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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 Ogle County Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

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CONTENTS

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

Ogle County, located in northern Illinois, covers an area of 759 square miles and had a 1998 population of 52,858, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Ogle County was the 17th largest county in Illinois geographically, but 27th largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Ogle County had the 37th highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Ogle 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, Ogle County is one of Illinois' 66 rural counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Ogle County will be compared to those trends experienced in the other rural counties. This comparison will be realized through the calculation of rates for the activities being analyzed, with the number per 100,000 population the format for all the rates.

II. Law Enforcement Activities in Ogle County

One of the most commonly used indicators of the level of crime in a particular jurisdiction is the number of *Index offenses* reported to the police. There are eight separate offenses which constitute the Crime Index, including murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault (violent Index offenses), burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson (property Index offenses). Although these eight offenses do not account for all crimes reported to the police, they are considered to be the most serious, frequent, pervasive, and consistently defined by different law enforcement agencies.

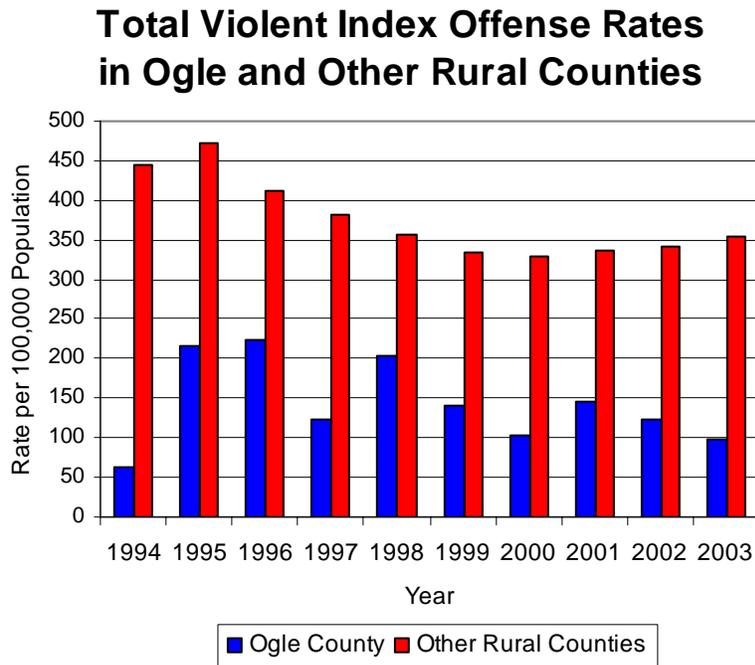
An indicator of the workload that law enforcement agencies place on other components of the justice system is the number of arrests made by police, including those for violent and property Index offenses and drug offenses. Unlike offenses, which are what police must respond to, arrests represent those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

Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Ogle County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police in Ogle County increased 73 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 30 to 52. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (59 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Ogle County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Ogle County increased 60 percent, from 61 to 98 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Similarly, during that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 20 percent, from 444 to 354 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Ogle County was 72 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 1



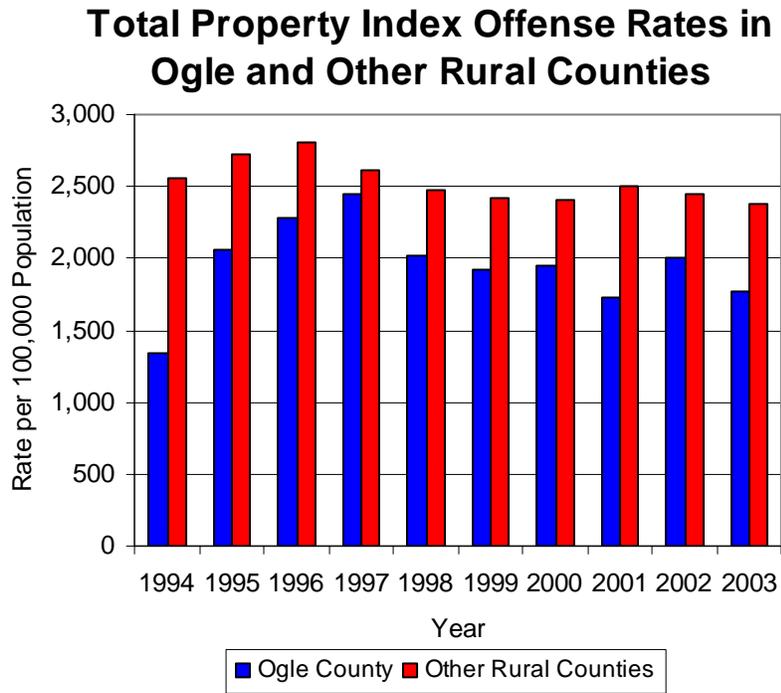
SOURCE: ICRJ calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Ogle County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Ogle County increased 43 percent, from 655 to 939. Thefts accounted for 77 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Ogle County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Ogle County increased 32 percent, from 1,344 to 1,776 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the other rural counties, the property Index offense rate decreased 7 percent, from 2,556 to 2,380 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 property Index offense rate in Ogle County was 26 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 2



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

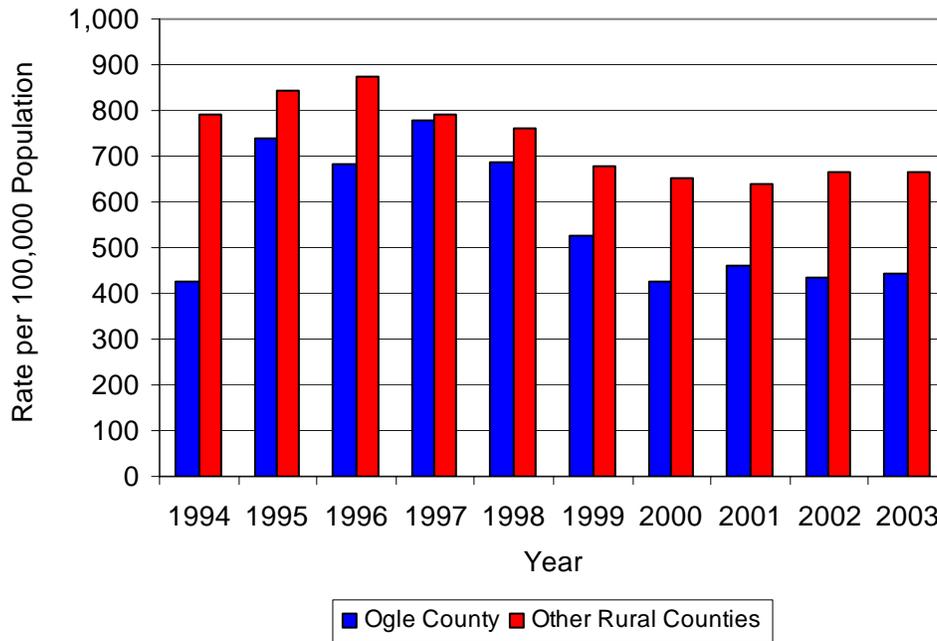
Index Arrests by Ogle County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Ogle County increased 12 percent, from 208 to 235. The majority of Index arrests was for property Index offenses. Of the 345 Index arrests made in Ogle County during 1998, 16 percent were for violent Index crimes and 83 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Ogle County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 61 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 69 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Ogle County increased 4 percent, from 427 to 445 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 16 percent, from 793 to 663 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Ogle County's Index arrest rate was 33 percent lower than the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 3

Index Arrest Rates in Ogle and Other Rural Counties



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

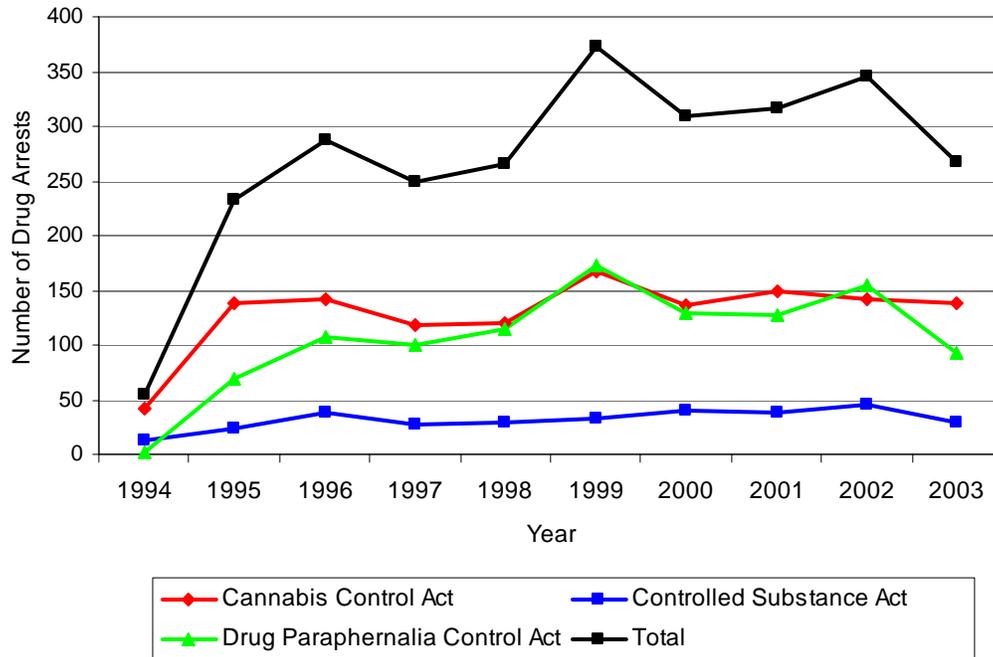
Drug Offense Arrests in Ogle County

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 nearly four-fold in Ogle County, from 55 to 385 (Figure 4). Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of arrests for violation of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act increased dramatically, from just one arrest in 1994 to 93 in 2003, or in other words, nearly 34 percent of all drugs arrests in 2003.

During most of the period analyzed between 1994 and 2003, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Ogle 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 Ogle County more than tripled, from 41 to 139, while arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act more than doubled, from 12 to 29. (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Drug Arrests in Ogle County

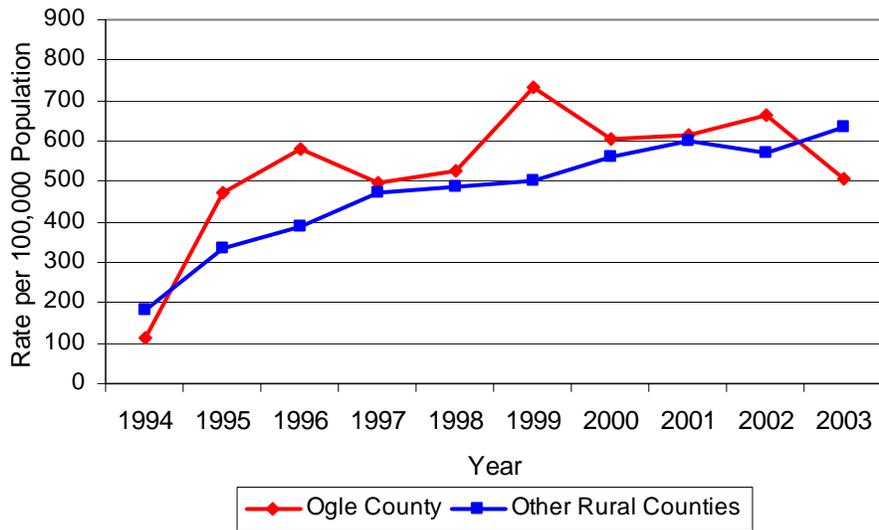


Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Ogle County increased more than three-fold, from 113 to 505 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). Similarly, the total drug arrest rate in the other rural counties more than tripled between 1994 and 2003, from 183 to 636 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Ogle County was 21 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 5

Drug Arrest Rates in Ogle and Other Rural Counties



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

Drugs Seized in Ogle County

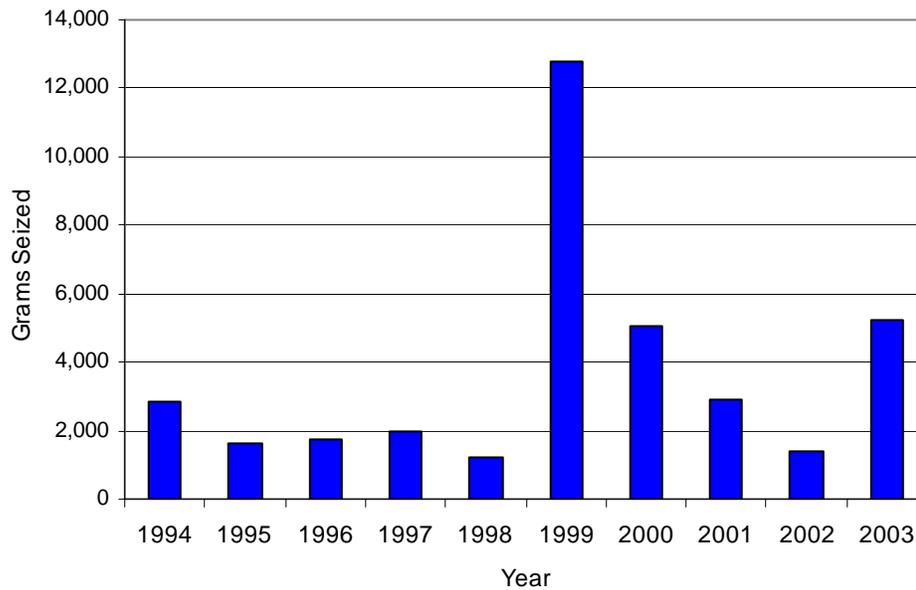
Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of the illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies in Illinois, they are submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois 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 Ogle County.

Cannabis Seized in Ogle County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Ogle County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Ogle County increased 85 percent, from 2,818 grams to 5,200 grams. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other rural counties decreased significantly, from 608,149 grams to 272,643 grams (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Cannabis Seized in Ogle County



Source: Illinois State Police

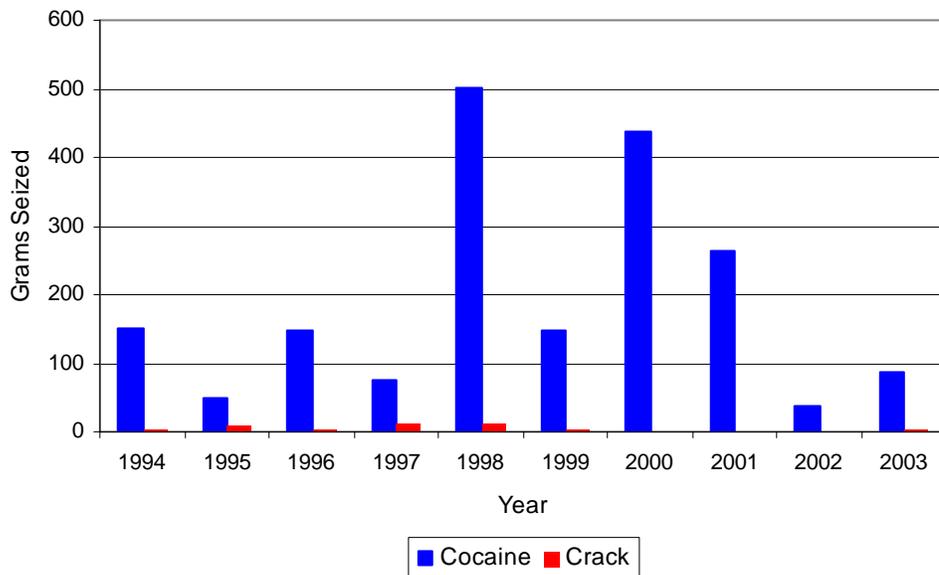
Between 1994 and 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in Ogle County increased 70 percent, from 5,783 grams to 9,837 grams per 100,000 population. The cannabis seizure rate in the other rural counties increased from 36,543 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 16,329 grams in 2003. In 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in Ogle County was 40 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Ogle County

Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of powder cocaine seized in Ogle County decreased, while the quantity of crack cocaine increased. The quantity of powder cocaine seized decreased 43 percent, from 152 grams in 1994 to 87 grams in 2003 (Figure 7). Although crack cocaine accounted for a relatively small portion of all cocaine seized in Ogle County, the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased from one gram in 1994 to four grams in 2003.

Figure 7

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Ogle County



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of powder cocaine seized in the other rural counties decreased, while the quantity of crack cocaine increased during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized decreased from 69,950 grams to 12,977 in the other rural counties, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized increased from 1,175 grams to 2,101 grams. In 2003, 165 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in Ogle County, 79 percent lower than the 792 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other rural counties.

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

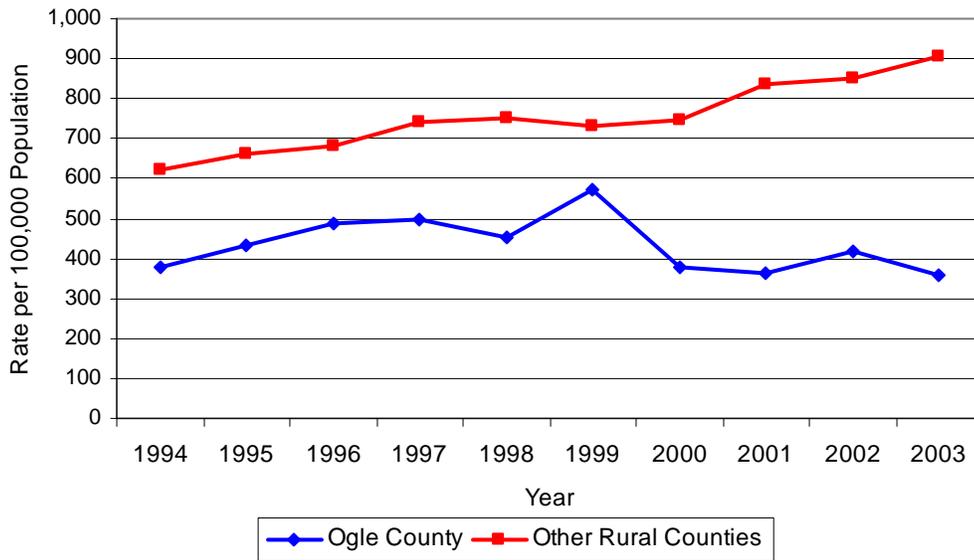
Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Ogle County

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 7 percent of all filings in Ogle County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Ogle County increased almost 3 percent, from 184 to 189 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings also increased, increasing 27 percent from 666 in 1994 to 847 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by more than four to one.

Figure 8

Felony Filing Rates in Ogle and Other Urban Counties

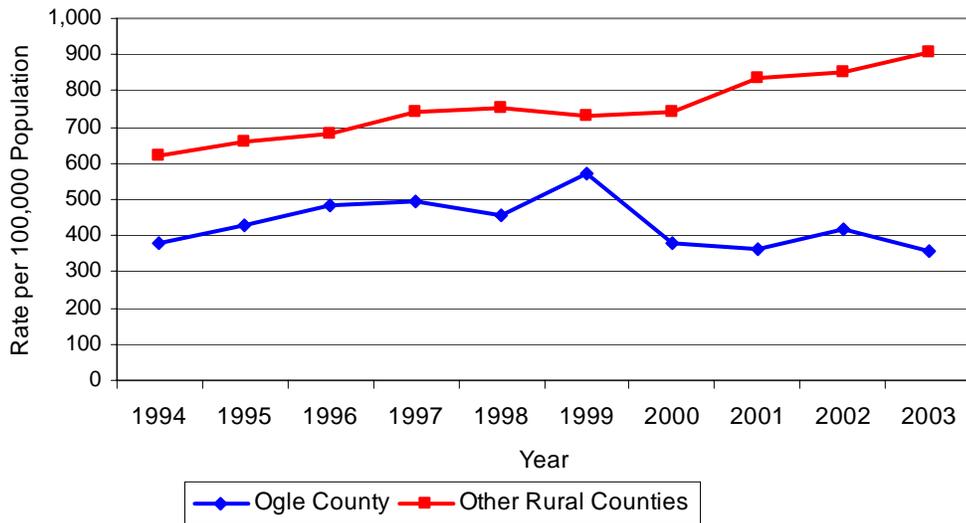


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Ogle County decreased 5 percent, from 378 to 358 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 46 percent during this period, from 621 to 906 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Ogle County was 61 percent less than other rural counties.

Figure 9

Felony Filing Rates in Ogle and Other Urban Counties



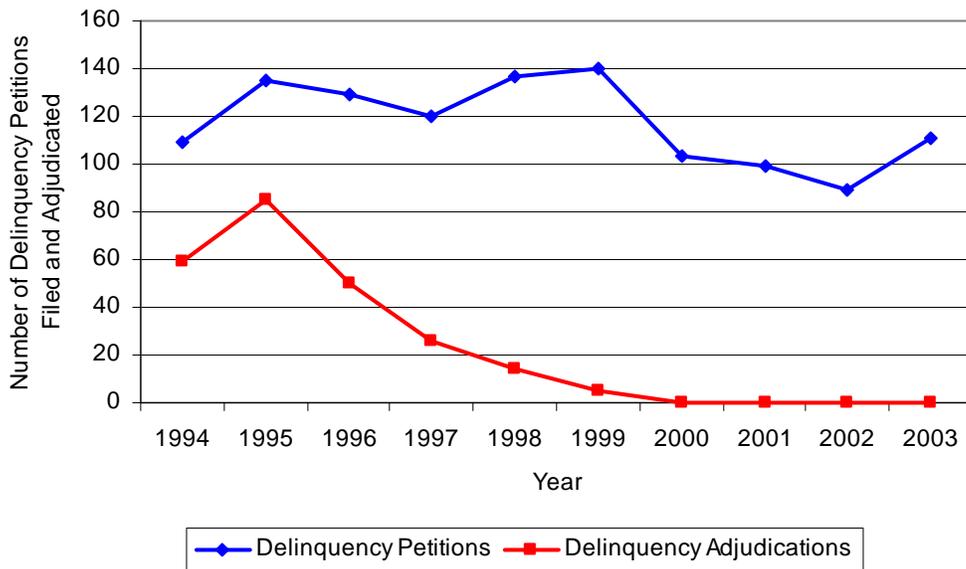
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 reported juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Ogle County increased slightly, from 109 to 111 (Figure 10). During the period analyzed, the number of reported delinquency adjudications decreased, from 59 in 1994 to zero in 2003.

Figure 10

Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Ogle County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

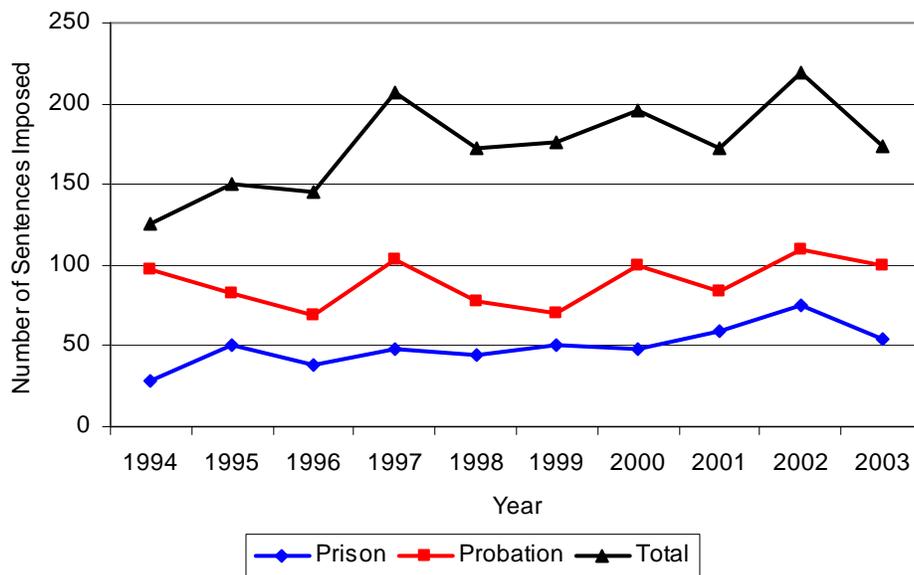
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Ogle County decreased 8 percent, from 2,038 to 1,866 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 13 percent, from 2,011 to 2,281 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Ogle County was 18 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Anyone convicted of a felony in Illinois can be sentenced either to prison or probation, or receive a conditional discharge. A number of factors influence the type and length of sentence imposed on convicted felons, including the severity of the crime, the offender’s criminal and social history, safety of the community, and legislation affecting certain types of offenses. For some types of convictions a sentence to prison is required by state statute.

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in Ogle County increased from 126 to 174 (Figure 11). While the number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period increased, from 97 to 100, felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 77 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 57 percent in 2003. Conversely, between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison increased from 22 percent in 1994 to 31 percent in 2003. In 2003, 12 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

Figure 11

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Ogle County



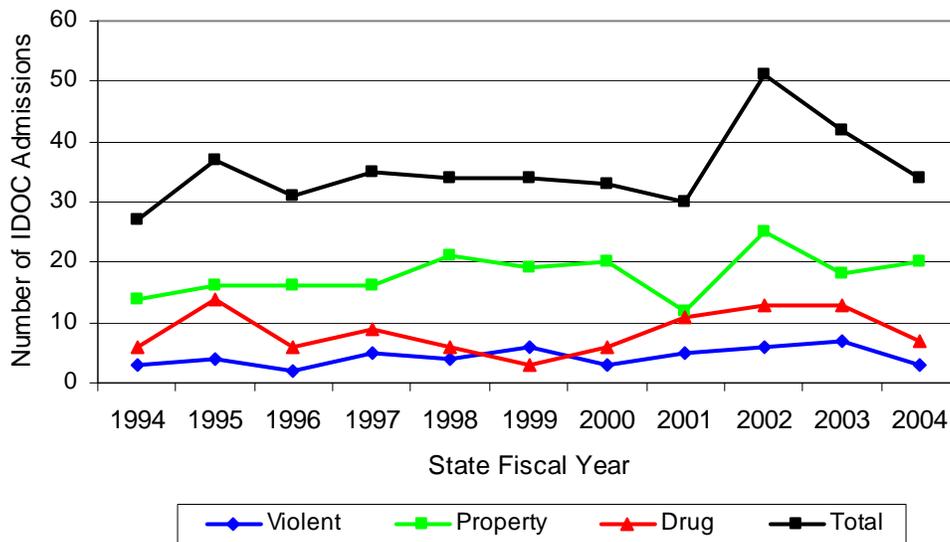
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from Ogle County

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Ogle County increased 26 percent, from 27 to 34 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of property offender admissions increased, while drug offender admissions increased and violent offender admissions remained unchanged. The number of property offender admissions increased from 14 to 20 between SFY's 1994 and 2004, while the number of drug offender admissions increased slightly, from six to seven, and the number of violent offenders admitted remained unchanged at three.

Figure 12

New Court Commitments from Ogle County, by Offense Type



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

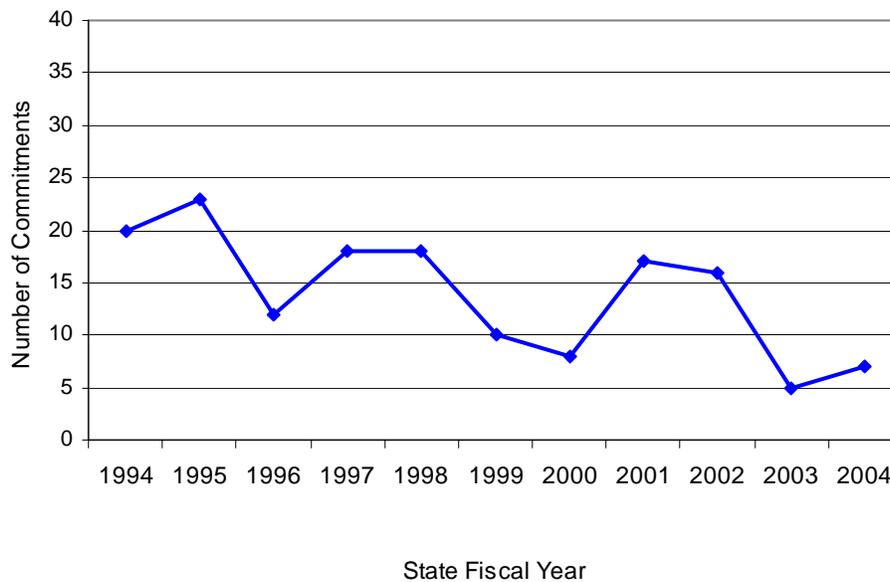
In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 9 percent of all admissions from Ogle County, compared to 11 percent in SFY 1994, while the proportion of property offenders increased from 52 to 59 percent from the period analyzed. Between SFY's 1994-2004, drug offenders also account for a decreased proportion of prison commitments, decreasing slightly from 22 percent to 21 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 SFY's 1994 and 2004, the number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Ogle County decreased 65 percent, from 20 to seven (Figure 13).

Figure 13

Juvenile Court Commitments to the IDOC Juvenile Division from Ogle County



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

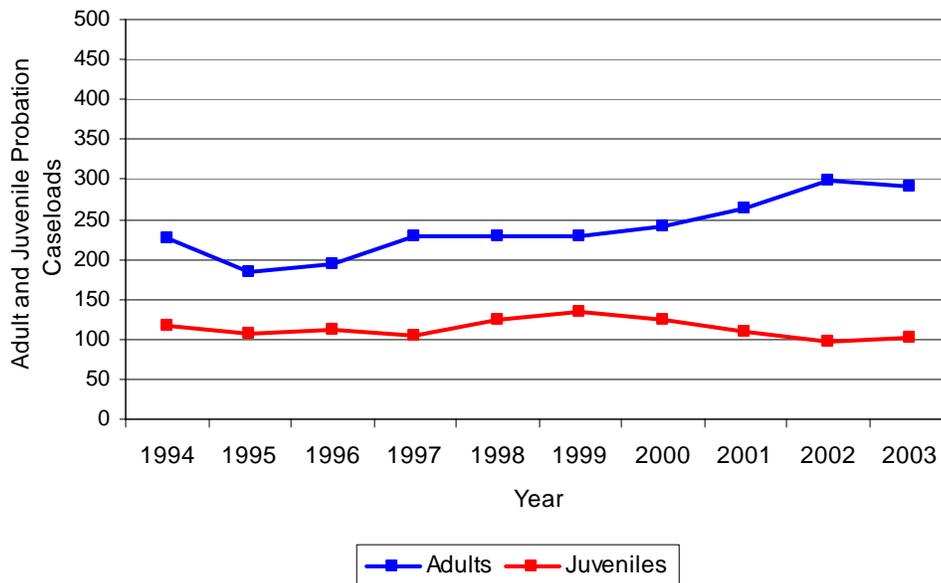
In SFY 2004, Ogle County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 150 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 35 percent less than the 232 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other rural counties.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Ogle County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Ogle County increased 28 percent, from 227 to 291 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 44 percent of Ogle County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Ogle County Juvenile Probation Department decreased 13 percent, from 117 to 101. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other rural counties increased 39 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased less than 1 percent.

Figure 14

Total Adult and Juvenile Active Probation Cases in Ogle County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Ogle County increased 18 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 466 to 551 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 41 percent in the other rural counties, from 753 to 1,060 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Ogle County was 48 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

IV. Jail Populations in Ogle County

The Illinois Department of Corrections' Bureau of Inspections and Audits collect jail data in Illinois. As with court data, data are not available detailing the specific offenses for which offenders were held in county jails. In addition, between SFY's 1992 and 1994, the IDOC did not collect Illinois jail population data. Data presented for SFY was estimated by the Authority using the reported SFYs 1991 and 1995 data.

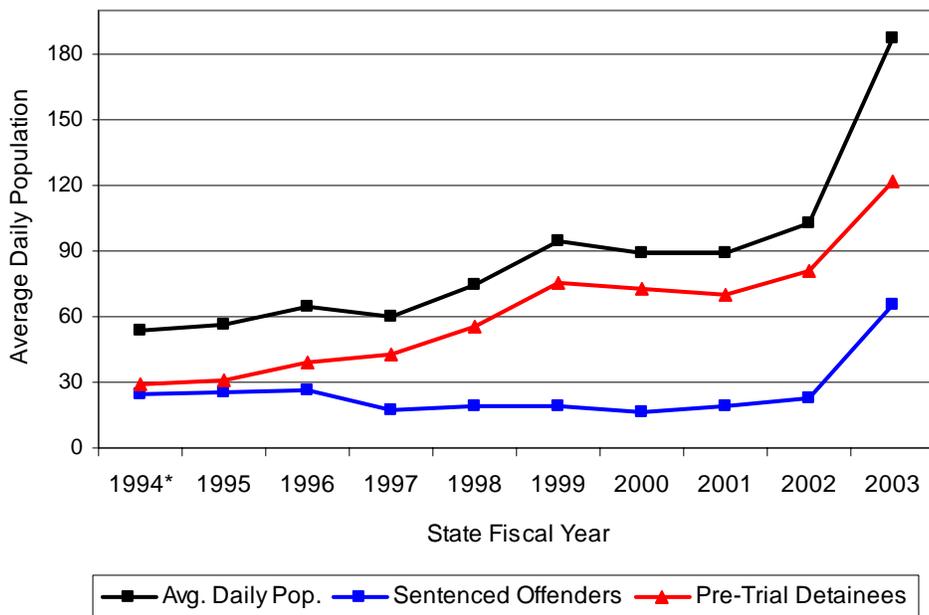
Average Daily Population of the Ogle County Jail

The Ogle 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's 1994 and 2003, the average daily population of the Ogle County Jail more than tripled, from 53 to 187 inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for an increasing percentage of the average daily population; from 55 percent in SFY 1994 to 65 percent in SFY 2003. On the other hand, the proportion of sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) decreased from 46 percent to 35 percent.

Figure 15

Average Daily Population of the Ogle County Jail



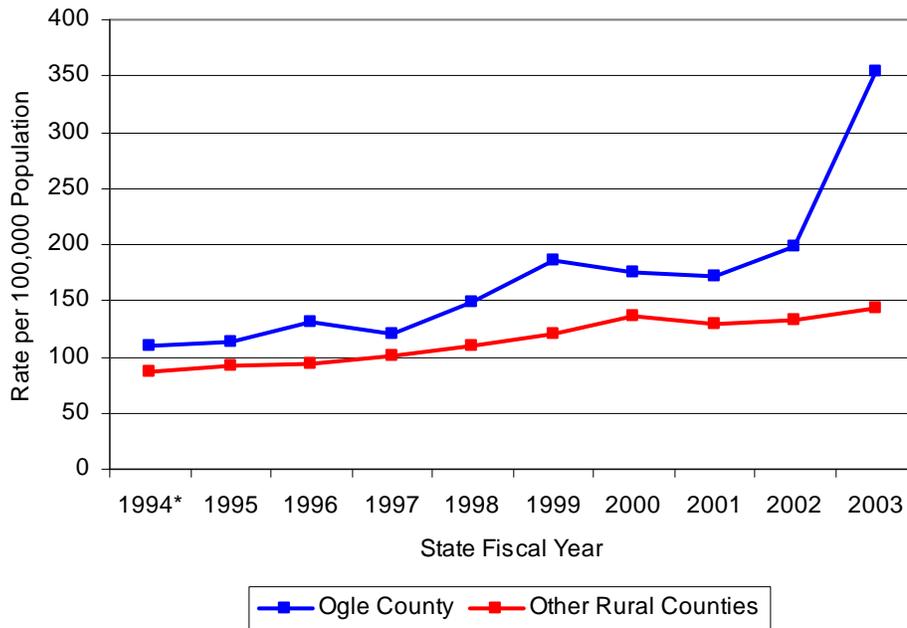
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

*Information estimated by ICJIA

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Ogle County more than tripled, from 109 to 355 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other rural counties increased 64 percent, from 87 to 144 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the Ogle County Jail had an average daily jail population rate more than double the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 16

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,
Ogle 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 Ogle County

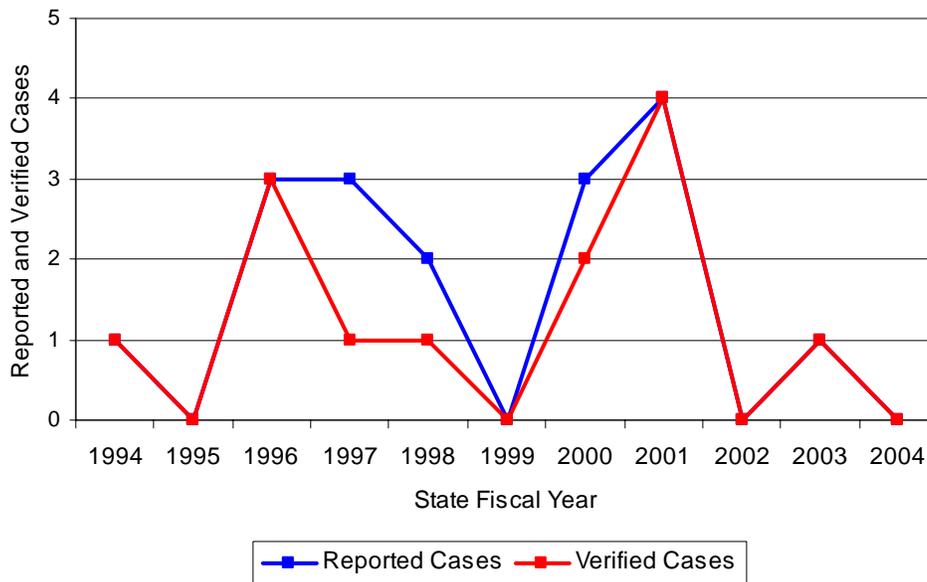
Substance-exposed Infants in Ogle County

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, there were 17 reported cases of substance-exposed infants reported in Ogle County, with 13 of those cases being verified (Figure 17).

Figure 17

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



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 24 percent, from 82 to 102, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants increased 46 percent, from 47 to 63.

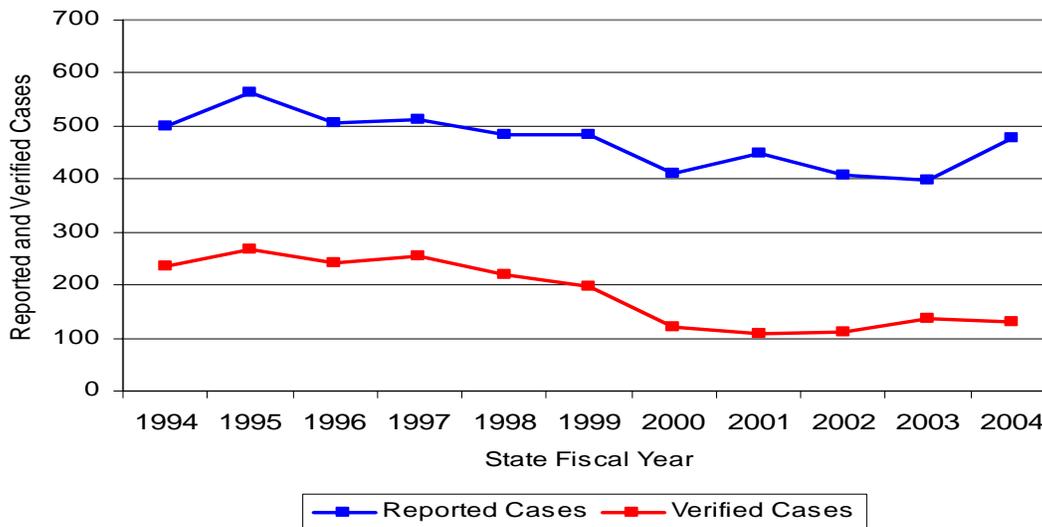
Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Ogle County

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 Ogle County decreased 5 percent, from 499 to 476 (Figure 18). During that same period, 2,017 cases, or 38 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Ogle County decreased 45 percent between SFY’s 1994 and 2004, from 234 to 129.

Figure 18

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



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.

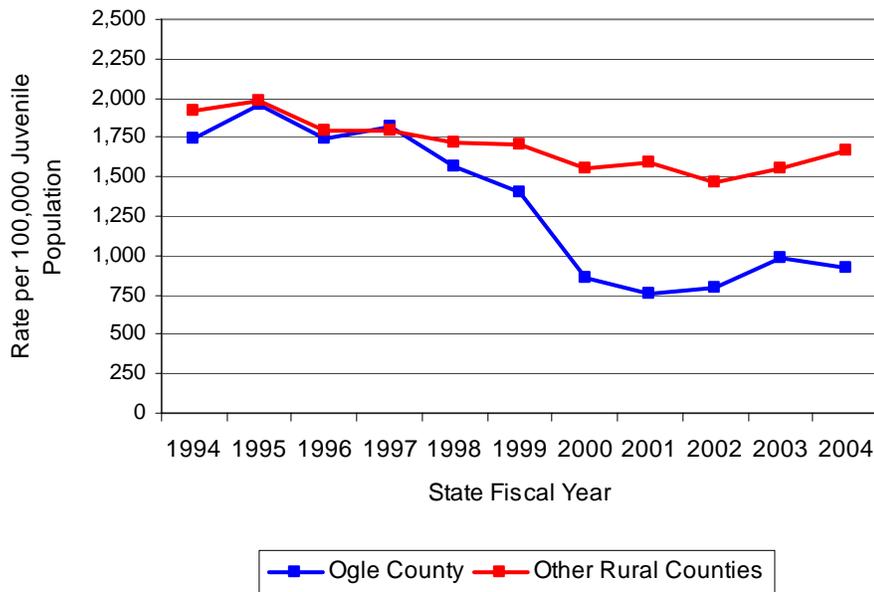
² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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 Ogle County decreased from 1,737 to 920 per 100,000 juveniles, a 47 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 13 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,915 to 1,661 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Ogle County was 45 percent lower than in the other rural counties.

Figure 19

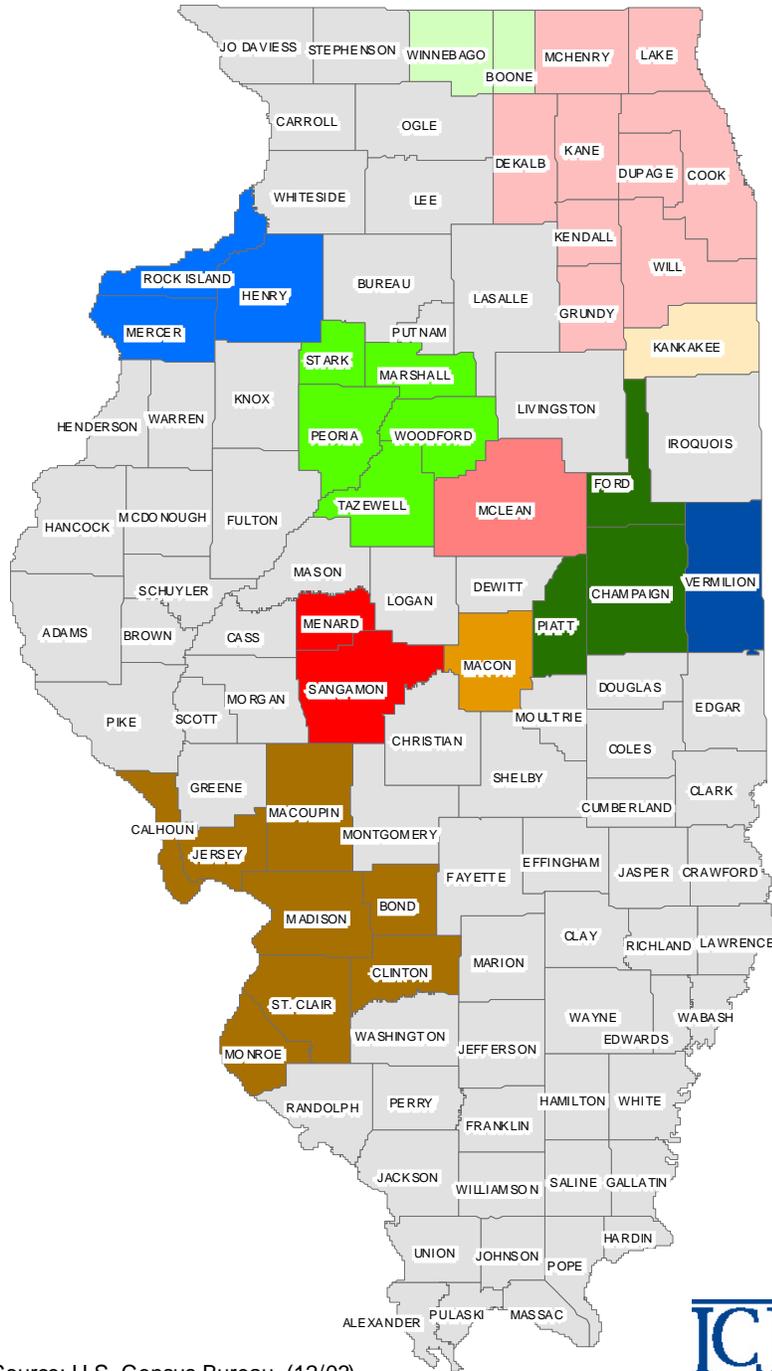
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Ogle and Other Rural Counties



Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and U.S. Census Bureau data

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

Illinois Counties, by Metropolitan Statistical Area*



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