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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 McHenry 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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CONTENTS

Section	Page Number
I. Introduction	1
II. Law Enforcement Activities in McHenry County	3
III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in McHenry County	11
IV. Jail Populations in McHenry County	19
V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in McHenry County	21
VI. Appendix I (Map of Illinois Counties within a Metropolitan Statistical Area).....	24
VII. Bibliography	25

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page Number
Figure 1. Total Violent Index Offense Rates in McHenry and Other Collar Counties	4
Figure 2. Total Property Index Offense Rates in McHenry and Other Collar Counties	5
Figure 3. Index Arrest Rate in McHenry and Other Collar Counties	6
Figure 4. Drug Arrests in McHenry County	7
Figure 5. Drug Arrest Rates in McHenry and Other Collar Counties	8
Figure 6. Cannabis Seized in McHenry County	9
Figure 7. Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in McHenry County	10
Figure 8. Felony and Misdemeanor Filings in McHenry County	12
Figure 9. Felony Filing Rates in McHenry and Other Collar Counties	13
Figure 10. Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in McHenry County	14
Figure 11. Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in McHenry County	15
Figure 12. IDOC New Court Commitments from McHenry County, by Offense Type.....	16
Figure 13. Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from McHenry County	17
Figure 14. Total Active Adult and Juvenile Probation Cases in McHenry County	18
Figure 15. Average Daily Population of the McHenry County Jail.....	19
Figure 16. Average Daily Jail Population Rates, McHenry and Other Collar Counties	20
Figure 17. Reported and Verified Cases of Substance-Exposed Infants, McHenry County	21
Figure 18. Reported and Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in McHenry County	22
Figure 19. Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, McHenry and Other Collar Counties	23

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

McHenry County, located in northeastern Illinois, covers an area of 604 square miles and had a 2003 population of 286,091, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, McHenry County was the 56th largest county in Illinois geographically, but 7th largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, McHenry County had the 7th highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to McHenry 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, McHenry County is one of Illinois' five Collar counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in McHenry 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 McHenry 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 DuPage County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (DUMEG) also serves DuPage 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.

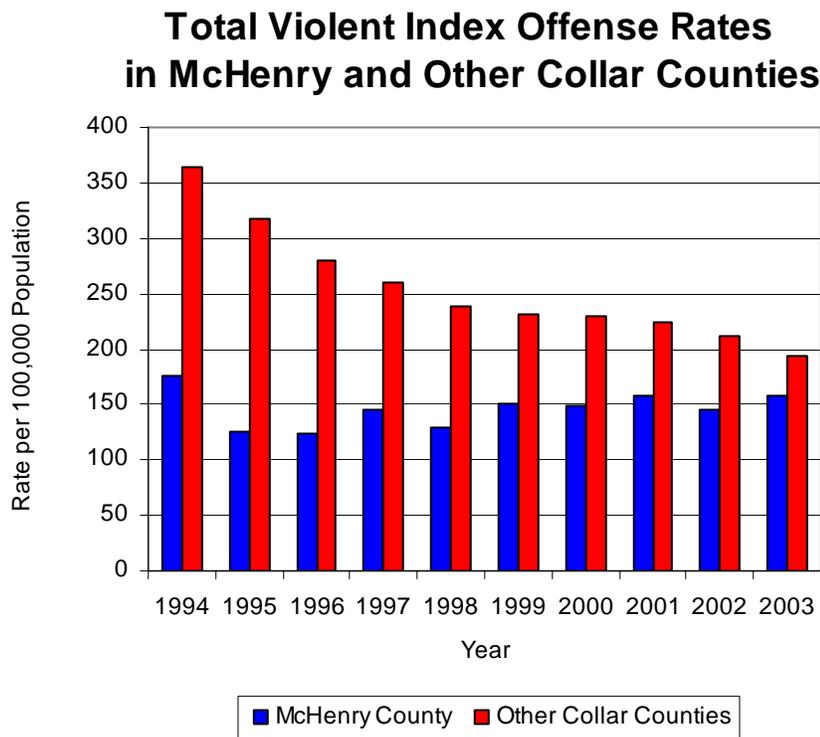
To learn more about the drug enforcement activities of the DuPage County Metropolitan Enforcement Group and Illinois' other MEGs and task forces, profiles of each of the units were developed by the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit and are available through the Authority's Criminal Justice Information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

Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in McHenry County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police increased 17 percent in McHenry County between 1994 and 2003, from 386 to 453. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (nearly 75 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in McHenry County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in McHenry County decreased 10 percent, from 176 to 156 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Similarly, during that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other Collar counties decreased 47 percent, from 364 to 194 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in McHenry County was 18 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar counties.

Figure 1



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

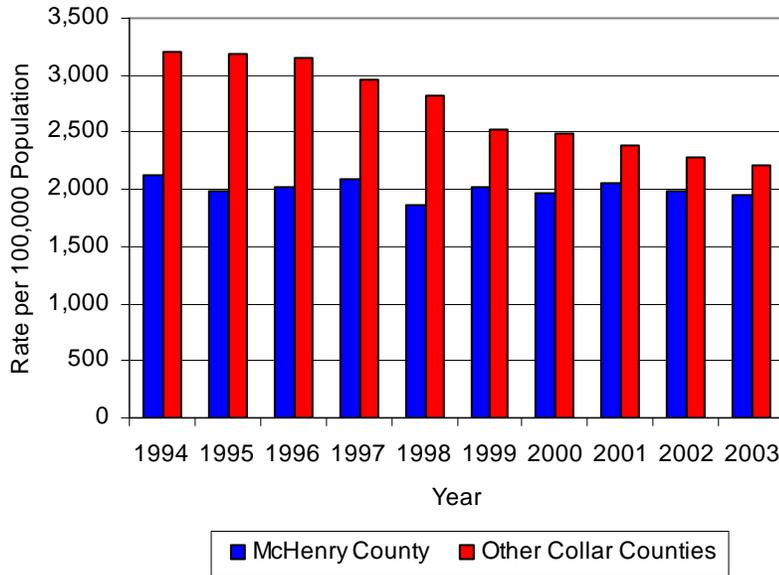
Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in McHenry County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in McHenry County increased 19 percent from 4,669 to 5,555. Thefts accounted for 84 percent of all property Index offenses reported in McHenry County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in McHenry County decreased 9 percent, from 2,127 to 1,941 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the other Collar counties, the property Index offense rate decreased 31 percent, from 3,204 to 2,219 offenses per 100,000 population. Although experiencing a similar decrease in the property Index offense rate, McHenry County's 2003 property Index offense rate was still 12 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar counties.

Figure 2

Total Property Index Offense Rates in McHenry and Other Collar Counties



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

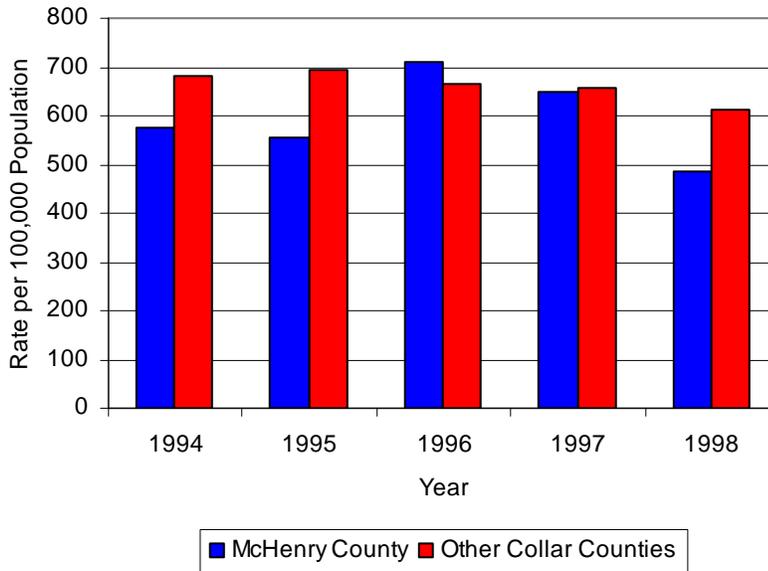
Index Arrests by McHenry County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in McHenry County increased 13 percent, from 1,216 to 1,370. The majority of Index arrests was for property Index offenses. Of the 1,370 Index arrests made in McHenry County during 2003, 29 percent were for violent Index crimes and 71 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in McHenry County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 87 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 81 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in McHenry County decreased 14 percent, from 554 to 479 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other Collar counties decreased 28 percent, from 677 to 487 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, McHenry County's Index arrest rate was 2 percent lower than the Index arrest rate in the other Collar counties.

Figure 3

Index Arrest Rates in McHenry and Other Collar Counties



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

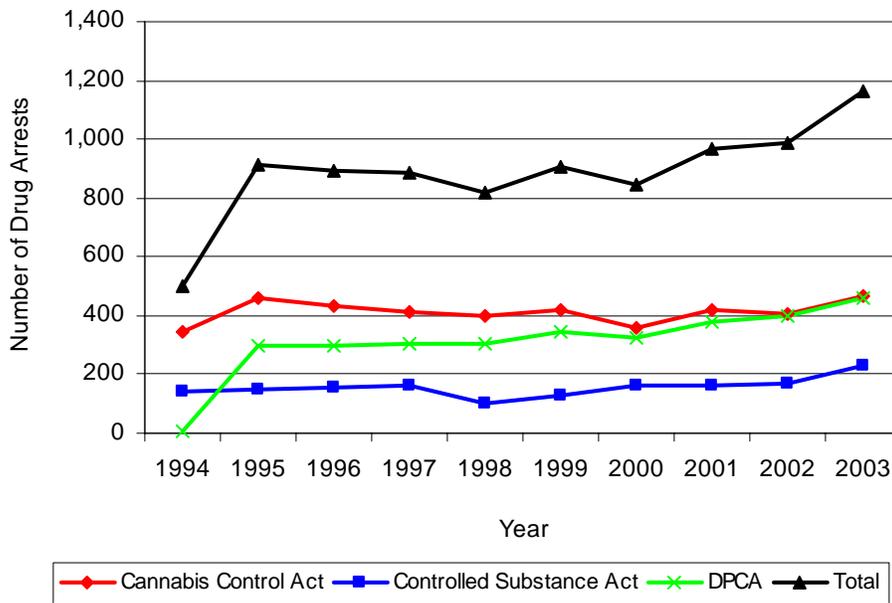
Drug Offense Arrests in McHenry County

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) more than doubled in McHenry County, from 498 to 1,166 (Figure 4).

Arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in McHenry 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 McHenry County increased from 344 to 470, a 37 percent increase (Figure 4). Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act, also increased in McHenry County between 1994 and 2003, from 143 to 229, a 60 percent increase (Figure 4).

Figure 4

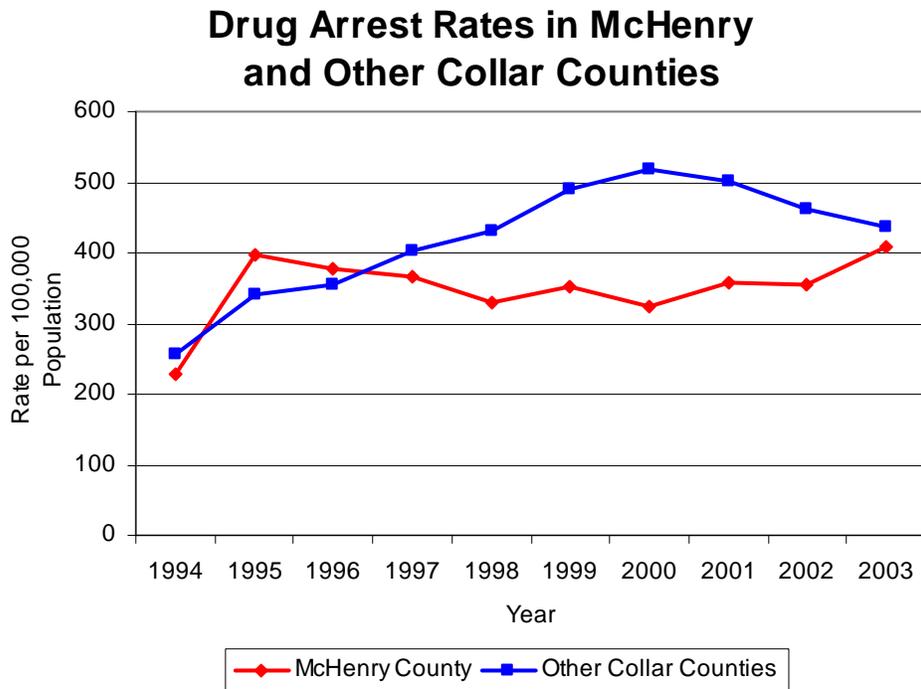
Drug Arrests in McHenry County



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in McHenry County increased 80 percent, from 227 to 408 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other Collar counties also increased between 1994 and 2003, from 256 to 436 per 100,000 population, a 71 percent increase. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in McHenry County was 7 percent lower than the rate in the other Collar counties.

Figure 5



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

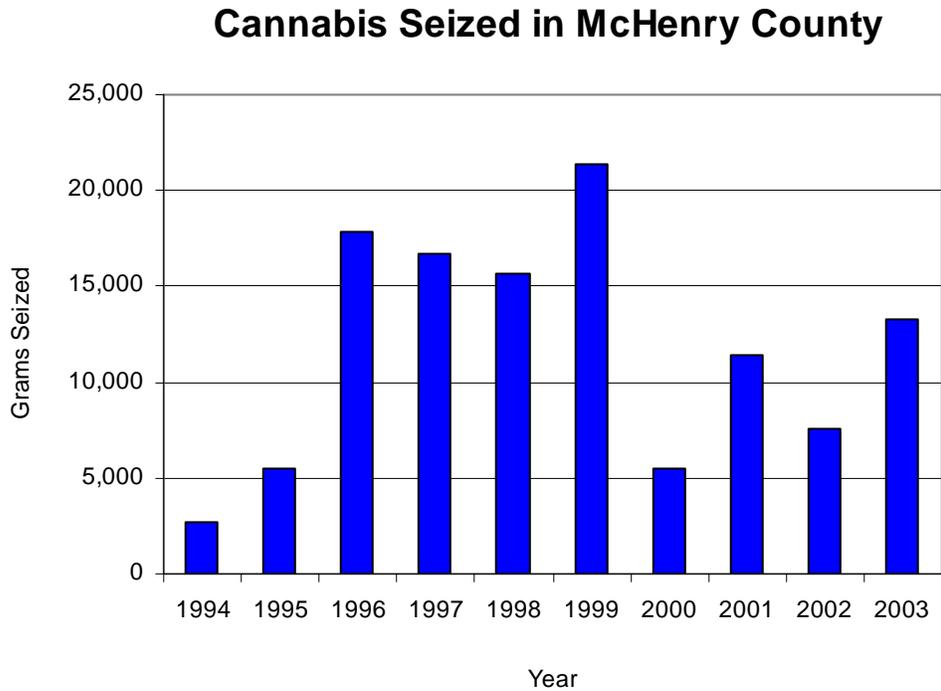
Drugs Seized in McHenry County

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 McHenry County.

Cannabis Seized in McHenry County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in McHenry County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in McHenry County increased nearly four-fold, from 2,701 grams to 13,285 grams (Figure 6).

Figure 6



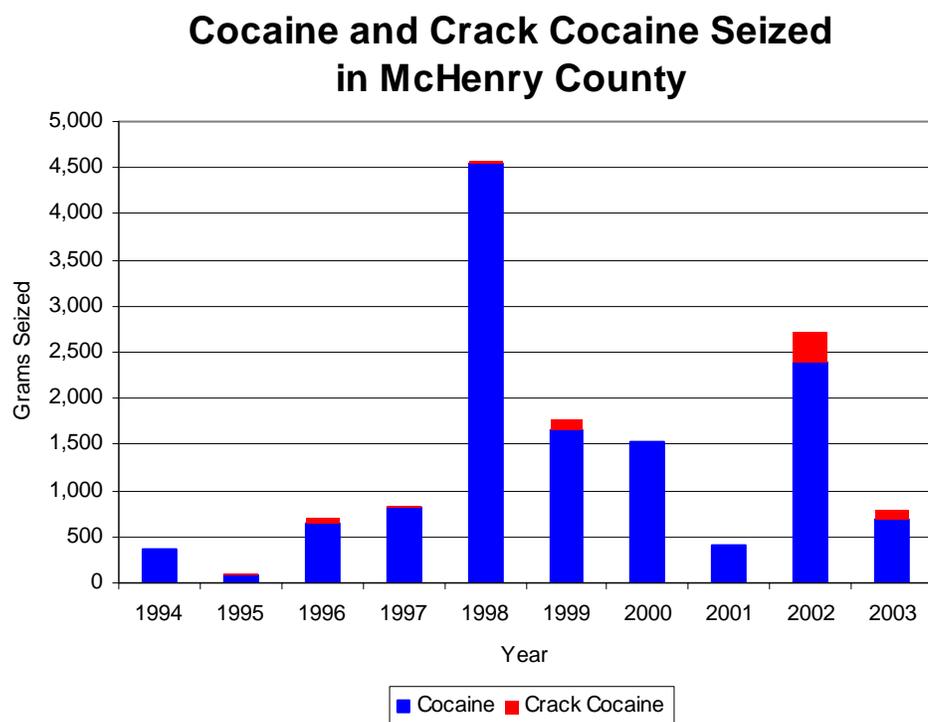
Source: Illinois State Police

During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other Collar counties increased 70 percent, from 202,105 grams to 344,327 grams. In 2003, McHenry County had a cannabis seizure rate of 4,644 grams per 100,000 population, compared to a rate of 13,474 grams per 100,000 population in the other Collar counties.

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in McHenry County

The quantity of both powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in McHenry County increased between 1994 and 2003. The quantity of powder cocaine seized in McHenry County increased 89 percent, from 368 grams in 1994 to 696 grams in 2003 (Figure 7). While crack cocaine accounted for a relatively small portion of all cocaine seized in McHenry County, the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased from 9 grams in 1994 to 108 grams in 2003.

Figure 7



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in the other Collar counties increased dramatically during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized increased 3 percent in the other Collar counties, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased from 917 grams to 975 grams. In 2003, 243 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in McHenry County, 42 percent lower than the 1,620 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other Collar counties.

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in McHenry 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.

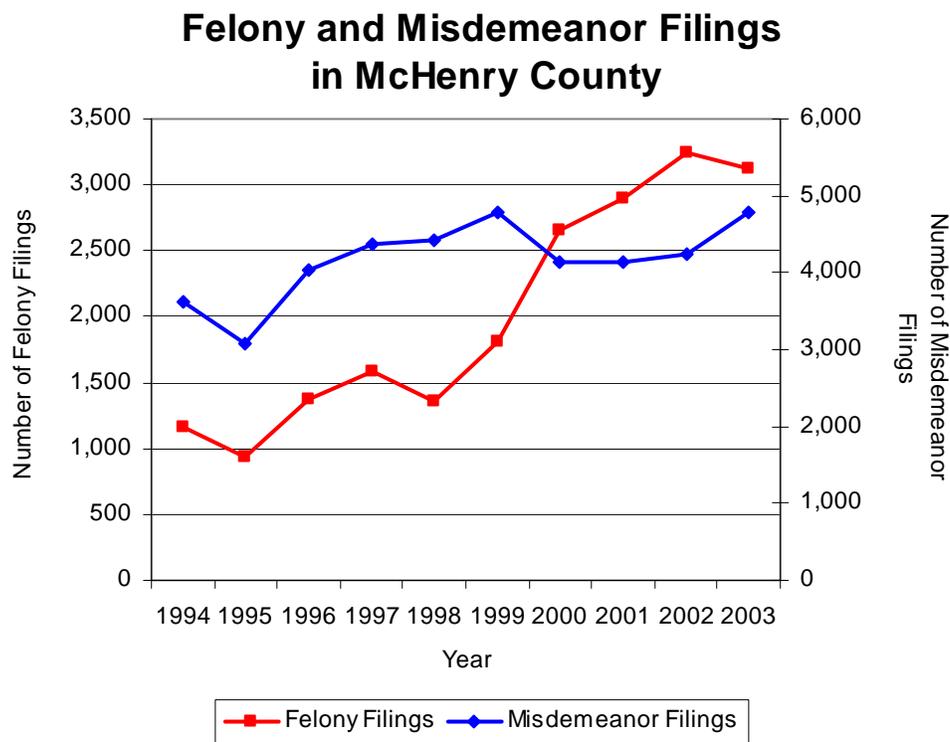
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in McHenry County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

Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in McHenry 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 9 percent of all filings in McHenry County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in McHenry County more than doubled, from 1,166 to 3,118 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings also increased, increasing 32 percent, from 3,614 in 1994 to 4,785 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered misdemeanor filings by more than half. It is important to note that to include both misdemeanor and felony case filings on the same graph it was necessary to use two separate Y-axes. In Figure 8, the misdemeanor filings are plotted against the right Y-axis and felony filings are plotted using the left Y-axis.

Figure 8

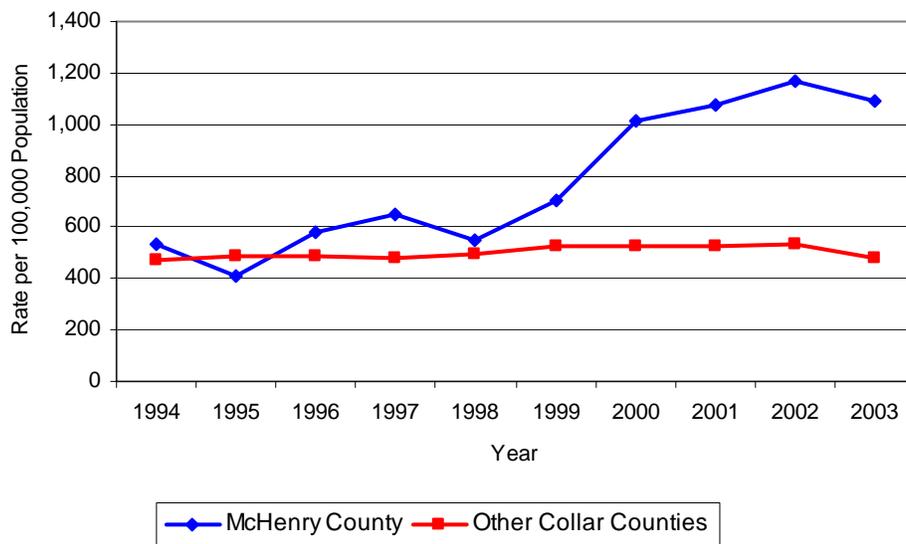


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in McHenry County more than doubled, from 531 to 1,090 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other Collar counties increased 1 percent during this period, from 473 to 477 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in McHenry County was almost three times higher than the rate in the other Collar counties.

Figure 9

Felony Filing Rates in McHenry and Other Collar Counties



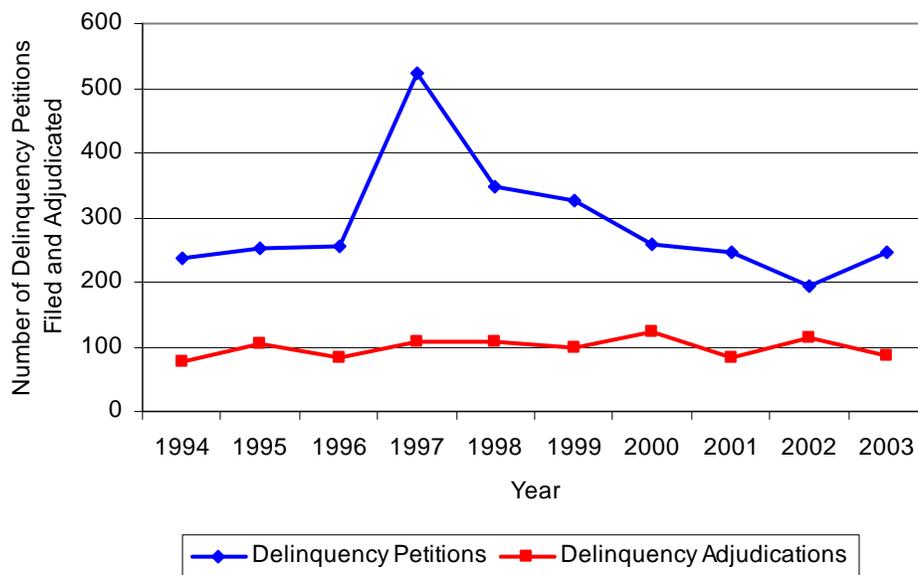
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 McHenry County increased 3 percent, from 238 to 246 (Figure 10). In 2003, 35 percent of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications increased 13 percent, from 77 to 87. The majority of cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

Figure 10

Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in McHenry County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

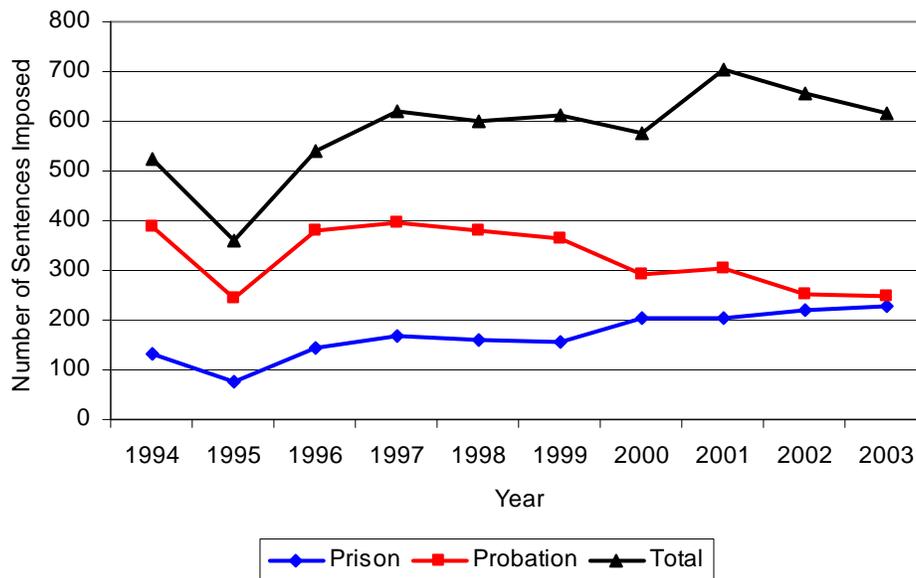
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in McHenry County decreased 20 percent, from 1,014 to 813 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other Collar counties increased 86 percent, from 663 to 1,232 petitions per 100,000 juveniles.

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 McHenry County increased 71 percent, from 133 to 228 (Figure 11). While the number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period decreased 4 percent, from 389 to 250, felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 74 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 40 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison increased, from 25 percent in 1994 to 37 percent in 2003. In 2003, 23 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

Figure 11

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in McHenry County



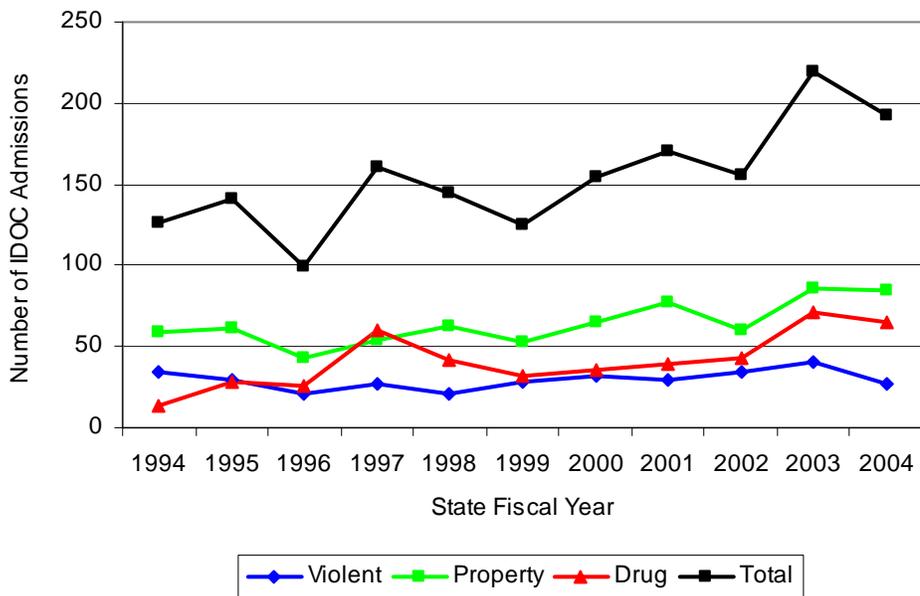
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from McHenry County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 20074, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from McHenry County increased 52 percent, from 141 to 192 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent offender admissions decreased 21 percent from 34 to 27, while the number of property offender admissions increased 40 percent, from 59 to 84. The number of drug offenders admitted more than quadrupled; increasing from 13 to 65.

Figure 12

IDOC New Court Commitments from McHenry County, by Offense Type



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

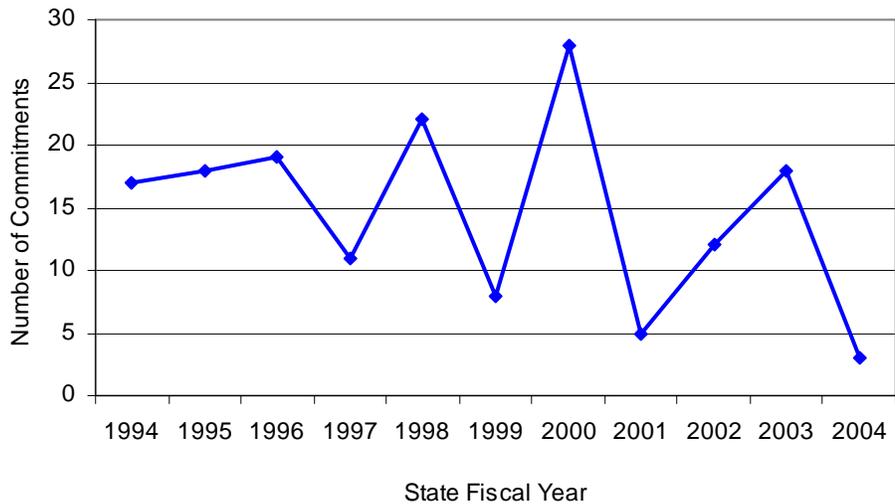
In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 14 percent of all admissions from McHenry County, while property offenders accounted for 44 percent and drug offenders accounted for 34 percent of all admissions. Between SFY 1994 and 2004, drug offenders increased from 10 percent to 34 percent of all admissions from McHenry County.

Juvenile Court Commitments to the Illinois Department of Corrections

The Illinois Department of Corrections' Juvenile Division provides long-term custody for youths, 13 to 17 years old, who have been found delinquent by the juvenile court and committed to the IDOC. Youths may remain in an IDOC juvenile facility until they are 21. Between SFY 1994 and 2004, the number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from McHenry County decreased 82 percent, from 19 to three (Figure 13).

Figure 13

Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from McHenry County



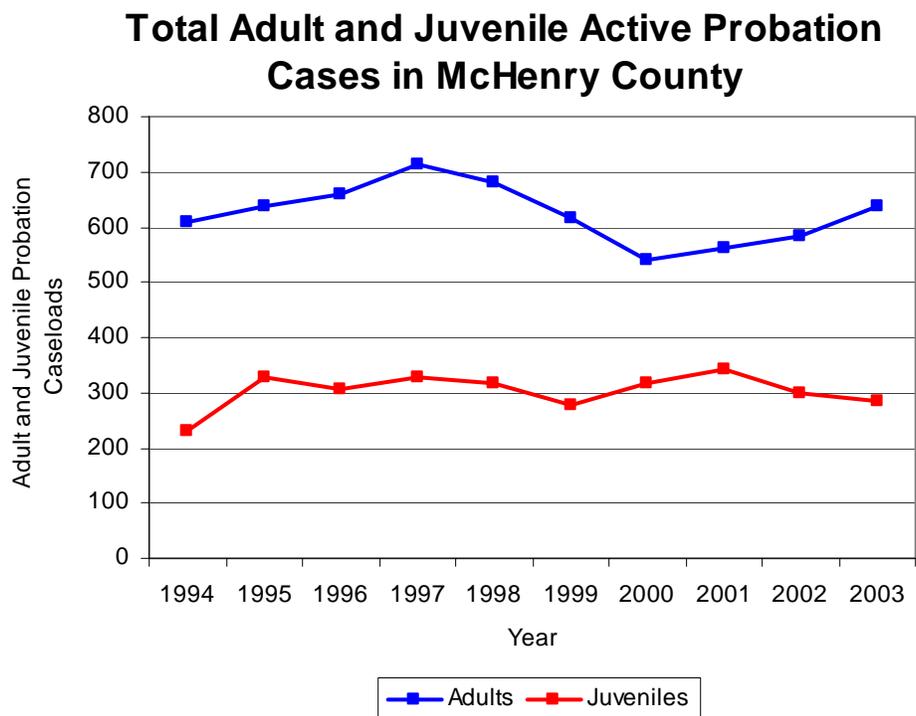
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections.

In SFY 2004, McHenry County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 14 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 90 percent lower than the 100 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other Collar counties.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in McHenry County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in McHenry County increased 5 percent, from 608 to 638 (Figure 14). In 2004, felony offenders accounted for 66 percent of McHenry County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the McHenry County Juvenile Probation Department increased 24 percent, from 231 to 286. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other Collar counties increased 45 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 53 percent.

Figure 14



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in McHenry County decreased 19 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 281 to 223 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 18 percent in the other Collar counties, from 304 to 357 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in McHenry County was 38 percent lower than in the other Collar counties.

IV. Jail Populations in McHenry 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 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.

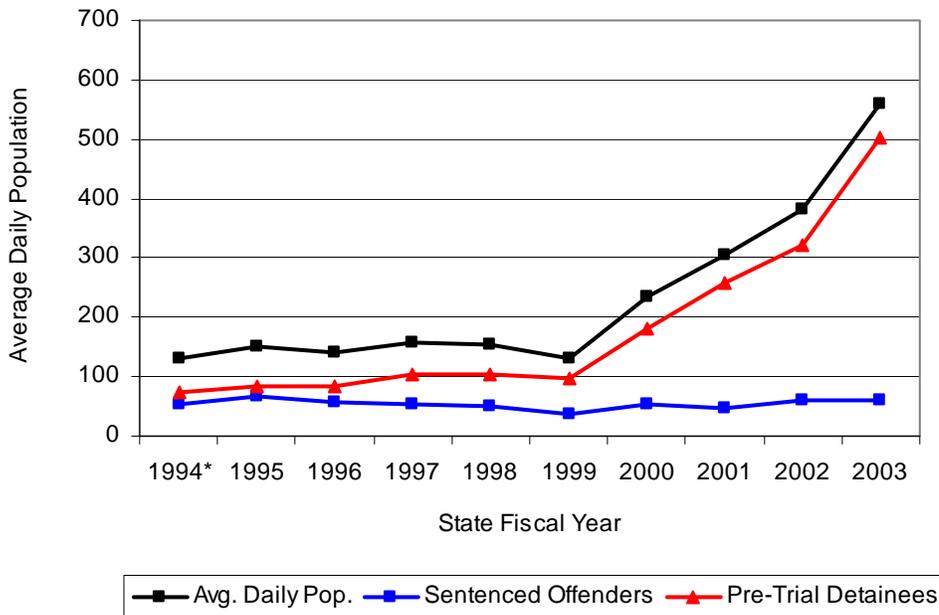
Average Daily Population of the McHenry County Jail

The McHenry 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 SFY 1994 and 2003, the average daily population of the McHenry County Jail more than tripled, from 129 to 561 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 89 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 SFY 1994, compared to 11 percent in SFY 2003.

Figure 15

Average Daily Population of the McHenry County Jail



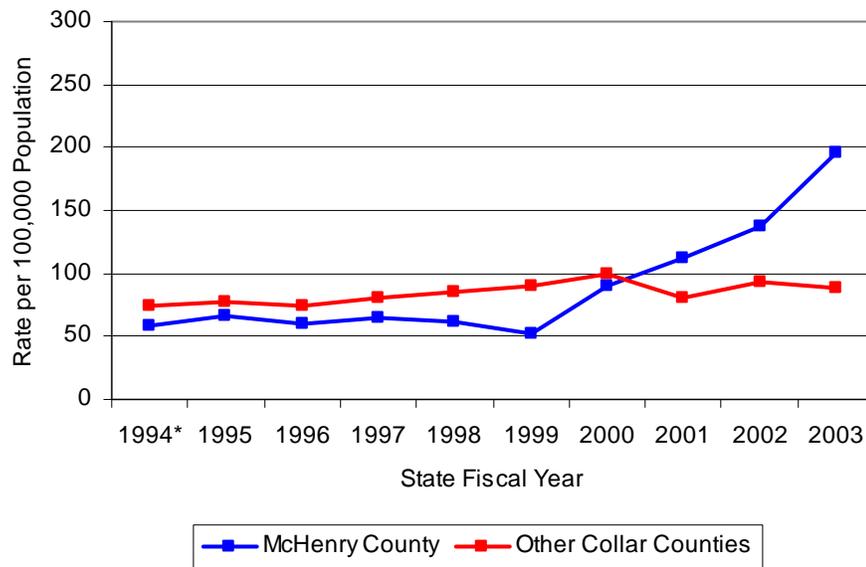
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in McHenry County also more than tripled, from 59 to 196 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other Collar counties increased 19 percent, from 74 to 88 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the McHenry County Jail had an average daily jail population rate more than double twice as high as the rate in the other Collar counties.

Figure 16

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,
McHenry 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 McHenry County

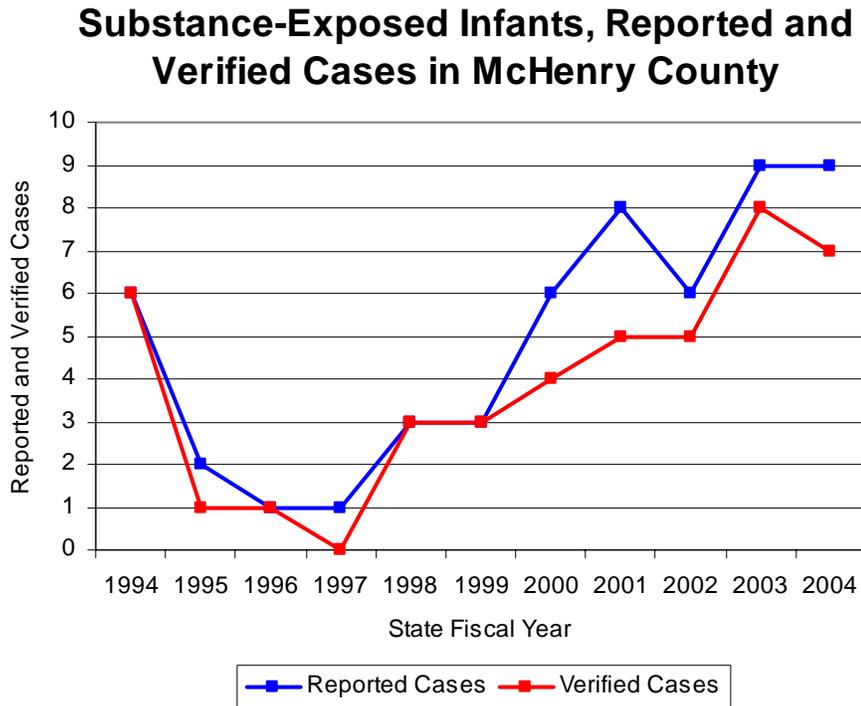
Substance-Exposed Infants in McHenry County

Illinois continues to experience the effects of prenatal substance abuse. In Illinois, if a baby is born and thought to have been exposed to illegal substances or alcohol, either through observation by physicians or toxicology tests, the case is reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). These cases are then investigated by DCFS to verify the child's prenatal exposure to either alcohol or illegal substances. Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed infant.

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-affected infants were reported in McHenry County increased from six to nine. During the same period, the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants reported and verified increased from six in 1994 to seven in 2003 (Figure 17).

Between SFY 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other Collar counties decreased 37 percent, from 169 to 107, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 41 percent, from 153 to 91.

Figure 17



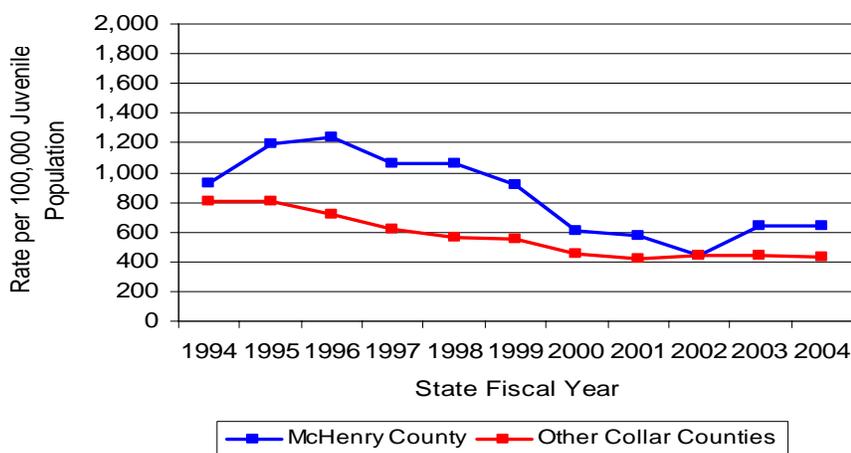
Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in McHenry 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 State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in McHenry County increased 15 percent, from 1,587 to 1,830 (Figure 18). During that same period, 6,658 cases, or 36 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in McHenry County decreased 14 percent between SFY 1994 and 2004, from 586 to 504.

Figure 18
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, McHenry and Other Collar Counties



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.

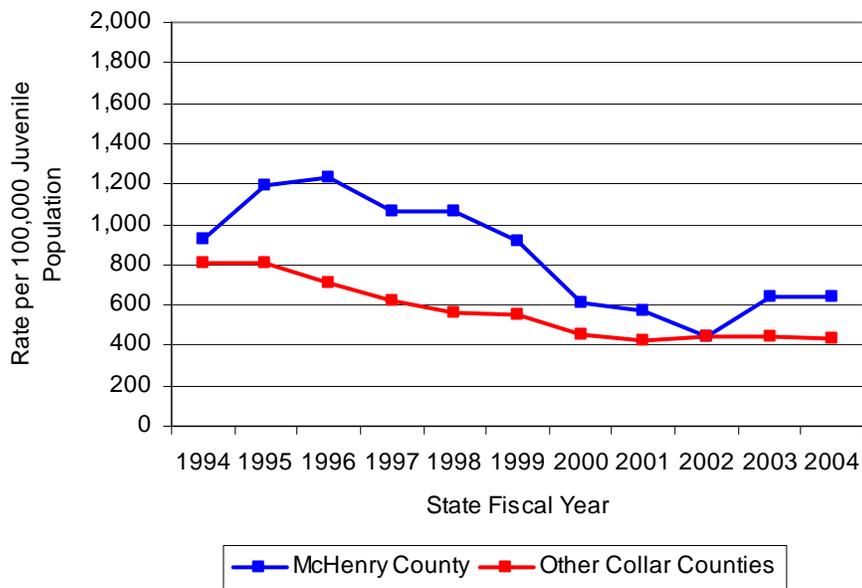
² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. "In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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 state fiscal years 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in McHenry County decreased from 924 to 642 per 100,000 juveniles, a 31 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 46 percent in the other Collar counties, from 803 to 430 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in McHenry County was 131 percent lower than in the other Collar counties.

Figure 19

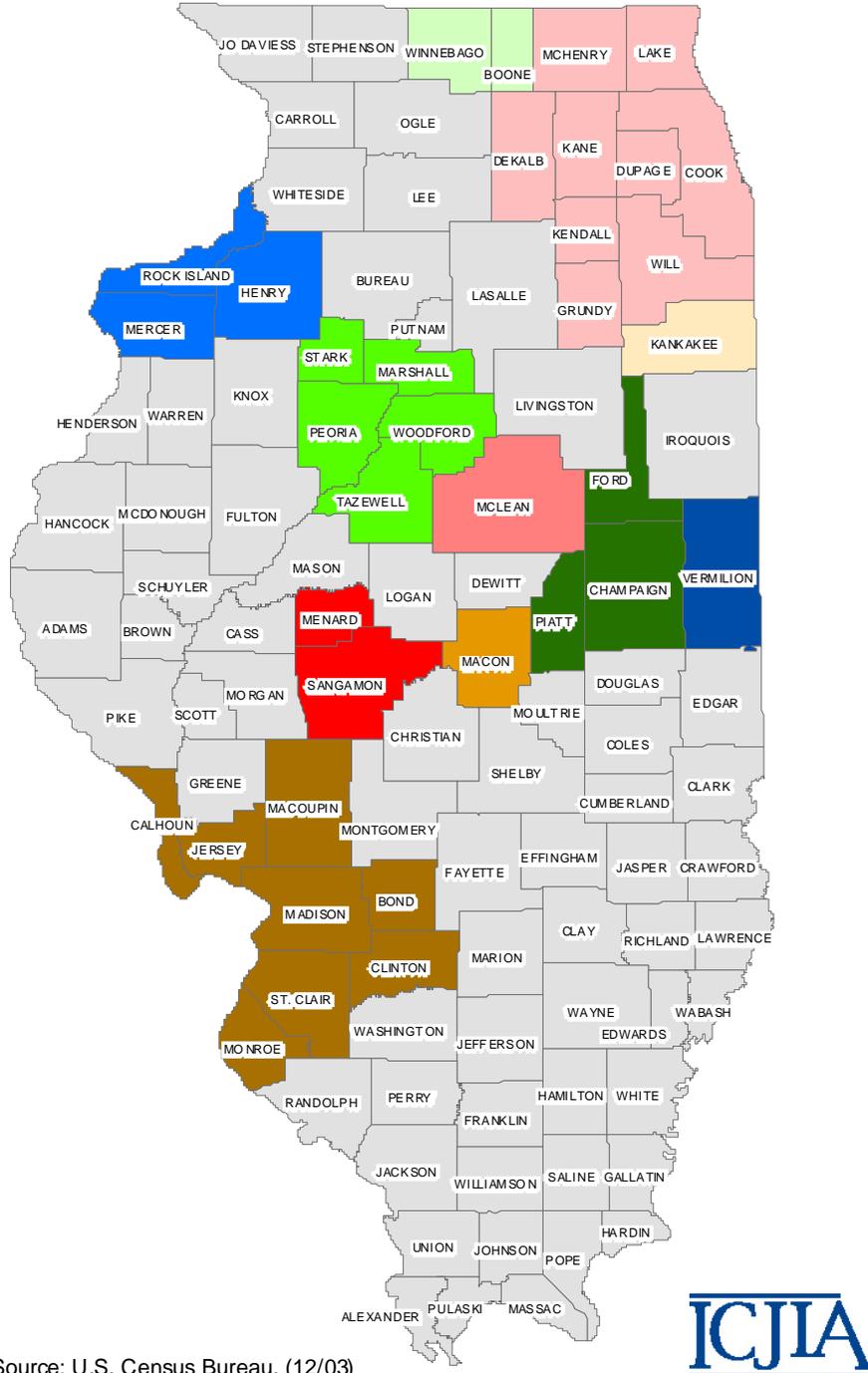
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, McHenry and Other Collar Counties



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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