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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 Woodford 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

Woodford County, located in central Illinois, covers an area of 528 square miles and had a 2003 population of 36,367, according to estimates by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Using these figures, Woodford County was the 49<sup>th</sup> largest county in Illinois geographically, but 39<sup>th</sup> largest in terms of population. Combining these two measures, Woodford County had the 38<sup>th</sup> highest population density per square mile among Illinois' 102 counties.

As with the previous reports, information specific to Woodford 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 26). 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, Woodford County is one of Illinois' 30 urban counties. Throughout this report, the criminal justice activity trends experienced in Woodford 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 Woodford County**

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

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

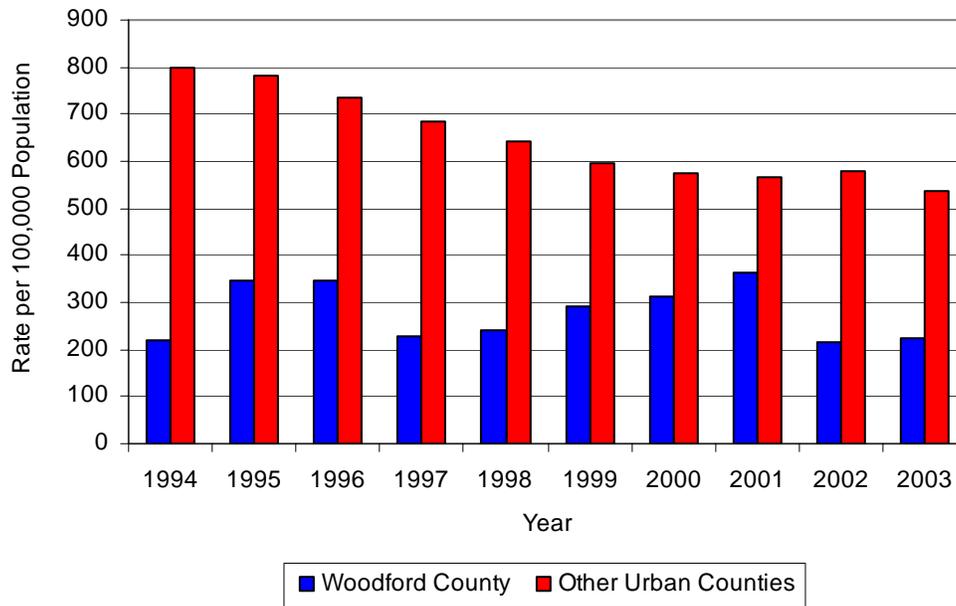
*Violent Index Offenses Reported to the Police in Woodford County*

The number of violent Index offenses reported to the police in Woodford County increased 9 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 74 to 81. As in previous years and in most other counties, aggravated assault offenses accounted for the majority (70 percent) of violent Index offenses reported in Woodford County in 2003.

Similarly, between 1994 and 2003, the violent Index offense rate in Woodford County increased 2 percent, from 218 to 223 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). During that same period, the violent Index offense rate in the other urban counties decreased nearly annually, decreasing 33 percent overall, from 800 to 538 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 violent Index offense rate in Woodford County was 59 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 1**

**Total Violent Index Offense Rates in Woodford and Other Urban Counties**



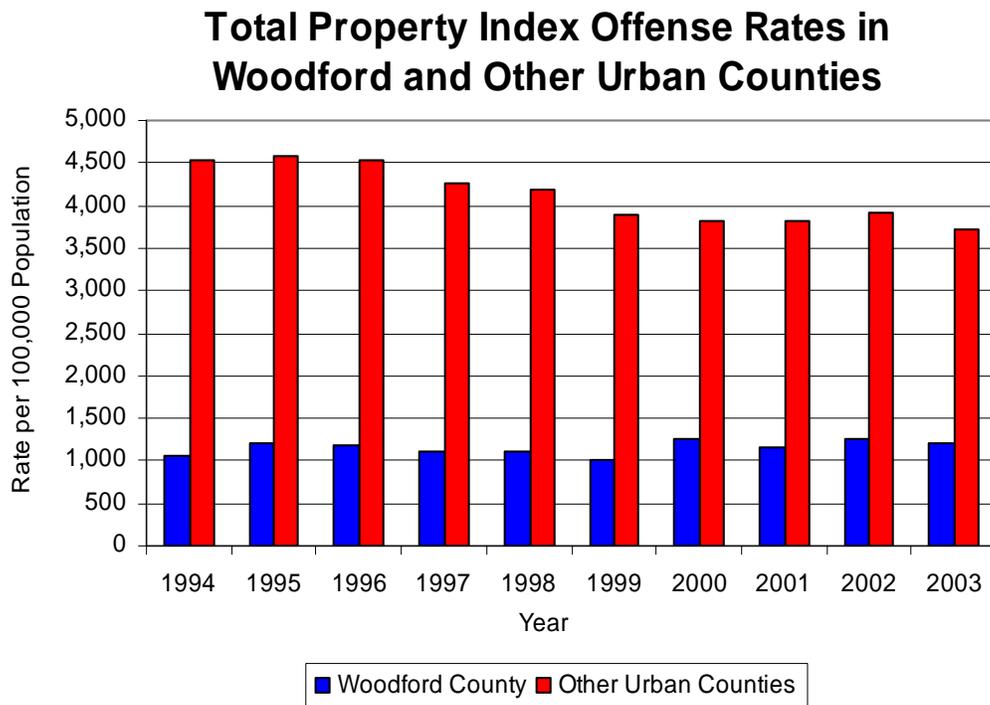
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

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

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of property Index offenses reported to the police in Woodford County increased 24 percent, from 356 to 443. Thefts accounted for 70 percent of all property Index offenses reported in Woodford County during 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, the property Index offense rate in Woodford County increased 16 percent, from 1,050 to 1,218 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 2). In the other urban counties, the property Index offense rate decreased 18 percent, from 4,534 to 3,710 offenses per 100,000 population. The 2003 property Index offense rate in Woodford County was 67 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 2**



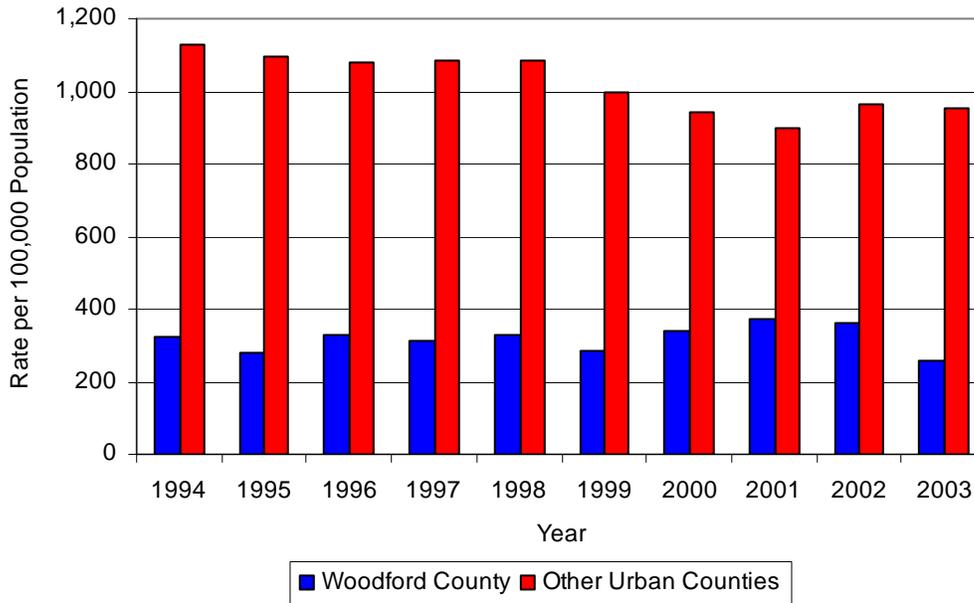
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

*Index Arrests by Woodford County Law Enforcement Agencies*

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for total Index offenses by law enforcement agencies in Woodford County decreased 14 percent, from 109 to 94. The majority of Index arrests were for property Index offenses. Of the 94 Index arrests made in Woodford County during 2003, 4 percent were for violent Index crimes and 96 percent were for property Index crimes. Arrests for theft and aggravated assault accounted for the majority of property and violent Index arrests in Woodford County during 2003. Of all violent Index arrests, 71 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 Woodford County decreased 20 percent, from 322 to 258 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3). During the same period, the Index arrest rate in the other urban counties decreased 16 percent, from 1,129 to 951 arrests per 100,000 population. In 2003, the Index arrest rate in Woodford County was 73 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 3**  
**Index Arrest Rates in Woodford**  
**and Other Urban Counties**



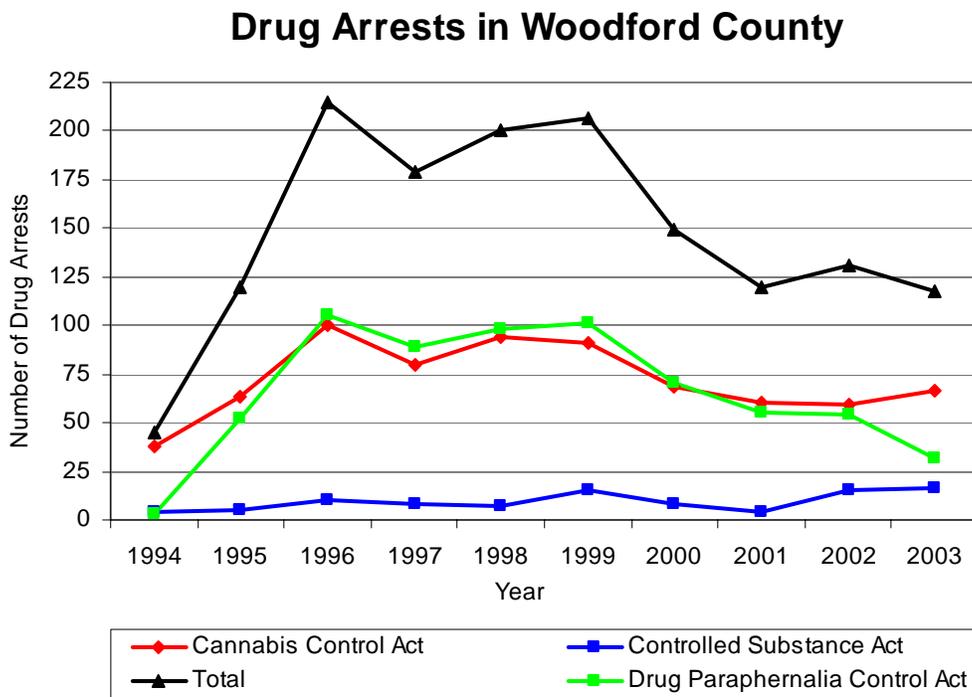
Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

## Drug Offense Arrests in Woodford 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 doubled, from 45 to 118 (Figure 4). Total drug arrests in Woodford County increased dramatically between 1994 and 1995, remained relatively stable between 1995 and 1999, and then decreased nearly every year thereafter. Drug Paraphernalia Control Act violations accounted for the majority of the increase in total drug arrests between 1994 and 2003. During this period, the number of arrests for violation of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act increased dramatically, from three arrests in 1994 to 32 arrests in 2003, or in other words, 27 percent of all drugs arrests in 2003.

Between 1994 and 2003, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act (which prohibits the possession, sale, and cultivation of cannabis) in Woodford County 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 Woodford County increased 74 percent, from 38 to 66, and arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased from four to 16 arrests (Figure 4).

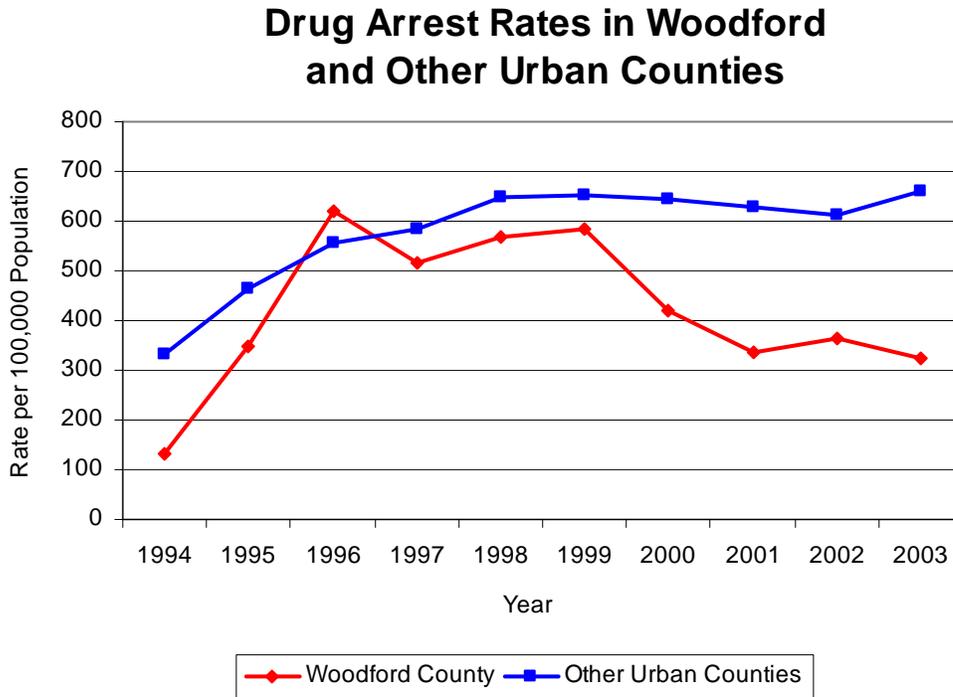
Figure 4



Source: Illinois State Police

Between 1994 and 2003, the arrest rate for all drug law violations in Woodford County almost tripled, from 133 to 324 per 100,000 population (Figure 5). Similarly, the total drug arrest rate in the other urban counties nearly doubled between 1994 and 2003, from 332 to 659 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the drug arrest rate in Woodford County was 51 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

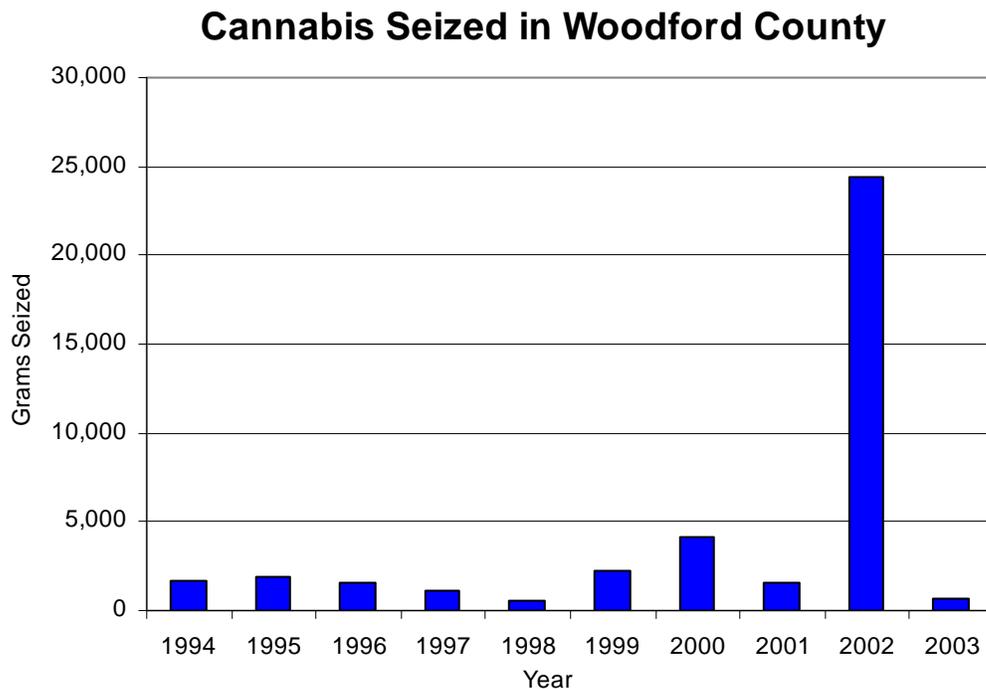
### **Drugs Seized in Woodford County**

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 Woodford County.

### *Cannabis Seized in Woodford County*

Cannabis accounts for the majority of drugs seized in Woodford County and in most Illinois jurisdictions. Between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in Woodford County decreased 62 percent, from 1,678 grams to 633 grams. During the period between 1994 and 2003, the quantity of cannabis seized in the other urban counties also decreased significantly, from 1,310,089 grams to 514,001 grams (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**



Source: Illinois State Police

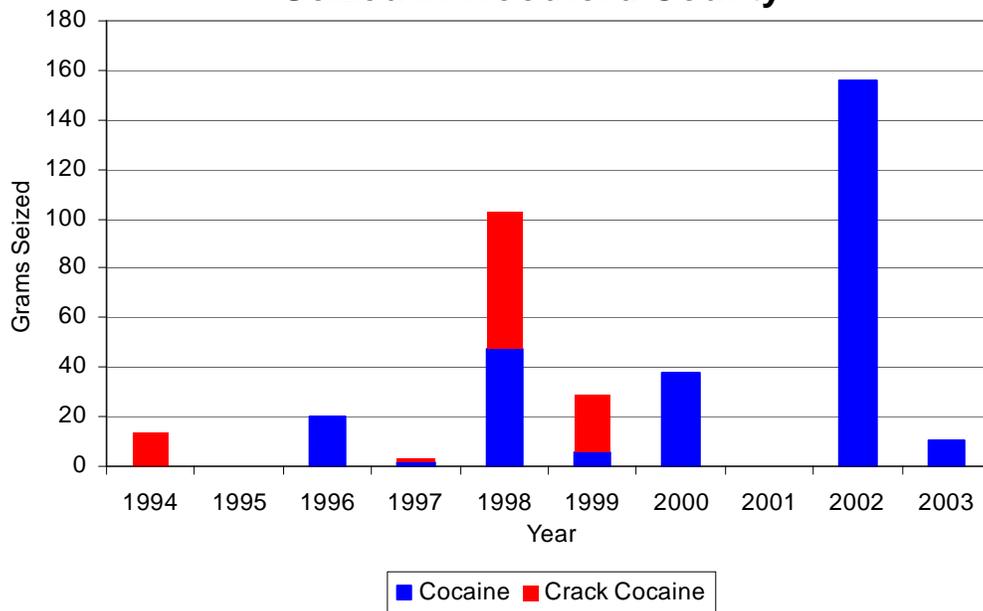
Between 1994 and 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in Woodford County decreased 65 percent, from 4,949 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 1,739 grams per 100,000 population in 2003. The cannabis seizure rate in the other urban counties also decreased, from 51,797 grams per 100,000 population in 1994 to 19,508 grams per 100,000 population in 2003. In 2003, the cannabis seizure rate in Woodford County was nearly 62 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

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

The quantity of powder cocaine seized in Woodford County increased between 1994 and 2003, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased. The quantity of powder cocaine seized increased from less than one gram (.3 grams) in 1994 to ten grams in 2003 (Figure 7). Crack cocaine accounted for 25 percent of all cocaine seized in Woodford County during the majority of the period analyzed, and the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased from 13 grams in 1994 to zero grams in 2003.

**Figure 7**

### **Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Seized in Woodford 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 24 percent, from 48,414 grams to 36,564 grams in the other urban counties, while the quantity of crack cocaine seized decreased 45 percent, from 11,425 grams to 6,290 grams. In 2003, the one gram of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in Woodford County was 98 percent lower than the 1,388 grams of powder cocaine per 100,000 population seized in the other urban counties.

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

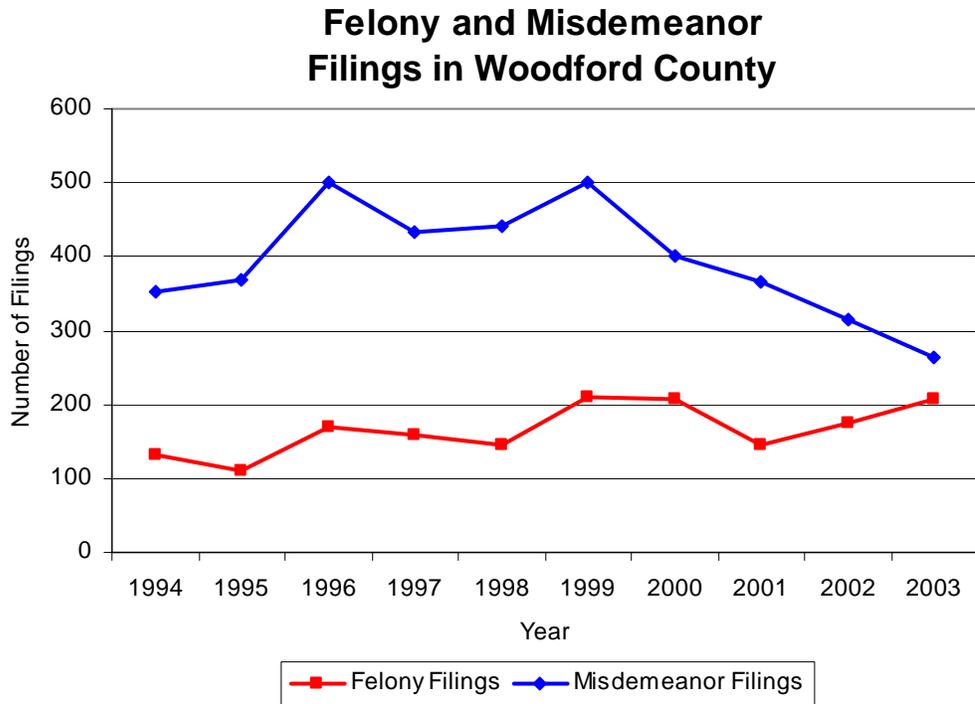
In Illinois, county probation departments are overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' Probation Division. This section also presents data on active misdemeanor and felony adult caseloads and the number of juveniles under the supervision of the probation departments in Woodford County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

#### *Misdemeanor and Felony Filings in Woodford 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 5 percent of all filings in Woodford County's courts (civil, traffic, family, and other). Between 1994 and 2003, the number of felony filings in Woodford County increased 59 percent, from 131 to 208 (Figure 8). During the same period, misdemeanor filings decreased 25 percent, from 352 in 1994 to 265 in 2003.

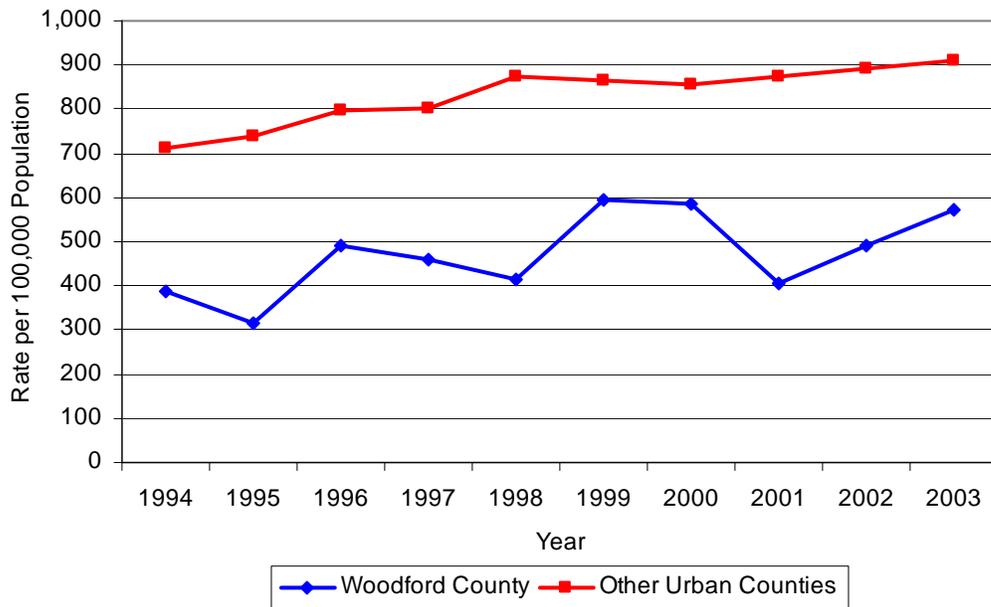
Figure 8



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1994 and 2003, the felony-filing rate in Woodford County increased 48 percent, from 386 to 572 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 9). The felony-filing rate in the other urban counties increased 28 percent during this period, from 712 to 910 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the felony-filing rate in Woodford County was nearly 37 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

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



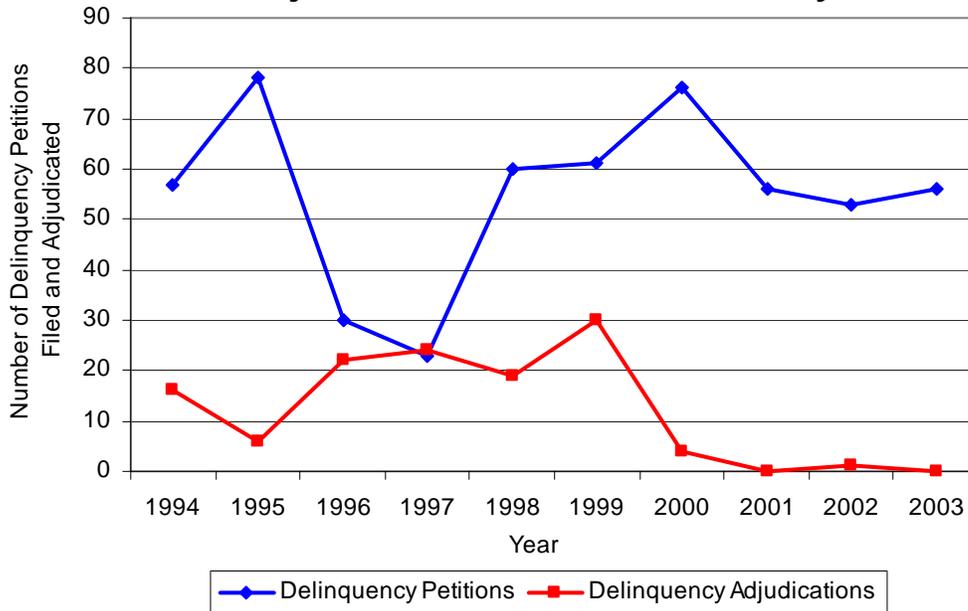
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and U.S. Census Bureau data

Illinois’ juvenile court system differs in several key aspects from the adult criminal court system. One aspect revolves around the difference in treatment between juveniles and adults: the juvenile court process is somewhat less formal and adversarial; authorities are given much more latitude in determining the proper response to each case. Traditionally, the terminology used to describe juvenile proceedings has been less harsh than that used for the adult criminal process. For example, Illinois’ juvenile courts accept “petitions of delinquency” rather than misdemeanor or felony criminal complaints. However, pursuant to the Juvenile Court Reform Act of 1998, criminal court terms, such as “trial” and “sentencing,” have replaced the less harsh “adjudicatory hearing” and “dispositional hearing” terms.

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of reported juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Woodford County decreased slightly, from 57 to 56 (Figure 10). During the period analyzed, the number of reported delinquency adjudications also decreased, from 16 in 1994 to zero in 2003. The majority of cases not resulting in an adjudication were continued under supervision.

**Figure 10**

**Juvenile Delinquency Petitions Filed and Adjudicated in Woodford County**



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

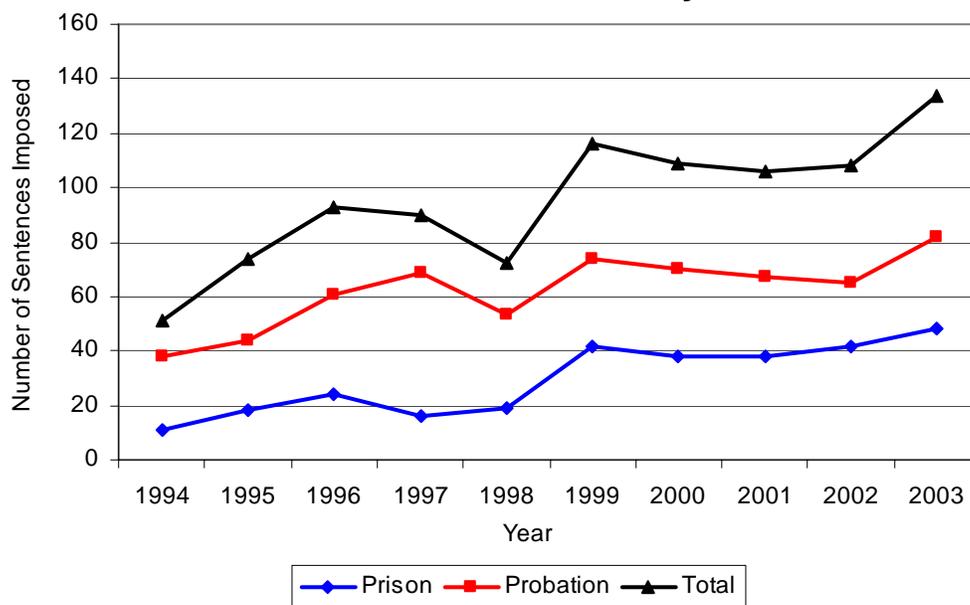
Between 1994 and 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Woodford County increased slightly, from 1,389 to 1,420 per 100,000 juveniles. During the same period, the delinquency petition-filing rate in the other urban counties decreased 8 percent, from 1,891 to 1,748 petitions per 100,000 juveniles. In 2003, the delinquency petition-filing rate in Woodford County was nearly 19 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

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

Between 1994 and 2003, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in Woodford County more than doubled, from 51 to 134 (Figure 11). The number of convicted felons sentenced to probation also more than doubled, from 38 to 82, while the number of convicted felons sentenced to prison more than quadrupled, from 11 in 1994 to 48 in 2003. While the number of convicted felons sentenced to probation during this period increased, felony probation sentences decreased as a proportion of total sentences. In 1994, 75 percent of all convicted felons were sentenced to probation, compared to 61 percent in 2003. The proportion of convicted felons sentenced to prison, on the other hand, increased from 22 percent in 1994 to 36 percent in 2003. In 2003, 3 percent of persons convicted of a felony in Woodford County were sentenced to something other than prison or probation.

**Figure 11**

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



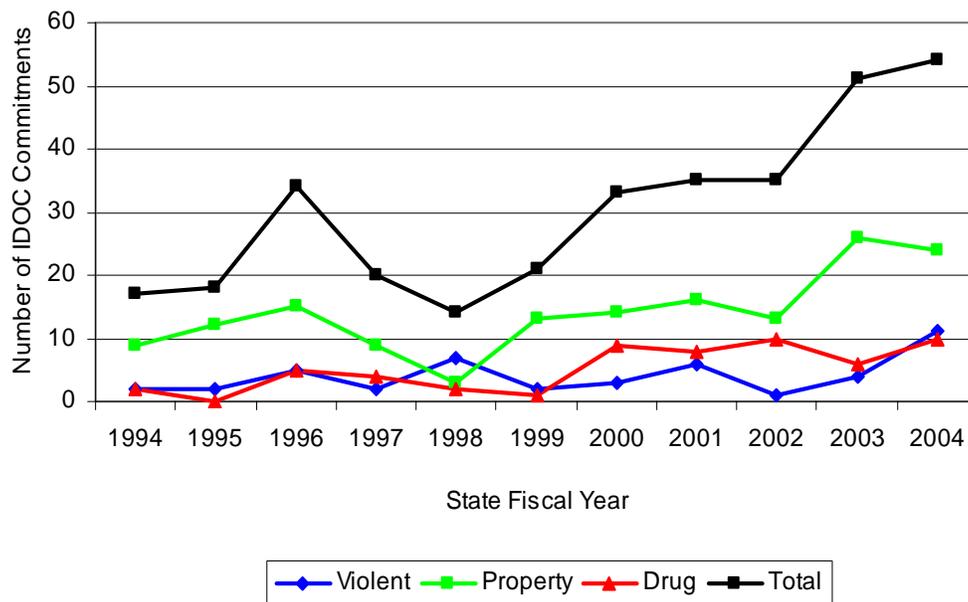
Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

## Adult Prison Commitments from Woodford County

Between State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 1994 and 2004, the number of commitments to the Illinois Department of Corrections' Adult Division from Woodford County more than tripled, from 17 to 54 (Figure 12). During this period, the number of violent, property, and drug offender commitments increased. The number of violent offender commitments increased from two in SFY 1994 to 11 in SFY 2004, while property offender commitments increased from nine to 24, and drug offender commitments increased from two to ten, between SFYs 1994 and 2004.

Figure 12

### IDOC New Court Commitments from Woodford County, by Offense Type



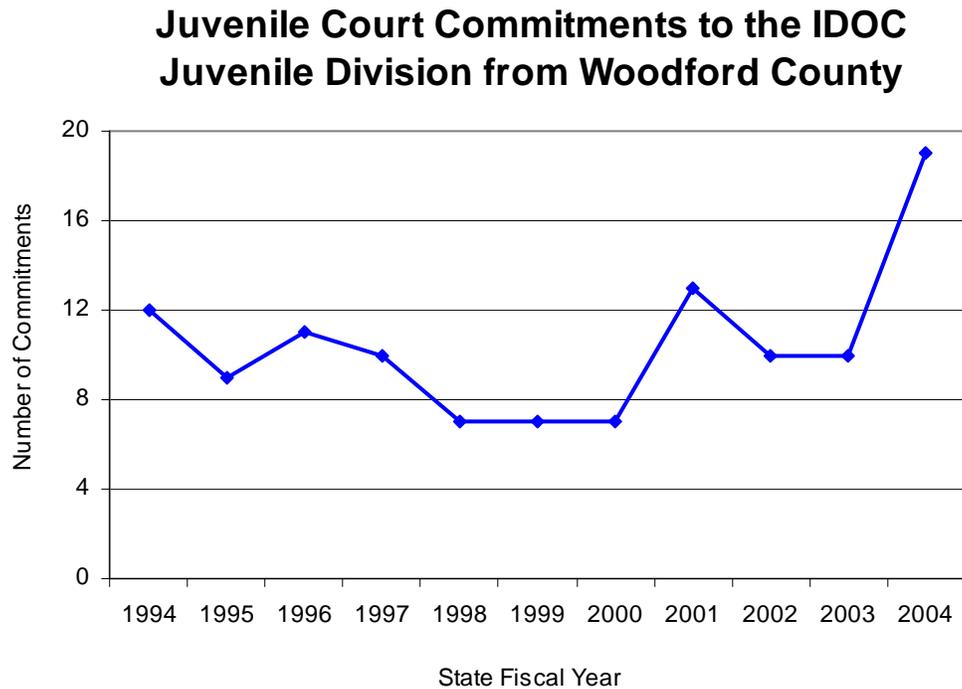
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

In SFY 2004, violent offenders accounted for 20 percent of all commitments from Woodford County, increasing from 12 percent in SFY 1994. Property offender commitments decreased from 53 percent of all admissions from Woodford County in SFY 1994, to 44 percent in SFY 2004. Drug offenders comprised 12 percent of all commitments from Woodford County in SFY 1994 and increased to 19 percent of all commitments in SFY 2004.

## 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 Woodford County increased 58 percent, from 12 to 19 (Figure 13).

Figure 13



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

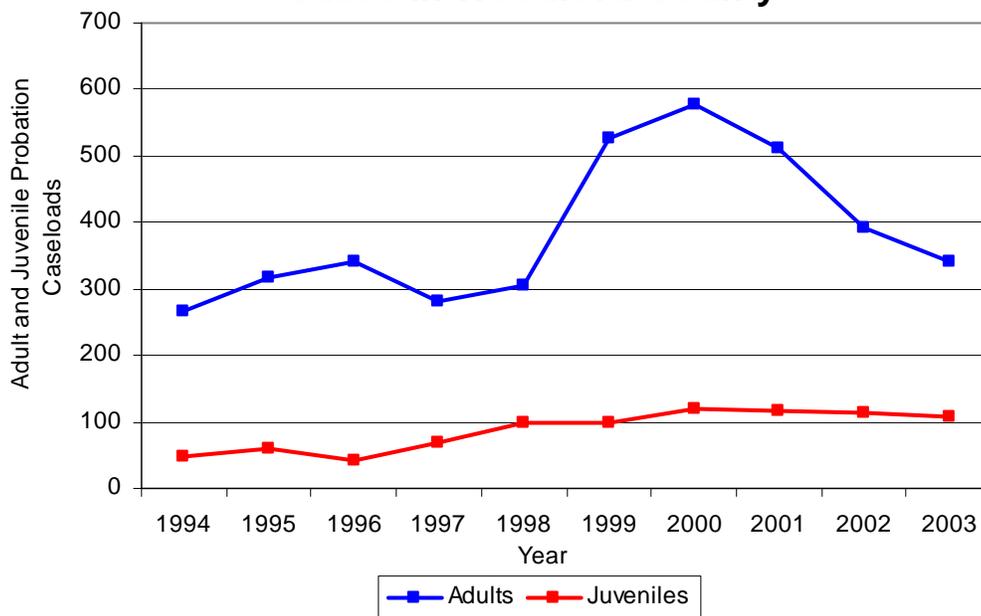
In SFY 2004, Woodford County's rate of commitments to the IDOC's Juvenile Division of 531 commitments per 100,000 juveniles was 82 percent higher than the rate of 292 commitments per 100,000 juveniles from the other urban counties.

## Adult and Juvenile Probation Caseloads in Woodford County

Between December 31, 1994 and December 31, 2003, the number of active adult probation cases in Woodford County increased 29 percent, from 265 to 342 (Figure 14). In 2003, felony offenders accounted for 38 percent of Woodford County's active adult probation caseload. Between 1994 and 2003, the number of juveniles supervised by the Woodford County Juvenile Probation Department more than doubled, from 48 to 107. By comparison, the number of active adult probation cases in the other urban counties also increased 29 percent between 1994 and 2003, while the juvenile probation caseloads increased 35 percent.

Figure 14

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



Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

The active adult probation caseload rate per 100,000 population in Woodford County increased 20 percent between 1994 and 2003, from 782 to 940 cases per 100,000 population. During that same period, the active adult probation caseload rate increased 24 percent in the other urban counties, from 653 to 809 cases per 100,000 population. In 2003, the active adult probation caseload rate in Woodford County was 16 percent higher than the rate in the other urban counties.

#### IV. Jail Populations in Woodford 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.

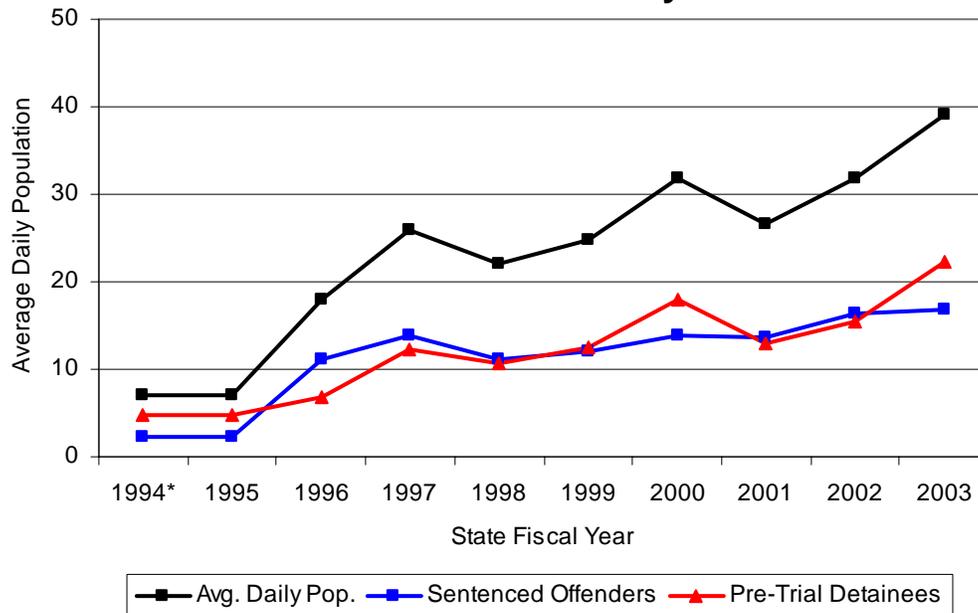
##### *Average Daily Population of the Woodford County Jail*

The Woodford County Jail was one of 91 county jails in operation in Illinois during SFY 2003. There were 11 counties that did not operate a jail of their own; they relied 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 Woodford County Jail increased dramatically, from seven to 39 inmates (Figure 15). During 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 68 percent in SFY 1994 to 57 percent in SFY 2003. On the other hand, sentenced offenders (those offenders who have been convicted and sentenced to the county jail) accounted for an increased percentage; 32 percent in SFY 1994 compared to 43 percent in SFY 2003.

Figure 15

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



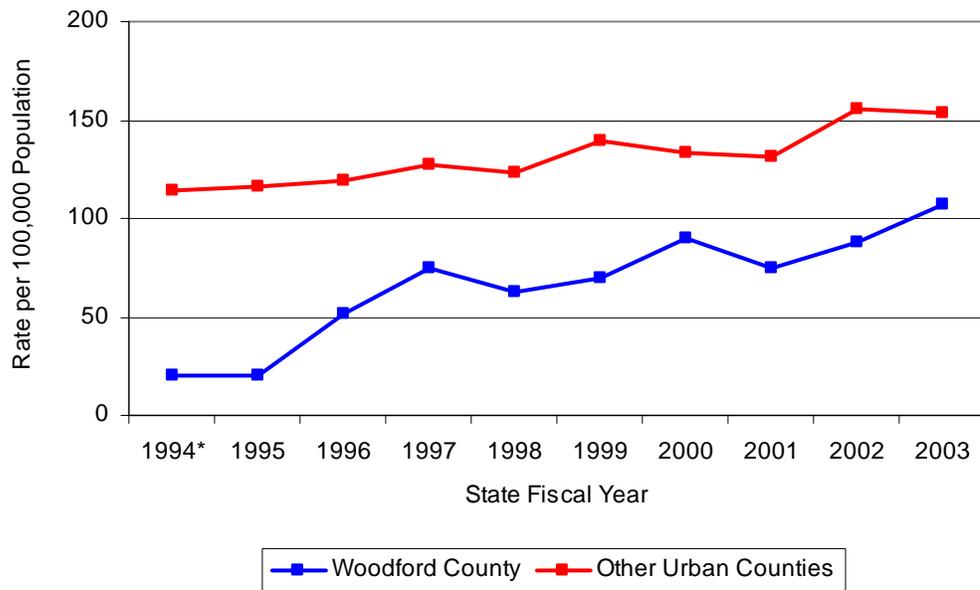
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

\*Information estimated by ICJIA

Between State Fiscal Years 1994 and 2003, the average daily jail population rate in Woodford County increased dramatically, from 21 to 108 per 100,000 population (Figure 16). During this same period, the average daily jail population rate in the other urban counties increased 34 percent, from 114 to 153 per 100,000 population. In 2003, the Woodford County Jail had an average daily jail population rate 30 percent lower than the rate in the other urban counties.

**Figure 16**

**Average Daily Jail Population Rates,  
Woodford and Other Urban Counties**



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

\* Information estimated by ICJIA

## **V. Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect in Woodford County**

### **Substance-Exposed Infants in Woodford 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, there were five reported cases of substance-exposed infants in Woodford County, three of which were verified. During the same period, the number of reported cases of substance-exposed infants in the other urban counties decreased 41 percent, from 364 to 213, while the number of verified cases of substance-exposed infants decreased 43 percent, from 342 to 194.

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Reported and Verified in Woodford 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.

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

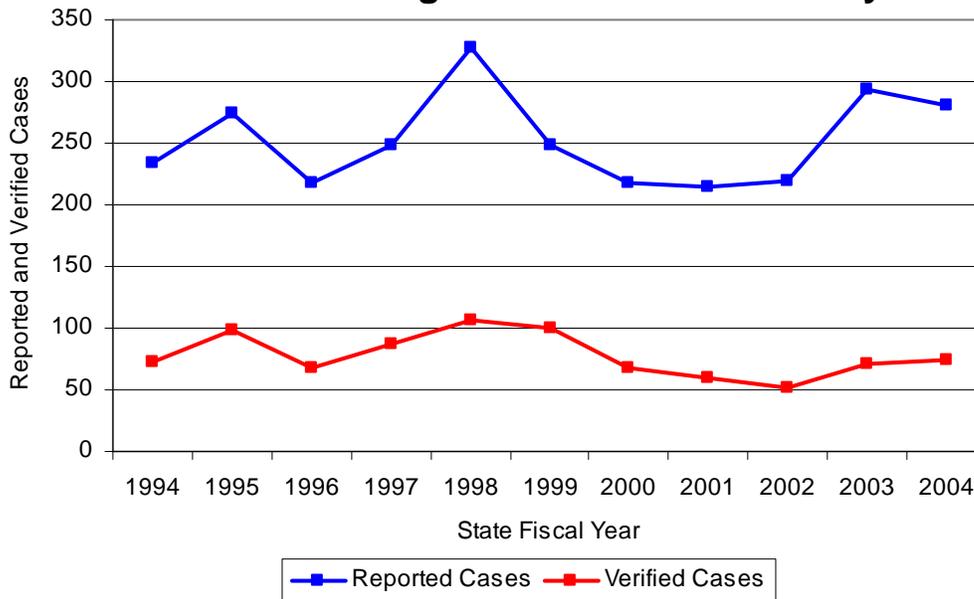
<sup>2</sup> Kelly, B., Thornberry, T. and Smith, C. 1997. "In the Wake of Childhood Maltreatment." *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Woodford County increased 20 percent, from 234 to 280 (Figure 17). During that same period, 857 cases, or 31 percent of all cases reported, were verified by a DCFS investigation. Verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Woodford County increased slightly between SFYs 1994 and 2004, from 72 to 75.

**Figure 17**

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

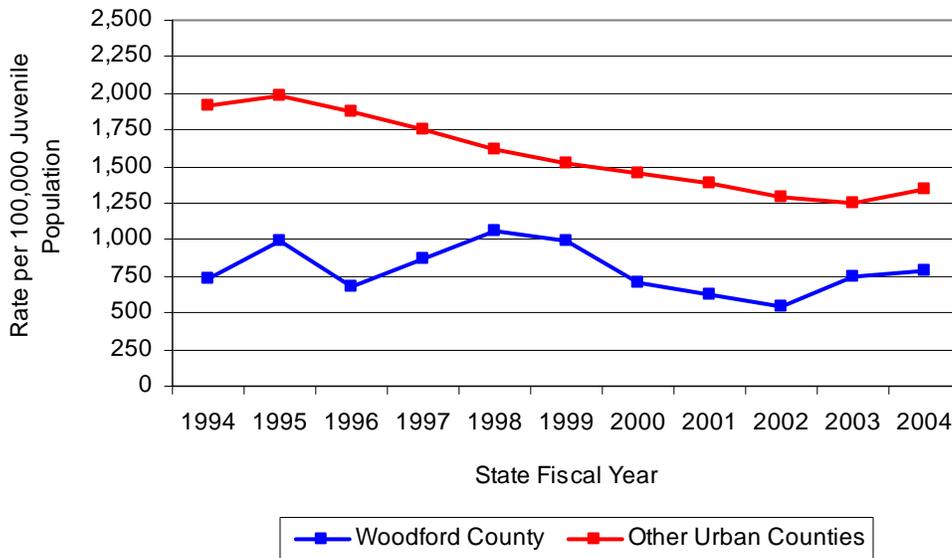


Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Between SFYs 1994 and 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Woodford County increased from 739 to 791 per 100,000 juveniles, a 7 percent increase (Figure 18). During the same period, the rate of verified child abuse and neglect cases decreased 30 percent in the other urban counties, from 1,910 to 1,344 per 100,000 juveniles. In SFY 2004, the rate of verified cases of child abuse and neglect in Woodford County was 50 percent lower than in the other urban counties.

**Figure 18**

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



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



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