

# ICJIA

**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE  
INFORMATION  
AUTHORITY**

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

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

[www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us)

*Prepared by*

The Research and  
Analysis Unit

Rod R. Blagojevich  
Governor

Sheldon Sorosky  
Chairman

Lori G. Levin  
Executive Director

December  
2004

## Research and Program Evaluation in Illinois: The Extent and Nature of Drug and Violent Crime in Illinois' Counties



## A Profile of the Vermilion 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.

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

## 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*

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

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

## CONTENTS

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

Vermilion County, located in southern Illinois, covers an area of 899 square miles and had a 2003 population of 82,804, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Vermilion County was the 7<sup>th</sup> largest county in Illinois geographically, but 20<sup>th</sup> largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Vermilion County had the 27<sup>th</sup> highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

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

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

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

In addition to local law enforcement agencies, the Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (VEMEG) also serves Vermilion 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.

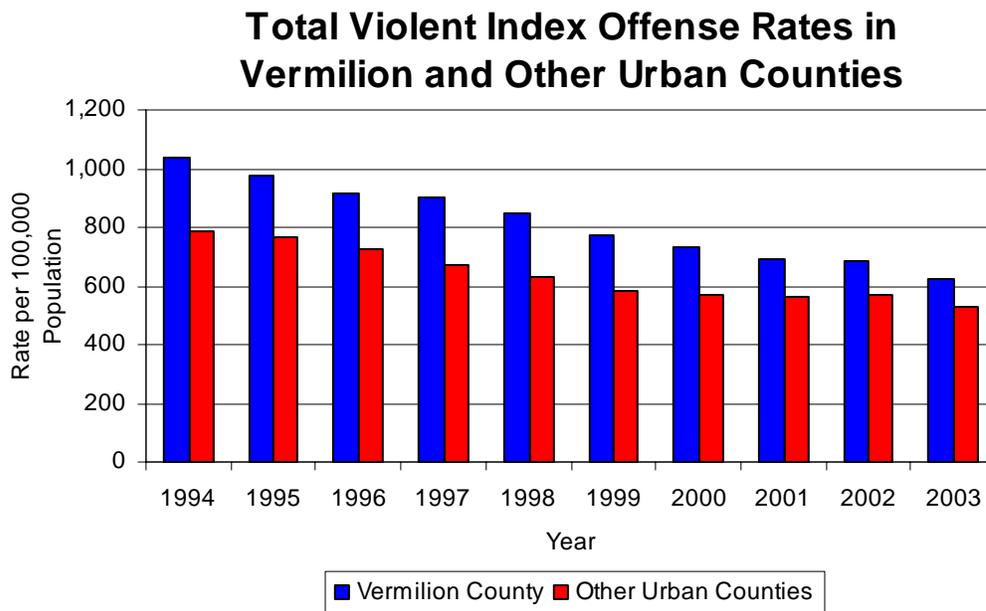
To learn more about the drug enforcement activities of the Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group and Illinois' other MEGs and task forces, profiles of each of the units were developed by the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit and are available through the Authority's Criminal Justice Information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

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

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 43 percent in Vermilion County between 1994 and 2003, from 910 to 516. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (75 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Vermilion County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Vermilion County decreased annually, decreasing 40 percent, from 1,035 to 623 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Similarly, during that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other urban counties decreased 32 percent, from 784 to 530 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Vermilion County was 18 percent higher than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 1**



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

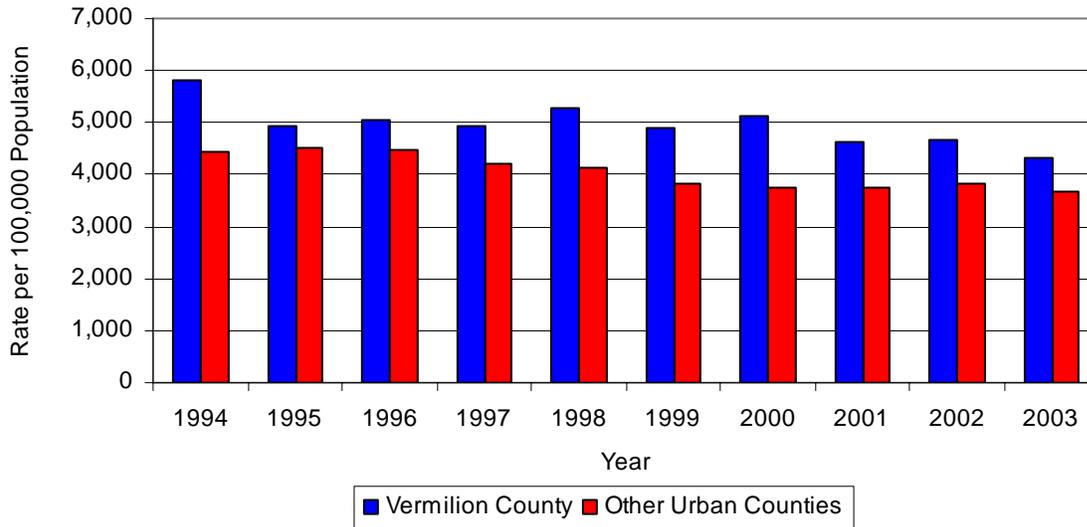
*Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Vermilion County*

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Vermilion County decreased 30 percent, from 5,126 to 3,574. Thefts accounted for 74 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Vermilion County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Vermilion County decreased 26 percent, from 5,830 to 4,316 offenses per 100,000 population. During the same period, the property Index offense rate in the other urban counties decreased 18 percent, from 4,440 to 3,655 offenses per 100,000 population. Vermilion County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 18 percent higher than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 2**

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



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

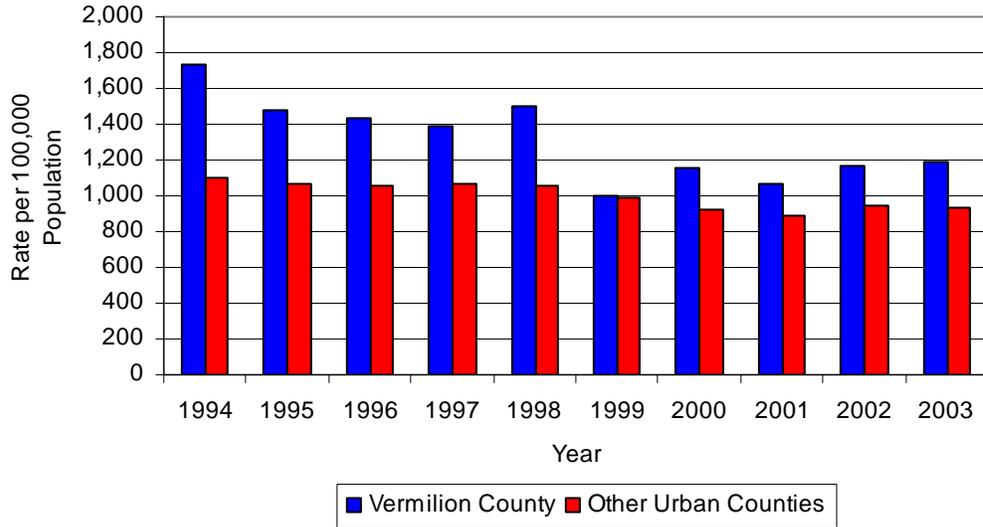
*Index Arrests by Vermilion County Law Enforcement Agencies*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Vermilion County decreased 35 percent, from 1,520 to 989. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 989 Index arrests made in Vermilion County during 2003, 30 percent were for violent Index crimes and 70 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Vermilion County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 86 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 71 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Vermilion County decreased 31 percent, from 1,729 to 1,194 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties decreased 15 percent, from 1,097 to 933 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Vermilion County's Index arrest rate was 28 percent higher than the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 3**

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



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

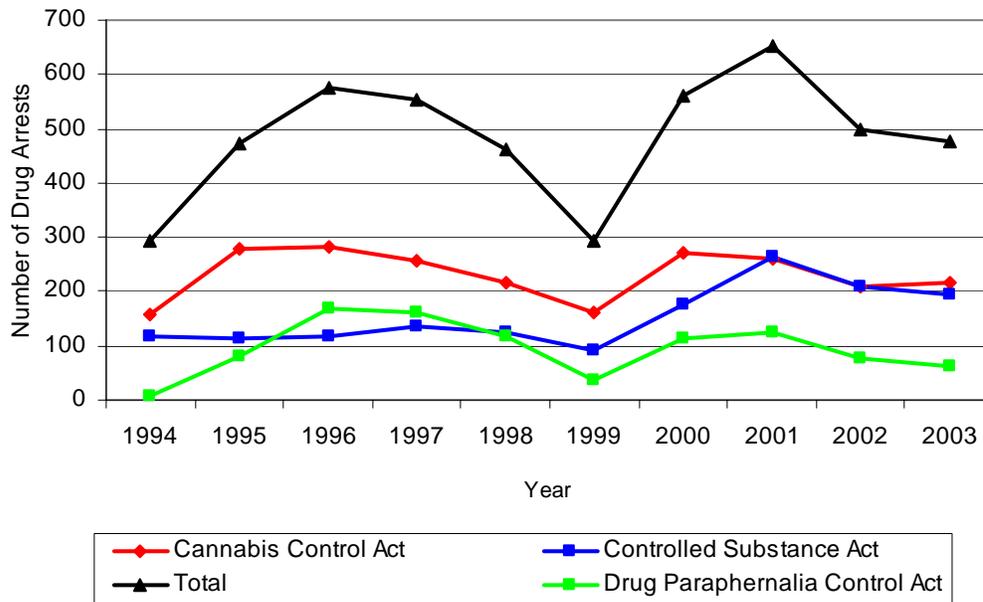
*Drug Offense Arrests in Vermilion County*

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 61 percent in Vermilion County, from 295 to 475 (Figure 4). Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests, increasing from six arrests in 1994 to 62 in 2003, which amounts to a nine-fold increase. In 1996, Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for 30 percent of all drug arrests made that year.

During most of the period analyzed, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Vermilion County have outnumbered 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 Vermilion County increased 37 percent, from 157 to 215. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 68 percent, from 116 to 195, during the same period (Figure 4).

**Figure 4**

**Drug Arrests in Vermilion County**

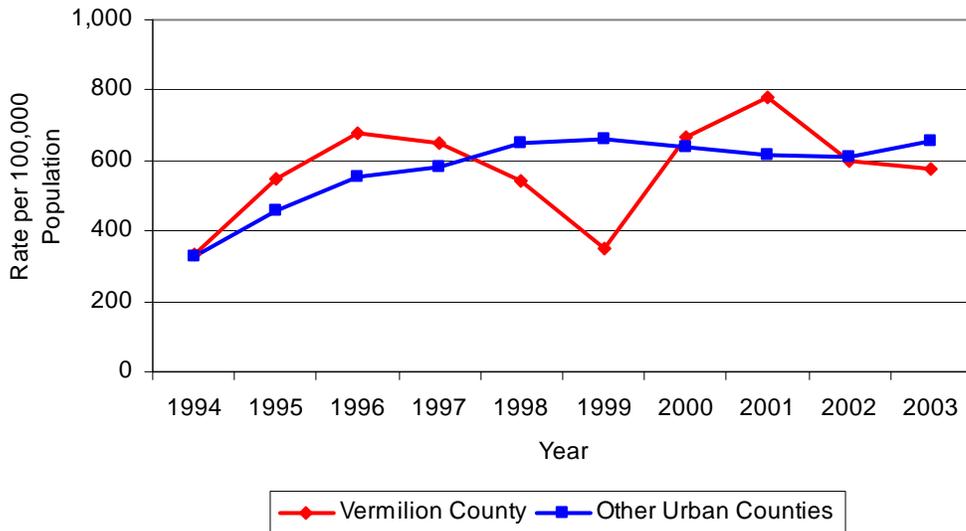


Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Vermilion County increased 71 percent, from 336 to 574 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). The total drug arrest rate in the other urban counties nearly doubled between 1994 and 2003, from 329 to 657 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Vermilion County was 13 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 5**

**Drug Arrest Rates in Vermilion and Other Urban Counties**



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

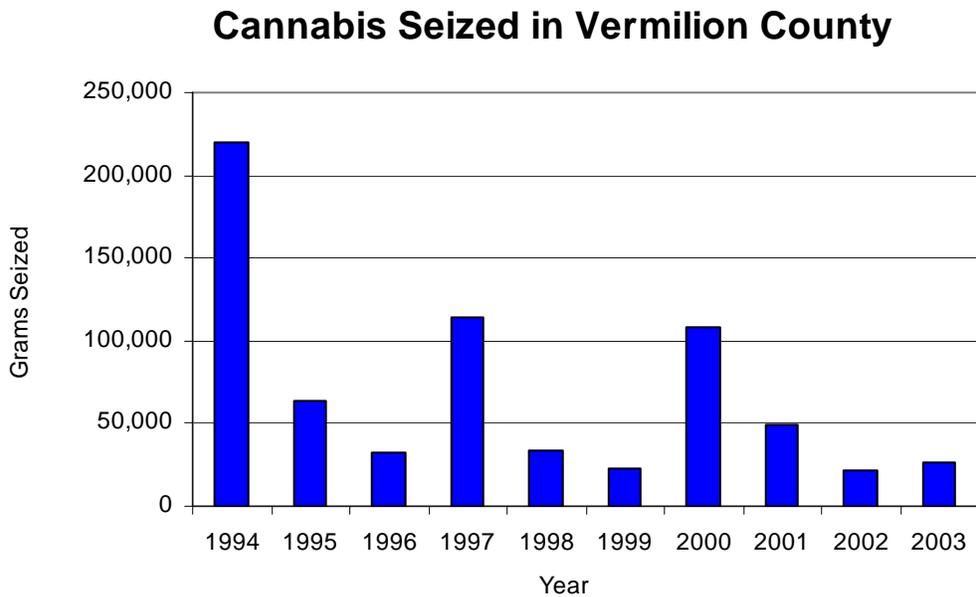
**Drugs Seized in Vermilion County**

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 Vermilion County.

### *Cannabis Seized in Vermilion County*

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Vermilion County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Although there were large variations in the number of grams of cannabis seized between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Vermilion County decreased 88 percent, from 220,050 grams to 25,906 grams (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**



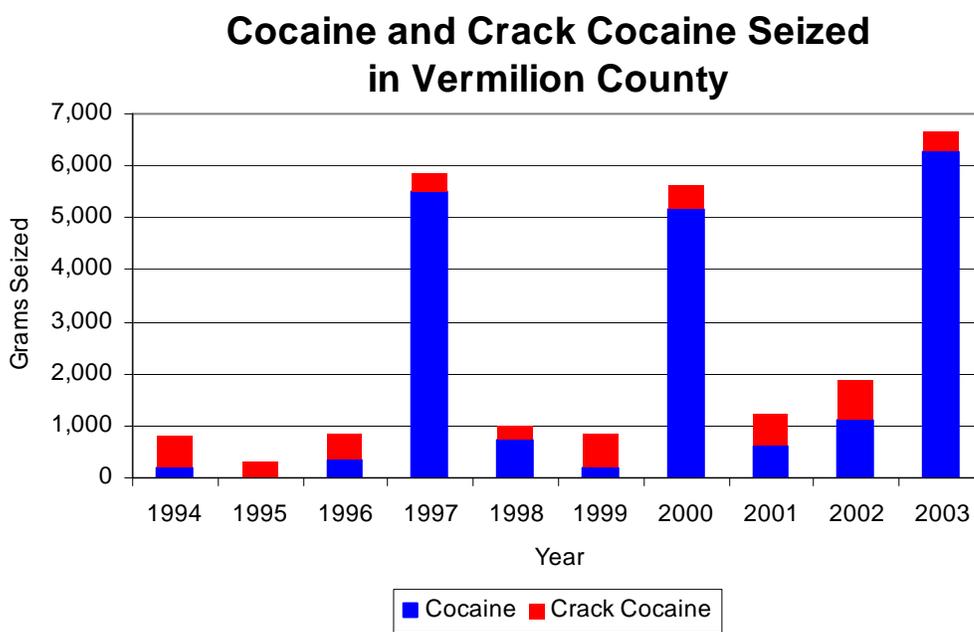
Source: Illinois State Police

During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other urban counties decreased 55 percent, from 1,091,716 grams to 488,728 grams. In 2003, Vermilion County had a cannabis seizure rate of 31,286 grams per 100,000 population, 66 percent higher than the rate of 18,882 grams per 100,000 population in the other urban counties.

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

The quantity of powder and crack cocaine seized in Vermilion County increased between 1994 and 2003. The quantity of powder cocaine seized in Vermilion County increased dramatically, from 209 grams in 1994 to 6,262 grams in 2003. Although crack cocaine accounted for a relatively small portion of all cocaine seized in other counties, in most years between 1994 and 2003, crack cocaine accounted for at least one-quarter of all cocaine seized in Vermilion County. However, between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of crack cocaine seized in Vermilion County decreased 31 percent, from 579 grams to 401 grams (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**



Source: Illinois State Police

The quantity of powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in the other urban counties decreased during the period analyzed. Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of powder cocaine seized decreased 37 percent in the other urban counties, from 48,205 grams to 30,312 grams, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased 46 percent, from 10,860 grams to 5,889 grams. In 2003, 7,563 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in Vermilion County, which is over six times more than the 1,171 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other urban counties.

### **III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Vermilion 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 Vermilion County and the other urban counties.

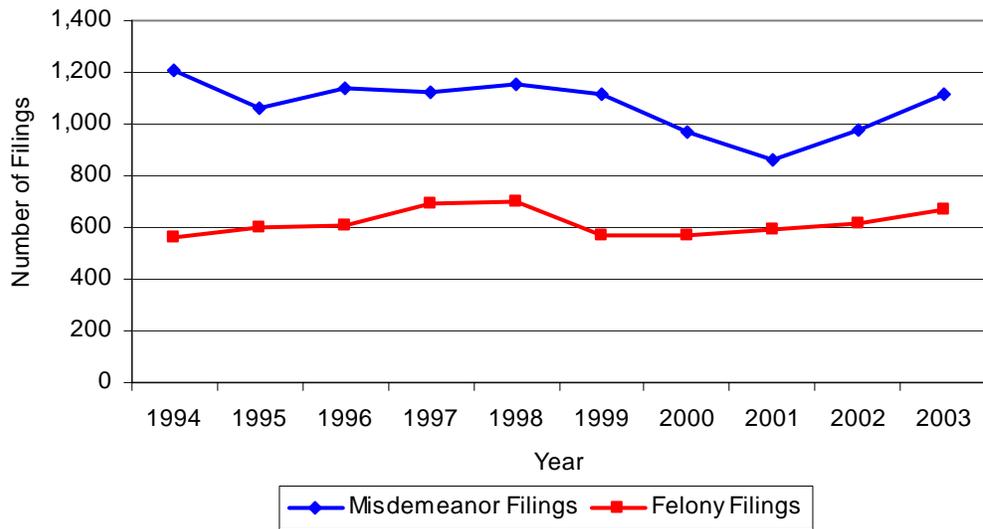
#### *Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Vermilion County*

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 Vermilion County's courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Vermilion County increased 19 percent, from 565 to 670 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 8 percent, from 1,208 in 1994 to 1,115 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by less than two to one.

**Figure 8**

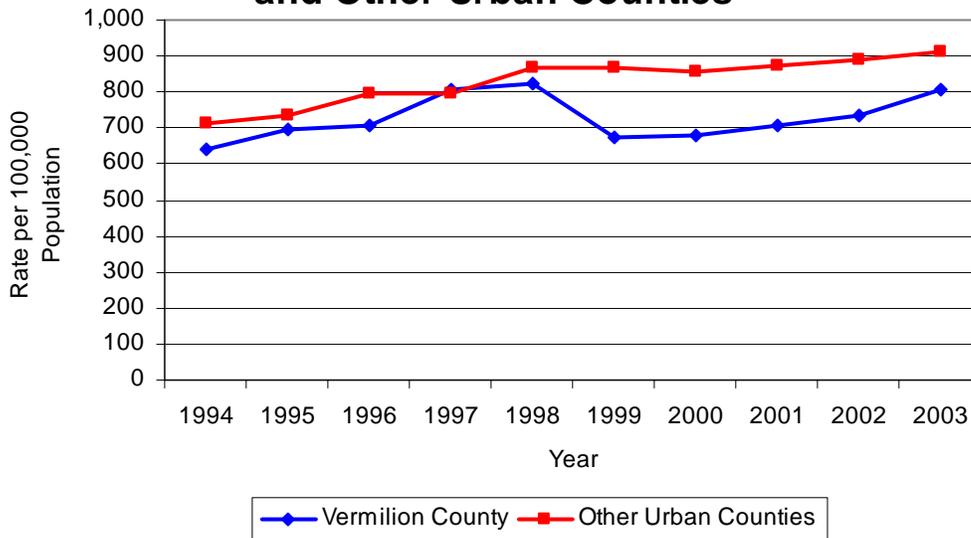
**Felony and Misdemeanor Filings  
in Vermilion County**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Vermilion County increased 26 percent, from 643 to 809 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other urban counties increased 28 percent during this period, from 710 to 909 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Vermilion County was 11 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

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

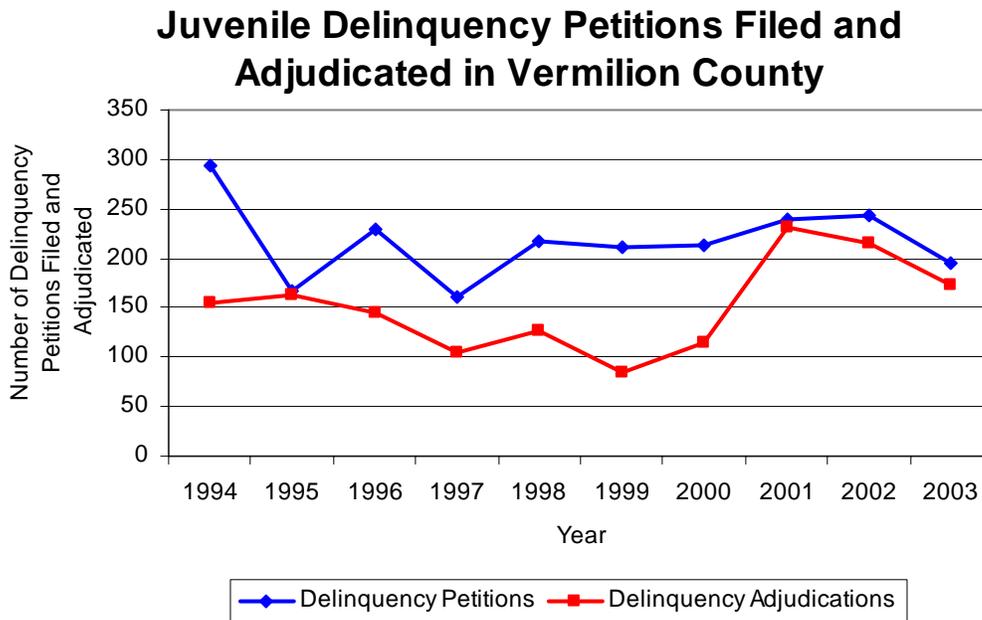


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 Vermilion County decreased 34 percent, from 294 to 195 (Figure 10). In 2003, 88 percent of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications increased 11 percent, from 155 to 172.

**Figure 10**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

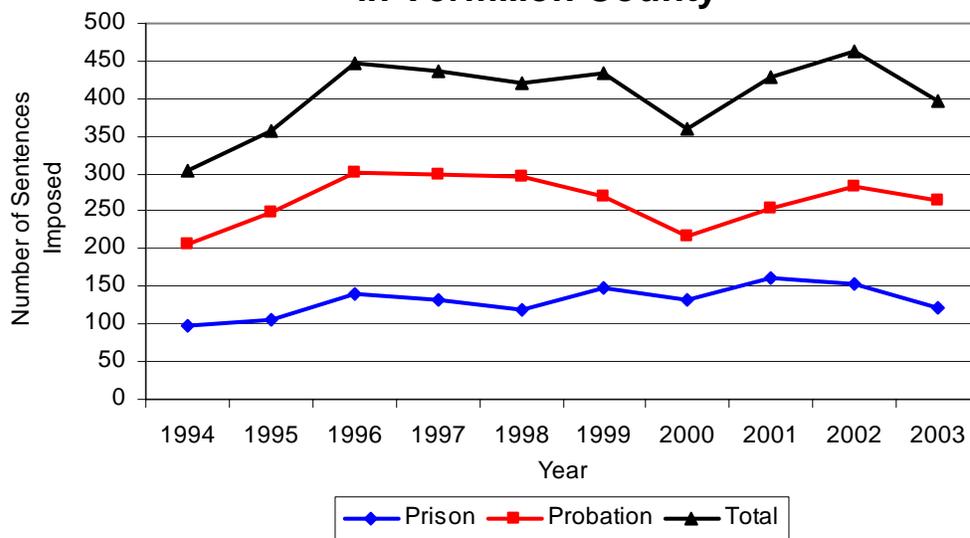
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Vermilion County decreased 25 percent, from 3,143 to 2,370 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other urban counties decreased 6 percent, from 1,836 to 1,723 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Vermilion County was 38 percent higher 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 Vermilion County increased 30 percent, from 305 to 396 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period increased 28 percent, from 207 to 265, while the number of felons sentenced to prison increased 26 percent, from 97 to 154. As a result, felony probation sentences decreased slightly as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 68 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 67 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison decreased, from 32 percent to 31 percent.

**Figure 11**

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

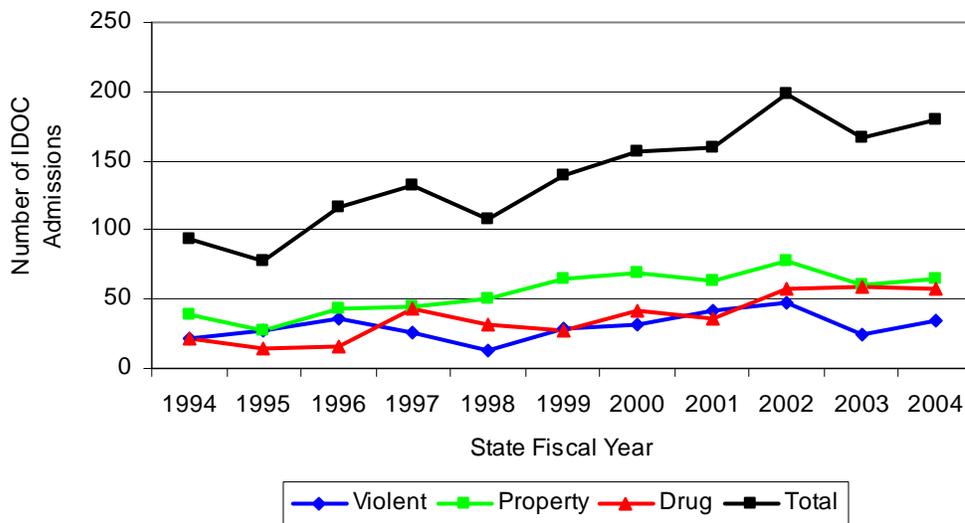


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

## Adult Prison Admissions from Vermilion County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Vermilion County increased 94 percent, from 93 to 180 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of property, drug, and violent offender admissions also increased. Violent offender admissions increased between SFYs 1994 and 2003, from 22 to 34. The number of property offender admissions increased 64 percent, from 39 to 64, while the number of drug offender admissions more than doubled, from 22 to 58.

**Figure 12**  
**IDOC New Court Commitments from**  
**Vermilion County, by Offense Type**



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

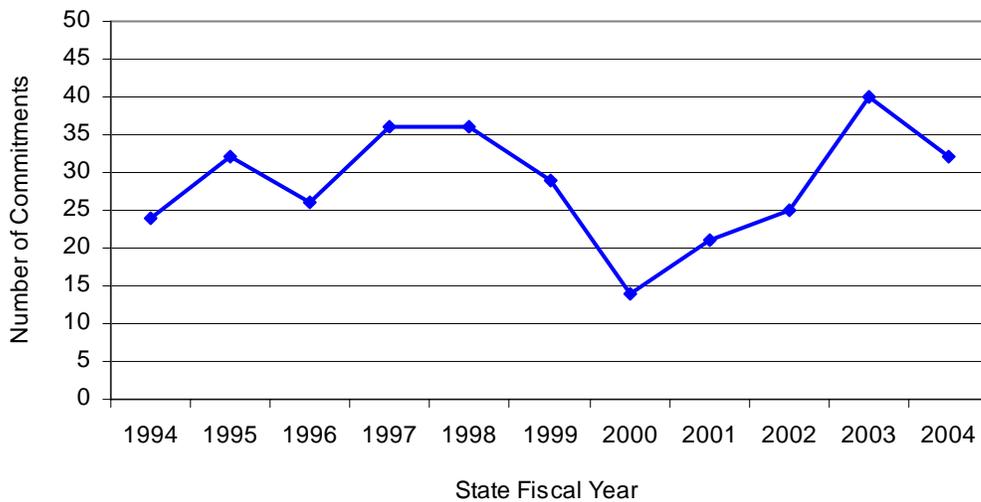
In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 19 percent of all admissions from Vermilion County, down from 24 percent in SFY 1994. The proportion that drug offenders accounted for increased from 24 percent in SFY 1994 to 32 percent in SFY 2004. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, property offenders decreased from 42 percent to 36 percent of all admissions from Vermilion 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 SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of court commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division from Vermilion County increased from 24 to 32 (Figure 13).

Figure 13

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



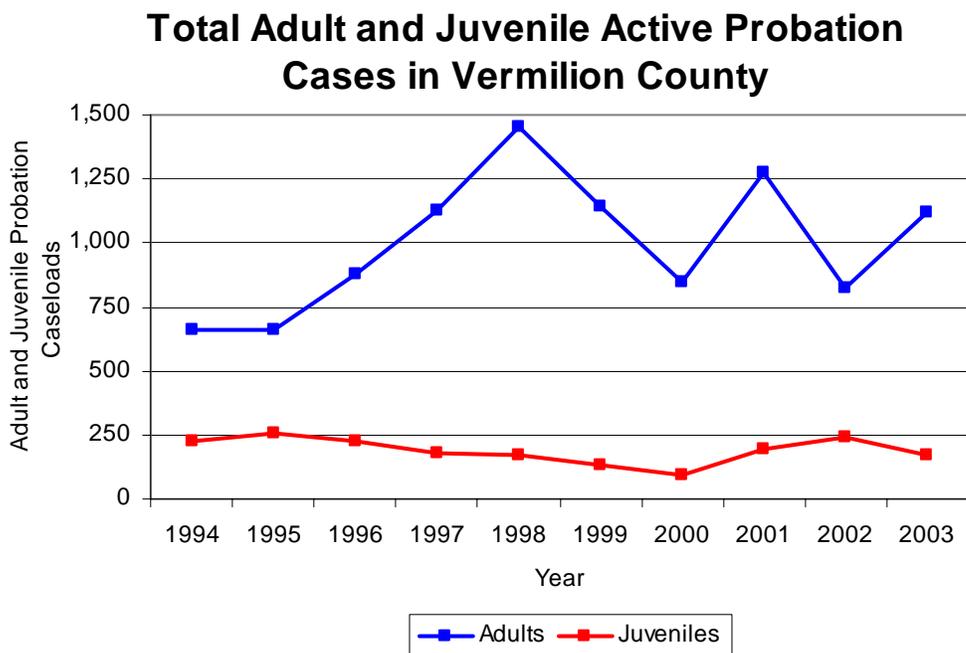
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, Vermilion County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 396 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 36 percent higher than the 292 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other urban counties.

## Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Vermilion County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Vermilion County increased 70 percent, from 659 to 1,122 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 68 percent of Vermilion County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Vermilion County Juvenile Probation Department decreased 24 percent, from 225 to 171. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other urban counties increased 27 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 39 percent.

Figure 14



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Vermilion County increased 81 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 750 to 1,355 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 22 percent in the other urban counties, from 651 to 793 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Vermilion County was 71 percent higher than in the other urban counties.

#### IV. Jail Populations in Vermilion 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. Between SFYs 1992 and 1994, the IDOC did not collect Illinois jail population data. In addition, between SFYs 1995 and 1998, there was no jail in operation in Vermilion County. The Authority, using the reported SFYs 1991 and 1995 data estimated the Average Daily Jail Population Data presented for SFYs 1994 through 1998. Sentenced and Pre-trial Offender data were not available between SFYs 1995 and 1998.

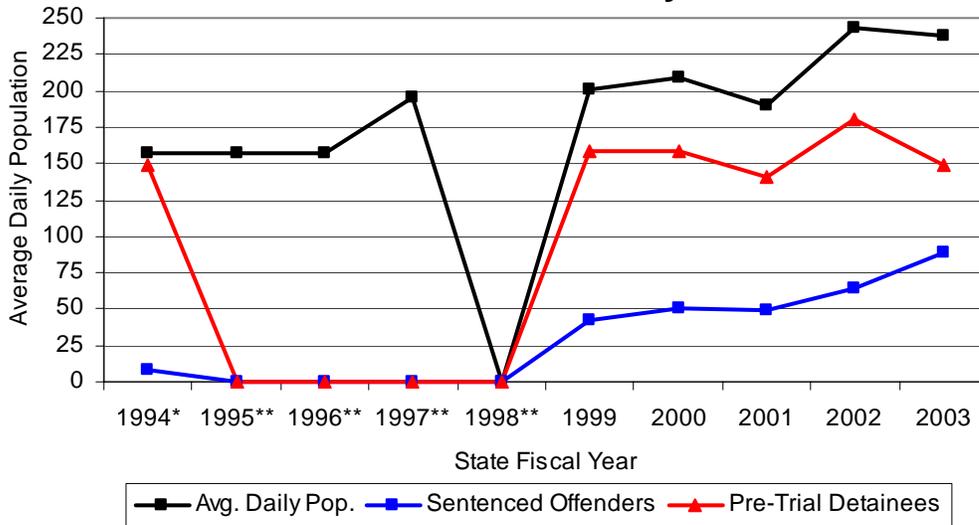
##### *Average Daily Population of the Vermilion County Jail*

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily population of the Vermilion County Jail increased 51 percent, from 157 to 237 inmates (Figure 15).

Figure 15

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



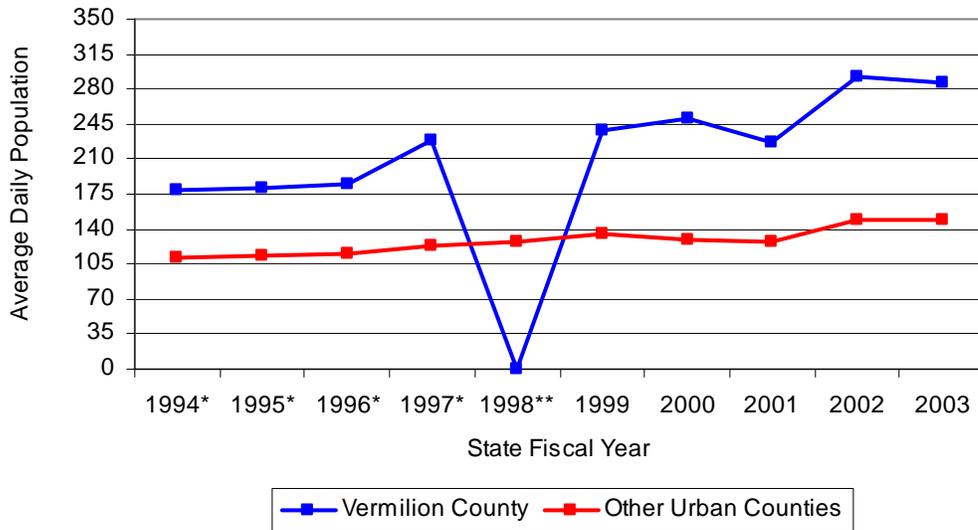
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

\* Information estimated by ICJIA

\*\*Data not available

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Vermilion County increased 61 percent, from 179 to 287 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in the other urban counties increased 34 percent, from 111 to 148 per 100,000 population.

**Figure 16**  
**Average Daily Population of**  
**the Vermilion County Jail**



Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois Department of Corrections and U.S. Census Bureau data

\* Information estimated by ICJIA  
 \*\* Data not available

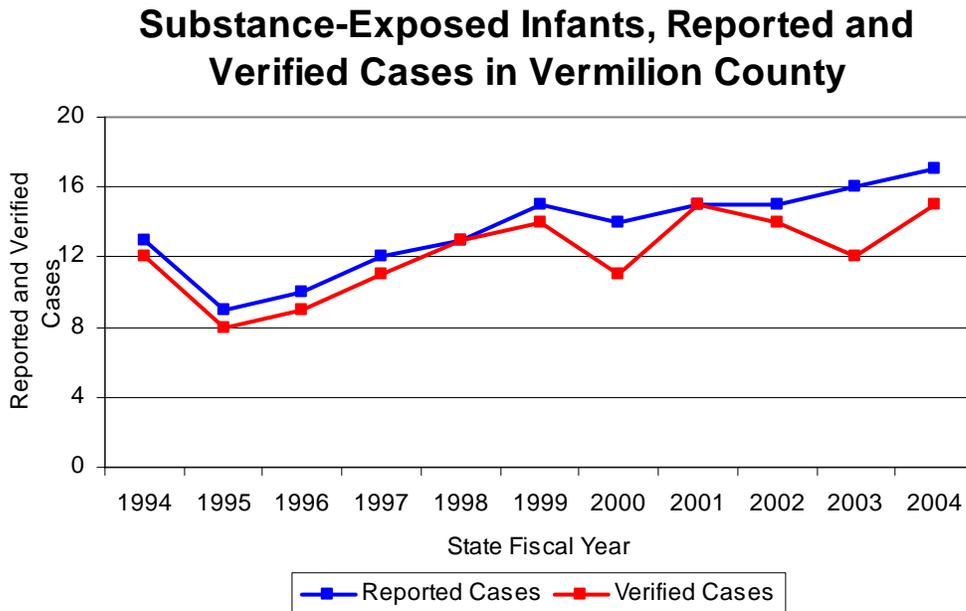
## V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in Vermilion County

### Substance-Exposed Infants in Vermilion County

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in Vermilion County increased 31 percent, from 13 to 17. During the same period, the number of verified cases increased 25 percent, from 12 to 15 (Figure 17).

Figure 17



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

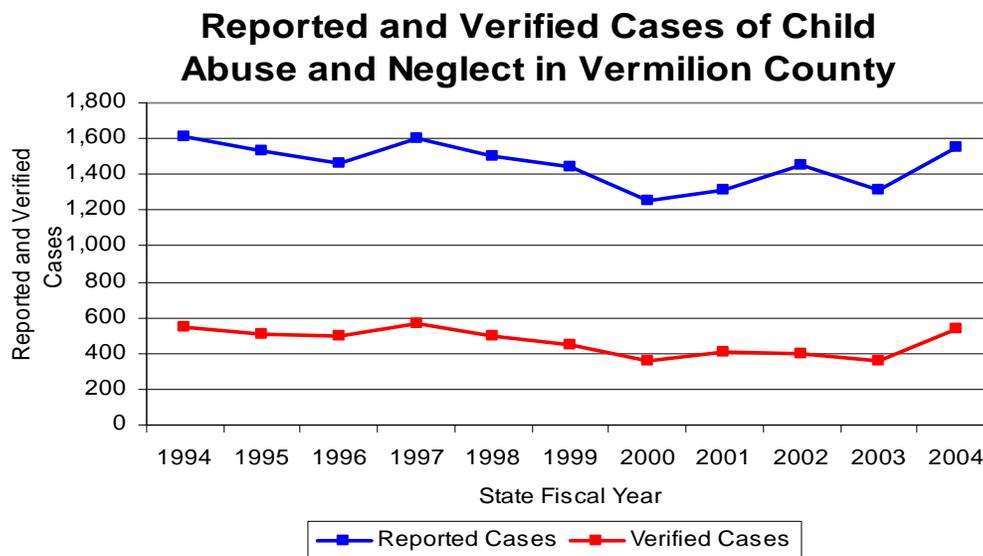
Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other urban counties decreased 44 percent, from 351 to 198, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 45 percent, from 330 to 181.

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

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Vermilion County decreased 3 percent, from 1,611 to 1,555 (Figure 18). During that same period, 5,132 cases, or 32 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Vermilion County decreased 2 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 569 to 536.

Figure 18



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.

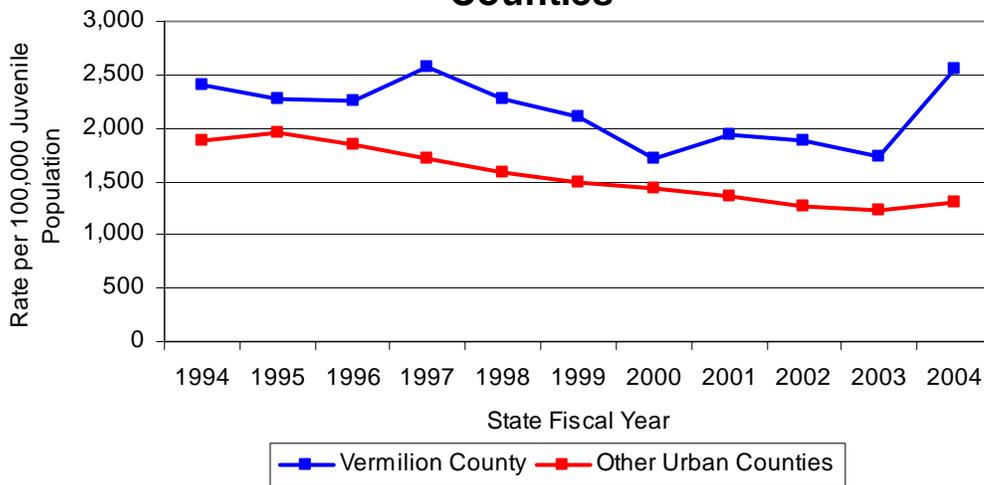
<sup>2</sup> Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” Juvenile Justice Bulletin. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Vermilion County decreased from 2,575 to 2,556 per 100,000 juveniles, a 6 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 31 percent in the other urban counties, from 1,714 to 1,296 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Vermilion County was 97 percent higher than in the other urban counties.

**Figure 19**

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



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



## VII. Bibliography

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, *Annual Report to the Supreme Court of Illinois*. 1994 through 2003 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division, *Statewide Probation Data Report*. 1994 through 2003 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, *Child Abuse/Neglect Statistics Report*. State Fiscal Years 1994 through 2004 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

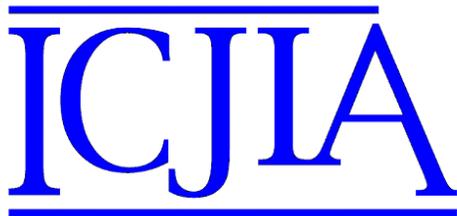
Illinois Department of Corrections. *Jail and Detention Statistics and Information*. State Fiscal Years 1995 through 2003 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

Illinois Department of Corrections. Research and Planning Division, Springfield, Illinois.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Illinois Population Estimates*. 1994-2003, Washington, D.C.

Illinois State Police, *Crime in Illinois*. 1994 through 2003 reports, Springfield, Illinois.

Illinois State Police, *Drug Statistics Report*. Monthly reports, January 1994 through December 2003, Springfield, Illinois.



**Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority**

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



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
Sheldon Sorosky, Chairman  
Lori G. Levin, Executive Director