



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

120 South Riverside Plaza • Suite 1016 • Chicago, Illinois 60606 • (312) 793-8550

Memorandum

To: Authority Members

From: *GR* Gerard F. Ramker, Ph.D.
Research and Analysis Unit

Date: November 14, 2003

Re: Research and Analysis Unit Report – December 5, 2003 Authority Meeting

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

I. ONGOING ACTIVITIES

A. Publications

Since the last Authority meeting, R & A staff published the final seven (7) Juvenile Justice System county profiles for the Authority's website. All 102 profiles are now available for download. Staff also published and contributed to several other reports and articles:

- *Research Report:* Criminal History Record Information Audit Report;
- *Research Report:* A Study of Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System, Part I: Assessment of Disproportionate Minority Representation at Key Decision Points in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System;
- *Research Report:* A Study of Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System, Part II: Assessment of Disproportionate Minority Representation Through Individual-Level Analyses and Surveys of Juvenile Justice Professionals;
- *Research Bulletin:* Chicago Homicide Dataset Series – Why is Age Discrepancy a Risk Factor for Intimate Partner Homicide?;
- *How Can Practitioners Help an Abused Woman Lower Her Risk of Death?* National Institute of Justice Journal, #250, November 2003, by Carolyn Rebecca Block;
- *Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide.* National Institute of Justice Journal, #250, November 2003, by Campbell, Webster, Koziol-McLain, Block, Campbell, Curry, Gary, McFarlane, Sachs, Sharps, Ulrich and Wilt;

- *Barriers to Domestic Violence Help-Seeking: Implications for Intervention.* Violence Against Women Journal, by Fugate, Landis, Riordan, Naureckas, and Engel.
- *Female-Perpetrated Femicide and Attempted Femicide: A Case Series.* Violence Against Women, by Glass, Koziol-McLain, Campbell and Block.
- *The Emergence of Methamphetamine in Illinois: Examining Law Enforcement and Drug Treatment Indicators to Gauge the Extent and Nature of the Problem.* Law Enforcement Executive Forum, Volume 3, No. 4, 2003, by Robert Bauer and David Olson.

B. Briefings/Presentations

Since the last Authority meeting, R & A staff made presentations at and/or attended meetings of the:

- Illinois Department of Corrections' Illinois Returning Home Project Steering Committee;
- Illinois Drug Court Professionals Associations Fall conference;
- Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and Grant Review Committee;
- Meetings of the Cook County Girls Link steering, education and program development committees;
- Justice Research and Statistics Association's (JRSA) Research, Nominations, and Executive committees;
- Illinois Association of Crime Analysts meetings;
- Administrative Office of Illinois Courts POLARIS advisory committee;
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Partners;
- North Lawndale Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) Forum and Data Workgroup;
- Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Summit planning committee;
- The Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Summit;
- Illinois Youth Court Association advisory board meeting;
- Governor's Ex-Offender Employability Committee meeting;
- University of Chicago's Incarceration Research Group;
- Advisory Group for the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Formerly Incarcerated Employment Study;
- Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission's Juvenile Detention in Illinois annual report advisory committee and its Disproportionate Minority Confinement subcommittee.
- Annual Conference sponsored by the Justice Research and Statistics Association and the Bureau of Justice Statistics;
- Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Terrorism Private Sector Subcommittee;
- Loyola University's Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL);
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives grant sites meeting;
- Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives partners meeting;
- Annual Conference of the Midwestern Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

C. Criminal Justice Information Clearinghouse

The Authority serves as a statewide clearinghouse for statistics and other information about the criminal justice system. During the first quarter (7/1/03- 9/30/03) of SFY04, R&A staff responded to 320 requests from people seeking information — an average of 107 requests per month. Most came from other government agencies (43 percent) and the general public (24 percent). Other requests came from private agencies (18 percent), researchers (7 percent), students (5 percent), news media representatives (2 percent), prison inmates (1 percent), and

legislators (less than 1 percent). About 26 percent of the requests originated in Chicago. Forty-eight percent originated in other parts of the state. All other requests for information were received from outside Illinois. R&A distributed 44,287 Authority publications during this period. *[TABLE 1 (attached) provides statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

D. Web Site Development

R&A staff also contribute toward the continued development of the Authority's Web site (www.icjia.state.il.us). We continue to expand the criminal justice data and information available on the site. We also continue to actively gather user satisfaction information and other feedback "on-line." Staff also continues to upload publications to the site and have perfected our on-line ordering forms and protocols. The site averaged over 1,000 daily user sessions during this period, and we now have 1,343 registered users of the Authority's email program (called "CJ Dispatch"), which automatically alerts Web site visitors to new information added to the site. Staff continue work on database applications and new software for the site which will allow visitors to download, display and graph data in a variety of formats. *[Table 2 (attached) presents website statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

E. FSGU Support Efforts

Upon request, R&A staff review and comment on proposed program narratives submitted by potential grantees to the Federal and State Grants Unit (FSGU). The focus of R&A comments are in the areas of proposed objectives, goals, and performance measures. FSGU staff also request R&A assistance in the development of data reports for proposed programs. R&A staff has also assumed responsibility for the computerization of some program performance data and, upon FSGU request, we produce program status reports and/or profiles assessing performance over a given period of time. Some staff accompanies FSGU staff on grant monitoring site visits as well. *[Table 3 (attached) presents FSGU support statistics for the latest state fiscal year quarter.]*

F. Technical Assistance

R & A staff are frequently called on to provide a variety of technical assistance on extra-agency research and evaluation, and program implementation projects. For example, since the last Authority meeting:

- Staff continued to provide limited assistance to several third-party research projects involving studies of individuals' criminal history records including those conducted by:
 - Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice;
 - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Children and Family Research Center;
 - Harvard University's Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods;
 - University of Chicago's Chapin Hall;and

- University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies.

- Staff are participating on the Illinois Department of Correction's Going Home Program's Reentry Steering Committee.
- Staff are actively participating in the Governor's Sheridan Re-Opening Working Group.
- Staff are participating on the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts' POLARIS advisory committee.
- Staff are participating on the advisory board for the Illinois Department of Employment Security's Formerly Incarcerated Employment Study.
- Staff are participating in a working group to advise the Harvard Injury Control Research Center and the Centers for Disease Control on the best way to report homicide data for practical use at the local level.
- Staff continue to collaborate with FSGU staff on the research, development and testing of alternative funding formulas for the allocation of federal monies to Illinois' multijurisdictional drug enforcement units.
- Staff are collaborating with staff of the Kankakee County Sexual Assault Center to help develop data compilation and analysis plans in support of the services provided by the federally funded center.
- Staff are collaborating with professors in Northern Illinois University's Department of Psychology who are reviewing various DeKalb County criminal and juvenile justice data.
- Staff are assisting Illinois State Police officials in the creation of grant and data reports for tracking the use of video equipment they will provide around the state.
- Staff are assisting the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics in evaluating and redesigning their "Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics."

II. CURRENT PROJECTS

A. Special Short-Term Studies

Some R&A staff are currently engaged in developing brief Research Bulletins short-term studies on specific issues and/or trends. The following examples will be completed later this year:

DUI Trends and Issues – Short term project intended to describe significant statistical trends and issues related to driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This Research Bulletin is undergoing final editorial review.

Factors that Put Youth at Risk for Delinquency – Short term project intended to describe Illinois data on “risk factors” associated with juvenile delinquency.

B. Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

R&A staff, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services’ Office on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse established an Illinois Substance Abuse Monitoring Network. This group functions as a special workgroup to facilitate the exchange and analysis of information regarding the nature and extent of drug use, drug abuse, and drug markets in Illinois. The group has met twice with the next meeting being scheduled for December 2003.

C. Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit

The unit’s Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Audit Center is an ADAA-funded in-house effort to continuously examine the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of this information, and to recommend strategies for its improvement. The 2003 audit report was published in September 2003. Meanwhile, planning and testing for the next audit has been initiated.

Staff continue to work with a download of Computerized Criminal History (CCH) data to determine audit methods appropriate for analysis of electronically generated data. The next audit project will examine data from a sample of Illinois’ 102 sheriff’s departments. In addition, the project will establish a baseline for future measures of juvenile CHRI reporting in the state.

Other audit center activities include working with the CHRI Improvement Workgroup to develop and submit an updated CHRI Improvement Plan. This workgroup includes representatives from Illinois’ local and state criminal justice agencies. Information flow documentation has been collected and staff are beginning to develop an improvement plan. The plan is necessary to meet funding requirements from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs relative to national criminal history record improvement grant funding.

D. Chicago Homicide Dataset Update Project

The R&A Unit maintains a comprehensive database containing information on every homicide that occurred in the City of Chicago between 1965 and 1996. This information is culled from Chicago Police Department files following a long-standing collaborative process developed with the department’s Detective Division. Staff recently completed an effort to update the dataset with information for the years 1997 through 2000, and will soon begin collecting 2001 data. We expect to generate a variety of research products from this dataset

and to develop an archive version for use by other researchers through the University of Michigan's National Criminal Justice Data Archive. Staff is also collaborating on various third-party projects involving use of the Chicago Homicide Dataset:

- Arson associated homicides (Mr. Dallas Drake).
- Patterns of youth homicide victimization (Dr. Kimberly Vogt).
- Intimate partner homicides (Dr. Todd Shackelford).

E. Statewide Crime Victimization Survey

Growing out of recommendations in the *State Criminal Justice Plan*, staff has initiated a state crime victimization survey modeled on the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics' Crime Victimization Survey, and similar efforts in other states. Through a "request for proposals" process, staff selected a vendor to undertake the survey, incorporate defined sampling and methodological strategies, and provide the Authority with a data file. Data collection ended on April 30th. We have received the data file and codebook from the vendor. A project report will be completed this Winter.

F. Program Evaluation and Research Projects

The R&A Unit pursues an aggressive program evaluation and research agenda through an in-house ADAA-funded grant program. Current/ongoing evaluation and research efforts supported by the Authority include the following:

1. Evaluation of the Jackson County School-Based Probation Program

Staff from the Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale began the evaluation of this probation project in April. A preliminary meeting with project staff, the Authority and the evaluation team has taken place and the evaluators are working toward the design of instruments, data collection efforts and interviews with staff. A final report is due September 30, 2004.

2. Evaluation of Moral Reconciliation Therapy in the Franklin/Jefferson County Evening Reporting Center Program

Staff from the Public Administration and Policy Analysis Department at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville began the evaluation of this probation project in April. After a preliminary meeting with project staff and the Authority, the evaluation team has begun to create and review project databases. The evaluators are also working toward a documentary review of the project, refinement of outcome measures and the identification of a comparison group. A final report is due September 30, 2004.

3. Lake County Domestic Violence Probation Program Evaluation

This is an impact evaluation of a specialized probation program in Lake County focused on domestic violence offenders, and is being carried out by Justice Research Associates (JRA).

The project is a follow-up to an implementation evaluation recently completed by JRA and is focusing on the outcome differences between the program participants and a comparison group. A final report is due December 31, 2003.

4. Study of Disproportionate Incarceration of Minorities for Drug Crimes

This project is a collaboration between the Authority and Loyola University Chicago, The John Howard Association and TASC, Inc. The study is examining the impact of sentencing laws and practices on the minority community, particularly in response to convictions for drug related crimes. Research bulletins planned include reports on national trends, drug law changes, the nature of addiction and treatment, the Illinois perspective on minority incarceration and policy recommendations. The first proposed publications have been submitted and are undergoing staff review.

5. Reintegration of Gang Offenders in the Community Study

In collaboration with DePaul University's Department of Sociology, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center, a small-scale, pilot study of the reintegration process is being conducted. The study is largely qualitative, examining how gang & non-gang offenders go about reintegrating into their communities of origin. A final report on the study is due August 30, 2004.

6. Community Mobilization: Best Practices and Lessons Learned

This project involves the development of a series of four research briefs on different aspects of the Attorney General's Gang Crime Prevention Center Community Mobilization Program. The first of four research briefs is available on the topic of resident decision making versus representativeness in the community. The remaining report topics include the evolution of program implementation, resident involvement/coalition building and integration into the surrounding community. These reports are currently undergoing staff review.

7. CAPS at Ten

This project is being conducted by Northwestern University and is the last phase of a comprehensive multi-year assessment of the Chicago Police Department's community policing program. The Authority has been supporting this evaluation for several years and this final analysis will focus on the main themes that have characterized Chicago's program. A final report on this phase of the study is to be submitted on March 31, 2004.

8. Returning Home-Illinois Research Project

This project is being carried out by The Urban Institute. It involves the development of several products including a portrait of prisoner reentry in Illinois, a briefing on pre-release expectations on returning Illinois prisoners, and an advisory report addressing how funds made available to the Illinois Department of Corrections through the Authority should be

prioritized to reduce recidivism rates. The evaluation team, with the assistance of Authority staff, completed the portrait of prisoner reentry in Illinois and presented it in April. Urban Institute staff have completed 400 pre-release surveys, over 400 interviews with inmates and 69 family interviews. The final report on this project has been received and will be published soon.

9. National Evaluation of Multijurisdictional Drug Task Forces

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Program's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), staff is preparing to provide federal funds and technical assistance to participate in a national evaluation of multijurisdictional drug task forces. It is anticipated that the research will result in an advisory report to the Authority on the effectiveness and impact of these multijurisdictional task forces in Illinois, in the context of the broader national evaluation. Staff is currently awaiting further direction from BJA on the initiation of this project.

10. Supplemental Funds for Methamphetamine Enforcement: A Process Evaluation

Initiated in March 2003, this project will be carried out by researchers at Illinois State University. In 2002 four task force programs (East Central, West Central, South Central and Quad City) received supplemental funding from the Authority to facilitate investigations related to methamphetamine production. At the time of their application these four task forces, drawing from agencies in 18 counties, were comprised of 44 officers from 29 local agencies and the Illinois State Police. The supplemental funding allowed for hiring 7 additional officers (6.75 positions) for one year and for a variety of items in support of task force activities (e.g., bullet proof vests). This project will use site visits, face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews, and data from quarterly reports to assess how the supplemental money has been used, and to identify the uses for which it has proven most beneficial and the uses for which it has not been as helpful as originally planned.

11. Illinois Going Home Program Evaluation

An implementation and preliminary impact evaluation of the Illinois Going Home Program is currently being conducted by the University of Chicago. The program is a major offender reentry effort funded through a partnership of contributing federal agencies and in concert with a number of Chicago-area government, community and faith-based organizations. The evaluation will determine if the program was implemented as designed, how it worked in the field and the effectiveness of the program. Evaluators will conduct interviews, create a database on returning ex-offenders, and develop an impact study to measure the programs effectiveness in area of offender employability and recidivism.

12. Circuit Court of Cook County, Department of Social Service, Domestic Violence Intervention Program

This project is being conducted by University of Illinois at Chicago under the direction of Larry Bennet and the West Side Domestic Abuse Project (WSDAP) in collaboration with the Social Service Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In 1999, UIC and WSDAP developed an assessment tool for batterers aimed to increase the safety of victims and improve the ability of staff to identify men who are at high risk and intervene to reduce their risk by assertive case management. This project will use existing Cook County PROMIS data and supplemental data collected from case records on men participating in the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Researchers will be able to collect longitudinal data on predictors of attrition and outcomes for men who batter that can be used by policy makers and staff to improve intervention services. Researchers will also be able to contribute important information to the larger criminal justice and violence against women communities about the effectiveness of justice-based intervention with batterers. A final report on this project is due on October 31, 2004.

13. An Evaluation of the Chicago Police Department's CLEAR Initiative – Phase II

The continued evaluation of CLEAR, the Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting project, is scheduled to continue with a grant to the University of Illinois at Chicago. CLEAR is a major initiative of the Chicago Police Department to integrate information systems and processes within the department. The continued evaluation will focus on the efforts aimed at the introduction of high-priority applications, and the resources and processes needed to develop and implement the major components of CLEAR. The project began on September 1, 2003.

14. An Evaluation of Bloom Township's Neighborhood Restorative Justice Mediation Program

The Neighborhood Restorative Justice Mediation Program (NRJMP) is a volunteer-based, victim-offender mediation program. The purpose of the NRJMP is to utilize the Balanced and Restorative Justice approach in response to juvenile crime and provide an alternative to formal prosecution for first time juvenile offenders. The NRJMP brings victims and offenders together in a neutral setting with the goal being a plan for repairing harm done to the victim that both the offender and victim can agree upon. Operating since 2000 in the 6th Municipal Court District of Cook County, the NRJMP expanded into the 5th Municipal Court District in the Spring of 2001, the 2nd and 3rd Municipal Districts in the Fall-Winter of 2001, and the 4th Municipal District in early 2003. The manner in which this program has evolved provides an opportunity for researchers to conduct meaningful process evaluations of the program in the 6th, 5th, 2nd, and 3rd districts and an impact evaluation of the NRJMP as it functions in the 6th district. A request for proposals has been under development with the expectation that the evaluation could begin in 2004. However, the project is currently on hold pending a decision on whether additional JAIBG funding will be designated for the program by the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition (JCEC).

15. Analysis of Datasets Maintained/Available Through the Authority

A Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently being developed to seek proposals for the analysis of datasets currently available through the Authority. These small-scale projects will seek to answer a variety of research questions on offender reentry data, corrections data, victimization data and domestic violence and victim services data. The RFP is scheduled to be released in January 2004.

Other Projects

Additional external research and evaluation efforts are under consideration and/or development, including a request for proposals for evaluating peer juries in Chicago Public Schools. An evaluability assessment of this program is currently being done.

G. Externally-Funded Research and Evaluation Projects

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

1. NIJ Chicago Women's Health Risk Study (CWHRS)

The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project is a continuing collaboration of Chicago 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. Project research included detailed interviews with abused women sampled as they entered a hospital, clinic, or health center for treatment, as well as interviews with people who knew victims of intimate partner homicide. By comparing data on abused women with similar data on people who have been killed by an intimate partner, the project helps agencies develop collaborative ways to identify and respond to potentially life-threatening intimate violence situations. A follow-up study looked at the effects of community capacity to determine whether the violence stopped or declined in the abused women's neighborhoods. The research provides vital information to beat officers, clinical staff, and other decision-makers in the field. The Chicago Women's Health Risk Project was supported with grants from the National Institute of Justice, the Authority, and other agencies. A number of reports, journal articles and other publications have been developed from the research. Staff continues to be solicited for presentations and briefings on the research and project tools, and data continue to be requested for use by other researchers. Most recently, Carolyn Rebecca Block was asked to present relevant findings as part of in-service training efforts in the Chicago Police Department. Current collaborations on reports from CWHRS include:

- *Risk Factors for Latina Women.* Eva Hernandez and Sara Naureckas.

- *PTSD, Abused Women and Pregnancy and Miscarriage*. Gregory Laskin, National Center for PTSD Research.
- *Social Support Network and Abuse*. UIC Ph.D. Dissertation, Perla Ilagan.
- *Abused Women and the Criminal Justice System*. Kim Davies and Jacquelyn Campbell.
- *Domestic Violence Help Seeking: Implications for Intervention*. Michelle Fugate, Leslie Landis, Kim Riodan, Sara Naureckas and Barbara Engel.
- *Female Perpetrated Femicide*. Nancy Glass, Jane Koziol McLain and Jacquelyn Campbell.
- *Same Sex Intimate Partner Homicide*.
- *Help Seeking by Abused Women*.

Staff also continues to operate The CWHRS Forum, a listserv focused on research and policy issues related to the risk of intimate partner homicide. It allows members to easily share information and technical assistance.

2. IJJC Study of Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System

This project is funded by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC) utilizing U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds. It is a study of disproportionate minority representation among juveniles in the Cook County Juvenile Justice System. Staff has completed collection and analysis of aggregate data from various juvenile justice system contact points, and has presented a draft of those findings at a meeting of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission. Staff collected case-level data on a sample of juveniles to measure the possible influence of specific factors on decisions made as the juveniles are processed through the system. A final report was completed and submitted to the Commission. We are expecting approval of the report in September 2003. *Research Bulletins* drawing from these findings are also planned.

3. BJS State Police NIBRS Grant Project

A \$1.2 million discretionary grant application developed jointly with the Illinois State Police was awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The project will lead to the development of local records management solutions and a state central repository for National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data. In connection with this State Police grant, R&A staff are to: (1) assist in the evaluation of crime analysis tools which will be developed as part of the project, and (2) develop “case studies” on how local law enforcement agencies make use of the expanded incident-based crime data. Staff continues to attend advisory committee and various subcommittee meetings. The State Police are currently exploring the possibility of adopting the Chicago Police Department’s CLEAR system as part of this project.

4. JRSA Disproportionate Minority Confinement Grant Project

With the assistance of a \$20,000 grant from the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), staff is developing comprehensive statistical profiles for each of Illinois’ 102

counties containing a host of data and information relative to juvenile justice planning, problem identification and problem solving, including a section that focuses on assessing disproportionate minority representation. The 102 county profiles have been completed and are now available via the Authority's website.

5. JRSA Profile of Girls Committed to the IDOC Youth Centers

Pursuant to a \$22,190 grant from the Justice Research and Statistics Association, Authority staff in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) is conducting an in-depth examination of the backgrounds, needs, and services received by female delinquents that have been committed to IDOC. Ultimately, this project seeks to develop research, programming and policy recommendations to aid the State in the implementation of gender-specific programming for female delinquents. The project entails examining already existing information collected by IDOC on each female inmate. These data are being used to develop an in-depth profile of girls residing in IDOC. In addition, more detailed and exploratory data will be collected through focus groups of IDOC staff members regarding the barriers and successes to working with girls, girls' unique needs, and the types of services that may help girls return successfully to their communities. Additionally, a detailed inventory of the programs currently offered through IDOC and the characteristics of the girls receiving these programs, in combination with the needs assessment, will assist in identifying service gaps. The final report of the project is currently under staff review.

6. OJJDP Recidivism of Gang Versus Non-Gang Members Released from Prison in Illinois

Pursuant to a \$49,000 grant from OJJDP through the National Youth Gang Center, R&A staff completed a recidivism study of adult inmates released from the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), focusing on the differences between those identified as members of street gangs and those who are not in a gang. In addition to gang membership as a factor associated to recidivism, staff examined variables related to the inmate's age, race, prior criminal history, education level, marital status, substance abuse history, and the jurisdiction/environment the inmate was released back into. Inclusion of these variables allows staff to statistically isolate the influence gang membership has on the likelihood of an arrest for a new crime following release back into the community. A sample consisting of one month's releasees (November 2000) from the IDOC (approximately 2,500 adults, with an estimated 25 percent identified as gang-members) were identified through examination of an automated data file on releasees provided to the ICJIA by the IDOC. Criminal history records provided by the Illinois State Police (ISP) were used to summarize each individual's prior criminal history, as well as whether or not they were rearrested following release from prison.

The general findings were that gang members were slightly (20 percent) more likely to get rearrested following their release from prison after statistically controlling for other factors. Further, many of the risk factors found to have even greater influence over recidivism, such as education level, age, prior criminal history, and behavior while incarcerated, where traits

gang members were more likely to have. Thus, in addition to gang membership increasing the risk of recidivism, gang members also had other characteristics that contributed to their higher rearrest rate, such as being relatively young, lower levels of educational achievement, more extensive and serious criminal histories, and engaging in behaviors that resulted in their losing good conduct credit while incarcerated. Even larger differences in recidivism rates, and the nature of crimes resulting in the rearrest (e.g., drug and violent), between gang and non-gang members were found among specific age-groups. A research bulletin describing the results will be published in September, with additional analyses to be performed in the future.

7. JRSA Detention Screening and Detainment Practices in Illinois Study

Staff developed a grant application for consideration by the Justice Research and Statistics Association for a study of the validity, reliability and equity of scoreable screening instruments being used in Illinois in connection with juvenile detention decisions. The project involves a collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, local probation departments, and others. The \$21,379 grant was awarded in April and the project began May 1, 2003. Institutional Review Board approval of the research protocol was received in July.

III. GRANT PROPOSALS

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

1. *Recently rejected* - Staff partnered with INFONET staff and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault on a proposal for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice to document the profile of Illinois sexual assault victims and their offenders, and to assess the outcome of sexual assault cases in Illinois. The proposal was submitted in March 2003.
2. *Recently rejected* - Staff partnered with the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Center for Children and its Harris School for Policy Studies, the Cook County Sheriff's Office, and the Cook County Department of Corrections on a proposal for the National Institute of Justice to study the sexual assault victimization experience of women in the Cook County jail and its connection with later life experience. The proposal was submitted in February 2003.
3. *Awarded* - Staff partnered with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work in a grant proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Substance Abuse Policy Research Program for a study of co-morbidity rates (co-occurring substance abuse and mental issues) in criminal offenders. The proposal was submitted in April 2003.

4. *Recently rejected* – Staff partnered with Loyola University Chicago’s Department of Criminal Justice in a proposal to the National Institute of Justice for a six-year follow-up evaluation of specialized sex offender probation programs in four Illinois counties. The proposal was submitted in March 2003.
5. *Recently rejected* – Staff partnered with the Justice Research and Statistics Association, the Maryland Justice Analysis Center, and the Michigan Justice Statistics Center in a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for a multi-state pilot research assistance project for local police departments. The proposal was submitted in June 2003.
6. *Recently rejected* – Staff submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for the development of a guide to managing evaluations for local law enforcement entities. The guide is to assist law enforcement agencies in providing funding for, conducting and utilizing program evaluation research. The grant application was submitted in July 2003.
7. *Under development* - Staff will partner with INFONET staff and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault on a proposal for the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics to document the profile of Illinois sexual assault victims and their offenders, and to assess the outcome of sexual assault cases in Illinois. We hope to submit the proposal in December 2003.
8. *Under development* – Staff is consulting with JRSA on the submission of study proposals to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) that may involve several other states in an examination of the impact of methamphetamine abuse on local criminal justice systems.

IV. ONGOING STAFF DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

- Staff continues to conduct and/or take part in a variety of staff development and training programs and projects. These include: (a) observations/site visits to several key criminal justice agencies; (b) peer review process for project development and pre-publication; (c) partnerships with the academic community; (d) development of specific training classes including ArcView mapping, multivariate statistical analysis, basic SPSS use, data availability in criminal justice, among other topics; and (e) human subject research issues/concerns and practices.
- Several R&A staff persons are actively pursuing advanced academic degrees in graduate programs and post-graduate programs. Some staff also serve as adjunct faculty in criminal justice and other social science programs.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information on any of these activities.

GFR:r

Cc: Lori G. Levin
Robert P. Boehmer
R&A Supervisory Staff

TABLE 1. Information Request Handling Statistics

ITEM	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/2003	SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2003	THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2004	FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2004	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
Information requests handled:	320				320
Monthly average number of requests:	107				107
Pct of requests completed within two days:	85%				85%
Geographic Origin of requesters:					
Chicago metropolitan area	26%				26%
Other region of Illinois	48%				48%
U.S. other than Illinois	18%				18%
Outside the U.S.	2%				2%
Unknown	8%				8%
Type of requester:					
Government agency	43%				43%
Private citizen	24%				24%
Private agency	18%				18%
Researcher	7%				7%
Student	5%				5%
Media	2%				2%
Legislators	<1%				<1%
Inmates	1%				1%
Unknown	-				-
Method of request:					
Telephone/fax	45%				45%
Mail	3%				3%
Email/Internet	26%				26%
In-person	1%				1%
ICJIA Web site	24%				24%
Publications disseminated:					
Mailed in response to requests	44,287				44,287
Downloaded from Web Site	35,718				35,718
Total	80,005				80,005

TABLE 2. Web Site Traffic Report

	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/03	SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2003	THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2004	FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2004	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
Hits for Home Page	1,111,871				1,111,871
Number of User Sessions	92,412				92,412
Average Hits Per Day	12,087				12,087
Average User Sessions Per Day	1,005				1005
Average Use Session Length (minutes)	14				14
Unique Visitors	46,598				46,598
Visitors Who Visited Once	39,138				39,138
Visitors Who Visited More Than Once	7,460				7,460
Persons Registered for CJ Dispatch (Email notification of updates)	1,343				1,343

TABLE 3. FSGU Support Requested: Statistics

Activities Requested by Federal and State Grants Unit	PROGRAM	FIRST QUARTER 7/1-9/30/03			SECOND QUARTER 10/1-12/31/2003			THIRD QUARTER 1/1-3/31/2004			FOURTH QUARTER 4/1-6/30/2004			FISCAL YEAR TO DATE		
		REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING	REQUESTED	COMPLETED	PENDING
PROGRAM NARRATIVE REVIEW	ADAA	19	19	0									19	19	0	
	JAIBG	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	MVTPC	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	Other												0	0	0	
	Total	19	19	0										19	19	0
DATA REPORT DEVELOPMENT	ADAA	5	5	0									5	5	0	
	JAIBG	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	MVTPC	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	Other	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	Total	5	5	0										5	5	0
DATA REPORT ENTRY (Number of projects for which monthly/quarterly data reports were computerized)	ADAA	78	78	0									78	78	0	
	JAIBG	14	14	0									14	14	0	
	VOCA/VAWA	Not applicable											0	0	0	
	MVTPC	7	7	0									7	7	0	
	Other	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	Total	99	99	0										99	99	0
PROJECT STATUS REPORT (Number of assessments completed)	ADAA	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	JAIBG	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	VOCA/VAWA	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	MVTPC	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	Other	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	Total	0	0	0										0	0	0
PROGRAM PROFILE (Number of profiles)	ADAA	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	JAIBG	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	VOCA/VAWA	9	9	0									9	9	0	
	MVTPC	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	Other	-	-	-									0	0	0	
	Total	9	9	0										9	9	0