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*Central Illinois Enforcement Group*  
*DuPage County Metropolitan Enforcement Group*  
*East Central Illinois Task Force*  
*Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad*  
*Kankakee Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group*  
*Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group*  
*Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois*  
*Multi-County Narcotics Enforcement Group*  
*North Central Narcotics Task Force*  
*Quad-City Metropolitan Enforcement Group*  
*South Central Illinois Drug Task Force*  
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*Southern Illinois Drug Task Force*  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1989, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has received funds under the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to document the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the criminal justice system's response to these offenses. As a result of these efforts, the Authority has amassed a large amount of data measuring the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the impact these crimes have had on the criminal justice system. In addition, as part of its monitoring and evaluation efforts, the Authority also requires funded programs to submit monthly data reports describing their activities and accomplishments. This profile is intended to provide a general overview of the drug and violent crime problem in the jurisdictions covered by Illinois' Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and task forces, and the response to these problems by the units.

Although the data presented in this report are by no means inclusive of all indicators, they do provide a general overview of drug and violent crime and the response and impact of the criminal justice system. The following represent general conclusions that can be made based on the data analyzed for this report.

- ?? In 1999, 211 local Illinois police agencies participated in a MEG or task force (a participating agency is defined as one that contributes either personnel or financial resources to a MEG or task force). Officers assigned to MEGs and task forces (totaling 321 in 1999, 200 from Illinois local participating agencies, 97 from the Illinois State Police and 24 from other participating law enforcement agencies) accounted for less than 2 percent of the total number of sworn police officers working for agencies participating in a MEG or task force (page 1).
- ?? The violent Index offense rate was collectively higher across jurisdictions that participated in a MEG or task force than among the combined jurisdictions that did not participate in a MEG or task force (page 3).
- ?? An agency's participation in a MEG or task force was also associated with greater overall drug arrest activity (in addition to the MEG and task force arrests). In those regions covered by MEGs and task forces, the drug arrest rate was collectively higher in the participating than in the non-participating jurisdictions (page 9).
- ?? The MEGs and task forces provided significant results in terms of drug enforcement, as reflected in their arrest productivity. Although the total number of drug arrests achieved by MEGs and task forces was approximately one-quarter the total of all individual law enforcement agencies in the coverage region, these were accomplished by a much smaller work force. The 321 MEG and task force officers represent less than 2 percent of all sworn law enforcement officers in the regions covered by a MEG or task force. Therefore, while non-MEG and task force personnel made 12 drug arrests per officer, those in the MEGs and task forces made nearly 60 drug arrests per officer.
- ?? When comparing the types of drug offenders arrested by those agencies participating in a MEG or task force with those agencies not participating and all MEGs and task forces, it was found that MEGs and task forces tended to target and arrest more serious drug law violators in 1999, specifically violators of the Controlled Substances Act, which tend to be felony-level offenses (page 14).
- ?? Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of total drug arrests accounted for by controlled substance arrests made by mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces remained relatively stable, while the proportion increased for mostly rural MEGs and task forces (page 15).
- ?? It is estimated that mostly rural MEGs and task forces account for a significantly larger proportion of total drug arrests (page 17), cannabis arrests (page 21) and controlled substances arrests (page 25) reported in the regions covered by rural MEGs and task forces, compared to the proportion accounted for by mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces. Thus, rural MEGs and task forces

play a more extensive role in drug enforcement in their coverage areas than those units in more urban areas.

- ?? The majority (72 percent) of all drug arrests reported by MEGs and task forces between 1993 and 1999, for either violations of the Cannabis Control Act or the Controlled Substances Act, involved drug sale or delivery, while such drug arrests generally account for a relatively small proportion of total drug arrests by local agencies (page 26).
- ?? Between 1993 and 1999, the amount of cannabis seized by all MEGs and task forces decreased, while the quantity of cocaine remained relatively stable. Cannabis and cocaine seizures increased for mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, decreasing across mostly rural MEGs and task forces (pages 29 through 34).
- ?? Between 1996 and 1999, the quantity of methamphetamine seized by all MEGs and task forces increased 43 grams to more than 17,237 grams. However, mostly rural MEGs and task forces experienced the largest increase in methamphetamine seizures during the period, jumping from 40 grams to 11,439 grams (page 35).
- ?? Between 1991 and 1999, the majority of all drug arrests by MEGs and task forces resulted in prosecution. Of these MEG and task force drug offender prosecutions, 62 percent were for violations of the Controlled Substances Act. In addition, between 1989 and 1999, more than three-quarters of all drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of MEG and task force activity were convicted (page 39).
- ?? In 1999, among those MEG and task force drug offenders convicted and sentenced, probation sentences accounted for the largest proportion (42 percent), followed by prison sentences (38 percent) and jail sentences (20 percent) (page 44). However, prison sentences accounted for the largest proportion (47 percent) of drug offender sentences from mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces (page 46).
- ?? Between 1989 and 1999, prison sentences resulting from all MEG and task force cases accounted for 37 percent of all drug-law violators sent to prison from regions where MEGs and task forces operate (page 47). The proportion of prison sentences resulting from MEG and task force cases varied across unit types, mostly urban (27 percent), mixed urban/rural (36 percent) and mostly rural (65 percent) (pages 48 and 49).
- ?? Unlike the arrests made by the participating and non-participating agencies, the arrests made by MEGs and task forces tended to involve the substances considered to be most serious (i.e., felony versus misdemeanor) and the substances for which a large proportion of community residents were seeking and receiving substance abuse treatment in 1999 (page 57).

## I. Introduction

In 1999, 21 MEGs and task forces were operating throughout Illinois. These units covered 69 of Illinois' 102 counties, serving a combined 1999 total population of 4,284,055 – 10 percent more than in 1990. In 1999, 211 local Illinois police agencies participated in a MEG or task force. These agencies served nearly 64 percent of the population in the 69 counties covered by a MEG or task force in 1999, or in other words, 35 percent of the total population of Illinois (see Map 1 on page 68). A participating agency is defined as one that contributes either personnel or financial resources to a MEG or task force.

In addition to agencies that participate in a MEG or task force, these Illinois counties are served by 436 police departments that do not participate in a MEG or task force. According to the Illinois State Police, county sheriffs and local police departments, in the regions covered by a MEG or task force, combined, employed 11,273 full-time police officers as of October 31, 1999. In comparison, there were 321 officers assigned to a MEG or task force in 1999, 200 of which were assigned by local participating agencies and 97 from the Illinois State Police (ISP). The remaining 24 officers assigned to a MEG or task force were assigned by other Illinois county and state agencies, federal agencies and officers from ten local police agencies from Iowa and Wisconsin. Thus, the number of Illinois officers assigned to a MEG or task force during 1999 accounted for a relatively small proportion -- less than 2 percent -- of the total number of sworn police officers working in the participating police departments, and the region as a whole.

In addition to administering federal block-grant funds that come to Illinois for crime control initiatives, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is also responsible for providing policymakers, criminal justice professionals and others with information, tools and technology needed to make effective decisions that improve the quality of criminal justice in Illinois. The Authority provides an objective system-wide forum for identifying critical problems in criminal justice, developing coordinated and cost-effective strategies, and implementing and evaluating solutions to those problems. The specific powers and duties of the Authority are delineated in the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Ch. 20, Sec. 3930). Two of the Authority's many responsibilities are serving as a clearinghouse of information and research on criminal justice and undertaking research studies to improve the administration of criminal justice.

Since 1989, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has received funds under the federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to document the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the criminal justice system's response to these offenses. As a result of these efforts, the Authority has amassed a large amount of data measuring the extent and nature of drug and violent crime in Illinois and the impact these crimes have had on the criminal justice system. In addition, as part of its monitoring and evaluation efforts, the Authority also requires funded programs to submit monthly data reports describing their activities and accomplishments. To put this information into the hands of Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) and drug task force directors and policy board members, the Authority's Research and Analysis Unit has developed profiles for each MEG and task force. This report is intended to provide a general overview of the drug and violent crime problem in the jurisdictions covered by Illinois' MEGs and task forces, and the response to these problems by the units. MEGs and task forces are classified as being either *mostly urban*, *mixed urban/rural* or *mostly rural*, based upon the classification of the county(s) that each unit covers, and, for purposes of this report, are compared to the average of similar units, as illustrated below.

*Mostly Urban:*

DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group (DUMEG)  
Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad (MANS)  
Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (LCMEG)  
Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois (MEGSI)  
North Central Narcotics Task Force (NCNTF)

*Mixed Urban/Rural:*

Central Illinois Enforcement Group (CIEG)  
Kankakee Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (KAMEG)  
Multi-County Narcotics Enforcement Group (MCNEG)  
Quad-Cities Metropolitan Enforcement Group (QCMEG)  
State Line Area Narcotics Team (SLANT)  
Task Force 6 (TF6)  
Task Force X (TFX)  
Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (VEMEG)

*Mostly Rural:*

Blackhawk Area Task Force (BATF)  
East Central Illinois Task Force (ECITF)  
South Central Illinois Drug Task Force (SCIDTF)  
Southeastern Illinois Drug Task Force (SEIDTF)  
Southern Illinois Drug Task Force (SIDTF)  
Southern Illinois Enforcement Group (SIEG)  
Task Force 17 (TF17)  
West Central Illinois Task Force (WCITF)

While the data presented in this report are by no means inclusive of all indicators, they do provide a general overview of drug and violent crime and the response and impact of the criminal justice system. In addition, these data are readily available and consistently defined through existing statewide data collection mechanisms. Some data presented in this profile have been analyzed differently than in previous years; therefore, caution must be taken when comparing numbers presented with previous profiles.

Although a considerable amount of the information presented in this summary profile has been provided to the Authority by the 21 individual MEGs and task forces, a number of state agencies have also provided data to the Authority that are included in this report. Specifically, the Illinois State Police, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, the Illinois Department of Corrections and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services all provided data used to develop this profile. The support and cooperation of these agencies and their staffs have helped make this report an informative and timely source of information on the activities of the criminal justice system in Illinois.

## II. Trends in Violent Index Offenses and Arrests

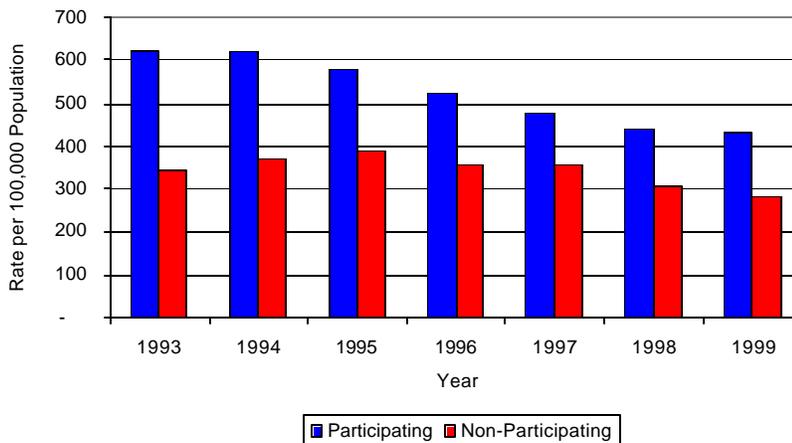
While most of Illinois' Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and task forces are primarily involved in drug enforcement activities, it is clear that the relationship between drugs and violence is particularly evident in a number of Illinois communities. In addition, a number of MEGs and task forces have increased their involvement in the investigation of violent crime, particularly that associated with gang activity and violence related to drug distribution, sale and turf battles. One of the most commonly used indicators of the level of crime in a particular jurisdiction is the number of Index offenses reported to the police. In Illinois, as part of the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program, every law enforcement agency in the state is required to report crime data monthly to the Illinois State Police (ISP). There are eight separate offenses that constitute the Crime Index, including murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault (violent Index offenses), burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson (property Index offenses). Although these eight offenses do not account for all crimes reported to the police, they are considered to be the most serious, frequent, pervasive and consistently defined by different law enforcement agencies.

In 1999, the total number of violent Index offenses reported to the police in the regions where MEGs and task forces operate totaled 25,519, a 23 percent decrease from the 33,004 offenses reported in 1993. Similar to most other regions across Illinois, aggravated assaults accounted for the majority of violent Index offenses reported to the police between 1993 and 1999. During the period examined, aggravated assaults accounted for 73 percent of reported violent Index offenses, while 15 percent were robberies.

During the period analyzed, the violent Index offense rate for the regions covered by MEGs and task forces decreased 27 percent, from 520 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 380 offenses per 100,000 population in 1999. Similarly, the violent Index offense rate in the participating agencies decreased 30 percent, from 623 to 434 offenses per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies decreased 17 percent, from 343 to 284 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Thus, the violent Index offense rate was collectively higher across the jurisdictions that participated in MEGs and task forces than it was among the combined jurisdictions that did not participate; however, participating agencies experienced a larger percentage decrease in these crimes.

**Figure 1**

Violent Index Offense Rates for Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force

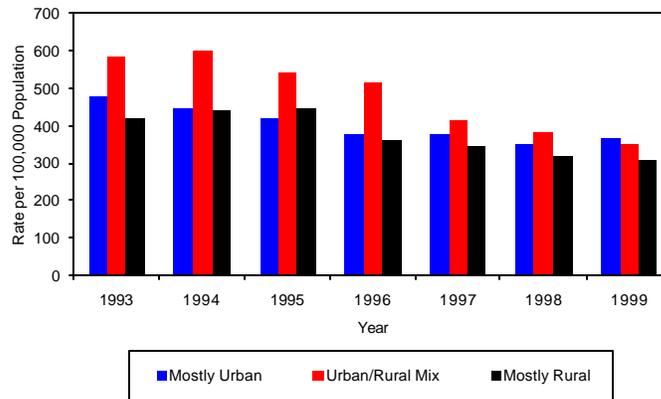


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

When the MEGs and task forces were examined regionally, the results varied somewhat. Between 1993 and 1999, the violent Index offense rate decreased across all regions among those agencies that participated in a MEG or task force (Figure 1.1). Mixed urban/rural regions experienced the largest decrease between 1993 and 1999, falling 41 percent, from 586 offenses per 100,000 population to 349 offenses per 100,000 population. The violent Index offense rate decreased 26 percent in mostly rural regions, from 418 to 311 offenses per 100,000 population and decreased 23 percent in mostly urban regions, from 479 to 368 offenses per 100,000 population.

**Figure 1.1**

Violent Index Offense Rates for Participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type

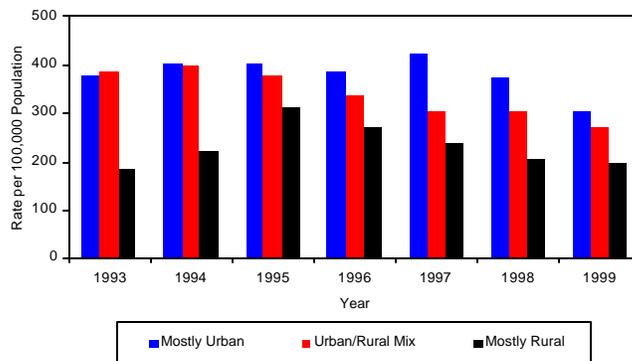


Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Despite decreasing among non-participating agencies in mostly urban and mixed urban/rural regions, the violent Index offense rate in mostly rural regions increased between 1993 and 1999 (Figure 1.2). The violent Index offense rate in mixed urban/rural regions decreased 31 percent, from 389 offenses per 100,000 population to 270 offenses per 10,000 population, while decreasing 20 percent in mostly urban regions, from 378 to 304 offenses per 100,000 population. Conversely, the violent Index offense rate in mostly rural regions increased during the period analyzed from 184 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 197 offenses per 100,000 population in 1999.

**Figure 1.2**

Violent Index Offense Rates for Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type

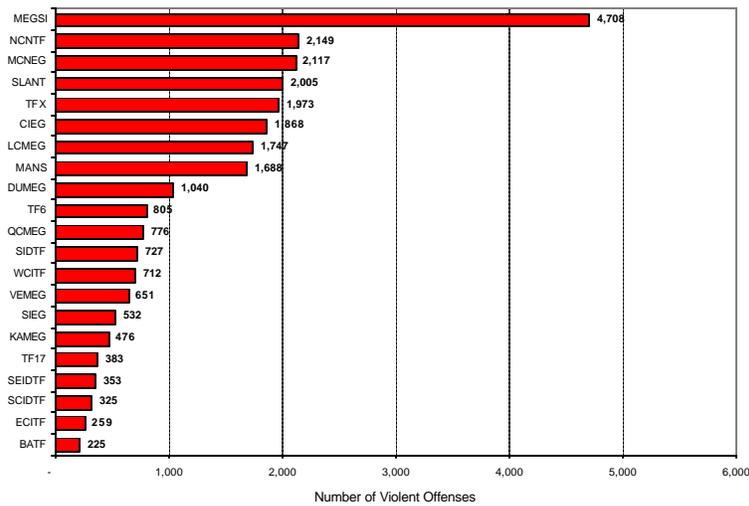


Source: ICJIA calculation using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Across the 21 individual MEGs and task forces, law enforcement agencies in eight units, the Metropolitan Enforcement of Southwestern Illinois (MEGSI), the North Central Narcotics Task Force (NCNTF), the Multi-County Narcotics Enforcement Group (MCNEG), the State Line Area Narcotics Team (SLANT), Task Force X (TF X), the Central Illinois Enforcement Group (CIEG), the Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (LCMEG) and the Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad (MANS) accounted for nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of all violent offenses reported to the police in 1999 (Figure 2). When controlling for differences in the populations served by all MEGs and task forces, the violent Index offense *rate* ranged from 91 offenses per 100,000 population in the region covered by the South Central Illinois Drug Task Force (SCIDTF) to 861 offenses per 100,000 population in the region covered by MEGSI.

**Figure 2**

1999 Violent Index Offenses Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force

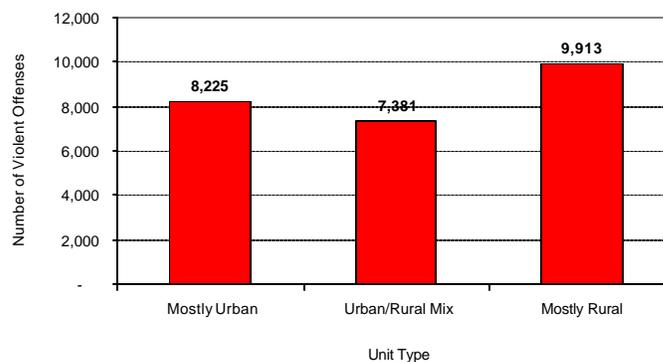


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police data

Among those regions covered by a MEG or task force in 1999, mostly rural regions accounted for the largest proportion (39 percent) of violent Index offenses reported to police, followed by mostly urban (32 percent) and mixed urban/rural regions (29 percent) (Figure 2.1).

**Figure 2.1**

1999 Violent Index Offenses Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police data

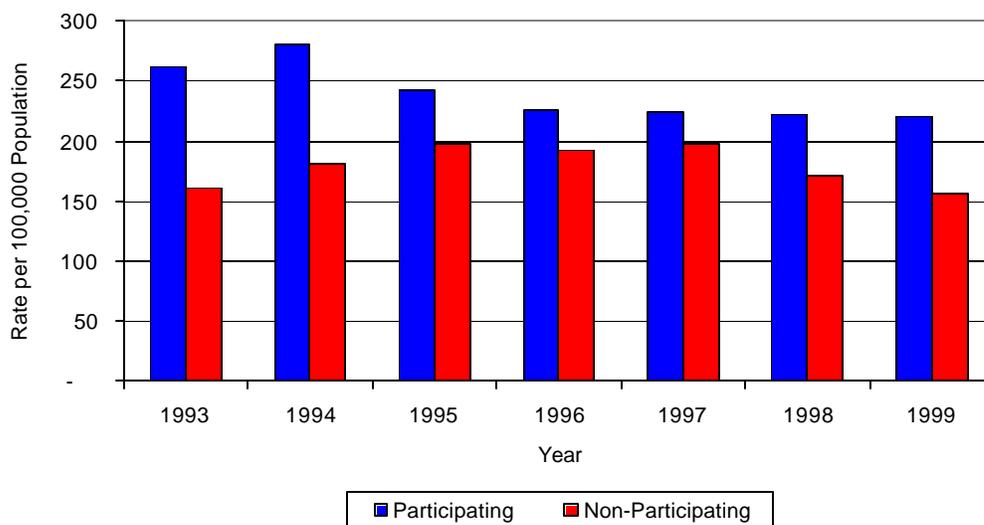
An indicator of the workload that law enforcement agencies place on other components of the justice system is the number of arrests made by police, including those for violent and property Index offenses and drug offenses. Unlike offenses, which are what police must respond to, arrests represent those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

Between 1993 and 1999, the number of arrests for violent Index offenses made by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by a MEG or task force decreased 7 percent, from 14,260 to 13,250. As with reported violent Index offenses, the majority (85 percent) of violent Index arrests were for aggravated assaults, followed by robberies (8 percent).

During the period analyzed, the violent Index arrest rate for the regions covered by MEGs and task forces decreased 12 percent, from 225 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 197 arrests per 100,000 population in 1999. Similarly, the violent Index arrest rate in the participating agencies decreased 16 percent, from 261 to 221 arrests per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies decreased 4 percent, from 162 to 156 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

**Figure 3**

**Violent Index Arrest Rates for Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force**

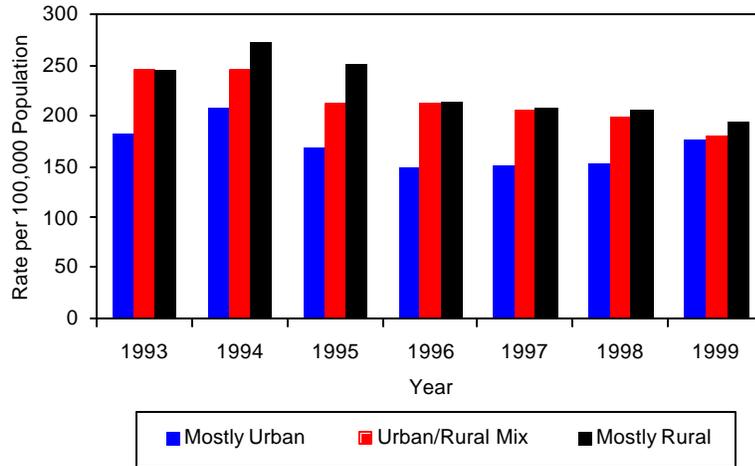


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U. S. Census Bureau data

Similar to violent Index offenses, when the MEGs and task forces were examined separately, the results varied. Between 1993 and 1999, the violent Index arrest rate decreased across all regions among those agencies that participated in a MEG or task force (Figure 3.1). Mixed urban/rural regions experienced the largest decrease, decreasing 27 percent, from 246 arrests per 100,000 population to 181 arrests per 100,000 population. The violent Index arrest rate decreased 21 percent in mostly rural regions, from 246 to 194 arrests per 100,000 population and decreased just 3 percent in mostly urban regions, from 182 to 177 arrests per 100,000 population.

**Figure 3.1**

**Violent Index Arrest Rates for Participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type**

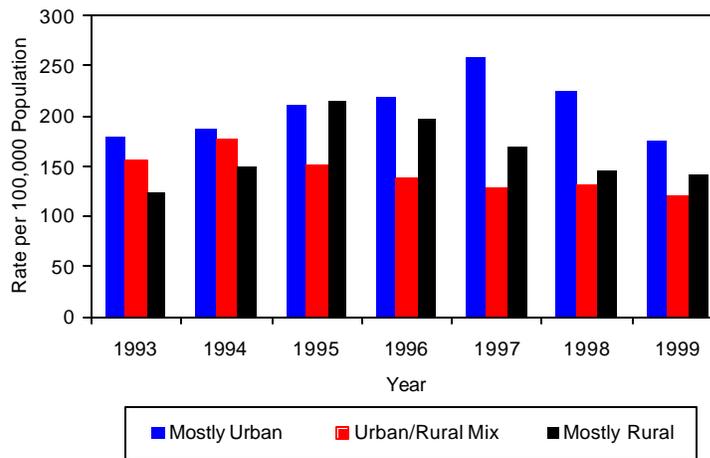


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U. S. Census Bureau data

Despite decreasing among non-participating agencies in mostly urban and mixed urban/rural regions, the violent Index arrest rate in mostly rural regions increased between 1993 and 1999 (Figure 3.2). The violent Index arrest rate in mixed urban/rural regions decreased 23 percent, from 156 arrests per 100,000 population to 119 arrests per 10,000 population, while decreasing just 2 percent in mostly urban regions, from 179 to 175 arrests per 100,000 population. Conversely, the violent Index arrest rate in mostly rural regions increased during the period analyzed from 124 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 140 arrests per 100,000 population in 1999.

**Figure 3.2**

**Violent Index Arrest Rates for Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type**

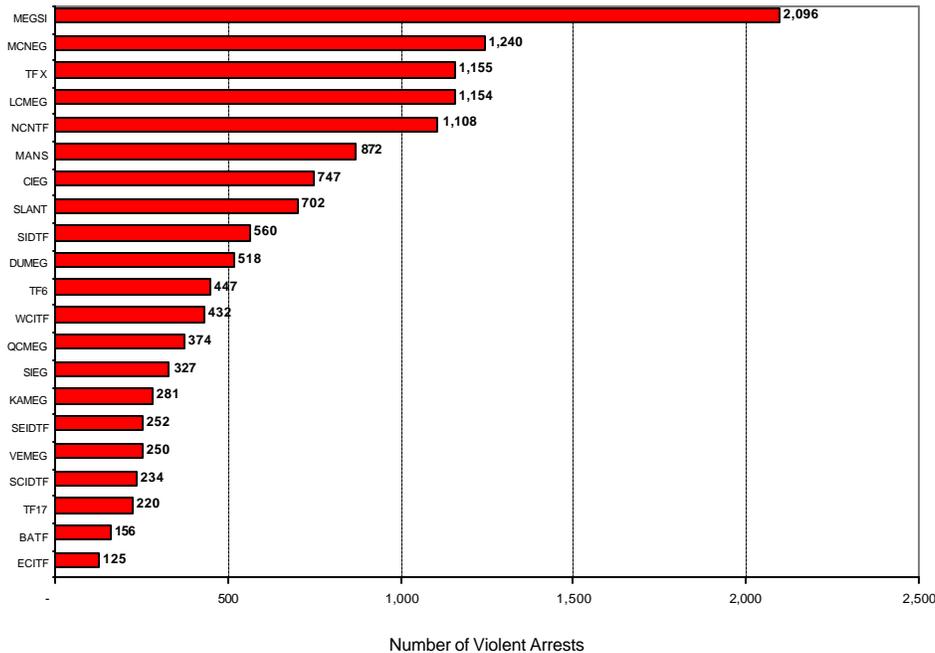


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U. S. Census Bureau data

Similar to the number of violent Index offenses, five units made more than one-half (51 percent) of arrests for violent Index offenses occurring in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces. Of the 13,250 violent Index arrests made in 1999, MEGSI accounted for the majority (16 percent), followed by MCNEG, Task Force X and LCMEG (9 percent each) and NCNTF (8 percent) (Figure 4).

**Figure 4**

1999 Violent Index Arrests Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force

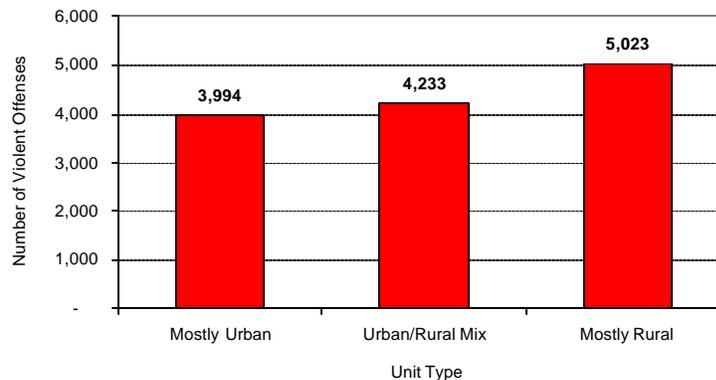


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police data

Similar to violent Index offenses, among those regions covered by a MEG or task force in 1999, mostly rural regions accounted for the largest proportion (38 percent) of violent Index arrests reported to police, followed by mostly urban (32 percent) and mixed urban/rural regions (30 percent) (Figure 4.1).

**Figure 4.1**

1999 Violent Index Arrests Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police data

### III. Trends in Drug Arrests

There are two sources of drug arrest data presented in this section. One source is the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting (I-UCR) program that includes information submitted by local law enforcement agencies on the number of persons arrested for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act, Controlled Substances Act, Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act and Drug Paraphernalia Control Act. In addition, data on drug arrests made by Illinois' MEGs and task forces are reported to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. In some jurisdictions, arrests made by the MEG or task force may be reported by both local law enforcement agencies through the I-UCR and to the Authority by the unit. In other jurisdictions, arrests made by the MEG or task force are only reported to the Authority by the unit. Therefore, in some instances drug arrests may be double counted – included in both local agency statistics reported to I-UCR and those of the MEG or task force. Currently there is no mechanism in place to ensure that drug arrest statistics are not being duplicated at both the local agency and MEG/task force level. This should be kept in mind when interpreting the information presented in the following section.

The majority of drug offenses in Illinois are violations of either the *Cannabis Control Act* – which prohibits the possession, sale and cultivation of marijuana – or the *Controlled Substances Act* – which prohibits the possession, sale, distribution or manufacture of all other illegal drugs, such as cocaine and opiates. Illinois also has various other laws prohibiting other drug-related activity. These include the *Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act* – which prohibits the possession or sale of hypodermic instruments – and the *Drug Paraphernalia Control Act* – which prohibits the possession, sale or delivery of drug paraphernalia. In general, violations of Illinois Controlled Substances Act are considered to be more serious, since they primarily involve cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and hallucinogens, and are almost all classified under Illinois law as felonies. The majority of cannabis and drug paraphernalia offenses encountered by police, on the other hand, tend to be misdemeanor-level offenses.

In 1999, the regions covered by MEGs and task forces reported 24,095 arrests for drug law violations, nearly double the number in 1993 (12,201 arrests). Between 1993 and 1999, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act consistently out-numbered arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act. During the same period, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act more than doubled, from 7,291 to 16,126. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 62 percent, from 4,910 to 7,969. In addition, arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, enacted in 1993, increased dramatically from 496 in 1993 to 10,291 in 1999. Much of this increase can be attributed to a 1994 addition to the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, which included the possession of drug paraphernalia as a violation.

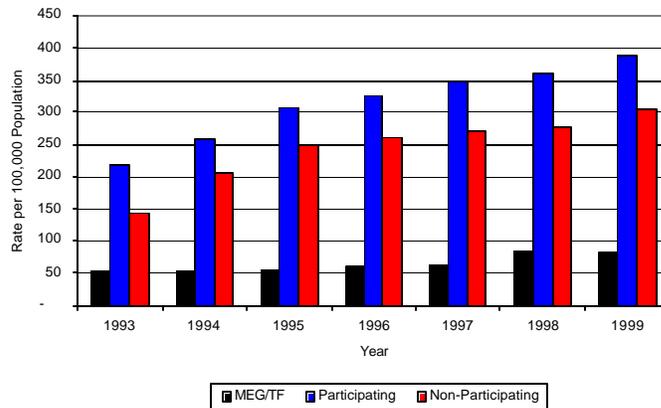
Because arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act are frequently made in conjunction with other drug offense arrests, these arrests may be double-counted, thus skewing the actual number of drug arrests. Therefore, only arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act and Controlled Substances Act will be used for drug arrest comparisons among the MEGs and task forces.

During the period analyzed, the drug arrest rate for the Cannabis Control and Controlled Substances Acts combined, in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces more than doubled, from 192 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 358 arrests per 100,000 population in 1999. Similarly, the drug arrest rate in the participating and non-participating agencies also increased, from 220 to 388 arrests per 100,000 population and 144 to 306 arrests per 100,000 population, respectively. The drug arrest rate for all MEGs and task forces, on the other hand, increased 54 percent, from 54 to 84 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 5). Thus, an agency's participation in a MEG or task force was also associated with greater overall drug arrest activity (in addition to the MEG and task force arrests). In those regions covered by MEGs and task forces, the drug arrest rate was collectively higher in the participating than in the non-participating jurisdictions.

The MEGs and task forces provided significant results in terms of drug enforcement, as reflected in their arrest productivity. Although the total number of drug arrests achieved by MEGs and task forces was approximately one-quarter the total of all individual law enforcement agencies in the coverage region, these were accomplished by a much smaller work force. The 321 MEG and task force officers represent less than 2 percent of all sworn law enforcement officers in the regions covered by a MEG or task force. Therefore, while non-MEG and task force personnel made 12 drug arrests per officer, those in the MEGs and task forces made nearly 60 drug arrests per officer.

**Figure 5**

Total Drug Arrest Rates for All MEGs and Task Forces and Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force

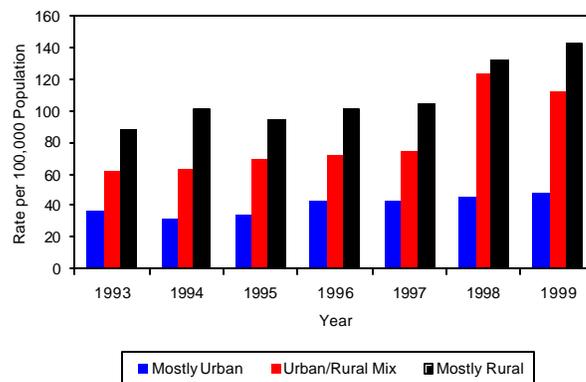


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U. S. Census Bureau data

Between 1993 and 1999, the drug arrest rate increased for all MEGs and task forces combined, as well as participating and non-participating agencies in those regions covered by a MEG or task force. When geographic regions covered by MEGs and task forces were examined separately, it was noted that the mixed urban/rural regions experienced the largest increase, increasing 80 percent, from 62 arrests per 100,000 population to 112 arrests per 100,000 population. The drug arrest rate increased 62 percent in mostly rural regions, from 88 to 143 arrests per 100,000 population and increased 30 percent in mostly urban regions, from 37 to 48 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 5.1).

**Figure 5.1**

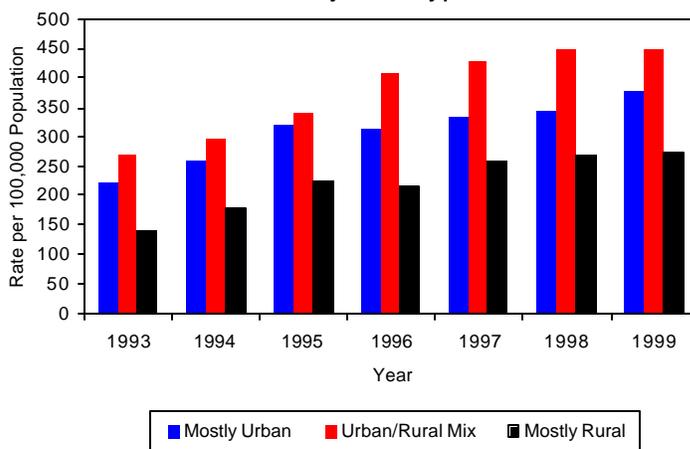
Drug Arrest Rates for MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type



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

While the drug arrest rate for agencies participating in a MEG or task force also increased between 1993 and 1999, the drug arrest rate trends varied across geographic regions. Unlike the drug arrest rate for MEGs and task forces, agencies that participated in a MEG or task force in mostly rural regions experienced the largest increase, nearly doubling from 141 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 274 arrests per 100,000 population in 1999. The drug arrest rate increased 72 percent in the mostly urban regions, from 221 to 379 arrests per 100,000 population and increased 65 percent in mixed urban/rural regions, from 272 to 448 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 5.2).

**Figure 5.2**  
**Drug Arrest Rates for Participating Agencies in**  
**Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force,**  
**by Unit Type**

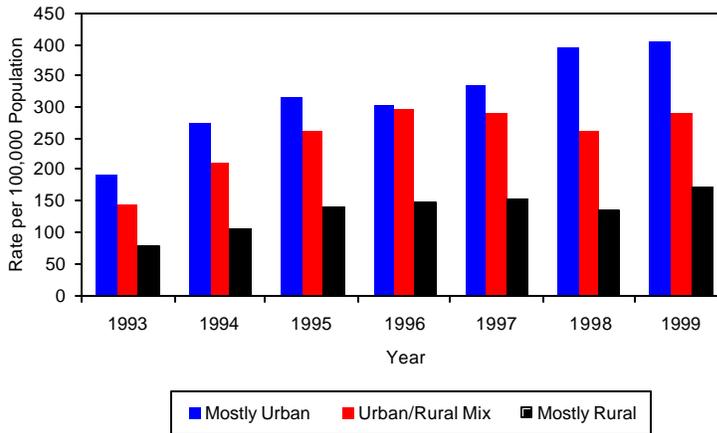


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U. S. Census Bureau data

Similar to participating agencies, the drug arrest rate for non-participating agencies also increased between 1993 and 1999. Moreover, non-participating agencies experienced the largest increase in drug arrest rates, more than doubling across all geographic regions between 1993 and 1999. Agencies that did not participated in a MEG or task force in mostly rural regions covered by a MEG or task force experienced the largest increase, increasing from 80 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 173 arrests per 100,000 population in 1999. Similarly, the drug arrest rate increased in the mostly urban and mixed urban/rural regions during the period analyzed, from 191 to 404 arrests per 100,00 population and from 144 to 289 arrests per 100,000 population, respectively (Figure 5.3).

**Figure 5.3**

**Drug Arrest Rates for Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type**

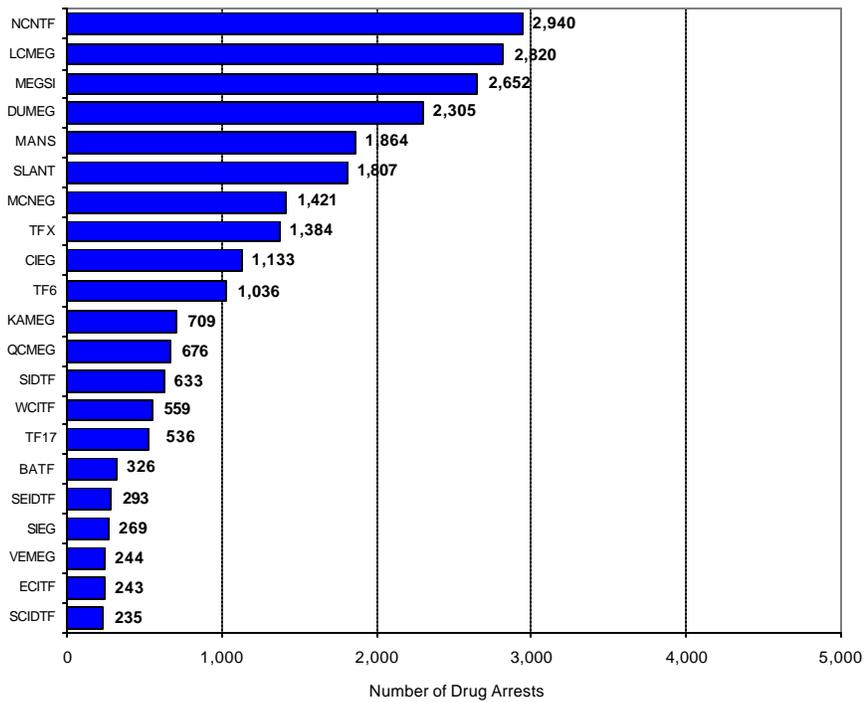


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U. S. Census Bureau data

Across the local law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by the MEGs and task forces, the number of total cannabis and controlled substance arrests ranged from 235 to 2,940. Of the 24,085 drug arrests made during 1999, six agencies accounted for 60 percent of those drug arrests. NCNTF and LCMEG each accounted for 12 percent of the total cannabis and controlled substance arrests, followed by MEGSI (11 percent), DUMEG (10 percent) and MANS and SLANT (8 percent each) (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**

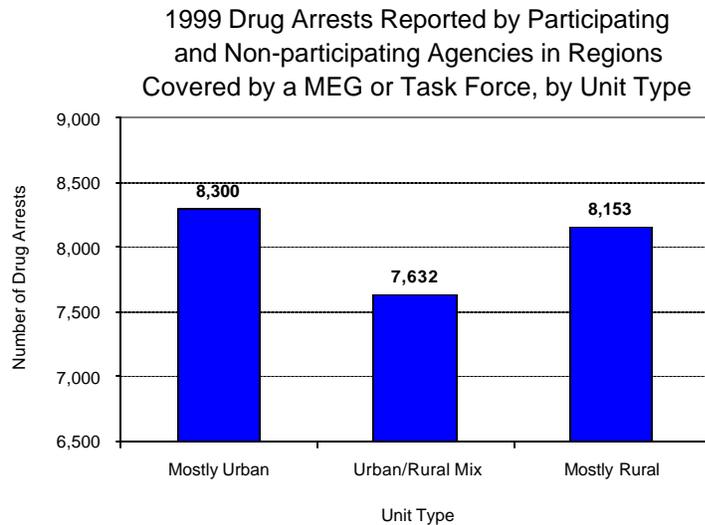
**1999 Drug Arrests Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force**



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police data

Among those regions covered by a MEG or task force in 1999, mostly rural and mostly urban regions accounted for the largest proportion (34 percent each) of drug arrests reported to police, followed by mixed urban/rural regions (32 percent) (Figure 6.1).

**Figure 6.1**

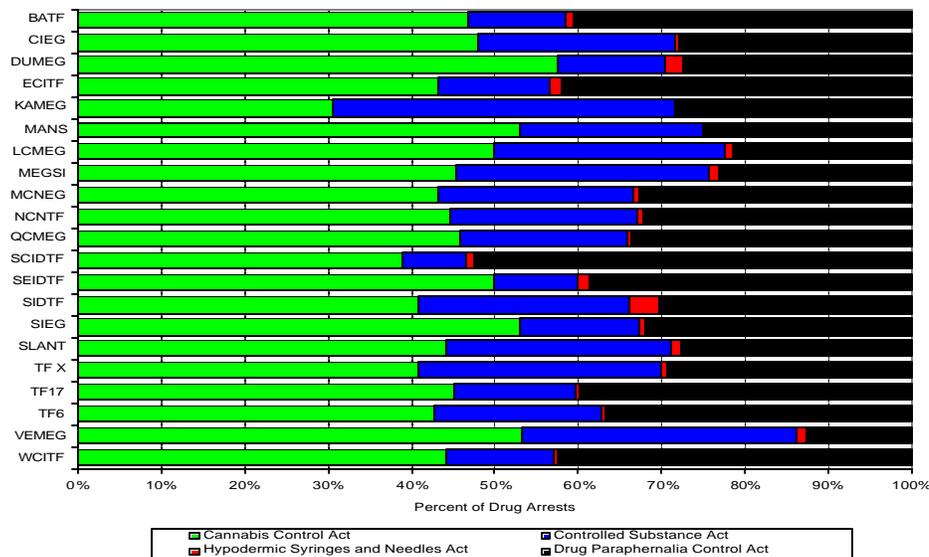


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police data

In addition to the dramatic difference in the number of drug arrests made, there are also differences in the types of arrests for drug law violations across the agencies in the region. In 1999, violations of the Cannabis Control Act accounted for the largest proportion of arrests across most individual agencies in the region covered by all MEGs and task forces (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**

Total 1999 Drug Arrests Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Drug Type

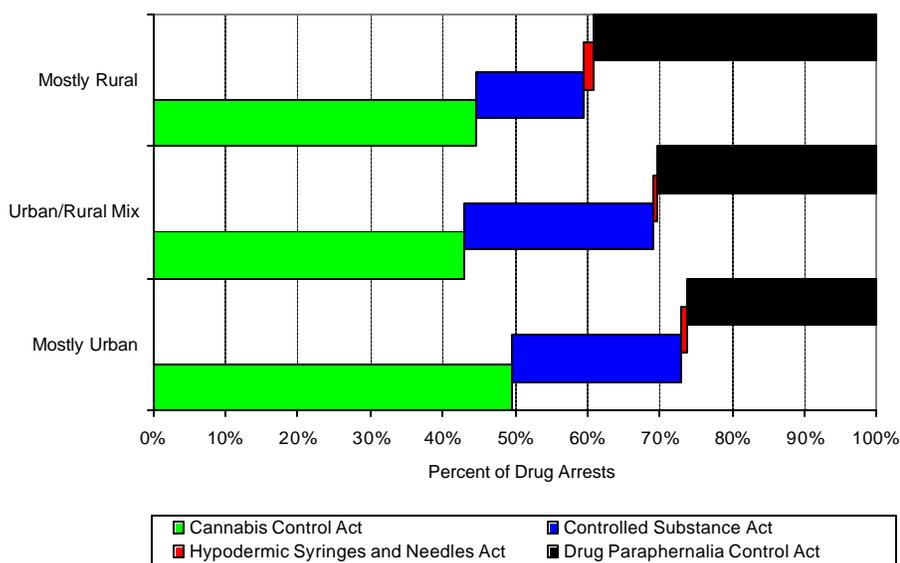


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police data

Across the regions covered by a MEG or task force in 1999, arrests for violation of the Cannabis Control Act accounted for the largest proportion of drug arrests. Cannabis arrests accounted for one-half of all drug arrests in the mostly urban regions, while arrests for violation of the Cannabis Control Act accounted for 45 percent and 43 percent of all drug arrests in the mostly rural and the mixed urban/rural regions, respectively. Violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act accounted for the second largest proportion of drug arrests across all regions – mostly rural (39 percent), mostly urban (26 percent) and mixed urban/rural (30 percent) (Figure 7.1).

**Figure 7.1**

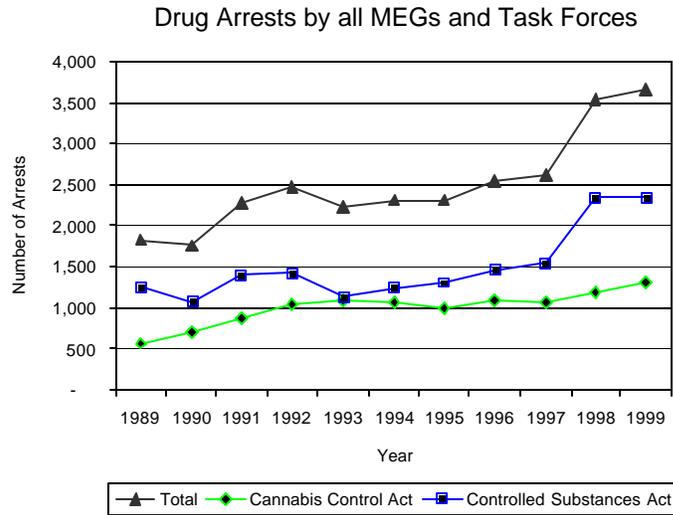
**Total 1999 Drug Arrests Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Drug Type and Unit Type**



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police data

Between 1989 and 1999, the number of combined cannabis and controlled substances arrests made by MEGs and task forces more than doubled, from 1,826 to 3,650. Unlike drug arrests made by most local police departments in the region, violations of the Controlled Substances Act accounted for the majority of drug arrests made by the MEGs and task forces throughout the period analyzed. During the period analyzed, the number of MEG and task force arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act more than doubled, from 574 to 1,302, while arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 88 percent, from 1,252 to 2,348 (Figure 8). Thus, arrests by MEGs and task forces were more likely than arrests by either participating or non-participating agencies to involve violations of Illinois' Controlled Substances Act, as opposed to the Cannabis Control Act. One interpretation of this pattern is that MEGs and task forces are more focused in who they are targeting and arresting than local departments, and are also getting a more serious drug law violator, since violations of the Controlled Substances Act are more likely to involve felony-level offenses.

**Figure 8**



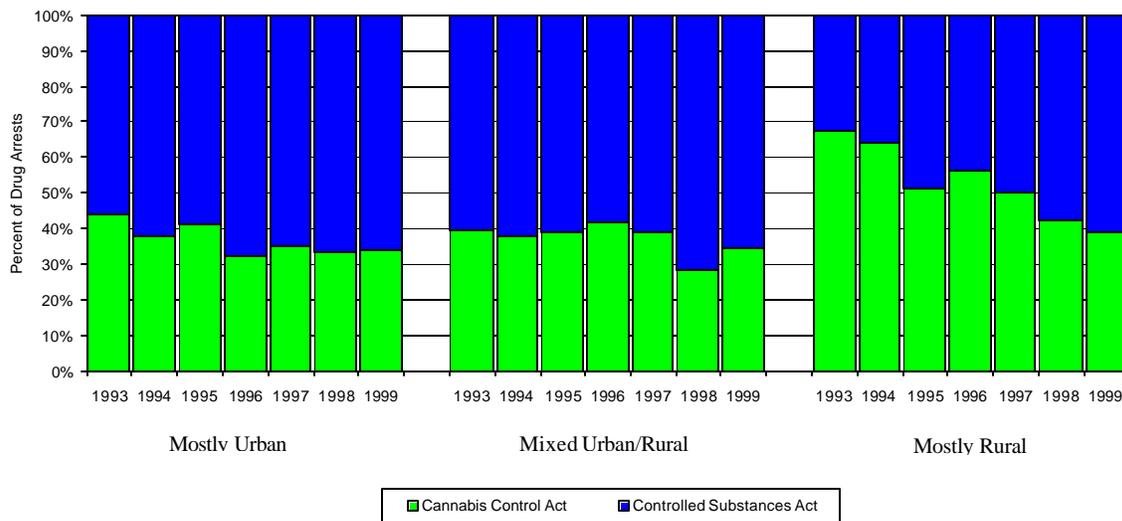
Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act decreased for participating and non-participating agencies, but increased for all MEGs and task forces, combined. In 1999, 64 percent of the drug arrests made by MEGs and task forces were for violations of the Controlled Substances Act, compared to 50 percent in 1993.

When the MEGs and task forces were examined separately, the results varied somewhat. The proportion of drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act decreased across all regions covered by MEGs and task forces. Regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces experienced the largest increase, increasing from 33 percent in 1993 to 61 percent in 1999. During the same period, the proportion of drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act in regions covered by mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased from 56 percent and 61 percent in 1993 to 66 percent and 65 percent, respectively (Figure 8.1).

**Figure 8.1**

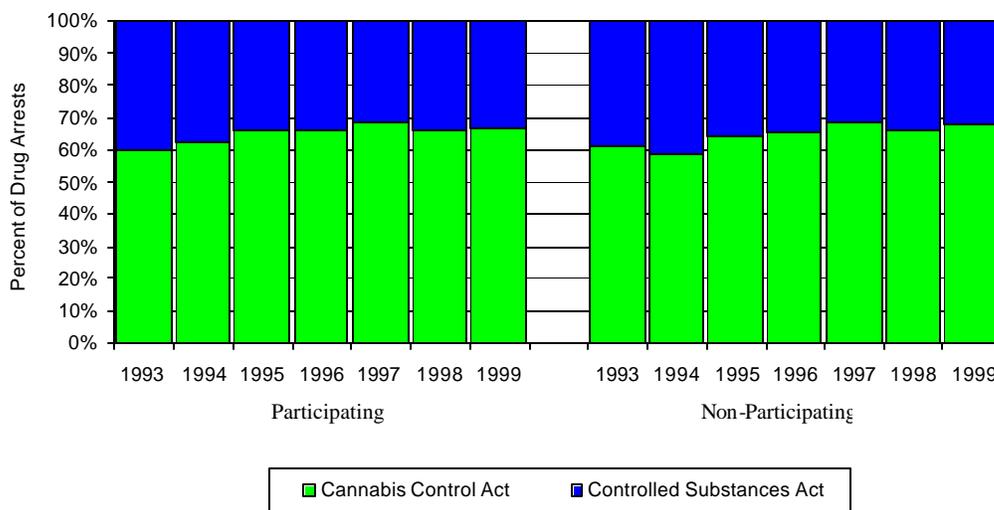
Percent of MEG and Task Force Drug Arrests, by Drug and Unit Type



Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1993 and 1999, arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act accounted for a decreased proportion of drug arrests for both participating and non-participating agencies. In 1999, arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act accounted for one-third of the drug arrests made by the participating agencies and 32 percent by the non-participating agencies, compared to 41 percent and 39 percent, respectively, in 1993 (Figure 8.2).

**Figure 8.2**  
Percent of Drug Arrests for Participating and Non-participating Agencies

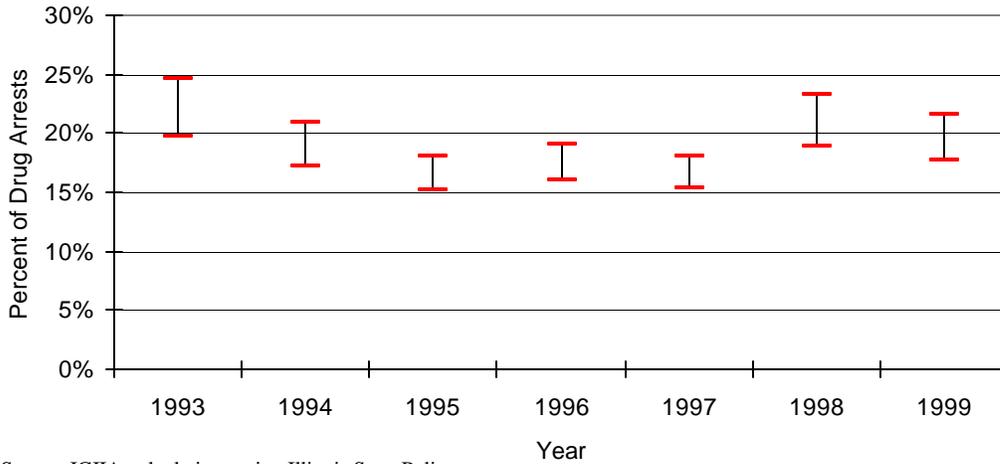


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police data

The data presented below represent the percent of total drug arrests made by agencies participating in MEGs and task forces accounted for by MEGs and task forces. An upper and lower bound is shown in Figure 9 which accounts for whether or not the units numbers are counted as part of the UCR submissions made by local departments (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the MEG and task force arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the MEG and task force arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. It is estimated that the proportion of all drug arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces was between 20 to 25 percent in 1993, but decreased to between 18 to 22 percent in 1999. Thus, despite the fact that the officers assigned to MEGs and task forces accounted for a small proportion of total officers in the region, they accounted for a relatively large proportion of the drug arrests in the region.

**Figure 9**

**Percent of Total Drug Arrests  
Accounted for by All MEGs and Task Forces**

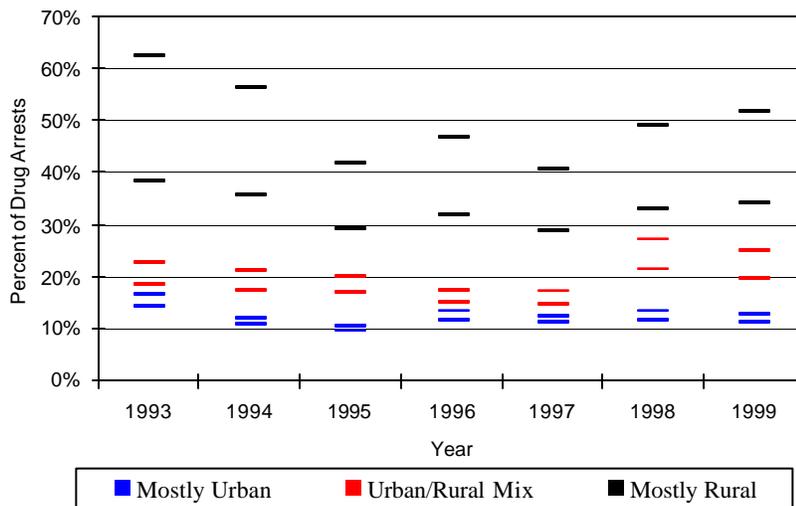


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

However, when geographic regions were examined separately, significant differences were noted. It is estimated that the proportion of all drug arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces in mostly urban regions was between 14 to 17 percent in 1993, but decreased to between 11 to 13 percent in 1999. Similarly, the proportion of all drug arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces in mostly rural regions was between 38 to 62 percent in 1993, but decreased to between 34 to 52 percent in 1999. Conversely, the proportion of all drug arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces in mixed urban/rural regions was between 19 to 23 percent in 1993, but increased to between 20 to 25 percent in 1999 (Figure 9.1).

**Figure 9.1**

**Percent of Total Drug Arrests Accounted for by  
MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type**



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

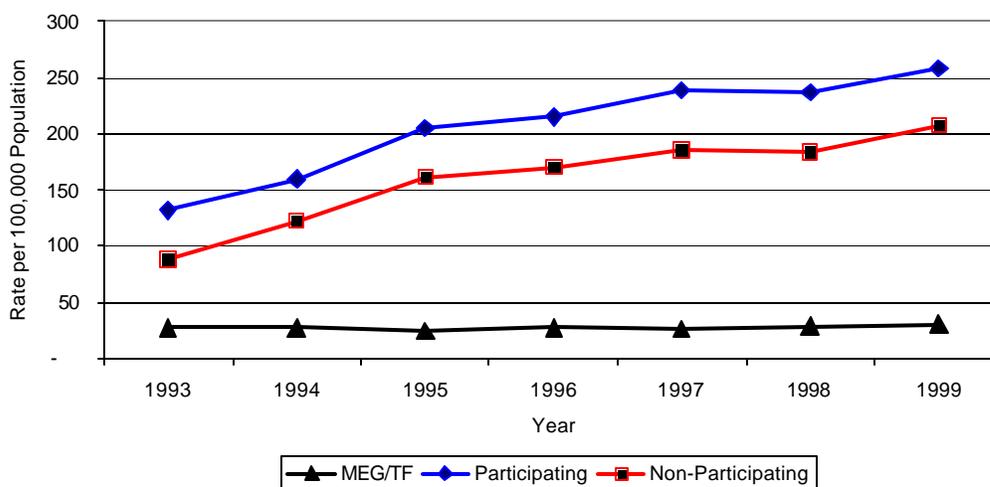
Thus, despite the fact that the officers assigned to MEGs and task forces accounted for a small proportion of total officers in the region and accounted for a relatively large proportion of the drug arrests in their respective regions, it is clear that mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for four times as many reported drugs arrests than mostly urban MEGs and task forces and more than double the proportion of reported drug arrests accounted for by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces.

The number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act totaled 16,126 in 1999, more than double the 7,291 arrests made for cannabis violations in 1993. Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of all drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Cannabis Control Act increased from 40 percent to 33 percent. Agencies participating in MEGs and task forces accounted for the largest portion (69 percent) of the total number of arrests for cannabis violations. MEGs and task forces reported a total of 1,302 arrests for cannabis violations in 1999, 36 percent of the units' drug arrests.

During the period analyzed, the cannabis arrest rate for the regions covered by MEGs and task forces more than doubled, from 115 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 240 arrests per 100,000 population in 1999. The cannabis arrest rate in the non-participating agencies also more than doubled from 88 to 207 arrests per 100,000 population, while the cannabis arrest rate in the participating agencies nearly doubled, from 131 to 258 arrests per 100,000 population. The cannabis arrest rate for MEGs and task forces, on the other hand, increased, from 27 to 30 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 10). Thus, the arrest rate for violations of the Cannabis Control Act was collectively higher in the jurisdictions of the non-participating agencies than in the combined area served by participating agencies.

**Figure 10**

**Cannabis Arrests Rates in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force as Reported by Participating Agencies, Non-participating Agencies and All MEGs and Task Forces**

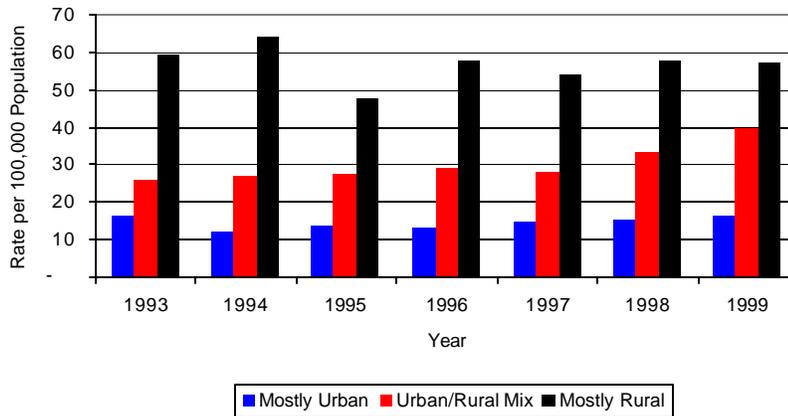


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

When geographic regions were examined separately, similar trends were noted for both participating and non-participating agencies, while MEGs and task forces varied somewhat. The cannabis arrest rate for MEGs and task forces remained unchanged at 16 arrests per 100,000 population in the mostly urban regions between 1993 and 1999. However, the cannabis arrest rate increased 54 percent, from 26 to 40 arrests per 100,000 population in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, but decreased slightly in the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces, from 59 to 58 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 10.1).

**Figure 10.1**

**Cannabis Arrest Rates in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force as Reported by All MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type**

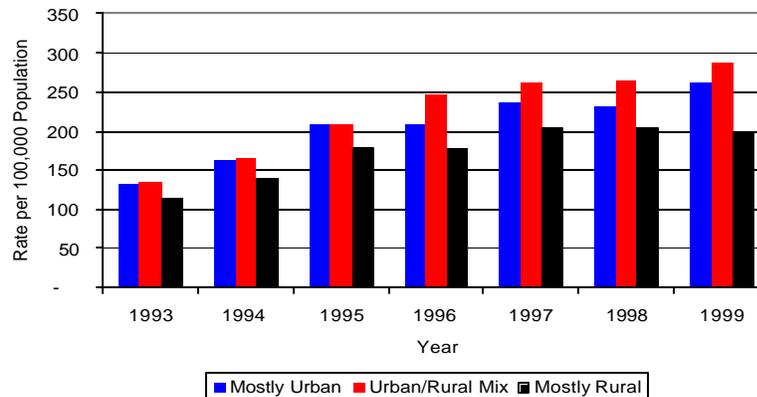


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

Similar to combined cannabis arrest rate trends for participating agencies, the cannabis arrest rate for participating agencies more than doubled in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, from 137 to 288 arrests per 100,000 population, while the cannabis arrest rates nearly doubled, from 133 to 261 arrests per 100,000 population in the mostly urban regions and increased 76 percent, from 113 to 200 arrests per 100,000 population in the mostly rural regions (Figure 10.2).

**Figure 10.2**

**Cannabis Arrests Rates in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force as Reported by Participating Agencies, by Unit Type**

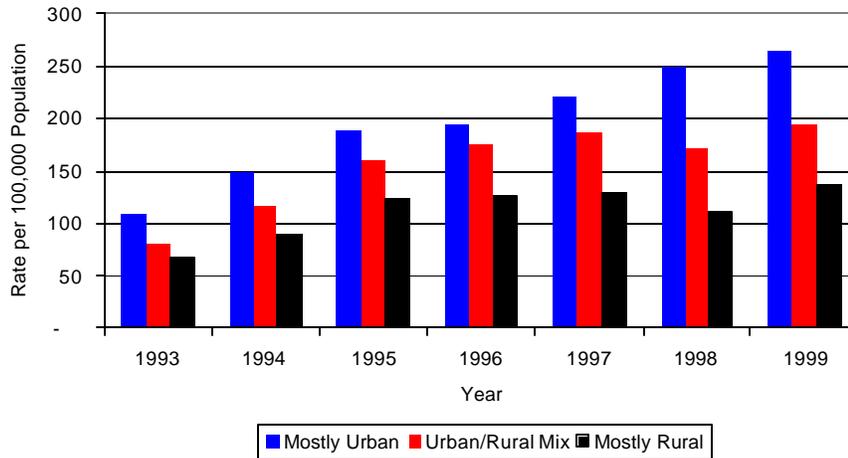


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

The cannabis arrest rate for non-participating agencies more than doubled across all geographic regions, increasing from 109 to 264 arrests per 100,000 population in the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces, from 80 to 193 arrests per 100,000 population in the mixed urban/rural regions and from 68 to 137 arrests per 100,000 population in the mostly rural regions (Figure 10.3).

**Figure 10.3**

**Cannabis Arrests Rates in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force as Reported by Non-participating Agencies, by Unit Type**

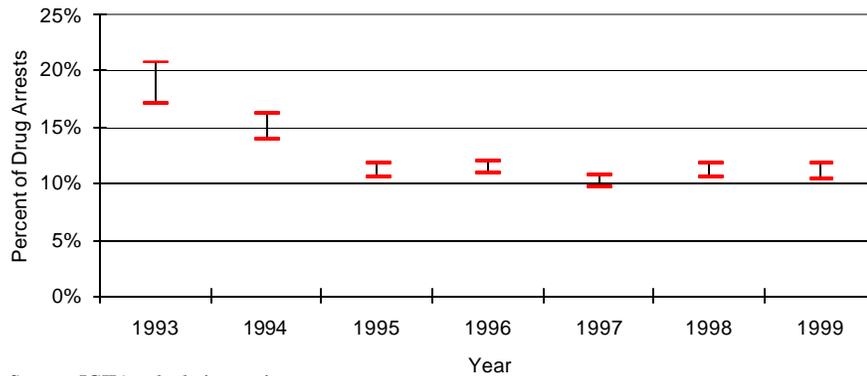


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

The data presented in Figure 11 represent the percent of cannabis arrests made by agencies participating in MEGs and task forces accounted for by MEGs and task forces. An upper and lower bound is shown which accounts for whether or not the units' numbers are counted as part of the UCR submissions made by local departments (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the MEG and task force arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the MEG and task force arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. It is estimated that the proportion of cannabis arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces was between 17 to 21 percent in 1993, but decreased to between 11 to 12 percent in 1995 where the proportion has remained relatively stable through 1999.

**Figure 11**

**Percent of Cannabis Arrests Accounted for by All MEGs and Task Forces**

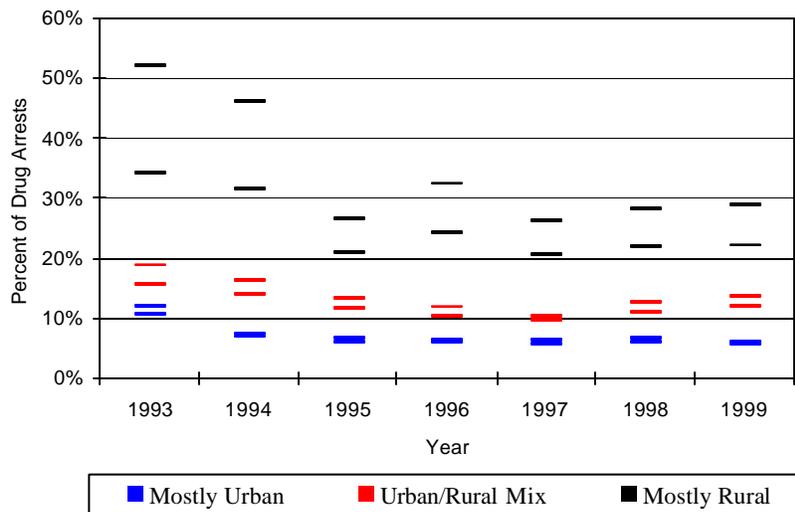


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

However, when geographic regions were examined separately, significant differences were noted. While it is estimated that the proportion of cannabis arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces in mostly urban regions was between 11 to 12 percent in 1993, that proportion has remained relatively unchanged at 6 to 7 percent between 1994 and 1999. It is estimated that the proportion of cannabis arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces in mixed urban/rural regions was between 16 to 19 percent in 1993, but decreased annually to between 10 to 11 percent in 1997. Since 1997, the proportion of cannabis arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces in mixed urban/rural regions has steadily increased to between 12 to 14 percent in 1999. The proportion of cannabis arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces in mostly rural regions decreased between 1993 and 1995 from between 34 to 52 percent to 21 to 27 percent. However, between 1995 and 1999, the proportion of cannabis arrests has remained relatively stable from between 21 to 27 percent to between 22 to 29 percent (Figure 11.1).

**Figure 11.1**

**Percent of Cannabis Arrests Accounted for by MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type**



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

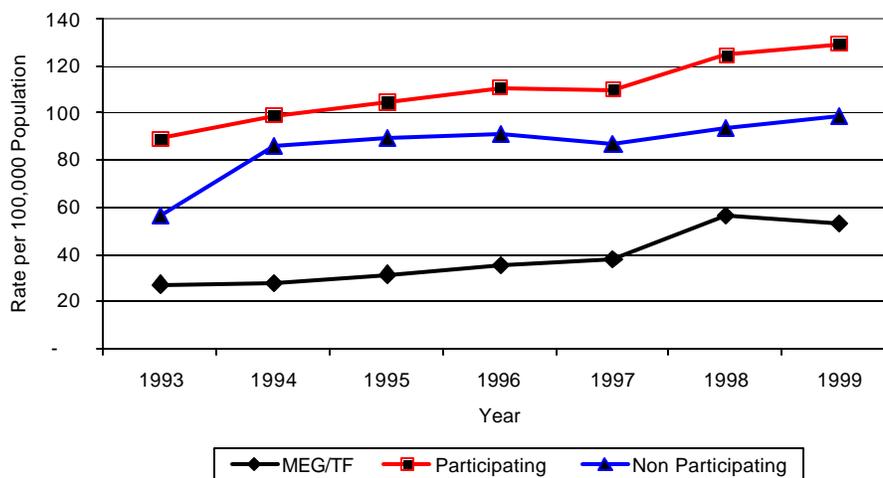
Thus, despite the fact that the officers assigned to MEGs and task forces accounted for a small proportion of total officers in the region and accounted for a relatively large proportion of the cannabis arrests in their respective regions, it is clear that mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for nearly five times as many reported cannabis arrests than mostly urban MEGs and task forces and more than double the proportion of reported cannabis arrests accounted for by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces.

Across the regions covered by MEGs and task forces, the number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Controlled Substances Act increased 62 percent between 1993 and 1999, from 4,910 to 7,969. Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of all drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces decreased from 40 percent to 33 percent. In 1999, all MEGs and task forces reported 2,276 arrests for controlled substance violations, 64 percent of all drug arrests reported to the Authority by the units.

Between 1993 and 1999, the arrest rate for controlled substances act violations for the region covered by all MEGs and task forces increased 53 percent, from 77 to 119 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). The controlled substances arrest rate in the participating agencies increased 45 percent, from 89 to 130 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies increased 74 percent, from 57 to 99 arrests per 100,000 population. The controlled substances arrest rate for MEGs and task forces nearly doubled, from 27 to 53 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). Thus, the arrest rate for violations of the Controlled Substances Act was collectively higher in the participating agencies than in the non-participating agencies. Also, the arrest rate for violations of the Controlled Substances Act achieved by all MEGs and task forces was 59 percent lower than the rate experienced by the participating agencies and 46 percent lower than the rate experienced by the non-participating agencies, meaning that with 321 officers the MEGs and task forces made nearly two-fifths as many arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act, as did all of the participating agencies combined and more than one-half as many controlled substances arrests as did all of the combined non-participating agencies.

**Figure 12**

Controlled Substances Arrest Rates in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force as Reported by Participating Agencies, Non-participating Agencies and All MEGs and Task Forces

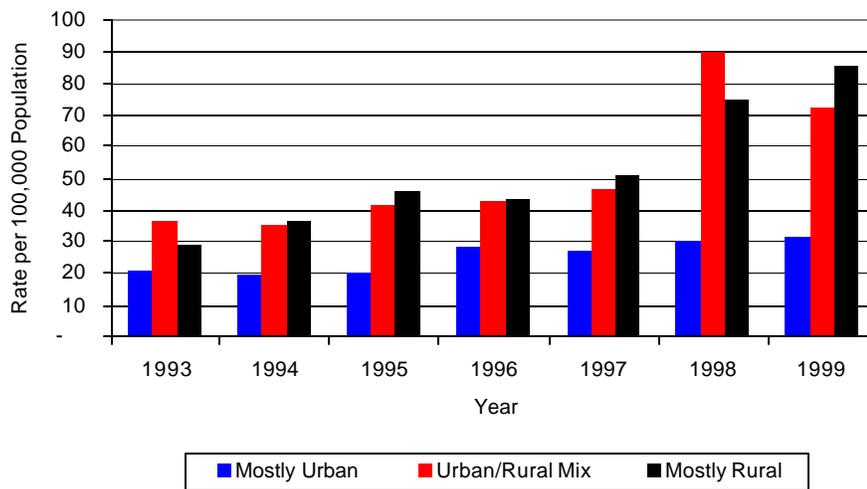


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

When geographic regions were examined separately, similar trends were noted for both participating and non-participating agencies as well as all MEGs and task forces. The controlled substances arrest rate for regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces increased 54 percent, from 21 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 32 arrests per 100,000 population in 1999. The arrest rate for controlled substances act violations for regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces nearly doubled, from 37 to 72 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate for mostly rural regions nearly tripled between 1993 and 1999, from 29 to 85 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12.1).

**Figure 12.1**

**Controlled Substances Arrest Rates in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force as Reported by All MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type**

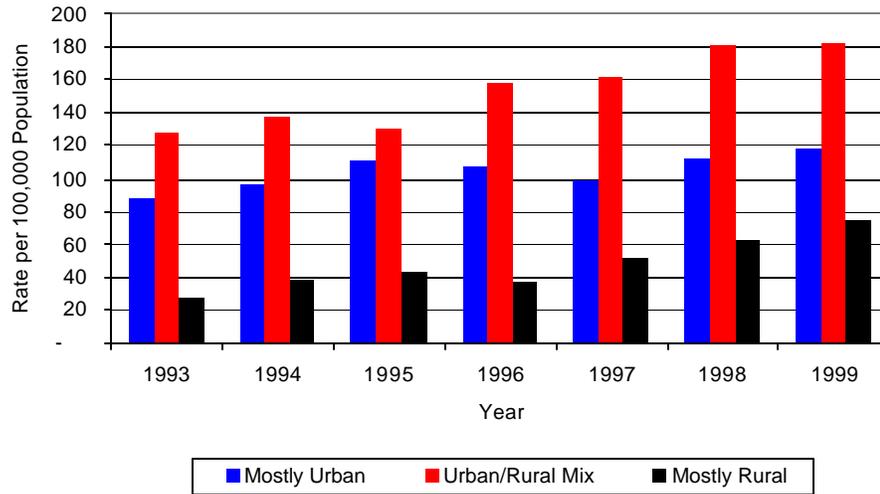


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

Similar to combined controlled substances arrest rates for participating agencies, the controlled substances arrest rate for participating agencies increased 35 percent in the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces, from 88 to 118 arrests per 100,000 population, while the controlled substances arrest rates increased 43 percent, from 127 to 182 arrests per 100,000 population in the mixed urban/rural regions and nearly tripled, from 28 to 74 arrests per 100,000 population in the mostly rural regions (Figure 12.2).

**Figure 12.2**

**Controlled Substances Arrest Rates in the Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force as Reported by Participating Agencies, by Unit Type**

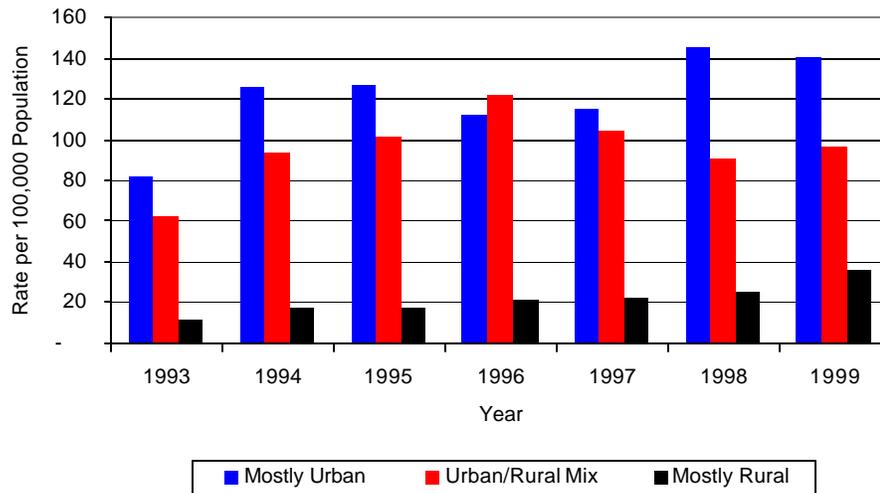


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

Between 1993 and 1999, the controlled substances arrest rate for non-participating agencies also increased across all geographic regions, increasing 53 percent, from 63 to 96 arrests per 100,000 population in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces and increasing 71 percent, from 82 to 140 arrests per 100,000 population in the mostly urban regions. The controlled substances arrest rate for non-participating agencies in regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces tripled, from 12 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 36 arrests per 100,000 population in 1999 (Figure 12.3).

**Figure 12.3**

**Controlled Substances Arrest Rates in the Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force as Reported by Non-participating Agencies, by Unit Type**

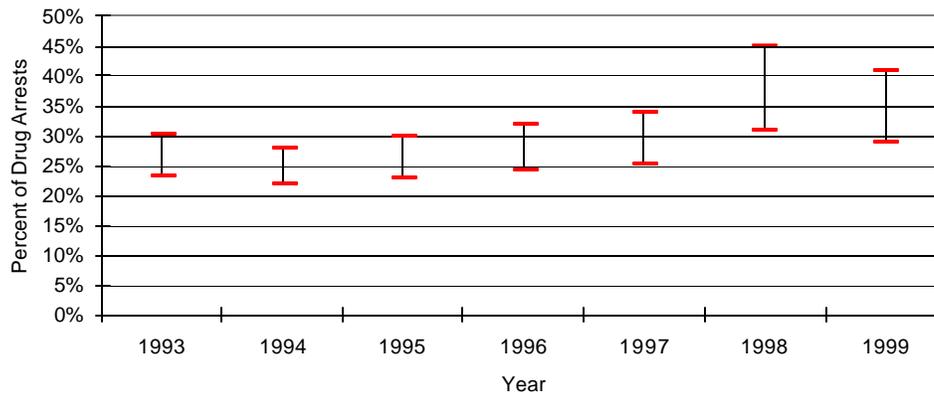


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

The data presented in Figure 13 represent the percent of controlled substances arrests made by agencies participating in MEGs and task forces accounted for by MEGs and task forces. An upper and lower bound is shown which accounts for whether or not the units' numbers are counted as part of the UCR submissions made by local departments (which is unknown at this point). The upper bound indicates the percentage of arrests if *all* of the MEG and task force arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. The lower bound indicates the percentage if *none* of the MEG and task force arrests are included in the local UCR submissions. It is estimated that the proportion of controlled substances arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces was between 23 to 30 percent in 1993, but increased to between 29 to 41 percent in 1999.

**Figure 13**

**Percent of Controlled Substances Arrests Accounted for by All MEGs and Task Forces**

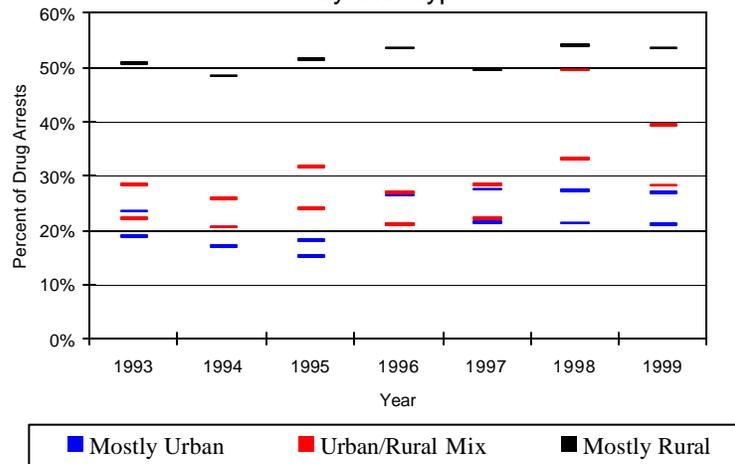


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

When geographic regions were examined separately, significant differences were noted. It is estimated that the proportion of controlled substances arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces in mostly urban regions was between 19 to 24 percent in 1993, but increased to between 21 to 27 percent in 1999. Similarly, the proportion of controlled substances arrests across participating agencies accounted for by MEGs and task forces in mixed urban/rural regions was between 22 to 29 percent in 1993, but increased to between 28 to 40 in 1999. Because values of the upper bound exceeded 100 percent, it is believed that controlled substances arrests accounted for by mostly rural MEGs and task forces are included in local agency UCR submissions and is not reflected in Figure 13.1. According to the lower bound, it is estimated that mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for 51 percent of reported controlled substances arrests across participating agencies in 1993 and increased to 54 percent in 1999 (Figure 13.1).

**Figure 13.1**

Percent of Controlled Substances Arrests Accounted for by MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type

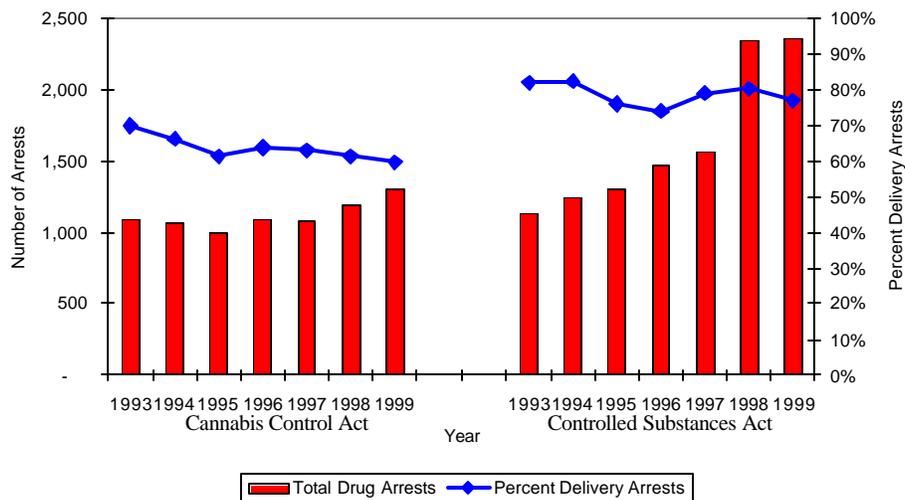


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

The majority of all drug arrests reported by MEGs and task forces are for delivery. Between 1993 and 1999, the number of drug delivery arrests made by MEGs and task forces increased 53 percent, from 1,690 to 2,591. Arrests for drug delivery accounted for nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of all drug arrests made by MEGs and task forces between 1993 and 1999. When cannabis and controlled substance arrests were examined separately, during the period analyzed, arrests for delivery of controlled substances accounted for 79 percent of the total number of arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substance Act, whereas, arrests for the delivery of cannabis accounted for 64 percent of all arrests for violations of the Cannabis Act. Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of arrests for delivery of cannabis decreased from 70 percent to 60 percent, while the proportion of arrests for delivery of controlled substances decreased slightly, from 82 percent in 1993 to 77 percent in 1999 (Figure 14).

**Figure 14**

MEG and Task Force Drug Arrests for Possession versus Delivery, by Drug Type

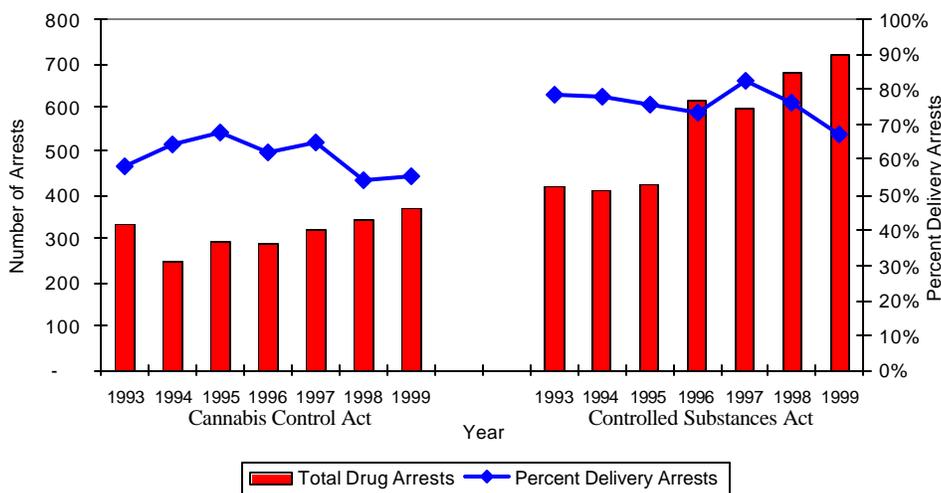


Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1993 and 1999, the number of drug delivery arrests made by mostly urban MEGs and task forces increased 32 percent, from 524 to 691. Arrests for drug delivery accounted for 70 percent of all drug arrests made by mostly urban MEGs and task forces between 1993 and 1999. When cannabis and controlled substance arrests were examined separately, during the period analyzed, arrests for delivery of controlled substances accounted for 76 percent of the total number of arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substance Act, whereas, arrests for the delivery of cannabis accounted for 61 percent of all arrests for violations of the Cannabis Act. Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of arrests for delivery of cannabis decreased from 58 percent to 55 percent, while the proportion of arrests for delivery of controlled substances decreased from 79 percent in 1993 to 68 percent in 1999 (Figure 14.1).

**Figure 14.1**

**Mostly Urban MEG and Task Force Drug Arrests  
for Possession versus Delivery, by Drug Type**

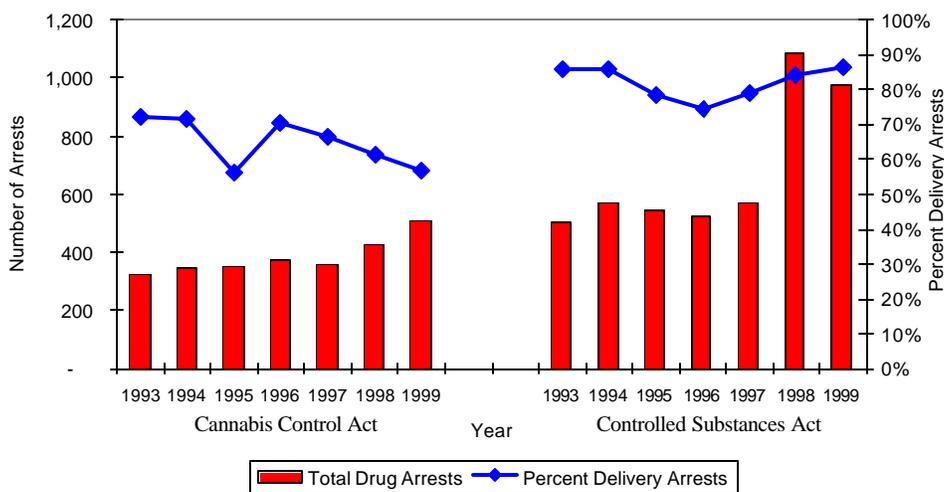


Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1993 and 1999, the number of drug delivery arrests made by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased 69 percent, from 672 to 1,136. Arrests for drug delivery accounted for 76 percent of all drug arrests made by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces between 1993 and 1999. When cannabis and controlled substance arrests were examined separately, during the period analyzed, arrests for delivery of controlled substances accounted for 82 percent of the total number of arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substance Act, whereas, arrests for the delivery of cannabis accounted for 65 percent of all arrests for violations of the Cannabis Act. Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of arrests for delivery of cannabis decreased from 73 percent to 57 percent, while the proportion of arrests for delivery of controlled substances increased slightly, from 86 percent in 1993 to 87 percent in 1999 (Figure 14.2).

**Figure 14.2**

**Mixed Urban/Rural MEG and Task Force Drug Arrests for Possession versus Delivery, by Drug Type**

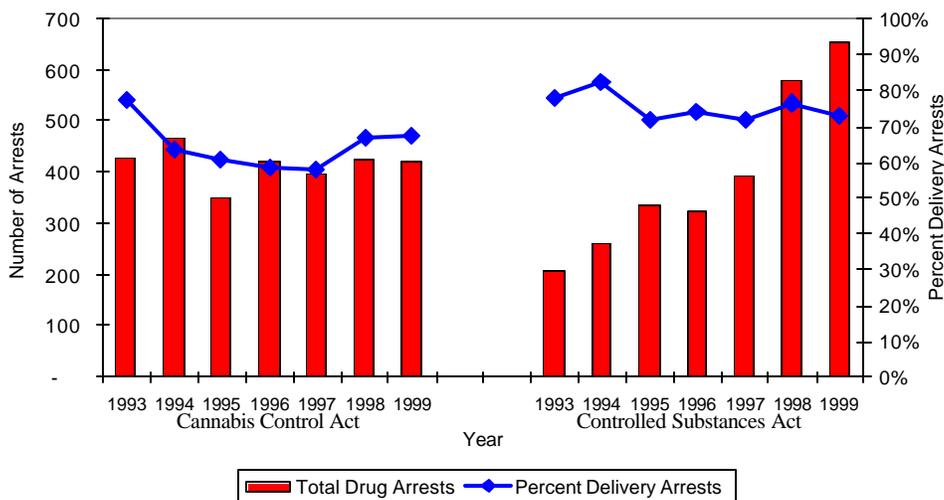


Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1993 and 1999, the number of drug delivery arrests made by mostly rural MEGs and task forces increased 55 percent, from 494 to 764. Arrests for drug delivery accounted for 70 percent of all drug arrests made by mostly rural MEGs and task forces between 1993 and 1999. When cannabis and controlled substance arrests were examined separately, during the period analyzed, arrests for delivery of controlled substances accounted for 76 percent of the total number of arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substance Act, whereas, arrests for the delivery of cannabis accounted for 65 percent of all arrests for violations of the Cannabis Act. Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of arrests for delivery of cannabis decreased from 78 percent to 67 percent, while the proportion of arrests for delivery of controlled substances decreased from 78 percent in 1993 to 73 percent in 1999 (Figure 14.3).

**Figure 14.3**

**Mostly Rural MEG and Task Force Drug Arrests for Possession versus Delivery, by Drug Type**



Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

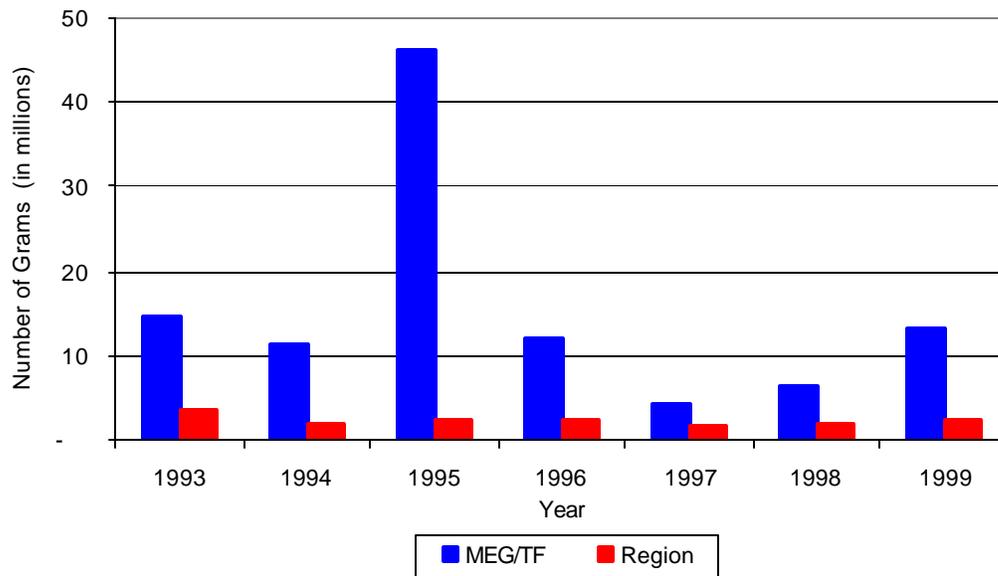
#### IV. Trends in Drug Seizures

Drugs seized by law enforcement agencies are another indicator of the extent and nature of illegal drug trade in a jurisdiction. When illegal drugs are seized by law enforcement agencies, all or a portion of the total amount seized is submitted to a crime lab for analysis. Most agencies submit drugs to one of the Illinois State Police crime labs. These labs record the quantity of drugs submitted from each county. This section discusses trends in the quantities of illegal drugs seized and submitted to the Illinois State Police from local law enforcement agencies in each of the 21 individual units as well as the quantities of drugs seized by the MEGs and task forces. It is important to note, however, that while the MEG and task force data report the total quantities of drugs actually *seized*, local agency data only represent the quantities of seized drugs that are *submitted* to the Illinois State Police for analysis. County-level cannabis, cocaine and methamphetamine seizure rates for Illinois' 102 counties are provided in maps located in the Appendix of this report.

As in most Illinois jurisdictions, cannabis accounts for the majority of illegal drugs seized in the three-county region covered by MEGs and task forces. The quantity of cannabis seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces decreased 37 percent, from 3,644,263 grams in 1993 to 2,293,662 grams in 1999. Also, the quantity of cannabis seized by MEGs and task forces decreased 11 percent between 1993 and 1999, from 14,732,042 grams to 13,084,387 (Figure 15). In 1999, the MEG and task force cannabis seizure rate of 305,421 grams per 100,000 population was nearly ten times the seizure rate of 34,121 grams per 100,000 population for the regions covered by MEGs and task forces and the statewide cannabis seizure rate of 31,533 grams per 100,000 population (Map 2).

**Figure 15**

**Cannabis Seized and Submitted to ISP  
by Regions Covered by MEGs and Task Forces  
and Seized by All MEGs and Task Forces**

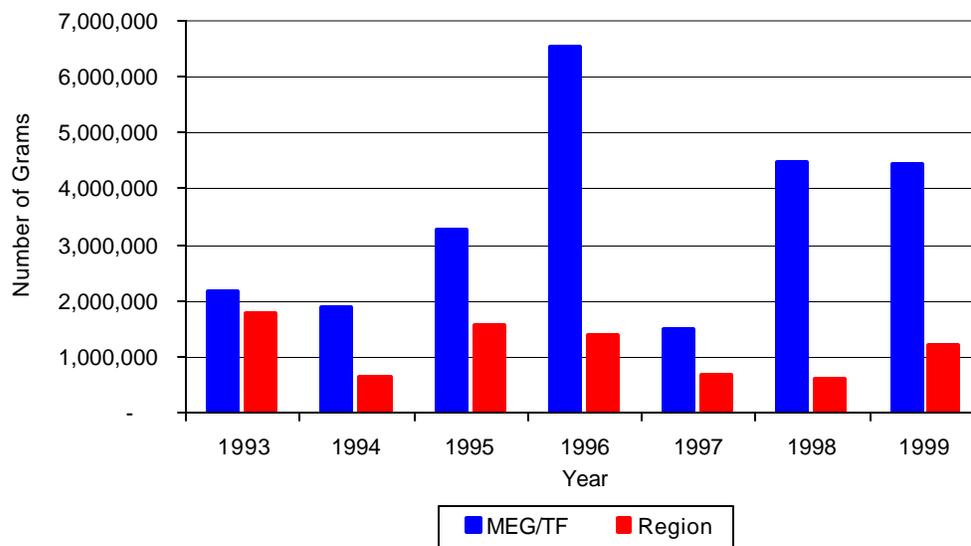


Source: Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

The quantity of cannabis seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces decreased 31 percent, from 1,776,304 grams in 1993 to 1,234,061 grams in 1999. Conversely, the quantity of cannabis seized by mostly urban MEGs and task forces more than doubled between 1993 and 1999, from 2,185,013 grams to 4,473,754 (Figure 15.1). In 1999, cannabis seizure rate of 195,768 grams per 100,000 population for mostly urban MEGs and task forces was more than five times the seizure rate of 37,920 grams per 100,000 population for the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces and more than six times the statewide cannabis seizure rate of 31,533 grams per 100,000 population.

**Figure 15.1**

**Cannabis Seized and Submitted to ISP by Regions Covered by Mostly Urban MEGs and Task Forces and Seized by Mostly Urban MEGs and Task Forces**

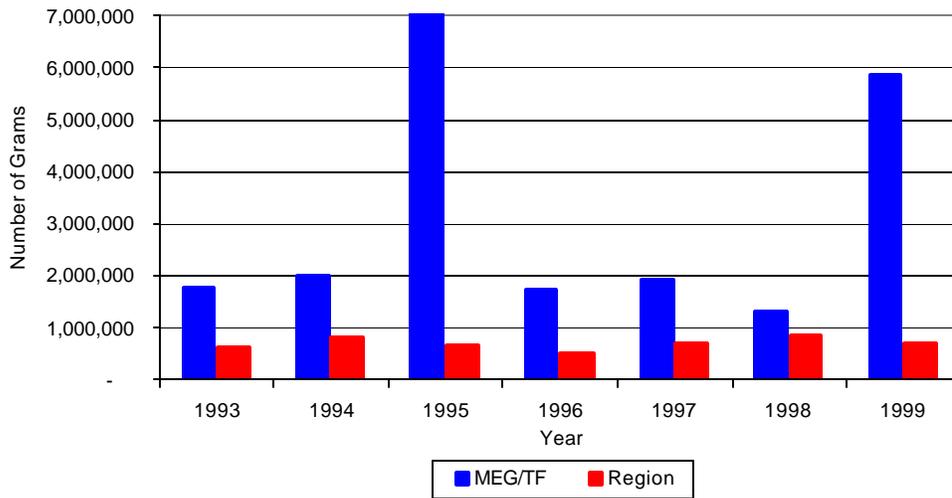


Source: Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

The quantity of cannabis seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased 9 percent, from 629,362 grams in 1993 to 684,747 grams in 1999. Also, the quantity of cannabis seized by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces more than tripled between 1993 and 1999, from 1,777,897 grams to 5,843,059 (Figure 15.2). In 1999, the mixed urban/rural MEG and task force cannabis seizure rate of 453,945 grams per 100,000 population was 14 times the seizure rate of 32,541 grams per 100,000 population for the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces and the statewide cannabis seizure rate of 31,533 grams per 100,000 population. (Note: It should be noted that nearly 36 million grams of cannabis were seized by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces in 1995 and that the scale in Figure 15.2 was intentionally set at seven million in order to adequately reflect the quantities of cannabis seized during the entire period analyzed.)

**Figure 15.2**

**Cannabis Seized and Submitted to ISP by Regions Covered by Mixed Urban/Rural MEGs and Task Forces and Seized by Mixed Urban/Rural MEGs and Task Forces**

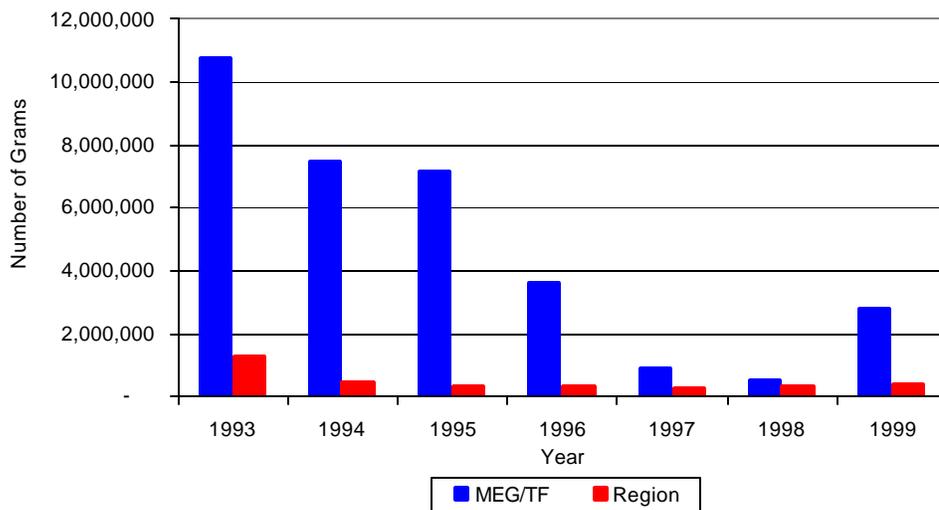


Source: Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

The quantity of cannabis seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces decreased 70 percent, from 1,238,597 grams in 1993 to 374,855 grams in 1999. Also, the quantity of cannabis seized by mostly rural MEGs and task forces decreased 74 percent between 1993 and 1999, from 10,69,131 grams to 2,807,574 (Figure 15.3). In 1999, the mostly rural MEG and task force cannabis seizure rate of 383,504 grams per 100,000 population was nearly 14 times the seizure rate of 27,493 grams per 100,000 population for the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces and 12 times the statewide cannabis seizure rate of 31,533 grams per 100,000 population.

**Figure 15.3**

**Cannabis Seized and Submitted to ISP by Regions Covered by Mostly Rural MEGs and Task Forces and Seized by Mostly Rural MEGs and Task Forces**

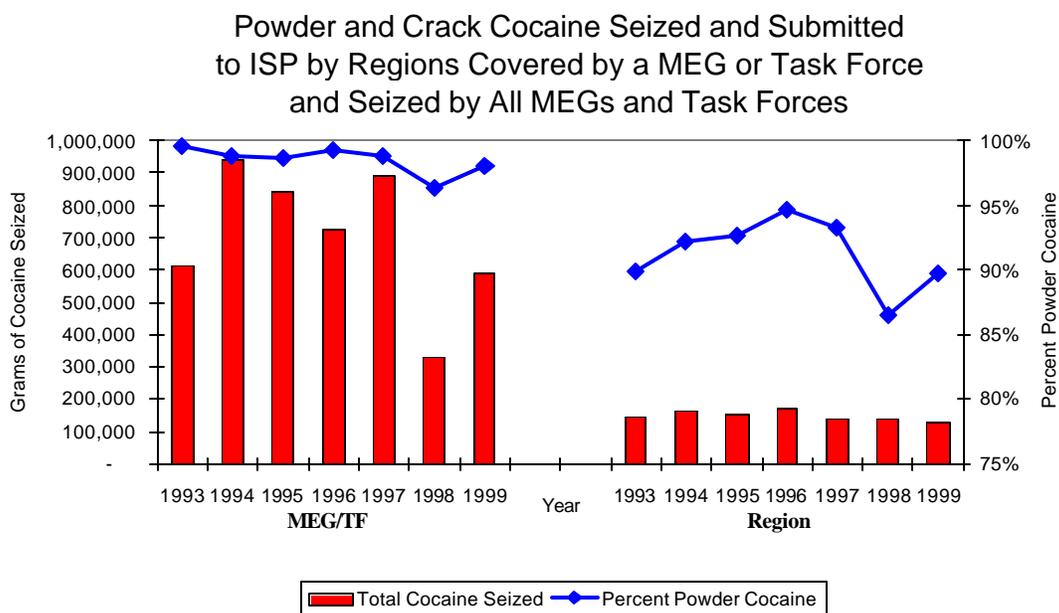


Source: Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

Between 1993 and 1999, a combination of crack and powder cocaine accounted for a small proportion of drugs seized in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces. The quantity of cocaine seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies decreased 9 percent, from 141,872 grams in 1993 to 128,618 grams in 1999. Between 1993 and 1999, the quantity of cocaine seized by MEGs and task forces decreased 3 percent, from 610,274 grams to 593,515 grams.

The proportion of all cocaine seized in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces accounted for by powder cocaine remained unchanged at 90 percent in both 1993 and 1999, while fluctuating slightly throughout the period analyzed. Similarly, for MEGs and task forces, the proportion remained relatively stable between 1993 and 1999 (Figure 16). In 1999, the MEG and task force cocaine seizure rate of 13,854 grams per 100,000 population was more than seven times the cocaine seizure rate of 1,913 grams per 100,000 population in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces, but 12 percent less than the statewide cocaine seizure rate of 15,735 grams per 100,000 population (Map 3).

**Figure 16**

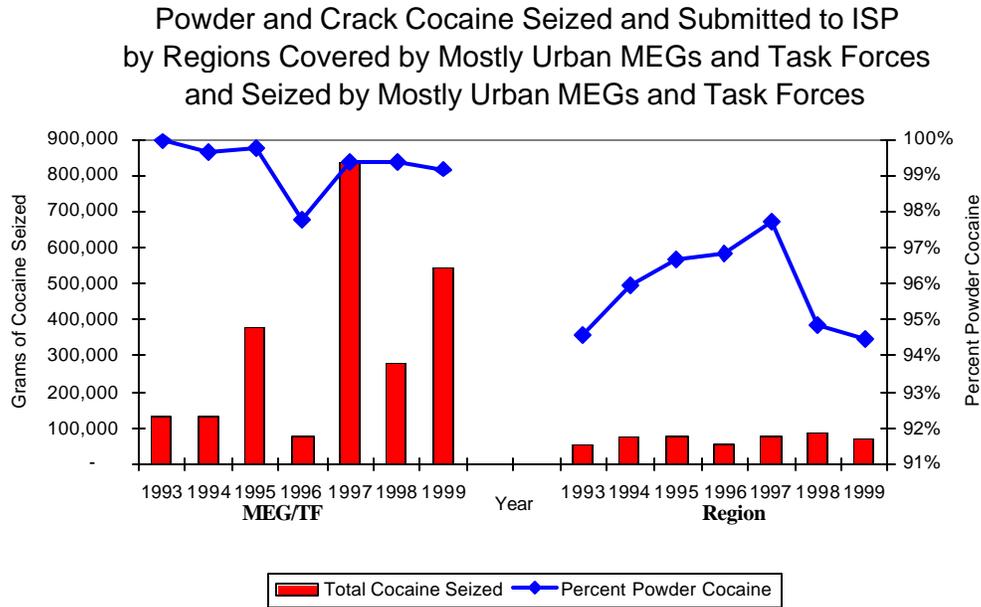


Source: Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

When cocaine seizures were examined separately by geographic regions, the results varied significantly. The quantity of cocaine seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces increased 33 percent, from 52,685 grams in 1993 to 69,957 grams in 1999. Between 1993 and 1999, the quantity of cocaine seized by mostly urban MEGs and task forces more than quadrupled, from 132,426 grams to 544,069 grams.

The proportion of all cocaine seized in the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces accounted for by powder cocaine remained relatively stable between 1993 and 1999, accounting for 96 percent of all cocaine seized during the period. Similarly, for mostly urban MEGs and task forces, powder cocaine accounted for 99 percent of all cocaine seized by mostly urban MEGs and task forces between 1993 and 1999 (Figure 16.1). In 1999, the cocaine seizure rate of 24,023 grams per 100,000 population for mostly urban MEGs and task forces was more than 11 times the cocaine seizure rate of 2,150 grams per 100,000 population in the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces, and 35 percent higher than the statewide cocaine seizure rate of 15,735 grams per 100,000 population.

**Figure 16.1**



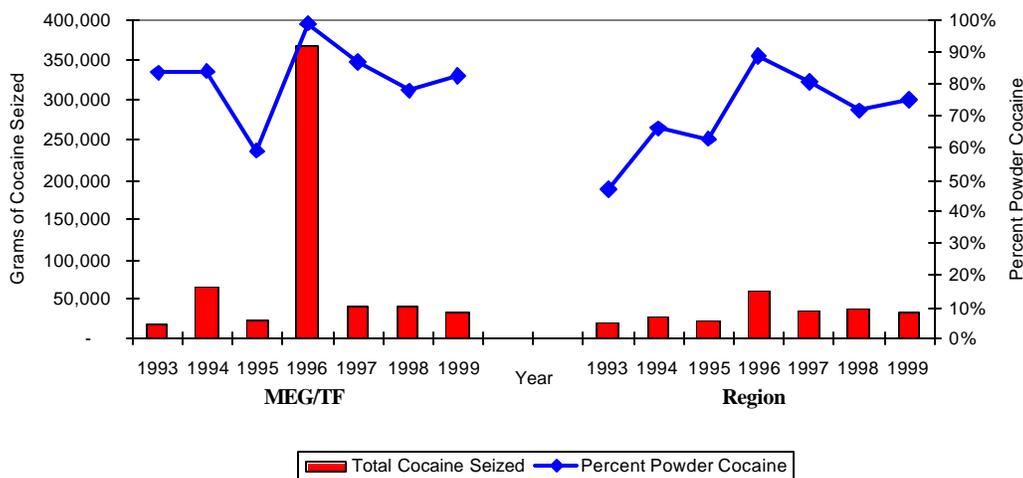
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

The quantity of cocaine seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased 62 percent, from 21,021 grams in 1993 to 34,018 grams in 1999. Between 1993 and 1999, the quantity of cocaine seized by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased 75 percent, from 19,077 grams to 33,426 grams.

The proportion of all cocaine seized in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces accounted for by powder cocaine varied between 1993 and 1999, accounting for 70 percent of all cocaine seized during the period. Similarly, for mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, powder cocaine accounted for 82 percent of all cocaine seized by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces between 1993 and 1999 (Figure 16.2). In 1999, the cocaine seizure rate of 2,597 grams per 100,000 population for mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces was 61 percent higher than the cocaine seizure rate of 1,613 grams per 100,000 population in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, but 83 percent lower than the statewide cocaine seizure rate of 15,735 grams per 100,000 population.

**Figure 16.2**

**Powder and Crack Cocaine Seized and Submitted to ISP  
by Regions Covered by Mixed Urban/Rural MEGs and Task  
Forces and Seized by Mixed Urban/Rural MEGs and Task Forces**



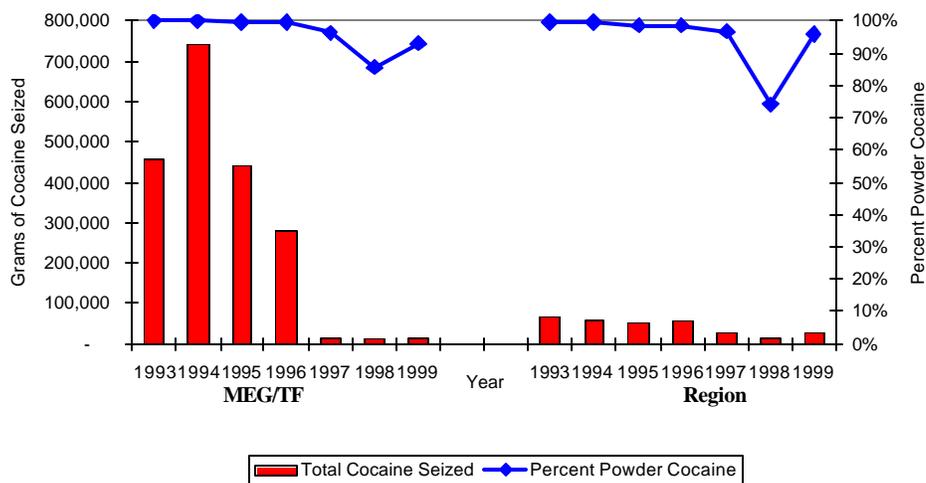
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

The quantity of cocaine seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces decreased 65 percent, from 67,756 grams in 1993 to 23,647 grams in 1999. Between 1993 and 1999, the quantity of cocaine seized by mostly rural MEGs and task forces decreased dramatically, from 458,770 grams to 14,935 grams.

The proportion of all cocaine seized in the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for by powder cocaine remained relatively stable between 1993 and 1999, accounting for 95 percent of all cocaine seized during the period. Similarly, for mostly rural MEGs and task forces, powder cocaine accounted for 96 percent of all cocaine seized by mostly rural MEGs and task forces between 1993 and 1999 (Figure 16.3). In 1999, the cocaine seizure rate of 2,040 grams per 100,000 population for mostly rural MEGs and task forces was 18 percent higher than the cocaine seizure rate of 1,734 grams per 100,000 population in the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces, but 87 percent lower than the statewide cocaine seizure rate of 15,735 grams per 100,000 population.

**Figure 16.3**

**Powder and Crack Cocaine Seized and Submitted to ISP  
by Regions Covered by Mostly Rural MEGs and Task Forces  
and Seized by Mostly Rural MEGs and Task Forces**



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

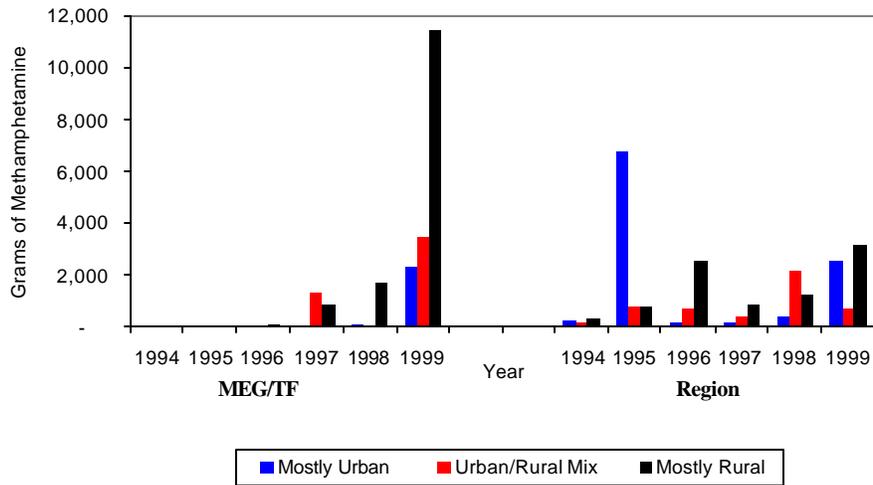
The total quantity of illegal drugs seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces increased between 1993 and 1999, from 4,877,100 grams to 7,502,114 grams. On the other hand, the total quantity of illegal drugs seized by MEGs and task forces decreased 14 percent, from 18,185,170 grams in 1993 to 15,638,529 grams in 1999.

During the period, methamphetamine seizures accounted for a relatively small proportion of total drugs seized by law enforcement agencies in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces as well as all MEGs and task forces, combined. Between 1994 and 1999, the quantity of methamphetamine seized in regions covered by MEGs and task forces increased more than seven-fold, from 756 grams to 6,407 grams. Although the MEGs and task forces did not report methamphetamine seizures in 1994 or 1995, the quantity of methamphetamine seized by MEGs and task forces increased dramatically between 1996 and 1999, from 43 grams to 17,237 grams. In 1999, the methamphetamine seizure rate for MEGs and task forces was 402 grams per 100,000 population, more than four times the seizure rates of 95 grams and 98 grams per 100,000 population for the regions covered by MEGs and task forces and the statewide seizure rate, respectively (Map 4).

When geographic regions were examined separately, the results were even more dramatic. Between 1994 and 1999, the quantity of methamphetamine seized in regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces increased from 236 grams to 2,555 grams, while the seizures reported by regions covered by mixed urban/rural and mostly rural MEGs and task forces increased from 184 to 706 grams and 336 to 3147 grams, respectively. Methamphetamine seizures by MEGs and task forces were even more telling. The quantity of methamphetamine seized by mostly urban MEGs and task forces increased from one gram in 1996 to 2,328 grams in 1999, while the quantity of methamphetamine seized by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased from two grams to 3,470 grams during the same period. The mostly rural MEGs and task forces experienced the greatest increase in methamphetamine seizures between 1996 and 1999, increasing from 40 grams to 11,439 grams (Figure 16.4). Of the 17,237 grams of methamphetamine seized by all MEGs and task forces in 1999, mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for 66 percent, followed by mixed urban/rural (20 percent) and mostly urban (14 percent).

**Figure 16.4**

**Methamphetamine Seized and Submitted to ISP  
by Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force  
and Seized by All MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type**



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and MEG and task force data

In 1999, the methamphetamine seizure rate for mostly urban MEGs and task forces was 103 grams per 100,000 population, 24 percent higher than the methamphetamine seizure rate of 79 grams per 100,000 population for the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces and 5 percent higher than the statewide rate of 98 grams per 100,000 population. The 1999 methamphetamine seizure rate of 270 grams per 100,000 population for mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces was more than double the rate for the mostly urban MEGs and task forces and more than eight times higher than the rate of 33 grams per 100,000 population for the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces and nearly triple the statewide rate. In 1999, the methamphetamine seizure rate for mostly rural MEGs and task forces was 1,563 grams per 100,000 population, nearly seven times the seizure rates of 231 grams per 100,000 population for the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces and dramatically higher than the statewide seizure rate.

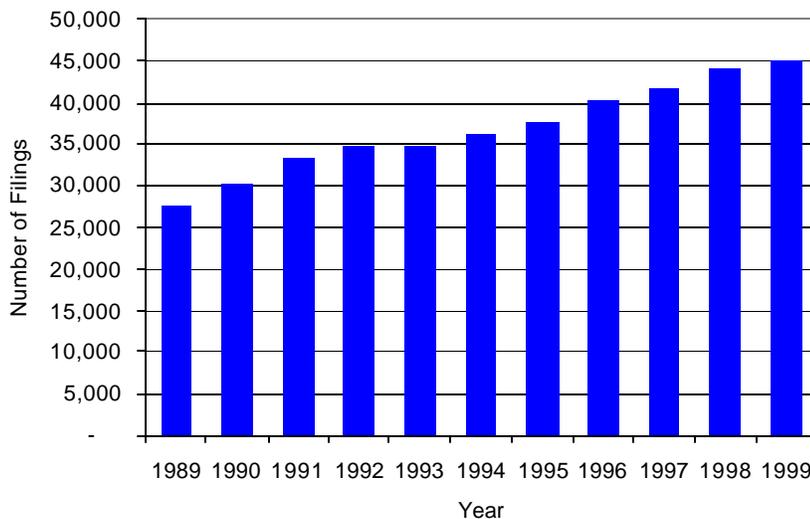
## V. Trends in Prosecutions for Drug Offenses and All Felonies

Although Illinois has one of the best court reporting systems in the country, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Court only collects information regarding the aggregate number of court filings. Currently, there are no statewide data available on court filings by offense type. The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts reports data on felony criminal court cases. After screening a case and deciding it warrants further action, the state's attorney must file formal charges in court. Felony cases can be punished by a probation term up to four years and incarceration for more than one year.

Between 1989 and 1999, the number of felony filings increased across all regions covered by MEGs and task forces, increasing 38 percent, from 27,679 to 44,937 (Figure 17).

**Figure 17**

**Number of Felony Filings in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force**

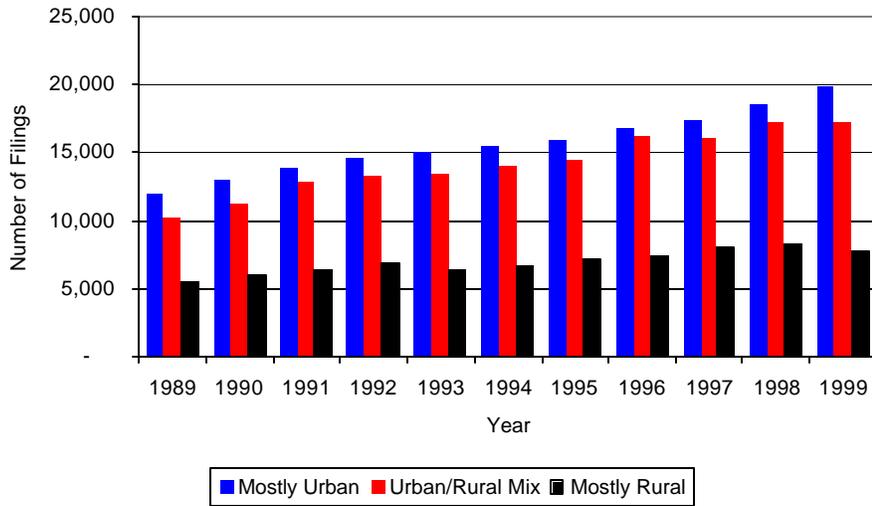


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

When geographic regions were examined separately, the results varied somewhat. Regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces experienced the largest increase (70 percent) in the number of felony filings, increasing from 11,996 to 19,884. The number of felony filings in regions covered by mostly urban regions increased 66 percent, from 10,148, while felony filings in mostly rural regions increased 41 percent, from 5,535 to 7,802 filings (Figure 17.1). Despite these increases, the proportion of total felony filings accounted by each region remained relatively stable throughout the period analyzed. Between 1989 and 1999, regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces accounted for the largest proportion of felony filings, accounting for 44 percent in 1999, compared to 43 percent in 1989. In 1999, mixed urban/rural regions accounted for 38 percent of total felony filings and mostly rural regions accounted for 17 percent, compared to 37 percent and 20 percent, respectively, in 1989.

**Figure 17.1**

**Number of Felony Filings in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type**

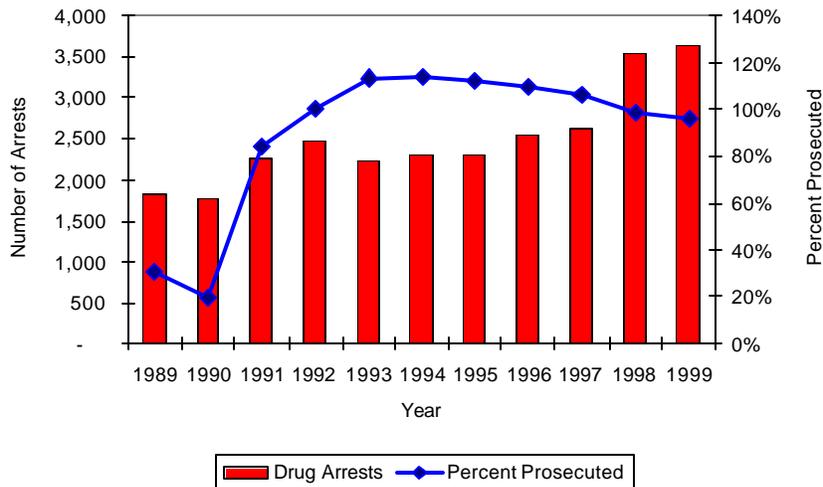


Source: ICJIA calculations using Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts data

Between 1989 and 1999, there were a total of 25,638 drug prosecutions initiated as a result of MEG and task force arrests in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces. During the period analyzed, the number of MEG and task force drug arrests doubled, from 1,826 arrests in 1989 to 3,650 arrests in 1999 (Figure 18). Between 1989 and 1999, 93 percent of all drug arrests by MEGs and task forces resulted in prosecution. The majority (62 percent) of MEG and task force drug offender prosecutions during this period was for violations of the Controlled Substance Act. In some years, the proportion of arrests resulting in a prosecution exceeded 100 percent. This is due to some slight differences in the timing of an arrest and the filings of charges, or could be due to charges, rather than defendants, being reported by the unit. In addition, some offenders have charges filed, and a subsequent warrant issued, without an arrest taking place.

**Figure 18**

**Total MEG and Task Force Drug Arrests and Percentage of Arrests Resulting in Prosecution**

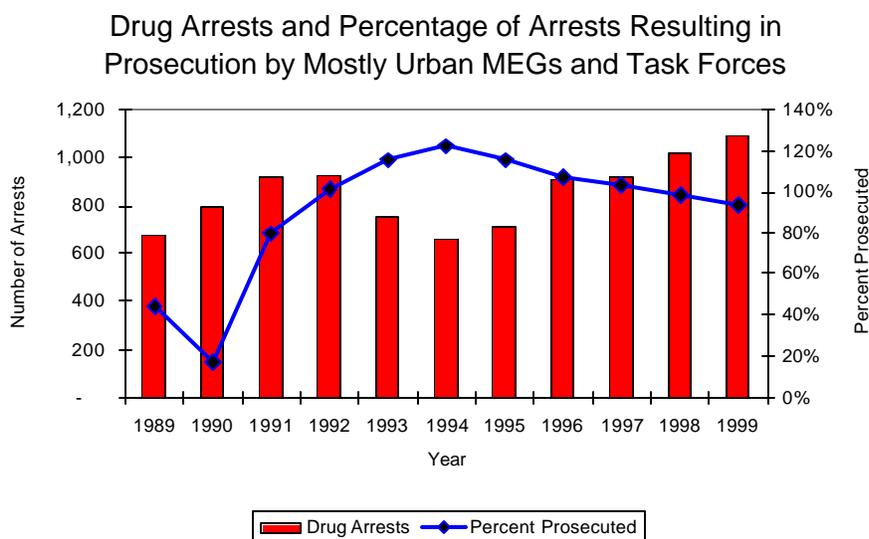


Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1989 and 1999, more than three-quarters (19,599) of the 25,638 drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of MEG and task force activity were convicted. Convictions for controlled substances accounted for 65 percent of all MEG and task force initiated convictions during the period analyzed.

When geographic regions were examined separately, the results varied somewhat. Between 1989 and 1999, there were a total of 8,557 drug prosecutions initiated as a result of MEG and task force arrests in regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces. During the period analyzed, the number of mostly urban MEG and task force drug arrests increased 61 percent, from 675 arrests in 1989 to 1,090 arrests in 1999 (Figure 18.1). Between 1989 and 1999, 91 percent of all drug arrests by mostly urban MEGs and task forces resulted in prosecution. The majority (67 percent) of mostly urban MEG and task force drug offender prosecutions during this period was for violations of the Controlled Substance Act.

**Figure 18.1**



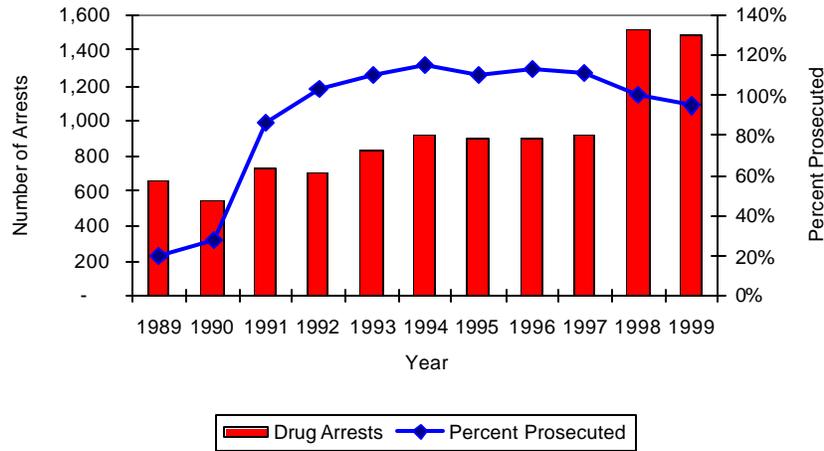
Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1989 and 1999, 71 percent (6,077) of the 8,557 drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of mostly urban MEG and task force activity were convicted. Convictions for controlled substances accounted for 68 percent of all mostly urban MEG and task force initiated convictions during the period analyzed.

Between 1989 and 1999, there were a total of 9,572 drug prosecutions initiated as a result of MEG and task force arrests in regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces. During the period analyzed, the number of mixed urban/rural MEG and task force drug arrests more than doubled, from 657 arrests in 1989 to 1,486 arrests in 1999 (Figure 18.2). Between 1989 and 1999, 95 percent of all drug arrests by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces resulted in prosecution. The majority (65 percent) of mixed urban/rural MEG and task force drug offender prosecutions during this period was for violations of the Controlled Substance Act.

**Figure 18.2**

**Drug Arrests and Percentage of Arrests Resulting in Prosecution by Mixed Urban/Rural MEGs and Task Forces**



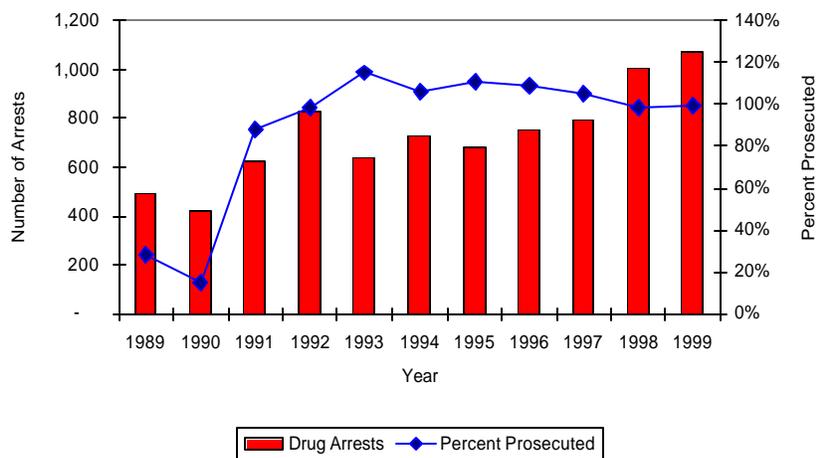
Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

During the period analyzed, 69 percent (6,645) of the 9,572 drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of mixed urban/rural MEG and task force activity were convicted. Similar to regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, convictions for controlled substances accounted for 68 percent of all mixed urban/rural MEG and task force initiated convictions during the period analyzed.

Between 1989 and 1999, there were a total of 7,509 drug prosecutions initiated as a result of MEG and task force arrests in regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces. During the period analyzed, the number of mostly rural MEG and task force drug arrests more than doubled, from 494 arrests in 1989 to 1,074 arrests in 1999 (Figure 18.3). Between 1989 and 1999, 93 percent of all drug arrests by mostly rural MEGs and task forces resulted in prosecution. The majority (51 percent) of mostly rural MEG and task force drug offender prosecutions during this period was for violations of the Controlled Substance Act.

**Figure 18.3**

**Drug Arrests and Percentage of Arrests Resulting in Prosecution by Mostly Rural MEGs and Task Forces**



Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1989 and 1999, 91 percent (6,837) of the 7,509 drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of mostly rural MEG and task force activity were convicted. Convictions for controlled substances accounted for 60 percent of all mostly rural MEG and task force initiated convictions during the period analyzed.

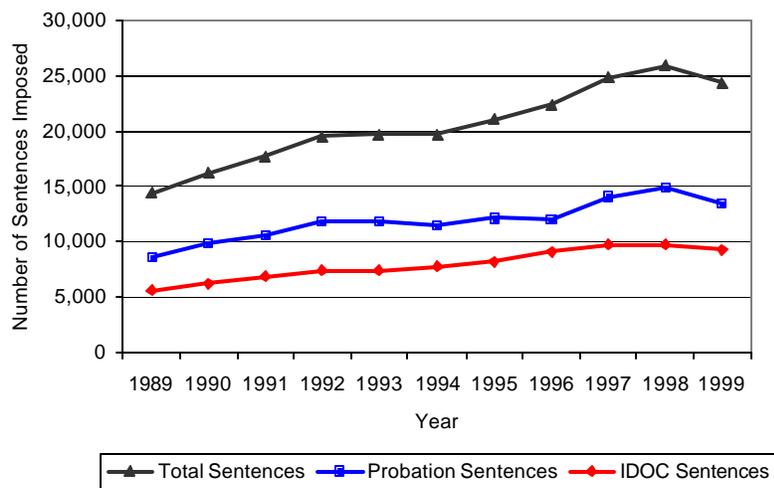
## VI. Trends in Percent of Convicted Drug Offenders Sentenced to Prison

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

Between 1989 and 1999, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces increased 70 percent, from 14,355 to 24,334. Although the number of convicted felons sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) increased from 5,534 to 9,314 between 1989 and 1999, the proportion of felons sentenced to IDOC remained relatively unchanged, accounting for 39 percent in 1989, compared to 38 percent in 1999. In 1999, 13,557 probation sentences were imposed on convicted felons, 56 percent more than in 1989 (Figure 19). The proportion of felons sentenced to probation decreased during the period analyzed, from 60 percent in 1989 to 56 percent in 1999. Sentences other than prison or probation account for the remaining 6 percent of felony sentences imposed in 1999.

Figure 19

Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force

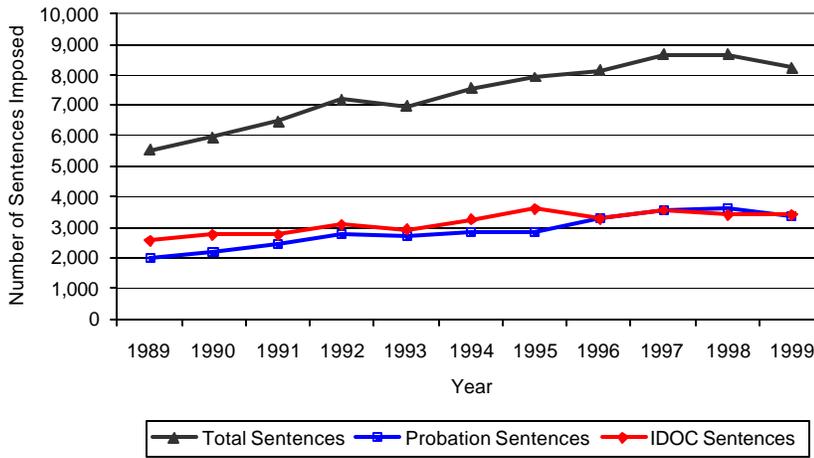


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

When geographic regions were examined separately, the results varied somewhat. Between 1989 and 1999, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces increased 49 percent, from 5,536 to 8,263. Although the number of convicted felons sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) increased between 1989 and 1999, from 2,546 to 3,404, the proportion of felons sentenced to IDOC decreased from 46 percent 1989 to 41 percent in 1999. In 1999, 3,362 probation sentences were imposed on convicted felons, 66 percent more than in 1989 (Figure 19.1). The proportion of felons sentenced to probation increased during the period analyzed, from 37 percent in 1989 to 41 percent in 1999. Sentences other than prison or probation account for the remaining 18 percent of felony sentences imposed in 1999.

**Figure 19.1**

**Sentences Imposed on Felons  
Convicted in Regions Covered by  
Mostly Urban MEGs and Task Forces**

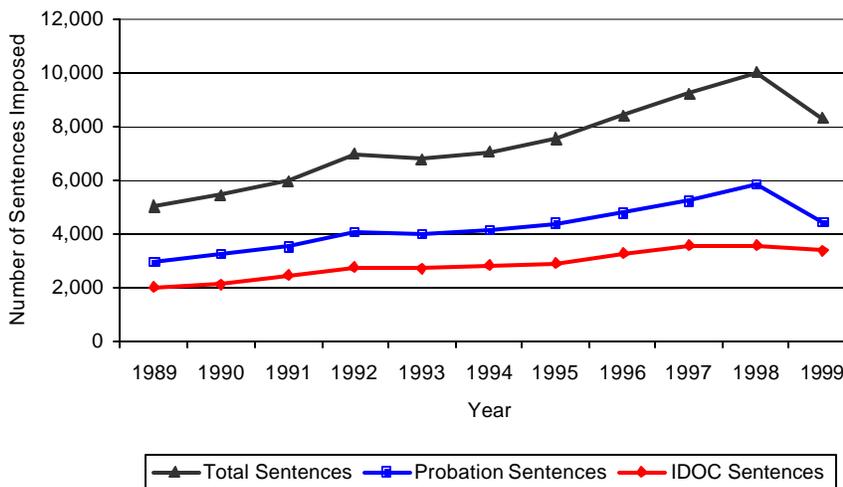


Source: ICJIA calculations using Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts data

Between 1989 and 1999, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased 65 percent, from 5,006 to 8,281. Similarly, the number of convicted felons sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) increased 66 percent between 1989 and 1999, from 2,022 to 3,362. As a result, the proportion of felons sentenced to IDOC increased slightly, from 40 percent 1989 to 41 percent in 1999. In 1999, 4,469 probation sentences were imposed on convicted felons, 53 percent more than in 1989 (Figure 19.2). The proportion of felons sentenced to probation decreased during the period analyzed, from 59 percent in 1989 to 54 percent in 1999. Sentences other than prison or probation account for the remaining 5 percent of felony sentences imposed in 1999.

**Figure 19.2**

**Sentences Imposed on Felons  
Convicted in Regions Covered by  
Mixed Urban/Rural MEGs and Task Forces**

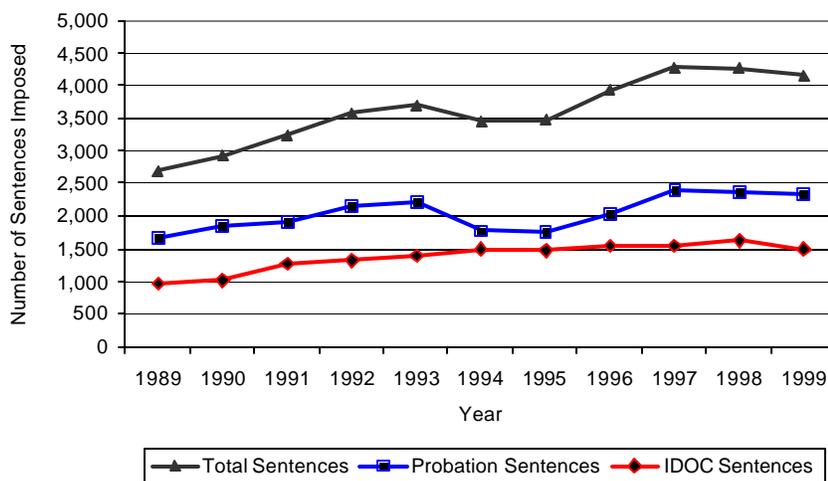


Source: ICJIA calculations using Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts data

Between 1989 and 1999, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces increased 54 percent, from 2,695 to 4,153. Although the number of convicted felons sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) increased (55 percent) between 1989 and 1999, from 968 to 1,497, the proportion of felons sentenced to IDOC remained unchanged at 36 percent in both 1989 and 1999. In 1999, 2,338 probation sentences were imposed on convicted felons, 40 percent more than in 1989 (Figure 19.3). The proportion of felons sentenced to probation decreased during the period analyzed, from 62 percent in 1989 to 56 percent in 1999. Sentences other than prison or probation account for the remaining 8 percent of felony sentences imposed in 1999.

**Figure 19.3**

**Sentences Imposed on Felons  
Convicted in Regions Covered by  
Mostly Rural MEGs and Task Forces**

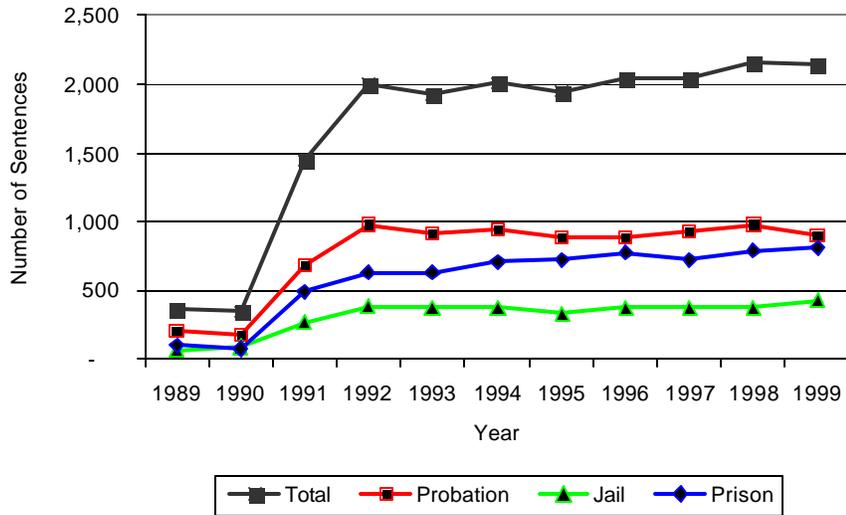


Source: ICJIA calculations using Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts data

Between 1989 and 1999, the number of MEG and task force drug offenders convicted and sentenced increased nearly five-fold, from 364 to 2,134. During the period analyzed, the number of convicted MEG and task force drug offenders sentenced to probation increased from 200 in 1989 to 899 in 1999, while the number of those drug offenders sentenced to jail increased from 65 to 422. The number of MEG and task force drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from 99 to 813 (Figure 20). In 1999, among those MEG and task force drug offenders convicted and sentenced, probation sentences accounted for the largest proportion (42 percent), followed by prison sentences (38 percent) and jail sentences (20 percent).

**Figure 20**

**Sentences Imposed on Convicted  
MEG and Task Force Drug Offenders**

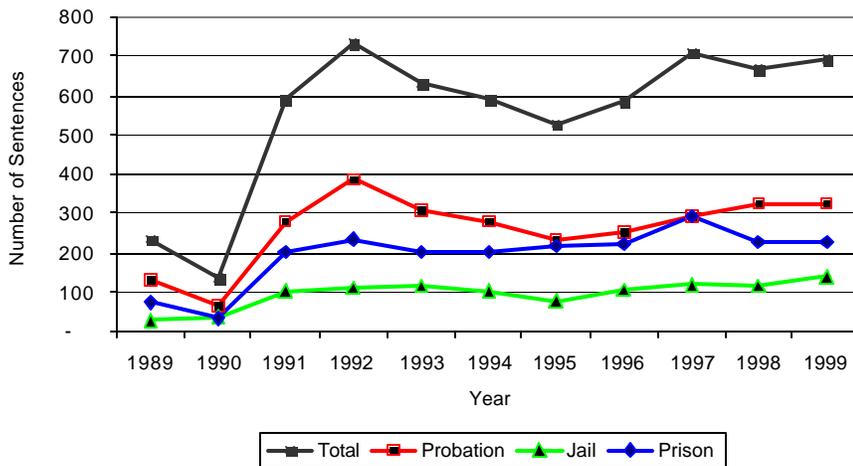


Source: MEG and task force data

When geographic regions were examined separately, some significant differences were noted. Between 1989 and 1999, the number of mostly urban MEG and task force drug offenders convicted and sentenced nearly tripled, from 234 to 693. During the period analyzed, the number of convicted drug offenders sentenced to probation from regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces increased from 130 in 1989 to 326 in 1999, while the number of those drug offenders sentenced to jail increased from 30 to 139. The number of mostly urban MEG and task force drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from 74 to 228 (Figure 20.1). In 1999, among those mostly urban MEG and task force drug offenders convicted and sentenced, probation sentences accounted for the largest proportion (47 percent), followed by prison sentences (33 percent) and jail sentences (20 percent).

**Figure 20.1**

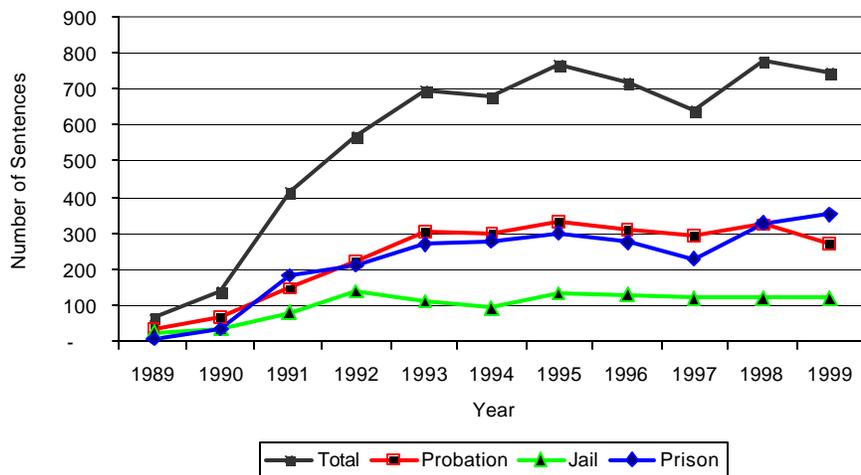
**Sentences Imposed on Convicted Drug Offenders from  
Regions Covered by  
Mostly Urban MEGs and Task Forces**



Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1989 and 1999, the number of mixed urban/rural MEG and task force drug offenders convicted and sentenced increased nearly ten-fold, from 69 to 748. During the period analyzed, the number of convicted drug offenders sentenced to probation from regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased from 34 in 1989 to 273 in 1999, while the number of those drug offenders sentenced to jail increased from 25 to 124. The number of mixed urban/rural MEG and task force drug offenders sentenced to prison increased dramatically, from ten to 351 (Figure 20.2). In 1999, among those mixed urban/rural MEG and task force drug offenders convicted and sentenced, prison sentences accounted for the largest proportion (47 percent), followed by probation sentences (36 percent) and jail sentences (17 percent).

**Figure 20.2**  
Sentences Imposed on Convicted Drug Offenders from  
Regions Covered by  
Mixed Urban/Rural MEGs and Task Forces

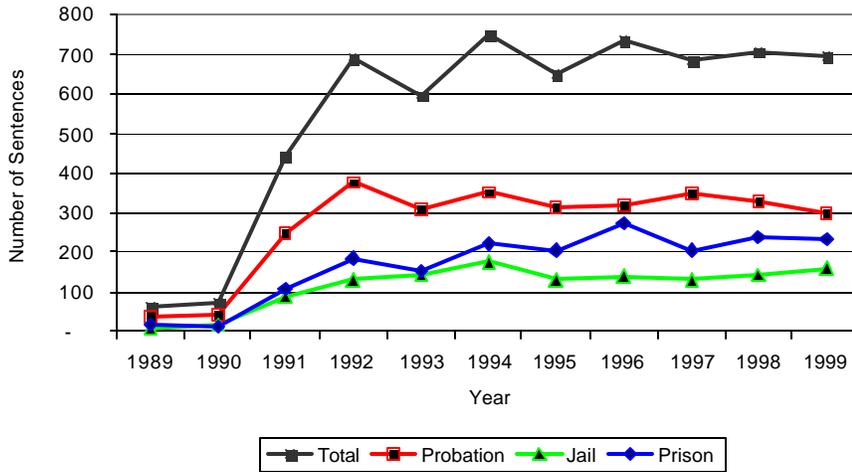


Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1989 and 1999, the number of mostly rural MEG and task force drug offenders convicted and sentenced increased more than ten-fold, from 61 to 693. During the period analyzed, the number of convicted drug offenders sentenced to probation from regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces increased from 36 in 1989 to 300 in 1999, while the number of those drug offenders sentenced to jail increased from 30 to 139. The number of mostly rural MEG and task force drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from ten to 159 (Figure 20.3). In 1999, among those mostly rural MEG and task force drug offenders convicted and sentenced, probation sentences accounted for the largest proportion (43 percent), followed by prison sentences (34 percent) and jail sentences (23 percent).

**Figure 20.3**

Sentences Imposed on Convicted Drug Offenders from Regions Covered by Mostly Rural MEGs and Task Forces

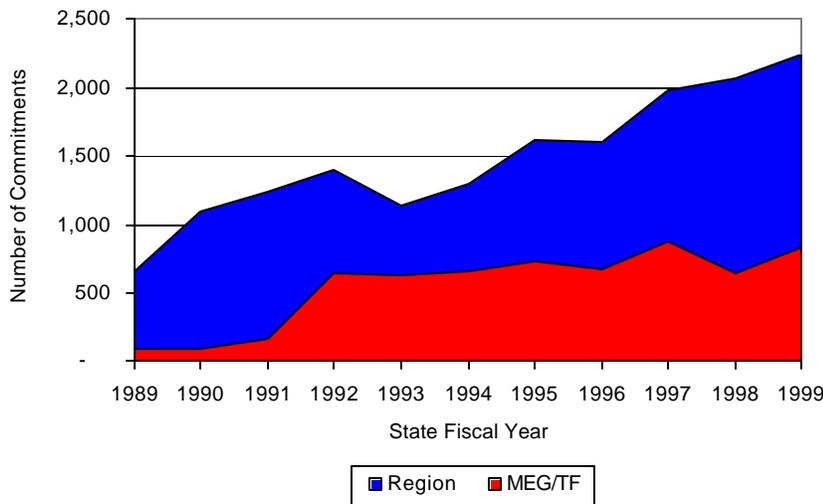


Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1999, the number of new court commitments to IDOC's Adult Division for drug offenses from the regions covered by MEGs and task forces more than tripled, from 660 to 2,243. The number of drug offender admissions by MEGs and task forces also increased from 92 to 837 between 1989 and 1999 (Figure 21). Thus, during the period analyzed, prison sentences resulting from MEG and task force cases accounted for over one-third (37 percent) of all drug-law violators sentenced to prison from the regions where MEGs and task forces operate.

**Figure 21**

Number of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC by MEGs and Task Forces and Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force

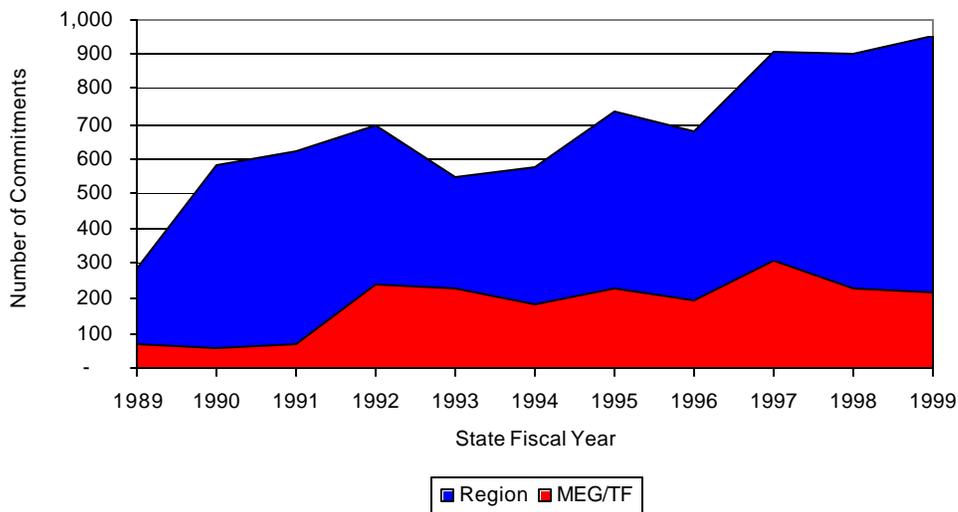


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections and MEG and task force data

When geographic regions were examined separately, significant differences were noted. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1999, the number of new court commitments to IDOC's Adult Division for drug offenses from the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces more than tripled, from 285 to 950. The number of drug offender admissions by mostly urban MEGs and task forces also more than tripled between 1989 and 1999, from 68 to 216 (Figure 21.1). Thus, during the period analyzed, prison sentences resulting from mostly urban MEG and task force cases accounted for over one-quarter (27 percent) of all drug-law violators sentenced to prison from the regions where mostly urban MEGs and task forces operate.

**Figure 21.1**

**Number of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC  
by Mostly Urban MEGs and Task Forces and Regions  
Covered by Mostly Urban MEGs and Task Forces**

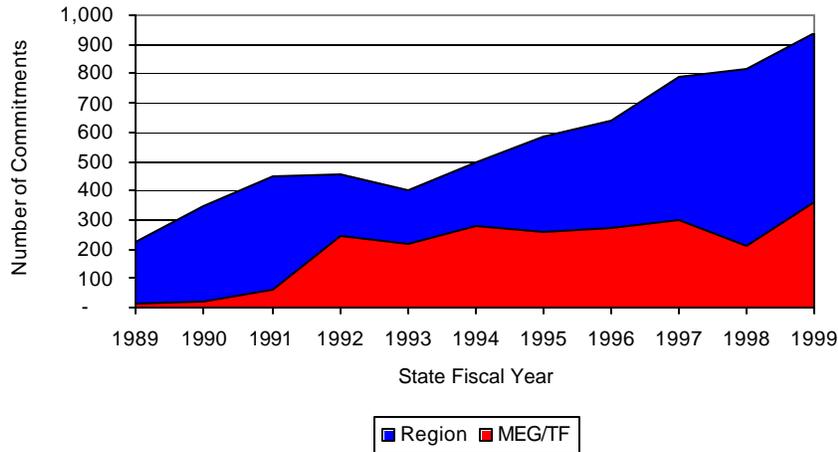


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois Department of Corrections and MEG and task force data

Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1999, the number of new court commitments to IDOC's Adult Division for drug offenses from the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces more than quadrupled, from 229 to 937. The number of drug offender admissions by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased dramatically between 1989 and 1999, from ten to 363 (Figure 21.2). As a result, during the period analyzed, prison sentences resulting from mixed urban/rural MEG and task force cases accounted for over one-third (36 percent) of all drug-law violators sentenced to prison from the regions where mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces operate.

**Figure 21.2**

Number of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC  
by Mixed Urban/Rural MEGs and Task Forces  
and Regions Covered by Mixed Urban/Rural MEGs  
and Task Forces

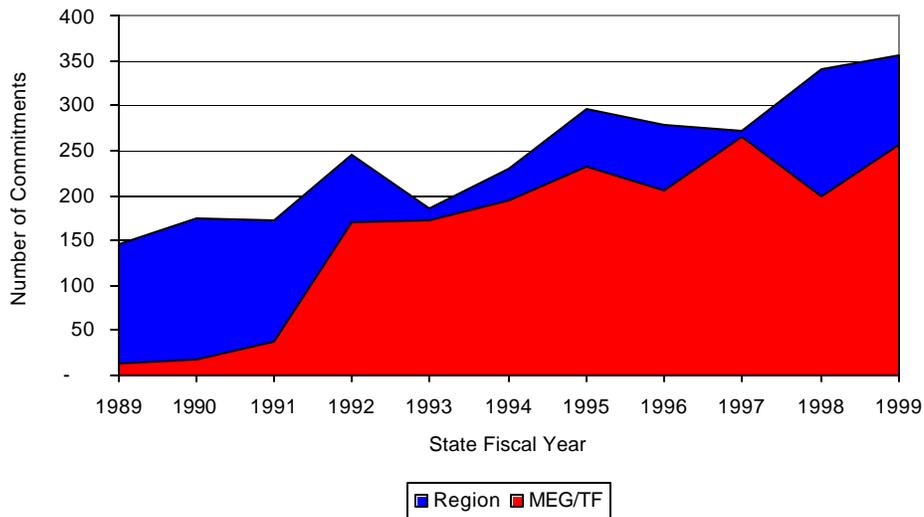


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois Department of Corrections and MEG and task force data

Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1999, the number of new court commitments to IDOC's Adult Division for drug offenses from the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces more than doubled, from 146 to 356. The number of drug offender admissions by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces increased dramatically between 1989 and 1999, from 14 to 258 (Figure 21.3). As a result, during the period analyzed, prison sentences resulting from mixed urban/rural MEG and task force cases accounted for nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of all drug-law violators sentenced to prison from the regions where mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces operate.

**Figure 21.3**

Number of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC  
by Mostly Rural MEGs and Task Forces and Regions  
Covered by Mostly Rural MEGs and Task Forces

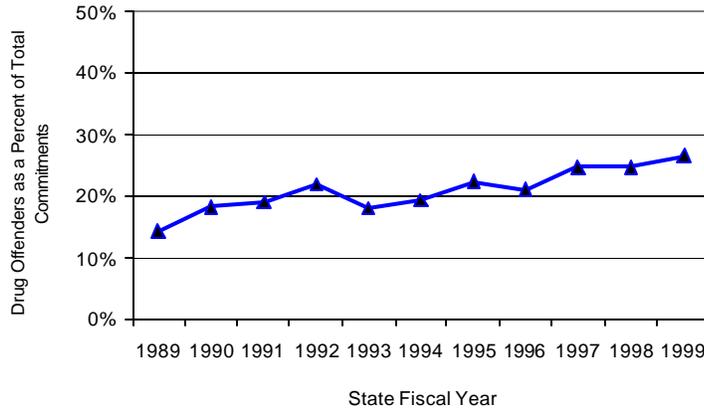


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois Department of Corrections and MEG and task force data

During the period analyzed, drug offenders accounted for an increasing proportion of adults convicted and sentenced to prison from the regions covered by MEGs and task forces. In 1989, drug offenses accounted for 14 percent of all commitments to IDOC, compared to 27 percent in 1999 (Figure 22).

**Figure 22**

**Drug Offenders as a Percent of Total IDOC Commitments from Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force**

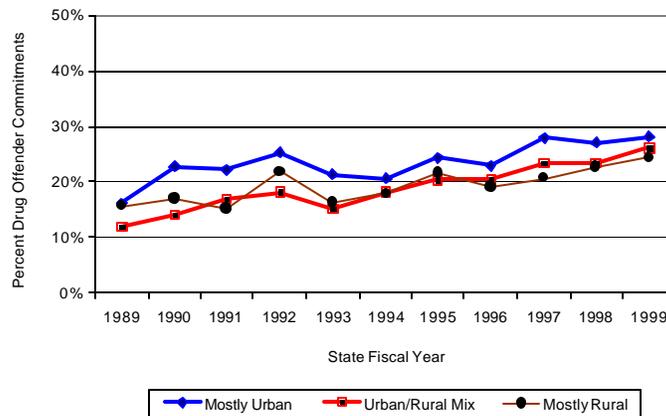


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

When geographic regions were examined separately, some differences were noted. During the period analyzed, drug offenders accounted for an increasing proportion of adults convicted and sentenced to prison across all regions covered by MEGs and task forces. In 1989, drug offenses accounted for 16 percent of all commitments to IDOC from mostly urban and mostly rural regions covered by a MEG or task force, compared to 28 percent and 24 percent, respectively, in 1999. Similarly, drug offenders accounted for 12 percent of adults convicted and sentenced to prison from regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, compared to 26 percent in 1999 (Figure 22.1).

**Figure 22.1**

**Drug Offenders as a Percent of Total IDOC Commitments from Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type**

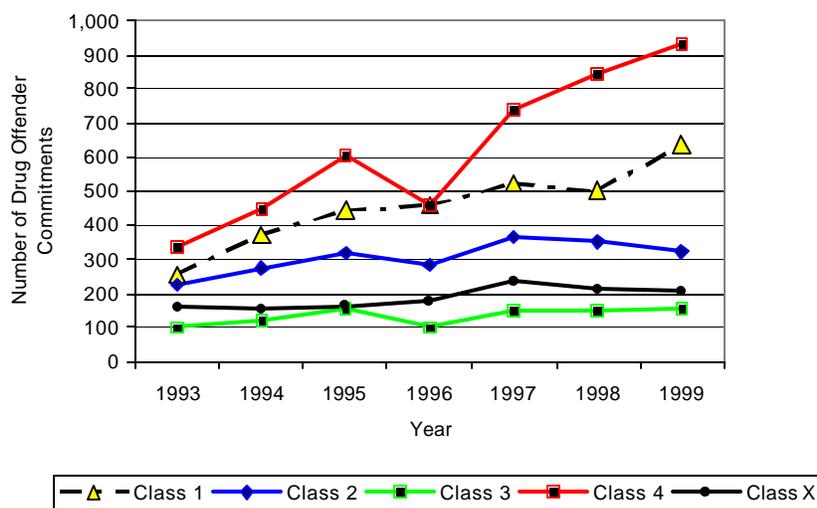


Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Penalties for drug offenses were also examined between 1993 and 1999. Class 4 felonies accounted for the largest proportion (36 percent) of sentences to IDOC for drug offenses by regions covered by MEGs and task forces, followed by Class 1 felonies (27 percent), Class 2 felonies (18 percent), Class X felonies (11 percent), and Class 3 felonies (8 percent). Between 1993 and 1999, the number of Class 4 felony sentences nearly tripled, from 337 to 934, while Class 1 felony sentences more than doubled, from 256 to 638. The number of Class 3 felonies increased 49 percent, from 103 to 153, while Class 2 and Class X felony sentences increased 43 percent and 32 percent, respectively, from 227 to 325 and 158 to 209 (Figure 23).

**Figure 23**

**Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC  
from Regions Covered by a MEG or Task  
Force, by Offense Class**



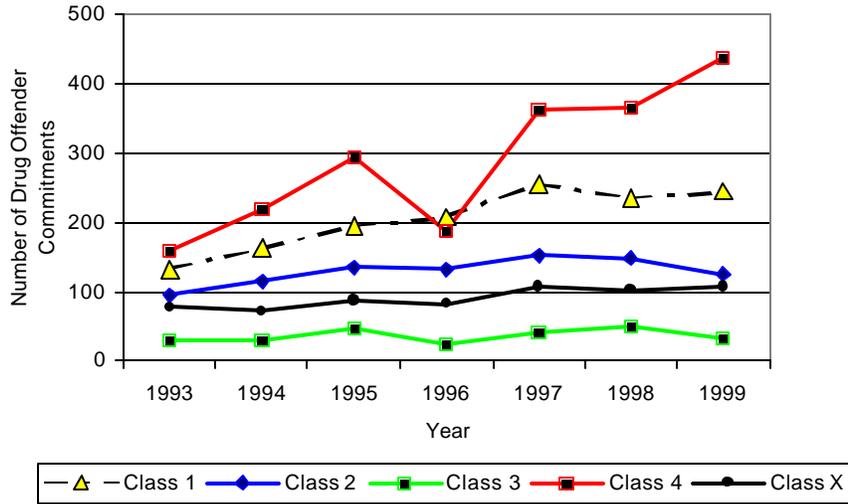
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Despite the increase in Class 4 felony sentences to IDOC between 1993 and 1999, the mean sentence length for Class 4 felonies increased only slightly during the period, from 2.18 years to 2.22 years. However, the mean sentence length for Class 1 felonies increased 22 percent, from 4.95 to 6.02 years, while the mean sentence for a Class 3 and Class X felonies increased 9 percent, from 3.03 to 3.3 years and 8.52 to 9.26 years, respectively. Conversely, Class 2 felony sentence lengths decreased 8 percent, from 4.15 to 3.84 years.

When geographic regions were examined separately, some differences were noted. Class 4 felonies accounted for the largest proportion (39 percent) of sentences to IDOC for drug offenses by regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces, followed by Class 1 felonies (27 percent), Class 2 felonies (17 percent), Class X felonies (12 percent), and Class 3 felonies (5 percent). Between 1993 and 1999, the number of Class 4 felony sentences nearly tripled, from 161 to 437, while Class 1 felony sentences nearly doubled, from 132 to 246. The number of Class 2 felonies increased 33 percent, from 95 to 126, while Class X and Class 3 felony sentences increased 12 percent and 6 percent, respectively, from 77 to 108 and 31 to 33 (Figure 23.1).

**Figure 23.1**

**Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC from  
Regions Covered by Mostly Urban  
MEGs and Task Forces, by Offense Class**



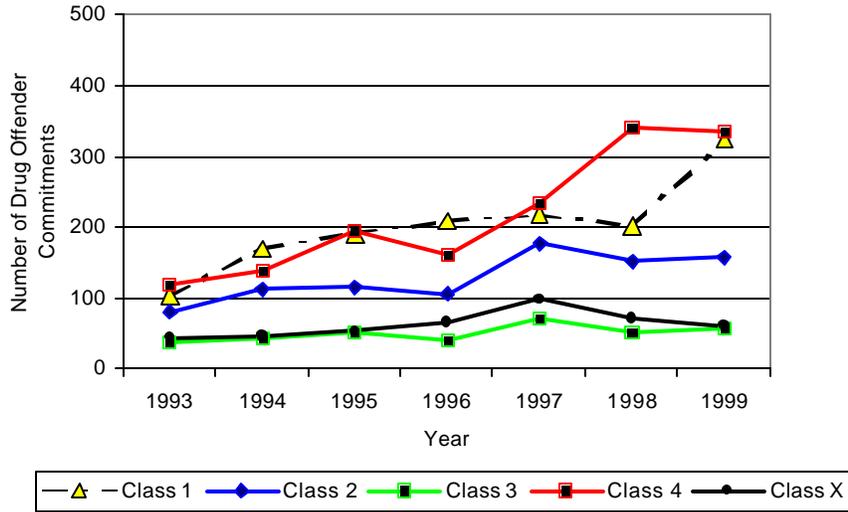
Source: ICJIA calculations using  
Illinois Department of Corrections data

Despite the increase in Class 4 felony sentences to IDOC between 1993 and 1999, the mean sentence length for Class 4 felonies decreased slightly during the period, from 2.17 years to 2.0 years. However, the mean sentence length for Class X felonies increased 16 percent, from 8.96 to 10.36 years, while the mean sentence for a Class 1 and Class 2 felonies increased 11 percent and 6 percent, respectively, from 4.91 to 5.47 years and 3.92 to 4.16. Conversely, Class 3 felony sentence lengths decreased slightly, from 2.94 to 2.87 years.

Class 4 felonies accounted for the largest proportion (33 percent) of sentences to IDOC for drug offenses by regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, followed by Class 1 felonies (30 percent), Class 2 felonies (19 percent), Class X felonies (10 percent), and Class 3 felonies (8 percent). Between 1993 and 1999, the number of Class 1 felony sentences more than tripled, from 102 to 324, while Class 4 felony sentences nearly tripled, from 119 to 337. The number of Class 2 felonies nearly doubled, from 82 to 158, while Class 3 and Class X felony sentences increased 54 percent and 36 percent, respectively, from 37 to 57 and 45 to 61 (Figure 23.2).

**Figure 23.2**

**Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC from  
Regions Covered by Mixed Urban/Rural  
MEGs and Task Forces, by Offense Class**



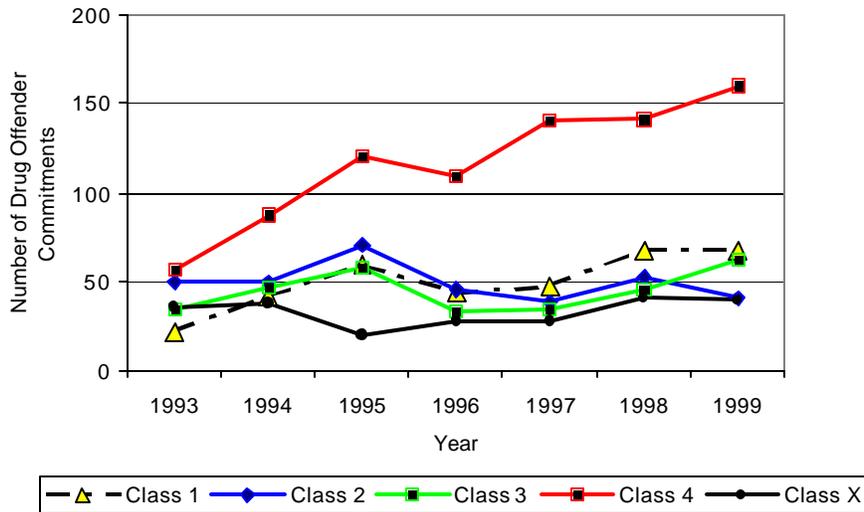
Source: ICJIA calculations using  
Illinois Department of Corrections data

Despite the increase in Class X felony sentences to IDOC between 1993 and 1999, the mean sentence length for Class X felonies decreased slightly during the period, from 9.41 years to 9.0 years. However, the mean sentence length for Class 2 felonies increased 16 percent, from 3.72 to 4.32 years, while the mean sentence for a Class 1 felony increased 11 percent, from 5.16 to 5.71 years. Class 3 and Class 4 felonies increased 9 percent and 8 percent, respectively, from 3.37 to 3.67 years and 2.25 to 2.43 years.

Class 4 felonies accounted for the largest proportion (39 percent) of sentences to IDOC for drug offenses by regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces, followed by Class 1 and Class 2 felonies (17 percent each), Class 3 felonies (15 percent) and Class X felonies (11 percent). Between 1993 and 1999, the number of Class 1 felony sentences more than tripled, from 22 to 68, while Class 4 felony sentences nearly tripled, from 57 to 160. The number of Class 3 felonies increased 80 percent, from 35 to 63, while Class X felony sentences increased slightly, from 36 to 40. Conversely, Class 2 felony sentences decreased 18 percent, from 50 to 41 (Figure 23.3).

**Figure 23.3**

**Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC from  
Regions Covered by Mostly Rural  
MEGs and Task Forces, by Offense Class**



Source: ICJIA calculations using  
Illinois Department of Corrections data

Despite the increase in Class 4 felony sentences to IDOC between 1993 and 1999, the mean sentence length for Class 4 felonies increased only slightly during the period, from 2.11 years to 2.16 years. However, the mean sentence length for Class 1 felonies increased 40 percent, from 4.77 to 6.68 years, while the mean sentence for a Class X felony increased 20 percent, from 7.35 to 8.85 years and Class 3 felonies increased 17 percent, from 2.75 to 3.21 years. Conversely, Class 2 sentence lengths decreased 33 percent, from 4.72 to 3.15 years.

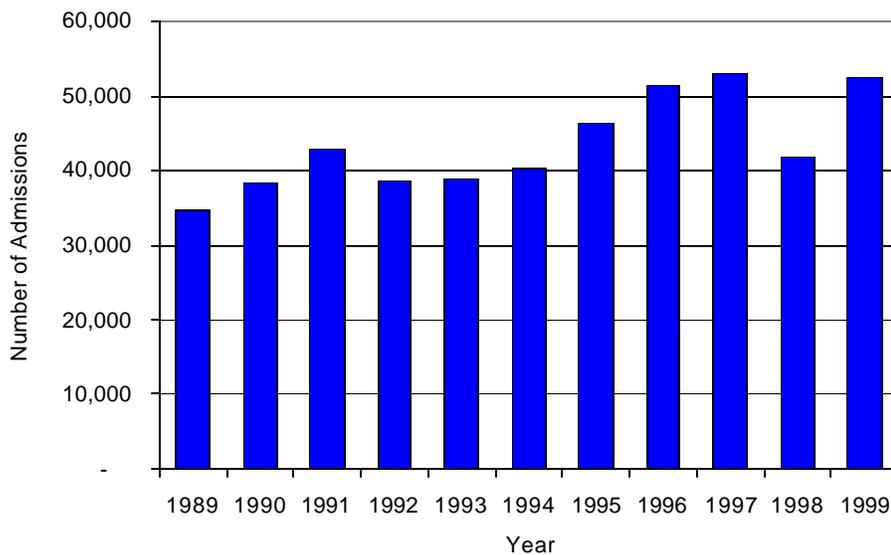
## VII. Trends in Drug Treatment Admissions, by Drug Type

In addition to considering indicators of the extent and nature of drug abuse as reported through the criminal justice system (for example, arrests and prison sentences), there are indicators of substance abuse available from other Illinois social service agencies. Overseeing and supporting treatment for substance users, whether they are referred from the criminal justice system or elsewhere, is the responsibility of the Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASA). It is important to note, however, that while OASA data represent the majority of the overall demand for substance abuse treatment in the state, some private programs provide treatment services to a smaller but significant number of clients who may not be included in the state's reporting system.

In state fiscal year 1999, OASA reported 52,417 admissions for alcohol or drug abuse treatment from the regions covered by MEGs and task forces, 52 percent more than the 34,590 admissions in 1989 (Figure 24). Among the 52,417 admissions to substance abuse treatment in state fiscal year 1999, 47 percent reported alcohol as their primary substance of abuse, while abuse of illicit substances accounted for one-half of treatment admissions and 3 percent reported no primary substance of abuse.

**Figure 24**

### Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions from Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force

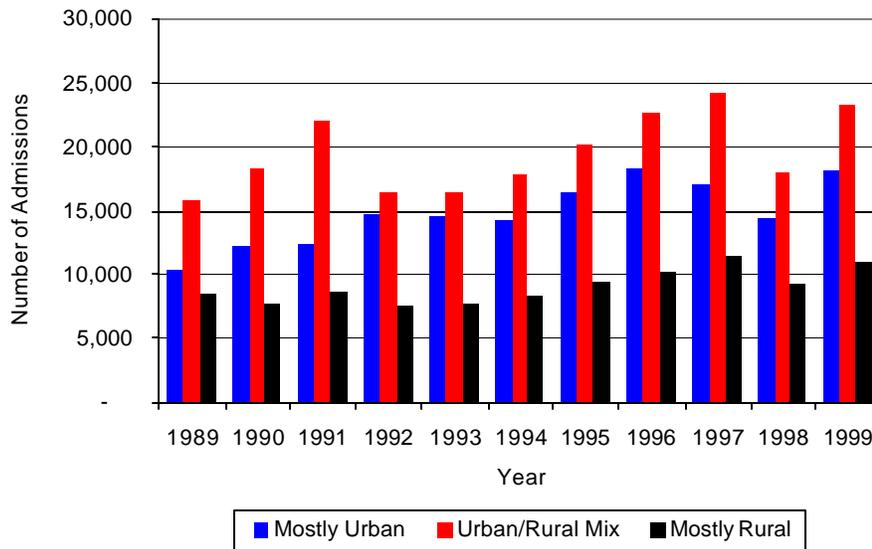


Source: Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

When geographic regions were examined separately, some differences were noted. Admissions for alcohol or drug abuse treatment from the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces increased across all regions (Figure 24.1).

**Figure 24.1**

**Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions  
from Regions Covered by a  
MEG or Task Force, by Unit Type**



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse data

Regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces experienced the largest increase, increasing 76 percent, from 10,294 to 18,103 admissions between 1989 and 1999. Among the 18,103 admissions to substance abuse treatment from regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces in state fiscal year 1999, 40 percent reported alcohol as their primary substance of abuse, while abuse of illicit substances accounted for more than one-half (57 percent) of treatment admissions and 3 percent reported no primary substance of abuse.

In state fiscal year 1999, there were 23,240 admissions to substance abuse treatment from regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, 47 percent more than the 15,843 admissions reported in 1989. Similar to regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces, 44 percent reported alcohol as their primary substance of abuse, while abuse of illicit substances accounted for more than one-half (52 percent) of treatment admissions and 4 percent reported no primary substance of abuse.

There were 11,074 admissions to substance abuse treatment from regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces in state fiscal year 1999, 31 percent more than the 8,453 admissions reported in 1989. One-third of admissions to substance abuse treatment from regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces reported alcohol as their primary substance of abuse, while abuse of illicit substances accounted for 62 percent of treatment admissions and 5 percent reported no primary substance of abuse.

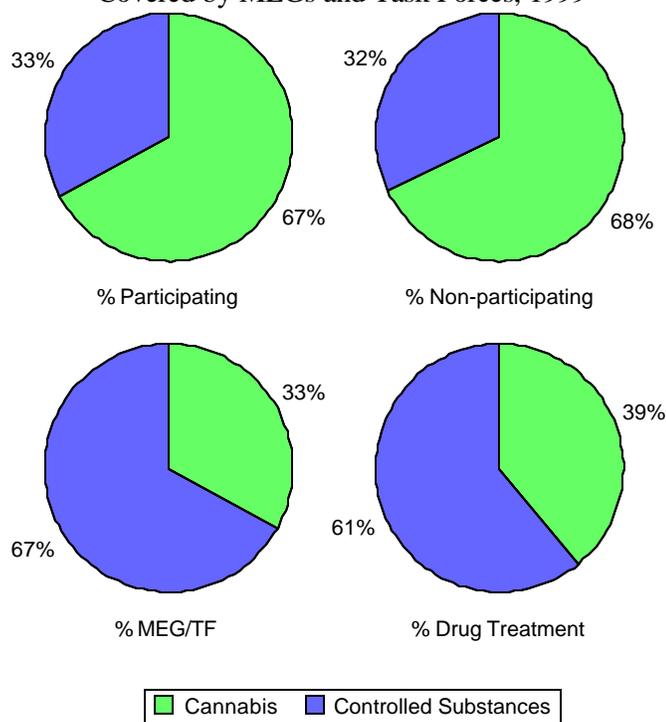
While the number of treatment admissions to substance abuse treatment increased across all regions covered by MEGs and task forces, the proportion accounted for by each region varied. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1999, the proportion of total admissions to substance abuse treatment decreased for those regions covered by mixed urban/rural and mostly rural MEGs and task forces, from 46 percent and 24 percent to 44 percent and 21 percent, respectively. Conversely, the proportion of admissions accounted for by regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces increased during the period analyzed, from 30 percent to 35 percent.

While drug treatment admissions can be considered a measure of the demand placed on a specific component of the human services system within Illinois, the extent and nature of drug treatment admissions could also be indicative of the substance abuse problem within a particular region. In some respects, the characteristics of those admitted to drug treatment can be considered a profile of the most serious drug abusers in the community, since admission to treatment requires a documented, formal assessment of a drug problem and a level of substance abuse warranting treatment. By comparing the types of drugs of abuse reported by those admitted to substance abuse treatment with the types of drugs involved in law enforcement agency arrests, one can get a sense of the degree to which arrests reflect the drugs which are most problematic within a community.

In the following analyses, the percent of arrests accounted for by drugs classified under Illinois' Controlled Substances Act (primarily cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine) versus the Cannabis Control Act (marijuana) across the participating agencies combined, non-participating agencies combined and MEGs and task forces are compared to the proportion of drug treatment admissions accounted for by these groups of substances. From these comparisons, a number of general conclusions can be made. First, the proportion of arrests made by MEGs and task forces accounted for by drugs other than marijuana (Controlled Substances Act offenses) was very close to the proportion of drug treatment admissions from the covered region accounted for by these substances. Thus, there is considerable convergence between the drugs involved in MEG and task force arrests and treatment admissions. On the other hand, the majority of arrests by local police departments (including those participating in MEGs and task forces and non-participating agencies) were for cannabis offenses. Thus, while local arrests may reflect the most widely available and used drug in the region, they tend not to involve the substances considered to be most serious (i.e., felony versus misdemeanor) nor the substances individuals are seeking and receiving treatment for (Figure 25).

**Figure 25**

Comparison of Drug Arrests by MEGs and Task Forces and Participating and Non-participating Agencies vs. Drug Abuse Treatment Admissions in Regions Covered by MEGs and Task Forces, 1999



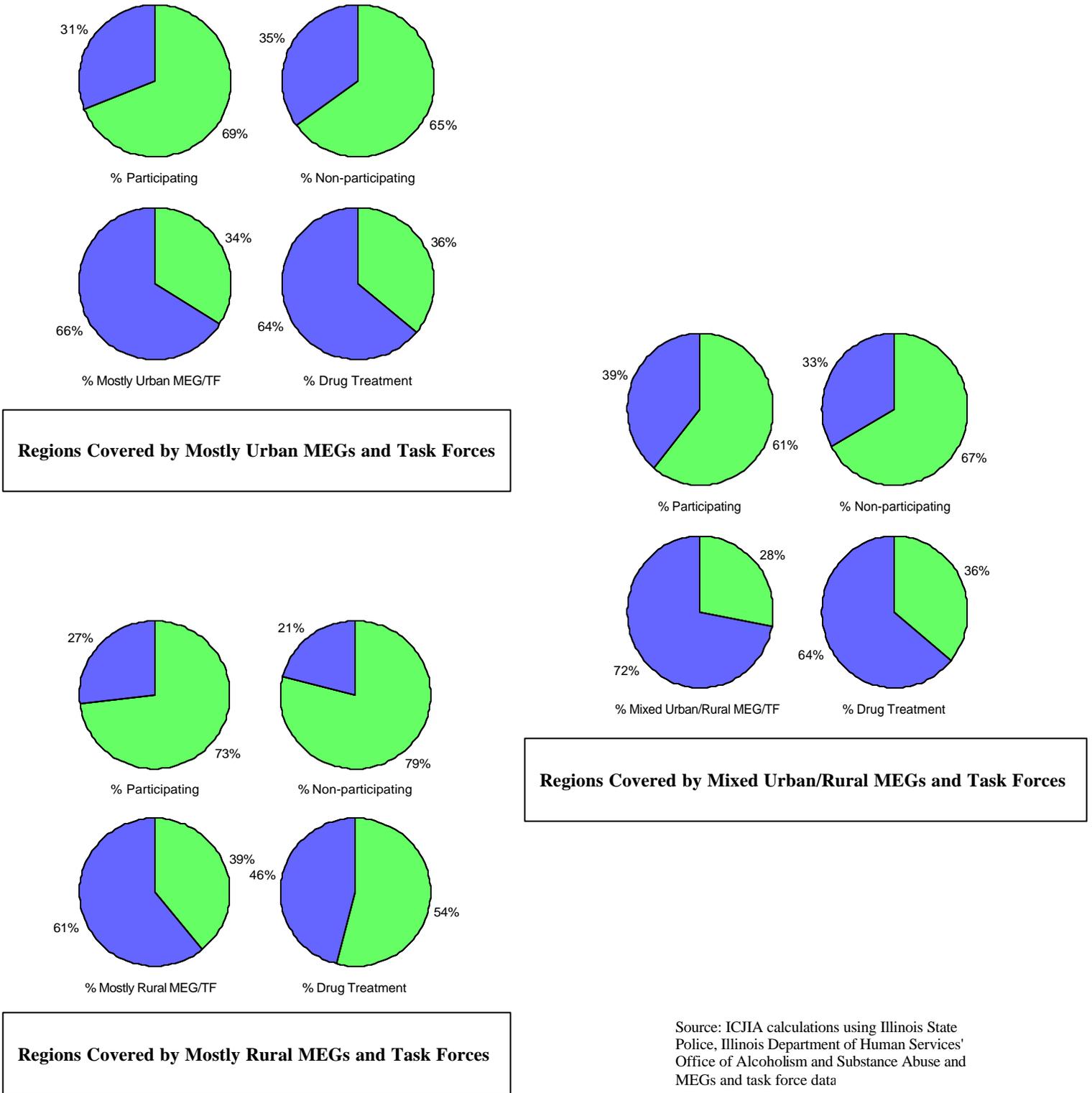
Source: Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and MEGs and task force data

When geographic regions were examined separately, some differences were noted. The proportion of arrests made by mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces accounted for by drugs other than marijuana (Controlled Substances Act offenses) was very close to the proportion of drug treatment admissions from those covered regions accounted for by these substances. Thus, there is considerable convergence between the drugs involved in mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEG and task force arrests and treatment admissions for regions covered by mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces. Similar to mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEG and task force drug arrests, arrests for Controlled Substances Act offenses by mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for the majority of drug arrests. However, unlike the other regions, cannabis accounted for the majority of drug treatment admissions in regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces. As a result, there is a lack of convergence between drug arrests by mostly rural MEGs and task forces and treatment admissions in that region in that they do not involve the substances individuals are seeking and receiving treatment for (Figure 25.1). Across all regions examined, arrests for cannabis offenses continue to account for the majority of arrests by local police departments (including those participating in MEGs and task forces and non-participating agencies).

When drug arrests and drug treatment admissions were examined more closely, it was observed that cocaine accounted for the largest proportion (53 percent) of arrests for controlled substances and drug treatment admissions (48 percent) for controlled substances across all regions covered by MEGs and task forces, followed by methamphetamine (6 percent and 1 percent, respectively). When methamphetamine drug arrests and drug treatment admissions were examined across all regions covered by MEG or task force, significant differences were noted. In 1999, methamphetamine arrests accounted for 3 percent of total drug arrests by mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces and 1 percent of all drug treatment admissions in regions covered by mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces. However, methamphetamine arrests by mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for seven times the proportion in the other regions covered, accounting for 22 percent of all drug arrests by mostly rural MEGs and task forces in 1999. Similarly, drug treatment admissions for methamphetamine accounted for 5 percent of all drug admissions in regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces, five times the proportion accounted for by methamphetamine treatment admissions in those regions covered by mostly urban and mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces.

**Figure 25.1**

Comparison of Drug Arrests by MEGs and Task Forces and Participating and Non-participating Agencies vs. Drug Abuse Treatment Admissions in Regions Covered by MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type 1999



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and MEGs and task force data

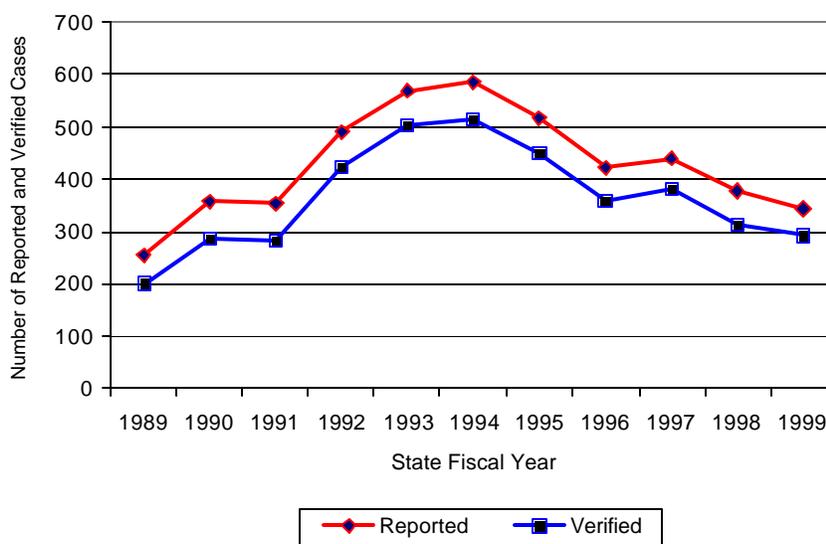
### VIII. Trends in Drug Exposed Births

Illinois continues to experience the effects of prenatal substance abuse. In Illinois, if a baby is born and thought to have been exposed to illegal substances or alcohol, either through observation by physicians or toxicology tests, the case is reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. These cases are then investigated by DCFS to verify the child's prenatal exposure to either alcohol or illegal substances. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1999, nearly one-half (50) of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-affected infant.

Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1994, the number of drug-exposed infant cases reported in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces soared from a period low of 254 to a period high of 586, before decreasing nearly every year thereafter to 343 in 1999. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1999, 3,998 cases, or 85 percent of all cases reported, were verified as involving prenatal drug use by a DCFS investigation. Mirroring the trend of reported cases, verified cases of drug-exposed infants in the MEG and task force region also jumped dramatically between 1989 and 1994 from 201 to 514 before dropping to 292 cases in 1999 (Figure 26).

Figure 26

Cases of Drug-Exposed Infants in Regions Covered by a MEG or Task Force



Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

When geographic regions were examined separately, some differences were noted. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1993, regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces accounted for the majority (51 percent) of reported cases of drug-exposed infants, followed by regions covered by mixed urban/rural (42 percent) and mostly rural (6 percent) MEGs and task forces. The number of drug-exposed infant cases reported in the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces more than doubled from 139 to a period high of 295, before decreasing nearly every year thereafter to 172 in 1999. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1999, 2,145 cases, or 89 percent of all cases reported, were verified. Mirroring the trend of reported cases, verified cases of drug-exposed infants in the regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces also jumped dramatically between 1989 and 1993 from 118 to 268 before dropping to 147 cases in 1999.

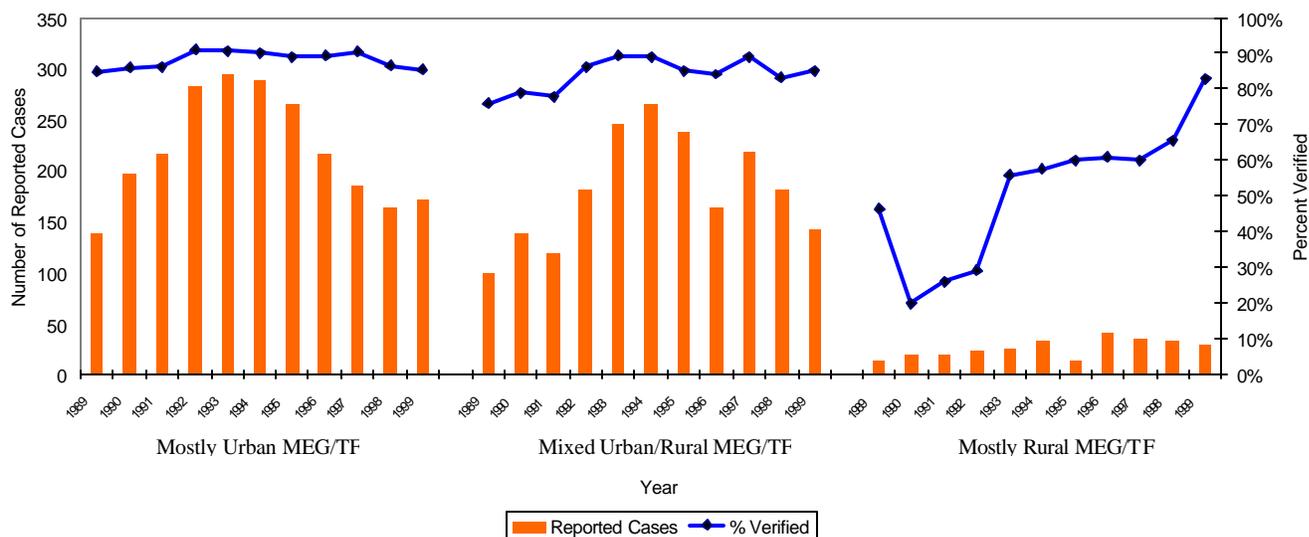
The number of drug-exposed infant cases reported in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces also more than doubled between state fiscal years 1989 and 1994, from 100 to a period high of 265, before decreasing nearly every year thereafter to 142 in 1999. During the same period, 1,697 cases, or 85 percent of all cases reported, were verified. Mirroring the trend of reported cases, verified cases of drug-exposed infants in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces more than tripled between 1989 and 1994 from 76 to 236 before dropping to 121 cases in 1999.

The number of drug-exposed infant cases reported in the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces nearly tripled between state fiscal years 1989 and 1996, from 15 to a period high of 41, before decreasing annually to 29 in 1999. During the same period, 156 cases, or 54 percent of all cases reported, were verified. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 1995, verified cases of drug-exposed infants in the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces averaged nine cases annually, before averaging 23 cases annually since 1996.

As can be seen in Figure 26.1, the proportion of verified cases of drug-exposed infants in the regions covered by MEGs and task forces varied by region. The proportion of verified cases remained unchanged 85 percent in both 1989 and 1999 in regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces, while regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces experienced an increased proportion, from 76 percent in 1989 compared to 85 percent in 1999. Moreover, during the period analyzed, the proportion of verified cases increased dramatically in regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces. Although 47 percent of reported cases of drug-exposed infants were verified in 1989, the proportion of verified cases increased nearly every year thereafter, from a period low of 20 percent in 1990 to a period high of 83 percent in 1999.

**Figure 26.1**

**Reported Cases of Drug Exposed Infants and Percent Verified in Regions Covered by MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type**



Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois Department of Children and Family Services data

## IX. Drug Seizures and Forfeitures

Since they were first enacted in the early 1980s, state laws authorizing the seizure and forfeiture of drug offenders' assets have become increasingly important tools for Illinois's law enforcement agencies. Illinois' asset seizure and forfeiture laws are intended to attack the profit motive for trafficking in illegal drugs. In Illinois, asset seizure and forfeiture in drug cases are authorized under four separate laws: *the Controlled Substances Act* (720 ILCS 570/505), the *Cannabis Control Act* (720 ILCS 550/12), the *Narcotics Profit Forfeiture Act* (725 ILCS 175/5) and the *Drug Asset Forfeiture Procedure Act* (725 ILCS 150/1).

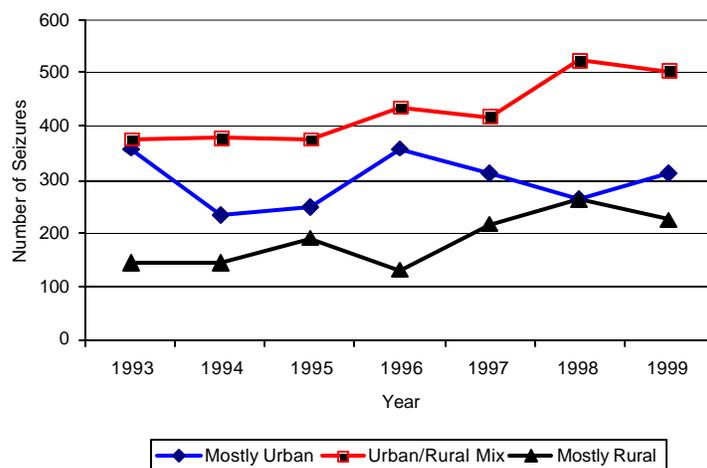
Seizure and forfeiture are not interchangeable terms for the same thing, but rather are distinct parts of an integrated process. A *seizure* is the act of physically taking possession of a piece of property (e.g., cash, a vehicle or real estate, for example) that is suspected of having been used to violate a drug law or acquired with the profits of illegal drug activity. Seized property, however, is not immediately or automatically "forfeited" by its owner, but instead becomes the subject of subsequent legal proceedings. Whereas, *forfeiture* is the legal proceeding following the initial seizure. It is at this point in the process that the state attempts to deny the owner of all rights to the seized property and to acquire the property for future sale and distribution of proceeds.

When analyzing changes over time in asset seizures and forfeitures two factors must be kept in mind. First, seizures and forfeitures in drug cases are, by their very nature, inconstant. One or two large forfeitures in a given year can inflate the total for that year, just as the absence of any large forfeiture can deflate the total in other years. Second, there can be a significant delay from the time a piece of property is seized and the time it is ultimately forfeited and the proceeds distributed. This delay means that forfeitures may not be reflected in the same year as the seizure from which they resulted was reported.

Between 1993 and 1999, the number of MEG and task force seizures increased 19 percent, from 878 to 1,042. However, when geographic regions were examined separately, significant differences were noted. The number of seizures increased in regions covered by mostly rural (56 percent) and mixed urban/rural (34 percent) MEGs and task forces, from 145 to 226 and 375 to 504, respectively. Conversely, the number of seizures made by mostly urban MEGs and task forces decreased 13 percent during the period analyzed, from 358 to 312 (Figure 27).

**Figure 27**

MEG and Task Force Asset Seizures,  
by Unit Type



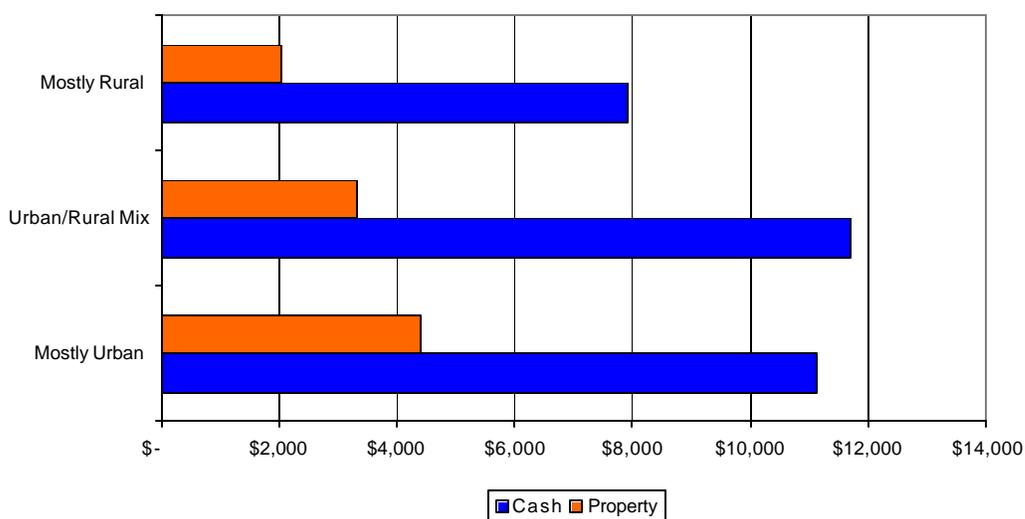
Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

*A Summary of Drug Enforcement Activities Across Illinois'  
Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Groups and Task Forces*

During the period analyzed, more than \$40 million in cash and property were seized as a result of the 6,413 seizures made by Illinois' MEGs and task forces. Cash accounted for the majority (76 percent) of the value of all seizures, while tangible property accounted for 24 percent. Mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces accounted for the largest proportion (38 percent) of cash assets seized by MEGs and task forces between 1993 and 1999, seizing more than \$11.7 million, followed by mostly urban (36 percent) and mostly rural (26 percent) MEGs and task forces which seized more than \$11.1 million and \$7.9 million, respectively. Mostly urban MEGs and task forces accounted for the largest proportion (45 percent) of property assets seized by MEGs and task forces during the period analyzed, seizing more than \$4.4 million, followed by mixed urban/rural (34 percent) and mostly rural (21 percent) MEGs and task forces which seized more than \$3.3 million and \$2 million, respectively (Figure 27.1).

**Figure 27.1**

**MEG and Task Force Cash and Tangible Property Seizure Values (in thousands), by Unit Type, 1993-1999**

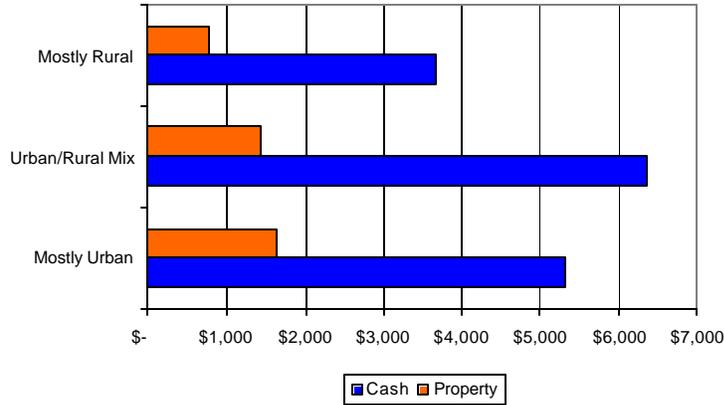


Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

A total of 4,961 forfeiture judgments were filed between 1993 and 1999. As a result, more than \$15 million in cash and nearly \$4 million in property assets were forfeited. Cash accounted for the majority (80 percent) of the value of all forfeiture assets, while tangible property accounted for 20 percent. Similar to seizures, mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces accounted for 41 percent (\$6.4 million) of the cash value of assets forfeited as a result of MEG and task force seizures between 1993 and 1999, followed by mostly urban (35 percent) and mostly rural (24 percent) MEGs and task forces which accounted for more than \$5.3 million and \$3.6 million in forfeited assets, respectively. Mostly urban MEGs and task forces accounted for the largest proportion (43 percent) of the value of all property assets forfeited during the period analyzed, accounting for more than \$1.6 million in forfeited assets. Mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces accounted for 37 percent, while mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for 20 percent of the total value of property assets forfeited between 1993 and 1999 accounting for more than \$1.4 million and \$0.77 million, respectively (Figure 27.2).

**Figure 27.2**

MEG and Task Force Cash and Tangible Property Forfeiture Values (in thousands), by Unit Type, 1993-1999



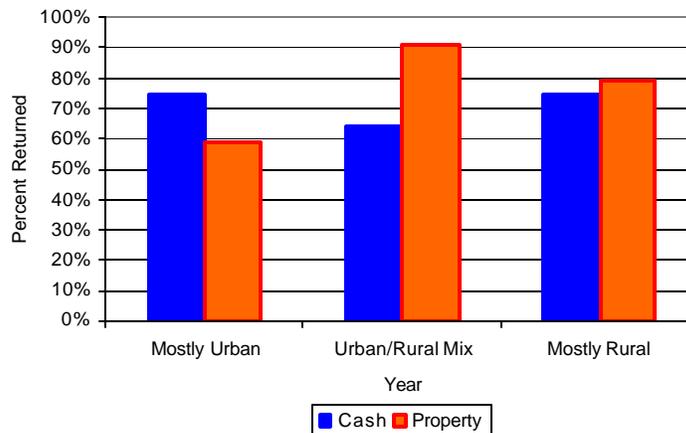
Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

Between 1993 and 1999, of the \$40.6 million in cash and property seized by MEGs and task forces, nearly one-half (47 percent) of the cash (\$15.3 million) and property (\$3.8 million) was ultimately forfeited. Overall, that proportion was relatively constant across MEG and task force regions. Mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces accounted for the largest proportion (52 percent) of forfeitures resulting from unit seizures, while mostly urban and mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for 45 percent each.

Consequently, between 1993 and 1999, the majority of cash (80 percent) and property (79 percent) forfeitures were returned to the MEGs and task forces. Mostly rural MEGs and task forces accounted for the largest proportion of forfeiture judgments returned (75 percent), followed by mostly urban units (71 percent) and mixed urban/rural units (69 percent). Mostly urban and mostly rural MEGs and task forces received 75 percent of cash forfeited, while mixed urban/rural units received 64 percent of cash forfeitures. However, greater variation was noted in property forfeitures returned to MEGs and task forces. During the period analyzed, 91 percent of property forfeited was returned to the mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces, compared to 79 percent for mostly rural units and 59 percent for mostly urban units (Figure 27.3).

**Figure 27.3**

Percentage of Cash and Tangible Property Forfeiture Judgments Returned to MEGs and Task Forces, by Unit Type, 1993-1999



Source: ICJIA calculations using MEG and task force data

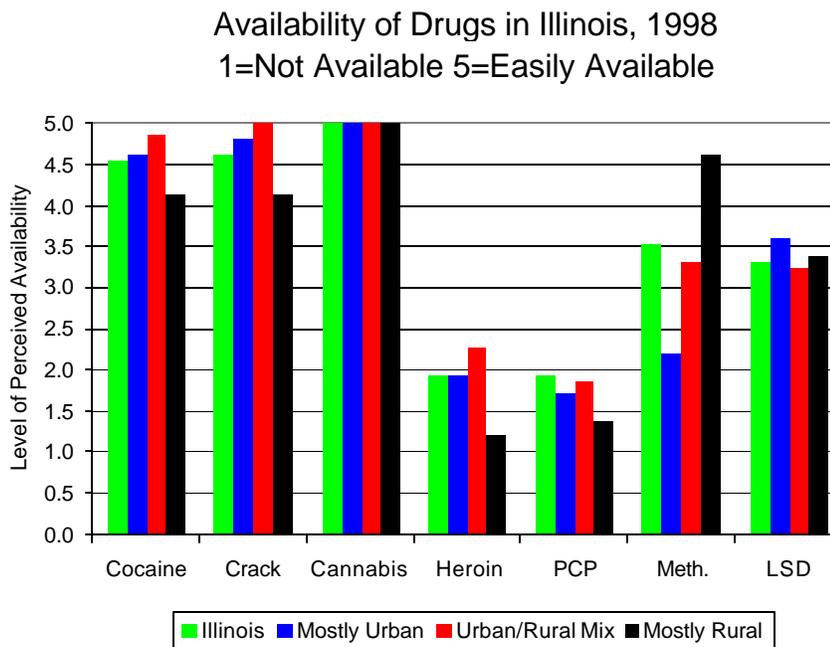
## X. Summary of Drug Situation

Although the distribution of illegal drugs is difficult to measure precisely, data obtained from criminal justice sources can be helpful in estimating drug availability. Information from a recent survey of Illinois drug enforcement units, as well as the most up-to-date data available on drug price, are presented as indicators of the drug supply in Illinois.

In 1995, 1996 and 1998, the Authority conducted a survey of each MEG and task force in Illinois to gauge the perceived availability of drugs in the areas they cover. Questions were asked concerning the availability of specific drugs, and results were analyzed by region of the state. MEGs and task forces are classified as being either urban, rural or mixed urban/rural based upon the classification of the county(s) that each unit covers, and, for purposes of this report, are compared to the average of similar units.

According to MEG and task force survey responses, cannabis, cocaine and crack continued to be the most visible drugs on the street and were all reported to be “readily available” across all regions analyzed. While perceived availability of most drugs remained relatively unchanged in the regions covered by all MEGs and task forces, combined, the perceived availability of LSD has decreased across Illinois and all regions covered by MEGs and task forces, except mostly urban regions where perceived availability of LSD has increased since the 1996 survey. Methamphetamine was reported as moderately, but increasingly more available across Illinois but available to a greater degree in the regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces (Figure 28).

Figure 28



Source: Authority survey of MEGs and task forces

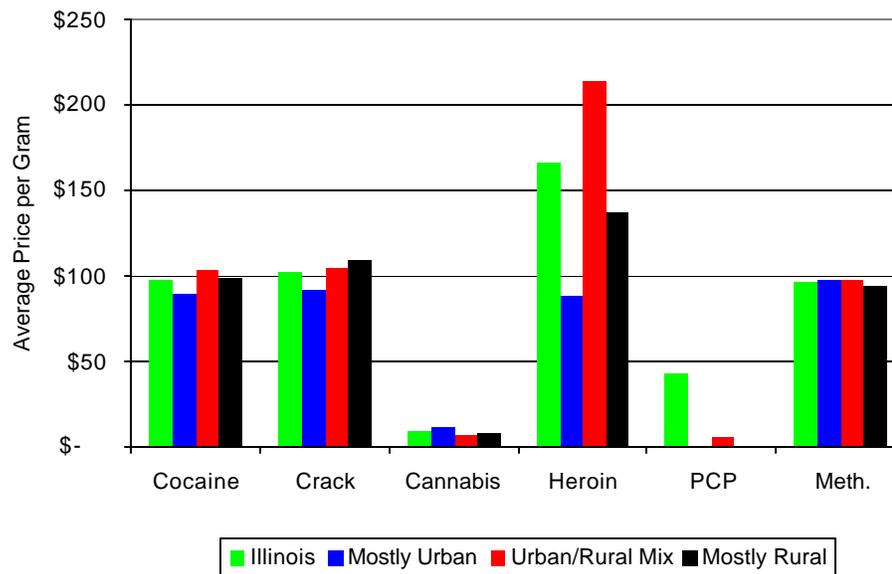
Another market indicator that can be used to assess availability is drug price. Lower prices tend to suggest a sufficient supply to meet demand, while increasing prices indicate decreased availability.

Based on a statewide survey of MEG and task force units, the average price of cannabis, cocaine, crack and methamphetamine appear to be relatively stable across all regions surveyed in 1998, while prices for PCP and heroin appear to vary somewhat across Illinois. The average price of some drugs varied widely across regions, but some significant patterns did emerge. The average price of methamphetamine increased statewide, but decreased across all regions covered by MEGs and task forces. The average price of crack increased in regions covered by mostly rural MEGs and task forces, while decreasing in the other regions and across Illinois. Similarly, the average price of cocaine increased in regions covered by mostly urban MEGs and task forces, while decreasing in the other regions and across Illinois.

The 1998 average price of most drugs were relatively stable across regions covered by a MEG or task force with the exception of heroin. The average price of heroin across Illinois was reported as \$165 per gram, compared to \$214 per gram in the regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task force, \$138 per gram in the mostly rural regions and \$88 per gram in mostly urban regions covered by MEGs and task forces (Figure 29). In 1998, the average price of cannabis was reported as approximately \$8 per gram across Illinois and in the mostly rural regions, \$11 in the mostly urban regions and \$7 per gram in regions covered by mixed urban/rural MEGs and task forces.

**Figure 29**

**Price Per Gram in Illinois, 1998**



Source: Authority survey of MEGs and task forces

# **XI. Appendices**

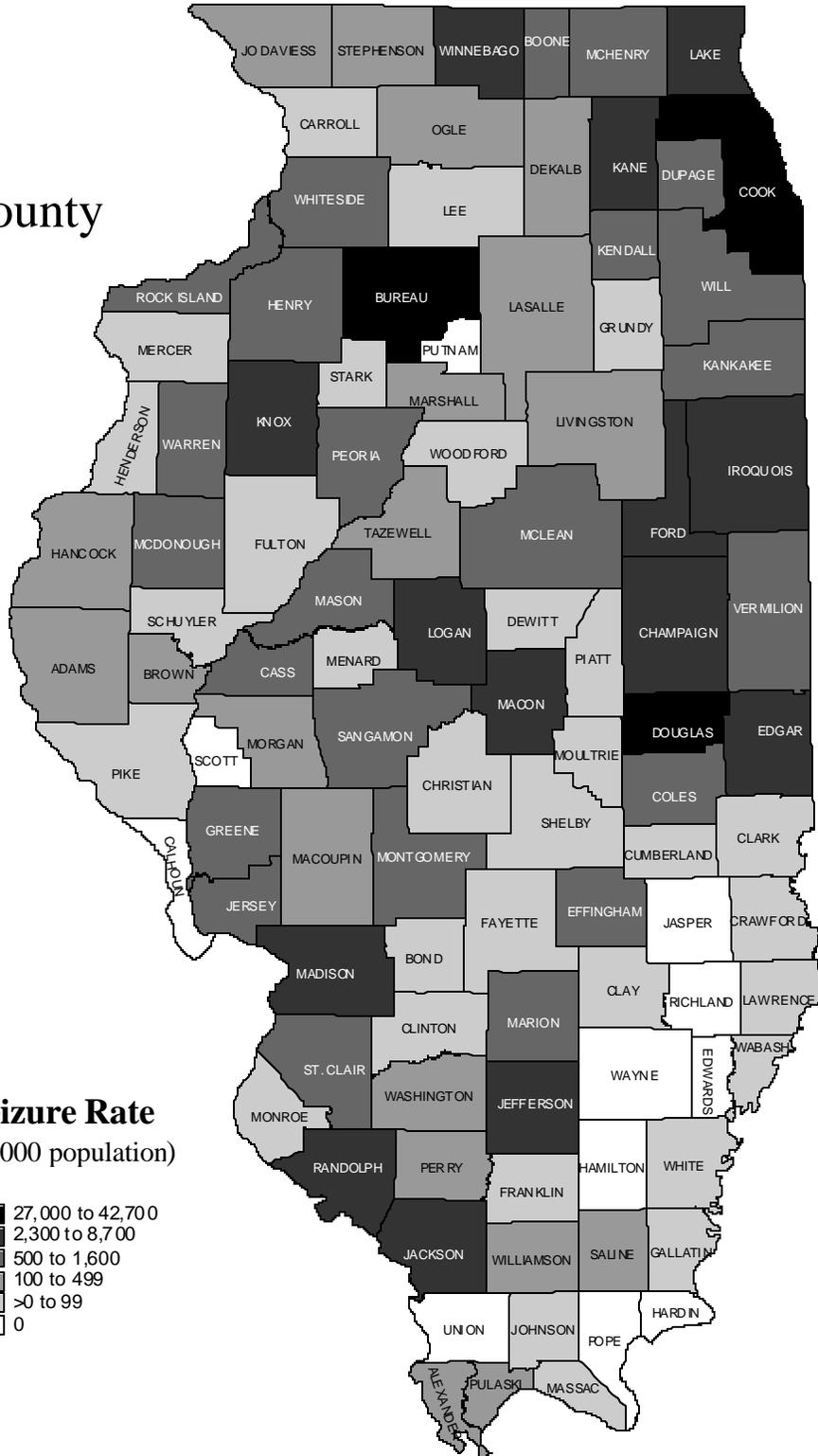
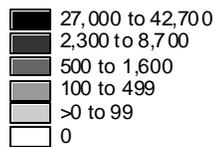




Map 3

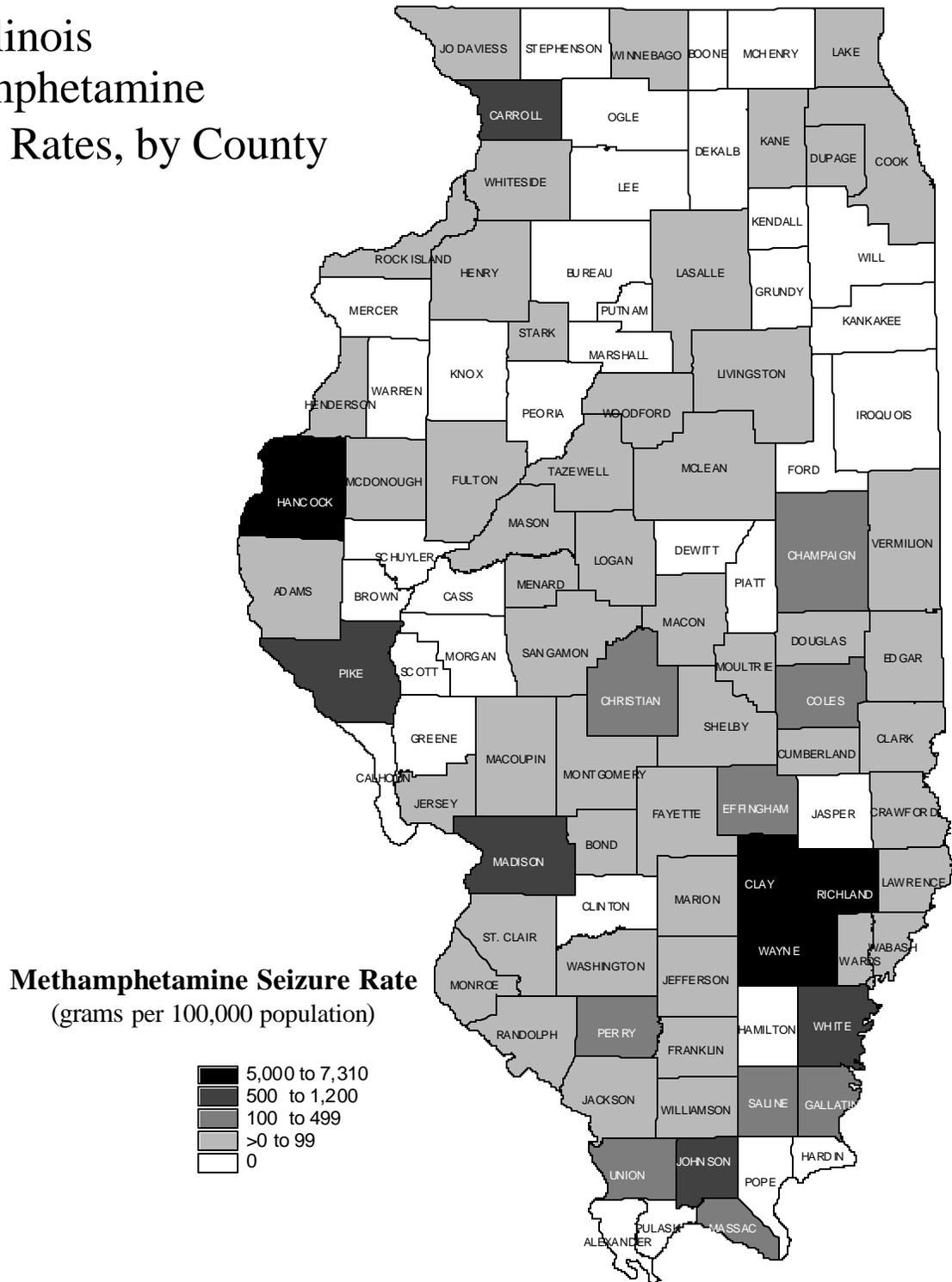
# 1999 Illinois Cocaine Seizure Rates, by County

**Cocaine Seizure Rate**  
(grams per 100,000 population)



Map 4

# 1999 Illinois Methamphetamine Seizure Rates, by County



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U.S. Bureau of the Census.





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