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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 Menard 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

Menard County, located in central Illinois, covers an area of 314 square miles and had a 2003 population of 12,593, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Menard County was the 13<sup>th</sup> smallest county in Illinois geographically, but 16<sup>th</sup> smallest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Menard County had the 39<sup>th</sup> lowest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Menard 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, Menard County is one of Illinois' 30 urban counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Menard County will be compared to those trends experienced in the other urban 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 Menard 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.

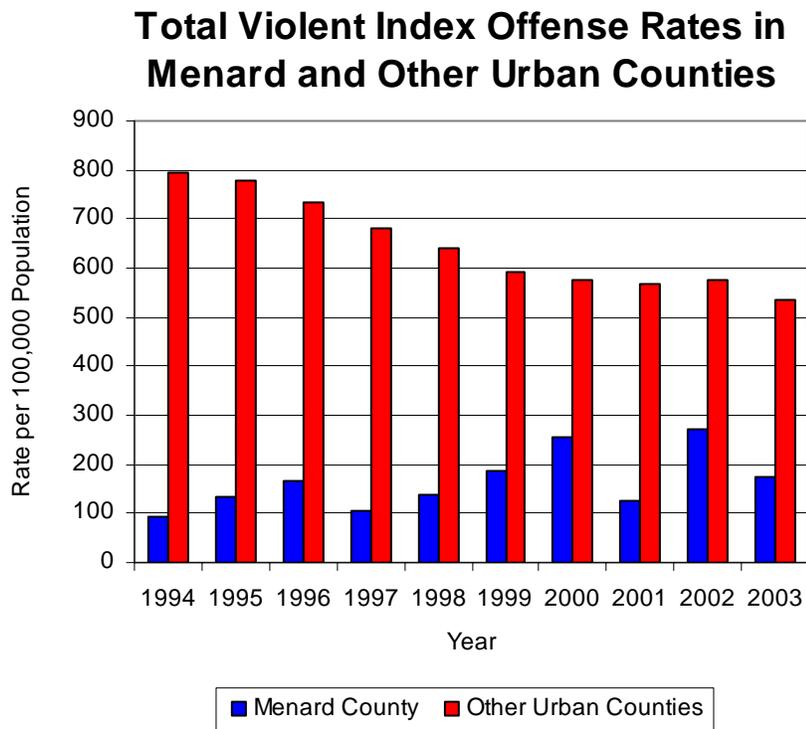
An indicator of the workload that law enforcement agencies place on other components of the justice system is the number of arrests made by police, including those for violent and property Index offenses and drug offenses. Unlike offenses, which are what police must respond to, arrests represent those offenders who may eventually be processed through other components of the justice system, including the courts, county jails, and state and local correctional programs.

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

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police doubled in Menard County between 1994 and 2003, from 11 to 22. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority of violent Index offenses reported in Menard County. However, in 2003, aggravated assault offenses accounted for 66 percent of violent Index offenses reported to the police.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Menard County increased 87 percent, from 93 to 174 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Conversely, during that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other urban counties decreased nearly annually, decreasing 33 percent, from 796 to 535 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Menard County was 68 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 1**



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

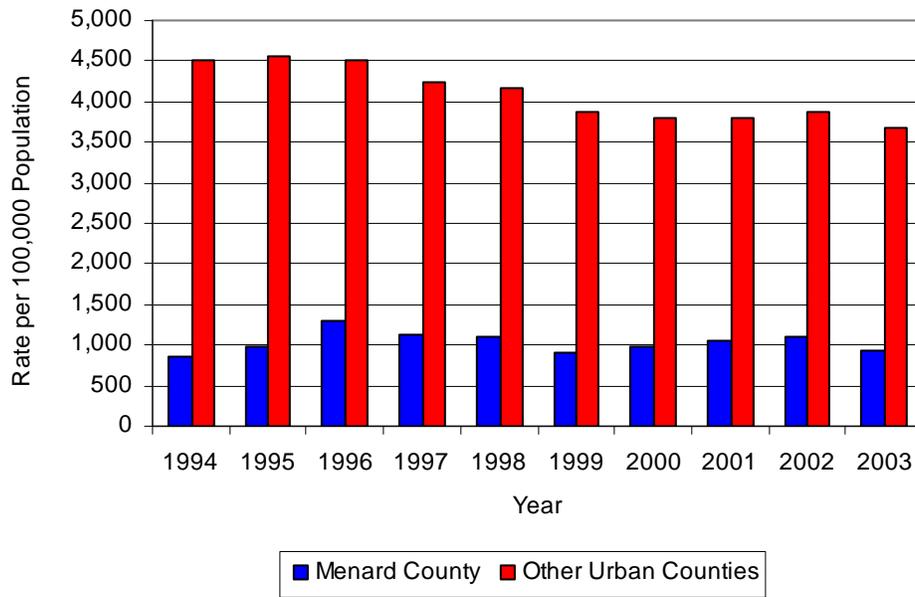
*Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Menard County*

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Menard County increased 16 percent, from 101 to 117. Thefts accounted for 64 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Menard County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Menard County increased 9 percent, from 856 to 929 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the other urban counties, the property Index offense rate decreased 18 percent, from 4,504 to 3,689 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 property Index offense rate in Menard County was 75 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 2**

**Total Property Index Offense Rates in Menard and Other Urban Counties**



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

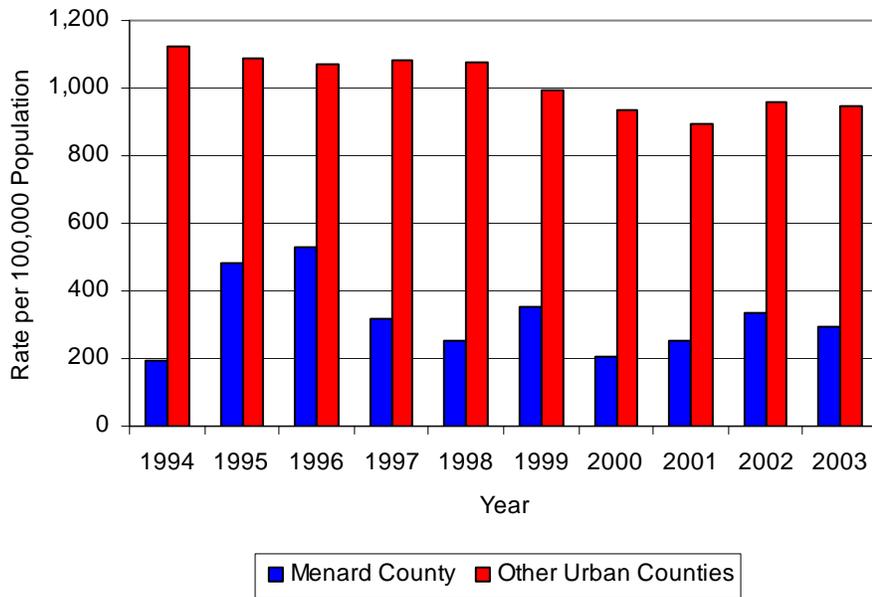
*Index Arrests by Menard County Law Enforcement Agencies*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Menard County increased 61 percent, from 23 to 37. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 37 Index arrests made in Menard County during 2003, 57 percent were for violent Index crimes and 43 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for burglary accounted for the majority of property Index arrests in Menard County during 2003, while aggravated assault accounted for 81 percent of violent Index offenses. Of all property Index arrests, burglary accounted for 67 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Menard County increased 51 percent, from 195 to 294 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties decreased 16 percent, from 1,123 to 945 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Menard County's Index arrest rate was 69 percent lower than the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 3**

**Index Arrest Rates in Menard and Other Urban Counties**



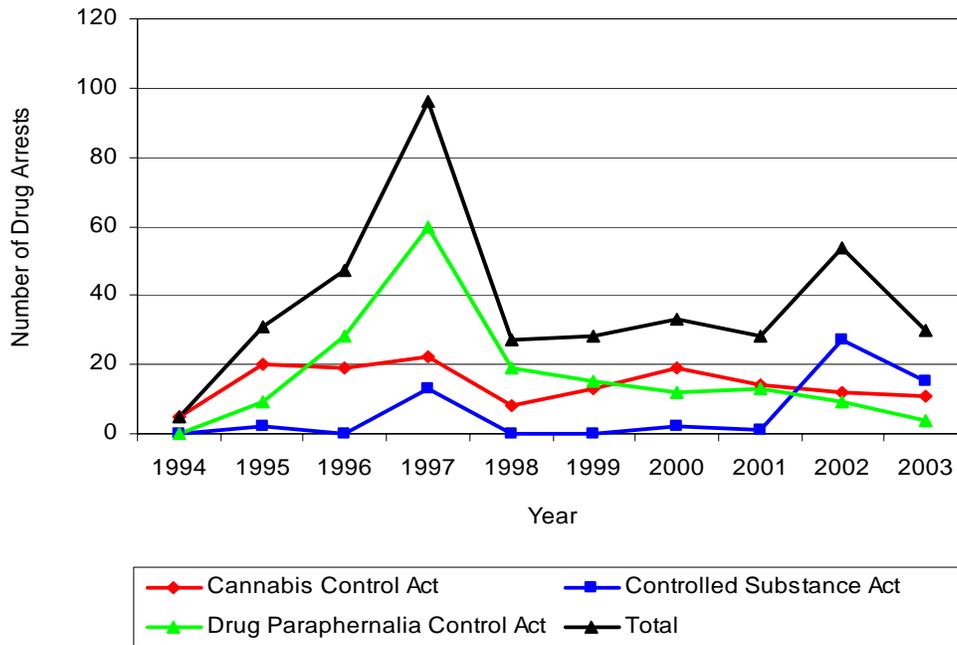
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

*Drug Offense Arrests in Menard 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 five-fold in Menard County, from five to 30 (Figure 4). The number of arrests for violation of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act increased, from zero arrests in 1994 to a period high of 60 in 1997, before decreasing to just four in 2003. Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for 13 percent of all drugs arrests in 2003.

During most of the period, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Menard County have 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 Menard County increased from five to 11. During the same period, the number of arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act in Menard County dramatically increased, from zero to 15 (Figure 4).

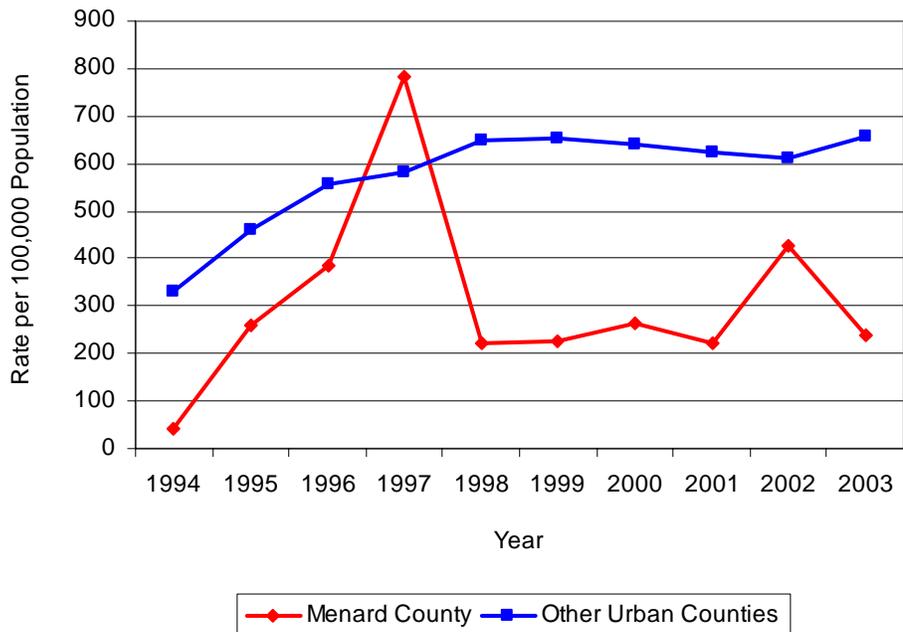
**Figure 4**  
**Drug Arrests in Menard County**



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Menard County increased more than four-fold, from 42 to 238 per 100,000 population. With the exception of 1997, the drug arrest rate in Menard County was consistently higher than the rate in the other urban counties (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other urban counties nearly doubled between 1994 and 2003, from 330 to 656 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Menard County was 64 percent less than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 5**  
**Drug Arrest Rates in Menard and Other Urban Counties**



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

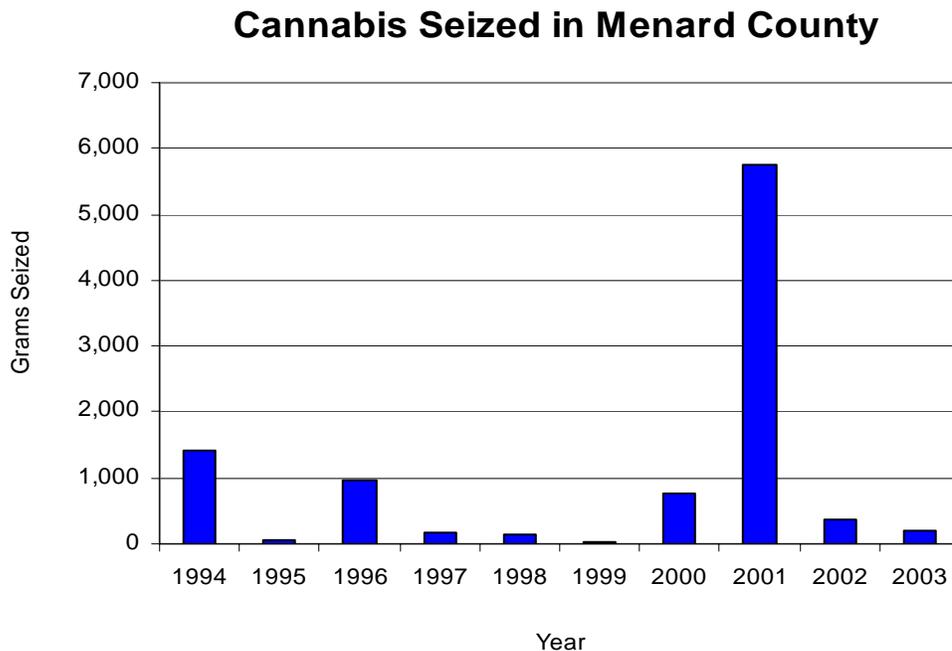
### Drugs Seized in Menard County

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 Menard County.

### *Cannabis Seized in Menard County*

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Menard County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Menard County decreased 86 percent, from 1,405 grams to 194 grams. During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other urban counties decreased 61 percent, from 1,310,361 grams to 514,440 grams (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**



Source: Illinois State Police

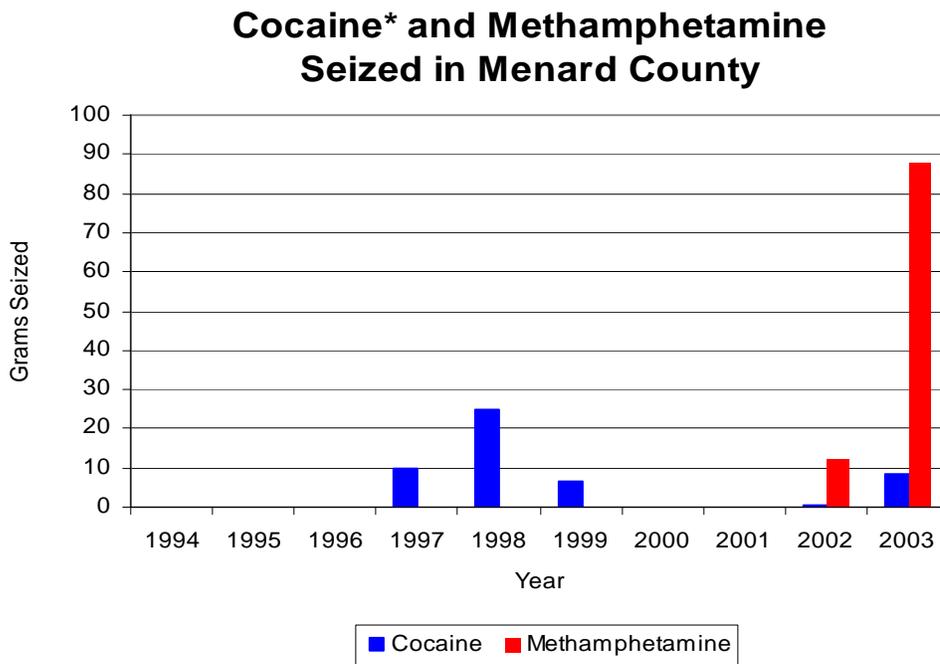
Between 1994 and 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in Menard County decreased 87 percent, from 11,914 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 1,540 grams in 2003. The cannabis seizure rate in the other urban counties decreased 62 percent, from 51,359 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 19,350 grams in 2003. In 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in the other urban counties was nearly 13 times higher than the rate in Menard County.

### *Cocaine and Methamphetamine Seized in Menard 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 of 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.

During the period analyzed, 100 grams of methamphetamine were seized in Menard County. Methamphetamine seizures were reported between 1999 and 2003, where the quantity of methamphetamine seized increased from less than one gram to 88 grams (Figure 7). The quantity of combined powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in Menard County increased between 1994 and 2003, from zero grams in 1994 to nine grams in 2003 (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of methamphetamine seized in the other urban counties increased dramatically during the period analyzed increasing from 620 grams to 7,997 grams. In 2003, 698 grams of methamphetamine per 100,000 population were seized in Menard County, more than double the rate of 301 grams seized per 100,000 population in the other urban counties. The quantity of cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased 31 percent during the period analyzed, from 59,852 to 42,855 grams. In 2003, Menard County’s cocaine seizure rate of 68 grams per 100,000 population, was 96 percent lower than the rate of 1,612 grams per 100,000 population in the other urban counties.

### **III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Menard 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.

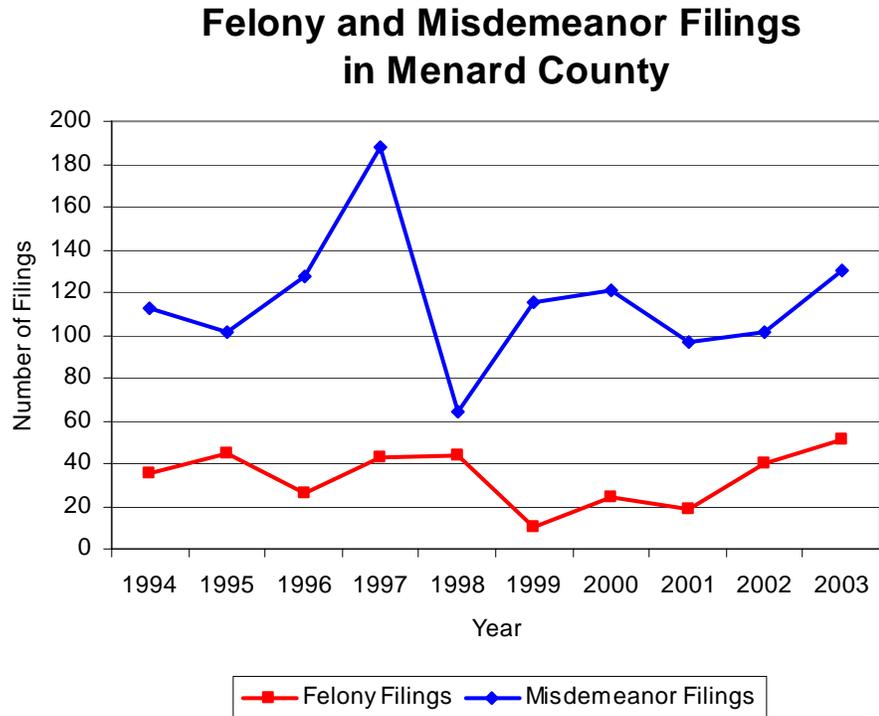
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Menard County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

#### *Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Menard 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 8 percent of all filings in Menard County's courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Menard County increased 46 percent, from 35 to 51 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 15 percent, from 113 in 1994 to 130 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by more than two to one.

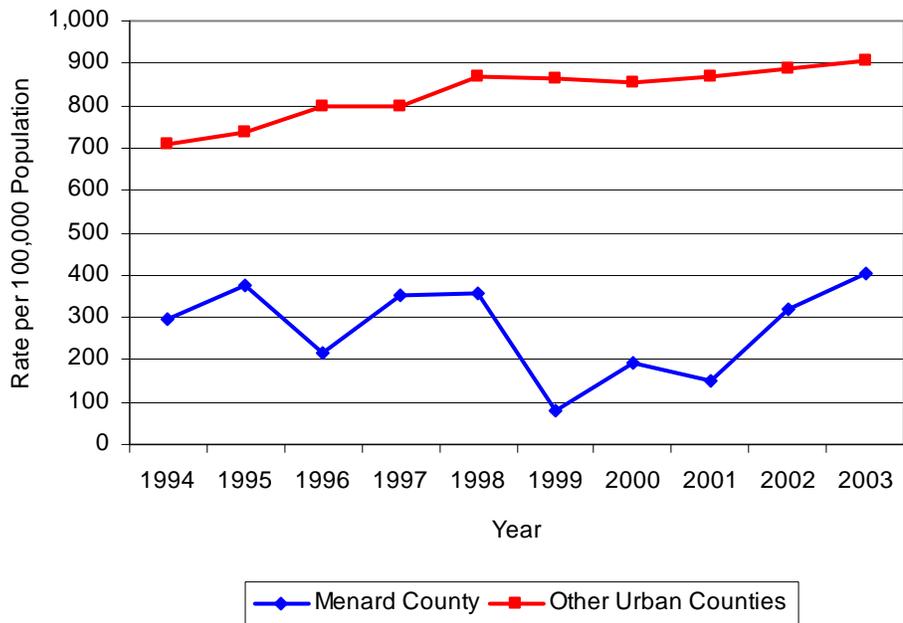
**Figure 8**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Menard County increased 36 percent, from 294 to 405 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other urban counties increased 28 percent during this period, from 723 to 908 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Menard County was 55 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 9**  
**Felony Filing Rates in Menard**  
**and Other Urban Counties**

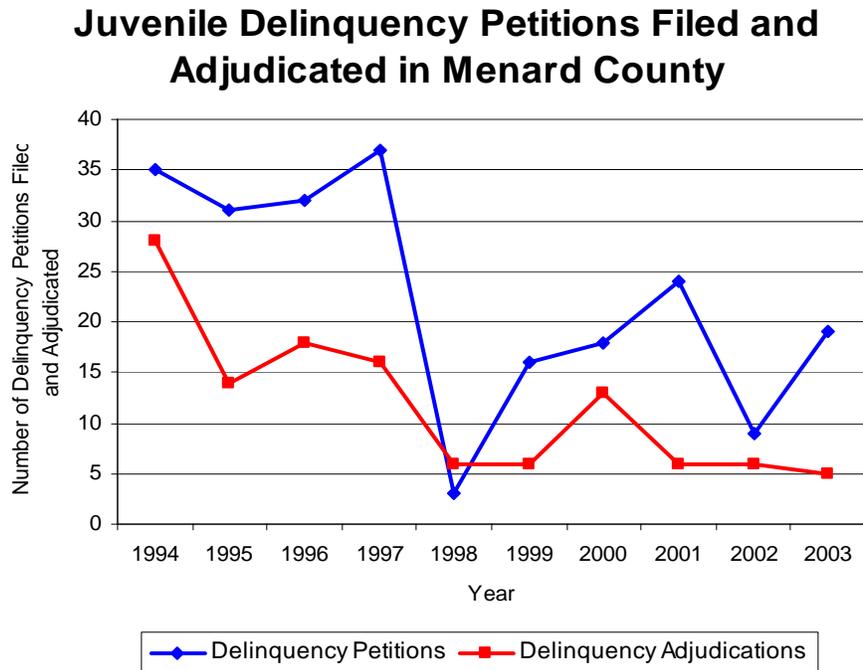


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 Menard County decreased 46 percent, from 35 to 19 (Figure 10). During the same period, reported delinquency adjudications decreased 82 percent, from 28 to five. The majority of the cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

**Figure 10**



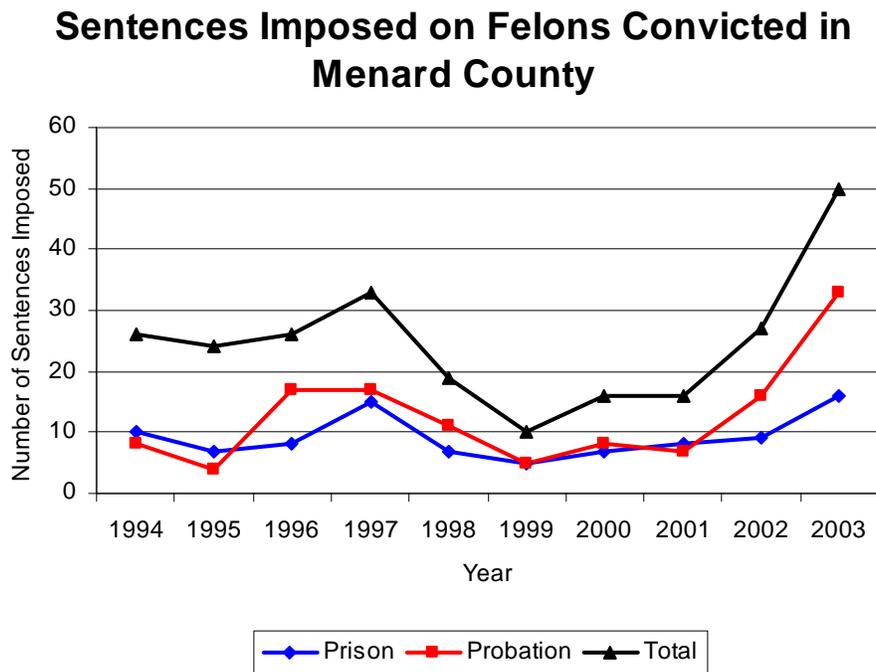
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Menard County decreased 49 percent, from 2,587 to 1,331 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other urban counties decreased 7 percent, from 1,879 to 1,745 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Menard County was 24 percent lower than the rate in the other urban 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 Menard County increased 92 percent, from 26 to 50 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to prison and probation during this period increased. In 1994, 38 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to prison, compared to 32 percent in 2003. The proportion of felons sentenced to probation increased from 31 percent in 1994 to 66 percent in 2003. In 2003, 2 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

**Figure 11**

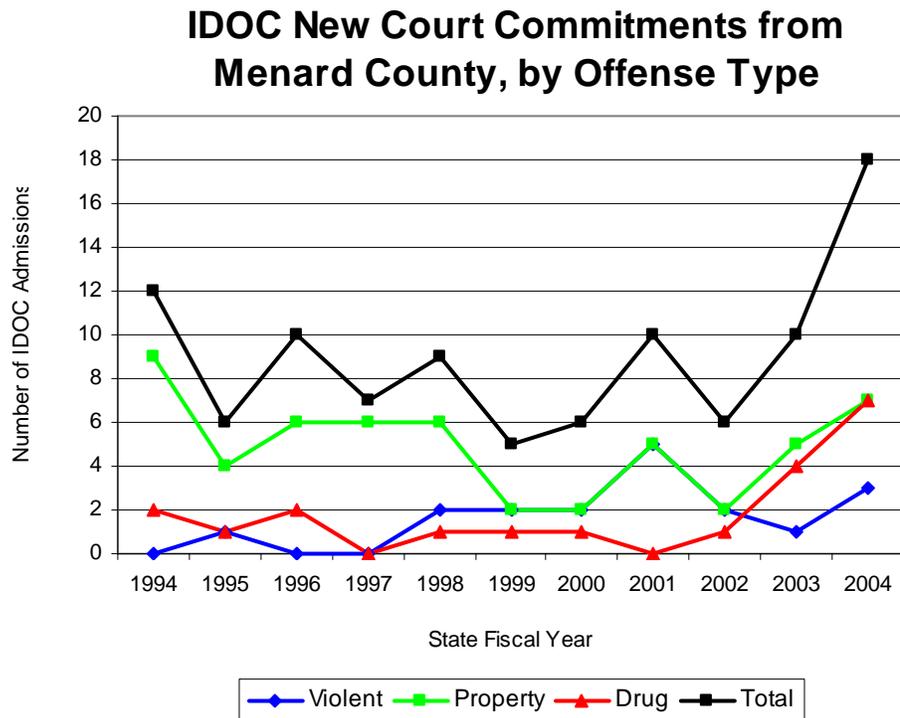


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

## Adult Prison Admissions from Menard County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Menard County increased 50 percent, from 12 to 18 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent and drug offender admissions increased, while property offender admissions decreased. The number of violent offender admissions increased between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from zero to three, while drug offender admissions increased from two to seven. On the other hand, property offender admissions decreased slightly, from nine to seven admissions.

Figure 12



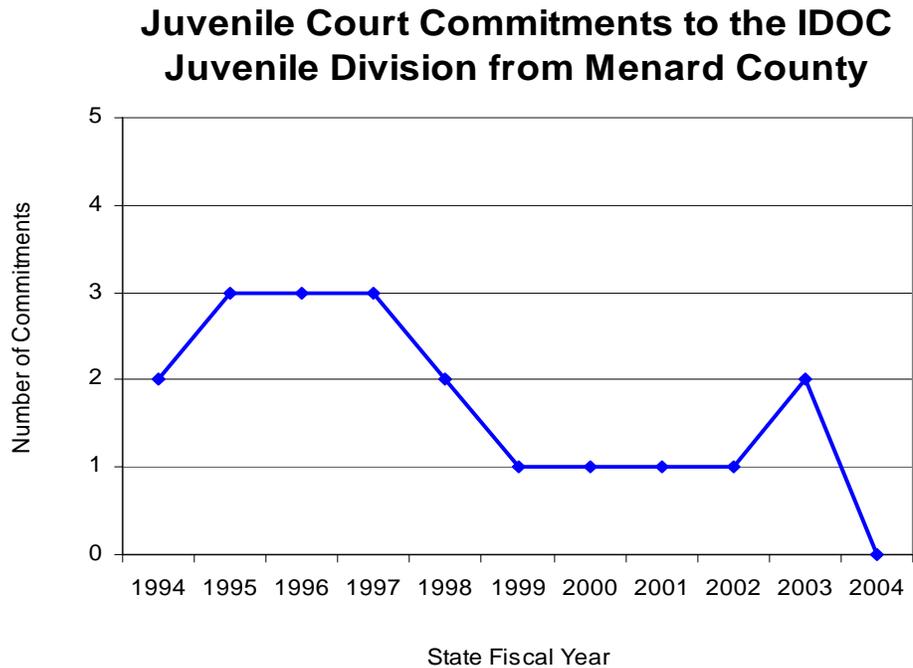
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, drug and property offenders each accounted for 39 percent of all admissions from Menard County, compared to 17 and 75 percent, respectively, in SFY 1994. Property offenders accounted for 17 percent of all admissions in SFY 2004, compared to zero percent in SFY 1994.

## 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. Although the number of court commitments decreased slightly between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from two to zero, there were 19 court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Menard County during the period analyzed (Figure 13).

Figure 13



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

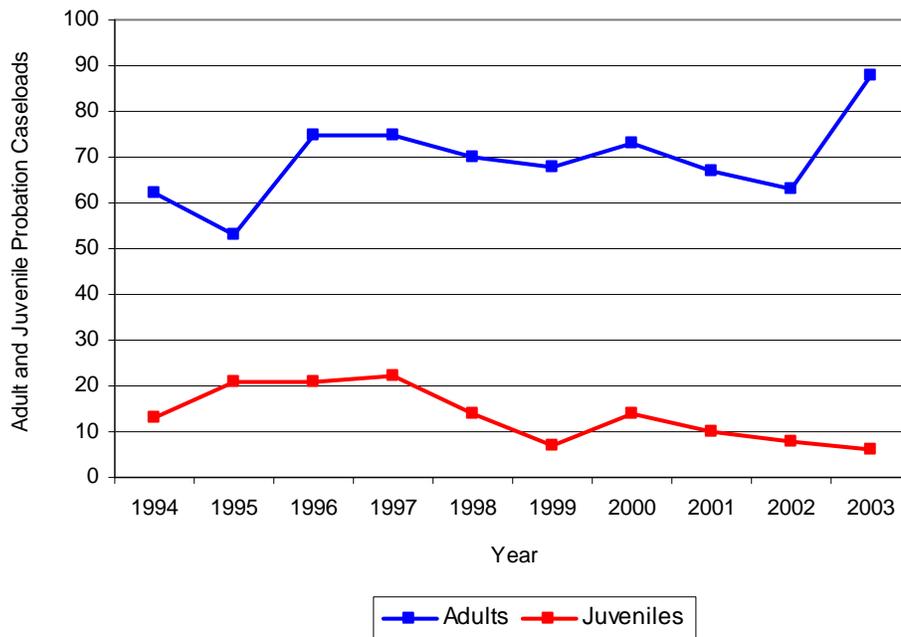
In SFY 2004, Menard County did not commit any youths to the IDOC's Juvenile Division compared to the 297 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other urban counties.

## Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Menard County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Menard County increased 42 percent, from 62 to 88 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 45 percent of Menard County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Menard County Juvenile Probation Department decreased 54 percent, from 32 to six. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other urban counties increased 29 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 47 percent.

Figure 14

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



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Menard County increased 33 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 526 to 699 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 24 percent in the other urban counties, from 655 to 811 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Menard County was 14 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

#### IV. Jail Populations in Menard 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 SFY 1994 were estimated by the Authority using the reported SFYs 1991 and SFY 1995 data.

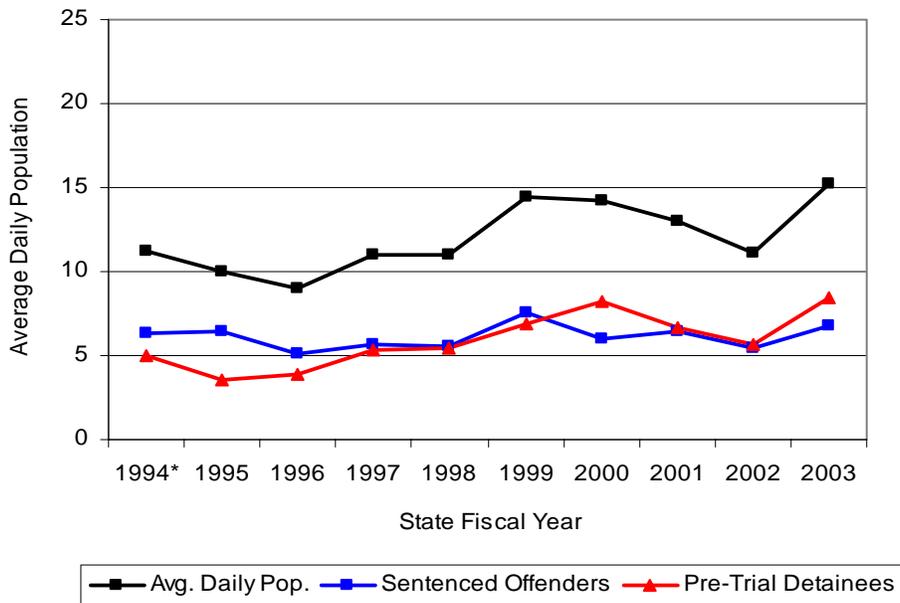
##### *Average Daily Population of the Menard County Jail*

The Menard 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 Menard County Jail increased 35 percent, from 11 to 15 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 44 percent in SFY 1994 to 56 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 decreasing percentage; 56 percent in SFY 1994 compared to 44 percent in SFY 2003.

**Figure 15**

#### Average Daily Population of the Menard County Jail



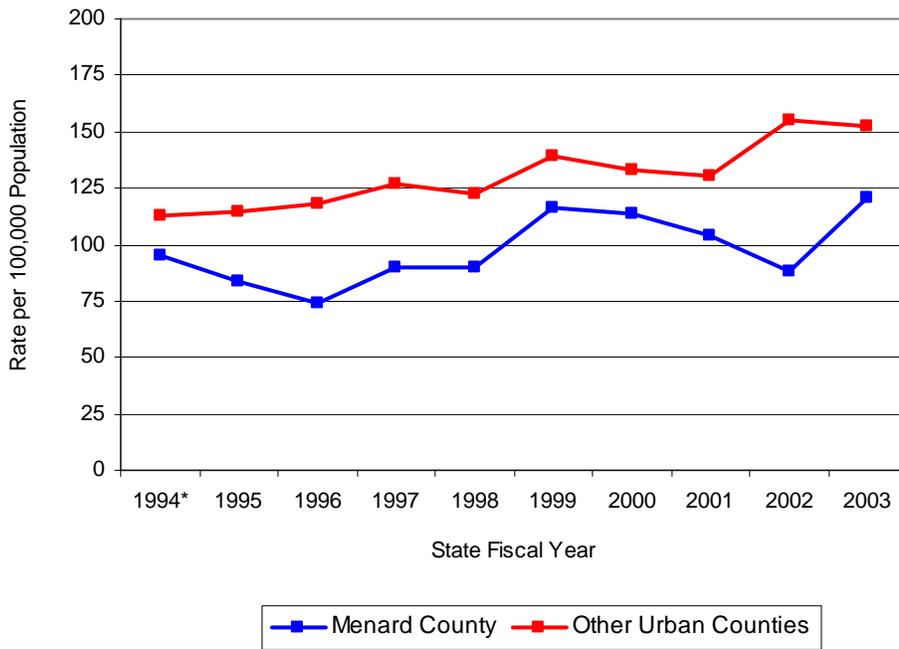
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

\*Information estimated by ICJIA

Between SFYs 1995 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Menard County increased 27 percent, from 95 to 121 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other urban counties increased 35 percent, from 113 to 152 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the Menard County Jail average daily jail population rate was 21 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 16**

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,  
Menard and Other Urban 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 Menard County

### Substance-Exposed Infants in Menard County

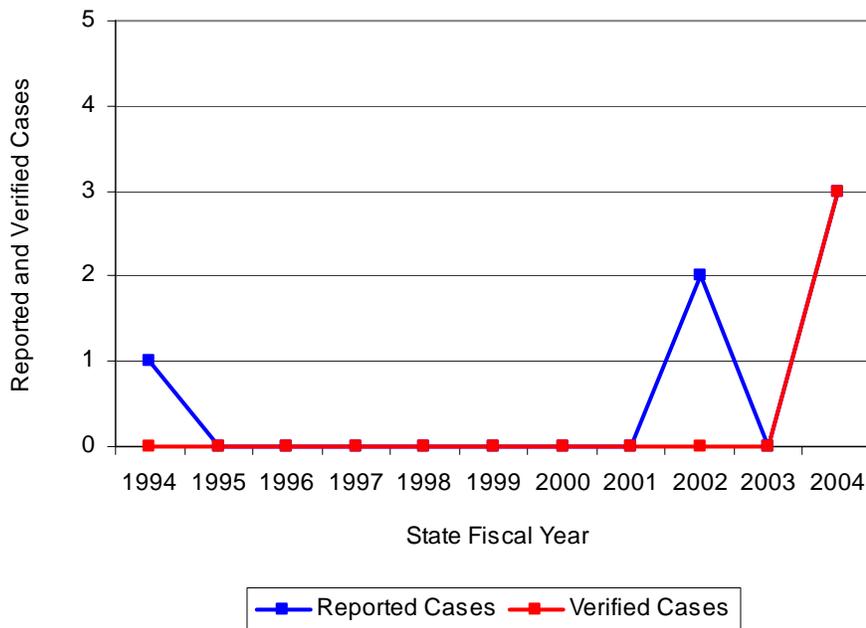
Illinois continues to experience the effects of prenatal substance abuse. In Illinois, if a baby is born and thought to have been exposed to illegal substances or alcohol, either through observation by physicians or toxicology tests, the case is reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family 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 State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants reported in Menard County increased, from zero to three. During the same period, the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants also increased from, zero in SFY 1994 to three in SFY 2004.

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other urban counties decreased 42 percent, from 363 to 212, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 44 percent, from 342 to 193.

Figure 17

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



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

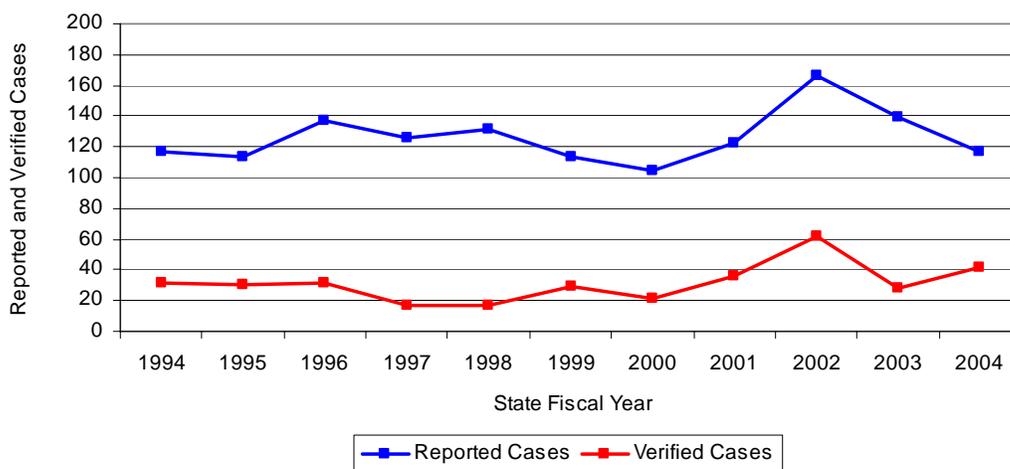
## Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Menard County

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 State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Menard County remained unchanged at 117 reported cases (Figure 18). During that same period, 344 cases, or 25 percent of all cases reported were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Menard County decreased 30 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 12,582 to 8,770.

**Figure 18**

**Reported and Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in Menard County**



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

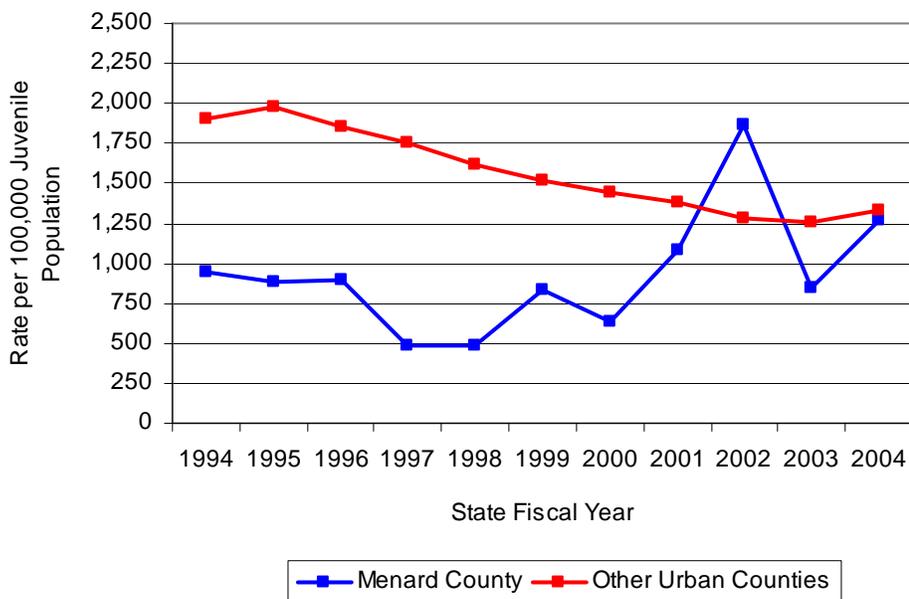
<sup>1</sup> Thornberry, P. T., Huizinga, D. and Loeber R. 2004. “The Causes and Correlates Studies: Findings and Policy Implications.” Juvenile Justice Journal. 9:1. Washington, D.C. : U.S. Government Printing Office.

<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. 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 Menard County decreased from 941 to 1,267 per 100,000 juveniles, a 35 percent decrease (Figure 18). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 30 percent in the other urban counties, from 1,897 to 1,336 per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Menard County was 5 percent lower than in the other urban counties.

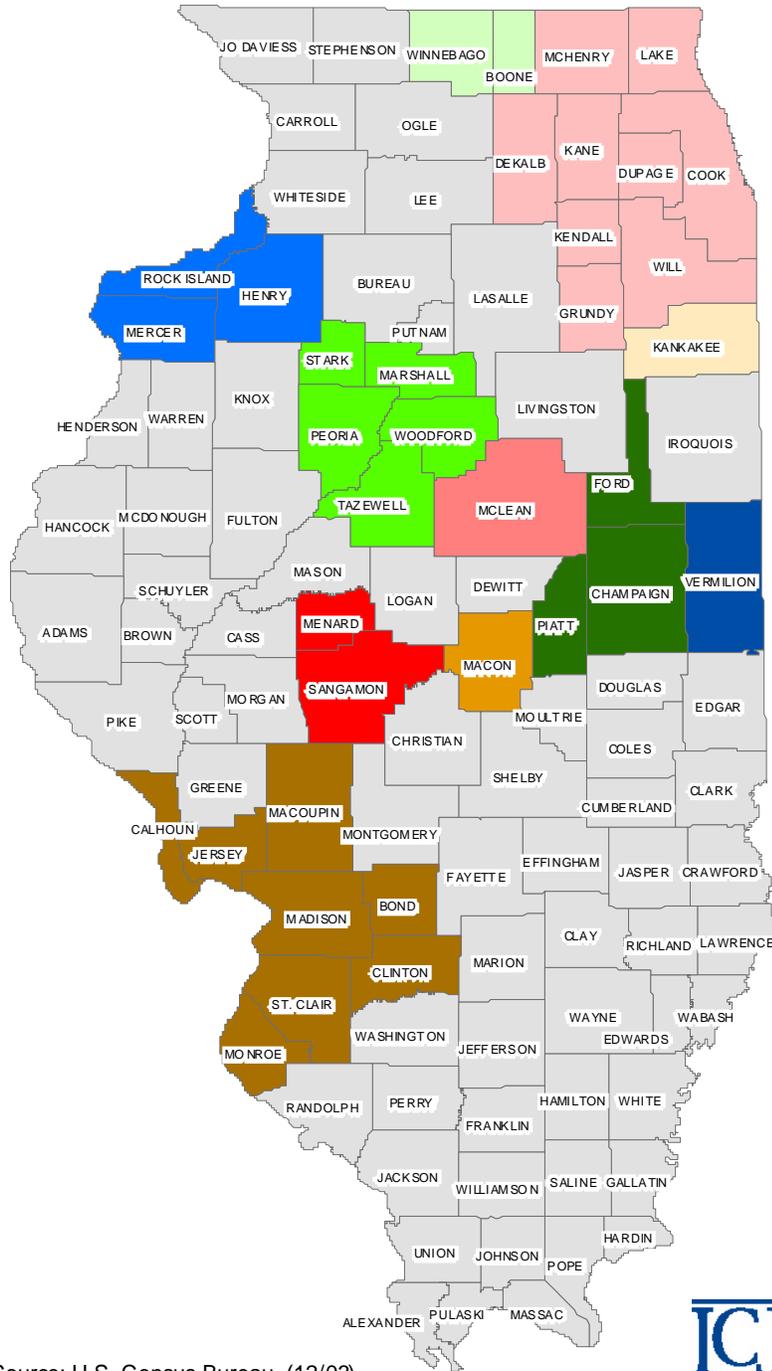
**Figure 19**  
**Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Menard and Other Urban Counties**



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

**VI. Appendix I (Map of Illinois Counties within a Metropolitan Statistical Area)**

**Illinois Counties, by Metropolitan Statistical Area\***



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (12/03)



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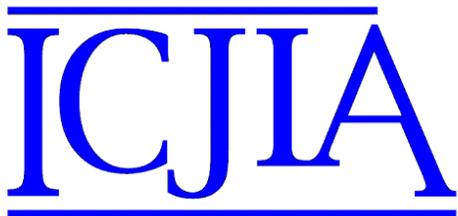
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