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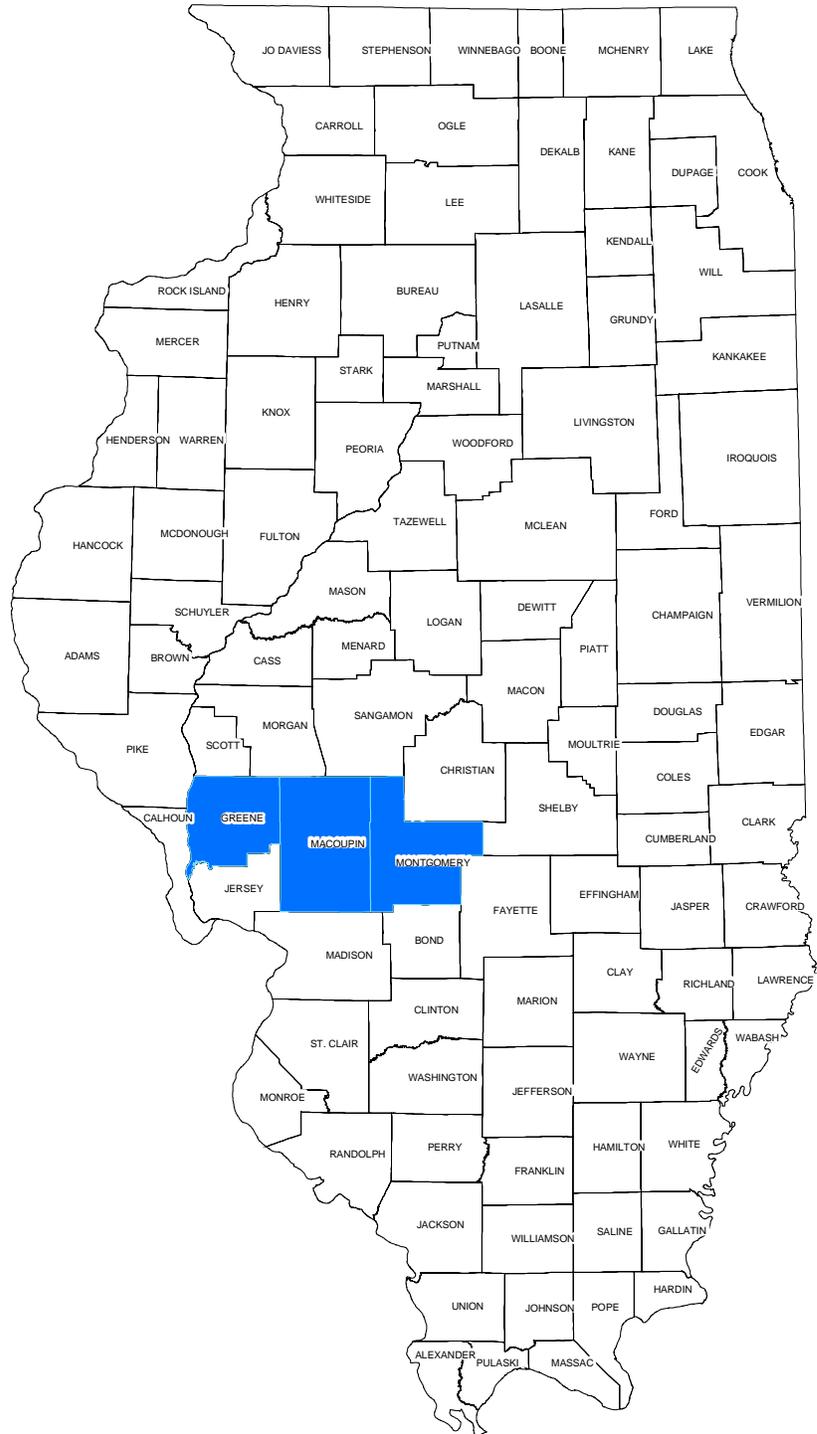
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March 2004

## Assessing Illinois' Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and Task Forces



## A Profile of the South Central Illinois Drug Task Force



This project was supported by Grant # 02-DB-BX-0017, awarded to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following programs, offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A number of organizations and individuals put a great deal of effort into the development of this document. The Authority's Research and Analysis Unit is very grateful for the assistance provided by the following organizations:

*Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts*  
*Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse*  
*Illinois Department of Children and Family Services*  
*Illinois Department of Corrections*  
*Illinois State Police*  
*South Central Illinois Drug Task Force (SCIDTF)*  
*U.S. Bureau of the Census*

In addition, the following individuals were instrumental in gathering, interpreting and presenting these data:

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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' 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 2002, four local Illinois police agencies participated in SCIDTF (a participating agency is defined as one that contributes either personnel or financial resources to SCIDTF). Officers assigned to SCIDTF (totaling six in 2002, four from participating agencies) accounted for 6 percent of the total number of sworn police officers working for agencies participating in SCIDTF (page 1).
- The violent Index offense rate was collectively higher across jurisdictions that did not participate in SCIDTF than among the combined jurisdictions that did participate in SCIDTF, during most of the period analyzed (page 3).
- The drug arrest rate was collectively higher in those jurisdictions that did not participate in SCIDTF than in those jurisdictions that did participating in SCIDTF. Also, the drug arrest rate achieved by SCIDTF was significantly lower than the rate experienced by the participating agencies, meaning that the unit made more than one-third as many arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act and Controlled Substances Act in 2002, with just six officers, as did all of the participating agencies, combined (page 6).
- When comparing the types of drug offenders arrested by those agencies participating in SCIDTF, those agencies not participating, and SCIDTF, it was found that since 1998, SCIDTF tended to target and arrest more serious drug law violators, specifically violators of the Controlled Substances Act, which tend to be felony-level offenses (page 9).
- The majority of all drug arrests reported by SCIDTF, for either violations of the Cannabis Control Act or the Controlled Substances Act, involve drug sale or delivery (page 14).
- Between 1993 and 2002, the amount of cannabis and cocaine seized by SCIDTF decreased dramatically (pages 15 and 16).
- Between 1991 and 2002, the majority of all drug arrests by SCIDTF resulted in prosecution. Of those offenders prosecuted, 41 percent were prosecuted for violation of the Controlled Substances Act. In addition, between 1991 and 2002, 93 percent of all drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of SCIDTF activity were convicted (page 18).

- In 2002, among those SCIDTF drug offenders convicted and sentenced, prison sentences accounted for the largest proportion (52 percent), followed by probation sentences (45 percent) and jail sentences (2 percent) (page 20).
- Between 1991 and 2002, prison sentences resulting from SCIDTF cases accounted for 66 percent of all drug-law violators sent to prison from the region where SCIDTF operates (page 21).
- While local arrests by non-participating agencies may reflect the most widely available and used drug in the region and SCIDTF arrests tend to involve the substances considered to be the most serious (i.e. felony versus misdemeanor), they tend not to involve the substances for which individuals are seeking and receiving treatment in 2002 (page 25).



## I. Introduction

The South Central Illinois Drug Task Force (SCIDTF) covers the Illinois counties of Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene. Combined, these counties had a 2002 total population of 93,675 – 3 percent more than in 1990. In 2002, four local Illinois police agencies participated in SCIDTF. These include the County Sheriff's Office, Macoupin County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and the following municipal police departments: Carlinville and Carrollton. These agencies served 37 percent of the population in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF in 2002 (see Map 1 on page 31). A participating agency is defined as one that contributes either personnel or financial resources to SCIDTF.

In addition to agencies that participate in SCIDTF, these Illinois counties are served by 27 additional police departments that do not participate in SCIDTF. According to the Illinois State Police, county sheriffs and local police departments, in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF, combined, employed 158 full-time police officers as of Oct. 31, 2002. In comparison, there were a total of six officers assigned to SCIDTF of which four were assigned by participating agencies and two from the Illinois State Police (ISP) in 2002. Thus, the officers assigned to the SCIDTF during 2002 accounted for a relatively small proportion - 6 percent - of the total number of sworn police officers working in the participating police departments, and the region as a whole.

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 – of which this is one – for each MEG and task force. The profile 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.

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.

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.

While a considerable amount of the information presented in this profile has been provided to the Authority by SCIDTF, 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.

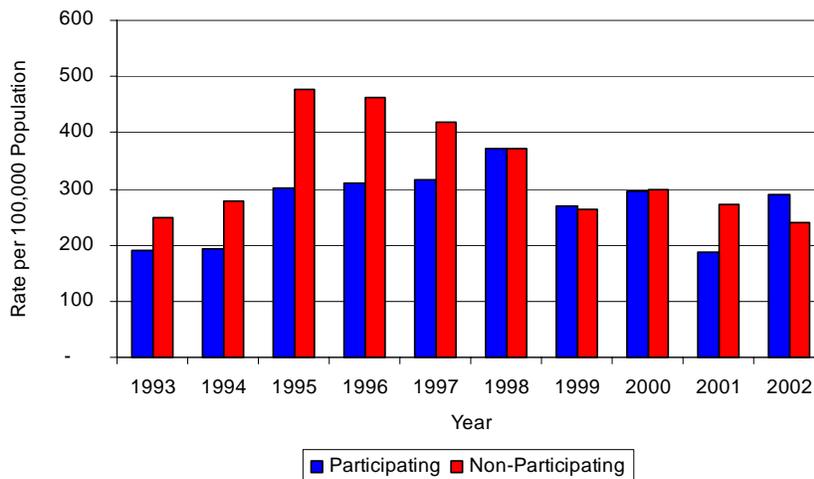
## II. Trends in Violent Index Offenses and Arrests

While most of Illinois' Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and drug 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), either directly or through another law enforcement agency, usually the county sheriff's office. 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 2002, the total number of violent Index offenses reported to the police in the three-county region where SCIDTF operates totaled 242, a 13 percent increase from the 215 offenses reported in 1993. The majority (89 percent) of violent Index offenses reported to the police between 1993 and 2002 were aggravated assaults, while 10 percent were criminal sexual assaults.

During the period analyzed, the violent Index offense rate for the region covered by SCIDTF increased 13 percent, from 228 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 258 offenses per 100,000 population in 2002. The violent Index offense rate in the participating agencies increased 53 percent, from 190 to 291 offenses per 100,000 population, while the rate in the non-participating agencies decreased 4 percent, from 249 to 239 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 1). Thus, the violent Index offense rate was collectively higher across the jurisdictions that did not participate in SCIDTF than it was among the combined jurisdictions that did participate in SCIDTF, during most of the period analyzed.

**Figure 1**  
Violent Index Offense Rates for Participating  
and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by  
SCIDTF

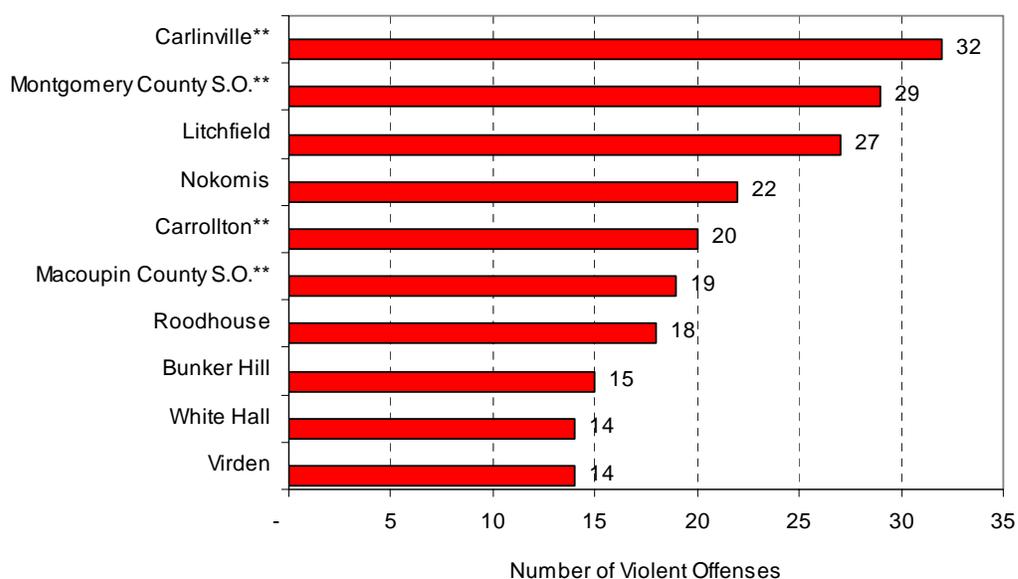


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

*Assessing Illinois' Metropolitan Enforcement Groups and Task Forces:  
A Profile of the South Central Illinois Drug Task Force*

Across the individual local law enforcement agencies covered by SCIDTF's jurisdiction, six agencies, the Carlinville Police Department, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Litchfield Police Department, the Nokomis Police Department, the Carrollton Police Department, and the Macoupin County Sheriff's Office, accounted for 62 percent of all violent Index offenses reported to the police in 2002 (Figure 2). Agencies reporting fewer than ten violent Index offenses are excluded from Figure 2. When controlling for differences in the populations served by these law enforcement agencies, the violent Index offense *rate* ranged from six violent Index offenses per 100,000 population in Gillespie to 94 offenses per 100,000 population in Nokomis.

**Figure 2**  
**2002 Violent Index Offenses\* Reported by**  
**Participating and Non-participating Agencies in**  
**Region Covered by SCIDTF**



Source: Illinois State Police

\*Agencies reporting ten or more violent offenses

\*\*Agencies participating in SCIDTF

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.

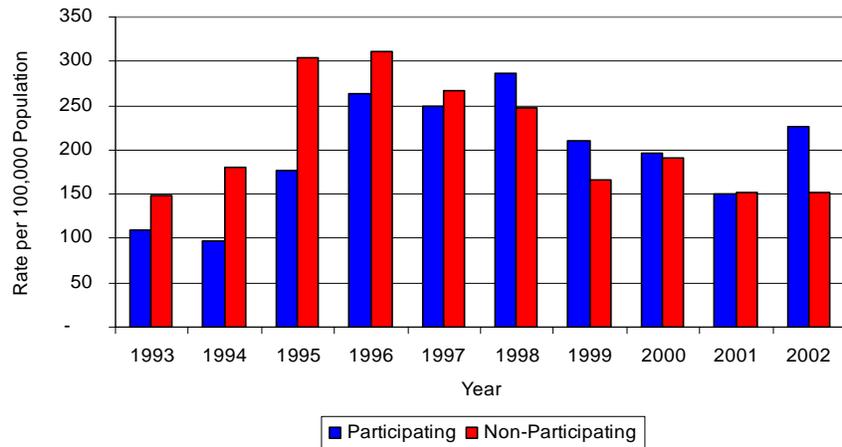
Between 1993 and 2002, the number of arrests for violent Index offenses made by law enforcement agencies in the region covered by SCIDTF increased 32 percent, from 127 to 168. The majority of violent Index arrests were for aggravated assaults (92 percent), followed by criminal sexual assaults (6 percent).

During the period analyzed, the violent Index arrest rate for the region covered by SCIDTF increased 33 percent, from 135 offenses per 100,000 population in 1993 to 179 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. The violent Index arrest rate in the participating agencies doubled, from 110 to 227 offenses per 100,000

population and the rate in the non-participating agencies increased 2 percent, from 149 to 152 offenses per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

**Figure 3**

**Violent Index Arrest Rates for Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by SCIDTF**

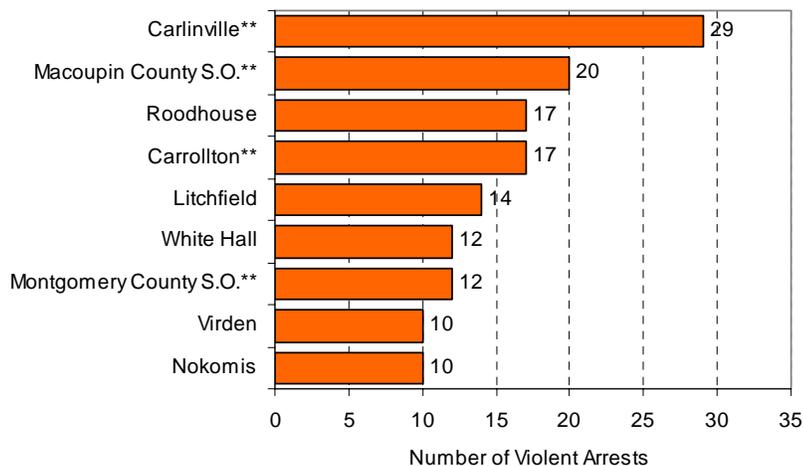


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and U.S. Census Bureau data

Nearly one-half (49 percent) of arrests for violent Index offenses occurring in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF were made by four agencies. Agencies reporting fewer than ten arrests for violent Index offenses in 2002 are excluded from Figure 4. Of the 168 violent Index arrests made in 2002, the Carlinville Police Department accounted for the largest proportion (17 percent), followed by the Macoupin County Sheriff’s Office (12 percent), and the Roodhouse and Carrollton police departments (10 percent each) (Figure 4).

**Figure 4**

**2002 Violent Index Arrests\* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by SCIDTF**



Source: Illinois State Police

\*Agencies reporting ten or more violent Index arrests

\*\*Agencies participating in SCIDTF

### 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.

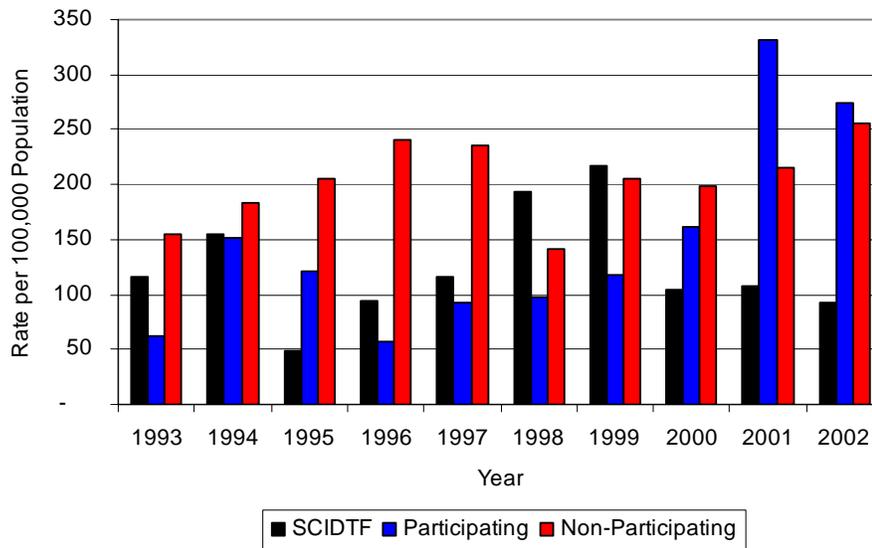
In 2002, local law enforcement agencies in the counties covered by SCIDTF reported 246 arrests for drug law violations, more than double the 115 arrests in 1993. Between 1993 and 2002, arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act out-numbered arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act every year analyzed in Green, Macoupin, and Montgomery counties combined. During the same period, the number of arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act in these three counties combined increased 76 percent, from 90 to 158. Arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act in the three counties combined more than tripled, from 25 to 88. In addition, arrests for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, enacted in 1993, increased significantly, from five in 1993 to 163 in 2002. 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 between SCIDTF and the participating and non-participating agencies.

During the period analyzed, the drug arrest rate in the region covered by SCIDTF for the Cannabis Control Act and Controlled Substances Act, combined, nearly doubled, from 116 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 218 arrests per 100,000 population in 1999. However, between 1999 and 2000 the arrest rate decreased 57 percent from 218 to 93 per 100,000 population. The drug arrest rate in the participating agencies increased significantly, from 62 to 273 arrests per 100,000 population, while the drug arrest rate for non-participating agencies increased 65 percent, from 155 to 256 arrests per 100,000 population. The arrest rate for SCIDTF decreased 20 percent, from 116 to 93 arrests per 100,000

population (Figure 5). Thus, between 1993 and 2000, the drug arrest rate tended to be higher collectively in the jurisdictions that did not participate in SCIDTF, while after 2000, the drug arrest rate was higher collectively in the jurisdictions that participated in SCIDTF.

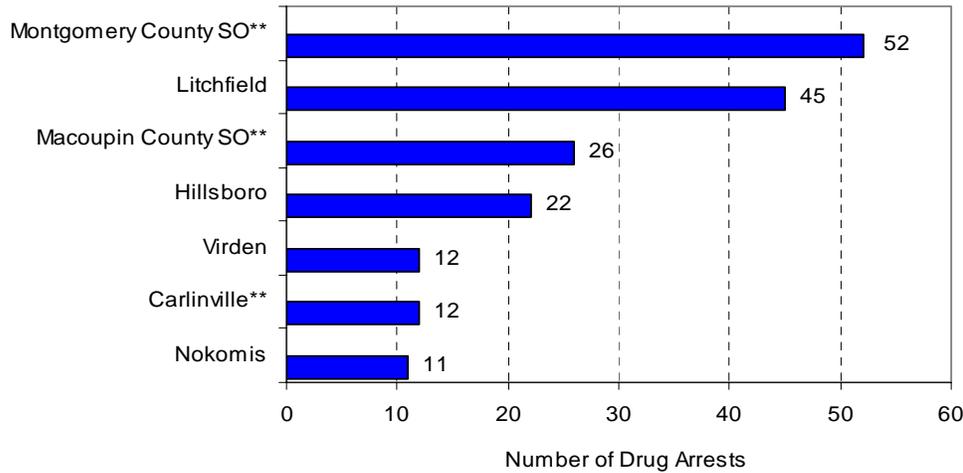
**Figure 5**  
**Total Drug Arrest Rates for SCIDTF and Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by SCIDTF**



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

Across the individual local law enforcement agencies in the region covered by SCIDTF, the total number of cannabis and controlled substances arrests ranged from zero to 52. Of the 246 drug arrests made during 2002 in the three-county region, three agencies accounted for one-half of these drug arrests. Agencies reporting fewer than ten drug arrests in 2002 are excluded from Figure 6. The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office accounted for the largest proportion (21 percent) of cannabis and controlled substance arrests in Green, Macoupin, and Montgomery counties, followed by the Litchfield Police Department (18 percent), Macoupin County Sheriff’s Office (11 percent), the Hillsboro Police Department (9 percent), the Verdin and Carlinville police departments (5 percent each), and the Nokomis Police Department (4 percent) (Figure 6). Among the ten agencies with the highest number of drug arrests during 2002, only three participated in SCIDTF.

**Figure 6**  
**2002 Drug Arrests\* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by SCIDTF**

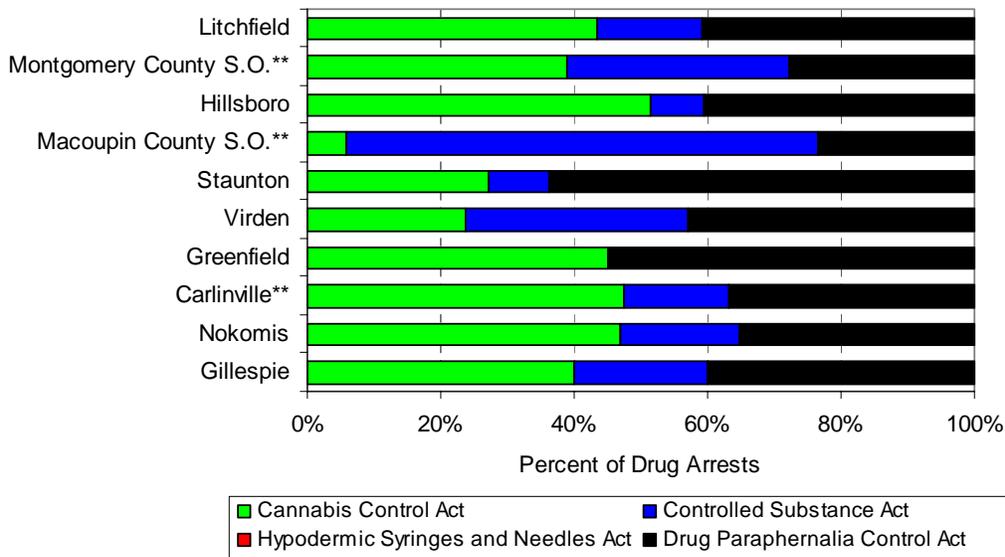


Source: Illinois State Police

\*Agencies reporting ten or more drug arrests  
 \*\*Agencies participating in SCIDTF

In addition to the dramatic difference in the number of drug arrests made, there are also differences in the types of drug law violation arrests across the agencies in the region. In 2002, violations of the Cannabis Control Act and the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act accounted for the majority of arrests across most individual agencies in the region covered by SCIDTF (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**  
**Total 2002 Drug Arrests\* Reported by Participating and Non-participating Agencies in Region Covered by SCIDTF, by Drug Type**



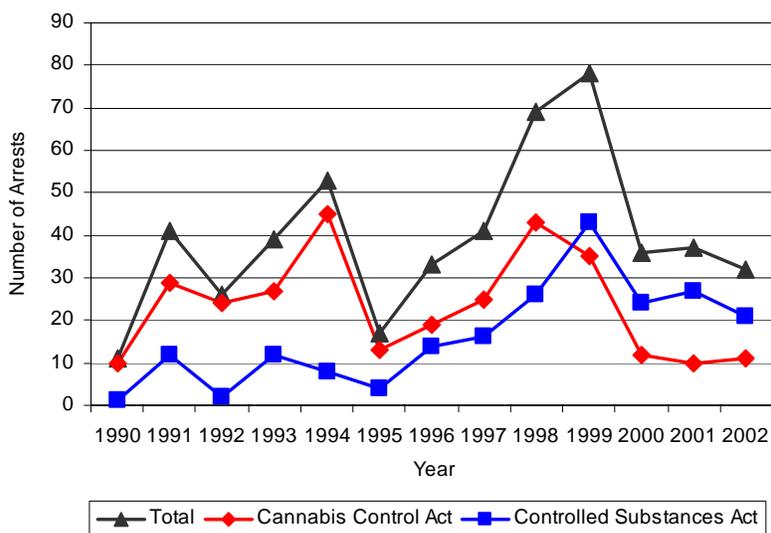
Source: Illinois State Police

\*Agencies reporting ten or more drug arrests  
 \*\*Agencies participating in SCIDTF

Between 1993 and 2002, the number of combined cannabis and controlled substances arrests made by SCIDTF decreased 18 percent, from 39 to 32 (Figure 8). 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 SCIDTF throughout the period analyzed. Between 1993 and 2002, the number of SCIDTF arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act decreased 59 percent, from 27 to 11, while arrests for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased 75 percent, from 12 to 21 (Figure 8).

Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion of drug arrests accounted for violations of the Controlled Substances Act increased significantly for participating agencies, while non-participating agencies reported an 85 percent increase. Similarly, for SCIDTF, the proportion of drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act doubled between 1993 and 2002. In 2002, 66 percent of the drug arrests made by SCIDTF were for violations of the Controlled Substances Act, compared to 31 percent in 1993. In 2002, arrests for controlled substances violations accounted for 54 percent of the drug arrests made in the participating agencies and 24 percent for the non-participating agencies, compared to 24 percent and 21 percent, respectively, in 1993. Arrests by SCIDTF 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 SCIDTF is 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**  
Drug Arrests by SCIDTF

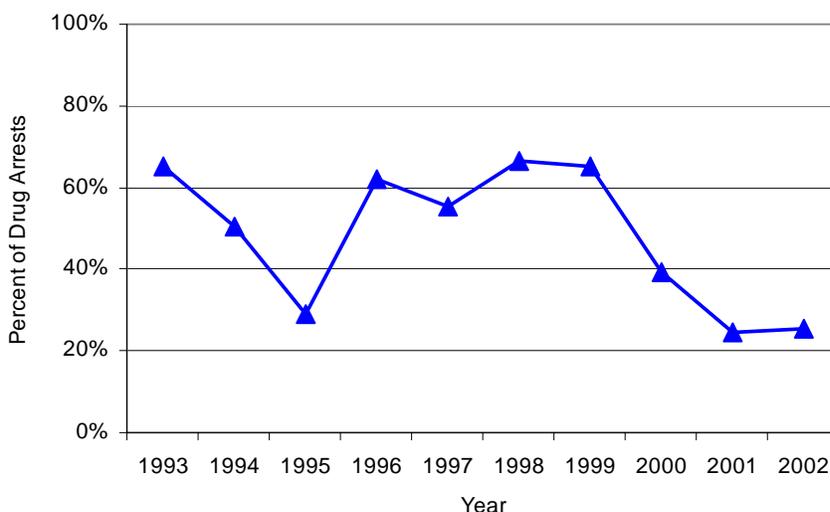


Source: SCIDTF

The data presented below represent the percent of total drug arrests made by participating agencies accounted for by SCIDTF, when compared to participating agencies. In most cases, it is generally unknown whether or not a unit's numbers are counted as part of the UCR submissions made by local departments. However, in the case of SCIDTF, it is clear that SCIDTF arrests have been included in the local UCR submissions.

It is estimated that SCIDTF accounted for a large proportion of all drug arrests by participating agencies. Between 1993 and 1999, SCIDTF accounted for more than one-half of all drug arrests in the region before declining markedly thereafter. The proportion of drug arrests accounted for by SCIDTF decreased from 65 percent in 1993 to 25 percent in 2002. Thus, despite the fact that the officers assigned to SCIDTF accounted for a small proportion of total officers in the region, and a decreased proportion of total drug arrests, they continue to account for a relatively large proportion of the drug arrests in the region.

**Figure 9**  
**Percent of Total Drug Arrests**  
**Accounted for by SCIDTF**



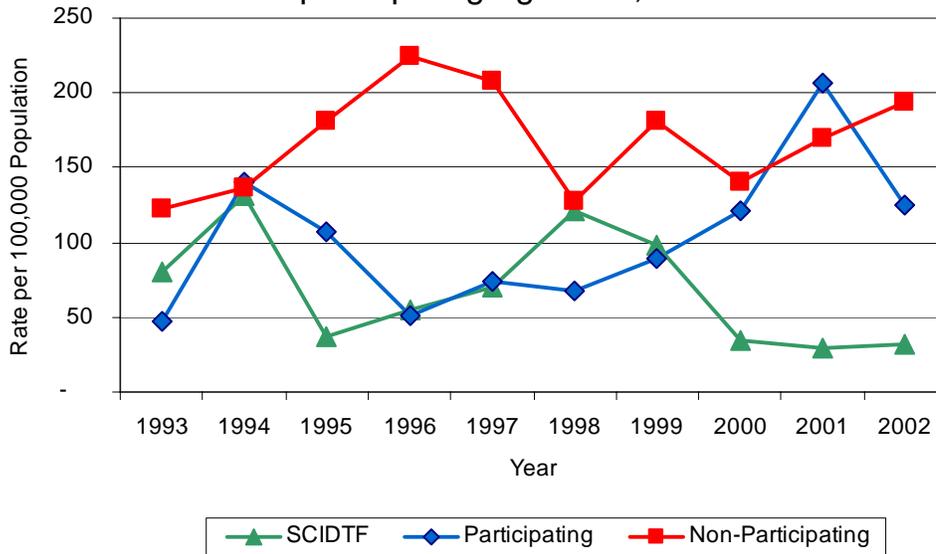
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and SCIDTF data

The number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Cannabis Control Act in Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene counties totaled 158 in 2002, which was a 76 percent increase from the 90 arrests made for cannabis violations in 1993. Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion of all drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Cannabis Control Act in the three-county region decreased 18 percent, from 78 percent in 1993 to 64 percent in 2002. Agencies not participating in SCIDTF accounted for the largest portion (73 percent) of the total number of arrests for cannabis violations. SCIDTF reported a total of 11 arrests for cannabis violations in 2002, one-third of the unit's drug arrests.

During the period analyzed, the cannabis arrest rate for the region covered by SCIDTF increased 77 percent, from 96 arrests per 100,000 population in 1993 to 169 arrests per 100,000 population in 2002. Similarly, the cannabis arrest rate in the participating agencies more than doubled, from 48 to 125 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies increased 59 percent from 122 to 194 arrests per 100,000 population. The cannabis arrest rate for SCIDTF, however, decreased 60 percent, from 80 to 32 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 10). Thus, the arrest rate for violations of the Cannabis Control Act was collectively higher in the area served by non-participating agencies than in the area served by participating agencies.

**Figure 10**

**Cannabis Arrests Rates in the Region Covered  
by SCIDTF as Reported by Participating Agencies,  
Non-participating Agencies, and SCIDTF**

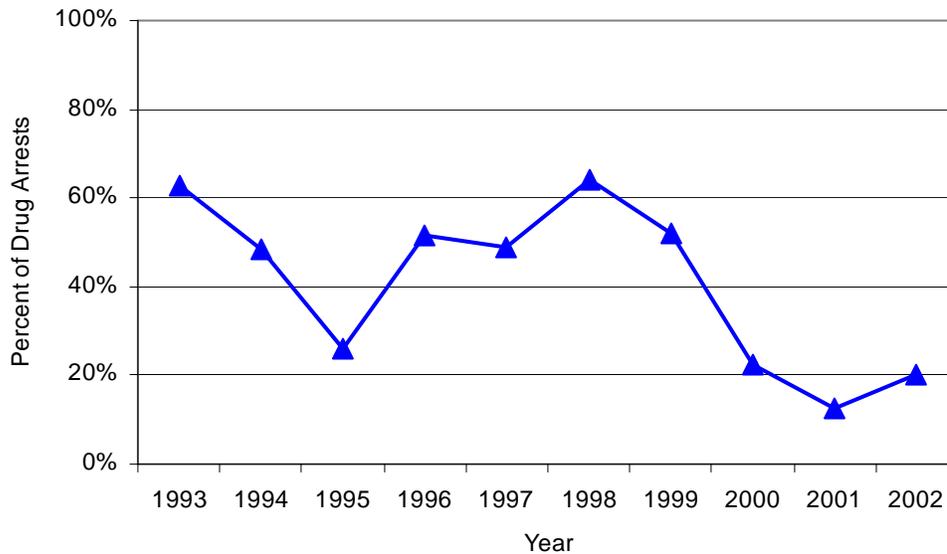


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, U.S. Census Bureau, and SCIDTF data

The data presented in Figure 11 represent the percent of cannabis arrests by participating agencies accounted for by SCIDTF. As stated for Figure 9, it is clear that SCIDTF arrests have been included in the local UCR submissions. Thus, it is estimated that the proportion of cannabis arrests by participating agencies accounted for by SCIDTF decreased between 1993 and 2002, from 63 percent to 20 percent.

**Figure 11**

**Percent of Cannabis Arrests  
Accounted for by SCIDTF**



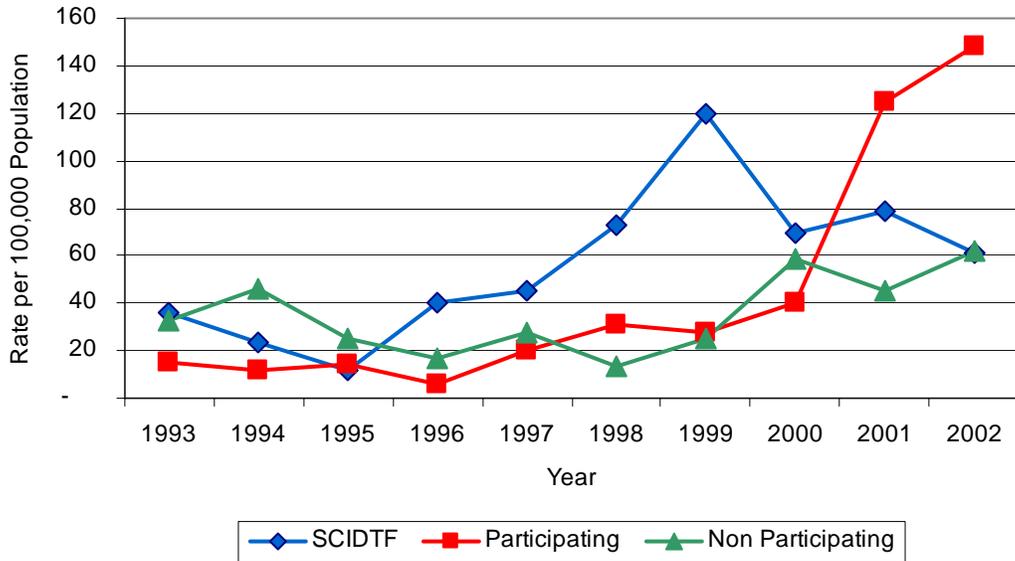
Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and SCIDTF data

In Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene counties the number of arrests for violations of Illinois' Controlled Substances Act more than tripled between 1993 and 2002, from 25 to 88. Between 1993 and 2002, the proportion of all drug arrests accounted for by violations of the Controlled Substances Act in the three-county region increased from 22 percent to 36 percent. In 2002, SCIDTF reported 21 arrests for controlled substance violations, 66 percent of all drug arrests reported to the Authority by the unit.

Between 1993 and 2002, the arrest rate for controlled substances act violations for the region covered by SCIDTF more than tripled, from 27 to 94 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). The controlled substances arrest rate in the participating agencies increased significantly, from 15 to 148 arrests per 100,000 population, while the arrest rate in the non-participating agencies increased 89 percent, from 33 to 62 arrests per 100,000 population. The controlled substances arrest rate for SCIDTF increased 71 percent, from 36 to 61 arrests per 100,000 population (Figure 12). With the exception of 2001 and 2002, the arrest rate for violations of Controlled Substance Act was collectively higher in the non-participating agencies than the participating agencies.

**Figure 12**

**Controlled Substances Arrest Rates in the Region Covered by SCIDTF as Reported by Participating Agencies, Non-participating Agencies, and SCIDTF**

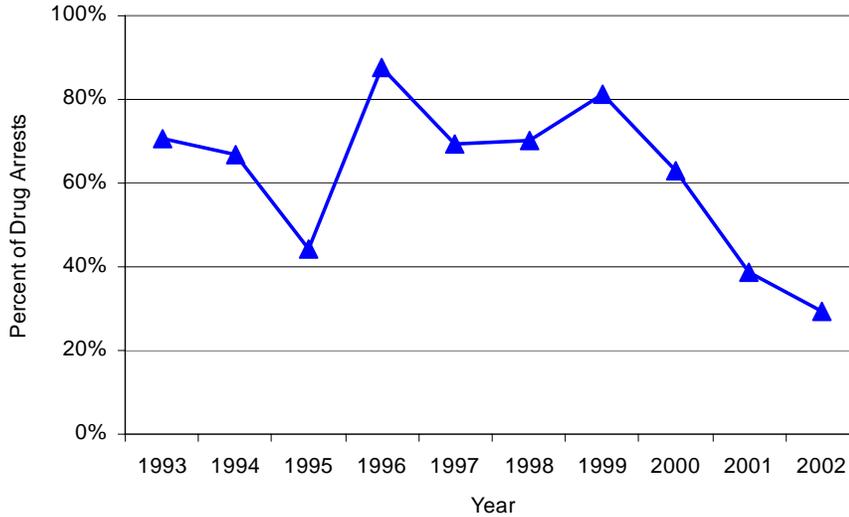


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police, U.S. Census Bureau, and SCIDTF data

The data presented in below represent the percent of controlled substances arrests by participating agencies accounted for by SCIDTF. The data for SCIDTF controlled substances arrests appear to have been included as part of the UCR submissions made by local departments. It is estimated that the proportion of controlled substances arrests in the three-county region accounted for by SCIDTF decreased during the period analyzed, from 71 percent in 1993 to 29 percent in 2002.

**Figure 13**

**Percent of Controlled Substances Arrests Accounted for by SCIDTF**

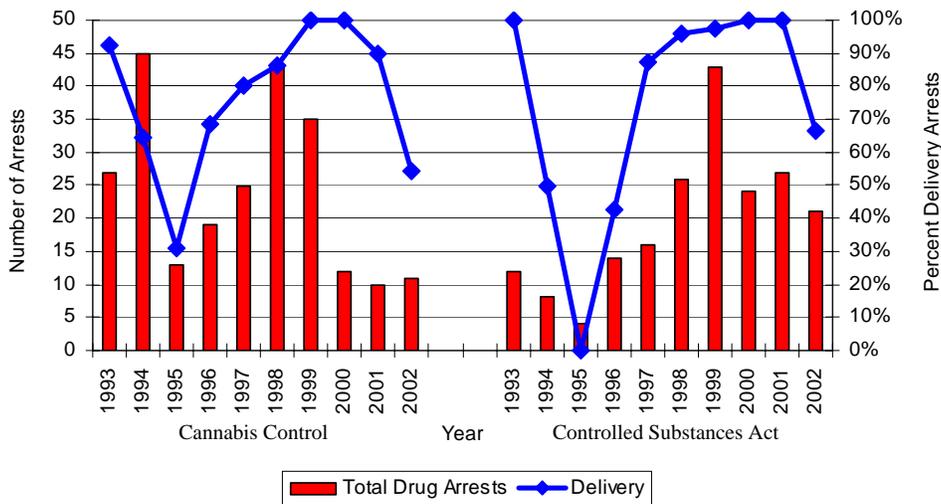


Source: ICJIA calculations using Illinois State Police and SCIDTF data

The majority of all drug arrests reported by SCIDTF are for delivery. Between 1993 and 2002, the number of drug delivery arrests made by SCIDTF decreased 46 percent, from 37 to 20. Arrests for drug delivery accounted for 82 percent of all drug arrests made by SCIDTF between 1993 and 2002. When cannabis and controlled substance arrests were examined separately, the proportion of arrests for delivery decreased for both cannabis and controlled substances arrests. Arrests for delivery of controlled substances accounted for 74 percent of the total number of arrests made for violations of the Controlled Substance Act, whereas, arrests for the delivery of cannabis accounted for 77 percent of all arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act.

**Figure 14**

**SCIDTF Drug Arrests for Possession versus Delivery, by Drug Type**



Source: ICJIA calculations using SCIDTF data

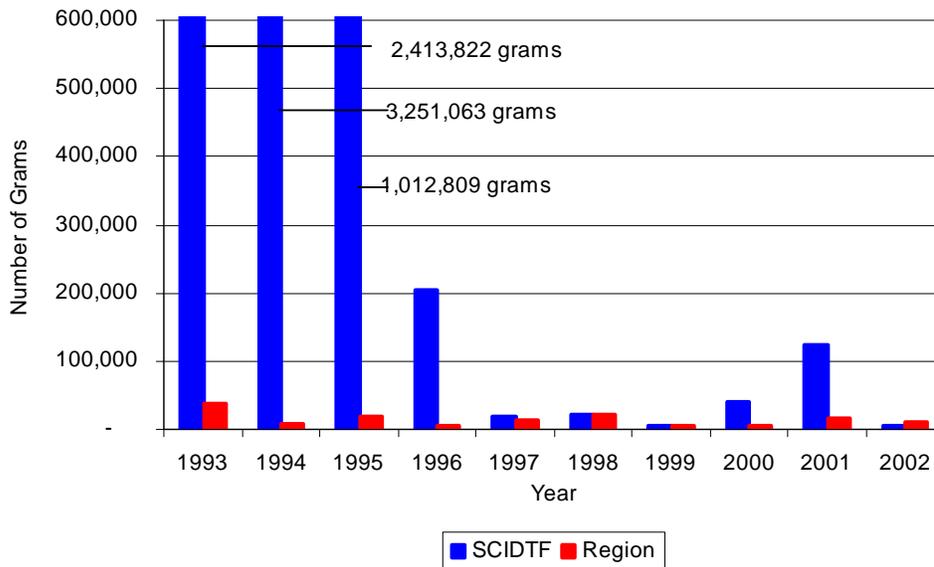
#### IV. Trends in Drug Seizures

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 Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene counties as well as the quantities of drugs seized by SCIDTF. It is important to note, however, that while SCIDTF 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, crack, methamphetamine, and heroin 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 SCIDTF. The quantity of cannabis seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene counties decreased 73 percent, from 36,796 grams in 1993 to 9,869 grams in 2002. Also, the quantity of cannabis seized by SCIDTF dramatically decreased between 1993 and 2002, from 2,413,822 grams to 6,716. In 2002, SCIDTF's cannabis seizure rate of 19,540 grams per 100,000 population was higher than both the statewide cannabis seizure rate of 19,437 grams per 100,000 population, as well as the seizure rate of 10,535 grams per 100,000 population in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF (Map 2). (Note: In order to display the seizure data for every year on the graph below, it was necessary to set the Y-axis scale to 600,000).

Figure 15

Cannabis Seized and Submitted to ISP by Participating Counties and Seized by SCIDTF



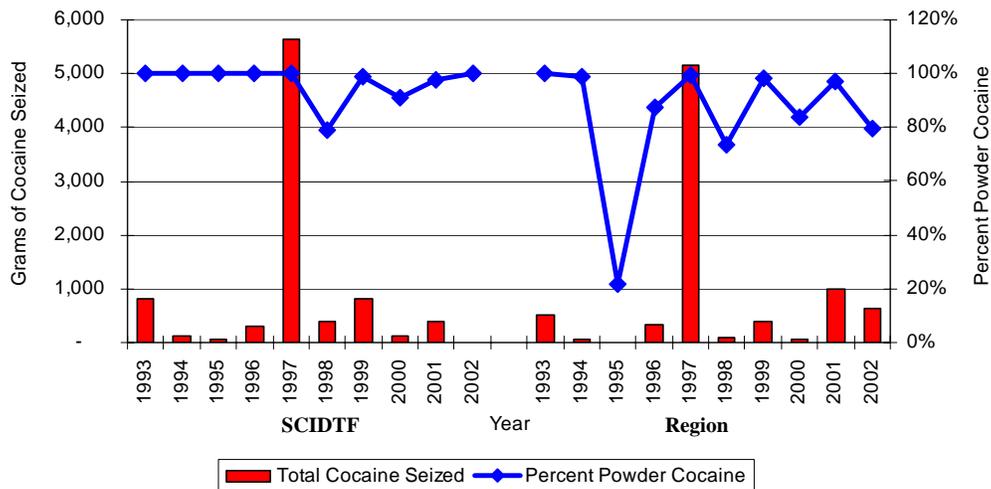
Source: Illinois State Police and SCIDTF

Between 1993 and 2002, a combination of crack and powder cocaine has accounted for a small proportion of drugs seized in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF. However, the quantity of cocaine seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene counties increased 24 percent, from 501 grams in 1993 to 619 grams in 2002. Between 1993 and 2002, the quantity of cocaine seized by SCIDTF decreased 98 percent, from 828 grams to 14 grams.

As a result, the proportion of all cocaine seized by SCIDTF accounted for by powder cocaine remained relatively stable between 1993 and 2002; whereas local seizures revealed a bit more variation. For SCIDTF, powder cocaine accounted for nearly all cocaine seized in every year examined. Similarly, with the exception of 1998, powder cocaine accounted for the majority of local seizures of cocaine, accounting for 84 percent of all cocaine seized in the three-county region (Figure 16). In 2002, SCIDTF's cocaine seizure rate of 42 grams per 100,000 population was significantly less than both the cocaine seizure rate of 661 grams per 100,000 population in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF, as well as the statewide cocaine seizure rate of 21,891 grams per 100,000 population (Maps 3 and 4).

**Figure 16**

**Powder and Crack Cocaine Seized and Submitted to ISP by Participating Counties and Seized by SCIDTF**



Source: Illinois State Police and SCIDTF

The total quantity of illegal drugs seized and submitted by law enforcement agencies in, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene counties decreased between 1993 and 2002, from 37,386 grams to 14,185 grams. Also, the total quantity of illegal drugs seized by SCIDTF decreased from 2,414,690 grams in 1993 to 7,639 grams in 2002.

During the period, methamphetamine seizures accounted for a relatively small proportion of total drugs seized by SCIDTF and the three-county region covered by SCIDTF. Between 1994 and 2002, the quantity of methamphetamine seized in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF increased significantly, from 8.5 grams to 1,474 grams. The quantity seized by SCIDTF increased from 14 grams in 1998 to 909 grams in 2002, while reaching a high of 2,244 grams in 2001. In 2002, SCIDTF had a methamphetamine seizure rate of 2,645 grams per 100,000 population, significantly higher than the rate of 1,574 grams per 100,000 population in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF and the statewide seizure rate of 222grams per 100,000 population in 2002 (Map 5).

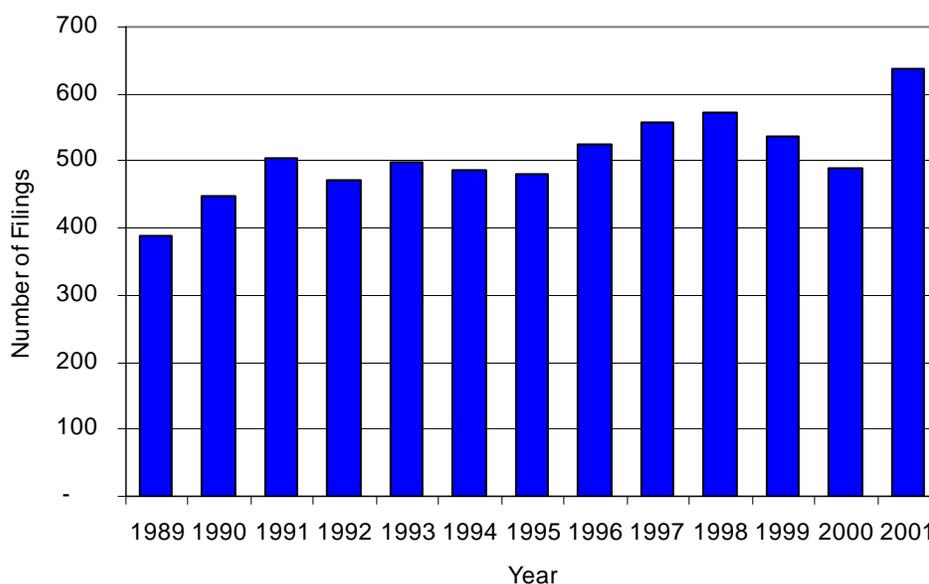
## V. Trends in Prosecutions for Drug Offenses and All Felonies

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 2001, the number of felony filings in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF increased 64 percent, from 389 to 637 (Figure 17).

**Figure 17**

### Number of Felony Filings in Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene Counties

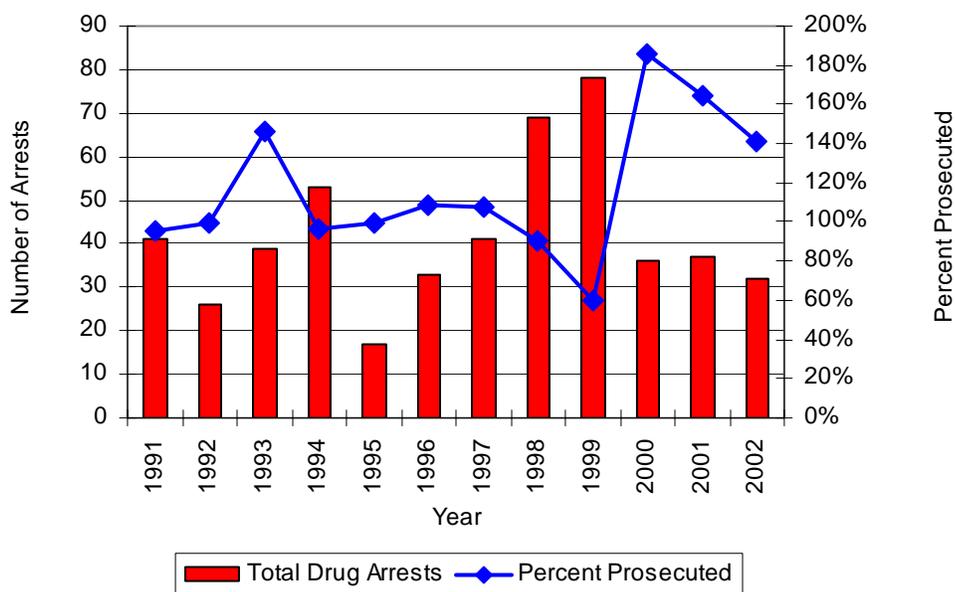


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1991 and 2002, there were a total of 552 drug prosecutions initiated as a result of SCIDTF arrests in Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene counties. During this time, the number of SCIDTF drug arrests decreased 22 percent, from 41 arrests in 1991 to 32 arrests in 2002 (Figure 18). Between 1991 and 2002, nearly all SCIDTF drug arrests resulted in prosecution. In some years, the proportion of arrests resulting in a prosecution exceeded 100 percent. This may be due to some slight differences in the timing of an arrest and the filing of charges. It could also be due to charges, rather than defendants, being reported by the unit. Also, some offenders have charges filed, and a subsequent warrant issued, without an arrest taking place. Forty-one percent of SCIDTF drug offender prosecutions during this period were for violations of the Controlled Substance Act.

**Figure 18**

**Total SCIDTF Drug Arrests and Percentage of Arrests Resulting in Prosecution**



Source: SCIDTF

Between 1991 and 2002, 93 percent (516) of the 552 drug offenders who were prosecuted as a result of SCIDTF activity were convicted. Convictions for controlled substances accounted for 39 percent of all SCIDTF initiated convictions during the period analyzed.

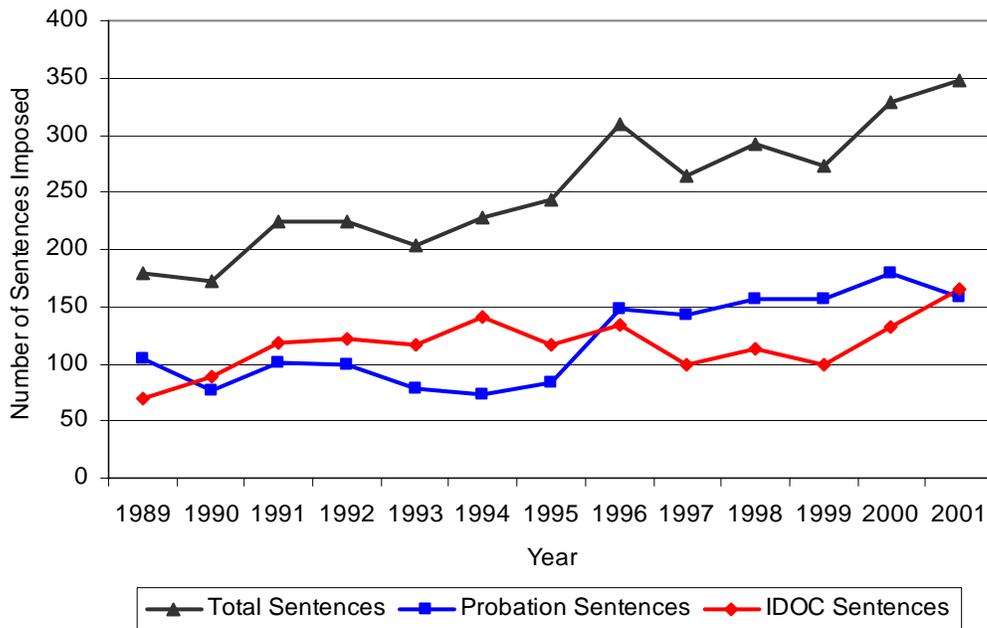
## VI. Trends in Percent of Convicted Drug Offenders Sentenced to Prison

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 2001, the number of offenders convicted of a felony and sentenced in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF increased 94 percent, from 179 to 348. Although the number of convicted felons sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) more than doubled between 1989 and 2002, from 70 to 165, the proportion of felons sentenced to IDOC slightly increased during the same period, from 39 percent to 47 percent of total felony sentences. In 2002, 158 probation sentences were imposed on convicted felons, 52 percent more than the 104 probation sentences in 1989 (Figure 19). However, the proportion of felons sentenced to probation decreased from 58 percent in 1989 to 45 percent in 2002. Sentences other than prison or probation account for the remaining 7 percent of felony sentences imposed in 2002.

**Figure 19**

### Sentences Imposed on Felons Convicted in Macoupin, Montgomery and Greene Counties

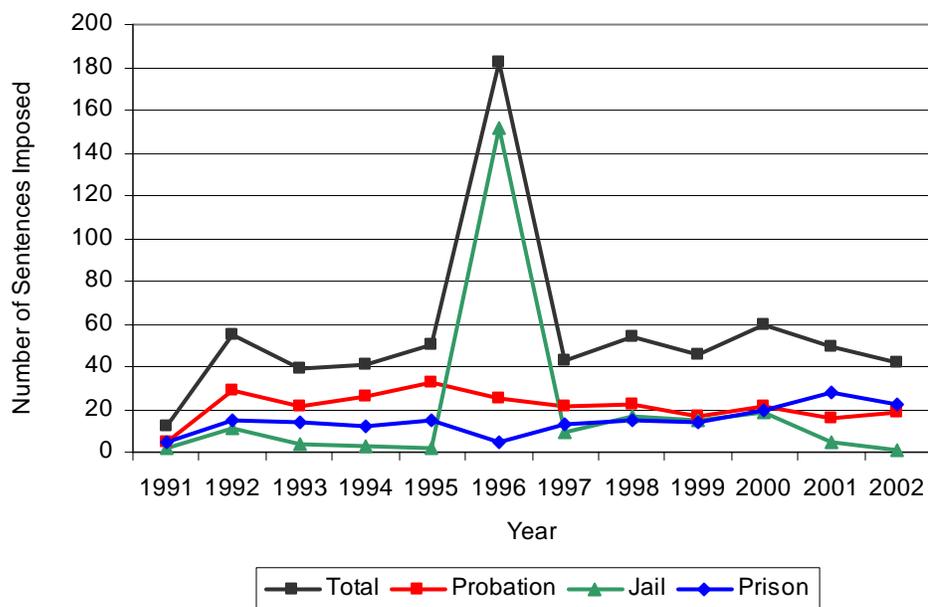


Source: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Between 1991 and 2002, the number of SCIDTF drug offenders convicted and sentenced increased from 12 to 42. During the period analyzed, the number of convicted SCIDTF drug offenders sentenced to probation increased from five in 1991 to 19 in 2002. Similarly, the number of convicted SCIDTF drug offenders sentenced to jail decreased from two to one, although in 1996, the number of convicted SCIDTF drug offenders sentenced to jail reached a high of 152. Also, the number of drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from five to 22 (Figure 20). In 2002, among those SCIDTF drug offenders convicted and sentenced, prison sentences accounted for the largest proportion (52 percent), followed by probation sentences (45 percent) and jail sentences (2 percent).

**Figure 20**

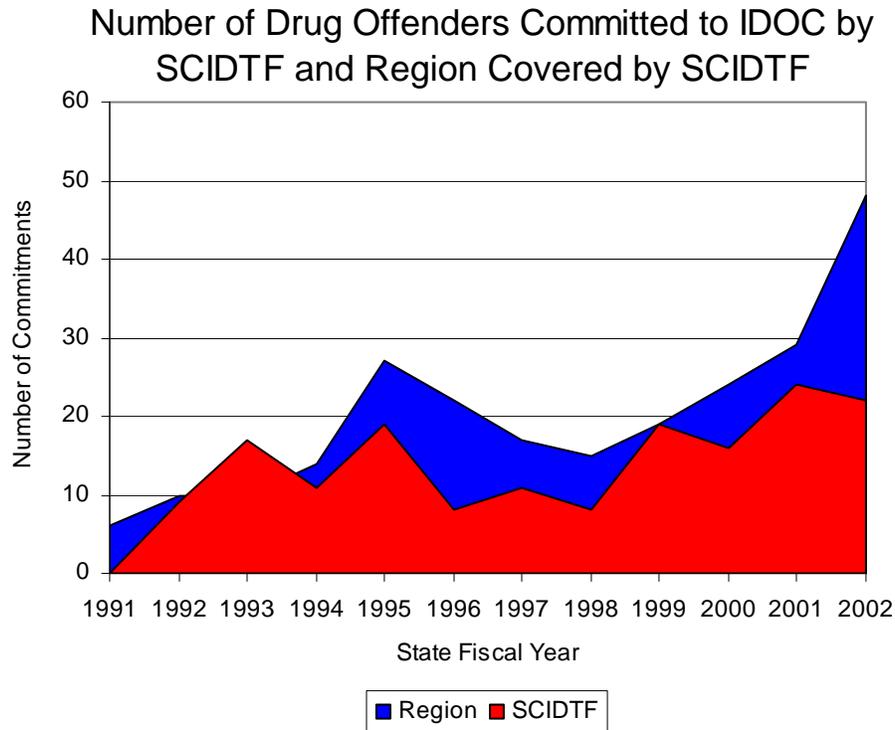
**Sentences Imposed on Convicted SCIDTF Drug Offenders**



Source: SCIDTF

Between state fiscal years<sup>1</sup> 1991 and 2002, the number of new court commitments to IDOC's Adult Division for drug offenses from the three-county region covered by SCIDTF increased from six to 48. The number of drug offender admissions by SCIDTF also increased during the period, from zero to 22 (Figure 21). During the period analyzed, prison sentences resulting from SCIDTF cases accounted for more than two-thirds (68 percent) of all drug-law violators sentenced to prison from the region where SCIDTF operates.

**Figure 21**



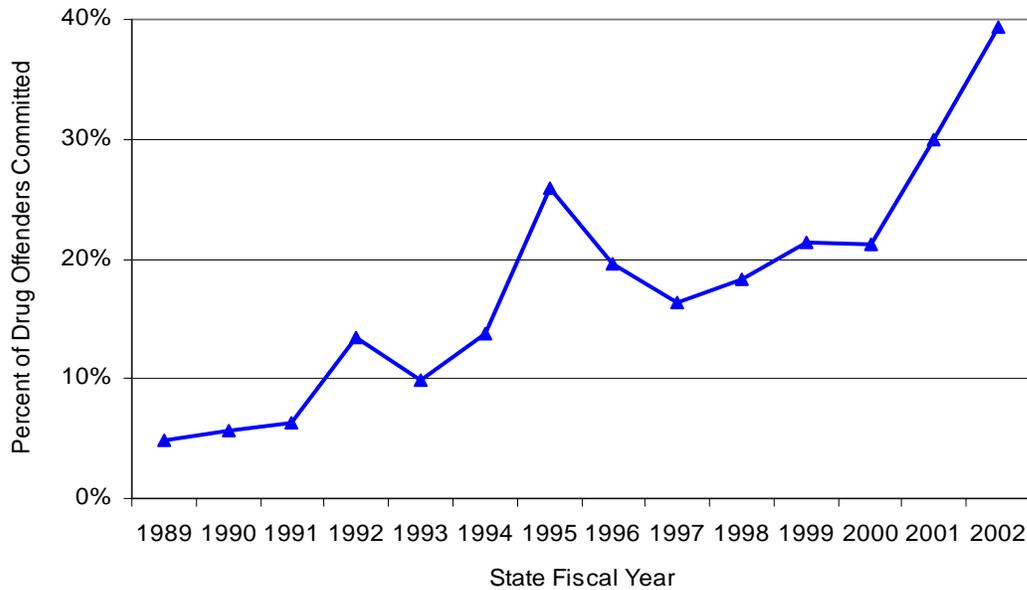
Source: Illinois Department of Corrections and SCIDTF

<sup>1</sup> Some state data are collected according to State Fiscal Year (SFY) instead of calendar year. SFYs begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> and end the following June 30<sup>th</sup>, and are named according to the calendar year between January and June, e.g. state fiscal year 1991 was from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1990 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1991.

During the period analyzed, drug offenders accounted for an increasing proportion of adults convicted and sentenced to prison from Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene counties. In 1989, drug offenses accounted for 5 percent of all commitments to IDOC, compared to 39 percent in 2002 (Figure 22).

**Figure 22**

**Percent of Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC in Macoupin, Montgomery and Greene Counties**

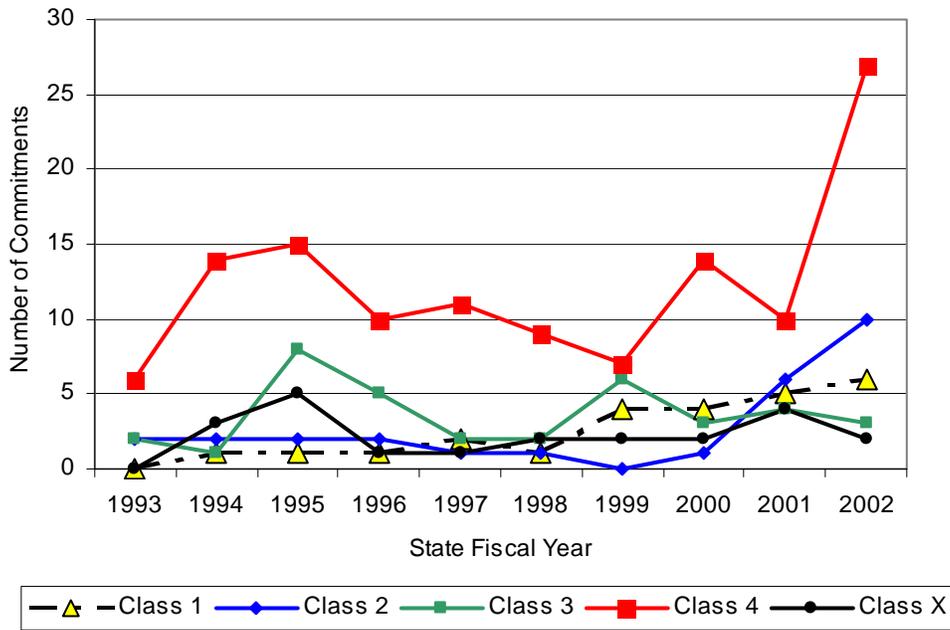


Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

Penalties for drug offenses were also examined between 1993 and 2002. Class 4 felonies accounted for the largest proportion (53 percent) of sentences to IDOC for drug offenses, followed by Class 3 felonies (15 percent), Class 2 felonies (12 percent), Class 1 felonies (11 percent), and Class X felonies (9 percent). Between 1993 and 2002, the number of Class 4 felony sentences increased from six to 27, Class 3 felony sentences slightly increased from two to three, Class 2 felony sentences increased from two to ten, Class 1 felony sentences increased from zero to six, and Class X felony sentences increased from zero to two (Figure 23).

**Figure 23**

**Drug Offenders Committed to IDOC from Macoupin, Montgomery and Greene Counties, by Offense Class**



Source: Illinois Department of Corrections

The mean sentence length for Class 4 felonies increased slightly between 1993 and 2002, from 1.6 to 1.9 years, while Class 1 felonies and Class X felonies also increased from zero to 4.4 years and zero to 6 years, respectively. During the same time period, the mean sentence length for Class 3 felonies decreased from 3 to 2.3 years and Class 2 felonies decreased from 6 to 4.3 years.

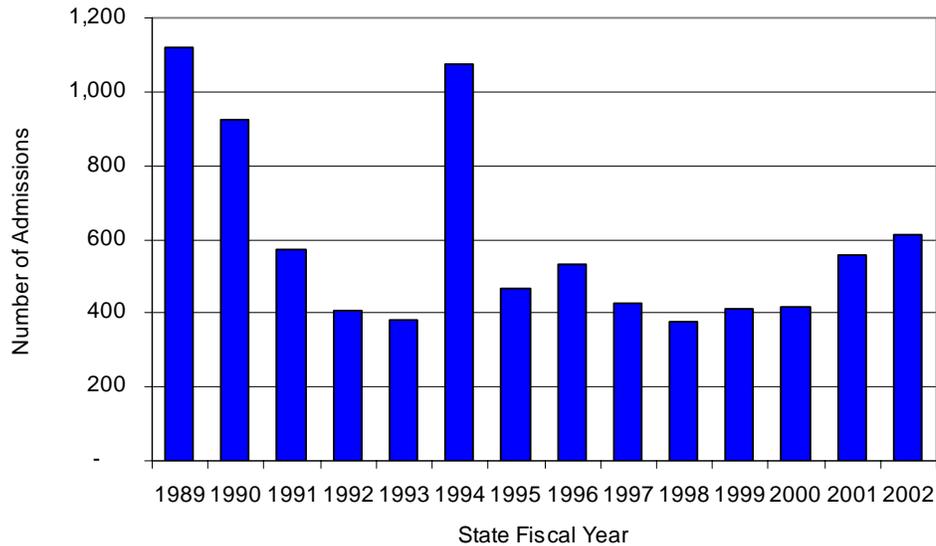
## VII. Trends in Drug Treatment Admissions in SCIDTF Region, by Drug Type

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 2002, OASA reported 613 admissions for alcohol or drug abuse treatment from Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene counties, 45 percent less than the 1,118 admissions in 1989 (Figure 24). Among the 613 admissions to substance abuse treatment in state fiscal year 2002, 59 percent (362) reported alcohol as their primary substance of abuse, while abuse of illicit substances accounted for 39 percent (239 admissions).

**Figure 24**

### Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions from Macoupin, Montgomery and Greene Counties



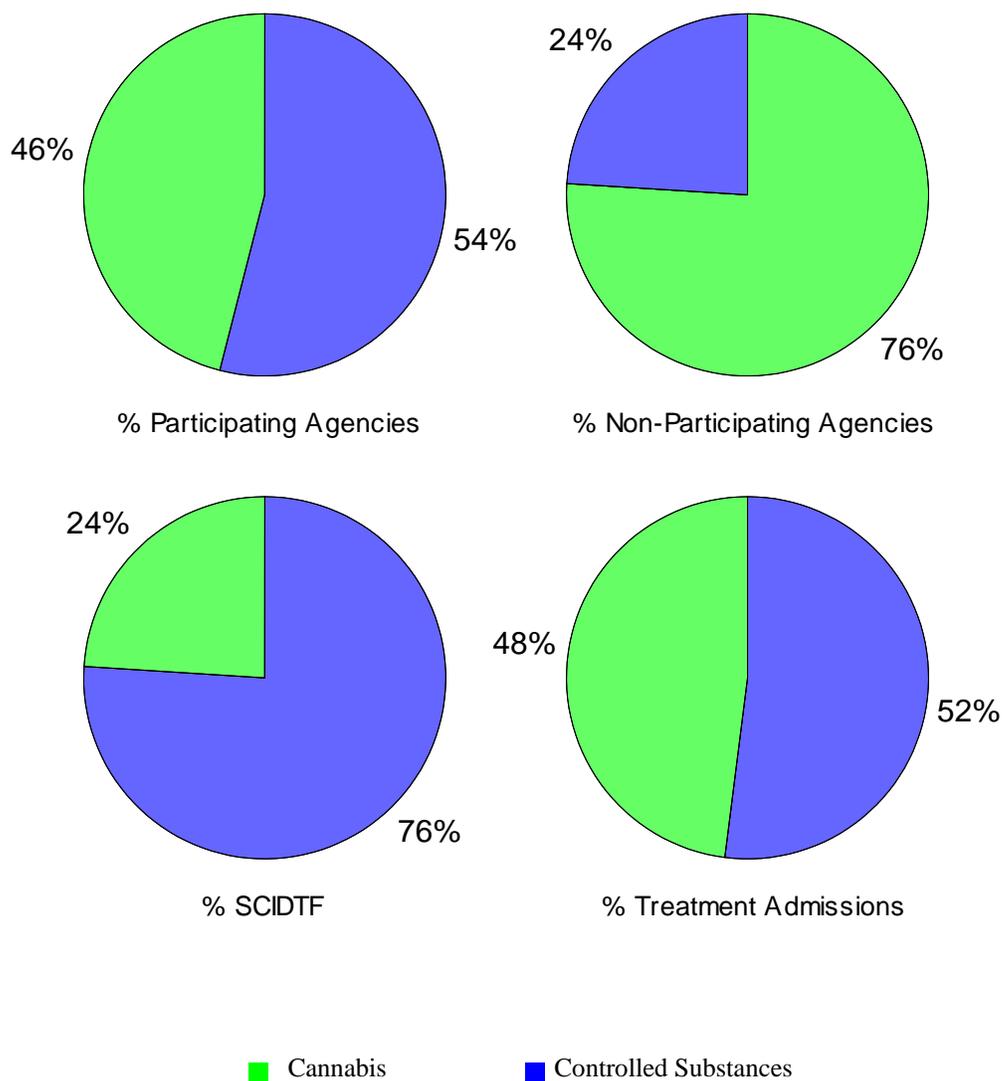
Source: Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

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 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 SCIDTF 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 SCIDTF accounted for by drugs other than marijuana (Controlled Substances Act) was greater than the proportion of drug treatment admissions from the covered region accounted for by these substances. However, there is some convergence between the drugs involved in participating agencies' arrests and treatment admissions. The majority of arrests by non-participating agencies were for cannabis offenses. Thus, while local arrests by non-participating agencies may reflect the most widely available and used drug in the region and SCIDTF arrests tend to involve the substances considered to be the most serious (i.e. felony versus misdemeanor), they tend not to involve the substances for which individuals are seeking and receiving treatment (Figure 25).

**Figure 25**

Comparison of Drug Arrests by SCIDTF and Participating and Non-participating Agencies vs. Drug Abuse Treatment Admissions in Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene Counties, 2002



Source: Illinois Department of Human Service's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and SCIDTF

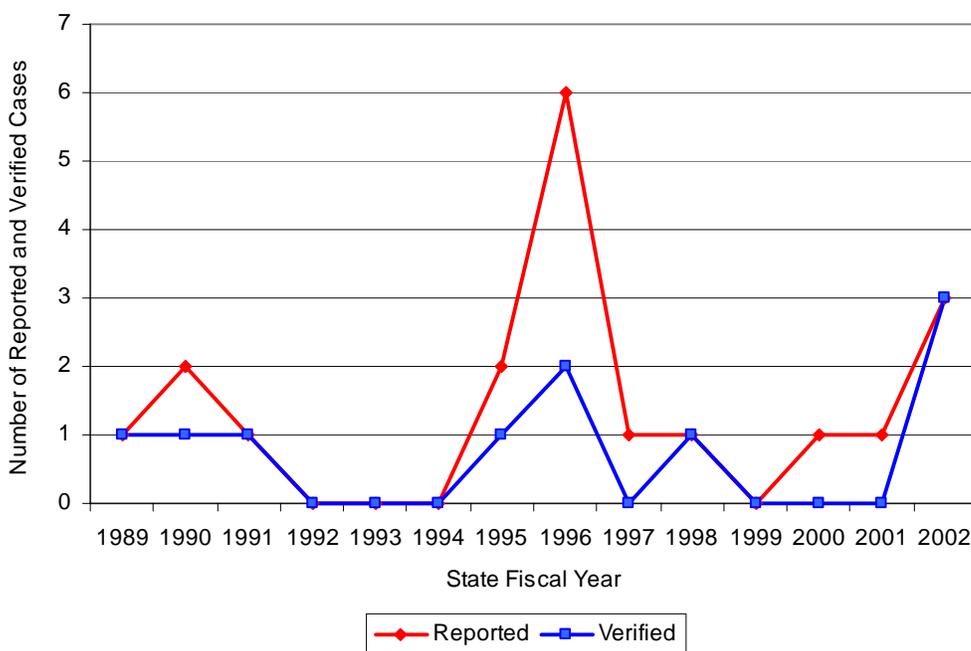
## VIII. Trends in Substance-Exposed Infants

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 2002, 96 of Illinois' 102 counties reported at least one case of a substance-exposed infant.

Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, the number of substance-exposed infant cases reported in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF slightly increased from one to three. Between state fiscal years 1989 and 2002, ten cases, or 53 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 substance-exposed infants in the SCIDTF region slightly increased from one to three between 1989 and 2002 (Figure 26).

**Figure 26**

**Cases of Substance-Exposed Infants in  
Macoupin, Montgomery, and Greene Counties**



Source: Department of Children and Family Services

## IX. Summary of Drug Situation

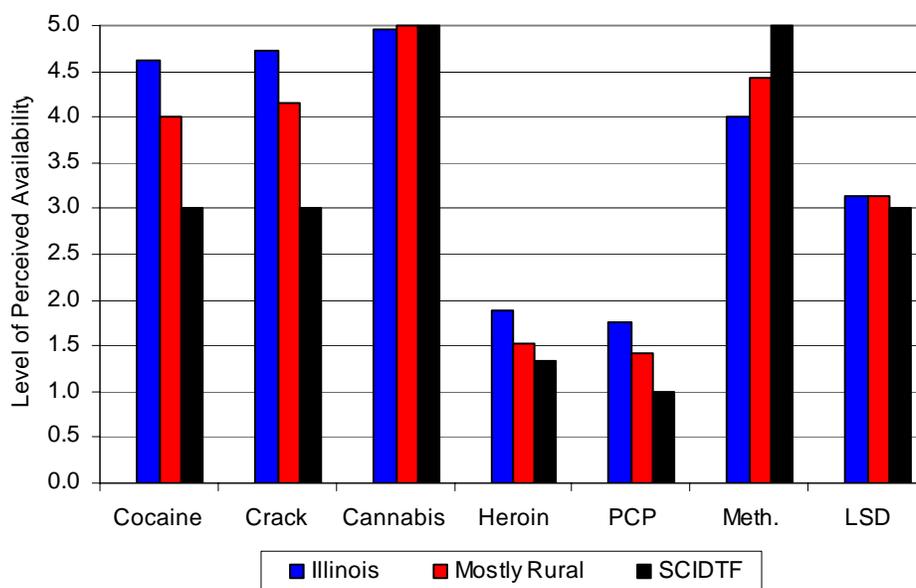
Although the distribution of illegal drugs is difficult to measure precisely, data obtained from criminal justice sources can be helpful in estimating drug availability. Information from a recent survey of Illinois drug enforcement units, as well as the most up-to-date data available on drug price, are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

The Authority periodically conducts a survey of each MEG and task force in Illinois to gauge the perceived availability of drugs in the areas they cover (the most recent being conducted in 2000). 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 mostly urban, mostly 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 SCIDTF survey responses, cocaine, crack, cannabis, and methamphetamine continued to be the most visible drugs on the street and were all reported to be “readily available” across most regions analyzed. The perceived availability of most drugs remained relatively unchanged in the three-county region covered by SCIDTF. The perceived availability of heroin and methamphetamine increased in all MEGs and task forces in mostly rural regions since the 1998 survey. However, heroin and methamphetamine remained the same statewide, while other drug types also remained the same in the region covered by SCIDTF from the 1998 survey. Methamphetamine was reported as easily available in the region covered by SCIDTF and available to a slightly lesser degree across Illinois and other mostly rural regions. The perceived availability of all drugs, excluding cannabis and methamphetamine, tended to be greater across Illinois and in other mostly rural regions than in the region covered by SCIDTF (Figure 27).

Figure 27

Availability of Drugs in Illinois, 2000  
1=Not Available 5=Easily Available



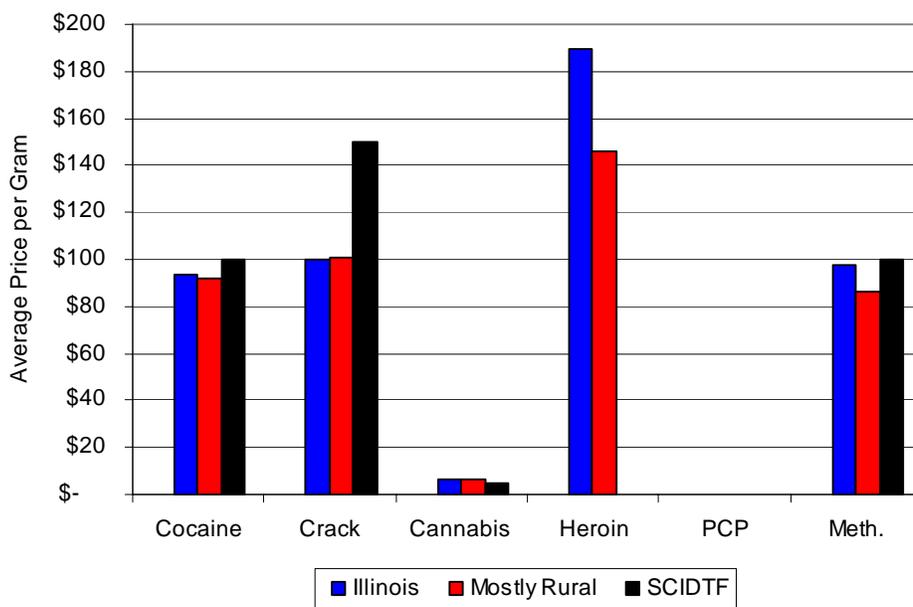
Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

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 cocaine, cannabis, and methamphetamine appear to be relatively stable across all regions surveyed in 2000, while prices for crack and heroin appear to vary somewhat across Illinois. The average price of cannabis in the region covered by SCIDTF, as well as in other mostly rural regions, decreased between 1998 and 2000. The 2000 average price of cocaine reported by SCIDTF was \$100 per gram, compared to \$94 per gram across Illinois and \$92 per gram reported by all MEGs and task forces in other mostly rural regions (Figure 28). Also, the average price of methamphetamine in the region covered by SCIDTF was reported as \$100 per gram, higher than the price of \$97 per gram across Illinois and the price of \$87 per gram reported by all other MEGs and task forces in mostly rural regions. In 2000, the average price of cannabis was reported as approximately \$5 per gram in the SCIDTF region and \$6 per gram across both Illinois and other mostly rural regions.

**Figure 28**

**Price Per Gram in Illinois, 2000**

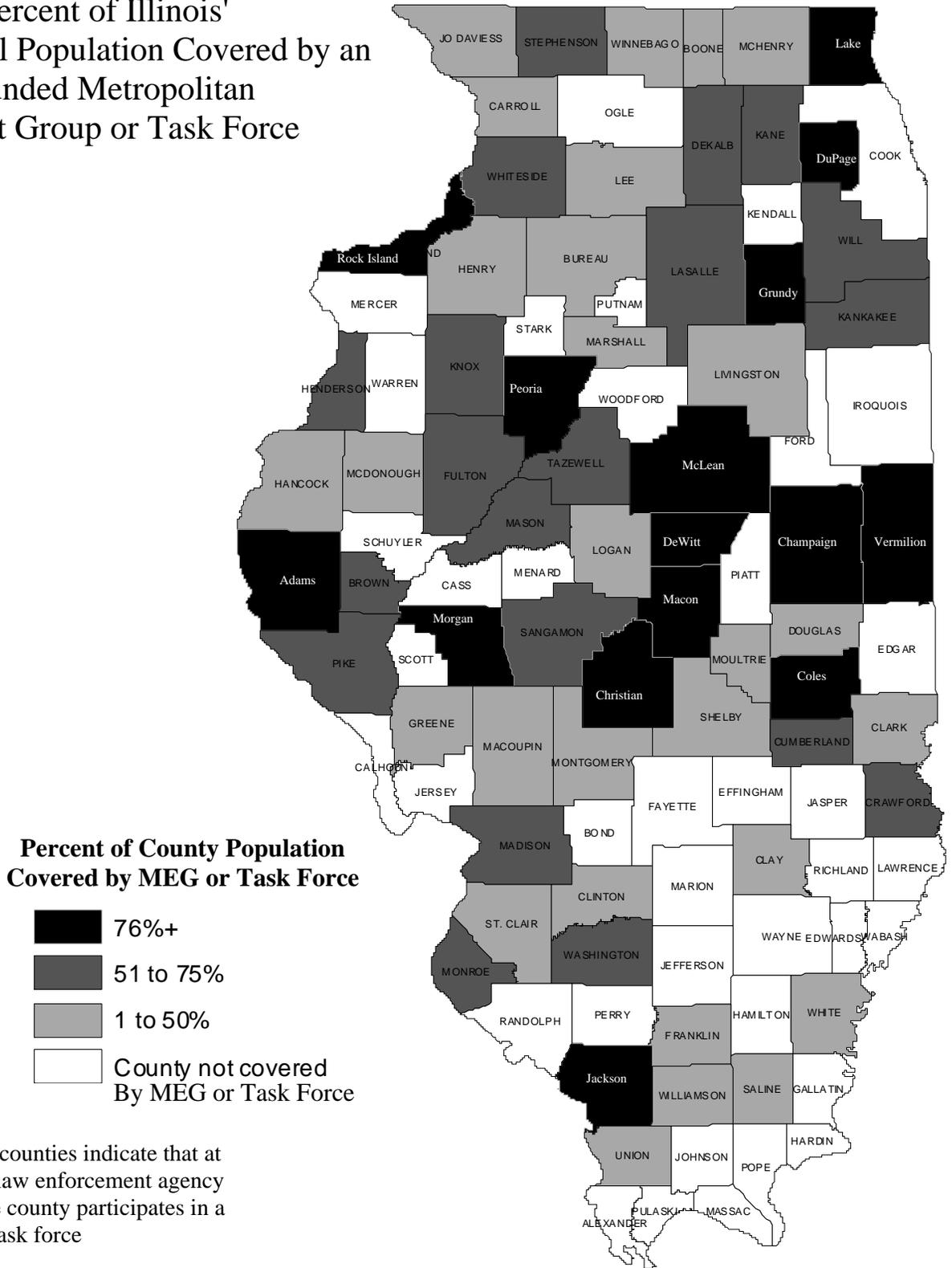


Source: Authority Survey of Illinois MEGs and task forces

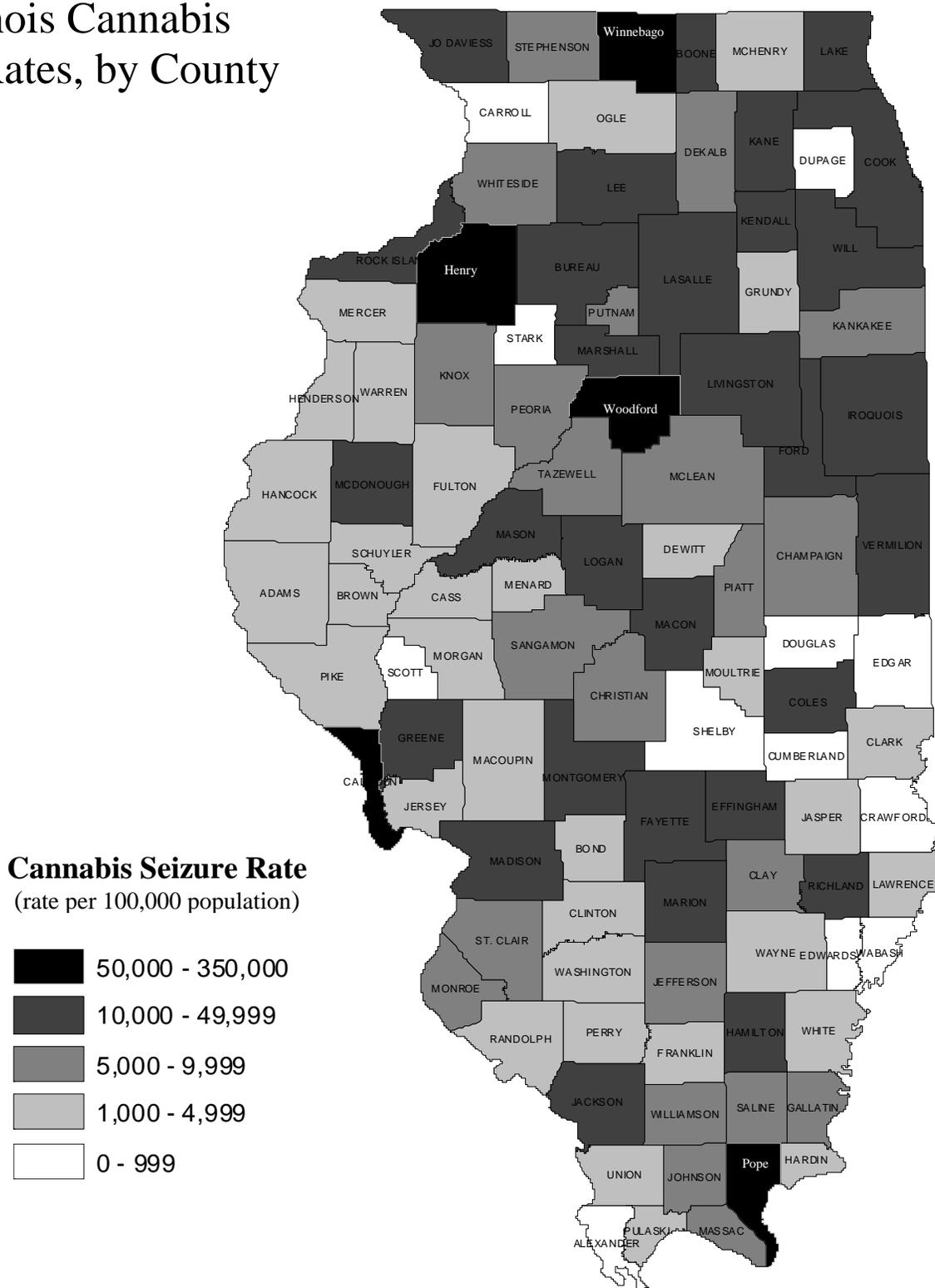
# **X. Appendices**

Map 1

SFY 2002 Percent of Illinois' County-level Population Covered by an Authority-funded Metropolitan Enforcement Group or Task Force

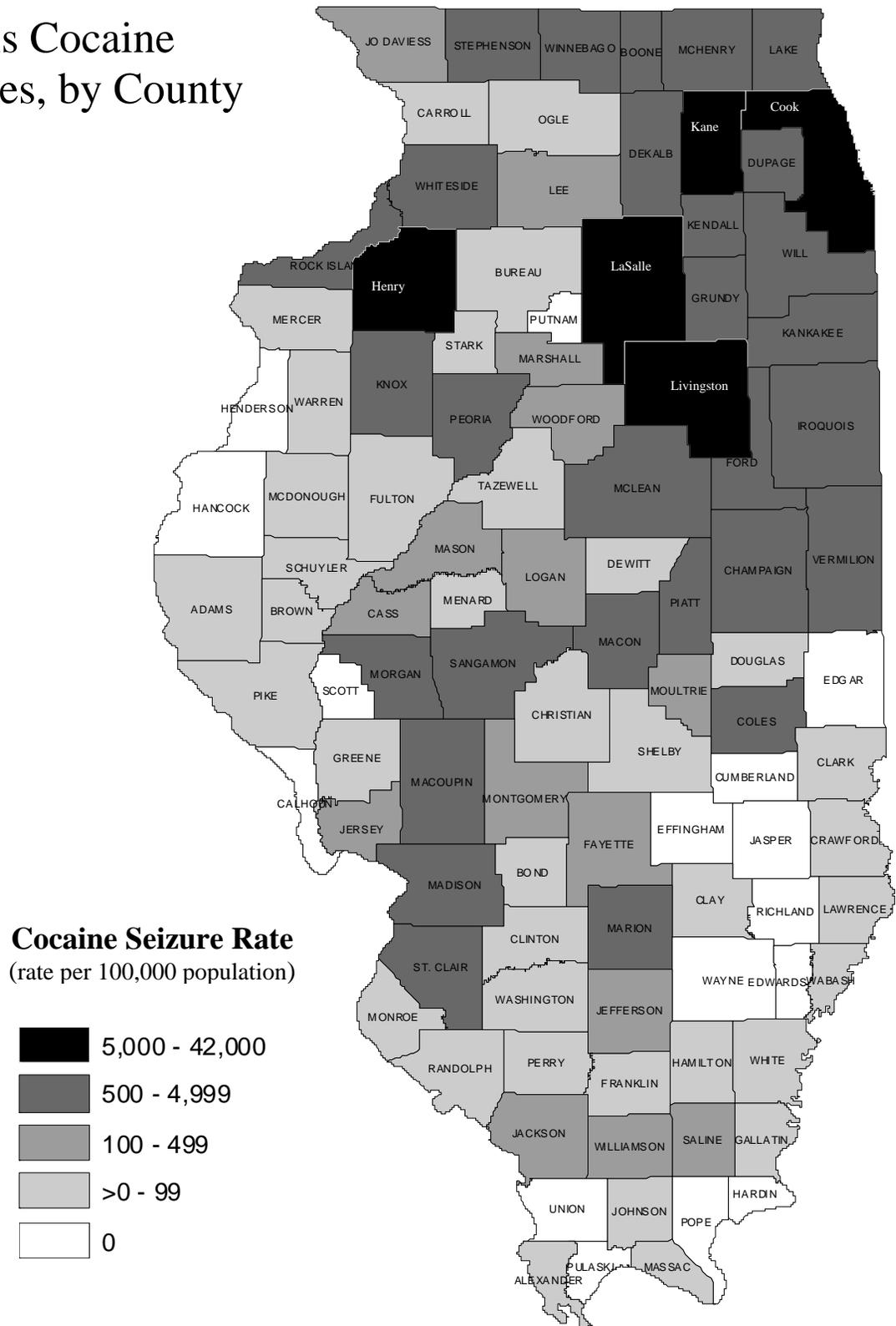


# 2002 Illinois Cannabis Seizure Rates, by County



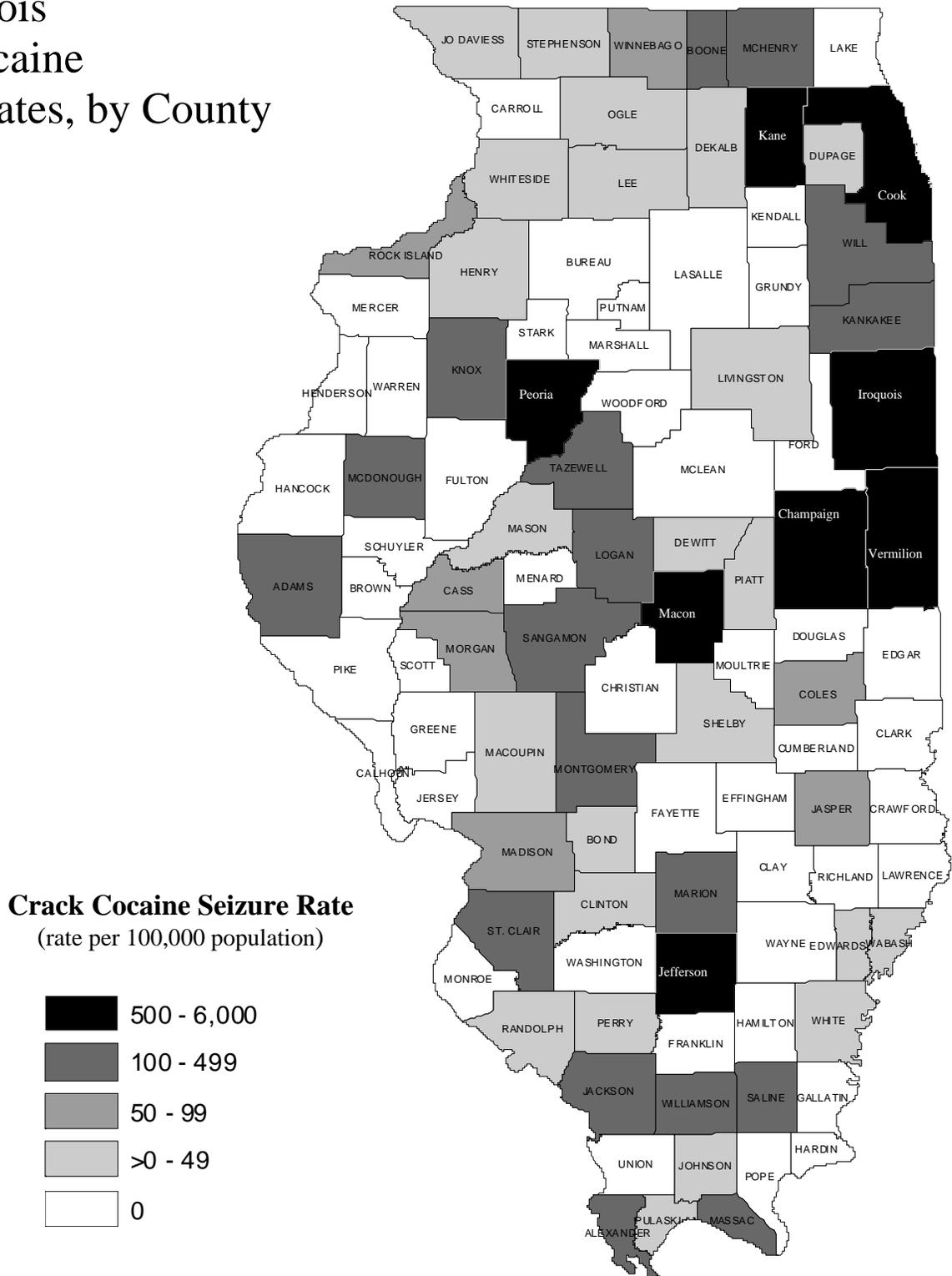
Map 3

# 2002 Illinois Cocaine Seizure Rates, by County



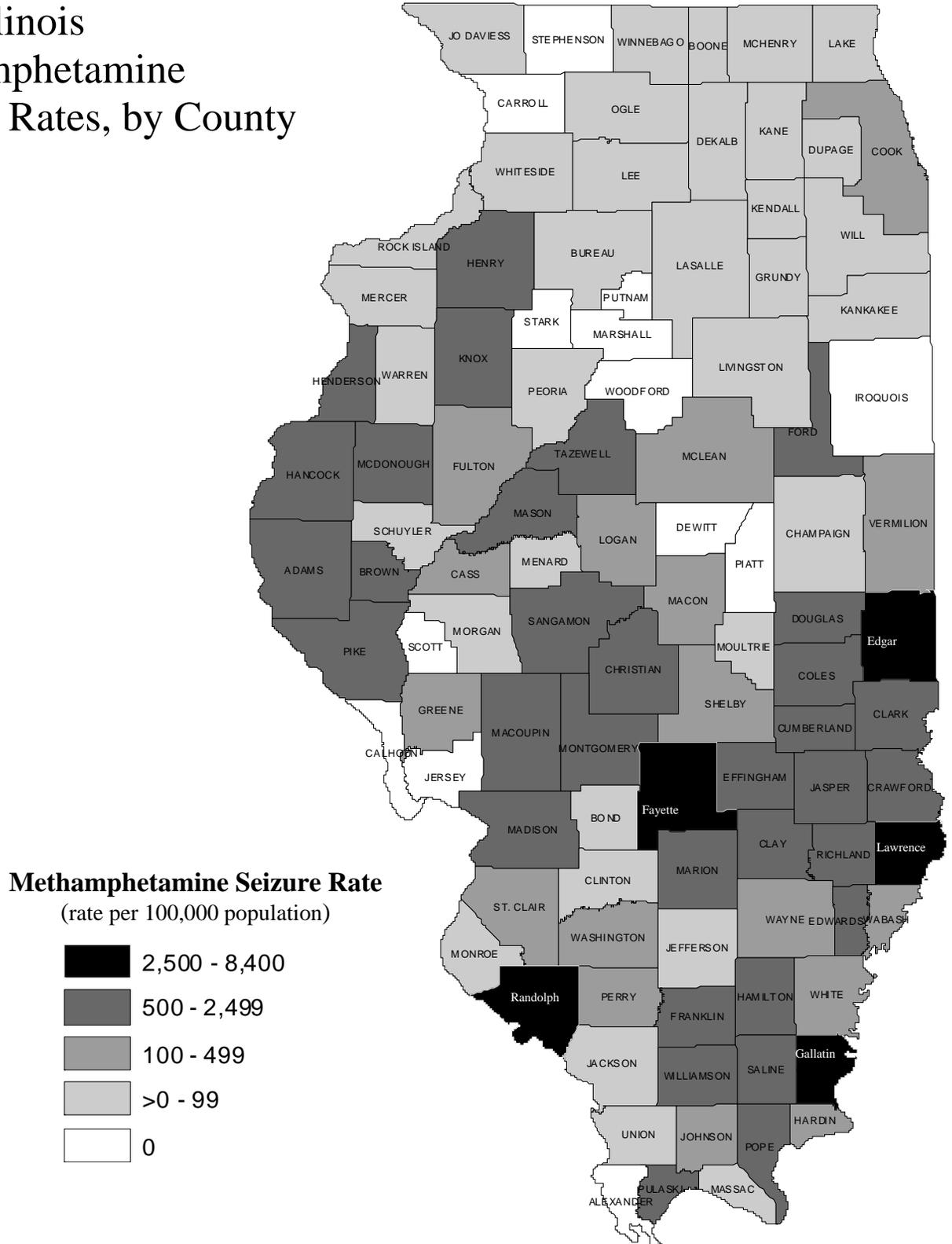
Map 4

# 2002 Illinois Crack Cocaine Seizure Rates, by County

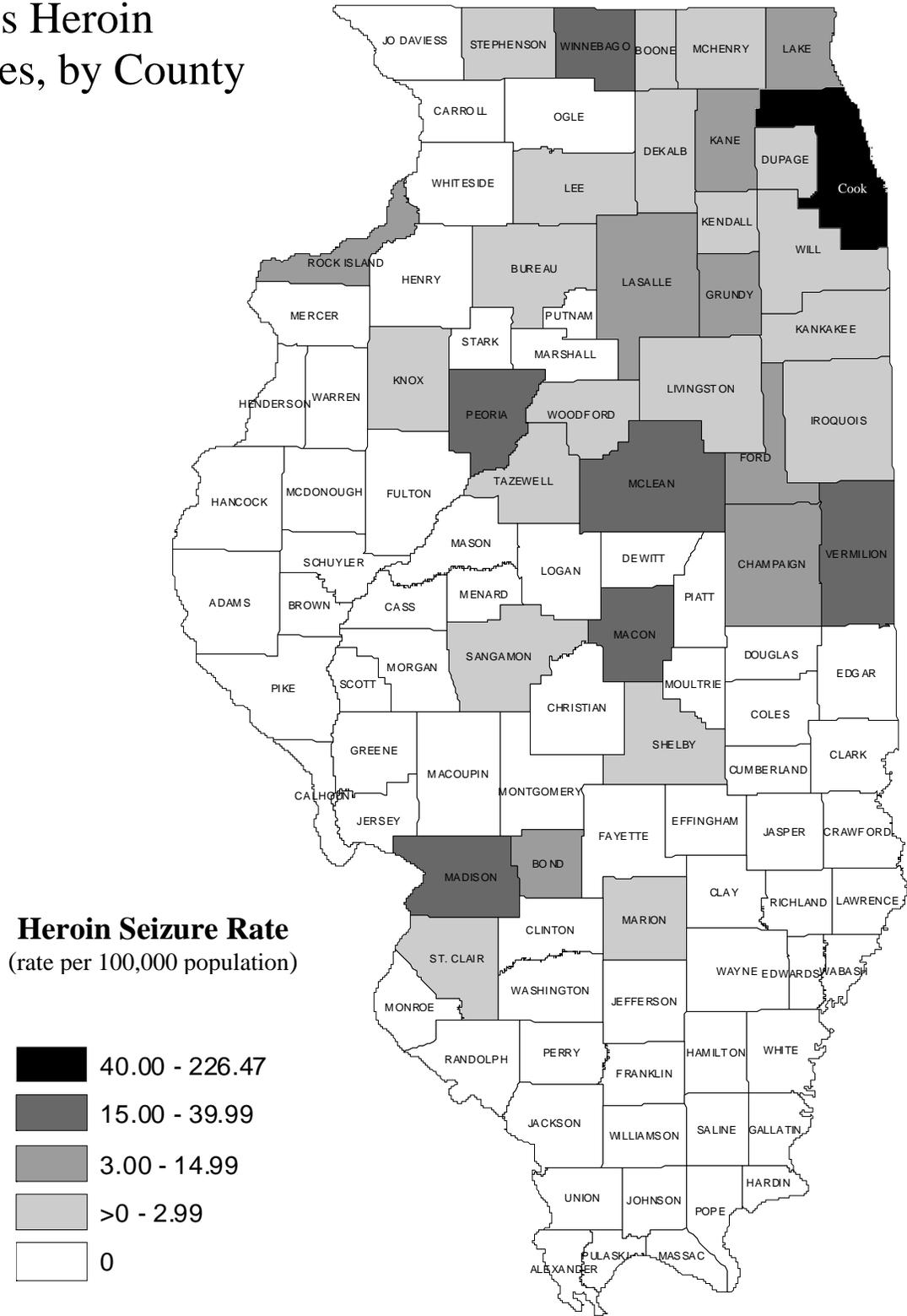


Map 5

# 2002 Illinois Methamphetamine Seizure Rates, by County



# 2002 Illinois Heroin Seizure Rates, by County



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