



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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**To:** Authority Members

**From:** Mark Myrent, Associate Director  
Research and Analysis Unit

**Date:** February 17, 2009

**Re:** Research and Analysis Unit Report for the March 2009 Authority Meeting

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This memorandum highlights some of the work performed by staff of the Research and Analysis Unit since the Authority's last quarterly meeting.

**I. NEW PROJECTS**

**A. Safety Net Works – Implementation Evaluation**

Authority staff has been evaluating the implementation of the Safety Net Works Initiative, a violence prevention and youth development program taking place across 17 community areas in Illinois. The primary purpose of this implementation evaluation will be to assess the extent to which project implementation is conducted in accordance with pre-operational expectations; to document the progress and limitations of the program's implementation; to provide recommendations and guide refinement of the project; to prepare for a future impact assessment and build evaluation capacity; and to inform and guide similar undertakings. Sources of data for the evaluation include surveys, interviews, and implementation and progress reports submitted by the sites.

The implementation evaluation is focusing on practical, management-oriented issues, as well as interpersonal and group dynamics. The methodology will include assessments of program set-up and development, the nature and extent of collaboration among participating agencies and organizations, program operations and service delivery and change since the beginning of the initiative. Each of the 17 sites is being evaluated on their program setup, collaboration, and service delivery to the target population. A smaller subset of sites will be selected for a more thorough evaluation through the use of multiple interviews and site visits over the span of the evaluation period.

Authority staff has contributed community area profiles for each of the 17 community areas that the sites are located in. These community profiles provide data on demographic, economic, housing, substance abuse, health, child assistance, and crime indicators collected from several state, non-profit, and academic organizations. Safety Net Works sites will be able to use the profiles to assist in strategic planning and program implementation. A survey has been developed for online administration, which is expected to be implemented in early 2009. The survey will primarily address

the perceptions of collaboration and communication of coalition members. Interviews are also expected to be conducted with site coordinators beginning in March. Authority staff has also been providing interim program reports, with information on coalition membership and services available, to the program monitor. Future reports will continue to report coalition membership and services, as well as communication and participation measures for the first year of the initiative. Survey and interview results will also be discussed with the program manager to provide feedback to the Safety Net Works sites.

## **B. Go To 2040 Regional Comprehensive Planning Initiative**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) initiated a comprehensive, long-range planning project for the Chicago region (Cook, DuPage, Kane Will, Kendall, Lake and McHenry counties) entitled *Go To 2040*. With resources made available by the Chicago Community Trust, this planning process was enlarged to include multiple domains related to quality of life in the region, including education, health, workforce development, arts and culture, food security, human relations and public safety. The Authority, in partnership with the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Criminal Justice Department, was selected to provide leadership in the area of crime and justice within the public safety sphere. As lead agency, Authority staff is expected to identify indicators, report on existing conditions, make recommendations for action in the area of crime and justice, and with guidance from an Advisory Committee, produce a report that will:

- a) state the present condition of the issue examined;
- b) identify challenges and opportunities;
- c) set targets for 2040;
- d) identify strategies and their impact for the region;
- e) identify federal, state and local policies and resources critical to the success of the region; and
- f) identify all organizations working on the issue and other resources relevant to the issue.

During the last quarter, the Crime and Justice Advisory Group held its second meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Authority to continue discussions on the future of public safety and the criminal justice system in the next thirty years. The issues that emerged from the meeting will be used as a starting point for developing strategies toward ensuring safer and more equitable communities in the decades ahead. Advisors were invited to participate in a web-enabled survey as a means of contributing additional information to the planning process. In addition, a project website accessible only to advisors and staff was developed as a means of sharing project information and background literature. The final report is due in the Spring of 2009 to the CMAP Board of Directors to be used in their overarching planning process for the region.

## **C. Redesign of Criminal Justice DataNet**

Staff received \$58,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to enhance web access and on-line presentation formats of the Authority's holdings of criminal

justice and social risk factor data. An added feature of the project is enhancements to the Federal Deaths in Custody Reporting process conducted by the Authority on behalf of Illinois law enforcement agencies. The process of hiring a staff person has been initiated, and an initial assessment of the Authority's Data web page has been conducted. Project staff have worked to inventory and update existing data holdings which will eventually be made available on the redesigned web page. This includes making juvenile justice data more accessible to the various Juvenile Justice Reform Initiatives for their reporting requirements. In addition, staff have begun to identify desirable features for data manipulation and display, as well as improved web page design elements. Staff have also identified current web content related to crime trends on the Authority's website that will be updated to provide users with the latest statistical information while the interactive website is being built and tested over the next several months.

#### **D. Trends in Campus Crime and Safety, 2001-2007 Report**

Campus crime data submitted annually by Illinois colleges to the US Department of Education, Office of Post-Secondary Education has been analyzed for a report on crime trends on Illinois' college campuses. The report includes information on trends regarding violent and property offenses, as well as arrests and school disciplinary referrals for alcohol, drug, and weapons violations, for the period 2001 through 2007. Information on changes being made in policy and practice regarding campus crime is also included. Once published later this month, the report will be the subject of a *Chicago Tribune* article.

#### **E. Employment Trends of Felony Probationers in collaboration with Harvard University**

The purpose of this joint research project is to promote research on the employment participation and performance of those sentenced to terms of felony probation and imprisonment in Illinois. By combining labor market information derived from the unemployment insurance (UI) system of Illinois with criminal history record information (CHRI) for Illinois, the project will allow for detailed analysis of the relationship between criminal justice sanctions, labor market performance, and criminal recidivism.

ICJIA and Harvard have signed a data use agreement with the IDES. ICJIA will match and disseminate the data to Harvard University for analysis. The employment data set was received from IDES in mid-February.

#### **F. Prescription Drug Research Bulletin**

Staff has been working on a research bulletin that will provide information on illegal use of prescription drugs in Illinois. Due to increased abuse and potential for abuse and death, there is a growing law enforcement and public health concern about prescription drugs. The bulletin will provide statewide data on the problem and efforts to combat the problem in Illinois. The bulletin will be published by the Authority in November.

### **G. Juvenile Female Offenders Research Bulletin**

Staff completed a draft of a research report on girls in the Illinois juvenile justice system. This report was originally intended to be an update of a 2002 Authority research bulletin, *Understanding and Addressing Female Delinquency in Illinois*. With the amount of data available and the number of analyses that could be conducted, the bulletin expanded into the report, *Examining at-risk and delinquent girls in Illinois*. The report summarizes risk factor data on juvenile females in Illinois, as well as analyzes juvenile justice system data on arrests, detention, corrections. The preliminary findings of the report indicate that juvenile females in Illinois are more likely than their male counterparts to be involved in the juvenile justice system for less serious offenses. Girls in Illinois are more likely to be arrested, detained, and incarcerated for misdemeanor offenses, status offenses, and retail theft.

### **H. Partnership with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) – Multi-City Study of Workplace Violence among Pharmacists and Health Care Workers**

In response to news reports across the country of robberies of pharmacies for prescription drugs instead of money, NIOSH is partnering with five Statistical Analysis Centers, including Illinois, to study the magnitude of the problem and assess the risk to health care worker safety. Research and Analysis Unit staff has agreed to participate in a six-month project involving the analysis of Chicago Police Department incident reports for cases involving robberies and other violent crimes at pharmacies, hospitals and clinics, and doctors' offices in 2005 and 2006. NIOSH will combine these data with results from Milwaukee, Ohio, Tennessee and South Carolina to determine initial frequencies, rates and circumstances of crimes that threaten the safety of pharmacists and other health care workers. The Authority participated in a similar study of risks to convenience store workers conducted by NIOSH in the 1990s.

Research staff has begun data collection at Chicago Police Department (CPD) headquarters. Approximately 1,300 case reports for violent incidents at either health care facilities or drug store locations during 2005 and 2006 have been pulled and copied by CPD Records Division staff. Project staff are in the process of determining which incidents fall within the scope of the study, and recording information about the circumstances surrounding these violent work place incidents. To date, approximately 300 incidents have been identified as relevant to the study. The total may reach as high as 500. The project is slated to be completed by the end of March. A final report based on combined results from all participating sites will be produced by NIOSH staff.

### **I. Juvenile Justice Data Coordination Partnership**

Staff has been invited to participate on several working groups related to effective juvenile justice data collection. These include all members of the five juvenile initiatives currently in place in several counties across Illinois: 1) DMC, 2) Redeploy, 3) IJDAI, 4) Models for Change, and 5) BARJ. During discussions at meetings, it was determined that a data template is needed in order to help local practitioners better understand the communities they work in and the people they work with. As a result of numerous calls for technical assistance regarding proper data analysis as well as discussions

within the various initiatives, it was determined that a uniform data template was something those participating in initiatives would benefit from. Juvenile Justice Initiative staff will be working with Authority staff to develop the template, due for distribution among group members in early March. Staff from the Illinois Department of Human Services has volunteered trainers to facilitate distribution and training on the data template once it is approved. Authority staff will assist in developing on-line training modules using Adobe Connect software to assist in this state-wide training effort.

## **II. CURRENT PROJECTS**

### **A. Program evaluation and research projects/ internally funded**

The R&A Unit pursues an aggressive program evaluation and research agenda through an in-house ADAA-funded grant program. Evaluation and research efforts conducted, supported, or monitored by R&A staff include:

#### **1. Trends and Issues 2008**

*Trends and Issues 2008* is a report about crime and justice in Illinois. This report is an update to previous *Trends and Issues 1997* and is the sixth such publication. It describes the organization and operation of the state's justice system, tracks statewide and regional trends in crime and the processing of offenders, and presents important criminal and justice issues that have emerged this decade. The report derived data from numerous criminal justice sources. Data is presented in several ways in the document through data summaries and descriptions, data tables and trend graphs, and state maps. The graphs depict state data trends over 10 years from 1995 to 2005.

There are five sections: law enforcement, courts, corrections, victims, and juvenile justice. In addition, each section highlights special issues of significance facing the criminal justice system today, including identity theft, gangs, DNA, specialized courts, substance abuse treatment in prison, human trafficking, and juvenile justice reform initiatives. The report provides valuable crime and justice information to inform the general public, criminal justice professionals, and policy makers.

A final draft of the report was presented at the March 2008 Authority meeting. The report is now available on the Authority's website.

The primary distribution format for the *Trends and Issues 2008* report is via the Authority's website. Table 1 below shows the total number of downloads for the full report or individual chapters from November 2008 through January 2009, as well as the cumulative total since the report's publication in May, 2008.

**Table 1. *Trends and Issues 2008 Report* Downloads from the Authority Website, November 2008 through January, 2009**

<b>CHAPTER SECTIONS</b>	<b>Total Downloads, Nov,2008-Jan, 2009</b>	<b>Cumulative Downloads since publication in May, 2008</b>
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Full Report</i>	1118	4216
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Foreword</i>	74	335
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Executive summary</i>	126	4551
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Overview</i>	83	385
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Introduction</i>	154	493
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Law Enforcement</i>	905	3508
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - The courts</i>	254	906
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Corrections</i>	1100	4110
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Juvenile justice</i>	2181	5696
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Crime victims</i>	643	2175
<i>Trends &amp; Issues 2008 Chapter - Conclusion</i>	65	371

Over 26,700 copies of the full report or individual chapters have been downloaded since its publication in May 2008.

## **2. Trends and Issues Updates**

As referenced in the last section, *Trends and Issues* is a report about crime and justice in Illinois, which describes the organization and operation of the state's justice system, tracks statewide and regional trends in crime and the processing of offenders, and presents important criminal and justice issues that have emerged this decade. Data is presented in several ways in the document through data summaries and descriptions, data tables and trend graphs, and state maps. The graphs depict state data trends over 10 years from 1995 to 2005.

As follow-up to that report, four *Trends and Issues Updates* are being written to highlight specific topics that were introduced in the main document. A draft report on "Drug Crime in Illinois" was completed but is being revised with updated data. Other reports, such as Offenses Against School Personnel, and System-Wide Trends in Violent Crime are scheduled for publication early 2009.

## **3. Evaluation of IDOC's Sheridan Correctional Center Therapeutic Community Program**

Research & Analysis staff is continuing to support the operation of the Sheridan Correctional Center through a process and impact evaluation. Sheridan is currently the largest correctional facility in the country that is entirely committed to substance abuse treatment. The prison, designed as a therapeutic community for substance abuse users, reopened at the beginning of 2004 and had an additional methamphetamine treatment unit built on in FY08. Drug offenders

released from IDOC have relatively high recidivism rates if they are released without any form of treatment in prison or in their communities upon release. The Sheridan treatment plan is designed to treat offenders while incarcerated and while they are released to their communities under supervision to reduce recidivism rates across Illinois.

The evaluation of Sheridan is a collaborative effort between the Authority, Loyola University, and the Illinois Department of Corrections and is under the direction of Dr. David Olson of Loyola. The evaluation uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative data to gage the process and impact of operations at Sheridan and the aftercare component required for inmates under mandatory supervised release. Authority staff contributed to analyses of program completion and recidivism of Sheridan participants compared to a matched sample of inmates released from other prisons in Illinois, including the compiling and organization of criminal history and arrest data on subjects in the research.

The final report detailing the progress and outcomes of the program from inception through 2007 has been reviewed by Authority staff. Two past Program Evaluation Summaries have been completed on Sheridan indicating benefits from reduced recidivism and increased employment for participants. The most recent report also indicated benefits due to the program. Additional publications intended for scholarly journals have also been produced. These reports address the long-term impact of the program and the characteristics of participants that influence success in the program. The final report and summary are being updated with 2008 data and will be available on our website in spring 2009.

Dr. Olson is continuing the evaluation of the Sheridan program, as well as assessing the drug treatment therapeutic community operating at the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center. This continued research began in October 2008 and will continue through March 2010.

#### **4. Lake County Transitional Services for Female Offenders (PTSD)**

Loyola University, under the direction of Dr. Loretta Stalans, was awarded a grant to evaluate the Lake County probation program that provides specialized services to women probationers who exhibit post-traumatic stress disorder. The report outlines the development and adjustments that were made to the program to better accommodate and serve the female probationers' needs in an effort to prevent recidivism and improve their lives. The final report is available on our website and a summary is forthcoming.

A one-year follow-up study to further assess the impact of the program began in January 2008. This follow-up study will address whether the program reduced recidivism, and assisted the women in obtaining employment, housing, food and childcare. The study is also focusing on the third service provider that the program enlisted and the draft final report is due February 2009.

#### **5. Jail Data Link**

In May 2007, evaluators at the University of Illinois – Springfield began an evaluation of the Jail Data Link project. Implemented in three sites in Illinois, the Jail Data Link project identifies jail detainees who are recipients of Department of Human Services mental health

services and links them up with continued services and treatment while they are incarcerated in the jail. This identification and continuation of treatment assists jails in the care of inmates who are in need of mental health services and / or medication. Site visits and data collection have been completed and a draft final report was submitted in February 2009. The report is under review and should be finalized in March 2009.

## **6. Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee**

Loyola University Chicago was selected to continue research and conduct a survey regarding capital punishment in Illinois for the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee. Work on this project began in October 2008.

## **7. Investigator Initiated Research**

Projects funded under an Investigator-initiated RFP address research in our priority areas of interest. The following two proposals were selected for funding in late 2006:

- *Corrections to Community: The collective reentry experience of juvenile offenders.* This study, under the direction of the University of Chicago, examined a number of factors that play into the reentry experience of juveniles released from Illinois correctional facilities between 1996 and 2002. The final report and summary are available on our website.
- *Analysis of Domestic Violence Service Data.* Under the direction of Loyola University, this study examines InfoNet service data to describe victim service use patterns over time and describe the characteristics of victims and their service needs. The report was received and is available on our website. In addition to the full analysis report, an appendix, full executive summary and Research at a Glance are also available on our website.

An additional Investigator-initiated RFP was issued in July 2006 and we received a number of well-qualified proposals. Reviewers elected to fund the following projects in 2007:

- *Assessing the Risk of Sexual and Violent Recidivism and Identifying Differences in Risk Factor.* This study is under the direction of Loyola University and will seek to inform the criminal justice system's probation and parole officers, treatment professionals, and judges as to the accuracy of assessment tools for predicting the risk of sexual or violent reoffending. Comparisons between offenders from the prison system and those on probation will be conducted. The project has concluded and a final report is under review.
- *A Study of Co-occurring Conditions and Treatment Coordination of Jail Detainees.* Conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago, this study will select and interview 300 adult male and 150 adult female detainees in the psychiatric residential treatment units at the Cook County Department of Corrections jail facility. The project will seek to better understand the needs of this high-risk and resource-intensive population and provide a basis for developing better coordinated systems of care within the jail,

community and transition to prison for those sentenced detainees. The final report will be submitted for review in March 2009.

An additional Investigator-initiated RFP was issued in June 2007, and four new projects were selected for funding in October 2007:

- *Critical Incident Preparedness and Response on Campus* – Conducted by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, this study examined the current state of critical incident preparedness, planning and response activities on a census of Illinois colleges and university campuses and a sample of campuses nationwide. This study also looked at reported campus crime rates from the Cleary Act. The research will be valuable for state and national policymakers and the findings will provide information on current practices as they relate to campus security and how they differ from a national perspective. A final report was received and is available on our website.
- *Analysis of Shelter Utilization by Victims of Domestic Violence* – Conducted by Loyola University School of Social Work, Loyola researchers in collaboration with the City of Chicago Mayor's Office will conduct a study of the dynamics of shelter utilization and how it relates to the process of, and readiness for, change among women who are victims of domestic violence. The project will aim to better identify the housing and service needs and utilization patterns, as well as the outcomes of women who are in the domestic violence shelter system in Chicago. The project will also identify stages in the help seeking process, including the characteristics of readiness for change that lead women to shelter and/or to end the abusive situation. A report is due in March 2009.
- *Methamphetamine and Violence* – Conducted by Illinois State University, this study conducted in-depth interviews with methamphetamine users from downstate Illinois and a select group of law enforcement and other officials to determine the extent to which methamphetamine and violence are associated, and to better understand the nature of that association. The research provides a picture of the epidemiology of methamphetamine and related violence in Illinois across communities of varying size and rural characteristics. The findings will inform law enforcement and social service providers regarding factors associated with an increased likelihood of violence by those who use and manufacture the drug. A report will be submitted for review in December 2008 and revisions requests were forwarded. A final report will be placed on the website in March or April 2009.
- *The Impact of Illinois' Truth-in-Sentencing Legislation* – Conducted by Loyola University Department of Criminal Justice, this project will examine the impact that Illinois' Truth-in-Sentencing (TIS) legislation has had on sentences imposed, projected lengths of time served in prison, and inmate behavior. The findings will allow policy makers to more accurately assess the impact the law has had on sentencing practices and on how inmates have adjusted to their incarceration. It will also inform practitioners of the implications of TIS on issues related to inmate reentry and the aging of the prison population, given the potential increased length of stay and release from prison at older ages of those sentenced under the law. A final report is under review.

Staff also released an RFP in January 2009 to support additional research under the Investigator-Initiated theme. Research priorities were identified and applicants are directed to submit proposals that focus on these priority areas of interest. Proposals are due March 23 and projects are planned to be in spring 2009.

## **B. Program evaluation and research projects/ externally funded**

R&A staff has been successful in the pursuit of external discretionary grants to support research and evaluation efforts. Several current projects are or were supported by such grants:

### **1. Juvenile justice system and risk factor data: 2006 Annual Report**

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, work is underway on the 2006 Annual Report, a compilation of county-level juvenile justice system and risk factor data. Like the 2005 report, this version also summarizes recent trends in these data over time and discusses emerging juvenile justice system issues in Illinois, including Balanced and Restorative Justice, the Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, Disproportionate Minority Contact, and Redeploy Illinois.

A draft of the report is expected to be completed in Spring, 2009 and the final report should be available in Summer 2009.

### **2. Mental health screening and assessment practices in the Illinois juvenile justice system**

Supported by a grant from the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, staff is currently working on a survey of the mental health screening and assessment practices in the Illinois juvenile justice system. The goal of the project is to determine what screening and assessment tools are being used by whom, and at what point in the system. These data will be gathered through a survey of all juvenile detention centers, juvenile probation and court service offices, juvenile correctional facilities, and the Juvenile Officers Association. This research will prove useful to juvenile justice practitioners, community-based mental health providers, and researchers who want to explore further the issue of screening and assessment in Illinois. In addition, it will guide them in the selection of the most current and appropriate tools for their facilities. Furthermore, the results of the study will inform future research in the area of mental health and juvenile justice.

After approval of the survey from IRB, 99 surveys were mailed. Approximately 67 percent of surveys were completed and returned. The deadline for the survey responses was extended to allow for additional surveys to be returned. A draft of the report is expected to be available in Spring 2009.

### **3. Redeploy Illinois County Profiles**

The Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board requested county profiles providing detention and corrections information for sites that are operational, as well as 15 additional potential sites. These profiles were presented at the September Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board meeting and distributed to the counties.

The data in the profiles are being updated and final reports should be available on the Authority website in Spring 2009.

### **4. Evaluation of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts Evidence-Based Practices**

In March of 2005, ICJIA research staff entered into a three-year cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in the amount of \$194,232 to evaluate Illinois' Evidenced-Based Practices (EBP) Initiative. This project will assist local probation departments participating in the EBP Initiative by providing them with data and analysis that gauges performance before and during the implementation of evidence-based practices, and will establish a process and protocol for ongoing assessment of probation performance through an effective state and local partnership. All three waves of data collection (years 2002, 2005 and 2006) have been completed in all six participating counties: Lake, DuPage, Adams, Cook, Sangamon and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit. Data analysis is currently being conducted and work on a draft final report has begun. An initial meeting to go over data analysis and findings and to discuss strategies for on-going data collection and analysis was held. An additional six-month no-cost extension through April 2009 has been obtained from NIC to complete data analysis.

### **5. Assessment of prior victimization and access to services among adult female inmates in the Illinois Department of Corrections**

This project is designed as an assessment of the prevalence of prior victimization, primarily domestic violence and sexual assault/abuse, among adult female inmates within the Illinois Department of Corrections. The research study will collect information on the extent and nature of victimization and treatment episodes of female prison inmates in Illinois. The research involves detailed face-to-face interviews with current female prisoners. The questions will explore prior help seeking strategies, substance use, and physical and sexual abuse during the course of the person's life history. The data will provide information to criminal justice and social service agencies, funding entities, policy makers, and the general public. The research will be able to offer treatment recommendations to IDOC to further help women in corrections.

Staff will interview 200 women located in three IDOC institutions—Dwight, Decatur, and Lincoln. Staff will obtain a random sample of female inmates (stratified by the facility). We will pay a \$10 stipend to respondents. Each interview will last approximately 60-90 minutes. We will obtain participants' criminal histories and examine their prison case files after they agree to participation in the interview. We have created a data collection form.

The IRB approved the initial application in June 2008. After lengthy negotiations with Authority legal counsel, IDOC legal counsel, and the IRB on the language in the consent form, the project restarted in January 2009. Data collection began at Dwight Correctional Center in January 2009. Data collection will continue through April 2009.

## **6. Domestic Sex Trafficking of Chicago Women and Girls**

The DePaul College of Law Schiller Du Canto & Fleck Law Center collaborated with Authority to conduct data entry and analysis for a research project on sex trafficking. Ms. Jody Raphael, Senior Research Fellow, received a grant from the Chicago Foundation on Women for this research. The project administered questionnaires to 100 girls and women currently in the sex trade industry to gain information about recruitment and violence by pimps in local sex trafficking. Data is being collected and entered, and will be analyzed in early 2008. The Authority co-authored the final report which was released at an event at DePaul Law School on May 7, 2008. The final report has been posted on the IJICA Website. A presentation was given at the June 2008 Authority Board meeting. A research bulletin, [\*Prostitution Study Finds Chicago Girls Trafficked Through Coercion, Violence\*](#), was published on the Authority's website in September 2008. The authors are also writing an article based on the study. The first article, *The Escalation of Pimp Control and Violence of Prostituted Women*, will be submitted to an academic journal in February/March 2009.

## **7. Implementing Restorative Justice: A Guide for Schools**

This is a final guide a series of eight BARJ implementation guides. ICJIA staff created this series of BARJ implementation guides to provide profession-specific information on how the BARJ philosophy can be used across the juvenile justice system. The guide is specifically designed to provide Illinois school personnel and families with practical strategies to use BARJ in their daily activities. School districts in Illinois have been incorporating the BARJ philosophy and BARJ programs into their discipline codes. BARJ has also been implemented in schools in Illinois through peer juries, peer mediation, and circles. In particular, the Chicago Public Schools have implemented peer juries the majority of its high schools. Staff have drafted the guide and it is in review with external advisors. The guide will be published in April 2009.

## **C. Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit**

The unit's Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit Center is a JAG funded in-house effort to continuously examine the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of the criminal history record information reported to the state repository maintained by the Illinois State Police, and to recommend strategies for improvement.

The 2009 CHRI Audit methodology development will likely take advantage of opportunities to examine the accuracy and completeness of CHRI records supplied for other studies over the year, since staff shortages in the CHRI Audit unit preclude the ability to conduct the usual comprehensive

statewide audit. Examples may include samples of criminal histories of female inmates at the Illinois department of Corrections, samples of probationers studied in the Evidence Based Practices (EBP) study, or samples of sex offenders examined in the BJS sponsored study in 2007.

CHRI Ad Hoc Data Connection Partnership. The Authority has entered into a data sharing partnership with the Illinois State police, whereby CHRI data is made available to us via a permanent on-line connection. All data entered on state “rap sheets”, as housed on the State Police Computerized Criminal History system, are accessible to staff in electronic format. These data provide a unique resource for answering information requests from legislators, the media, and other interested parties, in-house research projects and studies being conducted by others around the country. A CHRI Ad Hoc Data Archive of all criminal history records from 1990-2007 has been created in formats that can be readily shared with researchers. This Archive currently holds close to a million records for each year of data.

The CHRI Ad Hoc data partnership with the State Police has progressed to the point where the Authority is now considered the sole source for electronic CHRI data for research purposes. (The State Police still generate paper versions for a fee.) Outside researchers can enter into a User Agreement to gain access to CHRI data which is distributed through the Authority. The process incorporates verification of bona fide research and appropriate protection of confidential data. The unified user agreement facilitates accountability for the research use of criminal history data records.

During the last quarter, CHRI data was produced for the University of Illinois at Springfield. Several requests for the initiation of a CHRI User agreement were received from researchers, including ones from Carnegie-Mellon University, TASC, Inc, and the DuPage Drug Court Administrator. Since the inception of the CHRI Ad Hoc Connection Partnership, a total of thirty-five outside research projects have received CHRI data from the Authority.

Staff is also working with several university-based researchers to develop appropriate methodologies for their research using CHRI Ad Hoc data, and is reviewing drafts of completed research projects for appropriate interpretation of the CHRI data used. Technical assistance on CHRI data interpretation and data manipulation was also provided to several researchers who received data in previously, including the Urban Institute and the Jail data Link project.

Staff has been invited to participate in meeting of experts from around the country in April regarding the use of criminal history records in recidivism research sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics in Washington D.C.

#### **D. Chicago Homicide Dataset Update Project**

The Chicago Homicide Dataset (CHD) has been collected and maintained for many years in close cooperation with the Crime Analysis Unit, Detective Division, of the Chicago Police Department. The CHD is a comprehensive database containing information on every homicide that occurred in Chicago between 1965 and 2000. CHD data from 1965 to 1995, with all victim identifiers and addresses removed, is archived with the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Staff are currently cleaning the entire dataset from

1965 to 2000, and creating three linked CHD datasets – victim-level, incident-level and offender-level.

During this quarter, discussions were initiated with Chicago Police Department’s Research and Development Division to resume the collaborative process of collecting and maintaining the CHD, adding years since 2000, and updating 1965-2000 data for cases that have been cleared since the last data collection effort.

Staff continues to collaborate with selected researchers on projects involving use of the Chicago Homicide Dataset. Staff presented an overview of the Chicago Homicide Dataset at the 2008 BJS/JRSA National Conference on Using Data to Improve Justice Policy and Practice, which was held in Portland, Oregon from October 16 to 17, 2008. The overview used “Connected Homicides” as an example of the detailed information in the CHD, which can be useful for prevention and intervention. Using the newly-updated CHD data from 1965 to 2000, staff presented at the Homicide Research Working Group (HRWG) in June, and the American Society of Criminology in November. Both presentations dealt with “connected” homicides, such as serial murders, spree murders, mass murders, and retribution murders. At the HRWG session at the American Society of Criminology meetings in November, staff presented a brief overview and tutorial about the Chicago Homicide Dataset. In addition, staff presented the keynote address at the International Conference on Homicide, sponsored by the Australian Institute of Criminology, held in early December.

Other recent reports using the Chicago Homicide Dataset include the following:

Ren, L. "The Impact of Neighborhood Transition on Homicide Rates in Chicago: A Longitudinal Study from 1965-1995" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY, Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia.

[http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p212951\\_index.html](http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p212951_index.html)

Chicago HSI was written by Lindsay Grace, using the Homicides in Chicago Data Set. Chicago HSI is an application to research spatial relationships between homicide events in Chicago. This tool is comprised of multiple federal, state, and regional data resources organized into an intuitive visual display. The program contains the history of homicides reported by the Chicago Police Department between 1965 and 1995. Users may analyze data through more than 13 demographic factors and view the data in historically accurate maps describing landmarks, boundaries, and census driven sociological factors. The program aggregates data from several disparate sources, The Chicago Homicide Dataset, The National Census Archive and the City of Chicago's GIS resource.

Johnson, Natalie Jo (2007). “Weapons in the city: Weapon use in Chicago homicide cases,” Master’s Thesis, University of North Texas. December, 2007.

Fishburn, Erin (2006). "The Role of Street Culture in Latino Homicide" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology (ASC), Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA, Oct 31, 2006

Stanback, B. & King-Kallimanis, B. (in process). Older offenders and homicide: What can we learn from the Chicago Homicide Dataset?

Hewitt, Jeanne Beauchamp, Pamela F. Levin, and Susan Terry Misner (2002). Workplace Homicides in Chicago. Feature article, AAOHN Journal 50 (9, September). (This has been widely quoted in public health.)

Sack, Emily J., Battered Women and the State: The Struggle for the Future of Domestic Violence Policy. Wisconsin Law Review, p. 1658, 2004; Roger Williams Univ. Legal Studies Paper No. 35. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=952389>

### **E. Chicago Women's Health Risk Study**

The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project is a continuing collaboration of medical, public health, and criminal justice agencies, and domestic violence experts to identify factors that indicate a significant danger of life-threatening injury or death in situations of intimate partner violence. Collaborating agencies include the Chicago Department of Public Health, Erie Family Health Center, Cook County Hospital, Chicago Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence, Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, Chicago Police Department and the Authority

The current goal of the CWHRS project is to "get the word out" about important and potentially life-saving results, to the public and to practitioners and legislators who can use those results to help save lives. The CWHRS Forum, housed on the Authority's web site, currently has 209 members, most of them practitioners or researchers in the field. The CWHRS Forum also welcomes visits from people seeking information. A number of reports, journal articles and other publications have been developed from the research, most of them collaborations. Staff is frequently solicited for presentations and briefings on the research and project tools, and data continue to be requested for use by other researchers.

During the last quarter, staff presented the keynote address at a Femicide conference in November for professionals and practitioners, co-sponsored by John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the largest provider of DV support in New York City. Over 300 people attended, and many of them have asked to join the CWHRS Forum to gather more information they can use as helping professionals. In addition, staff presented the keynote address at the International Conference on Homicide, sponsored by the Australian Institute of Criminology in December, on key risk factors for death in intimate partner violence. The address was entitled, "Reducing intimate-partner homicide rates: What are the risk factors when a woman is being abused?" See <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/2008-12-block.html>

The following articles using CWHRS data have been recently published:

- Glass, Nancy, Kathryn Laughon, Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Carolyn Rebecca Block, Ginger Hanson, Phyllis W. Sharps & Ellen Taliaferro (2008). Non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for homicide of women. *Journal of Emergency Medicine* 35 (Oct): 329-335.
- Morland, Leslie A., Gregory A. Leskin, Carolyn Rebecca Block, Jacquelyn C. Campbell, and Matthew J. Friedman (2008). Intimate Partner Violence and Miscarriage: Examination of the

Role of Physical and Psychological Abuse and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 23: 652-669.

- Perez, Sara and Dawn M. Johnson (2008). PTSD Compromises Battered Women's Future Safety. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 23: 635-651.
- Block, Carolyn R. and Walter DeKeseredy (2007). Forced sex and leaving intimate relationships: Results of the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study. *Women's Health and Urban Life* 5 (1, May): 6-23.

### III. ONGOING ACTIVITIES

#### A. Briefings/Presentations

Since the last Authority update for the September 2008 meeting, R&A staff made presentations at, and/or attended the following professional meetings:

- Staff attended an Intimate Partner Stalking Conference on November 5-7, in Chicago.
- Staff was the keynote speaker at an intensive one-day conference on “Femicide: Understanding and Preventing the Murder of Women in Intimate Relationships,” co-sponsored by John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Urban Resource Institute (the largest provider of domestic violence support services in New York City), November 7, 2008. Over 300 people, many of them practitioners, attended. The keynote presentation generated considerable interest in working with the CWHRS Forum to share research and practical information to help professionals.
- Staff presented a paper, “Multiple-Victim and Other Connected Homicides,” on November 13, 2008, at the American Society of Criminology meetings in St. Louis. The paper dealt with “connected” homicides, such as serial murders, spree murders, mass murders, and retribution murders.
- At the HRWG session at the American Society of Criminology meetings on November 14, 2008, staff presented a brief overview and tutorial about the Chicago Homicide Dataset.
- Staff attended a IJDAI partners group meeting on November 17 in Bloomington.
- Staff attended the Redeploy Oversight Board meeting on November 21. Redeploy is an effort to redirect juvenile offenders from the Department of Corrections and into supervision within their communities.
- Staff met with Dr. Michelle Bentley, site coordinator for the Safety Net Works Grand Boulevard program, on November 20 at the Authority’s office to discuss performance indicators.
- Staff attended a meeting on November 21 with the Office of the Attorney General on commercial sexual exploitation within the Craigslist website.
- The research director and executive director attended the Joint Reconvening of the Mayoral Policy Caucus on Reentry and the Governor’s Commission on Community Safety and Reentry on December 1 in Chicago.
- Staff attended a Pathways Partners group meetings on December 2 in Bloomington.

- On December 3, 2008, staff was the keynote speaker at the International Conference on Homicide, which focused on “Domestic Related Homicide.” The conference was sponsored by the Australian Institute of Criminology, in Brisbane, Australia.
- R&A staff met with the agency’s FSGU staff to finalize the inter-unit partnership agreement on December 3.
- R&A staff met with the agency’s FSGU staff to finalize the inter-unit partnership agreement on December 4.
- The research director and executive director attended the Safety Net Works Executive Steering Committee meeting on December 4 in Chicago.
- Staff attended a meeting of the Illinois Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependency on December 4 in Addison, IL.
- Staff presented the keynote address on homicide at the International Conference on Homicide, sponsored by the Australian Institute of Criminology, on December 4.
- Staff attended a DASA Youth Subcommittee meeting in Chicago on December 4.
- The research director led a discussion on the GoTo 2040 Planning Initiative with Authority board members at the board meeting on December 5.
- Staff participated in a teleconference meeting with AOIC officials concerning the EBP project on December 10.
- Staff participated on several conference calls with Liz Kooy, Mary Reynolds, and Betsey Clark (Juvenile Justice Initiative), Lisa Jacobs (Models for Change project coordinator), Diane Geraghty (Loyola University), and staff from Northwestern to discuss how we can measure what effect having counsel at detention hearings may have on detention rates. The law was recently passed and the Juvenile Justice Initiative was interested in determining if having counsel present helps get kids into alternatives. Staff is helping to develop a list of counties where there are high rates of detaining youth for relatively minor offenses so this data can be used for the baseline. Conference calls were held on December 10, January 14, and February 4.
- Staff attended the Domestic Violence Advisory Coordinating Council on December 11 at the Mayor’s Office on Domestic Violence.
- Staff participated in a conference call regarding the Jail Data Link project evaluation status on December 11.
- On December 12, staff attended a Partnership to Rescue our Minors from Sexual Exploitation (PROMISE) meeting.
- The research director attended a meeting with the agency General Counsel on December 12 to discuss research strategies with members of the Sex Offender Management Board.
- Staff attended a meeting at the Attorney General’s Office on Sex Trafficking, specifically online sex solicitations on Craigslist on December 21.
- On January 7, staff met with Steve Karr of IDOC to discuss a data sharing partnership.
- Staff attended a meeting of the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition at the Authority on January 7.
- On January 8, staff attended a Chicago Public Schools Peer Jury meeting.
- Staff attended a Chicago Public Schools Peer Jury meeting on January 8.
- Staff participated in a conference call with CMS staff on January 8 to discuss special testing options for the CJS I position to ensure proper qualifications for Authority research work.

- Staff participated in a conference call with CMS on January 13 regarding creation of a new Criminal Justice Research Specialist job title.
- On January 13, staff held a training with interviewers on the Female Inmates Research Project and a conference call with IDOC staff.
- On January 13 and February 10, staff attended a DMC Models for Change meetings at Loyola.
- Staff attended the Citywide BARJ meeting and IBARJ meeting, both at the Cook County Juvenile Court on January 22.
- Staff participated in a conference call with the Right to Counsel workgroup on January 14.
- Staff attended the Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board meeting on January 16 in Chicago.
- Staff attended a meeting of the Redeploy Illinois Annual Report Ad Hoc Group on January 16 in Chicago.
- Staff met with Xavier Williams of DHS on January 20 at the Authority's offices to discuss changes to the for the Safety Net Works data collection form.
- Staff met on January 21 with staff from the National Center for Juvenile Justice to discuss detention data that we have available.
- Staff attended a Pathways Partners strategic meeting on January 22 and 23.
- Staff developed a data collection report and met with grantees for a new elder abuse program on January 27 in Chicago.
- Staff attended a meeting with the Veteran's Ad Hoc Committee on January 29 to oversee two pilot programs (one in Cook and one in St. Clair) that provide specialized mental health services to veterans involved in the criminal justice system.
- Staff attended the GoTo2040 Advisory Council meeting held at the Authority on January 30.
- Staff attended a Lead Agency meeting at CMAP offices on February 2.
- On February 2 staff attended a meeting with the Disproportionate Minority Confinement committee of Models for Change (at Loyola University). Staff discussed a data collection template for juvenile justice system data to eventually be rolled out to those participating in various juvenile initiatives.
- Staff hosted two students from the Chicago Public Schools on February 4 for Career Shadow Day.
- Staff participated in a Career Shadow Day sponsored by the Chicago Public Schools on February 4, hosting two high school students interested in a legal career. The students observed a court session at Domestic Violence Court, and discussed career options in the law and criminal justice fields with Authority staff.
- On February 6, staff attended a meeting with the Cook County Sheriff's Department's Women and Justice Services, and Justice Project Against Sexual Harm regarding a research evaluation project.
- On February 10, staff attended a Chicago Public Schools Peer Jury meeting.
- Staff attended and presented at the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission meeting on February 10, 2009.
- Staff co-presented EBP research material to probation managers in Bloomington on February 10.
- Staff attended the LEADS Advisory Board meeting in Joliet on Tuesday, February 17.
- Staff hosted a conference call with DHS Division of Mental Health staff on February 19 to discuss the draft report of the Jail Data Link program evaluation.

## **B. Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse**

The Authority serves as a statewide clearinghouse for statistics and other information about crime and the criminal justice system. The Clearinghouse Center within R&A maintains and regularly updates many county-level datasets related to crime and the criminal justice system, as well as social risk factor data. These datasets are used for in-house research projects and publications, such as *Trends and Issues* and *County Profiles of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems*. The Clearinghouse is also responsible for answering requests for criminal justice data and information, as well as maintaining the publications on the Authority's website: [www.icjia.il.state.us](http://www.icjia.il.state.us).

Many requests continue to come from government agencies (17 percent) and private agencies (20 percent). Other requests come from private citizens, researchers, students news media representatives, legislators and prison inmates. Twenty percent of the requests originate in the Chicago metropolitan area, and another 34 percent originate in other parts of the state. All other requests for information were received from other states, outside the United States, or unknown origin.

R&A distributed 2 authority publications during the second quarter of SFY 09 (Oct-Dec, 2008), not including those downloaded from our website (261,939) (*Table 1*). The volume of web users has remained at high levels. During this time period, there were 1,881,476 "hits" on our website and more than 85,748 visitors that remained on the site for a period of time. There were 261,974 downloads of information or publications (*Table 2*). The website continues to be a valuable resource for our constituents.

### *Acquiring/updating/documenting dataset holdings*

During the last quarter, staff continued to inventory and update core datasets. 2007 Illinois Uniform Crime Report (I-UCR) data were released by the Illinois State Police in November, and our corresponding offense and arrest data and population datasets were updated accordingly. Data on drug submissions to Illinois State Police labs by zip code was entered into newly designed spreadsheets, to include data by Chicago Police Department districts as well municipal totals. TANF data and court data from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts were also updated. Updates of juvenile petition and detention data and population were begun in February. All of these updated datasets will eventually be made available on our redesigned CJ DataNet web pages, along with graphing and mapping capabilities.

## **C. FSGU Support Efforts**

Several R&A staff work in a partnership with the Authority's Federal and State Grants Unit (FSGU) to provide statistical technical assistance. Currently, R&A staff are working with FSGU to draft a protocol outlining staff roles. The protocol outlines the following purposes of the partnership:

- Help FSGU report statistical information to ICJIA boards and the public.
- Help guide decisions to best spend limited federal funding.
- Help ensure ICJIA collects and reports reliable statistics on grantees.

- Help hold grantees accountable for ICJIA administered federal funds.
- Help ensure ICJIA meets federal and auditor requirements.

Upon request, R&A staff review grant data reports, grant proposals, and data report forms; create grantee program profiles; report at FSGU grant meetings; participate in conferences; offer statistical information through presentations; attends relevant trainings; and create and update grant-related databases. R&A staff continued to work with FSGU staff responsible for the VAWA, VOCA, JABG, MVTPC, and MEG/TF funds. In addition, R&A staff assume responsibility for the computerization of some program performance for many grants. Specifically, during the reporting period:

- R&A staff completed a training with FSGU staff on goals, objectives, and performance measures.
- R&A staff completed four program profiles in November and December on Juvenile Accountability Block Grant-funded programs.
- R&A staff redesigned the (20) Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) and drug task force profiles. The profiles provide an overview of the drug crime problem and the response to those problems in the jurisdictions covered by federal grant-funded Illinois' MEGs and task forces. In addition, a new survey will be distributed to all task forces to gather information. The last profiles were published in 2004.
- R&A staff provided training for the S.T.O.P. VAWA Annual Report for calendar year 2008.
- R&A staff participated in a Rural VAWA Data Report Tele-Training.
- R&A staff completed one program profile in February and will complete four more by April on S.T.O.P. VAWA Multi-disciplinary Team programs.
- R&A staff completed a training with FSGU staff on Rural VAWA goals, objectives, and performance measures.
- R&A staff developed a template for staff to use when completing program profiles. This was shared with FSGU staff in January.
- The R&A/ FSGU partnership agreement was completed. It outlines the roles of R&A in the support efforts of FSGU. It was shared with FSGU staff in January.

#### **D. Technical Assistance**

- Staff compiled data, information, and a written report on disproportionate minority contact for the Illinois Department of Human Services for their annual report.
- Staff analyzed and compiled arrest statistics from CHRI data for the Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative and the University of Chicago.
- Staff gathered and distributed juvenile data for Kankakee, Iroquois, Whiteside, LaSalle, Grundy, Bureau, JoDaviess, Carroll, Stephenson and Ogle counties for their participation in the Pathways Regional Conference on September 18.
- Staff assisted as a facilitator at the Chicago Public Schools Peer Jury Training on October 1.
- Staff developed a list of counties where there are high rates of detaining youth for relatively minor offenses so this data can be used for the baseline. In list was presented on October 1 in a conference call with Liz Kooy, Mary Reynolds, and Betsey Clark (Juvenile Justice Initiative), Lisa Jacobs (Models for Change project coordinator), Diane Geraghty (Loyola University), and

staff from Northwestern. The purpose was to discuss how to measure the effect of having counsel at detention hearings on detention rates.

- Staff presented juvenile data and conduct a workshop on using and interpreting data at the annual Illinois Probation and Court Services meeting on October 23 in DuPage County.
- Staff met with Dr. Michelle Bentley, site coordinator for the Safety Net Works Grand Boulevard program, on November 20 at the Authority's office to assist in the development of performance indicators.
- Staff developed an evaluation form for the law enforcement elder abuse protocol that was distributed by the Illinois Department on Aging.

### **E. Deaths in Custody Reporting**

The Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DICRA) (P.L. 106-297, effective Oct. 13, 2000) requires states to compile and report quarterly to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) the number of deaths, and the circumstances surrounding the deaths, of people in local jails, state prisons, juvenile correctional facilities, and law enforcement custody. Until recently, the information requested by BJS was limited to deaths in local jails, state prisons, and state juvenile facilities. Collection of DICRA information has been expanded to include deaths that occur while a person is in police custody or in the process of arrest. Information on deaths that occur while a person is in police custody will supplement the annual data on prison inmate deaths that BJS already receives from the Illinois Department of Corrections as part of the National Prisoners Statistics Program and the National Corrections Reporting Program. R&A staff began in July 2004 collecting specific information requested by BJS for all deaths in Illinois that occur while the person is in police custody or in the process of arrest by local, county, and state law enforcement agencies regardless of cause of death. For reporting purposes, the data include the following:

- o Deaths occurring when an individual is in the physical custody, or under the physical restraint, of law enforcement officers, even if the person was not formally under arrest.
- o Deaths that occur by natural causes, while in the physical custody, or under the physical restraint, of law enforcement officers, even if the person was not formally under arrest.
- o Those killed by any use of force by law enforcement officers prior to booking
- o People who died at a crime/arrest scene or medical facility prior to booking.
- o Deaths occurring in transit to or from law enforcement facilities.
- o Deaths of those confined in lockups or booking centers (facilities from which arrestees are usually transferred within 72 hours and not held beyond arraignment).

Summary data on death in law enforcement custody for the year of 2007 was submitted to BJS in October of 2008, and data for 2008 and 2009 is continuously being collected. 2008 data is expected to be submitted to BJS in mid 2009. BJS utilizes the data to produce reports of arrest fatalities in the United States, with updates planned as states submit data. The last report, Arrest-Related Deaths in the United States, 2003-2005, was released in October 2007.

As part of the SJS grant received from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, a new DICRA web page will be designed, and a survey will be developed to determine a more efficient way to collect medical examiner data on these incidents, including cause of death.

## **F. Web-based applications**

### **1. Webboard**

Webboard is an integrated discussion boards, online conferencing, it is also for online classes, providing threaded discussions, chat and the ability to post and download data, this message board tool allows valuable ideas and comments to be shared and stored.

During the last quarter, Webboard software has been move to an upgraded server with more memory capacity in order to upgrade the software from version 8 to 9.

Staff is currently developing the launch of a redesigned WebBoard Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRS) Forum. The CWHRS Forum is a discussion and information-sharing site for people interested in reducing levels of death and serious injury from intimate partner violence. Forum members are trying to apply findings from the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRS) and similar research to practical situations in the field.

Staff is currently developing the WebBoard INFONET Forum. The InfoNet (information network) is a web-based data collection system used by victim service providers in Illinois. The development and implementation of the system was a collaborative effort between the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV).

Staff is currently developing the WebBoard Go To 2040 Forum. The Go To 2040 Forum is a discussion and information-sharing site for advisory committee members to discuss Crime and Justice topical areas of the larger planning process being conducted by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) as the co-lead agency with the University of Illinois at Chicago with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, in conjunction with the Chicago Community Trust. The project will focus on the Chicago metropolitan region (the seven counties of Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Kendall, McHenry and Will). The purpose is to create a plan for an effective and coordinated crime and justice system in the region by the year 2040. The WebBoard Go To 2040 Forum can be viewed at <http://webboard.icjia.org/WB/default.aspx?boardid=2>. Drafts of the final report will be circulated for comment and discussion via this Forum, in order to efficiently reach the geographically dispersed Advisory Committee members in order to reach consensus on final strategies and recommendations by May 2009.

Staff is also developing the WebBoard CJ ACADEMIC Forum. The CJ ACADEMIC Forum will be a discussion and information-sharing site which will enable the Research and Analysis Unit to communicate with the academic community on criminal justice research issues and topics that practitioners and others can use in their work within Illinois and from the national perspective.

## **2. Adobe Acrobat Connect**

Adobe Acrobat Connect is software used to create information and general presentations, online training materials, web conferencing, learning modules, and user desktop sharing applications.

During the last quarter, Adobe Acrobat Connect software has been upgraded from version 6 to 7.

Staff is currently developing INFONET User Training using this software, as well as developing other Research and Analysis Unit and other agency on-line applications.

## **3. Website Enhancements**

Staff has developed a Go To 2040 Website for advisory committee members to have access to the CMAP Home page, information related to: CJ Issues and Topics, Population Projection, Advisory Committee Surveys, Advisory Committee information, such as Scheduled Meetings, Meeting Materials, Meeting Minutes, Next Steps for CJ Advisory Council, GoTo2040 E-News Archive, a link to LOGIN to the WebBoard GoTo2040 Forum, and details on How To Use the WebBoard Forum?. The website can be viewed at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/GoTo2040>

Staff is currently developing a new INFONET Website in order provide INFONET Users with access to: Security Software (SmartPass) Information, Tech Support, FAQs, Training Calendar, Training Manuals, Service Definitions, INFONET Data Collections Forms, User Groups information, listing of INFONET User Agencies, an INFONET Publications Section, and setting up a INFONET EMAIL Distribution Lists for the Child Advocacy Centers, Domestic Violence Centers, and Sexual Assault Centers. The website is currently under construction at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/infonets>

Staff is currently developing a new redesign of Criminal Justice DataNet Website to enhance web access and on-line presentation formats of the Authority's holdings of criminal justice and social risk factor data.

Staff is currently developing a new redesign of the Illinois Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS) Website to enhance web access to further the mission of the IJIS Implementation Board. IJIS is an intergovernmental effort dedicated to improving the administration of justice in Illinois by facilitating the electronic sharing of justice information throughout the state. It is a collaborative effort charged with enhancing public safety by making complete, accurate, and timely offender-based information available to all justice decision makers.

## **IV. GRANT PROPOSALS**

R&A staff routinely pursues discretionary grants to support data collection, research, and evaluation activities. Frequently these projects involve collaborations with universities and/or other criminal justice agencies.

## V. CONTINUING STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

- On January 12<sup>th</sup>, staff attended a seminar on Women in the Criminal Justice System.

## VI. AWARDS AND HONORS

Staff member Carolyn Rebecca Block was honored in November by receiving the 2008 Saltzman Award for Contributions to Practice. Awarded by the Division on Women and Crime, American Society of Criminology, the Saltzman Award for Contributions to Practice recognizes a criminologist whose professional accomplishments have increased the quality of justice and the level of safety for women. It honors unique achievements combining scholarship, persuasion, activism and commitment, particularly work that has made a deep impact on the quality of justice for women, as well as a wide impact (interdisciplinary, international, or cross-cultural).

### **Internship program.**

Under the direct supervision of a senior staff member in the Research and Analysis Unit, interns are hired to perform a variety of information functions relating to critical issues facing the Illinois criminal justice system. There is no compensation for these positions, but interns may be able to use the experience as course credit.

cc: Lori G. Levin  
Hank Anthony

**Appendix A – Most recent publications**

**RESEARCH BULLETINS / BRIEFS / TECHNICAL MANUALS**

Prescription drug abuse, drug treatment needs on rise in Illinois (November 2008)

**Appendix B – Information Request Handling Statistics**

**October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008**

ITEM	REQUESTS/Pct
<b>Information requests handled:</b>	35
<b>Monthly average number of requests:</b>	11.6
<b>Geographic Origin of requesters:</b>	
Chicago metropolitan area	20%
Other region of Illinois	34%
U.S. other than Illinois	26%
Outside the U.S.	0%
Unknown	20%
<b>Type of requester:</b>	
Government agency	17%
Private agency	20%
Researcher	6%
Student	11%
Citizen	46%
Media	0%
Legislators	0%
Inmates	0%
<b>Method of request:</b>	
Telephone/fax	40%
Mail	23%
Email/Internet	0%
In-person	0%
ICJIA Website	37%
<b>Publications disseminated:</b>	
Mailed in response to requests	0
Downloaded from Website	261,939
Total	261,974

## **Appendix C – Authority Website Trends**

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

**October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008**

Month/Year	Hits		User Sessions			Visitors			File Downloads	CJ DISPATCH SUBSCRIBERS
	Entire Site	Average Per Day	Sessions	Average Per Day	Average Length (min)	Unique	One-Time	Repeat		
Oct-08	687,476	22,176	68,809	2,219	27	32,371	27,764	4,607	97,179	2,660
Nov-08	593,311	19,777	57,634	1,921	36	27,789	24,583	3,206	87,319	2,670
Dec-08	600,689	19,637	53,392	1,722	30	25,588	22,744	2,844	77,441	2,678
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,881,476</b>	<b>61,590</b>	<b>179,835</b>	<b>1,954</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>85,748</b>	<b>75,091</b>	<b>10,657</b>	<b>261,939</b>	
<b>MONTHLY AVERAGE</b>	<b>627,159</b>		<b>59,945</b>			<b>28,583</b>	<b>25,030</b>	<b>3,552</b>	<b>87,313</b>	