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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 Washington 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

Washington County, located in southern Illinois, covers an area of 563 square miles and had a 2003 population of 15,179, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Washington County was the 44th largest county in Illinois geographically, but 75th largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Washington County had the 14th lowest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Washington 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, Washington County is one of Illinois' 66 rural counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Washington 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 Washington County

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

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

In addition to local law enforcement agencies, the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force (SIDTF) also serves Washington 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 Southern Illinois Drug Task Force and Illinois' other MEGs and task forces, profiles of each of the units were developed by the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit and are available through the Authority's Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse or can be downloaded from the Authority's Website at www.icjia.state.il.us.

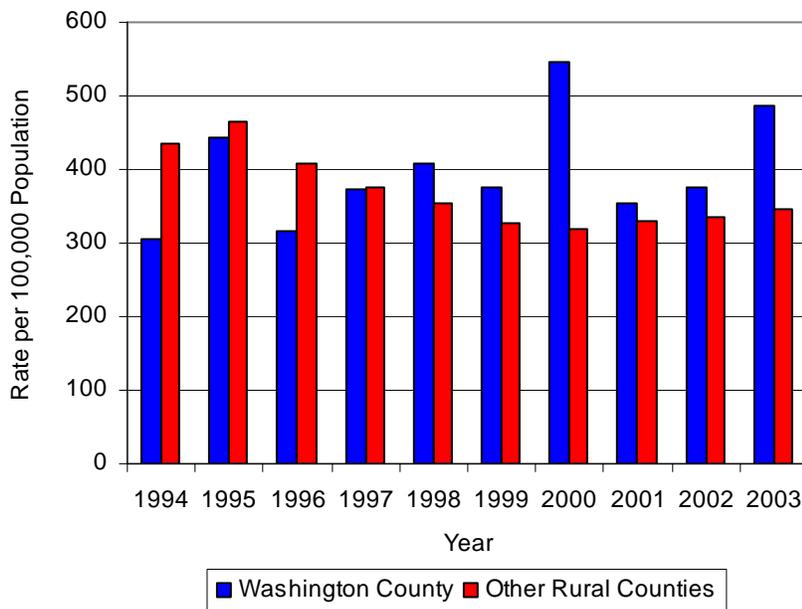
Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Washington County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police increased 61 percent in Washington County between 1994 and 2003, from 46 to 74. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (95 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Washington County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Washington County increased 59 percent, from 306 to 488 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). The violent Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 21 percent, from 434 to 345 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Washington County was 41 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 1

Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Washington and Other Rural Counties



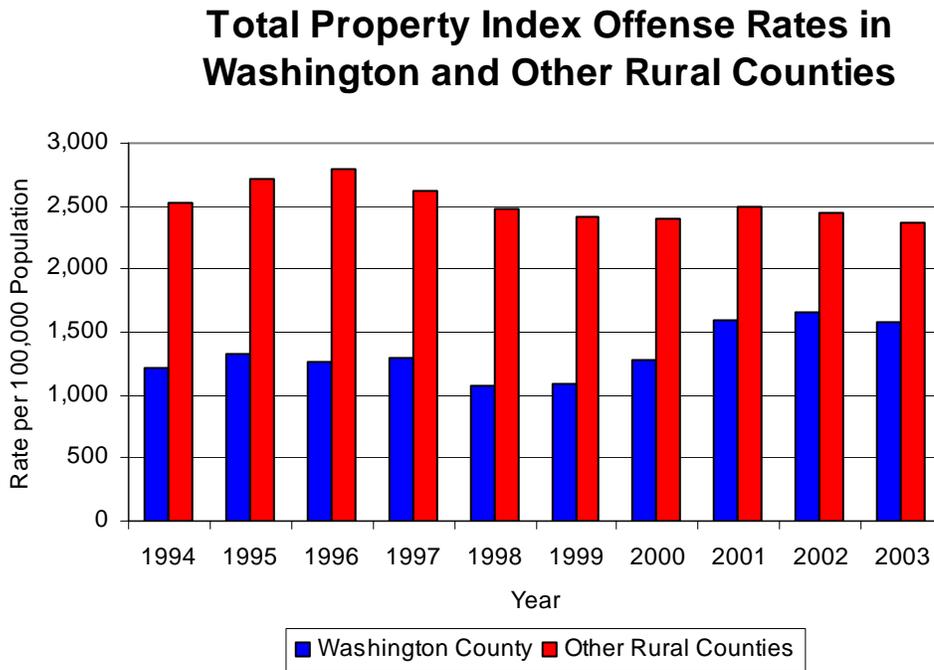
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Washington County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Washington County increased 32 percent, from 182 to 240. Thefts accounted for 74 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Washington County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Washington County increased 31 percent, from 1,210 to 1,518 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). During the same period, the property Index offense rate in the other rural counties decreased 6 percent, from 2,533 to 2,369 offenses per 100,000 population. Washington County's 2003 property Index offense rate was 33 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

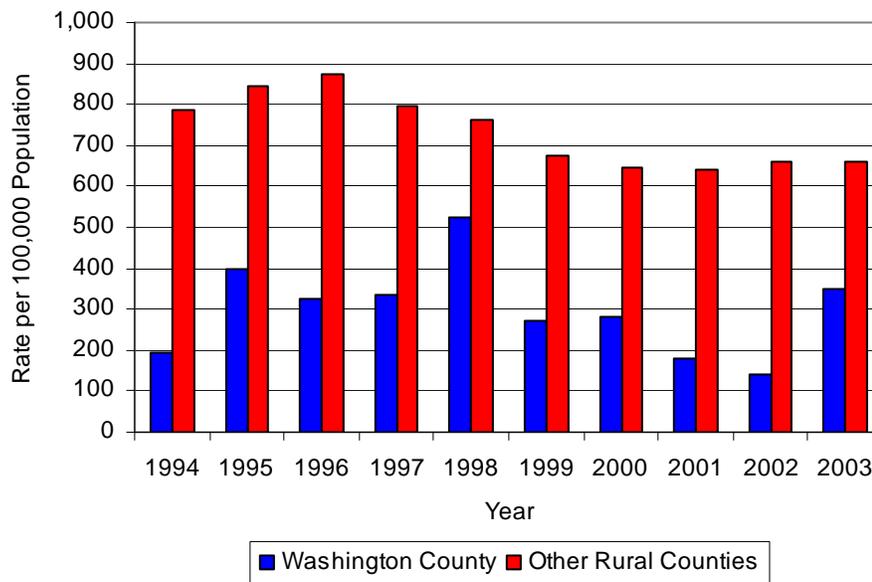
Index Arrests by Washington County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Washington County increased 83 percent, from 29 to 53. Unlike most other counties, the majority of Index arrests were for violent Index offenses. Of the 53 Index arrests made in Washington County during 2003, 58 percent were for violent Index crimes and 42 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for burglary and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Washington County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 87 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while burglary accounted for 59 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Washington County increased 81 percent, from 193 to 349 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). Conversely, during the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other rural counties decreased 16 percent, from 788 to 659 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Washington County's Index arrest rate was 47 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 3

Index Arrest Rates in Washington and Other Rural Counties



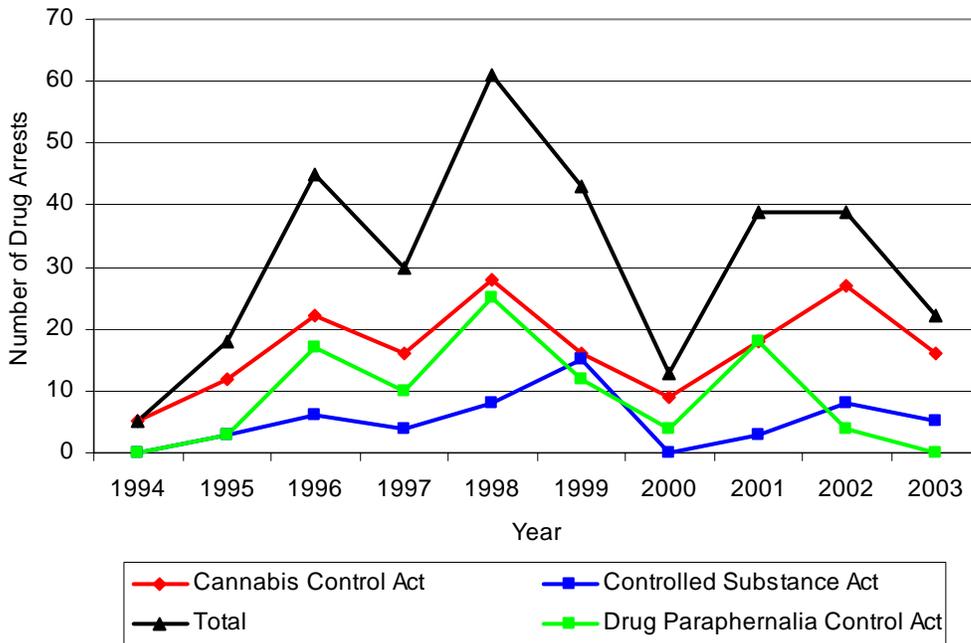
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Drug Offense Arrests in Washington 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) more than quadrupled in Washington County, from five to 22 (Figure 4). Similar to other counties, total drug arrests in Washington County remained relatively stable between 1983 and the early 1990s, before increasing nearly every year thereafter to a period high of 61 in 1998 then decreased to 22 in 2003. Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations increased from zero arrests in 1994 to a period high of 25 in 1998 then returned to zero arrests in 2003.

During the period analyzed, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Washington County have consistently out-numbered arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution, or manufacture of all other illegal drugs such as cocaine and opiates). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act in Washington County more than tripled, from five to 16. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased from zero to five, during the same period (Figure 4).

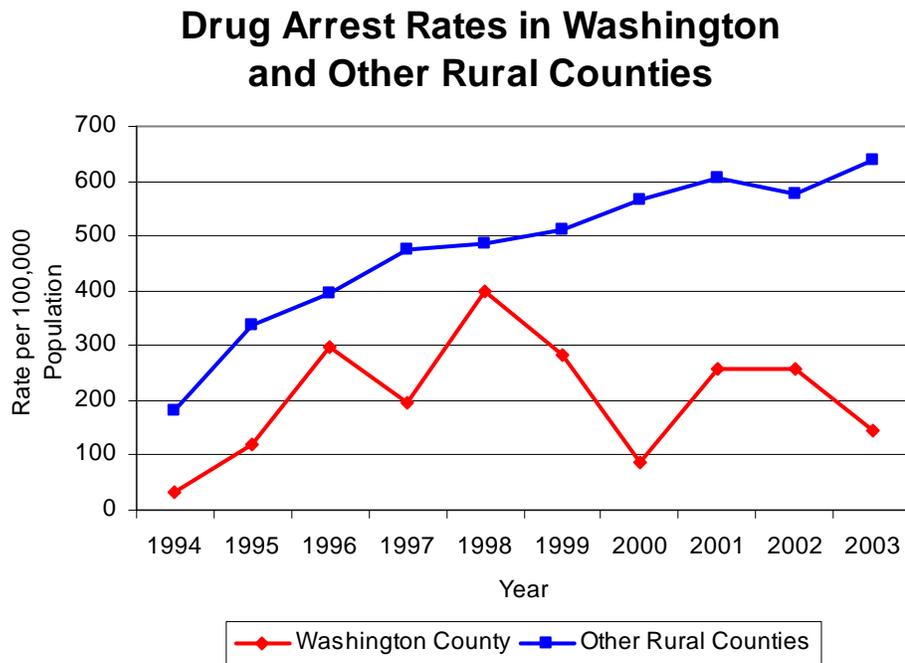
Figure 4
Drug Arrests in Washington County



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Washington County more than quadrupled, from 33 to 145 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). During the same period, the total drug arrest rate in the other rural counties more than tripled, from 182 to 637 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Washington County was 77 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 5



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

Drugs Seized in Washington County

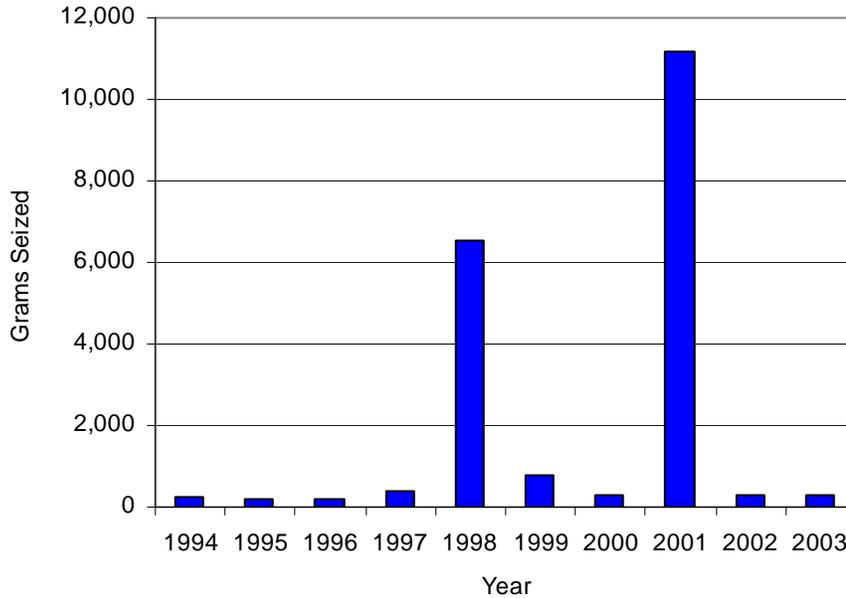
Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of the illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies in Illinois, they are submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois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

Cannabis Seized in Washington County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Washington 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 Washington County increased 32 percent, from 238 grams to 313 grams (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Cannabis Seized in Washington County



Source: Illinois State Police

During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other rural counties decreased 55 percent, from 607,911 grams to 272,330 grams. In 2003, Washington County had a cannabis seizure rate of 2,063 grams per 100,000 population, 87 percent lower than the rate of 16,253 grams per 100,000 population in the other rural counties.

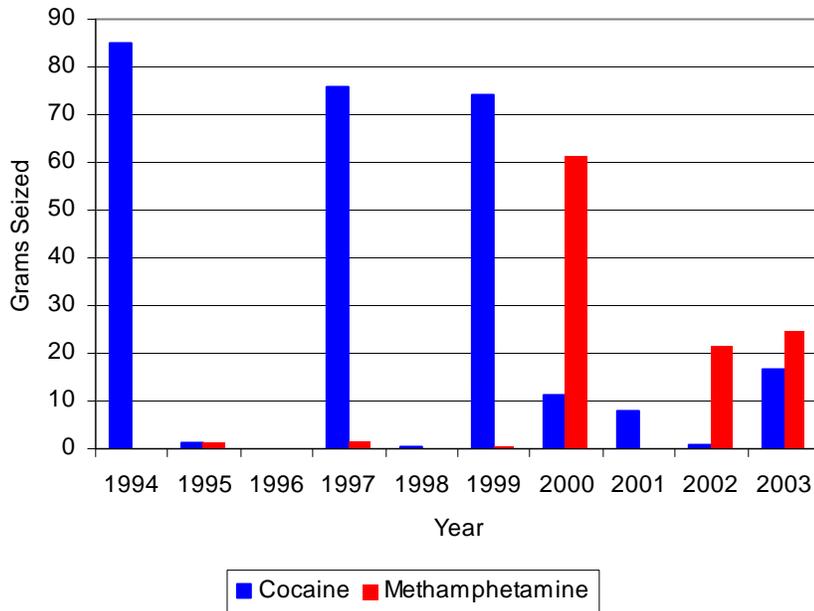
Cocaine and Methamphetamine Seized in Washington County

During the past decade, it is clear that methamphetamine “activity in the state has increased dramatically and has become a significant drug problem in many jurisdictions. Further, the extent to 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.

The quantity of cocaine seized in Washington County decreased 80 percent between 1994 and 2003 (Figure 7). During the period analyzed, the quantity of cocaine seized decreased from 85 grams to 17 grams. Between 1994 and 2003, crack cocaine comprised 5 percent of cocaine seizures and powder cocaine comprised 95 percent of cocaine seizures. The quantity of methamphetamine seized in Washington County increased from zero grams in 1994 to 25 grams in 2003 (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Cocaine* and Methamphetamine Seized in Washington County



Source: Illinois State Police

*Total includes powder and crack cocaine

Between 1994 and 2003, the amount of cocaine seized in other rural counties decreased 79 percent from 71,194 grams to 15,153 grams, while the amount of methamphetamine increased dramatically in other rural counties from 2,619 grams in 1994 to 13,193 grams in 2003. In 2003, 161 grams of methamphetamine per 100,000 population were seized in Washington County, compared to the rate of 787 grams of methamphetamine per 100,000 population seized in the other rural counties.

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Washington 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.

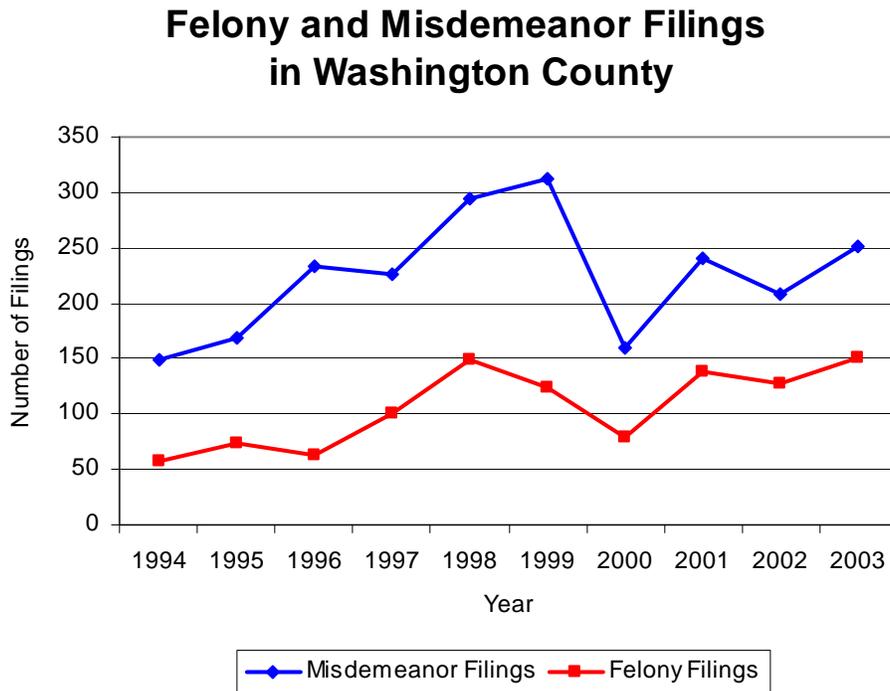
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Washington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

Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Washington 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 10 percent of all filings in Washington County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Washington County nearly tripled, from 57 to 150 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings increased 68 percent, from 149 in 1994 to 251 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings have out-numbered felony filings by nearly two to one.

Figure 8

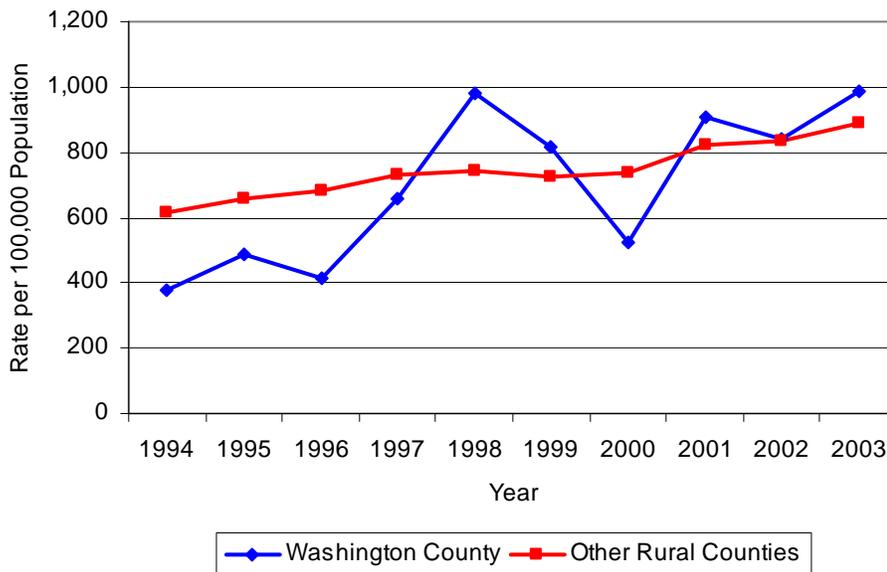


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Washington County more than doubled, from 379 to 988 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 44 percent during this period, from 616 to 888 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Washington County was 11 percent higher than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 9

Felony Filing Rates in Washington and Other Rural Counties



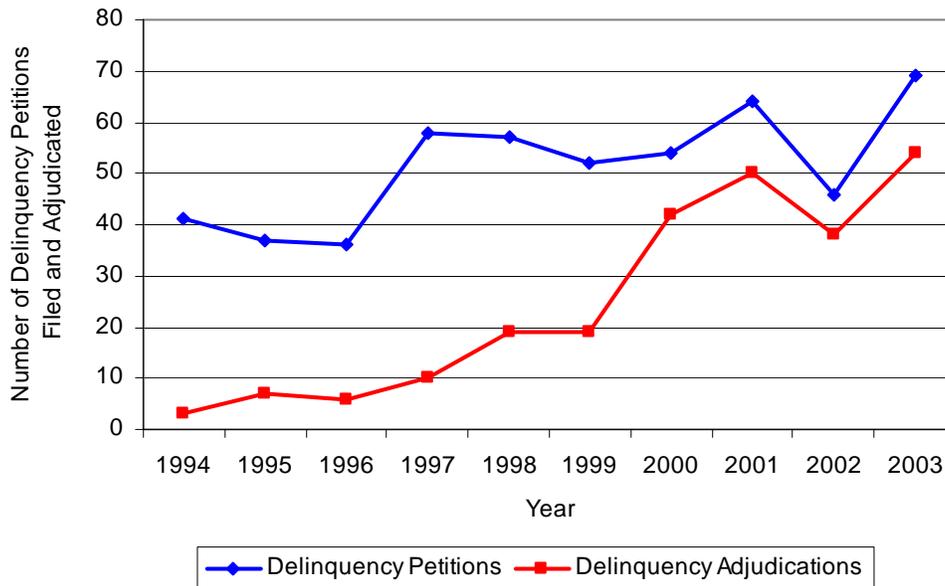
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 Washington County increased 68 percent, from 41 to 69 (Figure 10). In 2003, over two-thirds of the juveniles named in delinquency petitions were adjudicated delinquent. Between 1994 and 2003, delinquency adjudications increased dramatically, from three to 54. The majority of cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

Figure 10

Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Washington County



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

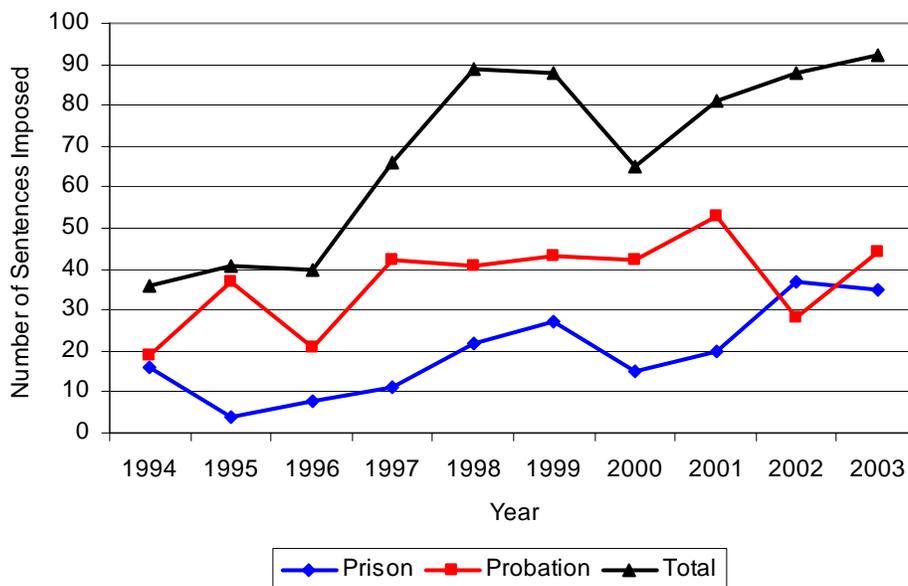
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Washington County increased 60 percent, from 2,529 to 4,054 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other rural counties increased 12 percent, from 2,007 to 2,248 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Washington County was 80 percent higher 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 Washington County more than doubled, from 36 to 92 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to either prison or probation increased during this period. The number of convicted felons sentenced to prison more than doubled, from 16 to 35, while the number of convicted felons sentenced to probation also more than doubled, from 19 to 44. Despite these increases, both felony prison and probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 44 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to prison, compared to 38 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to probation decreased from 53 percent to 48 percent. In 2003, 14 percent of convicted felons in Washington County were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

Figure 11

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Washington County

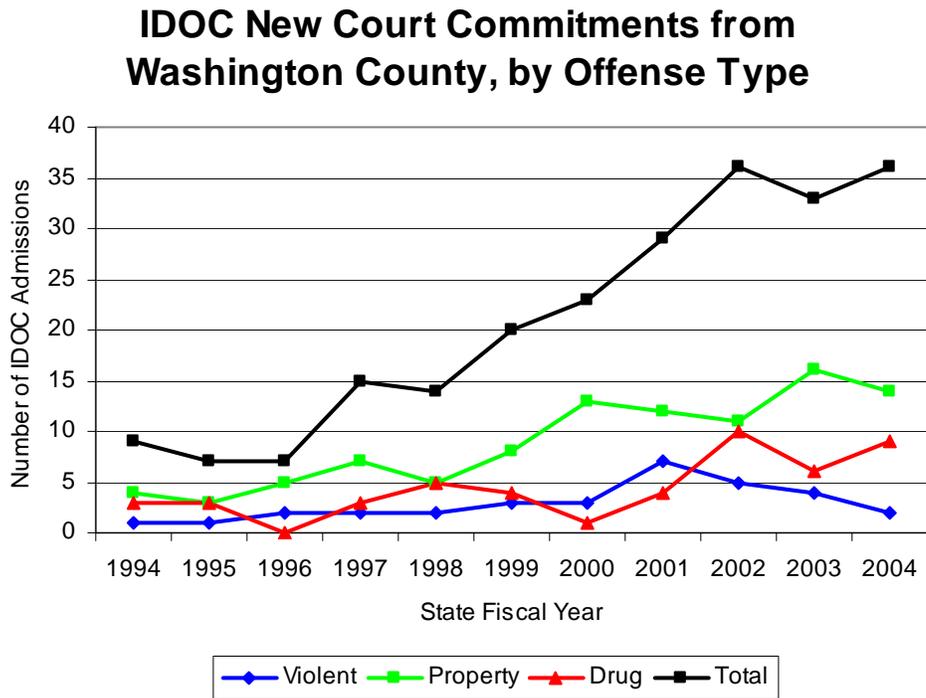


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from Washington County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Washington County quadrupled, from nine to 36 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of admissions increased for all offense types. The number of violent offender admissions increased from one to two, while property drug offender admissions tripled, from four to 14 and from three to nine, respectively.

Figure 12



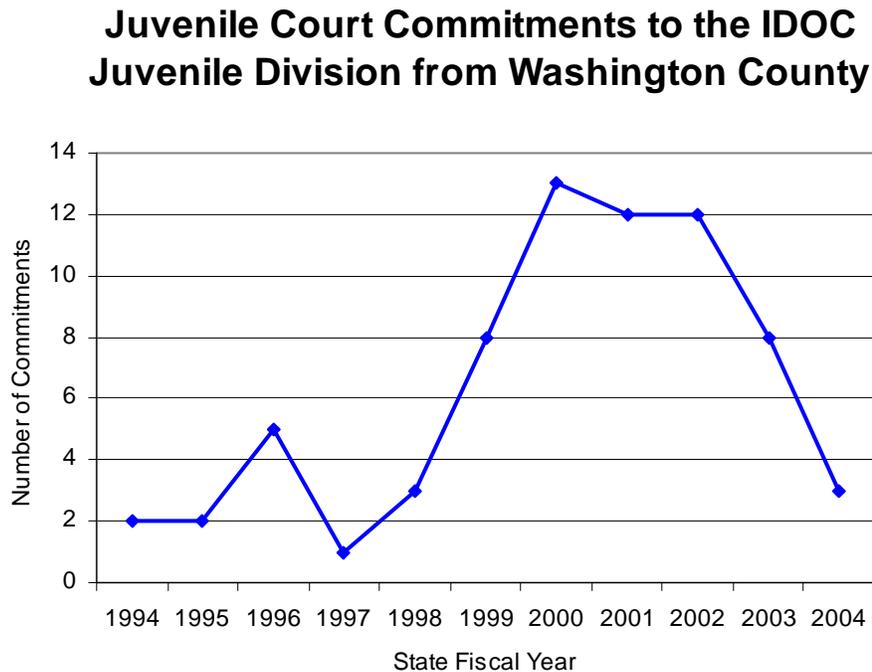
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 6 percent of all admissions from Washington County, while property and drug offenders accounted for 39 percent and 25 percent of all admissions, respectively.

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 Washington County increased from two to three (Figure 13).

Figure 13



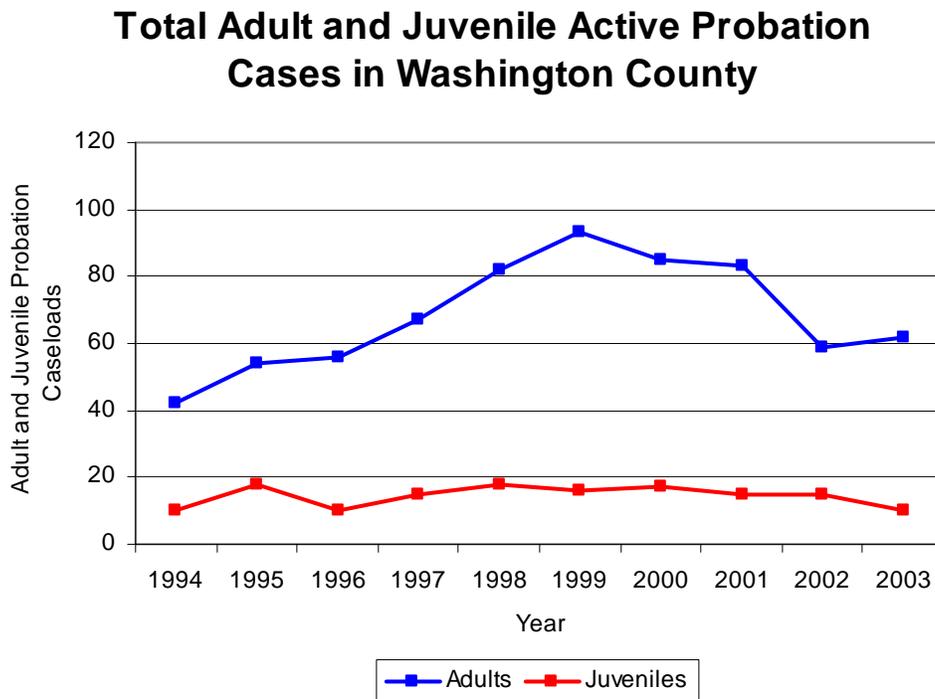
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, Washington County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 205 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 11 percent lower than the 230 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other rural counties.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Washington County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Washington County increased 48 percent, from 42 to 62 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 50 percent of Washington County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Washington County Juvenile Probation Department remained unchanged at ten. 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



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Washington County increased 46 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 279 to 408 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 40 percent in the other rural counties, from 749 to 1,049 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Washington County was 61 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

IV. Jail Populations in Washington 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 SFYs 1992 and 1994, the IDOC did not collect Illinois jail population data. Data presented for SFY 1994 were estimated by the Authority using the reported SFYs 1991 and 1995 data.

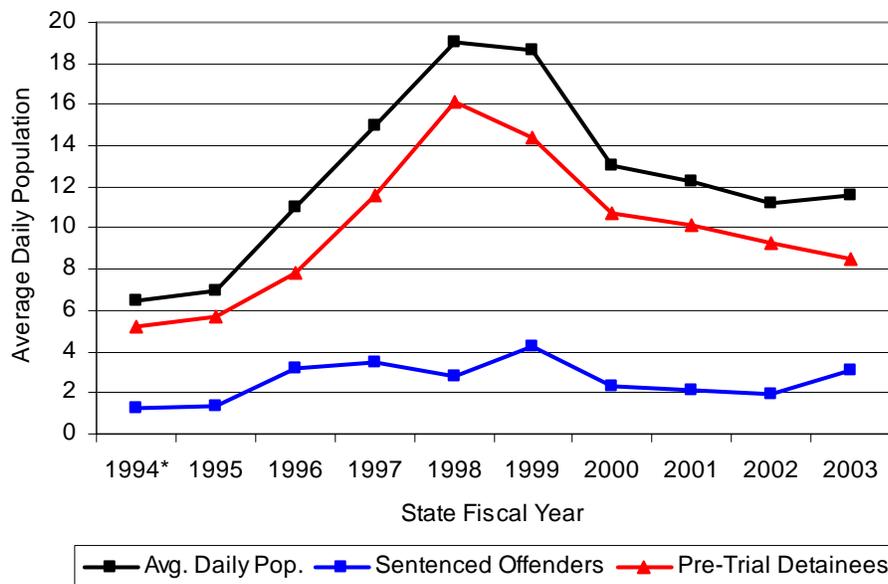
Average Daily Population of the Washington County Jail

The Washington 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 Washington County Jail increased 78 percent, from seven to 12 inmates (Figure 15). During this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) have accounted for a decreased percentage of the average daily population, decreasing from 81 percent in SFY 1994 to 74 percent in SFY 2003. Sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for an increased percentage, increasing from 19 percent in SFY 1994 to 26 percent in SFT 2003.

Figure 15

Average Daily Population of the Washington County Jail



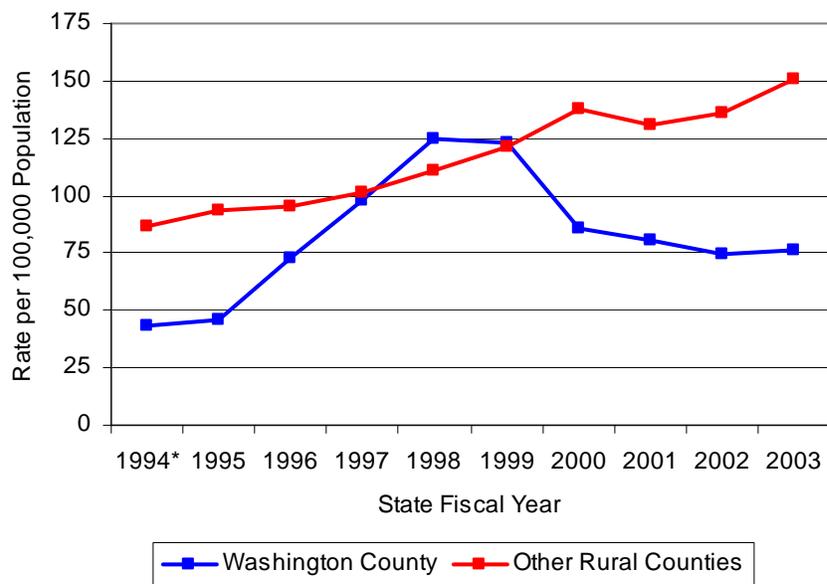
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

* Information estimated by ICJIA

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Washington County increased 77 percent, from 43 to 76 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other rural counties increased 74 percent, from 87 to 151 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Washington County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 49 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 16

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,
Washington and Other Rural 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 Washington County

Substance-Exposed Infants in Washington 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.

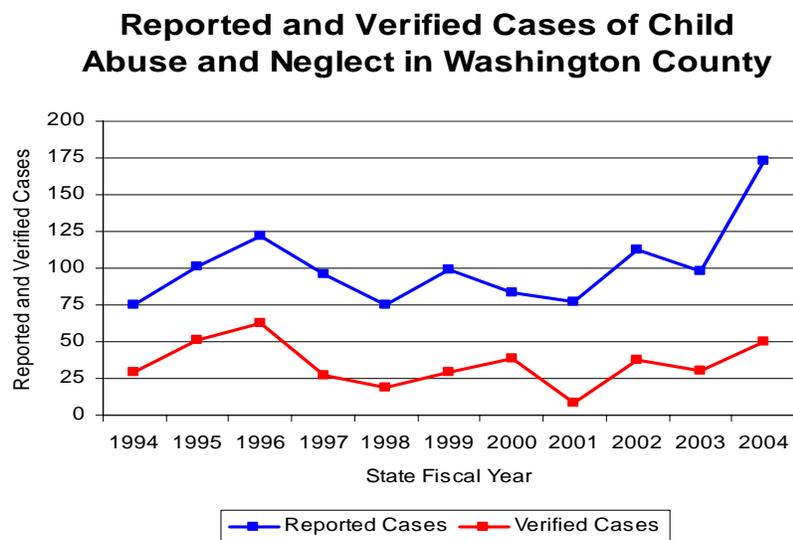
Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2004, there was one reported and verified case of a substance-exposed infant in Washington County. During the same period, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other rural counties increased 23 percent, from 83 to 102, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants increased 43 percent, from 44 to 63.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Washington 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 Washington County more than doubled, from 75 to 173 (Figure 17). During that same period, 381 cases, or 34 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Washington County increased 72 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 29 to 50.

Figure 17



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.

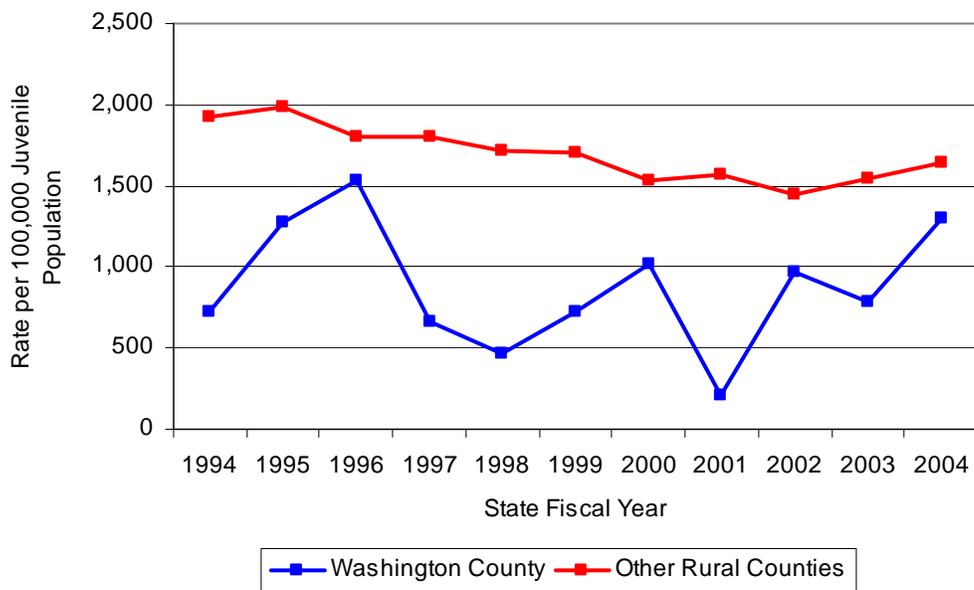
² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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 Washington County increased from 729 to 1,303 per 100,000 juveniles, a 79 percent increase (Figure 18). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 15 percent in the other rural counties, from 1,920 to 1,638 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Washington County was 20 percent lower than the rate in the other rural counties.

Figure 18

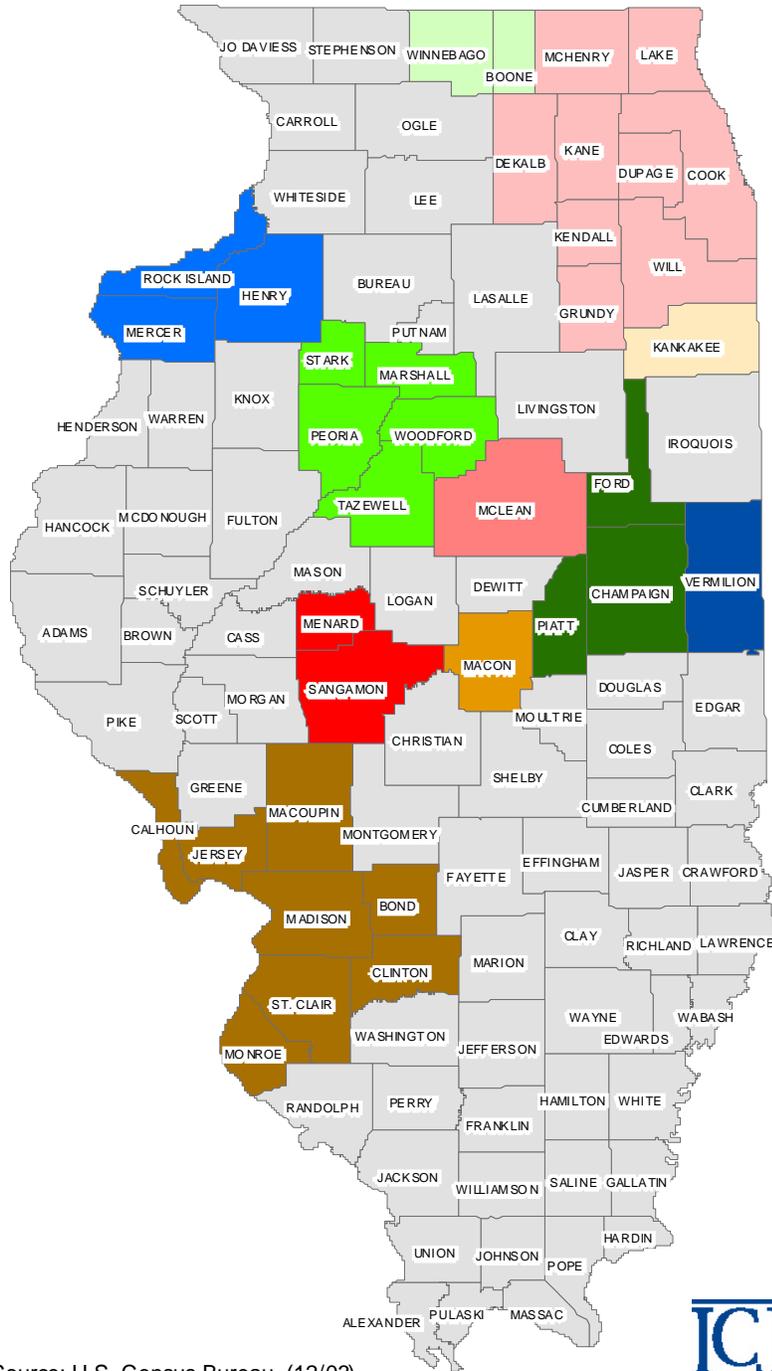
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Washington and Other Rural Counties



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*



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



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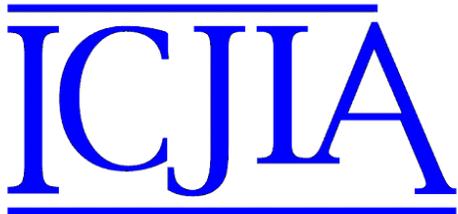
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