Collar counties, from 281 to 319 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Lake County was 34 percent higher than the rate in the other Collar counties.

#### IV. Jail Populations in Lake County

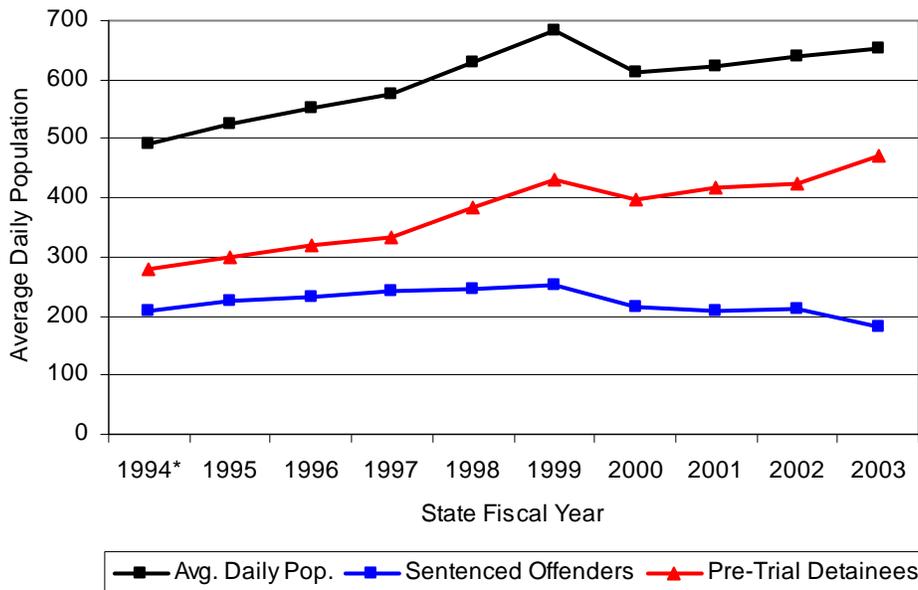
Jail data in Illinois are collected by the Illinois Department of Corrections' Bureau of Inspections and Audits. As with court data, data are not available detailing the specific offenses for which offenders were held in county jails. In addition, between State Fiscal Year (SFY) 1992 and 1994, the IDOC 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 Lake County Jail*

The Lake County Jail was one of 91 county jails in operation in Illinois during state fiscal year 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 Lake County Jail increased 33 percent, from 491 to 652 inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for an increased percentage of the average daily population; from 57 percent in SFY 1994 to 72 percent in SFY 2003. On the other hand, sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for a decreased percentage; 43 percent in 1994 compared to 28 percent in SFY 2003.

**Figure 15**  
**Average Daily Population of the Lake County Jail**



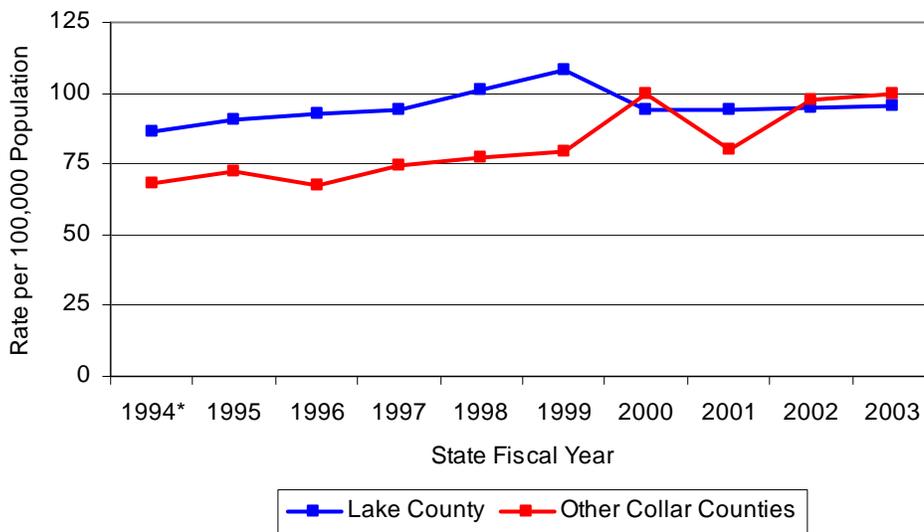
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

\* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Lake County increased 10 percent, from 86 to 95 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other Collar counties increased 46 percent, from 69 to 100 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Lake County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 5 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 16**

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,  
Lake and Other Collar 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 Lake County

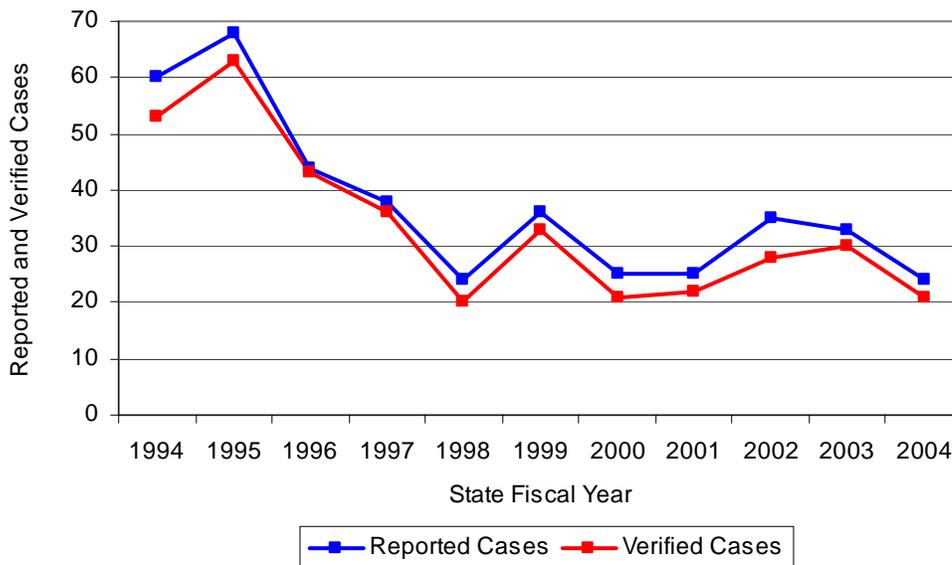
### *Substance-Exposed Infants in Lake County*

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 State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants reported in Lake County decreased 60 percent, from 60 to 24. During the same period, the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 60 percent, from 53 in SFY 1994 to 21 in SFY 2004 (Figure 17).

**Figure 17**

### **Substance-Exposed Infants, Reported and Verified Cases in Lake County**



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other Collar counties decreased 20 percent, from 115 to 92, while the number of verified cases of substance-affected infants decreased 27 percent, from 106 to 77.

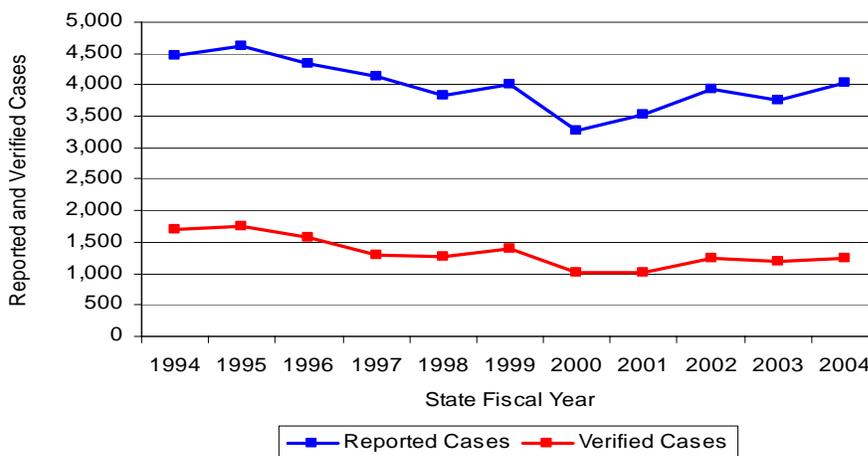
## *Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Lake County*

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> In Illinois, DCFS investigates reported cases of child abuse.

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Lake County decreased 9 percent, from 4,467 to 4,045 (Figure 18). During that same period, 14,717 cases, or 33 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Lake County decreased 28 percent between SFY 1994 and SFY 2004, from 1,712 to 1,235.

**Figure 18**

### **Reported and Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in Lake County**



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

<sup>1</sup> Thornberry, T. P., Huizinga, D., and Loeber, R. 2004. "The Causes and Correlates Studies: Findings and Policy Implications." *Juvenile Justice Journal*. 9:1. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

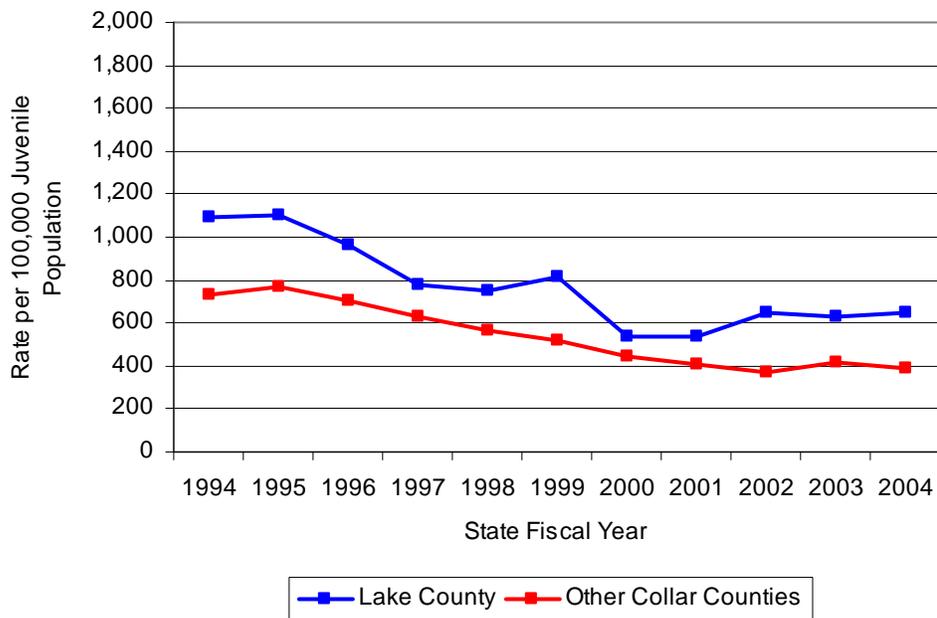
<sup>2</sup> Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. "In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>3</sup> Menard, S. 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 Lake County decreased from 1,096 to 652 per 100,000 juveniles, a 40 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 47 percent in the other Collar counties, from 729 to 387 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Lake County was 68 percent higher than in the other Collar counties.

**Figure 19**

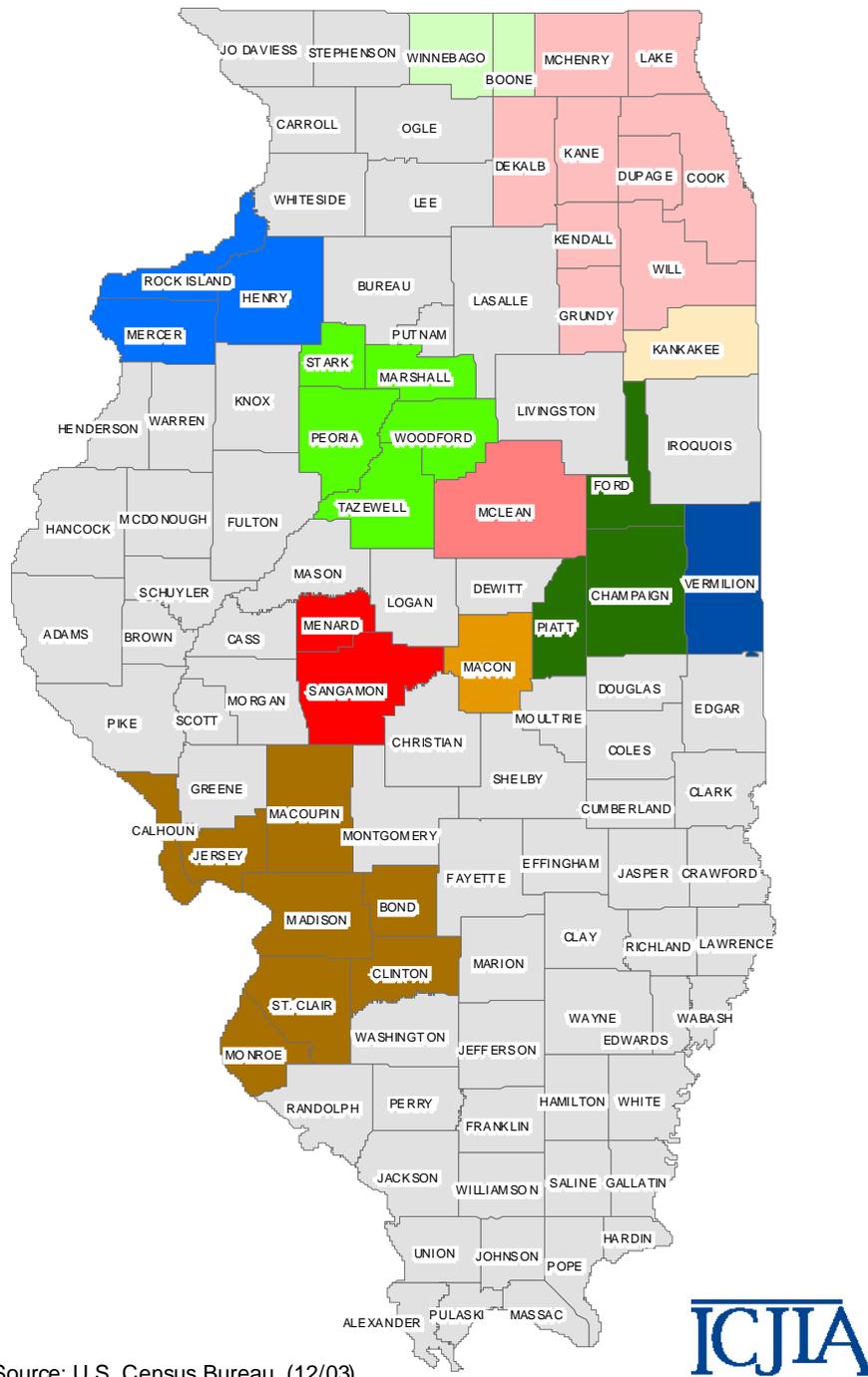
**Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Lake and Other Collar Counties**



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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