

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

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 Winnebago 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

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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

Winnebago County, located in northern Illinois, covers an area of 514 square miles and had a 2003 population of 284,313, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Winnebago County was the 51st largest county in Illinois geographically, but 7th largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Winnebago County had the 6th highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Winnebago 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 lie 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, Winnebago County is one of Illinois' 30 urban counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Winnebago 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 Winnebago 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 State Line Area Narcotics Team (SLANT) also serves Winnebago 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 State Line Area Narcotics Team 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.

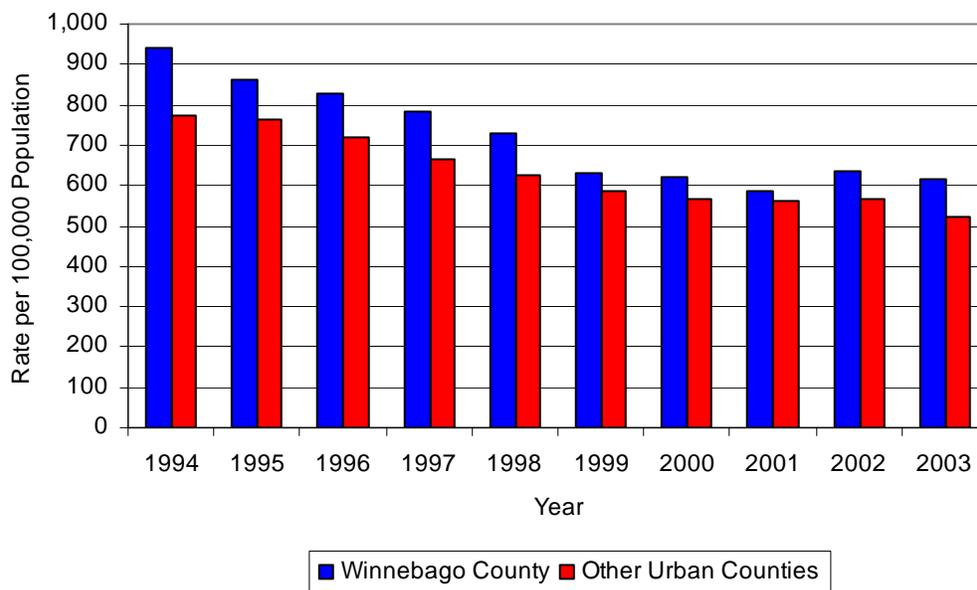
Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Winnebago County

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police decreased 30 percent in Winnebago County between 1994 and 2003, from 2,509 to 1,749. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (55 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Winnebago County in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Winnebago County decreased 35 percent, from 940 to 615 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Similarly, the violent Index offense rate in the other urban counties decreased 32 percent, from 775 to 523 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Winnebago County was 18 percent higher than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 1

Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Winnebago and Other Urban Counties



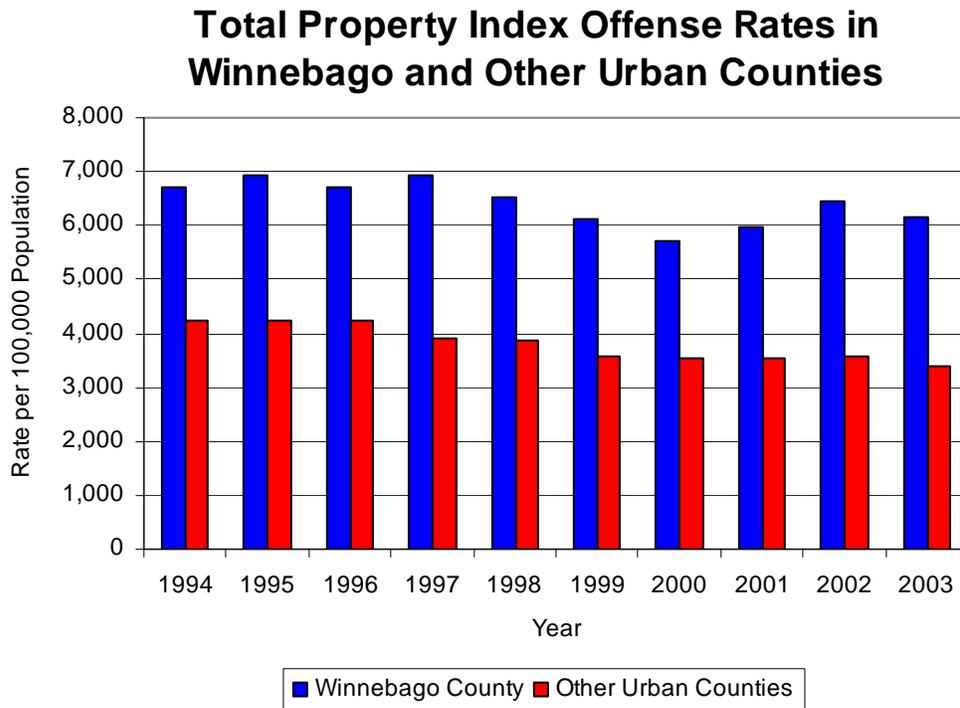
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Property Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Winnebago County

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Winnebago County decreased slightly (2 percent) from 17,888 to 17,469. Thefts accounted for 68 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Winnebago County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Winnebago County decreased 8 percent, from 6,702 to 6,144 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the other urban counties, the property Index offense rate decreased 20 percent, from 4,230 to 3,382 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 property Index offense rate in Winnebago County was 82 percent higher than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 2



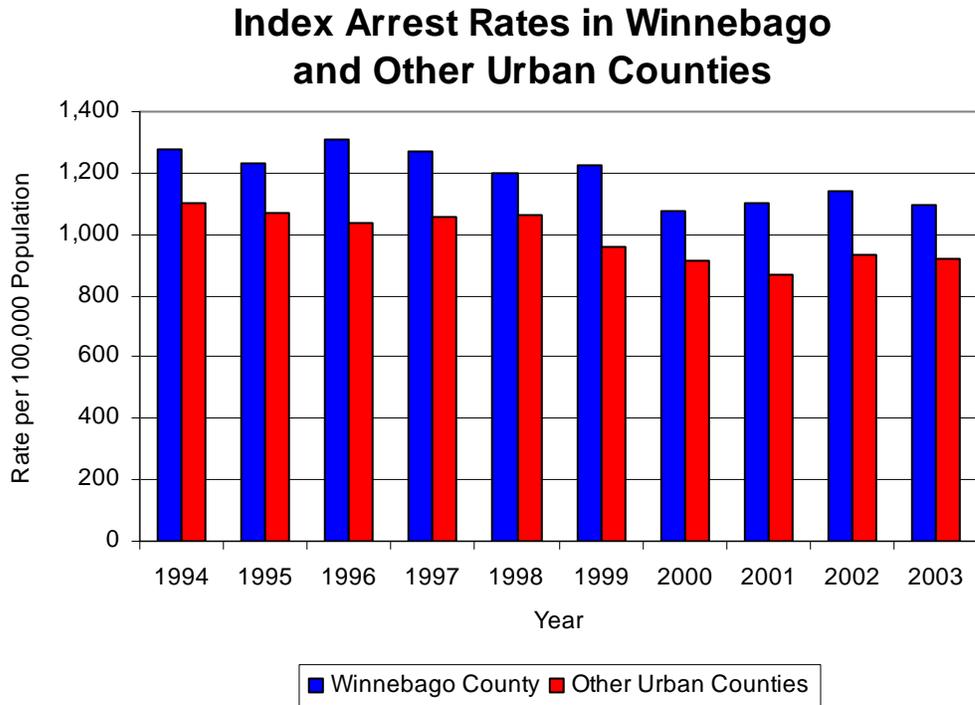
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Index Arrests by Winnebago County Law Enforcement Agencies

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Winnebago County decreased 9 percent, from 3,403 to 3,109. The majority of Index arrests was for property Index offenses. Of the 3,109 Index arrests made in Winnebago County during 2003, 19 percent were for violent Index crimes and 81 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Winnebago County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 65 percent were arrests for aggravated assault, while thefts accounted for 83 percent of all property Index arrests.

Between 1994 and 2003, the Index arrest rate in Winnebago County decreased 14 percent, from 1,275 to 1,094 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties decreased 16 percent, from 1,100 to 923 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, Winnebago County's Index arrest rate was 18 percent higher than the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 3



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

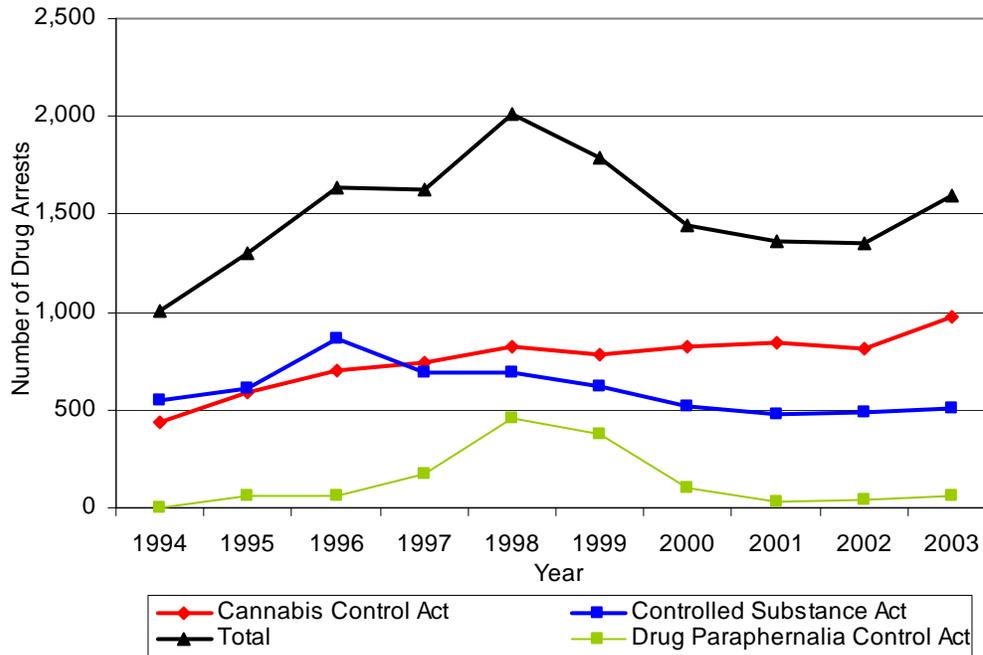
Drug Offense Arrests in Winnebago County

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 58 percent in Winnebago County, from 1,009 to 1,591 (Figure 4). Beginning in 1994, total drug arrests in Winnebago County began increasing annually almost every year, peaking in 1998 and then declining almost every year thereafter. During the period, the number of arrests for violation of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act increased from just one arrest in 1994 to 63 in 2003, while reaching a period high of 454 arrests in 1998.

During most of the period analyzed between 1994 and 2003, arrests for violations of Illinois' Controlled Substances Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution, or manufacture of all other illegal drugs such as cocaine and opiates) in Winnebago County have been outnumbered by arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act in Winnebago County more than doubled, from 437 to 975. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act decreased 7 percent, from 553 to 512, between 1994 and 2003 (Figure 4).

Figure 4

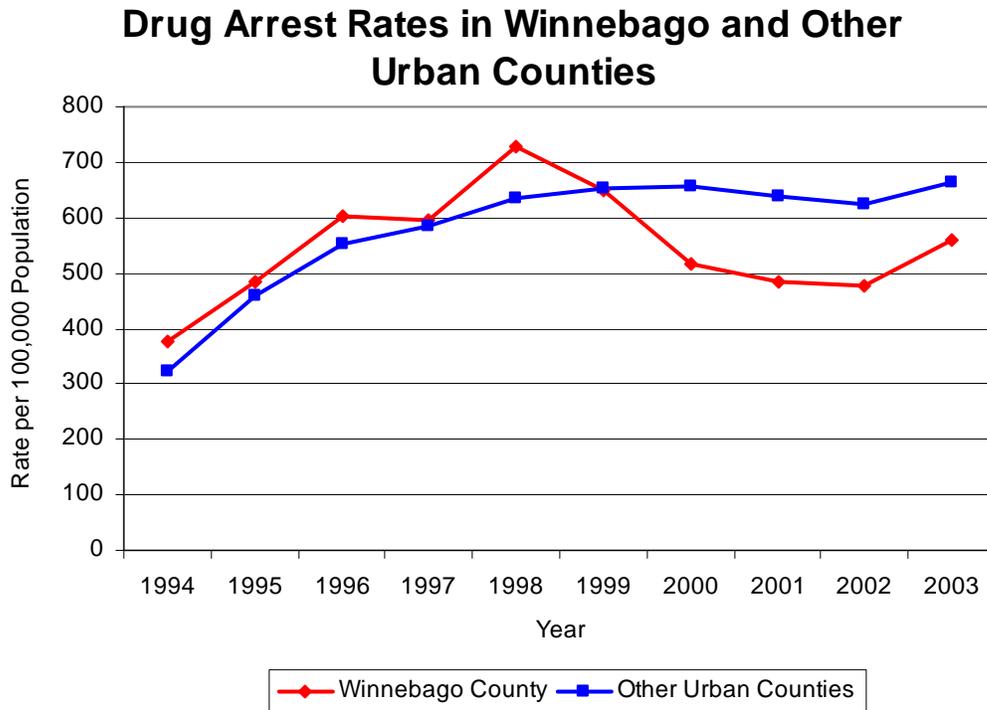
Drug Arrests in Winnebago County



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Winnebago County increased 48 percent, from 378 to 560 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). Similarly, the total drug arrest rate in the other urban counties more than doubled between 1994 and 2003, from 323 to 665 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Winnebago County was 16 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 5



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

Drugs Seized in Winnebago County

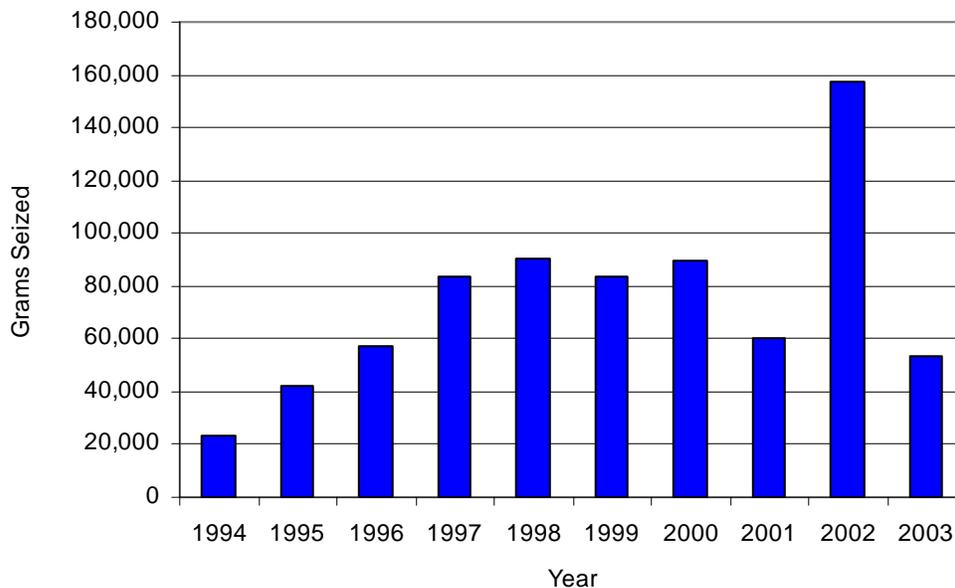
Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of the illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies in Illinois, they are submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois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

Cannabis Seized in Winnebago County

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Winnebago County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Winnebago County more than doubled, from 23,523 grams to 53,158 grams. In 2002, a period high of 157,683 grams was seized (Figure 6). During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other urban counties decreased significantly (64 percent), from 1,288,243 grams to 461,475 grams.

Figure 6

Cannabis Seized in Winnebago County



Source: Illinois State Police

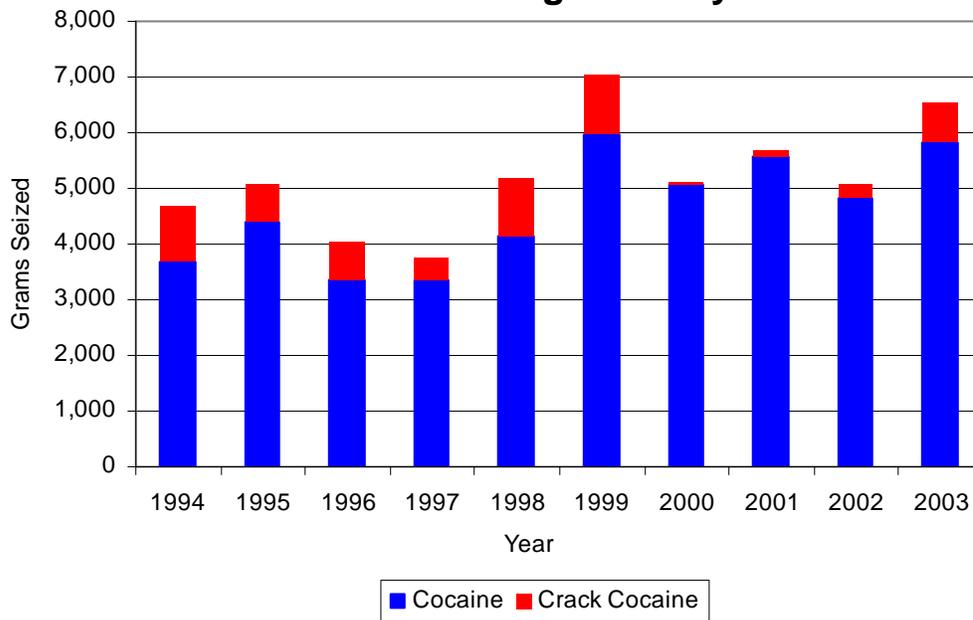
Between 1994 and 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in Winnebago County also more than doubled from 8,813 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 18,697 grams in 2003. The cannabis seizure rate in the other urban counties decreased 65 percent, from 56,101 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 19,334 grams in 2003. Despite the dramatic increase, in 2003, Winnebago County's cannabis seizure rate was slightly (3 percent) lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Winnebago County

The quantity of powder cocaine seized increased, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized in Winnebago County decreased between 1994 and 2003. The quantity of powder cocaine seized increased 58 percent, from 3,675 grams in 1994 to 5,825 grams in 2003 (Figure 7). Crack cocaine accounted for a relatively small portion of all cocaine seized in Winnebago County. The quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased from 1,019 grams in 1994 to 713 grams in 2003.

Figure 7

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Winnebago County



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 31 percent, from 44,738 grams to 30,748 grams in the other urban counties, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased from 10,419 grams to 5,576 grams. In 2003, 2,049 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population were seized in Winnebago County, 59 percent higher than the 1,288 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other urban counties.

III. Adult and Juvenile Court Activity in Winnebago 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.

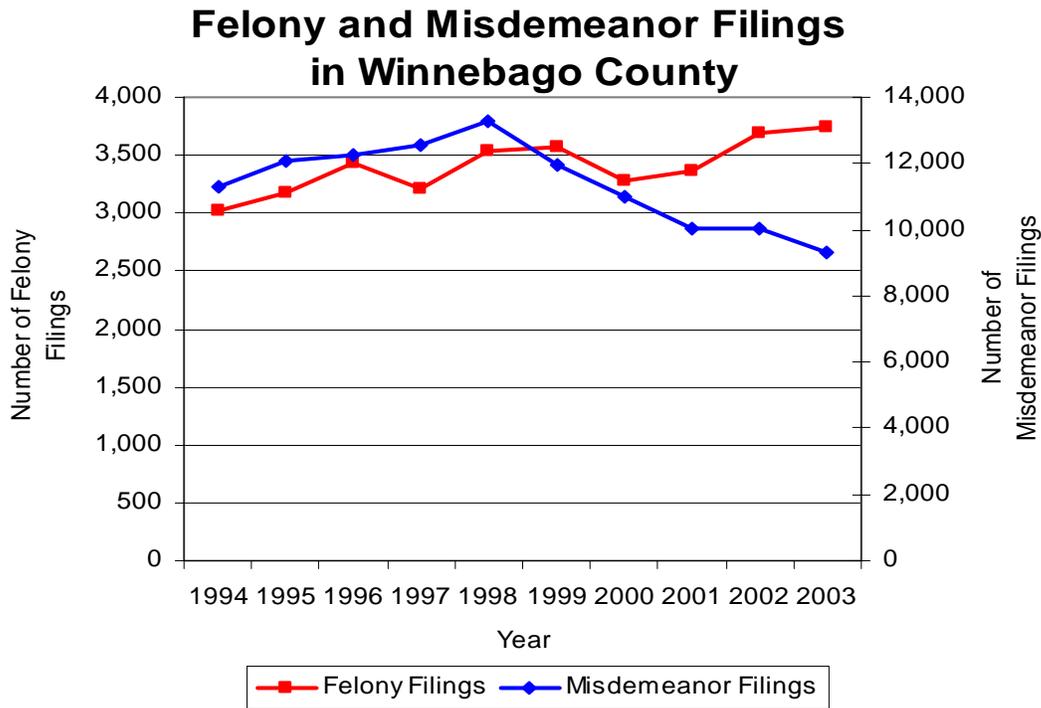
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Winnebago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

Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Winnebago 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 15 percent of all filings in Winnebago County’s courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Winnebago County increased 24 percent, from 3,016 to 3,738 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 17 percent, from 11,299 in 1994 to 9,324 in 2003. In 2003, misdemeanor filings out-numbered felony filings by nearly three to one. It is important to note that to include both misdemeanor and felony case filings on the same graph it was necessary to use two separate Y-axes. In Figure 8, the misdemeanor filings are plotted against the right Y-axis and felony filings are plotted using the left Y-axis.

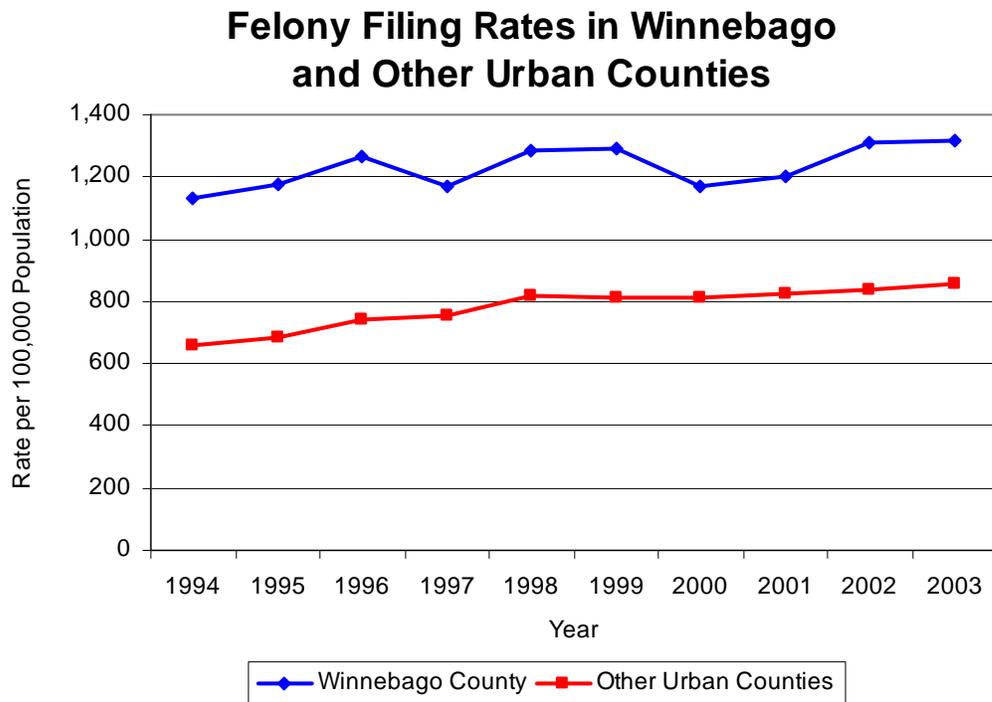
Figure 8



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Winnebago County increased 16 percent, from 1,129 to 1,315 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other urban counties increased 30 percent during this period, from 659 to 857 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Winnebago County was 53 percent higher than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 9

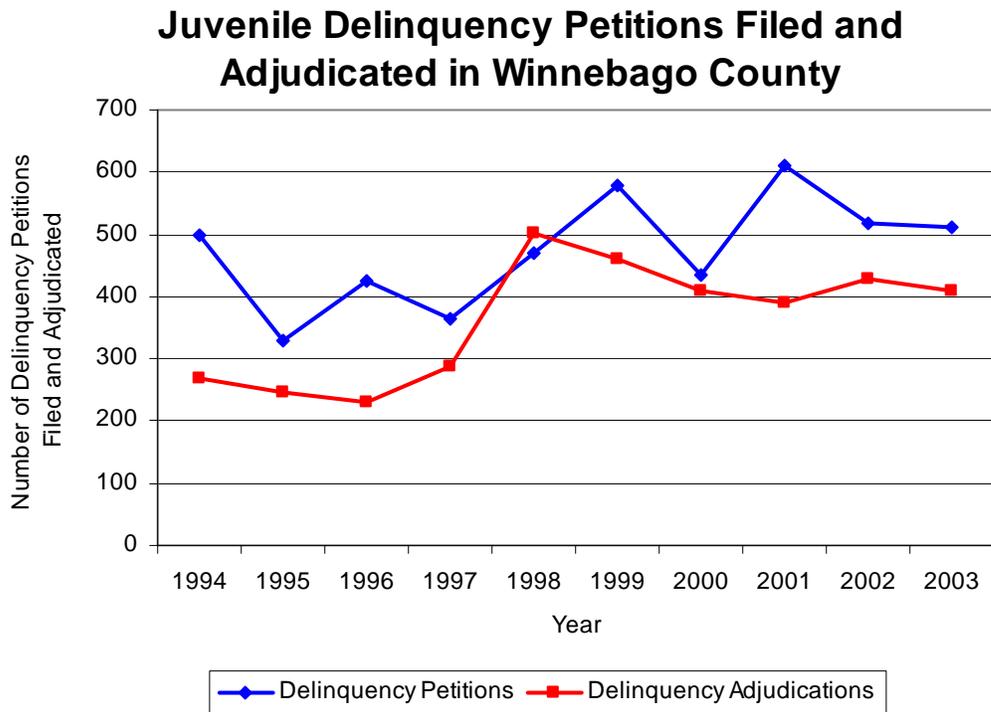


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

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 Winnebago County decreased 2 percent, from 498 to 510 (Figure 10). During the period analyzed, the number of reported delinquency adjudications increased 53 percent, from 268 in 1994 to 409 in 2003.

Figure 10



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

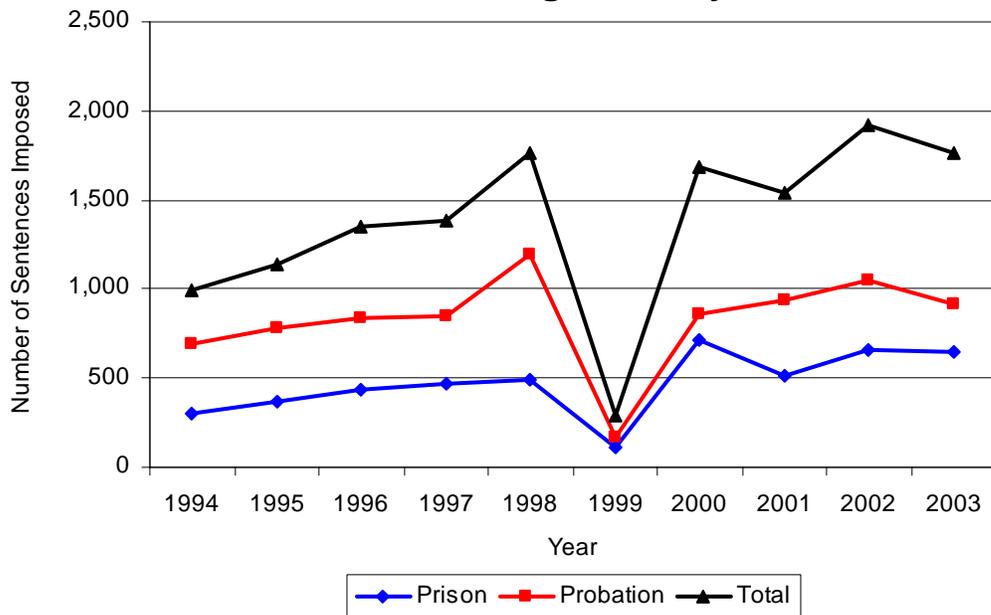
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Winnebago County decreased 7 percent, from 1,894 to 1,761 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other urban counties also decreased 7 percent, from 1,881 to 1,741 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Winnebago County was slightly (1 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 Winnebago County increased from 989 to 1,765 (Figure 11). While the number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period increased 32 percent, from 690 to 910 felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 70 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 52 percent in 2003. Between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of felons sentenced to prison increased, from 30 percent in 1994 to 37 percent in 2003. In 2003, 12 percent of convicted felons were sentenced to something other than prison or probation. For unknown reasons, the number of offenders sentenced to prison and probation dropped drastically between 1998 and 2000. The number of offenders sentenced to prison in 1999 was four times fewer than the number sentenced in 1998 and the number sentenced to probation was seven times fewer than in 1998.

Figure 11

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Winnebago County

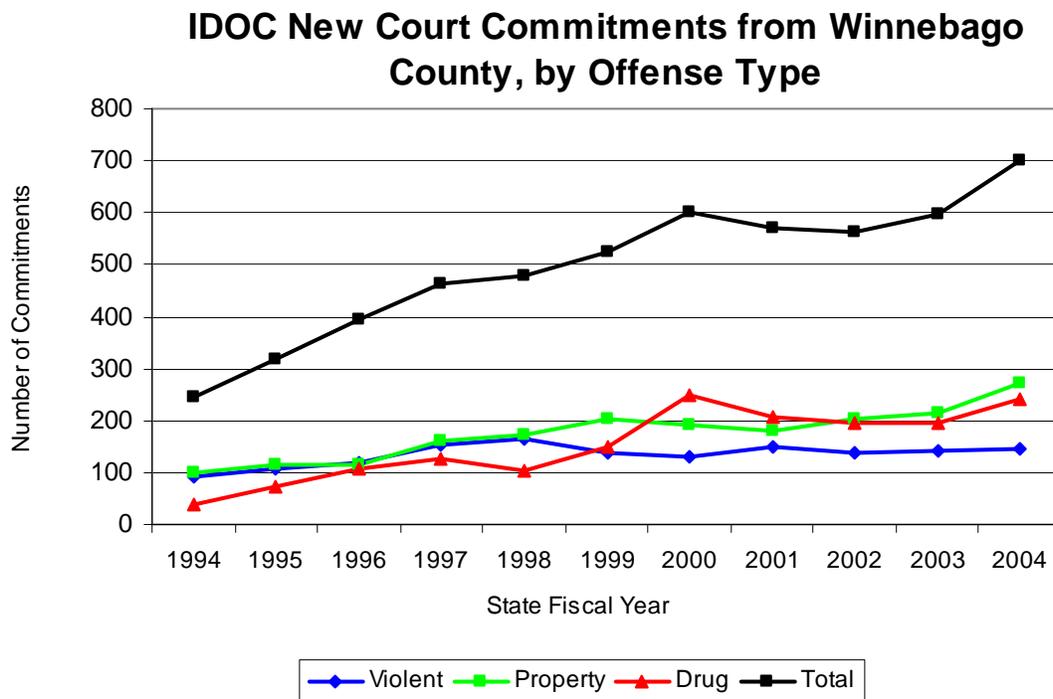


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Adult Prison Admissions from Winnebago County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFY) 1994 and 2004, the number of admissions to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Winnebago County nearly tripled, from 245 to 702 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent, property, and drug offender admissions also increased. The number of violent offender admissions increased 61 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 90 to 145, while the number of property offender admissions nearly tripled, from 101 to 273 and the number of drug offenders admitted increased more than five-fold, from 39 in SFY 1994 to 243 in SFY 2004.

Figure 12



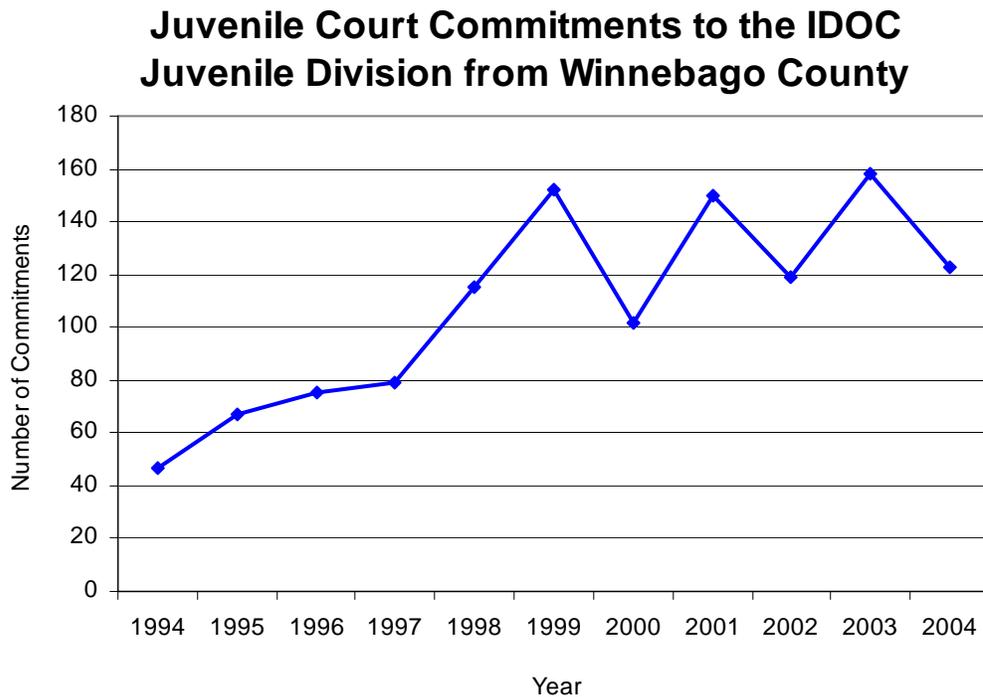
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 21 percent of all admissions from Winnebago County, while property offenders accounted for 39 percent and drug offenders accounted for 35 percent of all admissions. Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, drug offenders increased from 16 percent to 35 percent of all admissions from Winnebago 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 Winnebago County nearly tripled, from 47 to 123 (Figure 13).

Figure 13



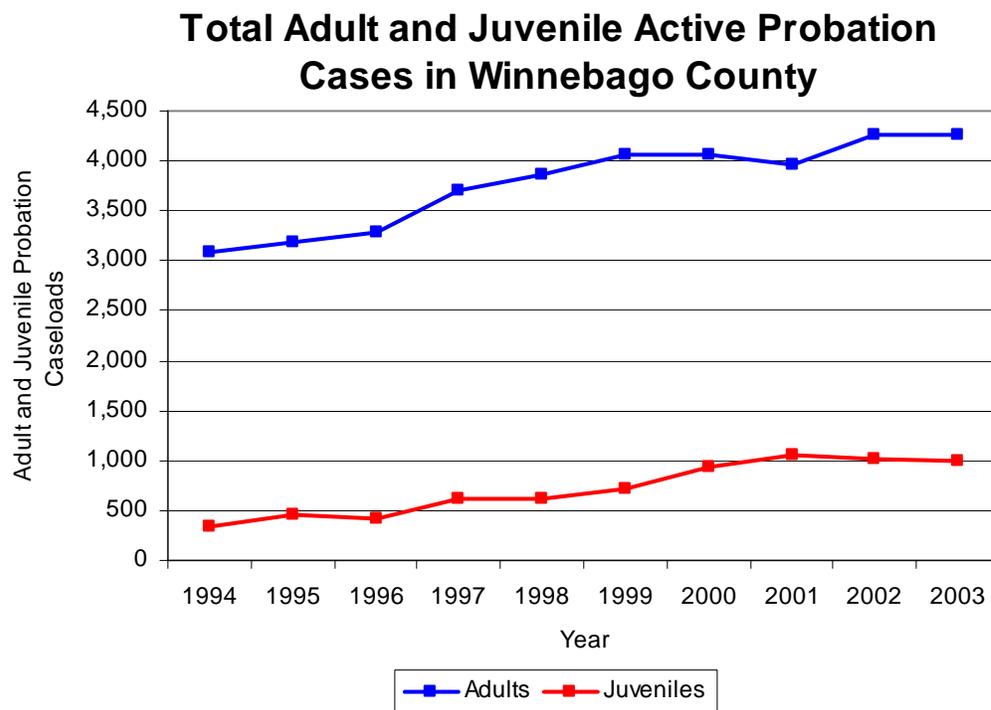
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, Winnebago County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 526 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was nearly double the rate of 269 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other urban counties.

Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Winnebago County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Winnebago County increased 38 percent, from 3,091 to 4,255 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 49 percent of Winnebago County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2004, the number of juveniles supervised by the Winnebago County Juvenile Probation Department nearly tripled, from 344 to 992. 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 22 percent.

Figure 14



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Court

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Winnebago County increased 29 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 1,158 to 1,497 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 22 percent in the other urban counties, from 596 to 729 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Winnebago County was more than double the rate in the other urban counties.

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

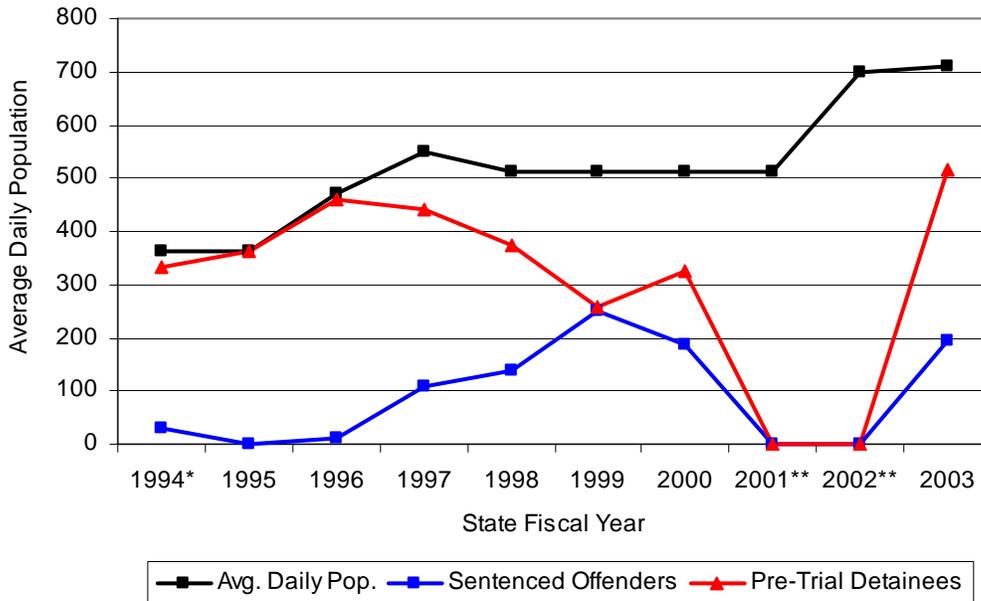
Average Daily Population of the Winnebago County Jail

The Winnebago 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 Winnebago County Jail increased 41 percent, from 362 to 710 inmates (Figure 15). During most of this period, pretrial detainees (those individuals who have been arrested for a crime and are awaiting trial) accounted for a decreased percentage of the average daily population, from 92 percent in SFY 1994 to 73 percent in SFY 2003. On the other hand, sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail), for the most part, accounted for an increased percentage of all inmates; 8 percent in SFY 1994 compared to 27 percent in SFY 2003.

Figure 15

Average Daily Population of the Winnebago County Jail

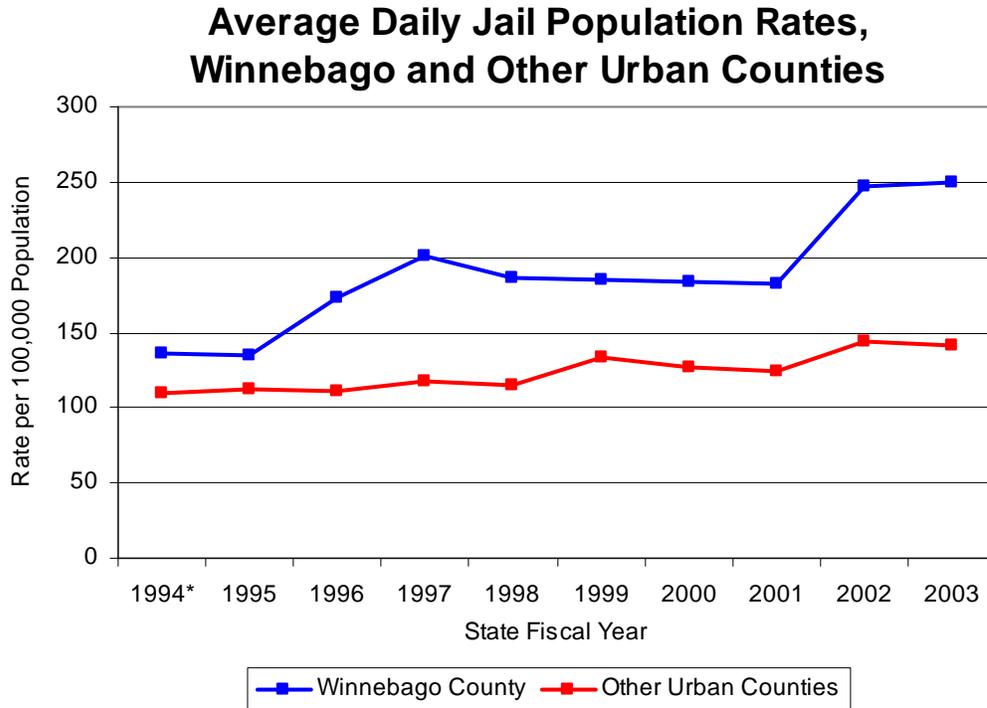


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

*Information estimated by ICJIA
 **Data not available

Between SFYs 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Winnebago County increased 84 percent, from 136 to 250 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other urban counties increased 28 percent, from 110 to 141 per 100,000 population. In SFY 2003, the Winnebago County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 77 percent higher than the rate in the other urban counties.

Figure 16



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 Winnebago County

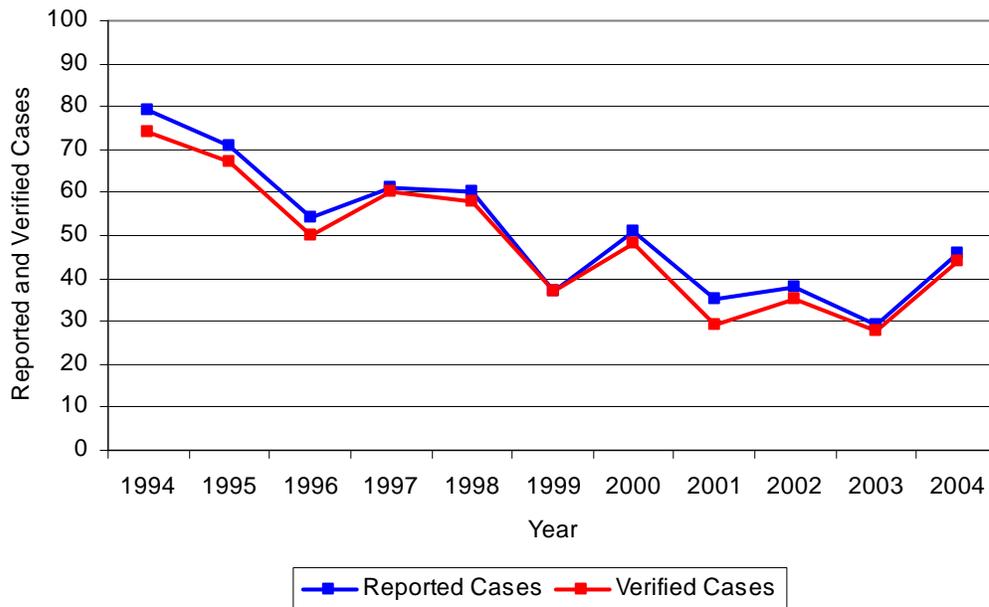
Substance-Exposed Infants in Winnebago County

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 reported in Winnebago County decreased 42 percent, from 79 to 46. During the same period, the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 41 percent, from 74 in SFY 1994 to 44 in SFY 2004 (Figure 17).

Figure 17

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



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

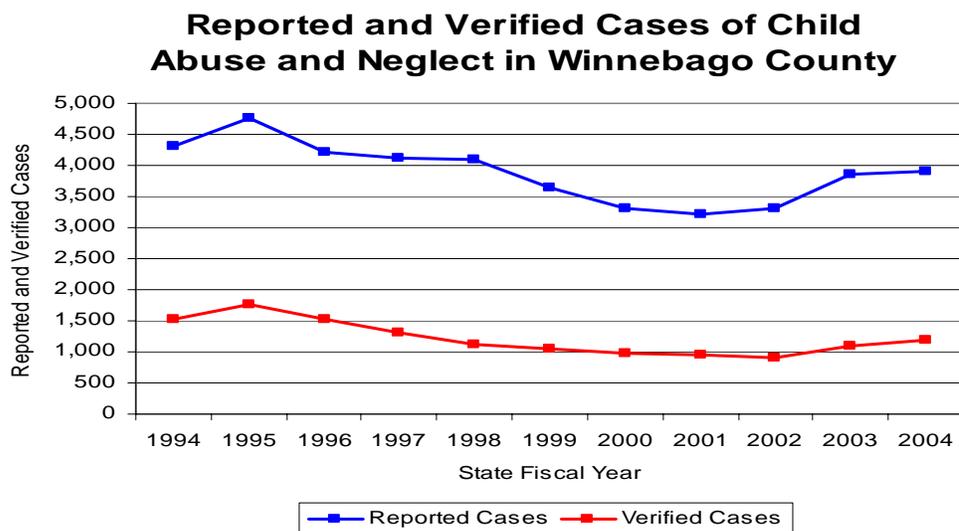
Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other urban counties decreased 41 percent, from 285 to 169, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 43 percent, from 268 to 152.

Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Winnebago 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 SFYs 1994 and 1998, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Winnebago County decreased 9 percent, from 4,304 to 3,909 (Figure 18). During that same period, 13,411 cases, or 31 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Winnebago County decreased 31 percent between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 1,534 to 1,184.

Figure 18



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.

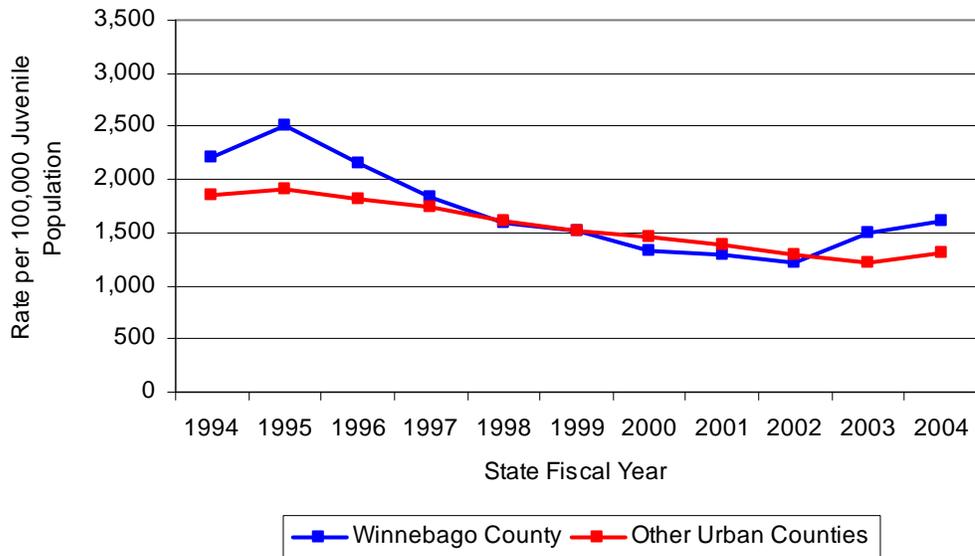
² Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. “In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment.” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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 SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Winnebago County decreased from 2,210 to 1,610 per 100,000 juveniles, a 27 percent decrease (Figure 19). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 30 percent in the other urban counties, from 1,859 to 1,301 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Winnebago County was 24 percent higher than in the other urban counties.

Figure 19

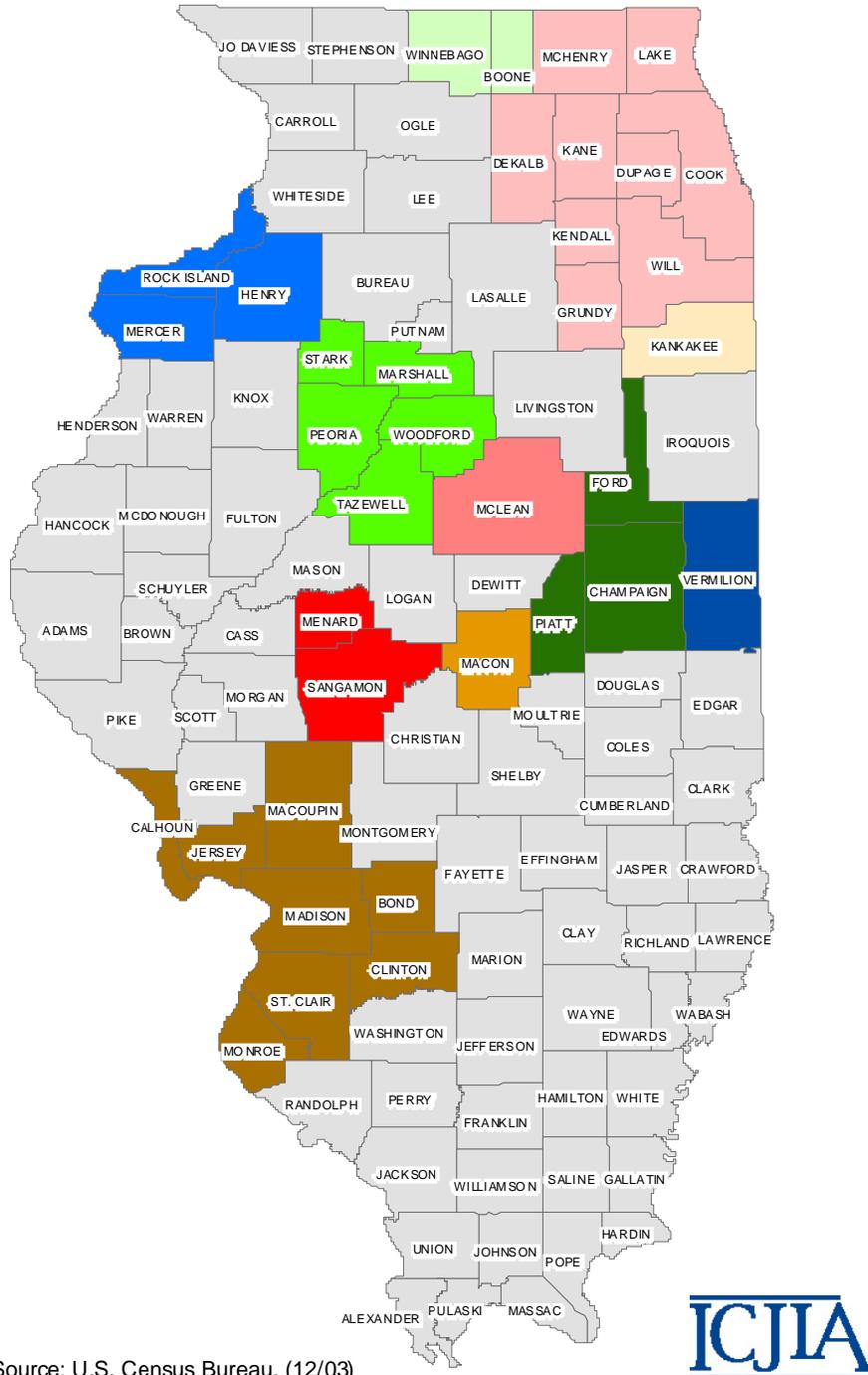
Rate of Verified Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, Winnebago and Other Urban Counties



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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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



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
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